By Neamin Ashanfi

Two opposition political parties – the Ethiopian Social Democratic Party (ESDP) and Ethiopian Citizens for Social Justice (EZEMA) – in their latest statement urged the government to address the question of the Wolayita people through dialogue and in a peaceful manner.

The parties issued their respective statements following the unrest that occurred in different parts of the Wolayita Zone of the Southern Regional State, which claimed the lives of at least 10 individuals. The unrest came after leaders of the zonal administration and influential persons were by arrested by security forces on Sunday August 9, 2020.

According to various sources, the leaders of the zonal administration and other influential persons of the area were discussing their quest to have their own region while security forces detained them. Subsequently, people, who demanding the release of their leaders, and security forces clashed, which led to the death of civilians mainly in Sodo and Bodity towns.

Even though the arrested

Political parties urge gov’t to address Wolayita question via dialogue

Communication authority to float bid by September

By Kaleyesus Bekele

The Ethiopian Communication Authority (ECA) is under preparation to float an international tender that would enable it to select two international telecom firms which will operate in Ethiopia by September.

ECA plans to grant two licenses for international telecom firms by end of this year. As part of the national telecom liberalization reform program the authority invited international telecom firms to submit expression of interest which are interested in operating in Ethiopia. Accordingly, 12 telecom companies presented their expression of interest.

Three major telecom operators – Vodafone, Vodacom and Safaricom – created a consortium dubbed Global Partnership for Ethiopia that would bid to win a license in Ethiopia is among the list of companies that submitted expression of interest. Etisalat of the UAE, Axian, a telecommunications company based in Madagascar, MTN, the South African telecom giant that operates in 24 African and Middle Eastern countries, Orange, the French telecom firm, Saudi Telecom, Telecom SA of South Africa, Liquid Telecom of Mauritius and Snail Mobile from China have submitted their expression of interest to ECA. Snail mobile is a virtual mobile service provider. Two companies which are non-telecom operators – Kandu Global Telecommunications and Electromecha International Projects have also expressed their interest. Another company from neighboring Djibouti Group of Associate Djiboutian Inventors (GADI), have also expressed their interests.

Balcha Reba (Engineer) director general of ECA, is satisfied with the list of companies which submitted expression of interest.

OLF suspends longtime chair Dawud Ibsa

Brook Abdu

The executive committee of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), a once exiled political group that came following the coming to power of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), has suspended its longest serving chairperson Dawud Ibsa.

OLF executive committee member and party spokesperson Tolema Adaba told The Reporter that the party suspended Dawud because of the chair’s irresponsiveness and unwillingness to work with the executive committee. This comes following the suspension of five executive and one central committee members of the party by a faction led by the chair.

Ruling party suspends Lemma from leadership

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

OLF suspends... page 7

Communication authority... page 24

Ruling party suspends Lemma from leadership

By Kaleyesus Bekele

The Ethiopian Communication Authority (ECA) is under preparation to float an international tender that would enable it to select two international telecom firms which will operate in Ethiopia by September.

ECA plans to grant two licenses for international telecom firms by end of this year. As part of the national telecom liberalization reform program the authority invited international telecom firms to submit expression of interest which are interested in operating in Ethiopia. Accordingly, 12 telecom companies presented their expression of interest.

Three major telecom operators – Vodafone, Vodacom and Safaricom – created a consortium dubbed Global Partnership for Ethiopia that would bid to win a license in Ethiopia is among the list of companies that submitted expression of interest. Etisalat of the UAE, Axian, a telecommunications company based in Madagascar, MTN, the South African telecom giant that operates in 24 African and Middle Eastern countries, Orange, the French telecom firm, Saudi Telecom, Telecom SA of South Africa, Liquid Telecom of Mauritius and Snail Mobile from China have submitted their expression of interest to ECA. Snail mobile is a virtual mobile service provider. Two companies which are non-telecom operators – Kandu Global Telecommunications and Electromecha International Projects have also expressed their interest. Another company from neighboring Djibouti Group of Associate Djiboutian Inventors (GADI), have also expressed their interests.

Balcha Reba (Engineer) director general of ECA, is satisfied with the list of companies which submitted expression of interest.

OLF suspends longtime chair Dawud Ibsa

Brook Abdu

The executive committee of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), a once exiled political group that came following the coming to power of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), has suspended its longest serving chairperson Dawud Ibsa.

OLF executive committee member and party spokesperson Tolema Adaba told The Reporter that the party suspended Dawud because of the chair’s irresponsiveness and unwillingness to work with the executive committee. This comes following the suspension of five executive and one central committee members of the party by a faction led by the chair.

Ruling party suspends Lemma from leadership

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3

OLF suspends... page 7

Communication authority... page 24

Ruling party suspends Lemma from leadership

By Kaleyesus Bekele

The Ethiopian Communication Authority (ECA) is under preparation to float an international tender that would enable it to select two international telecom firms which will operate in Ethiopia by September.

ECA plans to grant two licenses for international telecom firms by end of this year. As part of the national telecom liberalization reform program the authority invited international telecom firms to submit expression of interest which are interested in operating in Ethiopia. Accordingly, 12 telecom companies presented their expression of interest.

Three major telecom operators – Vodafone, Vodacom and Safaricom – created a consortium dubbed Global Partnership for Ethiopia that would bid to win a license in Ethiopia is among the list of companies that submitted expression of interest. Etisalat of the UAE, Axian, a telecommunications company based in Madagascar, MTN, the South African telecom giant that operates in 24 African and Middle Eastern countries, Orange, the French telecom firm, Saudi Telecom, Telecom SA of South Africa, Liquid Telecom of Mauritius and Snail Mobile from China have submitted their expression of interest to ECA. Snail mobile is a virtual mobile service provider. Two companies which are non-telecom operators – Kandu Global Telecommunications and Electromecha International Projects have also expressed their interest. Another company from neighboring Djibouti Group of Associate Djiboutian Inventors (GADI), have also expressed their interests.

Balcha Reba (Engineer) director general of ECA, is satisfied with the list of companies which submitted expression of interest.

OLF suspends longtime chair Dawud Ibsa

Brook Abdu

The executive committee of the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), a once exiled political group that came following the coming to power of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), has suspended its longest serving chairperson Dawud Ibsa.

OLF executive committee member and party spokesperson Tolema Adaba told The Reporter that the party suspended Dawud because of the chair’s irresponsiveness and unwillingness to work with the executive committee. This comes following the suspension of five executive and one central committee members of the party by a faction led by the chair. 
Desisting from pouring fuel on the fire!

Ethiopia continues to be beset by multi-pronged challenges endangering public peace and national security. Politicians loathe to engage in a constructive dialogue are not stopping at anything, including spilling the blood of innocent citizens, to settle a score. Politicians worth their salt know well that the cardinal principle that governs their behavior is respect for the public they claim to represent. It should not be lost on them that resorting to violence to accomplish the objectives they purportedly set out to achieve has dire consequences. The flaws characterizing Ethiopian politics are not unique to opposition parties; to some extent the blame also lies with ruling Prosperity Party (PP). As the party in power and rivals aspiring to unseat it abandon a civilized brand of politics and perpetrate acts that impede the democratization process, death and destruction are bound to become an everyday occurrence. These days politicians are more inclined to pour fuel on the fire instead of extending the hand of peace to get their way.

The Oromia Prosperity Party provisionally suspended three of its Central Committee members this week on charges of shirking their duties, disclosing secrets and involvement in intercommunal conflicts. Notwithstanding, the possibility that the suspended officials may be brave to to justice for their alleged infractions, the measure taken against them is indicative of the perilous state of Ethiopian politics because of infighting and other troubling developments. If individuals belonging to the same party are devoid of unity of purpose and action and bicker with each other, it’s not difficult what rancorous confrontation to the uncomfortable truth of transnational property is attributable and the destruction of billions of dollars, the displacement of millions more, the death of thousands, the conflicts which have led to a state of tabling useful alternatives that help overcome them, not exacerbate them further. This is what any responsible human being does. Unfortunately, the proliferation of rabble rousers which have nothing to do better than stir up trouble has made it difficult to break the cycle of violence that has been rocking the country for some time now. The leadership and members of parties incapable of tabling useful alternatives are similarly roiling the nation by aggravating manageable problems. The rise in the number of deadly intercommunal conflicts which have led to the death of thousands, the displacement of millions more and the destruction of billions of dollars is attributable to the unfortunate truth that the bulk of politicians are conflict merchants.

The rancorous confrontation between the leaders of Prosperity Party and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) over the postponement of the 2021 general elections and other related matters: the dangerous political tug of war for control of the Oromia regional state; the recurring deadly conflicts in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s Regional state in connection with demands to break away from the state; and unresolved questions over identity and boundary are all pushing Ethiopia to the precipice. To make matters worse the revelation by irresponsible elements of damaging information with intent to stoke tensions threatens to make things go from bad to worse. The display of military hardware in an apparent show of force while failing miserably at governing democratically is emblematic of the deplorable state of Ethiopian politics. Such blatant disrespect for the public is yet another manifestation of politicians’ blithe disregard for the hazards of playing with fire.

The proof that Ethiopians’ name has for centuries been invoked in vain lies in the abject failure of the political elite to stand united on issues of vital national interests. Until recently their stance on the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)—the pride of Ethiopians—left a lot to be desired. Some of them actually conspired with foreign adversaries to disrupt the initial filling of the dam and undermine public support for its construction. The other evidence is the very existence of politicians that, instead of nurturing the youth to develop into productive citizens, are bent on poisoning their minds with bankrupt and divisive narratives so that they amount to nothing more than automatons which implement their evil agenda, namely to dismantle a nation which achieved a feat that inspired the freedom struggles of all black people for political gain. The propensity of politicians that do not care iota about the honor and safety of Ethiopians to instigate violence does not bode well for the country.

In this difficult period in Ethiopia’s history what its patriotic, foresighted and gracious people need and indeed deserve is dignity, not the contempt in which they are held by the political class. Bereft of the desire to extricate Ethiopia from the clutch of poverty these visionless politicians are inciting the youth and other segments of the public to wreak havoc as opposed to inspiring them to improve the lot of fellow countrymen. Another round of senseless violence is being instigated as though the country has not had enough of mayhem and destruction. Politicians residing thousands of miles away are also guilty of fomenting deadly unrest knowing that the flames cannot get to them. Some of these trouble makers are former public officials that used to sing the government’s praises while the others are ex-public officials. The question is, have they not harbored a futile dream that one day they would ascend to the throne? If they had an ounce of humility they would not have dared to show their faces in public. This why politicians need to be told in no uncertain terms that they must not only respect the public, but also stop pouring fuel on the fire.
Commission unveils locally developed software to monitor, evaluate national plans

By Birhanu Fikade

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT) has launched a new software that services the Planning and Development Commission to effectively evaluate and monitor key development goals of the country.

The digital platform, which will be measuring the performances of the upcoming 10 year economic development plan, was launched on Thursday. During the event, Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen set out key economic development goals of the country.

Previously, due to lack of effective monitoring and evaluation platforms, many of the Ministries were required to report at least for six entities starting from the Office of the Prime Minister to Members of Parliament. The new fully automated platform will have prior checklists and key performance indicators and the reporting agencies will be required to prepare master reports.

The platform will be providing the executive branch access real time data and provide well aligned reports. And once approved, will be made available to the public.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are uploaded.

