By Dawit Endeshaw

Just a week after Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn rejected calls by the UN and EU for an independent probe into the deaths of hundreds of people during months of anti-government protests in parts of the country, the UN Human Rights Chief, Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein is set to visit Ethiopia next week.

In his interview with BBC the PM explicitly reject an independent investigation. “No one can come and investigate Ethiopia,” Hailemaraim said. “It is an independent country that is able to investigate its own case.”

The visit by the Chief comes after an official invitation by the Ethiopian government, read a statement issued by the Commission where its headquarters is based in Geneva, Switzerland. “The invitation came from the Ethiopian government,” sources at the Commission told The Reporter.

Zeid, upon his visit from May 2 to May 4, 2017 will speak with the Prime Minister, UN Human Rights... page 35

By Dawit Endeshaw

TIENS Ethiopia Business PLC, a Chinese multinational company, which has been banned from operating in Ethiopia, has brought its case to the cassation bench of the Federal Supreme Court challenging the Ministry of Trade for its decision to terminate TIENS’s activity in Ethiopia.

It was last year that the ministry has passed the decision to ban the company from operating on the grounds that TIENS’s business model is not permitted in Ethiopia. The Ministry accused TIENS of running a pyramid scheme.

TIENS fights ban in Ethiopia

According to the Ethiopian Trade Practices and Registrations Proclamation, a pyramid-like network scheme is prohibited in Ethiopia. TIENS is a Chinese multinational company based in Tianjin, a major port city in North Western China. It was said to be founded by Li Fist of fury
Embedding accountability in nation’s psyche!

A country claiming to be democratic must uphold the axiom that it is a nation of laws, not of men. Accountability and transparency are the hallmarks of a society that abides by this maxim. The three arms of the government may function in harmony and within the bounds of their mandate insofar as accountability is strictly enforced. Such a system of checks and balances obviates the need to have well-meaning people perform functions free of any partisanship to any political organization(s). The same principle is true for the police and security services. Party functionaries must not mix party and government affairs when they are on behalf of the government. Institutions that report to Parliament should not be under the thumb of the executive even if they look to it for budgetary allocation.

The boundary between the role of government and party is blurred. Though the ruling party leads the government, the powers and responsibilities ought to be clearly delineated. For instance, the constitution of Ethiopia stipulates that the armed forces shall carry out their functions free of any partisanship. As attested to by a slew of recently released documents, the same principle is true for the police and security services. Party functionaries must not mix party and government affairs when they are on behalf of the government. Institutions that report to Parliament should not be under the thumb of the executive even if they look to it for budgetary allocation.

Similarly, legislatures at the federal down to local levels must faithfully exercise oversight power over the executive and not let themselves be dominated by it. The judiciary also needs to enjoy the independence the constitution guarantees it and act without interference from both the legislature and the executive. As attested to by a slew of recently released studies, the judiciary is as important as the legislature in the constitution. If the rule of law is to take root in Ethiopia, it is incumbent upon citizens in general and the government in particular to make accountability a national tradition. Another indicator of the lack of accountability is the blatant hampering of law enforcement efforts. Corruption has assumed epidemic proportions in Ethiopia. The areas particularly prone to corrupt practices are all too clear for everyone. Government procurement, land provisioning, tax evasion and municipal services figure prominently among the areas beset by rampant corruption. However, even if the government’s much vaunted “deep renewal” exercise is supposed to be in full swing, it is continuing unchecked.

The fact that the litany of grievances against managers and executives in the civil service are consistently ignored has compelled the public to wonder if corruption has been sanctioned by law and this is what “renewal” is all about. The absence of accountability points to the gross dereliction of duty by the government.

Goods imported by various government institutions at a considerable cost using desperately needed foreign exchange are falling in disrepair or expiring in stores and dry ports across the country because no one is held answerable for failure in duty. An inspection of the warehouses of many a government agency will for sure expose shocking deficiencies. A recent report submitted to Parliament reveals the extent of the problem. Early this week the Public Enterprises Standing Committee of Parliament disclosed while presenting its finding following a field visit that around one hundred containerized cargoes belonging to some five government agencies have been warehoused in three dry ports from two months to three-and-half years because of their owners’ inability to undertake the formalities necessary to take possession of them. Had the government been as firm with its own institutions as it was with private sector organizations, the wastage of resources that the nation barely affords could have been averted. This represents further evidence of lack of accountability.

Obvious to the constitutional diklat that the conduct of affairs of government must be underpinned by transparency and accountability the vast majority of public officials have the propensity to decline requests for information. Some even question the motives of or flat out threaten the party seeking the information. Such an egregious violation of the legally protected right to have access to publicly held information at the hand of officials who are either incompetent or reluctant to respond to the needs of citizens adversely affects the general public but more so the media given it constitutes an erosion of the rule of law. When accountability is in low supply those who crave to crown themselves king tend to proliferate.

In general accountability is an essential mechanism in ensuring that all government organs, officials, employees and agents duly discharge the responsibilities entrusted to them by law. In other words it is an indispensable tool to guarantee the rule of law. Its absence is bound to erode all, induce a melding of the role of the government and the ruling party, deal a blow to law enforcement efforts, dishhearten law-abiding citizens, lead to the infringement of basic liberties and miscarriage of justice, encourage corruption and lawlessness, engender instability, and mar the country’s reputation. No matter how impressive infrastructure development or economic growth is accomplished, they will be hard to sustain if transparency and accountability are not embedded in the nation’s psyche.
Drought affected people reach 7.8 mln
USD 740 million required for emergency food aid

By Birhane Fikade

The reoccurrence of drought and rain failure have induced the number of people in need of emergency food aid to increase to 7.8 million up from the 5.6 million identified during the last drought assessment in different part of Ethiopia.

According to the National Disaster and Risk Management Commission (NDRMC), rain failure and unexpected frost and flooding have contributed to extending the impact of the drought engulfing additional 2.063 million people in the Southern, Oromia and Amhara Regional States.

Debebe Zewdu, public relations director at NDRMC, told The Reporter that the biannual survey, which determines the status of crop production and the extent of the required food aid, has ended up...
Nation imports 70,000 vehicles in 9 months

Traffic accidents continue to soar

By Yonas Abiye

While shortage of transport remains a major challenge in Addis Ababa and the regions, close to 70,000 vehicles were imported into the country over the past nine months, raising the total number of cars in the country to 780,000, the Ministry of Transport (MoT) announced on Tuesday.

The ministry further noted that public safety has been a major concern due to the increasing number of traffic accidents that claimed some 2,046 lives and resulted in 6,000 injuries in the first six months of this fiscal year.

Presenting a nine-month performance report to the House of People’s Representatives (HPR), Minister of Transport Ahmed Shidie indicated that improving transport services in the country to meet public demand was among the priority tasks his department has been undertaking during the year.

Efforts made in that respect, according to Ahmed, include increasing the number of motor vehicles from 572,000 in 2014/15 to 920,000 by 2020. That would achieve the target of lifting the number of vehicles per 1,000 people from 5.9 to 9.2, he said.

The minister also indicated that the transport service has grown from year to year citing that the total number of travellers in motor vehicles which was around 301.8 million in 2015/16 has grown to 412.34 million in the nine months of 2016/17 thanks to additional routes, newly franchise service commenced recently and the expanded bus transport service.

ERCA pays 30 mln birr to KEFI Minerals in VAT refund

By Kaleyesus Bekele

The Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority (ERCA) paid 30 million birr (1.3 million dollars) to KEFI Minerals, a British mining firm engaged in gold exploration and production project in Ethiopia, in VAT refund.

KEFI Minerals, the gold exploration and development company, with projects in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia, is in the process of developing the Tulu Kapi gold mine in the Oromia Regional State, in Western Wollega Zone. At the initial phase of the gold mine development project the company is planning to invest 120 million dollars.

KEFI has claimed for a VAT refund of 33 million birr. In a statement sent to The

Bank of Ethiopia, Saturday, April 29, 2017

TENDER NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP):

The office of the United Nations high commissioner for refugees in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, invites interested, qualified and registered companies for the following tender:

1. Establishment of a two year local frame agreement for provision of annual vehicles inspection service

RFP: HCR-AA-2017-013

Interested companies may wish to collect the tender documents from the UNHCR Country office in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, at the following address:

UNHCR Country office,
Supply Management Service,
Bole road near to Saay Pastry.

Working hours:
Monday to Thursday from 09:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 16:00
Friday from 09:00 – 14:00

Collection period: Effective from 1 MAY 2017 until 26 MAY 2017

THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF OFFERS IS 12:00 HOURS LOCAL TIME ON 29 May 2017.

Company Representative(s) collecting the tender documents will be required to provide a proof of affiliation with the company and provide contact details. An official company stamp is also required.

Offers must be hand delivered in a sealed envelope and deposited in the tender box located at UNHCR Country office, Supply Management Service, Bole road near to Saay Pastry – Addis Ababa.

Late offers will not be considered.

UNHCR

SUPPLY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
Oromia police arrests Ministry of Mines official

By Kuleyesus Bekele

Oromia Regional State Police arrested Tewolde Teklebechian, director of Mineral marketing and Value Chain Directorate with the Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas, in Modjo town on April 21 in connection with an export mineral shipment.

Reliable sources at the ministry told The Reporter that the Modjo town police arrested Tewolde accusing him of a wrong doing with a mineral shipment coming from south Oromia some months back. “A couple of months ago, the Modjo Police ceased a mineral shipment (gemstones) coming to Addis Ababa at Modjo town checkpoint. But since the shipment was legal Tewolde wrote a letter to the Modjo police demanding the release of the shipment. The mineral cargo had all the required legal shipment documents. Accordingly, the shipment was released. For unclear reasons the Modjo police arrested Tewolde in connection with that shipment released some months back,” a senior official of the Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas told The Reporter.

As head of the Mineral marketing and Value Chain Directorate Tewolde is responsible for the inspection of the origins of gemstones and tantalum minerals destined for export market. He inspected the validity of the trade permit of the owner of the miner and checks if royalty payment is paid to the regional state. After that they seal the minerals and accompany the shipment to Airport Customs Office.

Tewolde is expected to appear before court this week. “The minister instructed the legal department to follow his case,” sources told The Reporter.

Attempts to reach the Modjo Police were not successful until The Reporter went to press.

The Mineral Marketing and Value Chain Directorate was established two years ago after it was separated from the Artisanal Mining Transaction and Coordination Directorate.

Pizza Hut announces launch of first restaurants in Ethiopia

By Samuel Getachew

After being attracted to the Ethiopian market for years, Yum! Brands Inc. is set to launch Pizza Hut to the Ethiopian market within the next six months.

This comes three years after Bruce Layzell, Yum’s general manager of new African markets endorsed the idea of entering the Ethiopian market on condition of finding the right partner. “We’re certainly nowhere near pushing the go button, it’s still at that explore stage, to find the right partner, to see if the business model will work,” he said in 2014.

Fast forward to 2017, on Tuesday, the Kentucky-based fast-food chain made its partnership public with the jack-of-all-trades local company, Belayab Enterprises PLC at Golden Tulip Hotel. The pact calls for three restaurants to be operational within the next six months and a further seven to be added within the next three years. The initial locations are to be within Bole, Old Airport and CMC areas.

Yum! has been on the lookout for its expansions outside of its traditional territories of North America, after its repeated efforts to refurbish its products which failed to make expected gains and as many of its patrons are becoming health conscious and are living healthier lifestyles. On the verge of becoming an industrialized nation and with new found spending power to its close to 100 million population, Ethiopia is beginning to attract a slew of international brand-name multinational companies.

“Ethiopia, has grown significantly in recent years, and it is a major opportunity to bring this world-renowned brand to the Ethiopian consumer, with their unique deep Pan Pizza base, fresh ingredients, and the abundance of pizza toppings, there is no doubt that Pizza Hut will be successful in Ethiopia,” Aschalew Belay, a minority shareholder of the new partnership, said.

Since 2014, the world’s largest pizza chain has opened close to 200 restaurants in a number of African countries including Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Swaziland, South Africa and Nigeria. It sees the African continent as its next frontier and is looking at expanding in the years to come.

“We are honored and excited to bring Pizza Hut to Ethiopia in the near future, and continue to add great partners to our African adventure. There has never been a more exciting time to be a part of the Pizza Hut family,” Ewan Davenport, general manager of Pizza Hut Africa, said.

“Ethiopia, has grown significantly in recent years, and it is a major opportunity to bring this world-renowned brand to the Ethiopian consumer, with their unique deep Pan Pizza base, fresh ingredients, and the abundance of pizza toppings, there is no doubt that Pizza Hut will be successful in Ethiopia,” said Tewolde Teklebechian, director of Mineral marketing and Value Chain Directorate with the Ministry of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas, in Modjo town on April 21 in connection with an export mineral shipment.
Supreme Court rejects DBE’s petition to freeze debtor assets

By Dawit Endeshaw

The embattled Crown Textile Weaving PLC has once again won its epic court battle surrounding Edget Yarn and Sewing Thread Manufacturing SC, which it bought from the government under the privatization program a decade ago.

In its hearing on Monday, the Federal High Court rejected the Development Bank of Ethiopia’s petition to see the asset of Edget Yarn & Sewing Thread Manufacturing SC frozen until Crown settles a working capital loan it took five years back.

Edget Yarn, which was once under the ownership of the state, was transferred to Crown Textile back in October, 2006 as part of the state privatization program. At the time, Crown acquired Edget Yarn at a total cost of 47.7 million birr from the then Privatization and Public Enterprises Supervising Agency (PPESA). Upon the transfer, Crown paid 35 percent of the total amount.

The case began to unfold as DBE sued Crown Textile for unsettled 64 million birr, which was given as a loan to Crown. The loan, which was disbursed in 2012, during the tenure of Esayas Bahire, former president of DBE, was given as a working capital loan. It was said to be used to finance cotton raw material.

In that regard, the Bank claimed he working capital loan that Crown owes and argued for the settlement of the sum.

Having this in mind, back in March, 2017, the Bank petitioned the Lideta High Court to freeze all assets owned by Edget, which DBE claimed to be fully owned by Crown.

However, Crown counter argued that Crown and Edget are two different entities (companies), having separate legal personalities, and that Edget should not be liable for the case.

The bank explained to the court that Crown has already acquired Edget; and that the latter has used Edget as collateral to get loans before.

DBE’s lawyer also recalled a prior court case involving Crown and another company called Semera Agro Industries PLC, where the latter claimed that it has an ownership over Edget. However, at the time, the court has ruled in favor of Crown saying that Edget is rightly owned by it (Crown).

In 2010, another disagreement ensued between Abdullahi Jabor, a major shareholder of Semera, and Mulunesh

Three progress in tablet supply tender

By Dawit Endeshaw

Two Chinese and one US-based companies are now in the final round of the competition for the supply of 180,000 digital tablets to be used in the upcoming national population and housing census. Lenovo, Huawei, both based in China and Bak USA were said to be the two bidders passing into the financial stages of the bid process.

Lenovo, Huawei, both based in China and Bak USA have manage to progress to the financial stage of the bid process, it was learnt.

In this respect, Public Procurement and Property Administration Agency has given a final verdict on complaint filed by bidders, leaving the only local company, Tecno mobile PLC, behind.

The Compliant Board of Public Procurement and Property Administration Agency has been looking into the appeal by three bidders including Tecno Mobile, Simbo Resource and Lenovo.

The companies have gone to the Procurement Agency one month ago arguing against a decision made by the Public Procurement and Property Disposal Service to drop them from passing into the financial stages of the tender.

