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Photo Dagne Abera

## ETAF

### preparing for new era of warfare: Premier

• Graduates Airforce cadets

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

**BISHOFTU-** In the face of a dynamic security environment, the Ethiopian

Air Force (ETAF) has made vigilant preparedness and built its competence to cope up with the new era of warfare,

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

Premier Abiy, who is also the

See ETAF preparing... page 4

### Sugar factory targets 1mln quintal annual production

BY YESUF ENDRIS

WONJI - Institutional reforms to produce one million quintals of sugar next year are well underway, Wonji Shoa Sugar factory disclosed.

The factory has recently briefed government officials on the production resumption and the activities that have been done so far

See Sugar factory ... page 4



Prof. Admasu Gebeyehu

### Ethiopia maintains peaceful approach to sovereign port access

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopia's aspiration to a sovereign port access is a healthy concern and peaceful approach that will not indulge the country into war or confrontations with neighboring states, a noted expert in the

See Ethiopia maintains... page 4

## Ethiopia gains over 17.2bln Birr from int'l tourist inflow

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

**ADDIS ABABA-** Ethiopia has generated 17.2 billion Birr revenue from international tourists who visited the country during the first quarter of this budget year, disclosed Addis Ababa Culture, Art and Tourism Bureau.

Bureau Deputy Head Haftay Gebregziabher told The Ethiopian Herald that the stated income was collected from 268,080 foreign tourists.

Despite the enormous tourism potential, adequate promotion remains a challenge, he mentioned, adding that his Bureau is striving to introduce its abundant tourism resources to the rest of the world using various forms.

He noted that a committee led by Mayor See Ethiopia gains... page 4



Financial inclusion for stimulating the economy

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Putting Black History and Heritage in the service of black emancipation

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Investing on young innovators through STEM

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# News



Photo: Hadush Abreha

Bedilu Wubeshet

## City issues 80 bln Birr capital investment licenses

•Finalizes 114 projects construction

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

**ADDIS ABABA** – Debre-Birhan City Administration said that it has managed to issue a total of 80 billion Birr capital investment licenses in the past three months.

Debre-Birhan City Mayor Bedilu Wubeshet told *The Ethiopian Herald* that his administration has reserved some 2050 hectares of land for investment expansion.

During the first quarter of this fiscal year, he said, the city transferred investment license for 29 investors or projects and the remaining 60 projects are being processed while six projects commenced production in the stated period.

Currently, some 114 projects worth nearly 10 billion Birr capital have finalized construction and waiting machinery installation to go operational, he said adding over 400 projects are obtaining investment land from the administration.

He stated that the city administration has been undertaking various activities to introducing investment clusters to create a suitable environment for industries like Agro-processing, food, textile, wood and metal, and other fields.

Bedlu's administration has also been fulfilling road infrastructure allocating over 72 million Birr in the city.

Consequently, he said, the activities that have done to solve infrastructure and investment related problems have contributed towards attracting more investment.

Debre-Birhan city has been experiencing rapid growth over the last five years, Bedilu said, attributing the industry and service sectors for the speedy development.

According to the Mayor, the administration has completed the preparation of the city's master plan designed to accelerate growth in the coming 10 years.

The Debre-Birhan city in its short industrialization history has seen a steady progress and the industry sector has been creating ample job opportunities for citizens, and is capable of securing multi-purpose benefits to residents, he added.

Currently, there are some 550 manufacturing industries and 220 service sectors functioning in the city, it was learnt.

## Dozen of Chinese couples get married at Friendship Square

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

**ADDIS ABABA**– A mass wedding ceremony for 12 Chinese couples held on Friday at Addis Ababa Friendship Square, setting a record for most foreign couples tied the knot together in Ethiopia.

Addis Ababa Riverside Development Project office stated on its official Facebook page that the couples held a colorful wedding ceremony at Friendship Square, which is part of the Sheger Park.

The office also expressed best wishes to the Chinese couples who married at the beautiful garden.

It is to be recalled that several Ethiopian couples made group wedding ceremony at Friendship Square in the presence of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

Friendship Square is comprised of various standards entertainment providing facilities including wedding gardens, children playing grounds, football playing fields, cafeterias among others.



## Enterprises call for steady incentives

BY YESUF ENDRIS

**ADDIS ABABA**– Manufacturing enterprises called for steady incentive provision saying that it is crucial to improve operation performance.

In exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Managing Director of Colba Tannery PLC, Habtamu Shiferaw said that his company is underperforming due to shortage of foreign currency.

The government has been supporting companies like Colbaby creating value-chain linkages, he said, adding “We are hoping that the government will support us with foreign currency.”

The company has been operating in manufacturing and exporting leathers and cow hide. Currently, it is soaking six thousand goat and sheep skins per day, he noted.

Habtamu's company has over 20 export destinations to its shoe upper leather, hide garment leathers, upholstery leather, shoe lining, belt and other technical leathers.

Despite shortage of foreign currency, he said, “We are benefiting from platforms aimed to integrate enterprises each other.”

The leather industry is operating with almost poor performance because of foreign currency crunch to buy manufacturing chemicals, he stressed.

Habtamu believed that improvement measures introduced by the government will ease the production challenges.

Alma-Kir Textile Industry Marketing Manager, Nahom Fitsum also said that the government is providing financial and technical support to enterprises.

“Our enterprise is beneficial of government



initiatives. Platforms which are being facilitated by the government allow us to have linkages with other enterprises,” he said.

But, shortage of foreign currency which other enterprises are also experiencing is challenging the production capacity of the textile industry, according to him.

In fact, “the government is supporting us to get limited amount of foreign currency through its initiatives,” he indicated.

Speaking about the market, he also said that the demand in the market is still unmatched with the supply.

The companies are desirous of growing their production capacity to benefit from

the available opportunity, he expressed.

Alma-Kir textile industry has been manufacturing textile products using locally manufactured inputs in large, according to Nahom.

The enterprise is manufacturing and supplying T-shirts, Jackets, Sweaters and trousers, he stated.

Director General of Ethiopian Enterprise Development, Alebachew Nigussie (PhD) on his part said that over 26,000 manufacturing enterprises are now operating in the country.

The annual government expenditure to subsidize these enterprises also hits six billion Birr, he added.



# Editorial

## Rejuvenating itself like eagle setting example

Joining hands and hearts as well as brainstorming on the part of those countries in the set that was referred to 'the dark continent' to forestall common hurdles and to take prowess, say in defense including the sky, to a higher level are tasks that command a pat on the back.

All the more so, as the necessity of regional blocks have proved mandatory, terrorists of regional nature if not a global one are poking their grotesque face now and then to mar tranquility and superpowers' insatiable lust to siphon geopolitical advantages are growing by the day.

Hence, cross-pollinating skills and knowledge creating special forums like the one the acid-tested Ethiopian Air force organized lately in collaboration with the incumbent plays an incalculable role in strengthening all. "Strengthening collaborations help to strengthen capacities," is what officials of the African Air forces said after visiting infrastructural works and facilities in Bishoftu in connection with the 88th Anniversary of the Ethiopian Air Force and the African Air Force Forum. They capitalized on African solutions to African problems. Example set by the Ethiopian Air force is worth emulating.

One of the institutions Ethiopia takes pride from is the Ethiopian Air Force. The 88 years old institution is rejuvenating itself like an eagle keeping itself abreast with cutting-edge technologies. True to its long history, keeping Ethiopia safe from enemies it has demonstrated it being bastion to the Ethiopian people. As it is known this institution that is part of the Ethiopian Defense Force has been supporting Ethiopia's role in maintaining continental peace. One of the reasons why the institution is ever renewing itself like an eagle is ascribable to the culture of self-knowledge transfer.

The pilot and technicians the institution primes out have been feeding Ethiopian, Ethiopia's source of pride. In so doing it has rendered effective activities. The institution does not want to confine its role to Ethiopia alone. It wants to share its experience, in defending the sky and sovereignty, to neighbors and African countries. It is in cognizance of the need for collective peace it is playing a practical role in strengthening the task of safeguarding the sky from enemies. One example for this is the aforementioned forum aiming at updating oneself and collaborating for joint leap to a higher level. The ultimate goal is insulating Africa's air from incursions.

These days, maintaining sovereignty is not a task to be left alone to a given country. It tasks a collective effort as there is not a guarantee the fire that glares up in a given country doesn't spread to neighboring countries. Knowing full well this fact the Ethiopian Air Force has organized a forum that has just brought together 26 countries.

From the very outset of the reform one of the tasks Ethiopia upheld has been forging relations and working with African countries thereby allowing the sentiment of Pan Africanism to thrive. As exemplified by Ethiopian replicating this great achievement, in a strengthened manner, in the Ethiopian Air force solidifying collaboration is exigent.

Those who are attracted by the current posture of the Ethiopian Air Force are asking a question of "could we click with each other?" The number of countries asking so is snowballing from time to time. The trainings and experience exchanging forums talk loud about the commendable initiative and The latter's commitment.

This experience sharing and training tasks of the Ethiopian air force like Ethiopian helps garner much-needed hard currency.

Now is the time African countries liberate Africa's airspace that still begs for decolonization. Especially in aviation technology the continent has not yet unshackled itself from the influence of those with a predatory bent. Still today, when we are hard pressed for different things it is towards them we turn our faces. They are at liberty to choose and pick to whom to sell or treat clients with a cold shoulder. It is high time to deliberate how to pull our last leg out from this colonial morass.