According to Fitusm, a new directive has been issued to monitor and evaluate the deliveries of officials and their quality in executing KPIs. Failure to deliver intended targets and lack of leadership is going to be made public officials accountable. The monitoring and evaluation platform will rank achievements. The best achieving agencies will be scored green, then yellow for medium and red for underachieving KPIs. The digital platform is going to be operational in the next fiscal year.

Abraham Belay (PhD), Minister of MinT noted that there are several digital based technologies in the making, across the public sector and arming government offices with innovative digital systems, is where the Ministry is concentrating its efforts on.
Yes!
we are open to welcome you back safely

The health and safety of all our guests, team members and partners are of paramount importance to us and we have maximized our efforts and investments in all possible expanded hygiene, sanitation and precautionary activities in all parts of our hotel and restaurant.
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO ETHIOPIA

CALL FOR TENDERS FOR PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES

Reference number EEAS/DELETHA/2020/CPN/0003

Contract notice 2020/S 121-293665 and Corrigendum 2020/S 132-322366 (extension of deadline)

The Delegation of the European Union to Ethiopia has launched a call for tender for security services. Please find under the link below all the information you need in order to participate:

eTendering: Link: https://etendering.ted.europa.eu/cft/cft-display.html?cftId=5824


VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of Sudan in Addis Ababa would like to recruit a qualified secretary with good experience, Skilled knowledge of computer management and very good knowledge of English language.

Copy of a complete application should be submitted to the Embassy’s reception by close of business 19 August 2020.

Short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

CALL FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE

Education Development Trust (Ed Dev Trust) is intending to recruit an experienced consulting company or institution that will conduct a thematic study on Demand and Supply of Teachers' Strategy Projection study in education sector in Ethiopia.

Education Development Trust is an education charity that exists to transform lives by improving education around the world. We work collaboratively with national and local governments, schools, and other partners to design and deliver sustainable solutions to improve education.

Ed Dev Trust is implementing DFID funded TARGET project (which stands for Technical Assistance to Reinforce General Education Quality Improvement Programme for Equity, GEQIP-E) in Ethiopia since August 2019, through providing targeted Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Education at Federal, Regional, Woreda and school levels.

Ed Dev Trust is intending to recruit an experienced consultant that will undertake to develop a staff development strategy to meet the needs of the sector at all levels. The assignment is expected to design a strategy integrated with technology that can respond to the demand and supply issues; develop long term automated teachers projection software; establish digitalized and accurate teacher information management system (TMIS); design suitable approaches and strategies that can help to effectively attract, train, deploy and motivate quality teachers in the Education system; identify appropriate options for the development of the teaching workforce and retention of quality teachers in the Education system of the country; etc.

The desired consultancy should possess legal entity with proven experience in related assignments in the education sector. Interested firms/institutions are expected to provide comprehensive information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services including a description of similar assignments done and experience in similar conditions. Applicants are highly encouraged to form joint ventures or partnerships to include expertise from different organizations, including consultancy firms, research centres, and Universities.

Interested applicants can request the Terms of Reference (ToR) by sending a request to etprocurement@educationdevelopmenttrust.com. All proposals must be submitted by 5:00pm August 29, 2020 to the same email address. Please use the following format for the email subject line: Demand and Supply of Teachers’ Strategy Projection. All proposals must be submitted in electronic format.

www.thereporterethiopia.com
The Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (EDTF) has announced the release of funds collected from voluntary contributions of Ethiopians living abroad, and started to be deposited to beneficiary local NGO accounts, starting this week.

According to Zafu Eyesuswork, Board Chairperson of the EDTF, out of the USD five million collected, the Board has earmarked the release of five million birr, one fifth of the expected amount to be granted to projects. “EDTF is proud to announce the release of funds to the first set of five outstanding projects, previously approved by the EDTF Board of Directors,” said the statement sent to The Reporter.

The five projects which have been considered for final approval after meeting rigorous technical requirements, out of a total of 21 eligible submissions, have now received the first round of the grant money. The Advisory Council of the Friends of EDTF, another leadership structure of the Fund gave the green light for the release of 5.87 million birr. According to EDTF, this money has been wired and beneficiary organizations have begun receiving the grants as of Tuesday.

Help for Persons with Disabilities Organization (HPDO), Hiwot Integrated Development Organization (HIDO), Pro Development network (PDN), Gurmuu Development Association (Gurmuu) and Korah Great Hope Charity Organization (KGHCO) are the five organizations slated to receive the first round of the funding.

In an attempt to respond to calls made by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD) while on his tour to the US, the diaspora community took on the initiative to contribute “one dollar a day.” Based on that, a council was formed and Zafu Eyesuswork was designated as board chairperson, to lead the Ethiopian chapter of EDTF; while Friends of EDTF chaired by Alemayehu Gebre Mariam (Professor), a.k.a Al Mariam, is in charge of the finding from abroad.

Few months ago, the fund donated more than USD one million to the national COVID-19 task force to go towards the national effort to combat the pandemic. However, disputes have emerged soon after contributions reached USD six million collected from 36,000 volunteers. Many who have contributed began to request for refunds. Almost a year later, EDTF has managed, at least, to release a tiny portion of the funds and claims it will continue to channel more funds.

The crack within the EDTF board and the many USD allegations of mismanagement and growing conflict of interests have all but subdued the fundraising activities and Zafu at one point, submitted a resignation letter. But, then changed his mind and opted to stay on for some time.

According to Zafu at one point, submitted a resignation letter. But, then changed his mind and opted to stay on for some time.
Ruling party suspends Lemma from leadership

By Brook Abdu

Lemma Megera, the Minister of Defense and the once prominent ally of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed (PhD), is suspension from his role as a member of the executive committee member of the Prosperity Party (PP), the newly established ruling party replacing Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

Lemma, who was the president of Oromia Regional State, and chairperson of the defunct Oromo Democratic Party (ODP), was suspended from PP executive membership for his unwillingness to take part in party meetings despite repeated calls, party personalities stated.

Along with Lemma, the deputy president of the Region, Takyha Hassan and a member of the executive, Mikdesa Midhaaa (PhD) were also suspended from the party for varied reasons. Takyha was accused of playing a role in the protests in Shashemene and vicinity, following the killing of the prominent Oromo musician Haccalii Hunedessa.

OLF suspends...CONTD FROM PAGE 1

Among the six are the deputy chairperson Araroo Bikila, Toler Adaba and Kayala Merdassa.

At the backdrop of the current suspension is a meeting that the central committee held at its headquarters on July 26 and 27, a time when the chairperson is said to be under house arrest. Toler also confirmed that the chairperson said he was told by authorities to stay at home for his own security.

While Toler says he had informed Dawud of the meeting and he agreed for the meeting to go ahead with his role played by the deputy chairperson of the defunct Araroo Bikila.

Consequently, Dawud and other four members of the executive committee deemed the meeting and the press conference at the Hilton that followed it illegal and ordered the suspension of the said.

“It was a surprise for us to hear the chairperson say he was not informed of the meeting which surfaced on social media on the night of the eve of the meeting,” Toler said. “He also called for the public to protect the party as he claimed not knowing about the meeting.”

When they went to the Office to conduct the already scheduled meeting, there were unfamiliar people in the compound who were ready to cause chaos in the compound, he added. This led them to call for the police to give them protection while they conduct their meeting.

“We conducted the meeting according to our bylaws which stipulates that the deputy chair would act in the position of the chairperson in the absence of the latter,” he said.

But Dawud and his group did not consider this meeting legal as they themselves with Dawud’s faction. Toler said that they have their meeting will be presented by the Ethics and Control Committee to the Council to adopt.

With a belief that the party would resolve its internal issues internally, no measure has been taken on the other members that aligned themselves with Dawud’s faction. Toler said his group will be presented by the Ethics and Control Committee to the Council to adopt.

Commenting on criticisms that it is the Prosperity Party that did so to dismantle one of its ardent opponents in Oromia region, Toler says the party is open for such dissents. It is the protection we received from the police on the day of our meeting. But it was necessary given the presence of unknown people in the party compound on Sunday, the day the meeting started. We were even blocked from entering the compound by OLF members who are under house arrest. Toler rebuted. “We won’t allow PP to get into our internal affairs and we have the responsibility to safeguard the integrity of the party.”

OLF is one of the parties that were involved in armed struggle with Ethiopia by basing itself in Eritrea. Following the call by PM Abiy for a peaceful struggle of armed groups, OLF entered Ethiopia in 2018 led by Dawud Ibsa. They came to Ethiopia following an unclear agreement with the government which was represented by Lemma Megera and former Foreign Affairs Minister Workneh Gebeyehu (PhD). Their armed faction with the Oromo Liberation Army broke apart from the Oromo Liberation Front that were involved in armed insurgencies in Western Wollega Zones and Southern Oromia around Guji.

Nation completes 2nd Green Legacy program ahead of schedule

Ethiopia has effectively wrapped up this year’s Green Legacy campaign of planting 5 billion seedlings program ahead of the schedule, said Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed.

Addressing the closing Green Legacy program in the city of Bahir Dar, Abiy said the country has realized the threshold of planting 5 billion seedlings this rainy season.

This year’s Green Legacy campaign was officially launched on June 5, 2020 which aimed at planting 5 billion trees during the main rainy season. Abiy praised the commitment shown by Ethiopians from all walks of life who came together with the spirit of ownership and belongingness to achieve the Green Legacy campaign ahead of the plan.

Stressing the significance of hard work for nation building, Abiy said Ethiopians should replicate their commitment that showed in Green Legacy for other developmental activities without paying heed to all unconstructive party lines.

Ethiopians all over the country planted 353 million trees in a single day on July 30, 2019, which is a world record.

Authority plans to build over 225,000 km road in 10 years

Ethiopian Roads Authority announced its plans today to construct 225,237 kilometers of road in the coming ten years.

Speaking at a meeting that brought together transport officials and stakeholders, Ethiopian Roads Authority Director-General Habtamu Tegegn said a total of 225,237 kilometers of road would be built across the country in the coming 10 years.

Federal and regional governments would fund the road schemes.

Of the total roads to be constructed, 38,849 kilometers of the road will be constructed by the federal government, he pointed out.

The remaining 186,388 kilometers and 187,781 kilometers will be built by regional governments and woredas, respectively.

The director-general stated that the road construction and development program of the country takes into consideration agriculture, tourism, mines, industrial development, and regional integrations.

In addition to expanding roads in the coming years, the quality of roads will take part in party meetings despite repeated calls, party personalities stated.

In its decision, the Oromia PP also indicated that, while the decision to suspend the three members is a political decision by the party, legal measures will follow.

The rift between Lemma and Abiy is said to have lasted long and began with the latter’s keenness in dismantling the Prosperity Party coalition and adopting his Medemer “philosophy” in place of revolutionary democracy.

Months ago, Lemma spoke to the Voice of America radio of his disagreement with Abiy and Co. regarding Medemer and EPRDF. He said PP is not a party to uphold and maintain Oromo interests.

The recent decision by PP branch office in Oromia criticized Lemma’s action to speak to the media about his differences, while the party is open for such dissents. It also said Lemma repeatedly avoided meetings held by the party’s executive committee.

In addition to expanding roads in the coming years, the quality of roads will take part in party meetings despite repeated calls, party personalities stated.