One month ago, the Service, which is in charge of the bid process to purchase the tablet on behalf of Central Statistics Agency, has announced that only two companies out of the nine competitors have progressed through to the (final) financial stage. The Chinese Huawei and Bak USA were said to be the two bidders which made it through.

Following that, various complaints were filed to the Service. However, the Service later dropped the appeals and went forward.

After looking into the same appeal, the regulatory Agency has, however, come out with a different decision. The Compliant Board, presided over by Admassu Nebebe, state minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, has issued its final ruling on the case on April 24, 2017.

While accepting Lenovo’s claim to pass through to the final stage, to their dismay, the board stated that Tecno and Simbo are not fit to pass through.

The Procurement Agency has assessed the respective technical results of the companies.

Two sentenced for planning terror attacks

Two individuals have been sentenced for up to six years and six months of rigorous imprisonments for planning to carry out a terror attack in Ethiopia.

According to the Federal Attorney General, the defendants, identified as Bedris Yousef and Anix Usman, were arrested three years ago while they were planning to carry out a terror attack.

The defendants received trainings from the Al-Qaeda linked Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab after becoming members of the group, the charge sheet indicated.

They were also active in recruiting members to establish an Al-Shabaab cell in Ethiopia.

The first defendant, Bedris in particular took part in an exchange of gunfire held nine years ago in Mogadishu between the militant group and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

The Federal High Court 19th criminal bench today sentenced the first defendant to six years and six months of rigorous imprisonment, while the second defendant was sentenced to six years and six months in prison. (FBC)

2017 World Hydropower Congress to be held in Ethiopia next month

The 2017 World Hydropower Congress will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 9–11 May 2017, under the theme “how to do ‘better hydro’ in a changing world,” according to a report by Fana Broadcasting Corporation (FBC).

The Congress, which expected to be held for the first time in Africa, will explore a diversity of perspectives and examine how initiatives of governments, businesses, finance, civil society and academia can advance sustainable development.

Hydropower currently provides 70 percent of the world’s renewable electricity, supplying more than a billion people across 132 countries.

It mitigates climate change by offsetting greenhouse-gas emissions and the use of fossil fuel, equivalent to six billion barrels of oil per year.

According to the International Hydropower Association (IHA), the Congress will bring together leaders and specialists to set the course for hydropower’s contribution to future energy and water systems. (FBC)
**ITU commends Huawei for driving innovation in Africa**

By Samuel Getachew

The International Telecom Union (ITU) has praised the Chinese multinational ICT giant, Huawei Technologies, for driving innovation in Africa.

“With the vision of bridging the digital divide, Huawei has never ceased in driving innovation and development in the industry,” Andrew Rugege, Regional Director of the International Telecommunication Union, the regional office for Africa said.

“Together, we can build a better connected Africa and I hope that Huawei can become partners with us to make this happen. It is not only a sponsor but also a potential future employer with 18 years’ of experience in Africa,” Rugege said at the ICT day held at the headquarters of the African Union on Thursday.

Since 2016, the Chinese multinational company has been one of the main architects of the ICT sector in Ethiopia.

“Huawei and ITU are long-term strategic partners and our cooperation and support will remain the same,” a representative from Huawei said.

The Information Communications Technology (ICT) day, a United Nations endorsed initiative marked to highlight the need of more women in the IT sector, was held on Thursday, April 28th as part of the International Girl in ICT day.

Ethiopia has been observing and marking the worldwide held event for a strategic initiative marked to highlight the need of more women in the IT sector.

For that event, the Chinese multinational ICT giant, Huawei Technologies, has been one of the main architects of the ICT sector in Ethiopia.

“Together, we can build a better connected Africa and I hope that Huawei can become partners with us to make this happen. It is not only a sponsor but also a potential future employer,” Andrew Rugege said.

Prime Minister Hailamariam Dessalegn has appointed Yohannes Tilahun, the former General Electric (GE) Ethiopia head, to lead the Ethiopian Tourism Organization (ETO), replacing Solomon Tadesse, the founding Chief Executive Officer.

Zooming in on the tourism sector, Hailamariam has initiated a number of new reforms including new structures such as ETO to promote the tourism industry aiming to reap benefits out of the untapped potentials in industry.

For that effect, he has moved to chair the national tourism transformation council, which is composed of private and public enterprises, religious organizations, prominent personalities and others. The day-to-day operations of the ETO, among others include, developing tourist destinations and marketing the industry on the global arena.

According to sources close to the matter, Solomon failed short of meeting expectations. Dissatisfied by the performances of the former CEO, the PM has appointed Yohannes, who is an outsider to the sector as was his predecessor, the same sources said.

Yohannes told The Reporter that he has been first introduced to work for the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) as senior director of public relations but never anticipated to be assigned to his new post. Yohannes has been living abroad for 17 years before joining the ATA. His profile indicates that he is passionate to work for public agencies but never anticipated to be assigned to his new post. Yohannes has been first introduced to work for the Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) as senior director of public relations but never anticipated to be assigned to his new post.

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Former GE Ethiopia head to lead ETO

By Birhanu Fikade

Prime Minister Hailamariam Dessalegn has appointed Yohannes Tilahun, the former General Electric (GE) Ethiopia head, to lead the Ethiopian Tourism Organization (ETO), replacing Solomon Tadesse, the founding Chief Executive Officer.

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**Somalia President makes first international state visit to Turkey**

Somali President Mohammed Abdullahi Farmajo accompanied by a high level delegation visited Turkey from Tuesday following an official invitation by the Turkish President.

The African President held talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on his three day state visit, around the areas of humanitarian aid, security, trade and other key strategic issues.

Farmajo visited the resting place of great Turkish leader Ataturk today, founder of the Republic of Turkey who served as its first President from 1923 until his death in 1938.

Farmajo also visited Turkey’s Parliament building & held talks with Speaker Ismail Kahraman.

The Horn African nation has signed a new agreement with Turkey, Lutfi Elvan, minister of development of Turkey and the visiting Somalia’s Foreign Affairs Minister Yusuf Garad Omar have inked a deal on culture and development in Ankara. (CGTN)

**Precious Gemstone Sapphire found in Tigrai**

Huge deposit of most precious gemstone Sapphire found in Tigrai State northern Ethiopia, Voice of America reported on Thursday.

According to the report, a massive deposit of sapphire has been found in Tigrai State northern Ethiopia. Sapphire is the most precious and valuable blue gemstone on Earth. Blue sapphire is the most desirable gemstone next diamond due to its excellent blue color, hardness, durability, and luster.

The deposit is found in three parts of Tigrai State around central, western and north western of the state. According to Mr. Maerig Hadush, Tigrai state official of mining and energy sector, about six thousand local traditional miners are mining in the different locations. The sapphire is sold 2500 to 3500 Birr per gram in local markets the official indicated. He added the government is working for the gemstone to be sold as an Ethiopian sapphire in the world market. Some companies are marketing it as a Madagascar sapphire in the world market.

Some local traditional miners are mining the sapphire in the different locations. The sapphire is sold 2500 to 3500 Birr per gram in local markets the official indicated. He added the government is working for the gemstone to be sold as an Ethiopian sapphire in the world market. Some companies are marketing it as a Madagascar sapphire in the world market. Some companies are marketing it as a Madagascar sapphire in the world market.

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TRAILERS
- 3-Axle Dry Cargo Drawbar Trailers
- 3-Axle Fuel Cargo Draw Bar Trailers
- 3-Axle Dry Cargo Semi-Trailers
- 2-Axle Dry Cargo Semi-Trailers
- Cargo Body for Trucks
- Tipper Body

OTHERS
- Designing, Fabricating & Installation of Depot and Service Station Canopies
- Designing, Fabricating & Installation of tsteel structures
- Fabrication of Underground & above Ground Fuel and Water Tanks.

Many more to come!

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Stirring Africa’s resource ‘curse’ into blessing

Many of the countries in Africa are among the poorest in the world. What makes the persistence of poverty and lack of economic transformation in Africa unique is the availability of abundant natural and human resources that could change the lives of its inhabitants. For instance, studies reveal that the continent alone account for 12 percent of the global oil reserve, 40 percent of the gold deposits, and about two-thirds of the world’s most suitable land for farming and forests.

Unfortunately, and for various reasons, the continent has not been able to fully maximize the developmental benefits that should have accrued from exploiting these resources. The literatures on the African development identify different internal and external factors for the persistence of poverty and bad governance. Among other things, lack of facilitative environment for private sector growth, ineffective leadership, weak institutions, corruption, poor policy implementation; policy discontinuity, and an unjust world economic order can be mentioned in this context.

For example, the mispricing of natural resources in Africa leads to the loss of USD 50 billion every year, more than Africa’s combined foreign direct investment and overseas development aid. In addition, according to an Oxfam estimate, more than USD 18 billion per year is lost through resource-related conflicts in Africa, not including indirect costs.

In this context, Tana High-Level Forum provided a unique opportunity to decision making leaders and institutions to exchange experiences and insights on peace and security issues among themselves in view of taking home inspirations and practical lessons; and giving opportunities to political decision makers to interact and consult with a broad-based African constituency as well as with key global actors. The Forum brought together high-level decision makers on peace and security from the government/political sphere, non-African regional institutions, the private sector, critical segments of continental/regional civil society networks, as well as peace and security experts/resource persons. Representatives of select stakeholders in global peace and security were also invited.

Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson the Tana Forum Board, in his remarks entitled ‘State of Peace and Security in Africa 2017: Little or No Change’, highlighted key challenges of the continent in the context of security. “We are moving from the fairly liberal, stable if not totally predictable world to an unstable, unpredictable, populist, world with disequilibrium. There is danger for every nation and for every region in such a world. And Africa by virtue of its apparent weakness cannot wish for such a world where it will be a pawn and a victim especially in light of our current precarious peace and security situation,” he said.

This year, the Forum has tried to explain the challenges in governance of the ‘non-renewable’ extractive sectors (oil, gas and minerals) in Africa. It broadened the scope to include issues around the governance of other natural resources, specifically: (a) land, (b) water, (c) the seas, and (d) forests and biodiversity. It also sought to understand and explain why the exploitation of these resources is increasingly sources of tension and violence in ways that have profoundly disturbing impacts on peace and stability on the continent.

Generally, the Forum showed how, over time, the exploitation of the continent’s rich and diverse natural resources, both on land and sea, have created several paradoxes; in particular, those leading to inequality and poverty, corruption, unemployment, environmental degradation, violent conflicts, and the elusive quest to realize Africa’s full developmental potential. The 2016 African Development Bank report states, “[Over] the last 60 years, in any particular year, between 40 and 60 per cent of ongoing internal armed conflicts have been linked to natural resources.”

As Stergoena Lawrance Tax (PhD), SADC Executive Secretary, presented the ‘Summary and Takeaways’ of the 6th Tana Forum, the Forum reiterated that even if Africa is blessed with countless God-given resources, these resources are often negatively impacted by poor or insufficient systems of governance. “These resources if managed appropriately will transform African economies,” she said.

Solomon Ayele Dersso, Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and Peace and Security Analyst, was one of the panelists at the
It is well known that gains from the extractive and non-extractive sectors have been used to finance state-sponsored wars as well as non-state armed insurgencies of the types witnessed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sierra Leone and Liberia.

The growing interest in the African natural resources has led to an increase in foreign military presence. This is especially the case in areas that possess resources of global strategic relevance, such as oil, uranium, diamond and rare earth minerals.

For instance, the African extractive sector is dominated by external interests. In most African countries, the largely foreign-dominated extractive industry involved in the exploration, exploitation and trade of oil, gas and minerals accounts for a large chunk of foreign exchange earnings. In fact, it is also highlighted that the global resource politics is mainly generated by the involvement of multinational corporations. The continent is still unable to overhaul or control the logic and mechanisms that determine what and how much it can produce, as well as whom to sell to. The continent still produces what it does not consume, and consumes what it does not produce. Sadly, Africa is still over reliant on external support for the management of its natural resources and strategies to address its challenges.

Obasanjo observes that natural resources are highly leveraged between the local and global contexts. For instance, in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria where decades of oil exploration has resulted in a blighted environment, Obasanjo said.

In turn, this results in conflicts and, hence, insecurity, which gives an advantage to the global illicit players to smuggle the resources. For instance, the participants point out that it is well known that gains from the extractive and non-extractive sectors have been used to finance state-sponsored wars as well as non-state armed insurgencies of the types witnessed in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sierra Leone and Liberia. The displacement of people, coupled with the food crisis, unemployment and poverty, are factors that are breeding conflicts in some of the countries in Africa.

While investors have brought investments into the African states, there are obvious cases where the costs associated with the loss of the resources are more than the benefits from the investment. Investors leave behind huge environmental challenges which national governments have to address. This has become a source of conflict and dissatisfaction in many communities across Africa.

The growing interest in the African natural resources has led to an increase in foreign military presence. This is especially the case in areas that possess resources of global strategic relevance, such as oil, uranium, diamond and rare earth minerals. Unfortunately, the presence of foreign militaries is a source of conflict, in its own right, and...
Benyam Bisrat is one of the key players in the hospitality sector here. Besides his regular day job as managing director of Jupiter International Hotel, Benyam has been serving as the chairman of the Addis Ababa Hotel Owners’ Trade Sectoral Association. Since assuming the latter post, Benyam has been one of the most influential figures of the hospitality sector, which is currently evolving fast. Global chain operators have increasingly become attracted to the Ethiopian hospitality sector. Representing 105 hoteliers in the city, Benyam and his board are working on establishing a hospitality-training academy that would also feed the neighboring markets. He says that is a task that demands his untiring effort and undivided attention. Aside from the prospects of the sector, Benyam does not shy away from talking about the challenges the industry is facing. The state of emergency that has been extended for four more months has greatly impacted the industry. According to Benyam, a 20 percent decline in occupancy rates is what most hotels are currently experiencing. Benyam Bisrat recently sat down with Birhanu Fikade of The Reporter to talk about current developments and issues related to the hospitality industry. Excerpts:

Prospects and challenges of the tourism industry

The Reporter: Ethiopia is one of the top ten countries in Africa when it comes to hotel development. A study on the sector recognized the significance of evolving projects in Ethiopia. Could you tell me more about that?

Benyam Bisrat: We have managed to open one hotel per month for the last eight or nine years. Going forward, we are looking at 1.5 hotels opening per month in the city. Hundred of hotels are in the pipeline, about a quarter of which we hope to be global chains. Currently, we have an 8,000-room capacity, which in the next three years will increase significantly. Hence, I would imagine that we are in the top ten.

Many express wonder about services that are provided by hotels in Ethiopia. How do you see the hospitality sector’s provision of services?

I think we should look at it by taking into account where we started out. We have existing hotel owners that are expanding their business. We have international hotels coming in the form of global brand operators and, at times, these enter into joint ventures with local investors who had previously been engaged in other businesses.

But do you think services provided by the hotels are on par with the properties developed so far?

What we have talked so far is about the product side of things. Hotels opening up, and the buildings and the properties we see, are representing the product side. We are very good at developing hotels. We have fancier and superior quality hotels being developed. What’s more, well-appointed rooms have been made available in the hospitality market. But the service side is where more needs to be done. Naturally, we as a people are noted for being hospitable. It’s one of our attributes that we cherish as Ethiopians. But we don’t have a well-developed professional service delivery. Our association offers short-term training to hotel service providers to help them understand and be well attuned to the potential needs of guests. We are in the process of setting up a full-fledged hospitality academy with a view to training more people and addressing issues in the sector. Doing so will help us catch up with the products we have. We’d rather have better quality service first than products.

