



The Ethiopian Herald

Vol. LXXXI No 028 12 October 2024 - Tikimt 2, 2017

Saturday

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Premier, Lord Collins of Highbury hold discussions

ADDIS ABABA (ENA) - Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) held discussions with Lord Collins of Highbury, the United Kingdom's Minister for Africa.

The Premier stated on social media, "I met earlier [on Friday] with Lord Collins of Highbury, the Minister for Africa, for an engaging discussion on bilateral and regional matters of mutual concern."

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Selamawit Kassa

Ethiopia gears up for major continental events in October

BY MESERET BEHAILU

ADDIS ABABA - The Government Communication Service (GCS) announced that Ethiopia is preparing to host a series of significant continental and international tourism events in October 2024.

See Ethiopia gears... Page 3

Expert groups navigate strategies towards regional, global dynamics

BY ASHENAFI ANIMUT

ADDIS ABABA - Expert groups have advocated African's to effectively align national, regional, and continental policies and strategies to foster their interests to address regional and global dynamics.

Think tankers made the above remarks on the first regional conference organized by the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) and Aljazeera Center for Studies (AJCS) aiming to address the challenges of fragility and capitalize on international competition in African common concerns under the theme: "Africa: Challenges of Fragility and Capitalizing on International Competition."

In his welcoming remark yesterday, IFA Executive Director Jafar Bedru stated that improving the cooperation opportunities between Africa and the Arab world within a competitive landscape would be the solution to address the prevailing challenges in the face of shifting regional and global dynamics.

Emphasizing the recent global geo-



economic and geopolitical dynamics shift, he stressed that these scenarios may further destabilize Africa's already fragile economy and political landscape, leading to an extensive decrease in Foreign Direct

Investment (FDI).

According to him, border crises, resource-based conflicts, governance issues, cross-border crime, violent extremism, structural violence, and

See Expert groups... Page 3

FDI flows surging after macroeconomic reform: Commission

BY YESUF ENDRIS

DUKEM - The flows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) have been on rise since the implementation of the macroeconomic reform, which adjusted the foreign exchange regime to market rates, according to the Ethiopian Investment Commission.

During a media trip to the Eastern Industry Park in Dukem, Deputy Investment Commissioner Zeleke Temesgen (PhD) briefed journalists that the number of incoming foreign investors has increased, motivated by the recently endorsed reforms.

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News

Ministry urges all to empower girls with skills

• *Marks Int'l Day of Girl*

BY MISGANAW ASNAKE

ADDIS ABABA - Urging all to encourage and empower girls with social skills to serve their country with good behavior in the future, stated Ministry of Women and Social Affairs (MoWSA)

The 2024 International Day of the Girl was marked yesterday under the theme: "Girls' Vision for the Future."

During the event, MoWSA Minister Ergoge Tesfaye (PhD) noted that all communities and states should empower girls to be self-sufficient fostering their social skills and encouraging them to serve their country with good behavior in the future.

"Their dreams for tomorrow will bear fruit in the nation-building process when we emphasize advancing girls' access to education and skills training to serve their country through such actions," she said.

"Girls need to experience a better environment throughout their lives, starting from their families and communities, compared to previous generations."

The aforementioned institutions need to minimize the obstacles that girls face today,



strengthens their roles to ensure their rights, and encourage their potential by involving them equally in all activities, she added.

She further emphasized the need to end discrimination against girls and to combat negative attitudes and stereotypes that hinder their access to education and opportunities.

"Actions to improve girls' talents, protect them from violence, and amplify their voices, choices, and participation remains

urgent and relevant."

This year's theme conveys both the necessity for urgent action and a persistent hope, driven by the power of girls' voices and their vision for the future.

She stated that young girls should receive support and attention in all areas to further develop their talents and avoid harmful traditions.



The aim of marking this day is to contribute to the ongoing discussion each year.

She said that success requires a variety of efforts and energy, navigating both the ups and downs of life. Here, girls need to guard against peer pressure that affects their lifestyles and education.

The day was marked in Ethiopia under the theme: "Working with Girls is Building a Better Nation for Tomorrow," as to her.

ICS extends issued passport validity period to ten years

BY TSEGAYE TILAHUN

ADDIS ABABA - Immigration and Citizenship Service (ICS) disclosed that it has extended the issued passport validity period from five years to ten years.

Briefing quarterly performance to media, the ICS Director-General Selamawit Dawit said that the ICS has been working passport validity extension activities from five years to ten years. It would be functional for new printing passports in the near future.

Over the past three months, the ICS issued and distributed over 367, 000 passports (97.2% of its plan) by importing 478, 000 booklets. Some 30, 212 passports are distributed to Ethiopians residing abroad. The company boosted its capacity to deliver over 7,000 passports daily, she said.

In the stated period, it managed to register 572, 236 vital registrations. It commenced e-passport production. Necessary preparations are finalized to make e-passport operational starting from January 2025. Visa sticker, Ethiopian citizenship and residence new form of identification cards preparation have been completed, she added.

As to her, the country has been



Selamawit Dawit

boosting its capacity in on arrival visa. It has serving on arrival visa for some 188 countries. Over the past three months, the country has managed to transit over 1.14 million people via air and a total of some 237, 872 transistors via land.

In its effort to ensure accessibility of visa service to customers, it offered a total of 259, 705 visa (109% of its plan) in different platforms. It awarded 5,259 permanent and temporary residence visa to foreigners.

Furthermore, as part of its branch expansion activities, preparations are finalized to opened new six branches across the country. It is expected to open ten new branches to facilitate service delivery, she noted.

Ethiopia intensifies cyber-security efforts amid rising threats

• *INSA thwarts 8,854 cyber-attack attempts*

BY HAILE DEMEKE

ADDIS ABABA – The Information Network Security Administration (INSA) has intensified its efforts to combat the increasing threat of cyber-attacks, successfully thwarting approximately 8,854 attempted breaches during the 2023/24 fiscal year.

INSA officially launched the fifth National Cyber security Month at the Science Museum yesterday, under the theme "Critical Infrastructure Security for Digital Sovereignty."

In her address, INSA Director General Tigist Hamid highlighted the growing vulnerability to cyber threats worldwide, noting that Ethiopia is not immune. In the 2022/23 fiscal year, the country faced around 6,959 attempted cyber-attacks, which were also successfully countered.

Tigist emphasized that data theft has become a daily concern and that INSA is ramping up its efforts to address the rising number of cyber threats. "This initiative aims to strengthen cyber security and protect the nation's sovereignty," she stated.

The director general warned that cyber-attacks are escalating and increasingly targeting critical institutions, including hospitals and the financial sector. INSA is dedicated to countering these threats and stresses the importance of raising awareness and enhancing human

resources focused on innovation and technology.

National Cyber security Month is part of INSA's broader strategy to educate the public about cyber security and strengthen the agency's capacity to prevent attacks. Key sectors such as financial institutions, hospitals, media, and government agencies remain particularly vulnerable.

National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE) Governor Mamo Mihertu acknowledged the significant impact of cyber security on digital infrastructure. He emphasized its crucial role in safeguarding society and underscored the need for focused attention as the country works towards achieving its Digital Ethiopia 2025 strategy.

"It is essential to strengthen human resources and focus on innovation and technology. Cyber security is critical for advancing the digital sector and is deeply integrated with the protection of infrastructure, including telecommunications, energy, finance, transportation, and healthcare," Mamo remarked.

