



Ethiopian News

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*Melkam Addis Emet (Happy New Year) to All Ethiopians in the Diaspora,
from Everyone at the Ethiopian Embassy*

BEN TV UK Diplomatic Awards 2012 dedicated to the late PM Meles Zenawi



This year's BEN TV UK Diplomatic Awards, scheduled to take place on 25th November, will be dedicated to the memory of H.E. Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

BEN TV has decided to grant a posthumous award of **The Order of Kilimanjaro** to the late Prime Minister, H.E. Meles Zenawi.

The Order of Kilimanjaro - the highest honour to be bestowed on anyone by indigenous Africans resident in the UK - is an African ritual of commendation and recognition of the exceptional

contribution of a chosen individual towards the advancement of the human race.

In a press release BEN TV's management said, "Prime Minister Meles was an inspirational spokesman for Africa on global issues and provided leadership and vision on African matters. A respected African leader, he demonstrated his strong personal commitment over many years to improving the lives of not just his own but all African peoples, through his work on African unity, climate change, development and in promoting peace and stability, particularly in the Horn of Africa. Prime Minister Zenawi will be remembered for his exceptional leadership and advocacy on African issues within and outside the continent, as well as for overseeing his country's economic growth and development. Meles Zenawi was an economic transformer; he was a strong intellectual leader for the continent. Meles Zenawi was a great leader, an intellectual, someone who was very dedicated to pan-Africanism."



BEN TV's Diplomatic Awards recognises and celebrates the diplomatic achievements made within the Africa, Caribbean, Asian and Pacific

Missions/Institutions in the United Kingdom and abroad.

Missions and institutions will be awarded in the following categories:

- *Diaspora growth, development and involvement*
- *Good customer service at the High commission/embassy/institution*
- *Promoting the country's image abroad*
- *Economic diplomacy*
- *Country's Human Development*

Other categories to be awarded are:

- Diplomat of the year from Africa, Caribbean and Pacific 2012
- Diplomat of the Year from the Americas
- Deputy Head of mission of the year
- Distinguished services and resources to Diplomacy
- Project achievement award 2012
- Social Responsibility Award 2012
- Development ambassador's Award 2012

BEN TV is a Black and ethnic oriented, urban, diverse and cosmopolitan family channel, providing a wholesome mix of entertainment, educative and informational programmes. It also includes a range of cultural programming to empower, transform and challenge the conventional perception of Africa, the Caribbean and African Diaspora.

H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn is new PM

Ethiopia's ruling party coalition, the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), has confirmed that Mr Hailemariam Desalegn, will succeed the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi as Ethiopia's Prime Minister.

The 47-year old, who was also elected as chairman of the EPRDF after a unanimous vote from 180

council members, was sworn in on 21st September at an extraordinary parliamentary session.



Mr Hailemariam has been Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs since 2010, making him the first head of government from Ethiopia to come to power through a peaceful succession process. He comes from the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR), where he was president for five years. He is currently Chairman of the Southern Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, the ruling party in the SNNPR. He has also held various positions in federal and regional government.

Taking the oath of office, Prime Minister Hailemariam vowed to continue in the footsteps of the late Premier. "We brought peace, democracy and development to the country," he said. "Meles considered himself as a son of the people," he added, promising to continue "Meles's legacy without any change."

Former Education Minister, Mr Demeke Mekonen, elected as deputy chairperson of the EPRDF, is now the Deputy Prime Minister, taking over the post from Ato Hailemariam.

While taking oath, Ato Demeke Mekonen promised his support to Ato Hailemariam, praising his "leadership together with the late prime minister" and his "significant role in the EPRDF regarding democracy, and the development of the country."

A copy of the speech delivered by H.E Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn at his inauguration is available on demand. Email us on info@ethioembassy.org.uk, for a copy.

Ethiopians celebrate New Year

On 11th September Ethiopians at home and abroad celebrated the New Year (Enkutatash), marking the first day of the Ethiopian year of 2005.

Ethiopia still uses the ancient African calendar which is seven to eight years behind the Gregorian calendar, showcasing Ethiopia's rich cultural tradition which includes its own languages, alphabet and calendar months. In addition to the New Year, the festival commemorates the end of the long rainy season (*kremt*), when the sun comes out and the fields are filled with yellow daisies.



Traditionally, children get new clothing and distribute freshly picked flowers, families visit friends and the countryside echoes with New Year songs.

