



Ethiopian News

April 2012 Issue

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PM Meles Zenawi to attend G8 Summit

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has been invited by US President Barack Obama to take part in a session on food security in Africa at the G8 summit at Camp David in Maryland between 18th and 19th May. PM Meles will be among four African leaders attending the summit, the others are Benin's president and African Union Chairman Thomas Boni Yayi, President John Mills of Ghana and Tanzania's President Jakaya Kikwete.

Bath to twin with Hawassa

A proposal to twin Bath with the city of Hawassa in Ethiopia was discussed by councillors in April.

H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede visited the city of Bath on 17th April to meet with the Mayor of Bath, Bryan Chalker, to discuss the possibility of a twinning arrangement.



The Ambassador visited Fairfield House, in Newbridge, which was the home of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie during his exile in the UK between 1936 and 1941. It is this historic link which is the driving force behind the proposal to secure a formal bond between Bath and Hawassa.

"We know the history of this city and how the emperor used to live here and we want to establish a relationship with this historic city," the Ambassador said. "I have heard from people that the emperor was thankful to the people of Bath during his time of trials and the people of Bath gave him full hospitality and support."

He added that there were common links between Hawassa and Bath, with any possible twinning arrangement allowing them to build on the fact that they are both tourist destinations with renowned spas.

The Ambassador later addressed a meeting of the Chartered Trustees of Bath. In his speech, Ambassador Berhanu Kebede updated the Trustees on the economic success Ethiopia has registered over the past two decades and expressed his belief that the twinning will lead to a symbiotic relation as Bath's business community will take advantage of Ethiopia's investment opportunities in manufacturing, mining and agriculture.

At the end of the speech, the Ambassador delivered a formal request sent by the Mayor of Hawassa to the Mayor of Bath.

Counsellor Bryan Chalker then asked the Chartered Trustees to vote on the proposed twinning which was unanimously agreed in principle with areas of cooperation to be decided after the City had the chance to study the profile of Hawassa. The Lord Mayor of Bath on his part promised to respond to the Mayor of Hawassa as soon as possible.

Ethiopia's wind energy potential huge: survey

Ethiopia has the potential to generate 1 million megawatts of power from wind energy according to a \$1.5 million survey conducted by the Hydro China Corporation.

Wind farms are already under construction and are environmentally safe - in the coming year, the Ashegoda Wind Farm is expected to produce 171MW of wind power and is partly funded by the French government who are set to invest €210 million.



The Adama wind power project, developed at a cost of \$117 million, is also nearing completion. The project, launched in June last year, will be finished in June next year. On completion, the farm's 34 towers will have the capacity to generate a potential 51MW.

Wind and solar energy can help meet Ethiopia's growing energy demand, which according to the Ethiopian Electric and Power Corporation (EETPC) is growing annually by around 24%. Wind and solar energy also help to reduce global warming.

Ethiopia has already invested heavily in Africa's biggest dam which is expected to generate 6,000MW of power.



In related news, during the 4th edition of the African Carbon Forum held in Addis Ababa from 18th to 20th April, with a focus on promoting green and low carbon development in Africa, much emphasis was placed on the decision, taken at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP17) in Durban, to reinforce

the international commitment to reducing emissions of greenhouse gas.

Dr. Tewolde Gebre-Egzabier, Director General of the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority, emphasised the benefit of harnessing renewable energy resources for Africa's industrialisation.

Renewable energy sources such as hydropower, geothermal, solar and wind power are plentiful in Africa, he noted.

"We have to start the process of adaptation straight away so as to progress along the climate-resilient trajectories of green economic development," he said.

Ethiopia has already started the process, gaining additional income from a growing carbon trade, which will help hasten the process of climate-adapted economic development while also helping in the mitigation of climate change.

Last year, Ethiopia launched its **Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE)** Strategy to deliver green economic growth.

The CRGE Strategy builds on the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), and is based on three complementary objectives: fostering economic development and growth, ensuring mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHGs), and supporting adaptation to climate change.

With a record number of over 1,000 registered participants, this year's Africa Carbon Forum demonstrated that Africa represents a golden opportunity for a green future.

The three-day forum has been described by participants of previous ACFs as "the one 'unmissable' event for doing carbon business in Africa." ACF's aim is to share knowledge on carbon markets and green technologies in Africa.

