



# Ethiopian News

February 2017

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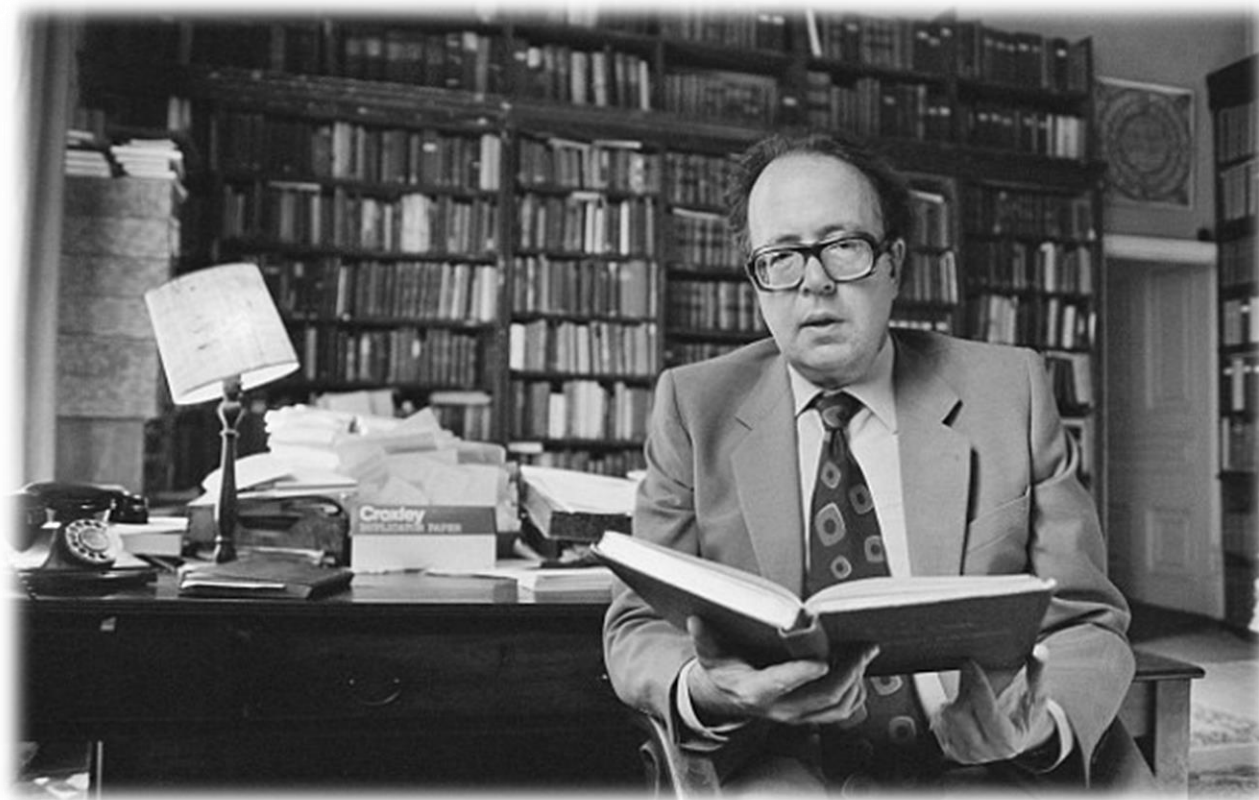
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# Ethiopia bids farewell to its greatest friend



**Professor Richard Pankhurst OBE**

**1927 – 2017**

**May He Rest in Eternal Peace**

## Ethiopia bids farewell to its greatest friend

Ethiopia is mourning the passing of the great Ethiopianist and historian, Richard Keir Pethick Pankhurst OBE, who died in Addis Ababa on 16<sup>th</sup> February, aged 89.

Born in Woodford Green, north-east London in December 1927, to Sylvia Pankhurst and Silvio Corio, Richard was educated at Woodford's Bancroft's School and at the London School of Economics, where he earned a doctorate in economic history.

Throughout her life, Sylvia gave active support to Ethiopia, particularly concerning its independence, and befriended Emperor Haile Selassie who fled to the UK during the Italian occupation of Ethiopia which began with its 1935 invasion.

In 1956, Sylvia and Richard moved to Ethiopia and Richard worked at the University College of Addis Ababa. In 1962, he became founding director of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies and edited *The Journal of Ethiopian Studies* and *The Ethiopia Observer*. Richard left the Institute in 1976 after the death of Haile Selassie, during the Derg era. He returned to England and became a research fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies and the London School of Economics.

