AU issues security alert to staff members

By Dawit Endeshaw

Following the increasing number of criminal activities in Addis Ababa targeting its staff members, the African Union (AU) issued a security alert notice telling its employees to take extra precautions, The Reporter has learnt.

In an alert issued last week via its security service department the AU said that, “There is a rising incident of crimes in Addis Ababa and caution should be exercised.”

The department has also indicated that it has issued similar alerts on April 12, 2019 and stressed that there is no change in the level of crime and caution should be exercised.

“Some of the reported incidents were attempted robberies in the African Union headquarters premises, an armed robbery of African Union member state expatriate residences as well as robbery of local and international staff of AU,” according to the statement released. These crimes are house break-ins, acts of armed robbery – at times violent vehicle thefts, armed route ambushes.

AU issues security . . . page 32

SUFFERING IN EARTHLY PARADISE

By Dawit Endeshaw

The misery of the Gedeo Internally Displaced Persons came under the spotlight only after reports were released by international media outlets. Granted, the administration was busy with many outstanding issues since it came to power in April, 2018; and yet it has not faced criticism as it did with Gedeo problem, mainly for failing to manage the crisis in the area bordering Guji Zone, Oromia Regional State, and Gedeo, Southern Regional State. SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 12.

Some of the reported incidents were attempted robberies in the African Union headquarters premises

Forex strapped Eritrea blocks airlines funds

By Kaleyesus Bekele

International Airlines flying to the Eritrean capital Asmara are unable to repatriate their funds to their home countries.

According to the International Air Transport Association (IATA), as of March 31, 2019, the Eritrean government has blocked USD 73 million airlines fund. Egypt Air, Turkish Airlines, Fly Dubai and Ethiopian Airlines operating to Asmara are unable to remit their ticket sales in foreign currency to their home base.

Sources told The Reporter that the central bank of Eritrea is unable to allocate foreign currency to the international airlines due to the shortage of foreign currency it has been facing. Sources said Lufthansa and Qatar Airways have long stopped operation to Asmara for similar reasons.

African Union headquarters, an armed robbery of African Union member state expatriate residences as well as robbery of local and international staff of AU, according to the statement released. These crimes are house break-ins, acts of armed robbery – at times violent vehicle thefts, armed route ambushes.

Some of the reported incidents were attempted robberies in the

SUFFERING IN EARTHLY PARADISE
Overcoming Ethiopia’s complex problems requires a profound insight

Ethiopia has always been beset by complex and intractable problems. Overcoming these centuries-old problems requires knowledge, wisdom, and far-sightedness and a profound insight across a range of fields. The proliferation of inadvertent and emotion-driven actions being witnessed nowadays has no use except earn short-lived gains. Particularly in countries like Ethiopia which are undergoing wide-ranging reforms focusing on quick fixes while putting vital work on institution building and legal frameworks on the back burner is apt to be counterproductive. One of the foremost tasks awaiting the administration of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) is to pave the way for the process of democratisation by assuring peace and political stability. The key measures which must be taken in connection with this include an impartial enforcement of the law, enabling the unfettered enjoyment of human and democratic rights, safeguarding the independence of the judiciary, broadening the political space as well as assuring that the upcoming general elections meet international standards.

The government owes Ethiopians the duty to ensure that thugs do not impede the realization of their aspiration and that thugs do not impede the realization of their aspiration and that Ethiopians do not worry about the fate of their country, who will? If Ethiopians do not respect each other, who is going to respect them? If they do not toil for the realization of their aspiration how can they complain about the hardship they are living through. Inciting intercine strife by hyping up ideological divisions is a recipe for mutual destruction. Equally damaging is enticing foreign powers to act as intermediaries with one’s political adversaries. Such self-debasement, which eventually results in handing over the country’s secret on a platter, was so rife that the bill is bound to come due sooner or later. Rather than turning to external forces as conciliators it’s more effective to use indigenous dispute resolution mechanisms to quench the specter of a crisis. Becoming bedfellows with foreign actors instead of seeking the counsel of home-grown intellectuals and elders with invaluable insight is liable to be a source of anguish and sorrow. It’s important to have no illusions about the fact that Ethiopia’s multifaceted problems can be addressed through a civilized and peaceful dialogue. Anything else has been shown to be not only self-defeating, but also a recipe for interminable turmoil.

If Ethiopians achieve modernity anchored in indigenous knowledge and values, Ethiopia’s prospects will be limitless. Natural this potential can be fully realized insofar as politicians and activists distance themselves from any and all deplorable acts that in no way advance the public interest. Anyone caught up in such practices will in due course be exposed for who they are and meet an ignominious end. They are better advised to use indigenous dispute resolution mechanisms to quench the specter of a crisis. Becoming bedfellows with foreign actors instead of seeking the counsel of home-grown intellectuals and elders with invaluable insight is liable to be a source of anguish and sorrow. It’s important to understand their environment they will be able to go beyond asking questions and generate solutions for the problems they encounter. And as the lens through which they view the world broadens it will be easier to uphold the rule of law, move the process of democratisation forward, ward off lawlessness and dictatorship, deepen the culture of tolerance, and build a nation where equality reigns.

The courageous and far-sighted people of Ethiopia have consistently demanded for good governance throughout history. Leaders have to have a profound insight into the needs of the public to solve the knotty problems tormenting Ethiopia in a manner ensuring the participation of each and every stakeholder. Intellectuals, religious leaders, elders, civil society organizations, educational institutions, the business community, the youth, women and other segments of society all can contribute a lot in terms of dealing with the dauntingly testing challenges. If Ethiopians seize the opportunity to curb their emotions and desist from utilizing social media for nefarious purposes their problems tormenting Ethiopia can be no disputing the fact that overcoming Ethiopia’s complex problems requires a profound insight.
Ethiopian economy takes a hit as export earning drops

By Yonas Abiye

In the face of an ongoing political volatility, the macroeconomic performance of Ethiopia, exacerbated by soaring double digit inflation and decline in export earning, is becoming a matter of grave concern to the nation, Ministry of Finance said this week.

During an extraordinary session of the House of People’s Representatives (HPR) held on Tuesday, the Minister, Ahmed Shide told the House that the first ten months of the current fiscal year has seen a sharp decline in the export earning of the country performing 8.3 percent lower than the previous year’s performance.

Despite “a very tight fiscal policy” that has been implemented by the authorities to stabilize the surging of prices, the current budgetary year has seen the rise of inflationary pressure in Ethiopia. Citing the data from Central Statistics Agency (CSA), Ahmed told the House, based on a 12 month moving average measure, April recorded an inflation rate of 12.6 percent.

The other major factor which has been affecting the macroeconomic stability is severe trade imbalance caused by the existing mismatch between export and import.

Similar to the previous years, the country has faced foreign currency shortage this year as well. The Minister also said that the severely limited foreign currency supply has once again fallen short of the demand brought about by import of capital goods which are necessary for the country’s economic activity.

“To meet the demand for consumption and capital goods, we have to import in bulk from the international market. To achieve that, foreign currency supply is crucial. Unfortunately, as it has been repeatedly disclosed, the performance of our export sector has been disappointing and unable to bear the foreign exchange required,” Ahmed told law makers.

According to the Minister, merchandise export during the first ten months of the fiscal year has been USD 2.1 billion, marking yet another disappointing performance for the country’s ailing economy. The stated export earnings has also achieved USD 167.1 million (or 8.2 percent) decline than the previous year’s performance in the same reported period.

Except whole grains, Khat and textile products, major export items have also shown declining performance over the past ten months, according to the Minister.

In his report, the Minister has also highlighted other major steps that have been taken to relieve the government’s debt burden along with maintaining the economic balance.

Taking a deeper looking at the performance of the fiscal sector, the actual revenue which was collected over the past ten months was 160.4 billion birr, falling below the target 235.7 billion birr. Hence, the achievement languishes around 68 percent of the original target.

But, in a bid to address the poor performance in the revenue sector, a special task force composed of ministers mandated to improve tax revenue collection has been established, the Minister told MPs.

According to the Minister, with leadership of the new task force, comprehensive studies have been undertaken over the past ten months. Accordingly, the tax related laws that needs revisions will be identified. The under revision studies include VAT, turn over, excise, duty privileges and income tax systems. So far, eight directives and three draft laws have been prepared based on the study that has been commissioned.

The Minister has also underlined that when the revision process comes into force, they are projected to increase government’s revenue by more than 20 to 30 billion birr. Hence, over the past ten months, it was able to mobilize over 31.7 billion birr from foreign sources, Ahmed said, and yet the plan was to achieve at least 19.3 billion birr. Surprisingly, unlike other areas of achievements, this one performed almost 164 percent of what had been set as target.

Meanwhile, the Minister’s report has also noted that the country is still in worrisome situation when it comes to the foreign debt burden, a concerted largely shared with MP’s.

According to the Minister, the country’s foreign debt level has reached a total of USD 27 billion.

Out of the total foreign debt, the federal government owes a share of USD 15.8 billion, while public enterprises owes the remaining share worth of USD 11.2 billion, according to the Minister.

Similarly, government’s total debt from local source is currently at 731 billion birr. Out of this total sum, federal government’s share is 344 billion birr, while public enterprises take the remaining share of 387 billion birr.

Meanwhile, government’s plan to make debt repayment at the center of its agenda seems to have paid off, amounting at least to 14.2 billion birr. However, it has accomplished only 66 percent of its target by making actual payment of 9.4 billion birr.

Speaking of the overall challenges that the economy faces, the Minister has also blamed the country’s security situation that attributes transportation problem and reduction of export items production and supply.
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Gov’t tables draft bill to repeal maligned anti-terrorism bill

By Yonas Abiye

The Government of Ethiopia, after implementing a contentious law for almost a decade, has tabled a new draft bill to repeal the much maligned Anti-terrorism Proclamation before the House of People’s Representatives (HPR).

The newly proposed bill replaces key provisions which were a point of contention among rights activists, who argue, they violated the basic human rights of individuals.

Nevertheless, the proposed bill has come up with stricter provisions and even loftier penalties in prison terms and in financial penalty.

Tabled on Thursday, the bill consists of six parts with a total of 47 articles, and would be renamed as ‘A Proclamation to provide for Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism Crimes,’ offering a broader amendment including numerous definitions and phrases.

Among the amendments made, the new bill redefines controversial terms including what terrorism is, terrorism organizations, and other key words which studies identified as ‘controversial and vague’ words which have been misinterpreted during the enforcement of the law.

According to the explanation documents attached with the draft bill, the draft proclamation has three key objectives and goals. The first one is to help put in place a legal framework that enables to prevent and suppress terrorism crimes, while the second is to bring terrorists before justice and punishing them to the extent of their crime accordingly. Similarly, the third objective or goal is to safeguard citizens’ human rights and democracy by insuring the peace and security of the people and the government.

Furthermore, the new draft bill imposes three levels of punishment. Accordingly, any terrorist or individuals found guilty will serve the proportional punishment of 10 to 18 years imprisonment and life imprisonment or a death sentence.

In addition, in what was considered as a terrorist act in the existing law by going on strikes and the like, the new version proclaims strikes as a non-terrorist acts, going on to say, rather it is a Civil Rights.

Going further, the proposed draft bill grants regional courts to proceed with court trials in cases of terrorism charges, differing from what the existing law dictates. The previous version only allowed for the federal government to prosecute terrorism related cases. Other restrictive provisions which have been said to have negative impacts on the media, Civil Society Organizations as well have been proposed to be amended.

Despite the legitimate grounds that Ethiopia needs to have the law to address terror related threats and crimes like any other countries, the anti-terrorism law of 2009 has been criticized widely and heavily by watchdogs and other international agencies since it came into being.

After deliberating on some of the proposed provisions, MPs referred the bill with a unanimous vote to the Legal, Justice and Administration Standing Committee for further revisions to be conducted jointly with the Foreign Affairs and Peace Standing Committee.
GEM CORP signs USD 175.57 mln wheat deal

By Dawit Endeshaw

GEM CORP Commodities Trading SA has signed a deal to supply 600,000 metric tons of wheat at a total price of USD 175.57 million, The Reporter has learnt.

It can be recalled that GEM CORP won a large chunk of the wheat contract to supply 500,000 metric tons from the total bulk of 600,000 metric tons of wheat at a price of USD 97.07 million; whereas, the remaining 100,000 metric tons was awarded to Agro Corp for USD 19.4 million.

In this regard, Agro Corp is yet to sign a deal for the supply of 100,000 metric tons. The latest purchase is the biggest contract to be signed under a single supply contract, so far this year. It is to be recalled that last week, GEM CORP was also awarded to supply 400,000 metric tons of wheat at a price of USD 78.5 million which brings the total supply contract award to GEM CORP to 900,000 metric tons.

As of this week, GEM CORP has managed to sign a deal for the supply of the aforementioned bulk of wheat.

The two separate bulks of 600,000 metric ton and 400,000 metric tons of wheat are purchased in behalf of the National Disaster Risk Management Commission as well as the Ministry of Trade and Industry, respectively. It will be used to assist those who are in need of humanitarian assistance as well as for market stabilization.

