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Contact & Address
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4th Floor, Dabi Building, Bole road Addis Ababa Ethiopia



Keeping watchful eyes on Nat'l sovereignty

• *Experts caution Ethiopia on foreign investment risks amid liberalization*

BY FIKADU BELAY

As Ethiopia opens key sectors for foreign investment and privatizes major

enterprises, scholars caution that doing so without a robust financial security system and strong regulatory capacity could be counterproductive. They advise the government to carefully

balance liberalizing the economy with protecting national interests.

Ethiopia has already liberalized sectors such as

See Keeping watchful eyes... page 4

Medhin Decor

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Remittance campaign benefits banks, customers: experts

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA – Ethiopia's newly launched remittance campaign coupled with the revised foreign exchange policy, would benefit the banking industry and the country in general as it

See Remittance ... page 4



USAID pledges steady support to empower Ethiopian youth

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA – USAID has reaffirmed commitment to continue providing the necessary support to empower Ethiopian youth.

USAID Mission Director to Ethiopia, Scott Hocklander told *The Ethiopian Herald* that the agency will continue the supports in empowering Ethiopian youth

See USAID pledges... page 4



Forum: Transformative guiding light blossoming for African cities

• *States adopt AUF Declaration*

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - As urbanization becomes the most powerful megatrends, shaping African development in the 21st century, member states of the Africa Urban Forum adopted a binding African Cities Forum (ACF) Declaration to attain AU's Agenda 2063.

Organized by the African Union and Ethiopia, the momentous forum that held between 4 and 6 September 2024 under the theme "Sustainable Urbanization for Africa's Transformation" with the participation of 2,000 attendees, was successfully concluded by adopting the ACF declaration that embraces shared goals and political commitments, believed to be helpful to oversee integrated urban

resilience. Following the conclusion of the grand inaugural forum, Urbanization and Infrastructure Minister Chaltu Sani underscored that the forum marked a significant milestone for Africans' collective journey towards transforming the continental urban landscapes.

See Forum: Transformative... page 4

Economic Reforms activate industrial manufacturing solutions

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA – Apart from receiving international acclaim, the last six-year economic reforms have significantly contributed to expand the economic growth across Ethiopia, Industry Minister Melaku Alebel said.

Speaking at a forum organized by the Industrial Parks Development Corporation and the Ethiopian Investment Commission, Melaku highlighted that the government's reforms have played a pivotal role in improving agricultural and manufacturing productivity.

Key economic policies, including industrial, manufacturing, digitalization, financial, and macroeconomic policies, have been restored to align with international standards governing the modern global economy. Infrastructure policy reforms are also being implemented, positively impacting Ethiopia's growing industrialization, the minister added.

“The Industrial Parks Development Corporation managed nine parks before the reform, which introduced privatization as a priority. Now, the number of parks has reached 22, although some challenges remain to be resolved,” he said.

According to the minister, energy supply to manufacturers has been strengthened. And, the railway and asphalt roads essential for industrial logistics, have been extended. Ethiopia's road network is now expanded to 167,000 kilometers, with plans to reach 245,000 kilometers within the next decade.

“Before the reforms, nationwide manufacturing capacity was low. Today, we have a 10.1% growth in industrial manufacturing compared to pre-reform levels,” Melaku noted.

Senior economist Zemedeneh Nigatu, who presented his views at the forum, remarked that Ethiopia is one of Africa's fastest-growing economies and currently ranks as fifth largest economy in the continent Africa.

He praised the reforms for prioritizing the private sector, which he sees as a key driver of national economic development. “The manufacturing sector, like others, is expected to benefit from the reforms, which are fostering innovative solutions to existing challenges.”

Scholars demand reforms to elevate PHE in East Africa

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

ADDIS ABABA - A comprehensive approach is vital to tackle the pressing challenges facing private higher education institutions (PHEIs), emphasized scholars at the 16th Annual International Research Conference hosted by Admas University.

The conference, themed “Achievements, Challenges, and Prospects of Private Higher Education in East Africa,” focused on quality education, research, and community services.

Speaking at the occasion, the General Education and Training Authority Deputy Director Dinkuana Nigusa (PhD) stated that quality education remains the primary concern for PHEIs. He indicated accreditation and quality assurance are key to ensuring these institutions meet educational standards. “Accreditation touches on the core agenda of private higher education: providing quality education and ensuring that institutions deliver the benchmark standards,” he said.

Despite challenges, PHEIs are increasingly aligning their research with the needs of communities and industries, though they still require financial support to continue this alignment. Dinkuana emphasized that the conference not only celebrates advancements in private higher education but also sheds light on critical areas



shaping its future.

Admas University President Molla Tsegaye (PhD) underscored the importance of research in higher education for evidence-based decision-making, contributing to personal development, professional success, societal progress, and innovation. He highlighted Admas University's efforts in organizing over 15 annual research conferences, seven annual student symposiums, and regular academic discussions. “We conduct research not just because it is a pillar of our university but because we believe higher education institutions should be centers of innovation and wisdom,” he elaborated.

Admas University's Hargeisa Campus Vice President for Research, Training, and Consultancy Ahmed Hassan stressed the importance of ensuring the quality and

integrity of research. He acknowledged that while private institutions face obstacles such as securing funding and navigating ethical challenges, they have made significant strides in publishing groundbreaking studies, developing innovative technologies, and addressing critical challenges over the past three decades.

As technological advancements and global interconnectedness create new opportunities for collaboration and discovery, Ahmed urged PHEIs to embrace these opportunities to push the boundaries of knowledge and make meaningful contributions.

The conference brought together researchers, scholars, and professionals from various private and higher education institutions to discuss these pressing issues.

State cultivates 107,778 ha with rice

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA---Amhara State Agriculture Bureau said that 107,778 hectares of land are being cultivated with rice as well as 300,000 hectares of land is cover with wheat in this farming season so far.

Bureau Head, Dresse Sahilu (PhD) told The Ethiopian Herald that the state is working to harvest 169 million quintals from various crops during this crop season by cultivating 5.1 million hectares of land.

State will achieve this plan by using agriculture technologies he said adding this they have planned to cultivate 800,000 hectares by tractors but have cultivated over 900,000 hectares.

“They have distributed agriculture inputs such as fertilizers as well as distributed over 163,000 quintals of various improved seeds.”

So far 6.9 million quintals fertilizer has been distributed to the farming community and distribution and transporting of fertilizer in this cultivation season was improved and the remaining task is agronomic practice and follows up, Dresse said.

He said rice production is expanding to the various areas in the state including North Gojjam, West Gojjam, Central Gondar and other zones showing progress from previous years.

He added 107,778 and 300,000 hectares of land are being cultivated with rice and



wheat respectively.

“Compost preparation, natural resource protection and development work activities are need mobilization of people by mass.”

2.5 million hectares of land is suitable for irrigation activities but we only develop 300,000 hectares in the state. The main problem is the lack of irrigation devices but intervention work is being implementing to supply tools to farming community like motor pump, by using supplementary irrigation produce different crops in farming season.

“We are preparing to carry out irrigation

mobilization and then we will provide orientation to farmers and leaders to raise crop productivity thereby harvest huge crops.”

We are providing training for farmers and filling the extension gap as well.

The distribution of rainfall has creating favorable condition for agriculture which help to produce more crops thereby ensure food security, Dresse noted.

The state has planted 1.4 billion saplings in this farming season by mobilization the community to achieve green legacy initiative across the nation, as to him.

Editorial

Keeping sovereignty intact in economic front

Its endowment of natural resources notwithstanding, for want of the right policy directions, food self-sufficiency was the Achilles' heel of Ethiopia for long, for the country was subject to a vicious cycle of drought resulting from the repercussions of environment change.

By way of a reform, as bold measures to upturn the tragic scenario have been introduced the country is experiencing a turnaround in almost all atop the list. As never before, coming up with bumper wheat harvest that astounded the world, Ethiop has changed floor from wheat-aid-recipient to wheat-exporter as recently testified by bigwigs Like Bill Gates. In so doing, Ethiopia has beefed up its muscle to keep it sovereignty intact in the sphere of agriculture.

The country is also striving to register similar outcomes in other agricultural yields. The thrust is attended by promising feat in rice production. Optimizing the coffee harvest, Ethiopia's green emerald, is a major pillar the country leans on for its economic sovereignty. Modernizing the farming trend has also proceeded apace aspirant of breaking away from the ligature of poverty and joining the ranks of prosperous nations.

Presumably the ball of green legacy Ethiopia stood out in rolling has immensely helped in stabilizing the climate and fructifying pushes in the agriculture sector.

Ethiopia's move to put in full swing renewable energy such as hydropower harnessing its bountiful water resources and cater to the energy demand of the country witnessing industries like mushrooms after rain showcases Ethiopia's push to ensure its economic sovereignty. The Grand Renaissance Dam (GERD) close to see its completion is expected to satisfy the recent economic reform is also believed to boost invest and tourism.

As the country persisted in maintaining its territorial integrity and sovereignty intact repelling invaders, it must press ahead with ensuring its economic sovereignty working better than its best. Citizens must emerge successful in respective walks of life they are engaged in a bid the cumulative effect is felt reflected in the upswing of the country's economy.

In the sphere of diplomacy amicable Ethiopia, which espouses a win-win approach, is cautiously moving striking a balance between east and west. This anchor state in the horn is marked for cutting a neutral posture elbowing its way in the global community.

The aforementioned facts have contributed to its admittance in to the BRICS bloc. It is also basking under center stage position in global affairs.

When it comes to the economy, the departing year has been characterized by the robust translation into action off "the Home Grown Economic Reform," and far-reaching economic reform that sought redressing the nation's economic woes with the active support of international financial institutions like the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund. Recently the National Bank of Ethiopia has introduced a floating exchange rate regime. Soon the IMF Board approved an Extended Credit Facility (ECF) arrangement of about USD 3.4 billion, with a USD 1 billion immediate disbursement. The World Bank followed the IMF announcement with the pledge of USD 16.6 billion of funding over the next three years, including a USD 1 billion IDA grant and a USD 500 million concessional loan.