In its decision, the Oromia PP also indicated that, while the decision to suspend the three members is a political decision by the party, legal measures will follow.

The rift between Lemma and Abiy is said to have lasted long and began with the latter’s keenness in dismantling the Prosperity Party coalition and adopting his Medemer “philosophy” in place of revolutionary democracy.

Months ago, Lemma spoke to the Voice of America radio of his disagreement with Abiy and Co. regarding Medemer and EPRDF. He said PP is not a party to uphold and maintain Oromo interests.

The recent decision by PP branch office in Oromia criticized Lemma’s action to speak to the media about his differences, while the party is open for such dissents. It also said Lemma repeatedly avoided meetings held by the party’s executive committee.

In addition to expanding roads in the coming years, the quality of roads will take part in party meetings despite repeated calls, party personalities stated.

In its decision, the Oromia PP also indicated that, while the decision to suspend the three members is a political decision by the party, legal measures will follow.

The rift between Lemma and Abiy is said to have lasted long and began with the latter’s keenness in dismantling the Prosperity Party coalition and adopting his Medemer “philosophy” in place of revolutionary democracy.

Months ago, Lemma spoke to the Voice of America radio of his disagreement with Abiy and Co. regarding Medemer and EPRDF. He said PP is not a party to uphold and maintain Oromo interests.

The recent decision by PP branch office in Oromia criticized Lemma’s action to speak to the media about his differences, while the party is open for such dissents. It also said Lemma repeatedly avoided meetings held by the party’s executive committee.
HORN IN BRIEF

Deadly shootout in Somali prison after Al-Shabaab militants attempt escape

The number of people killed in a shootout between jailed militant Islamists and security officers at a prison in Somalia has risen to at least 20, officials say. The Al-Shabaab militants had attempted to escape from the heavily guarded prison in the capital, Mogadishu.

An investigation is under way into how the militants obtained weapons. Some reports suggested that an inmate managed to disarm a warden and then a group of them raided the armoury.

The BBC’s Bella Sheegow in Mogadishu says Monday’s incident is highly embarrassing for the government as the prison, the second biggest in Somalia, is guarded by elite forces.

The attack was repelled after reinforcements were called in.

The most dangerous al-Shabab militants are kept in the prison, including those serving life sentences or awaiting execution after being sentenced to death.

Inmates had also attempted to break out of the prison in 2017, and the government was under pressure to prevent further such incidents, our reporter adds.

(CNN)

127 killed in South Sudan clash ‘over red scarf’

At least 127 people were killed and 32 others injured following a deadly altercation between South Sudanese troops and local armed youth over a scarf in South Sudan’s Warrap State, officials said on Tuesday.

It all began on Tuesday after the South Sudan People’s Defence Forces soldiers demanded that the youth surrender a red scarf they were holding, which in the troops’ eyes symbolized battle-readiness.

According to a report by a local publication Daily Nation, Gen Lul Ruai, the SSPDF spokesman, sad that refusal to surrender the scarf triggered an exchange of words, then fire.

“The armed youth refused to hand over the red scarf to the SSPDF soldiers,” he said.

The soldiers argued that wearing a red scarf symbolizes someone in combat, and the ensuing quarrel led to the first killings that triggered retaliation from local armed youth.

According to Gen Ruai, the two days’ consecutive clashes left 45 SSPDF soldiers and 82 civilians dead.

(CN)
Chinese first lady donates medical supplies to Ethiopia

By Kaleyesus Bekele

Chinese first lady, Peng Liyuan (Prof.), has sent medical donations to Ethiopia that would help the country’s effort to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chinese Ambassador to Ethiopia, Tan Jian, on behalf of Prof. Peng Liyuan, wife of the Chinese President Xi Jinping, handed over the COVID-19 prevention items including facial masks and infrared thermometers to the office of the First Lady of Ethiopia in a bid to help the country’s effort to combat the pandemic.

During the occasion Ambassador Jian expressed appreciation of the solidarity and support to the Chinese people given by many African countries, particularly Ethiopia, at the most difficult time when China was hard hit by the COVID-19. Jian cited Ethiopian Airlines commitment in continuing flying to China when it was hard hit by the pandemic and many other airlines decided to suspend operating to China. The ambassador noted that as a token of friendship between the Chinese people and their African brothers and sisters, the Chinese government has decided to donate medical supplies to help mothers, children and young people through the Office of the First Lady.

Muluken Fenta, Director of Ethiopia’s First Lady Office, expressed gratitude for the generous donation by the Chinese government. “As the first country to successfully control the spread of the pandemic, China sets an exemplary role of standing together with Africa to combat the COVID-19 virus and has made great contribution to the prevention and control of the pandemic in Ethiopia,” he said during the ceremony.

It is learnt that earlier this year, Madame Antoinette Sassou, the First Lady of the Republic of Congo, President of the Organization of African First Ladies for Development (OAFLAD), wrote a letter to Prof. Peng Liyuan on behalf of the OAFLAD and asked for China’s attention to mothers and children and young people in Africa.

Prof. Peng, accompanied President Xi on his first visit to Africa as Chinese President in March 2013, has carried out a number of cooperation programs with OAFLAD since then under the framework of FOCAC.

OAFLAD is an organization where First Ladies of Africa seek to leverage their unique position to promote African women and youth empowerment. The secretariat of OAFLAD is located in Addis Ababa.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak hits Ethiopia the Chinese government, Alibaba and Jack Ma Foundation, and Tessen Foundation made several medical donations to Ethiopia.

Another contract for KBR in Djibouti

Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR) has received a $75 million contract from the US Department of Defence for construction projects at Camp Lemmonier and Chabelley Air Field in Djibouti, after beating five other proposals.

The Pentagon announced the contract on 5 August. “No task orders are being issued at this time,” it said, adding that, “the work to be performed provides for various renovations, repairs, maintenance, replacements, alterations, demolition and construction projects for Camp Lemonnier and Chabelley Air Field, Djibouti. The construction may include minor alteration, repair of real property (industrial and commercial) and utilities.”

The term of the contract is not to exceed 60 months and work is expected to be completed by September 2025.

KBR originally supported Camp Lemonnier from 2002 through 2007 and led its conversion from a former French Foreign Legion outpost into a sustainable US military base.

KBR has provided full spectrum base operations support services at Camp Lemonnier, including airfield operations, housing, galley, vehicle maintenance and other facilities.

(Defence Web)

Dozens killed in tribal clashes in eastern Sudan

At least 25 people have been killed in clashes between ethnic groups in a port city in eastern Sudan, according to a doctors’ association. The Central Doctors’ Committee said in a statement on Wednesday that about 90 others were wounded in the fighting that began on Sunday between members of the Bani Amer and Nuba ethnic groups in Port Sudan, a key international trade harbor on the Red Sea.

Local media reported that several houses and shops were set on fire in the violence.

“This is not the first time that clashes have broken out between the Bani Aarem and Nuba tribes,” said Al Jazeera’s Hiba Morgan, reporting from Khartoum.

“This has been going on for years and has escalated for the past 12 months,” she added.

The latest tensions between the two tribes date back to May 2019 in the eastern city of Gadaref, mainly over water and other resources.

The clashes flared up in August last year in Port Sudan.

(Aljazeera)
By Birhanu Fikade

For centuries, the Nile River, the longest river in Africa and at least one of the longest in the world, is a much romanticized national resource yet having no economic and social benefits to the general population. Even after the commencement of the first and landmark project on the Blue Nile River, the nationalistic fervor towards the river had been largely peaceful. However, as Egypt started to turn its rhetoric towards this shared natural resource more militant, the tempo of resistance and general pushback in the upstream nations also began to intensify greatly. Accordingly, the politics surrounding the Nile has never been as hot as it was in the last decade; especially, since the commencement of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) nine years ago.

On the other hand, Ethiopia, hard-pressed to find a way out of its daunting economic realities, has been increasingly looking to its unexploited natural resources: including the Nile. And one way to address this perpetual development deficit in Ethiopia is by kick-starting the manufacturing sector, which in turn requires massive investment in power and electricity. Naturally, a nation with an endowment like River Nile, that covers at least 17 percent of the country’s geography, and account for the bulk of the nation’s power generation potential.

According to the recent findings by Ethiopian economic experts, the operations of GERD will likely induce a 1.5 percent GDP growth, every year. The economists further indicate, Ethiopia will land welfare gain valued at USD 6.9 billion. In fact, the whole Eastern Nile basin is expected to realize economic gains valued at USD eight billion when GERD enters into operation. That, however, is going to be actualized only when reservoir filling timetable Ethiopia has announced is strictly followed, and that no mandatory extension is encountered between 2020 and 2024. Postponing the filling process beyond 2024, on the other hand, would result in economic losses amounting USD 30 billion on the three countries, obviously the greater portion of the losses incurred by Ethiopia.

Economic impact of the GERD, either positive or negative, notwithstanding, recently, a team of Ethiopian scientists has begun to unearth the realities and factual inaccuracies of the claims made by Egyptian water experts. The first from this group is a rebuttal concerning a recently published book which they claimed lacks all the scientific method and presentation. According to the 12 experts, the book and the thought process behind it is nothing short of malicious and mischievous, as it acted against all the known scientific protocols.

The Egyptian writers have also claimed that: “GERD will flood 1,700 square kilometers of forest in northwestern Ethiopia—about 811 kilometers from Addis Ababa and 14 km from the Sudan frontier—producing a dam reservoir that will hold up to 67 billion cubic meters of water, possibly taking up to seven years to achieve ability.”

The scientists Wuletawu Abera, Nigussie Haregeweyn, Yihun Dile, Ayele A. Fenta, Mulatu L. Berihun, Biadgilign Demissie, Chalachew A. Mulatu, Tewodros A. Nigussie, Paolo Billi, Hailemariam Meaza, Kifle Woldearegay, Assefa Melesse, Semu A. Mogos, and Lulseged Tamene, most of them PhD holders from Ethiopia and outside, have teamed up to counter the ill-intentioned scientific narrations of Egypt.

“Scientific” debate ... page 19

The Egyptian experts, who wrote such a derogatory book, went to the extent of claiming, on chapter 17, that the GERD is potentially exposed to risks of collapse.

The team also wrote: “we present factual errors, methodological flaws, wrong assumptions, inadequate data use, misleading conclusions and scientific misconducts committed by the book chapter written by Dandrawy and Omran (2020) on the GERD”.

The said scientific atrocities were committed in a book “Integrated Watershed Management of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam via Watershed Modeling System and Remote Sensing”, which the Egyptian writers published with the Swiss based Springer House. The Ethiopian side argued further that the Egyptian writers have not employed “a robust methodological approach, and has not used sound data and assumptions in the analysis”. Adding, “Using direct and inverse methodological approaches as well as existing evidence, we showed that most of the results are wrong and unreasonable. We also showed our concern that those unfounded results were used to make further inference to misleading conclusions”.

The scientists Wuletawu Abera, Nigussie Haregeweyn, Yihun Dile, Ayele A. Fenta, Mulatu L. Berihun, Biadgilign Demissie, Chalachew A. Mulatu, Tewodros A. Nigussie, Paolo Billi, Hailemariam Meaza, Kifle Woldearegay, Assefa Melesse, Semu A. Mogos, and Lulseged Tamene, most of them PhD holders from Ethiopia and outside, have teamed up to counter the ill-intentioned scientific narrations of Egypt.

