A NATION GRIEVES

Ethiopia’s army chief of staff, General Seare Mekonnen, and President of the Amhara Regional State, Ambachew Mekonnen (PhD), were killed on Saturday June 22, 2019, in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar, respectively. The incident in Bahir Dar also claimed the lives of Ezez Wassie, the president’s senior advisor, and Migbaru Kebede, the region’s Attorney General. Seare was shot dead at his home by his bodyguard, Corporal Mesafint Tigabu, who also killed visiting retired Major-General Geza’e Abera. Saturday’s deadly attacks occurred a few hours apart sending shockwaves across the nation. SEE THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 12.
Is Ethiopia heeding the alarm bells?

We express our heartfelt condolences on the assassination of the leadership of the Amhara Regional State in the regional capital Bahir Dar and senior military commanders in Addis Ababa on June 22, 2019 and wish solace for their families and the people of Ethiopia. Such horrendous and downright vile acts must never be repeated. The loothsomeness and grim implications of the assassination warrant an examination of certain critical issues. Though the change currently underway in Ethiopia has ushered in signs of promising democratic reforms, the continued flourishing of the politics of hatred, division and bickering as well as the failure to bring about real reconciliation and a civilized political discourse is giving rise to grave threats engendering apprehension across the board. The usual antithesis between forces on opposite sides of the political spectrum is still playing out between the proponents and detractors of the change. The fact that there abound within the change camp undemocratic behaviors and tendencies worse than those exhibited by opponents of the change demonstrate that the change is treading on a knife’s edge, that Ethiopia is on the edge of an abyss. The events of June 22 sound a clear warning to Ethiopians ignore at their peril.

In view of all this it’s imperative to consider some issues of paramount importance—an unwillingness to set the peaceful and democratic pursuit of political objectives as the sole rule of the game, the inability to forge a shared understanding on the tenets of democracy, and the failure to stop armed groups from meddling in politics and to be clear-eyed about it. In the context of the objective realities of present-day Ethiopia the only practical way forward either individually or as an organized group is to engage in peaceful political struggle. In particular, organized entities have no option but to enhance their capacity to earn the public’s trust by advocating nonviolently for the unfettered enjoyment of legally guaranteed basic liberties and the upholding of accountability by holding criminals to account. Given that a peaceful political struggle puts an end to Ethiopia’s long-running history of changing a government by force, it’s not in the interest of the ruling Ethiopian Peoples’ Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) alone to internalize the value of constitutionalism and democratic elections. Although calls for the assumption power through the ballot box, not force may be perceived to be motivated by the desire to prolong the tenure of the government in power, it’s a foundational principle each and every citizen needs to accept and respect. The question is not about accepting the constitution or not; it’s about whether there exists or not a democratic space that enables both who accept and reject the constitution to compete on an equal footing. The solitary means by which the people are empowered to make an informed decision from a menu of choices is to solicit their opinions through constructive dialogues. Any other alternative is unavailable.

Nowadays, Ethiopia’s political landscape is relatively enabling when it comes to peaceful political engagement, organizations designated as terror groups have returned from exile upon the lifting of the designation; political prisoners have been set free with some appointed to senior government positions; the playing field is seeming with established and rookie parties alike. Against this backdrop it’s incumbent on all sections of the public to foil any and all attempt to usurp power through destructive and unconstitutional means. Ethiopians have always yearned for democracy, to be free of injustice and tyranny. If democracy is to be practiced in its true sense it’s of the essence to go beyond opening the door a little and endeavor to lay it on a strong foundation. It’s also crucial to display the willingness to resolve misunderstandings peacefully and accept the outcome graciously. Why do Ethiopians keep losing sight of the importance of engaging in sensible and constructive conversations when a rare opportunity to make democracy take root comes along? Why do we resort to force to settle differences while it’s eminently preferable to do so amicably through frank discussions? Why are politicians loath to be judged by the public and resort to killing each other? How can centuries-old challenges be overcome if we keep on hurting down this dangerous road? What are we teaching the youth? Where are we taking Ethiopia to? During this critical chapter of our history it’s obligatory to avert the threats facing us with wisdom and prudence. Otherwise, the consequences will be dire.

Armed groups are bound to be a threat to a nation when they take to mainstream politics without disarming. The legal framework governing the relationship between the federal and regional governments is seemingly not being properly managed. Nothing is constraining regional governments as they embark on a race with the federal government and with each other to amass military-grade weapons and swell the rank of their security forces. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s recent remark that the federal government’s budgetary subsidy to regional states is not intended to feed their militias is indicative of the gravity of the problem. The concept of “militia” is not defined by law. Neither is the nature and mandate of “special forces” and “special police”. The indistinguishability between party and state that had characterized the one-party rule of the EPRDF persists to this date even after the sea change Ethiopia has undergone.

It’s been shown time and again that the moment armed groups dabble in identity politics ethnicity will detrimentally impact the safety and security of the public. Though the details have not been disclosed yet, last week’s assassination lend credence to this conjecture. Moreover, contrary to one of the stated goals of the change—building independent institutions—the government has been found wanting in terms of ensuring that federal and regional law enforcement organs are free of bias and credible in the eyes of the public. The government itself has far to go before it develops the capacity and the mindset to fully respect the rights and dignity of the people as well as to rid itself of ethnic partisanship. The complex set of challenges confronting the country is sure to render the hard work required to achieve this goal even harder.

Even if the task of dismantling the politics of hostility and building a lasting governmental apparatus which serves everyone equally was to begin immediately, until such time that blatant political partisanship gives way to a culture of performing one’s duties responsibly, government leaders owe the obligation to see to it that individuals are given a voice in the defense and security forces, the police, prosecution office, and the judiciary are barred from all political activity and party membership and that they can be fired impartially. If these institutions become appendages of political parties though the Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa incidents should serve as a warning call. This specter can be avoided through a steady process of democratization. There is no doubt that it will take a while until government structures are able to become reasonably independent and resist the assault of powerful interests intent on making them do their bidding. The question, however, is not how long the process will take but whether Ethiopia has begun the first step towards this arduous journey, whether it’s heeding the alarm bells sounded by the assassinations and their terrifying ramifications.
Army, NISS gets new appointees

By Dawit Endeshaw

Following the tragic death of the Army Chief of Staff, General Seare Mekonnen, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) has given new appointments to head the army and the national intelligence service.

The Prime Minister Appointed, General Adem Mohammed who was the head of National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS), as Chief of the General Staff of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) whereas his deputy at NISS, Demelash Gebremichael has been appointed as the Director of the Intelligence Services.

In addition, Molla Hailemaraim (Lt. Gen), who was serving as the head of logistics department at the ENDF, is also appointed as the head of the Ground Forces of the national army.

In related news, General Abruha Woldemariaim, aka Quarter, passed away while under medical treatment in Thailand. The Reporter has learnt.

Abhra traveled to Thailand a few months ago to receive a medical treatment there. He was among the four full generals appointed after 1991.

Nearly 250 arrested in relation to last week assassination

By Dawit Endeshaw

A task force established following the assassination of officials in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar said that nearly 250 individuals have been arrested for an alleged connection to the killings, which was ruled as a failed coup d'etat pending the full investigation of the incident, The Reporter has learnt.

The individuals were arrested in Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa, according to a statement issued by the taskforce.

“We are still investigating the link between the two incidents in Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar,” said the taskforce in a statement.

The taskforce has also revealed the identity of the alleged killer of General Seare Mekonnen. It said that Mesafint Tegabu, a bodyguard of the army chief, was the one who has shoot and killed Gen. Seare and his friend Maj. Gen Gezai Abera.

Furthermore, the taskforce has disclosed the seizure of different kinds of firearms in Addis Ababa in the wake of the General’s assassination at his residence in the capital.

In related news, the National Movement of Amhara (NAMA), a relatively newer party which is growing in popularity in the region, has disclosed that its members are being arrested in different parts of the country including Addis Ababa.

The retired general is mostly known for his service as the head of the East Command of ENDF. He has also led different operations in the Eastern fronts, particularly during a number of battles between the National defense and the then terrorist groups in Somali Regional State.

His death (of natural causes) came days after the tragic incident whereby his former comrade General Seare, chief of the national army was killed by his bodyguard at this residence in Addis Ababa.

Abhra was promoted to a full general back in February 2018, during the administration of Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn. For a brief period of time, he served as a head of Operations, main department at the National Defense. Later, after Prime Minister Abiy came to power, General Abhra went into retirement.
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Aschalew Belay acquires Bambis Supermarket

By Samuel Getachew

Bambis supermarket – The age defying supermarket – has been sold to Aschalew Belay, a local entrepreneur and owner of Belay Ab Car Assembly and the local Golden Tulip chain hotel in the capital.

Charalambos N Tsimas (AKA Bambis), a Greek national opened the supermarket 68 years ago and has had a lingering issues with the Ethiopian Food, Medicine and Heath Care Authority, and that he felt singled out for laboratory tests with an exaggerated payment for testing. He has also faced a shortage of forex and a lingering accusation of tampering with the dates of his imported products.

The 87 year old lost his supermarket when it was nationalized during the Derg era, only to buy it back at an auction when it was privatized during the downfall of the government and returned to the country for good.

Earlier this year, he told The Reporter, how he has been “continuously humiliated by government officials,” and how he has been suffering because of shortages in forex within Ethiopia.

Aschalew Belay, a noted entrepreneur in the capital among others, confirmed to The Reporter that he has acquired the supermarket and he will keep the name as is.

However, the supermarket will undergo an extensive renovation and will re-open just before the Ethiopian New Year, later this year.

The Reporter visited the supermarket to be able to speak to Charalambos N Tsimas, but he was not made available.
**Headlines**

**Oil companies to take new concessions**

By Kaleyessus Bekele

Following the removal of the National Bank of Ethiopia’s directive that compels oil and gas companies to open a foreign bank account in Ethiopia, international oil companies have shown interest to take new concessions.

A directive issued by the National Bank of Ethiopia (NBE), which requires foreign oil companies engaged in oil and gas exploration and development projects in Ethiopia to open a foreign currency bank account, has been a stumbling block to investments in the oil and gas exploration and development sector. Companies engaged in the oil and gas exploration and development projects have suspended their investment projects due to the restrictive directive. Even those who were negotiating with the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum to take new concessions have halted the negotiations.

After a repeated appeal by the oil companies and the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) recently scrapped the directive that forces the companies to keep a foreign currency bank account in Ethiopia.

Poly GCL Petroleum Investments, Africa Oil, New Age, Delonex Energy, Gazprom and South West Energy are the international companies engaged in oil and gas exploration and development projects in Ethiopia. All the oil companies had suspended their operations due to the directive.

A senior official at the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum told The Reporter that after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed took a bold measure to allow the oil and gas companies to have offshore accounts, the international oil companies have resumed work on their projects. The official said international oil companies have shown interest to take new oil exploration concessions.

A British oil firm, Delonex Energy, which has been negotiating to take over two exploration blocks in the Ogaden basin, had suspended the process due to the NBE’s directive. Delonex proposed to take over block 10 and 14 in the Ogaden basin. After a series of negotiations, the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum have accepted the proposal and remanded the petroleum production sharing agreement to the Council of Ministers. Accordingly, the Council of Ministers approved the production sharing agreement. However, Delonex had put on hold the process due to NBE’s directive.

A senior official of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum told The Reporter that since the blocking has been removed Delonex and the Ministry would soon sign the production sharing agreement.

The official said another international oil company is also negotiating with the Ministry to sign a petroleum exploration and development agreement. “More companies are now showing interest to take new concessions. We have also prepared open exploration blocks not only in the Ogaden but also in other parts of the country,” he said. “The removal of the NBE’s directive has resurrected the oil and gas sector which was in a standstill for quite sometime,” he added.

A British energy firm New Age (African Global Energy Ltd.) has discovered 1.6 Trillion Cubic Feet of natural gas reserve in the Ogaden basin, in a locality called Elkuran.

The company in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum is working on the commercialization of the gas reserve. “New Age has also been requesting the government to amend NBE’s directive,” said a source told The Reporter.

Poly GCL Petroleum Investments, the Chinese company which signed petroleum exploration and production sharing agreements with the Ministry of Mines in 2013, is in the process to extract a natural gas reserve in the Ogaden basin. According to the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, Poly GCL is in the process to develop a 4.7 TCF of gas which was discovered in 1972 in Calub and Hilala localities. Poly GCL has undertaken exploration work and discovered additional gas reserve in a locality called Dohar. As a result the volume of the gas reserve has increased to 6.8 TCF. But the company is now working to extract the 4.7 TCF gas.

The gas produced from Calub and Hilala gas fields would be transported by a 760 km gas pipeline to a gas treatment plant to be built at the Port of Djibouti. The Chinese firm plans to change the gas into Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) at the gas treatment plant and export it to China. Poly GCL hopes to start pumping out the gas by 2021.

A source told The Reporter that Poly GCL, which was discouraged by NBE’s directive, is now reactivating the gas development project.

**News in Brief**

**Ethiopia’s satellite launch slated for November**

Ethiopia’s earth observation satellite will be launched into space by November 2019 as preparations are finalized, according to Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute.

In an exclusive interview with ENA, Institute Director-General Solomon Belay said “we have completed about 95 percent of the satellite, and checking and launching will be conducted after September.”

Upon launching the satellite will help provide agricultural information, water and irrigation shade amount, rural development as well as climate change in the country. The satellite will also scientifically report data of the forest coverage in the country. For instance, the 4 billion tree planting initiative progress of the seedlings can be supervised through the satellite.