Since its inception in 2012, Cyber security Month has been celebrated annually in Ethiopia, marking its fifth observance this year and the 21st global recognition of the initiative. In the Ethiopian context, this month serves as a vital platform for raising awareness about the importance of cyber security amid the country's increasing digital transformation.

News

UK commits 16 mln GBP for DDR program

• *To foster economic recovery in Ethiopia*

BY BILAL DERSO

ADDIS ABABA - The UK Minister for Africa, Lord Collins, has announced a 16 million GBP investment to support the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Program (NDRP), focusing on aiding over 75,000 members of the Tigray Defense Force (TDF) in transitioning to civilian life.

The initiative seeks to facilitate individual recovery and contribute to the broader economic revitalization of Tigray, with an annual allocation of 8 million GBP from 2024 to 2026.

During a visit to a demobilization camp in Mekelle, Lord Collins highlighted its importance, stating, "Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration are critical next steps in driving forward peace. We are supporting this process, helping 75,000 ethnic Tigrayans take the first step towards recovery." The NDRP will offer essential

support, including cash assistance, medical care, and mental health services, initially focusing on Tigray to strengthen national stability.

Lord Collins announced a 6.9 million GBP investment to revitalize Ethiopia's textiles and garments sector, co-financed by the German government and implemented by GIZ. The initiative aims to improve working conditions for 10,000 workers-70% of whom are women-and increase exports by 20%. "In Tigray, I've seen the benefits of peace, including businesses exporting once again to the UK," he noted, emphasizing support for industrialization to drive economic recovery.

The program will provide technical assistance to enhance productivity and ensure compliance with environmental and social standards, connecting producers with buyers and fostering partnerships with the UK and other markets. This initiative highlights the UK's commitment to Ethiopia's economic growth.

During his visit, Lord Collins will tour a factory that has recently resumed exporting garments to the UK, showcasing the benefits of UK support. He remarked, "Peace and stability are the foundations of growth-that's why we are providing vital support to help fighters in northern Ethiopia transition back into civilian livelihoods. UK support will boost the Ethiopian textile sector, creating job opportunities and driving economic recovery."

The Minister will also observe the positive impacts of UK aid on nutrition services, engage with mothers and health workers, and speak with women and girls who are survivors of conflict-related violence. In Addis Ababa, he plans to meet with Ethiopian officials, including Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, to discuss economic cooperation and the humanitarian situation.

This funding initiative is part of the UK's broader commitment to support Ethiopia's recovery, which includes a 100 GBP million

humanitarian aid package this year, with 30 million GBP specifically allocated for life-saving nutrition programs.

The UK Ambassador to Ethiopia Darren Welch emphasized the importance of these efforts, stating, "The UK is proud to play a leading role in supporting the Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration process, an important step in progressing the Pretoria Agreement and for Ethiopia's path towards sustainable peace."

Through these initiatives, the UK aims to foster sustainable development and inclusive growth in Ethiopia, reinforcing its role as a key partner in the country's journey toward recovery and stability, Ambassador Welch remarked.

In related developments, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) held discussions with Lord Collins yesterday. Following the meeting, Abiy stated, "We had an extensive discussion on various issues of mutual interest."

Expert groups...

insurgencies have contributed to internal crises and external insecurities posing significant threats to national and regional security.

"These challenges have led to the prevalence of weak institutions, which is a key factor in state fragility in Africa hindering effective development," he added.

Furthermore, the growing competition and influence of global and regional powers directly impact the security dynamics of states across the continent and lead to proxy warfare and unnecessary interstate tensions, he noted.

Aljazeera Center for Studies Research Manager Ezzedine Abdelmoula (PhD) echoed that it is highly critical to strengthen the common denominators between the IFA and Aljazeera center for studies commonalities and partnership to march on a long journey to withstand the substantial regional pressing issues and networking capabilities prominently.

He reiterated institutional partnership

and collaboration in Africa and common understanding to bring about implementable recommendations and insights to the decision makers.

He said, adding that: "We need to have a unified vision to reshape African narratives and African's dynamism."

Given the expertise and various think tanks in the continent, Ezzedine remarked that Africa is being tempting for international actor's competition because of its immense natural and human resources to leverage in the form of regional and global engagements.

He said: "The internal competition in every direction of the continent in national and continental agendas and some unholy alliances that lead to conflict and proxy. Besides, piracy, authoritarianism, proxy wars worsen the volatility in the region."

He said this conference would also shed light on the region's vast opportunity and lessen the degrees of tensions in Africa and solidify via bilateral and multilateral and development.

Ethiopia gears...

In a briefing for journalists yesterday, GCS's State Minister, Selamawit Kassa, confirmed that Ethiopia will host the Confederation of African Football (CAF) conference from October 15 to 17 in Addis Ababa. This event is pivotal for Ethiopia's ambition to host the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) in 2029 and is expected to enhance the country's tourism profile while showcasing its warm culture.

"Constructing sports infrastructure is essential to successfully host the upcoming AFCON 2029," she noted.

Additionally, Ethiopia will host the 3rd African Defense Ministers Meeting from October 21 to 22, which aims to highlight the country's role in fostering peace and security across the African continent and beyond.

Selamawit also announced the inaugural "World without Hunger Conference," scheduled for October 26, where Ethiopia will showcase its initiatives on food security, the Green Legacy Initiative, and

climate action. Over 1,500 participants from all African countries and 30 international organizations are expected to attend.

The state minister recalled Ethiopia's successful celebration of national, religious, historical, and cultural events in September, including *Enkutatash* (Ethiopian New Year), *Demera* (burning of a large bonfire), *Meskel* (The Finding of the True Cross), and *Irreechaa* (Oromo Thanksgiving).

Recognizing September and October as critical months for promoting tourism, Selamawit mentioned the recent launch of the "Tourism Satellite Account" by the Ministry of Tourism. This internationally recognized framework measures the positive impact of tourism and its contributions to the national economy.

"The Tourism Satellite Account will serve as a vital resource for evidence-based policy-making, strategic planning, and maximizing economic benefits," she stated. Selamawit emphasized Ethiopia's successful diplomatic role at both regional and global levels.



FDI flows...

"The Commission is receiving investment proposals from investors of various nationalities, and several investment licenses are expected to be issued soon," Zeleke stated.

Companies that have already been operating for several years are also expanding their business, addressing past challenges through government initiatives and the benefits of the reform, he added.

Dagato Kunbie, another Deputy Commissioner at the Investment Commission, emphasized that legal reforms allowing foreign investors to engage in wholesale and retail trading have also been well-received.

"We have been receiving many requests from foreign investors following the announcement of this reform, and several companies will soon enter the local market," he remarked.

He further noted that the government

remains committed to supporting foreign investors who make significant contributions to the local market.

The Commission received 72 new investment proposals during the past three months, marking a 12 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Chinese firms, predominantly engaged in industrial production and supplying goods to the local market, have also praised the reform.

De Yifan, General Director of Linda-Ethiopia Garment, stated that his company is overcoming the foreign exchange shortage following the reform.

"The macroeconomic reforms have created a better business environment, allowing us to produce more efficiently," De Yifan said. Linda-Ethiopia Garment supplies its products to the local market, substituting imports, *The Ethiopian Herald* was learnt.

Editorial

Remarkable success amidst challenges

Ethiopia, known as a birth place of coffee, is registering inspiring success in upgrading the production capacity of the crop and accelerating its foreign currency earnings by marketing the product.

