



The Ethiopian Herald

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His Holiness Abune Mathias



Cardinal Berhaneyesus



Pastor Tsadiku Abdo



Rev. Yonas Yigezu

Religious fathers call on faithful to stand, pray for peace

BY MISGANAWASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA-Religious leaders called on followers in their Easter message to stand and pray for peace and extend support to elders, orphans and the disfavored while observing the holiday.

The religious leaders also stressed that the resurrection of Jesus Christ has brought salvation and peace to all humankind.

Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church His Holiness Abune

Mathias I said Jesus' resurrection gives the lesson of forgiveness to the faithful, as Easter is the festivity of peace, reconciliation, compassion and conscience.

Abune Mathias also noted that Easter is the

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Medhin Decor

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Russian Ambassador congratulate Ethiopians on Patriots' Victory Day

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Lij Daniel Jote

Association urges youth to replicate patriots' victory preserving sovereignty

• Nation marks 83rd Victory Day

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA – The present generation needs to repeat the patriots' victory of over fascist forces in the fight against poverty and preserving Ethiopia's sovereignty and integrity, the Ethiopian Patriots Association said.

See Association urges... page 6

Withstanding challenges, Ethiopia's ascension imminent: Premier

• Extends Easter best wishes

BY MENGESHA AMARE

ADDIS ABABA- Having endured the short-lived difficult times, Ethiopia has the capability to witness its long revival, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) said.

Conveying Easter message to the Christian faithful, the Premier stated that Ethiopia's challenges are suppressing and daunting, but the country has the capability to overcome the hurdles. "After the short-lived obstacles, the long resurrection of Ethiopia will come."

He pointed out that Ethiopia is going through a test and the season may be challenging for Ethiopia and Ethiopians. However, Ethiopia has the ability to pass this period of test and to achieve its resurrection shortly.

"Those who seek to harm us may seem to

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<p>Commemorating patriots' deeds is worth rewarding</p> <p>Page 7</p>	<p>The crucifixion</p> <p>Page 8</p>	<p>Victory Day, the continued struggle for sovereignty</p> <p>Page 10</p>
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Ethiopia produces over 82 mln quintals of irrigated wheat in 9-month

• Plans to export wheat to global market

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA – Some 82 million quintals of wheat was produced in the summer irrigation program during the past nine months of the current Ethiopian fiscal year, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) said.

Approached by the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), MoA Public Relations and Communication Executive Officer KebedeLakew stated that the country has been significantly increasing wheat production due to the summer irrigation program.

Ethiopia sets a plan to produce 120 million quintals of irrigated wheat in the current fiscal year and it has achieved more than 82 million quintals by covering three million hectares of land. In addition, the country has been focusing on irrigation farming in the autumn and spring seasons to increase wheat production and productivity, Kebede added.

The irrigated wheat is cultivated from 2.3 million hectares of land. Some 1.7 million hectares of land were harvested via traditional techniques;combiner harvested the remaining. Efforts are underway to harvest the remaining land and achieve the plan.

According to him, irrigated wheat development has a great role to improve wheat production and productivity and the country has been exerting employing water, soil and human capital to get better results.

Due to consolidated efforts, the government managed to overcome wheat supply challenges and attain the goal that it set to import substitution. In addition to satisfying the local demand, due attention has been given to export wheat to the global market.

Ethiopia's summer irrigation wheat program is an important agricultural initiative that is aimed at increasing wheat production and productivity during the summer season. The country's predominantly rain-fed agriculture faces challenges in meeting the growing demand for wheat due to limited rainfall and unpredictable weather patterns.

The launch of irrigation wheat production in Ethiopia is for food security, self-sufficiency and exporting goals, the officer elaborated.

Ethio-Pakistan business forum spurs economic collaboration

• Pakistan delegation to visit Ethiopia late May

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA- Ethiopian Embassy in Islamabad announced that the second Ethio-Pakistan Business Forum will be held in Ethiopia late May.

The upcoming forum is expected to make the Ethio-Pakistan economic integration better as the previous ones mobilizes Pakistan investors to perceive opportunities.

The Embassy co-hosted a business dialogues with Pakistan's Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), aimed at fostering economic ties between the two countries and to discuss the 2nd visit of Business and Trade Delegation of Pakistan that will be here in Ethiopia to visit investment opportunities and infrastructures, *The Ethiopian Herald* learnt.

Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan, Ambassador Jemal Beker and the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, discussed preliminary conditions for the upcoming Pakistan's delegation visit to Ethiopia scheduled for May 26th to May 31st



this year.

The discussion was held at the ICCI headquarter in Islamabad, drew a significant gathering of business leaders spanning various sectors. Its primary objective was to mobilize Islamabad's business community to invest in Ethiopia, according to the Embassy's report.

Ambassador Jemal underscored Ethiopia's ambitious economic reforms across key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and ICT. He outlined a comprehensive agenda of business forums and site visits. The visit will cover industrial and ICT parks, high-level meetings, exploration of tourist attractions, and cultural

exchanges in Addis Ababa, it was stated.

Highlighting the significant opportunity for bilateral economic collaboration, Ambassador Jemal also highlighted that Ethiopian government will continue with series of exclusive forums and discussions.

The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry -ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari also urged Pakistan business community members to seize the opportunity, citing Ethiopia's warm hospitality and promising business prospects. He also emphasized the strategic importance of Ethiopian Airlines' operations in Karachi-Pakistan as a pivotal link connecting Pakistan to Africa.



Ambassador Selshi, U.S Congress discuss AGOA, current issues

BY ESSEYE MENGISTE

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia's Ambassador to the U.S. , Ambassador Selshi Bekele (PhD.Eng) discussed with various members of the U.S. Congress on AGOA and contemporary issues of Ethiopia.

Amb. Silesh, on his X page ,stated that he and Rep. John Garamendi discussed issues related to AGOA, possible partnership and Ethiopia's economic development, potential partnership, humanitarian support and access to food, implementation of peace agreement and ethnically related conflict in some parts of Ethiopia.

Rep. John and his wife Patricia (Patti) served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia from 1966 to 1968, and frequently visited the country since then. Both have deep understanding of Ethiopia's socio-economic, societal, and cultural challenges and opportunities.

By same token , Amb. Silesh discussed with Cherfilus-McCormick, a member of the U.S. Congress, about the impact of AGOA exclusion on Ethiopia, including job losses, impact on American investors, livelihood difficulties.

In addition to this, the ongoing ethnic conflicts, the disorganization of some

groups are affecting the stability and development of Ethiopia and told the members of the Congress.

While explaining, he mentioned that the impact of AGOA on low-income citizens and it will have on American investors as well.

In addition, the ambassador discussed with Congress member Ami Bara about peace agreement implementation, including Transitional Justice Policy approval, humanitarian support for people in need and refugees, and AGOA's significance for US-Ethiopia business relations, and Horn of Africa peace etc.

Editorial

Easter embodies forgiveness, love, sacrifice, better days

True, forgetting a harm inflicted on us is impossible, for it remains itched on our memory especially if it is a harrowing experience, but forgiving is within the realm of possibility. The latter is rather a best way out, for it helps navigate hurdles putting dark spots in our history behind our back. It helps us avoid licking a wound, nursing a grudge, lamenting the past and wielding an axe. The serenity that ensues on the wake of forgiveness could allow people with a united heart to catapult to affluence.

The atavism witnessed on Good Friday is atoned by the resurrection on Easter. Forgiveness made that possible. Similarly dark spots in history could be replaced by brighter ones on the wake of forgiveness.

Forgiveness is what Easter embodies aside from love, considerateness, selflessness and sacrifice. What the crucified lover of mankind homed in on was these ideals.

Ethiopia is a country marked for religiosity, which obligates offering the left cheek when the right is slapped and praying for assailants. If such virtues are very much demanding, we must at least nurture doing away with intolerance that has a potential of wrecking down an ancient nation that passed through thick and thin to portray images of an aura of freedom and a beckon of victory over blatant aggression.

But it goes without saying that mending wrong turns is expected from offenders.