Solomon pointed out that professionals in the area have already received training to control and maintain the satellite.

Institute Deputy Director-General, Abdisa Yilma said on his part that the final work left is to check the satellite before launching it into space and will be ready by November.

The satellite is being built in collaboration with Chinese government.

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www.thereporterethiopia.com
Ethiopian embarks on second five-star hotel construction project

By Kaleyesus Bekele

The Ethiopian Airlines Aviation Group has embarked on the second five-star hotel construction project in Addis Ababa at a cost of USD 150 million.

Ethiopian inaugurated the first hotel – Ethiopian Skylight Hotel - built at a cost of USD 65 million near the Addis Ababa Bole International Airport last February.

Abraham Tesfaye, Ethiopian Airlines Group manager Infrastructure Planning and Development, told The Reporter that the second hotel is being built adjacent to the new hotel on 22,000sqm of land. The hotel will have 637 guest rooms, restaurants, bars, conference hall, swimming pool, fitness center and a basement parking which can accommodate 500 cars. The total investment cost of the second hotel is estimated at USD 150 million.

Abraham told The Reporter that the Chinese construction firm, AVIC, conducted the design work. AVIC, which is the turnkey contractor, will also undertake the construction of the second hotel.

The first Ethiopian Skylight Hotel, which has 375 guest rooms was built at a cost of USD 65 million. Stretching on 20,000sqm plot of land in front of the Millennium Hall the hotel building has eight floors with a total floor area of 42,000sqm.

Ethiopian Skylight Hotel has three restaurants - a Chinese restaurant, an Ethiopian restaurant and an European restaurant. The hotel has three bars – a lobby bar, an executive (roof top) bar and a jazz club. 27 of the guest rooms are spacious suites.

The hotel encompasses a grand ballroom designed to accommodate 2000 persons convenient for conference and wedding parties. It also has five meeting rooms which can accommodate 20-30 persons.

The hotel has a health center that provides spa, massage and gym services. There is an out door swimming pool with a pool bar and mini golf court in the premise. The hotel encompasses a coffee shop, ticket office, and souvenir shop.

The Hotel was designed and built by AVIC, the Chinese construction firm, while a local consulting firm, Sileshi Consult, carried out the supervision work.

USD 65 million has been invested for the design, construction and furnishing of the hotel of which Ethiopian 35 percent of the equity financing is from Ethiopian while EXIM Bank of China provided 65 percent of the project financing.

Busera Avel, VP Strategic Planning and Alliances, said that Ethiopian Airlines seeks to offer its passengers end to end travel experience and contribute its share to the growth of the country’s tourism industry. “Addis Ababa is the main gate way to Africa. The hotel will play a significant role in boosting the tourism sector and making Addis Ababa a conference hub,” Busera said.

“We are offering tour packages (air ticket and hotel service) through Ethiopian holidays and bringing tourists,” he added.

Ethiopian Skylight Hotel is managed by a Chinese hotel management company called Grand Skylight Hotel Management Co. Ltd (GSHM).

Busera said that Ethiopian Skylight Hotel is catering for not only Ethiopian Airlines passengers but it is open for the public. “The hotel is hosting local, regional and international conferences. It is an ideal venue for company staff and management meetings, weddings and other events,” he said. When the second hotel is completed Ethiopian Skylight Hotel would have 1,000 guest rooms.

Ethiopian government is planning to make Ethiopia one of the top five tourist destinations in Africa and boost the number of tourists visiting the country to ten million.

Residents of West Oromia denounce Shene armed group

Residents of West Oromia took to the streets on Tuesday to condemn the armed group of Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) known as Shene. Among the thousands of people who took to the streets in West Wollega and Buno Bedele Zones of Oromia State to denounce the armed group OLF Shene operating in the area were Mezgebu Bentil, Assena Beyene, Tamrat Guteta and Jemal Abdu.

Youth participants of the demonstration called on the government to ensure rule of law by stopping the activities of OLF Shene group that kills and boths the people by falsely claiming to stand for Oromo people.

Residents of the two zones, among the areas that the group is operating, protested in Gimbi and Bedele towns to denounce the group. Among the demonstrators, some said there are anti-development and anti-Oromo quarters are conspiring to reverse the freedom of the Oromo people which is secured after 150 years bitter struggle.

Mezgebu Bentil a demonstrator said OLF Shene is undermining the safety and wellbeing of the people.

Sudan’s military rejects Ethiopia’s transition proposal

Sudan’s military has rejected Ethiopia’s proposal to end the political deadlock over the composition of the country’s transitional government.

The ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC) and the opposition coalition have been wrangling for weeks over what form Sudan’s transitional government should take after the military deposed long-term President Omar al-Bashir on April 11.

Ethiopia’s proposal, which the opposition coalition has agreed to, suggests that a ruling sovereign council would be made up of seven civilians and seven members of the military, with one additional seat reserved for an impartial individual, according to Reuters.

The TMC spokesman, Lieutenant General Shams al-Din Kabbashi, instead said on Sunday that he agreed in principle to the African Union (AU) plan.

“Ethiopia’s initiative came first,” said Kabbashi, adding that the council had not studied the Ethiopian initiative, which he described as unilateral.

Kabbashi said that Ethiopia and the AU needed to unify their efforts to mediate between the council and the opposition coalition spearheading of months-long pro-democracy protests.
INVITATION TO BID

EECMY-DASSC is running a project called IDP/returnee protection monitoring, support provision and distribution of NFI activities in Gedeo and West Guji Zones. The commission would like to invite interested vendors to bid for the supply of field vehicles on rental basis from July to October 2019.

The commission will cover fuel consumption of the vehicles on duty where as the vendor will cover any expense against to the drivers

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**Mandatory requirements and terms of the tender**

1. The vehicles should be in good conditions, dusty proof, and fuel consumption of at least 7km per liter
2. The vehicles and the drivers must be insured in the current year
3. Bidders must attach renewed trade license, tax payer’s registration, driving license of the drivers, and other relevant legal documents
4. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security 1% valid for 90 days of total submitted cost in an acceptable unconditonal bank [CPO]
5. Bidders with previous work experience in the given areas are encouraged
6. Bids must be submitted in sealed envelope from July 1-31,2019 to EECMY-DASSC-HO at Amist kilo Phone number 0111574634
7. Bids will be opened on July 24, 2019 @ 3:00pm at EECMY-DASSC-HO in the presence of bidder’s representative.
8. The commission reserves the right to reject any or all bids

Ayka Addis to fetch 2 bln birr in foreclosure

By Birhanu Fikade

The ill-fated Ayka Addis Textile and Investment Group, a textile manufacturer which went bankrupt, is said to be foreclosed next month with close to two billion birr, in an effort to recover loans the manufacturer received from the embattled the Development Bank of Ethiopia (DBE). The company used to owe some 2.2 billion birr, The Reporter has learnt.

Once a highly regarded foreign company, Ayka Addis has been forced to close shop and end its operations in Ethiopia after more than a decade long presence in the manufacturing business.

Accordingly, the state policy bank had taken over Ayka Addis since last year and was managing it under Ethio Capital Investment Share Company, a subsidiary firm, when the previous failed to service the 2.3 billion birr debt it owed to DBE.

In fact, since 2006, DBE extended a total of 2.87 billion birr to the textile manufacturer. The textile plant which entered into operation in 2010 with a total investment of USD 240 million at Alemgena, some 20km west of Addis Ababa stretching on a 205,000sqm land, used to have a capacity of making 70,000 pieces of readymade clothing and various types of garments.

The new foreclosure notice advertised in media outlets indicated that the plant alone is valued at 1.85 billion birr. Bulk of apparel that included kids’ clothes to various types of jackets, leggings, tops, duvet sets, bed sheets, and covers, pajamas and the likes stored in the plant will be auctioned at an initial price of 130 million birr in total. However, DBE allotted three separate lots for the stored garments.

Ayka Addis was once considered to be an anchor investment that Ethiopia succeeded to attract. However, it did not take long for the company to face the dreadful realities of shortages in raw materials mostly cotton, lack of skilled labor and power outages. The political crisis also contributed to the malfunctioning of Ayka Addis. At first, Ayka Addis seemed to be doing well but failed to sustain the momentum and since 2014, it was operating on a loss until it declared bankruptcy in 2017. The company is believed to have created 7,000 jobs.

According to information The Reporter has received from DBE, the first lot will be auctioned on July 9, 2019 and the plant is set to be sold on July 23.

DBE currently is grappling with 40 percent non-performing loans (NPL) and suffering a loss of 1.7 billion birr much of it owing to the enormous credit it has been advancing to the likes of commercial farms and factories.
By Brook Abdu

The Ethiopian Media Council has been formally recognized as an independent civil society organization (CSO) under the newly-amended proclamation that governs CSOs. The Council was formed following a general assembly held on January 12, 2016 at the assembly hall of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

The Council, whose members include publishers, broadcasters as well as media associations, has been struggling to register as a legal entity under the now defunct country’s CSO proclamation. But the efforts were futile because of the inability of the proclamation to register them under the generic name CSOs.

According to a statement the Council sent to The Reporter, it has taken 42 weeks to get the recognition and registration. Throughout this time, it has managed to raise its membership base to 29, from the initially registered 19 members.

“In order for the media to properly serve the public as well as for the journalism profession to blossom, the Council is shouldered with a lot of tasks,” reads the statement. Apart from supporting journalists’ capacity building so that they conduct their journalism up to the standard and within the legal boundaries, the council promised to promote press freedom by fighting the illegal and improper government hands laid on the press.

The Ethiopian Media Council will have an Executive Committee in which Amare Aregawi, the General Manager of The Reporter, English, and Reporter, Amharic, newspapers and Meaza Birru, the Co-owner of Sheger FM, will serve as chairperson and deputy chairperson.
Ethiopian organizations shine in African KAIZEN award

By Staff Reporter

Two Ethiopian organizations, MAA Garment and Textiles and Amhara Water Well Drilling Enterprise have claimed top positions in the first African KAIZEN award held in Tunis, Tunisia, from June 25 to 26, 2019.

Out of the 16 organizations and one team (circle) that were nominated for the first African KAIZEN award, MAA Garment shared the “Outstanding” level award with Tanzanian’s A to Z Textiles Mills Ltd, registering significant improvements in quality and waste management after effective application of kaizen.

Located in the capital of the Tigrain Regional State, Mekelle, in Northern part of Ethiopia, MAA Garment has realized a wide range of improvements in productivity by implementing ten advanced level kaizen projects within their company, a statement sent from JICA Ethiopia said.

Owned by Keibre Enterprises PLC, MAA Garment and Textile factory started operation in 2004 and with integrated textile and garment facilities incorporating Spinning, Knitting, Dyeing, Stitching and Embroidery. It is also one of few local companies which not only embraced kaizen but managed to implement advanced level projects.

On the other hand, Amhara Water Well Drilling Enterprise together with Lumen Special Cables of South Africa and SOMEFTUNISIE of Tunisia has taken the “Excellent” award, while the Kanyama First Level Hospital in Zambia secured the “Exemplary” award at Tunis.

According to JICA’s statement, winner of the first African KAIZEN award will be represented at the upcoming Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), taking part in the kaizen side-events and having the chance to visit Japanese enterprises and the application of the “original kaizen”.

World vision to renew education plan to 2025

By Samuel Getachew

World Vision is set to renew its Education Sector Development Program Plan within Ethiopia.

The plan in place is set to expire next year, and is to be renewed until 2025. One of the leading investor in educational initiatives, the aim is to expand equitable access to quality education across the nation, including early childhood education, technical, and vocational education as a pathway to employment opportunities and have recipients become job ready.

“We are a national organization in Ethiopia. Our size and experience began in the country in 1971 and the trust we have built over the years gives us the ability to do what we do,” Edward Brown, the National Director of World Vision Ethiopia told The Reporter adding, “We also have an integrated approach that makes us have practical impact on the ground and be as efficient as well.”

World Vision has, in the last four years, constructed and furnished kindergartens in the rural parts of Ethiopia, provided 1.4 million books benefiting 1.5 million children, skills, established camps teaching 16,000 volunteers it has also trained 76,500 teachers and 16,000 volunteers to incorporate core reading skills, established camps benefiting 1.5 million children, provided 1.4 million blocks and spearheaded a model to 95,000 parents to be active participants in their children’s educational endeavors.

The group is also noted for its work with Ethiopia’s disabled populations, especially in Guji and was recently noted by the influential Ethiopian Diaspora, which managed to raise 31 million Birr through the Global Alliance for Somalia’s petroleum law, which was approved last month in an effort to kick-start oil development that has been halted by two decades of civil war. Companies including Royal Dutch Shell Plc and Exxon Mobil Corp, have stakes in blocks, which has seen no activity since war broke out in 1991.

Under the terms of the RSA, Somalia’s central government will retain 55 percent of revenue from future offshore oil production while its member states will receive the remainder, according to an oil ministry statement released on Friday.

For onshore oil output, the federal government will retain 30 percent of revenue, while member states and their local communities, which are free to decide how to invest the cash, will keep the rest. However, it’s still working on commercial terms for the companies which would operate the oil blocks.

(Horn in Brief)

Eritrea defends ‘operational takeover’ of Catholic health facilities

Eritrea responded to the closure of health facilities run by the Catholic Church across the country weeks back.

The response was carried in a press release issued by the Eritrean Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva.

Eritrea responded to the issues raised by the United Nation’s Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in the country.