According to the Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Authority, the country earned more than 1.4 billion US Dollar in the completed budget year from coffee supplied to the world market. In the last September alone, 22,000 tons of coffee was exported to the foreign market and 90 million US Dollar was earned.

If it is possible to record the result of the current record, as of the Authority's Director General Adugna Debela, then it is possible to achieve the plan of the current fiscal year that is to earn 1.8 billion US Dollar by supplying 326,000 tons of coffee to the foreign market.

True, since coffee is among the pillars of the country's economy, the progress made in its production reflects that reality. The effort exerted to increase coffee production bears fruit, as to Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, accomplishing the remarkable feat of producing 1 million tons, and domestic consumption has also risen significantly.

Being one of the most chosen hot beverages across the globe, coffee stands intact serving Ethiopia's economy as a backbone. It is among the leading export products of Ethiopia preferred by many for its special taste. It takes the lion's share in earning foreign currency for Ethiopia so that the effort made for the progress of its production is considered as the most valuable one.

Coffee is one of the most popular non-alcoholic beverages globally, prized for its aroma and caffeine content. Besides, it is the second-most-exported commodity in the world after oil. It is among the highly consumed products. More recently, the most devout coffee drinkers are found all over the world map. In the United States, annual consumption per capita is about 4.7 kilograms. The average person in the U.S. consumes about three cups of coffee per day, documents indicate. These are few indications how coffee is the lovely product across the globe.

Though the success Ethiopia registered in coffee production and marketing is remarkable, it is far away of the country's potential so that more effort is needed to expand its cultivation. Without violating greening the planet with forest, coffee plantation can be performed in wide areas of the country.

In addition to increasing the amount of the product, efficient logistics are essential to the country's coffee value chain and value addition remains crucial focus for the country. It needs great effort to provide processed coffee to the world market. However, the outcome will be rewarding; the effort exerted, the finance invested and the time allocated is not wastage. The country earns more foreign currency from value added coffee export than exporting first hand product or raw coffee.

In doing so, the country will improve its rank at the global level in coffee marketing. It deserves such privilege because it is the origin of the bean. Moreover, coffee production is considered as part of agriculture, the nation's economic mainstay. For the country striving to be among the middle income countries, like Ethiopia, exploiting its resources fully is not optional; rather it is a preferred move to secure economic sovereignty via eradicating poverty and succeeding food self sufficiency. In a nutshell, moving forward, Ethiopia must dedicate itself to hard work and innovation to sustain and expand the success registered so far in coffee production and marketing.

Opinion

Ethiopia's strides in fostering the growth of digital economy

BY STAFF REPORTER

With about 10 million people already registered, the Fayda Digital Id is becoming a vibrant facilitator of the digital economic growth activity in the country. Now that the government has started a month long campaign to extend about a million digital ids in Addis Ababa alone the initiative is expected to boost the growth of not only the digital economy but also the overall economic and social development as it serves as a common platform for many sectors.

Digital identification of citizens is a vital step in ensuring multiple benefits of citizens in economic and social development as well as respecting human rights and good governance.

The modern world is undergoing a digital revolution with significant implications for the economic and social fabric. As in the case of previous waves of technological innovation, digital technologies create conditions for the transformation of socio-economic relations. The development of the Internet of

Things (IoT) can make workplaces and transportation systems safer, cities more livable. Broadband networks and online applications are used for communication, shopping, travel and work, as well as to create completely new business models and markets.

In recent years, the digital economy has become a new economic form after the agricultural and industrial economies. Digital technologies, typically represented by the Internet, big data, 5G, artificial intelligence, accelerate the deep integration with industries, bringing the world into the era of digital economy. The digital economy provides numerous benefits, which have contributed to its rapid expansion and positive effect on a variety of industries: Increased productivity. Businesses can improve their productivity and efficiency by using digital technology to automate their operations and processes.

The digital economy is based on electronic goods and services produced by e-commerce, an enterprise with electronic production and management processes that interacts with its partners and customers and conducts transactions via the Internet and networked communication technologies. With a growing population and a mobilization of resources, the digital economy is not limited to commerce and services that touch all aspects of life, from healthcare

to education, from business to banking.

One of the basic needs of human beings is housing. But at this moment extending the opportunity for housing is very difficult due to the high price of construction and materials. Therefore governments like that of Ethiopia enter in to schemes of distributing low cost houses for registered residents.

However at a time when there is no system of registering and identifying citizens in a regular and uniform system will create troubles as many people may attempt to engage in fraud so as to benefit from this meager opportunity. IF people are able to have multiple registrations of identity documents, it would be easier for them to do misconducts like fraud.

The digital identification of citizens can guarantee smooth and relatively flawless distribution of such resources to the citizens who need it the most.

The other vital intervention of digital economy in the overall economic and social development of a country like Ethiopia is the immense role it plays in speeding up financial inclusion. It is known that vast majority of the country's population lacks access to financial inclusion. As a result many people remain at bay from the finance and economic development of the country.

One of the main reasons for the failure to expand financial inclusion of the citizens is the inability to spread financial institutions and their infrastructure to all corners and homesteads across the nation. In this regard the digital system especially the digital identification plays decisive role.

Along with promoting digital payment system, the digital id system as well as the overall digital infrastructure pave the way for providing financial service access, collateral, data source ... etc.

The digital economy can also play a pivotal role in securing people's rights and ensuring good governance as it can provide a platform where people can get efficient public service, encourage transparency and accountability which in turn eliminates corruption and mal administration.

Ethiopia's stride in promoting digital economy also falls within this wave of global digital economic trend which lays the foundation for economic and social development that can have far reaching impact in the daily lives of the grassroots.

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



The Ethiopian Herald

Established in 1943

Published daily except Mondays
By The Ethiopian Press Agency

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Whether illegal migrant or legal migrant we need to protect and respect their right

- Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma
Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at African Union Commission

BY ZEKARIAS WOLDEMARIAM

Migration is not a new phenomenon in the history of human society. It has been part and parcel of people's life and is also an integral factor in fostering civilization and development. Migration is said to be a positive factor when it is managed properly and safely. Otherwise those who would benefit by themselves and their nation by migrating abroad, working hard and sending money back home would be victims of criminal activities like trafficking, labor abuse and organ harvesting.

In order to alleviate these problems and promote global standards for global migration governance the world has adopted a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in 2018. Several countries including Ethiopia have implemented the GCM and are showing progress in domesticating the documents which helps to realize a safe, orderly and regular migration.

Today's Herald Guest is Ambassador Minata Samate Cessouma who is the Commissioner for Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development at African Union Commission. Ambassador Samaté is a Burkinabe National with over thirty (30) years of experience in International relations, Diplomacy, Governance and Peace and Security, Humanitarian and Social Affairs. During her stay with The Ethiopian Herald she elaborated on how migration can assist economic and social development in the continent, how problems surrounding migration in Africa can be addressed and the role of continental free trade area as well as unity in building the Africa We Want. Reiterating that migrant right is a human right Ambassador Samate Cessouma notes that Africans need to unite and speak in one voice "to build the Africa We Want" Have a nice read!



How can migration be taken as a catalyst for development in Africa?