It can be recalled that according to a latest report released a couple of months ago, there are around 8.3 million Ethiopians in need of relief in food and cash assistance, as well as non-food assistance. From this, 8.13 million people are in need of food assistance.

The humanitarian crisis in Ethiopia seems to have remained unchanged despite a better climate condition in comparison to last year. This is, however, due to conflict induced mass internal displacements across the country which has affected millions of Ethiopians.

When it comes to market stabilization, just a couple of months ago, the country was suffering from a wheat shortage following the lethargic procurement process and supplier’s failure to deliver wheat as per their contracts.

As far as the latest contracts are concerned, and the fact that a large chunk of the wheat purchase was awarded to a single company; has industry sources fearing that the government is taking a high risk considering the volume and the actual track record of the company in Ethiopia or the lack thereof.

“It is very clear that it is very difficult to handle such a big quantity, especially for a first timer in the Ethiopian wheat market,” an industry source whose name was withheld upon request told The Reporter a few weeks ago.

“It may not be easy, especially for GEM CORP, to supply the 400,000 metric tons of wheat in two months’ time and again another 500,000 metric tons in another two months time,” he said.

In addition, the fact that the government is now expecting to get 1.4 million metric tons of wheat in the coming few months, is feared it is going to cause a congestion in the port of Djibouti where sources say it might be difficult for the awarded companies to perform their contractual obligations.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO reappointed to IATA Board of Governors

Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Tewolde Gebremariam has been re-appointed to the IATA (International Air Transport Association) Board of Governors for a three year-term at the 75th annual general meeting held in Seoul, South Korea.

The IATA Board of Governors comprises of 30 members who are elected on Wednesday from the world’s biggest carriers included in IATA and approved by the Assembly.

The Board of Governors acts as the government of IATA and represents 290 airlines in over 120 countries, carrying 82 percent of the world’s air traffic.

The governors are eligible to exercise an oversight and executive role on behalf of the membership as a whole in representing the interests of the association.

The Airlines said Tewolde, who is a titan of the industry, has received prominent awards from different organizations including, The African CEO of the Year, The Best African Business Leader, The Airline Strategy Award for Regional Leadership, Planet Africa Professional Excellence Award, The African CEO’s Hall Of Fame, and Most Gender Focused CEO Award.

Construction of Shukute-Chulte road project commences with 1.2 bln birr

Deputy President of the Oromia Regional State, Shimeles Abdissa, on Friday June 7, 2019, officially launched the construction of the 63 kilometers Shukute Chulte asphalt road project which is expected to cost some 1.2 billion birr.

The road construction project will be built by Gemshu Beyene Construction PLC, and is expected to take three years for completion, it was noted.

Meanwhile, it has been reported that the Ginchie Shukute road project, which is being built at a cost of 886 million birr, is well in progress.

In a related development, the construction of Guder Fato irrigation project has been launched with 3.4 billion birr in Toke Kutaye district, west Shoa zone of Oromia regional state.

Once completed, the project could help to develop 6,000 hectares of land and benefit about 10,000 farmers in Dire Enchimie and Toke districts.

Present at the launching ceremony were Deputy President of Oromia, Shimeles Abdissa, and Engineer Sileshi Bekele (PhD), Minister of Water, Irrigation and Energy.
Draft bill takes aim at key provisions of VAT proclamation

By Yonas Abiye

Enforced for the past 17 years, and in recent times becoming a tiresome affair to conduct business, a new draft bill has offered an improvement to key provisions of the VAT proclamation, vying for a more friendly business atmosphere than the one created by the existing law.

The latest draft, which would partially amend the existing VAT proclamation dubbed ‘The Value Added Tax Proclamation No. 285/2002’, was tabled before the House of People’s Representatives (HPR) on Thursday.

The bill mainly focuses on the revision of provisions including Accounting Periods, the VAT Paid on Capital Goods as well as Refunding Withheld VAT.

Considering the length of the accounting period, the procedure has brought challenges on both the taxpayer and the authority. This system especially has brought more burdens to the mid-level and low-level taxpayers who visit the authority every month to report their transactions.

According to the existing bill, anyone registered under the VAT payers’ category is expected to report every month, no matter how much the amount of his turnover is, or even if the business is showing nil (no transactions).

Aimed at solving this burden, the draft bill offers taxpayers under the mid-level and low-level categories, with a business activity turnover of 70,000,000 birr in a 12 month period, to report to the authority every month. And those taxpayers whose turnover in 12 months is less than 70,000,000 birr will have their reporting period extended to every three months, according to the draft provisions.

Furthermore, it designates how tax shall be withheld or paid to the authority by the buyers in accordance with the directives to be issued by the Ministry of Finance.

Moreover, in accordance with the provision, the tax withheld shall be 50 percent of tax payable by the buyer and the balance shall be paid to the seller.

In the same session, the Houses conducted firsthand discussions on a new draft bill which was tabled to amend the existing Compensation law that shall be paid for holders who are evicted for projects deemed to be for public benefits.

After a short deliberation on the three draft bills, the House referred them to the relevant Standing Committee for further revisions.

The House, in addition to the bills presented, has also discussed three other separate bills concerning the bilateral agreements, the Ethiopian government has signed with the Israeli government. The three bills tackle mutual cooperation between the two, wanting to boost cooperation in custom services, education, agriculture and business and in trade areas. After a short deliberation, the House has referred them to the relevant Standing Committee for further revisions.

Oldest flaked stone tools discovered in Ethiopia

The oldest stone tools dated back to 2.6 million years were discovered in the north eastern Ethiopia at a place called Ledi-Geraru.

The newly discovered artifacts are very distinct from tools made by Chimpanzees, monkeys and earlier human ancestors.

The new site discovered in the Afar region by team of international and local scientists dates back some 100,000 years before the then oldest flaked stone tools. The oldest evidence for systematic stone tool production and use was 2.58 to 2.55 million years ago.

Research Associate at Ledi-Geraru Project, David R. Braun said that they have discovered “the oldest stone artifacts in Ethiopia and possibly the second oldest stone artifacts in the world.”

“The pieces of chipped stones were made into tools by early humans 2.6 million years ago, which are 100 thousand years older than the materials discovered also in Ethiopia from Gona locality.” Braun stated.

“Even though the materials that we found are the second oldest stone artifacts found anywhere in the world, they have very little association with anything found at 3.3 million years ago.”

Abiy arrives in Khartoum to mediate troubled nation

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, together with his delegation, arrived in Khartoum, Sudan this morning for talks with the Chief of the Sudanese Transitional Military Council, Lt. Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan,” the Office of the PM tweeted.

“During his Sudan visit, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed also held discussions with members of the Forces for Freedom and Change. He expressed Ethiopia’s commitment to fostering peace in the region and underlined that a prerequisite for restoring peace in Sudan is unity.”

Following the overthrow of President Al Bashir early April by the military, Sudan has been under the leadership of Sudan Military Council, which promised to establish civilian led transition government that leads national election within a year. Meanwhile, last Monday tens of protesters have been shot dead in the capital Khartoum as they tried to storm a military camp.

Following the Monday incident, the African Union Commission has issued a statement on Sudan suspending its membership from the AU and all its activities until the Military council allows the establishment of a joint civilian led transition government.

www.thereporterethiopia.com
In taking the privatization process further, the Ethiopian government has officially extended an offer to at least 12 global companies to submit financial and technical proposals in order to engage in the power production and operations.

The Minister of Finance (MoF), Ahmed Shidie, presenting his Ministry’s 10 month report before the House of People’s Representatives (HPR) said that a feasibility study is being undertaken to implement the Public-Private Partnership framework to allow the private sector step-in selected energy and transportation projects which used to be considered as a strategic area fully controlled by the government.

Currently, the board of PPP is undertaking evaluation of projects which includes six solar projects and three hydroelectric projects.

Based on that, two projects named Gad and Deucheto Solar Energy projects which have a combined capacity of generating a 250 MW of electricity are in the pipeline with an estimated cost of USD 265 million. Hence, Request for Proposal – RFP, has been sent to 12 international companies to submit their financial and Technical proposals. Similarly, RFP has also been prepared for Mekele, Wolenchiti and Worarso Solar projects which generate a sum of 500 MW of solar energy with a combined project outlay of USD 529 million.

It is to be recalled that opening the countries market was one of the key reform areas that PM Abiy Ahmed (PhD) pledged to change when he came into power in 2018. Similarly, the government announced that it will soon open its door for key state-owned firms including telecom, railway, sugar projects as well as its flagship carrier Ethiopian.

According to Energypedia.info, Ethiopia receives a solar irradiation of 5000 - 7000 Wh/m² according to region and season and thus has great potential for the use of solar energy.

The average solar radiation is more or less uniform, around 5.2 kWh/m²/day. The values vary seasonally, from 4.55- 5.55 kWh/m²/day and with a location from 4.25 kWh/m²/day in the extreme western lowlands to 6.25 kWh/m²/day in Adigrat area, Northern Ethiopia is still at its early stage.

Similarly, Ethiopia’s hydropower potential is estimated up to 45,000 MW and is the 2nd highest in Africa (only the Democratic Republic of Congo has a higher potential). Approximately 30,000 MW is estimated to be economically feasible which is equivalent to an electricity generation of 162 TWh.
Addis Credit and Saving Institution S.C.

INVITATION TO BID (RE-BID)

Procurement reference number: AdCSI-NCB-001/2019

Addis Credit and Saving Institution S.C. invites interested & eligible bidders for Design, Supply, Implementation and commissioning of Networking and Data Center infrastructure

LOT 1: Data Center infrastructure
LOT 2: Networking

Through national competitive bid refers to detailed bid document. Accordingly, bidders fulfilling the following instructions and criteria can participate in the bid.

1. Bidders must provide their evidence of currently renewed license, valid tax clearance certificate, TIN certificate, and VAT registration Certificate.
2. Bid bond shall be required in the amount of 2% of the bid price. The bid security should be placed inside the original technical proposal envelope. The confirmation letter should include
   ✓ Name of the bank which prepares the bid security
   ✓ Reference number of the bid security
   ✓ Bid security validity period
3. Bid bond should be submitted issued in favor of Addis Credit and Saving Institution S.C by unconditional bank counter guarantee.
4. Bidders can obtain bid documents from Addis Credit and Saving Institution S.C Head office
5. Bidders should place their technical and financial proposals in separate sealed envelopes with one original and two copies accompanied by soft copy for technical proposal and put it in the tender box reserved for this purpose.
6. The final bid submission date shall be 30 calendar days after the announcement of the bid issued on the newspaper at 3:00 PM. Bidders shall not submit the bid before this date. The bid will be opened on the same date at 3:30 PM in the afternoon.
7. It should be noted that the financial document will not be opened on this date
8. A bidder can participate on a single LOT or both LOTs.
9. For further information please call +251111111325 during office hour.
10. Addis Credit and Saving Institution S.C reserves the right to accept or reject any part of the bid or the entire bid.
French Development Agency to offer EUR 100 mln in loan, grants

By Samuel Getachew

Mere months after the state visit by Emmanuel Macron, President of France, the French Development Bank that has the capacity to finance worldwide initiatives worth more than EUR 11 billion a year, is set to offer Ethiopia a combination of a loan agreement and a grant worth EUR 100 million.

At a signing ceremony on Thursday, it was said that this is to complement the declaration of intent signed by France and Ethiopia during the Premier’s visit in March.

According to the French Embassy in Addis, the funds are to be used to finance the “ambitious economic reforms,” the nation has shown. Among the plan, the majority of the gesture is in the form of a loan and only EUR 15 million is given as a grant and that is to be spent on technical assistance programs.

“The Public Policy Loan will aim to support the Government of Ethiopia in the implementation of GTP II economic reforms by focusing on the following themes: maximizing finance for development, improving the business environment, and improving the management, transparency and accountability of public enterprises. It will be complementary to the World Bank Ethiopian Growth and Competitiveness Development Policy Financing (DPF),” the embassy said in a statement.

The agreement was made official at a signing ceremony attended by Ahmed Shide, the Minister of Finance and Development Administration Agency. Part of this technical assistance program will be directly implemented by the Ethiopian Government, while another part will be channeled through Expertise France – the French public agency for international technical assistance – and as a contribution to the Multi-Donor Trust Fund managed by the World Bank,” the statement added.

In related news, Shalework Zewde, the President of Ethiopia is currently in Paris, France attending the FIFA Women’s Football convention. In her maiden speech, she called on more investment in women. This comes after the President attended a Women Deliver convention in Vancouver, Canada and discussed issues of women rights and opportunities in Ethiopia and held an audience with Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada.

HORN IN BRIEF

Djibouti dam financed by Turkish gov’t completed

The construction of the Ambouli Friendship Dam in Djibouti is largely completed, Turkey’s Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry said.

The main body of the dam, built under a deal signed between Turkey and Djibouti in 2014 on cooperation on water, concluded its construction and the dam is ready to hold water now.

