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Contact Us 0911222993/ 0911208918



Egypt poking African bear with Arab League umbrella

• *Cairo downgrades League to errand bloc: Researchers*

News Analysis

BY EYUEL KIFLU

Wielding greater political leverages in the Arab world, Egypt is using the Arab League as its own exclusive agent and pawn to

advance longtime smear intrigue against Ethiopia, argued researchers alluding the latter's interventionist statements in African affairs.

The researchers comment struck a chord with

Ethiopia's longtime outlook of the Arabian bloc. For Ethiopia, the League is a sham and satellite bloc at the service of its headquarters, Egypt.

See Egypt poking ... page 4

INSA graduates 120 cyber-talented students

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDISABABA- The Information Network Security Agency (INSA) graduated yesterday some 120 cyber technology, technology development, and hardware talented students for the second time.

At a graduation Ceremony, INSA Director General Solomon Toka said that cyber security development is a key to the holistic development of the country. Of the total 120 graduates, 63 of them are in the field of cyber technology, 38 of them are in technology development, and 19 of them are hardware developers who are trained for one month Ethiopian-summer (rainy) season.

See INSA graduates 120... page 4

Scholars shed light on Africans' history, unity

• *Ethiopia marks Black History Month*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA- As Pan-Africanism has brought immense positive impacts, it is the time for Africans to replicate the legacy of their predecessors, scholars in the area said, calling for continued efforts to repel neocolonialism.

The scholars' remark came on yesterday while celebrating the Black History Month that is being held to remember important people and events in the history of African Diaspora.

See Scholars shed ... page 4



DFTZ garners 6 mln USD in half-year

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA- The Dire Dawa Free Trade Zone (DFTZ) said it amassed six million USD from exports and employed about 5,000 citizens during the past six months of the current fiscal year.

DFTZ General Manager Ahmed Reshid told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that local and international investors have also occupied over 15 sheds in the free trade zone. There is a growing demand among businesses to engage in the DFTZ.

See DFTZ graners ... page 4



Nation to transform 6.5 mln farmers into enterprises: ATI

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia is toiling to transform 6.5 million farmers organized in 95,000 clusters into enterprises, Agriculture Transformation Institute (ATI) disclosed.

ATI's Director General, Mandefro Nigusie (PhD) told *The Ethiopian Herald* that his institute is striving to ensure the benefit of farmers engaged in various clusters.

He indicated that 300 one-stop posts are established at vicinity level to provide clustered farmers with seedlings in addition to the plan to construct seedling storages in the near future.

As to the Director General, ATI works to improve the life of farmers through conducting researches, implementing pilot projects, building the capacity of institutions, and creating market linkage.

For him, benefiting farmers requires facilitating market linkage between producers and companies in which his organization is striving for.

He further stated that ATI has a "National market information system" which is a digital means that help to facilitate the market between the producers and the buyers.

The system enhances transaction for creating direct linkage between producers and buyers without intermediaries, he added.

Similarly, the institute uses digital input inspection to avoid unnecessary outcome, especially during seedling distribution, he stressed.

However, infrastructure limitation is hindering to realize more achievement, Mandefro mentioned, while calling stakeholders to address the challenge.

ATI has been working to modernize and transform the country's agriculture sector which is the key contributor to the national GDP as well as employment, it was learnt.

EDS intensifies Diasporas' participation in homeland dev't

• *Remits over 2 bln.USD in half-year*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – The Diaspora community's participation in the national projects has shown a significant improvement, the Ethiopian Diaspora Service (EDS) said.

In an interviews with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), EDS Director-General Mohammed Idris (PhD) said that utmost efforts that have been exerted to promote the Diaspora community's participation paid off in registering a remarkable achievement in various national development engagements.

Some 210 Diaspora projects registering a capital of 17 billion Birr are operating across the country, he said, adding that the Diaspora members have also deposited over 1.5 million USD.

Exerting a consistent support and follow up, he stated that about two billion USD remittances has been sent home.

In the same vein, the Diaspora community has been actively participating in terms of economic, skill, knowledge and in



EDS Director-General - Mohammed Idris (PhD)

other multifaceted national interventions to help develop their country and benefit the entire community, he emphasized.

He said, "They have been extending legacies by promoting their culture, image building and people-to-people ties among many others."

Apart from taking part in the knowledge transfer and national political issues,

Mohammed mentioned that the Diaspora have been involved in various schemes of investment.

As to him, over 500 Diaspora investors have been taking part in various top investment sectors over the last three years thereby creating lots of job opportunities, supplying mass product to the market.

"It is highly commendable to open gates to the Diaspora community in house and infrastructure development programs to expand trade, investment and tourism," he pinpointed.

So far, the Diaspora have been extending supports in national initiative such as Abbay Dam construction, 'Dine for Ethiopia, 'Gebeta Le Tiwliid' and many other government-owned projects, he stated.

Likewise, the Diaspora community has an indispensable role in sustaining the national interest apart from economic and diplomatic activities and import and export promotion, he added.

It is also significant to propel citizen-centered diplomacy initiatives to ensure the national interest, he remarked.

Addis to witness large-scale real estate expo

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA- Preparation is well underway to hold the Arki Homes Expo that would connect real estate developers, home sellers and furniture companies with potential buyers in one place, the organizer said.

In a press briefing held here on Friday, Arki Event Organizer General Manager Biniam Girma stated that the expo is expected to bring together actors in the real estate and construction sectors with consumers.

About 70 organizations are expected to participate in the expo that would take place from February 23-25, 2024 at Millennium Hall under the theme "Don't buy house before you see this."

Biniam further highlighted that the event would have a paramount importance to low-income community to get real estate homes at affordable price range which is uncommon in the business. The expo would also be accompanied by workshop, training and discussion and we foresee a significant participation from the Diaspora community."

The participants can register online to present their products or homes to buyers and banks that would handle financial issues, home developers, furniture producers and technology



suppliers are also expected to participate in the expo.

"We will organize the expo that serves as bridge between the buyers and real estate developers who build homes."

Moreover, many home developers will share their knowledge and experience about the houses design and construction technologies they have employed with expo attendees and visitors. The developers also brief the visitors about the types of houses they are currently building, the complete costs of buying homes and other related issues, the general manager remarked.

Ashewa Technology Solutions Chief Executive Officer Daniel Bekele on

his part said that real estate developers should apply proper technologies to ensure effective, competent, and manageable tasks. "We will provide and develop an online marketplace platform for enterprises to buy and sell their products or to easily reach the market at affordable price."

The Ethiopian Diaspora Association General Manager Kaleab Girma mentioned the Diaspora community's growing desire to purchase quality houses in their home country. "We would utilize this expo to address the Diaspora's ever-increasing demand for houses in the home country and create the linkage with potential stakeholders to this end."

Editorial

Ethiopia's attitude towards refugees shows its magnanimity altitude

From time stretching back to recorded history and as indicated in Holy books, Ethiopia has been exceptionally marked for stretching out arms to refugees and accommodating them as much as its capacity stretches to.

From facts on the ground, it is an open secret that the country is a safe haven to refugees that flock to Ethiopia fleeing recurring conflicts that rock East Africa and the Middle East. The relative tranquility and resilience Ethiopia has been priding itself with time-long are ascribable to its being refugees' sought-after nation.

Ethiopia that knows full well the domino effect of the absence of peace in neighboring countries has never opted to close its door on a multitude of refugees, who make Ethiopia their chosen destination, under the pretext of security. Rather, sharing from its consumption items and letting refugees take shelter in safe places during rainy days, it is rendering to them social services like access to education on top of humanitarian activities. Some stand a chance for employment. This could not be outside the radar of the international community.

Refugees did come in droves to Ethiopia when Sudan faced turmoil, when clashes surfaced between the warring powers of South Sudan and when Al Shebab was creating havoc in Somalia. It is not only from East Africa or Africa refugees come to Ethiopia. Refugees from Syria, Yemen, and Libya did come to Ethiopia to enjoy a cordial welcome when their respective countries suffered political earthquake.

UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi, who stopped in Ethiopia early this week, did testify Ethiopia's magnanimity. He noted the 90 per cent of world's refugees opt to head to developing countries like Ethiopia.

During the conflict in Sudan over eight million refugees have poured to Ethiopia and neighboring countries. All together, over 20,000 refugees have sought shelter in Kurmuk refugee center found here in Ethiopia. Currently, the number of registered refugees totals one million. It is not hard to imagine the enormity of the load and toughness of the challenge Ethiopia is square facing with magnanimity and considerateness. Its attitude showcases its altitude for common good.