The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has been engaged in classifying and grading hotels over the past three years. I think the organization rolled out a project last year and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is now taking up the activities. Tell me more about that.

Grading and rating properties helps a lot. As far as the UNWTO is concerned, we have welcomed the star-rating program from the start. It helps us a lot in ensuring quality.

The UNWTO professionals were mandated to grade hotels here since 2014; and they completed the task last year. Does that mean that the country is not capable of star-rating hotels on its own?

I would say yes and no. I think as long as surveys are done by those who have been well trained and by those who have been honestly evaluating together with UNWTO professionals, we might rest assured that they could do the job right. I believe that we can do it on our own. What I can tell you is that we have been able to successfully launch an internationally standardized guide magazine that is totally based on home-grown talent, both in its design and content. From the inception to the final publication, it’s totally a product of local expertise. We have shown that is doable. I would say it’s a matter of training the folks who are engaged in star-rating hotels. We can’t keep on recruiting foreign professionals for a task that can be done by local experts. It’s costly.

Back in 2015, people said it was an opportune time for the hospitality and tourism sector as major travel rating sites publicized the country as one of the top destinations globally. But critiques say the sector is not well promoted showcasing the potentials it has and the opportunities it could have offered. The likes of Egypt, Indonesia, Sri Lanka have been advertising their attractions on the global stage. Is that something we should have done?
Yes, we can do that. We recently launched a new tourism brand and logo with the slogan, "Ethiopia: the land of origins." I think the Ethiopian Tourism Organization (ETO) is making efforts so the country is well represented on the global hospitality platform. If you ask me, “Have we done enough?” I would say ‘no’, and we need to do more. But it’s not just promotional activities that we need to look at as the sole thing we are lacking. We need to be certain that we have everything set in place. We need to be sure about the amenities, services and the like in the value chain. You don’t go out and promote a defective product or service for sale. First you have to see to it that what you have, you can sell on the market with confidence. Don’t get me wrong, and I am not saying the products and services we have in the hospitality sector are not sellable globally. Whatever we have right now can be promoted and sold on good terms. But we need to make progress as well. We can’t wait until the entire ecosystem is fully developed. Things can be done side by side.

The government came up with a ten-year master plan that it hopes, among other things, would raise twice-fold the contribution of the tourism and travel sector to the GDP. Could you comment on that?

Yes, I am aware of that master plan and it’s good to have such a guiding document in place. But it’s better to have initiatives implemented. What good does it make if it’s only on paper? We need to be good at implementing what we have in blueprint.

Tourism is very sophisticated, and yet can be vulnerable to political situations, just like the unrest and violence we experienced here in the recent past. But you sound very optimistic about the sector’s prospects while the effects of the state of emergency are still being felt in the tourism and travel business. What is your overall impression on that?

It’s unfortunate that we have had those incidents here. Any economy has its own ups and downs. The global community witnessed the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the London or Paris bombings. I’m not putting them in the same basket, but such disruptions are also happening in the west. Luckily enough, though, we have not experienced such shocking attacks. When we were experiencing public protests, some countries issued travel advisories, some of which have been amended or revoked. I need to stress that I have no reason to equate the incidents we have gone through to what others are, or have been, experiencing.

At one of the tourism transformation council meetings the Prime Minister chaired, you made a specific call for the government to seriously consider travel warnings and travel bans issued by many countries. You made that call soon after the state of emergency was issued. Any developments that you care to share with me now?

It’s not only tourism but the overall economy feels the burn. Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), receiving external aid, and what have you, would be very difficult to proceed normally as long as you have travel bans in place. They are well aware of the impacts and they have been working on the issue actively. The CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, who is also board chair of the Ethiopian Tourism Board, is closely engaged in efforts at having the travel bans lifted. I am sure the prime minister as well is keenly following the issue. They are seriously concerned about events unfolding.

Government statistics show that the tourism sector is becoming a significant source of hard currency revenues compared to the ill-fated export sector. But do you think the government accords the sector the necessary attention it deserves?

I think the government is paying due attention to the sector. Not only does the tourism sector greatly contribute to the GDP, the entire service industry is one of the biggest employers in the economy. In pre-Arab Spring Egypt, one in every 20 people was employed in the tourism sector. It plays a big role in economies. I don’t think there is any other country in Africa where the tourism sector is given such an importance as in Ethiopia where a tourism transformation council is chaired by the prime minister of the country. What’s more, the chief executive officer of Ethiopian Airlines heads the tourism board. It’s a public-private partnership that mostly focuses on tourism marketing, branding and the like. I think the government gives due attention to the sector.

How would you describe changes in the hospitality sector over the last five years?

As I said earlier, there have been significant developments. Look at the city, and, like I said, we are adding two hotels every three months. We have been very good at that. We are creating more jobs than before. Yet, we need to figure out the other side of the equation. We have to match the evolving supply with the demand. We can’t solely rely on the government to bring us more business. We are equally responsible for bringing business to our city; it could be in the form of having more frequent exhibitions, tourism or hotel fairs or in the form of incentives and travel activities. We need to go out and build a convention center. We need to be very

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Prospects and challenges... page 20
Who decides on parenting?

Gender issues, particularly the rights of women to a fair share in the distribution of social roles and responsibilities, has been on the national and global agenda for many years now. While progress has undeniably been registered over the decades, ensuring women’s empowerment remains a challenging undertaking, nowhere more so evident than in the smallest unit of society, viz., the family. It is a man’s world, as the saying goes. In developing countries like Ethiopia where the man is usually the breadwinner, whatever he says goes, and the woman is expected by her spouse (as well as by society at large) to defer to him. One hopes that fostering women’s economic empowerment would result in the upgrading of her status so she would be having a greater voice not only in the upbringing of children but also in decisions that have greater import at both societal and national levels. Tibebeselassie Tigabu of The Reporter ponders the topic in this issue of the paper.

"Balegen kussaake yege dele tseke," that loosely translates into, "one would be better of killing a spoiled brat than raising them," is a shocking Amharic saying that stresses the importance of bringing up a child in a disciplined manner. This sounds rather like a dark humor, which might create an uncomfortable sensation, but one thing is clear. Ethiopians take seriously the role of good parenting in forming a responsible adult. Nurturing parents try to pass to their offspring moral values, conceptions, norms and perspectives in order to prepare them for later life. This formulation of upbringing children is predominantly archaic. Still, in many households, quiet children who do not express themselves are preferred. Meanwhile, corporeal punishment still exists in many households.

It is not only the upbringing of children; rather the family structure is archaic where a man holds an authoritative sway over the family. Complete obedience and submissiveness is expected from not only children but also from a wife. Even in an urban setting, the responsibility of taking care of children is reserved for women, and there are instances where women give up careers to devote their time and energy to raising of children. Not surprisingly, the man tends to hold the most dominant position in the family as he is the one making decisions on family issues. This has been the traditional family structure but now many are now saying that the concept of the symmetrical family with shared conjugal roles has sunk in.

Mahlet Kebede, a mother of two, is a witness on how crucial it is for a functioning marriage that both parents have a say in making decisions on raising of children. Her first child is an eight-year-old boy and at this age, the most pertinent issues are the various games that he is allowed to play. In addition to that, their decision revolves around if he can attend the school carnival, can eat a cookie in school; balancing play and study times.

These issues, according to Mahlet, are topics of serious discussion between her and her husband. Mahlet claims since she and her spouse had been in a relationship for quite long, they have cultivated such a friendship that enables them to discuss matters in a calm and rational manner. Therefore, they devised a mechanism where deciding the matters after discussion or if one of them decides not to compromise or interfere in each other’s decision. However, Mahlet says that it is not all rosy; and there are instances where disagreements can lead to arguments, even though these do not flare up. One of the issues is that of corporeal punishment, which she is against and her husband is for. Mahlet notes, “On rare occasions when things are out of control and when I am annoyed, I might hit my eldest boy. On the other hand, my husband believes spanking is the best disciplining tool,” and adds that
“children actually do not respond well to corporeal punishment, and I don’t think it is the best option.”

Though she does not agree with her spouse in this, she accepts their difference calmly and both she and her husband are very careful not to argue in front of the children. Since the children are young, it is usually school and play that are causes of disagreement.

It is easier for Mahlet and her husband to be on the same page on most issues since they share the same social class, religion, and norms but what does happen when marriage partners have different socio-economic background, do not have the same set of values. This can be a “model” for the ideal family but this is not the mainstream standard of what a family is.

There are many who are critical of the essence of marriage and family. Marxists argue that the nuclear family performs ideological functions for the capitalist system where the family acts as a unit of consumption and teaches children passive acceptance of hierarchy.

They claim that it socializes people to think in a way that justifies inequality; one way in which this happens is that there is a hierarchy in most families, which teach children to accept, there will always be someone in authority who they must obey.

Many are critical of marriage because it promotes a patriarchal family structure. According to African American scholar Gloria Jean Watkins (aka bell hooks), “Patriarchy is a political-social system that insists that males are inherently dominant, superior to everything and everyone deemed weak especially females; and endowed with the right to dominate and rule over the weak and to maintain the dominance through various forms of psychological terrorism and violence.”

With this notion of patriarchy, bell hooks claims that children learn about the assignment of gender roles, and children are given continual guidance about the ways humans can best fulfill these roles. Though the understanding of patriarchy is regarded as it is only executed by men, bell hooks’ thought is different than that assumption.

“We need to highlight the role women play in perpetuating and sustaining the patriarchal culture so that we will recognize patriarchy as a system women and men support equally, even if men receive more rewards from the system.”

However, some people detest the notion of patriarchy as inequality is mirrored in most marriages, which are also reflected in decision-making and raising of children.

Daniel Seife is an electrical engineer and a father of two – a girl, 14, and a boy, 15.

While he is the breadwinner for the family, the mother of his children is a housewife, with raising of children among her responsibilities. According to Daniel, since his wife is not “educated”, he is the one responsible for giving their children advice and for responding to questions they have.

In the process of school enrollment and after-school study, he is the one who decides what is best for the children. Whereas Daniel accepts the Biblical notion of equality of the spouses, he, ironically considers his wife a subordinate. “As a mother, her main duty is taking care of them and nurturing them. We divided these roles equally,” Daniel says.

As a Christian, he strongly believes in the Biblical scripture of how a man is “the head of the house.” He draws inspiration from the Bible about obedience, loyalty, and respect for the family.

A man of few words, he strongly believes he is raising his children in a disciplined manner guided by religious morals.

The culture and the religion profess the supremacy of the father in both domestic and religious functions.

Children who are raised by a single mother are considered to have loose morals. In Amharic, the degrading term “yesset lij” that literally translates into “a child raised by a single mom,” is used to refer to such children. Many single women face this problem and many more tolerate an abusive marriage to save their children from having this “horrendous” name attached to them.

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Cry for a film industry revolution

I marvel at the number of Ethiopian movies that are out in cinemas and video stores these days. Ironically, the range of topics addressed in these movies is so limited that one wonders if nothing else of interest is happening or has happened in the country. Without exaggeration, the storyline of most of the movies out there goes like this. A rich girl comes to love a poor boy but without the approval of her friends and family. In the end, love wins and the two become one. Well, one might argue that the movie makers are at least proving a good point, which is that not all women are ‘gold-diggers’. On the other hand, these movies also imply that the majority of women in the real world are in fact ‘gold-diggers’, thereby justifying the need to make movies proving the contrary. As a woman myself, I find the latter view of women quite unignified. Women in our society are quite diverse and cannot be least bit be represented by such a lowly view.

One can observe dryness not only in the range of topics covered but also in the genre of the movies. Is romantic comedy or romance the only genres viewers are interested in? What happened to other movie genres we know of in American movies? One can think of a list that includes thriller, horror, biographies, science-fiction and historical genres. Maybe the fact that our film-making technologies are not that advanced can justify the lack of thriller, horror and science-fiction movies. But are we in short of Ethiopians with remarkable achievements whom we can celebrate through our movies? Why don’t we tell their stories so that people can learn from them? The honorable musician Tilahun Gessesse, the great runner Abebe Bikila, Emperor Menelik II of Ethiopia, the international supermodel Liya Kebede, the renowned scientist Kiitaw Ejigu, the remarkable artist Afework Tekle, and the economist Eleni Gabre-Medhin (PhD) are only the very few of the noteworthy individuals whose story we can tell.

Ethiopia has a rich history which our movie makers can bring back to life. Historical moments such as the suicide of Emperor Tewodros II, the ruling period of Empress Zewditu, the battle of Adwa and the exile of the Emperor Haile Selassie I are few of the historical moments we can commemorate through our movies. Of course, one should acknowledge those movies that have been made aboutpressing societal issues, which include among others Ethiopians’ gruesome exiles through the deserts of Africa, the financial challenges of getting treatment for kidney disease in Ethiopia and the problem of girls’ abduction in rural areas of the country. But so much more can be done.

Sometimes I wonder if our movies really represent our diverse society. I never fail to be amazed by the huge and glamorous houses that are featured in the movies. Honestly, what percent of our population has seen (let alone lives in) such extravagant houses? Are these houses used as selling points of our movies? A recent World Bank report shows that around 80 percent of our population lives in rural areas. Most of our movies feature life in the city (mostly Addis Ababa) and leaves viewers almost ignorant of what life in other parts of the country might look like. Ethiopia is a nation with more than 80 ethnic groups with each having its own culture, language, custom and tradition. How many of these ethnic groups are represented in our movies? I leave the answers to the reader.

I am no expert in movie making but as a viewer I can tell when a person has no training or is not endowed with the gift of acting. When it comes to women actresses, I usually ask myself, do these women get a role as a result of their acting skills or their beautiful looks? I suspect the answer is the latter. But then again, movies are supposed to represent the women that we see in our everyday lives and the beautiful women featured in our movies account for an insignificant share of the pool. One a more positive note, the fast growth in the number of Ethiopian movies is something to be commended. An increase in the number of movies induces competition which in turn acts as a positive driver of quality. I believe it is high time to revolutionize the film industry. In the process, let us not lose touch of our Ethiopian culture and tradition. Let us first dig, understand and capture the real Ethiopian way of life before attempting to reflect Western values.

Ed.’s Note: Tsion Taye is a consultant/researcher at CIMMYT (International Wheat and Maize Improvement Center). She has a bachelor’s degree in Accounting and Finance from Mekelle University, a master’s degree in Finance and Investment from Mekelle University, a second Masters in Management, Economics and Consumer Studies from Wageningen University and a PhD in Business Economics from Wageningen University. Her passions include reading books and reflecting on life experiences with whomever shares this passion. She can be reached for comments at tsintaye@gmail.com.
Why we are hopeful about improving health in Africa

Earlier this year, we also helped launch the End Malaria Council, a group of influential public and private sector leaders committed to ensuring that malaria eradication remains a top global priority, write Aliko Dangote and Bill Gates.

This week, more than 138,000 vaccinators will fan out across five African countries in the Lake Chad area in a push to eliminate polio in Africa and rid the world of this terrible disease forever.

They will take boats across fast-flowing rivers, ride jeeps along sandy ravines, walk crowded street in towns and cities and navigate cramped quarters of refugee camps to ensure that every child is immunized. Traveling for hours a day, these dedicated women and men will visit children in homes, schools, train stations, and transit points across Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic.

