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Chipped-stone arrowheads

New Discoveries: Modern humans left Africa 74,000 years ago

• Ethiopia discovers oldest chipped-stone arrow heads

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia’s new scientific finding has confirmed that the first migration of modern humans took place out of Africa to other world 74,000 years ago, Ethiopian Heritage Authority (EHA) announced.

Following the demonstration, Ministry of Tourism Promotion and Marketing Sector State Minister Lensa Mekonnen briefed journalists that the finding which is the first kind of its nature showcases that Ethiopia is truly land of origins and origins of so much.

“Also, this latest finding is a remarkable milestone and a great success for the country that would promote its education tourism and tourist influx in a meaningful level,” she reiterated.

See New Discoveries: ... page 3

Adwa museum gives impetus to Ethiopia’s heritage preservation: Visitors

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - Adwa Victory Memorial Museum is setting an example to African countries in the efforts of preserving and displaying cultural heritages, said visitors.

Foreigners and Diasporas who visited Adwa Victory Memorial Museum told FBC that the memorial commemorates the staggering black victory through showcasing heritages in a modern way.

“We saw the sculptures, the fountain is lovely. It is good to preserve history. Ethiopia has many histories in which citizens can be proud of. No one can destroy history. At this time many people are preparing to make a new history, so Ethiopians should protect and support their history in such places,” Visitor Gabriel Manuel said.

See Adwa museum ... page 3



Photo: Gebabo Gebrie

Nebiyu Tedla

Cape Verde, Armenia open embassies in Addis

• Maltese FM to visit Ethiopia

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Cape Verde and Armenia recently opened their embassies in Addis Ababa, bringing the total number of

See Cape Verde, ... page 3

Ethiopia manages to build great army: Field Marshal

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia has built an army that goes along with its greatness, Chief of the General Staff said.

The Federal Defense War College graduated 38 General Officers and Senior Officers who received short-term training courses yesterday.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Chief of General Staff of the Ethiopian Defense Forces (ENDF) Field Marshal Birhanu Jula said a ten-year strategic plan has been prepared and is being implemented to build the army that matches Ethiopia’s greatness.

The CGS further stated that after the reform, technological, infrastructure and curriculum improvements have been made to Ethiopia’s military institutions. “It has managed to build a defense army that can preserve Ethiopia’s greatness and pass it on to future generations.”

See Ethiopia manages ... page 3





Ministry to lower TB death to 1,500 by 2035

- Some 21,638 institutions readying for TB treatment

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - In its efforts to end Tuberculosis (TB), the Ministry of Health (MoH) has set to reduce the number of people losing their lives due to this illness to about 1,500 by 2035.

Approached by The Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), MoH's Tuberculosis, Leprosy, and other Lung Diseases (TBLDD) Program Manager Taye Letta said that currently, an estimated 156,000 citizens are suffering from TB disease annually. It has been working to reduce the number of people becoming sick with TB to 13,000. Besides, the number of people who will lose their lives will be about 1500 by 2035.

The TB incidence was declined by 38% from 2015 to 2021 with annual average reduction of 6%. However, the current situation is reversed due to drought, conflict and others. These factors have contributed to the rise of transmission by creating fertile ground, he said.

"Ethiopia is among the 30 high TB and TB/HIV burden countries globally including drug resistant Tuberculosis. The incidence rate stands at 126 from 100,000 population with an estimated 156,000 incident cases in 2022. The country has achieved global end TB target in 2020, but currently, the above stated factors have highly contributed to the rise, and it needs increasing TB case finding," he added.

According to the Manager, the country has set seven years strategic plan to achieve the target. This will be done by containing TB in the coming seven years that requires over one billion USD. "Currently, some 21,638 health institutions (17,550 health posts, 3735 health centers and 353 hospitals) are available to delivering TB treatment and diagnosis."

The Ministry has been working to access all districts with new TB treatment and diagnosis technology. Currently, it owned 503 Genxper machine (new diagnosis technology) and an additional 460 with 10 colors are under procurement. Procuring of the screening tools 200 digital x-ray with AI is on the pipeline, he stated.

World Health Organization (WHO) Ethiopia, National professional Officer for Tuberculosis Dr. Ismail Hassen said that WHO is committed to support Ethiopia's effort to achieve the ambitious goal of ending and eliminating TB in collaboration with partners. So far, it has been providing technical assistance to improve access to quality TB diagnosis, treatment and care, he said.

Innovative solutions crucial to forest conservation

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - Applying innovative solutions and engaging community plays a paramount of significance in forest conservation and safeguarding the environment, so said Deputy Director General, Ethiopian Forestry Development.

The international Day of Forests was marked under the theme: 'Forests and Innovation: New solution for better world' here yesterday.

In his opening remarks, Ethiopian Forestry Development Deputy Director-General Motuma Tolera (PhD) stated that innovation lies at the heart of forest development and conservation. Thus, adopting innovative solutions and engaging the community is vital.

He noted that forest have crucial role in sustaining nation economy and pass better country to the coming generation. Forests cover about 30% of global landscape, and few reports indicated that globally some 1.6 billion or 25% of global population rely on forests for their livelihoods.

In Ethiopia, forest covers around 17.2% of total landscape which contributes to 30% of annual GDP, he said adding that sustainable management of existing forest as well as enhancing forest landscape are key issues to foster productivity in nation's economic sector's such as agriculture, tourism, energy, among others.

"Forest as well as the water that originates from mountains brings about huge economic contribution for neighboring countries. These forests that we share with neighboring countries play a paramount of importance in ensuring mutual economic growth and peace and stability in the region", he stressed.

Green Legacy Initiative (GLI) is considered as forestry development and conservation. "There are degraded lands



Motuma Tolera (PhD)

in various parts of the country. In order to enhance the productivity of these lands, tree seedlings must be planted. GLI is playing immense role in this regard."

Over 60% of seedlings have been planted under the initiative for the purpose of food and animal fodder which has huge economic contribution. Moreover, it plays a major role in improving livelihoods, building climateresilient economy, and conserving forests.

Thus, Ethiopian Forestry Development is applying different technologies and has also been monitoring forestry changes, and development activities.

Mentioning that the institution has been using satellite images for various purposes, the State Minister further indicated that new information are being sent to the center using the technology each hour. More importantly, wildfire sensor technology which sends signal if there is risk of occurrence is being implemented, as to him.

Agriculture State Minister Prof. Eyasu Elias on his part highlighted that the major role of forests is protecting ecosystem and landscape and Ethiopia is a country blessed with diverse ecosystem.

During the past two decades, over 100,000 hectare lands used to be exposed to



Prof. Eyasu Elias

deforestation which led to drought, and poverty. Following the activities that have been undertaken, it was able to minimize the rate of deforestation to 32,000 hectare.

GLI and forestry development is key area in agriculture. Through the Initiative, the total forest coverage has also gone up to 17.2% nationally. Apart from ensuring food sufficiency, the nation has become the second avocado exporter in Africa.

Similarly, given the fact that 60% of GLI is allocated for fruits, and fodder, the production of honey, milk and meats have shown increment.

He said farmers require over 158,000,000m³ woods for fuel consumption. Whenever there is shortage, farmers tend to use outputs of crops which lead to degradation. Nonetheless, GLI has contributed hugely in addressing the challenge.

Moreover, preventing flood, maintaining soil fertility, ensuring food security, enhancing productivity, and providing alternative fuel consumption are said to be the major significance of the forestation and GLI, as to him.

Thus, he called on concerned bodies to join force in adopting and applying innovative technologies to build clean and resilient future for the generation to come.

Ethiopia to import over 400,000 e-vehicles

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has planned to import over 400,000 e-vehicles as a means to realize sustainable transportation, Ministry of Transport and Logistics (MoTL) disclosed.