In Africa we used to move; migration is not new. We have more Africans moving within Africa than going abroad. Because the media doesn't give positive perspectives about migration, migration doesn't have good reputation. It's seen as a source of difficulties, an impediment to progress. But the reality is quite different. Migration in itself is not a problem. It all depends on how it's managed. If well managed, there are definite advantages to migration for Countries of origin, transit and destinations. The migrant contributes to the development of the host country with his daily expenses and to his country of origin mainly by remittances. It's known that in many African countries, the remittances are higher than international aids for development. Can you imagine that? This can massively contribute to the development of our nations, as it signifies the importance of migration and its contribution to our continent. Migrants have an important role to play in the realization of the Africa We Want.

If migration can contribute to development

what are the factors hindering the safe and orderly movement or migration of people especially in Africa?

The difficulty we have now is this irregular migration. Hence, the importance of this Global Compact for Migration (GCM) to ensure that we have safe, orderly and regular migration. We are working in tandem with our partners to sustain regular migration, it's a multi-stakeholder work. Countries of origin should ensure the safety of our citizens traveling abroad, that will help us deal with the difficulty of missing migrants. Most missing migrants fall victims of what we call "modern day slavery" by traffickers, how can human beings experience such kinds of inhumane treatment in the 21st century? Of course, what's of greater concern are the women migrants; they are manhandled, raped, infected with diseases, get unwanted pregnancies and children. That is why it is important to rapidly implement this GCM, by domesticating and including it in our national strategies for the protection of our people.

The Africa Union Commission encourages its member states to intensify advocacy of the many strategies we adopted to

I reiterate that migrants' rights are human rights and must be respected and protected, whether legal or illegal migrants. Migrants are human beings. Africa must work together to protect its citizens

enlighten the youth especially, so they do not fall for the tricks of traffickers that present them with juicy but fake offers of getting them better life abroad. I reiterate that migrants' rights are human rights and must be respected and protected, whether legal or illegal migrants. Migrants are human beings. Africa must work together to protect its citizens; they cannot be captured as "modern day slaves" somewhere. In addition to the violation of their rights, the other crime happening is "organ trafficking". When our migrants disappear, it's imperative to make all efforts to find them. They can't just disappear in the world? We have to draw global attention on this issue of organ trafficking: African migrants have become "spare parts". This shouldn't continue. It's unworthy for human beings. We need to be respected. As an African, I am condemning this, and categorically state that this is unacceptable and untenable. The African Union is working with its member states to adopt pathways to bring to an end these very horrible acts perpetrated against our citizens. We will do everything possible to find solution to this problem.

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If educated and working citizens of Africa are encouraged to leave and work outside the continent, what makes it different from brain drain?

We are human beings and accepting better job offers is part of us, however, seeing our best brains leave the continent and not returning is sad. But, then also, the level of salaries in Africa is problematic, which culminate to the growing poverty in our countries. We need to boost economic development, ensure fair remuneration to maintain our trained professionals, that is where the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has a critical role to play. A free trade area leads the way on how we can work together to build the Africa We Want. Furthermore, the agriculture sector is suffering from a lack of interest, regarded as a non-gratifying job, which is not true. In my culture we say that the land never lies. If you work hard and smart you can earn the benefits. I am a daughter of a farmer and I know what I am talking about. I used to farm as a young girl, and I'm well aware about the benefits you can obtain. We can turn the fortunes of our youth around by introducing and training them in mechanized farming. We should also ensure the remunerations and incentives of our trained professionals are something better to encourage them to stay and build Africa. Above all, I think the education curriculum in Africa must be looked at, we need to educate an African fit for the 21st century and that's our theme of year for 2024.

What are African countries doing to retain the workforce in the continent?

Retaining the workforce requires a multi-sectorial and integrated approach. The AfCFTA as mentioned is part of the solution. It is steered in a way that, small and medium scale enterprises, informal sector, and anybody working, will have a benefit, our citizens from Cape to Cairo, Banjul to Zanzibar can easily do business and trade together in Africa without difficulties. This is a big project with a combined GDP of 3 trillion dollars, and we are certain it will contribute to the massive economic development of the continent, to the physical benefits of every single person. The Executive Secretary of this secretariat is an inspiring young leader and he is performing well. He deserves the necessary support to succeed. Various governments of member states are also putting in place relevant measures to keep their best talents at home, here in Africa. Together we shall succeed; nobody will come and build the Africa We Want. If we don't do it ourselves, we are wasting our time.

Mostly, destination countries choose educated and experienced at once. What about the others?

People need decent work which they

The GCM emphasizes the need for nation states to prevent human trafficking by addressing the root causes, including lack of education. It calls for special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, like those with low levels of education, ensuring they have access to information and resources



cannot have in their own country. The most important thing is for government to create enabling environments and provide the structures for the private sector to set up businesses. By so doing, the economy grows, and provides various avenues with better opportunities. Our citizens won't even bother to look at any offer if they have all these great openings at their door steps. We should also inculcate the sense of nationalism and patriotism, not everyone must travel abroad. The grass is greener where it is watered. I insist on the necessity of sacrifice, if we are to build our countries for better.

There are victims of human trafficking that also could not get educational opportunities like those who interrupted from high school, or University, or those who don't like housemates. Is there any way through which this Global compact can address them?

The GCM emphasizes the need for nation states to prevent human trafficking by addressing the root causes, including lack of education. It calls for special attention to the needs of vulnerable groups, like those with low levels of education, ensuring they have access to

information and resources. The ball is in our court, i.e. Africa. Again member states must domesticate it and implement it, with the support of UN and our social partners. In doing so, I will say second chances, everyone deserves that, and we can provide opportunities for everybody in different streams. Interrupting the school is not doomed to fate. If I don't have the opportunity to go to school, I can do something else with my 10 fingers. Talents has made a lot of people successful than we think. Also, Africa should take charge based on its priorities that will enable us to reject any kind of imposition because we already have our plan and interest. We can succeed in what we need for our continent and we know what it is. But we cannot do that without being united, disunity is the problem. We are not talking with one voice. And, that must change, if we ever want to be completely free. This is very important for Africa. For a peaceful, integrated Africa, with jobs for our youth and women, and a healthy population, we need to be united, come together and work as one for our common vision, the Africa We Want.

Thank you very much for your time!

Opinion

Viable boulevard for mutual growth

BY MENGESHA AMARE

In the era of 21st century when nations have developed firm commitment to address woes of the planet, the issue of commonly utilizing trans-boundary waters should never be a source of objection and rivalry. For instance, the Nile watercourse, which is considered to be the longest in the world and crosses ten states whose combined populations constitute 40% of the entire population of Africa, needs to be used through amalgamation and sense of fraternity.

Yes, the source of the Blue Nile, which constitutes 86% of the volume of the Nile, is Ethiopia, and the contribution of the White Nile is shared amongst Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The two lower riparian states, Egypt and Sudan, are traversed by the Nile that joins in Khartoum. The states through which the Nile passes need the Nile primarily for irrigation and, in varying degrees, for hydroelectric power generation, domestic use, transportation, industrial consumption. This natural bounty has to be utilized equitably following the mood of amity.

However, unfortunately, since the Nile basin is characterized by high population growth, poverty, food insecurity, environmental degradation, water scarcity and on top of it all, the potential for conflict over water is highly likely and vividly witnessed.

This sentiment needs to be altered and the Nile has to be source of cooperation in place of confrontation. Despite the enormous potential of the Nile, the riparian countries have been experiencing massive poverty and food insecurity that needs to be prettily addressed for common growth.

Since the riparian countries in particular and the entire continent in general do have one of the lowest accesses to energy, their developmental potential is reduced.