This also marks World Immunization Week, a coordinated effort to make sure that people everywhere understand the importance of getting immunized to protect against vaccine-preventable diseases.

And by coincidence, it was almost seven years ago that the two of us first met in a hotel conference room in Abuja, Nigeria’s capital. We were there as part of a diverse group—public officials, religious leaders, business people, polio survivors, and journalists—to discuss how we could work together to stop polio in Nigeria.

At the time, Nigeria had done an amazing job tackling polio—reducing reported cases by 96 percent in just one year. But it was still circulating in six Nigerian states. While 95 percent might seem like success, as long as a single child remains infected, children across Africa and around the world are at risk. Thanks to the effort of so many, Nigeria’s Borno State is now the only place in Africa today where polio is still circulating. It will take ingenuity to end polio there, and it will take persistence to continue reaching children in the surrounding area with vaccines to protect them from the disease until it is eradicated. But we’re confident it can be done. And when that happens, Africa will celebrate one of the biggest victories ever in public health.

Since our first meeting in 2010, the two of us have worked together on a range of other projects to help improve health in Nigeria and across Africa.

We supported the establishment of emergency operations centers in Nigeria and other countries to keep polio from spreading. This turned out to be a blessing during the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. When the disease first appeared in Nigeria—an international travel hub that is home to more than 180 million people—the staff of an emergency operations center set up in Lagos jumped into action and stopped the disease in its tracks. It’s almost unimaginable to think what would have happened without them.

In the state of Kano, we are working with the government to ensure that children can get essential childhood immunizations against tetanus, pneumonia, liver cancer and measles.

And when parents bring their children into a clinic for vaccinations, health workers can address other health issues, too, like nutrition, care for pregnant mothers and newborns and malaria prevention and treatment. We have since widened the program to several other states.

Vaccines are also one of the best tools to save lives in an epidemic, such as the meningitis C outbreak happening now in Nigeria and other West African countries.

And because of the devastating impact malnutrition has on Nigeria’s children—leading to 300,000 deaths annually and causing stunted growth and development in millions more—we have expanded our partnership to include improving health in Africa

Why we are... page 24

VIEWPOINT

Uniting against malaria

As African women leading influential and impact-driven organizations—the Ecobank Foundation and the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA)—we are passionate about building a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable African economy. But achieving that depends on eradicating the diseases that continue to deplete our communities of their most valuable resource: healthy people.

One such disease is malaria, which in many African countries knocks a percentage point off annual economic growth, write Julie Essiam and Joy Phumaphi.

Building a prosperous African economy that works for all will be impossible, unless the continent eradicates the diseases that continue to deplete its communities of their most valuable resource: healthy people.

One such disease is malaria, which in many African countries knocks a percentage point off annual economic growth. The disease impacts the wellbeing of millions of Africans.

In 2015, an estimated 212 million people contracted malaria worldwide, with 47 percent of cases concentrated in just six African countries. An estimated 429,000 people mostly children under five years of age died from malaria that year, with 82 percent of those deaths occurring in Africa and 40 percent occurring in just two countries, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

There is, therefore, an urgent need to accelerate progress—and end malaria for good.

This is both a moral and economic imperative. Preventable illnesses and deaths limit the ability of communities to contribute to Africa’s much-needed economic transformation. In many African countries, malaria reduces GDP growth by one percentage point per year. The effort to end malaria can therefore not be separated from the effort to ensure prosperity across Africa.

The Copenhagen Consensus think tank estimates that every dollar invested in ending malaria yields USD 36 in economic returns. To reap these benefits, African countries must increase domestic-resource mobilization substantially. Africa’s private sector, in particular, has a crucial role to play in developing innovative solutions that address malaria’s growing resistance to existing drugs, as well as mosquitoes’ growing resistance to insecticides.

Moreover, the private sector can help to address inefficiencies in supply-chain management and logistics, thereby facilitating distribution of insecticides and long-lasting insecticidal nets.

Of course, even with private-sector investment, progress toward eradicating malaria in Africa will be uneven, not least because different countries are at different points on the path. Senegal—where the share of malaria-related outpatient visits fell from 36 percent in 2001 to just 3.3 percent last year—is now on track to achieve so-called pre-elimination by 2020. Meanwhile, other African countries—such as Angola and Somalia—are struggling to make any progress at all, as indicated in the ALMA scorecard for accountability and action.

No single African country can reliably eliminate malaria so long as the disease remains rampant among its neighbors. Malaria does not, after all, respect borders. That is why it is vital for African governments to work together, using every tool at their disposal, to achieve comprehensive malaria control, pre-elimination, and, ultimately, elimination.

ALMA—a coalition of 49 African heads of state and government working to eliminate malaria by 2030—aims to advance precisely such cooperation, by focusing on accountability and action at the national, regional, and global levels. ALMA uses management tools, such as the scorecard for accountability improvement.
Google wants your phone to be as good as a DSLR at taking photos at night

Getting good nighttime shots from a smartphone can be tricky, but Google is working on making it a whole lot easier.

Google Daydream software engineer Florian Kainz has developed a prototype Android app designed to capture night shots comparable to those taken with a DSLR camera and tripod for use with the Nexus 6P and Google Pixel.

Building on work done by Marc Levoy on the SeenInTheDark app, Kainz’s app enables the user to take manual control of a few basic settings including exposure time, ISO and focus distance. Instead of taking one photo, the software takes a burst of up to 64 images in quick succession.

Raw frames are saved as DNG files so they can be downloaded to a computer for processing. Computing the mean average of all the images captured then cleans up picture grain resulting in a single clear shot.

Using the technique, Kainz was able to capture a series of stunning shots of the night sky over California.

While the app is a promising start, it’s still very much at concept stage and way off from landing on Android phones.

“Trying to find out if phone cameras might be suitable for outdoor nighttime photography was a fun experiment, and clearly the result is yes, they are,” Kainz said in a blog post.

“However, arriving at the final images required a lot of careful post-processing on a desktop computer, and the procedure is too cumbersome for all but the most dedicated cellphone photographers,” Kainz said. On the right are some night time photos. (Wired)

Instagram is closer than ever to a billion users

It’s only a matter of time until Instagram joins Facebook’s billion-user club.

The company announced Wednesday the photo sharing app has reached 700 million monthly active users, up from 600 million in December.

Though the Facebook-owned app has been steadily growing in recent years, the company credits the recent growth to its improved sign-up process, its initially controversial feed changes, and efforts to reach new users around the world.

Unlike WhatsApp, Messenger and the main Facebook app, Instagram hasn’t had a standalone experience optimized specifically for developing markets. However, it recently began testing an offline version for Android.

The latest growth comes on the heels of the app’s biggest year yet. Its Stories feature is growing faster than all of Snapchat, and the app has more advertisers than ever with no slowdown in sight.

Instagram notes that its latest stats are the fastest jump yet for the nearly 7-year-old app. International growth likely accounts for much of the rise — the company previously said the majority of its users are now located outside the US.

Combine that with new initiatives like a more personalized (read: algorithmic) feed and new features like offline functionality, and it’s not surprising the once bandwidth-intensive app is growing like never before. (Mashable)
Samsung has an app to keep you from texting and driving

Okay, we all know we really shouldn’t text and drive. But temptation is strong and sometimes getting back to someone right now feels more important than anything else.

It’s not, of course, but it’s a feeling that can be difficult to shake, even if we know it’s dangerous. That’s why Samsung is working on a new app that will respond to text messages for you while you drive.

Called In-Traffic Reply, the app will automatically respond to text messages when you’re in the car or riding a bike. The app relies on phone sensors and GPS to detect when you’re in a moving car or bike and will send a preset reply to incoming texts.

The app, which is currently being beta tested in the Netherlands, lets you choose two different types of replies right now. The default “I’m driving, so I cannot answer at the moment” responses or you can opt for a “fun” response with some sort of animation (I really hope it’s a GIF). When it launches, Samsung plans to allow users to create a customized canned response as well.

Exactly how this works is unclear. Samsung’s statement on the app doesn’t reveal how the app would distinguish between drivers and passengers, for instance, but even the relatively simple functionality could go a long way toward preventing texting and driving.

Traffic deaths are on the rise in the United States and smartphone-enabled distractions could be at least partially to blame. Yet despite this, few tech companies do anything to explicitly discourage people from using their services while they’re in the car. (Mashable)

Google is tweaking its search engine to fight fake news

Google is fighting fake news with its biggest tool: Search.

Google announced on Tuesday that it’s tweaking its search engine to scuttle misleading or false content, a major move for the company and the world considering Google’s dominance in search.

The changes will include alterations to the search engine’s algorithms that choose which pages to surface in response to queries.

“We’ve adjusted our signals to help surface more authoritative pages and demote low-quality content, so that issues similar to the Holocaust denial results that we saw back in December are less likely to appear,” Ben Gomes, VP of engineering of Google Search, wrote in a blog post.

Holocaust denial has been a particularly difficult result for Google to deal with. Another tweak in December pushed a particularly popular page down in the rankings, though not out of the front-page results entirely for the query “Did the Holocaust happen?”

Google and Facebook have taken plenty of heat in the months following the US election for not doing enough to protect users from misleading information, propaganda, and “fake news” — which has not emerged as a catchall for either poor-quality news or news that people just don’t like.

Since then, both companies have shown a growing appetite to push back against the spread of misinformation.

In addition to the search tweak, Google is providing new ways for users to report on misleading or offensive results that show up in the search engine’s autocomplete feature, as well as the “Featured Snippets” that itsurface. (Mashable)
Prospects and challenges...

We have a well-positioned airline and that is one of the inputs you need to have in the value chain. We need to bring in more conventions and more meetings here. These are some of the high-yielding activities in the tourism sector. We are not sitting with our arms folded, and this is one of the things we have been working on. There is an initiative to build a convention center through public-private partnership, and we are looking at how it develops.

The changes in the tourism sector are evident. However, the contribution of the sector to the overall economy remains very low; it’s less than 3 percent. New projections are indicating it will reach five percent within the coming ten years? Is that so?

I honestly don’t have these projections and I am not aware of the numbers but I assume we contribute a little more than that. We are creating more jobs in the industry and continue to do so as expansions are under way.

Job creation projections show that it will leap to five million from the current figures. Do you agree?

I can’t speak on in but there you go you have it all. That’s very exciting news to hear. We probably would be one of the largest employers in the tourism sector.

You are optimistic about the sector’s prospects, but listening to the prime minister, one can’t help but have the feeling that there seems to be utter neglect when it comes to conservation and protection of wildlife sanctuaries and parks in the country. In fact, fauna are facing the harsh realities of survival? What’s your take on that?

The prime minister clearly said that this generation would be judged harshly by history. I concur with him on the way he illustrated the risks and the dangers to come.

The more we fail to preserve and protect what we have, not only the sector but we also suffer in other ways, not to mention the historical accountability. What do you think?

It’s all in preserving and celebrating what you have. We have nature and all aspects of conveniences necessary for the development of the tourism industry. We have a richly diversified culture. It’s up to us to preserve what says all about us.

Does the current shape of the industry correspond with the government’s target to become one of the top five destinations in the continent?

But we need to differentiate and be more specific in setting those targets. Does the target of becoming among the top five destinations? Is it in terms of number of hotels, number of tourists arriving or GDP contribution? I think we need to be specific about that.

But are we on course to possibly achieve the targets by the end of 2020 or 2025?

We are capable of achieving that. The government is investing in infrastructure development. Railways are expanding. The same is true with air transport and airport infrastructure. The airline is growing by the day and so does its reach. The government is embarking on many projects. We need to do more on the side of the private sector. We need to work our assignments. The government ought to incentivize the private sector to engage in investment projects in remote areas.

The incentive packages need to be revisited. If one has the same incentive mechanisms both in the capital and rural areas, then why should investors go to remote areas where returns on investment can take many years to materialize? That is one of the reasons why businesses are concentrated in big cities and the capital. There should be a more appealing and more encouraging incentive package to draw developers into remote areas where tourist attractions are located.
Invitation to Bid
For the Full Acquisition and/or Joint Venture Investment of Share Companies

1. The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) currently owns fully or partially equity of the following businesses listed under paragraph 4 and 5 here below.

2. The Ministry of Public Enterprises, pursuant to the powers and duties vested in it by Article 6 of Proclamation No. 916/2015, hereby invites all prospective investors to participate in the privatization of public enterprises.

3. The Ministry of Public Enterprises invites investors to transfer the two (2) Share Companies fully or partial equity sells and Joint Venture Investment for partners on

Bid notice No. 003/2017 and/or No. 002/JV/2017

4. Bid Notice No. 003/2017 for Competitive tender:

1. The Ministry of Public Enterprises invites all prospective investors to privatize own equity of the Share Company through Competitive Bid:
   - Shebelle Transport Share Company ………………. Addis Ababa
   - Interested bidders can obtain documents during working hours upon payment of non-refundable Birr 300.00 (Three Hundred Birr) or the equivalent in U.S. dollars.

3. The Bid Documents will be available in the Ministry of Public Enterprises, in front of former Imperial Hotel (currently Amora Building), Ethiopian Construction design and supervision works Corporation Block three Building, 2nd floor, room No. 204 starting April 26/2017

4. Bids shall be submitted in wax-sealed envelopes on or before June 26/ 2017 at 3:00 P.M local time

5. The bids shall be open on June 26/ 2017 at 3:15 P.M local time in 2nd floor room 203/Meeting Hall at the same address stated under.

6. The Ministry reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

5. Bid notice No.002/JV/2017 for Joint venture Investment:

1. The Ministry of Public Enterprises invites capable domestic or foreign companies to express their Interest to develop/upgrade/expand the following Share Company by concluding Joint Venture (JV) contracts with the Ministry:
   - Ethiopian Pulp and Paper Share Company ……………….Wojji
   - The preferred modality of the Ministry is Joint Venture (JV) and business partners need to specify this as their mode.
   - Business partners must be legally established companies having operated at least for five (5) years in similar sectors.
   - Business partners must have technical know-how, managerial capability, access to global markets, financial soundness, etc.
   - The bidders should provide the full name of the company, contact person, postal address, telephone (mobile) number and fax no., e-mail, ownership structure of the company, audited financial statements for the past three years, company profile/credentials including capital, turn over, market, man power, etc.
   - Interested business partner, either individually or as a consortium should submit the expression of interest together with company profile.
   - The Bid Documents will be available in the Ministry of Public Enterprises, in front of former Imperial Hotel (currently Amora Building), Ethiopian Construction design and supervision works Corporation Block three Building, 2nd floor, room No. 204 starting April 26/2017

6. Bids shall be submitted in wax-sealed envelopes on or before June 26/ 2017 at 3:00 P.M local time

7. The bids shall be open on June 26/ 2017 at 3:15 P.M local time in 2nd floor room 203/Meeting Hall at the same address stated under.

8. Bids submitted after the dead line will not be accepted.

11. The Ministry reserves the right to accept or reject.

6. Bids and/or Joint Venture Investment shall be submitted as follows:

1. Ministry of Public Enterprises
   - Tel: 011 8 69 37 81 / 011 8 69 37 29
   - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
   - Bid Notice No. 003/2017 for sales of Shebelle Transport Share Company
   - Bid Notice No. 002/JV/2017 for Joint Venture Investment for Ethiopian Pulp and Paper Share company

Ministry of Public Enterprises
A bridge to universal education

At the World Bank and the IMF’s upcoming annual spring meetings, delegates will reinforce the case for multilateral cooperation. In particular, they will be discussing the International Finance Facility for Education, a bold plan to ensure that all of the world’s 1.6 billion boys and girls in school and learning, writes Gordon Brown.