MoTL State Minister, Bareo Hassen told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that considering the successful introduction of 100,000 e-vehicles in the past two years, the government has been carrying out various activities to import 439,000 e-vehicles and establish 2,335 charging stations in compliance with Ministry's ten years strategic plan of expanding green transport.

"Among others, the government of Ethiopia gives due attention in protecting environment and combating climate change. The government puts only 15% customs duty on fully assembled imported e-vehicles. Likewise, it puts 5% customs charges on partially assembled cars and 0% customs fee for fully locally assembled e-vehicles," he stressed.

He added that e-vehicles would play a paramount role in reducing cost, minimizing



pollution, and creating comfortable environment for residents.

According to the State Minister, the country budgets over 1.4 billion USD to fuel powered cars each year which cannot adhere to the limited hard currency.

This process not only costed the nation high, but also lowers the quality of fuel as it smuggled by illegal actors, he added.

"Currently, Addis has 60 charging stations whilst it would possess 1,176 charging

facilities at the end of the Ministry's 10 years strategic plan. Similarly, some 1,050 charging stations will be installed in different cities of the country. To realize this, the Ministry is working in close with various stakeholders," he added.

Bareo underscored that as the nation has adequate renewable energy such as solar power, hydroelectricity, biofuels and the likes, it is a good opportunity to use e-vehicles to protect ecosystem and ensure resilient transportation at large, he noted.

News

Cape Verde, ...

diplomatic missions in the metropolis to 134, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) announced.

At a weekly press briefing he held here yesterday, the newly-appointed MoFA Spokesperson Nebiyu Tedla said that the opening of the two embassies is an indication of Addis Ababa's growing place in continental and global diplomacy.

Following the opening of the two embassies, the total number of missions in Addis Ababa has reached 134, of which 52 African countries have been running legations here. Last week, the two countries' ambassadors presented their credentials to President Sahlework Zewde along with 15 other envoys.

Addis Ababa's diplomatic prowess is growing as a number of countries have been opening their embassies in the metropolis. Countries that had no official diplomatic relations with Ethiopia are now engaged with the East African nation in bilateral and multilateral areas of mutual benefits, Nebiyu elaborated.

The spokesperson further stated that Malta's Foreign Minister will pay an official visit to Ethiopia after a few days. "The Ethio- Malta Business Forum was held here recently and their diplomatic and economic ties have intensified since the latter's opening of the embassy in Addis Ababa and Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's (PhD) visit to Valetta.

The Maltase government is providing training for Ethiopian naval forces and its businesses have shown a growing desire to explore the East African country's trade and investment potential, he remarked.

Adwa museum ...

He knows that Adwa victory is a triumph that Ethiopians achieved over Italian invaders in 1896 which made Ethiopia the only African nation that has never been colonized.

Gabriel stated that the Adwa Victory Memorial is a must-see for the peoples of the world as it enables many to understand the history of Ethiopia and its resilience for sovereignty.

For him, the Museum shows the patriotic sentiment of Ethiopians and their invincibility for enemies.

Diaspora Abel Feleke on his part said that the Museum is a memorial building where citizens can see and appreciate their history.

It is a museum that includes the history of Ethiopia so that visitors can pay a visit and learn a lot about the country, he indicated.

The Adwa Victory Memorial Museum has opened last Saturday for all visitors.

Ethiopian, Austrian Red Crosses team up for women's empowerment

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - The Austrian Red Cross and Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) launched yesterday a Skybird Program II that aims to strengthen the latter's attempts to ensure gender equality and women's inclusion and empowerment.

Planned to be implemented in the three African countries, the program is also said to be instrumental in increasing the role and contribution of women in decision-making and leadership roles and promoting women and girls' socio-economic resilience.

Speaking at the occasion, ERCS Secretary General Getachew Ta'a said that the program will contribute to increasing protection, gender equality, and inclusiveness in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and emergency medical services sectors in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Rwanda.

The Skybird Program II has been implemented from December 2023 to November 2029 and it boasts a budget of four million Euros contributed by the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Austrian Red Cross.

Getachew further noted the program will also strengthen the Society's collaboration with the Austrian Red Cross and help it tackle challenges that it has been facing. Likewise,



the program will help the two parties to share experiences and work together to enhance institutional capacities.

"Through Skybird Program II, we aim to build upon the achievements and impact of its predecessor, Skybird Program I, with a heightened focus on gender equality, women's empowerment, and inclusion at all institutional, operational, technical, and community levels."

Skybird Program I, covering from December 2018 to November 2023, significantly contributed to improving the living conditions of the East African people. Strengthening institutional capacities, improving access to safe water and sanitation, and encouraging economic activities are among major achievements witnessed by the program, he

elaborated.

Since the 2008 food crisis in Ethiopia, the Austrian Red Cross has been a steadfast partner, offering vital assistance during humanitarian emergencies and actively participating in the country's sustainable development endeavors, ERCS President Abera Tola said.

"Through the initiative of the Skybird program, we have successfully empowered communities and bolstered our ability to provide life-saving services."

Austrian Red Cross Delegation Office Country Representative Temesgen Abebe for his part stated that the project is expected to benefit about 200,000 people in the stated countries and finance will be distributed per implementation. "In Skybird program I, 210,000 people have been benefited."

New Discoveries: ...

Praising EHA and researchers' unwavering commitment towards realizing their endeavors, Lensa said adding that the finding graced with academic content need to be well-articulated to the wider public with the view of changing in to an ideal means of tourist attraction.

EHAMuseum Sector Deputy Director-General Elias Shikuron his part stated that the finding identified Ethiopia not only as the cradle of mankind but also as a home to immense scientific heritages.

Mentioning the discovered remnants of human being and ancient stones, Elias remarked that this and others similar findings have been contributing a lot to scientists and the global communities at large.

The Addis Ababa University Teacher and Co Principal Investigator Mulugeta Feseha (PhD) stated that their latest finding proves that widespread migration of humans in Middle Stone Age out of Africa which took place during a particular arid climate following Toba super volcano eruption in Indonesia.

During the event, the CoPI demonstrated that their latest finding suggested solutions for illusions of the genetic studies how early humans migrated from Africa to the rest of the world.

Moreover, the team has also discovered 74,000 years old chipped stone arrowheads that had been used for hunting, the CoPI further remarked.

"Early humans used to eat fruits, vegetables, roots, dead and hunted meat to withstand the aftermath of the super-eruption and diverse climates they encountered during their eventual migration," he pointed out.

It is also indicated that the investigation team has also discovered an enormous amount of stone tools, animal fossils that makes it home for ancient environment.

It was learnt that the investigation team, that was led by Mulugeta Feseha (PhD) from Addis Ababa University and John Kappelman from the University of Texas at Austin and, conducted the study for the last 22 years in northwest Ethiopia, near the Shinfa River.

Ethiopia manages ...

Prime attention has been given to build defense forces that can effectively carry out missions and there is a lot to do to make the army a source of knowledge, skills and technology.

According to Birhanu, a plan is set to make the Federal Defense War College the premier strategic leadership training center in Africa by 2033. The trainees who graduate from the college are capable of leading the army with thought, knowledge and wisdom. Moreover, they are able to understand the current situation of the country and protect Ethiopia's sovereignty from enemy quarters.

"Leaders of the army who are graduated

today should fulfill their role of protecting Ethiopia's national interest by properly applying the knowledge they have acquired."

The Commander-in-Chief of the Defense War College, Brigadier General Bulti Tadesse for his part said that the graduation is an indication that the college is effectively fulfilling its mission. Of the graduates, 14 are general officers and 24 senior officers.

BG Bulti stressed that the graduates should work hard to produce other officers with the knowledge they have gained during their stay and perform their daily tasks efficiently.