According to the Ethiopian experts, the major drawback of the Egyptian paper, in the book, can be summarized in four main components. The first issue, which they have associated with nonscientific approach, refers to the use of inappropriate rainfall data and its utilization in hydrological modeling in order to setup for the purpose of “simulating peak flood and volume without any model calibration and validation”.

The Egyptian writers have also claimed that: “GERD will flood 1,700 square kilometers of forest in northwestern Ethiopia—about 811 kilometers from Addis Ababa and 14 km from the Sudan frontier—producing a dam reservoir that will hold up to 67 billion cubic meters of water, possibly taking up to seven years to achieve ability.” That was not even near to the truth as Ethiopian experts argue. They further denounced the “blatant conclusions about the risk of dam failure due to earthquake without properly evaluating the dam design and safety protocols”.

According to the Egyptians, GERD is under serious pressure and will likely collapse due to “long precipitation and flooding periods (the cause of most
The Reporter: Tell me about Jegnit and tell me about yourself?
Marakie Tesfaye: We work to empower and change the narratives for women and girls in Ethiopia and run interference so women and girls can succeed in life. Jegnit meaning ‘heroine’ in Amharic, is a term I coined so we could engrain it in young girls that it is possible for them to surpass expectations and norms and be heroines.

After founding Jegnit Ethiopia, I have worked with girls in Ethiopia as menstrual hygiene management as my main area of focus. While working with different organisations on school aged kids, I was able to see that young girls are met with hurdles that hinder them from going forth in life such as staying in school. One of the major causes of that were sanitation problems.

I have worked with different partners to raise awareness and destigmatize and alter the erroneous perception of menstrual health, and continue to advocate removing unnecessary taxation imposed on sanitary products as luxury items. As Jegnit, we have mobilised to raise awareness and donations of...
sanitary products for schools nationwide. I had the pleasure of touring different schools with celebrities and having a discourse with young girls about hygiene and menstrual health. It was then that I came to realise that scarcity of sanitary products was just the tip of the iceberg for these young girls. I was able to see that the lack of safe toilets was another stumbling block for young girls and people with disabilities in Ethiopia. With that our project was able to branch out to address this issue; toilet availability and accessibility.

I note toilets are often a luxury much of the population in Ethiopia?

Lack of availability of toilets have been a tremendous problem in Ethiopia for a while now to the point where we have embraced a faux pas such as open defecation and public urination as a community. The inaccessibility and unattainability of toilets continue to affect the community and country. Even though WASH infrastructure and accessibility have shown a slight change in the past few years, we are still nowhere near we need to be. Incorrect bathroom behaviour, unimproved latrines, open defecation and inadequate facilities continue to take a toll on our community and country and it is time they are addressed.

In our country, people find it easier to urinate openly on the streets than look for a toilet in their area. Since community public toilets are there but not accessible or mostly unavailable and since using service providers' toilets is ill-considered due to shame and noncompliance of service providers, it comes as no surprise that people do urinate in public when nature calls. You might find a toilet you can use in public, but then these toilets are almost always exclusive to some group of the community, mainly people with disabilities and women. In hopes to begin the conversation about this issue, we partnered with WaterAID and developed the Mechot App. Mechot App is a mobile application that helps the user locate the nearest clean, safe and accessible toilets. Toilets that are disabling accessible and female friendly are registered on the app to appease the impediments of finding a toilet up to everyone's needs.

You have now partnered with a number of entities to make the effort become more impactful. Tell me about that?

Our partners are diverse, we work to make it understood that lack of Sanitation is a problem of all. If one is unhealthy due to lack of proper sanitation, then all are at risk of being unhealthy. We work with organisations that share our sentiments to transform hygiene and sanitation behaviour in the community. We are now branching out to using toilets as an advertising scheme by partnering with different corporates that are looking to marry their business with social responsibility and giving back to the community. The Mechot toilet advertising scheme aspires to make a difference by making hygiene and general sanitation understood, communicated easily, desirable & rewarding behavior and eventually develop a habit to efface incorrect bathroom behaviour and hygiene management. Especially now when the world is crumbling under the pressures of the coronavirus pandemic, it is consequential that bathroom and hygiene setbacks are addressed. Who's better than a woman who proudly calls herself Queen of Toilet?

What is the long-term vision for this noble project you have going on?

I am building 1000 toilets throughout Ethiopia. I know that's a bold statement, but it is the truth. Toilets are necessities, you will find rest areas, public toilets, smart toilets and gas station toilets nationwide in other countries, I want that for Ethiopia. I aspire to make toilets inclusive, available and accessible at every corner for the country for everyone. A bus full of tourists traveling from Addis Ababa to Debre Zeit will be forced to stop on the express highway to allow its passengers to openly defecate. We can go down the list of routes in which areas are well known for buses stopping by to allow its passengers to openly defecate. That's a loss for Ethiopia.

Business opportunity loss, image loss, sanitation loss, and at times natural fertilizer loss is something I have observed. Why is that? Isn't it obvious we use the toilet daily? Why aren't there infrastructures meeting the toilet need? It's only because there are customers that restaurants open and people can dine in the restaurant. Well people gotta go to the toilet daily, why not create a comfortable space? A comfortable toilet where one can access with dignity? I am. What drives you to continue doing this?

Because I truly believe Ethiopia deserves better. I went to school abroad to come back home and serve my country. Alleviating this problem or at least contribute to some degree is a privilege and worth my education. My 10+ years away from Ethiopia will only be worthwhile when I apply what I learned there to better my Ethiopia.

As the country undergoes an exigent transformational phase, it is important that the individuals and organisations come together to succour the government as we advance to a developed Ethiopia. We don't want to duplicate efforts. We want to fill in the gap where we see opportunities. Opportunities for women and better sanitation for all. We believe people given opportunities and resources advance well in life and people with disability also advance better in life if the burdens that they impose on them are removed. I was given great opportunities and resources, so whichever much is given, much is expected therefore I have to be able to apply methods I have learned somewhere else for my country. If not expected from me, then from whom?

We have to be conscious of the barriers we have imposed on people with disabilities. Toilets lack ramps, handrails or Braille signs. I have learned that disability is impairment + barrier. We have to be able to remove the barriers we see and are unconsciously imposing. If we know that someone is mentally or physically impaired isn't it only human to remove the barrier? But that's not the case for Ethiopia, and we are going to change that.

Have you watched the Gwadegna TV show on Kana? Every Saturday at 8pm we discuss toilet issues with Artist Tsiyedien GeberMarkos who is also the Jegest brand ambassador. We invite guests who are currently working on WASH and discuss issues of design, waste management and accessibility.

We are attacking the toilet problem 360 degrees. Awareness raising, sanitary product availability, toilet locator app, restroom advertising and now toilet construction should be available to all. If its toilet related, we are on it! As Marakie the Queen of Toilet, this is my purpose and an honor to play a part in cleaning up my country. As jegnit we want to be in accord with the country’s transformation and be a part of it. It is our country and our responsibility. We have had a lifetime long culture and tradition that binds us together as Ethiopians. It is time we stop looking elsewhere and be our own solutions and answers.

Any lasting words?

It is time Ethiopia is alleviated by her own children who are their own helping hands; we will no longer wait on others to drive up change for us.

With individuals such as me, Mechot and others who are aspiring to make a difference, we aim to help in formulating our needs into demands and developing effective solutions as a unified front. We aim to shine a light on lack of inclusivity in hygiene and sanitation and be a voice to those who need it. We also intend to reform the reality for vulnerable members of the community and change narratives for women by changing the conversation, employing and empowering them to sustain themselves and attain financial independence.

They say people concentrate better in toilets; I hope your readers read this in one
BREASTFEEDING: A MOTHER’S BEST GIFT TO HER CHILD
With the theme of “Support Breastfeeding for a Healthier Planet” this year the Ethiopian Midwives Association marked the occasion inside its headquarters in the Lamberet neighborhood with hundreds of people in attendance. This is the 12th year it has been observed within the nation.

This comes as noted world organizations such as the World Health Organization and others advocate for governments and institutions to help promote the ideas of skilled breastfeeding among the population.

“Breastfeeding provides every child with the best possible start in life. It delivers health, nutritional and emotional benefits to both children and mothers. And it forms part of a sustainable food system”, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom (PSD) and UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta H. Fore said in a statement earlier this year.

The Ethiopian Midwives Association has been one of the few advocates of breastfeeding in Ethiopia. Started in 1992, it has promoted breastfeeding by offering counselling, training healthcare workers such as midwives and extension healthcare workers and offering nutrition within vulnerable communities.

For Almaz Tadesse, 36, the association has been useful in helping her embrace breastfeeding and get practical and basic information in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic that has produced much conflicting information on it.

“When I was about to give birth in the midst of COVID-19 and shortly after, there were lots of rumors whether I should breastfeed or limit my contact with my son. But it was a neighbor who suggested to me to come to the Midwives Association and speak to experienced staff members and get experienced information,” she told The Reporter.

“I found them to be knowledgeable and learned much about how much breastfeeding is important to a child at the early stages of his life,” she added.

This comes as many are beginning to accept cow milk and powdered milk as substitute to natural breastfeeding in Ethiopia and around the world.

Marta Gezachew waited until her daughter was almost two before she realized the value of breastfeeding. As a professional civil engineer with a demanding schedule in the construction sector, as soon as her child was born, she started work within two days and she thought little about the value of breastfeeding.

She felt there were other options. Her daughter was left with childcare for much of her formative childhood growing up and was mostly provided with cow milk instead of the natural mother-to-child milk she now thinks she should have offered her.

“While I regretted most was, I did not take my time to breastfeed her in the first 6 months as recommended by healthcare practitioners. I did not have that basic information that others are beginning to have. I was busy pursuing a profession that was demanding and I placed financial freedom in front of the needs of my child. I have come to regret that,” she said.

The Ethiopian Midwives Association, like many experts involved in the sector, advise and recommend breastfeeding in the first year of a child’s life as opposed to formulas often used by much of the population, a growing phenomenon among busy mothers.

The Ethiopian government, through its proactive Health Ministry has been advocating and helping promote better health across the nation.

“Breastfeeding is an important component of what we do at the ministry. We value the practice and we partner with liked minded organizations such as Midwives Association, UNICEF and EMWA to help promote its value, offer practical information to the mother and the community in order to promote and build a healthy and happy child population”, Meseret Zelalem (MD), the Director of Maternal, Child Health Nutrition Directorate within the Ministry of Health told The Reporter.

To her, the investment made on young children is the human capital of the future.

“Breastfeeding is all tailored to prevent and reduce stunting, wasting and acute malnutrition,” she added.

For the local midwives association, that is the heart of its mission and why it was founded and is still valued by many.

“There are obvious reasons why breastfeeding is important to a new born or a child,” Zenebe Akale, the President of the association told The Reporter. “However, it’s no way an alternative to other nutrition needs he or she may have but an added value.”

According to the International Breastfeeding Journal, only 59 percent of Ethiopian mothers breastfed their children within its first few months of birth, which according to the finding is “significantly lower than the global recommendations”.

The report also found out how “mothers who attended antenatal visits and who gave birth at health institutions had better EBF (exclusive breastfeeding) practices”.

Yet another mother gathered at the occasion inside the association explained the value of its services.