Sustainable Development Goal for education, which aims to make primary and secondary education available for all children by 2030. The quest for universal education is the civil-rights struggle of our age. After decades of making steady gains for a wealthy few. The need for expanded investment in education is even more urgent for girls and young women. Putting girls in school is the most effective way to keep them free from exploitation, forced labor, trafficking, and child marriage. Moreover, whereas educated women bear an average of two children, the average for uneducated women is five. This higher birth rate for uneducated women creates a vicious cycle. To illiterate young women have more children, average per capita income falls, and those children, having also missed out on an education, must increasingly migrate in search of opportunities elsewhere. And yet, despite all of the good work being done by multilateral organizations such as the Global Partnership for Education and the new Education Cannot Wait Fund, total education aid has fallen in recent years. From 2010 to today, total funding for education in low- and lower-middle-income countries from bilateral aid and international donors fell from a paltry USD 10 per child to USD eight per child. That is barely enough to pay for the cheapest textbook, let alone teachers and school buildings. Worse still, in response to recent pleas for education aid in conflict zones such as Chad, South Sudan, and Gambia, just 15 percent of the requested sum was raised.

As a result, by 2030, a majority of school-age teenagers in certain countries could be out of school and on the streets. Having been deprived of a curriculum that teaches them valuable skills and range of different viewpoints, they will become ever more vulnerable to extremist groups that are counting on the West not to keep its promises. The IFFEd is being launched with a challenge not only to donor countries, but also to the 41 lower-middle-income countries that are home to nearly half of the world’s schoolchildren. Developing countries and donors will enter into a compact in which each has a specific role to ensure that education is made available for all children.

Under this arrangement, each developing country will commit to achieving education outcomes commensurate with those of the current top 25 percent of countries, and to

Development beyond the numbers

Despite the impressive development gains that many countries have made in recent decades, hundreds of millions of people are still being left behind. Worse, because official statistics are based on national averages, they are now in danger of being forgotten, writes Selim Jahan.

After decades of making steady development gains, what can we do differently to help the planet’s most disadvantaged people? As the latest Human Development Report makes clear, there is no simple answer. One reason is that those who are being left behind often face disadvantages on several fronts. They are not just short of money; often, they are also sick, uneducated, and disenfranchised.

The problems that affect the world’s most disadvantaged people begin at birth, and worsen during their lifetime. As opportunities to break the cycle are missed, these disadvantages are passed on to successive generations, reinforcing their impact. Still, while today’s development challenges are numerous and complex, they also share common characteristics. Many of the disadvantaged belong to specific demographic groups that tend to fare worse than others in all countries, not least because of gender, economic, legal, political, and cultural barriers. For example, indigenous peoples constitute just 5 percent of the global population, but account for 15 percent of

www.thereporterethiopia.com
Who is Marine Le Pen?

Marine Le Pen almost certainly will not become president of France next month. But, simply by reaching the election’s second round, she has transformed the face and psyche of France for a long time to come, writes Christine Ockrent.

I vividly remember French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen’s first appearance on television. It was just before the 2002 presidential campaign, and I had to moderate a debate on French public television. For political balance, we needed a representative of the far-right National Front (FN), then led by Le Pen’s father, Jean-Marie Le Pen. Bruno Gollnisch, the manager of Jean-Marie’s campaign and his heir apparent, turned us down, offering to send Marine instead.

It was obviously a trick played not just on a media viewed as hostile, but also on Le Pen herself – a rival whom Gollnisch resented for having been, in his view, unduly promoted by her father in the FN apparatus. Le Pen was a largely unknown 33-year-old lawyer with little practice, though she had an obvious instinct for the punch line. In the end, Gollnisch’s plan may have backfired: a few days after Le Pen’s appearance, the headline in a weekly magazine read, “What is new with the FN? Marine!”

On April 21, 2002 – a date that still resonates in French political memory – the 73-year-old Jean-Marie received 17 percent of the vote in the first round of the presidential election, thus knocking the former socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, out of the second-round runoff. But citizens of all persuasions then rallied against Le Pen in a so-called “Republican front,” giving the conservative candidate Jacques Chirac a massive 82 percent of the vote.

Fifteen years later, Marine Le Pen has outshone her father, convincing 23 percent of French voters to choose her to succeed François Hollande at the Elysée Palace. But, to win the second round, she will need to defeat Emmanuel Macron – a 39-year-old centrist who, finished ahead of her in the first round, with 24 percent of the vote.

That will be no easier for her than it was for her father. Both the Republican François Fillon and the Socialist Benoît Hamon quickly endorsing Macron after the first round – Hamon called Le Pen an “enemy of the Republic” – another “Republican front,” albeit a much smaller one, could well be emerging.

But Le Pen is tough, and a great believer in her own destiny. Already, her efforts to revamp the FN’s image have transformed it from a fringe movement into a major political force. Although she abandoned a push to rebrand the FN “Blue Marine,” owing to the original brand’s enduring appeal to its older voters, that approach reflects the personality cult that she has fostered, characterized by the suppression of dissent and even of her own niece, Marion Maréchal-Le Pen, a rising political star.

Le Pen’s success reflects a kind of ideological laundering, which she has conducted with her closest adviser, Florian Philippot, a polished, media-savvy “énarque,” who swears he decided to join Le Pen for her talent, not her ideology. Indeed, the pair has coated the FN with several layers of fresh paint – all blue, white, and red, of course.

Early on, Le Pen would campaign like her father: using her heavy frame and heavy frown to intimidate opponents, forcing her smoker’s voice to make her point, never playing the “woman card.” But she eventually found out she could play another part. Thinner, better dressed, and more soft-spoken, she developed a kind of charisma that enabled her to appeal to a wider variety of supporters, from unemployed young people to the disenchanted middle class, from police men wary of losing control to second- or third-generation immigrants who wanted to close France’s doors to foreigners.

The process of “de-democratizing” the FN required Le Pen to drop not just the putrid rhetoric bequeathed by her father, but also her father himself. In the summer of 2015, Marine expelled Jean-Marie from the party he founded in 1972.

The old man sued her in court, only to surrender a few months later.

Of course, even as Le Pen has dropped the anti-Semitic bluffs, vocal nostalgia for Vichy France, proud reminiscences of the Algerian war, and even her own father, she has continued to fuel the

A practical agenda for revolutionary times

World leaders need to recognize that today’s populist revolts are being fueled by a sense of “lost dignity” – a sentiment that does not factor into most policymakers’ prescription for economic growth and compensatory payments. Working-class voters have lashed out because they feel not just economically abandoned, but also socially disdained and culturally marginalized, writes Ngaire Woods.

As the world’s financial leaders gather for the International Monetary Fund and World Bank spring meetings, many working people around the world are demanding radical change, because they sense that their voices are not being heard. Those who are supposed to represent them should not ignore this anger and frustration any longer.

According to the 2017 Edelman Trust Barometer, the public’s confidence in the status quo has collapsed worldwide, owing to widely held concerns about globalization, innovation, immigration, the erosion of social values, and corruption. At the same time, the response from elites who regard themselves as the guardians of economic growth has sometimes made matters worse. If they think they can allay public concerns simply by explaining their free trade and compensate those left behind, they are in for a rude awakening.

Earlier this month, the IMF, World Bank, and World Trade Organization published a joint report extolling the benefits of trade as a driver of productivity growth, competition, and consumer choice. The report’s argument in favor of free trade is not new, nor is its recommendation that “active labor-market policies” be used to cushion the blow of lost jobs and livelihoods. What is new is that repeating these claims, without also addressing people’s deeper concerns, can now do more harm than good.

Global public opinion has changed dramatically in recent years. A majority of people worldwide – and up to 72 percent of people in France and Italy – now believe that the system has failed them. Moreover, only 29 percent of people across 28 countries now trust government leaders, while three-quarters of those surveyed say they trust reformers who would upend the status quo. These findings suggest that those defending free trade have lost credibility with the people they hope to persuade.

World leaders need to recognize that today’s populist revolts are being fueled by a sense of lost dignity – a sentiment that does not factor into most policymakers’ prescription for economic growth and compensatory payments. Working-class voters have lashed out because they feel not just economically abandoned, but also socially disdained and culturally marginalized. Their vote is the only means they have left to hit back at the establishment.

To address the public’s concerns requires a three-part agenda. The first order of business should be to reach out to those who feel voiceless and unrepresented. During the US presidential campaign, Donald Trump tapped into this sentiment when he vowed to punish any company that moves jobs to China or Mexico.

As the filmmaker Michael Moore explained prior to the election, American working-class voters were desperate to hear someone promise to take on big business. The fact that it took a populist plutocrat to do it underscores the extent to which the American labor movement has been extinguished. Political parties that originally emerged from the labor movement have long since shifted to the center. “They now accept political contributions from big business, and have accordingly adopted the language of common prosperity and consensus politics,” leaving the working people who did not share this sentiment feeling disregarded and displaced.

Second, the quality of work, and the status that it confers, must be improved. In wealthy countries, precarious, poorly paid, and even dangerous forms of employment are becoming increasingly common. A recent Bloomberg Businessweek story describes how temporary workers at auto-parts factories in Alabama are paid just USD 7.25 per hour, and that work in hazardous conditions with no safety training. As the auto-parts sector, which suffered work injuries at a 50 percent higher rate than unionized auto-parts workers elsewhere.

As the OECD has shown, “non-
A bridge to...  

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increasing the proportion of national income invested in education to 5.8 percent, from the current average of 4.5 percent. In return, donor countries will increase the share of funds for education in their foreign-aid budgets from their current average of 10 percent to 15 percent. They will also backstop developed loans from the World Bank and regional development banks.

Even in 2030, the world’s poorest countries will not be able to afford all of this on their own, and middle-income countries will benefit from a new system of guarantees and low-interest or interest-free credits. And, by providing for lower-middle-income countries, ALMA will be able to provide more direct grants for the 200 million children living in low-income countries. Unless the collateral USD 150 billion of loans from loans made in the 1970s and 1980s, we can increase the World Bank’s capacity to provide grants through its International Development Association. If we also divert a larger share ofIDA commitments toward education, we can increase the education-aid funds available annually to the poorest countries from USD 1.6 billion (as of 2016) to more than USD 4 billion by 2020.

This up-front investment in education would extend the opportunity for a better life to more people than ever before. It would boost employment, slow population growth, and reduce infant and maternal mortality. And, as shown in the Learning Revolution report by 2050, GDP per capita in low-income countries would be 70 percent higher. Most importantly, it would provide hope to the millions of children who need it the most.

Ed.’s Note: Gordon Brown, former Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom, is United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education and Chair of the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity. He chairs the Advisory Board of the Catalyst Foundation. The article was provided to The Reporter by Project Syndicate; the world’s pre-eminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides inclusive perspectives on our changing world by those who are shaping its politics, economics, science, and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

Why we are...  

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populist bonfire. She has rallied against immobilization, Islam, globalization, multiculturalism, NATO, the elites, the “centrists,” the marketing media, and, above all, the European Union – the monster supposedly responsible for all of France’s ills.

Never mind that all 23 FN members of the European Parliament are paid with EU money, or that Le Pen herself is the last word in judicial investigation for misappropriating her MEPs’ subsidies. For many French, status anxiety, economic anger, and fear of terrorism are far more salient.

Le Pen has also worked hard to build up her international status. In January, she waited in vain in New York, hoping to be embraced by Donald Trump – a man who, she said, had copied some of her political formula to win the US presidency. In Moscow, she met with Russian President Vladimir Putin – not to ask for money, party officials to point it out, but to discuss the state of the world.

Leading in opinion polls week after week, Le Pen and her new FN seemed to be things figured out. But, two weeks ago, the varnish began to crack. Her meetings became more electric, her discourse more brutal. Channeling her Holocaust-denying father, she claimed that France was not responsible for World War II concentration camps. Was it a Freudian slip, campaign fatigue, or a deliberate attempt to reassure old FN troopers that the chief had not gone astray?

Whatever the case, some 7.6 million voters have now acknowledged Le Pen as the right person to lead France – totally probably boosted by a terrorist attack on the Champs Elysées three days before the vote. And while the combination of rebranding and rabble-rousing probably will not be enough to win her the presidency, she has already succeeded in transforming the face and the psyche of France for a long time to come.

Ed.’s Note: Christine Ockrent is former Chief Operating Officer of France 24 and RFI. The article was provided to The Reporter by Project Syndicate; the world’s pre-eminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides inclusive perspectives on our changing world by those who are shaping its politics, economics, science, and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

A practical agenda...  

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standard “work is proliferating globally. This trend is contributing to deteriorating working conditions, making work central to growing unacceptably and useless. Reversing it will require robust standards to ensure workers’ rights to enter into collective-bargaining arrangements. Governments have to intervene to set these standards, as they did during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to improve abysmal conditions in factories. Otherwise, businesses will not be able to behave decently, for fear of being undercut by unscrupulous competitors.

Finally, more opportunities must be created for the next generation – and not just for economic opportunities. Since the 2008 financial crisis, many governments have reduced their investments in health, education, housing, and other forms of human capital. Many have also cut support for the unemployed, homeless, or indebted. As a result, those who have fallen behind are not just of resources, but, more important, the chance to pursue their aspirations.

As the IMF, World Bank, and WTO show in their report, free trade and globalization have certainly increased the size of the overall economic pie. In theory, this should have expanded governments’ capacity to compensate those left behind and create the conditions for them to get ahead. In fact, the opposite has happened, owing to government cutbacks since the 1980s. The establishment’s agenda has been failing for too long. And as elites continue to proclaim the benefits of free trade and globalization, they are merely widening the chasm of popular mistrust.

Over the past year, that mistrust has boiled over in many countries, with voters in one election after another rejecting the status quo. Piecemeal curbs on globalization will not be enough to quell the revolt. Instead, world leaders must leave their echo chamber, take ordinary people’s concerns seriously, diversify their views, and think about why so many have lost faith in the system.

Ed.’s Note: Ngaire Woods is Dean of the Blavatnik School of Government and Director of the Global Economic Governance Program at the University of Oxford. The article was provided to The Reporter by Project Syndicate; the world’s pre-eminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides inclusive perspectives on our changing world by those who are shaping its politics, economics, science, and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

Why we are...  

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nutrition programs across 12 states. Earlier this year, we also helped launch the End Malaria Council, a group of influential public and private sector leaders committed to ensuring that malaria eradication remains a top global priority.

Underlying all these efforts is our belief that strengthening health systems is the key to breaking the cycle of extreme poverty and disease—and kick-starting a virtuous cycle of health, productivity, and prosperity.

In our work together, we have learned a few important lessons.

First, improving the health of communities depends on a successful partnership between government, communities, religious and business leaders, volunteers, and NGOs. This requires that everyone is rowing in the same direction. And it is essential to building trust so parents have the confidence that vaccines are safe and will protect their children from life-threatening diseases.

Second, we must keep innovating to speed up progress. This month, for example, vaccinators will test a new vaccine carrier that keeps the temperature of vaccines stable for up to five days, even in blistering heat. This breakthrough will enable vaccinators to finally reach children in extremely remote areas with life-saving vaccines.

We know that strengthening health systems takes time. We are optimistic that Africa can achieve the future it aspires to. That future depends on people working together—across national borders and across socioeconomic strata—to build the better world we all want.