Richard returned to Ethiopia in 1986, and resumed research at the Institute. He published widely on Ethiopian history – both books and articles for scholarly journals and also for newspapers such as *Capital* and for *Selamta*, Ethiopian Airlines' magazine.

Following in the footsteps of his suffragette mother, Richard campaigned for justice and, in his case, restitution of treasures looted from Ethiopia, principally, but not exclusively, those stolen by the Italians in the nineteen-thirties and by the British (at Magdala in 1868).

Richard helped lead the highly successful campaign for the return of the Aksum Obelisk to Ethiopia. During their annual summer visits to London, Richard and his wife Rita attended demonstrations outside the Italian Embassy where Richard and

other protesters were invited to meet the Italian Ambassador. Among high-profile supporters was the explorer Wilfred Thesiger who could not be there in person one year but sent a message of support which Richard read out.

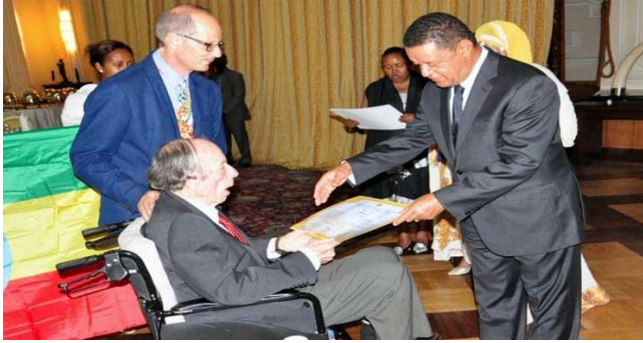


Ethiopia's then Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, called for the obelisk to be returned during a speech to the FAO in Rome in 2002, stressing that in 1948, Italy had agreed to return the Obelisk but that "successive Italian Governments had failed to honour this and other agreements". With this pressure from above and campaigning at grassroots level, the obelisk was finally re-erected in Aksum in 2008.



A torch is lit on a replica of an ancient Axum obelisk during its unveiling on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Richard was given an award of recognition by President Mulatu Teshome for his part in the campaign, and the honorary title "Dejazmach Benkirew" was bestowed on him by the Union of Tigrayans of North America.



Speaking at the event, President Mulatu said the recognition would encourage the new generation to follow suit in bringing back other valued Ethiopian heritage to the homeland.

Richard was appointed OBE in the Diplomatic Service and Overseas section of the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours "for services to Ethiopian studies". Edward Ullendorff said Richard's *The Ethiopians* was testimony to his "remarkable diligence and industry in the service of Ethiopian studies". In addition to his numerous books on Ethiopia, he wrote works on his mother, including *Sylvia Pankhurst: Artist and Crusader* and *Sylvia Pankhurst: Counsel for Ethiopia*.

Richard founded SOFIES (The Society of Friends of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies) which fund-raised to construct at the Institute a purpose-built, computerized library, with lecture hall, exhibition space, and laboratory for the conservation of rare books, photographs, and manuscripts.

In common with his mother, who died in Ethiopia in 1960, Richard was honoured with a state funeral, on 21<sup>st</sup> February, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Addis Ababa, – where dignitaries and patriotic Ethiopians are laid to rest.

Thousands of residents gathered to mourn the passing of this truly great man who will be remembered for ever. Ethiopians both at home and abroad, have been paying tribute to "Ethiopia's greatest friend" in recognition of his life long service and his great respect for the history of Ethiopia.

The funeral was attended by President Mulatu Teshome, Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Abune Mathias, Ministers, Ambassadors, family members and friends.



The Pankhurst family expressed gratitude to the people and government of Ethiopia, saying the whole nation has been a lifetime associate of the professor.

In a speech in Amharic during the funeral, Richard's son Alula Pankhurst expressed his gratitude to the people of Ethiopia for recognising his father's service and commitment to Ethiopia. "As my grandmother Sylvia Pankhurst passed to her son her great love and admiration to Ethiopia," he said, "my father, on his part, passed on to me and my sister Helen his respect for Ethiopian history and culture."



Richard and Rita at their home in Addis Ababa

Richard leaves behind his wife Rita, daughter Helen Pankhurst, son Alula and grandchildren.



# Editorial



## Adwa: African victory and beyond

In Ethiopia, March 2 is a Red-Letter Day! On this date in 1889 Ethiopians from the four corners of the country converged in Adwa, Northern Ethiopia and, under the overall command of Emperor Menelik II and Empress Taitu, dealt a death blow to Imperial Italy's ambition to annex Ethiopia.