The past year has seen many blessings, but it has also included such saddening events as the death of Ethiopia's visionary leader, Prime Minister Meles on 20th August.

President Girma Woldegiorgis, in a speech on New Year's Eve, 10th September, called on the Ethiopian people to renew their commitment towards the achievement of the nation's development goals.

In his annual New Year message, the President urged the public to realise the vision of their late great leader Prime Minister Meles, stressing the importance of understanding and appreciating the

country's renaissance and prosperity brought about under the leadership of the late Prime Minister. He noted good progress with the implementation of the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan in the past two years. The activities designated for the third year of the Plan, 2012-2013 (2005 in the Ethiopian calendar) were now underway. President Girma expressed the hope that implementation of the Plan over the next three years would be as successful as over the past two years. In conclusion he thanked the Ethiopian people and the international community for their extraordinary and unprecedented response to the untimely death of Prime Minister Meles.

As part of its New Year tradition, the Government also granted pardon to nearly two thousand prisoners, who included Swedish reporters, Johan Persson and Martin Schibbye. Pardons are given to prisoners who show regret for their actions and who demonstrate good conduct.

Ethiopia among top African MDG performer

Ethiopia is among the best performing nations in reducing poverty by registering remarkable economic growth and achieving the MDGs ahead of schedule, according to a report released by a joint confederation meeting held in Addis Ababa.

The confederation is made up of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, African Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme and the African Union Commission.

Ethiopia was the second best performing country in Africa, next to Algeria in registering remarkable economic growth and creating job opportunities for its youth.

The report also placed Ethiopia in third place after Liberia and Malawi in cutting the infant mortality rate by half over the past decade.

The MDGs aim to reduce poverty by half in the developing nations by 2015.

Climate facility launched

Ethiopia launched its Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Facility on 10th September, increasing its chances of attracting and directly accessing global financial resources, meeting international fiduciary standards and strong Measuring Reporting and Verification (MRV) requirements.

The launch, attracting participants from the Prime Minister's Office and other government bodies, UN agencies, Development Partners and the media, was presided over by State Minister Ahmed Shide from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED).

"The CRGE Facility will minimize transaction costs and duplication," H.E. State Minister Ahmed Shide noted.

Speaking at the opening, British Ambassador H.E. Greg Dorey said, "The worldwide low carbon market is currently worth over £3 trillion and it will double in the next decade. We want the UK to benefit commercially from that – indeed the UK market for low-carbon and environmental goods and services is already worth over 8% of our GDP. And we would like Ethiopia to benefit too. We look forward to working with you on these opportunities."

UNDP will play its Interim Trustee role for the national CRGE Facility under a Multi-Partner Trust Fund arrangement. UNDP has wide experience of running similar trust funds including over 50 Multi-Partner Trust Funds worth US\$6 billion in over 80 countries around the world, with contributions from over 65 Development Partners.

Ethiopia became the first African country to launch a national climate-resilient strategy when the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi unveiled its Climate-

Resilient Green Economy Strategy at the Durban climate conference in 2011. "We see the Green economy as a means to overcome the poverty of all citizens and ensure that everyone leads a good life of full satisfaction," reflected Dr Tewoldebirhan G/Egziabher, Director General of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA).

Ethiopia's vision for a climate resilient green economy

"Ethiopia's choice of a low-emission, rather than carbon-intensive path for the 2025 middle-income horizon, is both responsible and provides sustainable co-benefits for the country as it accesses new climate finance and economic opportunities. And this thinking complements the emerging global consensus that a green economy is a model for the sustainable future of human development," Ms Alessandra Tisot, UNDP Ethiopia Country Director, noted during the CRGE Facility launch in Addis Ababa.

UNDP was working closely with MoFED and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to strongly advocate for the setup of the facility using its multi-partner trust fund office model to initiate a national CRGE facility.

Ethiopia readies itself for Sudan exports

Ethiopia is making final preparations to begin permanently exporting power to neighbouring Sudan, which would enable Khartoum to replace its thermal power generating units with electricity generated by Ethiopia's dams.

The Ethiopian Electric and Power Corporation (EEPCo) began a test run to Sudan last month, following completion of a \$41 million Ethiopia-Sudan Transmission Line project. Sudan will initially be provided with 100 megawatts of electricity as Ethiopia embarks on the test run.