Expecting Ethiopia to fully rise to the challenge of catering to all needs of the refugees would be a bit ideal. Complementing Ethiopia's effort of proving the adage 'a friend in need is a friend indeed' is expected from the global donors to sustainably curb the challenge till the root cause of migration is addressed.

Of course, pertaining to refugees, Ethiopia has drafted a policy on how to address the issue of refugees. This too is laudable. Moreover, it has offered a land meant for building shelters to refugees.

The fact that Ethiopia has given refugees a green light to move freely mixing with the people shows Ethiopia's bent that it does not want refugees to feel they are under chains. This too must win a tap on the back to the country than undue criticism.

Taking Ethiopia's good gesture for granted, leaving the problem to Ethiopia single alone doesn't work. Backing Ethiopia's effort of alleviating the afflictions of refugees and ensuring their safety, the global community must sleep on the problem. Financial and material assistances are called for. True, UNHCR, IOM and other organizations working on refugees are working with Ethiopia. Yet the support being extended to refugees is not satisfactory enough.

Thus, before such spillover effects pose challenges on economically affluent nations, they must make an all-out effort to contain the problems in the localities the hurdles emerged.

Opinion

International law on statehood and access to the sea and ports

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

The Montevideo Convention, adopted in 1933 in Montevideo, Uruguay, defines a state as possessing the following qualifications: a permanent population, a defined territory, a government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states.

According to the convention, a political entity must meet the criteria of having a permanent population, defined territory, government, and capacity to engage in international relations in order to be considered a sovereign state under international law.

The convention does not explicitly address the issue of how statehood is recognized but rather sets out the criteria that entities must fulfill to be considered states. Recognition of statehood is often a matter of political decision-making by other states and international organizations. This is therefore left to the political decision of states.

The Montevideo Convention has had a significant impact on the development of international law, particularly in defining the legal attributes and rights of sovereign states in the international system.

Despite being adopted in the early 20th century, the Montevideo Convention remains an important reference point for discussions about statehood, sovereignty, and the rights and duties of states under international law.

Overall, the Montevideo Convention provides a foundational framework for understanding the concept of statehood and has contributed to the codification of principles related to international relations and the conduct of states in the international community.

According to international law, both Ethiopia and Somaliland qualify for statehood and can therefore enter into agreement that is valid by international law.

International law regarding accession to ports primarily involves agreements, treaties, and customary practices governing the rights and obligations of states concerning access to ports and related maritime activities. Several key principles and legal instruments shape the framework for access to ports:

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is the primary international legal framework governing maritime rights and responsibilities, including access to ports. UNCLOS establishes rules regarding the territorial sea, exclusive economic zones, and the rights of ships to innocent passage through international waters.

Article 3.1 of UNCLOS provides "In order to enjoy the freedom of the seas on equal terms with coastal States, States having no sea coast should have free access to the sea. To this end States situated between the sea and a State having no sea coast shall by common agreement with the latter, and in conformity with existing international conventions, accord:

(a) To the State having no sea coast,

on a basis of reciprocity, free transit through their territory; and

(b) To ships flying the flag of that State treatment equal to that accorded to their own ships, or to the ships of any other States, as regards access to seaports and the use of such ports.

2. States situated between the sea and a State having no sea coast shall settle, by mutual agreement with the latter, and taking into account the rights of the coastal State or State of transit and the special conditions of the State having no sea coast, all matters relating to freedom of transit and equal treatment in ports, in case such States are not already parties to existing international conventions.

UNCLOS enshrines the principle of freedom of navigation, ensuring that ships of all states enjoy the right to navigate through international waters, including access to ports, subject to certain limitations and regulations.

Port states have the sovereign authority to regulate activities within their ports, including inspection, enforcement of laws and regulations, and collection of fees and charges. However, port states are generally required to treat foreign vessels in a non-discriminatory manner consistent with international law.

States may enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements to govern access to ports, establish port facilities, regulate port operations, and facilitate international maritime trade and transportation. These agreements often address issues such as port fees, customs procedures, security arrangements, and environmental protection.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Regulations: The IMO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, develops international regulations and standards for maritime safety, security, and environmental protection. IMO regulations may include provisions related to port access, port facilities, and port state control measures.

Customary International Law: Customary international law, based on consistent state practice and opinio juris (belief in legal obligation), also plays a significant role in shaping norms and practices related to access to ports and maritime activities. International human rights law and refugee law impose obligations on states to ensure access to ports for asylum seekers and refugees fleeing persecution or violence. States are generally prohibited from returning individuals to a territory where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.

Overall, international law on accession to ports is multifaceted, reflecting the complex legal, economic, security, and environmental considerations associated with maritime transportation and trade. States are expected to adhere to their legal obligations under relevant international instruments and customary practices while promoting the safe, efficient, and environmentally sustainable operation of ports and maritime activities.

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



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Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22
Fax. 251-011-156-98-62
email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com
Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15
Telegram :- 0976084707 - press
Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew
email- workubelachew@press.et
Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city
Woreda - 05, House No----
Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama
Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu
Elizabeth Mengistu
Zekarias Woldemariam
Desta Geberehiwot
Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et
email: ethiopianherald@press.et
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Egypt poking African bear...

The clubs of 22 has been issuing statements and holding emergency meetings on the Abbay Dam, acts Ethiopia see as Cairo's interest camouflaging in the Arabian bloc.

Recently, the bloc came up with a statement protesting the Ethio-Somaliland access to the sea deal which the researchers described it as a deed driven by Cairo's political interests.

Over the years, though Ethiopia having ever growing ties with members of the league, the bloc has been placing the Abbay dam on its table finding itself at a loggerhead with Ethiopia.

Mainly, the bloc's comment on the dam came when dispute between Ethiopia and Egypt reached flashpoint. Ethiopia has also been issuing scathing statements on the bloc.

And, for the researchers, the league's stand on the Ethio-Somaliland deal is continuation of its display fealty and obedience to Cairo.

Egypt utilizes its political and military influence in Arab nations to leverage the league. Some Gulf countries rely heavily on agricultural products and water from Cairo due to the desert nature of their own territories. Consequently, even league

members with greater economic and military power than Egypt cannot influence Egypt's decisions within the league, said Assistant Professor, Adem Kemil, a researcher specializing in Arab countries' affairs.

He notes that the Arab League has been predominantly led by Egyptians throughout its history, which has used it as an instrument for their own interests.

"Somalia and Djibouti, despite being League members, are not Arab countries and even do not primarily use the Arabic language. Their inclusion in the alliance is a strategic move aimed at expanding Arab influence in the Red Sea, with the ultimate goal of excluding Ethiopia."

Furthermore, Adem criticizes the League' for failing to deal with Arab causes while meddling on African issue. He argues that the bloc's focus on Ethiopia is unwarranted and unrelated to its primary concerns and objectives, suggesting that Egypt exploits the league to advance its own political interests.

Somalia's membership in the Arab League might have influenced the issuance of an unwarranted statement Ethio-Somaliland Memorandum of Understanding (MoU, said

Anteneh Getachew (Ph.D.), a researcher specializing in Asia and the Pacific at the Institute of Foreign Affairs,

"Egypt has been using the GERD issue for the past twelve years. When Egypt realized it couldn't stop the dam's construction, it shifted its attention to Ethiopia's access to the sea as another means to pursue its political objectives, often utilizing the Arab League."

Ethiopia's adversaries are employing similar tactics used during the negotiations for the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD). However, these efforts will not impede the MoU, as Ethiopia has effectively addressed the issue through strategic diplomatic means, making progress despite opposition.

Anteneh also emphasizes that the Arab League's statement should not pose a significant obstacle to the efforts of the two signing parties. Instead, he asserts that Cairo's vested interests, particularly related to the GERD and historical disputes with Addis Ababa are the driving force behind the league's position on the issue.

Egypt consistently seeks opportunities to exert influence and suffocate Ethiopia,

releasing numerous statements on the GERD issue. However, these statements have failed to impede the project's progress and also in the recent Ethiopian access sea issue.

Commenting on possible remedies both researchers called for a coordinated diplomatic effort to counter Egypt and Arab League.

Adem suggested that Ethiopians should carefully and closely follow up the actions and operation of the bloc and pay attention to the modus operandi of the bloc.

Diplomats who are deployed in Arab countries as foreign mission need to have a savvy and well understanding of the Arab world. Cementing religious ties is imperative and religious leaders should play crucial role to foil negative propaganda campaign waged by Egypt. Cairo is attempting to manipulate the situation in relation to Ethio-Somaliland deal and give it a religious fig leaf.

Ethiopia should be resilient in its diplomacy. The country has been able to fend off similar intents against the Abbay dam. Nothing will change if Ethiopia sticks to its principled and strong stance, Anteneh added.