Displaying a stance clear as the sky, the Ethiopian air force has wide opened its door to kindred souls to share its experience. Utilizing such bilateral opportunity is the choice of the sagacious.

For the sovereignty of the African air space, for cooperation and for cross-fertilizing experiences there could not be any other opportune time for African air forces. The sentiments reflected in yesterday's graduation event are in the same wavelength.

# Opinion

## Africa needs due support for Climate Financing and accelerating SDG implementation

BY STAFF REPORTER

At a roundtable on the Sustainable Debt Coalition, Mr. Claver Gatete, Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), stressed the need to ensure that climate finance from both public and private sectors flows at the appropriate scale and pace to expedite sustainable development aligned with the Paris Agreement and meet the SDGs without burdening the already stretched fiscal capacity of developing countries.

Africa requires \$2.8 trillion between 2020 and 2030 to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement but only receives \$30 billion annually for climate finance, he said.

He added that increasing the number of investable climate and SDG projects, as well as improving their visibility to potential investors and financiers, especially in developing countries, will play a crucial role in attracting more financial support to the continent. Yet, there remains a disconnect between investors and projects in need of investment.

Climate, debt, and development are closely intertwined. Projections by the Economic Commission for Africa show that some African regions could face GDP losses of up to 15% by 2050 due to global warming.

"High debt servicing costs constrain countries from making critical investments in climate adaptation and resilience to mitigate some of these losses," said Mr. Gatete noting that various governments, institutions, and leaders are advocating for change - chiefly among them the UN Secretary-General Mr. Antonio Guterres, who introduced his ambitious SDG Stimulus in February this year.

A recently published report by a G20 expert group estimates that, by 2030, developing countries will require annual incremental investments of 1.8 trillion US Dollars for climate action and 1.2 trillion US Dollars for achieving the SDGs.

ECA has been serving as the temporary secretariat of the Coalition and remains dedicated to supporting global debt architecture reforms. Mr. Gatete said efforts are needed in the following areas:

"First, we need to ensure that countries in debt distress have access to a functional debt resolution mechanism. The G20 Common Framework needs comprehensive reform to enhance its effectiveness, timeliness, and transparency. The planned debtor's club within the Sustainable Debt Coalition could play a pivotal role in ensuring that debtor countries'; voices are heard in this process," he said.

Secondly, there is a need to adapt debt instruments to a more shock-prone world. He said that to prevent countries from sliding into debt distress when facing climate-related disasters, there is a need to strengthen automatic stabilizers. The expansion of climate-resilient debt clauses, which suspend

debt service payments in the event of such shocks, is crucial and should be advocated for in all new sovereign debt issuances.

He also stressed the need to work towards making debt more affordable. Guarantees, including those from MDBs, can reduce market borrowing costs for developing nations. Additionally, guarantees can serve as catalysts for innovative financing tools such as the issuance of sustainability-linked bonds, as demonstrated recently in Rwanda.

ECA has been serving as the temporary secretariat of the Coalition and remains dedicated to supporting global debt architecture reforms.

At a side event titled, Regional Platforms for Climate Finance: Unlocking climate finance flows through project acceleration, Mr. Gatete highlighted the need for implementation labs or ilabs, as they offer opportunities to foster collaboration and explore strategies for unlocking predictable, affordable, and sustainable financing for climate action and the SDGs in Africa.

He called for a comprehensive approach to bridge the significant climate and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) financing gap and increase climate action ambition.

Meanwhile during the COP 28, it was noted that due attention should be given to ensure long term climate resilience and investments in climate sensitive sectors, including water, infrastructure, energy and agriculture, Africa needs to scale up and increase its partnerships in the Africa Climate Resilient Investment Facility (AFRI-RES), according to experts at a side event on the margins of COP28 in Dubai.

AFRI-RES was established to support African countries and stakeholders with the tools and capacity to integrate climate resilience in investments in critical sectors.

The side event on partnership for scaling up resilience in Africa: Results, lessons learned and ways forward was organised by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank Group, Nordic Development Fund (NDF).

Nassim Oulmane, Acting Director Technology, Climate Change and Natural at ECA said African economies are losing on average 5% of their GDP per year because of the adverse impacts of climate change

For example he said the cyclone Freddy in Malawi early this year affected 4.8% of the country's GDP. It affected the main dam that generates electricity and they are still struggling to fill the gap of 40%.

"This is a huge loss for a developing country. It is therefore important to strengthen the capacity of African institutions and private sector to plan, design, and implement investments in selected sectors to increase their resilience to climate change," said Mr Oulmane.

Source: UNECA

**Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald**



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# News

## Ethiopia's infrastructural advancement vital to regional integration: Researcher

BY MENGESHA AMARE

**ADDIS ABABA** - Ethiopia needs to focus on expanding mega projects to bolster regional integration apart from quenching local consumption, so commended a lawyer and political science researcher.

Speaking to local media, Law and Political Science Researcher Hussein Mohammed said that apart from quenching local consumption and socio-economic development, capitalizing on megaprojects such as telecommunication, Abbay Dam, railway development, and other infrastructural undertakings do have a great potential to further cement ties among nations in the African continent and beyond.

He further said that intensifying mega projects in a given country is tantamount to creating a number of favorable social, economic and political appropriateness for respective citizens.

"True, mega projects have contributed a lot to the Regional economic integration apart from addressing local scarcity as they are of paramount importance in helping nations to have a political unity and economic integrity," he said.

As these mega projects are also instrumental in fostering the peace effort exerted by many nations, Ethiopia has been undertaking a range of activities with regard to boosting regional integration, he opined.

As to Hussein, neighboring nations have to be beneficiaries out of the mega projects Ethiopia

does have as the latter has all the time shown keen interest for regional integration.

Whenever these countries become electricity beneficiaries, Ethiopia would have ample opportunity to promote trade and investment relations. In so doing, these countries would come to the direction to think of Ethiopia's peace, stability and development as a win-win approach would be a made culture, he added.

He said, "For instance, when we provide Djibouti with water sources, the country starts thinking and worry about Ethiopia's peace, growth and change. Hence, regional integration would be a viable weapon to ensure common benefit, regional peace and security, too."

According to him, the Lagos 1980 and Abuja 1991, regional integration conventions have principally targeted at bolstering free trade and free movement of persons and goods.

It is in turn of paramount importance in bolstering regional economic integration by which countries do care their neighbors apart from safeguarding their own economic, social and political stability, Hussein stated while mentioning the necessity of firm political commitment.

As to him, IGAD is doing well in this regard. Since political stability could be born to economic integration, countries have to work on it.

To use telecommunication, Ethiopian Airlines, electricity, and others as means of well consolidating regional integration, countries have to be internally peaceful, he underlined.



## Sugar factory targets...

to meet the target.

Briefing the officials, Factory General Manager Jemal Aman said that the factory has resumed production which was interrupted for some time due to machinery malfunction and other problems.

The factory has a potential of producing over one million quintals of sugar and its highest production was recorded nine years ago. "We would replicate that achievement next year," he expressed.

According to the General Manager, the factory is cultivating over eight thousand hectares of sugarcane.

Most of the cultivated land is owned by the factory while some portion is being cultivated in association with local farmers, he indicated.

He also highlighted that the factory is

supplying 300 to 400 thousand quintals sugar annually.

"The current capacity can be stated as low performance because we have the potential to manufacture over one million quintals annually," he noted.

He also urged the Ethiopian Sugar Industry Group and Ethiopian Investment Holding to support the factory to restore the infrastructure.

The existing infrastructure has been serving for long decades so that it needs a renovation and refinement works, he said, adding the factory requires foreign currency to change some outdated machines.

Ethiopian Sugar Industry Group and Ethiopian Investment Holding officials also pledged to provide support to get the factory fully operational.

## Ethiopia maintains...

issue said.

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Addis Ababa University Water Science Prof. Admasu Gebeyehu stated that Ethiopia maintained its long-cherished peaceful approach in its pursuit of seaports. Historical chronicles, be written or oral as well other narratives have attested that the country has strong tradition of sincere approach in its relations with neighboring states.

Ethiopia's very nature does not allow invading another country apart from defending itself in the times of transgression. There is no time which attested Ethiopia's breaching of other country's territory as form of demonstrating military muscle or achieving greedy interest by force, the expert emphasized.

"We are always prioritizing mutual

growth and development and shun war and confrontation as no one can benefit from it. Of course, it may possible to attain one's desire militarily and by using force, but the result could never bring lasting peace. Hence, pursuing a win-win approach is an indispensable for Ethiopia to realize its quest to sea access and that is what the country is doing."

Admasu further expressed optimism that neighboring countries would embrace Ethiopia's offer to mutual growth and prosperity taking into account the benefit of the former's rich economic potentials for their own people.

"Most of the time, landlocked countries are listed under low income and underdeveloped categories and the situation further intensified their effort to secure seaports and galvanize economic

progress. Ethiopia's case in this regard is quite different from other land locked states as it had own ports for long period of time."

This scenario has to be changed and Ethiopia's quest to sea access should be regarded as a normal and peaceful concern that anyone could do so. Since Ethiopia located very close to the sea, it would be easy for it to secure a direct access to ports that would be materialized by absolute serenity and the full consent of the other party.