The meting out of a mortifying defeat on a modern army, by what an Italian historian once described as "ragtag fighters", sent shock waves through European capitals and stunned the world. Seldom have the annals of the Scramble for Africa recorded such acts of bravery, fearlessness, and confidence as that demonstrated by patriotic Ethiopians at the Battle of Adwa. Poorly trained and equipped Ethiopian forces were no match for Italy's highly

honed and mechanised army, but nothing could scupper Ethiopians indomitable will never to fall prey to colonialism. In short, the battle was akin to the proverbial fight between David and Goliath albeit on a titanic scale.

The impact of the Victory of Adwa on the struggle for decolonisation cannot be over-emphasised. Former President of South Africa and veteran of the anti-apartheid movement, Thabo Mbeki, spoke at the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Victory of Adwa as "The Victory of Africa and all Black people struggling for freedom and equality."

Adwa Day provides a golden opportunity to spur the patriotism of each and every Ethiopian who

rededicate their unwavering support to ending poverty, in a newly revamped union of free, willing and equal nations, nationalities and peoples. There exists in Ethiopia today a consensual agreement between Government and people that Ethiopia's number one enemy is poverty, which if left unconquered, threatens to scupper its very existence.



Emperor Menelik II and Empress Taitu

Under the Democratic-Developmental State the government and people have carved out swathes of bespoke reforms and the dividends are tangible. Millions of people have been lifted out of poverty, 30 million youths are in school, access to primary healthcare improves year by year and average life expectancy is now 64. The establishment of universities and enrolment have increased many-fold.

A huge rise in infrastructure supports socio-economic development and promotes regional economic integration. This paves the way for the realization of Africa's Agenda 2063.



Adwa landscape

On Adwa Day, Ethiopians renew their commitment to exercising their capabilities as agents of their socio-economic, political and cultural transformation. Adwa holds a significant share of

the motivation of the people of Ethiopia in particular, and Africans in general, to stand up for freedom, equality and justice. Then Poverty will meet its Adwa!

### ...121<sup>st</sup> anniversary commemorated

The 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Victory of Adwa was commemorated in Adwa, Tigray Regional State, the very site where Ethiopians defeated the Italian invading army on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1896.

At the celebrations, President Mulatu Teshome said Adwa was a great victory which resonates with the spirit of cooperation and mutual respect as well as the value of striving for success, adding "it is a victory for all black people."



He said "Our ancestors made huge sacrifices to safeguard the sovereignty of the country and pass it down to the existing generation." He urged the younger generation to step up their engagement in the country's ongoing development projects, and notably the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen handed over to President Mulatu Teshome and Speaker of the House of Federation, Yalew Abate, a torch which is dedicated to the campaign to raise funds for the GERD. The campaign will begin on 26<sup>th</sup> March in Addis Ababa, and the torch will be carried across all the regional states and city administrations in the following 11 months.

Deputy PM Demeke Mekonnen called on all Ethiopians to sustain the unity and participation evident during the battle of Adwa into supporting the construction of the renaissance dam.

## **Ethiopia and St Christopher & Nevis establish diplomatic relations**

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, the governments of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Federation of Saint Christopher (St. Kitts) and Nevis established diplomatic relations.



H.E. Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra Afework and H.E. High Commissioner Kevin Isaac signed the joint communique on behalf of their respective governments.

The establishment of diplomatic relations serves the national interest between the two countries. Both countries hope to cooperate in areas such as trade and investment, and tourism.

The Ambassador and High Commissioner agreed to encourage their respective governments to visit their countries to develop relations further.

### **Dr Workneh meets Boris Johnson**

Ethiopia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu conferred with his British counterpart, Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, on 17<sup>th</sup> February, on the margins of the Munich Security Conference.

Dr Workneh briefed Mr Johnson on the current situation in Ethiopia and the region. The Minister also raised Ethiopia's new role as non-permanent member of the UNSC. He emphasized the need to consolidate Ethio-UK collaboration, not only at bilateral level, but also in multilateral fora, particularly at the UNSC, in a bid to work together

on regional peace and security matters, including on Somalia and South Sudan.

Noting that Addis Ababa is the diplomatic hub of the African Union, Dr Workneh urged the Secretary of State to consider the issuance of UK visas from the British Embassy in Addis Ababa, to Ethiopian nationals and the larger international community residing in Ethiopia.