The government described the move as “a mere transfer of operational modality.”

It stressed that the Catholic Church was by aspects of its operations flouting existing laws and the government had only moved in to enforce those laws contrary to what was out in the public.

The government also categorically dismissed the impression created that patients were negatively impacted by the takeover.

“The notion that this will negatively affect “or endanger” delivery of health services is far-fetched and simply not true. In the first place, the issue at hand is the mere transfer of operational modality,” the statement read.

(Africa News)
EU pledges EUR 40 bln grant through AfCFTA

By Birhanu Fikade

During a two-day Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) regional Trade Forum on the Horn of Africa, the European Union (EU) has pledged it will grant Africa with EUR 40 billion to help create 10 million jobs.

Ambassador Ranieri Sabatucci, head of the EU delegation to the African Union, while addressing the trade forum on Thursday, said EU fully supports AfCFTA and proposes to provide EUR 40 billion grant packages to attract investments into Africa that would create millions of jobs.

According to Ambassador Sabatucci, the proposed grant is part of the comprehensive agreement to create a continent-to-continent long-term relations. He referred to Jean-Claude Junker, President of the EU, who last year said that EU and Africa will have a long-term free trade agreement.

In the wake of countries ratifying AfCFTA with Gambia being the 22nd nation ratifying it to qualify for implementation, local businesses are claiming that African governments are converging on subsidized imports of merchandizes resulting in crowding out effects.

During the trade forum which specifically focused on Africa’s pharmaceutical sector, Ali Mufuruki, chairman and CEO of Infotech Investment Group, who co-chairs the Afro Champions Club, said that “Since Africa doesn’t own its health care agenda; foreigners are coming with a long-term strategy to remain a supplier of the continent’s needs.” He urged both governments and private sectors need to reorganize themselves as the health care potential is untapped. However, much of the health care products are imports with sizable subsidies sideling homegrown businesses from the business, Mufuruki said.

Vera Songwe (PhD), executive secretary of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), substantiated that Africa “consumes less than two percent of the medicines while it imports 70 percent of its needs from outside of the continent at an annual cost of USD 14.5 billion.” The annual importation cost is projected to climb further to around USD 200 billion by 2030, Songwe said. Mufuruki added that Africa is losing USD 80 million worth of its healthcare resources per day and realize the need to work together to that end requires dealing with border issues, standardizations and conflicts.

To reduce dependence on imported medicines, the African private sector is requested to collaborate and get set to promptly exploit opportunities AfCFTA could offer. The likes of Egypt which have a well-established pharmaceutical industry and Ethiopia’s export of medicines to Djibouti were showcased during the forum.

Since April this year, 22 countries have deposited their ratifications and as of May, AfCFTA has secured the threshold to enter into force with the coming July witnessing the formal launch of AfCFTA in Niger.

As of 2018, 52 countries have signed the agreement which is believed to increase intra-African trade by about 52 percent, and is expected to remove tariffs on 90 percent of goods traded in 2022. However, with its infant manufacturing and underdeveloped industries, many onlookers argue Africa will be challenged in making the best out of the continental trade agreement.

Mamo Mihretu, chief trade negotiator and senior policy advisor to the Prime Minister, told the forum why Ethiopia decided to join AfCFTA. Ethiopia considers the continental trade agreement as a pan-African instrument with a prosperity agenda. He said that Ethiopia certainly has its own economic interest in neighboring countries where it has less than 20 percent of the export market.
We have not just lost a great military man, who deeply cared about his nation and its people, but someone who cared about its unity.

By Samuel Getachew

In a heartwrenching emotional public funeral, Ethiopians from all walks of life paid tribute to noted public servants whose lives were abruptly cut short late last week.

General Seare Mekonnen, Major General Geza’e Abera, Amhara Regional State President Ambachew Mekonnen (PhD) along with his colleagues, Ezez Wassie and a rising political star, Migbaru Kebede, who was serving as the Attorney General of the regional state, and dozens of others who died in the line of duty were laid to rest after a national day of mourning.

“We have not just lost a great military man, who deeply cared about his nation and its people, but someone who cared about its unity,” said Tesgaye Kirstos, a self-described family friend of the General told The Reporter, the day after the tragedy in Bole, his home for the last year. “He was a family man, a great friend to many and mentor to a slew of public servants in uniform.”

Since Abiy Ahmed (PhD) became Prime Minister last year, it has been a new dawn of political revival for the nation. He had invited the opposition leadership to Ethiopia and have them participate fully and openly in its democratic revival, advocating for human rights, freeing thousands of prisoners, including pardoning Asaminew Tsige (Brigadier General), after close to a decade of imprisonment accused of an attempt to overthrow the previous government.

However, the Prime Minister is starting to exhaust his political honeymoon and now stands accused of giving little attention to the internal displacements of thousands of Ethiopians, the fast growing resentment of his leadership and ethnic violence that is growing and while giving overwhelming and ill-prepared plan to bring peace in Sudan and Yemen, with little obvious success.

Upon learning of the fast-moving news, he announced and recognized that there “was an attempted coup d’état in Bahir Dar and attacks on the icons of the Amhara people” and later recognized, Seare Mekonnen, the noted officer during the Tigrayan People’s Liberation Front (TPLF’s) guerrilla days turned a moderate and respected General was also attacked and killed, sending shockwaves to
The General became the nation’s Army Chief of Staff last year replacing General Samora Yenus, who had been at its helm for 17 long years.

Ambachew became the regions president last year, after Gedu Andargachew resigned and was slated to take over the helm of Ethiopia’s Foreign Ministry. In his farewell speech, he had warned about strong Ahmara nationalism that was becoming rampant and growing within it.

“Ambachew became the regions president last year, after Gedu Andargachew resigned and was slated to take over the helm of Ethiopia’s Foreign Ministry. In his farewell speech, he had warned about strong Ahmara nationalism that was becoming rampant and growing within it.”

A NATION . . . page 32
REFORM IS GENERATIONAL

Kristalina Georgieva is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the World Bank since January 2017. Georgieva was also the World Bank Group interim President in the leadership transition of 2019. As CEO of the World Bank, which comprises of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA), Georgieva has mobilized resources for poor and middle-income countries and created better opportunities for the world’s most vulnerable people. Bulgarian national, Georgieva had a role to play in shaping the agenda of the European Union, starting in 2010, first as Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response. As European Commission Vice President for Budget and Human Resources, Georgieva also oversaw the European Union’s €161 billion (US $175bn) budget and 33,000 staff across its institution around the world, and tripled funding available to the refugee crisis in Europe. Recently, Kristalina was in Addis Ababa for an IDA19 replenishment meeting covering the fiscal years stretching from 2021 to 2023. Asrat Seyoum of The Reporter sat down with the CEO for a brief conversation. Excerpts:

The Reporter: In your recent IDA meetings, one of the issues that dominated your discussion was reported to be the issue of external debt sustainability. This was particularly the case since 34 out of the 68 IDA beneficiary countries have high external debt distress. How do you explain this phenomenon?

Kristalina Georgieva: Let me start by stating that this problem of rising debt levels is a universal problem. When you see this government’s, private sectors and households around the world, the general level of rising debt is clearly observed. The question is why is that happening? The primary driver is low interest rates that make borrowing affordable. This situation was fairly prolonged due to financial crisis that necessitated quantitative easing measures to make borrowing more affordable. The Federal Reserve and other central banks around the world held interest rates quite low, making financial resources available to generate the sort of growth needed to bring the world economy back to a sound footing. However, debt in itself is not necessarily bad; but low interest rate also means low yields for lenders. Because of lower yields, many lenders, especially, in the private sector have turned to more risky borrowers. And, it is this second level driver that specifically impacts low income countries. What we have seen is that, rising levels of indebtedness among low income countries and the debt repayment burden has started to take a toll on the financial resources of these nations in terms delivering social and infrastructural progress. Mind you, this is happening even with a relatively lower level of interest rates which has kept debt repayment obligation relatively lower. We have also observed the shift in the composition; accordingly, most of the debt stock in low income countries, recently, is owned by non-Paris club, sovereign and private lenders. What we need to do to respond to this is to work on a country-by-country basis to encourage debt transparency. The other one is to look for concrete steps which countries can take to address these issues. One thing that has to be underlined is that debt in itself is not bad; it becomes bad when it is not affordable (non-concessional) and used for idle consumption and not for growth and revenue generating investments.

Knowing that IDA is
inherently a lending institution, and half of your beneficiaries are indebted, I wonder if there is a push from IDA donor countries (Deputies) to exercise some restraint when it comes to lending?

What we are discussing in terms of the indebtedness of our beneficiary countries is what sort of prudent lending policies we need to mitigate the problems as we go forward. Specifically, we have discussed, in our IDA replenishment meeting, the importance of having high concessions and more grant resources in our credit facilities. Especially our poor and fragile beneficiary countries will not be in the position to borrow, and hence, we tend to dedicate for garner resources to help these nations. We have also looked into the productive use of resources that countries borrow from IDA. We have discussed the need to assess if our borrower countries are investing our resources on programs that maximizes the growth potential of the country such as investments in human capital and productivity. So, in general, what we have discussed as part of the IDA 19 replenishment meeting is how to restructure our lending facilities to fit countries at different levels of indebtedness. We also value, very much, reform oriented programs, since growth is perhaps the most important characteristic and driver of sustainable economic progress.

But it is also a conundrum isn’t it? Since most of your IDA beneficiary counties including Ethiopia are also the ones who are in risk of high external debt accumulation. How do you manage that delicate balance?

The first thing that needs to be underlined is the fact that we are not offering non-concessional loans to Ethiopia or any other low income country. It needs to be understood that concessional loans are lent on a zero or near-zero interest rates. We do hope we can see Ethiopia in a middle income category one day, so that it can qualify for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) lending; even IBRD rates are way lower than market rates. On top of that, we try to make sure that all the lending we do either to Ethiopia or any other low income country would in fact be growth and productive capacity enhancing lending. I have to restate that debt in itself is not a problem. In fact, we have ample evidence regarding IDA helping countries move up the income ladder. Just to give names, we have the three well-known graduates of IDA: India, China and Vietnam. They all made very good use of IDA resources and they all come back immediately to IDA as donors since they know the benefit of IDA and how it can help the world economy expand.

How about on a policy level? Are you planning to engage on a policy level with IDA borrowers?

We do this with every borrowing nation; in fact, we are available to Ethiopia in this sense and provide our analysis of borrowing capacity and what kind of borrowing Ethiopia should make. As a result, I am proud to say that, in our engagement with Ethiopia we have seen the authorities restraining non-concessional borrowing significantly; and it is a very prudent step to take. We are also trying to do the same with other nations as well. Currently, with interest rates staying low and expected to remain low for the foreseeable future and knowing that interest rates are cyclical in nature, we want to take this opportunity to work with countries to improve their debt profile.

You said debt transparency will be one of the focus areas on IDA when engaging with borrowers with high degree of risk of external debt stress. Why transparency?

In fact, we are at forefront of a global debt transparency initiative; we are not doing this only with developing or low income nations, rather with everyone. We are also working with the G20 in that regard. But, we believe that developing nations as well, have to be much more prudent in disclosing their liability. This is important because it will help them identify the exact magnitude of their debt problem. What we discover often is that their contingent liabilities are not reported in their debt balance sheets. This is just one aspect; in the world where lending practices are more sophisticated, countries ought to know what they have been borrowing for and under what term. And those countries who have lent also deserve to know who they are lending their resources to. This is essential for a more sustainable financial system. The last thing we want is a situation where interest rates go up; serving cost of debt increases and panic hits because we lack knowledge as to the exact size of the debt stock. Hence, in this sophisticated world transparency is citizens and governments’ best friend. So, we are determined to define the various categories of debt and help countries put
Together with his communist leadership circle, which was close to Ethiopia’s military regime at the time, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev wrote a book, some 41 years ago, which begin with a saying: “Only let there be grain, and the songs will come of themselves”.

The then President of the Union of Soviet Socialist Russian Federation, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, had stored and logged stories of Russia’s agricultural experiment that had enforced and channeled every means available to turn abandoned steppes or “virgin lands”, as he call them, into yielding farm fields. Transforming the vast expanse of territories falling predominantly in today’s Kazakhstan Republic was the task bestowed on Brezhnev back then.

Before Brezhnev’s rise through the ladders of top leadership, he, as he had documented, was co-assigned to lead and mass mobilize hundreds of Russians into the vast stretches of turfs across the country, particularly to the wild terrains of the Kazakhstan region. It is imperative to bring stories of old Russia into the context of Ethiopia’s modern agricultural practices that spun into existence in the 1950s.

In fact it was in the early 1940s that Ethiopia had begun to gaze into its peasant prevailing agriculture and longed for some sense of modernization. The Imperial regime, at the time, came up with a plan to introduce a mechanized agriculture and designated expanses considered to be the source of future food stocks for the country or as some might exaggerate the bread baskets of the nation. During early 1950s, when Russia began to push the idea of having extensive and automated farming on vast swath of land, Ethiopia’s Imperial regime was also concocting more or less the same move. Fertile fields and vigorous peasants were picked. Areas like Arsi, Wollo, Wolaita and Bale, which still bear traces of that movement, were identified to be fit for combiners and tractors. Yet, with human resources reaching up to 300,000 along with millions of hectares of land, the East European power was orchestrating a plan to make use of its huge virgin lands with a view of nourishing millions of Russians. They did it; and they won over the push backs of harsh climatic conditions and natural environs.