The dam will serve to curb floods hitting Djibouti, the capital of the country where 75 percent of the population lives, it was built on the eponymous river. The construction of the 71-meter high dam started in 2017, built by the ministry’s State Hydraulic Works agency, it will help store water for irrigation in the arid country which mostly depends on food imports from neighboring Ethiopia. Despite its arid climate, Djibouti is exposed to floods when downpours hit the highlands surrounding the capital. The dam has a stock volume of 14 million cubic meters.

Turkey has been boosting bilateral relations with Djibouti, which gained momentum after 2012 when the Djibouti Embassy in Turkey was established.

Two mln Somalis at risk of starvation, says UN official

A United Nations emergency relief coordinator has warned that more than two million men, women and children could die of starvation in Somalia by summer’s end if international aid is not sent quickly to the drought-stricken Horn of Africa country.

United Nations Undersecretary-General Mark Lowcock said about USD 700 million is needed after a rainless season that has killed both livestock and crops. He said on Tuesday that the UN’s Central Emergency Response Fund has allocated $45 million to cover food shortages, water and daily necessities in Somalia as well as parts of Kenya and Ethiopia affected by droughts.

Of a Somali population of 15 million people, more than 3 million are struggling just to meet minimum food requirements, he said, and the shortages are about 40 percent worse now than this past winter.

The UN aid complements efforts by governments of the three countries to assist their people, especially those with disabilities or who are internally displaced.

(Daily Sabah)  (Arab News)
Lemn Sissay awarded PEN Pinter Prize

By Samuel Getachew

The Ethiopian born British playwright and activist, Lemn Sissay was awarded the 2019 recipient of the PEN Pinter Prize, named in honor of a celebrated Nobel recipient and British playwright Harold Pinter.

The prolific writer and chancellor of the University of Manchester was awarded for his body of work, including his experience as an adoptee, on racism, and has been a recent advocate for the return of Prince Alemayehu, the son of Emperor Tewodros II from the United Kingdom.

"In his every work, Lemn Sissay returns to the underworld he inhabited as an unclaimed child. From his sorrows, he forges beautiful words and a thousand reasons to live and love; one of the judges, writer Maureen Freely told the Guardian newspaper.

Harold Pinter, like Lemn, grew up in foster homes. He has endured the shortcomings of the system, and lived to tell his story in a series of writings and documentaries.

After it was announced, the recipient, Lemn, thanked his colleague, in which the prize was named after.

"I met Harold Pinter when I was 36. We were on stage at the Royal Court. I was too intimidated or self-conscious to speak to him. And so I will now." Thank you," Lemn said.

"What I like about this award is that it is from a great writer and a great organization. I accept it as a sign that I should continue."

Lemm will officially receive the award in October, which celebrates writers of their exceptional talent that is "unflinching, unwavering look at the world."

Lemm released his first book of poetry in 1988 at the age of 21, and since the age of 24 he has been a full-time writer, performing internationally. In 1995, he made the BBC documentary Internal Flight about his life. His 2005 drama Something Dark deals with his search for his family, and was adapted for BBC Radio 3 in 2006, winning the UK Commission for Racial Equality's Race in the Media award (RIMA).

In 2007, Lemn was appointed artist-in-residence at London's Southbank Centre. He was the official poet of the 2012 London Olympics, has worked with the British Council and is a patron of the Letterbox Club, supporting children in care. His work has featured at the Royal Academy and the British Film Institute. Lemn was made an Honorary Doctor of Letters by the University of Huddersfield in 2009 and was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2010 New Year Honors. In 2014 Lemn was appointed as a Fellow of the Foundling Museum.

Lemm’s television appearances include The South Bank Show and the BBC’s series Grumpy Old Men. As a radio broadcaster Lemn makes documentaries for the BBC. He is a regular contributor on the BBC Radio 4’s Saturday Live, which in 2008 was nominated for two Sony Awards. He also contributes to the BBC’s Book Panel.

South Sudan government denies committing crimes against civilians

South Sudan on Thursday denied accusations by Human Rights Watch (HRW) that government troops committed atrocities against civilians in the country’s southern region of Yei River.

Government spokesman Michael Makuei said the HRW report was meant to tarnish the name of the government at a time when the country is implementing the September 2018 peace deal.

“This report was written in order to tarnish the image of the government of South Sudan and the army in particular,” Makuei said. “This is not true and there is nothing as such.”

The report accuses South Sudanese soldiers of carrying out extensive abuses against civilians during counter-insurgency operations between December 2018 and last March. The report alleged that government soldiers raped civilians, looted property, burned houses, and evicted thousands of residents from their homes in Otogo and Mukaya areas during an operation against a rebel group.

Military spokesman Lul Rual Koang also dismissed the report, saying the government ceased fighting rebels since signing of the peace deal last year.

(Xinhua)

UN pulls staff from Sudan amid growing global concern

The United Nations will pull staff out of Sudan as the African Union holds an emergency meeting after the violent dispersal of a protest camp in the capital killed dozens of people.

The UN plans to relocate some personnel because of the violence but will continue.

“What we are doing is temporarily relocating some of the staff from Sudan. There will still be some staff on hand to perform critical functions but because of security some ... are being relocated temporarily,” said Haq.

According to the Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors, at least 108 people have been killed and more than 500 wounded after security forces opened fire on Monday to clear demonstrators from their site in downtown Khartoum, which they had occupied for weeks demanding civilian rule after Omar al-Bashir was deposed.

The committee said 40 bodies were taken to an unknown location by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).
Life in general and in relativity appears to be simple; and for thousands of years, people pursued what can be said to be a life of bounty and perhaps happiness. However, since last year, things started to change for the intermixed populations of the two zones: mostly inhabited by Gedeos and Guji Oromos.

The southern tip of Ethiopia with its greenish topography will probably deceive anyone who got the chance to go there, as it can mislead visitors into thinking that life in the area is not as challenging; probably by comparison to some of the lowland areas of the country.

Indeed life in Gedeo-West Guji Zones (an intersection of Southern and Oromia Regional State) has always been simple and more or less frictionless. Hands down, these specific zones are gifted perhaps with one of the most fertile lands in Ethiopia. Coffee, the primary export commodity to the nation, is harvested as easily as the nearby forest trees; not to mention the high premium forest coffee varieties carry in the in the global commodity market. Ensete, commonly known as the Ethiopian (false) banana, widely used as staple food in many areas of Southern Ethiopia, simply grows in the backyards.

Unlike the challenging topographic features of North Ethiopia, framers in the two zones rarely use cows to plough their farm; rather they can make do with simple hand-tools since the virgin land with its soft soil is not as such difficult to farm.

Life in general and in relativity appears to be simple; and for thousands of years, people pursued what can be said to be a life of bounty and perhaps happiness. However, since last year, things started to change for the intermixed populations of the two zones: mostly inhabited by Gedeos and Guji Oromos.

Following the coming to power Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) back in April, 2018, and before the euphoria or Abiymania, as it was coined by the Economist, finally begun to settle down, it became evident that, ironically, life in Gedeo-West Guji is starting to turn upside-down.

Millions from both ethnic groups (the majority being the Gedeos) were displaced from their homes, following a communal violence which coincidentally began in the same month that Abiy swore into power.

Tamrat Gedacho, in his early 30’s, who lives in Gedeb Woreda of the Gedeo Zone, was a radio operator at Ethiopian National Defense Forces for seven years. He joined the military back in 2008 and served till last year. He was deployed to the Northern Front and served in Adwa, Rama as well as Toserna military posts. He reached to...
“I left the military so that I can start my own family and help my elder poor mother,” he told The Reporter. As I was hoping for a better life, I began farming after investing the meager funds I collected as I left the military.

“I wish I did not leave the army so that I could skip this tragedy,” said Tamrat. The tragedy which left millions to be displaced was in fact one of the major setbacks for the much acclaimed political reform under PM Abiy’s administration.

First Lieutenant Rank after serving for eight years in the military. Life has now put him in another path and he is now among thousands of internally displaced population in his locality. The Reporter met him in his locality in Gedebo Woreda two weeks ago.

“I left the military so that I can start my own family and help my elder poor mother,” he told The Reporter. As I was hoping for a better life, I began farming after investing the meager funds I collected as I left the military.

He lives with the seven members of his family including his mother. Just after few months into his new life and before his optimism about what lays ahead subsided, a communal conflict, which he says involved armed groups in the area, left millions, including Tamrat, in a difficult position. They were forced to leave their house because of the communal violence, where he said they lost their houses and all their assets. He and his relatives were sheltered in schools, churches and hospital in nearby towns.

“Now we are left with nothing,” he said. “I wish I did not leave the army so that I could skip this tragedy,” said Tamrat. The tragedy which left millions to be displaced was in fact one of the major setbacks for the much acclaimed political reform under PM Abiy’s administration.

The Gedeo crisis... page 38
``UNICEF WILL FOCUS ON REDUCING DISPARITIES BETWEEN CHILDREN LIVING WITH MEANS AND THOSE WITHOUT.``

Adele Khodr

Adele Khodr is the new head of UNICEF Ethiopia. She has had a long and rich career with one of the world’s leading international humanitarian agency. Here, she reflects with The Reporter’s Samuel Getachew on her career, on finding action oriented initiatives in the midst of foreign investment that is changing the narrative of the nation and on a new country report UNICEF is set to release on Ethiopia. Excerpts:

State Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marksos Tekle Rike noted how Ethiopia wants to strengthen the multilateralism and partnership with UNICEF in results oriented initiatives. UNICEF has been in Ethiopia for eon. Share with me some of its work in Ethiopia that has been vital in making an impact on the ground?

Indeed, I presented my credentials to His Excellency Marksos Tekle Rike, State Minister of Foreign Affairs, and discussed our joint commitment to strengthening our partnership for more and better results for children.

UNICEF has been in Ethiopia since 1952. It shares with the Government and the people of Ethiopia the vision of better lives and a brighter future for all children, wherever they live and whatever their socio-economic circumstances. During this period, we have seen Ethiopia become among the first countries to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals. Over the last two decades, under-five child mortality has been reduced by two-thirds and primary school enrolments have expanded from only about one in three children to near-universal enrolment, including for girls. Access to safe water has been expanded from 25 per cent to nearly 65 per cent of households, and stunting has been reduced from 58 per cent to 38 per cent. UNICEF is proud to have contributed to these results through its work in health, nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, and child and social protection. Through our annual workplans signed with the Government, we are providing technical and financial support.
to government ministries at federal level and various bureaus at regional level to reach children with essential social services and protect them from violence, exploitation and abuse.

There are areas, however, where we feel progress is lagging - immunization, nutrition, education and eliminating harmful traditional practices. I am looking forward to working with the Government and other partners to see how best to address these issues. For instance, I would like to see us move forward the national roadmap to end harmful practices such as child marriage by 2025 and I would also like to see accelerated progress in birth registration, which currently stands at three per cent of under-five children.

Within Ethiopia, there is much effort in placing the issue of foreign investment as paramount to its development. In 2019, to donors and the recipient society of Ethiopia, why do you think development aid is still important to a nation such as Ethiopia as it transforms itself from an aid dependent nation to one that welcomes the world to invest within it?

Ethiopia’s economic growth is remarkable. GDP has increased ten-fold over the last two decades. Within this context, the role of development aid continues to change. As GDP grows, the share of development aid to GDP and government revenue declines. We are all happy when a country can increasingly rely on domestic resources to finance its development needs.

Yet, despite Ethiopia’s impressive economic expansion and ongoing structural transformation, development aid continues to play an important role in complementing the country’s development efforts. More targeted support includes strengthening the overall effectiveness and efficiency of Government systems and programmes, an area UNICEF is engaged in. Such support has a multiplier effect - an efficient and well-oiled government machinery delivers quality and equitable services to all children.

Furthermore, development aid is critical in reaching pockets of the population that are benefitting less from national development programmes, for instance, the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach children for whom UNICEF is strengthening the quality and availability of services. We are doing this through research, innovation and technical assistance. Recently, UNICEF partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop Arktek, a cold-chain device that is capable of storing ice-cooled vaccines for up to one month in remote locations. Capable of being transported by car or camel, the technology is enabling health posts in Ethiopia’s remote areas with no access to electricity to provide essential and lifesaving immunization to remote agrarian communities, mobile pastoralists, villages that are far from a health center. The Government is now implementing this technology - produced by private manufacturers - as part of its immunization programme.

This example also shows that while traditional development aid remains critical to leveraging Government resources for development, achieving national development goals will require development partners...
WAR RAVAGED HOME
There is no place that is as humbling as Badme. It is hard to imagine the many thousands that have died for it fighting in one of the world's bloodiest wars. There are few that live here and many are entering the uncertain prospect of joining Eritrea with no local input.

The Band-Aid solutions of donors are what sustain it today. There is little development except the scattered mud hut homes that reflect the temporary homes of the destitute – on borrowed time.

“There is much politics to Badme that what the place offers,” an elderly woman heading to Sheraro, a two-hour drive on a bumpy road told The Reporter. “When you see it, hard is to tell why many young people died for it, but for us, its home. Despite its shortcomings, its where most of our relatives perished in and where we also want to buried in. But life is hard.”

It seems hard.