Hence, calm, cool and collected as well as sitting around a horseshoe table ironing out bones of contention to forestall development-detracting clashes erupting time and again and joining hands and hearts to spur rosy days-promising common growth are must-dos. That is why a national dialogue commission is established to create a national narrative of growth relegating verbal and physical altercations to the limbo of history via a healthy discussion.

Cognizant of the aforementioned facts when we celebrate our victory day that overlapped with Easter this time round, it must be with the consensus of collectively maintaining such victory in all fronts. Atop must come rapid-development-calibrated projects such as the flagship project GERD, via which Ethiopia is showcasing its rise to the level of countries enjoy the amenities of prosperity. GERD is a living billboard that exhibits the miracle Ethiopians could do if they display chemistry on par with the one showed in Adwa and subsequent ones. It also shows the boons that accrue to region and the continent when the country harnesses the resources it is bountifully endowed with. It is possible to enumerate additional projects like Green Legacy that make Ethiopia sickout as a rising nation.

Brighter days await resource-endowed-and-resilient Ethiopia, if it unleashes its potential taking citizens united in purpose aboard the bandwagon of thrust for affluence.

The takeaway is, our heart must have room for forgiveness, deliberation, win-win deal, peace and development. Embracing the future overcoming inimical trends of the past, magnifying bright spots in history as well as scaling up the best turnouts must also come atop our characteristic features. Let us work towards this end mindful of the generations to come which must be insulated from the repercussions of our missteps and which must bask under our wise decisions.

Opinion

We highly appreciate Ethiopians' courage, pay tribute to their sacrifice

BY EVGENY TEREKHIN

(Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ethiopia)

Eighty-three years have elapsed since the great Victory, several generations have grown up, but the memories are still vivid of the war and the valiant defenders of the Motherland who struggled against Fascism and Nazism at a huge cost of 370 thousand of lives lost on the battlefields and as a result of war crimes and atrocities committed by the occupants.

Ethiopian patriots' liberated the capital of their country from the aggressors. The enemy was defeated not only with the power of equipment and military might. The key was that the weapons were in the hands of an unyielding tight-knit people, united in defending its own, dear, native land – both on the war front and home front.

Ethiopia was the first country attacked by the fascists a few years before World War II, when on the night of October 3, 1935, suddenly, without a declaration of war Italian troops invaded its territory. Ethiopia was also the first country to be liberated from fascism. The undisputed victory of Ethiopia eliminated the colonial threat that had been long looming over the state and

demonstrated its military strength and independence. Patriots' Day is significant as it represents a historic moment in the country's struggle to defend the Empire's sovereignty and self-determination.

We highly appreciate the heroism and courage of the Ethiopian people and pay tribute to their sacrificial feat, true patriotism and steadfastness. Patriots' Victory Day is the most valuable and brightest Day for the peoples of Ethiopia. It is a Day of the strength of the people's spirit. These lessons of the past war are still relevant. The celebration of this significant Day is very important now, when the desire of some countries to exploit the peoples of the world continues in the form of neo-colonial manifestations aimed at limiting the sovereignty of other countries in domestic and foreign policy, economic, ideological and other spheres.

It just so happened that on this solemn day in Ethiopia and Russia Orthodox believers celebrate the Bright Feast of Holy Easter, so I would like to use this opportunity to warmly congratulate the people of Ethiopia on these two holidays and wish to all Ethiopian friends and brothers in faith good health, family well-being, peace and prosperity.

Digital leap to economic modernization, e-governance

BY STAFF REPORTER

With its population expected to nearly double to 2.5 billion people by 2050, Africa presents myriad of opportunities for an inclusive growth that harness its rich natural resources and ensure prosperity.

The power of digital transformation in the African context is set to take center stage at GITEC Africa 2024, the continent's largest tech and startup exhibition taking place from 29-31 May in Marrakech, Morocco. Attended by delegates from all sectors within Africa's technology ecosystem, GITEC Africa presents countless opportunities to share insights into Africa's tech future and showcase groundbreaking digital solutions that are emerging from countries on the continent.

Guided by its country's development plan, Ethiopia launched its digital transformation strategy 2025 in 2020. The strategy aims to harness technology to drive economic growth and citizen engagement. In Ethiopia, modernizing its economy and enhancing governance are two areas in which the country is making significant strides, supported by several government initiatives aimed at expanding access to digital services and promoting e-governance.

For instance, the strategy sets out a comprehensive plan to digitize key sectors of the economy, including agriculture, manufacturing, and services. It not only recognizes the importance of digital technologies to drive economic growth, improve public service delivery, and enhance the country's competitiveness in the global market, but also seeks to create a knowledge-based economy that can sustainably address the needs of its growing population. And it is using innovations such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and the Internet of Things (IoT) to do so.

The GITEC Africa 2024 Digital Summit focuses on crucial discussions regarding Africa's digital advancement and its journey towards a unified digital market, covering topics like policy, connectivity, and digital cities. Another conference, the World Future Health Africa Investment Summit will feature Ethiopia's Mactar Seck, Chief of Technology & Innovation Section at the United Nations Economic

Commission for Africa.

An Ethiopian country pavilion at GITEC Africa 2024 will also spotlight the massive advancements in the East African country's digital transformation agenda across multiple sectors, from agriculture and e-commerce, to healthcare, manufacturing, and F&B.

Making Significant Investments in Digital Infrastructure

In a country with close to 25 million internet users at the start of 2024, representing internet penetration of 19.4 percent, public-private partnerships have emerged as key to the digital growth of Ethiopia. Recognizing this, the government, in partnership with the private sector, has made significant investments in a telecommunications network that can support the country's digital ambitions.

Enhancing Public Services and Governance

E-governance is another key aspect of Ethiopia's digital transformation agenda, and the government is leveraging digital platforms to streamline public services and enhance transparency. Another is the aimed at providing a unique digital identity to every Ethiopian citizen, enabling them to access government services seamlessly and securely.

Contributing to Job Creation and Investment

In terms of economic modernization, much progress has already been made. In the agricultural sector, which employs the majority of Ethiopia's workforce, digital tools such as mobile apps and remote sensing technologies are being used to provide farmers with real-time information on weather, soil health, and market prices. In the manufacturing sector, the government's focus on developing industrial parks equipped with high-speed internet and digital facilities is creating jobs, attracting foreign investment, and boosting exports.

The opportunities presented by Ethiopia's digital transformation journey are immense. By continuing to invest in digital infrastructure, promote digital skills, and foster innovation, Ethiopia can unlock the full potential of digital technologies to drive economic modernization and improve governance.

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



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The Ethiopian Herald

Russian Ambassador congratulate Ethiopians on Patriots' Victory Day

BY STAFF REPORTER

ADDIS ABABA- Patriots' Day is significant as it represents a historic moment in the Ethiopia's struggle to defend the Empire's sovereignty and self-determination.

In his congratulatory message on Ethiopian Patriots' Victory Day, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ethiopia, Evgeny Terekhin, made the above statement.

Ethiopia was not only the first country attacked by the fascists a few years before World War II, but it was also the first country to be liberated from fascism, he said, adding that the undisputed victory of Ethiopia eliminated the colonial threat that had been long looming over the state and demonstrated its military strength and independence.

"Ethiopian patriots liberated the capital of their country from the aggressors. The enemy was defeated not only with the power of equipment



and military might. The key was that the weapons were in the hands of an unyielding tight-knit people, united in defending its own, dear, native land – both on the war front and home front," he underscored.

He noted that his country appreciates the

heroism and courage of the Ethiopian people and pay tribute to their sacrificial feat, true patriotism and steadfastness. Moreover, Patriots' Victory Day is the most valuable and brightest Day for the peoples of Ethiopia. It is a Day of the strength of the people's spirit. These lessons of the past war are still relevant, he added.

"The celebration of this significant Day is very important now, when the desire of some countries to exploit the peoples of the world continues in the form of neo-colonial manifestations aimed at limiting the sovereignty of other countries in domestic and foreign policy, economic, ideological and other spheres."

The Ambassador also extended best wishes as Ethiopia and Russia Orthodox believers celebrate the Bright Feast of Holy Easter as well as congratulated Ethiopian friends and brothers in faith good health, family well-being, peace and prosperity.

