Integrated force deployed to curtail brute killing in Metekel

BY YESUF ENDRIS

ADDIS ABABA - Expressing deep condolences over the brute killings of citizens in Metekel, Benishangul Gumuz state, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said the government has deployed integrated force to bring lasting solution to the citizens’ continued suffering.

On his Facebook page, he wrote that many of the attempts to peacefully deal with the problem had gone to naught. Thus, the government has put in place the integrated force.

The objective of the enemies is to weaken the forces that scored victory against the junta, he said, adding that this is a futile attempt that never materializes.

He called on all to work collaboratively and in a focused way to achieve the desired outcome.

Meanwhile, Ethiopian Human Right Commission (EHRC) also announced that the primary duty of the government should be to restore law and order in Ethiopia’s Tigray Region: How Did We Get Here? See page 3

Gov’t to embark on conflict trauma healing process

• Pledged to facilitate conditions for free election in Tigray

BY YOHANES JEMANEH

ADDIS ABABA – Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed reaffirmed government’s strong commitment to heal those who are affected by the recent law enforcement operation in Tigray State through rehabilitation works including humanitarian activities.

The premier also pledged to fully restore infrastructure that the junta destroyed.

“While I admire the courage and sacrifice of our men and women in uniforms, I know the conflict has caused unimaginable suffering,” he noted in his article the Office of the Prime Minister published on its site.

“This is a conflict in which Ethiopians had to kill their fellow Ethiopians, target and destroy their own defense infrastructure and weaken their own defense capability,” Abiy added.

He expressed that the next task is to launch the process of healing from the aftereffects of this traumatic conflict, to ensure citizens

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Promising step towards boosting agricultural productivity See page 7

Booksellers Galore-Has the Reading Culture Caught up with the Business? See page 8

Two former officials released on paroles after 30 years

BY DARGIE KAHSAY

ADDIS ABABA - After 30 years of sheltering on the premises of the Italian Embassy here in Addis Ababa, two former officials of the People’s Democratic Republic Ethiopia were released on paroles yesterday.

The two officials, Major Berhanu Bayeh and Major Addis Tedla took shelter in Italian Embassy following the downfall of the Derg on May 1991.

Other senior Derg officials who were apprehended by the Ethiopian People’s Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) were sentenced of capital punishment which was later changed to life imprisonment and were released on amnesty 10 years ago.

Berhanu and Addis were also tried in absentia

Ethio-Sudan border incident stems from external forces: PMO

BY MENGISTEAB TESHOME

ADDIS ABABA—Ethio-Sudan border skirmishes’ key players are some external forces with hidden agenda of destabilizing the region, the Office of the Prime Minister (PMO) said.

The office in its latest statement also said that the conflicts at the border areas have nothing to do with the two governments.

Both governments acknowledged that behind the border skirmishes, there are some groups who are working day in and day out to add fuel in the current crisis in a bid to achieve their hidden interests in the region.

It is regrettable to see the conflict particularly after Ethiopia government concluded the law enforcement operation in the Northern part of the country at the same time while Sudan

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See... See page 3
UN retiree women award bonds for female security staff at GERD

BY TAMERU REGASA

ADDIS-ABABA - Ethiopian women who were former staff of United Nations (UN) have offered 600,000 Birr worth bond as awards for female security personnel of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

The UN retirees bought bonds for 429 women members of Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF) and Hidassie Division of the Federal Police Forces who are in charge of the security works around the dam.

Representing the group Almaz Teferra said GERD is a project where women are making discernible contribution.

She further underscored that the group has great commitment to coordinate fund raising activities for the dam.

Aregawi Berhe (Ph.D) Director General of Public Participation Coordination Office for GERD presenting on the awarding event said that women should uphold contribution to the construction of the dam as the hydropower project highly reduces the burden of women.

Building resilience, Institutions proceed with reforms

BY MULATU BELACHEW

ADDIS ABABA - The sector-wide reform undertaking in Ethiopia has been continuing despite some elements’ efforts to derail the process, said Federal Attorney General Gedion Timothewos (Ph.D)

Attorney General’s remarks came while explaining his ideas on policy Matters Part 2 of the Special Series posted on the Office of the Prime Minister’s Facebook page.

Institutions have become more resilient and pressed ahead with the reforms that are bringing tangible results, he said.

In the legal sector, he mentioned the adoption of a new media proclamation, which is part of the reform packages. “Also, a new media policy has been put in place.”

Political parties and the public in general have put the next election at the heart of various conversations, he said, adding that these and other similar activities being carried out show that the reform has maintained its tempo in spite of the challenges facing the county.

“We are continuing with renewed vigor and focus. The upcoming election would be the capstone of the reform process. Through this process we would continue building an Ethiopia where there is the basis of rule of law, liberty, fraternity and equality.”

Even following the law enforcement operation, political parties that operate in Tigray are made to play a central role in the interim administration of the state which also show as the reform is being implemented across all sectors and in all fronts.

What the government has been doing is accelerating the transition of the country that is aimed at strengthening institutions to be able to make citizens enjoy their constitutional freedom within an institutional and normative framework that ensure both security and liberty, he indicated.

Indicating as thousands of suspects apprehended in relation to the law enforcement had been speedily tried, he said many others were acquitted.

Ministry calls for more cooperation to contain pandemic’s spread

BY ABDUREZAK MOHAMMED

ADDIS ABABA – Ministry of Health has called for continuation of concerted efforts to arrest the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Addressing questions raised by MPs yesterday, Health Minister Dr. Lia Tadesse stated that as the coronavirus is a global health threat, the cooperation of all stakeholders is very important to prevent the spread of the pandemic.

According to her, on average, about 10 percent of individuals tested daily in the country are infected by the pandemic. And also, the number of COVID-19 victims who needs mechanical ventilators is on the rise.

She further noted that, initially, there was a good sense of cooperation. “The result of minimizing the spread of the pandemic is also the outcome of coordinated action.”

However, comparing with the previous efforts, stakeholders’ cooperation to prevent the spread of the virus is declining at the community, institution, and governance level, she indicated.

She also said that a great deal of work has been done by the Ministry to curb the spread of the pandemic and these activities will surely continue. She added, “This preventive work requires the cooperation of stakeholders from the kebele to the federal level.”

Meanwhile, the House, in its 6th year 7th regular meeting, approved the appointment of three board members of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Corporation – Dr. Alemu Sime, Dr. Aregawi Berhe, and Yeshiwas Assefa. Dr. Alemu Sime would serve as chairperson of the Board.

The House also referred media proclamation and the revised Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Establishment proclamation to the House’s Legal, Justice and Democracy Affairs Standing Committee for further scrutiny.

EFFORT new board of managers take office

BY GETAHUN LEGESSE

ADDIS ABABA – Federal Attorney General and Ministry of Finance jointly disclosed the new independent board of managers have taken office as of yesterday. The board of manger would administer the Endowment Fund for the Rehabilitation of Tigray (EFFORT) to curb the extravagance and loss the company has incurred so far.

At the event, Federal Attorney General Gedion Thimotoes (Ph.D) said that the appointed board members are independent and professionals elected legally and procedurally.

Gedion further elaborated that the company was problematic and burden to the nation as it has been using exaggerated budget deficit for corruption and frauds.

The institutions play significant roles in rehabilitating the state, thus, the attorney decided to reopen the institution while investigation is underway, he added.