The conference included presentations by experts in the field as well as workshops that allowed a dialogue among policymakers, project developers, and investors on topics such as the future of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Africa, climate-

smart agriculture, public-private partnerships, and project funding on the continent.

According to the World Bank, Africa has enormous potential for sustainable, climate-friendly development, with an abundance of renewable energy resources to satisfy future energy needs. Despite this, Africa continues to face enormous obstacles to investment and lags behind other parts of the world in taking advantage of carbon finance to develop climate-friendly projects and to encourage the transfer of cutting edge technologies and know-how.

“It is a continent that has the potential to make a significant impact on mitigating climate change through its extensive forest resources. To achieve this, further investment needs to be facilitated for low carbon projects.”

The Africa Carbon Forum is held under the Nairobi Framework, an initiative launched to help developing countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa, to increase their participation in the CDM.

For more information on Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy, please contact the press office on info@ethioembassy.org.uk

AFDB to invest in renewable energy in Ethiopia

The African Development Bank is set to invest \$22.6 million to enhance renewable energy programmes in low income countries, including those that are active in Ethiopia.

The investment plan, calls for technical support and guidance from the Bank to prepare and implement the Assela wind farm project and Phase II of the Aluto Langano geothermal project.

Grants for project preparation of \$1.7 million and \$900,000 were approved for both projects.

Ethiopia will seek full endorsement for the investment plan by this month.

Ethiopia to benefit from \$7m commercial products project

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture said that farmers in six African countries including Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, and Tanzania will benefit from the second phase of the Commercial Products (COMPRO-II) project.

The COMPRO-II project is a \$7m grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that aims to institutionalise quality assurance mechanisms and facilitate the rapid dissemination of top quality agricultural commercial products to increase yields and improve the food security of smallholder farmers in the region.

The project, to be led by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, will aim to raise awareness among over two million smallholder farmers of effective and profitable commercial products by 2016, through public-private partnership.

Ethiopian Diaspora urged to harness investment opportunities at home

Speaking at a discussion forum organised for Ethiopian Diaspora, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, called on the Diaspora to harness the investment opportunities available at home, saying that the Government has created an investment-friendly atmosphere with a view to realising the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP).

The government has designated 3.6 million hectares of land for investment projects, of which half a million hectares is occupied by foreign investors.

The Deputy PM said that some 40% of land leased by the Ethiopian Diaspora is lying idle and the government has already delegated a foreign company to study the investment activities.

Ethiopia has enormous investment potential and the Ethiopian Diaspora will benefit if they invest in their homeland. The government is promoting activities in agricultural productivity, revenue generation, textile and leather and sugar projects, among others.

The Deputy PM said infrastructure and human power development, social services and construction activities have enabled the nation to boost its domestic produce and foreign currency earnings.

SEDC-UK launched

The foundation of the Southern Ethiopia Diaspora Community-UK (SEDC) was officially launched at a meeting convened on 8th April at the Ethiopian Embassy in London, attended by over 100 founding members drawn from London, Birmingham, Leeds, Coventry and other cities.



In his opening remarks, Mr Tsegaye Chama, Chairman of SEDC, stated the objectives and aspirations of the community - building residential houses collectively, participating in the development process particularly in the southern region, and promoting tourism.

He said members of the community are intensifying their outreach activities to ensure great success in all their endeavours.



H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede and Demeke Atnafu, Minister Counsellor of Diaspora Affairs, briefed the participants on the role of the Diaspora in the realisation of five-year Growth and Transformation Plan, Grand Renaissance Dam bonds, and the Draft Diaspora policy.

The Association is the first of its kind in the UK and also in Europe. H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede appreciated the noble initiative undertaken and encouraged members to further strengthen unity in the realization of the stated objectives.

Ethiopian National Consensus Forum celebrates its tenth anniversary

The 10th anniversary of the Ethiopian National Consensus Forum (ENCF) was celebrated on 7th April at St Marys Hall in Clapham Common. Over 150 members, trustees, supporters, religious leaders, invited Ethiopians, persons of Ethiopian origin and Friends of Ethiopia attended the event.



The event was honoured by the presence of the Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Christiana Valcarcel, who encouraged Ethiopians to maintain and further enrich their cultural identity and reaffirmed her support.

Chairman of the ENCF, Ato Mulat Tadesse, presented the performance report of the Forum highlighting commendable achievements in mobilizing Ethiopians and persons of Ethiopia origin around the national cause - eradicating poverty, support for anti-HIV/AIDS and other pandemics and empowerment of women.