Ed.’s Note: Alhilu Dangote is Chairman and CEO of Dangote Group. Bill Gates is Co-Chairman of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter. The article is provided to The Reporter by AP.

Executive Officer of the Ecobank Foundation. Joy Phamahsi is Executive Secretary of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance. The article was provided to The Reporter by Project Syndicate; the world’s pre-eminent source of original op-ed commentaries. Project Syndicate provides inclusive perspectives on our changing world by those who are shaping its politics, economics, science, and culture. The views expressed in this article do not necessarily reflect the views of The Reporter.

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www.thereporterethiopia.com
A Brooklyn designer’s Ethiopian dreams

Bolé Road Textiles weaves modern ideas with traditional craftsmanship, to vibrant effect

Hana Getachew, whose family left Addis Ababa when she was three years old, had an inspiring homecoming 18 years later (Photo by Steve Koepp)

After more than a decade at a major architectural firm, designer Hana Getachew knew that she wanted to break out on her own. The turning point came in planning her wedding in 2014. “I wanted to have an element of Ethiopian design for my table linens” to reflect the vibrant patterns and colors of her native land. Her family had left Ethiopia when she was a child, but she still felt intensely connected to the culture. Her journey back home to source her table linens became the spark for a new business.

In Addis Ababa Hana went looking for weavers. “I went to one location where one of my family friends sent me. I showed them my designs. It was kind of hilarious because I didn’t know about weaving, and they said it couldn’t be done. It took me a while to understand,” she said, that their traditional looms had their limitations. But the weavers offered their own version of her design that was even more pleasing, in such colors as pink, red, and fuchsia. The linens were a success. “The napkins were beige, with fuchsia and red diamond-shape patterning all around.”

What started with wedding planning is now Hana’s own housewares firm, Bolé Road Textiles, based in Brooklyn and named after a bustling thoroughfare near her childhood home in Addis Ababa. Hana designs the patterns in her home studio, then turns them into textiles for pillows, rugs, curtains, towels, and other products in a running conversation with master artisans in Addis Ababa. She sells about half her merchandise through e-commerce on her website and the rest through retailers, including Home of the Brave in Greenpoint and Collyer’s Mansion in Brooklyn Heights.

Two families of design

Most of Hana’s collections are inspired by nature, including landscapes and flora. Two were based on traditional textiles: the Konso Collection, drawing on styles from the south of Ethiopia, and the Heritage Collection, inspired by the customs of the Ethiopian Highlands. “Traditional Ethiopian dresses in most of the country are all-white cotton with colorful patterns on the hem, cuff, and sometimes neckline. These patterns, called tibeb, can be extremely deceptively and saturated with color,” Hana says. By contrast, the clothing of other regions is often bold throughout. “Southern Ethiopia is comprised of over 80 ethnic groups, so it’s difficult to generalize. But in the areas known for weaving in the south, the entire park will typically be full of pattern and color.”

When Hana was three years old, her family moved from Addis Ababa to Montreal, where they lived for a few years before moving to New York. Hana graduated from Cornell University with a degree in interior design and went on to become an associate principal at Studios Architecture in Manhattan, where she designed the offices of major corporations. Along the way, however, she made a return trip to Ethiopia 18 years after she had left, and never forgot the “overwhelming beauty and power of my first homecoming.”

How she got started

Leaving her job at a big firm was a “scary thing,” since it meant altering her design a little. “I spent several months designing and producing two textile collections, which included a trip to Ethiopia to finalize the pieces in conversations with weavers, who are organized into collectives. “Anytime I approach them with a design, they’ll come back with something that’s even better. I couldn’t believe the variety of designs, altering my design a little.” While Hana always planned to sell her products via e-commerce, she decided to debut her brand with an event: Bklyn Designs in 2015, where her distinctive aesthetic got noticed.

Since her first trip to meet the artisans of Addis Ababa, Hana has learned quite a bit about weaving. “While western looms typically have four or more harnesses and tendles, allowing weavers to easily lift up various combinations of yarns on the warp to create intricate patterns, Ethiopian looms have only two harnesses. This means that in order to create a pattern the yarns need to be lifted manually with a stick in a technique that’s similar to what we call ‘double weave’ in the west,” she explains on her website. “And because of the differences in their looms, Ethiopian weavers often have to do much more manual work than weavers in the west. Bolé Road’s process can be even more challenging as we often introduce new and intricate designs that are outside our artisans’ traditional repertoires.”

Bolé Road produces small batches in each of its runs, so any particular design comes in a limited quantity. The material used most often to make the textiles is hand-processed Ethiopian cotton yarn, known for its thick and soft texture. Hana says that all of her products are “ethically sourced” and she donates a portion of her profits to the imagine/day Girl Fund, a group dedicated to the education of girls in rural Ethiopia. “These girls are my sisters, my cousins, my friends, and only a few twists of fate separates my life from theirs.”

Hana plans to expand her textile line, including fabric by the yard. She’ll be displaying Bolé Roads new products at this year’s Bklyn Designs, May 5 to 7 at the Brooklyn Expo Center in Greenpoint. By the way, the wedding that launched a business also led to a growing family. Hana and her husband, a screenwriter, now have a nine-month-old daughter. After the baby was born, Hana launched Bolé Road Baby, with pillows, hooded towels, and a swaddle.

Ed.’s Note: Steve Koepp is the editor of The Bridge. Previously, he was editorial director of Time Inc. Books, executive editor of Fortune and deputy managing editor of Time. This article first appeared on thebridgebk.com.

www.thereporterethiopia.com
Versatility in the visual arts makes one of the experimental artists, Elizabeth Habtewold, a gifted and talented one. Her current exhibition, entitled “Erasen Be Ras,” staged from April 21 to May 21 at the Modern Art Museum: Gebrekirstos Desta Center, is a testimony to that.

Seeking inspiration from sources as diverse as indigenous plants like enset and koba, photography and computer-generated animation, her work defies the limits of the medium. Redefining the concept of artform such as matot, the photograph and animated videos create a mesmerizing harmony. Her exhibition begs a question on the linear notion of time; putting everyone in the visual scene. Excerpts:

Rejecting to be confined to a medium, Elizabeth raises the concept of memory, femininity, modernism, nature, violence, and many other layers. That versatility also enabled spectators to decode the brilliance of the artworks. Born and raised in Addis Ababa, Elizabeth studied painting at the Alle School of Fine Arts and Design and graduated in 1988. She moved to the USA in 1987 and studied graphics at the Baltimore City Community College. Later on, she joined Howard University and received MFA in painting in 1993. A humble artist, Elizabeth has been living in Addis Ababa since 2001, and has been fully involved in the flourishing art scene here. Some of her compelling artworks include Africa Rising, a mirror mosaic installation currently displayed at the African Union and a video documentation of Ethiopian women artists. Her artworks also have a presence on the international scene in venues such as the Parish Gallery, the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, and the Samuel P. Harn Museum, Tichbetelassie.

Tigabu of The Reporter caught up with Elizabeth to discuss her recent exhibition and her overall involvement in the Ethiopian art scene. Excerpts:

The Reporter: Your recent exhibition is entitled “Erasen Be Ras”. Is it because of the indigenous medium you used koba (false banana) and enset (Enset ventricosum) or is it about topics you raised memory, femininity?

Elizabeth Habtewold: This exhibition covers many layers and transcends various issues. The first thing is it touches on being self-sustaining, being independent. If one takes the medium, enset, in a literal form, it is an indigenous and extremely hardy and versatile crop, which is also highly nutritious.

While the plant is extremely valuable for food security, enset, is more than just food; the fibrous leaves and stalks are used for the production of clothing, shelter and basket as well as for ceremonial purposes. Enset is something we treasure and it is like a non-ending valuable treasure that nature provided us. If we understand the true value of enset, it can save us from hunger, poverty and from destitution. Therefore, the concept goes to a metaphorical explanation of how we can be self-sustaining. This is ours and we should benefit from what is ours.

In the art talk that was held at the Modern Art museum, many points were raised on how this exhibition raises issues of femininity, memory, repetitiveness, life, violence and production of knowledge. What is the center and how does the medium interact with the concept it raises?

There is always a question about medium. It is not only the narrative, the story that matters but the medium is very crucial in activating history. Therefore, medium and the process of the art has been my contemplation for so long.

When I leave early in the morning to drop my children to school, workers are busy sweeping the streets, which is a bit exciting. Shortly, all this changes and my neighborhood again changed into a dumpsite. This always puzzles me. I clearly understand this does not change in a day; it rather requires a deep behavioral change.

Thinking about a solution to this, I was recently researching more about biomimicry. Biomimicry is an approach to innovation that seeks a sustainable solution to human challenges by emulating nature’s time-tested patterns and strategies. The goal is to create products, processes and policies - new ways of living that are well adapted to life on earth in the long term. The core idea is that nature has already solved many of the problems we are grappling with. So, during my research, I found about lotus or what is termed as the lotus effect of self-cleaning that are a result of ultra-hydrophobicity. For thousands of years animals, plants, and microbes are the consummate engineers as opposed to humans who are struggling to survive in a decent manner. Human indeed thinks it is smart but cannot even know how to deal with such mundane issues like waste management.

Amidst of this I also went to around the Gurage area and I witnessed the process of making carpet from matot. It is a labor-intensive work. Coming back to Addis and having taken an inspiration from the lotus, I started cleaning my compound, and in the process transforming some objects into useful ones. That is how the inception of matot (a circular band of a straw stand which is used as a stand for the coffee pot to settle) came about. Metaphorically, matot is our foundation and a seat for delicate material. The process of making matot - its repetitiveness - represents the vicious circle of life. In addition to that, it also gives a lesson on working tirelessly, developing a habit of work and perfection. The shape of the matot, which is circular, also represents life, feminine spirit and unity.

All humans carry an element of the feminine that is wisdom, rationality and compassion, which is often forgotten. I am not talking about being a man or a woman, rather the feminine element that does not spoil for a fight.

In this exhibition, there is a matot, new media, photography and all the interaction of media addresses various issues of resilience, indigenous knowledge, tolerance, unity and a host of other issues.

In the past, ordinary people owned the means of production for making their own outfits, food and much more. In this age, products of one’s labor change hands thanks to the invisible hands of the market. Can the medium be taken as a way of reclaiming one’s own production?

Yes, definitely. Going to visit a relative, I saw various dantel (crochets), with a vibrant color and a mesmerizing harmony between the threads. Our mothers were creators of this art and they used this as decorative materials.
This harmony represents how women played a vital role in bringing the family together. Within my computer-generated animation work, I use a technique of inverse where water drops spill and come back to the leaf. There is a common Amharic saying I like which goes, “Yefesewa tuba ayatafesim.” (There is no point crying over spilt milk). Therefore, I manipulated the technique in the animation and the spilled water is back. This can be a lesson in trying to tackle something formidable, and to claim what is ours.

Through the modernization process, the Global South is becoming a consumer and fast catching up with the west. A Eurocentric model influences most of our value system. Is this work a resistance to that trend? Yes, it is. Metaphorically, that is what the enset is all about; looking into ourselves and looking for a solution to our problems. We cannot afford to do art merely for a decorative purpose; rather for me it is to address societal issues, to critique it and also to offer a solution. There is always a blurred line between art and artifacts but I am claiming this is an art. In this globalized day and age, there is an assimilation process, which is swallowing us. Everything is standardized but the question is what is Ethiopian? Whose standard is it? What is ours?

Talking about nature and learning about a coping mechanism from it, there is a quote by the famous scholar and activist Angela Davis that “We all have an ideological relationship to the world.” So, what is your ideology?

Let us mimic nature. Not the literal mimicking of nature; rather the function. For example, the spider makes a web in its surrounding so if we mimic that, we can look for a solution from our surroundings. Right now, we are actually going against nature – polluting, cutting trees and creating toxins. We are destroying nature and that has an adverse effect on us. Therefore, for me, the lotus leaf cleaning itself is symbolic for me. The property of the leaf fascinates me and I draw inspiration from that. While using enset and koba that existed in the past and in the present, your medium is versatile; you also use photography, animation and visual art in general and new media. How does this help you in your art?

Technology fascinates me. It just reminds of the resistance and rejection Gebrekirstos Desta faced when he came up with abstract expressionism. His response to his detractors was, “We should be in tune with the prevailing trends.” It is inevitable; we cannot escape or hide from technology. For me, technology is a tool, another medium, which I can manipulate to produce my works. After obtaining my masters from Howard University, I was offered a job at a school I went to previously – Baltimore City Community College – and I taught there for five years. It was a bit slow for me. While teaching was a valuable experience for me I wanted to go explore technology in order to incorporate it in my art. I actually taught myself and immersed deeply in this field. I grab any opportunity that comes my way and try to update myself by taking crash courses, even taking YouTube video tutorials.

In 2000, I also studied interactive multimedia for a year at George Washington University. This entire medium facilitates and amplifies things I want to transmit. In the video at the exhibition, a scene depicts a shredding of koba tree. This effect was achieved using various software programs. It gives the effect I want, such as slow movement, reverses and fast. In the video, a screeching sound of shredding of the koba was able to create a discomforting sensation and that was the purpose. This was pain and some people interpreted it as trauma, violence and rape. The medium highly helped in this. This enables us to create a marriage between old materials and new ones so we can be able to produce art pieces that we aspire.

Let us go back in time, how did you get into art? When I was in Menen School, one of my art teachers was the prominent Ethiopian calligraphy artist Wosene Kosrof. He used to encourage us and told us about the existence of the art school. During that time, finishing eighth grade can qualify one to enroll in the art school. Therefore, when I finished the eighth grade, I went with a couple of friends to register and I took summer courses. My parents were not thrilled with my decision, and insisted on my completing 12th grade first. I attended the summer classes, finally, and I joined the art school, and I graduated in painting. It was a memorable time and one of my highlights was the fourth year when instructors such as Tadesse Mesfin came back from Russia. It was a new and overwhelming spirit. We were required to do up to 60 sketches per day. We spent most of our time in churches in search of live models. We tried to capture the spirits of people who were praying solemnly. Again going back, this was a time of repetition and I actually used these paintings in later life as part of a collage.

This is one of my inspiring and happy places. Even after graduation, we used to spend our time in the university. We even go there weekends. Some women artists claim facing sexism at the art school. What is your response about that?

A versatile... page 28
We were expected to put in a little bit of effort, but I was not singled out. There were sexist remarks such as commenting on how our stroke looks like a man’s but I do not think it was that hostile. There was too much of a sense of humor at the art school, and that is my highlight.

What was your inspiration back then?

My inspiration is always my surroundings, society, the culture, and the custom that embeds it. My graduation work focuses on the Gurage dance during Meskel (the Finding of the Cross) in Ethiopia. There were artists whose work focused on the exploits of Emperor Tewodros and the broader subject of nationalism. All in all, the central figures of my artwork are people.

You were enrolled in one of the historically black colleges, Howard, and how did that experience shape you in understanding race and other issues.