Mr Johnson thanked Dr Workneh for the meeting and promised to continue the existing excellent relations between the two countries, calling on Ethiopia to participate at the highest level at the **London International Conference on Somalia**, due in May 2017.

Both sides concluded their meeting by agreeing to further deepen and expand their strategic partnership in more sectors and exchange visits in the years to come.

### **UK supports Ethiopian peacekeeping**

The British Embassy in Addis Ababa said the UK supports Ethiopian peacekeeping operations, contributing to Ethiopia's Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC), which graduated students who had completed short-term training on 24<sup>th</sup> February.



"For United Nations Security Council members like the UK and Ethiopia, global peace and security is a top priority. Nowhere is this more relevant than in

Africa with 60% of conflicts and 90% of the peacekeeping budget spent on peace and security here, what happens in Africa is extremely important to both countries,” a statement said.

The UK is committed to working with African institutions to more effectively reduce, manage and resolve conflicts here. This includes working with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities where we seek to build the capacity and consistency of peacekeeping interventions on the continent.

Ambassador Moorehead congratulated trainees on successfully completing their courses and handed out certificates, saying, “Ethiopia is critical to security in the region and more widely, and its provision of troops to multiple UN and AU peace operations is hugely important. The UK views it as a capable partner and remains keen to help where it can to improve standards and performance. Our joint work will greatly support stronger UN and AU peace operations both here and globally. This latest course will contribute to this aim.”

**Ethiopia, Africa’s top refugee-hosting country**

According to a new report by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, low and middle-income countries played the greatest role in sheltering most of the 3.2 million refugees who were driven from their homes in the first half of 2016. The Mid-Year Trends 2016 report shows that in the first half of last year, 1.7 million people were newly displaced within their

own country, while 1.5 million had crossed an international border.

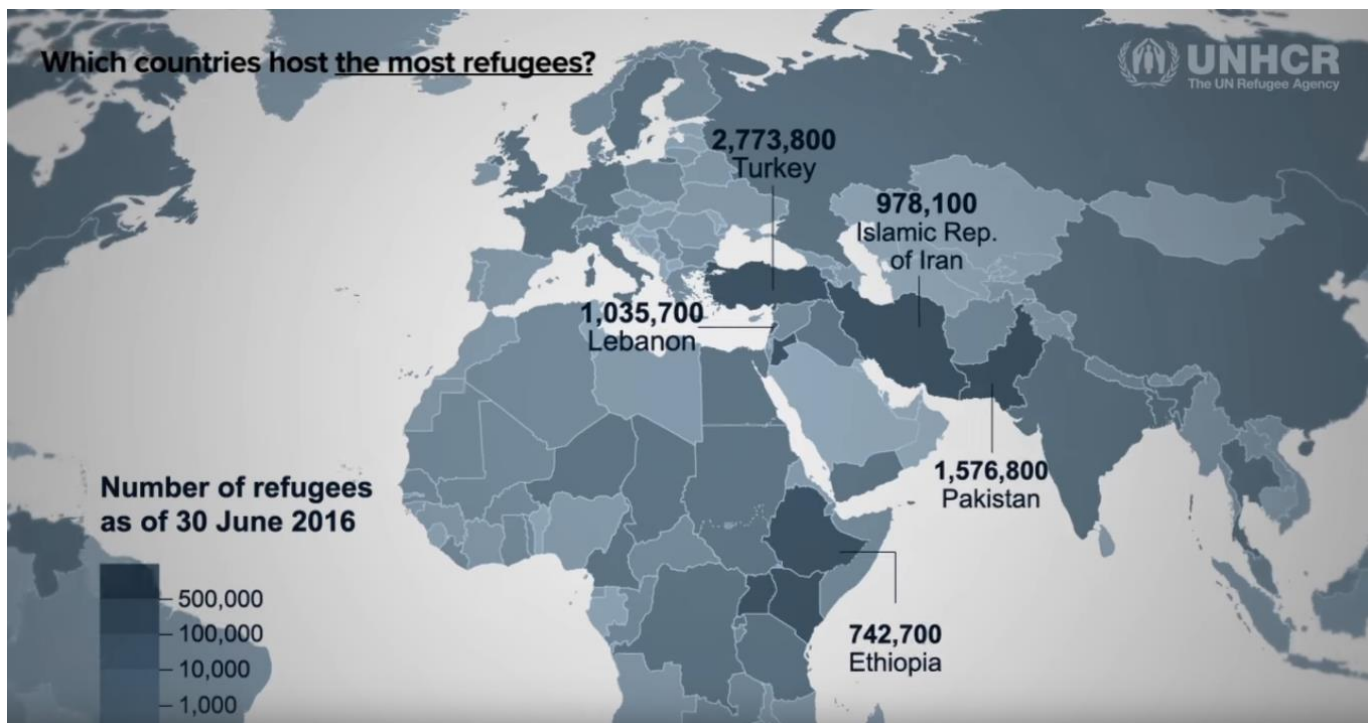
More than half the new refugees in the first half of 2016 fled Syria’s conflict, with most staying in the immediate region – Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt. Other sizable groups fled Iraq, Burundi, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