Withstanding challenges...

temporarily successful, but eventually they will lose. We know that Ethiopia will be tested. When we rise to heal the brokenness and breakdowns that have existed for centuries, the path will not be a bed of roses. Those who are used to profiting from the problem will not remain silent."

PM Abiy also indicated that the country is blessed with citizens with patriotic gestures; untapped resources and wealth that can help it come out of the grip of underdevelopment and complex hurdles. Since Ethiopia does have what it deserves in all corners, citizens from all walks of life have to move in unison to make a

difference in all aspects. In doing so, the current generation could foster Ethiopia's renaissance.

Like until truth and kindness triumphed through resurrection, evil and lies had been as big as an immovable mountain, all will be lucidly revealed soon, Abiy said. According to him, the enemies of Ethiopia may seem to be pursuing their own interests and goals.

"We, as a country, have had big assignments regarding fiscal policy, agriculture, manufacturing, foreign affairs policy, multinational unity, freedom, state organization, civil service, reinvigorating a knotting narration,

among others."

He added, "Let us roll up our sleeves, and swallow the bitter medicine of Koso, and be careful but quick to solve these problems; but we have to pay the price and travel."

Ethiopia has the leadership that not only loves her, cares for her but also dies for her, a people who see a purpose and pay the price, and her wealth will be a power for her children. The four-cornered capacity of the creator, the leadership, the people and untapped resources not only shortens Ethiopia's challenges, but also makes its resurrection longer, the PM remarked.

Association urges youth...

Speaking to the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA) in connection with the commemoration of the 83rd Victory Day, Association President Lij Daniel Jote stated that the patriots' commitment and sacrifice to fend off invaders should inspire the current generation in preserving their country's sovereignty.

Lij Daniel also stated that the patriots' determination and enormous sacrifice they paid for five years to disarray invaders also symbolizes today generation's ability to preserve Ethiopia's integrity.

Recalling the fierce struggle the patriots waged against Fascist occupation, he added that they were well mannered, disciplined, religious, and well aware of any possible setbacks that the

country could face. The patriots' victory has driven home the lesson for the need to engage in activities that will contribute towards nation building.

The association president further stressed that the youth have the responsibility to replicate the patriots' victory of Fascism into education, trade and in other broad diplomatic perspectives.

"Taking bold lessons and courage from their predecessors, the current generation is expected to repeat similar victories in business and in other bilateral and multilateral activities to ensure Ethiopia's development and prosperity."

The Victory Day would also be a great message for the Ethiopian National Defense

Forces and other security actors who are on board to sacrifice their lives for the country's sustainability. "There is also a great lesson for the current security apparatus from the patriots' determination to defend Ethiopia's soil from foreign aggressors."

Lij Daniel called on stakeholders to nurture patriotic and disciplined citizens who are always vigilant to discharge their national responsibilities. He also emphasized the need for an intensified effort to aware the international community about the enormous sacrifices the patriots have paid for freedom.

Patriots' Victory Day commemorates the end of the Italian occupation on May 5, 1941.

Religious fathers...

manifestation of God's eternal love to humankind and guides Christians to stand together for the glory of God and the safety of humanity. "I called on the faithful in the name of God to mark Easter together with the poor, the sick and those in jail."

Archbishop of the Ethiopian Catholic Church Cardinal Berhaneyesus Demerew urged followers to be weapons of peace as reconciliation is the only key to overcome Ethiopia's existing and emerging challenges. "We need to struggle for peace in this Easter

and onwards as well."

Cardinal Berhaneyesus added, "When we celebrate this Easter, we are responsible to support orphans and displaced citizens everywhere in the country."

President of the Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia Pastor Tsadiku Abdo said, "Let us away from hatred, arrogance and revenge and stay with others in a loving and respectful manner."

Pastor Tsadiku also called on adherents to

collaborate with the government in safeguarding their own peace.

President of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Rev. Yonas Yigezu said, "We were created in God's resemblance and everyone should love and accept their brothers and sisters in compassion especially during Easter."

"Let us go in a new way, learn from the past and select the path of Jesus Christ since we are brothers and sisters in faith. Easter is a holiday of reconciliation since all old things have passed," he remarked.

Ethiopian , Verteil Technologies enter NDC distribution agreement

ADDIS ABABA (FBC) – Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest carrier, confirmed that it has expanded the reach of its New Distribution Capability (NDC) content through a strategic collaboration with Verteil Technologies, a global leader in NDC technology.

This alliance signifies a pivotal moment in Ethiopian Airlines' commitment to further modernize its customer satisfaction, as it aims to broaden the availability of its NDC content across Verteil's extensive global network of Travel Sellers, according to BusinessWire India's report.

The partnership seeks to enhance travel experiences by providing seamless connectivity and greater accessibility to Ethiopian Airlines' NDC offerings.

The Airlines, through a social media post on Thursday, also stated; "This collaboration marks a pivotal step in Ethiopian Airlines' commitment to modernizing customer satisfaction. This strategic agreement enables Ethiopian Airlines to broaden the accessibility of its offerings across a vast network of travel sellers."

With Verteil's advanced NDC distribution solution, Ethiopian Airlines can significantly expand distribution reach across Verteil's global network of Travel Sellers, whilst being able to offer a seamless and efficient experience for both travel agents using NDC technology.

This collaboration allows Ethiopian Airlines to provide real-time access to the latest fares, ancillary services, and personalized options to Travel Sellers.

Lauding the partnership, Ethiopian Airlines Group Marketing Vice President Rahel Assefa said, "Ethiopian being in a continuous evolution of aviation technology and commitment to enhancing global customer experiences, the strategic collaboration with Verteil's NDC technology marks a pivotal advancement. We strongly believe that this partnership is instrumental in propelling our NDC-driven distribution strategies forward, underscoring our dedication to excellence and innovation in air travel distribution. We look forward to achieving further successes stemming from this partnership that will translate into availing the best customer experience."

Travel Agents/Sellers booking through Ethiopian Airlines will benefit from the advantages of Verteil's NDC technology, including real-time updates, tailored recommendations, and an enhanced user interface. Ethiopian Airlines' embrace of cutting-edge technology reaffirms its position as a leader in meeting the evolving needs of modern travelers.

Verteil Technologies Founder and CEO Jerrin Jos expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "We are thrilled to partner with Ethiopian Airlines, the leading airline in Africa. This partnership not only strengthens Verteil's leadership position in NDC distribution within the African market but also underscores our commitment to innovation and excellence in air travel distribution globally. We are excited to contribute our expertise to Ethiopian Airlines, facilitating their global outreach by efficiently connecting with key travel sellers worldwide."

Verteil Technologies Private Limited is an IATA Airline Retailing Maturity Index Certified System Provider, with headquarters in India and having local presence in different regions including Japan, Middle East, Africa, Hong Kong, China, South Korea, UK, Europe, and Americas.

Opinion

Commemorating patriots' deeds is worth rewarding

BY MENGESHA AMARE

Many think that patriots' deeds, or the sense of patriotism and love of one's country, are fighting for the sovereignty or independence of the nation and firing its woes, especially externally thrown threats, aggression trajectories, and invasion intentions. These people are not mistaken, as they have comprehended the concept as much as they have been fed and witnessed, perhaps in the history of their lives. This is a good concept, indeed, and part and parcel of patriots' performance.

However, being a patriot for a given nation or reflecting patriotism has had a number of elements in it. Carrying out all activities as effectively as possible for the sake of a given nation and its fellow citizens, at a wider scope, is unequivocally patriotism, and all lighthearted individuals undertaking all sorts of sacred moves are also called patriots. For instance, a city bus driver who has rendered public service without infringing time, especially during rush hours when citizens are given a hard time due to a lack of transportation facilities, is a patriot.

Besides, if public servants assigned to every sector office are willing to and capable of genuinely serving fellow citizens and the nation, they are real patriots. As a general point of view, common in Ethiopia, in fact, the concept that does come to people's minds is that whoever hears the term 'patriots' is a citizen who made sacrifice, has been making sacrifice, and will be making sacrifice in the years to come, as being a patriot for any given country doesn't have a time or scope limit.