Eyob Tekalign (Phd), State Minister of Ministry of Finance, for his part, said that the board has the mandate to manage the institutions under EFFORT.

The board is trusted to regenerate EFFORT and resolve all the financial and leadership puzzles it has been through. It will resume its developmental projects in the state. It was unable to repay bank loans that the board will investigate through financial auditing, he explained.

The company has been solely monopolized by the higher officials of the TPLF junta and has been used as the personal property of few officials. The Attorney General had been investigating the delinquencies committed by the previous managers of the company.
Habitat for Humanity

BY BETHLEHEM ASFAW

ADDIS ABABA—Habitat for Humanity Ethiopia disclosed yesterday that it has launched 18.9 million birr project implementation with a view to improving the livelihood of the vulnerable segments of the community in Addis Ababa. Dereje Adugna, National Director of Habitat Ethiopia said the project will benefit over five thousand households, which is equivalent with over 30 thousand individuals directly, and some 10 thousand beneficiaries indirectly. He also added that the project, which already started since December 1, 2020, will stay for three years. It also targets at improving the living conditions of the vulnerable people including the Korean War Veteran (K WV) living in Gullele and Yeka Sub cities of Addis Ababa through providing them with housing, water, sanitation facilities and capacity building as well as creating job opportunities.

LG electronics founded the project to improve the livelihoods of the vulnerable communities including K WV families living there. The project will be put into effect via partnership with LG electronics Inc., Habitat for Humanity Korea, Habitat for Ethiopia and Addis Ababa City Administration. Seokhee Kang, Korean Ambassador to Ethiopia on his part said that the project is significant to improve the vulnerable communities during K WV. He also said the project has focused on housing as it is a means to easily change other requirements. The project is expected to be compatible with government efforts to help assist the vulnerable specifically in line with the Addis Ababa city administration development plan, he noted.

President of the Benshangul Gumuz state has lately announced that more cases are being investigated with the help of survivors and local officials who were in deprivation of liberty. In Bulen Woreda’s Bekuji Kebele is a sign of an increase in scope and frequency of attacks, he said.

Regarding the allegation that the government of Ethiopia is responsible for the recent killing, “EHRC has repeatedly called for stronger collaboration between the federal and regional governments and a greater focus into the recurring nature of the attacks. Unfortunately, the attacks have since only increased in scope and frequency,” the statement indicated.

The Benshangul Gumuz state has lately announced that about seven government officials and 42 assailants have been killed by security forces. The state government further said that measures against the traitors will be extended until they (traitors) removed.

The state government Communication Head Mesele Beyene told local media that the state and federal security forces are taking measures for the release of the officials and 42 assailants who are recognized by local residents “by name and sight.”

The commission provided a proposal for the government for amnesty and the Embassy of Italy officially requested the Federal High Court on paroles.

According to Fekadu they asked the government journalists that the two officials had been in a shelter since May 1991. He added that all their basic needs had been fulfilled by their families.

The government after making a rigorous study on how they would be taken out of the shelter and after taking into consideration that they were deprived of their liberty over the last decades, it had requested the Federal High Court for the former officials to be released on parole and the court passed its verdict to their release on parole.

The report indicated that more cases are being investigated with the help of survivors and local concerned bodies. Horrific images from different sources have been collected, it was reported. “The commission’s team visited 36 victims who were receiving treatment at Bulen Hospital, the majority for gunshot wounds and others for injuries sustained from ar
terr’s recent visit to Metekel.

The actual number of death is still not investigated yet. But the commission’s report said that some of the officials have been participating in the deploring of the victims. Regarding the allegation that the government of Ethiopia is responsible for the recent killing, “EHRC has repeatedly called for stronger collaboration between the federal and regional governments and a greater focus into the recurring nature of the attacks. Unfortunately, the attacks have since only increased in scope and frequen
cy,” the statement indicated.

Based on the request of the officials and humanitarian considerations, President of the country commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment, he stated.

The two countries had worked in collaboration at testing times, and now working at the international platforms to defend common interests, according to the office. Right now some elements are fanning the flame toEthio-Sudan border issues to cultivate their own agenda, thus, two government are confident enough to undo the crisis with diplomatic activities.
When I took office as Prime Minister of Ethiopia in April 2018, I had only one driving mission for my premiership – to put my country and people on a path to lasting peace and prosperity. I vowed to myself, my family and my people, in private and in public, that I would never resort to force as a way of resolving internal political differences. I believe that no problem is worthy of any bloodshed, that all problems can be resolved amicably if we have the courage of our convictions to sit around a table, in good faith, in search of mutually acceptable solutions. I further declared that the only enemy I would mobilize my people and resources to wage war against was poverty.

However, my vision and determination came under severe strain right from the start of my premiership. It did not take long for the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) leadership to launch a campaign, covertly and overtly, to undermine my administration and make our people and the rest of the world believe that, without them at the helm, Ethiopia would be ungovernable. To make their case, the TPLF leadership had to produce the evidence of ungovernability themselves, organizing a clandestine nationwide campaign of criminality and violence: sponsoring, financing, and training disaffected individuals to instigate communal clashes and attacks on members of ethnic minorities in different parts of the country. Attacks sponsored and orchestrated by the TPLF leadership left more than two million people internally displaced and thousands dead in the past two and half years.

I was fully aware that the TPLF leadership orchestrated the mayhems, bordering on party-sponsored terrorism, diverting budgetary resources allocated by the Federal Government to pay for their criminal enterprise and destabilize the nation. But, despite overwhelming pressure from the public for the Government to stop them by all means necessary, including through the use of force, I made it clear, repeatedly, that nothing would distract me away from my firm position on this matter. Regrettably, all my persistent efforts to avoid conflict by all means were taken for weakness. In the end, however, the choice was not to be mine. While I was preaching peace and prosperity for my country and people, and working day and night to realize it, a violent attack was launched against my Government and people. On the night of 03 November 2020, the TPLF leadership launched, under cover of darkness, what they later described, on public television, as a “military operation” against the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF), which had been stationed in the Region since the outbreak of war with Eritrea over two decades ago. Using tractors recruited from within the army along ethnic lines, not only did the TPLF leadership cause the massacre of unarmed soldiers in their pyjamas in the dead of night, they also took possession, illegally, of the entire military arsenal of the Northern Command. I was thus left with a decision only of how, not whether, to fight to defend the integrity of my country and restore the constitutional order.

More than the attack, what shocked me and my fellow Ethiopians to the core was the level of cruelty the TPLF leadership displayed in the conduct of their criminal operations. After they surprised and overpowered several regiments of the ENDF, the TPLF identified and separated hundreds of unarmed Ethiopian soldiers of non-Tigrayan origin, tied their hands and feet together, massacred them in cold blood, and left their bodies lying in open air. Never would I have imagined it humanly possible for any person to kill their fellow soldiers while asleep and record themselves singing and dancing on the bodies of their victims. Following their surprise attack on their own unsuspecting fellow Ethiopians, it didn’t take long for the TPLF leadership to start celebrating and gloating in public about their prowess and invincibility in war and how they have now transformed themselves, overnight, into the largest fighting force in the entire Horn of Africa.