Like Sheraro, Zalambessa and other border towns, war and the no-war-no-peace agenda of Ethiopia and Eritrea has truly affected Badme, a village in the Gash-Barka region of the border. Both nations have claimed the area; have thousands of their citizen’s die and ultimately opening endless negotiations and conflicts that would be ignored when not on either side’s favor, despite the Algiers Agreement through the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission in 2002, which said it belonged to Eritrea.

“I do not have the heart or the know-how where Badme should belong. But all I want is for the town to be developed. That is to have us have basic electricity, water and peaceful existence,” a young man inside a newly named youth center named after Meles Zenawi said. “Many have died for it, but we have yet to see what the cause was. If the cause was good, why do we have unfortunate and miserable lives to begin with?”

For a long time, there has been internal displacement of thousands inside refugee camps on what for the last two decades has been under an imminent war and a population estimated to be 2000, living in its bubble. The Ethiopian government has given it little attention and gave its responsibilities to donors, while it focused on securing the disputed border.

“I have lived as a refugee here, becoming a refugee in my own nation. As a man in my 30s, I have lived my adult life, knowing there might be a war starting anytime and I will be the thousands of faceless people that would perish. People my generation are the faceless prisoners of a war, which should have been settled in the boardrooms and in peace. But here we are. Look what I have accumulated so far, just a one room shack and nothing else”, Eyob Hagos, a father of four, said.

A year ago, in the dawn of a change of government in Addis Ababa and an effort by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) was finally made and the highlight of that effort became the future of Badme, a place where he lived and worked in as a member of the Ethiopia’s military intelligence team during the 1998-2000 war. As part of that effort, the Ethiopian government had finally agreed to cede it back to Eritrea.

Walking around the town, it is easy to understand how its narrative has reached the dead-end that have been impacted by conflicts, many with no electricity, young people seating idle and a place that is dusty and equipped with a long school funded by donor states. There is a monument for the dead and burial sites for about a dozen and makeshift restaurants selling cheap beer that is hot and humid because of the lack of electricity of the area.

With the exception of old public buses and automobiles belonging to charity organizations, there is the presence of military cars, but for a year, the area has been less militarized. To the area, the soldiers were for the most part strangers, but they have since become better and engaged citizens, Henok Angedon told The Reporter.

“For the most part, we only saw them driving past us, with little acknowledgements, but for the last year, we see them wondering the streets, enjoying a beer and having normal conversations. The new era has humanized them.”

Badme, what Foreign Policy magazine called, is indeed “the dusty village which has nothing but symbolic value to either side – Ethiopia and Eritrea. The poverty, the dead-end opportunities for young people and no needed infrastructures and memories of conflicts and wars, many have left.

Meles Yosef, named after the late Prime Minister has seen many of his friends leave for better opportunities, in nearby towns and even outside of Ethiopia. For the 47 year old, the war of two decades ago was devastating. He lost many of his family members and his life seemed be doomed.

He left for Shere, but slowly returned to Badme, as his second hand cloth business became successful and he started making money and eventually settled back. He met his wife here and as a father one, he enrolled his child in the lone school that is a stone throw away from his home.

“When the last war broke, I was young. But I remember it like yesterday. I was devastating as almost all my family perished and I became one of the few that survived. I still have nightmares, but being a father gave me a second chance at living. I do hope his generation will not experience what mine has had. War is tough and it’s real. I still have the scars after many years,” he said.

“Twenty years after that era, we live in Badme, as it’s our last. While I came back for the economic opportunities, I use the excuse that I do what I do for my child. But deep in my heart, I was just coming home, the home that wasn’t for me. Here in Badme, I feel like I am closer to my parents, the parents that died not knowing the reasons for their death. I feel that I am at home”.

He certainly is at home!

Ed’s Note: Samuel was recently on a region wide tour of Tigray and this is the third part of a series of articles he would be writing on his experience.
**VIEWPOINT**

**Peace and democracy for a brighter future**

By Teklu Woldegiorgis

Ever since the declaration of sweeping political and economic reforms that had never been experienced in our country, citizens have started exercising their rights freely.

The eruption of unexpected political changes brought hope and joy to Ethiopians including those that were living in exile. They came back home without any fear of arbitrary arrests or extrajudicial killings.

However, after a year, the speed and direction of the reformers are facing artificial obstacles here and there fueled with unimaginable internal displacements, intimidation and political unrest guided by certain groups of hooligans.

Institutions such as labor unions, professional associations, political parties, the judiciary, peasant associations and even civic services are weak and in reality are non-existent when it comes to standing up against undemocratic practices. Ethnic nationalism and separatist sentiments cast a dark cloud on the legitimacy of the state as a whole. The pull towards anarchy which would eventually lead to tyranny.

If we can agree on the definition of the state as a structure of power and authority, which claims sovereign jurisdiction over a given territory, and which seeks to monopolize the legitimate use of physical force within those boundaries, it may be difficult to understand the vacuum created in protecting the public from its adversaries.

Socio-economic reforms must be strategically designed. In this unsettled world of ours the technology of destruction is way advanced as opposed to the progression of the technology of production and consequently the ultimate power will not be in the hands of those who control the means of production but in the hands of those who control the means of destruction.

The contribution of opposition parties in galvanizing the struggle for peace and democracy is below public expectation. A related factor is obviously the strength of political elites who want to remain in power at all costs against the wishes of the people.

One obtuse sociological factor is simply the primacy of ethnicity in present Ethiopia as opposed to class consciousness. It is assumed that political parties can only thrive under one of two alternatives. The first focuses on mass mobilization while the second focuses on elite competition. So do the aforementioned alternatives work perfectly in present Ethiopia when considering the 108 political parties? The issue of group rights is congenial to both situations.

When looking at the socio-economic frontier, the degree of crisis is increasing, the economy is under strain, infrastructures are decaying or vastly dwindling and social development indices are on the rise as a result of macro-economic mismanagement. Balance of trade is critically low and inflation is surging to two digits coupled with soaring unemployment. The financial burden of certain projects that consume foreign exchange without any tangible economic return are leading to a debt-trap which require years to resolve given the existing revitalization of the economic policy.

Action being taken at present can only provide temporary relief. Local and foreign direct investment requires a safe peace and a secure environment to move labor and capital freely without any reservation.

In certain areas the transportation system is being adversely affected; roads are being halted, roads are often closed, property is being looted and people are attacked by certain groups of hoodlums.
Who thought that US President Donald Trump’s vow to bring balance to the “unfair” trade deals with China would eventually reach into the pockets of an African carrying one of Huawei’s smartphone?

What started as election campaign propaganda with the alleged American “job theft” by the Chinese, the US-China muscle flexing showdown is now unveiling its ugly face on the global consumer. Unlike the smooth beginning of a general steel imports tariff on all traders with the US, the trade war between the two powers narrowed down to a tit for tat type retaliations of levied tariffs on imports. Now US$200 billion worth of imports from China face tariffs of 25 percent to 10 percent.

Discussion between President Trump and President Xi Jinping did not work out despite a round of talks that began at Mar-a-Lago and reinforced in Beijing. Although various companies from both sides have been victim of this trade war between the two elephants, the last one to get a treat from the wrath was Huawei. It was actually foreseeable as President Trump has been criticizing the Chinese number two smartphone maker has been venturing into the new technology – 5G network. Trump alleged that Huawei is a security threat to the US eventually banning Huawei from any activity in the 5G network infrastructure construction. Despite the President’s call for US allies to take similar measures, secret leaks from one of the loyal US associates, the United Kingdom, showed that the UK does not intend to ban Huawei from the deployment of 5G network.

But all this discussion was too distant for most of African nations like Ethiopia until President Trump blacklisted Huawei eventually banning device sales in the US. And, as US companies have to comply with this Order, Huawei’s mobile operating system provider, Google, announced halting its links with Huawei and announced that it severed its relations with Huawei; the second best Android phones seller around the world. It was in the second quarter of 2018 that Huawei became the second top smartphone vendor overtaking a place held by America’s own Apple Inc. maker of the iPhone. Currently, Huawei stands at second place following Samsung which shipped a total of 59 million and 71 million devices worldwide respectively in the first quarter of the year 2019. Apple shipments were 36 million units. While Samsung saw a decline of 8.1 percent in its shipment volume, and Apple a staggering 30.2 percent decline. Huawei exhibited a year over year growth of 50 percent giving it 18 percent of the market share. Xiaomi, Vivo and Oppo brands of China are in the list up to number six according to IDC Corporate, USA.

This is, according to some commentators, the reason for President Trump to ban Huawei to protect the American company from the fierce market competition. Following this ban, Android owners across the world were in shock and even started to ask what to do with their device. Ethiopia is no exception in this regard.

According to Ethio Telecom, there are 36.44 million active mobile subscribers in Ethiopia. Out of this, 31 percent or 12.4 million are high end smartphones. Basic phones stand high at the share of 50 percent. Ninety two percent of these smartphones run Android while about five percent run Symbian and 2.5 percent phones run IOS.

Stat counter, a global statistics agency, puts Samsung at the forefront in the Ethiopian market. The South Korean company has a market share of 35.7 percent in Ethiopia followed by Huawei at 17.94 percent. Tecno follows with 13.7 percent market share and Apple stands last at 3.6 percent market share.

So, this implies that, Android’s departure from Huawei is a concern for users in Ethiopia too. “Even though Huawei users might not feel the immediate effect of the ban, they eventually might have problems with future android updates,” comments Biruk Hailye, a former IT engineer at one of Huawei’s wing in Ethiopia which works on telecom network installation. He says that current Huawei users as well as those who have already released models in stock don’t have to worry about any effect on them. Rather the worry is for Huawei which is in preparation to release new models.

Google will stop supplying Huawei with updates to Android, and it does not allow Huawei to keep offering phones with Google apps on them, such as Gmail, Google Maps, YouTube, and the Google Play Store. Huawei spokesman begs to differ and says the company will still be rolling out its own updates.

"Huawei will continue to provide security updates and after sales services to all existing Huawei and Honor smartphone and tablet products covering those have been sold or still in stock globally," the spokesperson announced.

Even though Android is an open source software and any developer can access it, some features like Google Play are only used with a special agreement with Google. Therefore, Huawei will access Google’s open source Android but it won’t be able to provide the important google services like maps and play store which make Android phones preferable in most markets.

But Huawei seemed prepared for this as it has been developing its own operating system named Hong Meng. Since the announcement of the new operating system, critics seemed to be skeptic about the success as previous attempts to do so remain in vain.

But Huawei is not in the US market only for Android OS, but also important inputs like integrated circuit chips which revolutionized the mobile technology. Other suppliers of Huawei are also refraining from any activities linking them to the second biggest smartphone seller in the world.

With these all developments going on, the 90 days grace period given for Huawei made many hopeful that the US and the Chinese mobile maker will be able to resolve their issue resulting in the simmering down of all the tension.

What Biruk also believes is that Huawei would opt for negotiations resulting in the resolution of the problem. Unless some solutions are found, many fear that this might escalate the trade war already being waged between the US and China resulting in a possible recession globally as soon as the upcoming 2020 US Presidential election.

Currently, Huawei is said to have halted productions and this might affect its growing market share. For instance, the release of a new product, Honor 20 Pro, was halted due to the sanction.
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Amazing interior designs from “Topdezigners” on Instagram

There is so much on the internet these days and the stuff that you find in the virtual world can get you down or angry. However, there are times that you have to stop and appreciate the pages that calm your soul. Topdezigners is an Instagram page that reposts gorgeous sleek, modern, and innovative furniture, room, and even outdoor architectural designs.

Interior design is the art and science of enhancing the interior of a building to achieve a healthier and more aesthetically pleasing environment for the people using the space. An interior designer is someone who plans, researches, coordinates, and manages such projects.

Interior design is a multifaceted profession that includes conceptual development, space planning, site inspections, programming, research, communicating with the stakeholders of a project, construction management, and execution of the design.

The breathtaking architecture and craftsmanship featured in Topdezigners has drawn in some 172k followers and will have you scrolling through for hours. Dive into the serene realm of whimsical bedrooms, elaborate staircases, and functional art installations that might not provide realistic home remodeling inspiration but at the very least will give your mind a mini-vacation. On the right are some of the most unique designs from this account.

Google Maps can now tell you your speed in real time

Google has quietly added a live speedometer into Google Maps, allowing you to keep an eye on your speed alongside local speed limits. Android Police reports that the feature can be turned on and off from the app’s Navigation Settings menu in Settings, after which it will display in the bottom left corner of the app during a car journey.

The feature is just one of many that have trickled into Google Maps after first appearing in the Waze app, which Google bought way back in 2013. We’ve already seen speed limits come to the app, as well as incident reporting, which allows you to notify other drivers about crashes, police checkpoints, and speed cameras. Google Maps even adopted the ability to customize your navigation icon.

The feature doesn’t appear to be available everywhere just yet. Android Police says that users have reported seeing it in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Taiwan, the UK, and the US. The feature is reportedly not currently available in Android Auto, but is in the Auto app.