These institutions' positive gesture portrays Ethiopia's being on the ball of correct economic direction, even though the adjustment made to foreign exchange rates has resulted in an immediate inflationary tendency. To tame inflation, slash down foreign debt, and ascertain self-reliance, the incumbent has been upholding increased production and curtailing export of commodities and boosting export.

In the outgoing year, Addis Ababa witnessed refurbishment of dilapidated buildings and widening of roads flanked by towers suitable for window-shopping. The efficiency portrayed in project execution was equally amazing. The project has transformed the city into a fashionable, sumptuous, and ecologically a savory place to live in. The corridor project conducted in different sessions has seen completion one after the other rendering the city glamorous. The outcome was not a wind fall as did not come without wedding with challenges. Resilient Ethiopia has been facing skirmishes here and there. Inflation is also posing pressure while the Horn region heading to increased uncertainty. These internal and external hurdles create barriers on the country. Nonetheless, the above upswings demonstrate that with exertion and conviction; the country could circumvent challenges and crystalize its objectives.

Opinion

Ethiopia's sovereignty is of vital importance for peace and security in the Horn of Africa

BY SOLOMON DIBABA

As the Ethiopian New Year is approaching, the nation has designated Pagument 3, 2016 E.C as the day of national sovereignty in the country.

Sovereignty is the full right and power of a governing body to govern itself without any interference from outside sources or bodies. It can take several forms and be understood in various contexts. Below are the author explains the main types and forms of sovereignty as practiced across the world today.

Legal sovereignty refers to the authority of a state based on its laws and constitution. It is vested in a specific entity, such as a parliament, which has the supreme authority to enact, amend, and enforce laws.

On the other hand, political sovereignty denotes the real power behind the state. It refers to where political authority truly lies, which may not always be in the legal sovereign body. For instance, in democracies, the electorate is often regarded as the holder of political sovereignty. The Ethiopian federal constitution provides that that sovereignty is vested in the nations, nationalities and peoples of Ethiopia.

Internal sovereignty is the power of a state to govern itself within its own borders. It refers to the control and authority the government exercises over its citizens and territory without any internal challenges.

External sovereignty refers to the recognition of a state's sovereignty by other nations and its ability to conduct relations with foreign governments as an independent entity. It emphasizes freedom from external interference.

Rooted in democratic principles, popular sovereignty means that the authority of the government is created and sustained by the consent of its people, typically through elected representatives.

Nominal Sovereignty refers to a situation where the state holds formal or legal authority but does not exercise real power (e.g., monarchs in constitutional monarchies). Real Sovereignty refers to states or entities that exercise effective control and real authority over their territory and people.

De Jure Sovereignty is sovereignty as recognized by law, often based on international treaties and legal norms.

De Facto Sovereignty refers to the actual control a state exercises, regardless of its legal recognition (e.g., a rebel group controlling part of a country may have de facto sovereignty).

Sovereignty is often influenced by internal and external pressures, including globalization, supranational organizations like the EU, and economic interdependence, which can challenge a state's ability to maintain complete control over its affairs.

In terms of territorial integrity, Ethiopia's modern borders have been shaped through treaties and agreements with neighboring countries. Despite occasional conflicts over border issues, such as the Ethio-Eritrean war, Ethiopia continues to assert its territorial integrity.

Ethiopia's sovereign governance is characterized by its federal political system, which grants significant autonomy to its various regional states. The Ethiopian Constitution enshrines this federal structure and emphasizes the rights of ethnic groups to self-determination within the context of a unified state.

Ethiopia has historically engaged in an independent

foreign policy, balancing relations with major global powers while maintaining its national interests. The country is active in regional diplomacy and international organizations like the UN and African Union, where it advocates for African unity and development.

Ethiopia's construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Blue Nile has been a recent assertion of its sovereign right to use its natural resources for development. This has led to diplomatic negotiations with Egypt and Sudan, who rely on the Nile waters downstream, highlighting the balance between sovereignty and regional cooperation. This is based on Ethiopia's sovereign rights to use her own natural resources for her development.

In recent years, challenges such as internal ethnic conflicts, political reforms, and economic transitions have tested Ethiopia's capacity to maintain its sovereignty, particularly in ensuring stable governance and addressing regional disputes. Nonetheless, the country remains committed to preserving its sovereignty while navigating complex internal and external pressures.

Ethiopia's sovereignty comprises the sovereignty of African states in determining their own destiny by themselves in charting out their own policies, defense strategies and socio-economic development through economic integration and mutual assistance and balanced trade among themselves.

Despite the legal and political rights to her own sovereignty, Ethiopia is being challenges by a number of factors that need to be addressed over time. The country is taking various measures to meet her food security needs by employing various measures including agricultural modernization and industrialization. The recent macro-economic policy and the other subsidiary monetary and financial measures being implemented comprise the nation's attempts to buttress up political sovereignty on sound economic development free of foreign debt and other obligations.

Some scholars and politicians argue that Ethiopia's access to ports is purely economical and has nothing to do with politics. The author thinks that this is partially true as the issue of request for ports is also linked with the sovereignty and security of the country. Given the fragility of the political situation in the Horn of Africa, Ethiopia is also vulnerable to security threats on the country.

Ports are crucial to Ethiopia's sovereignty and security for several reasons:

Ports enable the import and export of goods, which is vital for sustaining Ethiopia's economy. Since Ethiopia is landlocked, it relies on neighboring countries' ports (like Djibouti, Berbera, and Lamu) for access to international markets. Secure and stable access to ports ensures that Ethiopia maintains economic sovereignty by controlling the flow of essential imports, exports, and trade routes.

Having access to ports is essential for the movement of military goods, supplies, and personnel. Ports can serve as strategic locations for defense and logistics, making it easier for Ethiopia to safeguard its national security interests.

Control over or access to ports can provide Ethiopia with diplomatic leverage in regional relations. Reliable access to international trade routes enhances Ethiopia's bargaining power in foreign policy negotiations and strengthens its geopolitical position in the Horn of Africa.

Ports are key for importing fuel and other energy resources. Without secure access to ports, Ethiopia could face energy shortages, which would affect its economy, industry and military capabilities.



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Office of the CEO

Tel. 011-126-42-22

Fax. 251-011-156-98-62

email- epa@press.et

Advertisement and Dist. Department

email: etpresspromotion@gmail.com

Tel. 011-156-98-73/011-811-13-15

Telegram :- 0976084707 - press

Editor-in-Chief: Worku Belachew

email- workubelachew@press.et

Address- Nifas Silk Lafto Sub-city

Woreda - 05, House No----

Tel- +251 111 26 41 98

Managing Editor: Wakuman Kudama

Email: wakuma220@gmail.com

Deputy Editors-in-Chief:

Alem Hailu

Elizabeth Mengistu

Zekarias Woldemariam

Desta Geberehiwot

Daniel Beyene

Website: www.press.et

email: ethiopianherald@press.et

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

News

Remittance...

facilitate seamless foreign currency transaction, financial experts said.

Approached by The Ethiopian Herald, Awash Bank Senior Chief Marketing Officer, Yohannes Merga said that the country's importers and financial institutions would benefit a lot if 40% of the foreign exchange transaction that had been done through informal ways begin to flow via banks.

As to him, the system that has been set under the DEBO remittance campaign provides a huge benefit to the society, which receives and sends foreign currency, for its lucrative and reliable financial services.

Accordingly, the new platform called Unite.et which prepared by the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), as part of the remittance campaign, would facilitate the digital platform onboarding and banking services for millions of non-resident Ethiopians and persons of Ethiopian origin thereby engage in banking, payments, and investment activities in the country, he stated.

"Foreign currency exchange also helps the banks to increase revenues, facilitate transaction and so on," Yohannes said, adding that the platform would raise the legal inflow of remittances and other foreign currencies send by the diaspora community.

Awash Bank is implementing such initiatives using its digital platform and integrated system to provide standard services, he expressed.

This step benefits Ethiopians living abroad and help them contribute to the economy through formal remittance channels, he noted.

The local banks have allocated a 100 billion Birr loan to encourage members of the diaspora community to invest in Ethiopia and offered competitive exchange rates to inspire them to use formal banking channels rather than black-market alternatives ,therefore, the banks would get share from foreign currency earnings, according to Yohannes.

Commercial Bank of Ethiopia Digital Banking Division, Dagmawit WoldeGabriel disclosed that

her bank is implementing remittance transaction mechanisms dubbed, ethio direct and cash go to enable customers to transfer remittance from anywhere.

She said people can send starting from 5 USD and the bank would provide them with 16 and 15% incentives respectively if they send the money via ethio direct and cash go until September 30, 2024.

Both mechanisms are secure, fast, accessible and convenient, she added.

"The Remittance Campaign can facilitate forex inflow, which is significant to develop financial inclusion, transparent exchange rate, promote legal transactions way and create conducive environment for banks," Dagmawit said.

According to her, the campaign helps banks to get more foreign currency and enables citizens to citizens to send money from anywhere using just their cellphones.

It was last Thursday that NBE had launched DEBO, a large-scale remittance campaign to be implemented for six months to encourage Ethiopians living abroad send money in a legal way.

USAID pledges...

through Kefeta - a youth-centered financial organization.

So far, USAID has been supporting Ethiopian youth to develop saving and credit culture in order to realize economic empowerment.

As to him, USAID was strived to create a link between the youth and the private sector, financial institutes, businesses, and the social media linkage thereby building constructive community in close with various the government bodies such as the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA.)

Mentioning his experience with the Ethiopian youth he met in Hawassa and Jigjiga last year, Hocklander recalled that they were keen to get empowered and grow in their homelands. "Young people have a potential to learn new things, sharing experience, and knowledge, and taking training and they deserve that," he added.

He further stated that the USAID will train Ethiopian youth to improve their saving and credit culture to become capable of doing businesses.

Kefeta's Youth Advocacy Officer and Youth Friendly Health Service Provider, Bethelehem Worku (MD) on her part said that the organization is working to address health related problems among the youth.

Bethelehem also noted that Kefeta is providing services in 18 towns with 92 health service delivery points across the country. Of the various institutions, Kefeta is working in health centers, education institutions, and industries to foster healthy and financially empowered youth.

"Kefeta has trained 2,232 health service providers and deployed them to various areas of the country to address the youth challenges. Such activities are one of the ways that empower the youth," she added.