Yes, as an alarming population growth, the injudicious and incomprehensive legal relations, inequitable use of water resources, interstate relations that are marred with suspicion and misunderstanding would lead to conflict and rivalry, it is high time for all nations to devise possible solutions to the problems by establishing firm cooperation.

With a view to addressing all these and the not yet problems, the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework of Agreement (CFA) was ratified by the legislatures of Ethiopia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi and South Sudan, the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework of Agreement (CFA) has taken an implementation phase and will be overtaken by the Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC), which is duty bound to lead cooperation and projects of reciprocated importance.

A framework agreement is an umbrella agreement which a party enters into with one or more suppliers, who may be contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers or consultants to

establish the terms governing a long term relationship during which one or more contracts may be awarded by the employer to the suppliers.

The manuscript of the Cooperative Framework Agreement (CFA) outlines principles, rights and obligations for cooperative management and development of the Nile Basin water resources.

For this purpose, the establishment of a permanent institutional mechanism, the Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC) was made true. The Commission in turn would serve to promote and facilitate the implementation of the CFA and to facilitate cooperation among the Nile Basin States in the conservation, management and development of the Nile River Basin and its waters.

It has also included a large part well established customary principles of international water law; the principle of equitable and reasonable utilization, the obligation not to cause significant harm, and the principle of protection and conservation of the river's ecosystem, by which Ethiopia has long been abide.

The good thing is the establishment of the Commission would foster actions to succeed to the rights, obligations and assets of the NBI.

Yes, the Nile Basin Initiative is an intergovernmental partnership of ten Nile Basin countries, and the only basin-wide institution mandated to facilitate the cooperative development and management of the shared Nile resources on behalf of the 10 Member States. It would help them achieve sustainable socio-economic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from, the common Nile Basin water resources. It would also facilitate basin cooperation, water resources management, water resources development, among others.

It is not exaggeratedly elucidated that Ethiopia has all the time reiterated its unwavering aspiration for an equitable and reasonable use of water resources for its development endeavors; to mean the country is striving to ensure sustainable development through the effective water utilization.

Taking the principal role of energy supply in achieving sustainable development that benefits fellow citizens into account; Ethiopia has so far been committed to meet its energy needs using renewable sources such as hydropower entertaining fair and reasonable fashion.

Unequivocally, Ethiopia has no intention of harming any country, other than running activities to utilize its water resources fairly and responsibly to ensure real progress. The case of the Grand Abbay Dam is an exemplary move along this line. The Dam offers substantial benefits to downstream countries beyond Ethiopia as it precludes the farm lands, human and animal lives of some riparian countries from being destroyed. If truth be told, the Dam is a potential to serve

as a center of cooperation and fraternity.

Yes, the development of the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework of Agreement (CFA) helps pave the way for the vision of communal growth to come into force.

Besides, as mushrooming population growth, droughts, and famines generated ever-greater water needs in the Nile Basin in the era of 21st century, the amplified calls generated by upstream nations for the proliferation of a new legal framework has to be wholeheartedly acknowledged for golden common opportunities. They are expected to seek to get the agreement well deposited.

True, the agreement is really a forward-looking concord that can be a viable weapon to emancipate the content in general and riparian nations in particular from poverty and lack of coordination.

The CFA also incorporates the notion of benefit sharing within its principle of equitable and reasonable utilization and provides countries with a bundle of benefits.

Considering the geography of the Nile Basin, although upstream water utilization does not affect other upstream states, implementing the CFA with the active involvement of Egypt and Sudan would add a momentous value, indeed! Hence, a basin-wide agreement on the Nile Basin has to be accorded so as to govern the interests of both upstream and downstream states regarding the use, allocation, and management of the Nile watercourse.

No doubt, CFA presents the best option for institutional basin-wide cooperation. CFA's potential for fostering basin-wide cooperation depends on the inclusion of all Nile Basin States though it is a significant step towards cooperative management of the Nile watercourse. Besides, the impending entry into force of the CFA is no doubt a landmark development for upstream States. Here, ensuring the participation of Egypt and Sudan is of paramount importance in fostering sustainable management of the Nile watercourse.

The good thing is South Sudan's ratification of the Agreement on the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework (CFA) marks a significant step for Ethiopia's water diplomacy and its proposal for the fair utilization of Nile water. Yes, fair utilization of the Abbay (Nile) water is a milestone demonstrates that Ethiopia is reversing the longstanding hegemonic utilization of the Nile water through diplomacy.

The very point that needs to be taken into account in this regard is all the riparian countries have to garner opportunities like the huge and still untapped potential for hydropower generation and power trade, food production, navigation and intra-basin trade in agriculture.

Yes, there is also a young, dynamic and fast growing populations offer opportunities for labor, and commodity markets in all countries, of course. All the opportunities

gained from cooperation have to be well exploited for regional integration through navigation, tourism development, agricultural trade, power integration, etc via establishing fraternity and amicable way of administering and managing the Nile waters.

Currently, decisions on the development, management and use of water resources are essentially taken within the riparian-states as per the respective national systems of water governance in place. However, the implications of such developments tend to be trans-boundary in nature, i.e., environmental degradation, pollution, decline in downstream flows, which are exacerbated by climate change impacts.

The Basin requires approaches that take a basin wide or regional perspective, effective ways of coordination and decision making among member states to effectively address the challenges as it is really high time to make change so.

There is a dire need indeed for a coordinated and well-directed approach to maximize the effectiveness of the effort, to minimize duplication and maximize complementarily. Despite some progress there is still a major gap in due course of applying the essences of the CFA as some of, a few of course, countries are lagging behind the state of ratifying and the proper implantation of CFA, which was born to NBI.

Coordination between/among all riparian/regional players is critical for achieving the benefits, through optimizing synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts seems trying.

As the Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement might be better fruitful with holding Egypt and the Sudan's consent, the two countries have better come to the right track and foster the proliferation of a common benefit.

Undeniably, the upper and lower riparian states have become more moderate in articulating their interests, especially since the launching of the Nile Basin Initiative.

To make situation safe and the vision of CFA would come true, Egypt needs to give up its claim of historic rights as the Nile water is the wealth of all riparian states.

In a nutshell, the Nile River Basin Commission (NRBC) is expected to serve to promote and facilitate the implementation of the CFA and to facilitate cooperation among the Nile Basin States in the conservation, management and development of the Nile River Basin and its waters. Hence, the member countries which are reflecting antagonistic gesture regarding the cooperation have to seize the right track and enjoy benefiting out of common water resources.

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

Law & Politics

Ethiopia's diplomatic position in the words of the new president

BY FITSUM GETACHEW

After the end of the term of President Sahle-Work Zewde the first female president since Ethiopia became a republic and the fourth in total, a new president was sworn in when the joint session of the House of Peoples Representatives and the House of the Federation was held on October 7, 2024. The new president is Ambassador Taye Atske Selassie who just as the former president is a seasoned diplomat and has served his country for more than forty years in various positions including most recently the Ethiopian Ambassador to the United Nations and lately the Ethiopian Foreign Minister. He has extensive diplomatic experience dealing with Ethiopia's relations with other countries. He is familiar with the issues and the ins and outs of diplomacy and the intricate nature of bilateral and multilateral relations. Just recently when he was at the UN representing Ethiopia and responding to every unfounded allegation made by certain countries regarding the issue of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, GERD, Ambassador Taye responded brilliantly earning the appreciation and admiration of Ethiopians and friends of Ethiopia.