On a pre-existing support page, Google advises that its speed limits functionality is provided for “informational purposes only” and given how unreliable GPS can be, it’s probably best to take the same approach with the speedometer. Otherwise you might find yourself inadvertently making Speedy Gonzales look like Regular Gonzales the next time your phone loses signal.
The Reporter, June 8, 2019 Vol. 23 No. 1187

Dell's new business laptop logs you in hands-free

It's always been something of a pain to have to sign in to a work computer, but advancements like Windows Hello facial recognition, fingerprint scanning, and Apple's Touch ID systems have made it slightly less painful in recent years. Now, Dell has an option that's even easier. The Latitude 7400 2-in-1, a recently introduced business laptop, features a new ExpressSign-in feature that takes Microsoft's Windows Hello facial recognition app one step further: it looks for your face and then automatically signs you in to the system even if it's in sleep mode.

Aside from the trick new login system, the USD 1,599 (USD 2,802 as tested) Latitude is a fairly typical small business laptop. The 14-inch FHD (1920 x 1080) display is surrounded by a very narrow bezel, which, surprisingly, still contains enough space for an IR camera with an LED and a proximity sensor. The bezel also allows for well-designed hinges that allow the display to travel the 360-degree arc that makes this a 2-in-1 system. The display is reasonably good — certainly good enough for most business applications and casual video watching.

The biggest draw is its use of Intel's Context Sensing technology along with Microsoft's Windows Hello facial recognition system. The idea is that the Latitude should recognize your face and start the computer without you having to do anything. You don't even have to hit the keyboard to wake up the system.

(The Verge)

Skype brings screen sharing to Android and iOS devices

Skype has officially launched screen sharing for Android and iOS devices less than a couple of months after the feature rolled out for beta testers. Screen sharing can be a valuable tool for video calls, whether for personal or work purposes — say, to show a colleague the graphs you've been working on or to show a friend how to find a particular setting in their phone. It's high time the feature made its way to mobile, seeing as smartphones are everywhere now.

The screen sharing feature lives within the newly redesigned "..." menu that you can see at the bottom right corner of the screen while you're in a video call. It shares its home with call recording, subtitles and the ability to add people. While the feature is active, a banner at the top clearly indicates that it's beaming a copy of your screen to the other person in the call.

In addition, Skype's redesigned mobile calling experience is now also out of beta. It lets you focus on video calls by hiding call controls with a single tap and all the elements on the screen with a double tap. Skype has started rolling out the features for Android and iOS devices running iOS 12 and up.

(Engadget)

#ThisWeekInHistory

On June 6, 1944, D-Day, the largest amphibious landing in history, began in the early-morning hours as Allied forces landed in Normandy on the northern coast of France. Operation Overlord took months of planning and involved 1,527,000 soldiers in 47 Allied divisions along with 4,400 ships and landing craft, and 11,000 aircraft. The Germans had about 60 divisions spread along France and the Low Countries. American forces landed on two western beaches, Utah and Omaha, while British and Canadian troops landed farther east on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches. By the end of the day 150,000 Allied soldiers and their accompanying vehicles had landed with 15,000 killed and wounded.

#Rails

Men laying railway tracks for the Franco-Ethiopian Railway in the early 1900s.

www.thereporterethiopia.com
The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is a humanitarian, non-governmental, non-profit organization founded in 1958 that fulfills its mandate by providing direct assistance to conflict-affected populations – refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities in the conflict areas of the world.

The Danish Refugee Council in Ethiopia intends to contract suppliers for one-year framework agreement for the supply of assorted rental vehicles for DRC Ethiopia. The tender dossier and instructions to suppliers is available for collection during working hours Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm from 11th of June up to 21st June 2019 from DRC Addis Ababa House No. 2070.

LOT Bid Reference No. Description
1 ITB No: 006/06/2019/DRC-ETH Supply of Different Types of Rental Vehicles

Interested and eligible suppliers are therefore requested to submit their Bid documents only at DRC Addis Ababa office: on or before 10:00AM on the 25th June 2019, and Bid will be opened in the presence of the bidder’s representatives who will be notified by 12:00 Noon on the same date on 25th June 2019 at 10:30AM.

The bids should be submitted in separate sealed envelopes bearing the relevant reference number mentioned above.

Note: The suppliers should come up with the relevant license copy during the collection of the Bid documents.

**SUBMISSION PROCESS**

The tender documents should be received at DRC Addis Ababa Ethiopia, Country office, Bole-behind Sheger Building, Kebele 03/05, House No. 2070, Office phone: -251 116 637363, +251 911 608192, +251 930 03407, Addis Ababa Ethiopia, with the subject, ITB reference Number and Lot Number clearly marked on the envelope.

Disclaimer

DRC reserves the right to accept or reject any submission in part or entirely without assigning reasons thereof.
Invitation to Bid

Procurement Reference Number YCFCU/16406/11

Bid for Supply of Jute Bags

1. **ECC-SDCBOM** (Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission Branch Office of Meki) has agreed with Oromia Irrigation Development Authority Bureau towards the implementation of Development Food Security Activities (DFSA) Project and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this fund and front to eligible payment under this contract for Construction of Rehabilitation and upgrading SS irrigation Schemes listed below in Oromia Regional State West Arsi Zone at Hebe-Arsi District.

2. Accordingly, Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission Branch Office of Meki (ECC-SDCBOM) invites eligible contractors to submit sealed bids for the execution and completion of the following schemes in one lots.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/NO.</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Woreda</th>
<th>Type of Irrigation Schemes</th>
<th>Amount of Bid Security</th>
<th>Category of invited Contractors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Gedamso Rehabilitation and Upgrading SS Project</td>
<td>West Arsi</td>
<td>Heben Arsi</td>
<td>Rehabilitation and Upgrading SS</td>
<td>ETB 2% of offered price</td>
<td>WWC Grade 6 &amp; above</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Payments by ECC-SDCBOM will be made only at the approval of the office and will be subjected, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Agreement.

4. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive bidding (NCB) procedures specified in FDRE procurement guidelines. It is open to all domestic Contractors as indicated in the above table licensed in Water Works construction having valid license for the fiscal year (2011 E.C.)

5. Bidders with Grade of WWC-6 and above may purchase & participate for provided that the capital capacity limit set by Ministry of works and Urban Development of federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for each contractors should be respected.

6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased from Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission Branch Office of Meki compound, Finance Manager Office, Telephone No. + 251-22-118-07-98, or +251-22-118-0193, P.O. Box 43. Upon submission of a written request and payment of a non-refundable fee of Eth. Birr 200.00 (Two hundred birr only) for each lot. The method of payment will be in cash only. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission Branch Office of Meki at the address given above.

7. Bidders should have visited project site and memorandum of understanding letter from Irrigation Development Authority (IDA) district.

8. No Price adjustment will be allowed.

9. Bides shall be valid for a period of 120 working days after bid closing and must be accompanied by a bid security of the amount stated above in the form of cash payment Order (CPO) or Bank guarantee only during submission of the bid.

10. Bids must be delivered to Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission Branch Office of Meki compound, Finance Manger Office, Telephone No. + 251-22-118-07-98, or +251-22-118-0193 P.O. Box 43 on or before June 21, 2019 at 11:00 am and will be opened on the same date June 21, 2019 at 3:00 pm in the presence of the bidders or their legally authorized representatives.

11. Ethiopian Catholic Church Social Development Commission Branch Office of Meki reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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The Reporter, June 8, 2019 Vol. 23 No. 1187
Financing climate-smart investment in Africa

By Alzbeta Klein

On the evening of March 14, tropical cyclone Idai slammed into the southeastern coast of Africa. On the same day, some 1,700 miles due north, I gathered with global leaders and climate experts at the third One Planet Summit (OPS) in Nairobi, Kenya. The two scenes could not have been more different – or more closely linked.

The humanitarian emergency triggered by Idai continues to unfold. Beira, Mozambique, with its 500,000-plus residents, bore the brunt of the cyclone’s impact. But the consequences extend much further, not least because Beira is home to the main port for some of its regional neighbors, including landlocked Malawi and Zimbabwe. An inland lake the size of Luxembourg is now displacing hundreds of thousands of people across all three countries.

At a time when climate change is making catastrophic weather events more common, Idai amounts to a stark reminder of our collective responsibility to build resilience, especially in the most vulnerable areas. After all, as Beira’s severely straitened budget makes clear, the costs of waiting for disaster to strike are much higher. According to Lloyd’s City Risk Index, even in a conservative scenario, climate-related risks could cost cities USD 123 billion annually, on average, in lost GDP.

The challenge will be compounded as the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture and other rural livelihoods accelerate already-rapid urbanization. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the number of urban dwellers, already in excess of 470 million, is set to double over the next 25 years. By 2050, the region is expected to account for 20 percent of the world’s urban residents.

But rapid urbanization can also serve as an opportunity to build climate-resilient cities. To make the most of it will require mobilizing large amounts of investment in areas like climate-smart water management, clean transport, and green buildings.

Mobilization of climate finance was a central theme at this year’s OPS, with Africa being the main region of focus. The participants who included some of my World Bank Group colleagues, as well as heads of state, civil-society organizations, and private-sector actors, proposed the Africa Pledge, which contains commitments to accelerate climate action that serves the continent’s people.

As part of the Africa Pledge, the World Bank’s new climate finance action plan will deliver USD 22.5 billion in new climate financing to Africa from 2021-2025. This financing, combined with the World Bank Group’s Action Plan on Adaptation and Resilience, better positions African countries to unlock investment opportunities and manage the risks of a changing climate.

Even with such financing from international institutions, however, the costs of building climate resilience will far exceed public budgets. Mobilizing private capital will be crucial to close the financing gap, and here the role of the International Finance Corporation – the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector in developing countries – is essential. In particular, the IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, has been developing and implementing innovative financing products, such as green bonds and carbon credits, to enable private-sector actors to invest in climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

The green-bond market alone, after a decade of rapid growth, is poised to exceed USD 180 billion this year, and the IFC is eager to help organizations aim at unlocking investment opportunities in climate finance that this market represents. In 2016, the IFC launched the world’s largest green-bond fund dedicated to emerging markets, the Amundi Planet Emerging Green One fund, committing USD 256 million to increase the capacity of emerging-market banks to fund climate-smart investments. Such efforts earned the IFC the title of Green Bond Development Bank of 2018 at this year’s Green Bond Pioneer Awards.

But even with the most innovative instruments, sufficient private investment will not be forthcoming if governments do not create the right conditions. To attract private investment to climate-smart projects, they must create a viable project pipeline. African cities and countries must improve their creditworthiness and boost project bankability.

The rewards of such efforts would be enormous. A recent IFC study, Climate Investment Opportunities in Cities, estimates that emerging-market cities could attract more than USD 28.4 trillion in cumulative climate-smart investment over the next 20 years.

Financing . . . page 30

Helping Africa’s smallholders feed the world

By Usman Ali Lawan

In the rural village of Kura in Kano State, Nigeria, where I grew up, my grandfather would lose more than half of his tomatoes after each harvest. He was not a bad farmer. But bad roads made it difficult for him to get his tomatoes to market, and he had never learned modern methods of preserving them. In an effort to salvage some of his produce, he often dried them on the sand.

This is still true of about 80 million rural farmers in Nigeria. Across Sub-Saharan Africa, as much as 59 percent of fruits and vegetables, 40 percent of roots and tubers, and 20 percent of cereals, legumes, and pulses harvested are lost before they reach a market. Less than a half-mile away from a major tomato paste factory in Kaduna, Kano, Nigeria, some 200 rural farmers dry over 40 trailer-loads of fresh tomatoes in the sand every week.

This lack of knowledge and resources among rural farmers contributes substantially to global food insecurity. After all, in the developing world, rural smallholder farmers – most of whom own less than four hectares of farmland – comprise the majority of all farmers. In fact, rural people produce three-quarters of the world’s food, yet they constitute 80 percent of the world’s poor.

Delivering enough food to feed the world’s population requires farmers to overcome a series of often unpredictable challenges, related to factors such as climate change, water scarcity, lack of access to extension services, and armed conflict in agricultural areas. As a result of these challenges, millions of people have been driven from their homes, prevented from working their fields, unable to get their products to markets, or cut off from supplies of improved seedlings, fertilizer, and financial services.

And the challenges continue to escalate. The number of food emergencies – when disasters such as drought, floods, or war lead to food-supply shortfalls that demand external assistance – has risen from 15 per year, on average, in the 1980s to more than 30 per year since 2000.

The result is widespread food insecurity. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, more than 820 million people worldwide lack access to sufficient food in 2017; more than two billion people experience deficiencies of key micronutrients; and more than half of the people living in low-income countries are not sure where their next meal will come from. If current trends hold, the amount of food being grown will feed only half of the world population by 2050.

But these trends can be changed – and Africa is a good place to start. As Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank and winner of the 2017 World Food Prize, has put it, “Africa in the future should not only feed itself but it must contribute to feeding the world.”

Any strategy to boost food security must emphasize increasing productivity and reducing post-harvest losses. To that end, governments and agro-processing companies should each be doing their part to advance cost-effective measures that take advantage of new technologies, strengthen infrastructure, and offer training and support to rural smallholders.

Governments, through their various agricultural programs, can help rural farmers to form cooperatives, where they can leverage their collective strength. Private firms, for their part, can provide small farmers with extension services and inputs, and serve as major bulk buyers of produce.