Sudan will be the second country after Djibouti to receive Ethiopia's electricity, which it generates mainly from hydro-powered dams.

35MW of electricity a month is already being traded to Djibouti for \$1.5 million.

400MW a month of electricity will be exported to Kenya through another power transmission project currently underway.

The Ethiopia-Sudan Transmission Line Project is expected to further develop the East African Power Pool, encompassing power interconnection projects between Ethiopia-Kenya, Tanzania-Zambia-Kenya-Uganda and Ethiopia-Sudan-Egypt.

Dr Eleni Gabre-Madhin awarded Yara Prize

Dr Eleni Gabre-Madhin, outgoing CEO of the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) and Dr Agnes Kalibata, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda are the 2012 Yara Prize recipients.

The two laureates will be celebrated at a State Banquet/Gala night on 27th September during the **African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF) 2012** in Arusha, Tanzania.

The two prominent African female leaders were selected for their work in ground-breaking areas for the African Green Revolution: profound innovation in agricultural markets and effective public policies in support of agricultural growth.

Both leaders have demonstrated how transformative change can be achieved in a complex and challenging environment. They have applied innovative approaches, collaborating with partners in new ways. Their achievements can inspire other countries to transform the productivity and sustainability of their agricultural sectors.

"Yara creates impact by addressing global challenges. By awarding the Yara Prize, we salute

the champions of sustainable agricultural development. I wish to extend my personal congratulations to the laureates," Jørgen Ole Haslestad, President and CEO of Yara and Chairman of the Yara Prize Committee, said.

"The impressive transformational work the laureates are doing provides great inspiration, and this is exactly the kind of development we want to promote in the Grow Africa Initiative, co-chaired by Yara alongside NEPAD and the African Union."



Dr Eleni Gabre-Madhin is the founder and outgoing CEO of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX). She is being awarded the prize for showing visionary leadership in managing an efficiently functioning market, especially for smallholder coffee producers in Ethiopia.

The ECX has had a far-reaching impact on Ethiopian agriculture and on the lives of small farmers since its inauguration in 2008. Under her leadership, ECX's growth saw a strong increase in volumes every year, from trading 138,000 tons in the first year 2008/2009 to 601,000 tons in 2011/2012. The value of ECX trades reached \$1.2 billion in 2011/2012, representing up to \$20 million per day.

With a transparent and efficient market, the share of the final export price for coffee has risen from 38 per cent to 65 per cent, benefitting 15 million coffee farmers. At present, 12 percent of ECX

membership is made up of farmer cooperatives, representing 2.4 million smallholder farmers.

Dr Gabre-Madhin was among The Africa Report's "50 Women Shaping Africa" 2011, was named Ethiopian Person of the Year 2010 and was nominated for Outstanding Businesswoman of the Year 2010 by African Business. She received the African Banker Icon Award for 2012.

The Yara Prize for an African Green Revolution seeks to contribute to the transformation of African agriculture and food availability, within a sustainable context, thereby helping to reduce hunger and poverty. It is based on nominations of candidates who are carefully evaluated by the Yara Prize Committee.

The Prize was handed out in Oslo from 2005 to 2009. In 2012, it moved to Africa where it will be annually handed out.

It is to be remembered that the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi was awarded the first African Green Revolution Yara Prize in 2005 for his contribution to improved food security and human nutrition in ways that also protect the environment.

In a press statement by Yara back then, it said "The Yara Foundation Board recognizes Prime Minister Meles' decisive steps towards increasing food production and reducing poverty. He has brought about political change in Ethiopia, and placed the rural poor first in the country's development strategies...and for Ethiopia's response to the then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's call for a uniquely African green revolution for the 21st Century."

In accepting the Prize, PM Meles Zenawi said it would encourage Africans to continue their efforts. "I consider this as not just an honour for me, but encourage the ultimate architects and owners of the green revolution in Ethiopia."

The Prime Minister also hoped the prize would help to balance "the past 20 years' one-dimensional media coverage of Ethiopia, which has focused on hunger and destitution, with another story few have heard - our steps towards a green revolution."



PM Meles receiving his award from Professor Jeffrey Sachs

Prime Minister Zenawi thanked the Yara Foundation for the Prize and announced it would be used to provide secondary education scholarships for poor girls in rural areas. "It should change the lives of at least 550 girls," he concluded.