Ethiopian diplomats are expected to communicate the international community about their country's firm interest to peaceful approach to port aspiration and assured them that it will never wage war to attain its desire, the academician appealed.

## Ethiopia gains ...

of Addis Ababa and comprises Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Addis Ababa Culture, Art and Tourism Bureau and other relevant stakeholders has been formulated to promote tourism potentials on continental platforms like the AU Summits.

A package that majorly focuses showcasing the contribution of Ethiopia for African Union is prepared, the Deputy Head indicated.

He elucidated that the package includes a visit to Unity Park, Adwa museum, a training center where Nelson Mandela was trained in 1962.

Moreover, a plan is set to bring most notable international journalists and media personnel's in order to introduce and promote the tourism attractions, according to Haftay.

Underlining the positive impact that social media could play regarding promotion, he urged citizens to be ambassador of their country and play their role in promoting their country through their social media platforms.

## ETAF preparing...

Commander-in-Chief of the Ethiopian National Defense Force (END) made the above remark at the closing ceremony of the 88th Founding Anniversary of the ETAF. The ceremony was graced by Black Lion Air Show in collaboration with the UAE.

The PM said in the occasion that the reform the ETAF has gone through for the past three years coupled with its committed and disciplined leadership and personnel have made it ready to the dynamic military order.

"We have employed artificial intelligence and other ultramodern military technologies

that will determine tomorrow's warfare owing to the responsibility that we shoulder to pass peaceful and prosperous Ethiopia to the next generation."

He added, "Our aim to build a well-trained, ethical and able defense force is to inform anyone to refrain from attacking Ethiopia and display our preparedness to repel aggression that may come from enemy quarters."

The PM also lauded the reforms undertaken within the ETAF. "The efforts we have made to build infrastructure and equip the Air Force with modern equipment, to be self-sufficient in technology and to

produce qualified and professional human capital is testament to the effectiveness of our reforms."

Abiy further stated that cooperation and solidarity are vital instruments to defend and ensure Ethiopia's lasting peace and stability. In this regard, the PM lauded the contributions of many countries including Russia, U.S., Sweden, France, UAE and Germany for the entire development of the ETAF since its establishment. "Ethiopia is desirous of consolidating cooperation with these countries and seeking other partners in the air defense industry."

According to him, the Black Lion Air

Show is also a testimony to fruits of collaborative efforts. "A military air show jointly presented by the air forces of Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates on the occasion showed the level we can reach if we work together."

In his congratulatory remark, the Commander-in-Chief urged the graduated Airforce pilots, technicians and instructors to discharge their responsibilities and meeting obligations thereby contributing for the peace of the country.

At the sidelines of the airshow, the Premier inaugurated the ETAF UAV 5th Airbase Hangar.



# Opinion

## Lasting peace is born cooperative, common mission

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Intrinsically, morally and within the scope of human element, peace knows no boundary. Garnering the bounties of the 21st century such as globalization, advent and rife of science and technology, transforming from one step of change into another, you name it, it has been really civility and well aware of the global mode of living. As it is quite natural to exercise antagonistic dimensions of life, acting contrary to what conflict entrepreneurs have been doing, would help come up with a peaceful realm. Yes, it is high time to maintain peace and prosperity amid challenges across the globe.

No doubt, tackling fragility, conflict, and violence requires a combined effort of all as a single-handed effort leads nowhere. Countries have to solicit local, regional, continental and even international efforts for peace as peace itself has become the lifeblood of human existence. They have also amicably set up enterprises based on the respective complementary and comparative advantages of each partner as such a bold move is crucial in addressing the causes and impacts of conflict, rivalry and cross boundary skirmishes.

Yes, Ethiopia is working with a diverse/broad set of associates and is committed to deepening partnerships with humanitarian, development, peace building, security, and private sector actors to maximize impact on the ground.

So the saying goes, "With strong roots, plants will grow; with right approach, people will succeed," citizens of any country have to focus on nurturing peace and security. Be that as it may, peace forums have to be well dilated as they would be instrumental in bringing great minds together so as to help people examine the root causes of major national, regional and global security issues and to explore ways to address them through cooperation and moving in unison. This fashion would make immense contribution to world peace, development and reliable triumph over insecurity, terrorism and conflicts, be they are recurrent or sporadic ones.

Without a shadow of doubt, this time around the world has to construct a harmonious community entertaining equality, equity and justice via ensuring lasting peace and serenity. Taking a hard look at the destiny and future of mankind as well as the development trajectories of countries of the world, every nation needs to break new ground in both theory and practice, and put forward a whole set of new, forward-looking ideas and proposals that are embedded in their respective reality and reflects the trend of the times. This new thinking and approach has crystallized into dynamic leaders' thought on diplomacy, which will guide countries to make even greater contribution to both

national rejuvenation and progress of all humankind in the universe.

Yes, the world is experiencing significant changes unseen in a century as all the over 8 billion inhabitants have been living in an increasingly multi-polar and globalized planetary. Interconnection and interdependence between/among countries have become an inescapable reality. In such a world, all countries rise and fall together. With the forces for peace outpacing the factors of war, effort for peace, development and win-win cooperation has become the serious call of the day.

If it is critically seen, it is undeniable fact, though the degree varies, almost all nations have painful and profound lessons to draw from the experiences of one another, for instance from wars, peace processes, and even from meticulous conspiracies against one another or each other. These day, more than ever, all nations of the planet, prefer peace to war, and cooperation to confrontation. This has to be given due emphasis and words have to be well translated into practical actions.

If go together, work together, act together and labor or common growth appreciating win-win fission, it will be highly likely to be victorious over a more unstable, uncertain and unpredictable national, regional, continental and even universal scenarios.

The world is caught in a historical process of increasingly fast evolution. The Cold War mentality, power politics, unilateralism and protectionism still manifest themselves. Regional turbulence, terrorism, climate change and refugee flows also remain unresolved challenges, problems of economic and financial risks and the worsening development gap have become more acute. All of these present global security challenges that are more complicated than ever before.

The ever-changing international environment is reshaping the security landscape in profound slipways as security issues have become more interconnected, they have become more contagious and more perilous, too. The quest for security is also moving into new frontiers such as cyberspace, deep sea, the Polar Regions and outer space. At stake is not only the development and prosperity of this generation, but also that of the generations to come.

To ensure lasting peace midst these profound security shifts, countries have to pass on the torch of peace, to create sustained impetus for development and to rekindle the light of civilization. They should dedicate themselves to global peace and common development, realize a world of lasting peace and universal security, and build a community with a shared future for all mankind. To this end, they have to be seriously called for a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security. The following principles need to be

followed in due process of handling national, regional, continental and international security matters.

Firstly, equality and mutual trust must prevail. These are the prerequisite of security. No country has the right to monopolize international and regional security affairs or erode the legitimate interests of other countries. The right approach is to treat each other as equals and with respect, be sensitive to each other's interests and concerns, reject hegemony and power politics, and never impose one's will on others. It is important to foster friendship, uphold justice and pursue shared interests, instead of seeking to advance one's own interests at the expense of others. It is also important to enhance strategic trust through sincere dialogue, which will reduce suspicion, expand common ground and increase harmony in the world.

Secondly, cooperation for mutual benefit as well as equity and justice has to come to the forefront. These are crucial if countries are to meet the plethora of new security challenges. In many ways, as the existing architecture of global security governance system requires improvement, all countries should keep abreast of the changing times, think outside the box and develop new ways of cooperation so as to find new solutions to old problems and good solutions to new problems, with a view to breaking the security dilemma facing the international community. Such an innovative approach will help them make global security governance fairer, more reasonable and effective.

Therefore, a win-win outcome must be sought if everyone is to enjoy lasting peace and security. When problems first emerge, countries must indeed look for proper solutions rather than threatening the use of force, magnify the problems out of selfish interests, or adopt a beggar-thy-neighbor approach. Guided by a new vision of comprehensive and common security, nations must take holistic and integrated steps to both address the immediate problems and contain potential risks. Yes, they must step up coordination and cooperation on such non-traditional security issues as fighting terrorism and extremist ideologies.

These are all very important values, yet our world today is still far from being a place of equity and justice. To build lasting security indeed development and prosperity must be inclusive. A tree cannot grow tall or bear fruit in a barren land torn apart by the flames of war. More people have come to the realization that only with development can the breeding ground of global challenges be removed, secure the basic rights of the people, and propel the progress of the human race, and development issues should not be politicized.

Security issues have increasingly taken

on political, economic, cultural, ethnic and religious dimensions. Problems in one field now have repercussions in other areas more quickly. This new dynamic makes them more complicated than what meets the eye. A simplistic, palliative approach may lead to more problems than it attempts to solve. The spread of terrorism, a product of interwoven political, economic, religious and cultural factors, is a case in point, and must be tackled with a multi-pronged approach.

To grow together, countries have to prefer peaceful development as it is a strategic choice made in light of national conditions and fundamental interests of all nations of the world. It is a basic principle that must be followed by all states in the long run. It is peaceful development, not predatory expansion that has enabled countries, which were once mired in poverty and backwardness. They have to continue to uphold peaceful development and cooperation for win-win results, and stick to an independent foreign policy. True, some countries have never sought hegemony. This is a promising step that needs to be entertained by other countries, too.