She further added that Kefeta also works against Gender-based Violence (GBV) in cooperation with institutions that provide one stop center services. For instance, over 600,000 youth have gained service with regard to fighting GBV. Not only GBV, Kefeta also supports Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), he added.

Forum: Transformative...

"We have entertained meaningful discussions, shared valuable insights and forged crucial partnerships. It has also reflected a broader commitment to Pan-African solidarity," she said.

Apart from promoting the country's conference tourism, Chaltu noted that the forum brought the opportunity to explore the intricate dynamics of urbanization and identified innovative solutions that guide the continent's thriving future.

Moreover, she added that it is a commitment to sustainable and inclusive urban development, ensuring that the cities are not only centers of economic growth but also beacons of social equity and environmental stewardship.

Chaltu has also indicated that the upcoming World Urban Forum, which is set to be held in Cairo with over 20,000 participants, will help Africans to raise their voices in unison.

"The declaration, which incorporates inclusive development issues, political documents and pan-Africanism commitment, highlights the immense potential and promises that urbanization holds for our continent," she remarked.

Addis Ababa Deputy Mayor Jantir Abay also stressed on meaningful discussions, active engagement, and experience sharing themes with country leaders, coupled with their firm commitment to implement this declaration which is a dedication to shaping "the Africa we want".

According to him, urbanization grips huge potential to drive social mobility, economic growth, and sustainable development across Africa. However, realizing this potential requires strong collaborative action and unwavering enthusiasm to meet the common goal.

This declaration is also a launching pad not only for urban Africa but also for the entire continent. Besides, it bridges the interconnection between urban and rural areas aligning with the progress of cities linked to the well-being of rural communities.

Stating the potential challenges such as housing shortages, infrastructure deficits, environmental degradation, economic inequalities, Jantir emphasized the need to transform these challenges into opportunities for growth and development through collective efforts.

According to African cities report, Africa's cities gained 642 million new residents since 1950 and the report unveils that about 814 million additional people are expected to join the continent.

"African urbanization, which is serving as a shining example in the continent, is critical to achieving inclusive growth and the Sustainable Development Goals and a pathway to social mobility, economic prosperity and sustainable development," the panelists expressed.

Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development of Uganda, Chair of the Sub-Committee, Urban Development, STC8 Judith Nabakooba emphasized the need to mobilize resources and expertise for sustainable urban development, developing and implementing an inclusive housing policies guided by the African Union Model Law on housing and urban development.

She has also advocated for the establishment of national urban committees, promoting fiscal decentralization for reshaping Africa's urbanization.

Keeping watchful eyes...

telecommunications and is set to allow foreign entities into its financial industry. Notably, Safaricom, a Kenyan telecom provider, acquired stakes in Ethiopia's telecom sector. In a significant shift, on June 14, 2024, the Ethiopian cabinet approved a bill allowing foreign lenders to establish local subsidiaries and acquire shares in local banks. The bill is pending parliamentary approval.

The proposed law would permit reputable, financially sound foreign banks to set up wholly or partially owned subsidiaries, open branches, or purchase shares in existing banks. Foreign nationals could be hired as senior executives, but Ethiopian residents must be included on the boards of foreign banks operating in the country.

However, experts warn that the arrival of foreign investors could pose national security risks if strong regulatory and security measures are not in place. The experience of nations like Sri Lanka and during the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis highlights the dangers of weak financial systems and sudden capital flight. Similar issues have affected countries like India, Greece, and Argentina.

Economist Atlaw Alemu (PhD) warns

that foreign investment, without a strong financial foundation, could lead to capital flight and undermine Ethiopia's economic sovereignty. He also emphasized the potential risks if foreign investors were to withdraw, threatening financial independence and increasing foreign interference.

In recent years, Countries are increasingly adopting digital payment systems, driven by the need for efficiency, security, and convenience. However, this rapid technological advancement has introduced new vulnerabilities. Studies indicate that cyber-attacks and digital espionage now pose a greater threat to national security.

Cybersecurity is another growing concern. Ethiopia has foiled over 4,550 cyber-attacks in the first six months of the current fiscal year. According to INSA, a successful attack could have caused losses of up to million 186 USD. Forbes ranks Ethiopia as the eighth most vulnerable nation to cyber threats, highlighting the need for enhanced cybersecurity measures.

In his part, scholar Costantinos Berhetesfa (PhD), emphasized that the National Bank of Ethiopia must focus on establishing new interest rate policies, improving the

flow of money, controlling and enhancing financial security measures. These changes are crucial for building a stable economic landscape that can support investment and stimulate economic activity.

A public policy scholar Costantinos Berhetesfa (PhD) stresses that the National Bank of Ethiopia must improve financial security measures, interest rate policies, and the flow of money to build a stable economy capable of supporting foreign investment. However, critics argue that the National Bank lacks the experience to lead a market economy and advocate for bringing in international experts to guide Ethiopia through the transition.

Costantinos also mentioned that by leveraging international knowledge and best practices, the National Bank could implement reforms that align with the demands of a dynamic market economy. This approach could ultimately strengthen investor confidence and promote sustainable growth in Ethiopia's economic landscape.

Atlaw further emphasized the risks of financial subservience and potential loss of economic autonomy, urging strategies to strengthen the domestic financial system and ensure its resilience against external

pressures.

"As we navigate this digital landscape, it is imperative to prioritize cyber security to safeguard our personal information and national security against rapidly evolving threats," Costantinos stated.

He highlighted recent microeconomic reforms designed to attract foreign investors, aiming to create a more favorable business environment that encourages international capital inflow and fosters economic growth. This strategy seeks to generate job opportunities for citizens by introducing modern technological systems, addressing issues related to foreign currency shortages and the prevalence of black money.

Atlaw emphasized the transformative potential of foreign investment, noting that an influx of international financial institutions could create a competitive environment.

Both experts emphasize the importance of protecting national sovereignty while benefiting from foreign investment. Strengthening the domestic financial system, prioritizing cybersecurity, and leveraging international knowledge are crucial steps to ensuring sustainable economic growth.

Opinion

Ingrained heroism in foiling aggressions against sovereignty

BY ADDISALEM MULAT

It is common knowledge that since time immemorial, Ethiopians at different points of time have been playing a most important role in protecting their territorial integrity and fending off external pressure. Notwithstanding the fact that a lot of endeavors have been by some entities to twist Ethiopia's arm, all their efforts went for a burton on account of the commitment of Ethiopians.

Whenever something happens, they leave no stone unturned to stand by the side of their motherland at the drop of a hat. As they give priority to Ethiopia, devoid of batting an eye, no one by hook or crook under any circumstances dares to pose a threat to their motherland.

In actual fact, the people of Ethiopia for years have been a victim of unjustified foreign pressure under the pretense of unconvincing arguments and deceptive grounds. Though some entities left no stone unturned to interfere in the internal affairs of the country and impose external interests, Ethiopians working in close collaboration thwarted their evil mission going behind closed curtains.

Though Ethiopia's adversaries and special group interests work day in and day out with a view to encroaching on the territorial integrity of the nation by orchestrating several treacheries, Ethiopians have been showing them the fact that they cannot make their dreams become a reality by fair means or foul.

In times gone by, scores of efforts have been made by some groups intending to put ungrounded pressure on Ethiopia and twist Ethiopia's arm under the guise of shallow grounds and flimsy pretexts. To the surprise of everyone, under any circumstances, on the subject of their nation, Ethiopians irrespective of gender, religion, educational background, ethnic group, and more of the same stand with one voice and one mind.

Ethiopia has been suffering not only from territorial threats, but also from poverty and backwardness. Endorsing poverty and lack of ensuring food self sufficiency are the root causes of existential threat, the current Ethiopian incumbent has undergone various initiatives aiming to ensure food security and food sovereignty by far. The initiatives like irrigated wheat and rice cultivation and 'Yelemat Tirufat' can be considered as part of ensuring food sovereignty.

Unable to be self sufficient in food items is equally threatening as foreign invasion. Taking into account this reality, the Ethiopian government has begun the way to get rid of poverty visioning to be exporter of agricultural products up on satisfying its local needs. The best way identified so far is using own resources that include human capital. Engaging the bulk number of young people into the economic activity is viable for the country to make poverty a history thereby ensuring food sovereignty.

In times gone by, albeit quite a lot of attempts made by some groups utilizing unjustified



foreign entities, Ethiopia has successfully staved off external pressure at various points in time. As nothing makes Ethiopians happier than protecting the territorial integrity of their country, they more often than not do everything possible to defend their motherland.

In fact, Ethiopia enjoys a rich history of heroism in protecting against external pressure and standing up for liberty and self-determination. It goes without saying, Ethiopia is applauded for defending colonization, subjugation, and oppression from every nook and cranny of the continent of Africa and beyond as the earliest possible time.

Though its adversaries know like the palm of their hand the heroism of Ethiopia, they do not distance themselves from leaning over backwards to attack the country's sovereignty. But by hook or crook, they cannot make their dream become a reality.

It is worth recalling that the Italian colonial power invaded Ethiopia paying no heed to the people's bravery and resilience. In spite of that, Ethiopians in the course of time chased away the invaders in combination at the Battle of Adwa. The trump of the country has brought a new historical period to the entire Africa.

In a similar manner, apart from serving as a torchbearer for African's independence, Ethiopia has been playing a huge role restoring peace and tranquility in the Horn of Africa. Aside from historic contribution for freedom and pacification of Africa, Ethiopia has continued playing a due part to ensure peace and security in the continent, renowned and seasoned diplomat said.

Speaking with the Ethiopian Press Agency (EPA), Ambassador Konjit SeneGiorgis, in the recent past stated that the nation has been putting unwavering effort along with IGAD and AU to safeguard peace and security in the region.

Besides striving to create economic cooperation in the continent, Ethiopia has remained the largest troop contributor to AU and UN peacekeeping missions in Rwanda, Burundi, Liberia, Sudan and Somalia, she said.

Ethiopia's contribution to the continent is not limited to its symbolism of freedom, Konjit said, adding that the country also takes the lion's share in the coming in to force of former

OAU now African Union that aimed to rid the continent of colonization and apartheid.