PM Meles donated his \$200,000 financial award to a foundation called "Fre-Addis Ethiopia Women's Fund" whose objective is "to empower girls through providing educational opportunities" and it currently supports 514 orphan rural girls in their education.

Ethiopian Airlines becomes first African airline to acquire 787 Dreamliner

Ethiopian Airlines took delivery of its 1st Boeing 787-800 Dreamliner dubbed "Africa First" on 14th August, becoming the first country in the world outside Japan and ahead of any airline in the Americas, Europe and the Middle East to operate the Dreamliner - the most technologically advanced commercial aircraft in the world.



The Dreamliner offers greatly enhanced on-board comfort, with significantly reduced noise, a higher level of humidity, the biggest windows in the sky and a unique lighting system. Ethiopian's 787 has 24 seats in Cloud Nine and 246 seats in economy.



Ethiopian's Cloud Nine (Business Class) cabin on the 787.



A flight attendant in the 787's economy class

Ethiopian will rotate its first Dreamliner, "Africa First", primarily on its African routes.

Ethiopian has already placed a firm order for 10 Dreamliners and will be receiving 5 of them before December 2012. "The addition of the Boeing 787 to our fleet will enable Ethiopian to provide an unparalleled level of on-board comfort to its customers in Africa and beyond," said Ethiopian Airlines Chief Executive Officer, Tewolde Gebremariam, at the ribbon cutting ceremony in Everett, Washington. "We are proud to be the first airline in the world outside Japan to receive this ultra-modern aircraft. It continues our pioneering role in African aviation and is a testimony of the solid partnership we have forged with Boeing over many decades".



"Today marks not just another milestone for Boeing and Ethiopian Airlines, but a new beginning in our 65-year partnership," said Van Rex Gallard, vice-president of sales at Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "Ethiopian Airlines continues to show their strong leadership in African aviation and their growing presence around the globe. Being the first in Africa and one of the first in the world further confirms their position globally."

The first Dreamliner landed on African Soil touching down at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport on 17th August and the following day started flying to other African destinations with the first flight of Ethiopian Dreamliner dubbed "The Dream Tour," which included a sightseeing flight to Mount Kilimanjaro for around 270 invited guests, consisting of Ministers, Ambassadors, other VIPs, Ethiopian ShebaMiles Gold Members and media.

As part of its flight to rotating African destinations, Ethiopian Dreamliner will fly to destinations such as Kilimanjaro, Mombasa, Harare, Lusaka, Nairobi, Entebbe, Lagos, Johannesburg, Abuja, Malabo, Douala, Lomé, Accra, Maputo, and Luanda.

Ethiopian plans to deploy its second Dreamliner on its Washington D.C. route.



H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede with Ethiopian Airlines Regional Manager, Ms. Rahel Assefa

On 17th September, the Dreamliner landed at London's Heathrow Airport, making it the first scheduled Dreamliner to land in the UK. Present on this occasion were invited guests and journalists who included Ethiopian Ambassador to the U.K. H.E. Berhanu Kebede, who said it was a great source of satisfaction to see the Dreamliner, a state-of-the-art plane, touching down in London, and an honour to witness such a historical event.



Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing airline in Africa, made its maiden international flight to Cairo in 1946 and the Airline now provides dependable services to 69 international destinations spanning four continents.

Ethiopian is a multi-award winner. It recently won Gold in the African Airline of the Year 2011/2012 Awards organized by the African Aviation News Portal. Ethiopian also won the 2011 AFRAA award for being consistently profitable over the years and also won the "AFRICAN CARGO AIRLINE OF THE YEAR 2011 Award", the NEPAD Transport Infrastructure Excellence Awards 2009 and "the Airline of the Year 2009 Award" bestowed by the African Airlines Association (AFRAA).

The airline is well positioned to pursue aggressively the implementation of its 2025 strategic plan to become the leading aviation group in Africa.

EVENTS

Jazz legend Mulatu Astatke to speak at RGS



On 7th November, during **World Travel Market** week, the 'father of Ethio-jazz', Mulatu Astatke, will discuss Ethiopia's contribution to world music at the Royal Geographical Society.

Mulatu is known as the father of Ethio-jazz, a unique blend of pop, modern jazz, traditional

Ethiopian music, Latin rhythms, Caribbean reggae, and Afro-funk.

Ranking among the most influential African musicians of all-time, Dr Mulatu is a Composer, Arranger, Performer, Fellow of Harvard University and an Adviser for African Scholarship at Berkeley College, Boston.