Perhaps the metaphorical song Russians sang for longtime might come of themselves in this part of Africa as well. This year the mid-season rain didn’t fed the better part of the fertile agricultural land in Ethiopia and the outlooks for better yield seemed somehow
Omer Hussein, Minister of Agriculture, who recently spoke to 1,500 heads of regional agricultural bureaus and offices, said that the year-to-year progress of Ethiopia’s agricultural production could be quite misleading. The successive growth registered in grain production might send the wrong signal that Ethiopia is progressing towards food self-sufficiency, while our per capita food consumption is still heavily dependent on bulk imports of food grains.

With all of its controversies, looking back at what the Russians had done and succeeded in overcoming (their food shortages) since 1954 is worth looking into. They made a bold move to squash supply side constraints. According to Brezhnev’s memoir, in 1953, the Soviets were only able to harvest 31 million tons of grain, annually, but consumed 32 million tons that same year; the deficit being replenished from the state’s reserves. They saw that couldn’t be tolerated. They did found an answer: Virgin Lands.

It was only nine years after World War II with its devastating loss when the Central Communist Party decided that the vast expansion plan should take an immediate effect in 1954, Brezhnev recalls. They decided it was an urgent national economic task. And in that year alone, they ploughed and cultivated 13 million hectares with a view to cultivate 13 million to 14.7 million metric tons (800-900 million pood in Russian) of grains.

What makes then Russia more interesting is that between 1954 and 1955, the country had experienced severe drought. Despite all the mechanized farming methods they employed, they still depended on rain. The country’s economists made stringent planning and set an average of eight million tons of grains must be harvested from the news farms. Farms in the steppes of Kazakhstan Republic thrived and yielded four to six million tons between 1954 and 1955. More intersecting was that by 1956, the Kazak region made a remarkable upsurge in grain harvest. They planned to harvest 9.8 million metric tons but exceedingly managed to 16.4 million metric tons.

In the face of difficulties and harsh realities, Soviets managed to win over all the odds and became surplus producing nation once again after the heavy blow and extraordinary loss they had sustained during the Second World War. It took Russia two years to enjoy the harvest of the Virgin Lands. Mind that the annual precipitation in most of Kazakhsthan was estimated to be between 200 to 300 millimeters. It was a daring move to harvest millions of tons of wheat and other food grains in a drought-ridden and heat scorched steppes of the Kazak. Indeed, Russians had beaten the odds.

Though Kazakhstan is an independent and sovereign state with USD half trillion as its GDP at purchasing power parity (PPP), back in 1977, after 24 years since the introduction of Virgin Lands, Brezhnev made a note that Kazakhstan was able to sale 250 million tons of grains to the central government, generating a clear profits of 6.1 billion Rubles (RUB).

Coming back to Ethiopia, the country was on same...
The monarchy: An institution that can unite all Ethiopians

By Gizachew Tiruneh

The political reforms being brought about by Abiy Ahmed (PhD), the new Prime Minister of Ethiopia, including the presence of relative political openness and freedom, are encouraging. Indeed, while many of the organized political groups are advocating for differing versions of political structures (ex: unitary, federal, or a mix of the two), they all seem to have a common interest in a democratic political system. However, few seem to be calling for the restoration of the monarchy, an institution that has long been part of the country’s tradition and history. From its legendary origin of Queen Makeda and King Solomon to its likely root of the Damot (or Damat) kingdom of ancient Ethiopia and to its successor states centered in Tigrai and Shoa, the history of the Solomonic dynasty had long been associated with the history of Ethiopia. This age-old monarchy, if restored, may help to maintain and foster national unity.

In his study of democracy, Seymour Martin Lipset (1959) observed that in a democratic country the time, ten had monarchies as heads of states. These democracies were located mostly in Western Europe and included Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, and Denmark. Lipset argued that the democratic regimes in Western Europe acquired legitimacy because they preserved the traditional monarchies as heads of states, which had the support of the conservative groups including the aristocracy, landholders, and the clergy. Consequently, constitutional monarchies, according to Lipset, have helped to legitimize the democratic system by fostering unity among diverse groups, the groups of the past (conservatives) and of the present (progressives).

In the case of Ethiopia, the revolution ended Emperor Haile Selassie’s reign due to its failure to make political and socioeconomic reforms. The aristocracy is also gone, either it was killed during the revolution, died out of age, or could not maintain its status. The landlord class has also been wiped out by the revolution. The only conservative institution remaining from the old order is the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. Prior revolutions have also ended monarchies in France (1789), Russia (1917), and China (1911) for similar reasons. Yet the end of the Solomonic dynasty may not be a foregone conclusion. As Arnold Toynbee has argued, Ethiopia has been more of a peculiar country. For instance, it was a pocket of European colonialism in Africa (save Liberia). It was a single country in the northeast Africa that preserved its Monophysite Christianity by avoiding Jihad in the seventh century A.D. (cited in Trimingham, 2002). We might also add that the Solomonic dynasty was restored in 1870 A.D. after having been interrupted by the Zagwe rulers between the 11th and 13th centuries. The dynasty was also re-restored in 1885 after giving way to the era of the princes lasting for about 98 years. Will history repeat itself? Will the weight of Ethiopia’s long and rich history sway the opinions of all or most Ethiopians to seek the restoration of the monarchy one more time?

Should there be a popular interest in it, the Solomonic dynasty could be restored in Ethiopia as a national constitutional monarchy for absolute autocratic systems are increasingly becoming a thing of the past. The principal function of a constitutional monarchy would be to serve as a symbol of national unity and would only have ceremonial duties. Indeed, the only way one can make the monarchy compatible with modern ideas of equality and liberty (also known as modern democracy), the constitutional monarchy may not need an ‘emperor’ but a ‘king’, for the former implies the presence of an emperor or more than one king in the country.

It may be anticipated, however, that some Ethiopians or groups are opposed to the return of the Solomonic monarchy. For instance, they may believe that the time of the monarchy has gone. Given the revolutionary upheaval that the country has to go through between 1974 and 1991 and the popularity of modern republics, these individuals and groups may not see the need for restoring the monarchy. However, the political history of the country since 1974 suggests that republicanism has not been without major, if not catastrophic, problems. During the Derg regime, hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians had died and a generation of intellectuals was lost. Under ERPDF, Ethiopian unity has been at stake and in danger. Regional and ethnic identities are increasingly becoming more fervor that resembles the peak of a campaign season can be seen a good example of such strides. Or maybe one can pay closer attention to the story of a traditional community leader who takes up the stage at a town-hall meeting presided by the president in the capital city a few days ago to vent about alleged slights against his tribe. Steering off topic in to what seemed borderline incitement that triggered a forceful and emotional rebuke from the president in addition to the angry hisses and whistles from the entire hall, the fine gentleman cleverly reversed course and attributed all his rage to the constitutional monarchism that instantly disappeared into thin air in a matter of hours on the infamous 12th of July, a day that would go down in history as the day when the administration announced that it was the last day of the Derg regime.

In the unfortunate event that such a crisis was not arrested, it was something obvious to any reasonable observer that the situation was volatile enough that it has raised questions of continuity for this nation as a single and united federal entity. It was a serious fiasco that could have easily galloped the nation into an entrenched civil war that could raise the specter for its total and complete disintegration while also vindicating the doomayers and ill-wishers at the same time. These momentous achievements, whether it is the reconstituting of administrative hierarchies that instantly disappeared into thin air in a matter of hours on the infamous 12th of July, a day that went down in history as the day when the administration announced that it was the last day of the Derg regime.
Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) Ethiopia

TERM OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL DESIGN FOR YOGURT.

BACKGROUND

GAIN was launched at the UN in 2002 to tackle the human suffering caused by malnutrition. GAIN is a global, Swiss-based foundation that mobilizes public-private partnerships and provides financial and technical support to deliver nutritious foods to those people most at risk of malnutrition. Our programs in Africa and Asia enable better diets via nutritional products, such as fortified staple foods, including cooking oil and flour, and condiments like salt and soy sauce. We also support improved maternal and infant health by promoting breastfeeding and specialized products for infants over six months and young children. In addition, we partner with local businesses to improve the quality of food along agricultural value chains. By building alliances that deliver impact at scale, we believe malnutrition can be eliminated within our lifetimes.

GAIN contributes to fighting malnutrition in Ethiopia through innovative and sustainable models that increase access to nutritious foods among communities vulnerable to malnutrition and are currently implementing a project called Access to Better Dairy Project. This project emanates as part of the Nordic Partnership which brings companies, civil society, academia & the public sector together to focus on developing scalable & inclusive business models for solving the sustainable Development Goals (SDG) challenge to end hunger & malnutrition.

The main objective of this project is to catalyze market development of one dairy value chain in Ethiopia. This is achieved through technical support to (private) dairy sector partners for the development and marketing of a fortified dairy product targeting select communities with the aim of improving nutrition.

The main objectives of the product development are:

1. To develop an affordable and acceptable fortified yoghurt product that responds to the preferences of the target consumer which are children
2. To identify the optimal product positioning for sustainability in target market
3. To achieve consumer loyalty through successful usage and conversion by demand creation activities

For this purpose, GAIN has selected LONI Agro industry- a local daily processing company to supply the required fortified yoghurt and work on building the capacity of the company through technical support in engaging with the dairy farm processing, production, key product development and the demand creation to reach the target consumer. This Yoghurt is intended to also be produced in multiple dairy shops and Kaldis shops as primary access points for the target consumers.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The affordable yoghurt known as VIFERO is fortified with vitamin and minerals which will be launched into the market firstly in two flavours with the primary promotional target of children. The product is targeted to be positioned in kiosks, supermarkets, dairy shops and Kaldis shops as primary access points for the target consumers. The brand identity, packaging and primary communication material has been designed along with a promotional strategy on how to launch and position it in the market. i.e. to the target market.

PRODUCT POSITIONING

The creative agency will be tasked with designing and production of the agreed promotional materials based on the developed communication strategy by GAIN in collaboration with LONI Agro industry.

Accordingly, key activities of the assignment addressed in this ToR are:

1. To provide creative concepts for promotional tools design based on the provided brand guideline and primary communication elements of the approximated yogurt brand.
2. To develop specific ATL promotional tools to launch the product and sensitize the market, i.e.
   - 45-60 sec TV promo to be used for mass and social media using a key influencer (celebrity) that influences the target group (children and their mother).
   - Specific jingle accompanying promo relating to the product benefit.
3. To design specific BTL promotional tools for visibility and market activation activities to be conducted by LONI
   - Product launching event and market activation visibility support design, i.e. tent, tear drops, T-shirts, and required POSM for channel visibility activations.
4. To provide the development promotional tools of sample target consumers in Udea and Kikos sub cities for any improvements to be made to come up with the most relevant and emotionally appealing creative advertisements.

To address the deliverables above, the agency is expected to develop the methods and tools which consists the following:

- Target Population (promotion): Mothers and children between the ages of 3 and 7 years which are strong influencers. It should balance between the two.
- Target Population (consumption): Children between the ages of 3 and 7 years.
- Product Variant: Product variants presented in two flavors (Vanilla and Strawberry).
- Product Positioning: Product is to be positioned primarily in kiosks targeting low-middle income families followed by dairy shops.
- Brand Positioning: An affordable yoghurt snack fortified with vitamins and minerals for active and bright kids.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMELINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>July-August</th>
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<tr>
<td>Creative concept delivery for ATL and BTL promo design.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Script and Content delivery for TV promo and jingle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design BTL communication and visibility materials as per the required list of items.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide feedback upon testing the designed tools for improvement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submit final design of all required promotional tools both for ATL and BTL activity.</td>
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N.B Agency is to provide a detail timeline with dates within the scope to the above workplan.

AGENCY QUALIFICATIONS

- Proven record with full creative agency capabilities, tools and technologies to perform the design and production of creative advertisements.
- Proven experience in creative design work for communication, promotional and visibility trade marketing tools across various industries.
- Experience on consumers’ testing and insight assessment towards developed creatives.
- Clear and systematic thinking that demonstrates good judgment, expert problem solving, and creativity for innovative recommendations.
- Any experience towards engagement in creative works on food business or nutrition sector. A focus on the dairy sector is a plus.
- Experience working in a public/private partnership environment highly desirable
- Qualified team expertise in creative strategy, concept development, design work and promo productions.
- Ability to deliver in short deadlines with quality intact.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

- Submit updated CV of creative team and copy of supporting documents for the experiences related with the post.
- Submit maximum of 10 pages technical and financial proposal including methodology for designing/promoting the required tools and related work plan. Any document that can support experience can be Annexed along with the proposal. This includes renewed licence and vat registration certificates.
- Each page of submitted documents should be stamped or signed by the applicant
- The technical and financial proposals must be sealed separately for submission.
- All documents should be delivered to GAIN Ethiopia office in hard copy
- All consultancy payments are subject to 2% withholding tax for registered consultancy firms.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATION: 12 working days

For submission, the Applicants will be required to deliver their submission in person at the GAIN office:

GAIN-GLOBAL Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Telephone: +251 116610088, Ibble Sub City, Wolala 13, In front of Ethiopian Youth Sport Academy, Meya Foods Building, 2nd Floor, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

www.thereporterethiopia.com
TURKISH INDUSTRY HOLDING

WE TURKISH INDUSTRY HOLDING would like to express our condolences to the FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA government, the people, family and colleagues for the most heartbreaking incident occurred to CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL SEARE MEKONNEN, the former FDRE army member MAJOR GENERAL GEZAE ABERA and to the President of AMHARA REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, DR. AMBACHEW MEKONNEN and the regional state’s high officials Mr. EZEW WASSIE AND MR. MIGBARU KEBEDE.