It is known that Ethiopia has always been an active country in the diplomatic sphere of the world particularly in the African diplomatic arena. Ethiopia's active diplomatic engagement in the world at large has earned it reputation and credibility. Its various engagements with international organizations such as the UN have been appreciated and recognized by all actors in the international arena. From its fundamental role in establishing the Organization of African Unity, OAU, then turned to be called the African Union, AU, in its capital city Addis Ababa and other regional organizations such as IGAD, the Inter Governmental Agency for Development, Ethiopia has always played a huge role in diplomatic ventures across the world. For instance it was the only African country that was part of the League of Nations in 1923 thanks to the insistence of the then Regent of Ethiopia Tafari Mekonnen who was later to be crowned Emperor Haile Selassie and was to earn the respect of all African nations and the world for having predicted the second world war if small countries were allowed to invade aggressively without any consequences. The speech he made at the League of Nations in Geneva denouncing the unprovoked invasion of Ethiopia by the aggressive Fascist Regime of Mussolini was appreciated by all those who stood by the side of Ethiopia. By so doing he conquered the hearts of all black peoples of the world.

During the first address to the joint session of the sixth year and fourth tenure of the House of Representatives and the House of Federation as well as the Ethiopian people at large, the new president of Ethiopia

Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie outlined Ethiopia's priorities and positions in its diplomatic opening to the region of the Horn of Africa as well as generally to the wider world. President Taye reiterated Ethiopia's wish and commitment to live in peace with all its neighbours and other countries in an atmosphere of the respect of other countries' sovereignty and interests with the principle of give and take. Talking about Ethiopia's legitimate and peaceful request to have access to the sea, he noted that it sounds inconceivable that a country such as Ethiopia with about 130 million people most of whom are young should be confined or condemned to be land locked when there is vast sea shore within a few kilometers to its borders.

He said Ethiopia's efforts to secure alternative ports and access to sea through a give and take approach will continue. He added, Ethiopia's efforts in this regard will continue unabated employing a strategic approach that prioritizes mutual benefit and cooperation. Ethiopia has ambitious plans to strengthen its position in the global stage. He highlighted the importance of forging strong alliances and partnerships particularly with nations possessing maritime capabilities. The president explained that the efforts Ethiopia began in pursuit of port and access to sea using this alternative approach have been strengthened and will proceed in strong manner. He also mentioned that the work to strengthen and increase the number of Ethiopia's allies and partners is being conducted with great attention. Peace, security, regional integration, economic matters and shared benefits are among the priorities of Ethiopia's diplomatic principles and paths. Ethiopia has signed the MOU with Somaliland establishing the foundation for the effort to secure port and access to the sea through the principle of give and take.

Ethiopia has always worked to have peaceful and friendly relations with its neighbours and has always respected the sovereignty of other nations but in the case of Ethiopia signing a memorandum of understanding with Somaliland, a de facto state, it does not constitute a contradiction with its principles of the respect of other countries' sovereignty. The president said Ethiopia strives for peace, security and mutual prosperity in the Horn of Africa and this arrangement with Somaliland underlines Ethiopia's drive to the contribution of not only to the economic development of Ethiopia enhanced due to access to the sea but also contributes to regional integration as planned and programmed by the chief African organisation, the AU and other regional bodies such as IGAD, COMESA and others formed to amplify exchange of trade and commercial relations with all African nations. It is to be recalled that African nations have also ratified the AfCFTA, the continental free trade area that would link 1.3 billion people in exchanges of goods and services amounting to the biggest

signing of the MOU with Somaliland to have access to the sea is based on mutual benefit with Ethiopia exerting every effort to reduce the tension that has come due to this development.

Besides Ethiopia is also pursuing diplomatic activities to resolve the conflict in Sudan because Ethiopia is a close friend and ally of Sudan that goes beyond simple relations between close neighbours. One can say that Ethiopia and Sudan are the same people even if they have different names and the relations between the two nations have been excellent along the years with more economic integration. Many Ethiopians have had safe haven in Sudan when there were dangers that would drive them outside Ethiopia such as when the military regime in the nineteen seventies and eighties were persecuting opposition forces in the country. The same has happened when there were turmoil of all types and Sudanese people were sure to have safe haven in Ethiopia.

Talking about recent diplomatic successes of Ethiopia, the new president has mentioned Ethiopia's close ties with China whose relations with Ethiopia have been elevated to the status of All Weather Strategic Partnership. Ethiopia has also undertaken close relations with the Gulf countries that have political, economic and military capabilities. Besides by joining the BRICS economic powerhouse President Taye said Ethiopia has strengthened its diplomatic clout in the world. It is to be recalled that Ethiopia's application to join BRICS has been accepted after relevant consideration by the founding member countries of BRICS and along with Ethiopia Egypt has also been admitted to it from Africa beside Ethiopia along with Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Ethiopia is looking forward to expand its trade relations with these huge economies at relatively better terms and have access to huge capital that would help it continue with its fast development trajectory.

Talking about the National Dialogue Commission which has been operating since two years ago, the president said it shows Ethiopia's commitment to ensure peace in all aspects and contributes to the nation building process. The Commission has already started work by gathering agenda items in Addis Ababa and other regional states. It has invited every organisation and political parties including those in the rural areas who have been expressing their disagreement with the government to come forward to discuss their issues freely and candidly because the Commission tries to create a consensus in the country so that there will not be obstacles that can potentially retard its development and growth. A united country is always less exposed to political and even military vulnerability to foreign actors' intervention in its internal affairs. A united Ethiopia can also score more diplomatic successes.

‘Peace, security, regional integration, economic matters and shared benefits are among the priorities of Ethiopia’s diplomatic principles and paths

free trade area of the world. Such moves would enhance the continent's influence in the world and hand it the necessary clouts to deal with other countries in non African continents.

As the president said Ethiopia will always continue with its efforts towards ensuring peace and security as well as ascertaining mutual prosperity. Ethiopia prioritizes the peace and security of its neighbours and mutual prosperity as well as focusing on regional economic integration. The

Society

Higher education with a purpose: Arba Minch University's commitment to community service

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

The exceeding responsibility and obligation of higher institutions is enriching quality education to citizens equally and to produce a productive and ethical generation. Beyond this major obligation higher institutions are expected to shine for the society they are placed in. Since education is the key for solving a problem at the hand of the society, the scientific research and technological applications for tackling challenges is mainly expected from higher institutions. That is why higher institutions have inculcated their role and responsibility to be based on solving the troubles of the people that clutches them around.

Arba Minch University, which is located in the Southern part of Ethiopia Gamo Zone had posited its mission and vision with the greater emphasis on community service. As one of the research universities that is ranked by the Ministry of Education, it prioritizes its service to stem from conducting problem solving research and advancing technologies for better service. The Ethiopian Herald had a time with the university's president Dr. Damtew Derza and the Vice President for Research and Community Service Prof. Behailu Merdekios. For this article the interview made with the president is presented under.

The president confirmed that the university is basically working on producing effective and competent graduates in almost all fields of study. Regarding the potential of the instructors and technical assistants, the university is maximizing various opportunities for further education both in the country and abroad. He said, "Within the past eight years, the profile of teachers is boosting up. Currently, about 180 teachers are PhD holders. In our university the lowest level of teachers' educational status particularly in Health Campus is MA degree. This showed that the potential of teachers in conducting valuable scientific research is higher in quality. In relation to this there are full time researchers who are contributing immense scientific solutions to our people's problem. As a research university, the institute had seven research centers which coexist with educational phases of each discipline. In addition to this we have research works that are conducted in cooperation with institutions located in the country and outside the country. The university had its own five journals that published articles as per their quality and relevance. We are working on accrediting these journals to zoom them up at the country and international level. Thus the potential of research and budgeting is progressing through time."