This is a proven approach. In Kebbi State, Nigeria, the Anchor Borrower scheme for the Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria – implemented in collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria and a government loan program – has boosted rural farmers’ output and incomes, by helping them to form cooperatives, providing training and inputs, and guaranteeing a buyer.

When designing any such scheme, policymakers must make sure to promote sustainable farming practices that minimize agriculture’s use of natural resources, including soil and water. All governments should commit to ensuring food security, especially in the face of climate change and its adverse effects on agriculture and rural livelihoods.
The Reporter, June 8, 2019 Vol. 23 No. 1187

Maintaining the momentum against cholera

By Anita Zaidi

When Cyclone Idai ripped through Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe on the night of March 14, it wrought unimaginable devastation and claimed more than 1,000 lives. In its aftermath, and that of Cyclone Kenneth the following month, flooding and the loss of infrastructure created the conditions for an explosive outbreak of cholera, a deadly diarrhoeal disease that can kill a person within hours if left untreated.

But what happened next is key: after Idai struck, the authorities launched a rapid-response initiative and, within 24 hours, arranged for oral cholera vaccines to be delivered to Mozambique. With a large-scale vaccination effort now underway, the outbreak is under control, and thousands of lives have been saved.

In the past, developing countries that have been struck by natural disasters or afflicted by war have not been so fortunate. After a devastating earthquake in 2010, Haiti experienced a protracted cholera outbreak that claimed thousands of lives and jeopardized its recovery. And in war-torn Yemen today, an equally widespread outbreak has yet to be brought under control.

An ancient disease, cholera once killed tens of thousands of people in Europe and North America; but it was eliminated from the Global North more than 150 years ago. Now, it is found almost exclusively in the world’s poorest communities, where it is a deadly side effect of economic deprivation and inequity.

Nonetheless, in the past 18 months, the world has made significant strides in the fight against cholera. In partnership with the governments of cholera-affected countries, the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC), a network of leading global health organizations, is working to consign cholera to history books.

In 2018, the GTFCC arranged the shipment of 17.4 million doses of the oral cholera vaccine to affected countries. As a result, more people are vaccinated for cholera today than ever before. The cholera vaccine is not just safe and inexpensive, but also highly effective, providing immediate protection that can last for up to five years. It thus serves as a necessary bridge between emergency responses and broader, longer-term efforts such as investment in water safety, sanitation, and hygiene services.

This achievement would not have been possible without Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance’s public-private partnership. Gavi leverages financing for vaccination, reduces the cost of vaccines, and improves their delivery by supporting countries’ health systems. Owing to its innovative twenty-first-century fundraising and delivery model, it is one of our best assets in the fight against vaccine-preventable diseases. Better still, the oral cholera vaccine is just one of 13 vaccines that Gavi supports.

Since its founding in 2000, Gavi has averted an estimated 10 million deaths – a figure that will grow as cholera outbreaks recede.

In addition to setting a new record for the delivery of oral cholera vaccines, GTFCC and Gavi are also supporting a long-term strategy led by cholera-affected countries to eradicate the disease. As outlined in Ending Cholera: A Global Roadmap to 2030, the goal is to reduce cholera deaths by 90 percent and eliminate the disease from 26 of the 47 countries currently affected within the next 11 years.

It is possible that historians will remember 2019 as the beginning of the end of cholera, but much depends on our efforts in the next few years. For starters, global health donors must step up to ensure that Gavi is fully funded in the next strategic investment period (2021-2025). This support is critical not only for ending cholera, but also for achieving all of our health-related goals. The routine immunization that Gavi provides is essential to building strong primary health care systems and reaching universal coverage.

Second, cholera-affected countries must show the lead of countries like Somalia, South Sudan, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and others. That means working with the World Health Organization on a cholera control plan to help governments unlock resources and receive technical assistance, including the oral cholera vaccine.

If we do not act now, WHO models show that climate change, urbanization, and population growth could increase cholera cases by 50 percent in the next 20 years.

There is much more to be done, including making major investments in sustainable water, sanitation, hygiene services, improved disease surveillance, and maintaining the momentum against cholera.

www.thereporterethiopia.com

The responsibility to respect

By El Hassan bin Talal

In 1829, a Swiss citizen, Henri Dunant, arrived in Solferino following a crucial battle in the Second Italian War of Independence. Dunant was so appalled by the carnage – tens of thousands of dead and wounded soldiers – that he organized a civilian initiative to help the sick and injured on both sides. Today, 160 years later, that example – and the rules, norms, and institutions that it advanced – must be reaffirmed.

Dunant’s initiative – bearing the motto Siamo tutti fratelli (we are all brothers) – seeded the seeds of the International Committee of the Red Cross, which inspired the first Geneva Convention in 1864. The subsequent Geneva Conventions constitute the basis for international humanitarian law, and the International Criminal Court (ICC) – established in 2002 and accepted by most of the world’s states – became the principal institution for enforcing it.

Yet the Geneva Conventions and the ICC are constantly being undermined, often in novel ways. In both Syria and Yemen, for example, state and non-state actors alike violate international humanitarian law, not only with alarming regularity, but also with apparent impunity. As Vincent Bernhard, Editor-in-Chief of the International Review of the Red Cross, observed, these are wars “against children, against hospitals, against first-aid workers, against memory, against justice.”

Countless people have simply disappeared, traumatizing families and communities. Generations of children have known nothing but violent conflict. Entire camps in Syria are filled with captured Islamic State fighters and their families, who are often denied due process. To ignore the legal rights of any individual – even one who has allegedly committed serious crimes – is to repudiate the inherent worth of all humans. And to deny children a future because of their parents’ alleged actions is to guarantee a legacy of hatred that will plague societies for decades.

For the last century, my country, Jordan, has faced the consequences of at least one war each decade. And, despite our scarce water and relatively poor population, we host millions of refugees from multiple conflicts. Too often, however, governments have failed to uphold international humanitarian law and human rights in terms of the need to guarantee physical security.

That is a false dichotomy. As United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein put it before stepping down last year, “When those leaders undermine human rights, and human rights law […] they are eroding the structures which can ensure the safety of their people – pitching their societies backwards into violence, destruction, exploitation, and disaster.”

Support for the Geneva Conventions is vital not only to how wars are fought, but also to how they end. And in today’s protracted conflicts, ensuring the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection – and the accountability of leaders – is more important than ever.

To this end, a new Principle of Humanity should be placed at the center of national and international policymaking. The internationally recognized “Responsibility to Protect” should be augmented by the “Responsibility to Respect,” which would oblige governments to pursue social justice beyond the scope of the immediate conflict.

But applying the Principle of Humanity requires an approach that incorporates both public and nongovernmental actors, from conflict-resolution specialists to business leaders and private citizens. And it means that apathy is not an option: we must all demand justice. We cannot tacitly condone atrocities, just because they seem isolated from our daily lives.

Mahatma Gandhi put it best: “All humanity is one undivided and indivisible family, and each one of us is responsible for the misdeeds of all the others.” An attack on one is an attack on all. And to end the cycle of violence in which too
**INVITATION TO LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING**

Lion International Bank S.C. (LIB) invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the procurement of the following items.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>U.M</th>
<th>QTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAT – 01</td>
<td>Embossed Light Box (Annual Supply Contract Bases)</td>
<td>M²</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LIB Direction Indicator (Annual Supply Contract Bases) Size: 1m x 0.80m</td>
<td>M²</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MTO Light Box (Annual Supply Contract Bases) Thickness 0.6cm</td>
<td>M²</td>
<td>Multiple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT – 02</td>
<td>Galvanized Metal Dixon Shelf</td>
<td>Pcs</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT – 03</td>
<td>Diesel Canopy Generator Sets (10 KVA)</td>
<td>Pcs</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BIDDING REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Interested Bidders can obtain a complete set of bid documents from the LIB’s Head Office, Procurement & Facilities Management Department, located at Haile G/Selassie Avenue, LEX Plaza Building 4th floor, commencing from **Wednesday, June 12, 2019** during work hours upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Bir 100.00 (Bir One Hundred only)** for Each Category;

2. Along with the Bid Documents, Bidders should provide copy of Renewed Trade License, VAT Registration Certificate, TIN Certificate and Tax Clearance evidence from the government.

3. Bidders should provide valid Manufacturers Authorization Letter (MAF) for CAT-03.

4. The bid shall remain valid for a period of **90 days** from the opening date of the bid.

5. The Bid document shall be submitted accompanied by bid security in the form of Cash Payment Order (CPO) or unconditional Bank Guarantee as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>BID BOND AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category - 01</td>
<td>50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category - 02</td>
<td>20,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category - 03</td>
<td>350,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. A Bank Guarantee issued from any branches of Lion International Bank is not acceptable and subject to Disqualification.

7. Bid shall be deposited in the box provided at LIB’s Head Office; Haile G/Selassie Avenue, LEX Plaza Building 4th floor, A.A, as per the following schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>CLOSING DATE &amp; TIME</th>
<th>OPENING DATE &amp; TIME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category - 01</td>
<td>June 27, 2019 at 9:30 A.M</td>
<td>June 27, 2019 at 10:00 A.M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category - 02</td>
<td>June 27, 2019 at 10:30 A.M</td>
<td>June 27, 2019 at 11:00 A.M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category - 03</td>
<td>June 27, 2019 at 3:00 P.M</td>
<td>June 27, 2019 at 3:30 P.M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. Submission of bid after the closing date & time will not be accepted and the document will be returned unopened.

9. Bidders are strongly advised to read and comply with the instructions provided in the bid Document.

10. The Bank reserves the right to fully or partially accept or reject the bid.

**N.B.** For any further information you can contact the Procurement & Facilities Management Department on Tel No. 011-667-46-74/011-662-89-96.
The role of mainstream...

CONT D FROM PAGE 18

The role of mainstream gatekeepers and near to absolute freedom of users make the Internet and social media platforms spheres of irresponsible information production. In consequence, social media platforms fail to provide their consumers with in-depth and reasoned arguments on their topics of discussions. Therefore, the mainstream media are responsible to fill this gap by presenting facts, verified information, and rational journalism practice, people might not have the chance to differentiate between sources of facts and fictions.

Equally important to the aforementioned point is the openness of public offices for all citizens and especially for professional journalists. If public offices promote their openness to citizens, people would not be confused with the so-called exclusive information disseminators. Currently, it is usual that many of the selfclaimed activists disseminate fake information claiming that they obtained it from exclusive sources (which cannot be accessed by others such as the mainstream media). Hence, one of the viable solutions to curtail this problem is to make public offices open for the public and the media.

Flawed Performance Measure

By Tsion Taye

Almost a decade back, I used to work as a lecturer in a local university. And back then, I remember that of the main belief implicitly held among fellow lecturers to measure a lecturer’s performance was how difficult his or her exam was, and more specifically, the number of students who failed at his or her exam. So, the larger the number of failing students, the higher will be the respect attributed to the lecturer. So, many lecturers used to strive to make their exams as complicated as possible and I must admit, I used to do the same thing. Now that I look back at those times, I find it odd that such a flawed criteria is used to judge a lecturer’s performance. It should be stressed that this is not a criteria that is used in official rating documents that the university provides, but rather an implicit belief held among fellow lecturers.

On more occasions, I have observed that we Ethiopians tend to have a culture of respect to those who punish others, downgrade others, and criticize others. And many of us tend to feel pride and self-respect when we downgrade and criticize others. We feel that our achievements have substance only in the realization of others’ failures. We feel we have proven our ignorance! As we grow up! Downgrading, harshly criticizing and punishing others is something that many of us always longed for. So, maybe it maybe have to do with the ways many of us were raised?

For many of us, our parents showed their control, power and attempts at slashing ratings and downgrading one another kinds of sessions scare me the most. The harsh words and the critical words, tones, and facial expressions one uses to evaluate and criticize others should have some level of diplomacy in it. I do not want to seem unappreciative of our culture of respect to those who punish others, downgrade others, and criticize others. It just proves our ignorance! As we grow up! What should other stakeholders, such as the government, do to help the media’s effort?

Institutionalization of media freedom and easy access to public information can be among the important solutions expected from the government. Institutionalization of media and journalism freedom can guarantee professional journalists to do their activities according to their professional principles. This would, in turn, imperil unprofessional and unethical actions of disinformation agents. Nevertheless, in a situation where there is no responsible and institutionalized professional

Financing Climate-Smart...

CONT D FROM PAGE 26

Financing climate-smart related investments by 2030 in six key sectors: green buildings, public transportation, electric vehicles, renewable energy, climate-smart water systems, and waste infrastructure and management. Of that, USD 1.5 trillion would go to Sub-Saharan Africa. Of course, the specific composition of investment opportunities depends on local contexts. For example, this year’s OPS host, Nairobi, has investment potential of USD 8.5 billion, including USD 5 billion in electric vehicles.

Some governments might be tempted to channel investments towards other objectives that promise tangible, short-term benefits, such as poverty eradication and education. But, if these gains are to last, they must be secured along with progress on building climate resilience. Otherwise, disasters like cyclone Idai will continue to wash away people’s lives, livelihoods, and futures.