Likewise, Konjit recalled that Ethiopia which was led by Emperor Haile Selassie had greater role when 32 African states that had achieved independence at that time agreed to establish the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on 25 May, 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

She further highlighted the successful influence Ethiopia put once when the OAU accomplished its first task and holds new missions. Recalling the role of Ethiopian leaders for the freedom in Africa, she also called on each citizen to follow their footprints. Ethiopia's adversaries made every possible effort to put disproportionate claims on the country with the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on the people of Ethiopia.

It should be borne in mind that during the war that lasted for two years in the northern part of the country, some international media outlets went to the ends of the earth with the purpose of spreading fake news stories giving the cold shoulder to the existing reality on the ground. However, Ethiopians residing at home and abroad stood in unison more than ever before and ended up throwing cold water on the naysayers' endeavors.

In the aftermath of its growing economy and political influence, Ethiopia has become involved in brokering peace deals among warring parties and undertaking a role in sustaining peace and tranquility in the Horn of Africa.

From sending peacekeeping missions to mediating competing parties, Ethiopia has played a part in making peace happen in various parts of the continent of Africa exceptionally well and without a hitch.

It is clear that since the laying of the cornerstone for the construction of the Abbay Dam, Ethiopia's adversaries have been making every effort to do a hatchet job on the positive developments. Notwithstanding the fact that several deeds have been made by some entities under the veil of the colonial agreements, Ethiopians residing abroad moved mountains in forestalling groundless external pressure.

They got involved in familiarizing the wider international community with the honest

truth revolving around the flagship project. It is worth mentioning that in the face of continuous foreign intervention under the pretense of fair and equitable utilization of waters, they spared no effort in crippling the wicked deeds of some groups making an effort to bamboozle the international community with fake news.

In the present climate, on the heels of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Ethiopia and Somaliland; Somalia and Egypt have set in motion beating the drums of war. On the basis thereof, Ethiopians have been watching the unholy marriage of the two nations with peeled eyes.

To everyone's dismay, they have sustained distorting fact with the intention of winning the hearts and minds of the global community with cooked up stories and putting the blames on Ethiopia. No matter how hard they tried to hoodwink the international community, their efforts will not bear fruits.

As far as this, Ethiopia has continued making an effort to get to the bottom of the predicaments through round table discussion. The agreement signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland would not affect any party, or breach any laws, so said Government Communication Service (GCS).

In a statement published in the recent past about the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Partnership and Cooperation that has been signed between Ethiopia and Somaliland, GCS said that the accord wouldn't harm anybody since it relies on mutual benefits achieved through lawful and peaceful means.

"No party or country will be affected by this MoU. There is no broken trust nor are there any laws that have been transgressed," the statement noted. While this is the fact, it cannot be said that some will not be offended, shocked and refrain from attempting to destroy the positive progress, it said.

According to GCS, the MOU includes wide scopes of cooperation in social, economic, political and military fields. The document gives Ethiopia the opportunity to obtain a permanent and reliable naval base and commercial maritime service in the Gulf of Aden through a lease arrangement, and according to the government's announced position, it allows Somaliland to derive an equivalent share of the lease from Ethiopian Airlines or any other benefit depending on its interest, the statement expressed.

As to GCS, the agreement with Somaliland is a demonstration of the government's belief in achieving Ethiopia's aspirations through cooperation with its neighbors, through the principle of reciprocity, and peaceful means.

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

Business & Economy

The reform underway to attract attention of investors, ensure economic sovereignty

BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

The successive Ethiopian governments during the last 70 years have tried their level best to improve the nation's economy and alleviate poverty. In the imperial era though some light industries were mushrooming, the nation's economy was characterized by feudalism and the majority of peasants were landless and subjugated to stay in operation and exploitation. Since 1950s, the regime prepared and implemented the five years development plan which paved the way for the flourishing of both foreign and local private investment.

Small and medium size manufacturing industries were flourished, large scale irrigation farms in the Awash valley which produced sugar cane adjacent to the sugar factories created job opportunities to thousands. In the north western Ethiopia, oil seeds such as Nigger, linseed and sesame were produced both by rain fed farm and irrigation and exported to the foreign market. Private financial institutions were also flourished and significant economic growth was registered.

After the down fall of the imperial regime, the ascendance of the Derg regime to power changed the centuries old economic landscape and land was nationalized. Feudalism was abolished by law and declared socialism as the nation's economic principle. However, the nationalization of private manufacturing industries, transport and financial sectors hampered the economic growth and the continued civil war in the northern part of the country left the economy to grow negatively.

The coming to power of the EPRDF regime in 1991 brought a paradigm shift in the nation's economic landscape and introduced a partial free market economy which invited government interference in selected areas. Its policy shift from socialism to developmental state brought support from the western and eastern countries including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. The economic reform through liberalization and privatization of some public owned enterprises was continued. The measures that have been taken enabled the country to attract foreign investment and experienced high infrastructural development in its history in terms of roads, rail ways, air ports, dry ports, and hydropower dams, provision of clean water and health facilities.

The current government since it took power in 2018 strongly committed to advance the economic development through introducing new homegrown economic reform program which comprises sustaining economic growth; creating job opportunities for the growing population and setting the foundation for prosperity. All require correcting macroeconomic imbalances and rebalancing the sources of growth; from demand-driven to supply-driven, from debt financing to saving and equity financing, and from public sector-led to private sector-led.

Reform objectives ensure macro-economic stability to sustain the rapid economic growth; rebalance the public and private sectors' role in the economy unlocking new and existing growth potentials.

This in turn required launching a comprehensive and well-coordinated economic reform agenda, encompassing macro-financial measures to stabilize the



Ethiopian reforms attract investors' interest

macro-economy and arrest financial sector vulnerabilities; structural reforms to alleviate business constraints to create an enabling environment for private sector investment; and sectorial policies to address sector-specific institutional and market failure. The reform agenda is built on various macro-financial reforms that are previously launched.

Most notable among the already launched reforms include lifting the limit on Diaspora foreign currency accounts; adjusting the exchange rate at which commercial banks surrender foreign exchange to the NBE; raising the interest rate on NBE bills from 3% to 5% ; allowing foreign exchange transactions in industrial parks, reducing the budget deficit, adjusting electricity and fuel prices towards cost reflective levels to reduce fiscal burden, profiling external debt to lessen the burden of immediate debt service obligations implementing doing business reforms to reduce bureaucratic red tape, efforts to open the logistic and telecommunication sectors to domestic and foreign investors and fully and partially privatize State Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

These macro-financial reforms are steps in the right direction, yet are insufficient to address macroeconomic imbalances and ensure sustainable growth. The current reform program augments these macro-financial measures by adding depth and breadth.

The macro-financial reforms are complemented with broad structural and sectorial reforms to unleash the potential of the private sector in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, and ICT. These structural and sectorial reforms will enhance the productivity growth and job creation.

Macro-financial stability and availability of finance (both local and foreign currencies) are the foundations for economic growth and job creation. Stable monetary and financial systems allow savers to deposit their financial assets in the financial system with confidence, provide investors the predictability and finance they need to invest in long-term projects, and enable consumers to smooth their income and consumption.

In this context, the economic reform program aims to correct macroeconomic imbalances and ensure macro-financial stability through stepping up the ongoing efforts to improve

public sector finances, easing foreign currency controls and correcting the exchange rate misalignment, modernizing the monetary policy framework, strengthening the financial system, and developing capital markets.

Successful macro-economic reform requires coordination and synchronization among foreign currency, monetary, fiscal, financial, and capital market reforms. To balance the urgent need for addressing macroeconomic imbalances with the need to minimize potential economic costs of rapid ('shock therapy' type) reforms, the home-grown economic reform program will be rolled over in the course of the next three years with careful calibration of the pacing, sequencing, and timing of specific reform measures. Public investment on infrastructure and human capital will continue to address remaining gaps towards reaching a middle-income economy level becoming food self sufficient thereby ensuring economic sovereignty.

The financing model for public investments will pursue a sustainable means to ensure debt sustainability, and avoid inflationary pressures and the crowding out of the private sector's access to critical financial resources such as credit and foreign currency. Controlling the budget deficit and streamlining public sector capital spending will be among the key reform measures. Strengthening public sector finances entails measures to maintain the general government deficit as well as enhance the finances of SOEs.

To maintain macroeconomic stability, important efforts would be needed to raise government revenue through tax policy and tax administration reforms, review of subsidies, further prioritization of public projects, and strengthening these measures will be built on the earlier strides in managing the budget deficit, SOE reforms and privatization, and maintaining and consolidating the achievements made so far. Fiscal policy will focus on supporting high quality growth and ensuring debt sustainability through revenue mobilization and improving efficiency of public spending.

Recently, Indian Ambassador, Anil Kumar said that the economic reforms that are being taken by the Government of Ethiopia will make a deep impact in the economic and investment landscape of the country.

In an exclusive interview with the local media

the ambassador commended the leadership of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) for taking many revolutionary steps as the recent macroeconomic reform being one of those steps.

"The various economic reforms which are taken by the Prime Minister are going to make a deep impact in the economic and investment landscape of Ethiopia, one of the pillars of the Horn of Africa and the largest economy not only in Africa but among the world," he elaborated.

The growth rate and the potential available to this country are certainly going to be unlocked, Ambassador Kumar said, adding that "This country is going to be an extremely favorable destination for investments across the world, including from India."

According to him, the country has identified five important pillars for its transformation, agriculture, manufacturing, ICT, mining, and tourism; and these are all the sectors where India has core competence. Indian investors would certainly like to come to Ethiopia and explore these landscapes, he pointed out.

Moreover, Ethiopia and India share a longstanding friendly relationship marked by robust cultural, economic and trade exchanges. Ambassador Kumar stated that the membership of Ethiopia in the BRICS gives it a much closer opportunity for a much closer interaction with the BRICS member countries.

"If we see the economic landscape, the commercial landscape and the human capital of Ethiopia, this can bring a synergy into the new developing world order. Most of the BRICS members, or all of the BRICS members, are developing countries.

"We the BRICS members are trying to create a new ecosystem where we cooperate with each other, where we interact with each other freely, and where we create a system where the financing requirements are met within the limits of our capabilities," the ambassador said.