College's Training and Dean Representative

Colonel Kiros Hagose indicated four different education and training programs have been offered to the senior officers. In this regard, the graduates have acquired knowledge and experience that enable them to analyze and predict national, continental, and international geopolitics.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Chairman of the Standing Committee of Foreign Relations and Peace Affairs of the House of Peoples' Representatives Dima Negewo (PhD), Foreign Affairs State Minister Ambassador Birtukan Ayano and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs African Affairs Director General Ambassador Fisha Shaul.

Opinion

Importance of nonviolence in achieving lasting peace

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

No one denies the fact that peace and development are two sides of the same coin. Thinking of development in the absence of the former amounts to feeling like a fish out of water and a chicken with its head cut off. To cut a long story short, peace is the backbone of the whole kit and caboodle under the sun.

It is evident that failing to ensure peace in the long run gives rise to turmoil and unrest besides moving the country into uncharted waters.

As a consequence of lack of peace in some parts of the country predominately in northern part of it, Ethiopia at different instants has been passing through twists, and turns and erring from the straight path. In consideration of the foregoing, concerned bodies have been pulling out all the stops to ensure peace utilizing a wide spectrum of endeavors.

By attaching importance to peace and development, the federal government has been carrying out a wide spectrum of fruitful approaches with the intention of ensuring peace in every nook and cranny of the country.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed recently held discussions with various stakeholders on the subject of various major issues. As he conveyed discussion results on social media platforms, he emphasized the following points at different discussion forums:

“Following region-wide discussions held in the Amhara Region, led by PP Executive Members, I have convened representatives from all zones of the region to address critical current issues facing the region. Providing responses on a number of issues, we have underscored the importance of uniting efforts for a common purpose.”

“This morning, I met with representatives from all zones of the Oromia region to discuss current and emerging issues. Today’s meeting extends from recent discussions held with various communities within the region.”

“Today’s discussion on a broad spectrum of national issues involved representatives from the Somali, Afar, Harari, Gambella, Benishangul-Gumuz regions, and Dire Dawa city. Our dialogue spanned topics related to development, peace, and security.”

As the various Nations, Nationalities and Peoples of Ethiopia possess their own effective conflict resolution mechanisms, pertinent bodies have been moving heaven and earth to ensure lasting peace on the grounds that it plays a huge role in turning the attention of the country to development and growth at the earliest possible time.

It is a well-known fact that devoid of peace the country by any means what so ever cannot move one step forward. It will remain neglected. As peace means a lot for the development of one’s nation, everyone without exception should go to the ends of the earth to restore peace in the length and breadth of the country and open a new chapter in the development endeavors of



the entire nation. In doing so, attaining the envisioned target would be as easy as falling off a log and shooting fish in a barrel.

The importance of peace for any society is obvious. Without peace, no nation and no individual can move forward. Only in a peaceful atmosphere mankind can secure greater heights. A society without peace is like life in the state of nature- brutish, barbaric, short, dull and nasty as Hobbes pointed out. Everyone professes a desire for peace as an ultimate goal. This prompts everyone to find out what are the conditions necessary to ensure a stable peace. There remains a fundamental challenge to the modern world.

According to sources; “For many centuries, mankind was wrongly led to believe that a major war is required to end all the wars for all the times to come. The history has shown that this belief itself has been the cause of many conflicts. Wars cannot bring peace. Retaliation only causes counter-retaliation. Peace can be brought only by nonviolent means as expressed by the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. The term non-violence should be understood not simply as absence of physical injury but as an active force of love towards all creatures including humans, animals and plants.”

Since time immemorial, Ethiopia has been playing a paramount role in making peace happen in various parts of Africa employing myriads of effective strategies. As the federal government has been working towards ensuring sustainable peace, all and sundry should combine efforts without batting an eye. Unless pertinent bodies join hands to bring about lasting peace, reaping the fruits of development will be under question mark.

It is true that the incumbent is all set to take part in peaceful negotiations with all actors with the intention of bringing about peace and taking part fully in development activities. As the government is fully committed to resolving differences, each and every one should work hand in glove for its realization.

In point of fact, there are some actors sowing the seeds of discord among Ethiopians with the intention of moving the country into unknown territory. Dejectedly, as they hate to see a peaceful Ethiopia, they every so often come up with layers of treacheries to back the country into a corner. To smooth the progress of national development, eliminate

poverty, attract foreign direct investment, and defend the national interest on regional and global scales, it is vital to place emphasis on guaranteeing peace.

In the same way, every Tom, Dick, and Harry should play a paramount role in throwing cold water on the efforts of Ethiopia’s adversaries that have been working morning, noon and night to pull to pieces the entire nation.

Notwithstanding the fact that making their dream become a reality is an impossible mission, the country’s adversaries have not made an effort to distance themselves from this kind of wicked deeds. It becomes apparent that peace and stability are the fundamental pillars of national security and development.

In this day and age, the Ethiopian national dialogue commission has been discharging various activities with a focus on conducting national dialogue and bringing about peace across the country. Apart from that Ethiopia intends to stage the dialogue in an effort to find a common ground to conflicting ideas on vital political, social and economic matters.

Establishing the commission and giving prominence to a wide spectrum of approaches to hold the national dialogue is a considerable step forward in getting to the bottom of the prevailing national matters. Following its achievements, the commission has been receiving appreciation from various bodies at home and abroad for its successful journey.

In fact, since its inception, the commission which is in charge of oiling the wheels of the national dialogue has been carrying out a wide spectrum of endeavors with various stakeholders with an object of ensuring peace on a national scale. The national dialogue is anticipated to smooth the path of overcoming backlogs of quandaries being manifested in the left, right and center of the country.

In addition to fashioning a democratic culture and resolving longstanding glitches, conducting all-encompassing National dialogue is an effective approach to bridge differences and find a common understanding.

In the present circumstances, the commission has been busy of doing a broad range of accomplishments to lay the basis for the prearranged national dialogue which is

expected to ensure lasting peace across the country. Besides, it is anticipated that conducting national dialogue would pave the way for creating a consensus on vital matters of the country as it has a paramount role to play in resolutions of conflict.

In fact, for the full realization of the national dialogue, the commission has been working ceaselessly to create an enabling environment to hold effective national dialogue and bring about lasting peace. By its very nature, Ethiopia has been going to the ends of the earth utilizing a wide spectrum of effective strategies that can bring about peace and tranquility.

As Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed conveyed discussion results on social media platforms, he also underscored the following points at different discussion forums:

“Today’s discussions have been held with community representatives from Tigray who traveled from the region to the capital to address important issues. Our commitment to the stability and development of the Tigray region remains unwavering, and our engagement today further supports our shared objective.”

“Religious elders play a crucial role in our communities. Continuing our conversations with different segments of society, today I met with members of the Holy Synod of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, who journeyed from across the country to meet with us for these discussions.”

Following similar engagements held in the past weeks, I held discussions with members of the Ethiopian Evangelical Council along with regional representatives from member churches. These discussions were crucial for addressing matters of importance to them.

“This afternoon, I engaged in discussions with leaders of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council and fathers from various regions on pertinent issues.”

As peace and development are both ends of spectrum, everybody irrespective of age, gender, religion beliefs, political views, points of contentions and other related aspects should join hands to bring about peace at the earliest possible time.

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

Editorial

It is Addis' time!

Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia is going through a rosier period with new facilities taking shape. The historical, diplomatic hub is adding new parks, and museums to its menus. The city which hosts different regional, continental and international organizations is growing rapidly. New constructions are everywhere, and the city is undergoing massive reconstruction works. New roads and buildings are giving additional beauty to the city. Unity, Friendship and Entoto parks along the under-construction Riverside project have offered the city a peculiar look.