We would also like to guarantee the Ethiopian government and its peoples, these incidents will never affect our commitment towards grounding our project and will make the vision of these real Ethiopian heroes come true by working jointly with the government and Ethiopian peoples.

TURKISH INDUSTRY HOLDING
CHAIRMAN, MEHMET COSKUN

www.thereporterethiopia.com
INVITATION OF TENDER FOR WAREHOUSE LEASING

Tender Ref. No. HBSC/Bs/03/2019

Heineken Breweries SC is pleased to invite you to a tender for the supply of street light LED TYPE 150W 75,000 minimum HR.

The present tender invitation has been issued with the objective to guide tenderers in preparing a competitive offer through understanding of responsibilities, obligations and expected performance in providing the service. The full detail of the tender is provided on the tender document Terms of Reference (TOR).

Tender Starting Date: July 1, 2019
Tender Closing Date: July 16, 2019, at 5:00 PM

- Tenderers shall submit their tender in a sealed envelope;
- Tenderers shall submit a tender security unconditional bank guarantee bond to the value of 20,000 ETB payable to Heineken Breweries S.C for 90 days.
- Tenderers shall submit Company profile, Tax Identification Number(TIN), VAT Registration Certificate and Renewed trade license and registration for the year 2010 E.C during submittal of tender documents;
- The tender security bond to the unsuccessful tenderers shall be released within 15 working days after closing of the tender;
- The tender security bond shall be released to successful tenderer upon signing of the contract;
- The successful tenderers shall sign the contract within 10 working days after award notification, and failure to comply with this shall result in forfeiting of the tender bond;
- Tenderers shall collect the tender document (TOR) by paying 100.00 ETB non-refundable up on receiving the documents from the below address:

Reception desks at Head Office of Heineken Breweries SC, Yezsellalem Building (2nd floor), In front of Africa Union

Heineken Breweries SC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders at any time.

It is possible to obtain further information from procurement unit of Heineken Breweries SC by:

Mob: +251(0) 910504286
www.thereporterethiopia.com
Road trip photos for International Road Trip Photography Contest

Just in case you needed a reminder to plan your next road trip adventure, the 50 finalist photos from the AGORA #RoadTrip2019 international photography contest have been announced and they do not disappoint. These are some of the best road trip photos in the world for the year 2019!

Road tripping gives you a freedom that can be difficult to get in any other forms of travel: all you need is a map to plan wherever you want to go, a solid playlist to sing along to and you'll be in for a treat! No wonder why photographers sometimes find their best inspiration on the road.

These photos from all different the corners of the world have been selected among the #RoadTrip2019 Photo Contest by AGORA images, a free-to-use photography app that has been rewarding the world's biggest prizes in global photo contests since 2017.

Photographers of all levels participate simply by downloading the free app on the Apple Store or Google Play and can upload as many of their best photos as they like to the contest once it is launched in early January.

With over two million users in 180 countries and over six million photos uploaded, the photography app is rapidly becoming the place to participate in the curation of the world's best visual content.

On the right are some of the finalist photos.

YouTube Music can now automatically download up to 500 songs for you

YouTube Music is expanding upon its Offline Mixtape feature with a more thorough version it is now calling “smart downloads.” When you enable smart downloads, the app will automatically download up to 500 songs that you will be able to listen to anywhere — whether or not you have got a data connection.

That selection includes the Offline Mixtape (a 100-song playlist based on your listening history) and “songs from your Liked Songs playlist and your other favorite playlists and albums.” You can set a limit for how much music smart downloads will pull down, and the process only happens at night and when your phone is connected to Wi-Fi.

But smart downloads might be useful if you tend to forget about saving music for offline listening until it is too late. Other apps including Netflix are also moving into this lane; Netflix’s smart downloads can now save the next episode of whatever you are watching so it is ready to go right away, and it will automatically delete episodes you have already finished.

Unfortunately, YouTube is still unable to say exactly when it will migrate user libraries from Google Play Music over to YouTube Music.

Between the two services (Google Play Music and YouTube Music), Google has over 15 million paying subscribers.
Google now lets you set a time limit to auto-delete location history and web activity data

The global tech giant, Google, is now beginning to roll out its location history auto-delete feature after announcing it back in May. The tool comes after an emphasis on user privacy this past developer conference season, where companies like Google and Apple both said they would begin rolling out tools to let customers have more control over what data they share with the companies or third-party apps.

One of the criticisms, however, was that much of the work was still reliant upon the user to set up. Location tracking and web/app activity history on Google, for example, is kept until users manually delete them by default (the company says this is to improve user experience, ad targeting, and search personalizations). With the new tool, you can now set your tracking preferences to delete in three- or 18-month intervals.

This does not provide the same functionality for app and web activity data. To scrub that, you’ll have to wait until sometime in the “coming weeks.” Even so, this could be reassuring if you want to use Google’s services but want tighter controls lest that info fall into the wrong hands.

Any data older than 18 months will be deleted as well if you choose to have an auto-delete feature turned on.

The feature is rolling out over the next few weeks globally on both Android and iOS.

WhatsApp tests feature that shares your status to Facebook and other apps

WhatsApp is testing the idea of letting its users share posts from their WhatsApp status with other apps. Starting today, users in WhatsApp’s beta program will start to see a new sharing option beneath their status, which can be used to post a status directly to their Facebook story or send it to another app like Instagram, Gmail, or Google Photos. WhatsApp Status is the service’s Instagram Stories-style feature that lets you post images, text, and videos on your profile that disappear after 24 hours.

Although there is a direct link to share your status to Facebook, WhatsApp says that it is not doing anything to link your accounts on the two services. Instead, it is making use of the same iOS and Android data-sharing APIs as every other app, meaning data is transferred between the apps on-device. Even if you share data to another Facebook-owned service like Instagram, WhatsApp says the two posts will be separate events in Facebook’s systems, and they will not be linked.

There is also no option to have your WhatsApp status automatically shared to another service. WhatsApp is saying that it wants the feature to be an active decision on the part of the user.

Launched back in 2017, WhatsApp Status has since grown to be used by 500 million users daily, and in 2020, it will become the first place in the WhatsApp app to show ads.

On June 25, 1950 - The Korean War began as North Korean troops, led by Russian-built tanks, crossed the 38th parallel and launched a full-scale invasion of South Korea. Five days later, US ground forces entered the conflict, which lasted until July 27, 1953, when an armistice was signed at Panmunjom, formally dividing the country at the 38th parallel into North and South Korea.

An open market in Harar in the late 1930s.
### INTERNAL/ EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT - RE-ADVERT

**INTRODUCTION**

Save the Children is an exciting and dynamic organization that follows a holistic approach to achieve more for children and use its resources in an efficient and sustainable way. In every programming we aim to achieve results at scale, build partnership to influence others and increase our impact; look for innovative solutions to the problems children faces, campaign for better practice and ensure that Children’s voices are heard.

Save the Children is an organization for talented people with different backgrounds and perspectives. We are proud that our people are representative of the children we work with and we thrive on our diversity. We are an equal opportunity organization dedicated to our core values of Accountability, Ambition, Collaboration, Creativity and Integrity. Our culture is embedded in these values, along with a strong commitment to our Child Safeguarding Protocol, ensuring that all representatives of Save the Children demonstrate the highest standards of behaviour towards children both in their private and professional lives. Save the Children offers sound employment conditions with opportunities for personal growth and development. If you are interested to work in an organization that is determined to achieve dramatic change for the most vulnerable children, we encourage you to look through the job profile below.

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<td>Length of Contract</td>
<td>One-year contract depends on both funding and performance</td>
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**ROLE PURPOSE:**

The **Senior Technical Programme Manager** is responsible for overall strategic and technical guidance in ensuring the programme interventions across all consortium members are implemented to the highest standard. Providing high-quality and timely technical support; ensuring context specific and common implementation approaches across implementing partners for quality programming; strategy design, developing strong external relations with key stakeholders; maintaining and managing a highly qualified team of specialists; and producing and utilising high quality and well-articulated project evidence and research for learning, and advocacy.

The Senior Technical Programme Manager oversees the work of field offices and short term technical specialists who support programme implementation. S/he will ensure cross-functionality, coordination, standardisation of programme implementation across different implementing partners, and that quality of programme are implemented according to nationally/internationally accepted and recommended standards. He/she represents SC values and principles in interactions with staff and external audiences. These values and principles include commitment to the mission of Save the Children, team orientation, quality management and leadership development, introducing systems and procedures to strengthen staff motivation and productivity.

**KEY AREAS OF ACCOUNTABILITY:**

- Oversees progress and coordination of the programme’s migration, protection and livelihoods activities in collaboration with the Chief of Party and field-based team.
- With technical specialists and ensure timely and quality delivery of capacity building activities for programme staff and other stakeholders in cooperation with Learning and Knowledge Management, ensure proper documentation of experiences and lessons learned from the programme under supervision.
- Work closely with the Programme Specialists and field based staff to ensure work plans are adequately resourced to deliver effectively.
- Coordinate, manage and motivate field teams, ensuring that they have clear objectives/individual work plans as part of performance management and receive meaningful feedback on their performance.
- Lead the programme, continually encouraging team members to re-evaluate their strategies, gather and incorporate tacit information, and adapt programming to new learning and environmental conditions.
- Ensuing the guiding documents draw on international best practices and global research, lessons learned from the field-level and reflect implementation recylcles related to key migration, protection and livelihoods issues in Ethiopia.
- Provide ongoing technical advice to the field-based programme implementation teams, including consultants, and sub-contractors, as needed.
- Collaborate with field-based teams to ensure protection records and documentation are properly managed and compliant with organisation requirements and international best practices.
- Ensure Value for Money is mainstreamed across technical areas of responsibility, is incorporated into decision making, and effectively reported to the donor.
- Document and communicate programme achievements against agreed strategy, objectives and milestones for a wide range of internal and external audiences.
- Actively communicate and coordinate with the CoP (DRC), other relevant and technical advisors and project managers to ensure integrated approaches across themes.
- Build and maintain relationships with key external stakeholders including relevant Government of Ethiopia Ministries and departments, donors, research institutes, and other INGOs.
- Identify and advise on key risks related to the programme’s response to migration, protection and livelihoods issues and ensure effective reporting of such risks.
- Provide technical reviews of all programme reporting related to migration, protection and livelihoods, ensuring reports are completed to a high standard.
- Travel frequently throughout the programme’s areas of intervention to monitor and provide technical guidance.
- **Programme Quality and Effectiveness**
  - Oversee that all field level interventions and related researches is technically managed to a high standard.
  - Support the development and continual revision of a dynamic, programme-wide monitoring and evaluation system linked to programme strategies, indicators, and information management tools, which supports programme management, accountability and learning.
  - Work with MEAL unit to contribute to the technical development of an M&E framework/systems that monitors the impact of the programme activities and progress towards achievement of programme objectives and outcomes, with quality, including the identification and design of needs assessments, profiling exercises and other research initiatives, which contribute to enhancing knowledge on migration and protection issues relevant to the programme.
  - Ensure proper understanding of cross-cutting issues among technical managers and advisors (e.g., gender, child protection and safeguarding) and integration of same in the programme management.
  - Ensure a quarterly review is conducted to monitor progress and where appropriate take corrective measures.
  - Ensure an integrated approach to programme implementation in order to maximise resource utilisation and synergy between the staff and different programmes.
  - Exercise sound judgment to ensure project expenses are reasonable, allocable and prudent. Ensure all project funds are spent in accordance with donor rules and regulations.
  - Review, edit and submit timely written reports on the programme activities capturing impacts related to all activities.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

- **Minimum of 10 years’ experience working in international humanitarian or development aid, with significant experience in implementing migration and protection-related programming for an international NGO, UN agency or relevant government ministry.**
The duties and responsibilities as set out above are not exhaustive and the role holder may be required to carry out additional duties within reasonableness of their level of skills and experience.

Equal Opportunities
The role holder is required to carry out the duties in accordance with the SCI Equal Opportunities and Diversity policies and procedures.

Child Safeguarding:
We need to keep children safe so our selection process, which includes rigorous background checks, reflects our commitment to the protection of children from abuse.

Health and Safety
The role holder is required to carry out the duties in accordance with SCI Health and Safety policies and procedures.

HOW TO APPLY
Interested applicants who meet the MINIMUM requirements should send the following through www.ethojobs.com before or on July 5, 2019.

a. A CV (not more than 3 pages)

b. A cover letter (not more than one page)

c. A one-page table summarizing your educational background, work experience, technical skills and competencies to facilitate the screening process. Refer the vacancy announcement while doing this.

Please DO NOT SUBMIT copies of transcripts, academic degrees or recommendation letters with the application. You will provide them upon request.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU STATE THE CODE OF THE VACANCY ON THE SUBJECT OF YOUR EMAIL.

Save the Children is committed to ensuring that all our personnel and programmes are absolutely safe for children. We undertake rigorous procedures during the recruitment process including background checks to ensure that only people suitable to work with children are allowed to join our organisation and all candidates will therefore be subject to this scrutiny.

In the selection of its staff, Save the Children is committed to gender balance and diversity without distinction as to race, sex or religion, and without discrimination of persons with disabilities.