I first joined Baltimore City Community College. My sisters were also Living in Baltimore. I do not know what to call it. I joined the University of Maryland. I do not know what to call it. I joined to study graphics art and knowledge production. After one semester, I met an artist named Fekele Armeid and he told me I could do my masters at Howard. After completing one semester at Maryland University, I went and joined Howard University. Fortunately, Eskinder Boghassian paved a way for us. He is really loved and respected by many in the university. He was very famous. Honestly, Howard is a different world. I went there to be exposed to the art of Ethiopia but I understood I did not learn anything about African art. It was shameful but ironically, we knew aboutPicasso. It was a deconstruction of modern art and we extensively took courses on African art. Our studies included the Harlem Renaissance, the Civil Rights Movement, and freedom fighters such as Marcus Garvey featured prominently in our courses. These courses were helpful in introducing us to such figures as W.E. B. Du Bois and Alain LeRoy Locke. It was an eye-opening experience. Howard made us know and regain our self worth as African, black artists. We already knew about Henri Matisse but it was during my Howard stay I learned that he took inspiration from Ethiopian traditional painting. My advisor at Howard, Professor Al Smith, exposed me to a lot of books and style such as fractal theory and about rhythms. The modernist label of African art as “primitive” is meant to downgrade it. Nevertheless, African art makes the head bigger because the head (spirit) is more important than the body. There was a regaining of our pride, our self worth. It still puzzles me that with the wealth of knowledge that we produced, how we do not teach our own indigenous knowledge.

How did this affirmation change you?

Though I am astonished by their work ethics Africa (the West) is a different place. It is dominated by consumerism. Growing up, the very crucial thing for me was humanity more than gadgets. During my stay in America, this obsession value system was not shaken up. It was still in me. My work also aims at criticizing, and is an attempt to utilize the consumerism culture using collage.

The African-American collage artist Romare Bearden inspired me to do my recent work. I actually incorporate sketches from the churches I did back when I was in Addis Ababa to show that there are things we should value more than gadgets. That piece was called “The Forgotten Sours” and was exhibited at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art. In addition to that, I also did a piece, entitled “Lonely Mother,” to show the displacement of my mother in America. When my mother was with us back in the 1980s, there was a language barrier; she used to spend the whole day cleaning in an apartment. Now, it is a different story because there is a vibrant Ethiopian community. But back then, it felt like a prison for someone who did not speak English. Coming from Ethiopia and losing a strong, social support system can make one question one’s culture.

After you came back, how is your participation in the contemporary art scene?

After my return here I staged a couple of exhibitions including at Parish Gallery in America. My first exhibition was in 2007 at Anx Gallery. After that I had multiple exhibitions at various venues. One of my exciting works was in 2013 at the African Union, formerly the Organization of African Unity, 50 years’ anniversary. I created a sketch of a woman I did at Howard University and she was in a rush representing to push forward progress. This woman figure reappears in my later works, such as in the AU with mirror work and in my recent work with animation. It becomes multiple figures without considering each other as a stepping-stone, but rather going together. As a woman, we are separated by political and administrative borders, nature and its riches have united us. Mismanagement of nature is in one part of our continent will affect millions on the other side of Africa and beyond.

Solomon shares Hailemariam’s view when it comes to cooperation. “The states of activity are best measured if there is a regional effect in Africa. There are various rules and regulations that affect these agreements and contracts that makes them complicated. Agreements relating to trade and investment need to be factored into this equation. So, you actually need to have a complete understanding of all the relevant legal regimes. Sometimes, these technical and legal complications arise from the exploitative tendencies of the resource industry particularly those with the bargaining power,” Solomon elaborates.

In terms of taking the debate forward and improving the lots of Africa on natural resource governance, there could be a number of takeaways for the individual countries, researchers, civil society organizations, and policy actors, in order to pursue these ideas and the information that was availed, Solomon contends. “One concrete example is the proposal from the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union Commissioner, Ambassador Small Chagul, where he proposed the necessity of appointment of a special envoy of the Chairperson of the African Commission to address issues of conflict in natural resource governance. If that is going to come to fruition, then it would be one of the concrete outcomes of the 6th Tanza Forum.”

DFID funded... CONT’D FROM PAGE 3

The project was anticipated to create jobs for 440 people, 73 of them women. DFID is now considering scaling down the project which is now almost delayed for more than one year. Except for a few construction works the project is far behind the expected level following the termination of its support. This is not the first time that DFID changed its plan on projects in Ethiopia. It can be recalled that DFID suspend its support to Yegna, an Ethiopian program designed to promote girls’ rights.

African history. CONT’D FROM PAGE 22

The 70-year-old Africa Hall.

African history highlights its significant role in modern attractions in Addis Ababa and permanent exhibition to make Baio said the project includes a project manager explained. The architecture,” Antonio Baio, Africa Hall and cultural values embedded in its preserving and restoring the historical standards for conference facilities, while Africa Hall into a rejuvenated facility this caliber because we aim to transform. Conservation and public buildings of with strong experience in heritage needing renovation. From 2014 onwards, he has been partaking in various tourism topics. ETO, replaced Jemal Kedir. Yechale to assume the role of a deputy CEO at the University of Gondar, was called to assume the role of a deputy CEO at ETO, replaced Jemal Kedir. Yechale has been partaking in various tourism related activities and has published various papers on tourism related topics.

Former GE Ethiopia... CONT’D FROM PAGE 22

the middle of a fraud scandal recently, as research and innovation vice president. From 2014 onwards, he has been assisting the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC), advising officials of the commission on strategic issues. But back in 2015, he was appointed as CEO of GE Ethiopia and has been able to represent GE for almost a year. However, Yohannes left for the US to reunite with his family until officials have approached him to get back to Ethiopia. He said he was back to assist EIC on technological aspects. In addition to Yohannes, the PM has assigned two more individuals. Yechele attends as well as delegates from a number of African countries. Keiso Matashane-Marite, social affairs officer at the UNHCA was at the celebration and expressed the importance of the initiative and the day. “Today is a special day and it belongs to the girls,” she said. “As ECA, we are happy to be highlighting the importance of why girls should be involved in ICT, raising awareness and encouraging our girls to consider careers in IT.” According to various reports, there is an increasingly marginalized African women populations in the IT and Science sectors, with most women still involved in informal labor intensive jobs across the continent.

Development beyond... CONT’D FROM PAGE 7

the world’s poor. And, to participate in work and community life, people with disabilities must overcome obstacles that the rest of us often do not even notice. Last but not least, women and girls almost everywhere continue to be underrepresented in leadership and decision making circles, and they often work more hours for less money than their male counterparts. Although development policies will continue to focus on tangible outcomes - such as more hospitals, more children in school, and better sanitation – human development must not be reduced only to that which is quantifiable. It is time to pay more attention to the less palpable features of progress, which, while difficult to measure, are not hard to take a measure of. All people deserve to have a voice in the decisions that affect their lives; but the most marginalized in society are too often denied a say of any kind. Ensuring that those most in need are not forgotten – and that they have the freedom to make their own choices – is just as important as delivering concrete development outcomes.

History has shown us that many of today’s challenges can be overcome in the years ahead. The world has the resources and the knowhow to improve the lives of all people. We just need to empower people to use their own knowledge to shape their futures. If we do that, more inclusive development will be within our reach. "We have engaged a professional firm with strong experience in heritage conservation and public buildings of this caliber because we aim to transform Africa Hall into a rejuvenated facility that complies with international standards for conference facilities, while preserving and restoring the historical and cultural values embedded in its architecture,” Antonio Baio, Africa Hall project manager explained. Baio said the project includes a permanent exhibition to make Africa Hall one of the leading tourist attractions in Addis Ababa and highlight its significant role in modern African history.

Africa Hall... CONT’D FROM PAGE 3

DFID has stopped its funding to Yegna following a scrutiny in the British parliament over doubts about the program’s effectiveness and necessity. Launched in 2012, the Yegna project comprises a radio show, television programming, featuring an eponymous all-female band. “We are still awaiting an official response from DFID about the tomato plant,” according to sources. The Reporter’s effort to get a response from DFID and Enterprise Partners failed despite repeated efforts.
Curing children

Cure Ethiopia Children’s Hospital expansion project was inaugurated this week in the presence of First Lady Roman Tesfaye, other officials and invited guests. “Cure children’s hospital plays uncountable role in easing the lives of children with disabilities,” Roman said. Currently, the hospital has 67 beds and children can access its well-equipped treatment centers, physiotherapy and pharmaceutical laboratory, she said. Since its establishment in 2008, the hospital has been rendering various free of charge and specialized treatment services to over 50,000 children with disabilities. The newly inaugurated bed rooms would contribute to uplift its capacity of admitting patients.

Facing the Climate @ Alliance Ethio-Française

An exhibition developed by the Swedish Institute, produced by the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa and Buni Media, and curated by renowned cartoonists Victor Ndula from Kenya and Magnus Bard from Sweden was opened at the Alliance Ethio-Française on Wednesday April 26, 2016.

The idea of this cartoon exhibition was initiated to coincide with the 2009 United Nations Copenhagen Climate Change conference when 25 Nordic cartoonists interpreted the subject. Commonly known as the Copenhagen Summit, international media reported that the climate talks were “in disarray” and only a “weak political statement” was anticipated at the conclusion of the conference.

Since then Swedish cartoonists have been collaborating with international colleagues around the world to offer amusing and alarming views on climate change related issues from different local perspectives.

The exhibition in Addis Ababa brings together Swedish, Ethiopian, Kenyan and Tanzanian cartoonists. Using the power of humor and satire, these cartoonists invite the public to reflect upon the challenges of climate change and encourage responsible actions.

East African Global Music Campus in Kampala

The East African Global Music Campus has begun in Kampala, Uganda with a two-day kick-off meeting where the 11 partners in the consortium met to plan the two year project on the 26th and 27th of April 2017.

The meeting will run directly into a nine-day Organizational Development Workshop from the 28th of April finishing on the 6th of May. The workshop will be attended by directors and administrators from music schools and training centers in Eastern and Southern African countries including Ethiopia, Germany, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The workshop will provide skills training in how to run a sustainable social enterprise offering courses in music school administration and management, IT skills training, content management training, accreditation, cultural management and project development.

At the same time the proximity to the East African Performing Arts Market will allow the participants to network with stakeholders in the region and present their organizations.

The workshop is the first phase of the project.
Pedro e Tiago @ Alliance Ethio-Française

Pedro e Tiago, a Mozambican group formed in 2003, are scheduled to perform at the Alliance Ethio-Française on May 3, 2017.

The second album, “Sorry for the delay”, was nominated for six South African Music Awards in 2008 and won the best album design and best alternative album categories. In 2013, the group dissolved to reform in 2016 under another name and another musical philosophy: 340Million.

The duo are also developing the concept of A Million Things, an audio and visual experience, starting from a selection of cinematographic images from which the two musicians conduct a real musical research that ends in 2007: The creation of a ciné-concert. Surrounded on stage by a multitude of objects and instruments, the two musicians then propose a new musical narration to the projected image.

Meklit to release new album in June

Ethiopian-American artist Meklit Hadeor is scheduled to release her new album When the People Move, the Music Moves Too on June 23 with Six Degrees Records.

The record was produced by Dan Wilson, whose previous work with famous artists including Adele, Taylor Swift and John Legend - as well as fronting the band Semisonic - has earned multiple Grammy awards.

The album also includes Andrew Bird on violin and whistling, as well as New Orleans’ Preservation Hall Jazz Band horns.

A vibrant and inspired mix of Ethio-Jazz roots along with American pop, RnB and folk influences, it has been announced that Meklit’s upcoming record crosses both musical and generational borders to create a unified artistic vision, united behind her unique and unmistakable voice.

According to Meklit, When the People Move, the Music Moves Too is the result of a fateful encounter she experienced in Addis Ababa with the legendary vibraphonist/composer and father of Ethio-Jazz Mulatu Astatke, who helped spark Ethiopia’s 1960s musical renaissance.
Notice of General Meeting of Share Holders
ACCESS CAPITAL SERVICES SHARE COMPANY

Notice is hereby given that a General Meeting of Share Holders of ACCESS CAPITAL SERVICES SHARE COMPANY shall be held at the Ministry of Trade, 2nd floor conference hall on May 13, 2017 starting from 8:30 am to transact the businesses indicated below.

The Board of Directors of the Company kindly request all shareholders and subscribers to attend the Meeting at the place and time indicated above. Shareholders and subscribers may attend the Meeting in person or through proxy. You are kindly requested to present a valid ID card or passport.

Draft Agenda of the Meeting

- Presentation of the Board’s Report.
- Discussion of the Board Report and passing Resolution.
- Selection of new Board Members.
- Delegating the Board to select an External Auditor and determine its remuneration.
- Approval of the minutes of the meeting.

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**Crossword puzzle**

ACROSS
1. South American grassland
6. Form with a knife
10. Caput or windshield wiper bar
14. Item in quality or quantity
15. Rippled
16. Bag-shaped
17. Long pointed teeth
18. Consumes
19. Texas city (E)
23. Satisfied
24. Quiet
25. Lightly browned
28. Capitán of chess
30. Region
31. Moist desirable
32. Region
37. Silly or careless
38. Short or repeated
40. Pertaining to the largest continent
41. Shows or reveals again
42. Arty or inclined
43. Leader of 10th century tax revolt
44. Strait between New Guinea and Australia
45. Angrily
46. Protagonist

DOWN
1. Luxurious
2. Hot
3. Happening
4. A persevering person
5. Artist’s stand
6. Kittens
7. Almost written words
8. Collections
9. The product of human creativity
10. Upside inscribed slab
11. Animal companions
12. Latin for “Water”
13. Required
14. Pertaining to a certain Asian country
15. Region of France
16. Wall of brick, stone or cement
17. Profligate amphibian
18. Singer’s act (or) Garrison
19. Suspended
20. Leaders of the Roman Catholic church
21. “Sea Hunt” actor
22. Superfluous
23. “Sea Hunt” actor
24. Waterproof canvas covering
25. Talk show host

**Kuncho Komments**

20. “Sea Hunt” actor _____ Bridges
21. Baking appliance
22. 38, 91, 54, 48, 6
23. 100, 30, 10
24. Love what you can and take after what you lose on the m 25. Baking appliance
26. 73, 38, 83, 5, 40

**Your Zodiacs**

*Astrologyonline.com*

**Solution**

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

**US Box office**

1. The Fate of The Furious
2. The Boss Baby
3. Beauty and The Beast
4. Going In Style
5. S muffie: The Lost Village
6. Born In China
7. Unforgettable
8. Gifted
9. The Promise
10. The Lost City Of Z.

**The Reporter, Saturday, April 29, 2017**

Vol. XXI No. 1077
Owning our creations!

I am a big fan of art, paintings, music, dance, theater and the list goes on. While in Abdiñjan last week I ended up at an open mic night in a small café outside of the city. An open mic night is essentially a musical session where musicians, vocalists, from within the crowd go to the stage and perform and show their talent. I was impressed by the level of talent and as it turns out, one of the singers was a competitor in the “The Voice”, in South Africa.

This had me thinking about the exposure that African artists have been getting around the world, which has been increasing in a positive way. From cappers to painters and everything in between, African artists are making their presence known and exhibiting their talent and stories all across the world. While all of this is great, one thing comes to mind. Do they own their creations? Your automatic answer would be, of course, they created the art so it’s theirs. The truth of the matter is that it is a bit more complex. Rules related to intellectual property when it comes to the art world is seldom discussed.

Most importantly artists are not particularly aware of the steps to take to own and protect their creations, it’s complicated and most importantly it is additional costs that they may not have in their budget, and lawyers do not come cheap.

This past week Gelila Mesfin, an Ethiopian artist based in New York, was in an interesting situation. She, who had been putting her creations online had garnered quite a bit of media attention as her art was featured “Africanized” portrayals of famous black women ranging from first lady Michelle Obama to singer Lauryn Hill. A few days ago, an artist in Chicago posted a mural of former first lady Michelle Obama near her childhood home as part of a move to creating positive images in South Side of Chicago. Long and behold, the mural he posted was a copy of the image by Gelilia, who had neither been contacted nor credited for her creation. In fact, the mural artist claimed to have created the work. With internet and social media, this matter was brought before her attention and that of the media which ended up with the two artists negotiating and working towards an amicable resolution.