Ethiopia is today celebrating a cordial moment in its history: the Ethiopian Patriots' Victory Day, which has been a national holiday since the Ethiopian forefathers and foremothers' victory over the Italian five-year occupation and the return of Emperor Haile Selassie to the throne in 1941. True, when citizens think about patriots, they have considered individual commanders and military or semi-military crew who have bothered about the nation and people and severely fought for the sovereignty or independence of their country.

The existing generation or the posterity to come have to scrupulously and painstakingly look into circumstances to be to effectively resolve the problems they have been facing in the country as amicably as possible, without politicizing minor and hunky punchy matters. This is patriotism, too. All walks of life or every citizen has to appreciate how much more noble and audacious the effort, the commitment, the sacrifice of the patriots who had done a momentous deed for their country. Yes, drawing lessons from these precious senior citizens and has to be made a culture to

make a difference in all aspects.

As the patriots had the freedom and sovereignty easier thought the novel patriots faced an enemy that was pure in its evil trajectory, the generation of this time needs to realize that the works of patriots since it has to be well acknowledged and replicated in all circumstances. To be a patriot these days in Ethiopia means a dedication to helping the country endure and thrive definitely. One is a patriot if they help build libraries and schools. Be a teacher and be a patriot, instilling in the next generation the true history of the country and the values of appreciating each other as Ethiopians, perhaps different in ethnicity but all of one soul. Besides, teaching a child to read and discover all that the world has to offer, and don't just teach the child to read but to think critically to be a patriot and evaluate what they are reading.

A patriot is the agricultural engineer who sees how the country could grow crops that not only service a market in Ethiopia but feed people at home, too. A patriot is the engineer who dreams big and can imagine the next national success. A modern patriot doesn't see the world in terms of rifles and targets, but in terms of lasting peace and sustainable growth. Patriots make the impossible possible and the unthinkable thinkable.

The 83rd Anniversary of the Victory Day has been celebrated colorfully across the nation in the presence of senior government officials and veterans and juniors of the patriots.

The victory Day commemorates gallantry of Ethiopian Patriots in the five years struggle against Italian forces the end of the Fascist aggression in the country. The sacrifices paid by Ethiopian patriots have made Ethiopia an icon of independence for many African countries and other nations which were under colony and oppression.

Yes, it is time to call upon the youth and the general public at large to preserve the spirit of the victory of the patriots against the Italian Fascist and stand united to defend national interests from both internal and external antagonists.

Here, history uncovers that Ethiopia's longer independence and sovereignty are guarded by the blood and flesh of its beloved sons from the dawn of history to the present day. Celebrating this Patriots' Day there are links we can connect to the patriotic resistance against the Italian occupation to today's most pressing national interest.

The historic duty to defend their sovereignty falls on the shoulders of Ethiopians. When Ethiopians proved their heroism, they fought for their land without a leader. Women patriots also did an extraordinary

job by then, too.

Unequivocally, sovereignty and the right to rule are inseparable. Only when the right to govern Ethiopia, is in the hands of Ethiopians, who love the motherland and fellow citizens, indeed! Needless to state, patriots are bound to sincerely safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests and respect the fundamental system of the nation. Patriotic pro-establishment, the centrist and the moderate and rational opposition camp, should consider how they should strive to become patriots, under the clear requirements of patriots serving their compatriots and their country.

Patriots wanted to create their own laws and to form Ethiopia. The Patriots wanted freedom from invaders because they didn't think they were treated well. True, patriots don't have to express patriotism in symbolic displays of loyalty like standing for the national anthem and waving the Ethiopian flag. They expressed patriotism in taking a fair share of the burdens of keeping the nation going — sacrificing for the common good. This means paying taxes in full rather than lobbying for lower taxes or seeking tax loopholes or squirreling away money abroad.

Patriots understand that when they serve the public, their responsibility is to maintain and build public trust in the institutions of democracy. If one asks how has the independence of Ethiopia been maintained and sustained, the response is an outright 'following the courageous move of patriots and citizens loving their nation.'

If another question, what does patriotism and nationalism mean to people? is asked, in schools for instance, patriotism means and have taken part in the traditions that reflect it — from reciting the pledge of allegiance to singing the national anthem and other patriotic songs during public commemorations and events.

It is generally defined as having a genuine love for one's country, including feelings of pride, devotion and vigorous support and attachment to the motherland as well as fellow citizens. However, patriotism is often confused with nationalism. While they may share the love of country, they are not the same. Patriotism, historically and now, is based on positive values and feelings like freedom, justice and equality. There is the fundamental belief that the system of government and fellow citizens are inherently good and work together for a better quality of life for all. On the other hand, nationalism, which has positive elements of love, pride and protection of the country, can also degenerate into superior and separatist beliefs that do more harm than good in fostering the overall well-being of a country and all of its citizens.

No matter what people call it or how they

label it, the health and well-being of this nation moving forward will require that most of its citizens at least be strong patriots as a country will not survive without them.

The Ethiopian people had for many years been targets of anti-Italian propaganda, which intensified with the war. Patriots also explore the expansion of the national security requirements and the reduction of uniformed personnel in light of ongoing military commitments in the country. In light of a rapidly evolving, increasingly privatized national security institution, this type of influence and political posturing raises serious concerns for control and calls into question the nation's ability to assess efficiency and effectiveness.

Defending the way of life, the nation, and moreover, the home led to a reciprocal linkage between patriotism and defense. With new thoroughly changed security challenges and modifications in understanding patriotism as an old and survived concept, one may raise the question of future security stability and, above all, by whom and how it will be provided in the future.

Patriots' move has been playing a critical role in preventing the nation from external woes and acts of intimidation. The primary purpose of the patriot endeavor is to strengthen national security measures and prevent invasions of Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia, to be patriotic is to be a pillar of the independence of the nation. Many patriotic Ethiopians were determined from the outset to continue the struggle.

Certainly, a true patriot begins by trusting the people. Patriots love their country; they are proud of their citizenship and all it entails; they see their affinity for their country and their fellow citizens as complementing other bonds of solidarity.

In sum, patriots are honest about their country's shortcomings, are ready to talk to and listen to all citizens, and have faith in the future—faith that citizens acting together can overcome all hardships and mishaps. Ethiopians are instinctively patriotic but have never had the chance for a democratic, moderate patriotism. Ethiopia needs the patriotism of humility and readiness to listen, indeed! Ethiopians need to be passionate in their moderation, finding the right balance among their multiple identities, and beginning an all-inclusive national discussion about the many possible futures that face this great nation—Ethiopia.

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

Art & Culture

The crucifixion

BY DAN PECK

I laughed and mocked as He walked that day,
up a hill to redeem my soul.
I joined the crowd to spit and jeer,
and I watched His sorrow grow.
I drove every nail deep in His hands
with every sin in my heart.
My rebellion shoved the thorns in His head,
and my strife tore His robe apart.
I used my hatred to give Him a bitter drink,
and I glared down on Him with pride.
I thought of past disappointments,
and with my anger, I pierced His side.
I denied His power and ignored His worth
and stood waiting for His life to end.
I watched the last drop of His blood fall,
not knowing my grief would begin.
I looked around to find His accusers,
but no one was there but me.

I looked at my hands; they were stained with blood,
and then I began to see.
Conviction slowly entered my heart,
and I dropped all my weapons of choice:
the pride, the anger, the hatred, the lust,
and then I heard His voice.
“Forgive her Father, I died for her.
I paid the price for her soul,
I bore her sickness and all of her pain,
and now I have made her whole.”
He looked down on me with loving eyes.
He saw my present, my future, my past.
He knew I needed a Savior,
and my soul had found Him at last.
I looked around to find His accusers,
but no one was there but me.
Fran Peck. “The Crucifixion.” Family Friend Poems, April 14, 2017. <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/the-crucifixion>



Easter Reflections

BY HELEN STINER RICE

With OUR EYES we see
The beauty of Easter
as the earth awakens once more...

With OUR EARS we hear
The birds sing sweetly
to tell us Spring again is here...

With OUR HANDS we pick
the golden daffodils

and the fragrant hyacinths...

But only with OUR HEARTS
can we feel the MIRACLE of
GOD'S LOVE
which redeems all men...

And only with OUR SOUL
can we make our 'pilgrimage to
God'
and inherit His Easter Gift of
ETERNAL LIFE.