With the benefit of hindsight, the surprise attack by the TPLF forces had three interrelated objectives. First, by attacking the Northern Command, which accounted for the bulk of Ethiopia’s most experienced combat forces, they aimed to weaken the capability of the ENDF to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

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Editorial

Consolidating close talks for bridging differences, sowing lasting peace seed

Nothing is more apt and promising than providing citizens with a peaceful sigh of breath especially in countries sharing common borders. In principle, no society gets in confrontation unless they are calculatingly or unknowingly instigated by elements carrying a hidden agenda on both sides.

The case of Ethiopia and Sudan is not far from this fact. These countries have been consolidating their bilateral ties via resolving disputes in a peaceful means. To this end, they are employing high level political consultation. Besides, they have reached agreement through their senior officials of course to maintain the status quo they have had for years.

Basically, every problem needs to be peacefully settled between the two sisterly countries meeting the continental principle “African solutions to African problems.” Sudan was by the side of the Ethiopian government during law enforcement operation in Tigray State, indeed.

This portrays that the two nations developed a keen desire on further cementing the long-lasting, historic and meaningful bilateral ties that need to be well consolidated. It is high time to replace the animosity developed in borders with cooperation and fraternity among the people of the two countries.

In the era of exerting utmost effort to come up with the United States of Africa, being indulged in confrontation singling out minor gaps and trivial ideas is an obsolete fashion. Hence, the roots of rivalry and dispute should get dried.

Obviously, Ethiopia has long back established an increased diplomatic profile with its neighboring countries in particular. Yes, Ethiopia and Sudan have a long standing bilateral relation as their ties have historically been founded on domestic goals of physical security, economic development and access to the water resources offered by the Nile with a view to promoting security and economic progress.

Recently, the two countries expressed the need for settling border issues and developing bilateral cooperation to fit with the strong relations between their respective people. To this end, they discussed bilateral cooperation and recent border clashes as both of them are very much concerned by this recent development in the border areas; hence, they should be able to maintain the status quo in their respective territories per agreements of last May.

It is their firm position that reactivating the existing mechanisms and finding an amicable solution on settlement and cultivation are the only way to bring a lasting solution to the trying issues in common border.

The strong political will of the two nations to demarcate the borders between the two countries has been taken into account, too, as it is quite significant to help them bring about lasting peace and tranquility in border localities.

The more lessen the firm relations of two countries, the greater the intensity of hostility among border sharing community, which has a direct repercussion to regional instability, would be. The gaps witnessed along this line have to be leveled.

If Sudan wants to maintain its prime role in buttressing social, economic and political spheres, it needs to continue managing its relationship with Ethiopia carefully and prevent becoming part of a source of conflict itself.

The economic, political and developmental efforts will bear fruits and get the two countries benefited much out of it if border disputes between Ethiopia and Sudan are well addressed and chapters of increasing hostilities are closed for good. It is clear that there is goodwill on both sides of the top leadership of the countries.

Opinion

A huge weight off of Ethiopians’ shoulders

BY ADDISALEM MALUIT

Without a shadow of a doubt, the unexpected always happens in life, no matter what alert level we are at. In more concert terms, we do not have a spark of an idea on the subject of what the future holds in store except struggling with a considerable amount of life challenges time after time.

It is to be recalled that the TPLF junta clique carried out an attack on the Northern Command of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces situated in the Tigray Region. Their deliberate and treacherous attack was able to break the hearts of all Ethiopians residing at home and abroad in the twinkling of an eye. As most people were full of remorse, they burst into tears, and their face turned into ash.

Nobody had expected the TPLF clique would open fire on their comrades who were living in harmony and peace under the same roof with them for quite a lot of years. The Ethiopian National Defense Forces did not imagine the TPLF clique would have enough guts to bring about mind-boggling human suffering on their associates.

However, the TPLF junta clique managed to demonstrate in black and white life-threatening vindictiveness thinking that they would overthrow the government and regain their power back.

Despite the fact that the TPLF junta officials moved heaven and earth with the purpose of overthrowing the government in unlawful means, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces managed to throw cold water on their dreams putting their effective military strategies into effect.

To the surprise of everyone, the law enforcement operation was accomplished at the earliest opportunity speeding up the death of the TPLF Junta officials and their clique. As the Ethiopian National Defense Forces are acknowledged for their effective military strategies, they managed to achieve the envisioned target within the shortest time possible.

Nowadays, the people of Ethiopia and Tigray have been treading on air and on cloud nine on this matter. Ethiopians have been feeling as if a huge weight has been lifted off their bodies. All and sundry have been taken by surprise in consequence of the heroism of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces.

Though the desired goal of the TPLF clique was bringing an end to the capability of the Northern Command by snatching the military possession and carrying out other insignificant barbaric acts, the dream of the former went for nothing. As they were blinded by evil deeds and full of mischievous ideas, they were persistently endeavoring to get the country into murky waters.

Odds are that they would do away with the federal government and gain back power without problems. However, in the fullness of time, the TPLF junta officials’ miscalculation ended up accelerating their death.

Under TPLF’s leadership, Ethiopians were under the yoke of poverty and oppression for nearly three decades. The whole thing was as dark as night seeing that they were constantly pushing the country into a corner.

Ethiopians were giving up hope on life, and between the hammer and the anvil. At a loss of what to do, they embarked on cursing their lucks seeing that the TPLF officials were turning the country on its head. Above and beyond, they were known for violating human rights and fattening their pockets at the expense of their compatriots.

As the birdbrained TPLF officials were not in the position to lend their ears, Ethiopia and its people were now and then on the line. They were not able to shake hands with themselves. More often than not, they do not want their Pandora’s Box to be opened.

At the present time, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces have been launching a legitimate administration in the Tigray Region in line for enforcing law and order through making use of various means. Hence, the whole lot is moving in the right direction, and the intended target is being achieved.

In doing so, the Ethiopian National Defense Forces managed to reinstate order, make available public services, effectuate sustainable development, and/or more of the same.

The government of Ethiopia should follow very closely infiltrators who have been working in various governmental and non-governmental organizations for the reason that they do not refrain from getting themselves involved in evil acts.

Since Prime Minister Abiy came to power, they were persistently stoking unrest in the left, right, and center of the country bringing into play public property and services that Ethiopians use.

At this point in time, everyone is breathing a sigh of relief following the achievement of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces. As the TPLF junta officials’ clique cannot be happy with the ongoing situation and refrain from stirring up unrest bringing into play various techniques and sowing the seeds of discord in the midst of the various Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples of Ethiopia, the government should keep an eye on the displeased ones.

Editor’s Note: The views entertained in this article do not necessarily reflect the stance of The Ethiopian Herald
BY ABEBE WOLDEGIORGIS

In the normative approach, economic development is attained step by step, starting from the primary to secondary and tertiary economic activities i.e it is achieved through a successive transformation from the agriculture to industry and service sectors. In the process, the labor force stranded in the agriculture sector will move to industry and service sectors.

Urbanization also accelerates such process because it facilitates the inflow of labor from rural to urban areas. The availability of better infrastructure in urban centers gives way to the non-agriculture sector to flourish, according to Dr. Shiferaw Addis, Economics Lecturer at Edmonton University.