Although this is the most recent example, last month Sarah Diof, a Senegalese designer, had called out an Yves Saint Laurent, a French fashion house, for having stolen her bag design and exhibited it during their winter/fall collection. In the situation of the Senegales and Ethiopian artists, the claim is most likely that the work is a copy of the image by Gelilia, who had neither been contacted nor credited for her creation. In fact, the mural artist claimed to have created the work. With internet and social media, this matter was brought before her attention and that of the media which ended up with the two artists negotiating and working towards an amicable resolution.

Who decides...

Abadula Gemeda, speaker of the House of People’s Representatives and other high-ranking officials.

In addition, he will also meet with Addisu Gebregziabhah, chairperson of Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. A couple of weeks ago, the Addisu presented his Commission’s investigation report about the unrest to the house.

According to the Commission’s report, 660 civilians and security officers were killed. The report revealed that in most of the incidents the security personnel are said to have used excessive force.

From this, 462 protesters and 33 security personnel had been killed in the unrest that engulfed 91 towns in the Oromia Regional State alone. In addition, in the Amhara Regional State, 110 civilians and security personnel were killed. The unrest has caused an unprecedented wave of demonstrations, which began in November 2015.

The unrest has put the country under a state of emergency. During his visit, Zeid will also talk with officials at African Union Commission including, the newly-elected Chairperson of the Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat.

UN Human Rights...
Drought affected...

Coordinating of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA) reported that "back-to-back seasons of poor or non-existent rainfall in 2015 has exacerbated the strongest El Niño phenomenon recorded in the last fifty years in Ethiopia. This resulted in one of the worst droughts in Ethiopia in decades". Hence, the Indian Ocean Dipole, a wind current emanating from the Indian Ocean, which has contributed to the failure of rain in low land areas in Ethiopia forcing 5.6 million people to seek some USD 948 million worth of humanitarian assistance (both food and non-food items 600 million and 348 million, respectively).

Making the matter worse, according to Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, the response the government has received from the international community remains to be less satisfactory. In his recent parliamentary address, the PM said that his administration is exerting efforts to curb negative outcomes of the drought despite facing stiff resource competitions as the crisis engulfs East and West Africa and, the Middle East regions in general.

One way to reduce the impacts, both the humanitarian partners and the government have to distribute water and animal fodders in addition to the food aid.

Supreme Court rejects...

Abraha, the owner of Crown. The case, which ended at the Federal Supreme Court, revolved around Senema’s right as a shareholder of Edget to call shareholders’ meeting.

Accordingly, DBE tried to use the fact that Crown is fully owned by Edget.

Crown, on its part defended to both Courts that Edget has already been transferred to 15 shareholders and that it (Crown) is nothing but one of shareholders, at this time. It further claimed that the transfer of the shares was made on February 2016.

It is to be recalled that around the same time (February 2016), Crown Textile has won, yet again, another court battle against MIDROC Ethiopia Technology Group (MIDROC) regarding the ownership of Edget.

The relationship between Crown and MIDROC came into light when Crown failed to settle 65 percent of 47 million birr it owed PPRSA, upon the transfer of Edget Yarn. MIDROC and Crown, at the time, agreed that the former will pay the remaining money to PPRSA on its behalf. The two have signed a Memorandum of Understanding confirming their agreement.

Crown in return committed to transfer the rights of shares and physical properties of Edget to MIDROC. However, the process got stalled as Crown decided to stop the inventory process. When MIDROC demanded 33 million birr compensation for damages, which was caused by the delay of the transfer process, Crown argued that there was no binding contract between MIDROC and Crown. The claim by MIDROC for compensation hence went to an arbitration body.

The arbitration panel had then decided that there was no legal contract between MIDROC and Crown.

In the latest case between DBE and Crown, the bank argued that Crown’s restructuring of the ownership of Edget is an attempt by Crown to dodge its asset in Edget, according to its statement. Yet, Edget as one of the defendants argued that it should not be burdened with Crown’s liability.

In March, 2017, after reviewing their case, the high court has ruled rejecting DBE’s demand to freeze the assets of Edget. Rather it decided that it is only the share of Crown at Edget, which can be subjected to an asset freeze. In this respect, the court put an injunction order over 512 shares of Crown at Edget.

The bank has then brought its case to the Supreme Court appealing for its prior demand of freezing all assets under Edget.

First civil bench of the Supreme Court, which heard the case, was presided over by judges Gebebay Feleke, Ayeshehun Meles and Teshome Shiferaw.

To DBE’s dismay, however, the judges have accepted the high court’s ruling of freezing only the shares of Crown, at Edget.

Therefore, interested bidders can compete as per the following conditions.

1. A complete set of Bidding documents can be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of Birr 500.00 (five hundred) or its equivalent US dollar after 5 (five) days of this bid announcement for the first time.

2. Bidders can obtain the bid document from Procurement Division, which is located at Debretzeit road around Global Hotel, Mekwors Plaza building basement floor.

3. Interested bidders are advised to review the bid document carefully before preparing & submitting their bids.

4. Bids must be submitted on or before May 22, 2017 until 5:00 P.M.

5. Each bid must be presented in a sealed envelope and strictly in accordance with the instruction to bidders indicated in the bid document.

6. The bid will be opened at United Bank S.C. Head Office located at Mekwors Plaza Bldg 1st floor in Conference room at presence of bidders or their representatives who choose to attend in the bid opening on May 23, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.

7. Failure to observe the instructions & conditions provided in the bid document will constitute grounds for rejection of the bidder from competition.

8. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject the bid partly or totally.

9. For additional information bidders can contact by the following address

Tel. 011 465 5222 ext. 212 and 261 or 011 470 6541

United Bank s.c

www.thereporterethiopia.com
Three progress...

The Reporter, Saturday, April 29, 2017
Vol. XXI No. 1077

Three companies which bid to pass its final decision. In this respect, Simbo failed to pass the technical assessment because the capacity of the RAM of the tablet to be supplied is below the required level.

The specification clearly states that the capacity of the RAM have to be at least two gigabytes whereas Simbo’s is one gigabyte.

In case of Tecno, all companies in the bid are required to have a shipping capacity to sell at least three million tablets, annually. Tecno argued that this requirement is intentionally inserted to discriminate local competitors in the bid.

This is suppose to come at a clarification stages, before entering into the actual bid process, said Negash Bonke, Complainant Hearing Director at the Procurement Agency.

At the end of the day, Tecno failed to provide the required information which earlier said that it will provide data regarding its production over the past three years from the Ethiopian Revenue and Custom Authority. This, however, does not show its shipping capacity, Negash said.

Tecno is a Hong Kong-based mobile manufacturer, which was established in 2008. It first launched its operations in Ethiopia in September 2011 with a capital investment of more than one million dollars.

Tecno’s installed production capacity stands at one million devices a month although at the moment it claims that it is restricted to producing, on average, 250,000 devices, a month.

Not only that, Tecno also failed to provide detail features of the mobile device software management software, the decision said.

Poor power supply....

CONT`D FROM PAGE 5

With concrete poles.

Regarding the electric supply problem at Tatek, Andnet said that there is a limitation at the substation. “A new substation was supposed to be built when the expansion project was undertaken. But, due to the urgency, an electric line was installed for Mugher without a substation. So now we are building a new substation that will soon be commissioned. Once the new substation is finalized the plants will be connected to it and the problem will be resolved. It will be up and running soon. We are eagerly waiting for the completion of the substation. It is not only for the factory but the new substation will also benefit the community,” Andnet told The Reporter.

Mugher Cement Factory was founded by the former military regime in 1984 and built by an East German company near Mugher town, 90 km North West of Addis Ababa. In 1999 Mugher Cement Enterprise was reestablished with an authorized capital of 334.7 million birr and Addis Ababa Cement Factoy. The factory is managed by the Chemical Industry Corporation.

In recent years, Mugher Cement has not been profitable due to the cumbersome transport service. Ahmed pointed out that the 71-km Addis-Adama Express infrastructure, Ahmed pointed out that the 71-km Addis-Adama Express infrastructure, which earlier said that it will provide data regarding its production over the past three years from the Ethiopian Revenue and Custom Authority.

In the tender document, it was stated that the codes and the names are something that will be given by CSA after the award. So the bidders should not be obliged to have it, according to Negash.

Lenovo is overqualified on most of the technical points, the board decision said.

The purchase is expected to cost somewhere around one billion birr. The CSA has already has already allocated three billion birr of budget for the whole census.

ERCA pays 30 mln birr...

CONT`D FROM PAGE 4

ERCA pays 30 mln birr...

The 73-focus company, designed to provide VAT refund it claimed. The company said it has come to an agreement with ERCA to provide the required information.

The Ethiopian government has a five percent free carried interest on the gold mine. Upon the request of KEFI, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation (MoFEC) has agreed to invest 20 million dollars on the gold mine development project.

Recently, KEFI has proposed to MoFEC to increase the government’s stake on the project.

Nation imports...

CONT`D FROM PAGE 4

He also noted that free transport service offered by the federal government for civil servants has also made its mark on increasing transport services in Addis Ababa.

Highlighting improvements made in infrastructure, Ahmed pointed out that the 71-km Addis-Adama Express Way, the only modern highway in the country, has generated a total of 38.6 million birr in revenue, exceeding target.

He however, told the HPR that even though there had been a plan to import some 400 buses with a view to addressing the ever-worsening problem of transportation in Addis Ababa, it was not realized due to delays in purchase order.

Despite intense efforts by the ministry to minimize traffic accidents, the minister noted that the rate of fatalities caused by traffic accidents shows no sign of abating.

In the past nine months, the ministry and other institutions have strengthened the public awareness programs through broadcast and electronic media. New legislation like the amended Road Transport Traffic Controlling bill have also come to enforcement while a draft bill on the issuance of driver’s licenses has been submitted to the government. Similarly, new electronic devices that test the blood alcohol level of motorists have also been introduced during the year.

Aside from the fatalities and injuries, traffic accidents over the nine-month period also caused damage to property estimated at 456.9 million birr, he said.
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St. George handed tough draw in African Champions League

By Dawit Tolesa

Ethiopian Premier League side St. George FC have been handed a tough draw for the group stages of this year’s African Champions League.

The group stage draw was held in Cairo on Wednesday April 26, 2017. The Horsemens will face South African side and defending champions Mamelodi Sundowns in Group C. Also in the same group are Esperance of Tunisia and Democratic Republic of Congo’s AS Vita Club, who have both been continental champions in the past.

St. George first match will be played on May 12, 2017 in Lucas Masterpieces Moripe Stadium, South Africa. St. George qualified to the group stages after defeating Andel regards of the Republic of Congo 3-0 on aggregate.

“We are in a tough group and it is not going to be easy like our previous matches. We should do better and proceed to the next stage,” St. George assistant coach, Zerihun Shengeta, told The Reporter.

This has been a successful campaign for St. George advancing to CAF champions’ league group stage for the first time in the club’s history.

North African countries have once again proved that they are a force in club football with a massive seven entries into the group phase. They are Al Ahly and Zamalek of Egypt, Wydad Casablanca of Morocco, USM Alger of Algeria and Al Ahli Tripoli of Libya.

East Africa has three teams namely St. George from Ethiopia) and Al Hilal and Al Merreikh from Sudan.

South African side Mamelodi Sundowns, who are the defending champions, Ferroaviao of Mozambique, Zanite FC of Zambia and Zimbabwe’s CAPS United will represent the Southern African zone.

Since the inception of the Premier Soccer League (PSL) in 1996 Sundowns have won the league title a record seven times and they are the current African Champions League champions and 2016 CAF Club of the Year. They have also won the Nedbank Cup four times, and hold the joint record of three National Football League Championships and they are the only South African team to compete in the FIFA Club World Cup.

Horsemen tighten grip as Addis Ababa fight for survival

By Dawit Tolesa

Week 26 of the Ethiopian Premier League (EPL) is to be staged this weekend across the country. Defending champions St. George will face Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, who are battling relegation. In another fixture, Ethiopia Coffee will hope to add more pressure on Jimma Aba Bunna, who are a point away from the relegation zone.

With only five matches remaining to end this season, so far, title contenders are fighting to emerge as winners while teams at the bottom of the table are fighting to earn valuable three points and save their clubs from relegation.

League leaders St. George, who were lucky in getting a vital win over Woldia City, will entertain Hawasa City at the National Stadium this weekend. Thanks to a lone 67th minute goal from Abdulkerim Nikema, the Horsemen managed to secure all three points and are fighting to avoid relegation while Adama aim to be on equal footing with the likes of St. George and Dedebit. However, the Bankers are not going to be easy opponents for Adama, considering CBE’s last week’s victory over Fasil City. The Bankers defeated 3-1 Fasil City at Addis Ababa Stadium.

Elsewhere, Dire Dawa City will host Woldia City, Dedebit will entertain Defense, while Sidama Coffee will play against Addis Ababa City.

St. George lead the table with 46 points while Hawasa City are 7th with 31 points. Meanwhile, another title contender, Addis Ababa City, will host Commercial Bank of Ethiopia at the Adama Abebe Bikila Stadium. Adama City – currently 5th – are trailing the top four. In their last match, Adama came from behind to beat Addis Ababa City 3-1. Addis Ababa City opened the score sheet on the 2nd minute after Ali Ayana’s 32 meters sublime strike found the back of the net. Though Addis Ababa City were better in terms of ball possession they struggled to score additional goals. Addis Hintsa’s equalized for the visitors three minutes after the half-hour mark. Then, Adama took the lead after Dawa Utesa found the back of the net on the 64th minute and Mujib Kassim sealed the deal for the visitors after scoring on the 93rd minute. Addis Ababa City are fighting to avoid relegation with 19 points.

A win for both Adama City and the Bankers is a crucial one. The Bankers will are fighting to avoid relegation while Adama aim to be on equal footing with the likes of St. George and Dedebit. However, the Bankers are not going to be easy opponents for Adama, considering CBE’s last week’s victory over Fasil City. The Bankers defeated 3-1 Fasil City at Addis Ababa Stadium.

By Dawit Tolesa

Week 26 EPL fixtures

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Addis Ababa Stadium

Addama City, will host Commercial Bank of Ethiopia at the Adama Abebe Bikila Stadium. Adama City – currently 5th – are trailing the top four. In their last match, Adama came from behind to beat Addis Ababa City 3-1. Addis Ababa City opened the score sheet on the 2nd minute after Ali Ayana’s 32 meters sublime strike found the back of the net. Though Addis Ababa City were better in terms of ball possession they struggled to score additional goals. Addis Hintsa’s
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Total Ethiopia in its Corporate Social Responsibility programs sponsored Cheshire Services Ethiopia (CSE) the 43rd fund raising walk for children with disabilities. The walk program was held on March 4, 2017, started and finished at Cheshire rehabilitation center at Menagesha on the new Ambo road 17 KMs from Kolfe round about.

CSE is an organization that provides comprehensive rehabilitation for people with disabilities, primarily children and young people. CSE has served for the last 35 years rendering numerous impairment related service for both children and adults in all its five regional centers. Since its establishment in Ethiopia, CSE has treated more than 25,000 children, enabling them to lead normal lives and become integrated members of the society.

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- The successful bidder shall provide price quotation afterwards;
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