God with us in our
nature.
In our
sorrow.
In our
lifework.
In our
punishment.
In our
grace.

And now with us,
Or rather with Him,
In resurrection,
Ascension,
Triumph,
And Second Advent splendour.

Charles H. Spurgeon

Law & Politics

Victory Day, the continued struggle for sovereignty

BY SOLOMON WASSIHUN

Ethiopia is in many ways a unique African nation. Unlike other African states, Ethiopia has not included Independence Day in its list of public holidays. The reason for this is obvious. Since its founding three millennia ago, Ethiopia has always been an independent state. This is one of the rich histories that make Ethiopians hold their heads high wherever they may go.

What Ethiopians celebrate instead of Independence Day is Victory Day. These are days when they won a decisive historic victory against belligerent invaders who wanted to take away their freedom as citizens and their sovereignty as a nation.

Of the 13 Ethiopian holidays, two are victory days. Few countries celebrate public victory days to commemorate different victories won in different centuries. –The first is the victory of Adwa near the end of the 19th century and the other is the Patriots' Victory Day, which commemorates the victory of another generation of Ethiopians in the second quarter of the 20th century. So, each year Ethiopians celebrate Adwa's victory in the last week of March while they celebrate patriot victory day this week [at the beginning of May].

Although not recognized as national public holidays, other victory days also mark a turning point in Ethiopian history and should have been observed as public holidays. All those victories Ethiopians scored against foreign invaders came at a huge sacrifice paid by the patriots of every generation. That is why most of the events covered in the Ethiopian history books are about war—the struggle to defend Ethiopia's freedom and sovereignty.

Ethiopians' fight to defend their motherland cascades through the generations and continues to this day. This is so because Ethiopia's adversaries have never ceased to pursue their ambition of dismantling Ethiopia, and erasing it from the map of the world.

From generation to generation the selfless Ethiopian patriots have been sacrificing their blood, bones, their personal and family life in the struggle against colonizers, aggressors, and separatists, so that their people live in freedom, and their country maintains its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Even though colonialism is a thing of the past these days, Ethiopia's sovereignty is still under threats by adversary powers from far and near. These powers are more potent than the colonizers in that they are well informed about Ethiopia, and know the age-old Ethiopians' secret to their invincibility their unity. And therefore, they are working tirelessly to weaken the bonds that sustain Ethiopian 'unity by employing various strategies including sponsoring divisions among Ethiopians and recruiting traitor

groups.

Thus, the present generation of Ethiopians faces far more formidable enemies than those in the previous generations. Being a patriot in today's Ethiopia entails more than just carrying a rifle and combating the enemy in the field. It also means developing a strong mindset that enables them to look beyond their ethnic and religious circles, and join hands with their fellow countrymen to work for peace and development.

It appears that the struggle of Ethiopians to protect the sovereignty of their nation against adversary powers is far from over. The struggle is more intense and arduous than in the past. In that sense, the celebration of such victory days as the patriotic day is a time for responsible citizens to salute the national flag of Ethiopia and reaffirm their commitment to their patriotic duties.

In addition to guarding against conventional and existing security threats, insurrection and incursions, Ethiopians need to be patriotic enough to assert their nations' economic sovereignty. With the lure of food aid grants, loans, pressure of debt traps, and economic sanctions, external powers are interfering in the nation's domestic affairs. They even go as far as prescribing policies and actions to be taken in response to certain political incidents and issues, such actions are nothing less than violations of a nation's freedom and sovereignty.

Even though Ethiopia and the rest of the African nations are considered an independent nation-state, they still find themselves trapped in a world economy dominated by the few colonial powers and their allies. Beset by industrial underdevelopment and a global financial framework that systematically favored the wealthy northern countries, even Africa's most ambitious and dynamic economic models like that of Ethiopia are struggling to make the desired progress in building up their economies and ensuring prosperity for the broad majority.

Independent economic analysts say that the global economy of today remains dominated by neoliberal hardliners who believe developing nations like Ethiopia can do little more than sell off their natural resources and ship their labor force abroad. Thus, until the developing economies jointly devise alternative strategies, their economic sovereignty would remain compromised.

The incumbent Ethiopian government has so far introduced a considerable number of patriotic policy measures to assert Ethiopia's economic sovereignty. In the agricultural sector, the government has made successful efforts to boost agricultural productivity and production, thus reducing the nation's dependency on external food aid, as well as the import of staple food grains like wheat. Ethiopia has even become a wheat-exporting nation.

The government also enabled the nation to

get access to another economic block as an alternative to the western block. Last year, Ethiopia became a member of the BRICS economic block. This arrangement would help reduce the unwelcome pressure and interference of the western block and may also reduce the dependency of the Ethiopian economy on the US dollar and Western financial institutions.

The government soon after assuming power took decisive and swift corrective measures to revitalize the progress of the GERD project, the largest and most crucial development effort. Six years after the remedial measures, the project is now nearing completion and has already transformed Ethiopia from the category of power-hungry to a power-surplus nation.

The incumbent government is still carrying out its highly commendable patriotic duty of regaining direct access to the sea through peaceful diplomatic and quid pro quo approaches. Gaining direct access to the sea is a task long overdue and directly a matter of national security that is of overriding importance given the current increasingly volatile geo-political condition the nation is situated in.

As in the days of Adwa in 1896, as in the days of fascist Italy's aggression in 1942, now is the crucial time for Ethiopians to be patriotic: Citizens at home and abroad must look each other in the eye and find consensus on fundamental national issues. They must be patriotic and courageous enough to look beyond their ethnic and religious circles and create a common roadmap for peace and prosperity for their country. The Ethiopian Diaspora must be patriotic enough to bring back to Ethiopia the wealth and expertise they have acquired abroad to create jobs, boost entrepreneurship, intensify manufacturing and import substitution, and improve the availability of finance.

It is a patriotic duty for civil servants to motivate themselves to perform their duties according to the rules and guidelines and thus render their services to their clients without fear or favor. The youth need to be taught the honor of being patriots, develop the ethics and persona of selflessness to fight corruption, and nepotism, and be enthusiastic about sacrificing their time and energy to bring change to the lives of their fellow citizens.

Overall, history has challenged the present generation of Ethiopians to prove if they can emulate their forefather by scoring the third epic victory to assert the nation's economic sovereignty. Time will tell. But if only they managed to maintain their unity, Ethiopians would certainly win. Eternal glory to the Ethiopian patriots.

**All those victories
Ethiopians scored
against foreign
invaders came at a
huge sacrifice paid by
the patriots of every
generation**



Ephrem Endale
Contributor

Between you & me

Take it Easy!

A Happy Ethiopian Easter to all who have been fasting for the past two month. May your prayers be heard loud and clear? Happy holiday to all, too. There is one factor which is prominent whenever Easter comes. Yes, you got it! Meat! After all people stayed away from meat for about two months and you can imagine the level of the cravings even for the first bite! And the cravings being so immense lead people to go near to or over the cliff when managing their holiday expenses. No, this is not about the same old story of, "Keep your expenses as low as you can..." sort of narrative. You know the question to end all questions would come when someone challenge's, "How do we do that wise guy! We've waited for two long months for this day and you're telling us to treat it like any other day! If you are so smart how do you manage your holiday expenses? From what you seem you're not making much impression are you?"

Well to throw in a few words let alone holidays normal days are expensive these days. I mean real expensive, terribly expensive! as if you know what I mean. I mean this is not some phenomenon where a few unlucky ones suffer at the bottom of the pit while the rest are out in the sun.

Wouldn't be it be very naïve of me to write on such a 'holiday topic right on the very day! Still I'd have said "take it easy, guys!" but then some smart soul would ask, "What does 'take it easy' mean?" Not at all a simple question at all! Still, take it easy!

By the way vibe of the holiday shopping is a part of the social day scene. I used to know a couple who go to the holiday markets just for the fun of it and buy absolutely nothing! They enjoy the flow of humanity at the places and the various scenarios of human interactions. One thing sure; sometime your true self lurking under your skin comes out into the open when you go holiday shopping and argue over each and every time you plan to purchase.

"What a thousand bit for such a sorry chicken!"