His music has been widely acclaimed for over 50 and the 'Ethiopiques' CD series has opened up a new audience for his 'Ethio-jazz' experiments. But it wasn't until Jim Jarmusch's 'Broken Flowers' film featured his music that momentum started to

gather and a young generation of urban artists started sampling his music, the greatest example being Nas & Damian Marley's sample of 'Yegelle Tezeta'.

The RGS event will include an exhibition of Lisa Bentick's Hipstamatic images from her recent travels in Ethiopia.

Ticket holders will also be able to explore the Society's rich Ethiopian collections, a coffee ceremony, music and dancing, to be followed by a reception at the nearby Ethiopian Embassy.

Tickets: **Lecture alone £10 (includes drink).
Debate and Embassy reception (from
8pm) £20**

Date: **Wednesday 7th November from
7.00pm until 9.00pm (doors open at
6.00pm)**

Venue: **Royal Geographical Society (with IBG),
Kensington Gore, London SW7**

To book your tickets, please purchase from Eventbrite on the following link:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/3954586274/es?rank=1&ebtv=C>

For more information, please contact us on info@ethioembassy.org.uk

Mulatu Astatke will also be playing at London's Koko Club in Camden on 18th November, as part of the London Jazz Festival in association with BBC3. Tickets can be purchased from the venue's box office.

SPORTS

Fikre wins silver at London 2012 Paralympics, Ethiopia's first ever Paralympic medal

Wondiye Fikre (24) came second in the men's 1,500m (T46) athletics on 4th September – Ethiopia's first ever paralympic medal. Kenya's

Tarebei Abraham, won gold and Samir Nouioua of Algeria the bronze.

Wondiye finished with a personal best time of 3:50.87.



In "the greatest ever" Paralympic Games, according to International Committee chairman Sir Philip Craven, Ethiopia was represented by four athletes:

- Wondiye Fikre - Men's 1,500m (T46)
- Yengus Dese - Women's 100m, 200m and 400m (T46)
- Tesfalem Gebru - Men's 1,500m and 800m (T46)
- Kiross Tekle - Men's 800m (T46)

T46 is a classification whereby athletes have an impairment that affects one arm, including amputees. All athletes performed their personal and seasonal bests at these games.



Ethiopia's Paralympic Team with Ethiopian Ambassador and Diplomats at the Embassy

H.E. Ambassador Berhanu Kebede hosted a dinner at the Embassy to honour the Paralympians where he thanked the athletes for their hard work during the games and urged them to work even harder for the next Paralympic games. He said their participation in the games plus the silver medal win from Fikre adds to the glory that Ethiopia enjoyed during the Olympics.

Ethiopia first participated in the Paralympics games at the 1968 Summer Games in Tell Aviv, Israel.

Honouring Ethiopian Olympic Heroes

Ethiopian Olympic medallists and other athletes were given a hero's welcome at a gala hosted in their honour at Porchester Hall in London's Bayswater on 13th August.



Present were UK Government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats, corporate guests, the media, celebrities and members of the Ethiopian community.

Welcoming the athletes and members of the National Olympic Committee, HE Berhanu Kebede, Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK and the Scandinavian countries, cited the host of events organized by the Ethiopian Embassy in London to showcase Ethiopia as a mosaic of nations and nationalities and the richness of its culture. He expressed amazement at the fabulous support given by huge crowds at all the venues to Team GB

and to all other athletes, including Team Ethiopia which won 7 medals, placing it 5th in the athletics medal table, 2nd in Africa and 25th overall.



The stamina and invincibility of our Olympic heroes, their commitment, persistence and resilience is a testimony to the perseverance of Ethiopians which, he said, "lies at the heart of the Ethiopian Renaissance."

The Rt Honourable Laurence Robertson MP, Guest of Honour at the ceremony, took the podium to congratulate the athletes on their outstanding performances.

For more information on the Embassy's Cultural Olympics, please visit our website www.ethioembassy.org.uk

London 2012 news roundup:

- **Gelana sets Olympic record in women's marathon;**
- **Dibaba re-writes Olympic history in 10,000m**
- **Defar wins 5,000m gold**

Tiki Gelana set an Olympic record in the Marathon to win in 2 hours 23 minutes 7 seconds, in her first major championship.