Helping Africa’s...

CONT D FROM PAGE 26

Helping Africa’s that their agriculture, food, and nutrition policies are aligned with modern dietary guidelines which emphasize variety and sustainability in largely plant-based diets.

The international community’s goal of ending hunger by 2030 is achievable. But success will require a commitment from both governments and the private sector to help rural farmers shift to sustainable - and profitable - agricultural practices. If that happens, then not only will we end food insecurity; Adesina’s prediction that “the next generation of billionaires in Africa will be farmers” may come closer to being realized.

Ed.’s Note: Alzbeta Klein is Director and Global Head of Climate Finance Corporation. The article was provided to The Reporter by Project Syndicate: the world’s pre-eminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides incisive perspectives in our changing world by those who are shaping its politics, economics, science and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

Helping Africa’s...
and stronger health systems. Fortunately, the return on these investments will be immense. We can both eliminate cholera and make progress toward managing or eliminating a wide range of waterborne diseases, all of which is necessary for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Where one lives should not determine whether one lives. But until we eliminate cholera deaths, that will be the tragic reality facing vulnerable communities across the Global South.

Ed’s Note: Antin Zadidi is Director of Vaccine Development, Surveillance, and Enteric and Diarrheal Diseases Programs at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The article was provided to The Reporter by Project Syndicate: the world’s pre-eminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides incisive perspectives in our changing world by those who are shaping its politics, economics, science and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

The responsibility . . .

many countries are entrenched requires laying the foundations for a world characterized by respect for life, for the environment, and for future generations.

As we celebrate the anniversaries of the Treaty of Versailles and the Geneva Convention of 1949 this year, we must recognize that these events are not ends in themselves. Commemoration is not a declaration of victory, but rather an opportunity to recommit to upholding the rights and respecting the dignity of all people. We still have a long way to go. In too many places, the twenty-first century so far has been a “dark night of the soul” for humanity. It is up to all of us to turn on the lights by recognizing the old and simple truth: Siamo tutti fratelli – we are all brothers (and sisters).

Ed’s Note: Prince El Hassan bin Talal is the founder and Chairman of the Arab Thought Foundation. The article was expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

Peace and democracy . . .

who practice mob justice. All progressive forces must get together to answer this major question: “Can Ethiopia survive ethnic politics?” Ethic federalism emanating from language identity is not cognizant to the historical and social values of the people. Another area of decay has been that of law enforcement in Ethiopia. Crime has been increasing. The law enforcement machinery is crumbling. The police are becoming more corrupt. The judiciary has become politicized with regular intervention by bigwig politicians. The prisons were not only overcrowded but are often falling apart. The legislative body has become less predictable and legislatures are becoming more intent on doing what they believe is good for the people. The equation is changing and people are now focusing on the victim of a crime to focusing on the suspect or culprit. Existing infrastructure of law enforcement dies little to nothing when it comes to compensating victims of crime. Even when fines are levied, the money goes to the state and not to the victim.

This calls for a complete overhaul of the legal system free from outside interference and establishing an everlasting social justice. Kangaroo courts are still in place and they should be replaced by independent ones that provide fair and equal justice to all without any discrimination. Examining the bureaucracy is also mandatory. As a stimulus, the structure of the bureaucracy must be improved so that it can change the minds of the bureaucrats. Meritocracy should be the modus operandi. Such plans are inert and useless without sufficient power to translate them into action.

The state and private media must be reoriented to provide the public with real information that can inspire peace and development. Our development roadmap must emulate modernization minus dependency. We should promote innovative changes and broaden our social horizons without excessive reliance on others.

We should also focus on fighting corruption, money laundering and tax evasion. The FILF is an exasperating capital outflow, which is a serious problem that must be given special attention. It requires the development a system that opposes to kickbacks. In order to establish and ensure order and discipline, major significance belongs particularly to the law. Legal code determines the powers, rights and duties of state bodies and public organization.

At present, Ethiopia is at a crossroad; its sons and daughters are praying for a better tomorrow. They will not stand alongside political elites who compose to establish a political climate on quicksand. It is time to adopt the motto ‘Ethiopia for all and all for a flourishing Ethiopia’. Peace, democracy and development should be celebrated under the banner ‘love wins’. Then we will have a brighter future.

Ed’s Note: The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter. The writer can be reached at teklaw0006@gmail.com.
The correlation between quality of education and performance of a nation

By Samuel Alemu

The economy rests on four pillars – land, labor (entrepreneurship), capital, and government. Labor, which includes entrepreneurship, involves humans. The quality of labor force defines the prospects for sustainable growth and development in any country. This is why nations are willing to invest in developing and maintaining a robust human resource base. It all starts with education and then the number of school and higher education institutions. However, what matters most is the type of educational outcomes – all levels from primary schools to postgraduate learning. The quality of knowledge, as well as the quality and consistency of the training received, defines the patterns of professionalism and productivity, which creates conditions for continued economic development and socioeconomic transformation in a nation. However, what matters most is the human resource base. It all starts with education and training. The quality of education is deeply intertwined in the success of most, if not all, economic processes in any country. Citizens who possess a better understanding of their surroundings and the world at large are better positioned to contribute to nations’ growth. In fact, the quality of education is measured as the effect of knowledge on individual earnings and aggregate economic indicators (Hanushek & Woosmann, 2007). Therefore, the quality of education influences individual earnings, which, in turn, contribute to economic development and growth of nations.

How does the quality of education impact individual earnings? Basically (the assumption is there is a rule of law in a given country), individuals who are better educated and well informed are more likely to have the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed to succeed in a competitive labor market. Level and quality of their education increase their earnings. Educated people may earn 10-20 percent more than their less-educated counterparts (Hanushek & Woosmann, 2007). Besides, individuals with a strong educational background, who know the benefits of quality education, may want to engage in continuous learning to update their skills, refine their knowledge, and strengthen their professional position in the labor market. These achievements further translate into broader economic changes.

From a nation’s perspective, education contributes to the growth and sustainability of its labor force. Educated workers are more productive (Hanushek & Woosmann, 2007). Increased productivity reduces costs and increases economic output. Educated individuals have diverse skills and competencies which may foster more effective division of labor, when workers fulfill their designated and assumed roles to the best possible way, resulting in increased efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Quality education contributes to the quality of human capital and the rate of growth. As a result, economies with better-educated people are generally more productive, which translates to product and service issues. They are better prepared to produce innovative and affordable products, which can easily become their competitive advantage in global markets.

The importance of quality education is not limited to economy; nations’ politics and socioeconomic life can also improve in the presence of educated citizens. After all, a well-developed system of education would lead the nation toward better economic, social, and cultural goals. Well-educated people can use their knowledge and skills in policy and advocacy, in the best interests of their nation’s. As such, the future of nations’ quality of their education systems is a perfect lesson that developing nations should learn to succeed in a highly competitive world. Unfortunately, many countries miss an opportunity to improve their education systems; either because they underestimate their role in economic growth or because they misunderstand the ways, in which such systems could be realistically improved. In 2015, Gelensederf and Agale published the results of their study from a College in Ethiopia, revealing the main issues facing higher education in the country, from extensive cheating during exams to the lack of a solid academic background in graduates. Despite the growing number of educational institutions in the country, Ethiopia was not able to develop the world in terms of the quality and consistency of its academic achievements. These difficulties create a considerable room for further improvement.

The key to resolving this puzzle is restructuring the school and university infrastructure to ensure that the knowledge and learning provided to students fit the demands of the new millennium. Latin America provides a sad example, where educational quantity replaced educational quality, slowing down economic growth (Hanushek & Woosmann, 2007). Nations may want to revise their education systems to eliminate redundancy (removing educational institutions that fail to improve students’ knowledge) and restructure the existing facilities to provide the knowledge, skills, and competencies needed for the economic and cultural growth of the nation. Much has been written and said about the way systems of education across the world should function to successfully deliver their mission and fulfill their vision in the 21st century. Education should be flexible enough to sustain itself and be more relevant in global markets and facilitate diversity through globalization and continuous learning. Fairly speaking, knowledge and education should not be limited to universities, colleges, or schools. Nations’ growth and development will depend more or less on citizens’ ability and motivation to engage in continuous learning opportunities. Nations should create favorable conditions for continuous knowledge improvement, which will undoubtedly predispose them to positive change in the long run.

It will sum up my article with a quote from Aravind Adiga’s book, which is written in the book, The White Tiger: “The story of my upbringing, my education, my journey to success, and all the way up to becoming a rich man in a country where two-thirds of the population lives in poverty. It’s all true. I was a poor boy from a poor family, and I made it to the top because of hard work and determination.”

This article was contributed to this article. They are both contributed to the bar associations of New York State, United States Tax Court, and the United States Court of International Trade. Samuel can be reached at salemu@gmail.com. Samuel’s twitter handle is @Salemu.
to harness the creativity, expertise and resources of the private sector, civil society, and children and young people themselves. UNICEF plays a key role in convening these partners around critical child-focused agendas. You have described UNICEF as one that is experienced with “the know-how and the evidence from the field to be an effective partner” of Ethiopia. Tell me about that?

As the global UN-mandated lead agency on children, UNICEF brings together cutting-edge, child-focused research and strong experience in programme implementation. For instance, in Ethiopia we are generating data and evidence on children’s issues which is informing policies, plans and programmes. We are also present at major sector forums at federal level where key decisions are made. Simultaneously, we have offices in eight regions of the country which are implementing programmes with regional governments. Their experience, grounded in the everyday realities of the people they serve, is critical to informing and shaping UNICEF programmes nationally. This is what makes our uniqueness and strength: when we talk, we talk from what we have heard, seen, and experienced!

UNICEF is also set to release its next country programme ending in 2024 in Ethiopia, the year the country is hoping to reach a middle-income nation. Share with me the highlights?

The next Government of Ethiopia-UNICEF country programme of cooperation for the period 2020-2025 will support the implementation of the Growth and Transformation Plan for 2020-2025 and contribute to Ethiopia’s attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. In all the countries we work in, UNICEF aligns itself to national priorities; its new programme will continue to be part of the wider UN development agenda for Ethiopia and will build on opportunities for children arising from the reform process. It will also support the Government and its partners to better prepare, plan for, and recover from humanitarian emergencies.

Ethiopia’s population is among the world’s fastest growing, with children and adolescents accounting for about half of the population. This large and young population presents a window of opportunity for accelerated progress if effective investments are made now that will enable all children to grow into healthy, productive and empowered adults. UNICEF’s priority for Ethiopia’s new country programme will support the Government and its partners to design and implement policies and programmes that provide children and adolescents with opportunities to actualize their rights and realize their full potential.

As part of its support to the Government, UNICEF will continue to foster the country’s unfinished development agenda through tackling bottlenecks to progress. For instance, despite significant achievements, gender equality remains a critical unfinished agenda and a structural barrier to progress. Limited secondary school availability and the persistence of harmful practices such as child marriage, limit the likelihood of girls making the transition from primary to secondary school. They also prevent girls from obtaining the skills necessary for productive employment.

The determination of the Government to empower women is an important basis for our work on reducing child marriage and ending harmful practices such as female genital mutilation. Other unfinished items include the lack of progress in sanitation: less than seven per cent of households in Ethiopia use an improved and not-shared sanitation facility. Since inadequate sanitation, and hence diseases like diarrhoea, is a major driver of malnutrition in children, attaining progress in sanitation will lead to improved overall child wellbeing. Similarly, despite significant progress in health and education, about 800,000 children in Ethiopia remain un-immunized and 2.6 million children are out-of-school. UNICEF will continue to foster innovative partnerships in these areas.

UNICEF will focus on reducing disparities between children living with means and those without. Under-five mortality, for example, is 30 per cent higher among the poorest 20 per cent of children than those from the wealthiest 20 per cent. Disparities also exist between geographical areas and between some regions and sub-regions significantly lagging behind national averages. UNICEF will support the Government’s efforts to close these gaps and ensure that economic growth and development benefit every child.

What are some of the work that are uniquely done by UNICEF, within Ethiopia and among the thousands of NGO’s operating within the country?

Our comparative advantages are many but they include having a seat at the sector table where key decisions influencing policies and programmes are being made; our field presence in eight regions; our experience in research and data; our ability to draw on a vast international network (UNICEF presence in more than 190 countries) to inform how we do business in Ethiopia; our work through national systems to ensure we reach large numbers of children; and the support we render to the Government to strengthen its capacity to plan, manage (including financial), and monitor and evaluate programmes.

Throughout its presence in Ethiopia, UNICEF has been a key partner in pushing through ‘big-ticket’ agenda items that have transformed entire sectors and changed millions of children’s lives for the better.