With public libraries and parks built in different parts of the city, Addis has now more to offer to its residents and visitors. The bustling metropolis with a rapidly growing population and economy has continued to expand. Modernization is happening now and it's happening so quickly.

Addis Ababa, which translates to "new flower," is highly being transformed in many ways. It is becoming a more popular tourist attraction than before. Initiatives focused on tourism are underway. The city, which is among the busiest on the continent, frequently hosts several international conferences and meetings. The development of numerous grand hotels has transformed the city into a major destination for gatherings.

Millions of visitors and travellers pass through Addis' Bole International Airport, which benefits from being the home of the biggest airline in Africa, Ethiopia. This has created an opportunity to take use of this fact and draw visitors to spend some time in the metropolis.

Addis Ababa is not only the capital city of Africa but also a seat of international organizations such as the Organization of African Union (OAU) and the United Nation's Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) which is under the United Nations, among others. As such, Addis has managed to get itself on the short list of great diplomatic cities next to New York and Geneva.

The city has become among the largest diplomatic hubs in the world, he said, adding efforts will continue to make Addis Ababa a comfortable seat to both the diplomatic community and international organizations, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on its weekly presser.

134 countries have their diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa. The number of African countries that have opened diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa has reached 53, it was indicated.

On the other hand, he noted that 17 ambassadors presented their letters of credentials to the President of the Federation, Sahle-Work Zewde last week. The Cabo Verde and the Armenia are the newest additions to the ever-growing number of diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa.

Addis is the safest city in the nation, there is the constant presence of heavy security forces, including the federal police, the city police force, and special uniformed groups that are stationed in almost every neighborhood and tasked with monitoring and controlling the movements of suspected criminals and criminal suspects as well as promptly preventing illicit activities. Because of this, crime has remained extremely low, and vigilant and constant security forces deter potential offenders.

By investing in sustainable and well-maintained infrastructure, the city can improve mobility, enhance safety, and create a more vibrant and sustainable urban landscape. As Addis Ababa continues to grow and evolve as a major urban center in Ethiopia, it is imperative for the government to prioritize and commit to improving and expanding the existing infrastructure to meet the needs of its residents and businesses.



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Opinion

International backing for sea access vital for regional prosperity

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

As Ethiopia necessities sea port for smoothing the path of collective growth, economic integration, and other things of a similar kind, the wider international community should stand by the side of the federal government devoid of batting an eyelid.

To everyone's dismay, some party poopers that hate Ethiopia's aspiration to growth and development have been bending over backwards to drag through the mud the reputation of the country thorough their usual cock and bull stories and barefaced lie that do not entirely reflect the existing reality on the ground.

As nothing makes these groups happier than throwing cold water on the development endeavors of the country and raise the stakes, they leave no stone unturned to rub salt in the wound and pour gasoline on the fire.

Notwithstanding the fact that some doomsayers know like the palm of their hand the fact that acquiring sea access plays a huge role in making economic integration happen in the horn of Africa and beyond, they every so often turn a blind eye to the existing circumstances on the ground.

As long as Ethiopia's desire for sea access is merely for growth and development, all nations worldwide should stand by the side of the people of Ethiopia. One thing that should be very clear for the horn of Africa region is the fact that the major role access to sea plays in smoothing the path of concerted growth among the horn of Africa region.

Ambassador Seleshi Bekele (Eng. PhD) recently told the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) that Ethiopia's direct access to port will guarantee an enduring peace in the HoA and denying the aspiration of the hundred and twenty million people would bring imminent threat for the already volatile region,

Those interest groups that are opposing Ethiopia's aspiration to sea access are opposing its engagement in the regional affairs. Those groups oppose Ethiopia's port deal knowing the fact that the accord will not bring any harm to their interest and they simply prefer to keep the country away from development and integration in the strategic region.

The diplomat further highlighted that Ethiopia needs a sovereign access to port to protect its national interest and not to harm any party.

"The global economy and diplomatic relations are challenging for a country devoid of guaranteed sea outlets. All this aspiration needs to be attained through a meticulous and intensive diplomatic engagement."

There is no doubt that securing access to the sea through win-win approach can make Ethiopia a central point for economic growth. Apart from expediting import export trade, the lives of the people of the horn of Africa region can be changed in the shortest possible time.

To take Ethiopia to the next level of accomplishment, make the country the economic hub of the horn of Africa region,

and other related aspects, the international community should join hands. If truth be told, the incumbent's continuing endeavors to acquire sea access through a win-win approach is an opportunity for the neighboring nations.

In a previous interview with the Ethiopian Press Agency, a renowned politician Aregawi Berhe (PhD) said that it is high time to Ethiopia and its neighbors to reinforce cooperation towards the security of the Red Sea.

Ethiopia would never present sea port request by means of war, but its query over the Red Sea in a peaceful manner and amicable way for common affluence is a legitimate and quite acceptable one.

The subject raised with respect to the Sea Port will never lead countries into warfare unless one fails to understand circumstances and belittle the essence of common benefit and mutual advantage. Ethiopia does have the right to question sea port and it needs to flow through a channel of peace and firm fraternity that can buttress mutual progress and shared advancement.

It should be born in mind that following the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland each and every one has been feeling exhilarated.

Somaliland is not just dedicated but unwavering in its commitment to implement the sea access deal it entered with Ethiopia recently, reiterated Mohamed Hussien Jama Rambo, member of Somaliland house of parliament.

Speaking of the reaction of Somaliland public, he said that Somaliland people are happy with the agreement. They welcomed it and expressed joy. Somalilanders are ready for business and are committed to engaging with their neighbors closely to ensure integration. That is enshrined in the constitution

"We are accustomed to pressures from entities that do not appreciate our development. Yet, we resist these pressures, demonstrating our resilience. We honor agreements. Somaliland will not bow down to any pressure."

With the understanding that the desire of the people of Ethiopia is to go to the next chapter of development, the international community should play a huge role in backing the efforts of the federal government of Ethiopia to secure access to sea. As a matter of fact, the incumbent at various points in time has expressed its genuine stance in the face of some wet blankets shameless lies.

During the course of the official discussion with Swiss Foreign Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister, Ambassador Taye Atskeselassie has requested Switzerland to stand with Ethiopia as the latter is now putting utmost efforts to regain a sea outlet, according to information obtained from MoFA.

"Ethiopia has been demanding access to sea for decades. The first reason is pretty much of economic; the pursuit flourished this time is also mainly triggered by economic causes because the economy is over dependent of single port. Besides, Ethiopia has been demanding outlet which become unattainable," according to Amb. Taye.

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

Business & Economy

How do souvenirs make economic contribution?