Note: All travel costs should be covered by the applicant if invited for written exam or interview.
VIEWPOINT +

How developing countries can achieve Universal Health Coverage

By Jörg Reinhardt

Vietnam has managed to reach such impressive milestones ahead of schedule, despite having an average per capita income of just USD 2,342 as of 2017. The key to its success is not the scale of investment in health care, which amounts to a modest USD 142 per person annually (including both public funding and out-of-pocket expenses); but rather how the government uses its resources, including the country’s intellectual capital.

Vietnam’s strategic approach can be seen in its Ministry of Health’s Direction of Healthcare Activities conference which requires health facilities at the central and provincial levels of government administration to help build up the capacity of district and community facilities. A key objective of this scheme is to shift more of the burden of delivering medical services from higher-level hospitals onto lower-level primary health care facilities.

Given a long history of deep disparities in health outcomes between urban and rural areas, Vietnamese still often try to bypass their local health-care centers in favor of major hospitals in urban centers. This creates inefficiencies in the health system and increases out-of-pocket costs for patients and their families, without guaranteeing the best care.

So, beyond ensuring that community health facilities can offer affordable, quality care, there is a need to change public perceptions. Families need to trust that they can get a dependable diagnosis of malaria, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or diabetes locally, as well as necessary medications and other treatments.

To this end, health facilities must strengthen their relationships with local communities, above all by routinely providing a level of service that satisfies patients. Such relationships will help to advance another health improving, cost-saving imperative: local health workers must be able to educate their communities to maintain health and avoid illness. Success will require good working conditions and access to the ongoing training and management support that are critical to job satisfaction.

Vietnam’s government recognizes that, to implement its health-care strategy effectively, it needs help. It has established a new Working Group for Primary Healthcare Transformation, led by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health and including diverse actors from the public, non-profit, and private sectors. The group’s founding partners are the World Economic Forum, Harvard Medical School, and Novartis (of which I am chairman of the board).

The working group aims to strengthen existing primary-care demonstration projects in 30 Vietnamese provinces and apply the lessons learned to developing holistic solutions that can be replicated and scaled up. It will also place a high priority on rigorous measurement and evaluation of outputs, from

www.thereporterethiopia.com
Getting to net-zero emissions

By Johan Rockström

The leaders of the G20 countries head to Osaka this week for their annual summit. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres will address them before traveling to Abu Dhabi to finalize the arrangements for September’s UN Climate Action Summit. These meetings should set the world on course for the fastest economic transition in history. Yet both are likely to deliver incremental action, at best.

Consider the G20 summit, where the agenda includes using “breakthrough innovation” – such as carbon capture, utilization, and storage technologies – to accelerate “a virtuous cycle of environment and growth.” As laudable as this goal may be, these solutions will reach scale only around 2030, or even later. Moreover, while they are an essential insurance policy, these technological fixes are a small part of a more profound transition.

The reality is that the agenda for both meetings must put the world on course to halve greenhouse-gas emissions within the next decade to avert the most catastrophic effects of climate change. This means deploying market-ready, scalable solutions now, and that will require bold governmental action.

The good news is that a growing number of countries are recognizing the need for more far-reaching policies. Just this month, the United Kingdom set a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050 – a move with historic implications more profound than Brexit – and German Chancellor Angela Merkel indicated that she is backing the same goal for her country. Norway is already legally bound to achieve this target by 2030, while Finland and Sweden are aiming for 2035 and 2045, respectively.

Many European Union countries are calling for a shared commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, though opposition from coal-dependent Eastern European countries will, for now, prevent the target from becoming official.

Worldwide, 21 countries are now considering setting the same goal.

Achieving net-zero emissions within the next few decades is possible, both technically and economically. As declining costs are enabling alternative energy sources like wind and solar to compete effectively with fossil fuels. More than 100 cities worldwide rely on renewable sources for at least 70 percent of the power they use. Electric cars are now beating traditional vehicles on performance and reliability. By the early 2020s, they will also win on price.

A decade ago, the UK Committee on Climate Change estimated that it would cost 1-2 percent of GDP per year to reduce emissions by 80 percent by 2050; today, that is expected to be enough to achieve net-zero emissions. Every dollar spent on this cause can bring an estimated USD seven in benefits to the economy, human health, and other areas.

As these trends increasingly disrupt traditional emissions-heavy business models, they are creating virtuous circles that drive momentum toward a zero-emissions future. In much the same way that the number of transistors on a computer chip doubles every couple of years – in keeping with Moore’s Law – the performance of low-carbon technologies will continue to improve exponentially, causing costs to plummet. In many regions, we are passing the point where fossil fuels make logistically sense. To accelerate the inevitable transformation, governments need to change the rules of the game. For starters, that means shifting fossil-fuel subsidies to renewables immediately. Whereas fossil-fuel subsidies rose to over USD 400 billion in 2018, new investments in renewables fell to less than USD 290 billion. Agricultural subsidies – which exceed those for fossil fuels – should also be redesigned to encourage forestation to store carbon in soil, plant trees, and protect biodiversity.

Governments must also end investments in deforestation and fossil-fuel infrastructure. As Christiana Figueres, former executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, recently said, “Almost every coal plant that goes ahead today is reliant on public money, almost universally from Japan, China, or South Korea.” Chinese finance is behind more than 50 percent of all coal power capacity.

Why despair is beating hope

By Nicholas Agar

Wherever one looks – the media, political leaders’ rhetoric, or online discussions – one finds a bias toward bad ideas. This is not to suggest that we (or most of us) endorse, say, racism, misogyny, or homophobia, but rather that we grant them efficacy. We believe that extremist ideas must be combated, because we implicitly consider them potent enough to attract new adherents, and contagious enough to spread.

At the same time, we tend to take positive ideas less seriously, instinctively disbelieving that it is possible to make meaningful progress toward closing the wealth gap or ushering in a zero-carbon economy. Policies proposed to achieve such ethical ends are regarded as unrealistic non-starters, and the politicians who endorse them are regarded suspiciously or dismissed out of hand. Taken together, our biases lead us to cede the motivating power of idealism to the bad guys, when we could be harnessing it for the common good.

During the 2017 New Zealand general election, many commentators mocked the optimistic vision advanced by Labour Party leader Jacinda Ardern as “fairy dust.” Likewise, when Dianne Feinstein, a Democratic US senator from California, was approached by schoolchildren calling on her to endorse Green New Deal legislation, she dismissed their demands as unrealistic. “That resolution will not pass the Senate,” she said, “and you can take that back to whoever sent you here and tell them.”

Now consider the case of the white supremacist who murdered 51 mosque-goers in Christchurch, New Zealand, in March: we granted his obnoxious ideals efficacy. His stated goal was to reverse “The Great Replacement” of white Europeans by Africans and Middle Easterners, which, he claimed, would also “save the environment.” That is plainly absurd. And yet, when a 19-year-old murdered one person and wounded three in an attack on a California synagogue in April, we paid attention to the fact that he may have made online references to the Christchurch shooter’s manifesto. And in both cases, we openly acknowledge that these men are the ideological offspring of the Norwegian white supremacist and mass murderer Anders Breivik.

Obviously, we should continue to worry about white-supremacist and other extremist ideologies spreading online and resonating with some among us. But if we are going to take the persuasive power of such “influencers” seriously, we should do the same with positive ideals that may at first seem absurd. Sprinkled among Ardern’s “fairy dust” was the hope of eradicaling student indebtedness and significantly reducing child poverty. Simply by taking these goals seriously, we can grant them the same kind of efficacy that we already impute to toxic ideologies. If we don’t dismiss them out of hand, we can begin to think about how they might actually be realized.

No worthwhile moral ideal is fully achievable. Even in affluent New Zealand, true poverty is still too widespread. But by continuing to apply the effort to end homelessness are setting themselves up for inevitable disappointment. Imagine a young medical researcher who dreams of curing cancer. By the end of her career, she has pioneered a revolutionary treatment for acute leukemic leukaemia. Technically, her dream was not realized. But would she have made the invaluable contribution that she did if she hadn’t embraced the unrealistic dream of curing cancer?

Early in her term as prime minister, Ardern promised to halve child poverty within ten years. Her opponent in the 2017 election, Bill English of the governing National Party, long committed to a comparatively modest target as a shock election debate tactic. If Ardern manages to achieve the target, she will have demonstrated that the goal will not have been kept. But like the disappointed cancer researcher, Ardern will be able to point to
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jane Doe</td>
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<td>Michael Smith</td>
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### Additional Information

1. The sale price includes all taxes and fees.
2. The warranty period is 1 year from the date of purchase. In case of any issues, please contact the manufacturer.
3. The warranty does not cover damage caused by misuse or neglect.
4. The sale is subject to availability.
5. Payment should be made in ETB.
6. The warranty period begins upon delivery of the equipment.
7. The warranty does not cover damage caused by natural disasters.
8. The warranty is valid for the first owner only.

For more information, please contact us at 011-555-4567 or visit our store.

www.thereporterethiopia.com
The Reporter, June 29, 2019 Vol. 23 No. 1190

By Tsion Taye

The FAST AND EASY WAY

Power blackout and then internet shut down. Do you ever wonder, ‘how long is this going to keep going on?’ Are these the only way out to our problems? The last couple of weeks, as you all know, national exams have been going on. Back in the days, nobody noticed whether students were taking their exams exactly as the teacher told them. But now, we are forced to thinking about exams and longing like students for the day they are finally going to be over. Why? Because we are forced to institute closures just because the government has decided to shut the Internet to make-up for its inability to put into place a secure examination system. I wonder, is there another country in the world that shuts the Internet down while national exams are taking place? In this age, I doubt there is. Also, it makes me wonder if there aren’t smarter ways to avoid exam leakages prior to examination dates and to control cheating students.

And the strangest thing I have heard is the guarding of examinees with an armed soldier. Is the soldier going to start shooting at students if he found them cheating? What is the use of the soldier? I don’t think that Ethiopian soldiers are more capable and skilled at hacking computers and stealing exams and more fraudulent than students in India for instance. Yet, we do not hear about Internet shutdowns in India during national exams. So, why doesn’t our government invest its time and resources on investigating smarter solutions that other countries use to prevent frauds during national exams? Shutting down the Internet is probably costing more to the country than a one-time investment on technologies that assures secure examinations.

Recently, the government announced the banning of personal motorbikes from the capital city. Although I totally support the move towards putting an end to “motorbike-induced” crimes in the city, it also makes me wonder if banning all personal motorbikes from the city is the right way to go. What if similar crimes continue to be committed in all cities of the country? Are personal motorbikes going to be banned from the country altogether? That would definitely cause a lot of uproars in the country! Again, like the Internet shutdown, isn’t there a smarter way to control “motorbike-induced” crimes in the city? Is the police in the city that weak? Well, I believe reducing crimes in the city needs a lot of investment to put into place qualified personnel in the police, equip the police with the required technologies to control city crimes and put into place a strong legal system that effectively punishes criminals. This at least provides a sustainable solution to the problem and a solution that does not disappoint anyone.

The fast and easy way is a typical strategy that many of us follow in this country. We tend to consider a large investment made today as a large wastage of money and time ignoring the fact that this investment could have helped us gain sustainably in the future. And this is reflected in our personal lives, in the private sector and in the government sector. If you look at the private sector, the companies are very rare and you find a local brand that has existed more than 30 years for instance.

The fast and easy way is very costly and very temporary. But it is definitely easy. In the short-term, the costs may not be that high. But in the long-term, the costs are much higher than the benefits required on a more sustainable solution. So, why not invest our times and resources today and assure sustainable gains in the future than incurring a series of unending costs in the future?

The monarchy . . .

By Tsion Taye

The last couple of weeks, as you all know, national exams have been going on. Back in the days, nobody noticed whether students were taking their exams exactly as the teacher told them. But now, we are forced to thinking about exams and longing like students for the day they are finally going to be over. Why? Because we are forced to institute closures just because the government has decided to shut the Internet to make-up for its inability to put into place a secure examination system. I wonder, is there another country in the world that shuts the Internet down while national exams are taking place? In this age, I doubt there is. Also, it makes me wonder if there aren’t smarter ways to avoid exam leakages prior to examination dates and to control cheating students.

And the strangest thing I have heard is the guarding of examinees with an armed soldier. Is the soldier going to start shooting at students if he found them cheating? What is the use of the soldier? I don’t think that Ethiopian soldiers are more capable and skilled at hacking computers and stealing exams and more fraudulent than students in India for instance. Yet, we do not hear about Internet shutdowns in India during national exams. So, why doesn’t our government invest its time and resources on investigating smarter solutions that other countries use to prevent frauds during national exams? Shutting down the Internet is probably costing more to the country than a one-time investment on technologies that assures secure examinations.

Recently, the government announced the banning of personal motorbikes from the capital city. Although I totally support the move towards putting an end to “motorbike-induced” crimes in the city, it also makes me wonder if banning all personal motorbikes from the city is the right way to go. What if similar crimes continue to be committed in all cities of the country? Are personal motorbikes going to be banned from the country altogether? That would definitely cause a lot of uproars in the country! Again, like the Internet shutdown, isn’t there a smarter way to control “motorbike-induced” crimes in the city? Is the police in the city that weak? Well, I believe reducing crimes in the city needs a lot of investment to put into place qualified personnel in the police, equip the police with the required technologies to control city crimes and put into place a strong legal system that effectively punishes criminals. This at least provides a sustainable solution to the problem and a solution that does not disappoint anyone.