As to him, in a country where subsistence farming is dominant, achieving agricultural productivity is difficult. The economic value of agriculture land is lesser than the land in the non-agricultural sector. For example, in the Ethiopian context, a farmer in one hectare land may produce grain for his family and supply very little to the market but one hectare of land in an urban center can be utilized to establish industry or service firm which create job opportunities for thousands and this shows how the expansion of infrastructure add value on land in urban areas.

Besides, human needs fluctuate and show progress. Food is a basic need for humans but people consume small amount as compared to other needs which are unlimited and diversified. On the other hand, these other needs create demands that can only be met by industrial production and service provision. For this to happen, it is the urban centers that provide a market for industrial and service products and induce economic growth.

According to studies, currently 55 percent of the world population lives in the urban areas but its contribution to the Growth Domestic Production (GDP) is 80 percent. In Ethiopia Addis Ababa contributes a considerable amount to the country’s GDP which is 50 percent. Other cities contribute less than 10 percent and this indicates that there is an economic imbalance between urban centers and most economic activities are concentrated in Addis Ababa.

In the last three decades, due to the prevalence of ethnic politics and political instability, as well as other economic and infrastructural factors, investors preferred Addis Ababa than other emerging cities for investment. The division between the so-called indigenous and non-indigenous people in various regions prohibited the flow of capital, ideas and technology to other secondary cities. This has significantly limited the contribution of other secondary cities to the country’s economy.

The elite and the educated class also were not attracted to go and work in the regions because of the above-mentioned problem. The absence of rule of law and functioning institutions to enforce contracts was very challenging as the result, many projects were interrupted. We can mention numerous causes to be mentioned in this regard. Hence investors instead of going to other regions, they prefer to invest in Addis Ababa as the result the city developed at the expense of other towns and urban centers. Currently, the disproportionate growth between regional cities and Addis Ababa is the outcome of the wrong policy implemented in the past.

Though urban centers play a crucial role in economic growth, they have their own shortcomings. For instance, socio-economic crises are rampant in Addis Ababa. The housing problem has been transferred from generation to generation and this exacerbates land grabbing and corruption.

In urban centers informal economic activities surpass the formal ones and this narrows the government’s tax base. This is a big issue in a developing country like Ethiopia where the government always faces difficulties in internal resources mobilization for development.

Illegal trade is also rampant. In spite of the fact that Addis contributes 50 percent to the GDP, 22 percent of the city’s residents are living in an appalling poverty trap. The other worrying is poverty induced crime rate is higher in urban areas than the other places.

Poisons gases emission from industries, transport, construction and other service sectors have their own contribution to climate change and global warming and in making life difficult in urban areas. While, 55 percent of the world population lives in urban places, yet urban areas contribute 70 percent of emission gas globally. Poor sewerage system because of unplanned urban expansion poses health risks.

Currently, here in Ethiopia and in other parts of the world, urban centers are vulnerable to epidemics. In the poverty-stricken areas, people live in a congested way and such situation expose them for various transmitted diseases.

If the growth of urban areas is managed properly and in an inclusive manner, it is possible to overcome these challenges and make urban centers hubs of economic growth.

Urban centers are places where people with diversified ethnic, religious and cultural background live together. Division of labor is manifested by the day to day economic activities and people with various professions earn their living through interacting with others and make businesses. The culture and diversity of the world is managed through connecting both consumers and producers.

Approximately more than 5 million people live in Addis Ababa and this necessitates the expansion of industry and services. Producers can easily get market without going to other places.

No town has more than one million populations in Ethiopia except Addis Ababa. There is no secondary city in the country whose population passes the 500,000 mark. According to current projects, there is no possibility for the population of Ethiopia’s secondary cities to reach one million. Currently towns such as Bahir Dar, Adama, Hawassa, Jimma, Gonder, Dessie and others have less than half a million people.

But more or less, these towns could garner local investment because their urbanism is manifested by the day to day economic activities and people with various professions earn their living through interacting with others and make businesses. The culture and diversity of the world is managed through connecting both consumers and producers.

In the urban areas, manufacturing industries and services get loan access from banks; insurance companies also encourage them to build confidence in their business. The availability of skilled labor also supports them to increase productivity. This has been the case for Addis. But the reverse is true for other emerging cities.

For the future development of Ethiopia the inflow of foreign investment is essential. But as compared to other African cities, the inflow of foreign direct investment is limited, with the expectation of Addis Ababa. In fact, Addis is the 24th investment destination city in Africa. It is the 323rd in the world and this indicates that there remains a lot to be done even in the case of Addis.

As in developed economies, there is strong evidence that cities in developing countries bolster productive efficiency. Urbanization has been an essential part of most nations’ development towards a stronger and more stable economy. The countries in the South that urbanized most rapidly in the last 10–20 years are generally those with the most rapid economic growth. Most of the world’s largest cities are in the world’s largest economies, which is further evidence of this link between economic wealth and cities.

Cities and towns also have important roles in social transformation. They are centers of artistic, scientific and technological innovations, of culture and education.

Generally, cities provide economies of scale, agglomeration, and localization; they provide efficient infrastructure and services through density and concentration in transportation, communications, power, human interactions, water and sanitation services. They attract talents and skilled labor that allow specialization in knowledge, skills and management capabilities possible. They can achieve the economies of scale, agglomeration and urbanization. Hence, Ethiopia should give due attention to the development of its urban centers. It has to specifically give due emphasis to the growth of secondary and emerging cities to share the burden of the capital in many aspects.
By Addisalem Mulat

It is no secret that most Ethiopian farmers fully count upon rain-fed agriculture now and then given that the county has been bringing into play a traditional agricultural system since time immemorial. Sad as it may sound, on the grounds of this, most farmers of the country have been living on the breadline.

Despite the fact that scores of techniques have been put in place with the purpose of changing the lives of farmers by focal persons and pertinent bodies, the desired goal has not been achieved yet. As a matter of fact, the envisioned objective could not be accomplished on the basis of the traditional farming system that does not help farmers ensure food security all over the country and pull themselves out of poverty.

Strictly speaking, to this point, an extensive range of endeavor has been brought into being in pursuance of getting to the bottom of the problem at the earliest time possible. As the government of Ethiopia has been placing much emphasis on the sector, quite a lot of fruitful results have been registered to signal the fact that the county is heading along the right lines.

In a similar manner, some individuals have been unceasingly leaning backward to contribute their share for ensuring food security on a national scale. Furthermore, they have been making a big effort with the intention of creating windows of opportunities that can take the country to a whole new level of a favorable outcome in ensuring food security.

Just to mention one, this writer would like to say a few things about Talegeta Leul, a specialist researcher and principal scientist who has been giving his all into changing the lives of farmers and guaranteeing food security across the country. Besides, he has a long experience in new and self-motivated re-biology science and re-biogenetic engineering practices.

In the same manner, he has been conducting research providing a focus on soil development, land science, water, and all that kind of crap.

As doing agricultural research proved to be Talegeta’s calling, he embarked on having a shot at demand-driven agricultural research in furtherance of turning his vision into reality. Once in a great while, he comes up with new innovations that can transform the lives of farmers such as organic fertilizers, rainwater harvesting devices, and things of that sort.

Of late, Laureate Talegeta Leul had a short stay with The Ethiopian Herald with a view to bringing his newly produced innovation fertilizer into the light with the general public.

In the present climate, the whole lot regarding the newly made fertilizers is making progress in the right direction.