In a nut shell, the very important point here is the role of South-South and triangular cooperation among and between countries in resolving challenges related to climate change, the digital divide, resource mobilization and capacity-building for local and national institutions, has to be the focal point of the day.

True, building capacity for sustainable peace has to be given due emphasis as it means ensuring the meaningful and equal participation of all walks of life and healing the wounds of conflict though mental health and psycho-social support. This requires further cooperation and dialogue between/among all nations and sustainable financing for all means towards ensuring lasting world peace.

In the face of such complex, sophisticated and diverse threats to security, multilateral cooperation must be strengthened in a manner that considers all countries concerns, respects the will of and a choice made by them and eliminates the underlying causes of conflict and severe skirmishes. As conflicts still ongoing and exacerbated by the existence of lawless areas, persistent corruption, illicit financial flows and the illegal exploitation of natural resources, countries especially those share boundaries have to underscore the significance of agreement and close talks to overcome all adverse effects of conflicts and instability.

**Editor's Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald**

# Business & Economy

## Financial inclusion for stimulating the economy

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Small and medium size enterprises play pivotal role in job creation for semi skilled unemployed, women, and people with disability and supply products to the market. Besides, they help to attract foreign and domestic investment and serve as hub for creativity and innovation.

Most enterprises are engaged in wood and metal works, food and beverage processing, poultry, urban agriculture, dairy production and municipal works on beautifying the city.

From time to time, enterprises increase their job creation capacity but they also face shortage of working places, market linkage and lack of securing sufficient loan to expand their business. So far, microfinance institutions have played pivotal role in providing loan to the enterprises. To strengthen the microfinance institutions' loan provision capacity to the small scale enterprises, the Development Bank of Ethiopia has provided loan to the microfinance institutions. The refunding capacity of the enterprises also is increasing and this indicates that their performance is excellent.

Recent history of the countries with emerging economy indicates that the role of Medium and Small Size Enterprises (MSEs) is immense in boosting the economy. Therefore, replicating their achievement here is essential.

Recently, the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the microfinance institutions was celebrated. On the occasion, the State Minister of Labor and Skills, Nigusu Tilahun said that the financial inclusion scheme initiated by the microfinance institutions played pivotal role in job creation and stimulating the economy.

He further said that cognizant of the vigorous efforts of microfinance institutions in stimulating the economy, paying attention to the sector is essential. The Federal Government of Ethiopia is aware of the irreplaceable role of the sector and provides support in terms of loan and consultation for the promotion and growth of micro and small scale enterprises.

He also said that they are significant vehicles to address the challenges of unemployment, economic development and fair distribution of wealth in the country. To this effect, the government has prepared a National Micro and Small Scale Enterprise growth and Promotion Strategy that notifies an organized approach to tackle the problems and encourage the expansion of MSEs.

The government has issued declaration

**Micro finances play vital role in addressing small scale farmers and pastoral communities financial needs by providing loan. They also help them to improve their utilization of finance in appropriate manner**

no.49/2004, which focused on supporting the business of microfinance and the national MSEs development strategy. Microfinance is a new idea that helps to eradicate extreme poverty, safe and truthful area to keep money in small amount, and enabled the poor to get financial and other services. The provision of credit, other financial and nonfinancial services to the people with low income, and entrepreneurs can be mentioned in these regard.

The Development Bank of Ethiopia also gave recognition to the various microfinance institutions and provided capacity building trainings to the enterprises.

As to Nigusu, job creation supports the effort to reduce poverty. Micro finances play vital role in addressing small scale farmers and pastoral communities financial needs by providing loan. They also help them to improve their utilization of finance in appropriate manner. Therefore, for the continuation of their effort, micro finance institutions must strengthen their contact and experience sharing. To that end, providing policy advocacy is essential.

Teshome Abebe is the Chief Executive Officer of Dire Microfinance. As to him, his institution provides various types of loan and saving products and among others, conventional loan and saving products, interest free loan and saving

products and machinery lease or lease finance.

The conventional loan products includes, group loan, individual loan, cooperative loan, housing loan, consumption loan and vehicle loan. It also provides interest free loan such as Murahaba and Hijira.

He further said that, lease financing is focusing on machinery financing. Among the conventional saving products voluntary, mandatory, child, joint, and house to house and box savings can be mentioned. On the other hand, joint time deposit and checking account can be comprised here.

Interest free trade also combines Wadia or deposit saving and Mudarebah which is investment savings. Side by side with these activities, it has been implementing digital finance including banking system, Dire Mobile Wallet Service and telebirr services.

According to Teshome, when Dire Microfinance prepared its establishing rules, it considered disabled people and women to reach them financially. It provided credit to create their job and broaden their trading activities and strengthening their market value chain. Reducing their financial shortcomings and enhancing their benefit in this regard is part of the institution's objectives.

In order to provide loan, the disabled and women are required to save money through their own credit associations and if they save 20%, they will be legible to acquire the credit. In addition with 10% savings, they can obtain collateral lease financing which enables them to obtain working machine through credit. Disabled people can obtain loan only by saving 5% of the loaned money.

The government employee can obtain loan up to 80 thousand Birr without necessarily bringing a guarantor. But for the future, they are advised to start saving to obtain the loan in the proper manner.

With regard to increasing women's borrowing capacity, various measures are taken. They have better experience in refunding the borrowed money in which others can draw lesson. Dire Microfinance planned to raise the amount of loaned money to women up to 60%. In this regard, the institute accomplished its 100% plan.

In addition, awareness creation work has been undergone to the disabled people and women and the role of the media in this regard is immense. The demand for credit from the small and medium size scale enterprises also increasing and changing the living condition of the members of the

enterprises to the better also was possible.

Disabled ones, who live in desperate situation now, have become optimist to pursue decent life. Most of the disabled men engaged in wood and metal works and others also engaged in trade. Members of the enterprises demand credit in groups and individually and get response from the micro finance institutions.

Disabled people are provided some vocational and technical courses with the collaboration of technical colleges. After accomplishing their training, they come to the microfinance and will be served to obtain credit and start their own business.

According to Teshome, the Dire Micro Finance institution's interest rate when it provides loan to the customers is 18 %. Some microfinance set their interest rate up to 20 and 21%. Hence, his institution's rate is relatively better when compared to the others.

He further said that the institution purchases money from banks by 8 and 9 % interest rate and it provides to the members of the credit and saving association members by 6 and 7 % interest rate and it has a duty to refund the money to the bank. Therefore, it properly handles the loaned money and scrutinized how and in what way the resource is allocated.

Bringing the loan from other banks has its own cost. Hence, the interest rate is set by considering the balance of payment and its gained profit and in such a way supporting the disabled ones is possible.

As to Teshome, if civic associations provide guarantee to the micro finance institutions, it would have been possible to provide more loan to the disabled customers. But till now, no civic associations show interest to provide guarantee. The institute has resource limitation and had it obtained support from none governmental organizations, it would have been provided more support to the disabled and women.

The exceptional matter that the Dire Micro Finance working is that, it has various products which provide the customers and the lease finance can be mentioned here in these regard.

To the customers engaged in the manufacturing sector without the requirement of collateral by saving only 20% will obtain the machine and 80% of the loan is covered by the institute.

The micro finance institute also provides inputs that can be used in the production process to the customers. The loan repayment time also can be extended until they become strong enough to repay the loan.



# Planet Earth

## COP28 demonstrated Ethiopia's vivid commitment to mitigating climate change

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly known as the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP28, was held in Expo City in Dubai from November 30 to December 12, 2023. In reality, the conference is organized every year with a different subject.

The key distinction between the COP27 and COP28 conferences is the time and focus of the talks. Each conference has its own agenda and aims, but both are concerned with tackling climate change and reaching international accords to limit its effects.

For instance, COP27 focused on evaluating and analyzing progress toward past conferences' goals, as well as negotiating new pledges and accords. COP28, on the other hand, would most likely focus on implementing and expanding on past conferences' conclusions, as well as defining new objectives and strategies for combating climate change.

Furthermore, the exact aims and issues of each conference may shift depending on the present global situation and growing climate change challenges. Both conferences, however, would strive to bring governments, organizations, and stakeholders together to work and progress toward tackling climate change globally.

The conclusion of the Conference of the Parties COP28 is likely to have a substantial influence on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. The summit brought governments from all over the world together to debate and negotiate agreements to cut greenhouse gas emissions and take measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

One potential outcome of COP28 could be a renewed commitment by countries to meet the targets set out in the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This could lead to increased efforts to reduce emissions from key sectors such as energy, transportation, and industry.

Ethiopia has been one of the participants of COP28 and did its best to show how the country is committed to mitigating the effect of climate change and its negative impacts. The country plays a significant role in COP28 and demonstrates its commitment to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. As a country that is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, Ethiopia has a strong incentive to advocate for ambitious and effective outcomes at the conference.

Ethiopia used COP28 as an opportunity to showcase its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. This could include highlighting renewable energy projects, sustainable land management practices,

and initiatives to build climate-resilient infrastructure.

According to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed(PhD), "It has been more than three decades since climate change is a global political issue. Agreements have been adopted, and we have made good strides in combining the climate agenda with the sociopolitical and economic dimensions of sustainable development but the assessment of our actions under the global stock shows that we are far from the 1.5-degree Target. This has a dramatic impact on the most affected countries while activism is necessary action is what will get us results success can only be measured by the actions we take not by the decisions we make.