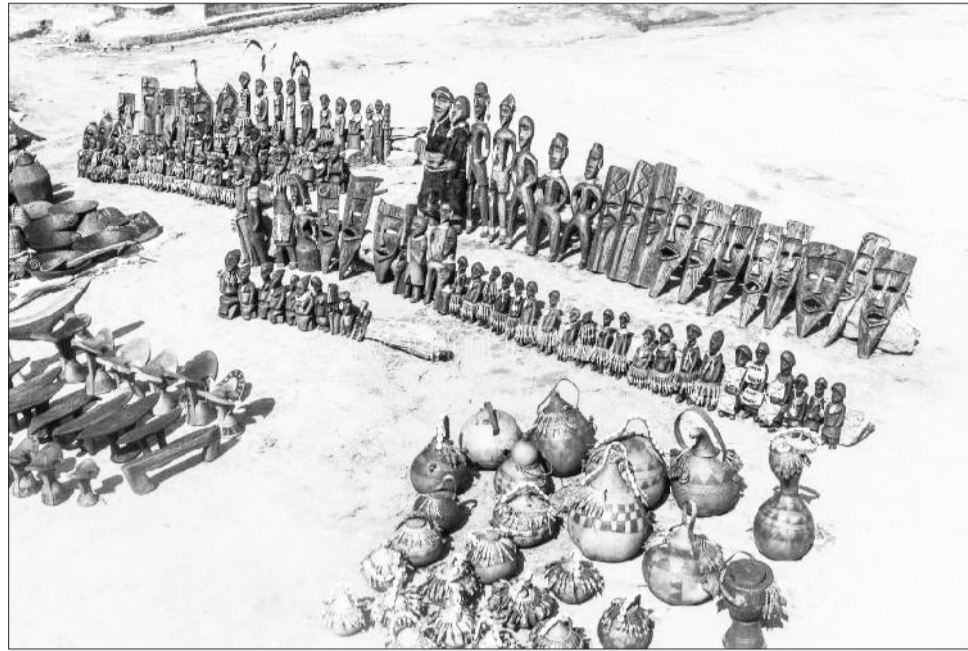
BY MENGESHA AMARE

Of the multifarious sources of economic growth, artifacts, souvenirs and other related tangible and intangible assets do have dual advantages: economic growth and tourism promotion. In simple terms, a souvenir is a tangible object meant to remind people of a place they love and evoke positive feelings. It is important to understand that souvenirs have been around for centuries, with their origins traced back to ancient civilizations. Pilgrims traveling to religious sites in ancient times often brought back tokens or relics as souvenirs and they are immensely contributing to economic growth.

Cognizant of the fact that the directly or indirectly witnessed contribution of souvenirs to economic growth shall be cited by scholars, The Ethiopian Herald had a short stay with Alemayehu Ago, an agro-economist, to have some information about the significance of souvenirs apart from their advantage in introducing the countries cultures and societal values top the rest of the world.

He said, "With the surge in tourism that people recurrently observed today, it is not possible for everyone to bring such peculiar tokens home and with the passing of time; the genuine connection between travelers and their mementos has faced problems, but can be easily dealt with. Ethiopian souvenirs shouldn't be mere decorative items; they should encapsulate deeper meaning and resonate with us personally." To address all the problems revolving around souvenirs he added, it's crucial to reintroduce the significance behind each souvenir and raise awareness of the people. "Besides, the importance of reviving the stories and cultural heritage associated with the items we design has to be emphasized. By providing comprehensive explanations and narratives, we can restore the connection between the traveler and the souvenir as well as the economy they help generate. It becomes more than a trinket; it becomes a catalyst for remembering and reliving cherished memories thereby contributing a lot to economic growth," he stated.

He further elucidated that imagine a scenario where every souvenir citizens, be they are local people or foreigners, purchase comes with a detailed account of its creation, the community that produced it, and the cultural significance it holds. Such information would offer a window into local traditions, craftsmanship, and the history of the destination visited. This aspect in turn would help promote tourism and the tourism to economic progress in turn. For instance, consider a small handcrafted armllet. It carries the narrative of a local artisan who spent hours meticulously weaving it, using traditional techniques passed down to generations. This knowledge not only adds value to the souvenir but also fosters a profound connection with the culture and people of



that particular destination. Besides, it can provide the economic sector a meaningful backing if carefully handled.

As to him, as souvenirs provide the nation with tourism change and economic progress, given the link between souvenirs and tourism shopping, souvenir is seen as a crucial component of the travel experience. Souvenirs refer to commercially tangible produced items that are purchased to remind visitors of their intangible travel experiences of destinations.

"For tourists, souvenirs can help locate, define, and freeze in time a fleeting, transitory experience, and bring back to an ordinary experience something of the quality of an extraordinary experience. The behavior of seeking souvenirs is usually perceived as a quest for authentic experiences. There is a close relationship between tourism and souvenirs, economic contribution and growth, too," he opined.

Souvenirs, which mark memories of tourists' travel experiences in time and place, are universal artifacts of tourism. However, the types of souvenir items that are offered to tourists vary, but the most popular ones include arts and crafts, gemstones, jewelry, leather goods, antiques, collectibles, postcards and local products such as food and clothing, carved following various modes and shapes reflecting the culture, norm and living styles of citizens.

He said as learnt from earliest scholars, souvenirs are categorized into five major categories: pictorial images, symbolic shorthand souvenirs, piece-of-the-rock merchandise, local products and place markers, whereas a new taxonomy of souvenirs has been developed and divided into four categories: tourist commodities, symbolic reminders, other commodities and other reminders.

He further stated that souvenirs play the role of commodities in trade among tourism providers and tourists. The significant commercial value of souvenirs, including gauging the suitability of a

destination would be instrumental in enhancing local economic development, adding an invaluable input to the tourism portfolio and acting as a form of publicity. In addition to their economic value, tourists are exposed to the culture and history of a location through souvenirs, which are also exploited as commodities in the commoditization of material culture. Hence, souvenirs are universally associated with tourism and contribute to sustainable tourism development greatly thereby making an immense contribution to the economy of the nation.

Despite the importance of souvenirs in tourism, they have not yet well developed as required in Ethiopia; he said adding that routine actions such as buying and selling souvenirs generate billions of Dollars annually. Due to its significant commercial value, the most popular topic in souvenir investigation is souvenir shopping.

As to Alemayehu, gift-giving behaviors vary in different cultures by examining various similarities and differences among cultures. Souvenir purchase motivations are also influenced by tourists' personal habits. Truly speaking, Alemayehu said that the relationship between souvenirs and tourism geographies and asserted that souvenirs provide a fresh paradigm for thinking spatially about tourism and economic contribution at the end of the day.

In fact he added technology has been identified as one of the biggest impact factors on tourists' behaviors and experiences. The meanings of virtual souvenirs for tourists, factors influencing tourists to purchase virtual souvenirs and tourist satisfaction with virtual souvenirs, has to be well pronounced so as to help the nation benefit out of the subsector as it deserves.

According to Alemayehu, from the perspective of evolutionary economics, economic growth comes from the origination, adoption and retention of novel ideas, and the arts plainly have a role in all three stages of the innovation

process of economic evolution.

The economic relevance of tourism has been proven by numerous manifestations, indeed! Here, tourism is often regarded as an economic development path for structurally weak, peripheral areas, as a cure-all providing jobs and income, capital inflow and finally stopping out migration by creating a positive socioeconomic perspective for the future, he added.

He said it is going to be quite invaluable to first clarify what the economic consequences of tourism activities are, including what is being done regarding souvenirs. Since stakeholders tend to become confused by different concepts like economic contribution, impact or benefits, gross turnover, value added, or economic value.

The economic effects of tourism are often divided into tangible, quantitative or directly quantifiable in monetary values, and intangible, qualitative or not directly quantifiable effects, in fact! The positive tangible and intangible effects correspond to the benefits of tourism for societies and economies. Besides, economic benefits of tourism equal neither the economic impact of tourism nor the economic contribution of tourism which is coming out of a range of sectors and subsectors such as souvenirs' shopping.

As to Alemayehu, the notion of economic benefits of tourism requires that a territorial entity or citizen has to be better off with tourism than without tourism. True, the economic contribution of tourism measures like what is being done regarding souvenirs do have immense contribution to the economic arena. Besides, he said the changes in the economic contribution have been resulting from specific events or activities comprising a range of tangible and intangible aspects, souvenirs can of course be categorized under the former.

According to Alemayehu, the economic contribution/impact of tourism refers to the actual expenditures of visitors. The economic effects of tourism occur and are measurable on different spatial scales, from the global, continental, national to the regional and local level. Furthermore, on the national level, the effects on the foreign exchange earnings are of great importance if the country is embarking on souvenir resources.