Though Ethiopian farmers work hard around the clock by the sweat of their brow, they could not pull themselves out of poverty as a consequence of the traditional farming system and other unforeseen circumstances. They are still living with a minimum of sustenance. Most of them are still above the dead and below the living.

Frankly speaking, the newly invented organic fertilizers will open the door for food security throughout the territory and make farmers’ lives simpler and trouble-free.

Talegeta Leul said, “The newly innovated fertilizers have been passing through quite a lot of steps that can transform the lives of farmers. As we are hitting the ground, our efforts have been bearing fruits. Beyond a shadow of a doubt, we have made some fertilizers that could metamorphose the lives of farmers. It is no hyperbole to say that we are on the right track.”

In the same spirit, we have practically seen the effectiveness of the newly produced fertilizers in the new demonstration site located on the premise of the Addis Ababa Science & Technology University. The fertilizers play a major role in giving additional value to crops.

On a side note, our fertilizers are made up of organic and multifarious types of minerals. They are a combination of these two. The previous ones are totally made up of synthetics. They are as different as cheese and chalk. The new ones increase the production of crops by two-fold.

He went on to say, “The fertilizers are produced making use of available resources in the country. We do not import from other countries. They speed up the growth of crops at the earliest possible time. The difference is very visible and incomparable. Utilizing the fertilizers help every household grow into self-supporting on account of the unceasing produce.

As directors of the Ministry’s Soil Fertility under the umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture and other concerned bodies managed to figure out the benefit the country secure out of the newly produced fertilizers, they are attaching importance to the discovery. They have practically confirmed the effectiveness of the fertilizers by themselves.

As pertinent bodies know the effectiveness of the result like the palm of their hands, they would like to have a discussion with different regional administrators in relation to the newly developed fertilizers.

The fertilizers are composed of more than a few mineral ingredients that can yield good results at the earliest opportunity. Apart from playing a major role in giving a lot of advantages for leaves, stems, roots, seeds, cells, stalks, flowers, and other related aspects, the fertilizers can boost the number of tillers in the crops and have no harm to the soil.

In the same way, the fertilizers do not contaminate nature seeing that they are free from vulnerabilities of nitric acid. Above and beyond, the manure is instrumental in boosting the enactment of microorganisms, bacteria as well as fungus to effervesce the soil.
Art & Culture

Booksellers galore—has the reading culture caught up with the business?

BY MULUGETA GUDETA

The global coronavirus pandemic and the quarantine that followed have led or forced people around the world to turn to reading, especially as the main pastime as or an opportunity for diversion or learning depending on how you look at the matter.

In Ethiopia the quarantine is not sweeping and there is no strict lockdown. Nevertheless, many people chose to stay home particularly at the earlier phase of the pandemic and spent their days exercising, reading or doing other jobs. Many of them also started reading books or writing new works that they had no time to perform in the past. Elsewhere in the world, the quarantines helped millions of people read the books they kept on their shelves for a long time and writers re-discovered the books they had so far postponed to produced. This trend may also be the reason for the rising number of readers and the books that are being published these days.

Ethiopia is a huge country with more than 110 million people. With a low literacy rate and a weak publishing industry, it cannot be described as “a country of bookworms” even by African standards. However, recent events seem favorable for the growth of the reading public as well as the industry. The fact that people keep on buying books and readings them however high the publishing cost and the cop price of books are. Is this an encouraging trend that further opening of the economy will inevitably reinforce in the near future. With tens of millions of students attending schools and colleges, Ethiopia is certainly set for a genuine cultural revolution with book reading as its main catalyst.

Two main features characterize the area around the National Theatre, which is the first modern theatre house in Ethiopia, after Hger Fikir Theatre which is considered a pioneer. One is the emerging business district with the main private banks building their head quarters there. The second feature is the proliferation of bookshops and ambulatory book vendors who roam the streets rain or shine. The third most visible feature is the money changers that are pestering you every time you appear in the area. Thankfully these are not my main focus in this article, which deals with the culture of book publishing and reading.

What I recently observed in that area is the proliferation of bookshops, although they are not as visible as the tall buildings housing the new financial district. These are small shops where books are sold every day to the Addis Ababa literati and young school goers desperate for educational supplements now that schools are opening their doors after a seven-month hiatus caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic is not over but learning is resuming.

It is now more than thirty or forty years since booksellers appeared and displayed their wares right on the pavements, near bus stations around the national theatre. Some of the booksellers of that era were newromers to the book business, most of them young and jobless and they tried to earn their living by selling old and used books as well as new publications that were often sold at discount.

A classic example of that period are some of the shops that sprung up in the area and have now become the most successful outlets in town. Some of the book stalls are owned by hardworking youngsters who started their business by selling old books at discount while some of them opened small bookshops behind the National Theatre building or become big players in the book distribution business. In a recent interview with an FM radio station, one of the successful dealers outlined the long and tortuous path he followed, the hardship he faced before he became a book distributor and even publisher.

“When I started the business by displaying old books on the pavement,” said the young man, “business was so poor that there were many days when I did not even sell a single book. I stood there on the pavement the whole day and went back home on foot because I had no money to cover my transport expense.”

Another successful shop owner had to travel a long distance on foot to the area where he dispalys his books on the pavement, whether rain or shine, often hounded by policemen who chased street vendor from that area. According to his own account, his breakthrough came when one day his mother borrowed some twenty thousand birr from a neighbor back at his village and gave it to him so that he could purchase old books in bulk and pay his debt after selling them.

“I was scared when I took the money from my mother,” the book vendor said in a radio interview. “I didn’t know how I was going to pay back the debt. I had no idea what the books were about. I just bought them and displayed them on the same pavement. What happened afterwards was almost a miracle. The old books sold like hot cakes and I returned home in the evening with enough money to pay the debt the same day!” He made enough profit in order to stay in the book business with his own startup capital. He rented a shop right across the street and business started to boom and fortune smiled at him.

However, the road he traversed before achieving success was not an easy one as he said above. There were moments of despair and periods of agony over books that failed to sale. He also faced many the challenges when tried to open the small shop and as he was struggling to establish himself as a successful book vendor. He had to overcome additional hurdles before he became the famous and successful bookseller and distributor he is now.

His journey from street vendor to a successful book shop distributor also served as an inspiration to dozens of book vendors who emerged in the same area. Some of the young vendors survived the stiff competition while others failed to make it and faced closure. Asked what his main weapon in his struggle for business success was, he answered by saying that strong discipline was the main quality that led to his business success. “I learned to spend my money judiciously and saved it to expand my business rather than spend it on unnecessary items,” he said.

Nowadays, the area around the old railways station and street leading to Mexico square is lined up with bookshops. New buildings are popping up now and then in many parts of Addis.

In London, here is a place called Fleet Street where almost all the newspapers in the British capital are published. Some successful book sellers here in Addis have already turned into publishers. Who knows, this bookshops might create new publishing houses and, in turn, new books.

In this way, that particular area might end up becoming a hub for bookselling and publishing businesses. Competition will certainly push publishing costs down and alleviate the financial constraints writers are facing now.

Moreover, competition in the publishing industry might also push book prices down and more readers will have the chance enjoy reading and culture even in the Ethiopian capital. Maybe one day we will have the equivalent of London’s Fleet Street as “Publishers Street” here in Addis.