"As BRICS members, we feel that Ethiopia brings value to the BRICS bloc. It comes with a lot of conventional knowledge, wisdom, and represents a large part of Africa and the sentiments of Africa. We are seeing Ethiopia, as a valuable partner for not only India, but also for the BRICS countries," he underscored.

Planet Earth



Ethiopia harnessing opportunities to double national livestock yields

BY FIKADU BELAY

Ethiopia is attempting to double its livestock output and maximize its agricultural potential in order to improve food security and accelerate national economic growth. Ethiopia is putting into effect a variety of programs and plans that combine cutting edge technologies, sustainable farming methods, and modern farming techniques.

In addition to boosting output, this large-scale project intends to improve the quality of livestock products, ensuring Ethiopia's ongoing standing in the world's agricultural arena while safely guarding its rich livestock heritage.

The production of livestock is significant for Ethiopia's economy and agricultural sector. Ethiopia has become one of the major livestock-producing nations in Africa as a result of its numerous years of utilizing traditional methods for raising cattle, such as cattle, sheep, goats, and camels.

The farming of animals is essential to Ethiopia's ability to meet its food security demands and encourage economic growth, as it provides a living for millions of people.

For a significant component of the community, especially in rural areas, the sector offers employment and income prospects. Taking into account that meat, milk, and eggs are cornerstones of the Ethiopian dishes, it serves as the country's main source of nutrition. Furthermore, livestock is a great asset for farmers since it provides a safety net against sudden changes in the economy.

In fact, a study demonstrated that animals account for 47 percent of the agricultural GDP. This underscores the importance of the animal sector in driving economic growth and the urgent need to transform Ethiopia's animal resources into a valuable community asset.

Despite its immense potential, the livestock sector in Ethiopia faces several challenges. Limited access to improved technologies,

veterinary services, and market infrastructure hampers productivity and profitability. Disease outbreaks, such as foot-and-mouth disease, pose a significant risk to livestock health. Climate change and recurrent droughts further exacerbate the vulnerability of livestock farmers, affecting animal productivity and food security.

The Ministry of Agriculture has identified and begun addressing the obstacles preventing Ethiopia's livestock industry from reaching its full potential.

Agriculture State Minister Fikru Regassa (PhD) has underscored the paradox of Ethiopia's livestock sector: despite the country having one of the largest cattle populations in Africa, the production and productivity levels remain alarmingly low.

He noted that several systemic issues are at play, including improper handling techniques, inefficient breeding practices, limited access to quality feed, and the prevalence of various animal diseases.

These challenges hinder the growth potential of a sector that could significantly contribute to the national economy. In response, the Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a comprehensive approach designed to tackle these issues head-on.

One of the most pressing threats to the livestock industry is climate change, which manifests in unpredictable weather patterns, such as severe droughts and floods. He mentioned that the climatic shifts can lead to animal displacement and, in the worst cases, increased mortality rates among livestock.

To combat these adverse effects, the Ministry is working to enhance water access across the country that is vulnerable to drought. For this, the installation of processing equipment in drought-prone areas will facilitate the production of feed, ensuring that livestock can be adequately nourished even during challenging climatic conditions, he said.

Additionally, Fikru (PhD) emphasized that the need for investment in research and development focused on creating premium

feed formulations. This is crucial not only for improving the nutritional quality of the feed available to livestock but also for promoting sustainable fodder production practices.

The ministry is acutely aware that high-quality feed is foundational to improving animal health and productivity. Furthermore, there is a concerted effort to prioritize technological advancements that will enhance processing capacities within the livestock sector. It also aims to encourage value addition, thereby reducing reliance on imported goods and fostering a more self-sufficient agricultural economy.

The ministry's initiatives are already yielding positive results, particularly under the *Yelemat Tirufat* Initiative, which has set an ambitious target of doubling livestock production and productivity between 2022 and 2024. This goal is not merely aspirational; it reflects the Ethiopian government's commitment to transforming the livestock sector into a pivotal engine of economic growth. By focusing on such transformative initiatives, the government aims to stimulate rural economies and enhance food security, he added.

In addition to improving production capabilities, the ministry is also focused on better market access for small-scale producers. This includes facilitating easier transportation of animal goods to urban centers and export markets, as well as establishing processing and storage facilities for dairy products. Such infrastructure improvements are vital for extending the shelf life of these perishable goods, ultimately benefiting small-scale farmers who often lack the resources to compete in larger markets.

Moreover, Fikru (PhD) stressed that the benefits of investing in infrastructure and training programs to improve cattle handling practices are crucial for the overall health of the animals and can directly influence productivity levels.

He further advocated for a focus on specialized breeds that are well-suited to specific environments and market demands,

which can help optimize productivity and meet consumer needs.

Over one year, he stated that the ministry administered 23 different vaccines, costing approximately 102 million Birr, to prevent and control animal diseases that threaten livestock health. Also, it's maintaining a healthy livestock population, which is the backbone of Ethiopia's agricultural sector. Collaboration with various stakeholders is vital to combat smuggling activities that undermine the industry and to ensure the integrity of the livestock market, he noted.

For the sake of handling the complex issues the industry faces, Fikru emphasized the significance of collaborations between governmental organizations, academic institutions, commercial businesses, and others. Ethiopia hopes to turn the livestock industry into a major driver of national development, food security, and economic growth by realizing the full potential of its animal resources.

By addressing the multifaceted challenges facing the industry, Ethiopia hopes to unlock the full potential of its animal resources. This commitment not only aims to boost national economic growth but also seeks to enhance food security and improve the livelihoods of countless farmers across the nation.

Besides, the government should collaborate with all concerned parties to enhance the livestock sector, and it has implemented various strategies and policies to address these challenges and harness its potential. Efforts are being made to improve animal health services, promote selective breeding programs, enhance feed availability and quality, and develop market linkages.

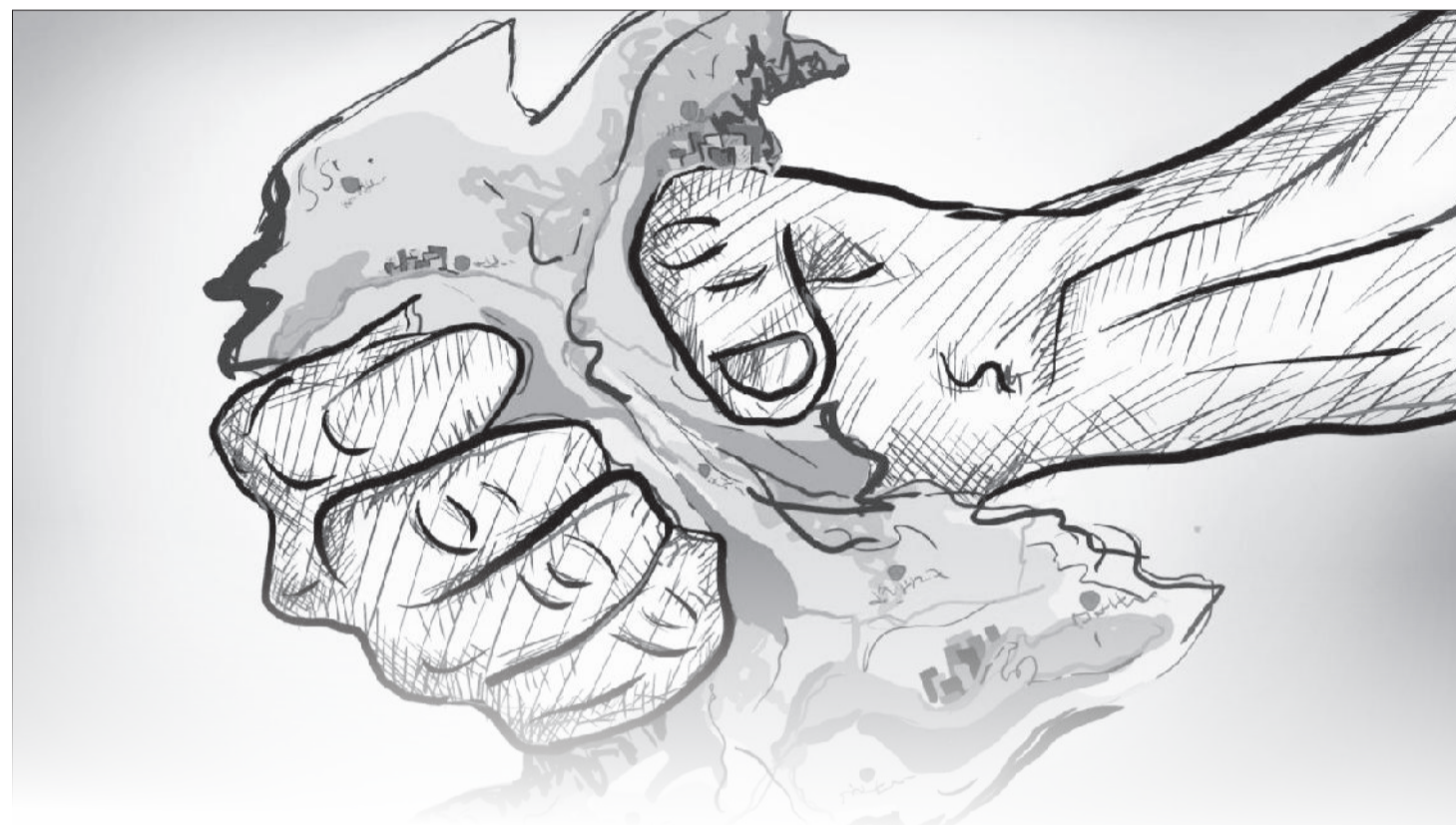
The government is also investing in research and development, capacity building, and public-private partnerships to foster sustainable and inclusive growth in the livestock sector. Moreover, with the right support and investments, Ethiopia's livestock sector has the potential to contribute significantly to poverty reduction and the economic development of the country.

Art & Culture

Keeping sovereignty intact!