The fast and easy way is a typical strategy that many of us follow in this country. We tend to consider a large investment made today as a large wastage of money and time ignoring the fact that this investment could have helped us gain sustainably in the future. And this is reflected in our personal lives, in the private sector and in the government sector. If you look at the private sector, the companies are very rare and you find a local brand that has existed more than 30 years for instance.

The fast and easy way is very costly and very temporary. But it is definitely easy. In the short-term, the costs may not be that high. But in the long-term, the costs are much higher than the benefits required on a more sustainable solution. So, why not invest our times and resources today and assure sustainable gains in the future than incurring a series of unending costs in the future?

By Tsion Taye

The last couple of weeks, as you all know, national exams have been going on. Back in the days, nobody noticed whether students were taking their exams exactly as the teacher told them. But now, we are forced to thinking about exams and longing like students for the day they are finally going to be over. Why? Because we are forced to institute closures just because the government has decided to shut the Internet to make-up for its inability to put into place a secure examination system. I wonder, is there another country in the world that shuts the Internet down while national exams are taking place? In this age, I doubt there is. Also, it makes me wonder if there aren’t smarter ways to avoid exam leakages prior to examination dates and to control cheating students.

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the quality of community-level health services to the cost-effectiveness of primary health care.
Each partner is invited to contribute capabilities, resources, and knowhow to this endeavor. For example, Harvard Medical School brings world-class expertise in the organizational management of primary health-care teams. National partners bring, among other things, a deep understanding of the local context, which is essential to developing and implementing sustainable solutions.

For its part, Novartis offers an understanding of how to deploy digital technology at large scale, engage rural communities in health education, and expand education programs for health-care practitioners in rural communities. In fact, Novartis has already made similar contributions through another successful public-private partnership in Vietnam, entitled Cùng Sáng Khơi.

Carried out in partnership with Vietnam’s government, Cùng Sáng Khơi has been delivering a range of services to underserved rural communities in Vietnam since 2012. That initiative has expanded both care for common medical issues like diabetes, as well as mental health conditions, and patient health education and continuing medical education for health professionals. Since 2012, CSR has reached more than 570,000 people, mainly adults, across 16 provinces.

Vietnam has significant challenges ahead. It will need to grapple with behavioral and environmental factors underlying poor health and disease, especially high rates of smoking among males, high rates of alcohol consumption, and air pollution. The country also has one of the world’s most rapidly aging populations.

Moreover, important health-care reforms must still be undertaken to improve outcomes. For example, the government should create incentives for doctors to be more sensitive to patients at higher-level hospitals and to send more patients to local primary-health-care centers.

Nonetheless, Vietnam’s progress toward UHC has been remarkable, thanks partly to the government’s embrace of strategic public-private partnerships. For countries that have struggled to move forward, this model – and approaches from other high performers in the race for UHC, such as Indonesia, Rwanda, and Thailand – may be worth emulating.

Ed.’s Note: Jörg Reinhardt is Chairman of the Board of Directors for Novartis. 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.

Getting to net-zero . . .

CONT’D FROM PAGE 27

under development worldwide. We need a moratorium on coal and deforestation, no more new investments, and rapid phase-out plans.

In the private sector, just 15 percent of Fortune 500 companies have established climate targets that align with the goal, established by the 2015 Paris climate agreement, of keeping the average global temperature from rising more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Far fewer are pursuing changes in line with the 1.5°C limit advocated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The G20 must put its weight behind persuading Fortune 500 companies to commit to halving their emissions by 2030 on average.

Furthermore, all G20 countries should introduce carbon pricing, targeting a price of at least USD 120 per ton of emissions by 2030. As it stands, over 20 percent of greenhouse-gas emissions globally are subject to pricing.

At the same time, tightening emissions standards is crucial. But, as France’s ongoing Yellow Vest protests – triggered by a fuel-tax hike – have shown, such action must be planned carefully to ensure that the costs are distributed fairly and that ordinary citizens do not suffer disproportionately.

One country that is likely to resist doing what is needed is the United States. President Donald Trump’s administration has proved hostile toward reason, science, and logic – particularly when it comes to the environment – and cavalier about the well-being of future generations.

But even in the US, there are signs that progress is possible. The much-discussed Green New Deal, introduced by Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, reflects the needed scale and ambition. While Republicans continue to resist the GND, some prominent party members now support a “climate dividend” plan. State and local governments have also taken the initiative on climate change.

Last year, Larry Fink, the chairman of the US investment-management company BlackRock, predicted that “sustainable investing will be a core component for how everyone invests in the future.” Fink has seen the writing on the wall: the world is entering an era when sustainability is not only good for the environment, but also highly lucrative. Those attending the G20 meeting and the Climate Action Summit should see it, too, and align their economies with the 2030 goal. We need to move from incremental to exponential action, with countries, cities, and companies setting hard targets immediately and redirecting the flow of capital toward these goals. The fate of the planet depends on our success or failure.

Ed.’s Note: Johan Rockström is Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. 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.
INVITATION FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY

Country: Ethiopia
Project: Feasibility study of Bole printing plc
Type of tender: International Competitive Bid (ICB)
Ref. No: BP/ICB/01/2019

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT
The objective of the assignment is to carry out feasibility study and develop a strategy to implement the feasibility study for both commercial and security printing to be established, as per the scope of assignment described in the TOR.

2. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT
The Consulting firm is expected to finalize the feasibility study and its strategies to implement within four months.

3. REQUIREMENT
- Tax clearance Certificate, VAT Registration Certificate for local consultants who have partnership with international company.
- Currently Renewed Consultancy Service License (for both Local and Foreign Consultants)
- Experience of feasibility study on commercial and security printing service is preferable
- Adequate and Experienced Personnel

Interested and eligible Consultants could collect the hard copy of bid document up on payment of ETB 150.00 and submit their sealed & separate technical and financial document in a Tender box located on the address indicated below until August 19, 2019 at 2:00pm. Bid Bond Birr 20,000.00 in a form of CPO shall be issued with the bid document.

The Bid shall be opened on August 19, 2019 at 3:00 pm at Bole Printing Plc Meeting Hall.

Bole printing Plc reserves the right to accept or reject part or entire bid. For further information please use:

Bole printing Plc
3rd floor Office No. 301, Finance and supply directorate
Tel: 011-5-528873 or 0115155138 Fax: 011-5-518696
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

A NATION... CONT'D FROM PAGE 13

Many of the young people who worked under him had his cell number and we had access to him.

“He handed me his business card and wrote his personal number and said if I needed any advice, I could count on him. Little did I know, most of the young people (men and women) who worked for or with him, had also the same privilege. That is the legacy I will remember him by,” she told The Reporter.

In Bole, near Atlas Hotel, many people also paid tribute to the General, a father of two, many came to offer their final tribute, including people in uniform, government officials and family members who had come from near and far.

“I joined the military two years ago. It’s a fine profession, with few privileges but much responsibility and hardship. The General spent his life as a military man. Just imagine all the sacrifices he made, in order to serve and protect his nation. He certainly did not deserve to die in such circumstances,” (Pvt) Henok Berhane said.

“I have never met him, but I am saddened that he died under such circumstances,” a young man, who refused to give his name, but works at Washington Hospital said. “He came to our hospital badly wounded and we did all we can to save him. His death and the death of the others are our public humiliation and tragedy,” he added.

At General Seare’s sendoff, along with his colleagues, retired Major General Geza’e Adera at the Millennium Hall attended by the Prime Minister, President Sahle-Work Zewde and others, thousands of people from all walks of life attended to bid them farewell, before their burial in Mekele’s St. Gabriel Church.
footing as Russia was at the start of their mechanized farm experiment. New agricultural programs and undertakings were launched. If we could zoom in on the historical records, as Getachew Diriba (PhD) has pointed out in his recently published book: “Overcoming agricultural and food crises in Ethiopia”, he noted out that Ethiopia had even established the Agricultural Bank of Ethiopia as early as 1945. Two years before that, the Ethiopian National Grain Corporation was formed. In fact, “the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade and Industry” amusingly was established in 1897, some 110 years ago in Ethiopia. Moreover, the Ministry of Community Development of Ethiopia was established in 1957 and the Ethiopian agricultural extension program commenced operations in 1954.

All of the above institutions have a lot to do with restructuring Ethiopia’s agricultural sector; so that it could become a self-reliant nation. For that reason, a comprehensive package program for agriculture was introduced and the famous Chilalo Agricultural Development Unit later renamed as Arsi Agricultural Development Unit was introduced in 1967. Later on, similar programs were experimented up on in areas deemed to have the potential to yield millions of tons of grains. However, it was short lived. Against all the odds, partly the political crisis, and partly due to lack of coordinated efforts and resources, many of the initiatives and the structured institutions failed to deliver.

Getachew argues that “in spite of the claims of GDP growth, Ethiopia’s agricultural and food sector crisis continued unabated. Ethiopia’s food imports, using three principal crops—wheat, sorghum and rice—have continued to surge since 1995,” he wrote.

Substantiating his argument, he compiled a data sourced from Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Hence, the import volume of the three crops increased from 201,165 metric tons in 1993 to 1,861,715 metric tons in 2013, with an increase of nearly fivefold. “In terms of the foreign currency that is spent on food imports during the same period, the value significantly rose from USD 67.5 million in 1993 to USD 801.9 million in 2013”.

According to the Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) Report, which is published under the supervision of the US Department of Agriculture, this year alone, Ethiopia is projected to import some 1.6 million metric tons of wheat. While total consumption is estimated to be 6.3 million, the production is still around 4.7 million metric tons. Added to the food aid requirements, the total grain importation is expected to surge to 20 million people.

Understanding such predicaments, the government of Ethiopia is once again making bold pledges to curb food imports. During a nationwide leadership conference on agriculture, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) made a pledge that food imports, at least wheat, will no longer be a problem to Ethiopia. To make that happen, the premier said that his government has earmarked some 20 billion birr to be invested on small and medium scale irrigation schemes for the coming fiscal year. How is that going to be realized and implemented? We all have to wait and see the details.

Omer, however, has a little bit of detail on this latest attempt at ensuring food security. In this regard, he indicated that 300,000 hectares of farmland will soon be cultivated with wheat. Not only that, import substitution of edible oil and the like is also been reviewed. Local production is gauged as a way forward, Omer noted. It is still dubious; the nature of farmers and the size of farms make such ambitious ideas to appear vague.

What defines Ethiopia’s agriculture is the dominance of smallholder farms. Nearly 90 percent of wheat farmers are smallholder farmers. By extension, some 85 percent of the country’s agriculture is as a result of sweat and blood of these smallholder farmers.

According to Getachew, “smallholder farming is a term used to describe an economic and production unit with four hectares of land or less; deploying family labor and dependent on traditional tools and systems of crop cultivation or animal husbandry and they account for more than 90 percent of the population”. Dissecting the landholding size of farming households in Ethiopia further, Getachew asserts that some 40 percent or close to seven million of the total farm households in Ethiopia own 0.23 hectares of land. “It should be noted that the land size under prevailing technological conditions, cannot provide sufficient income for these households,” Getachew noted.

Some 4.025 million or 33 percent of the households, however, depend on 0.6 hectares and additional 23 percent or 4.1 million depend on 1.2 hectares. There are only 220,000 households that enjoy an average of 4.4 hectares of farmlands in Ethiopia. However, the government vows to change the status quo, the office of the Prime Minister has launched a new study on land use and management system. That being one of the approaches, an irrigation scheme appears to be the topmost target, as the premier.

Is that enough to bring about the anticipated change within a span of two or three years as Russia did? That is perhaps a daring proposition but unlikely to happen. Well the world has grown plentiful since 1954, while the Russians succeeded in opening up more isolated lands for agronomies. Inventions and innovations have helped impoverished people and nations to rise millions out of poverty and prosper. Ethiopia remains a living museum for ancient agricultural tools dating as far back as the Neolithic era as Getachew scholarly humored; animal driven and hand-held farming equipment.
SNAPSHOTS
FINAL FAREWELL

A farewell service was held for the Chief of Staff of the National Defense Force, the late General Seare Mekonnen and Major General Geza’e Ahera in Addis Ababa at the Millennium Hall on Tuesday. General Seare was killed by his guard at his home in Addis Ababa. Major General Geza’e also died in the attack. Seare and Geza’e were laid to rest in Tigray Regional State the next day. Similarly, President of the Amhara Regional State, Ambachew Mekonnen (PhD), his advisor Ezen Wasse and Attorney General of the regional state Mibarou Kebede, who were also fatally attacked in Bahir Dar, last Saturday, were laid to rest in the city of Bahir Dar on Wednesday.
The Reporter, June 29, 2019 Vol. 23 No. 1190

LEISURE

Crossword puzzle

ACROSS
1. Surplus
6. Air force heroes
10. 20th century art movement
13. Cow
15. Lake (Scottish)
16. Nile bird
17. Steam bath
18. Ancient Peruvian
19. Drunkards
22. Ballet attire
24. Anagram of “Rioted”
26. Travel on water
28. Biblical kingdom
30. A large vase
31. Lair
32. Annul
33. Felines
35. Muck
41. Carrying boats overland
43. Beauty parlor
44. Biblical kingdom
47. Anagram of “Ail”
49. Anagram of “Ail”
50. The original matter
51. Levy
54. Liturgy
56. Eclipses
57. The climax of a drama
58. 62 in Roman numerals
59. Pinnacle
60. Indian dress
62. Sodium chloride
63. A dog wags one
65. 3-banded armadillo
67. 3 times 3
69. Not closed
70. Labels
71. He plays a role
72. B=PECQA&PEOJKPNA?KIIAJ@A@PKDQNNUPKKIQ?DSDEHA
73. EJKJAKBPDANAH=PERAO)Q?GEOHEGAHUEJI=PPANONAH=PA@PK
74. Gemini
75. Dogfish
76. Uneducated person
77. Citations
78. Love at first sight
79. The rise of the sun
80. Encyclopedia
81. Gemini
82. Where the sun rises
83. Tarot
84. A large vase
85. Carrying boats overland
86. Biblical kingdom
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98. Biblical kingdom

DOWN
1. Where the sun rises
2. Poorer
good
3. Anagram of “Rioted”
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100. Anagram of “Rioted”

SOLUTION

US Box office

1. Toy Story 4
2. Chid’s Play
3. Aladdin
4. Men in Black: International
5. The Secret Life of Pets 2
6. Rocketman
7. John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum
8. Godzilla: King of the Monsters
9. Annia
10. Dark Phoenix

Kuncho Comments

Kuncho, come here!