Scholars shed light...

Speaking at the occasion, Policy Advisor and Economy Expert Costantinos Berhetesfa (PhD) stated that it is the time for Africans to consolidate their efforts to leverage their untapped resources through unity and extricate economic colonialism.

Costantinos further noted that Ethiopia has a noble place in pan-Africanism that results in liberating the whole African continent from European colonialism.

A historian AyeleBekere (PhD) on his part said that celebration, which is designated by African-Americans, inspires Africans in the continent to replicate their history in various perspectives. "Ethiopia serves as a symbol of freedom for the oppressed people across the globe due to its unmatched victory over European colonizers."

Also, Ethiopia had been hugely involved in African independence movements and extended significant military and training support to fellow African brothers and sisters."

According to the historian, celebrating the Black History Month would be a

trigger to steadfast continental integration to fight against neocolonialism by all its manifestations.

The event further stressed the need to extend efforts to thwart neocolonialism attempts that may come from any corner of the globe. To this end, the event suggested image building activities that would change Africa's misrepresentation of as the place of destruction, war, underdevelopment and other impediments.

Purpose Black Ethiopia CEO FissehaEshetu (PhD) said at the occasion that the Black History Month is a point in time to consider African brave brothers and to go hand in hand to maintain the unity and ensure mutual benefits. "We Africans need to break out of the economic and other colonialist mindset to bring about remarkable progress and address our collective problems."

Fisseha added, "Over 60% of African land is arable, therefore, it is a good opportunity for us to look into the past, present and utilize our resources wisely."

He also expressed his expectation from the event to foster common understanding, solidify unity among diverse communities via highlighting the achievements and struggles of black people. Also, the event would galvanize support for Ethiopia and solidify its position as a symbol of African resistance to colonialism and imperialism.

For Zambia Embassy Political and Administration Council Nawa Sibongo, the Black History Month is a vital event to tweet African history by them rather than by third parties, "We have to continue our integration to a higher level and replicate the good deeds of our previous leaders in a greater power and unity."

According to him, creating a market linkage and other engagements by bringing expertise in a wider manner is something worth equal consideration.

The event was organized by the African Studies Professionals Association in cooperation with the Addis Ababa University Center for Africa and Asian Studies and Purpose Black Ethiopia.

DFTZ garners...

Ahmed also said that the DFTZ mainly has been producing shoes, textiles and garments, raw materials and inputs, as well as cement bags for the local market and has played a major role in substituting imported products.

Noting that the free trade zone isconvenient for manufacturing, logistics and trade sectors, the general manager indicated the facility has played a significant rolein stimulating business and accelerating economic progress.

"The government is providing relentless support for investors that have acquired sheds and goes operational in the DFTZ and has taken bold steps to address the legal and systematic setbacks that hindered businesses."

Currently, the House of Peoples' Representatives is deliberating on the proclamation that would govern the DFTZ's activities and the management awaits the lawmakers' permit to make the zone operate in its full swing, he elaborated.

It is to be recalled that a year has elapsed since DFTZ went operationalhowever; it has been operating at industrial park's capacity owing to a lack of a proper legal framework that would govern its functions.

INSA graduates 120...

As to him, INSA has been working hard to produce proficient citizens aiming at combating cyber-attacks and ensuring national interest at large. Particularly, the cyber landscape is now a day among the priority arena to bring superiority among various countries. For Ethiopia, the cyber development field is being used as a springboard to realize the country's ambition towards prosperity.

He further stated that the world lost 8 trillion USD due to cyber- attacks in last year, while this number will be increasing to over 10 trillion USD in 2025. Similarly, 4,623 cyber-attacks were attempted on Ethiopia but the institute saved 10.5 billion Birr during the past six months of this fiscal year alone. Therefore, it needs to realize cyber

development via digitized Ethiopia in a view to ensure sustainable development by producing capable citizens.

Science and Technology (MoST) Minister Belete Molla (PhD) on his part said that the level of cyber-attack is increasing gradually and causing more damage. The cyber-attack will expose a given country to economic deficiency, infrastructure damage and affect human's wellbeing. Therefore, producing creative citizens, providing continuous training and the like would bring significant outcomes in Ethiopia.

It is to be recalled that INSA graduated merely 62 cyber-talented students during the first round of its training last year.



Opinion

Access to sea out late through a win-win game

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa with more than 120 million. Its economy is heavily dependent on the rain fed agriculture production yet in the last two decades Ethiopia registered two digits economic growth attributed to the agriculture sector.

The increasing utilization of agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, pest and herbicides which are imported from abroad played pivotal role in raising the sector production and productivity. Ethiopia also earns more than 80 percent of hard currency from this sector.

This clearly shows that how import and export business is critical for attaining sustainable development. The sector also encompasses 70 percent of the nation labor force and is a means of living for 85 percent of the population hence, to change the living condition and income of the rural population and attaining food security, improving the sector through technology and utilizing inputs is essential which again needs more importation.

The government has been taken various measures to modernize the sector through expanding irrigated and commercial farms and the venture enabled to create job opportunity to thousands and boost export which enhanced the nation foreign currency earning capacity. Commercial and irrigated farms also needs the utilization of technology and inputs such as generators, water pumps, chemicals and fertilizers which are not locally produced and imported from abroad. The traditional export product such as coffee, oil seeds, minerals, live animals and flower contribute a lot for the nation foreign currency earnings and yet exported by the neighboring country ports which frequently raise the cost of port services.

As it is understood, attaining sustainable development depends on expanding viable and high productivity sector such as manufacturing and relying on rain fed agriculture leads the nation to nowhere. Considering the vitality of the sector the government underlined the expansion of manufacturing in the ten years perspective economic development plan. The sector plays pivotal role in attracting foreign and local investors, create job opportunities to hundreds of thousands of semi-skilled people, creates linkage with the agriculture sector, boost export, helps knowledge and technology transfer. Moreover, it plays pivotal role in attaining structural change which paves the way to transform the economy from agriculture led in to the industry led one.

In order to host industrial companies the government constructed industrial parks in various parts of the country and the construction cost the nation in terms of hard currency for the importation of materials which furnished the parks. The manufacturing though to somehow use

local inputs, they imports substantial amount of inputs from abroad which again increases the nation import economy. Most manufacturing are located to the nearest places of the Ethio-Djibouti rail way line to rapidly send the products to the port of Djibouti. It is obvious that whenever the nation economy is growing it necessitate the nation to import more to meet the industries input demands.

Currently Ethiopia uses ports located in the neighboring countries for its import and export businesses. It is clear that the usage of foreign ports has its own demerits and whenever the port owner country impose additional port service charges, the competency of Ethiopian export commodities will be lowered in the international market. Other exporting countries which have their own ports have advantage in the world market competition because they do not pay any port service charges. The port owning countries also can impose additional tariffs on import goods when they face financial stress and this again forced the land locked countries such as Ethiopia to import inflation which destabilize the local economy.

We can understand from these reality that one country's economic growth and development is depends on the nation import and export volume. Whenever the country is integrated to the world economy obviously its imports and export volume will be increased which again push the nation in to economic shake vulnerability because of landlockedness.

The ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia critically shake the world economy and poor African countries which are dependent on the importation of Ukraine wheat, fertilizer and edible oil suffer from the brunt of the economic shake. One of the factors which contribute for the price hike of the Ukraine products is the blockade of the ports due to the war and the transporting of goods with ships in a lengthy sea roots from other ports located in far places. Land locked African countries are heavily hit more than the countries which owned their own ports. Because the land locked countries pay additional port fee to their fellow African countries ports.

Currently due to the out brake of war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, vessels transporting oil from the Gulf countries towards Europe on the red sea root are threatened. Importing goods from Europe via the red sea root is interrupted. The Yemeni based Houthi rebels in order to revenge the western countries which back Israel, attacks ships transporting goods on the red sea root. It is inevitable that in the future the poor African nations including Ethiopia might feel the economic pain which occurs due to the vessel transport disruption on the red sea root.

As the result of the Houthi rebels attack ships on red sea, some European ships changed their sea transport line from

Mediterranean Sea via Suez Canal to the Middle East and Asia in to the Atlantic Ocean via to Cape of Good hop located in South Africa which makes the transaction cost of goods very expensive. This root served European merchants to trade with Asia in the 19th century before the opening of Suez Canal. These all indicate that the vitality of owning port and how land locked countries are vulnerable to the economic shake due to the disruption of sea transport because of political instability.

Ethiopia is bordering all the horn African countries and all have their own ports except South Sudan. Geographically Ethiopia is characterized by mountainous and diversified agro ecology.