Indeed, despite ideological and political disparities, the successive governments of Ethiopia have made various efforts to mitigate climate change. Taking the importance of mitigating climate change impacts, the current government also has made various efforts. Ethiopia is making efforts to protect and heal the planet while ensuring growth and prosperity.

Hence, the country prepared a homegrown solution and has been implementing it towards reducing emissions and building resilience. First the Ethiopian Green Legacy initiative a powerful nature-based solution launched in 2019 and implemented over the last 5 years.

Accordingly, the country established 130,000 nurseries across the country and yearly millions of people mobilize in seedling planting and management. Ethiopia's Green Legacy initiative represents a proactive response to pressing environmental and socioeconomic challenges. it reduces carbon emission preserves biodiversity, create jobs, and boost sectors such as tourism.

He stated "I am proud to say that this initiative has received remarkable success by planting 32.5 billion seedlings. Our target is to reach 50 billion by 2026. when completed the initiative will become the largest afforestation project in the world. The impact of our initiative extends beyond borders as we are sharing seedlings with our neighboring countries. It can further play a catalytic role in Africa and complement existing initiatives such as the Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative and the Great Green Wall.

Second, the country is taking action to transform the food system since climate change, biodiversity, water resources, people and food systems are strongly interrelated. Accordingly, Ethiopia has successful interventions in planting various drought-tolerant crops and using climate-smart irrigation-based technology like the national summer wheat production program whereby Ethiopia produces 6 million hectares in one year. This makes the country the largest wheat producer in Africa and relieved from wheat import dependency and made a wheat

exporting country.

As part of the Green Legacy initiative, Ethiopia has extensively expanded the cultivation of perennial crops and fruits. Furthermore, it diversifies sector-prone practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change and promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture. The country has been also working to increase the supply of poultry, dairy, livestock, and honey products through a program called "Yelemat Turfat". The country has also an urban initiative whereby it encourages eco-friendly and resource-efficient greening and farming matters for sustainable agricultural practice which optimizes effective water management and prioritizes investments in renewable energy-based irrigation systems.

Third, Ethiopia has also been investing extensively in renewable and green energy resources. It has the potential to generate over 60,000 megawatts of clean energy by expanding hydropower, solar, wind, and geothermal sources. Ethiopia's target is to triple the current power generation capacity and double its energy utilization efficiency by 2030. This in turn will allow the country to achieve universal access to electricity, minimize dependency on biomass fuel, and provide the opportunity for industries to reach their Net Zero targets by 2050.

Ethiopia also takes bold actions in the transport sector. It adopted policies to encourage the use of electrical vehicles that resulted in a sharp increase of hybrid and electric cars on the roads while reducing the macroeconomic burden of importing fuel. Similarly, Ethiopian Airlines is modernizing its Fleet by acquiring new energy-efficient aircraft. Furthermore, the country has electrified Railways a growing non-motorized transport infrastructure, and is expanding into a mass transit system.

However, Ethiopia has shown its commitment and determination in fighting the impact of climate change, but much remains to be done. It requires collective Global action for a stepped-up climate agenda the major challenge in scaling solutions is the cost of capital and how International financing fin financing is structured no country can effectively confront the climate challenge.

Hence, the Prime Minister urging all parties to negotiate in good phases and come up with innovative outcomes as we collectively tackle the impact of climate change while you're here working hard for successful COP28 outcomes.

Indeed, Ethiopia used the COP28 conference as a platform to demonstrate its own commitment to addressing the negative impact of climate change. The country is increasing efforts to cut emissions from critical sectors such as energy, transportation, and industry. It also vividly presented how the country is making efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change by taking serious action.

**E**thiopia has been one of the participants of COP28 and did its best to show how the country is committed to mitigating the effect of climate change and its negative impacts

# Art & Culture

## Putting Black History and Heritage in the service of black emancipation

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The recent inauguration of the Global Black History, Heritage and Education Centre in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa has, according to the Ethiopian News Agency (ENA), represents momentous events. “The landmark decision of the board to establish the centre in Addis Ababa marks a significant milestone for the organization and a testament to Ethiopia’s rich heritage and unwavering contributions to Black history in Africa and worldwide.”

No doubt that the Ethiopian capital deserves to host the Centre for many reasons. First Ethiopia is not only the cradle of humanity as it has been reasserted time and again on the basis of Lucy’s prestigious status as representing perhaps the first man who walked our planet on two feet for the first time.

This is, according to anthropologists, the very foundation of the radical evolution that culminated with what experts call Homo erectus, that radically put human evolution in new perspective. This also represented the genesis of human biological, social and cultural revolution. As the origin of mankind, Ethiopia is thus perfectly entitled to serve as the centre for Black history and Black identity.

As a passing remark, we may perhaps note that the African Homo erectus that originated in Ethiopia is considered by anthropologists as the first human species to leave Africa and spread in all directions across the globe. “Fossil remains show this species had expanded to its range into southern Eurasia 1.75 million years ago. Their descendants, Asian homo erectus, then spread eastward and were established in South East Asia at least 1.6 million years ago.”

Fast forward to the modern era and we find Ethiopia at the helm of the struggle Africa and the Black race waged against the colonial partition of the continent which is also known as the ‘scramble for Africa’ on the part of the then European powers. Ethiopia spearheaded the critical moment in the struggle against European colonialism and emerged as the beacon of pride in black identity and as trailblazer to what happened in Africa in the post-Adwa period that is considered a time of African rebirth and emergence from darkness into light of freedom. The identity formation of the Black people started well before Adwa but it continued with leaps and bounds right after Adwa and down to this day.

A third reason why Ethiopia is hosting the Centre may be its contribution to African art and culture as a country with its unique alphabets and a written

civilization that goes back to many centuries. The historical fact that makes Ethiopia the centre of Black history and heritage goes beyond human evolution. It is now a well-established fact that Ethiopia is also home to one of the most ancient civilizations that existed following the evolutionary process that led to humankind as we know it now. Suffice it to mention Axum, which is by any comparison is also one of the most original Ethiopian or African civilizations that existed prior to the emergence of Europe and America as geographical as well as cultural entities.

Axum is synonymous not only with Ethiopia but also with Africa and the Black people all over the world. “A major empire of the ancient world, the kingdom of Axum arose in Ethiopia and existed approximately 150 BC to 960 AD. This wealthy African civilization thrived for centuries controlling a large territorial state and access to vast trade routes linking the Roman Empire to the Middle East and India.” Axum is also noted for being the first black civilization that created its own currency when the rest of the world indulged in primitive forms of barter. In Axum, Africans see the creation of the first written alphabet and scripture while the rest of humanity lived in caves and scratched signs and symbols on their walls with their bare hands.

One of the board members of the Global Black History heritage and Education Centre, Robin Walker, was quoted during the inauguration ceremony as saying that, “the centre will play an important role in helping black people study their shared history and make their future brighter” adding that, “Correcting the story of the black people, which is being told in a distorted way, and enabling black people to write objective history of today and the past by themselves is suitable for the development of black unity and solidarity.”

What is history in general and black history in particular? There may be many answers to this single question as history is interpreted as meaning many things to many people. The meaning of history itself has often been replete with ambiguities and contradictions, at one time leading to the belief that there can hardly be an “objective historiography”. “In a 1961 non-fiction book by British historian E.H. Carr, the author discusses his point of view of the essence of modern historiography. The author discusses history, facts, the bias of historians, science and moral judgments in history...Carr’s first answer to the question “what is history?” is that it is a continuous process of interaction between the historian and his facts, an

unending dialogue between the present and the past.”

Black history may not fit into Carr’s definition or interpretation because of the distortions, misinterpretations and lies that had marked it. This history was often written by the colonial establishments in Europe and by Western academics who looked down at black people as an inferior race. As Black history was first written by the racist academic establishments, it neither tallies with facts and events nor present an objective picture of the lives and aspirations of the oppressed black communities across the world.

It was only after the emergence of black academicians and historians that put back history in its proper perspective that the racism of white establishment was effectively challenged. Colonialism was the biggest distorter of black history and the struggle to right the wrongs done by colonialism is still an ongoing process that is expected to culminate in the total liberation of all Black people.

What is Black history then? According to one definition of the history and heritage of black people, “Black culture is rooted in the historical experiences of African people and their descendants, including the legacies of slavery colonialism and the civil rights movements.” It celebrates the resilience, strength, and achievements of Black individuals and communities throughout history.”

Historical narrations of black people across the world has been divided between academics who look at it as a romanticized narrations of events versus critical appraisal of the black peoples’ lives and struggles of black people everywhere. It is now a long-established fact that black history is basically a history of black oppression by white colonial historians. What is the use of learning history and more particularly black colonialists and neocolonialists?

In this age of rising nationalism, black history has on its part given rise to a kind of black nationalism although such characterization is seldom used to identify blackness or the “black man’s burden”. The rise of the “Black Lives Matter” movement in America has given rise to a new conception of blackness as equal to whiteness and a new generation of radical black consciousness has taken roots among the still disadvantaged, and marginalized black populations whose lives did not matter until very recently and were the targets of violence by white police establishments and racist and neo-fascists politicians that support them.

Black history was once a fragmented, isolated and neglected area of study that suffered from deliberate distortions and lies by Western academicians who

served as mouthpieces of slavery and colonialism. It only started to be seen as an organic whole, by the turn of the 20th century when colonialism began to crumble and black consciousness found unprecedented opportunities for growth and development.