“Extension health workers who are well trained with an ear on the ground are important to the community. They provide most up to date information that is life to death for many. If it was not for the association, I would have used cow milk for all my children and I would not have been burdened with breastfeeding them. But the fact I have a growing, happy and healthy children is significantly linked to breastfeeding and I received the information from the association,” Mantegbosh Akalewold explained.

There are growing entities beginning to advocate and promote breastfeeding, among them, the American Academy of Pediatrics. Among the benefits explained are, decreased postpartum bleeding and more rapid uterine, decreased menstrual blood loss and increased child spacing, pre-pregnancy weight gain, and decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancers.

That is the message UNICEF (The United Nations Children’s Fund) has been taking across Ethiopia. This year, it partnered with WFP (World Food Programme) in a three year project to help educate vulnerable people on the value of nutrition and better health across Ethiopia.

In 2018, UNICEF highlighted how, “Breastfeeding all babies for the first two years would save lives of more than 800,000 children under the age of five annually”.

This year, it found, more than four million Ethiopians are set to require treatment for malnutrition - among them those pregnant and breastfeeding women.

With limited resources and high ambition, the Ethiopian Midwives Association is determined to change that narrative by helping educate the value of breastfeeding one mother at a time.

For Zenebe, there is more to breastfeeding.

“Breastfeeding helps the child develop an immune system to fight various viruses and also helps them transition into a healthy child,” she said, confident that the message is becoming more noted and accepted more than ever.
**VIEWPOINT**

**Why is Egypt a recalcitrant ally?**

By Silewunet Belachew

Ethiopia, the birthplace of the Blue Nile River, has played a maternal role as the early source of ancient Egyptian civilization. The two nations have the oldest diplomatic ties in the African continent and one of the oldest in the world which dates back to 2575 BC. This age-old diplomatic relationship, sometimes viewed as a 'higher level', but for a longer time, filled with hydro-hemogenic contestations, conspiracies, proxy and bloody wars which were mainly due to Egypt’s stubborn ambition to control the Nile River and prevent Ethiopia from using its natural water in its own territory.

Consequently, Ethiopians were prohibited from building dams or launching any construction projects on the river without Egypt’s merciful approval for more than a century. Moreover, the two colonial brokered treaties of the 1929 and 1959 on the utilization of the River handed over all exclusive rights to the pharaohs and enabled them to exercise a ‘veto power’ on the river: that resulted an incessant diplomatic spat between Addis Ababa and Cairo. At the moment, Egyptian and Ethiopian interests are increasingly divergent and diplomatic spots are escalating as Ethiopia has accomplished the first round filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) announced in 2011. Ethiopians were infuriated by Ethiopia’s counter hydro-

hemogenic ambition and strategy. They tirelessly tried to bring a diplomatic pressure and went to every possible place to hinder the GERD project from happening and deplete Ethiopia’s financial resources.

However, these developments along with Egypt’s archaic and notorious diplomatic tactics, have led some to brand Egypt as ‘an obscured nation with conspiracy theory’ in the world, while others assert that relation with Egypt is absolutely terrible.

Few years ago, one U.S diplomat described Egypt as a ‘stubborn and disobedient ally’ constantly needs its own aggrandizement. Likewise, Andrew Miller and Richard Sokoisky who write for the New York Times proclaimed that Egypt is a ‘terrible ally’ to the US, calling for a cut in the military aid package.

What we can explicitly learn from Egyptians conspiracy history is that it is easier to change the course of the Nile River than attempting to charge their tenacious beliefs and recalcitrant stances. As Mohammed Nasseir, a liberal politician from Egypt once said “any attempt to introduce the present alteration in Egyptians’ tenacious belief in conspiracy theory is a complete waste of energy.” And this reality has manifested itself in many of their diplomatic relations and specifically, in the on-going GERD negotiations. As a result of that, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has become a source of concern and tension in the region as reaching an agreement with Egypt (and Sudan) is far challenging. Egypt’s obstinacy and their age-old stance acting as if it is the sole owner of the Nile waters coupled with its uncompromising attitudes to the realities of the time has stalled all series of negotiations on the GERD.

Up until now, Egypt continuously showing its bad intention and malicious approach, and is currently using the GERD and still insisting on deception and prejudice, and this causes tension in the region. As Egypt’s water minister once and again reasserted, ‘Egyptians’ message on the Nile is even more aggressive now. Don’t touch it. Don’t smell it. Don’t do anything. That’s what they are still asserting, and that’s what Egypt is opposing. Thus, in the middle of Egypt’s stubborn stances and conspiratorial approaches, arriving at a fair and peaceful agreement is a difficult mission to carry out and it may take another decade to conclude an agreement which can benefit the Nile basin countries.

Although, there is no international law that restricts Ethiopia from using the Nile waters in an equitable manner, however, Ethiopia’s positive stance on the utilization of the Nile River is based on the Declaration of Principlal agreement signed among the three countries in 2015. And Ethiopia still adheres to the principles of cooperation and equitable use of waters and causing no significant harm. Ethiopia herself as a guide, which was evidently proofed by the efforts of the first filling of the dam and the GERD negotiations. As a result of that, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam has become a source of concern and tension in the region as reaching an agreement with Egypt (and Sudan) is far challenging. Ethiopia’s obstinacy and their age-old stance acting as if it is the sole owner of the Nile waters coupled with its uncompromising attitudes to the realities of the time has stalled all series of negotiations on the GERD.

In conclusion, Egyptians should comprehened that their blanched theory of ‘let the river keep its course’ and ‘not to be drunk from the Nile must return’ is a self-absorbed approach. Claiming an exclusive use of the Nile River is indistinguishable from a betrayal of others’ rights. Attempting to preserve one’s own disproportionate water share at the cost of more than a 110 million people by no means confirms justicefulness. Hence, Egypt’s absolute reliance on these old aged stubborn stances and recalcitrant attitudes doesn’t solve either Egypt’s or Ethiopia’s problem on the Nile, if not worse it. As there is no any international law that restrains Ethiopia from using the Nile waters in an equitable manner, however, Ethiopia’s positive stance on the utilization of the Nile River is based on the Declaration of Principle agreement signed among the three countries in 2015. And Ethiopia still adheres to the principles of cooperation and equitable use of waters and causing no significant harm.

Ed’s Note: The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

**Political idealism prevails over political realism**

By Tagel Getahun

There is a critical deficiency of political understanding within the Tigrayan People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) who are refugees of academic institutions that concentrate to attract a polite audience from every angle. On the other hand the erstwhile Oromo People’s Democratic Organization (OPDO) is well equipped with intellectual members that know how politics should be handled. This party was the strongest of all member organizations in the former ruling coalition – the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Front (EPRDF).

Of course, the EPRDF was not practicing a real political power. Thus, I believe that it should be not be doubted for the widespread human right abuses committed in the last twenty seven years. The nature of the political interest within the TPLF that was against human rights expression seen in many years in Ethiopia.

Individuals did not receive a fair trial and would be convicted because of their legitimate right to freedom of expression. Many detainees complained that they experienced torture and were forced to sign confessions or incriminating evidence. Almost all were denied access to lawyers and family and at start of detention. Ethiopia’s Anti-Terrorism Proclamation was introduced in 1995. The broad provisions of the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation allowed the authorities to criminalize the exercise of freedom of expression.

Thus, claim that it was the conspiracy of TPLF that resulted in the displacement of millions of Oromos just to benefit from that. As part of his reform programs, Abiy Ahmed, overturned the civil society legislation which had curtailed the right to freedoms of association and expression and tabled a new law. The draconian anti-terrorism legislation was amended. Hundreds of thousands of prisoners of conscience were released. A number of illegal detention centers are closed including the famous Maekelawi.

After Abiy came to power, there is a shift of political philosophy which ended up the cruel nature of the former regime. As there is no ill political interest even dissent has decreased. And dissent is being treated as a liberty of citizens as opposed to the time under TPLF’s regime.

A gross human rights abuse is ashamed in the aftermath of the reform. There is a world of difference between the two regimes in how they treat human rights of citizens according to the reports from international media.

The TPLF and Prosperity Party still draw the line of their record of human rights implementations. They are incomparable in this regard. The latter is a public friendly political party which former used to be cruel against the people. There is a significant improvement under Abiy’s government with respect to how human rights are handled.

Ed’s Note: The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter. He can be reached at tagelgetahunb@gmail.com.

www.thereporterethiopia.com
The Ethiopian team have also contradicted and pointed out the flaws in the analysis and modeling of the Egyptian research. “As per the Egyptian claim, the flooding area might be about 700,000 square kilometers for a reference elevation below 400 meters. The report with its presentation of digital floodplain maps that show the volume and depth of flooding in major rivers, however, failed to arrive at similar outcomes as claimed,” the Ethiopian team contends. The Egyptian flooding simulation result shows that “the volume of water inundating Sudan is about 53 trillion cubic meters, with an average flooding depth of about 75 meters” the authors of the report failed to present or perhaps deliberately omitted the magnitude of flooding in terms of volume and depth,” Ethiopian experts state.

Ethiopian scientists also noted that: “this volume of flooding estimated below 450 meters elevation in the Sudan is about 700 times higher than GERD’s maximum capacity of 74 billion cubic meters, the exaggerations speak volumes about the scientific integrity and research relevance of Dandrawy and Omran’s report,” the scientists argue.

Ethiopian experts state further that when assuming an area as vast as 667,228 square kilometers in the Sudan could be flooded only when the average depth of the flooding water due to unlikely GERD’s failure is estimated to be about 11 centimeters is deeply fallacious. This is a very small depth of flooding that probably will have little outcome in Sudan, they assert. “It is unfortunate that the report did not indicate the depth of flooding and its potential effect to support their argument of flooding risk. Although the report claimed in the introduction that they aim to map potential flooding areas in the Sudan and Egypt, the report never attempted to estimate any flooding risk in Egypt. This shows that the main motive of the report was to sensationalize the issue of GERD using emotive words and unfounded results, which, we believe, are aimed at deceiving and destabilizing the Sudanese public with fabricated stories.”

The simulation model applied in the analysis, as described, found out to be utilized out of the context for flooding simulation and wrongly claiming that a potential failure of GERD may flood a large swath of Sudan; this hence is considered as “deliberately misinterpreted evidence they have presented to reach into hasty conclusions,” the counters.

Finding numerous evidences of flaws and lacking, Ethiopian scientists have recommend Springer to revoke at least the 17th chapter of the book, with an appropriate “apology, before this work causes further damage to the thinking processes of young and upcoming researchers and possibly before the work is used to inform discourse of a strategic nature. We also urge the scientific community to keep its guard up so that science is not compromised to advance other ulterior motives that could give science a bad name and fuel mistrust among communities who would otherwise take scientific publications at face value.”
Photographer ventures to dangerous places to take wildlife photos

Andrey Gudkov is a Russian wildlife photographer who takes frequent expeditions to the most distant and dangerous Indonesian and African regions such as Borneo, Zambia, and Rinca Island. All to capture wild animals living in their natural habitat—a view which, due to modern life, has become exotic to our eyes. Through his photography, Gudkov tries to convey the beauty and importance of these animals as many of them are becoming endangered.

In order to chase his dreams and become a wildlife photographer, Gudkov had to wait for the moment to come. That moment was when the Soviet Union crashed and he was able to travel freely.