All Ethiopia's rivers flow radial which means, it gives water to the neighboring countries. It has cultural, linguistic and religious ties with the countries. Populations residing in the border areas conduct cross border trade. Pastoral community crosses borders in searching forage and water for their cattle. These all testifies how the horn African countries peoples live together irrespective of their artificial border formulated by colonial powers.

Formally Ethiopia has trade relations with all countries and supply energy to Sudan and Djibouti and when the Ethiopian economy grows their relation will be further strengthen hence demanding sea corridor through give and take principle the neighboring countries will be taken positively by considering the mutual benefit.

Recently the Addis Ababa University economist Atnafu Gebremeskel told that, Ethiopia's quest for sea port and access to alternative port is not a luxury but a morally and legally appropriate demand consistent with the principle of international trade.

A joint workshop on the strategic interest of Ethiopia on the Red Sea and organized by Samara, Addis Ababa, Jigjiga and Mekelle universities was conducted recently in the Afar regional capital Samara.

Presenting his perspective on port and economy to Ethiopia's strategic interest, the economist said that logistics and product supply chain have become instrumental in modern global trade activities.

A port is key instrument in accelerating global trade and it enables countries to participate in international trade and ensure their economic growth.

According to the economist, among the trade barriers Africans face is sea port. Some 80 percent of the world's trade passed through ports.

The economist stressed that maritime transport has remained one of the major bottlenecks for African countries to facilitate their trade activities.

Africa, a continent with 17.8 percent of the world population, has only two percent the global trade share.

Atnafu pointed out that the annual GDP of landlocked countries is lower by 31 percent when compared with countries that have coastal access. Their inflation rate is also bigger by 26 percent.

Therefore, building standard port and producing quality produces as well as developing surrounding areas is vital in order to become competitive in trade and export-import.

He further said that global trade and investment cannot be met without regional integration.

In a similar manner, the Arbaminch University scholars said that Ethiopia has historical, geographical and economical rights to demand access to sea and alternative ports.

During the discussion conducted in the campus recently under the theme "Access to Sea, Path to Development" Arbaminch University President, Damitew Darza stressed the need to intensify diplomatic efforts to realize Ethiopia's interest on obtaining sea outlet.

He also underlined the importance of strong stance among all Ethiopians, including scholars, on the need to have access to the sea and alternative ports.

Noting that 33 years ago Ethiopia had enjoyed its own sea outlets, he said geopolitical instability of the region forced the country to loss its access to sea.

However, the scholar added that Ethiopia has historical, geographical and economical rights to demand for access to sea and alternative ports.

Ethiopia should pursue all available peaceful mechanisms with a view to realizing its interest in the region, the president underscored, stressing the need to carry out intensive diplomatic efforts.

A scholar in hydrology, Abdela Kemal said depriving a country with a population of 120 million sea access is injustice.

As a result, it has been encountering challenges in its economic development due to the high cost of port services.

Noting that Ethiopia's population is expected to double after 30 years, the scholar pointed out the urgency of response to the nation's quest for access to sea.

He urged scholars to play their role in attaining the country's interests.

On the occasion, scholars also discussed wide ranging issues, including the importance of shared development in the region, Ethiopia's quest for access to sea in relation to international laws, geopolitical and foreign relations.

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

Business & Economy

Strengthening small, medium size enterprises through supporting financially

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

The small and medium size manufacturing enterprises have played significant role in the country by transitioning the economy from agriculture led to the industry one. This sector not only contributes to the country's economy but also improves financing for small and medium enterprises through the provision of business development services, project preparation, and training in financial management. There are initiatives aim to increase their production, productivity, and overall contribution to the economy.

One such project that has made a positive impact is the Small and Medium size Enterprises Finance Project, which was established in 2017. Over the past six years, the project has facilitated loans, training, and other support for enterprises in Ethiopia. The project coordinator, Yemenzwerk Grafen, has provided us an overview of its performance.

The project has been divided into two phases, as suggested by Yemenzwerk, the first phase started in 2017 and concluded in August 2022. It received a total fund of \$276 million, with \$200 million from the World Bank and \$76 million from the European Investment Bank. Out of this amount, \$269 million was transferred through the Development Bank of Ethiopia to provide machinery rental (capital goods lease finance) and working capital loans for small and medium size enterprises. The remaining \$7 million was allocated for various project activities and coordination by the National Bank of Ethiopia.

The World Bank evaluated the project's financial utilization and confirmed that the funds were utilized appropriately, presenting the project with the "World Bank Vice Governor/ WB vice Governor Award" in recognition of its successful evaluation. This affirmation led to additional support from the World Bank for the second phase of the project.

The second phase, which spans from August 2022 to August 2025, has received a loan of \$200 million solely from the World Bank. This phase aims to support enterprises that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in terms of production and marketing challenges. Out of the \$200 million, \$180 million is allocated for loans through the Development Bank of Ethiopia for machinery rental and operating loans, while \$20 million is dedicated to business development services, including training to enhance production, export, and e-commerce activities during the pandemic. The remaining funds are allocated for project management.

Overall, the two phases of the project amount to a total of \$476 million, out of which \$449 million has been disbursed and put into operation.

From the beginning of the project until

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of Ethiopia's economy, playing a vital role in driving economic growth, fostering innovation, creating employment opportunities, and reducing poverty

today total of 6,153 enterprises have received loans worth \$449 million. Among them, 939 enterprises have obtained direct loans from the Development Bank for machinery purchase, and 1,169 enterprises have obtained loans indirectly through regional machine rental purchase loan supplier organizations. Additionally, 4,045 enterprises have received loans for operational purposes.

Yemenzwerk emphasizes the importance of addressing the gaps and challenges faced by enterprises through research and training. The project collaborates with the Institute of Entrepreneurship Development and other institutions to provide regular training sessions on financial management, market strategies, human resources development, sales management, and business plan preparation. Technical and professional training is also provided in collaboration with technical training colleges and industrial development institutions, focusing on various sectors such as leather, textiles, wood, metallurgy, agriculture, and chemical production.

The project's target was to train 1,500 small and medium enterprises members by 2025, but the performance has exceeded expectations. So far, 2,220 enterprises have received training through coordination with the aforementioned institutions. Additionally, 268 technical and vocational training instructors have been recruited and trained to further support enterprise development.

Furthermore, the Development Bank of Ethiopia has provided financial support to make training more accessible to loan seekers in the third and fourth rounds. In regions affected by the war, such as Amhara and Tigray, efforts have been made to support affected enterprises and raise awareness through promotional training.

The Small and Medium Size Enterprises Finance Project has been instrumental in providing loans, training, and support to small and medium size enterprises in Ethiopia. By addressing the challenges faced by these enterprises will provide them with financial resources and knowledge, the

project has made a significant contribution to their growth and development.

Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of Ethiopia's economy, playing a vital role in driving economic growth, fostering innovation, creating employment opportunities, and reducing poverty. In a country where agriculture has historically been the dominant sector, the rise of SMEs has brought about a transformative shift towards industrialization and economic diversification.

SMEs are a major source of employment in Ethiopia, particularly in urban areas where they play a critical role in reducing unemployment rates and alleviating poverty. These enterprises offer opportunities for self-employment and job creation, absorbing the growing labor force and providing income for individuals and their families. By generating employment, SMEs contribute to poverty reduction, improve living standards, and enhance socio-economic well-being.

Ethiopia's economy has undergone a significant transformation, with SMEs at the forefront of driving industrialization and economic growth. These enterprises contribute to the country's GDP by diversifying the economic landscape beyond the traditional agricultural sector. SMEs operate in various sectors such as manufacturing, textiles, construction, services, and technology, fostering innovation and productivity. Their entrepreneurial spirit and ability to adapt quickly to market demands have propelled Ethiopia to stride to industrialization.

SMEs in Ethiopia have also attracted foreign direct investment (FDI) and opened up avenues for export opportunities. International investors recognize the potential of Ethiopia's growing domestic market and the advantages of establishing partnerships with local SMEs. These collaborations lead to technology transfer, knowledge sharing, and access to global markets. SMEs engaged in export-oriented activities contribute to foreign exchange earnings and enhance Ethiopia's competitiveness in international trade.

SMEs play crucial role in promoting rural development and inclusive growth. In Ethiopia, where a significant portion of the population resides in rural areas, SMEs provide opportunities for entrepreneurship and income generation outside of agriculture. By supporting rural SMEs, the government aims to reduce migration to urban centers, improve infrastructure, and create sustainable livelihoods in rural communities. This balanced development approach helps bridge the urban-rural divide and promotes equitable growth across the country.