Ato Mulat underlined the fact that the objectives of Forum are still valued. The encouraging results so far registered have to be consolidated and further strengthened by supporting top national priorities such as the Grand Renaissance Dam.



In his keynote address, H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede, expressed his appreciation for the outstanding achievement of the forum especially in promoting Ethiopia's image and galvanizing support on common issues of national concern, and urged members to rally behind, the construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam.

At the event Ethiopian Entertainment troupe, Dankira, performed cultural music and staged a fashion show. The celebrations focussed on the Grand Renaissance Dam and £5,000 worth of bonds were purchased.

13th World Congress on Public Health: at a glance



The 13th World Congress on Public Health took place in Addis Ababa from 23rd to 27th April hosted by the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA) and attended by more than 4,000 public health researchers, academics, scientists, educators, programmers, policy makers and student representatives from 120 countries.

Under the theme ***“Towards Global Health Equity: Opportunities and Threats”***, the Congress ended with a call for access to health services for all citizens across the world.

Since the target year of 2015 is fast approaching, the achievement of the health Millennium Development

Goals (MDGs) was among the main topics to be debated. The achievement of the MDGs will require intensive efforts and increased equitable and sustainable access to health services for poor and marginalized populations.

In a joint statement given on the final day of the congress, President of World Federation of Public Health Associations, James Chauvin, and President of the Ethiopian Public Health Association (EPHA), Dr. Tewabech Bishaw, said the congress enabled the sharing of experience in the health sector.

Health Minister Dr Tedros Adhanom said the decision made by the African Federation of Public Health Associations to establish its headquarters in Addis Ababa marked a success for Ethiopia.

He said the election of Dr Mengistu Asnake as Vice-President of the World Health Service Federation and the election of Dr Tewabech as Secretary-General of the African Federation of Public Health Associations was a victory for Ethiopia and Africa.

According to the Addis Ababa Declaration on Global Health Equity, the Congress re-affirmed the 2009 Istanbul Declaration on 'Health, the First Human Right' as well as the 2011 Rio Political Declaration on the Social Determinants of Health and the 2012 Bangkok Statement on Universal Health Coverage.

The World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA) called on all governments and stakeholders to safeguard and promote public health values. These include good governance, solidarity, equity and fairness, empowerment and participation, and social justice.

The WFPHA pledged to promote and facilitate the linkage between the academic and public health association communities, to advocate the utilization of evidence as the basis for formulating healthy public policy and informing practice to reduce health inequity and to make health equity an integral part of local, national and global policy.

The WFPHA called on the World Health Organization to take a leadership role on global public health and to revisit all the MDGs from a public health perspective to close the gap.'

It also called on all governments and parties to live up to their responsibility for global health equity and urged the various communities represented at the congress to engage with their governments and other stakeholders, including their national public health associations, to support healthy environments and healthy communities.

The 14th World Congress of Public Health Associations will take place in Calcutta, India under the theme **"Healthy People, Healthy Environment"** from 11th to 15th February 2015.

Ethiopia's first expressway in progress

The Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA) announced that construction of the 80km Addis Ababa-Adama Expressway - the first in Ethiopia, launched with over 8 billion Birr - is well in progress with over 33% so far completed.

The expressway, part of the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP), will significantly contribute to the growth of the export sector connecting Addis Ababa with the Djibouti Port. It will also help alleviate traffic jams and road accidents, in addition to its socio-economic benefits.

Launched in April 2010, construction of the expressway is expected to be finalised within two years, with costs covered by the Ethiopian Government and a loan from Exim Bank of China.

Institute confident about billion dollar textile export

The Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute (ETIDI) is confident that Ethiopia will achieve \$1 billion dollars' worth of textile exports by the end of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) period.

Ethiopia secured close to \$44 million in the first six months of the budget year from export of textiles and textile products - a record 110% growth and \$23 million up on the previous budget year.

"The growth is indicative that we can, indeed, achieve our GTP textile export target of one billion dollars," Fekadu Ethiopia, Corporate Communications Expert at the Institute, said.

The Ethiopian Government is keen to develop the textile sector pursuant to the five year plan.

ETIDI gives support to players in the textile industry to enable the construction of new and expansionary textile industry projects.

The institute provides support in meeting quality standards and providing capacity building training.

More and more investors are showing a keen interest in boosting textile item exports, which will earn revenue of one billion dollars during the plan period.