Did you hear him? Did you just hear him asking eleven grand for the sheep? The sheep is the perfect example of what a terribly malnourished sheep would look like. And he asks you money which could have comfortably carried you through three months in these days of global hardships. And since a few years back have ended the sheep market scene and made immense impressions goat meat having won the day in many parts of the city.

I could imagine some meat lovers grumbling, "It was a hell lot of better before the goats stole their way into the show." Now they even have areas in the city called Fiyel Sefer, (Goat village.)

Of course, there are stories which sound too good to be true. Now a long time ago it is said sheep were bought for two birr fifty! Would you believe that? I mean carrying a whole sheep for two birr fifty all the way to your home is more of a fairy tale rather than

something that actually happened once upon a time.

"When I was your age we used to buy a whole sheep for two birr fifty cents and sell the hide for five

Birr! Really! Yes, really! It doesn't make 'economic sense,' whatever that is. Why don't the sheep merchants just slaughter the sheep and sell the hide? Thinking about it maybe, just maybe, due to age old tradition of people preferring to slaughter their sheep in their homes that must have not been an option.

These days a mild sized sheep can demand anywhere upwards of eight, nine grand and I can tell you many are reevaluating their ways of celebrating holidays just go out early morning on the holiday and buy two, three kilos of meat. A few friends of mine who used to buy sheep or goat for holidays

We can like something without having to give a reason. You like it just because you like it. You don't. You don't have to know why. No logic, no proof, no reasoning, and no supporting evidence-just because.

Just for the sake of it, once i told you about the protests of the tej brewers during the military regime. There was widespread talk of them using sugar instead of honey in their products while they claimed they indeed use pure honey and that they don't go anywhere close to sugar. Of course they convinced practically no one. Especially tej enthusiasts were fuming like anything else. They called

for strict against the brewers. Of course the denial of the brewers was, to say the least, vociferous. They took that as a deliberate campaign to scare them away from the business!

Then one day they hold a protest rally. What were they protesting? Not what you may think, not for the avalanche of criticism and accusations against them to be curbed. You know what they were protesting about? Not for the criticisms and accusations against them to be stopped. They claimed they were being given too little sugar! What? Yes they claimed they were being given such low amounts of sugar it was hurting their business. And they wanted the boots running the country to take measures and see to it they get the amount of sugar they needed! What in the world were they thinking! (Don't you miss such people who make things very easy for you by unintentionally confirming what they are accused of?

"We demand to be given more sugar!"

"But you guys said you don't use sugar in your products why do you need a few grams more than others." How I'd have loved if I could recall what happened later.

Anyways back to the holidays and again it's 'Happy Easter' from me. Again take it easy with all the spicy foods meaning take them with moderation and with the utmost care as it easy for your entre anatomy to go into multiple shocks.

Take it Easy!

"We're Available 24/7"

You want information about some service and you want it fast. So the logical thing to do is pick up the phone call them. You dial their info desk number. It rings and rings, and rings. It's only natural to give the people over there the benefit of the doubt. Maybe the person handling the info phone as gone to another office on some errand and will return shortly. Or the boss is pissed up over something and is giving them some dressing down in his office. You wait fifteen or so at the least not to put any pressure on them. Maybe they're nice guys, who knows! And in times when good guys are becoming as rare as the Walyas you have to hold on to every good guy you come across. You dial again and still no one picks the phone. Again there might be no person physically near pick the phone to pick it up. Or maybe there is someone near the phone and for some reason (don't ask me what) they don't want to pick it up. You think that doesn't happen? It does, and far more often than you'd think. The inefficiency and the negligence in some places is horrendous. It seems some spell has been cast on the entire places to keep the staff lazy as lazy could come and the enterprise unproductive. You wonder why they post their info desk numbers if they aren't going to answering the calls. In some places they herald their info desk is active almost at all hours and still you, the customer, couldn't get through to them at any hour! We're talking only

about enterprises who have names too big for their shoulders to bear but also about some supposedly heavy weights too.

So if your info desk call is picked up consider yourself lucky even for only that! Then comes the real story. Now our understanding is anyone managing the info desk should be well versed with the ins and outs of the organization and able to respond to all relevant questions without much trouble. This world would have been a little better place than it's now had that fact been a reality. These days you must be among the people who go frequent calls form real estate agents. They are so frequent and so repetitive every time you hear, "I'm calling form so and so real sate..." you almost throw up your arms with "Oh not again!"

A measured and musical female voice tells you that their real estate agency has come with a lot of enticing incentive to respective buyers. She tells you theirs is of a different kind and was doing what others aren't. Somehow almost every real estate agent who talks to you uses this line of trying to lure prospective buyers. In fact maybe without them being fully aware of it the wordings are so similar and cut-and-paste type 'boring' is a very feeble word to describe them.

Then you ask the lady trying to break down your defenses, "Can you tell me the

incentives you people would offer me if I decide to buy?" Hold your breath!

"For that you have to come to our offices and talk what the management." What! What the hell does that mean? Isn't she supposed to know at least these very basic facts! This is not about technical issues like how the entire design goes and what sort of building materials they use and the like.

"I'm too busy to come to your offices. Why don't you yourself tell me..."

"But sir the mangers would like to talk to you..." She didn't talk to you more than five minute and she makes it sound you've already given in. But it is not difficult to suspect that she hasn't been oriented enough with what she should have been oriented with.

Somehow many phones of info desks are never picked. Sometime if you're the sort of person trying to personalize everything that happens you might even go as far as suspecting, "Are they avoiding me deliberately?" How the hell can hey avoid you deliberately without them knowing who's calling. I raise this because a high level secretary I know found herself at the receiving end of the wrath of such a person. This man calls and she tells him her boss wasn't available and she wasn't make up stories. He indeed was in fact in North America. The man at first tried to soften her

heart claiming he had a very important issue to raise with her boss. He then goes into aggressive mode and threw a few unpleasant words at her. Mind you, she has no idea who he was and it was the first time to call for him with her at the secretary's desk.

A few days back her boss returns. One day a fellow barges into the office and demands to be let into the boss's office. She asks him to sit down while she makes sure if t her boss was ready to accept visitors. He says, "You refused to put me through to him on the phone and now you're trying to prevent him from going into his office!" With that he barges in. She immediately picks up the phone and tells her boss she didn't let in the man. A couple of minutes later her boss comes out with the 'timid looking guest' following. He asks her about the phone call and she tells him what happened. He turns to the man and warns him "If I ever see you in the vicinity of our offices I'll report you to the police!" that did it.

So, don't be surprised if the persons who picked up the info desk phone knows too little about what they are expected to know. You ask the most basic question and you can imagine them being left wordless at the other end. There are many who don't fully believe most of the phone numbers which appear after the engaging promise "For all your inquiries call us on.... We're available 24/7." Hmmm....

Business & Economy

Measures taken to drive macro economy safely

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The Ethiopian government has implemented various measures to address the macroeconomic imbalances and challenges faced by the country's economy. However, the outcomes of these measures have fallen short of expectations. The global economic crisis, as well as domestic conflicts, has posed additional obstacles to achieving the desired targets.

Tewodros Mekonnen, an economist with experience in international organizations, highlighted some of the measures taken and their impact on the economy.

Four years ago, the government introduced a home-grown economic reform program with the objective of addressing long-standing economic anomalies. The reform program aimed to tackle structural and multidimensional challenges that have hindered the country's economic growth.

Over the past half century, the successive governments of Ethiopia have played a significant role in various economic activities, and the trend has continued to date. The allocation of public funds to infrastructure projects, such as roads, health centers, and schools, has been vital for economic growth. However, there have been concerns about the misuse and wastage of funds in some of these projects, highlighting the need for stronger institutions and a viable legal system to hold those responsible and accountable.

The dominance of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia in the financial sector has resulted in approximately 60% of deposited money being provided as loans to the public sector. This has limited the availability of financial resources for the private sector, hampering its ability to contribute fully to the economy.

The burgeoning infrastructure, such as roads, health centers, schools, and others, is vital for the economic growth attributed to the government fund. The public money is allocated to Ethiopian Electric Power, rail transport, sugar projects, Ethio-telecom, and others.