BY MENGESHA AMARE

*The pride of Africa,
It's water tower, too,
Continental development, growth symbol,
Via kicking invaders as a ball,
All the time drives towards its goal,
Many have emancipated from oppression,
Firmly following Ethiopia's fruition,
Due to stiff independent direction,
The majestic look of the Red Sea coast,
Despite being landlocked,
Has been working to be the best,
Shining as a star in the East,
The owner of livable history,
Records all time victory,
Remains an ever-green tree,
Keeping its sovereignty,
Overcoming all the pity,
As a result of citizens' unanimity,
Yes, unity fosters sovereignty,
Amity nurtures solidarity,
Invaders tried to conquer it,
So many times with no limit,
Attempted to twist its arms,
To pull towards the direction they would
love,*



*But they had never have,
Even won't have,
Due its sons and daughters' unwavering
stance,
Relentless effort,
To make it the ever sovereign nation,
Believing in working together, cooperation,
Long live Ethiopia, its patriots,
Working for its independence as,*

*Sovereignty matters,
Doesn't follow fashion against its local
culture,
Instead endeavors to boost own and nurture,
Because it is a pride,
And an independent guide,
Long live Ethiopia,
All its citizens,
Unity, harmony and fraternity,*

*They do construct cornerstones of
autonomy.
Combating all the gloomy,
Ethiopians all the time enjoy unifying,
Unity, unity, unity,
Since it is the source and/or of the
foundation,
Of comprehensive sovereignty,
With an undying possibility.*

Like father, like son

BY BITANIA T.ENGIDAW

Michael was a healthy 10-year-old when something strange happened. His skin started burning, and doctors couldn't figure out why. They checked everything but found nothing wrong.

However, Michael's mom told him about an incident that happened to his dad when he was ten. His dad was playing with matches and accidentally set fire to their garage. The fire burned down their whole house and killed his brother. His dad felt so guilty and couldn't forgive himself. This unhealed wound stayed with him, and now, years later, it seemed to express itself in Michael too.

A woman, whose name was undisclosed, suffered all her life from an intense and paralyzing claustrophobia—unable to ride in a plane or elevator. Later, she discovered that her father's parents perished in a gas chamber.

Another woman seemingly happy with her marriage, found herself confused when she suddenly became indifferent towards her husband. But she was more confused when she learned that her grandmother had tragically lost her husband at the same age

and became distant from her family until she died.

These true stories, taken from Mark Wolynn's book "It Didn't Start With You," seemingly share an odd element. The stories all have in common that they explore the idea that our ancestors' trauma can have a lasting impact on us. This concept, while controversial, is becoming increasingly popular. Even though we didn't live through the trauma, it is saying that our genes and our family's history can carry echoes of it. Or simply, we inherit trauma, as much as we inherit eye and hair color. But how does an inherited trauma function?

When a trauma happens, it changes us—sometimes for generations. The grief, the suffering, and the distress don't always end with us. The feelings and sensations (specifically the stress response, the way our genes express) can pass forward to our children and grandchildren, similarly affecting them, even though they didn't personally experience our trauma. Simply put, many of us relive the tragedies from previous generations and rarely make the link.

Wolynn shows in his book the latest research, which shows we can be born into feelings and that we don't enter the world with a clean hard

drive. Using a computer analogy, there's an operating system already in place, one that contains the fallout from the traumas of our parents and grandparents. We are born with fears and feelings that don't always belong to us. Why is this?

To understand this, the book proposes evidence from science. When a trauma occurs, it literally changes us. It causes a chemical change in our DNA, altering how our genes function, sometimes for generations. A chemical tag attaches to our DNA, instructing cells to use or ignore certain genes, enabling us to better cope with the trauma.

The way our genes are affected changes how we act and feel. We may become sensitive or reactive to situations similar to an original trauma, even if that trauma occurred in a past generation. This gives us a better chance of surviving similar traumas in this generation. For example, if our grandparents came from a war-torn country where bombs exploded, bullets flew, and people were taken away and shot, they might pass on skills like sharper reflexes and quicker reaction times to help us survive the violence they experienced. The problem is, that we might also inherit a stress response that is always on high alert, preparing us for a catastrophe that never arrives. We may experience anxiety,

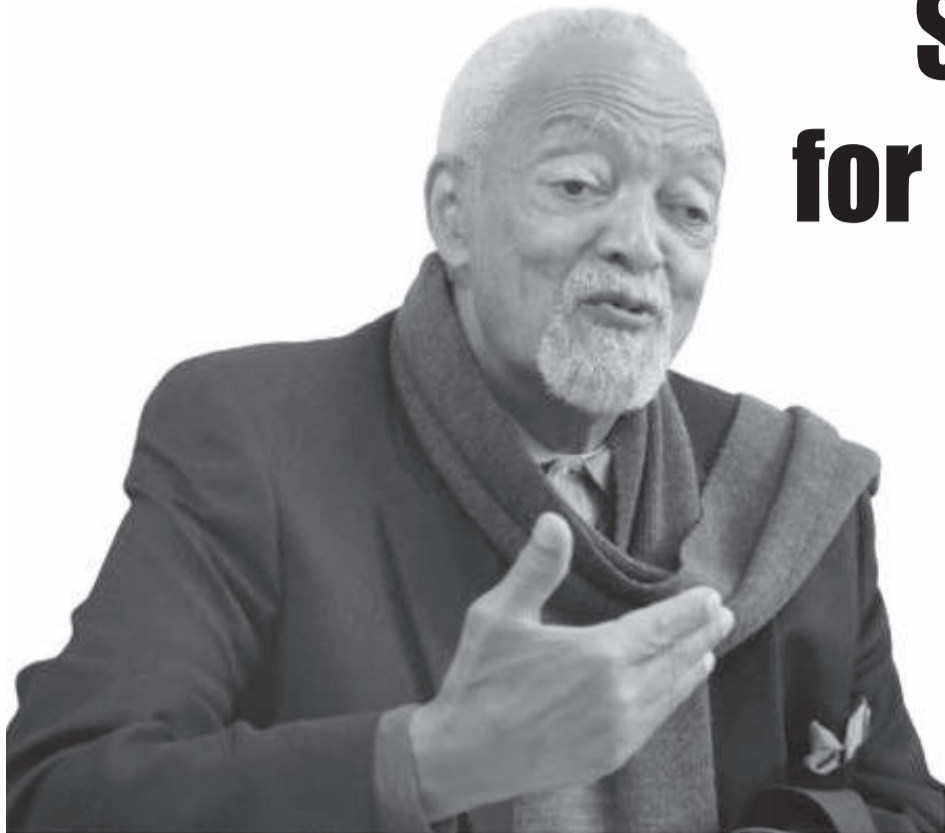
hypervigilance, or depression, often without understanding why. We may simply think we are wired this way.

More specifically, about 15 years ago, neuroscientist Rachel Yehuda found that children of Holocaust survivors often had the same stress problems as their parents and that babies in the womb of mothers experienced trauma. Yehuda also found a similar pattern in children born to mothers who were near the World Trade Center during the 9/11 attacks. This shows how a mother's emotions can actually change the way her baby's genes develop.

The implications of this research are huge. The idea that trauma can be inherited and passed down through generations like a family heirloom is a powerful and controversial one. While some dismiss it as a mere coincidence or a product of shared experiences, the evidence is growing that the impact of trauma can echo through family lines, influencing the way we think, feel, and even our physical health. Whether we choose to believe in it or not, the stories of families struggling with the echoes of past pain remind us of the interconnectedness of human experience and the enduring power of both trauma and resilience. After all, it is like the saying, like father, like son. Or is it?

Society

Standing in unison for national sovereignty



Lij Daniel Jote Mesfin

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

While Ethiopians are readying to welcome and celebrate their New Year-*Enkutatash*—each of the five days of the transitional month, *Pagumen*, is designated to mark specific themes. As Government Communication Services State Minister Kebede Desisa stated at a press briefing, each of the five days is assigned as Transition Day, Reform Day, Sovereignty Day, Diversity Day, and Tomorrow's Day respectively to tribute the social, economic and political progresses made so far as well as to further strengthen national unity and building a future that honors Ethiopia's sovereignty and diverse heritage.

Today, as we, Ethiopians, are at the third day of *Pagumen*, which is also the thirteen month of the year, they are marking "Sovereignty Day," to pay tribute to Ethiopia's enduring independence, reinforcing the pride in its rich history and efforts to safeguard its autonomy.

In relation to this, *The Ethiopian Herald* approached the President of the Ethiopian Patriot Association Lij Daniel Jote Mesfin over a phone call to have his insights on the celebration of the "Sovereignty Day."

The President said: "When we trace back the history of Ethiopia, from the old days to the recent ones, we find how Ethiopians are valiant in defending the territorial integrity and the sovereignty of their country regardless of any internal differences they may exist. History tells that aggressors who attempted to invade the territory of the country tested the united arms of Ethiopians. The whole world also witnessed Ethiopians' instinctive patriotic feelings,

The whole world also witnessed Ethiopians' instinctive patriotic feelings, courageousness, unity in defending their country, not only at the Battle of Adwa; but even before, as well as these days

courageousness, unity in defending their country, not only at the Battle of Adwa; but even before, as well as these days.

Ethiopians, by putting aside their differences and standing as one, can demean and send back aggressors who attempted to invade their country at different times and on different occasions. Aggressors, including the Fascist Italian forces, Sudan, and Somalia among others tested the united arms of Ethiopians.

It should be well noted that Ethiopia is

Africa's oldest independent country that has never been colonized by external forces. Following the patriotic spirit of Ethiopians, many agree that Ethiopia is a place where freedom and liberty are valued meaningfully.

According to the President, even though we encounter some challenges, every citizen should be aware that our historical foes are lurking behind us to divide us and dismantle our country. For this reason, the youth should beware of the ill intentions of the country's historic enemies and work hard to abort their intent and ensure peace through practical, genuine steps and engagements

Any form of differences should come to the roundtable discussions; as peace cannot be gained from the barrel of a gun, but from peaceful dialogue. The Association would like to encourage the various groups who assume they have differences to solve through peaceful engagement.

"In my view, we should not let our historical enemies take advantage and exploit any differences they assume to serve their interest. We should stand in unison. Ethiopians should stand as one and back the National Ethiopian Defense Force (ENDF)."

The heroic feats and the sacrifices that members of the ENDF paid to the country for a century should be noted. Throughout its glorious history, the Defense Force has defended not only the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the country; but also demonstrated exemplary deeds by taking part in various peacekeeping missions carried out within the region and beyond.