“For me, it all began with the television programs of David Attenborough’s films, and the rare BBC nature programs that were shown on Soviet television many years ago. And when, at the end of the eighties, I first held a copy of National Geographic in my hands, it was a culture shock for me. The photographs dazzled, drew you in, seemed so fantastic and unreal. And as soon as there appeared the opportunity to travel freely and acquire professional equipment, realizing that dream became a reality,” Andrey Gudkov told Bored Panda.

On the right are some of his works.

Twitter is rolling out its reply-limiting feature to all users

Twitter has made its reply-limiting feature available to all users starting this week. You can finally say goodbye to the reply guys. The company’s director of product management, Suzanne Xie, wrote in a blog post published Tuesday that the feature is part of the platform’s efforts to give people more control over their conversations on the platform.

“Sometimes people are more comfortable talking about what is happening when they can choose who can reply,” Xie said in the post, adding that Twitter has seen people use the settings to have conversations that were not previously possible. “Starting today, everyone will be able to use these settings so unwanted replies don’t get in the way of meaningful conversations,” Xie said.

Here is how the feature works. Before sending a tweet, users will have three options to choose who can reply: everyone, which is the standard default setting, only people the users follows, or only people the user mentions in the tweet.

If you pick a setting other than the default, the reply icon will be grayed out for anyone not allowed to reply. And even if they cannot reply, other Twitter users can still retweet, comment, share, or like the tweet in question.
Google is re-adding a Calendar app to Android Auto

Google is releasing a new update to Android Auto that allows the car software to regain some of its smarts. This includes bringing back the Calendar app, which allows you to view information on your next appointment and get driving directions if you’d added a location to the calendar entry. Google previously removed the Calendar app from its last redesign in 2019, replacing it with a button that simply read your appointments out loud using the Google Assistant instead of showing you anything on the screen.

The new update also adds relevant shortcuts to the Calendar app — so if you need to pick up a birthday cake, for instance, you will have the option to either call the bakery or pull up directions to get there. Apple introduced a similar calendar feature in 2019 that allowed its CarPlay users to pull up directions and see appointments as part of its iOS 13 update.

Aside from bringing back the smarts to its Calendar app, Google also announced today that it is working with “early access partners” to help create new apps and categories for Android Auto, including navigation, parking, and electric vehicle charging. Google has not said how those apps will be distributed.

(The Verge)

Pinterest improves and expands its skin tone search feature

Pinterest is upgrading its skin tone search feature, which uses machine vision to sort pins in the site’s beauty category by skin tone. The feature launched in the US in 2018 and is now available in the UK, Canada, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand as well.

The feature is designed to make it easier for users to find content relevant to them, says Pinterest. It’s a common problem in the search world that certain queries default to show white faces. By giving users the option to refine their searches based on skin tones, Pinterest says it helps users find the content they want to see.

The feature is now more prominent when users are searching for content and delivers more accurate results, says Pinterest. The company offers searches like “grey hair on dark skin women,” “blonde hair color ideas for fair skin blue eyes,” and “soft natural makeup for Black women” as examples of the sort of fine-grained results the feature can deliver.

Search by skin tone is also now integrated into the company’s augmented reality Try On feature, which lets users search for lipstick shades and try them on in AR. This feature is currently only available in the US but is launching in the UK “in the coming months.”

(The Verge)
The preventable trauma of COVID-19 childbirth

By Mary Fitzgerald

“The baby is dead. We can’t assist you here.” By the time she heard these devastating words, the pregnant Yasminel Casanova had endured a long and painful journey, passing through multiple COVID-19 checkpoints, to the hospital in Caracas, Venezuela. She bled for hours without treatment. When doctors at a second hospital finally operated on her, they removed her ovaries without her prior consent. Then, she spent 20 days there almost entirely alone; due to COVID-19 restrictions, visits were banned.

Venezuela’s health-care infrastructure was crumbling well before the pandemic, but the COVID-19 crisis has pushed it to the brink of collapse. Many women experiencing obstetric emergencies now struggle to reach hospitals, let alone gain access to adequate care. Yet such failures can be seen far beyond Venezuela, in rich and poor countries alike.

Last month openDemocracy released the results of a global investigation into the treatment of women in childbirth during the COVID-19 pandemic. Across 45 countries – from Canada to Cameroon, from the United Kingdom to Ecuador – we found what doctors and lawyers describe as “shocking” and “unnecessary” breaches of laws and World Health Organization guidelines intended to protect women and babies during the pandemic.

The WHO’s specific COVID-19 guidelines affirm, for example, that women should be accompanied by a person of their choice while giving birth. Yet, across Eurasia and Latin America – including in at least 15 European countries – women have been forced to give birth without companions.

Likewise, the WHO asserts that procedures like C-sections should be performed only when they are medically necessary or have the woman’s consent. Yet in 11 countries, women reported that they didn’t consent to C-sections, inductions, and episiotomies (the cutting of a woman’s vagina) that were performed on them, or said that they did not believe these procedures were medically necessary.

WHO guidelines also dictate that women receive breastfeeding support and the opportunity for skin-to-skin contact with their newborns. Yet mothers have been separated from newborns in at least 15 countries – including at least six European countries – and prevented from breastfeeding in at least seven, even though there is no conclusive evidence that COVID-19 can be transmitted through breast milk.

Doctors and health experts agree: none of this is necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Likewise, there have been multiple reports of pregnancy disruptions in Africa, affecting support and other lockdown restrictions preventing women from reaching hospitals. Many women in developing countries have been forced to give birth in unsanitary and unsafe conditions. Experts now warn that over the course of just six months, COVID-19 restrictions and health-service disruptions could cause up to 56,700 additional maternal deaths in low- and middle-income countries.

If this is not enough to expose the flaws in current COVID-19 prevention measures, consider how unevenly they are implemented (and lifted). In some parts of England, women can now take their partners to the pub, but not to antenatal appointments.

This reflects a long history of the “postcode lottery” – women are already of track to meet their targets for reducing maternal and infant deaths. In 2020, part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, by 2030, part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, by 2030, 21.01, South Africa. Protesters urged that it is now time to end police brutality once and for all. To this effect they demanded new legislations to be proclaimed by Congress and substantial police reforms. Trump’s response is to ask the protest movement is as consistent as his handling of the Covid-19 pandemic. He called for quelling the ongoing protests by state’s police if possible or by federal forces if the states decline to resort to violence. As these lines are written, Trump ordered federal troops to crush the “anarchists” who are protesting in Portland, Oregon. Perhaps, the most damaging and Trump’s rule is the dimension of the division that he caused within the US particularly between democrats and republicans as well as at
Why do HIV vaccine trials keep failing?

By Denis Chopera

Yet another seemingly promising HIV vaccine has failed in clinical trials. According to Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the United States National Institutes of Health, which was conducting the trial, a vaccine is “essential to end the global pandemic.” But while the latest failure is a disappointment, it should come as no surprise.

To understand why, it is useful to go back to the beginning. Just over 12 years ago, two studies involving a vaccine candidate known as MRK-Ad5 were halted. The failure was comprehensive: the studies – STIFP (which enrolled men and women in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Australia) and Phambili (including men and women in South Africa) – found that MRK-Ad5 failed to protect subjects against HIV infection. Worse, there was evidence that it may have increased the chances of acquiring HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

The next year, however, hopes were again raised, as another clinical trial – known as RV 144 – seemed to show modest positive results in Thailand. Yet the conclusion that the vaccine worked was based on somewhat dubious statistical analysis.

In fact, of the 125 (initially HIV-negative) trial participants who became infected with HIV (out of a total of 16,401), 74 had received the placebo and 51 had received the vaccine. That amounts to an efficacy rate of 31.2% – a good starting point, but nowhere near the level required to tackle a public-health challenge of the magnitude of Sub-Saharan Africa’s HIV epidemic.

A closer look at the results indicates that they are even weaker than they seem. As the former Harvard Medical School professor Ronald Desrosiers observed in 2017, the HIV-acquisition curve for the placebo group is nonlinear, with a sudden increase in acquisition among the placebo recipients within the first year of the trial.

That “anomalous” increase accounts for “most or all of the difference in acquisition” compared to the vaccine recipients. In other words, the fact that more placebo recipients contracted HIV had nothing to do with them being less protected than those who had received the vaccine.

Moreover, Desrosiers argued, if the vaccine did have a protective effect, the vaccinated individuals who became infected would have lower viral loads than their unvaccinated counterparts. That was not the case.

Nonetheless, some researchers considered the results promising enough to proceed with the recently-launched HPV vaccine, which tested a vaccine candidate based on the HPV strain that is most prominent in the country. After 18 months, 125 of the 1,400 participants who received the vaccine became infected, compared to 123 of those who received the placebo.

This outcome was a major blow to the millions of Africans who hoped that researchers were finally approaching a long-term solution to the AIDS epidemic. But the results of the Thailand trial were never strong enough to justify such a large – and expensive – clinical trial.

This is not to say that trial results have to be overwhelmingly positive to merit further study. But, as Desrosiers also emphasizes, “there are hundreds of millions of dollars to manufacture and test products with little reason to believe that efficacy is wasteful, at best. More comprehensive basic and preclinical research would enable scientists to identify approaches with a far better chance of success.

In the case of RV 144, a smaller intermediary trial could have enabled researchers to determine whether it was worth investing in another large-scale trial – at much lower cost.

Nonetheless, some researchers considered the results promising enough to proceed with the recent South Africa’s RV144-702, which tested a vaccine candidate based on the HPV strain that is most prominent in the country. After 18 months, 128 of the 1,400 participants who received the vaccine became infected, compared to 123 of those who received the placebo.

The leftover money could have paid for a large-scale vaccine trial, but that was not to be. The vaccine was later replaced by Project Syndicate: the world’s preeminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides inclusive perspectives in our changing world by those who are shaping politics, economics, and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

The rest is history.