The coexistence of an expanding financial district with a growing book selling or publishing business might look odd and unusual elsewhere in Africa. Maybe Addis is taking a new initiative by embedding money with culture and this is certainly a welcome change.

The future of finance and culture seems to be intertwined in the newly emerging downtown area of Addis thanks to hardworking fanciers as well as book sellers and publishers. This kind of symbiosis between money and culture can even serve to promote tourism in the Ethiopian capital. Many booksellers also display antique books that have long gone out of print and these rare items are sought after by tourists who are interested in ancient Ethiopian culture.

That was why in the old days, bookshops in Piazza and Mercato were visited by tourists who were out to purchase rare books of great intellectual interest for historians and libraries around Europe or America. The alternative would be for the Addis Ababa city administration would do a great job by encouraging dealers in old books on Ethiopian culture and history by providing them with the right location as it has provided fruits and vegetables vendors with a new location where they had been doing business for the last year or so.

Of course there is some risk in displaying rare books for sale as there are many foreigners who pose as tourists and hunt for such treasures they buy at cheap prices in order to make fortunes in Europe or America. The alternative would be for the city administration or the national archives to buy these books and keep them from being objects of profiteering by smugglers of culture disguised as tourists. Anyway, the emerging financial district of Addis seems to grow side by side with the book vending and publishing industry in the same area. Both are going to go through a period of boom as long as Addis Ababa keeps on growing both economically and culturally. And this is a major reason that makes Addis one of the world’s great capitals worth visiting any time of the year.
Society

Fast track social change to transform the lives of adolescent girls, boys

BY BETELHEM BEDLU

Even though Ethiopia has seen rapid political and social changes in recent decades, that has significantly impacted adolescents’ freedom from age-and gender-based violence, the Gender Adolescences Global Evidence (GAGE) midline reports shows that gender inequalities and age-plus gender-based violence remain key challenges for many young girls and boys living in the country.

Making its core on two pillars: ‘age- and gender-based violence’, a research was done on 8555 adolescents—boys and girls (aged 10-19 years)—living in rural and urban settings, in South Gondar, East Hararghe, Zone 5 of Afar State and Dire Dawa City Administration, to identify the magnitude of the problem. Accordingly, age-and gender-based violence is still very common in both urban and rural parts of Ethiopia. However, the types of perpetrators of age-based violence are many, including caregivers, teachers, peers and the community members.

In his presentation, Workneh Abebe, GAGE Ethiopia Research Uptake and Impact Coordinator mentioned that violent disciplinary measures taken by parents remain common, and many have reported experiencing violence in the past year. Young people living in urban areas report more violence at the hands of caregivers than their rural peers.

The other key area of age-based violence is the one perpetrated by teachers which have also remained endemic both in rural and urban schools resulting serious injuries, physical damage, permanent disability and permanent school dropouts.

Among schools enrolled students, boys especially younger adolescents are more at risk than their older peers and girls, according to him. Similarly, Extreme forms of physical violence that includes serious injuries, especially in rural areas, were part of the findings.

Despite the improvements over the past years, peer violence remains common across study files in which boys and younger adolescents are more at risk than girls and older peers respectively.

In some areas, peer violence took a form of religious and ethnic conflict which is sometimes devastating in terms of costing lives and injuries. Moreover, adolescents with disabilities are also at heightened risk of peer violence.

The worst, both adolescents with disabilities and their parents under reporting are being bullied by peers who prevent to understand the real experiences and impacts of peer violence on adolescents with disabilities.

Presenting the other major area that the midline research on adolescents’ experience of gender based violence, Fistum Workneh, GAGE Qualitative Researcher noted that of older girls had been cut in South Gondar and in East Hararghe respectively.

The major reason behind the difference in patterning was said to be regional investments in eliminating harmful practices. Having the most developed network of health extension workers (HEW) who actively communicating the ill effects of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in maternal and child health, enables the Amhara State to reduce the number and stand out conspicuously, said Fistum.

It also has the networked and active Women’s Development Army, which organizes groups of women at neighborhood level to address local development needs. The State is also rich in having gender focused NGOs and active school based clubs that teach adolescents about their rights and specifically, gendered topics however, these kinds of investments in eliminating harmful traditional practices are very limited in East Hararghe and Zone five, Afar State.

It is a surprising fact that there are 25 percent of adolescents but mostly in rural areas who believe that a woman who has been raped should be blamed for the assault.

Despite being illegal, child marriage remains common. Underscoring the importance of focusing on the most disadvantaged adolescents, child marriage is markedly more common among GAGE participants than it is among more representative samples.

According to Dr. Gudyam Memre, Associate Professor of AAU and Senior Qualitative Researcher of GAGE, the finding primarily reflects the reality that violence within the marriage is seen as customary while mentioning girls in all the three States reported being beaten by their husbands, for trivial reasons ranging from losing of livestock to talking back.

The survey also identified that adolescents knowledge about where they seek support in the event of violence has improved over the past years.

With very few exceptions, adolescents experiencing violence inside the home only reported assistance from friends and family. Other adolescents relied on neighbors to intervene when household violence became too extreme, as to her.

She emphasized that Ethiopian adolescents have highly uneven access to bodily integrity and freedom from age-and gender-based violence, with large disparities between girls and boys, those living in urban and rural areas, and across regions.

Harmful gender practices being the primary risk factor, which impact both girls and boys, it leaves girls more vulnerable to be in more forms of violence than boys.

Workneh recommended that developing parenting education classes, following children experiencing abuse, using mass and social media and community meetings, promoting social cohesion and national identity, and fostering friendship among young people are important to tackle the challenges.

Establishing safe house, working with boys and men to target masculinity, participating religious leaders and elderly, and providing ways for students to anonymously report violence were suggested.

It is also important to tackle the significant gaps in knowledge about reporting of violence, in order to overcome the disadvantaged faced by girls and rural adolescents, invest in tailored outreach efforts in person and also via behavioral change communication messaging through media and social media.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or cutting, sexual violence, child marriage and intimate partner violence were amongst the challenges.

At macro level, the survey findings found that 47 percent of girls aged 15-19 had been cut, with significant regional variation.

To exemplify this, in Zone five (Afar), 85 percent of older girls, and 23 and 89 percent of younger girls had been cut in South Gondar and in East Hararghe respectively.

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A ray of hope sparks in the Horn of Africa

BY HAILE DEMAKE

Getting peace prevailed in the Horn of Africa does have an immense repercussion to the development, growth and prosperity of the entire continent.

However, sometimes countries encounter unknowingly or calculatingly computed challenges and allegations to have them hard time. For instance, Sudan has been enlisted in the terrorist group U.S. suspicion that the country supported terrorist groups. Luckily, President Donald Trump last week said Sudan will be erased from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism if it meets its pledge to pay $335 million to American terror victims and their families.

The move would open the door for the African country to get international loans and aid helps revive its battered economy as well as fosters its transition to democracy. Delisting Sudan from the state sponsors blacklist is a key incentive for the Sudanese government to normalize relations with Israel. Trump’s announcement came after Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin traveled to Bahrain to cement the Gulf state’s recognition of the Jewish state.

“Great news, new government of Sudan, which is making great progress, agreed to pay $335 million to U.S. terror victims and families,” he wrote on Twitter. “Once deposited, I will lift Sudan from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list, at long last, justice for the American people and big step for Sudan!”