In order to save the wealth from corruption and recklessness that hampers economic activity, needs to take strong action. The disbursement of huge amount of money to the government projects partially contributed to have low chance of private sector to obtain financial resources.

As to Tewodros, when he was working at the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia 15 years ago, he recalls that banks used to borrow money from each other. There was no shortage of hard currency. Later, the government began to implement megaprojects that needed a huge amount of hard currency and lately posed a shortage of hard currency, though there are now efforts to restore the loose and rejuvenate a healthy financial system.

To fill the gap between demands and supply of hard currency, the government introduced some solutions in the home grown economic reform program. The



efforts that has been undergoing to introduce capital market can be seen as a part of it.

The borrowing of money by the government from the local banks brought repercussion by aggravating inflation and to reverse the situation, the home grown economic reform stipulates that government better to reduce its borrowing.

As to Tewodros, some of the reform measures have been brought tangible results. For example, pension institutions were forcefully ordered to purchase the government Treasury bill so that can play its own role in bringing remedy to the government budget deficit. Banks have begun to compete for purchasing government store document by paying huge amount of money. Because of this, the National Bank of Ethiopia resorted to obtain money from the government treasury bills and store documents selling instead of printing paper money which aggravates the inflation. In the last years, the government could obtain 200 billion Birr from the selling of Treasury bill.

However, right after the introduction of the home grown economic reform program, things went in disarray. Within a year, COVID-19 broke out and the implementation of the reform was disrupted and government again began to borrow money from local banks. It is obvious that money which comes from abroad will be dwindled due to various reasons and the government took the past practices as remedial actions. This again hindered some activities carried out by the reform plan.

The outbreak of COVID-19 directly affected money channeled here from foreign sources. When countries are hit by COVID-19, Ethiopian Diaspora reduced sending currency here to their relatives in the form of remittance. The reduction was also witnessed in some export commodities such as textile and coffee. But no sector was affected by COVID-19 than the tourism sector. The sector lost its 77 % of hard currency income. This incurred heavy damage on the nation's income which in

To fill the gap between demands and supply of hard currency, the government introduced some solutions in the home grown economic reform program

turn put drawback on the reform.

As to Tewodros, had the economic reform program been went as planned, overcoming the crises would have been possible. For instance, had the sugar projects been completed, exporting sugar and earning hard currency would have been realized. Repaying the debt spent for the construction of the sugar factories would have been accomplished. Had electric power dams been completed in time, earning hard currency through exporting energy would have been surpassed that the nation currently earns.

Industry Parks also would have been flourished by manufacturers and boosting export would have been possible. Due to the absence of proper follow up and evaluation projects were plundered and delayed. Not only projects are delayed but also their accomplishment quality was also compromised. When this happen the projects would never realize what was planned. Industries fail to produce better quality products and hard currency earned from export became frozen. The malpractices that have been rampant on project accomplishment were criticized by the economists but the concerned body did

not respond to their appeal.

The homegrown economic reform put the mechanism in place to tackle the chronic problems in project accomplishment, and among the major reasons not to start new projects without finishing the existing ones can be cited here. Studying the problems that delayed the GERD and forwarding solutions by the government was exemplary. Great efforts were exerted to resume the GERD project.

In addition to the outbreak of COVID-19, the war ignited in the northern part of the country further aggravated the anomalies created on the economy. The war critically crippled the hard currency that had been drawn from foreign sources in the form of loans and aid. While the nation was struggling to heal the ailing economy, the war broke out in the country's northern part and hit the nation's debt repayment balance critically.

As to Tewodros, based on the reform, the dollar-birr exchange rate was going up, which was a tool for adjusting the anomalies rampant in the macroeconomic environment. In fact, many economists disagree with such measures, but as for Tewodros, it was good.

He further said that many banks gave a positive nod to the devaluation of the birr against the dollar because it helps stabilize the economy. Restricting the value of hard currency discouraged the Diaspora community and foreigners from bringing hard currency here. Irrationally, restricting the dollar value does not make sense. It does not motivate both importers and exporters.

In conclusion, while the Ethiopian government has implemented measures to address macroeconomic imbalances, various challenges, including the global economic crisis, domestic conflicts, and the COVID-19 pandemic, have hindered the full realization of the desired outcomes. It was learned that continued efforts, stronger institutions, and effective implementation of reforms are crucial for sustainable economic growth and stability in the country.

Planet Earth



Sidama State expands new plastic waste disposal methods to ensure sustainable future

BY EPHREM ANDARGACHEW

The seas are the primary source of evidence that the influx of plastic into the environment has reached crisis proportions. Up to 12 million metric tons of plastic are thought to reach the ocean annually.

Plastic, on the other hand, is a climate, health, and social justice issue, in addition to an ocean and garbage one. Over 99 percent of plastic comes from fossil fuels such as fracked gas and oil, and it contributes to climate change throughout its life cycle.

According to Greenpeace USA's Key Facts About Plastic Pollution, as global oil demand decreases, the fossil fuel sector is resorting to plastics to remain afloat. Big plastic-polluting corporations such as Coca-Cola, Nestlé, and PepsiCo are driving this growth, and their failure to end their reliance on single-use plastics and invest in reuse and refill is contributing to fossil fuel production expansion while also laying the groundwork for a devastating boom in single-use plastics. And if industry gets its way, plastic manufacturing might double or triple by 2030.

Furthermore, the fossil fuel industry's rising reliance on plastics will be equally detrimental to humans and the environment. Beyond contributing to the climate crisis, petrochemical and plastic production has deadly health and environmental consequences, as well as a long history of environmental racism, ranging from the United States Gulf Coast's "Cancer Alley" where the plastic industry poisons black, brown, and frontline communities, to China's Cancer Village in the Global South.

These facts show that plastic trash has several harmful effects on the environment, animals, and human health, including

contamination of water bodies, soil, and air, which causes environmental deterioration and harm to ecosystems. It also harms marine species, and birds frequently mistake plastic pieces for food, resulting in ingestion and entanglement, which can be fatal.

Besides, plastic trash poses a huge hazard to the environment, animals and human health. Addressing this issue necessitates a multifaceted strategy that involves lowering plastic usage, improving waste management techniques, and encouraging recycling and reuse.

Taking the negative impact of plastic trash into account, Ethiopia has implemented a variety of initiatives to reduce the usage of plastic items and safeguard the environment. Notably, the Sidama regional state has taken substantial steps to preserve the environment against plastic pollution. The area has officially formed a region-wide environmental protection movement platform and is focusing on plastic trash disposal under the motto "Enough of pollution, let's awaken beauty"

The Sidama Regional State Forestry, Environmental Protection, and Climate Change Director Yosef Tibo stated that efforts are being made to reduce the impact of plastic items on environmental contamination in the region. Accordingly, associations have been established for the recycling of plastic products. This is imperative to prevent air pollution. Especially, the region has been working in coordination with these associations to prevent the impact of plastic products on environmental pollution.

According to him, the region also intends to launch an awareness creation campaign. This campaign will include a variety of events throughout the next six months. Aside from promoting awareness about

environmental pollution, the region seeks to promote a clean and healthy environment through stakeholder involvement.

The country has recognized plastic, air, water, soil, and noise pollution as causes of pollution, and measures have been developed, planned, and implemented to mitigate their effects. Currently, the region is coordinating with organized associations to reduce the negative environmental consequences of plastic pollution. The associations are working to collect and recycle plastic waste in various cities, and awareness work has been done so that they can be part of the movement.

He mentioned that various studies indicate that plastic can remain in the soil for 500 to 1000 years. Hence, society should play a critical role in preventing the negative impact of plastic pollution on the environment. He also called upon the community to help the campaign to prevent environmental pollution by separating the plastic waste and giving it to organized associations in the city.

Hawassa Beauty and Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling Association founder and manager Henok Dongato stated that since 2018, the association has been collecting and using waste in an organized manner. The association has 86 permanent and more than 1,500 temporary workers and with the help of five vehicles, it collects waste from every house.

Taking garbage as a resource, the association is working in coordination with the Regional Forestry and Climate Authority to reduce the impact of plastic on the environment. Especially, in addition to preparing natural fertilizer compost from the waste they collect, the association has been working to recycle plastic products that have a positive impact on environmental pollution. Besides, by

collecting randomly discarded plastic products, it is possible to earn money by recycling them to protect Lake Hawassa and its environment from pollution.