SMEs are hubs of innovation and technology adoption in Ethiopia. These enterprises embrace new ideas, technologies, and business models to enhance their competitiveness and efficiency. By adopting modern technologies, SMEs can improve production processes, reduce costs, and deliver high-quality products and services. The government and various organizations provide support through capacity building programs, training, and access to finance to encourage SMEs to embrace innovation and technology.

Small and medium enterprises are vital to Ethiopia's economic development, serving as catalysts for growth, poverty reduction, and industrialization. These enterprises contribute to the country's GDP, diversify the economy, attract foreign investment, and open up avenues for export opportunities. Moreover, SMEs play a crucial role in rural development, inclusive growth, and the adoption of innovation and technology. As Ethiopia continues to prioritize the growth and development of SMEs, it creates an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, economic empowerment, and long-term sustainable development in the country.

In strengthening small and medium size enterprises engaged in wood and metal works, construction, urban agriculture, poultry, food catering, municipal work and other works the, National Bank of Ethiopia introduced new directives to both the public and private banks to allocate 5 percent of their loaned money to the enterprises. So far, they obtained the loan and enabled to expand their production and employing capacity. There are also many small scale financial institutions engaged in providing loan to the enterprises with average interest rate and according to the small scale finance and credit associations, the small and medium size enterprises have good reputations in refunding the loaned money. However, there is also undeniable fact that the enterprises faced various challenges and among others absence of value chain, limited size of working places which hampers expansion and some unfair taxes can be mentioned here. Therefore, by considering, the enterprises role in creating employment opportunity, supply their products to the market and import substitution, the government should stand beside them in tackling their chronic problems.

Planet Earth

Cities' commitment

changes communities understanding of waste management

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

Recycling waste contributes significantly to city cleanliness and environmental preservation. It decreases landfill trash by diverting a large volume of material from landfills. Cities may limit the amount of waste that must be disposed of in landfills by recycling items such as paper, plastic, glass and metal, reducing waste disposal's environmental effect.

Proper recycling can assist in minimizing waste in cities. When recyclable items are disposed of in appropriate recycling bins or facilities, they are less likely to end up as litter on streets, sidewalks, and public places, helping to clean up the urban environment.

Hence, urban dwellers are recommended to practice effective waste management to save resources. Recycling garbage saves valuable natural resources, including wood, water and minerals. Reusing materials allows communities to minimize the demand for raw material extraction and manufacturing processes, which can have a positive influence on the environment and climate change mitigation efforts.

According to certain research, recycling waste can save energy since it frequently uses less energy than creating new products from raw materials. For instance, recycling aluminum can save up to 95 percent of the energy required to make aluminum from raw materials. These energy savings contribute to overall environmental conservation and reduce the carbon footprint associated with resource extraction and manufacturing.

More significantly, it protects the environment, which is critical to combating climate change. Recycling waste helps safeguard the environment by lowering pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions caused by waste disposal and the production of new products. This helps to clean the air, water, and soil in metropolitan areas.

Recognizing this, successive administrations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital and headquarters of international organizations, have prioritized city cleanliness. They have developed a variety of waste disposal solutions. As a result, recycling waste and cleaning up Addis Ababa are critical measures in promoting environmental sustainability and improving the city's general quality of life.

The city administration has also conducted public awareness campaigns. It is launching educational programs and initiatives to create awareness about the benefits of recycling and good trash management. This can contain information on how to properly sort and dispose of various forms of garbage and the environmental benefits of recycling.

In addition, the city is preparing recycling infrastructure. It establishes recycling



centers and facilities across neighborhoods to make it easier for residents to recycle their garbage. This might include establishing collecting stations for recyclable products such as paper, plastic, glass, and metal.

The city administration also starts collecting waste and disposing of it through individuals and associations. It has been working on improving waste collection services to ensure that trash is efficiently collected from homes, businesses, and public areas. Additionally, it has been implementing proper disposal methods for hazardous waste and electronic waste to prevent environmental contamination.

The city administration organizes community clean-up events regularly, with the participation of senior authorities. They are arranging regular community clean-up activities in which individuals, local groups, and government agencies work together to pick up waste and clean streets, parks, and other public areas. Apart from that, it preserves green areas or spaces for the residents.

Following the country's political reform in mid-2018, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed developed and began executing some projects to beautify the city. The programs are critical for preserving and beautifying green areas, parks, and public gardens, resulting in a cleaner and more appealing urban environment. It also coordinated and established partnerships with businesses to promote sustainable practices, minimize waste output, and implement recycling programs in their operations. As a consequence, the city administration has made the city not only clean but also created job opportunities for the city

Agency Recycling and Recycling Centers Director Bayush Tadesse told the Ethiopian Press Agency that the agency is doing various activities to handle and reuse waste properly. Thus, in six months, more than 746 million birr was earned by recycling waste.

In the past six months, the agency has been working to create awareness in various ways and prepare cleaning campaign plans so that the society understands that waste is a resource and disposes of it properly. The agency has also been able to organize different associations to separate wastes for recycling and composting and use them in different ways for recycling, she said.

Moreover, the community develops good habits for properly handling waste. Their understanding of separating waste is constantly improving and increasing. As a result, 44 thousand 665 tons of waste were collected and used for recycling in half a year. The other one was to organize 45 compost-producing associations in every district. It is planned to produce one thousand 500 tons of compost in these associations, and one thousand 733 tons of compost has been produced and put to use.

As a result, the associations engaged in recycling and compost production were able to earn 746 million 733 thousand 19 birr. More than 480 jobs can be created in the recycling sector. By talking to other institutions about the materials produced by recycling and the compost that is produced, it is possible to create a market connection, which has enabled the associations to work with focus and has enabled the sector to perform better regularly, she stated.

She also mentioned that the amount of waste collected and the income generated have increased compared to the same period. The director also stated that although the community's understanding of waste recycling is improving, it is still not thought that the problem has been completely solved, and legal action is being taken against those who do not dispose of waste properly and do not clean the five radius around them.

Indeed, senior management's devotion, community waste management systems, and policy execution have resulted in major improvements to the city's appearance. Currently, by applying different steps, Addis Ababa may make tremendous progress in recycling waste and cleaning up the city, resulting in a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable urban environment for its inhabitants.

Furthermore, recycling waste makes a significant contribution to city cleanliness. It reduces the negative effects of waste disposal on the environment while simultaneously encouraging a greener, more sustainable urban environment for people. Therefore, the experience of Addis Ababa should be supported by environmental activism to make it constant and expand to other cities.

Recycling waste helps safeguard the environment by lowering pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions caused by waste disposal and the production of new products. This helps to clean the air, water, and soil in metropolitan areas

residents to make money.

According to the Addis Ababa Cleansing Management Agency, more than 746 million 733 thousand Birr was earned by recycling waste in the last six months. Addis Ababa Cleaning Management

Art & Culture

Street Music: Spreading joy, entertaining people

BY NAOL GIRMA

In the bustling streets of Ethiopia, where the rhythm of life intertwines with the pulse of the city, a remarkable individual has emerged—a street musician who has defied the odds, choosing to generate income through their musical talent rather than resorting to begging. This is the inspiring story of Yilma Zeleke, an Ethiopian street musician who has harnessed the power of music to transform their daily life and create a sustainable livelihood.

Street musicians have long been a vibrant part of urban culture, showcasing their talents and adding a touch of music to the bustling streets. While European street musicians are often celebrated for their virtuosity and diverse musical styles, it is important to recognize that talent knows no geographical boundaries.

In different parts of Ethiopia, among the vibrant colors and rich cultural heritages, there is some a street musician whose melodies have captured the hearts of passersby. With nothing more than a *kerar* (traditional music instrument) and a voice filled with soul, this talented individual has become a symbol of joy and entertainment, bringing smiles to the faces of all who encounter him. He took to the streets, transforming the city's bustling corners into his stage. Rather than relying on the generosity of passersby, he captivated audiences with his melodies, infusing the air with his soulful tunes. His music has become a powerful currency, bridging the gap between his creative expression and the means to sustain himself. Let us dive into the story of Ethiopia's street musician and explore how he has become a beloved figure in the community.



Meet Yilma Zeleke 65 year's old musician whose passion for music knows no bounds. Born and raised in Ethiopia, the well-known street musician, Yilma discovered his passion for music at a young age in a kebele entertaining club around Kazanchis. Yilma's exposure to music was limited to the traditional sounds of his community. However, his innate talent and unwavering dedication allowed him to transcend these limitations and embark on a remarkable ups and downs musical journey. His humble beginnings saw him playing music in front of cafes and small venues, honing his skills and developing a unique style that blends traditional Ethiopian sounds with modern influences. He is well known for his music in the streets in four local languages: Amharic, Afan Oromo, Guragegna, and Sidamegna at different corners of the city.