Leading exporters include, Aika Addis Textile and Investment Group, Almeda Textile, Kombolcha Textile Share Company, Elsie Addis Textile Factory, NovaStar Garment plc and Maa Textile and Garment Factory.

Origin Africa Presents Ethiopia 2012: Celebrating the spirit, style & innovation of modern Africa

"Origin Africa 2012 – Ethiopia" held in Ethiopia for the first time from 24th to 27th April, highlighted the creativity and innovation of the African cotton, textile and clothing industries.

The event sought to raise awareness about Africa as a sourcing destination and change perceptions about doing business in Africa, targeting a global audience of buyers, business leaders and designers.

It brought together business leaders and decision makers from 20 countries across Africa, providing opportunities for international buyers to establish contacts with African designers and industry, and to do business.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, speaking at the opening of the expo, said that Africa is attracting the textile and apparel industry due to low-cost labour, power and raw materials.

As infrastructure is necessary to make any business profitable, priority must be given to the development of the sector on the continent, he said.

The Prime Minister said Ethiopia has recognised infrastructure development whether in transportation, telecommunications and electricity as a priority and is working towards realising it.

In its third year, Origin Africa features one of the largest and most comprehensive trade expos in Africa, with more than 60 exhibitors from Africa, the U.S., Europe, India and China covering the entire fibre/textile/apparel supply chain as well as the home decor and fashion accessories sector.

In related news, four apparel and textile producers in Ethiopia are to wrap up a \$10 million deal with a group of US buyers in the next few weeks according to a senior representative of USAID Compete.

The Ethiopian textile companies involved in the deal are AYKA Addis, Addis Garment, Maa Garment and Kombolcha Textile and **Calvin Klein** is expected to be one of the US companies involved.

USAID Compete is a USAID initiative which organizes Origin Africa.

Tesco considering mega store in Ethiopia

British multinational Tesco is considering opening a mega store in Ethiopia, according to recent reports.

The Ethiopian government began negotiations with Tesco as part of its efforts to invite in international wholesalers and retailers to combat inflation.

A group of experts representing the government have been on a visit to India to review how such companies were attracted in to the market there.

Tesco has stores in 14 countries across Asia, Europe and North America and is the grocery market leader in the UK, Malaysia, the Republic of Ireland and Thailand.

Ethiopia to host next year's 2013 AGOA Forum

Ethiopia is to host the 2013 African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum after lobbying for the opportunity for the last four years.

Ethiopia has invested more than any other African country in the AGOA sector. The country's annual export to the AGOA market has reached more than \$15 million. AGOA is a U.S. Trade Act that significantly enhances U.S. market access for 40 sub-Saharan African countries.

Tourism

Konso Cultural Landscape registration celebrated

The first anniversary of the registration of the Konso Cultural Landscape as a World Heritage Site was celebrated at Karat Town of Konso Woreda, under the theme: "Our Heritage is the Manifestation of our Renaissance and Sustainable Development."

UNESCO registered the Konso Cultural Landscape as a World Heritage site in June last year.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hailemariam Desalegn, urged the younger generation to preserve the country's historical and cultural heritage.

He said the government is working to link the heritage sites with other areas in order to increase the benefits the community gains from the sites.



Konso Cultural Landscape is a 55km² expanse of stone-walled terraces and fortified settlements in the Konso highlands. It constitutes a spectacular example of a living cultural tradition stretching back 21 generations (more than 400 years) adapted to its dry hostile environment. The landscape demonstrates the shared values, social cohesion and engineering knowledge of its communities.

The site also features anthropomorphic wooden statues - grouped to represent respected members of their communities and heroic events - which are an exceptional living testimony to funerary traditions

that are on the verge of disappearing. Stone steles in the towns express a complex system of marking the passing of generations of leaders.



Ethiopia has eight other sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List which include: the ruins of the ancient city of **Aksum**; the fortress-city of **Fasil Ghebbi**; the fortified historic town of **Harar**; the **Lower Valley of the Awash**; the **Lower Valley of the Omo**; the **Rock-Hewn Churches of Lalibela**; **Tiya and Simien National Park**.