Absence!

SOLtIUt

Your Zodiacs

Aries

Today you may throw problems in the interpersonal field. Perhaps, the person you dreamed of meeting this week would refuse to come together. There is a possibility of a setup at the part of a close friend or disagreement in one of the relatives. Luck is likely in matters related to the financial sphere.

Taurus

Today should not suppress your emotionalism. Don’t be afraid to admit sympathy and love, and don’t try to disguise the disappointment experienced from someone’s words or deeds. In general, Saturn is likely to be quite positive. Those who have long wanted to start building a summer house should seriously address this issue.

Gemini

During the day, you will be able to do a lot of things, have a thousand news and help a dozen people get rid of troubles. Probably, the energy will last over the ats, giving the opportunity to work and rest at once. New fatigue is not recommended to hurry too much while driving, and also allow yourself to be rude and rude. Those who need to sell something should not only put it on their usual work.

Cancer

The likelihood of winning a game of chance or winning a big jackpot in a lottery rises. Financial success can be both minimal and rather large. It all depends on many factors. Fortune will support those who don’t just want to get rich, but also ready to share good luck with others. The evening is likely to be a period of unexpected meetings and acquaintances.

Leo

Today you can experience the special pleasure of being alone. Probably, fatigue from professional works, news, communication with various interlocutors will let you know about yourself. Perhaps the desire to be in silence will appear because of disagreements with people who are used to be considered the closest. Venus

You risk accidentally disclose someone’s secret. Try not to allow this forecast, while maintaining self-control during such dialogues. Otherwise, there is every chance that Saturn will give proper relaxation, will cause unkindness in the faces of relatives and help you recover from professional fatigue. Excessive alcohol consumption is prohibited.

Libra

You today are unlikely to get the opportunity to have a good rest. There may be situations where you have to cancel the holiday in favor of emergency work. Those who have retired can slowly cultivate their plot of land, avoiding a long stay under the rays of the searching sun. Young representatives of this sign and those who are looking for love should not ignore invitations to visit.

Sagittarius

You will get a chance for success in the interpersonal field. Most likely, the usual charm will increase significantly, causing great interest in possible lovers and in reality, and in the virtual space. This is a great moment to start new affair or makeup with someone you’ve secretly lust.

Capricorn

Today you can receive some news related to the life of the rest of the sign. They will probably become the main hitweek’s of this day. It cannot be ruled out that you will have to forget about your personal plans for the weekend in order to help this person. It may prevent another unplanned incident from having a good time or having to leave somewhere.

Aquarius

Today is quite a good time. There is a high probability that fortune will accompany any financial undertakings. However, don’t rush to spend an earned capital. Attention should be paid to the interpersonal sphere. Communicate more often with people who are younger, older, weaker or set on success.

Pisces

You may experience an increased interest in the world of the unknown. It is not recommended to actively allow mysticism to influence your choices. This will complicate the perception of information and complicate relationships with loved ones. Where it is more correct to abstract from any riddles and secrets in order to be engaged in bright issues.

Can you spot the 12 differences between the two pictures?

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REFORM IS...
CONT'D FROM PAGE 15

information and benefit from it for good policymaking.

But, for many years the indebted nations have been talking about transparency. So, what will IDA do differently this time around?

Who do we serve? We believe we serve citizens of our borrower nations. So, transparency is the best friend of the ordinary citizen. As it applies to debt, it also applies to the state of the environment, construction standards and the financial system. We believe transparency could be a very good tool especially in a world where technology allows for a disclaimer of information in a very unique way. So, what we need to do is bring this technological solution on a bigger scale. We also strongly advocate for e-government since it is a good way to make governments more transparent to the public. We also are advantageous for the government as well since it will help earn the trust of the public. It is a good way to curtail misuse of public funds and corruption.

As it might have already come up in your discussions with Ethiopian authorities, Ethiopia is currently struggling with multifaceted macroeconomic problems. So, do you think the country is in the right economic standing to implement the highly publicized reform process?

What we are seeing in Ethiopia is a remarkable level of market reform that can contribute tremendously to growth and productivity in Ethiopia. If you see the sectors under reform such as telecom, energy and logistics, these are sectors where more competition is proven to bring service quality up and prices down. In the past, we have noticed that in spite of attention given to the telecom sector in Ethiopia, the quality of services were not really at the level one expects them to be; this is because there was a state monopoly over the services and lacked competition. Competition indeed brings service quality up and prices down. This basically applies to most sectors. What countries have learned is that the state has a role to play in providing services in areas where the private sector incurs too much cost to enter. The state has a very important role to play in terms of leveling the playing field for everyone; yet, the state is not necessarily the best provider of goods and services. What we see happening in Ethiopia is a very great opening-up of these sectors to private capital in an attempt to unleash the entrepreneurial potential of Ethiopians. We have invested in projects linked to access to finance, entrepreneurship and skills for women in Ethiopia; the returns are simply outstanding. You give people the chance to unleash their capacity and they end up generating income for their families and create jobs for others. I have met women, men and even farmers who have benefited from such programs and what they have done is simply remarkable. However, this has to be done very carefully so that it will not leave some people behind. We work with the Ethiopian government, in this regard, on what we call the productive safety net program. It is important to watch out for people who are vulnerable to shocks and risks, as you create more opportunities for the broader private sector to operate freely. Frankly, this is what makes us hopeful about Ethiopia: there is a vision for the country, while all the measures are taken more slowly and in a deliberative manner. And we are there to advice on what worked well in other places and what did not. Look, Ethiopia has been registering a remarkable economic growth which could be an object of envy for many countries. On the other hand, Ethiopia is a country where every year some 2.2 million people are entering the workforce. So, there must a space to create more meaningful employment to this labor force, and we know that such level of massive job creation is best achieved where there is space for small and medium enterprises. Some 90 percent of jobs in such big economies are created by small farmers, small entrepreneurs and digital companies. This is why job creation should be the utmost priority of the government. That is why we are here for IDA replenishment to try raise from USD 72 to 86 billion for investments for the upcoming three-year IDA19. We plan to focus on five major thematic areas in the coming three years. Number one, by far is jobs and economic transformation, including digit transformation and connectivity, regional projects, skills and human capital development, and also focus on fragility such as on countries like Somalia and Eritrea which require special attention. We also focus on climate change since it is becoming a big issue including here in Ethiopia. We also focus on women with aim of unleashing women in Africa. I learned this recently: African women are far more entrepreneurial than African men but get 6 percent less financing by comparison. Last but not least, we focus on governance and institutions as it is the foundation for economies and societies to work.

In spite of a dynamic reform outlook in Ethiopia in the past one year, the economic data hardly suggests positive progress. So, how do you balance between positive outlook and actual performance in the context of IDA lending policy?

We have to first recognize that the world is changing rapidly; and in that dynamism, policies need to be extremely agile. This very nature of policymaking is bringing about significant risks. So, the question is how we deal with that: we review and assess the results of our policies constantly. This kind of dynamic policymaking is something that everybody has to accept in order to stay relevant in these fast moving times. However, a very important lesson to be learnt in this situation is the importance of investing in people and human capital; not only for the knowledge of people but the special ability of people to learn and adopt in a changing environment. Human capital is a very important asset for countries. We look at countries and say that it is comprehensive to have policies and institutions; transparent and accountable governance and the rule of law; and of course connectivity. However, dynamic policymaking is a very important component. You can’t expect to formulate certain policies and for everything to remain the same for a long time. This changing environment is not only a challenge for countries but also an opportunity since many countries now have the chance not only to catch up but also to leapfrog. The most popular example is mobile phones which has given countries the opportunity to leapfrog telephone infrastructure like poles. We also see this in the financial industry with the progress of fintech. My country, Bulgaria, for instance, did not have a banking system and a checkbook system when we leapfrogged to credit cards and electronic banking.

So, in this dynamic process, where do you think Ethiopia’s reform process is at this time?

Are you optimistic?

Yes, we are still optimistic. Look, reforms are not easy. They need time to produce results. And they require staying true to the process. But, generally, we are optimistic about Ethiopia. We are optimistic about the reform in Ethiopia not only for Ethiopia but for its positive outlook for the entire region. What matters at the end of the day is the ability to sustain improvements, a quality that is so hard to harness. It is about patience. My country transitioned to a market provider of goods and services and joined the EU in 2007, but there are still unfinished businesses in this transformation. Transformation needs time; and perhaps a generation to realize.
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**IAAF Diamond League mid-season review**

From sprint showdowns to discuss drama, there has already been plenty of athletics excitement so far. The IAAF Diamond League reaches the halfway point in the road to the final.

Six meetings have already taken place this year and there are six more to go before the series reaches its climax in Zurich (29 August) and Brussels (6 September).

And for the first time ever, this year’s IAAF Diamond League will conclude before the IAAF World Athletics Championships Doha 2019, with wild card entries up for grabs for each of the 32 winners at the end of the series.

**Winning a diamond discipline has never been so important.**

The story so far

The 2019 IAAF Diamond League series kicked off in style in Doha, where Sweden’s Daniel Stahl broke the Diamond League record in the discus with 70.56m. There was also a scintillating clash between Hellen Obiri and Genzebe Dibaba in the 5000m, not winning the 400m hurdles but setting a European record of 47.33 in the process.

One month after his defeat in Shanghai, Coleman improved the world-leading 100m mark with 9.85.

After his third-round throw was initially declared a foul in Rabat, Fedrick Dacres was successful with his appeal and his 70.78m effort gave him the victory and an IAAF Diamond League record.

Genzebe Dibaba produced her fastest 1500m clocking since setting the world record in 2015, winning with an African all-comers’ record of 3:55.47 with Sifan Hassan close behind in 3:55.50.

Before any athlete can contend for a Diamond trophy, they must first earn a spot in one of the two finals. Some athletes have managed to do that already, while several others are well on their way to doing so.

The list below shows the current leaders in each event, any athletes already qualified for the final (marked ‘Q’), and the number of completed qualifying disciplines so far in the series (the figures in parentheses after each discipline).

**Men’s qualified**

- 5000m (3/4): Selemon Barega (ETH) 22pts Q, Birhanu Balew (BRN) 14pts Q, Telahun Haile Bekele (ETH) 12pts Q, Hagos Gebrhiwet (ETH) 12pts Q

**Women Qualified**

- 1500m (3/6): Gudaf Tsegay (ETH) 19pts Q

**FIFA sends Fatma Samoura to supervise CAF affairs**

FIFA has appointed its secretary general Fatma Samoura as ‘FIFA General Delegate for Africa’ in a bid to improve football governance on the continent.

The biennial Africa Cup of Nations is currently underway in Egypt and the 24 competing nations have got down to the business of playing a thrilling football, taking their destiny in their hands. The arrest of Ahmad Ahmad, president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), in Paris earlier this month in a corruption-related matter, seems like a distant past.

In the boardroom, however, what has been swept under the table since the embarrassing episode is the autonomy of African football. Amaju Pinnick, chair of the Nigeria Football Federation and Ahmad’s first vice-president, was next in line to preside over the CAF, but has now been sidestepped by FIFA.

The world governing body has taken the novel step of appointing FIFA general secretary Fatma Samoura, the world’s most powerful woman in football, to supervise the affairs of the CAF.

Analysts are saying that the move is an indictment of the African body’s leadership and is a welcome decision to stay a rudderless ship with a greedy captain and crew.

The clear inference of this decision is that CAF is unable to handle its own affairs and solve its own problems, and that we have to seek the assistance of the master – often outside Africa – to help us clean our mess,” wrote South African daily City Press, in a stinging editorial.

**Week 28 EPL matches to resume today**

By Dawit Tolesa

The Ethiopian Premier League (EPL) week 28 matches are set to be staged this weekend across the country as the competition is drawing to a conclusion in the coming two weeks. Remaining matches will resume today in various regional stadiums. The match between St. George and Welwa Adigrat will be held in the capital.

Due to last week’s political tension in the country, several EPL games have been postponed by the Ethiopian Football Federation (EFF). This weekend’s fixtures will continue with Mekele City entertaining South Police, Adama facing Fasil City and Sidama Coffee playing against Dire Dawa City.

With the EPL season coming to an end, there are no clear leaders or an outright champion infrom the pack, with the last two weeks becoming crucial to determine the champion. Fasil City top the table with 52 points, Mekele 70 Enderta follows with 50 points while Sidama sit third after collecting 49 points.

Meanwhile, the EFF has announced that week 29 EPL matches are scheduled to be held on July 3, 2019.

(IAAF)
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