General Abdel-Farrah Burhan, head of Sudan’s ruling sovereign council, welcomed Trump’s announcement as a constructive step. He said in a tweet the removal would come in recognition of the historic change that has taken place in Sudan.

In an address to the nation, Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok tweeted in his facebook page that “today, after more than two decades, I announce to our people the name of our beloved country has removed from the list of countries sponsoring terrorism and we are relieved from the international and global siege in which the behavior of the dislocated regime enters us.”

“Today we return in full history, civilization of our people, the greatness of our country, the violence of our revolution to the international family as a peace loving country, and a force supporting regional and international stability”.

This accomplishment that the transitional government has worked towards this end since its first day contributing a lot to reforming the economy, attracting investments and remittances of our citizens abroad through official channels, creating new job opportunities for youth, and so many other positive strides. I say it again and with the mouth, we will hold on and we will pass and win.”

Getting off the list would help his government benefit from debt relief and access foreign loans and investments, which are seen as the country’s gateway to economic recovery. “It’s a long way,” he said. “It needs serious planning and hard work to achieve the maximum benefit of this opportunity.”

Once the compensation money has been deposited, Trump is to sign an order removing Sudan from the terrorism list, on which it has languished under heavy American sanctions for 27 years.

After nearly for three decades on the US state sponsor of terrorism list, it was announced that Sudan’s terror designation was at long last being removed. For the increasingly beleaguered transitional government of Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok, and the rest of Sudan, the news comes in the nick of time.

Removal from the terrorism list was the government’s ultimate prize and brings with it a precious injection of political capital that, at a minimum, will provide more time for the government to try to get its economic house in order and make good on the promise of delivering a lasting democracy dividend to Sudan’s long-suffering population.

Executive Secretary of IGAD, Dr. Workneh Gebeyhu congratulated the government and people of Sudan for being removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism, and said that the removal of Sudan from state sponsor list will play a vital role in ensuring the political transition in the country.

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Security Sector Program (SSP) Director Commander Abebe Muluneh told The Ethiopian Herald that, Sudan has been under sanction by US for nearly three decade. The embargo made by the US affected the Sudan’s economic, political and social processes in the country for the past years. Currently the country is in transitional process and the removal of Sudan from the US state sponsors of terrorism list is a crucial opportunity for Sudan’s transitional government conjoining peace agreement with Israel.

Above all, the removal of Sudan from the state sponsor of terrorism will further boost the social, economic and political relations in the horn of African countries and also for the continent as well. The lift will ease activities being held in the Horn. On the other hand, lifting Sudan from state sponsors of terrorism is an important step, pairing with an agreement to normalize relations with Israel.

The removal of Sudan will further ease economic cooperation between the neighboring countries apart from securing pace and stability in the region. Previously, there was a challenge to trade with Sudan due to the embargo. Now the trade relation will be easily conducted among the neighboring countries as the state is lifted from the state sponsor of terrorism.

On the other hand, countries are on the transformation process and the removal of Sudan from the list will create opportunity for the success of the reform in the horn of African countries. Countries have to work together to bring successful transition in social, economic, political arena. Dialogue, political commitment from each country is crucial both in maintaining peace and stability and bringing overall economic development.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) Demekie Mekonnen, conveyed warmest congratulatory message to the people and government of the Republic of the Sudan for being delisted from the state sponsors of terrorism. He said that Ethiopia strongly believes this long overdue decision by the government of United States to remove Sudan from such a list and lifting of economic and financial sanction will pave the way for the Sudan to re-engage with its development partners in realizing the development aspiration of its people. It is indeed a clear recognition of the fact that the reform is on the right track and will open a new chapter for progress and prosperity of the country.

He further stated that Ethiopia is committed than ever to support and go along with the government of Sudan in this important transition period.
Ethiopia to exploit multidimensional space science, technology

BY ALAZAR SHIFERAW

Ethiopia has established a Space Science and Technology Institute (ESSTI) in a bid to let the country fully exploit multidimensional advantages of space science and technologies; produce demand-based, knowledgeable, skilled and attenuatedly developed professionals in the field of aerospace science that enables the country to become internationally competitive in the sector.

Besides, the country aims to develop and strengthen space science and technology infrastructures to spearhead space science and technology development and to enable the country to be a full-fledged contributor for space science and technology.

Prominently, the country has launched a second earth observatory referred ET-SST1 to the space. Also, in the coming ten years, Ethiopia envisions to launch three satellites, one of them will be a communication and broadcasting satellite, while the remaining two will be satellites to be engaged in earth observation.

Significantly, in an event aiming at commemorating ESST1’s first year launching ceremony it was noted that the country has enhanced science and technology development in the country.

In the anniversary, the institute has given recognitions for those who contributed for the development of space science and technology in the country. Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute (ESSTI) Director General Abdissa Yilma said that space science and technology must not be left for a single institution alone. It needs other institutions’ active involvement. Thus, to spur space science technology, the institute has signed agreements with eight pertinent stakeholders.

ESST1 satellite has been accomplishing missions for a year without any obstacle. The institute has been engaged in engineers’ capacity building.

Formerly, there was no well-established information registration system. Besides, the country was purchasing satellite information from abroad. Thus, to lead nation’s space science and technology, the institute should focus on nation’s space science priority tasks. But, “We cannot gather the information overnight. Stakeholders like geospatial institute should partake to render the field robust.”

Dimetri Zerhun was one of the recipients of the recognition certificate. He said: “The recognition certificate will boost my moral to handle different demanding tasks in the future. But giving more attention to children is very important.”

ESST1 is used for gathering information for various purposes Ethiopia needs. It has been used in building space science technology capacity and acquiring experiences in the field. Yes, Ethiopian engineers could control the satellite fully for a year, he said.

Earth Observation and Meteorological Satellite Application for Agricultural Resource and Natural Disaster in Ethiopia: A need Assessment by Berhan Gesse and Worku Zewdie, among others, indicates the role of earth observation (EO) technology in agricultural development is immense. The integration of geospatial EO and other sources of data with information mining technique is becoming a fundamental requirement for countries to measure, monitor local to regional sustainable agricultural development policies and programs.

A large proportion of global community has an entirely different set of EO and geospatial information uses, needs and expectations. With scientific and computational developments leading to operational implementation of activities and improvements in monitoring and forecasting of natural resources distribution and usage of national to global scale (Tavener, 2018), satellite remote sensing as an information source in support of the agricultural sector has been proven and was reconfirmed in September 2015 by world leaders.

Satellites contribute crucial information for monitoring, environmental disasters

The role of satellite technology for monitoring environmental disasters; in the past decades, several types of disasters have been a barrier to fulfill the demands of citizens to partake in the sustainable development plan for their country.

The African regional strategy evaluated policies and institutional arrangements that are focusing on disaster reduction in different member countries and was able to investigate their limitations in effectiveness and efficiency in order to tackle the divergent and varying degrees of occurrence of disasters.

Ethiopia has made several amendments in its strategy to address disaster risk identification and assessment through enacting continually updated strategies. In the recent 2013 national policy and strategy, disaster risk reduction and management were part of the development plan incorporated in each sector for better integration and assimilation of information, in addition the new strategy identified to use EO data for early warning and disaster risk management. However, data acquisition, processing and implementation strategies for disaster risk monitoring and mitigation was not well identified.