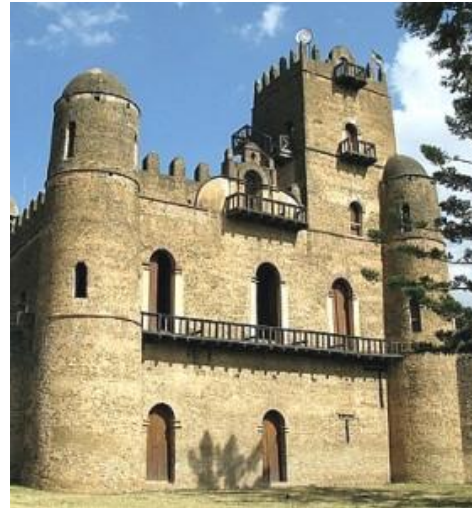


(l-r) Obelisks from the ruins of the ancient city of Aksum and the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela.

Ethiopia's rich historic and cultural heritage has encouraged an increase in tourist numbers. Ethiopia hopes to become one of the leading tourist destinations in Africa by the end of the Growth and Transformation Plan period.

Gondar secures 38.6 million Birr revenue from tourism

Over 38.6 million Birr revenue was secured from tourists who visited the historical sites of Gondar Town in Amhara State during the past nine months of the Ethiopian fiscal year, obtained from 93,400 local and foreign tourists who visited the sites.



Among the most visited sites was Fasil Ghebbi, which is a World Heritage site and consists of the Castles of King Fasil and his successors, Quskuam Mariam and Selassie churches and the village where Ethiopian Jews lived.

The highest number of tourists was European, mostly from Germany, France, England, and Italy.

MELCA working to protect biodiversity

The Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action (MELCA), an Ethiopian NGO, is working to preserve the Bale Mountain National Park in southeastern Ethiopia, which has an astounding variety of animals, plants and ecosystems.

Bale Mountain National Park, remarkable for its biodiversity, including species such as the Ethiopian wolf, encompasses grasslands, alpine climate and cloud forest.

Although the area has long been valued and protected by Ethiopians, the Bale Mountains have been under pressure recently from agriculture, overgrazing and expansion of villages, making conservation efforts crucial.



MELCA is an organization comprising foresters, lawyers, ecologists, sociologists and environmentalists. "MELCA" means "ford" both in the Amharic and Oromo language, two of Ethiopia's most widely spoken languages. It means a crossing point on a river, which is symbolically used to indicate the need to take people away from their misconception about local people and culture to an understanding and appreciation of traditional ecological knowledge. A river also signifies linkage with a source. If the source dries, the river also dries. MELCA emphasizes that culture is the source of identity and wisdom, and that the destruction or degradation of culture will result in the loss of a vast amount of knowledge and identity.

In the last eight years in Bale Mountain National Park, MELCA has taught children about the environment, worked on soil and water conservation, and supported a participatory mapping effort, which uses inhabitants' indigenous knowledge of the landscape to solve social and economic problems.

Kenya, Ethiopia vow to save endangered grevy zebra

Conservation experts from Kenya and Ethiopia have drawn a roadmap for ensuring the survival of an endangered type of zebra.

Experts from areas inhabited by endangered Grevy's zebra have developed a national action plan to ensure the survival of the Grevy's zebra whose five-year strategy expired last year.

A meeting convened by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), drew participants from government, NGOs, local community, private land-owners, people with an interest in Grevy's zebra conservation and officials from the Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority.

The Grevy's zebra population has been declining from an estimated 15,000 in the late 1970s to 2,400.

This has been attributed to poaching, diseases, limited access to grazing and water resources as a result of competition with livestock.

The expired Grevy's zebra strategy was credited for important milestones, including the 2008 first structured census for Grevy's zebra, recruitment of a full-time national Grevy's zebra liaison officer, establishment of various community conservancies in Northern Kenya, training of community scouts, enhanced research and conservation activities.

Plans are underway for a second national Grevy's zebra census by the end of this year. The first was held in 2008.

Grevy's zebra only survive in Kenya and Ethiopia's semi-arid lands yet they used to exist in Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea and Sudan.



The Grevy's zebra is most adapted to semi-arid areas, especially those north of the equator and can go for five days without water with the exception of lactating females.

Dr Kifle Argaw, the Director of the Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority, stressed the importance of cross-border development of strategy for managing and conserving the wild animal. "We need to develop these species strategies together since if any country lags behind, it becomes a headache for the rest. We need to jointly push the conservation agenda for the Grevy's zebra and other species," he said.

The Grevy's zebra is protected from any commercial use through its listing on Appendix I of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The species is also classified as endangered by the International Conservation Union (IUCN).