Black history in America is one example of the fragmentation of black history. Black history Month in America was created, “to focus attention on the contributions of African-Americans to the United States.” In other words, black people were and are important as long as they contributed to the economic, political and cultural identity of the United States.

Black people elsewhere in the world are not important because they have not contributed to the history of the United States. Such a bias, racist and fragmented view of black history does not of course represent the history of black people in general. Even in the case of Black history in America, its importance emanates from the fact that slavery has contributed a great deal to the emergence of America as we know it now. The name, Black history was initially called “negro history” and the Negro History Week became “Black History Month” only in 1926.

Things have changed as far as black history is concerned and black people have started to be seen in a holistic and/or organic manner. It has taken almost a non-stop struggle lasting almost two centuries in order to arrive at what we may call a global conception of blackness and black consciousness. As a member of the board of Global Black History, Heritage and Education Centre was quoted as saying, “This is also a new concept to develop the ties between Africa and the Diaspora so that there is respect between the people of Africa.”

The total liberation of Black people is still a distant possibility as their fate has not been improved and history has never been kind to them. The present generation of black leaders obviously carries the burden of history and the responsibility for ensuring the continued struggle towards black liberation. As board member John Matthew said on the same occasion, the centre will play a great role in documenting and passing on many stories that had never been told since ancient times. The remaining chapters of black history will no doubt prove long, impressive and bright as there is no going back to square one for all Black people across the world as history is never written in reverse order. Obviously, “Black people have a role to play in telling their own stories and supporting their heritage and passing it on to future generations.”



# Society

## Investing on young innovators through STEM

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

In an effort to develop skilled and knowledge human power countries are seeing focusing more on strengthening STEM. Ethiopia is also flexing its muscle in letting young students to get opportunities to learn science, technology, engineering, and math in a practical fashion through STEM programs, than ever before.

Lately, the National Science and Engineering Fair 2023 was conducted here in Addis. The event was organized Ministry of Education, AASTU, JICA and other stakeholders. The event was a successful and captivating in bringing together talented students from across Ethiopia, according to STEM power.

The innovations displayed during the fair includes Bluetooth controlled wheelchair, a smart cane and eyeglasses, flood-alert system, anti-sleep alert system for drivers, parking management system, various household appliances and drones among others.

On the event, outstanding innovators have been awarded laptops by Simenew Keskes (PhD), Country Director of STEM power, recognizing their dedication and excellence in science and engineering.

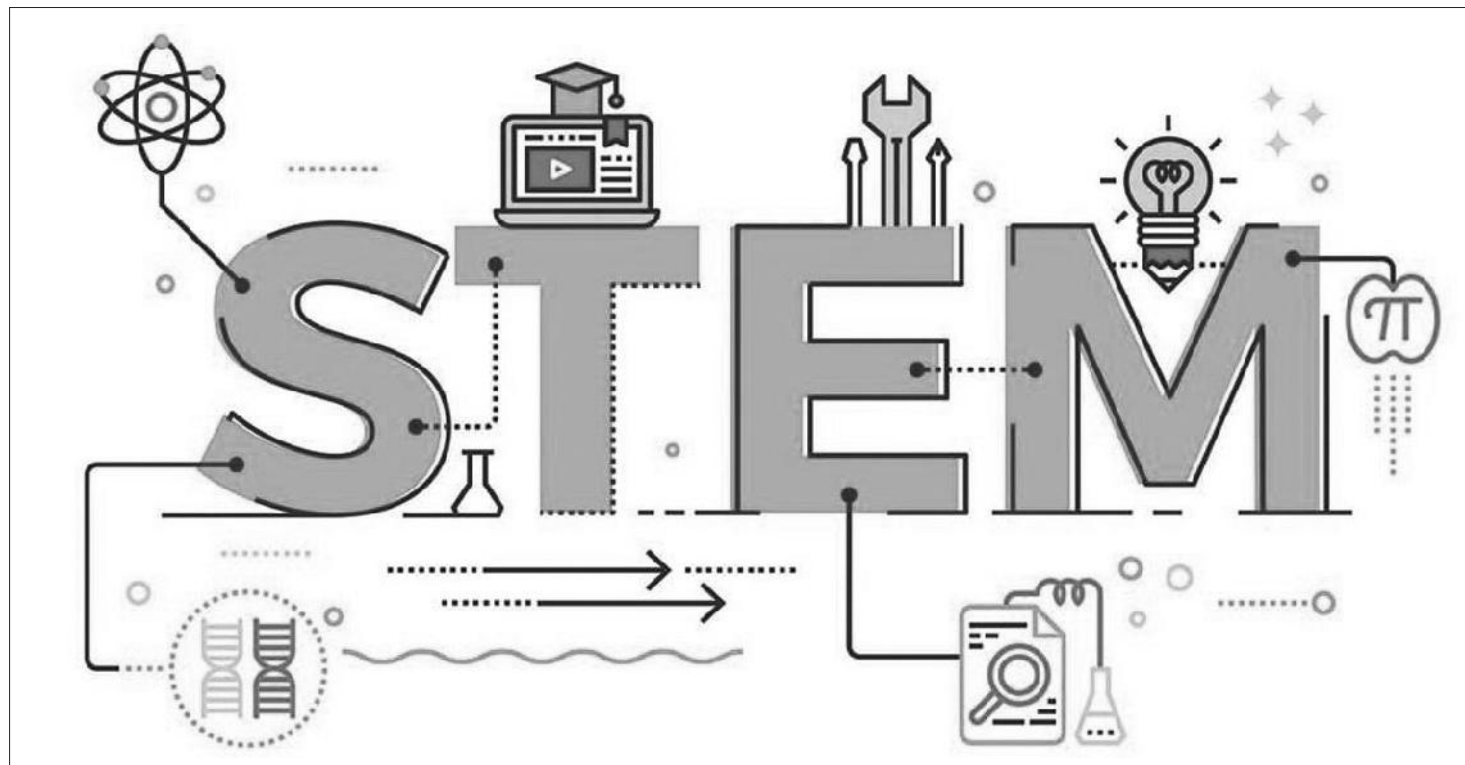
Simenew believed that the organization is playing due role in supporting science students as Ethiopia has innovative and problem solving youth that can improve the lives of many if obtain the required technical, financial or technological support.

“We are immensely proud of the outstanding achievements showcased at the 8th National Science and Engineering Fair. The dedication and creativity displayed by these young students are truly inspiring. We believe that by fostering their passion for STEM education, we are paving the way for a brighter future for Ethiopia,” he said.

In his speech on the occasion, Prof. Teketel Yohannes, the Director of the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences and a Board Member of STEM power Ethiopia, emphasized on the significance of scientific innovation highlighting the incredible potential of young scientists in Ethiopia.

According the press release sent to *The Ethiopian Herald*, some 178 students from 30 Ethiopian STEM centers competed for the top prizes presenting their problem solving innovations.

Suzana Kassahun, a 10th-grader student from Wolaita zone, has been undergoing hardship due to her father’s diabetes-induced paralysis. While contemplating on how to solve the issue, she got a chance to attend training at the Sodo STEM Center that enabled her to alleviate her father’s



agony. She designed and constructed a non-invasive blood glucose measuring device.

“My father developed paralysis from his diabetes, and I became driven to find a better treatment plan than what my father went through. My device offers a diabetes sufferer patient a comfortable way to monitor their glucose levels and their heart rate. I built an electronic circuit that uses near-infrared LEDs to look through the blood inside a finger, instead of painfully pricking the finger to collect a blood sample,” she said.

Suzana’s innovative device utilizes an electronic circuit with an NIR laser-based sensor, providing diabetes patients with a comfortable alternative to monitor their glucose levels and heart rate without the need for painful finger pricks.

The Wolaita Sodo STEM Center played a crucial role in supporting Suzana by providing her with essential tools and resources, including a 3D printer, to bring her invention to life. Suzana also expressed her appreciation to the center for helping her in making possible her dream to invent a device that empowers an individual to control their own health destiny.

Samrawit Mulu is another student from Kallamino STEM Center, Tigray, who developed a smart cane and eyeglasses for visually impaired individuals. Samarawit’s innovations are designed in a way to protect visually impaired individuals from unexpected damages that may harm them while walking on streets. This groundbreaking invention provides real-time feedback and alerts users to potential obstacles, enabling them to navigate their surroundings with enhanced safety and confidence.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, STEM Synergy Country Director Aseggedech Shawel, said that

empowering the future generations with innovative solutions pays back in fighting poverty, and paves ways in ensuring productive human power.

According to her, the practice of teaching and learning process in science, technology, engineering, and math should be more practical than theory. We are trying to provide this kind of opportunities for the young learners starting from junior schools.

So far, STEM Synergy has established 22 STEM Centers nationwide and 71 laboratories. “We are planning to promote STEM among youth and make them innovative entrepreneurs and equip them with better knowledge to their future career. This is not only to an individual student. The more we invest in STEM the more we are supporting the economy of the nation. This is in the form of technology transfer and social enterprises, promoting deep learning, creativity and science inquiry method to solve real world problem of society.”

STEM Synergy is working in collaboration with higher education institutes as well as State education bureaus. Assessment conducted to evaluate the impact of STEM Centers is promising and more young students are joining science and technology programs.