Driven by the desire to share his

music with a wider audience, Yilma decided to take his talents to the streets. Armed with his *kerar* and a small amplifier, he set up shop in a bustling corner of Addis Ababa. His soulful voice and captivating melodies quickly caught the attention of pedestrians, drawing crowds who were eager to experience his music firsthand. Yilma's music resonates with people from all walks of life. His performances are filled with passion and emotion, transporting listeners to a place of pure joy and happiness. Whether it's a heartfelt song or an upbeat tune, his music has the power to uplift spirits and create a sense of unity among strangers.

Beyond his musical talents, Yilma's warm personality and genuine interactions have endeared him to the local community. He takes the time to engage with his audience, sharing stories and listening to their own experiences. Through his music, he has become a source of inspiration and a symbol of hope, reminding people of the power of creativity and the beauty of human connection with art.

Yilma's impact extends beyond his music. His presence on the streets has shed light on the challenges faced by street musicians and artists in Ethiopia. His success has sparked conversations about the importance of supporting local talent and creating opportunities for artists to thrive.

Yilma's talent has not gone unnoticed. His captivating performances have garnered attention from local media outlets, and he has been getting different appreciation and admiration from art lovers.

Ethiopia's street musician, Yilma,

has become a beloved figure in the community, entertaining and spreading joy through his soulful melodies. His music transcends language barriers, bringing people together and reminding them of the power of music to uplift spirits. What makes Yilma different from European street musicians is his ability to create a unique musical fusion. While European street musicians often draw inspiration from classical, jazz, or modern genres, Yilma's music is a captivating blend of traditional Ethiopian melodies, contemporary rhythms, and heartfelt lyrics that resonate with the local culture.

Passersby are drawn to Yilma's soulful performances, where he effortlessly weaves together the sounds of the *kerar* (a traditional Ethiopian lyre-like instrument), *masenqo* (a single-stringed bowed instrument). His voice, which reflects the rich musical heritage of Ethiopia, adds an emotional depth that captivates audiences and transports them to a different world.

Yilma's music not only showcases his talent but also serves as a bridge between cultures. By integrating Ethiopian traditional music with contemporary influences, he challenges the notion that only European street musicians can appeal to a diverse audience. Yilma's performances attract people from all walks of life, fostering an appreciation for Ethiopian music and culture in unexpected places.

Moreover, Yilma's success has inspired other aspiring musicians in Ethiopia to pursue their dreams. His story has become a source of hope and motivation for those who dare to dream big, regardless of their background or the challenges they may face.

She walks in beauty

BY GIDEON CECIL

The soft wind plays a violin in her hair,
Her compelling eyes draw me near.
Her immaculate contours inspire my poetry,
Her scarlet lip kisses me intensely.
She sailed her boat in the ocean of my soul,
She comes back on Valentine's in winter's cold.
I am in love again as my muses 'foretold,
With her immense beauty my eyes behold.
Mesmerize me my darling for our love to grow,
Let the skies fall into our hearts in her azure glow.
She walks in beauty on the sea shore sand,
She is the sea waves kissing the golden land.
Empower me with your love
Oh my Valentine!
Kiss me with your scarlet lips to forever be mine



Society

Claiming, returning looted artifacts to rightful owner is modernity

BY LEULSEGED WORKU

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, most of the African countries were under colonial domination and victims of violence and oppression of the colonization. Beside controlling foreign lands by force and imposing alien cultures on colonized people, colonial powers used to plunder cultural artifacts and heritages from most African countries.

Even if it was not a direct victim of colonization, Ethiopia was also the target of Italian aggression and some of its cultural artifacts and heritages were exposed to plunder in the same way it had happened to be by British troops in 1868 in a fight with Emperor Tewodros II.

Historical accounts indicate that most of the British troops and the so called “researchers” looted thousands of precious artifacts and heritages from Ethiopia. This includes several crosses, manuscripts, shields and crowns as well as *tabots*, replica of the Ark of the Covenant, locks of hair that belong to Emperor Tewodros II, and other valuable religious, cultural, and traditional heritages.

In fact, over the past few years some of Ethiopia’s looted precious artifacts and cultural heritages that were kept in various countries have finally returned to Ethiopia. These include silver cups with bronze plating, holy books, processional crosses and crown, a richly colored triptych depicting Jesus’ crucifixion among other religious heritages.

Likewise, at the time the Fascist Italy came back to Ethiopia in 1935 to avenge its shameful defeat at the Battle of Adwa and heal the inerasable scar, several artifacts and heritages were looted from Ethiopia. This includes the historic Ethiopian made aircraft *Tsehay*, which was named after Princess *Tsehay*, daughter of Emperor Haile Selassie I.

Recently, after close to nine decades in foreign land, this aircraft has returned to its homeland- Ethiopia, following the effort exerted by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD).

Tsehay is the first aircraft built in Ethiopia in 1935, under the collaborative efforts of the German engineer and pilot of the Emperor, Herr Ludwig Weber, and Ethiopian individuals of that era. Its name was chosen in honor of Princess *Tsehay*, the daughter of Emperor Haile Selassie I.

The story of “Ethiopia 1 *Tsehay*” and the involvement of Ludwig Weber are important chapters in Ethiopia’s rich history of technological progress and resilience. *Tsehay* also reflects the early efforts of Ethiopia to embrace aviation technology and modernization, as well as



Looted and repatriated artifacts



Tsehay Aircraft

the country’s determination to advance despite the challenges it faced.

What is more, the airplane “Ethiopia 1 *Tsehay*” holds historical significance as it was named after Princess *Tsehay*, Emperor Haile Selassie’s daughter. This reflects the connection between the royal family and the technological advancements of the time. As indicated by Captain Zelealem Andarge, who once conducted an interview with VOA Amharic service, the Aircraft (*Tsehay*) was under construction in early 1935, just a few months prior to the invasion of the Italian Fascist. This timing underscores the challenging historical context in which Ethiopia was pursuing aviation development while facing external threats. According to him, when the Fascist Italy attempted to invade Ethiopia, it had made all possible preparations and tried to avoid all possible forms of resistance. This includes preventing Ethiopia from acquiring any weapon that may be a threat to the invading force. Preventing Ethiopia from owning aircrafts that may be used during the war is also another step the Italians took. For that reason, there

was no means for Ethiopia to acquire airplanes to defend itself from invading forces. This was one reason why Ethiopia decided to manufacture its own aircraft at home.

The idea of making the aircraft at home convinced the Emperor and others; then, with the help of a German pilot and some other Ethiopians, the idea of constructing an aircraft came to a reality and *Tsehay* Aircraft was made in Ethiopia.

Responding to how and when Italians plundered *Tsehay*, Captain Zelealem said that, “When Italians took control of Addis Ababa in 1936 they spotted three planes. Out of the three, it was *Tsehay* that perplexed them most. This is due to the fact that despite the fact that they had all the information concerning the two aircrafts that were transported from Djibouti to Addis Ababa, they had no clue about the third one –*Tsehay*- which was Ethiopian made aircraft.

According to him, *Tsehay* was taken from Addis Ababa in 1937 and put in the Italian Royal Air force Academy. Then it was moved again into Caserta Palace. With the outbreak of WWII various aircrafts

were destroyed. However, *Tsehay* was spared from this destruction. In the late 1950s *Tsehay* was put in Turin Museum. It was at this time the Italians changed its original grey color into red.

Recently, after close to nine decades of “captivity”, news that warms the hearts and minds of almost all Ethiopians, was heralded- the official return of Ethiopia’s first plane “*Tsehay*” to homeland.

Following the news, PM Abiy Ahmed wrote on his social media account on X: “Today is a day of great pride for Ethiopians as we celebrate the official handover of “*Tsehay*” by the Italian Government. I extend my immense gratitude to Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni for her support over the past year in facilitating its return.”

As reported by FBC, *Tsehay* was designed as a two-seat, dual-controlled aircraft, featuring a more powerful engine. It possessed essential components such as a compass, pilot controls, and two fixed landing gears without brakes. The engine, a seven-cylinder Walter Vinus with a water-cooling system, boasted a horsepower of 115.

The maiden flight of *Tsehay* occurred in December 1935, during which Weber flew 50 kilometers from Addis Ababa. The flight lasted approximately seven minutes, with the airplane maintaining an altitude of 1000 meters above sea level.

Tsehay stands as the sole aircraft manufactured in Ethiopia prior to World War II. The aircraft was constructed with limited resources and space, relying on the craftsmanship of carpenters of that period. “*Tsehay*” represents the only surviving artifact from the aviation endeavors of the 1930s, it was learnt.