The president also reminded that since the university is a pioneer university in water technology, it had 10 PhD programs that are opened in the field's specialization. Including other disciplines the institute had 34 PhD programs which are actively under-



Photo: Hadush Abreha

function. He said that the journal on water technology is qualified at the country level. They are working to enable this journal to meet the international standard.

Damtew explained that the research gist in the university is made in line with the goal and need of the country's development. That way pure and applied research has been done by specialists from different subjects. Thus in the annual research programs research which aimed at solving an immediate and tangible problem of the society gets priority and funded and supported ahead.

The president said, "Regarding community service we had the principle of society ties or 'Mahibereseb Gudgnit'. In this regard the people in the area had an advantage to get education. 70 to 60 percent out of the registered students, the said amount is allotted for the nearby learners. Thus the number of educated and highly qualified workers in the area is greater in various offices. This had its own great share for the country." As his words showed the university has been giving higher attention to educational sectors. As per the plan of the government in the town there is a higher education center of excellence. According to the president the university is contributing much of the work and burdens of this school. It provides training and follow up and assisting inputs, and other support for its better function. The university also gave professional aids like organizing laboratories, giving training and other support to high schools in the town.

As Damtew explained, since the responsibility of universities is to investigate the problem and show solutions to problems through research and create technological transformation, the university is shifting its concern to these pillars. Thus, in collaboration with six joint institutions located in Belgium, the university has taught 34 PhD graduates for bringing better knowledge and experience to the

university and to the society. The nature of these institutions is different because after the completion of the PhD dissertation the finding of the research had continuity to be applied for the development of the society in the area. For example two PhD studies were done on the known food plant in the region called *Enset*. In their study the university detected the presence of this plant's variety of species and the causes of its damage or disease since it is mostly infected with disease. In addition to that they studied how to improve the production capacity of this plant in the area. Damtew said, "One research particularly showed that the improvement of the production of *Enset* in this area is a key to improve the livelihood of the society in various ways. This did mean that since the southern and central part of the country that mounts up to 20 million people are going to improve their life if the plant is kept and produced scientifically. With this regard we had a research institute that works on it called *Enset Prank* in which there are 60 *Enset* varieties located at Chench. Among these varieties we are examining which variety is appropriate and more useful for the society and how it can easily be processed with less effort and time is our concern. Thus as part of the location we are primarily working on the plant to transform the people's life and contribute our own share for the development plan of the country."

As the first water technology institute in the country, research designs and projects in the regional and country level are advised and conducted with the support of the university. Besides this the institute has been constructing various projects like addressing sanitized water supply to the community and constructing mini dams for electricity, irrigation accessibilities to the farmers and many more plans are underway. Electric technology is also the basic necessity in the community. Thus, "the

university is expanding solar technology for schools, health centers and to the people that have never accessed electric circuits." The president also added that health related services are also potentially assisting the people. He said, "The health department is working on helping women during pregnancy where health centers are away from their destiny."

As a responsible institute, Arba Minch University is assisting the government policy called 'Yelemat Turfat' in amplifying it with scientific research and technology.

Damtew raises the contribution of the university in synthesizing the cultural aspects of the society. He said, "In our zone there is a marvelous culture called *Dubusha*. Thus in order to register it with UNESCO in cooperation with the Gamo Zone Culture and Tourism Department, an extended examination and study is under way. There is a separate institute called Language and Culture Study Research Center that mainly focuses on the indigenous culture and languages of the people in the area." He mentioned the school of law's contribution saying that, "In a year more than 2000 victims in the area were supported and attempted by this department. In this regard we have got various recognitions at the country and international level. Thus the school is doing well in asserting the prevalence of good governance in the zone."

The president also mentioned that the university had built a rehabilitation center for female students. In this center every accessory like computer, tennis table, study materials are served thus girls are freely enjoying and studying there. As per the president these girls are achieving good results from time to time.

Generally the university is working in its every discipline as a research university. We hope the institute could scale up its service in the future.

Art & Culture

General reflection on the novel, 'Altezaworechim'

by Alex Abrham

BY MEKDES TAYE (PhD)

Ethiopia has been witnessing prominent writers who picked their pen to capture the people's socio-cultural, economic, political, and religious views and practices. These writers have been joining the writing domain with their style, knowledge, and artistic verve. Thus, their works keep on influencing readers because of their styles, the subjects they raise, and the artistic worthiness of the works. Among the prolific writers who progressively dominate the literary industry these days, Alex Abrham is one. His style coherently shapes Alex's literary works. The artistic style that makes his works preferable is the way he looks at realities. Also the language and expressions he employs are very impressive. Since the aim of literature is informing or adding a certain value in the minds of the readers or viewers, Alex did that with the command humorist styles. The way he organizes characters, brings into play incidents and follows trends to structuralize the plot is made with logical flow that the works had power to entice the readers to keep on reading.

Among his works 'Altezaworechim', which literarily means 'she has failed', has raised many issues that are practically experienced by the people. He echoed the social, political, economic, and religious status and perceptions of the country through the factious characters and incidents. The general reflection of this novel is presented below.

On the cover of this book, there is a table or report card that portrays the results a student received at the end of the school year. It shows that the student had scored 100% in all subjects, like Amharic, English, Maths, Science, Physics, Biology, Chemistry and History. And the result for Music was above 100, it is 101. But this student has no results for Faith, Humanity, Character, Love, Marriage and Cooking Skill. Her result indicates neither zero nor any other number. The table was blank. Since these null issues are equally important as educational subjects in the factious world, the writer made the student to repeat that educational level. This is the outer meaning that can be simply detected.

However, the meaning of the phrase 'she failed' conveys more than the mentioned meaning. It signifies the central meaning or gist of the novel. It did carry the failure of all the created characters from education, from love, from superiority complex and from hope. Let me get brief on this by mentioning the characters' background in the book.

The protagonist is Mahider later her name gets changed into Mahderselam. He created her as the most beautiful girl. She was a very attractive black girl. Mahder's color became a chocolate one when she grew up that her beauty was outshining when contrasted with that of her ugliest girlfriend called Haymanot.

On one occasion which was organized by her friend, Mahdere met with her soul mate Abraham. It was Haymanot who introduced them in that occasion. They fell in love and continued meeting in private. Then the two

SUBJECT	1 ST SEMESTER	2 ND SEMESTER	AVERAGE
አማርኛ Amharic	100	100	100
እንግሊዘኛ English	100	100	100
ሒሳብ Maths	100	100	100
ባይዮሎጂ Science	100	100	100
ፊዥክስ Physics	100	100	100
ባዮሎጂ Biology	100	100	100
ኬሚስትሪ Chemistry	100	100	100
ተሪክ History	100	100	100
ሙዚቃ Music	101	101	101
እምነት			
ሰብዓዊነት			
ፀባይ			
ፍቅር			

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got entangled in affectionate love. Abraham was the first man in her life. She loved him so much that she never reserved anything from him. But the way he got in love with her was different. He only wanted to possess that chocolate color body, not her soul. He never respected her preferences, her talks, and her visions. He only liked her light dressing and slavish obedience. Then they never go far. This love can't run for more than four years. After these years Mahder decided to get married to Yonas since she confirmed that Abrham could not and is not planning to marry her. Though her soul tarried with him, she kept struggling to maintain her marriage. She gave birth to a baby girl. Her baby girl turned everything that illumined her eclipsed life.