Most of the STEM Centers that are operating in higher education institutes are creating platform for young learners to familiarize them with practical skills and this is bridging the knowledge gap in the area.

Due to limited access to educational labs, most students in most developing countries are seeing full of theories than practical knowledge. In this regard, STEM Centers are expected to fill that gap by equipping students both theoretical and practical knowledge.

According to her, as part of its educational reform, the government is exerting its utmost effort to produce productive students. Equipping schools and higher educational institutes with laboratories is part of its effort. However, it does not mean that all the needs are fulfilled. To draw more innovators and technologists’ nation should work on primary and secondary schools.

STEM Synergy is working to ensure sustainability and continuous impact on national human development. As part of this effort, it handed over the STEM Centers to respective universities or administrative bodies and offer capacity building for not less than two years.

According to her, STEM education changes society by offering learners a new mindset and skills valued in any profession. They allow young people to be flexible, look for patterns, find connections, and evaluate information.

STEM Synergy will keep on establishing more STEM Centers, always searching for local vendors, increase efficiency, and work on coordinated feedbacks from stakeholders.

STEM power is a non-governmental organization working in Ethiopia and other African countries in supporting youths like Suzana and Samrawit who need technical or technological assistance to achieve their dreams. It also provides education emphasizing on problem-solving, creativity, and skill-building.

STEM power, a pan-African charity, has been promoting Science, Technology, and Engineering and Mathematics education across Africa for over a decade aimed at preparing students for advanced STEM studies and careers through providing secondary and pre-university students with hands-on STEM programs.



## Law & Politics

# Stabilizing the Horn through collective approach

BY EYUEL KIFLU

The Horn African region has long been synonym with incessant conflicts, human carnage and a security concern for the international community. With the region continued to serve as a launching pad for terrorism, piracy and other pitfalls. Aborted reform, prolonged conflict, communal clash, exodus, armed struggle have been the face of the volatile region.

With Somalia struggling to install strong, stable central government, Sudan going through recurrent violence, South Sudan entangled in prolonged clash, the Horn region appears to be cobweb of old and emerging threats.

Also, according to IGAD Secretariat report the region has one of the highest concentrations of displaced population currently, the region hosts over 19 million displaced persons comprising of more than five million refugees and 14 internally displaced persons.

However, despite these challenges, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has emerged as a key player, actively working towards a peaceful resolution and fostering stability in the region.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald* a political scientist, Haileyesus Taye (PhD) said that to address regional challenges, member countries must strengthen their national capacities and provide financial and military support to build an effective collective entity.

He highlighted the turbulent state of the region and the need for a robust police force. He emphasized that the lack of peace, democratic governance issues, resource mismanagement, geographical challenges, and natural disasters like droughts and floods contribute to the region's instability.

Lately, the regional bloc called on the members to collaborative works in different things to tackle the region problems. Recently also, the organ called member states continue to maintain an open-door policy to refugees and have made several commitment to pursue durable solutions for refugees and other displaced population.

As mentioned above, the region has many displaced and refugees in different regions. The current Sudan inter-conflict may fuel the challenge. IGAD and neighbouring countries are struggling to relief for Sudanese. The recent Extraordinary Session of the IGAD Assembly of Heads of State and Government recently took place in Djibouti has addressed remarkable steps for the Sudan crises.

IGAD emphasized in a statement that there can be no military solution to the

current crisis in Sudan. It emphasized the importance of peaceful dialogue and discussion as the only way forward for a peaceful, stable, united, and democratic Sudan.

In order to garner full political and diplomatic support for IGAD and the African Union in their efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to the on-going conflict, the statement stressed the need to intensify efforts and foster closer collaboration and coordination with all stakeholders. Furthermore, IGAD called for quarterly meetings to assess the progress of the peace process in Sudan.

The statement also highlighted the accelerated efforts to organize an all-inclusive Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led civilian dialogue. This dialogue aims to forge national consensus and pave the way for a civilian-led transition, culminating in open, transparent, and democratic elections.

The organ made a significant announcement that the fighting forces in Sudan had agreed to a ceasefire and committed to upholding it. General Abdul Fatah Al Burhan, whose forces have been engaged in combat with the Rapid Action Force since last December, attended the conference in Djibouti. Additionally, IGAD leaders held phone conversations with General Hamdan Degalo, the commander of the Rapid Action Force. Both generals agreed to the recommendations, and it is expected that they will meet separately after the ceasefire, as reported by the BBC.

During the Assembly, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to supporting a peaceful resolution with Sudan. The Office of the Prime Minister announced Ethiopia's continued dedication to resolving the conflict in the

neighboring country, which has persisted for several months. Ethiopia, as an active member of IGAD, has played a significant role in supporting the peace and stability of Sudan.

The country has working with IGAD closely to address the regional problems.

Commenting on the Horn's volatility, Mulugeta Debebe (PhD), a political science lecturer at Civil Service University, emphasizes the importance of Ethiopia's role in promoting regional stability. He acknowledges Ethiopia's on-going border dispute with Sudan, and applauded Ethiopian government's patience as it urged Sudan to address its own internal issues first.

As much as the positive trends unfolding in the region, peace has been in short supply. According to analysts stay with *The Ethiopian Herald*, the root causes of the region's conflicts include incompatible interests among states, external interference in internal affairs, economic issues, governance challenges, resource competition, ethnic and religious tensions, weak leadership, and a lack of strong institutions that fuel the region's instability.

Haileyesus pointed out the geopolitical significance of the Red Sea, which attracts the interest of Western and other nations. These countries also need to control the region, which is also crucial for the region's instability, he said. So, this external interference, with divergent interests, has further complicated the situation.

He stressed the importance of regional countries finding solutions to their issues, as their unwillingness to do so often lead to government turnover and warfare.

He identified incompatible interests among countries, a lack of cooperation, and unhealthy relationships as factors worsening instability.

Darskedar Taye, a lead researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), told *The Ethiopian Herald* that government's administrative lapse contributes to the region's upheaval. Living in secure, protected areas and other places where only the government system works properly.

He said that the incompatibility of interests among East African countries is a major source of conflict. He pointed out that when countries interfere in each other's internal affairs, it further exacerbates tensions. Darskedar also noted that while the specific problems vary across the region, there are common underlying reasons contributing to conflicts.

Ethnic and religious differences were identified as significant sources of conflict, particularly when they align with disparities in the distribution of political power and economic resources, as former research indicated.

Darskedar stressed the impact of ethnic and clan politics on regional turmoil, citing examples from Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia

According to Darskedar external interference is also another destabilizing factor. He noted that outside groups often support conflicting parties in the region, providing them with weapons and ammunition, which prolongs and intensifies conflicts. Countries with interests in the Red Sea region are particularly implicated in exacerbating regional instability.

He emphasizes the need for strong institutions and the rule of law to address these challenges. Building robust institutions, ranging from service providers to justice, democratic, peace, and security institutions, is critical for ensuring lasting peace.

He indicated that the challenges to resolving these problems include the lack of willingness among conflicting parties to seek solutions, highly polarized interests, and the economic advantages that conflict brings to militants. Governments must play a significant role in protecting the peace of their citizens by providing security services and addressing poverty and economic issues.

Beyond the problems raised above IGAD struggling to make history by pacify the region. The organ is playing crucial role in promoting dialogue, achieving ceasefires, and laying the groundwork for peaceful resolutions. The organization's commitment to finding African-led solutions is an encouraging step towards lasting stability and peace in the region.







Ephrem Endale  
Contributor

# Between you & me

## Clean up Your Acts!

Some things never change, do they? I mean even in these times of tons of information from every and all sides which used properly could have myths pushed aside and reality taking center stage some things never change. It's sad to see many of still stuck in that old, muddle of misconceptions about the outer world and, perhaps shockingly, about ourselves. The depths we could drag ourselves into are just incomprehensible.

This couple enter into one of those sparkling restaurants to treat themselves to a rare sumptuous lunch which they do once or twice every two or three months. It was one way of trying to keep pace with a fast changing world around them. Once they were comfortably seated their orders were taken. Of course, on this special occasion meals couldn't be any less than three course dishes. Ten or so minutes later a group of four foreigners enter and settle a couple of tables from the couple. Then the drama begins unfolding. Like we see in a places, many times to our frustration and sometimes rage, the waiters almost trip over each other to take orders. Theirs was not about the quality of customer treatment, it was about sheer greed with images of the 'mighty dollar' swimming in their heads. There was a group of four foreigners and there was the possibility of hefty tips! It sort of adds up, doesn't it! For quite a while now such spectacles have been common and in such places it would be sometime, is it eve does, for sense to be restored.

Orders are taken. After several minutes the orders of the four foreigners are delivered. What! Wait a minute here! I mean however much greed was running the show that was too much. Shouldn't the couple's orders have arrived first? After all they had almost a quarter of an hour advantage over the late comers and this happens! The duo in pure Ethiopian humility keep their cool. And after the foreigners were served the couple had to wait for another eight to ten minutes for their orders to hit their table. The lady had enough. She demanded to speak to the manager. The headwaiter comes instead and she demands why they have been left attended for so long while the late arrivals were served. Having nothing to say the head waiter apologizes.

Now hers was not about seeking preferential treatment. It was about the simple 'rule' of "first come first served." That should be the cornerstone of modern business, or would that be asking too much?