True, following the wars that took place in Ethiopia at different times and different places, a significant amount of Ethiopia’s artifacts that portray Ethiopians’ identity such as ancient religious manuscripts, cultural heritages and historical objects were looted and taken to foreign lands

According to documents, merely in the British Museum collections estimated to be around 80 objects taken from the northern Ethiopian locality of Maqdal (now known as Amba Mariam), are kept.

These artifacts are the asset of the people of Ethiopia and treasures where their history and identity are revealed. It is also the property of the country. Therefore, religious, cultural and historical artifacts that have been looted during war time and stolen by irresponsible individuals and scattered in different countries should be repatriated to the country. In this regard, the government, pertinent bodies, stakeholders and all Ethiopians should work jointly to return the assets to home.

Law & Politics

Why the world should not ignore refugee crisis

BY DANIEL ALEMAYEHU

Nowadays, the world is experiencing multiple challenges that shock its foundation. Recurrent and emerging conflicts and natural disasters have resulted in dire humanitarian crises. One of the most pressing global challenges is the refugee crisis.

In the current climate, the crisis hits its ultimate peak as people are fleeing for multiple reasons, but the major reason is that people are fleeing to save their lives. Conflicts and climate changes are the key factors that force people to leave their countries and settlements and find another safer place to live.

On the other hand, nations that are neighbors of the conflict-ridden areas also face similar challenges in receiving those refugees and providing basic support. At the heart of such situations is the IGAD region.

To be specific, the war in Sudan has posed a major humanitarian crisis that needs the attention of the international community and humanitarian assistance providers. According to the statistics from UNHCR, due to the conflict in Sudan, 8 million people have been displaced and fled to neighboring nations.

UNHCR, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi paid a three-day visit this week to witness the efforts of the Government of Ethiopia, supported by UNHCR and partners, to assist Sudanese refugees who have recently arrived in the country.

“Grandi traveled to Assosa, in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region, where he met some of the over 20,000 refugees and asylum-seekers currently hosted at the Kurmuk transit center. Since April 2023, over 100,000 people have crossed into Ethiopia from Sudan, including close to 47,000 refugees and asylum-seekers. These come in addition to some 50,000 Sudanese refugees already in the country,” the world’s refugee indicated in its press release.

The press release also discussed that idea of the High Commissioner stating “I heard stories of the heartbreaking loss of family, friends, homes and livelihoods, yet in the midst of this despair, I also saw refugees’ determination to move forward, if given the support and opportunity,” said Grandi.

Grandi expressed appreciation for the government as well as local communities for allocating land and welcoming those forced to flee despite their own challenges, including hosting a large refugee population, the press release discoursed.

“Ethiopia hosts one of the largest refugee and internally displaced populations globally. As the third largest refugee-hosting country in Africa, it is currently home to nearly 1 million refugees mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan, while an estimated 3.5 million Ethiopians are internally displaced.”

“Ethiopia’s continued generosity to the displaced, including those who have recently



Accordingly, Grandi elucidated that Ethiopia has played an important role in the Global Refugee Forum through good refugee policy. “I want to praise Ethiopia for this commitment and we stand right to support the government of Ethiopia through refugee returnees.”

arrived from Sudan, is commendable and should be matched with even greater support from the international community. Without further donor support, it will be extremely difficult to deliver much-needed help to those who need it most,” Grandi added.

In a similar vein, Briefing journalists, the commissioner said that donors around the world should put their hands into supporting the refugees. “According to global statistics,

90 percent of refugees do not go to Europe or America; rather, they flee from one poor country to another poor country. The problem is for the poor countries; it is not for the rich nations.”

“The registered refugees in Ethiopia are nearly one million. With the country’s own challenges, it is a big burden for Ethiopia. Besides, due to a local conflict last year, Ethiopia received more than 100,000 Somalis,” said the commissioner.

Speaking of the Sudan conflict, the commissioner said the Sudan crisis caused an enormous humanitarian crisis, and millions were displaced and came to Ethiopia. This is poorly funded. Less than 36 percent was funded, and this is not acceptable. The international community cannot turn its back on the humanitarian responses to Sudan, including Ethiopia.

The Sudan refugee response is not fully funded. Refugees are moving on and Europeans complain that the people are coming. “If we do not put more into stabilizing, people will move easily. It is in the interest of the donors to stabilize the people,” Grandi added.

“Ethiopia has a good refugee policy,” adding that in the old days, refugees came and you created everything for them, but it could not be sustainable. However, Ethiopia says let refugees come and try to see how we can include them in our system. In the last years, Ethiopia allowed refugees to live and given assistance in achieving how we can sustain the lives of the people for a longer period. “Ethiopia is doing it, but it needs help because more people demand services. The international community must help Ethiopia,” adding that UNHCR is going to mobilize the funds directly from the UN, World Bank, and other organizations, but it is still not enough. We are not funded well in the matter. Responsible bodies must help Ethiopia as the influx of refugees is still increasing, the commissioner stated.

Similarly, he also added that food security is one thing to tackle, but the whole effort should be beyond the engagement. We have to look ahead and find a system. Let’s turn humanitarian assistance into something more sustainable. The most important is

to give people food security not through handouts, but rather, through a more sustainable they can use when humanitarian assistance goes down.

Further, the commissioner has remembered it time spent with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD). Grandi mentioned that he discussed with the premier on the matter and internally displaced people in Ethiopia. “We will continue to advocate for more support from the international community for more aid,” said the commissioner.

Accordingly, Grandi elucidated that Ethiopia has played an important role in the Global Refugee Forum through good refugee policy. “I want to praise Ethiopia for this commitment and we stand right to support the government of Ethiopia through refugee returnees.”

The High Commissioner also noted that the problem is a big problem and it is also for Europeans that it is not their only problem. The main burden is on countries like Ethiopia because they are in a region that is very agitated. “If rich countries worry about the influx of refugees, then why don’t we do something to stabilize them by helping Ethiopia which has a good refugee policy? The time when refugees go somewhere and stay forever is finished.”

All in all, the issue of the refugee crisis needs due attention from every stakeholder in order to tackle further consequences. Due to the Sudan conflict, Ethiopia is tirelessly receiving refugees who need shelter and a safe environment. Ethiopia has proven itself by its historic hospitality. However, the country exerted its maximum energy to give the right response to the crisis, but it needs more support from the international community and organizations to achieve better responses.

Unlike other crises in the world, the Sudan conflict and the refugee challenges in Ethiopia are not entertained well by major media outlets, but it does not mean that it is forgotten or easy. In this regard, the world could not give its back on the Sudan conflict and the refugee crisis in Ethiopia. The world must know how bad situations are emerging in the region and act accordingly as soon as possible.



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

To Tell or Not to Tell

I've this friend who for some reason is sought to intervene in disputes between couples. One thing about him is that his social circle is rather big and no wonder that he is so busy with such things. He has been involved in quests to bring peace between couples and of course quite a lot of tie he has also failed. In fact in some instances both parties have cut ties with him accusing him of favoring the other side. But one thing about this guy is he does his best not to be accused of such things as favoritism and bias.

These days he's in the midst of attempts to calm the waters between one couple with whom he had been friends for more than a couple of decades.

Now we're talking about a comfortable couple living well above the middle and knocking on the doors of their fifties. Their three children are all above and the two have mostly to care for themselves. And for the curious public that's what they appear do; care for themselves. Both were well educated and employed in really high paying jobs. It is one 'model family' if there is anything which be called as such these days.

A month or so back the friend of mine gets a call from one of his closest friends who told him that all was not well in the household of the 'model family. What happened? His friend has no idea. He told him that he was one of the three people who should work to mend any broken fences. Both the man and the woman have agreed to talk to the peacemakers. By the way at that time they

both slept in separate beds, in separate rooms. The three 'peacemakers' who also know each other talk among themselves what to do. They agreed that whatever the reasons for the dispute between among the 'model family' are they should refrain from offending both parties. Of course one of them was a macho like guy who still in this age thinks that whatever mistakes the husband does the wife should tolerate him. He in fact tries to mention some Biblical verses. But they plead with him to keep his macho beliefs for himself and not ever to bring it up during their talk with the couple.

The couple were indeed ready and willing to talk. They were asked if it is better to talk separately to each one of them or for all them to congregate together. These were one confident couple that they both of them should present. Now the talk with the couple was no easy matter as my friend usually experiences. In most cases the disputing couple more or less try to give greater part of the real reason why they were disputing. Not this time.

Both agreed that the other side wasn't as they used to be. The wife accused her husband of staying out late something he seldom did. If he stayed out late then she's probably by his side attending one party or another or just enjoying with friends. With all their three kids abroad there couldn't be a freer couple to do whatever they wanted to do.