I believe each organization brings its share into the work to improve the situation of children in Ethiopia, all in line with the Government’s development agenda and also the best interests of the child. This best interest of the child should be the yardstick against which all our work is done and assessed, whoever we are!
Tech Expo Launch

The latest edition of Innovate Ethiopia — ICT EXPO Ethiopia 2019 — was launched on Thursday on June 6, 2019 in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen and Minister of Innovation and Technology Getahun Mekuria (PhD). Organized by the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, the five-day event is set to host technology service vendors, private and public sector decision-makers, integrators and users of ICT technology for business and public use. Termed as “Technology Week,” it is also to host Startup Ethiopia, Innovation Africa Digital Summit (IAD) STEM Award and Paperless day initiative, according to Getahun Mekuria (PhD), Minister of Innovation and Technology.
The Reporter, June 8, 2019 Vol. 23 No. 1187

**Crossword puzzle**

**ACROSS**


**DOWN**


**US Box office**


**Your Zombies (astrology-online.com)**

**Aries**

You are recommended to spend today being bright and dynamic. Any kind of optimistic leisure that is positive and encouraging is welcome. You can forget about business in favor of romance. Optimistic visits will be especially useful. Try to save this unique atmosphere, don’t sully it with cynical jokes. During this day, it is recommended to think more often about what spirituality is. Don’t pass by if someone needs your help, advise or financial support. Don’t forget that any good deed finds support from somewhere above. Today selflessness may fall into the field of empathy. Don’t allow someone to manipulate you, direct you, or force you to fulfill capricious requests.

**Taurus**

Today you will once again prove that it is not in vain that you wear a regal crown. There is a chance that certain situations will arise in which you will have to display authority, natural aristocracy, and charisma. It may be necessary to make a positive impression on potential investors, patrons of your creativity, or on the persons with whom you desire of building a relationship with.

**Gemini**

On this day, you may be hundreds of miles from home. Maybe you will go on vacation or decide to visit old friends. Today will make you feel like a traveler, having thrown a backpack over your shoulders, will walk freely along the priority road. However, if you are sickened by this kind of leisure, you can take up the affairs of the house.

**Cancer**

You will be advised today. Someone will like the new style, appreciate the results of the recent weight loss, or find that the model of your family is perfect in all respects. There is a chance to get approval from other relatives, the wise of this world, and from your long-standing sweetheart.

**Leo**

You may be tired of endless calls, messages on social media or personal visits. Many will seem to need constant help or advice. Limitations for offerings are not to be excluded from your day. You cannot make plans in advance of this hectic day, just as you cannot manage everything at once. Perhaps, take pleasure in bringing a friendly party outside the city.

**Virgin**

The risk of family quarrels and scandals is high today. However, you can react to this prediction, if you avoid mingling in the negative aspects of the day. It is not recommended to discuss controversial themes, make family plans or undertake excessive chore. It is also recommended that you avoid any solitary leisure.

**Scorpio**

You can be satisfied with the results of this day. Most of your planned events will be successful with the support of friends or relations. The only thing they will be powerless to help with is your personal matters. During the day there will be a need to start a crucial conversation with an acquaintance.

**Sagittarius**

Your leisure today is unlikely to give a range of long-awaited emotions. You can influence this prediction if you compile family leisure scenario. It is, however, recommended that you leave the bustle of the city. Visit a picturesque forest or an exotic beauty reservoir, you can get rid of the accumulated work stress and restore your energy.

**Capricorn**

On this day, you will be too harsh. Criticism will spread to people close to you, to colleagues, strangers and even to the weather. In short only exercise can body relax the body enough to save this day. Don’t try to get rid of stress and irritations with alcohol. It will ultimately only aggravate the situation.

**Pisces**

Today promises to go pretty calmly and productively. If you have planned or to start any home repairs, today is the day to start this event. Luck is also enhancing in the course of leisure. If you wish, you can have a picnic amongst nature. Perhaps even do something extreme, if your health allows.

**Can you spot the 12 differences between the two pictures?**

**SOLUTION**

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Are you a businesswoman?  
Do you need equipment to grow your business?

Every successful entrepreneur starts somewhere. Whether you are looking for agro-processing, construction, manufacturing, renewable energy, or textile equipment, lease financing offers many female entrepreneurs with no credit history nor collateral the ability to access finance. Please contact one of the current six institutions offering lease financing to see if it is right for you.

Manufacturing

Equipment leased: Plastic manufacturing machines worth ETB 1.9M
Repayment period: 5 years

How did she get started?
Wiro Seblemichael, a lab technician by profession, once saw a television advertisement on TV about lease financing and that it was offered by the Development Bank of Ethiopia. After learning and understanding more about the benefits of lease financing, she began researching on profitable business ideas that she was able to start small. The result was the launch of a crafted plastic manufacturing company that creates HDPE plastic water pipes used in peoples homes and for irrigation and employs some 25 staff. Wiro Seblemichael looks forward and aspires to expanding her business in the coming years.

Textiles

Equipment leased: Knitting machinery worth ETB 1.2M
Repayment period: 5 years

How did she get started?
A designer of western clothing, Wiro Ejig noticed a market niche for traditional, but casual Ethiopian clothing that could be worn daily. She developed her business plan and secured a lease to acquire a knitting machine through one of the country’s six leasing providers. This in turn has enabled her to open up her own outlet store in Addis Ababa, employing almost 60 people. She aspires to export her fashion abroad.

To learn if lease financing is right for you, please contact your nearest provider:

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government own departments as well donors.
The debate regarding the response to the crisis aside, in recent months the government of Ethiopia had begun a voluntary repatriation of the IDPs in the locality in question. Here too appears to be another controversy which involves humanitarian workers and IDPs. According to testimonies The Reporter heard from humanitarian workers and IDPs, the repatriation activities might not be as voluntary as it is claimed by authorities; and rather, in some instances, they appear to be forced.

“Some the returnee process was made involuntarily,” a humanitarian worker unwilling to be named told The Reporter.

Just last week, close to 30,000 Gedeo IDPs in Yirgachefe were made to return to West Guji by mainly demolishing the camp sites they were sheltered in, according to the humanitarian workers. The Reporter couldn’t independently confirm these claims.

“This is done to wash down the real problem from the media,” claimed the source, citing the fact that, days before the incident, a group of journalists were on their way to the area.

In fact, he goes further in his claim to say that involuntary repatriation began since earlier in September, 2018; and despite reports, it has continued. A number of reports from Refugees International claimed that the authorities were using force to push the IDPs to their original homes.

The government is coercing people to return—this time by demolishing existing sites, specifically in Gedeo zone, and leaving IDPs with no other options, said RI Senior Advocate Mark Yarnell in his report, after traveling to southern Ethiopia, in September 2018.

“This is in no way voluntary and a major breach of basic rights,” agreed Yarnell. “The irony is that the Ethiopian government has been receiving international praise—deservedly so—for its increasingly progressive policies toward refugees, including promoting their right to work and access national services. But the way it’s treating its own displaced citizens is veering towards the inhumane.”

The Reporter has also met a number of IDPs in Gedeo who say despite improving situation in West Guji, they don’t want to return.

“In our kebele there are at least 1,000 IDPs who are in need of assistance and none of them want to return to Guji,” Bederu Seid, a head of Edido Kebele of Gedeo Zone told The Reporter.

“The security situation in West Guji is not still certain and people are not confident to return,” he said.

Nevertheless, the narrative coming out from sources near to the administration claim that few unsavory characters both in the humanitarian efforts and the local administrations might have been behind the claims of the involuntary repatriation in the area. According to the same sources, these are people who have vested interest in the continuation of the humanitarian crisis and pouring of resources to the locality. “Some are already answering to their doings,” he asserted, adding that IDPs are also routinely mislead to reflect this very view.

Nevertheless, the communal violence in the area was new to the area and there have been similar incidents before but not as big as this one.

“Gujis are our relatives we have been living for centuries,” said Jegbo Gebafo, 65 who says he has never seen such a tragedy in his life time.

“I remembered an incident in 1994 but the damages were not this high; that is why I say armed groups were behind the communal conflicts,” recalled Jegbo who lives in Chirku Kebele of Gedeo Zone. He said in his locality alone close two 17 people were killed.

In the conflict that featured guns and machetes, he says some were also found set on fire while in their homes. He himself lost his house, and his livestock.

The worst part is the armed group also destroyed coffee plants, and Enset trees, he said.

This makes the IDPs to fully depend on the assistance they are getting from donors active the area. There are more than 50 NGOs active in the area where World Vision is the only NGO operating in all 13 affected Woredas of the two Zones.

People like Jegbo has now got a new house constructed by World Vision, yet there are many who are still in need of similar assistance.

Tarmrat from the same Kebele, a father of 13, is now living in 3m by 4m plastic house where he say the space is too small to accommodate all his family members. He and his neighborhood are also living in similar conditions.

“The rainy season is now coming and I don’t know how I can survive,” he says. The Reporter has observed that some of children who are below five years of age are already sick with the flu and has a swell in their body.

“The kids are always sick and their body resistance is deteriorating as the result of malnourishment,” Tamrat confirms.

In spite of the assistance from the government and many NGOs, which are still active in the area, the support is not nearly enough.

The Reporter met members of 262 households from Guji ethnic group who were displaced months ago and returned to Gedeo, Gedebo Woreda. The households who returned to their locality four weeks ago were sheltered in churches.

The assistance they are getting is limited, according to the IDPs. By the time The Reporter visited the place, a blanket was being rationed for as much as five IDPs.

Even if the food assistance is supposed to be distributed in a fixed interval of one month, it always difficult to keep up with the time schedule, a humanitarian worker in the area told The Reporter. The humanitarian worker who is also a farmer from the area is now permanently working with one of the NGOs active in the area.

Edward Brown, National Director for World Vision Ethiopia admits that the resource deployed there is still below the demand. “We have a long gap to fill.”

“We still have a long way to go, he told The Reporter. “As of now shelter is a big issue because the rainy season.”

Indeed as the rainy season is on its way, many feared that the crisis might be worsened.

Just weeks ago, senior officials including Prime Minister Abiy, Muferiat Kemil, minister of peace, as well as the current president of the Southern and Oromia Regional States have visited the people displaced from the area.

At the event, the government has asserted that close to 1.2 IDPs in the country including in the two zones have returned to their original home. Fana Broadcast Corporate Reported. Muferiat also promised to IDPs in Gedebo Woreda that the government will continue its assistance particularly in rebuilding houses destroyed during the violence.
Ethiopian Football Federation decided to temporarily suspend the Ethiopian Premier League (EPL), the country’s top flight tournament.

The decision was passed during an emergency meeting held on Wednesday. Game scheduled to take place during the 27th week of the EPL between Ethiopia Coffee and Mekele 70 Enderta was canceled on grounds of alleged security concerns and the Federation has evaluated its impact during the emergency meeting.

Earlier the Federation decided the game between the two clubs to take place on Friday but has now canceled. After holding discussions with Premier League participating clubs and other stakeholders the Federation has now given priority to figuring out ways to carry out the league’s tournaments.

The Federation was not explicit enough as to why it decided to suspend the tournament but circumstantial evidence seems to suggest that the decision is informed by alleged security concern. And the decision has offended fans of some clubs including Fasil City.

Addis Ababa has been chosen to host the next gathering of world football governing body’s supreme legislative body, the FIFA Congress. The announced of the 70th FIFA Congress taking place in Addis Ababa was announced at the end of the 69th Congress which took place in the French capital, Paris. According to Chief of Staff of the AU Chairperson, the Congress will take place at the Union’s headquarters in May 2020.

Addis Ababa, to host 70th FIFA Congress in 2020

Early this year, it was announced that Addis will be hosting the 2020 edition of the World Economic Forum, WEF. The announcement was made following a meeting between Abiy and Prof Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of WEF.

In early May this year, the capital also hosted the World Press Freedom Day activities over three days. PM Abiy was awarded the Houphet Boigny Prize for 2019.

The president of the Confederation of African Football, Ahmad Ahmad, was released without charge in France on Friday, a day after being arrested for questioning in Marseille, the city’s public prosecutor said.

Prosecutor Xavier Tarabeux said Ahmad, who was in France for the Fifa Congress held Wednesday, was questioned as part of a probe into corruption, breach of trust and forgery.

In a statement released yesterday FIFA said that it is unaware of the details surrounding this investigation and is therefore not in a position to make any comment on it specifically. “FIFA is asking the French authorities for any information that might be relevant to investigations taking place within its Ethics Committee,” the statement read.

**CAF president Ahmad released after arrest in France**

By acclamation, Gianni Infantino was re-elected the President of FIFA until 2023. Approval of the Activity Report and financial statements for 2018, as well as the detailed budget for 2020, which includes USD 816 million allocated to investments in football.

Announcement that the 70th FIFA Congress will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in May 2020.

“Just over three years, this organization went from being toxic, almost criminal, to being what it should be: an institution that develops football,” said Infantino when addressing the Congress.

“This new FIFA has a mission and a plan for it, which is why the next four years have, in fact, already started: we have laid solid building blocks for the future.”

Addis Ababa’s rising profile for global meetings Addis Ababa, the seat of African diplomacy – as it hosts the African Union, AU; has in recent times boosted its reputation for hosting big conferences partly due to recent raft of reforms by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Federation suspends EPL

The Federation was not explicit enough as to why it decided to suspend the tournament but circumstantial evidence seems to suggest that the decision is informed by alleged security concern. And the decision has offended fans of some clubs including Fasil City.