The foreigners do away with their meals, settle the bill and all head for the exit except one amongst them. The one who looked like a middle-aged guy approaches the couple's table. To the utter surprise of the duo he apologized for what transpired adding that the waiters should have served them first. The couple were completely taken aback. He said his group had nothing to do with what happened and never asked to be served while they were late comers. Anyways he apologizes in the name of his group. Apology

accepted. Now isn't some real behavior!

Here is another of those day to day incidents you run into 24/7. It happened at one of those 'plush' areas of Addis which look like they have been designated, 'The Silicon Valley of Boutiques!' Ha! Look, there is something that always bugs me and in all the enquiries I have made of friends and others I've yet to get any real and even slightly logical response. How come we have so many boutiques gracing every corner of the city, especially those high rise areas, and yet we never seem to see customers going and out. I mean after all they are shops, aren't they? And the one thing you expect to see in shops other than the merchandize is customers going in and out. When d they sell their twenty grand pair of shoes and thirty, forty grand suits?

Anyways talking about our mini-incident this guy was in a boutique and inquiring about the prices of various brands of shoes. Then a couple of ferenji enter and start looking around. Then the young lady talking to our guy cuts in mid-sentence and practically rushes towards the ferenji. (By the way, you wonder how some sales people could rush in such narrow spaces!) Meanwhile our fellow chooses one brand and signals the young lady that he was ready to buy. She didn't acknowledge him! Not even a 'I'll be right there,' gesture. In fact deep inside her she might as well be saying something like, "So what you dummy! I'm hear attending the ferenji and you think I'll drop that and

come to you for a damn pair of shoes! By the way 'the damn pair of shoes' cost ten grand!" The funny part is that all this time the ferenji haven't said a single word and there was nothing to suggest they were interested in buying anything!

Look the talk that this is country of people who like welcoming even strangers with the biggest smile of all isn't about myths. For centuries ours have been nation where strangers could feel at home as people receive them with open hands and open hearts. Of course I wouldn't be so naive to claim such social order is still in place especially I the bigger cities like Addis. Without doubt the countryside is probably much better. Haven't you heard of the fact that in the country side you, the complete stranger to some vicinity, might be lost hundreds of kilometer from you place of residence and yet could never be alienated and feel of being in some place you're not wanted. The peasants had this culture of holding their doors wide open, treating you to the best dinner and giving you their bed while they spend the chill of the night sprawled on the floor.

But the behavior of some service givers these days is not about hospitality or about being the nicest people in town but about greed and, though they fail to see, low self-esteem. Hey, clean up your acts or leave the place for those with clean and clear brains and, this is huge, unwavering self-esteem!

## "Falling in Line! No, Thank You!"

For years you've known this guy and he has been one of those souls with the biggest and nicest of smiles whenever they engage with others. The smile on the fellow's face doesn't seem to be one of those here one minute, nowhere the next, emotional seesaws but everlasting physical feature which seems to have been engraved into his face. He's the kind of guy with whom you can talk about every and anything and still discussions and good-natured arguments never fly off the rails. With 'everything' I mean even politics, the one thing which these days breaks friendships like they've never been broken any time in the history of mankind. The most emotionally strong and reliable friendships and social bonds have all faded into the darkest corners of our existence. With intolerance, arrogance and virtual misinterpretation of the strong beliefs and attitudes of others having mankind in a chokehold having friends or colleagues who prefer reason to guide their ever action could be a blessing in its special ways. Believe me and such people could be the sparkling gems in one's social prevent the lucky ones from being swallowed by the hollowing waves of hopelessness self-defeating interpretation of life. The rule of the game in such instances is that people are what they never try to act otherwise. Hard to find these days, wouldn't you say?

Sometimes things turn in such unexpected and unanticipated ways it's easy to end up devastated both mentally and physically. Especially when people whom you adored and respected for all the right reasons, people whom you thought are the very reasons that prevent you from the final "Guilty as charged!" verdict on mankind taking behavioral detours

you never saw common it's no wonder you end up a very sad soul.

Of course, change is what drives this world and makes life worth living, isn't it? It would be rather plain to claim that change has always been here and would continue to be the one fact of life which would never be replaced whatever course the AI thing takes. For better or worth things have been changing for millennia this course would continue. (I hope I don't sound as yet another activist who completely lost the skill and the rational outlook to draw the red line between reality and idealistic nonsense which do nothing but confuse tender minds!) In this age when many things seem to have jumped the speed limits and are moving like crazy nothing and no one seems to be immune from change.

Sudden changes which you've not seen coming and for which you haven't been prepared in any sensible way could leave you out alone in the cold even in a world which some claim is already overpopulated. Believe me, are seldom comfortable; except if you're on the receiving end of the twenty million birr lottery. Yes sir, twenty million ending in your lap means change! Hmmm...! You might be the humblest person who is brave enough to take life as it is and who waded through all waves without much complaint. Your philosophy, at least until that particular time in your life might have been, "Money shouldn't change people." Three and more cheers for you! If the twenty million or any other unexpected blessing doesn't change you and you remain that humblest person who lives on the strengths of their principles then they should name some prize for you. You deserve it as you'd be the 'special one' of

sorts. Unfortunately we're not in times when it's easy to live by your principles even in the most trivial happenings of daily life.

"You've changed."

"Me, changed! How's that so?"

"You aren't the same guy I used to know. I've asked you for nights out for a few drinks and you repeatedly refused."

"But I've never been a night out person."

"And you're proud of that!"

"Yes, I am. What's wrong with that?"

"Everything; everything is wrong with that. Always that same person hold up in your home while everyone is out enjoying isn't something to be proud about. You don't know what you're missing. You don't also mix people, don't attend wedding and other invitations. Pardon me for saying this, but there must be something very wrong with you."

Because you don't to their idea of 'change' you're taken as an outcast or worse as someone with real mental issues. You are lucky if one out of ten say, "Well, he has every right to live his life as he chooses. Just because he doesn't change the way you want him to it doesn't make him any more stupid than you guys are. (I'd be more than happy to buys such a guy a couple of drinks!)"

Let's hit the nail on the head, shall we? These days mixing with others especially strangers is not the easiest and the nicest thing to do. This is one of those facts of life when you have to think twice and thrice before being too nice for your own good. Many times you're expected to fall in line even if thigs ago against

everything you beloved in! There must indeed be something wrong.

Yes you're expected to change. The world expects it of you. You are expected to change not only your behavior but even your principles too. Now you should not remain stuck in outdated principles which long should have been dumped far and away and act like Romans when you're in Rome. Aha! What if some of the things the Romans do go against my life principles? Well, that's your problem! You're supposed to be an outgoing guy. You are supposed to mix, you're supposed to sing the same tune as others do. Such are the changes expected of you. Otherwise there must be something wrong with you.

Now why the hell should you change your principles? You're told that the straightway is no more the way to go. The times are is about the side roads; the snaking pathways which already seem o be over crowded. The only ways to salvation are the shortcuts. So jump on the train before it leaves the station or else you never know if there would always be another train coming. If you choose to stick to your life principles and refuse to fall in line well unlucky you as you'd lose everything the world has to offer!

"It's about eh money dummy! This time is all about money. And you've to be smart enough to make money whatever way you can. Integrity! What integrity. You pay fifteen thousand birr for a hundred kilos of teff and you talk about integrity! Wake up!"

People who say "Sorry, the alarm clock has yet to ring. Until then there wouldn't be any forced change or any falling in line! Thank you!" must still have some nerves of steel!



# Ethiopia marks 88<sup>th</sup> Air Force day

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

## Field Marshal Birhanu Jula attends 88<sup>th</sup> Air Force day

Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian Army, attended the 88th Ethiopia's Air Force day in Bishoftu. Field Marshal Birhanu at the event said "Ethiopia builds a strong national army that protects it from any threat."

The Ethiopian army is a protector and guardian of Ethiopia. Ethiopia is embedded in the mind of the Ethiopian army. Ethnic and political issues have no place in the Ethiopian army. Heroism and patriotism are the characteristic features of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF).



## PM Abiy attends 88<sup>th</sup> Air Force day

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) graced the 88th anniversary of the Ethiopian Air Force. During the celebration, the Black Lion air force showcased its prowess.



## Field Marshal Birhanu, General Abebaw inaugurates Officer's club

During the celebration of the 88th day of the Ethiopian Air Force, under the theme: "From Zero to Hero, Ethiopian Air Force," in Bishoftu, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula, Chief of Staff of the Ethiopian Army and General Abebaw Tadesse, Deputy Chief of Staff, officially inaugurated a renewed Air Force Officers' Club in Bishoftu.

## Field Marshal Birhanu, General Abebaw welcomed at Bishoftu

Up on their arrival in Bishoftu town where the Ethiopian Air Force center is found, Field Marshal Birhanu Jula and General Abebaw Tadesse were warmly welcomed by the Ethiopian Air Force Commander, Lieutenant General Yilma Merdassa and other senior military commanders and officers.



## African Air Force Chiefs visit Ethiopian Air Force

Air force chiefs drawn from African countries visited works undertaken by the Ethiopian Air Force in Bishoftu.

As part of the 88th Ethiopian Air Force celebration, the first African Air Force Forum was organized in Bishoftu, attended by Air Force chiefs and top leadership from various African countries. During the forum, the air force commanders visited the reform activities of the Ethiopian Air Force.