He further noted that celebrating Sovereignty Day in the spirit of unison brings opportunities. It lets the youth identify the true picture of the past, the current and the future Ethiopia. The day can serve as a reminder of the hard-fought freedom and the responsibilities that come with self-determination. What is more, celebrating this day at a national level provides an opportunity to assess the impact of economic sovereignty as economic independence is an essential element to ensure security, detach from foreign dependency and realize a prosperous country.

True, sovereignty embodies a nation's independence to govern itself without external interference. It is the foundation for national identity and unity, fostering pride among citizens. "In my view, celebrating this day allows citizens to

honor their history and recognize the ongoing efforts and strengthen their sovereignty."

The Ethiopian Patriotic Association understands the adversaries that the government has been navigating through, of course, it came out with victories. These efforts should be further strengthened; there is no way to turn back. The general public should also weigh each step in rationality, and stand for further success.

"As a nation, we do have a number of gaps that should be addressed accordingly. The top priority should be in my view is to exert maximum effort in ensuring food security through projects like Yelemat Tirufat and summer wheat production, the green legacy initiative. If we are able to ensure our food security at a household level, we could build resilience. This self-reliance fosters economic resilience and reduces dependence on foreign economies."

The young people should enhance their participation in backing Ethiopia's quest to gain access to the seaports because it promotes the economic liberty of the country.

"We are witnessing regional political turmoil escalating because of Ethiopia's legal stance to access the sea; we should not let our enemies deceive and prevent Ethiopia from its legal step."

According to the President, a nation that values its sovereignty is better positioned to engage in assertive diplomacy. Celebrating this day highlights the importance of maintaining strong international relationships while protecting national interests.

"We, Ethiopians, are making history in constructing and filling the Abay Hydroelectric Dam, which is the largest dam in Africa and holds a promising potential for growth. This project confirms the value of unity. The new blood should know that, the magnanimous deeds, and how they undo matters related with sovereignty matters."

Citizens play an indispensable role in accelerating the socioeconomic growth of the country. Thus, through active participation, advocacy works and community engagement, it is possible to transform the future of the country. "By coming together, we should reinforce the foundation to building a strong, prosperous Ethiopia, which we aspire to see" he finally added.

Law & Politics

The continued courageous spirit to protect national sovereignty

BY EYUEL KIFLU

In the annals of world politics, the quest for sovereignty has been a central theme, with nations striving to protect their independence from external threats. Throughout history, countries have come together to support one another in times of crisis, particularly when their sovereignty is under attack. This narrative holds particular significance for many African nations during the era of European colonization, with one notable exception: Ethiopia.

Ethiopia stands out as the only African nation that successfully resisted colonization by Italian invaders. The bravery and resilience of Ethiopian forefathers and mothers in their fight against foreign domination are legendary. Their sacrifices ensured that Ethiopia remained a sovereign nation, allowing future generations to inherit a country free from colonial rule. This remarkable feat has filled Ethiopia with a unique historical identity; rather than celebrating an Independence Day, Ethiopia commemorates a Victory Day, honoring the triumphs of its ancestors.

The courageous spirit of the Ethiopian people extends beyond their borders. Throughout history, Ethiopia has lent its support to various nations during their times of need, exemplifying a commitment to pan-African solidarity. One significant instance of this support occurred when Ethiopia assisted South Korea during its challenging period, demonstrating a willingness to extend help across oceans and continents.

In addition to its historical contributions, Ethiopia has worked tirelessly to promote peace and security in the Horn of Africa. The sacrifices made by Ethiopian troops in Somalia over the past decade underscore this commitment. Their presence has been instrumental in stabilizing the region, and their contributions to the reestablishment of Villa Somalia have been invaluable. Despite these efforts, some nations have chosen to overlook Ethiopia's unwavering support. Instead, they have aligned with Ethiopia's adversaries, betraying the trust built through years of cooperation.

Recently, tensions between Ethiopia and Somalia have emerged, with Egypt reportedly attempting to exploit the situation for its own agenda. This maneuvering illustrates how geopolitical dynamics can distort the narrative of solidarity and support that Ethiopia has championed.

The Cairo agenda, purportedly under the guise of peacekeeping in Somalia, has drawn criticism from Somalis themselves. Egypt's self-proclamation as peacemakers in Somalia, despite not being present during critical times, is seen as questionable. Egypt's involvement is viewed skeptically due to its own regional challenges. Conversely, Ethiopia is not just a neighbor



Ethiopia has a historical legacy of bravery and resilience, and it remains committed to protecting its sovereignty against any threats

but also a close ally and second home for many Somalis.

In an exclusive interview with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Gizachew Asrat (PhD) Foreign Affairs Institute Senior African Affairs Researcher discussed Ethiopia's significant contributions to peace operations, both regionally and globally. He underscored the well-documented efforts of Ethiopian troops in Somalia, where they have been deployed for over 15 years, sacrificing their lives to foster peace in the region.

Ethiopian forces have played a crucial role in combating terrorist groups like al-Shabaab, which pose threats not only to Somalia but also to regional stability. Gizachew emphasized that the contributions of Ethiopian troops to peacekeeping are not a matter of debate; they have been effective and successful in their mission.

Regarding the transition of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) to a

new mandate, he explained the critical need for a seamless transfer of responsibilities. He stressed that this transition must avoid creating a security vacuum that could empower terrorist groups in the region. "The shift from ATMIS to the new mandate must be managed carefully to maintain stability and prevent the resurgence of al-Shabaab," he said.

Gizachew also addressed the geopolitical tensions arising from recent diplomatic moves by Somalia and Egypt, stating, "These actions are not conducive to regional integration and cooperation." He emphasized that while Ethiopia values cooperation and goodwill among nations, it cannot compromise its national interests. "Every state has its own priorities when it comes to defending its territory and national security," he remarked.

He urged regional leaders to engage in "intellectual honesty" and work to build trust, moving beyond historical grievances to foster stronger relationships. "Each state has its sovereignty and principles of equality, and Ethiopia is prepared to defend its national interests if threatened," he concluded.

In this complex landscape, Gizachew advocates for a collaborative approach to regional security, firmly rooted in mutual respect and understanding.

In similar vein, Ethiopia's commitment to national sovereignty and self-defense has been underscored by recent statements from government officials and researchers. As tensions rise in the Horn of Africa, particularly concerning Egypt's potential military involvement in Somalia, Ethiopia asserts its readiness to defend itself against any external threats.

During a recent briefing by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was emphasized that while Somalia, as a sovereign nation, holds the right to enter into bilateral agreements

with other countries, Ethiopia will not compromise its national security.

The ministry also reiterated Ethiopia's commitment to resolving all diplomatic disputes with the Somali government peacefully.

Also on his recent stay with *The Ethiopian Herald*, Befikadu Bogale, a researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs for the Horn of Africa, shared his concerns regarding the deployment of a peacekeeping force in Somalia following the conclusion of the African Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) mandate.

Ethiopia has consistently advocated for peaceful negotiations to resolve misunderstandings with the Somali government. However, officials have made it clear that if provoked; Ethiopia stands ready to respond decisively, safeguarding its national interests and sovereignty.

The Ethiopian government calls on other nations to refrain from actions that could destabilize the region further. Ethiopia has a historical legacy of bravery and resilience, and it remains committed to protecting its sovereignty against any threats.

As Ethiopia continues its path toward prosperity, recent developments in the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) project now expanded to four operational units illustrate the country's determination to advance economically and strategically. Ethiopia remains open to collaboration with other nations, but it firmly asserts that any attempts to undermine its progress will not be tolerated.

Ethiopia's commitment to peacekeeping in the region stands firm, rooted in a deep sense of responsibility and national interest. Also, the country's leadership emphasizes the importance of diplomacy while being prepared to defend its sovereignty and national interests against any threats that may arise in the region.

BY EPHREM ENDALE

Between you & me

'Weaponized Forgiveness!'

Forgive and forget! Isn't that the nicest phrase anyone would come up with? Three cheers to whoever said is first. Of course, whether we use it frequently these days is open to a hundred-plus questions. "What why should I forgive that %^&# after all she has done to me? Do you think that I'm some brain-dead morn! And you're also telling me to forget it! You need to have your head checked!"

Just look around there are so many things which could have been solved with a simple please forgive me; I admit I was in the wrong."

"Ok I forgive you!" would have been Smalltalk the applause to which would have brought down the house. Sad we don't hear much of it these days!

Look, however nice and musical 'forgive and forget' feels and sounds the world doesn't seem to made up for such scenarios; at least the present world which is so unlike of its image of a few generations back when hate loathing arrogance vice and all the worst terms of the dictionary made it to the mainstream of life. Yes no denying it makes good stuff for small talk where you curse almost everyone around to the extent that innocent souls might ask themselves who the hell you were leaving with having practically carpet-bombed everyone.

"This guy seems to have concluded there isn't a single other person fair and fine except himself! He sounds like he has issues with almost everyone and that there was no person who

hasn't done him wrong."

"May be he has some truth."

"Truth in everyone doing him wrong?"

"I wasn't meaning that. But maybe some people did some bad thing to him and he's exaggerating things."

"And you know what the most bizarre thing about him is! He says he wouldn't forgive anyone."

Well, I think he isn't alone when it comes to that feeling. Forgiveness, despite its humane and even spiritual connotations doesn't seem a strong aspect of the world we're in. If forgiveness had even the smallest fraction impact on us I feel many disputes would have quieted down and the nose would have been much quitter that it is.

But then again it's not as easy as it sounds. You tell a guy whose family has been destroyed by some cruel person and you ask him to forgive the culprit? Wouldn't that be a little off the mark? I mean we're talking about a family completely destroyed and the culprit is probably moving around destroying other families and you ask to forgive him! You might even quote the most pacifying words from the scriptures to convince the guy to let the bygones be bygones and that might smoothen some rough edges. But still someone whose wonderful and well-functioning family was destroyed not because of his actions but the actions of someone who just isn't comfortable seeing good and well-functioning families is a very hurt person. Imagine his wife

having left him with the children and he has yet to go a long way to convince her things was all the machinations of an evil person if, and this is important, she is willing to hear him or anybody out on the issue. In such instances the evil ones craft their story so thoroughly that it is very difficult to win back those who have been carried away with the narratives.