In addition to Hawassa, more than 2,400 kilograms of plastic waste is collected daily in 11 cities of the region, including Shashamene, Tikur Weha (Water), Kofele, and Halaba. With this, the association sells one kilo of plastic for 8 to 10 birr. Therefore, encouraging youths to group associations and work in the sector helps not only to prevent environmental pollution but also to turn waste into resources.

Cool Plastic Recycling Enterprise Association Chief Executive Officer Eyob Eyasu said that his association works to recycle plastics that contribute to environmental pollution. Besides, the association produces "poly bags" with plastic waste mainly for packaging and hands over the produced poly bags to associations engaged in green development.

In general, plastic waste poses a significant threat to the environment by contributing to pollution, habitat destruction, contamination, climate change, and other detrimental effects. Addressing this issue requires collective action to reduce plastic consumption, improve waste management practices, and promote sustainable alternatives.

Therefore, the efforts that have been made by Sidama States could be important steps to mitigate the negative impact of plastic waste. Because the efforts help to reduce, reuse, and recycle plastic waste. Taking lessons, and experiences from the region, implementing solutions, and taking collective action at individual, community, and governmental levels is important not only to reduce the impacts of plastic waste on the environment and work towards a more sustainable future.

Society

Commemorating Ethiopian Patriots' Victory Day

BY TEWODROS KASSA

Ethiopia has a rich history of resilience and bravery, with many patriots who have dedicated their lives to fighting for freedom and justice. One of the most significant days in Ethiopian history is Miazia 27, also known as Ethiopian patriots' victory day. This day is a time designated to honor and celebrate the courage and sacrifice of those Ethiopians who fought for the country's independence.

The Ethiopian patriots' victory day is a national holiday in Ethiopia celebrated on Miazia 27 in the Ethiopian calendar (May 5) in commemoration of the Ethiopian resistance movement to the Italian five-year occupation of Ethiopia and to honor the Ethiopian heroes and heroines who fought against Italian colonization and the return of Emperor Haile Selassie to the throne in 1941.

On this day, Ethiopians pay tribute to those who resisted and stood up against colonialism and oppression, bravely fought, defended their land from invading Italian forces, and heralded freedom.

Ethiopian patriots' victory day holds great significance in Ethiopian history as it marks the defeat of the Italian invaders that came to Ethiopia for the second time with greater preparation, upsetting by the defeat they had experienced at the Battle of Adwa.

The bravery and determination of Ethiopian patriots on Miazia 27 serve as a reminder of Ethiopia's boldness, courage, integrity, and the sacrifices made for freedom.

On the day, Ethiopians from all walks of life come together to commemorate the patriots' victory day with various ceremonies, events, and activities. People gather at historical sites, such as the Miazia 27 Square in Addis Ababa, to pay their tribute to the fallen heroes and reflect on their legacy. Traditional patriotic songs, dances, and performances are also organized to honor the courage and strength of the patriots.

Ethiopian Patriots' Association President Lij Daniel Jote said that Ethiopian patriots' successive victories over external enemies deserve to be inherited to the future generations. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and other pertinent stakeholders are expected to formulate a curriculum to provide formal education in lower grades, primary as well as secondary education. He underscored the necessity of inheriting our forefathers' achievements and nurturing the habit of patriotism. Moreover, the legacy of Ethiopian patriots who fought for independence continues to inspire the



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new generations.

Their unwavering dedication to freedom and sovereignty serves as a beacon of hope and resilience in the face of adversity. By commemorating Ethiopian patriots' victory day on Miazia 27, we ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten and their contributions are acknowledged and honored.

Accordingly, Ethiopian patriots' victory day holds a special place in the hearts of Ethiopians as a day of remembrance and celebration of the bravery and sacrifices made by the patriots who fought for the country's independence. This historic occasion commemorates the triumph of the Ethiopian patriots over foreign invaders and oppressors. Through traditional practices, storytelling, and public events, Ethiopians come together to honor the heroes of their past and reflect on the enduring legacy of their struggle.

After five years of strategic guerrilla warfare, fierce battles, and unwavering determination, Ethiopian patriots under leaders like Emperor Haile Selassie and patriot leaders such as Ras Abebe Aregai, managed to drive out the Italian forces and reclaim the sovereignty of the country.

Stories of Ethiopian patriots' courage and sacrifice inspire generations, showcasing the unwavering spirit of those who fought for their country's independence. Their legacy lives on in the hearts of Ethiopians as a testament to the power of resilience and patriotism.

The victory of the Ethiopian patriots on Miazia 27 marked a turning point in the country's history, leading to significant social and political consequences. What is more, it instilled a sense of national pride and unity among Ethiopians, inspiring them to stand up against oppression and fight for their independence. The

Ethiopian patriots' triumph on Miazia 27 taught important lessons of resilience, courage, and sacrifice.

Their untiring commitment to defending their homeland serves as a timeless reminder of the values of patriotism, determination, and love for one's country. The Ethiopian patriots' victory day, Miazia 27, is steeped in rich cultural traditions and practices that honor the bravery and heroism of the patriots. Communities come together to celebrate the day through traditional music, dance, feasting, and storytelling, to keep alive the spirit of the heroes who fought for their nation's freedom.

Today, the 83rd anniversary of the Ethiopian patriots' victory Day has been commemorated through various events, ceremonies, and initiatives to pay honor to the enduring legacy of the patriots. From flag-raising ceremonies to memorial services, efforts are made to ensure that the sacrifices of the heroes and heroines are never forgotten.

Educational programs and events play a crucial role in raising awareness about the significance of Miazia 27 and educating the younger generation about the struggles and triumphs of the Ethiopian patriots. Schools, museums and community organizations organize workshops and exhibitions to deepen understanding and appreciation of this historic day.

The legacy of Miazia 27 continues to hold relevance in contemporary Ethiopia by fostering a sense of patriotism and national identity among its people. In a rapidly changing world, the values upheld by the patriots serve as a reminder of the importance of preserving one's heritage and fighting for a just cause.

In sum, Ethiopian patriots' victory day, Miazia 27, serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience and courage displayed by the patriots who fought for Ethiopia's freedom.

Commemorating Ethiopian patriots' victory day is more than just a celebration; it is a tribute to the spirit and courage of the Ethiopian people. It is a day to honor the sacrifices of the patriots who fought for their country and reaffirm the commitment to preserving the nation's sovereignty and independence as well. Let us remember the legacy of the Ethiopian patriots and strive to uphold their values for a better and brighter future for Ethiopia.

The young generation should also learn from the unreserved dedication of their heroic forefathers and foremothers and stand together to preserve the unity and peace of the country by distancing themselves from destructive and divisive agendas.

In Pictures

Ethiopian Christians commemorate Good Friday, celebrate Easter

BY DARGIE KAHSAY



EOTC faithful commemorate Good Friday, celebrate Easter

Followers of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church (EOTC) commemorated Good (Siklet), the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross, this Friday. Siklet was commemorated with different religious activities mainly fasting, prayers, hymns, prostration, reflection and other activities.



Ethiopian Christians celebrating Easter

Christians in Ethiopia are celebrating Easter across the nation today. Easter celebrates in Ethiopia after nearly two months of fasting. Starting from the eve of Sunday, the faithful gathered in churches and spent the whole night praying and singing.



Ethiopian catholic faithful commemorate Good Friday

The faithful of the Ethiopian Catholic Church commemorated Good Friday, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, on Friday. The day was commemorated with different religious rituals at Lideta St. Merry Catholic Cathedral Church.



El Salvador plans to open Diplomatic Mission in Ethiopia

A delegation led by El Salvador's Foreign Minister, Alexandra Hill Tino-co, visited Ethiopia this week and met with Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Taye Atske Selassie. In their discussion, the two ministers exchanged ideas on issues that would enable them to strengthen their bilateral relations and their cooperation in multilateral forums within the South-South framework. During the discussion, El Salvador FM said the country's plan to open a diplomatic mission in Addis Ababa, which will be its second embassy in Africa.