Mr Fanuel Kebede from the Ethiopia Wildlife Conservation Authority said the cross-border

collaboration would enhance the survival of the endangered species.

Sports

Celebrating the athletes and cultures of the world

The **London 2012 World Sport Day** is approaching fast so join in the celebrations. Bring the excitement of the London 2012 Games to your school and community. Taking place on **25th June**, World Sport Day is your chance to get the whole school involved in celebrating the athletes and cultures of the teams that will be coming to the UK for an amazing summer of Olympic and Paralympic sport.



With more than 200 Olympic teams and 170 Paralympic teams coming to the UK this summer, London 2012 World Sport Day, is a perfect opportunity for schools to join thousands of other schools for this final UK-wide Get Set event before the London 2012 Games begin.

There are lots of different ways in which your school can get involved – from hosting your own World Sport Day opening ceremony to showcasing the sports, cultures and traditions of Olympic and Paralympic teams from around the world and having some fun with flags.

See the Get Set Goes Global website for more information www.london2012.com/getsetgoesglobal

The Ethiopian Embassy will be happy to issue schools with materials about Ethiopia and its athletes. Please send your inquiry to info@ethioembassy.org.uk for further information.

Bekele runs fastest 10km road race

On 15th April, double Olympic champion, Kenenisa Bekele, ran the fastest 10km race time of the year when he took part in the Great Ireland Run in Dublin winning the race in 27 minutes and 49 seconds.

Gebrselassie beats Paula Radcliffe in Vienna; set to run 10,000m for last time

Ethiopian athletics legend Haile Gebrselassie beat Britain's Paula Radcliffe in a head-to-head half marathon dubbed the "Emperor versus the Queen" race, in Vienna on 15th April.

The twice Olympic and four-time world 10,000m champion, taking part in his second Vienna race, finished the 21.1 km in 1hr 00min 52sec, failing to better his 2011 result of 1hr 00min 18sec.



Women's marathon world-record holder Radcliffe finished in 1:12:03. The 38-year-old had started with a 7min 52sec lead on Gebrselassie — corresponding to the difference between their best half-marathon times.

Gebrselassie plans to run his final competitive track race over the 10km distance in Hengelo, Netherlands, on 27th May at the Fanny Blankers-Koen Games.

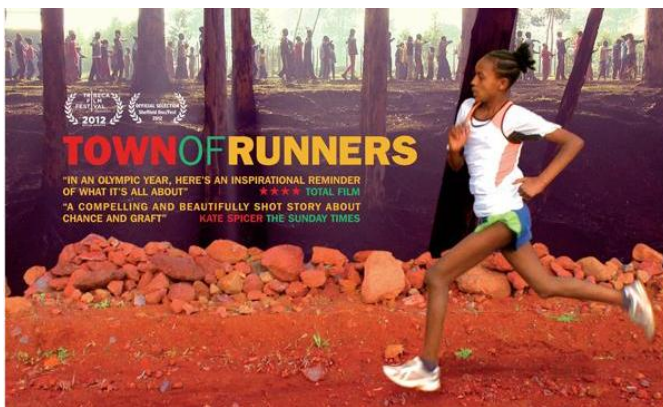
He will, however, compete in the Bupa Great Manchester Run (10kms) on 20th May in a bid to claim a fifth win.

Gebrselassie, who acknowledges Manchester's 10km course as one of the fastest in the world, scored his first victory with a then UK All-Comers' record on his first appearance in 2005 and has since emerged the winner on the last three occasions.

The Bupa Great Manchester Run, which will be celebrating its tenth staging this year after being first staged in 2003 as a legacy to the City's magnificent hosting of the previous year's Commonwealth Games, has accepted a record 40,000 entries for this year's race.

Film to Watch - Town of Runners

Town of Runners is a feature documentary about young runners from Bekoji - an Ethiopian highland town which has produced some of the world's greatest distance athletes, including Tirunesh Dibaba, Kenenisa Bekele and Derartu Tulu.



The film tells the story of two young girls, living in a rural town as they try to run their way to a different life.



Narrated by their friend Biruk, it follows their highs and lows over three years as they try to become professional athletes. Through their struggle, the film gives a unique insight into the ambitions of young Ethiopians living between tradition and the modern world.