In sum, selling souvenirs has been frequently considered as a way for communities to benefit economically from tourism, especially in rural or poor areas. Locally-made souvenirs have the benefit of having low leakage, but imported souvenirs are often sold alongside locally-made souvenirs. The economic impacts of souvenir sales in peripheral areas, peculiarly, have made up a majority of souvenirs sold and have much greater outflow than local souvenirs, Alemayehu stated.

Art & Culture

Dancing with the wind

BY YACOB BERHANOU

Part III

The traveler gazes at the landscape spread out before us that looks like the Promised Land which we read about in the Jewish Torah narratives. I could only read his mind, otherwise I couldn't see the movement of his eyes because of the darkness. It is so hard to tell whether he's young or old, even black or red.

Several moments of silence passed. The night was windy. The west wind, which carries the lustful breath of wholeness, cover every nook and canny of the surrounding plays with the grass and the leaves of the entire scenery like the dancing fingers playing with strings of Guitar. We heard the night as a typical soulful music. It was a music that tunes the rhythm scanned by the whole abstract breath of nature. That's why I love the night. Because it's not as intense as the day. It's rather gentle, subtle and mysterious.

We let the night lure us as the dawn lurks. We were wholly given for the night to lullaby us. It grasped our sense like a shrill music. We created bond with nature. We listened the night as classical music. We heard the whole nature's vibration like a symphony. I feel that no matter how subtle the soul may be, it is an infinitesimal ripple in the face of the entire existence. And the night manifested itself in everything. This has really made a real difference. A sort of prayer, a meditation it was and it became.

And there was ravenousness. There was repetitive yawning. Above all, there was surrendering to the utmost. I closed my eyes and sat listening the night as an enticing classical music. I received everything heartfelt through the night. I eavesdrop the vibration of nature. It is true that beauty became the candid essence of this rhythmical vibration. This eternal beauty will always touch us all at the soul. I believe this couldn't be for everyone, except those who exert sincere effort to befriend nature.

I couldn't estimate how long I had closed my eyes. Maybe a day and a night or two has passed. But I'm quite sure I wasn't falling asleep. The elocution of the night spoke to the soul as a sentimental melody. The subtlety became as harmonious as the symphony. The wind blows delicately in the night's sphere - The wind itself seems burdened with longing. It carries a wet breath that infect the whole surrounding, like a woman who kissed her relatives out of her longing until their cheeks got wet. The touch of the wind on my face felt like the touch of a child's hand. How do I know if that childish hand caressing me wasn't the one that resonates the eternal vibration of the entire phenomenon?

I closed my eyes for longer moment. I



couldn't estimate the longevity. Suddenly I felt a dreamy light touch on my lips. Instantly, I opened my eyes and slowly moved my head. A lone bee flew away from my lips.

Was it a sign?

A sign of receiving grace in the face of existence?

When I opened my eyes, I learnt that the stranger was no longer with me.

I had no idea when he had left or even whether he really came.

However, I noticed his rifle leaning against the stone on which he sat. He had discarded not only his rifle but also his military uniform and shoes. I wasn't astonished. I wasn't been astonished. It may help at least to prove that he was here for real. I carelessly picked up the rifle and looked at it, weighing it on my hand. I don't know what type it is. I really don't know whether it is Belgium gun (ቤልጅግ) or Kalashnikov (ክላሽኒኮቭ). I don't know anything. I just simply wished to shoot horizontally for a nanosecond. But immediately, I became ashamed of my foolish desire. I wonder why firearms suddenly amuse people for such a reckless violent wish.

The wind blows to the east. It has a strange smile. But the smile was rather welcoming. Was it saluting its new captive? Maybe, or maybe not... But, it is true that this person does not care about the meaning of his strange destiny. He simply accepted it and destined willingly to be a wanderer of the will of nature manifested through the wind. It happens in such a way when the calling chooses you. He was chosen and deployed for another superior will from a fierce battle field, at the center of a dragon's Jaw desperate to swallow him. For the next two months, in his wandering odyssey, he rather beg for alms than simply threatening to gain his needs with his rifle.

Now perhaps he has drifted eastward following the wind's urge as he had declared. Perhaps this would what the English author C.S. Lewis called "Sehnsucht - inconsolable longing for we know not what?" Sehnsucht is a single

word that Lewis borrowed from German language when the English lacked a word to express this strange sense of longing.

I can imagine that he would face the worst punishment trying to get something to eat. Would I be surprised if I hear that he was caught stealing bread, being beaten by the inhabitants of the city, and even arrested for in this city this morning?

I may even already have heard that. But that doesn't really make difference.

I just wanted to leave him with his destiny.

To let him strive for his fate.

As it is said "No short cut route to the top of the palm tree." I want to let him face his own fate alone.

How do I know whether all this was true? Whether all of this happened or not, whether this person came here, or even if I have ever met him?

But that makes no difference either.

...

It was dawning.

The dawn seemed the morning of the very first day of creation.

There was a sublime west wind constantly blowing towards the east.

I stood up prompted by an unknown desire.

Driven by that unknown urge, I followed the wind and walked a few steps towards the east...

As I strode, I mumbled a few lines from Samuel Beckett's - The Unnamable.

«Lets us go on, as I was the only one in the world. Whereas I am the only one absent from it.... You must go on, I can't go on, I'll go on... where I am, I don't know, I'll never know, in the silence you don't know... When speaking of others, when speaking of things, how could I know? I can't know if I have spoken of him, I can only speak of me, no, I can't speak of anything, and yet I speak, perhaps it is of him, I will never know, How could I know? Who could know?...»

A herd mentality

BY ALEM HAILU G/KRISTOS

If one pulls
A sheep astray
The flock is sure
To move that way.

To fish in a troubled water
De-constructing history
Thwart we could
The old social fabric of unity
And create we shall
A generation
Suffering a crisis of identity!

*"Ask me not why
They are better than
My peers and I
Also sensitize me not to deny,
What I see with my naked eye!
In attire, grooving, life style,
Cosmetic application and
civilization
They galvanize youth's
attention!"*

Come up with a generation
We shall
That does not bat an eye
Our dictates to buy,
A generation that does barter
An age-old culture
With fads, for such a venture
Proves to it an adventure.

To achieve what we terribly
sought
If we use somebody of note
Fame that has got
Say an artist or a poet
The mob will not
Fight-shy to drink a lot
From our poison ***
Without a grain of salt
"God doesn't exist"
Could be top on the list!
Alas, we could say *"Worship
us!"*
*"Forget the Key And Lock
theory!*
Why should you worry?"
Or social and religious norms
We could rock
With *"A lock could lock a
lock
even in a wedlock!"*

Science & Technology

GPS tracking systems to safeguard endemic animals in Ethiopia

BY LAKACHEW ATINAFU

National parks are vital sanctuaries for wildlife, serving as crucial habitats for a diverse array of species. Across Africa, where iconic wildlife populations thrive, technology has emerged as a powerful tool for safeguarding animals and supporting effective conservation efforts. This article explores the application of technology in African national parks and highlights some of the best practices employed by countries in the region.

African countries have embraced smart surveillance systems as an effective means of combating poaching and ensuring the security of national park boundaries. These systems utilize a combination of technologies such as drones, thermal imaging cameras, and advanced sensor networks to monitor wildlife movements, detect potential threats, and track poachers. By employing real-time monitoring and data analysis, park authorities can respond swiftly to incidents and protect vulnerable animal populations.

One notable example is Kenya's Ol Pejeta Conservancy, which utilizes aerial drones equipped with thermal imaging cameras to patrol vast areas, identify poaching activities, and gather vital intelligence for anti-poaching operations. This technology has significantly contributed to the protection of endangered species like rhinos and elephants.