Haymanot was a girl with the same age of Mahdere. She was from a poor family so that she was forced to go to school with unkempt hair and style. But Mahdere was stylish since her mother was a modern woman. Haymanot's mother usually applauded the beauty and goodness of Mahdere and degraded Haymanot at every incident. The inferiority complex got simmering unabated in her mind since that childhood.

Mahderselam's mother was in love with someone than her husband and father of her three children. She was always waiting and looking for her lover through the window. She never took care of her children. She cannot cook food, and she never worried about the happening in the house. These are

the necessary things to pass from one class to the next as the writer marked it on the certificate. But she failed. She didn't have any result on these subjects. She abandoned her children and marriage. She failed. In that year Mahdere was disturbed and failed academically which is caused by the failure of the non-academic subjects that the writer mentioned on the table. Since in the last class Haymanot failed and her mother was blaming her by mentioning Mahdere's result, now is her turn. Mahdere failed, Haymanot passed. They become in the same class. The word 'she failed' is the most fascinating word for Haymanot. Haymanot win. Mahdere never knew whether she was in competition. But Haymanot knew, and she is the winner of this competition.

The central source of this competition is the fact that every man prefers to see and get Mahdere through Haymanot. The males that seem approaching Haymanot were apt to cross her and are eager to have Mahdere. This made her develop identity crises. Though she knew that she had internal beauty, there is no one that investigated these things just because of her outward personality. Even her lover who looked like her in beauty and traits was also an object of fun of Mahdere as she found it out on the text he wrote on a piece of paper inside his bag after his death. Contra wise, Mahdere was caring to Haymanot. She convinced her to continue her MA class by paying the school fee that she collected for months. But the heart of Haymanot was not ready

to see the good aspect. She left no stone unturned to hurt Mahdere. But Mahdere never realized that. She was always eager to see Haymanot as usual.

Yonas was the first child in his family. After the death of his father, the survival of the family fell on the shoulder of the young boy. He was studying for his degree in Commerce. It was there that he knew Mahdere and Haymanot. To know Mahdere he was also a friend with Haymanot. But Haymanot was interested in him. One day while he was parting from her, he was about to kiss her wall. But he mistakenly kissed her lips. That day she was about to confirm that he was in love with her. But after some time she heard that he left to America.

Yonas migrated abroad in the face of many challenges. While he was in Morocco he was in love with a very sympathetic and beautiful woman. After getting in America dialing her number he met her. But after some time they lost the boat. Then he planned to go to Morocco. He then found out that she was killed.

He has been working very hard and empowering his family economically. Then he decided to come back and live in his country.

He met Mahdere and married her and gave birth to a baby girl. He was happy. But Mahdereselam was very cold. Though he knew her as a goofy girl in their class, this character had worsened when she got in wedlock. She never talked to him. He never knew about her past. He believed that knowing the past never gave him peaceful life. Bygone days are bygones. But he traveled back in time to conjure up his love when he saw the bracelet that she gave him when he was in his way to America. She was his love, his first mate, his true friend, his family, his everything in that worst situation. The deepest silence of his wife transports him back to his memory. He had decided to throw this bracelet many times. But he could not. She is embedded in his soul, and this is the only keepsake he had from her.

In this novel the psychological frustration and wrong self-perception which are represented by the characterization of Mahdereselam and Haymanot are salient aspects to examine the novel; the ups and downs included social, economic and worse things than these. The incompatibility of social and cultural natures of the people across borders was very challenging as seen in the story of Yonas. The writer shows us how people get anxious when they are exposed to a different culture and identity.

The impact of family and socialization on the personal wellbeing of the given person is vividly portrayed by Haymanot. Moreover, the writer's choices of words, the application of figurative speeches, and the styles he followed in expressing incidents are so attractive. As such though the ideas are known, because of the artistic approach it invokes an interest on the book. In the coming articles I will go through this novel using theoretical perspectives.

Verbatim and Caption

Sustainable development top priority for Ethiopia: President Taye

Ambassador Taye Atske-Selassie was appointed as new president of Ethiopia during the fourth-year joint opening session of the House of Peoples Representatives (HPR) and the House of Federation (HoF) on Monday.

Following his oath, President Taye addressed the two houses and presented government's plans for the 2024/25 fiscal year. Here are the major tips from the president's speech.



Ethiopia's economy to grow by 8.4 percent: President Taye

The government has an ambitious plan to develop the economy sector in this fiscal year, 2024/25. The government's focus is to ensure sustainable development by giving top priority for climate-resilient agriculture, fiscal policy reforms, and expansion of construction and service sectors.

Ethiopia's economy recorded a growth rate of 8.1 percent during the concluded Ethiopian fiscal year. For the current budget year, the country's economy is projected to grow by 8.4% and government revenue from tax and non-tax sources expected to reach 1.5 trillion Birr.

Terms of export, Ethiopia has a plan to earn five billion USD incomes from value-added export commodities and total export revenue to reach 10 billion USD.

Ethiopia's firm stance to remain stabilizing force in HOA region

Ethiopia's diplomatic approach focuses on balanced and give-and-take principle. Ethiopia's win-win diplomatic approach is unwavering stance of the country. By strengthening its traditional approach of win-win diplomacy, Ethiopia is committed to peace and stability in the Horn of Africa.

Ethiopia's foreign policy prioritizes peace and cooperation with neighboring countries and with the rest of the world. Despite the challenges Ethiopia is facing, Ethiopia will continue to remain a stabilizing force in the region. Our diplomatic efforts are concentrated on preserving Ethiopia's positive standing in regional peacemaking processes.



Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow and Job creation



During the fiscal year, Ethiopia has a plan to attract 5 billion USD FDI inflows in to the country. In addition, job creation remains a major focus of the government in the budget year. Accordingly, the government has a plan to create 4.3 million new jobs, including 700,000 overseas positions.

Ethiopia earns 700 million quintals from crop production

Following the national reform, the agriculture sector is among the top sectors registered development. During the concluded budget year, the agricultural sector has registered a growth of 6.9 percent.

Ethiopia earns some 700 million quintals of major crops in the last fiscal year. 230 million quintals of production was achieved from irrigation. Efforts to supply wheat to the export market are strengthened.

National Dialogue key to ensure all-rounded peace

Ethiopia is undertaking National Dialogue process to ensure sustainable peace. Ethiopia is working extensively to achieve the goal of the National Dialogue and the process is ongoing based on plans.

National Dialogue is crucial to nation building process and the Ethiopian National Dialogue Commission (ENDC) is working demonstratively to realize the country's vision of ensuring sustainable peace.

By completing the preparation phase, ENDC already is undertaking agenda gathering stage.

GERD symbol of Ethiopia's remarkable achievement

In modern Ethiopian history, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) is a mega project that represents Ethiopia's outstanding achievements. The civil engineering works of the flagship project is already completed.

The achievement registered on the construction of the flagship project, GERD is due to the remarkable contribution of all Ethiopians. The collective efforts of Ethiopians in this giant hydropower dam will be remembered in the history of Ethiopia.