Now the two hadn't raised any real clear cut reason and they were just scurrying around the bush as they say. One thing the

peacemakers learned for sure that the house remained emptier for most of the night both had reasons to stay out late. Now both said that this was the loss of love and caring on the part of the other one. All this time none of them mentioned about possible infidelity or anything that comes close to it. Not even a small hint! Now for the peacemakers that at the start of the whole process was something that soften their hearts. In fact as my friend says it made them believe that this wasn't a case they thought would be hard to solve. Only a couple of weeks and all will be well. That hasn't happened. Though there are still appointments for more meetings the very fact that both seem to be holding their ground without reasons legitimate enough to force them part ways.

Now my friend the optimist and the 'experienced' dispute solver he was thought nothing was as tough as it seemed to be. Both being well-educated, sooner or later reality, so my friend thought, would hit home. Well, that's what happened; reality hit home! But in the most unexpected way my friend could have imagined. The info he got about both of them; info he went as far as confirming firsthand blew all his innocent expectations out of this world. Both were involved in secret affairs! This was the last thing he expected and it really got the best of him. He mulled how he could take himself out of this process because sooner or later one of them or both of them would be emotionally wounded. Such a nasty world that no one knows what happened! The people who told my friend the

story actually took him to the secret places and he at different times he saw n both I the most ...of situations.

He was trying to get over this devastating info when bad got to worse with other devastating information. Both him and her had multiple secret partners! What the hell is going on? How come a couple who have three children in their early and mid-twenties, a couple who had almost everything anyone with sense enough would have to laugh, a couple who were seen by much of the public as model husband and wife sinking so low. This time he refused requests to see this fact for himself as it would prove nothing. One is many as ten! Simple!

Now my friend is lost as to what he should do. He can't tell the other 'peacemakers' about what he found out.

"You know, I just learned some sad and bad news about them."

"What is the sad and bad news?"

"They both are sleeping around!"

"No. No way! These must rumors by their enemies."

"I saw the whole thing with my own eyes!?"

That, dear readers, would be a different story on a very different level and the last thing my friend would do is divulge the secret as he knows it's the bombshell with far-reaching devastation.

To tell or not to tell; that's the question. Is it really? The case is still hanging by the thinnest of strings.

"Suspicion Keeps Us Apart"

Someone said:

"Suspicion is far more to be wrong than right; more often than just. It is no friend to virtue, and always an enemy to happiness."

We've become a suspicious lot. There is so much suspicion hovering over us that for most times the hearts are never fully open even about things you can see for yourself. Every comment is open for suspicion. I couldn't say how we have become so suspicious of many things. It's really hard to find things we could take for granted.

Take for example you are at some restaurant to have what you expect would be a good sumptuous meal. Now, one thing about our restaurants and dining places, at least most of them, is that once they put your order on the table they return only to hit you with the bill. There are seldom those comforting moments where they come and ask you if everything was all right. That wouldn't have added any taste to the meal; but the fact they offer such good wishes it gives you that they really cared about their customers. Say while you're alien to such wishes from waiters or their managers, the well wish just drops out of the thin air. A smiling waitress appears and wishes you;

"Enjoy your meal."

Now in normal circumstances because she'll a damn pretty lady the first secret thought reaction might be "I've to gather the courage to ask for her number. But that always doesn't come. Over the years you've been dining in many places and nowhere did they wish you to enjoy your meal. In fact in many crowded places you felt that they prayed for you to vacate

your table fast even before you're few mouthfuls into your meal so other customers would use it. So these days the first nagging thoughts that might hit you're not about cell numbers or Instagram addresses. It's about why and how a complete stranger wishes you to enjoy your meal.

Did she say 'Enjoy our meal?' Why did she say that? What's it to her whether I enjoy my meal or not!" The suspicions gens are all over you. "Did they mess with my meal? Why did she tell me to enjoy it! What was I supposed to be? Something must be cooking that kitchen of theirs! I wish I knew who the chef who prepared your order was!

If you think such things would never happen then you've been missing much. Several months back these three friends of mine were in one those trendy restaurants. Another group held the table by their side. The two orders came at the same time by different waitresses. But the waitresses mix things and put the wrong orders on both tables. However, they realize their mistakes soon and put the orders where they should have been in the first place. My friends say that they never had second thoughts about the incident as weirder things are happening every now and then. But the other group wasn't as accommodating and had other ideas.

Now, as my friends concluded, the three guys in the other group looked like they in fact were from another era, a highly modernized era where the rest of humanity hasn't yet arrived. Especially from the way they talked and acted it was obvious they were calling attentions to themselves.

Well they indeed caught attention in ways

they probably didn't imagine. One of them summons the head waiter who was loitering around and demanded to know why the wrong order was set on their table in the first place. The head waiter aware of what happened and behaving professionally apologizes and says sometimes such things happen as the waiters and waitresses are under heavy pressure because of work load. It was an explanation that didn't delight the group. They in fact stared at my friends as if they had something to do with what was happening. My friends said they laughed it away.

Meanwhile, the headwaiter probably aware of the promotional damage such public arguments could generate, offered to have new dishes freshly prepared and take back those on the table. That didn't satisfy the three. They throw around all kinds of expletives and just walk out without. Of course they practically didn't touch.

Now my friends were wondering how guys who looked reasonable as reasonable could be act in such highly unimpressive manner in public. It was indeed a very strange incident. The innocent explanation is that the guys must have thought there was some real tampering with their order. No one knows their back stories; but that there were some serious back stories was evident.

Weren't you supposed to feel comfortable when they wish you to enjoy your meal? Well, hmm.... When that comfort doesn't materialize it means there are some serious issues in play. Not always and not many of us. Look such things are not very coming. In fact the waitress who serve you the meal has her face so contorted you might feel it

has something to do with you! Suspicion! Suspicion! Rudeness!

Elvis Presley had this piece entitled 'Suspicion' where he sings;

Suspicion torments my heart

Suspicion keeps us apart

Suspicion why torture me

He goes on...

Every time you kiss me, I'm still not certain that you love me

Every time you hold me, I'm still not certain that you care

Though you keep on say you really, really, really love me

Do you speak the same words to someone else when I'm not there?

Believe me, there are very few things which ruin your day as much as untamed, rampant, 24/7 suspicion does!

How about this quote I fished out from the net.

"Suspicion always haunts a guilty mind." really. Is that a given truth or imaginary scenery of someone who must have a lot model with suspicion? But while the generalization might be a little too much one thing is sure; there wouldn't be much 'breaking news' in the fact that those of us laden with much guilt must probably be among the most suspicious of humanity.

One line from the Elvis piece really hits home in the most convincing of ways;

"Suspicion keeps us apart"

In Pictures

PM Abiy wins FAO's Agricola Medal award

In recognition of his efforts towards attaining food security at home, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) awarded Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) the Agricola Medal.

The Prime Minister received the Agricola Medal in the presence of high-level delegates of various countries, representatives of international organizations, diplomatic missions in Italy.



PM Abiy, IMF leader discusses

On the sidelines of the Italy-Africa Summit held in Italy, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed held a discussion with IMF Director, Kristalina Georgieva.



In Pictures

‘Tsehay’ aircraft to come home!

BY DARGIE KAHSAY



“Tsehay” aircraft, the first aircraft built in Ethiopia in 1935 is set to come home from Italy. “Tsehay” was built in 1932 in Ethiopia under the collaborative efforts of the German engineer and pilot of the emperor, Herr Ludwig Weber, and Ethiopian individuals of that era. Its name was chosen in honor of Princess Tsehay, the daughter of Emperor Haile Selassie I.

After efforts to bring the aircraft to home, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed this week announced the agreement between Ethiopia and Italy to return “Tsehay” to Ethiopia. “Today marks another historic milestone for Ethiopia with the handover of “Tsehay” to the Government of Ethiopia by the Italian authorities,” PM Abiy announced.

PM Abiy visits Italy, attends Itali-Africa summit

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) along with other African leaders has attended the Italy-Africa Summit hosted by Italian Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni.

The conference is being held under the theme ‘a bridge for a common growth’, in Rome, Italy.

During the summit, Italy’s proposed ‘Mattei Plan’ for Africa project was discussed, which aims at boosting development in Africa and sparking economic growth in the continent.



Ethiopia, Italy leaders discussed

the sideline of the Italy-Africa summit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) of Ethiopia and Italy Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni held discussion. The two leaders discussed on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.

The continued engagements between the two countries are a testament to the growing cooperation between Ethiopia and Italy, PM Abiy said following the discussion.