The use of GPS tracking and collaring devices has revolutionized wildlife monitoring and research. By fitting endangered animals with GPS collars, conservationists can collect critical data on their movements, behavior, and migration patterns. This information helps identify important habitats, migration corridors, and areas prone to human-wildlife conflict.

Namibia's Etosha National Park has successfully implemented GPS tracking technology to monitor black rhinos, a critically endangered species. The collars provide real-time location updates, enabling rangers to monitor their movements and respond swiftly to any potential threats, such as poaching or habitat disturbances.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have become indispensable tools for managing and analyzing vast amounts of spatial data in national parks. GIS technology allows park managers to map wildlife populations, habitat distribution, and land-use patterns. By integrating various datasets, such as satellite imagery, climate data, and animal tracking information, park authorities can make informed decisions regarding conservation strategies and resource allocation.

South Africa's Kruger National Park employs GIS to monitor animal populations, track habitat changes, and identify areas of concern. This technology enables park officials to implement targeted conservation interventions and assess the effectiveness of their initiatives in real-time.

Mobile applications have emerged as powerful tools for engaging local communities in wildlife conservation. African countries have developed apps that provide information on nearby national parks, species identification guides, and reporting mechanisms for wildlife sightings and poaching incidents. These apps

foster a sense of ownership and empower communities to actively participate in conservation efforts.

Uganda's Uganda Wildlife Authority launched the "Uganda Wildlife Explorer" mobile app, which serves as an interactive guide to the country's national parks. It offers educational content, maps, and features for reporting wildlife crimes, promoting responsible tourism, and enhancing community involvement in conservation initiatives.

As technology continues to advance, its integration into national park management in African countries offers immense potential for safeguarding wildlife populations and ecosystems. The application of smart surveillance systems, GPS tracking and collaring, GIS, and community engagement through mobile applications exemplify the best practices being implemented across the region. By harnessing these technologies, African countries are enhancing their ability to combat poaching, monitor wildlife, and engage local communities in wildlife conservation. These efforts contribute to the long-term preservation of Africa's iconic and ecologically significant biodiversity.

Ethiopia is a country renowned for its rich biodiversity and unique wildlife. With numerous endemic species, such as the Ethiopian wolf, Walia ibex, and Gelada baboon, it is crucial to implement effective conservation measures to protect these animals and their habitats. In recent years, GPS tracking systems have emerged as a valuable tool for monitoring and safeguarding endemic animals. This article explores how GPS tracking technology is being employed in Ethiopia to enhance wildlife conservation efforts.

GPS tracking systems employ a network of satellites to determine the precise location of an object or individual. In the context of wildlife conservation, GPS collars are commonly used to track and monitor animals. These collars are equipped with GPS receivers, allowing researchers to collect real-time location data, movement patterns, and other important behavioral information.

GPS tracking systems have revolutionized wildlife conservation research in Ethiopia. By providing accurate and continuous location data, researchers can gain valuable insights into animal behavior, migration patterns, and habitat usage. This information aids in understanding the ecological needs of endemic species, identifying critical habitats, and developing effective conservation strategies.

Endemic animal populations in Ethiopia often face numerous threats, including habitat loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict. GPS tracking systems play a pivotal role in monitoring the movements and survival of endangered species. By tracking their movements, conservationists can identify potential risks and take proactive measures to mitigate threats.

Human-wildlife conflict is a significant challenge in many parts of Ethiopia. As human populations expand and encroach upon natural habitats, conflicts arise between humans and endemic animals. GPS tracking systems help identify high-risk areas where such conflicts occur frequently. This knowledge allows



conservationists and local communities to implement strategies that minimize human-wildlife conflict, such as implementing better livestock husbandry practices or establishing buffer zones.

Poaching remains a grave threat to the survival of endemic species in Ethiopia. GPS tracking systems enable real-time monitoring of animal movements, allowing rapid response to potential poaching incidents. If an animal's GPS collar signals unusual or suspicious behavior, conservation authorities can investigate and intervene promptly, increasing the chances of apprehending poachers and protecting endangered wildlife.

GPS tracking systems also contribute to conservation education and awareness initiatives. The data collected through these systems can be shared with the public through interactive maps and online platforms, engaging local communities and raising awareness about the importance of protecting endemic species. By involving local communities in conservation efforts, GPS tracking systems foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the welfare of these animals.

GPS tracking systems have become invaluable tools in the conservation of endemic animals in Ethiopia. By providing accurate location data, these systems aid in understanding animal behavior, identifying critical habitats, and mitigating threats such as human-wildlife conflict and poaching. Furthermore, GPS tracking systems foster public engagement, empowering local communities to actively participate in wildlife conservation efforts. As technology continues to advance, the application of GPS tracking systems in safeguarding endemic animals will undoubtedly contribute to the long-term preservation of Ethiopia's unique biodiversity.

Simien Mountains National Park announced that it has introduced GPS tracking system to monitor and safeguard the endemic Red Fox population in the park.

The Red Fox Conservation Program Coordinator at the Park, Getachew Assefa told ENA that this tracker has been deployed in collaboration with the Ethiopian Wildlife Protection Authority and international partner organizations.

The system introduced is the Collar GPS tracker wherein GPS-enabled collars are attached to the necks of 8 red foxes with forty family members.

The tracker enables to trace movements of the foxes as they search for food and navigate through potential threats, he said.

By utilizing the system, we can track the distances covered by the foxes each day in their pursuit of sustenance as well as the dangers they encounter along the way, Getachew elaborated.

As a pilot project last year, GPS trackers were employed on two red foxes, leading to the acquisition of crucial information when these animals faced life-threatening situations, including death and severe injuries.

The Collar GPS tracker also facilitates the tracking and controlling of illegal poaching activities.

According to the program coordinator, the red foxes primarily inhabit mountainous regions above an elevation of three thousand meters.

Covering an expansive area of four hundred twelve square kilometers, Simien Mountains National Park is not only the largest national park in Ethiopia but also a UNESCO designated international heritage site.

It encompasses the highest portions of the Simien Mountains, including Ras Dashan, the highest peak in Ethiopia.

The park serves as a sanctuary for numerous endangered species, including the Ethiopian Wolf and the Walia Ibex, a unique wild goat found nowhere else in the world.

Additionally, the Simien Mountains Park is home to the Gelada Baboon and the caracal, a remarkable feline species. Over 50 bird species, including the bearded vulture with its impressive 3-meter wingspan, inhabit the park.

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Society

Countering disinformation, nurturing informed citizens



BY TEWODROS KASSA

The invention of the internet has brought dynamic changes in this world. According to reports, the use of digital media specifically social media is growing at a rapid pace and the twenty-first century could be described as the “boom” period for social networking. According to reports provided by Smart Insights, as at February 2019 there were over 3.484 billion social media users. The Smart Insight report indicates that the number of social media users is growing by 9 percent annually and this trend is estimated to continue.

Currently, the number of social media users represents 45 percent of the global population. The heaviest users of social media are digital natives, the group of persons who were born or who have grown up in the digital era and are intimate with the various technologies and systems, and the “Millennial Generation”, those who became adults at the turn of the twenty-first century. These groups of users utilize social media platforms for just about anything ranging from marketing, news acquisition, teaching, health care, civic engagement, and politicking to social engagement.

However, the unethical use of social media has resulted in the breach of individual privacy and impacts both physical and information security. Reports in 2019 reveal that persons between the ages 8 and 11 years spend an average 13.5 hours weekly online and 18 percent of this age group is actively engaged on social media. According to Cyber-security Company Surfshark, those between ages 12 and 15 spend on average 20.5 hours online and 69 percent of this group are active social media users. While children and teenagers represent the largest Internet user groups, for the most part they do not know how to protect their personal information on the Web and are the most vulnerable to cyber-crimes related to breaches of information privacy.