But while the latest failure is a disappointment, it should come as no surprise. To understand why, it is useful to go back to the beginning. Just over 12 years ago, two studies involving a vaccine candidate known as MRK-Ad5 were halted. The failure was comprehensive: the studies – STIFP (which enrolled men and women in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Australia) and Phambili (including men and women in South Africa) – found that MRK-Ad5 failed to protect subjects against HIV infection. Worse, there was evidence that it may have increased the chances of acquiring HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Yet, after two decades, no vaccine has succeeded. Yet another promising candidate, based on a protein developed in South Africa, was halted over 12 years ago, two studies involving a vaccine candidate known as MRK-Ad5 were halted. The failure was comprehensive: the studies – STIFP (which enrolled men and women in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Australia) and Phambili (including men and women in South Africa) – found that MRK-Ad5 failed to protect subjects against HIV infection. Worse, there was evidence that it may have increased the chances of acquiring HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Yet, after two decades, no vaccine has succeeded. Yet another promising candidate, based on a protein developed in South Africa, was halted over 12 years ago, two studies involving a vaccine candidate known as MRK-Ad5 were halted. The failure was comprehensive: the studies – STIFP (which enrolled men and women in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Australia) and Phambili (including men and women in South Africa) – found that MRK-Ad5 failed to protect subjects against HIV infection. Worse, there was evidence that it may have increased the chances of acquiring HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Yet, after two decades, no vaccine has succeeded. Yet another promising candidate, based on a protein developed in South Africa, was halted over 12 years ago, two studies involving a vaccine candidate known as MRK-Ad5 were halted. The failure was comprehensive: the studies – STIFP (which enrolled men and women in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Australia) and Phambili (including men and women in South Africa) – found that MRK-Ad5 failed to protect subjects against HIV infection. Worse, there was evidence that it may have increased the chances of acquiring HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Yet, after two decades, no vaccine has succeeded. Yet another promising candidate, based on a protein developed in South Africa, was halted over 12 years ago, two studies involving a vaccine candidate known as MRK-Ad5 were halted. The failure was comprehensive: the studies – STIFP (which enrolled men and women in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Australia) and Phambili (including men and women in South Africa) – found that MRK-Ad5 failed to protect subjects against HIV infection. Worse, there was evidence that it may have increased the chances of acquiring HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Yet, after two decades, no vaccine has succeeded. Yet another promising candidate, based on a protein developed in South Africa, was halted over 12 years ago, two studies involving a vaccine candidate known as MRK-Ad5 were halted. The failure was comprehensive: the studies – STIFP (which enrolled men and women in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Australia) and Phambili (including men and women in South Africa) – found that MRK-Ad5 failed to protect subjects against HIV infection. Worse, there was evidence that it may have increased the chances of acquiring HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Yet, after two decades, no vaccine has succeeded. Yet another promising candidate, based on a protein developed in South Africa, was halted over 12 years ago, two studies involving a vaccine candidate known as MRK-Ad5 were halted. The failure was comprehensive: the studies – STIFP (which enrolled men and women in the Americas, the Caribbean, and Australia) and Phambili (including men and women in South Africa) – found that MRK-Ad5 failed to protect subjects against HIV infection. Worse, there was evidence that it may have increased the chances of acquiring HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.
By Tsion Taye

**Beautifying Addis**

We have all heard of the the project aimed at beautifying Addis Ababa. Quite an exciting project, I have to say. But who does not want to reside in a clean and beautiful city? Those of us who have been to the developed world such as Europe and the US know how people value being on time and being located in our capital city, or the capital of Africa as some like to call it. I love my city, don’t get me wrong. I love it because it is mine and it is the only place on earth because it is mine and it is the only place on earth...

---

**Post-COVID-19 . . .**

CONT’D FROM PAGE 22

the level of race relations. How do we be able to retain its historical significance if it becomes a slum? A few years ago was embarrassing to the US political economy as a whole as it failed to condemn violence by the far-right racists and neo-Nazis. However, democrats not as adversaries but as enemies. There has been never any consideration by the US military or the ECA of a bipartisan initiative since the US took office. Perhaps one indication to this belligerent attitude towards democrats is when he Churchill advised to shake hands with Nancy Pelosi just before his last State of the Union address. Undoubtedly, Trump gave the US and China a 400 year homework before the division he caused in the country.

Now, the big question is: will the US be able to retain its economic status in global politics either under Trump or Biden in the backdrop of rising China’s power? If Trump’s reluctance in handling of the pandemic and the economic cost of the pandemic has cost the US dearly including the possible loss of its hegemony in world politics; both the ECA and the US has contained the pandemic successfully in a relative sense and managed to become the only country to attain annual economic growth since the pandemic. China has now entered global rivalry with the US in manufacturing in international trade. That cannot be sustained without entering the race for political rivalry as well.

CONT’D FROM PAGE 22

**Communication authority . . .**

**CONT’D FROM PAGE 1**

License to a local communication company, Global Telecomcommunications and Electromecha. International Projects are not in a position to bid as operators but they can offer technical and financial proposals. There will be no pre-qualification for the technical bid. The companies would be evaluated thoroughly. In the financial proposals they would present their offer for the license. The company which succeeds will pass the technical evaluation and offer the highest price for the license. In OpenDemocracy’s investigation, one woman in Italy expressed her hope in that ECA and providers would learn from her suffering, and the suffering of those like her. Perhaps, that other women wouldn’t have to endure what she did. We owe it to these women to ensure that they are safe.

---

**The Preventable . . .**

CONT’D FROM PAGE 22

The Preventable pandemic is likely to delay achievement of the targets even further.

But just as the COVID-19 crisis can impede progress, it can also spur change, by forcing governments and civil society to think again about how their health systems, economies, and societies are organized. So far, distant works among policymakers – have tended to be narrower and more short-term solutions. If we are to build the “equitable, resilient, and sustainable” post-COVID world that many leaders advocate, we must embrace a much more ambitious vision of what public health really means.

For example, laws protecting the vulnerable need to be better enforced. Health bodies and other agencies must investigate violations and hold medical providers accountable. And governments and donors must devote more resources for implementing a rights-based approach to medical training and service provision across the board.

The issue extends far beyond direct medical care. Today, women can be imprisoned for having miscarriages (as in Eritrea) and detained for non-payment of hospital bills after childbirth (as in Kenya). Structural inequality and discrimination based on gender, race, class, disability, and more still shapes every aspect of our lives, in rich and poor economies alike. All of these failures undermine public health.

Far too many women have felt alone, scared, and traumatized while giving birth during the pandemic. In OpenDemocracy’s investigation, one woman in Italy expressed her hope in that ECA and providers would learn from her suffering, and the suffering of those like her. Perhaps, that other women wouldn’t have to endure what she did. We owe it to these women to ensure that they are safe.

---

**Car vaccines be . . .**

CONT’D FROM PAGE 23

Court Justice Harry Blackmun, who wrote in 1978, “In order to get beyond racism, we must first take account of race. There is no other way. And in order to treat some persons equally, we must treat them differently.” He used this logic to argue that the methodology of the COVID-19 crisis, that means giving HIPPOC communities priority access to a vaccine.

Giving HIPPOC communities priority access to a COVID-19 vaccine must not be confused with reparations for slavery andcolonialism. It will take much more than a vaccine to redress the systemic injustices of white supremacy. But an antiracist allocation framework could be a step toward rethinking the race-neutral ideology that shapes the health system.

---

**Ed.’s Note: Tsion Taye is a researcher in the field of Agricultural Economics. She is a graduate of Wageningen university from which she obtained her Bachelor’s and PhD degree. Her passions include reading books and reflecting on life experiences with whomever shares this passion. She can be reached at tsiontaye@gmail.com.**

---

**Ed.’s Note: Tsion Taye is a researcher in the field of Agricultural Economics. She is a graduate of Wageningen university from which she obtained her Bachelor’s and PhD degree. Her passions include reading books and reflecting on life experiences with whomever shares this passion. She can be reached at tsiontaye@gmail.com.**
By Assefa Adefris

Mr. President, please allow me, at the outset, to send you my sincere heartiest greetings and wish you well in this trying time. Mr. President the prevailing friendship existing between US and Ethiopia dates back to the beginning of the 20th century. In fact, the Ethiopian American friendship started back in 1900 when the Government of 20th President of the United States of the America, President William McKinley signed a Diplomatic Agreement with then ruler of Ethiopia, Emperor Menolik the second. The friendship between our two sovereign countries, continued, and the next President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, sent the first ever envoy headed by Robert Skinner to Ethiopia to establish a Diplomatic and trade mission in Ethiopia. It would be fitting at this juncture, to point out when USA established the first US Mission in Addis Ababa, almost all of the rest of African States were under colonial rule. To cement the mutual relationship existing between the two countries, the Ethiopian leader, Emperor Menelik bestowed to the US President, Lion cubs and Zebras as a present. I would like, Mr. President to bring to your attention that the direct descendants of these wild animals are today roaming in the precinct of Washington zoo in DC. Ethiopia always cherished the genuine friendship that exists between our two countries. Ethiopia stood firmly with United States in the Korean War of 1953. Ethiopia was one of the few United Nations Member States who contributed troops to fight North Korea, Ethiopian soldiers fought gallantly on the battleground until the end of the war. It has been said at the time that the American General who led the American forces in the war was hugely admired the fighting spirit and the bravery of the Ethiopian troops who participated in the war. In addition, Ethiopia, stood by the side of the United Nation in resolving the civil war in the Congo, in early 1960s, by contributing Ethiopian forces to the UN peacekeeping operation.

Mr. President, on the same token, present day, I believe in peaceful resolution of problems and misunderstandings. When Ethiopia began planning the construction of Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, over the Blue Nile River, eight years ago, in 2012, Ethiopia informed the Egyptian side the detail of the Dam and its use to Ethiopian economy, however, the Egyptian government started becoming hostile ever since, the start of the construction of the Dam. Ethiopia took the initiative of undertaking a tripartite negotiation between Ethiopia, Egypt, and the Sudan, in good faith. On the other hand, Egypt kept on scuttling the negotiation at every turn to the disappointment Ethiopia and Sudan. Egypt took the issue to the United Nations Security Council to secure a ruling against the interest of Ethiopia. Egypt also took the Dam case and appealed to the Arab league to interfere with the construction of the Dam. Taking the Dam issue to all sorts of international institutions has been Egypt’s modus operandi. The Government of Egypt proposed to the tripartite negotiation the idea of involving the United States Government, and the World Bank. Ethiopia, agreed to and continued to participate in the negotiation, once again, in good faith, and was frustrated when it found out that the United State Government has prepared a draft agreement which favors’ the position of Egypt. Ethiopia sought to find out that the US Government, is no longer an honest observer, and is trying to meddle in the internal affair of Ethiopia. Subsequently, Ethiopia informed all parties that the US Position is unfair, biased and unacceptable, and temporality suspended its participation in the tripartite negotiation on the Ethiopian Dam. Therefore, Mr. President, this is to bring to your attention that there are about 2,000,000 Ethiopian American citizens in the United States of America. We appeal to you to take an impartial stand on the Blue Nile Dam issue, and stop supporting the Egyptian position. The world community, we feel, will not accept the unfair judgment of the United States on the Nile Dam. Ethiopia, by historical, and is not the accident, is the source of Blue Nile River. Ethiopia has the right to use the Nile water without jeopardizing the interest of the downstream riparian states of Sudan and Egypt. The United States of America, built, several decades ago, the Hoover Dam without any fuss from Mexico. Similarly, Ethiopia stood gallantly on the battleground and is trying to meddle in the internal affair of Ethiopia. The US Position is unfair, and is trying to meddle in the internal affair of Ethiopia. The US has been acting as a power house for continuous economic development of the East African region.

Mr. President, I am, an Ethiopian-American and have been very active in the American political system since my arrival in this great nation back in 70s. I am currently in Ethiopia as an American citizen, I since appreciate your understanding of my thoughts.

Assefa Adefris
661 Vanderbilt Ave
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11238, N.Y
In an event organized on Wednesday at the Addis Ababa city administration premises, a group of five companies has contributed their fair share to the fight against COVID-19 in Ethiopia, and the pandemic hotspot Addis Ababa. Takele Umme, Deputy Mayor of the City, received various medical equipment, financial support, construction equipment and disinfectant machineries provided by the five companies, totally worth 38 million birr. The five companies are Bamacon Engineering, USAID-save the children, Ethiopian Industrial Input Development Enterprise, Bizza Ride and Berki Technology.
The International Community School of Addis Ababa (ICS) invites interested bidders to submit price offers for the following items on “as is where is” basis.

I. One Refabricated house with three partitioned rooms (Size of Each Room- L12mxW6.95mxH2.25m).

II. Used Hand Wash Basins & WCs

III. Metal & Wood Scraps

INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS:

1. Bid document will be sold at the School’s Cashier office on working days for a non-refundable Br. 100.00 (One hundred) starting from Monday Aug 17 until Thursday Aug 20, 2020 between 9:30AM and 3:00PM. Cashier’s office will be closed for lunch from 12:00pm to 1:00pm.