For more information on UK and Ireland screenings, go to: <http://www.townofrunners.com/screenings>

News in Brief

Artist Afewerk Tekle laid to rest



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of one of Ethiopia's most celebrated artists, the Most Honourable Maitre Artiste World Laureate, Afewerk Tekle, who died at the age of 80 on 10th April.

Thousands of people - family members, friends, senior government officials, diplomats and hundreds of thousands of fans - accompanied his body to the ceremony at the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

President Girma Woldegiorgis, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and the House of Peoples' Representatives, ministries, African Union and embassies through their representatives laid wreaths at the artist's grave.

Tekle was born on 22nd October, 1932 in the historic city of Ankober in Shoa Province.

Sent to England in 1947 to become a mining engineer, Afewerk's artistic talent was soon discovered and he was accepted at the Central School of Arts and Crafts in London and later went to the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of London, the famous "Slade".

While studying in England he made several artistic pilgrimages to continental Europe.

On completion of his studies he returned to Addis Ababa where he held a one-man exhibition at the Municipality Hall in 1954. It was the first significant art exhibition of post-war Ethiopia.

Soon after his exhibition he left Ethiopia for a study tour in Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Greece. After two years of this extensive study, Afewerk returned with full confidence to Ethiopia, to tackle the task ahead and handled a variety of projects.



His paintings included titles such as "Backbones of African Civilisation", "African Movement", "African Atmosphere" and "African Unity", and for Expo 67 in Montreal, Canada, "Africa's Heritage" which are now in the permanent collection of the National Museum of Ethiopia.

After many studies he produced over 10 designs for an African Unity emblem and flag.

Ethiopia among world's fastest growing economies in Sub-Saharan Africa – UK Experts

According to a new report by Ernst & Young, six of the world's fastest growing economies are in sub-Saharan Africa, among them Ethiopia and Uganda.

Growth in sub-Saharan Africa from 2003 to 2010 averaged 5.7% and is expected to have been over five per cent in 2010 and 2011, making Africa the second fastest growing region in the world after Asia.

GRAND RENAISSANCE DAM

EXPRESSION OF ETHIOPIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE NILE BASIN



Updates on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam; Djibouti largest foreign buyer of bonds

Ethiopia celebrated the first anniversary of the launch of the Grand Renaissance Dam on 1st April. Celebrations were held with a view to further reinvigorating the already overwhelming public support witnessed over the past year.

The project design has been revised which has brought multifaceted changes:

- *an increase in the Dam's power production capacity - an increase of up to 750MW to the originally planned 5,250MW raising the dam's generating capacity to 6,000MW.*
- *a reduction in its original cost - The Ethiopian Metal and Engineering Corporation will provide parts of the electro-mechanical works, and this will contribute significantly to the transfer of knowledge and help to save more than \$200 million from the initially estimated cost of \$ 5 billion;*
- *and a shortened timeframe for completion – the Government aims to complete the dam in as short a time as 4-5 years, or at least as scheduled. The first phase of the dam will be completed in the next two years and two of its units will start generating an initial 700MW. 7% of the project is now completed and is expected to reach 13% by the end of the current Ethiopian fiscal year;*

The construction of the dam will not cause any harm to downstream countries, as demonstrated by Ethiopia's willingness to establish a Tripartite Technical Committee with a clear mandate to study any potential impact downstream.

The Renaissance Dam has brought together tens of millions of Ethiopians irrespective of ethnicity, religion, political persuasion or background. Ethiopians at home and abroad are highly mobilised to build their dam with their own contributions. The National Committee has raised over seven billion birr in the past year. This was aided by the determination of the public to build the dam by Ethiopia's own financial efforts, demonstrated by the enthusiastic participation in public bond sales and other contributions. The project performance over the year had been very satisfactory.

The government of Djibouti has emerged as the largest foreign buyer of bonds, which Ethiopia is issuing to finance the construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam, with a one million-dollar cheque, the largest amount issued to date by a foreign entity.

Aboubaker Omar Hadi, chairman of the Djibouti Ports & Free Zones Authority (DPFZA) handed over the cheque on 12th April to Sulieman Dedefo, Ethiopia's ambassador to Djibouti, in the presence of 200 guests.

Half paid in acquiring bond certificates that the Ethiopian government has issued to finance the construction of the \$4.8 billion Dam, and the remaining half handed out as a grant. Djibouti follows Somaliland - a breakaway state from Somalia still craving international recognition – which has bought bonds worth half a million dollars.