Recently, media experts expressed the necessity of improving literacy and awareness of the society to alleviate the demerits of social media in Ethiopia.

Lack of awareness and poor social media literacy is making the country prone to various existing and new social and economic problems, the scholars noted.

Social media has to promote Ethiopian language, culture, community growth and boost tourism flow, but it has seen causing and deteriorating conflicts due to mismanagement, stated Yordanos Gizachew, Head of Journalism and Communication at Jigjiga University.

She said that the country needs to strive to minimize the social media impact through providing training on how to utilize the platform for common good which enables media professionals to transmit accurate news.

“We may easily like or share information on social media but those who disseminate hate speech, fake news use the opportunity to escalate instability and get the nation into crisis. For this reason, everyone should use the platform cautiously to ensure peace,” Yordanos said.

The society should be well aware of the information it disseminates and be alert

to whom it sends a message. “When access to social media flourishes in developing countries, it might cause problems since there is no restriction. In developed countries, users have time-limiting options that appear on social media apps,” she expressed.

However, there is no such technology in Ethiopia. Therefore, the government must work with Ethio telecom to control fake news disseminated on social media. She also suggested that establishing law is crucial to ensure accountability of those who spread fake news on social media.

Wollo University Journalism and Communication Lecturer Yalew Desalegn on his part said that people should have social media and information literacy while using the platform.

In the context of Ethiopia, most people don’t have the aforesaid literacy that’s why many crises are happening. Yalew stated that message recipients share information without verification which creates conflict since most of the information arises from rumors rather than evidence.

“Everyone should be aware that the media has the power of building or dismantling a nation. So everyone should receive accurate news and examine it critically before sharing it with a third person. It

needs an awareness creation campaign to mitigate social media usage constraints,” he recommended.

It is appropriate to provide training to students from elementary to university level in order to raise the awareness of the generation about proper usage of social media for the public good, it was learnt.

Ethiopians should be aware of when and how to use social media since it helps to ease the social, economic and political problems of the nation. Citizens should use social media to promote culture, mobile banking and to realize behavioral change, the scholars recommended.

Meanwhile, the Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations Council (ECSOC) and Meta (Facebook Company) announced that they are working closely to promote digital literacy and foster peace building in Ethiopia.

Program and Development Director with ECSOC, Hana Woldegebriel said that ECSOC and Meta have entered into a collaborative initiative aiming to enhance digital literacy for peace building across the nation.

Digital platforms can transform CSOs’ capacity, enhance efficiency, improve their engagement with stakeholders, improve the quality of their services, and provide new ways of generating revenues, among others.

This event is designed to equip CSO representatives with the necessary digital skills to enhance safe and responsible use of digital platforms and fostering an environment of informed, reflective, and meaningful engagement.

In sum, social media platforms have played a crucial role in fostering societal change and transformation. However, the misuse of these platforms, including the proliferation of misinformation, calls to violence, and hate speech, has posed a significant challenge with the potential to exacerbate offline harm.



This is Ethiopia

Ethiopian cultural coffee ceremony



Ethiopian cultural coffee ceremony

Photo: Social media

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Ethiopia being home to a rich tradition, often referred to as the birthplace of coffee, holds a unique and captivating cultural tradition known as the Ethiopian coffee ceremony. This centuries-old ritual is not only a celebration of the country's vibrant coffee culture but also an integral part of Ethiopian social life. With its meticulous preparation, aromatic coffee beans, and warm hospitality, the Ethiopian coffee ceremony offers a sensory experience that is both enchanting and deeply rooted in tradition.

The Ethiopian coffee ceremony is more than just a simple act of brewing and consuming coffee; it is a ceremonial event that brings people together and symbolizes friendship, community, and respect. The process begins with the washing of green coffee beans, which are then roasted over an open flame. The rich aroma of the roasting beans fills the air, enticing all those present and creating an atmosphere of anticipation and togetherness.

Once the beans have been roasted to perfection, they are ground using a traditional mortar and pestle. The finely ground coffee is then placed in a traditional clay pot called a *Jebena*, along with water, and brewed over hot coals. As the coffee slowly simmers, the room becomes filled with its inviting aroma, creating an ambiance that is both comforting and invigorating.

While the coffee is brewing, participants engage in lively conversation, storytelling, and laughter, fostering a sense of connection

and camaraderie. The host or hostess takes great pride in serving the coffee, often pouring it from a height into small, handless cups called *Sini* (cup). This pouring technique not only enhances the flavors of the coffee but also adds an element of theatrics to the ceremony. As the coffee is served, it is customary for participants to add sugar or salt to their cups, according to their personal preference.

Moreover, this unique practice reflects the diverse tastes and traditions that are embraced within Ethiopian coffee culture. The coffee is sipped slowly, allowing its robust flavors to be savored and appreciated. The Ethiopian coffee ceremony is a symbol of hospitality and respect, as guests are welcomed into homes and offered coffee as a gesture of friendship. The ceremony is often accompanied by traditional Ethiopian snacks such as popcorn or roasted barley, adding to the overall experience and creating a sense of indulgence and pleasure.

Beyond the flavors and aromas of the coffee itself, the Ethiopian coffee ceremony holds a deeper significance in Ethiopian culture. It serves as a time for reflection, social bonding, and the sharing of stories and experiences. Through this ritual, generations pass down their cultural traditions and preserve the essence of what it means to be Ethiopian.

Recently, efforts are being undertaken to boost the country's coffee productivity via new measures and generate more from the sector. This includes diversifying the country's best coffee species production and productivity.

In the national coffee symposium held recently under the theme, "The role of stakeholders' collaboration in transforming Ethiopia's coffee industry," Dila University President, Chirotaw Ayele (PhD) noted that coffee ceremony is creating strong social bond among the society and being a traditional means to solve disagreements through peaceful dialogue.

He said, "Dila University is teaching master education in coffee related issues. The University has been preparing improved coffee seedlings, distributing and providing training for the local farmers every year and the center is one step to move on the right track."

On his part, Education Minister, Prof. Birhanu Nega said, "We need to put our fingerprint on the coffee sector to achieve our development, productivity, and competitiveness in the world market. The inaugurated coffee center of excellence in *Yirgacheffe* is an important milestone for the nation and helps us to be competent in the world market value chain."

It is important to effectively implement activities in the nation using reliable skills, knowledge and wisdom.

Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority Director General Aduga Debela (PhD) on his part stated that there are so many species in the nation to change the production per hectare and efforts are exerted to improve it.

"Ethiopian annual coffee production reached about 7.4 million metric tons and 35-40 percent of foreign currency is contributed by coffee. Research is being done in coffee

to make it productive and we have chances to switch the current annual production to double or triple rate."

As to him, what is discouraging along this line and which needs to be improved is price fluctuation regarding coffee. "We need to produce quality coffee and promote value chain by the help of research, supporting packages as well as revising extension packages.

Policy revision is needed for the producer to create an enabling environment in brand, promotion, quality and farmers to sell the product directly to market. We have designed a fifteen year coffee strategy and it is being implemented now, Adugna remarked.

In sum, Coffee is everything for Ethiopians. It manifests every aspects of their life. The Coffee ceremonial process has its own meaning and values in different cultural backgrounds throughout the country. It manifests the social, political, and economic affairs of the society.

The Ethiopian coffee ceremony is a celebration of coffee, community, and tradition. It is a sensory experience that engages the senses, fosters connection, and creates lasting memories. Whether experienced in the intimacy of a home or as a public event, the Ethiopian coffee ceremony invites individuals to slow down, appreciate the present moment, and embrace the rich cultural heritage of Ethiopia. So, next time you find yourself in Ethiopia, don't miss the opportunity to immerse yourself in this enchanting and vibrant tradition.