The 24-year old, cousin of Sydney 2000 Olympic marathon winner Gezhagne Abera, battled wet weather conditions to beat race favourite Mary Keitany of Kenya who finished fourth.

She said: 'It was a great race. I really loved it. As soon as the rain started, I said to myself "Thank God". I love running in the rain.'



Tirunesh Dibaba also made history by becoming the only Ethiopian woman to win the 10,000m gold medal at two consecutive Olympic Games following her win four years ago at Beijing.



Tirunesh was inspired to start running by her cousin, Derartu Tulu. Tulu is the only other woman to have won two Olympic 10,000m golds. But Tulu had not achieved this feat in consecutive Games. She won in 1992 and 2000.

Dibaba said after the 10,000m race "I have never been happier than today – this is even better than in Beijing."

She secured the gold medal with a great sprint in the final 500 metres, winning the race in 30:20.75, a season's best, and also improving her own world lead of 30:24.39 minutes.

On Day 14 of the Games, Meseret Defar beat Kenya's Vivian Cheruiyot, to win back her 5,000m

title in 15:04.25, denying Tirunesh Dibaba an Olympic double-double.



Tirunesh Dibaba won her second medal by claiming the bronze in 15:05.15.

Defar became the first woman to win the Olympic 5,000 final twice since its introduction in 1996.

The only other woman to claim a medal at the Games was Sofia Assefa, who won bronze in the 3,000m steeplechase in 9:09.84.



Ethiopian women's 3,000m steeplechase runners (l-r) Sofia Assefa, Hiwot Ayalew and Etenesh Diro do the lap of honour in the Olympic Stadium



In the men's events, Dejen Gebremeskel claimed a silver medal in the 5,000m race, and Tariku Bekele a bronze in the 10,000m.

Gebremeskel was beaten by Britain's Mo Farah, who completed his first Olympic double by winning the 5,000m and 10,000m. Farah joins a list of world class athletes who have completed the long-distance double in post-war Olympic history, which includes Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele who won both at the 2008 Beijing Games and Miruts Yifter in the 1980 games in Moscow, Lasse Viren in 1972 and 1976, Vladimir Kuts in 1956 and Emil Zatopek in 1952.

Team Ethiopia was represented at the Olympic and Paralympics Games by 39 athletes with a wide range of runners, including new intakes. And for the first time, Ethiopia was represented in swimming by 18-year old Yanet Seyoum in the 50m freestyle. Her finishing time was a personal best of 32:41 in the first heat.

Dibaba wins first-ever Great North Run title



On 16th September, three-time Olympic gold medallist Tirunesh Dibaba, won her first **Bupa Great North Run** title in 1:07:35. This win marked one of the fastest Half Marathon debuts ever.

She defeated the marathon World champion Edna Kiplagat from Kenya (1:07:41) who came in second and Ethiopian Olympic Champion Tiki Gelana who finished third in 1:07:48, both running personal bests.

Dibaba made her debut over the distance from Newcastle to South Shields, where her appearance in the race marked a step towards switching her attention to road racing, after a highly successful track and cross country career.

"I was running carefully, because this was my first race at this distance. So I waited until the last mile

before I went ahead," Dibaba said. "I expected to win today. And this race really helps me regarding my next step to the marathon."

Dibaba follows in the footsteps of other great Ethiopian superstars, including her cousin Derartu Tulu, Berhane Adere and Gete Wami. Derartu Tulu moved from the track to road racing, and then proved her legendary status with wins including the Tokyo, London and New York City Marathons.

Gelana, fresh from her win at the London Games Marathon, said of Dibaba, "I believe that she can go on to achieve really great things. She is going to be a fantastic marathon runner and I believe she can eventually break the world record."

"This was a good race for me today. I ran my personal best. I haven't made a big preparation so I'm satisfied with my run. I'm planning to run a marathon in the spring. Maybe New York, but I haven't finalised that yet."

In the men's race, Olympic Marathon bronze medallist Wilson Kipsang of Kenya won in 59:06, the fifth fastest time this year followed by his compatriot Micah Kogo in 59:07 while Imane Merga of Ethiopia came in third with a great debut time of 59:56.



Merga (right), with Kipsang (centre) and Kogo

MFA's new website

The Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would like to inform you that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has designed a new website which provides detailed information about investment, trade, tourism and the latest political developments unfolding in the region. You can find it at www.mfa.gov.et