2. Bidders should purchase a bid document to inspect the materials. Bid offers can be submitted within the above specified date and time frame. The closing date of the bid is Thursday Aug. 20, 2020 at 3:00PM.

3. Please note that The International Community School doesn’t collect VAT.

4. The successful bidder would be notified by a letter of award to make payment to International Community School of Addis Ababa within three business days to remove the scrap items. The buyer is responsible to dismantle and remove the refabricated house and other scraps within three working days after the date of announcement.

5. If the winner fails to pay the winning amount to the school on the specified date and remove the awarded items, the school shall withhold the entire Bid Bond amount (even if the bid bond covers a bid offer for other items) and dispose the scraps in any way it sees fit.

6. The International Community School of Addis Ababa is unable to provide any assistance, either mechanical or manpower, for the dismantling and removal of scrap items. All costs related to the removal of the refabricated house and other scrap items will be covered by the buyer.

7. Bids must be accompanied with a bid bond of 5% of the total offered value endorsed by certified cheque (CPO). The bid bond will be returned to unsuccessful bidders after completion of the bid process. Bid bond of successful winner would be considered with the winning amount.

8. Bids received after the closing date will be automatically rejected.

9. The International Community School of Addis Ababa reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids for any reason.

Bids should be marked as “Purchase of Scrap Items” and submitted to the School’s Cashier Office by following address before or on Thursday August 20, 2020 till 3:00pm.

International Community School of Addis Ababa
Old Airport Road, PO Box 70282, Addis Ababa

For further information, please contact the School’s Property Management Office,
Tel. 011 371 15 44 Ext. 5016, Mob. 0912 07 11 91

---

**CALL FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE**

Education Development Trust (Ed Dev Trust) is intending to recruit an experienced consulting company or institution that will conduct a thematic study on Survey and Analysis of the Existing Situation of the General Education Sector in terms of Students’ Learning outcome and Enrolments.

Education Development Trust is an education charity that exists to transform lives by improving education around the world. We work collaboratively with national and local governments, schools, and other partners to design and deliver sustainable solutions to improve education.

Ed Dev Trust is implementing DFID funded TARGET project (which stands for Technical Assistance to Reinforce General Education Quality Improvement Programme for Equity, GEQIP-E) in Ethiopia since August 2019, through providing targeted Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Education at Federal, Regional, Woreda and school levels.

Ed Dev Trust is intending to recruit an experienced consultant that will undertake Survey and analysis of the existing situation of the General Education Sector in terms of Students’ Learning outcome and Enrolments in Ethiopia. The Consultant is expected to launch a pilot test using PISA and/or TIMSS or similar international assessment tools to establish a baseline data of our 15 years old student’s performance in major subject areas and also expected to develop workable/realistic National Assessment Framework for Ethiopia. In addition to this, Consultant shows their interest to work with the Ed Dev Trust/ TARGET and MoE team to establish reliable, valid, and timely high-quality baseline data on learning outcomes and enrolments that is used to monitor equitable educational outcomes, inform evidence-based policymaking and reform processes, planning, and improve teaching and learning practice by applying robust statistical analysis.

The desired consultant should possess legal entity with proven experience in related assignments in the education sector. Interested firms/institutions are expected to provide comprehensive information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services including a description of similar assignments done and experience in similar conditions. Applicants are highly encouraged to form joint ventures or partnerships to include expertise from different organizations, including consultancy firms, research centres and Universities.

Interested applicants can request the Terms of Reference (ToR) by sending a request to etprocurement@educationdevelopmenttrust.com. All proposals must be submitted by 5:00pm August 29, 2020 to the same email address. Please use the following format for the email subject line: Survey and Analysis of the Existing Situation of the General Education Sector. All proposals must be submitted in electronic format.
AARTI STEEL PLC

COLD ROLLED BLACK STEEL COILS

GALVANIZED STEEL COILS

GALVANIZED CURRUGATED SHEETS / 35, 32, 30 & 28

COLOR COATED STEEL COILS

COLOR CURRUGATED SHEETS

TRAPZIPIDAL COLOR EGA SHEETS

AARTI VERSA / 220 COLOR ROOF TILES

COLOR ROOF TILES

AARTI TELIGAN / 220 COLOR ROOF TILES

Square steel hollow sections
- 12 x 12 x 0.8 x 1.3 x 3.2 x 4.0
- 15 x 15 x 0.8 x 1.3 x 3.2 x 4.0
- 16 x 16 x 0.8 x 1.3 x 3.2 x 2.4
- 20 x 20 x 0.8 x 1.3 x 3.2 x 2.4
- 25 x 25 x 0.8 x 1.3 x 3.2 x 2.4
- 30 x 30 x 0.8 x 1.3 x 3.2 x 2.4
- 35 x 35 x 0.8 x 1.3 x 3.2 x 2.4
- 40 x 40 x 0.8 x 1.3 x 3.2 x 2.4

Circular steel hollow sections

Rectangular steel hollow sections

Head Office Address
Meganeigna Gond Shola Peacan Plt, 4th Floor
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Tel: +251 116 67 30 63
Fax: +251 116 67 30 62
Kebel Tulu Guracha
Oromia Ethiopia
Tel: +251 114712198, 114712201
Email: aartithiopia@gmail.com

Sales Outlet
Gond Shola: +251 313 67 30 63
Bahir Dar: +251 313 67 30 62
Mekele: +251 313 67 30 62
Kebel Tulu Guracha
Oromia Ethiopia
Tel: +251 114712198, 114712201
Email: aartithiopia@gmail.com

Sales Department: 0927 155830, 0930 00 37 39
0930 078944, 0910 49 54 03
Factory Address: 0993 86 37 36 19
+251 114712198/+251 114712201/+251 114712204
Gola city, Kona road AARTI STEEL PLC

www.thereporterethiopia.com
Crossword puzzle

ACROSS
1. Not south
6. Hourly pay
10. Rapscallions
14. Great black cockatoo
15. Corrosive
16. Not less
17. Discourage
18. A step on a ladder
19. Fiber source
20. Audience
23. Indolence
24. Washing machine cycle
25. Jab
29. Marine
31. Pillar
32. Of a pelvic bone
33. Transportable
34. Jumps
36. Sea eagle
37. Ethical motive
38. Shooting star
39. Retirement benefit
40. Aircraft engine
41. He fights blazes
42. Type of marmoset
43. An illegal enterprise
44. British title
45. Squad
46. Opaque gems
47. Cover girl
48. Artificial waterway
49. Jumps
50. Overlapped
51. Slow down
52. Anger
53. Region
54. Squad
55. Countercurrent
56. Hindus princess
57. North American deer (plural)
58. Broadcast
59. A promiscuous woman
60. Beers
61. Beg
62. Catch a glimpse of
63. Celebration
64. Squallid
65. Subject
66. Hourly pay
67. Objective
68. Sharpen
69. A male witch
70. Injures
71. Fool
72. Backsides
73. Border
74. A clothing fabric
75. Unhearing
76. Hindering
77. A promiscuous woman
78. Proposal for
79. Proposal for
80. Proposal for

DOWN
1. Zero
2. Mining finds
3. Rodents
4. Tail woody plant
5. Injures
6. A male witch
7. Sharpen
8. A clothing fabric
9. Border
10. Overlapped
11. Fool
12. Backsides
13. Feel
14. Feel
15. Feel
16. Feel
17. Feel
18. Feel
19. Feel
20. Feel
21. Feel
22. Feel
23. Feel
24. Feel
25. Feel
26. Feel
27. Feel
28. Feel
29. Feel
30. Feel
31. Feel
32. Feel
33. Feel
34. Feel
35. Feel
36. Feel
37. Feel
38. Feel
39. Feel
40. Feel
41. Feel
42. Feel
43. Feel
44. Feel
45. Feel
46. Feel
47. Feel
48. Feel
49. Feel
50. Feel
51. Feel
52. Feel
53. Feel
54. Feel
55. Feel
56. Feel
57. Feel
58. Feel
59. Feel
60. Feel
61. Feel
62. Feel
63. Feel
64. Feel
65. Feel
66. Feel
67. Feel
68. Feel
69. Feel
70. Feel
71. Feel
72. Feel
73. Feel
74. Feel
75. Feel
76. Feel
77. Feel
78. Feel
79. Feel
80. Feel

Your Zodics

Aries
Try to be considerate in your personal relations. You may find yourself mixed up in a triangle of sorts. Try to deal with the problems of those less fortunate, however, don’t allow them to make unreasonable demands. You will be emotional about money matters.

Taurus
Don’t be afraid to make additions to your house. You can expect changes at your work place. Risky financial ventures will result in unrecoverable losses. Do not expect too much from others.

Gemini
You may exaggerate your emotional situation. Keep your cash in your pocket and offer them sound advice rather than your financial assistance. Hold your temper and refrain from doing anything that might cause injury. It won’t take much to upset your lover.

Can you spot the 12 differences between the two pictures?

Answer:

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

new to netflix

1. All Together Now (2020)
2. Secret Origins (2020)
3. Rising Phoenix (2020)
5. Emily’s Wonder Lab (2020-)
6. The Sleepover (2020)
7. Hoops (2020-)
8. Alien TV (2020-)
9. Boschackers (2020-)
10. Boschackers (2020-)

www.thereporterethiopia.com
Preparations underway to build an Olympic museum, village

By Dawit Tolesa

The Olympic Games, originally scheduled to take place in August 2020, was postponed due to the pandemic, leaving athletes around the world stranded and out of work, unable to train and exercise. One of the biggest sporting events in the world brings athletes and spectators alike together, with an abounding sense of national pride.

The 2020 Summer Olympics was the upcoming international multi-sport event where Ethiopia will be represented in athletics, boxing and Taekwondo events. Similar to athletes around the world, Ethiopian athletes, predominantly earning there leaving from participating in events, have been hit hard, with the mental side of the pandemic yet to be assessed. The Ethiopian Olympic Committee (EOC) has been preparing various initiatives in order to support the Olympic team.

A couple of months ago, in collaboration with Sports Commission and the Government, the EOC has been conducting several programs aimed at building an Olympic Museum. According to the EOC president Ashebir Woldegorgis (MD), there is a plan to raise funds up to three billion birr, to build an Olympic village.

“The Olympic village is going to be constructed and will rest on 110,000 sq km plot of land,” Ashebir said.

In addition, the committee’s chairperson Abdula Gemeda said that there are program’s aimed at expanding the Olympic Village to regional states.

The new project was proposed to be constructed after the Prime Minister first planned to have a fund raising program in the national palace. Following this initiative, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) awarded Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed with the highest African recognition, the “ANOCA ORDER OF MERIT,” for his exemplary commitment to sports and the Olympic Movement.

In other news, the EOC is preparing to build an Olympic museum in Addis Ababa. The Reporter has learnt that in the coming days, the IOC is going to have a fund raiser at the Office of the Prime Minister. The IOC also pointed out the Ethiopian delegates it will send to Qatar, in order to share experience. The delegate is also going to discuss with Abiy, on the overall museum design, as well as relative issues.

The Olympic Museum, which was opened in 1993 in Ouchy, a district of Lausanne, is considered as an example.