Though the National Metrological agency (NM) is the sole institute that is working on early warning and disaster monitoring of the country the mechanism of information dissemination among the stakeholders is not well organized and supported with state of the art communication technologies.

The country’s 2013 policy and strategy has identified inefficient sharing of information related to disaster.
The desired goal of the TPLF was to gain the support of its diaspora members, who, when they heard the news regarding the attack on the Northern Command, they could hardly believe their ears and became furious. Furthermore, they jump started expressing their firm commitment to get rid of the junta from the face of Ethiopia once and for all.

If truth be told, on top of that a group of spiritual leaders including patriarchs, famous artists, community leaders, famous athletes, and what have you impeded by TPLF officials. They were all turned down.

As was the case in many countries of the globe, Ethiopia postponed the National Election following the COVID-19 impacts. Postponing the election was the recommendation of the National Election Board certified by the House of Federation.

In clear terms, it is only the National Election Board of Ethiopia which is mandated to pass any form of verdict revolving around the election. However, they themselves nominated one another a range of election officials and conducted unconstitutional and pretty illegitimate election.

More to the point, TPLF managed to hold a regional election and allegedly won 98% of the election. Against this background, the House of Peoples Representatives suspended funding, and cut off ties with TPLF.

The TPLF invited the leader of the Northern Command Post General to share a meal. However, he immediately felt sick and passed out. It was later concluded that he was poisoned. As he is not capable of resuming his duties, another official was sent to lead the Northern Command. But the TPLF leaders denied consent to the appointee. In due course, he was denied and sent to Meles’s Alida Alba Nega’s Airport to come back to the center.

Along the same vein, TPLF deliberately cut off networks and electricity on military Command Post, some of the military members escaped into Tigray into Ethiopia and its people who have been living hell.

For this reason, they left fellow citizens empty-handed as all have been under the operation of troops and looted properties from the Tigray command General along with thousands of the society and caused the death of innocent civilians at every nook and cranny of the Tigray region. Likewise, TPLF abducted the second Command Post, some of the military members escaped into Ethiopia with the aid of troops and looted properties from the Tigray command General along with thousands of the Tigray region.

The TPLF and its allies were prepared and ready to disseminate falsehood fabrications, propagate ungrounded allegation, misinformation and prefabricated lies. TPLF allies held a zoom conference before the attack on the command post. Immediately following the rule of operation, up to 25,000 new tweets and hashtags were released.

This shows the fact that the attack was a premeditated and calculatingly orchestrated one.

After the attack on the Northern Command Post, some of the military members escaped into Eritrea. TPLF also fired more than four rockets in the capital city of Eritrea, Asmara, to further internationalize this conflict.

The mission the TPLF junta to give their attempt an international picture with a view to winning the attention of the international community was of no effect following the diligently taken measures against them. However, TPLF junta officials denied all chances of reconciliation.

As learnt from other diaspora community members, when they heard the news regarding the attack on the Northern Command, they could hardly believe their ears and became furious. Furthermore, they jump started expressing their firm commitment to get rid of the junta from the face of Ethiopia once and for all.

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Along the same vein, TPLF deliberately cut off networks and electricity on military Command Post, some of the military members escaped into Eritrea. TPLF also fired more than four rockets in the capital city of Eritrea, Asmara, to further internationalize this conflict.

The mission the TPLF junta to give their attempt an international picture with a view to winning the attention of the international community was of no effect following the diligently taken measures against them. However, TPLF junta officials denied all chances of reconciliation.

As learnt from other diaspora community members, when they heard the news regarding the attack on the Northern Command, they could hardly believe their ears and became furious. Furthermore, they jump started expressing their firm commitment to get rid of the junta from the face of Ethiopia once and for all.
Over the past two decades, Ethiopia has witnessed destructive ethnic clashes and massacres due to various reasons. Basically, many Ethiopians and even friends of Ethiopians consider the ethnic-based-political arrangement as a cause to the resentment and destruction. Therefore, they suggest the reconsideration and revision of the political structure.

“The desire by enemies to divide Ethiopia along ethnic and religious lines still exists. Like before, this desire will remain unfulfilled. In my discussions with residents of Metekel on current issues, the expressed will of our people for unity, peace, development and prosperity far outweighs any divisive agenda,” Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed wrote on his Facebook page after he discussed with people of Beninshangul Gumuz State that has seen recurrent destructive clashes in recent days.

“We have structural problems in our political system which prioritize ethnic-based group rights over individuals or citizens’ interest. Therefore, we should begin works to solve our problems starting from restructuring the wrong political system.” Dr. Ersido Lendebo, Public Figure.

“It will always be helpful to have a leadership that is steadfast in saying; anything that involves discrimination or divide like ethnic or religion or race or whatever it is, is just unacceptable. That is the starting point.” Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda tweeted on 21 December 2020.

“Politics by its nature is the issue of every citizen. We should build citizen-based political structure that embraces and involves every individual regardless of language, culture, religion or gender-based differences. I hope this will help us to overcome our problems that emanate from the current ethnic-based-political arrangement to cause resentment and destructions,” said Professor Berhanu Nega (Politician) in his recent interview with Ethio Tube media.
Though little is known about the Zayse people, Zagisse which means ‘the earliest’ or ‘warrior’. The Zayse people have been called by many tribes; the Zayse are the one.

According to Zayse people, the word refers to a late Zayse ruling family who currently reside to the east of the Zayse area.

As studies indicate, the word Zayse is highly associated with a late Zayse ruling family who have very strong and healthy attachments.

The people of Zayse reside in three kebeles: Elgo, Wozaza and Dambille; and the language of Zayse is called Zaysete or Zeysegna with Amharic language marking suffix -gna.

As studies indicate, the word Zayse is highly associated with a late Zayse ruling family who currently reside to the east of the Zayse area. According to Zayse people, the word refers to ‘warrior’. The Zayse people have been called by different names by their neighboring dwellers. The Kooere people, for example call them Zagisse which means ‘the earliest.’

Though little is known about the Zayse people in particular, it is assumed that their lifestyle is similar to that of other groups in the area. The Zayse base their economy on a balance between agriculture and herding. Although they seem somewhat indifferent to farming, crops and livestock are probably of equal importance. During the dry season, the Zayse also engage in some fishing activities to supplement their diets.

The Zayse family is headed by an authoritarian father who has the right to total obedience. Men usually have only one wife, and children are considered a necessity. The more children a Zayse man has, the greater his prestige.

As her parent’s oldest daughter, Katrina will be the center of attention at the adolescent ceremony, where her father will at last become Ma gudona or big man. In Zayse culture, such an event is an important occasion for both father and daughter, narrates an article written about the cultural value of Zayse tribes.

No doubt, Ethiopia is home to a number of ethnic groups that have their own unique cultural values and traditional norms. Among these tribes; the Zayse are the one.

The Zayse people live in the Arba Minch zuria, Gamu Gofa Zone of the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People’s State of Ethiopia about 522 km, 290 km and 22 km away from Addis Ababa, Hawassa and Arbaminch, respectively.

The Zayse land roughly lies between coordinates of 37° 32’E to 37° 38’ E longitude and 6° 00’N to 6° 06’N latitude. Its area is 5525 km, which accounts about 5 percent of the state’s land coverage.

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