So forgiveness for all its melancholic and heart-pleasing feeling isn't as easy as it sounds.

I brought up this after hearing some story which almost sounds a real script. There is this guy who they say has weaponized, as the most recent political narratives repeat over and over again, forgiveness as a tool. The guy so they say, was a dyed-in-the-wool borrower. The story is that he borrows from everyone who he thinks has as much of a couple of hundred and he doesn't flinch a single cell when he actually asks someone, "You know I'm in a very difficult problem. "Can you led me two thousand birr which I'll return in a couple of weeks?" And, as interesting as things turn out to be, you don't have to be his friend, his work colleague or whatever and might even haven't met him more than a couple of times while you were with friends who happened to know him. The climax which, frankly speaking, is no more a climax was that he never pays back whatever he borrowed. And this has nothing to do with the money being little or much. They say it was just that the fellow was made with such genes! He plays that innocent fellow on whom life

was dumping all its unwanted garbage and he finds it hard to stand on his two feet. The real story is this guy was you gold-medal material sort of innocent during daytime and a complete opposite once the night sets in. Almost every night of the week he either at one or another spot. Simply put he lived it up with borrowed money.

But the guy wasn't letting his guard down. He avoids places where the possibility for people who know him running into him is great. Even though his reputation has made the rounds and many had been hoodwinked by him still people keep on lending him! Even those who previously lent him and didn't get back their money lend him a second, even a third time. There are two narratives here. One is that he is such a gifted talker and knows all the right words to break people's defenses it was hard to turn down his appeals or requests. The second which I'm told has the most number of adherents was that the person was deep into the occult and that was why he mesmerized almost everyone into submission.

Now, when confronted to repay he never denies taking money. What he does was talking about how life was difficult for him and asks for forgiveness because he wasn't able to repay! And, I've to tell you to gear up, I was told many indeed forgive him! Yes they do forgive him!

Think about it, don't you think 'weaponized forgiveness' is no more a myth or something out of the world but a day to day reality?

Plans Ready! "Where Are My Money!"

About year or so back a fellow I know tells me he had a book ready for the printers. Now that was news for me. He was the last person on earth I'd have thought would write or translate any sort of book! Yes is one of those incidents which force you to lament that either this world is weirder than they say it is, or you're hopelessly out of touch and all you can do is raise your eyebrows every time something you never expected. And when a guy who doesn't talk much about books or any issue that comes close it's only human to be taken off guard. Now it's important I emphasize that he told me his book was a done deal with no ifs and buts. It was a hundred-fifty-page book about some person who he says was an active politician of yesteryears. I had no opinion because I never heard of such a guy!

Anyways, this guy wanted to ask me about the financial side of which I definitely am not anybody's best source. He says he plans to have ten thousand copies first print. Sorry what was that? Ten thousand copies? Wow! That's, I tell you, was some big "Wow!" Well at least ten thousand copies at this time when the book publishing industry was wobbling on the weakest legs any industry could be cursed with. Of course, like in anything, here too are there're exceptions. This could be misleading. By exceptions we're not talking about the quality of the actual works. Mostly exceptions happen in the form of fans and cheerleaders of whoever claims authorship of that book. The social media is bombarded with real high volumes of wonderful 'book reviews,' readers' comments and adverts so much so that you'd think here was the next Nobel Prize material! Well that is a different story.

So I tell this guy ten thousand copies was way too much in times when selling three

thousand copies in a few months is treated as news about bestseller! Believe me, the book publishing business has plummeted to such lows as if there weren't times when ten thousand copies were the least you can see. It wasn't even worthy of small talk!

"Did you ere the guy's book sold ten thousand copies?"

"And...?"

"And what?"

"And what happened after those ten thousand copies. Tell us about the reprints."

"I'm afraid I don't get you."

"Look, selling ten thousand copies is no news. You'd be laughing stock of everyone if you go around telling people that. The reprints make the days. And when they go into the forty and fifty thousands in the reprints then you've got real news."

Believe no exaggeration here. But would the fellow listen to what I've to say? The way he was talking he appeared to think that finally he has come up with the book of the decade sort of work; but what has to be said has to be said. I suggest three thousand copies were enough. He wasn't interested! He jumps in to the crux of the matter. "How much profit do you think I'll make?"

What! Getting back the printing expense is already taken for real profit and this guy he was going to break some bank! I told him I couldn't tell him that. In not so many words he hinted that he was thinking in the few hundreds of thousands birr. Now I mentioned this guy before and he had some land on which he planned to build a house. He shows me his notebook where he has written all the building

materials he needed and how much or how many of each he planned to purchase. The detail would have left you opened mouthed because the guy planed all this before getting a single cent. In fact, the most probable scenario would be he might lose maybe half or even more of the printing cost. Finally being told the real story he abandoned the project.

There was this man on the doorsteps of the sixties in the village I used to live until a few months back. He lived with a daughter in her mid-teens and a house maid. When he rarely talks you'd think his was a life neither remarkable nor conventional. It was hard to get the real picture. But one thing almost everyone knew about him was that he was an addict when it comes to buying lottery tickets. Be it the not so impressive weekly prizes or the multimillion-birr highly tempting prizes he missed absolutely not a single event. Sadly he never, I mean never, won except the consolation prizes here and there. But that never prevented him for planning what he'd do with the prize money! Especially when it came to multimillion-birr episodes he always upgraded his plans. He must have been the perfect candidate for the most optimistic soul in a world where pessimism reigns with full force.

Now there is nothing wrong with pre-planning. I mean if a young man plans what to do with the millions of birr his fiancés dad throw his way when he marries her must be a really ambitious guy. I mean hadn't it been for the mouthwatering possibility of coming into the tens of millions birr world he probably would have married his high school sweetheart by now. His fiancé's dad would give him the millions he expects; wouldn't he? Well, not always. Years back I've heard of already planned wedding

having been called off because the would-be groom was boasting all over the place he was going to marry the daughter of a very rich man and this news reached daddy. What does daddy do? He decides the young man was in only for the money and urges his daughter to call off the wedding. She did!

The guy must probably think; "Aha! I'd be saying goodbye to a lot of things and a lot of people too. I might be a nice guy but I've to stick to my new upper class once the millions flood in. Isn't that what's supposed to be? Isn't that why those who ascend the richness ladder with lightning speed just ignore all of us? It's about class dummy! Don't torture your mind to reason with their action or Google-search all those human behavior sites. The past however good I might have thought it to be wasn't that nice, In fact all those experiences which were star-studded stink!"

Say this guy is expecting a very big raise which would take his life into a completely different world, a world where money wouldn't be much of a problem. How nice that would be? Say he was sure that the highly anticipated tripling of his monthly income would come anytime. So what is wrong with planning? Nothing! Of course a second scenario of "What if things don't go as expected?" would save the guy from developing the ulcers which everyone seems to have these days.

Believe me many of us perhaps even brilliantly plan what to do with money we expect to come from somewhere. Nothing wrong with that. The problem however is that again of us fail to see the other side of the coin; and when nothing happens and not a cent makes its way to us nice would be the last word to describe our emotion; wouldn't you say?

In Pictures

PM Abiy visits China, attends the 2024 FOCAC Summit

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

PM Abiy, his delegation receive a warm welcome in China

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) with his government delegation arrived in Beijing, China on September 04, 2024 to attend the 9th edition of the 2024 Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). While the Ethiopian Government delegation led by PM Abiy arrived in Beijing, the delegation received a warm welcome by the Government of China. PM Abiy and his delegation attended the FOCAC summit and it was learnt that China has announced partnerships in ten areas of cooperation with Africa, including trade, industrial cooperation, health, agriculture, connectivity, green development, and security.

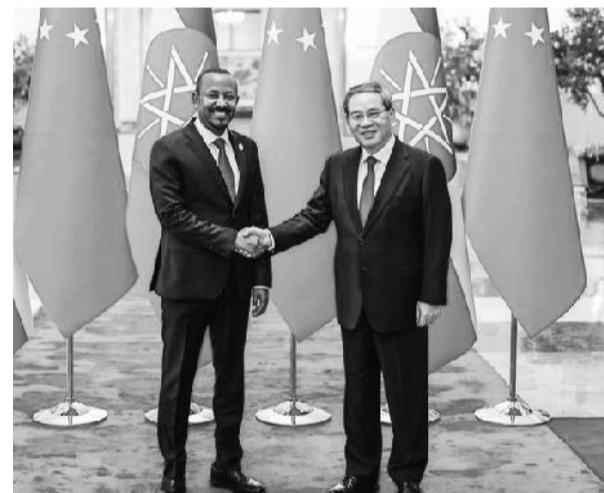


PM Abiy discusses with President Xi

During the official state visit to China, to attend the 9th edition of FOCAC summit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed met and held a discussion with the president of China, Xi Jinping on Wednesday, September 4. The two leaders meeting is their third one since August 2023. Following the discussion, PM Abiy stated that the two sides held a valuable discussion and appreciated China's continued and multifaceted support. The two countries are making significant strides in agriculture, manufacturing, industry, tourism, telecommunications and other sectors.

PM Abiy discusses with Chinese Premier

During his official state visit to China, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) also met Chinese Premier Li Qiang. The two sides discuss on exploring concrete ways to deepen Ethio-China partnership. During his discussion with Li Qiang, PM Abiy expressed his desire to strengthen agricultural cooperation and explore support for the industrialization and digitalization efforts.



PM Abiy lays wreath at China People's Heroes Monument

During his state visit to China, in addition to holding fruitful bilateral and multilateral discussions, PM Abiy Ahmed laid a wreath at the Monument to the People's Heroes. His ministerial delegation also attended the wreath laying ceremony on Wednesday.

Bill Gates visits wheat farm in Ethiopia



Bill Gates arrived in Ethiopia this week, his second visit to Ethiopia since 2019, and visited a wheat farm around Bishoftu. Following his visit, he appreciated the hard work and innovative practices used in the communities. Welcoming Bill Gates, PM Abiy appreciated the continued support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in advancing efforts in agriculture, health, and financial inclusion. Bill Gates current "visit, focusing on wheat cluster productivity and poultry farming, underscores the strengthening of the two countries' partnership as Ethiopia remains steadfast on its path toward achieving food security."