While smaller in scale than the Syrian crisis, South Sudan’s refugee situation continues to grow and affect some of the world’s least developed countries – including Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, DRC and CAR. At mid-2016, there were a total of 854,200 refugees from South Sudan, a more than eight-fold increase in three years. Numbers grew even further in the second half of 2016.

**“The biggest contributors providing a safe haven to the world’s uprooted people are poorer communities.”**

Turkey sheltered the greatest number of refugees, hosting 2.8 million by mid-2016, followed by Pakistan (1.6 million), Lebanon (1 million), Iran (978,000), **Ethiopia (742,700)**, Jordan (691,800), Kenya (523,500), Uganda (512,600), Germany (478,600) and Chad (386,100).

The full report can be accessed on the UNHCR website at <https://goo.gl/G6LHki>.



# ETHIOPIA GOING GREEN

## The 10 Least Toxic Countries



### SOURCES:

International Energy Agency (IEA)  
World Health Organization (WHO)

### Ethiopia ranked third least toxic country

According to a new study by The Eco Experts, 8 out of 10 countries with the cleanest air are in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ethiopia was ranked the third least toxic country.

Research data was obtained from the International Energy Agency and World Health Organization. Each country's performance was ranked on five factors:

- Energy consumption, per capita
- Carbon dioxide emissions from fuel combustion, per capita
- Air pollution
- Deaths attributable to air pollution, per 100,000 capita
- Renewable energy production

### \$7 million green cities development programme launched

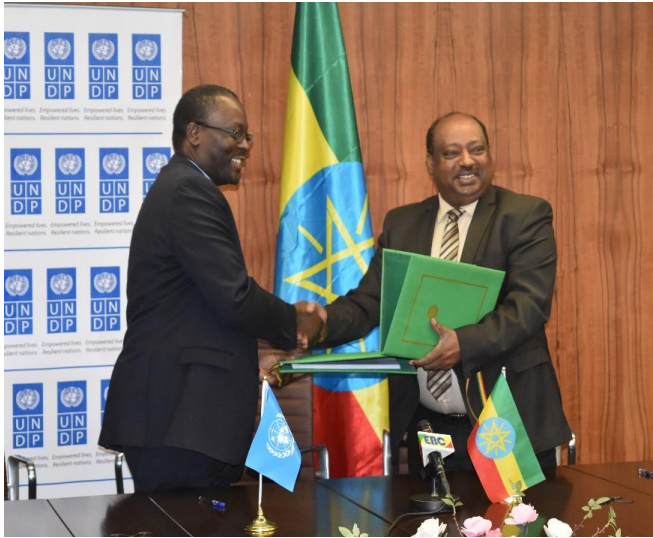
Ethiopia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) officially launched a new intervention that will enhance the linkage between urban waste management and greening six cities around the country.

The urban climate change mitigation programme, known as Creating Opportunities for Municipalities to Produce and Operationalize Solid Waste Transformation (COMPOST), has received close to \$7 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UNDP.

Ethiopia is Africa's second most populous country and urban dwellers make up 18% of the country's population and migrations into cities are expected to continue, leading to greater energy demand.



# ETHIOPIA GOING GREEN



These biomass energy demands by urban dwellers have traditionally led to forest and land degradation. The new intervention seeks to target 17,000 hectares of land for afforestation, thus helping Ethiopia sequester significant greenhouse gas emissions.

The 5-year programme (2017-2021), supports Ethiopia's building of a carbon neutral economy, thereby creating new jobs, particularly for youths and women, and helping create SMEs working in recycling and an expanding sustainable compost market to support urban agriculture and forests.

## One million trees to be planted to fight deforestation near refugee camps

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said 1 million trees will be planted in Ethiopia to fight deforestation around camps hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees from South Sudan, who rely almost entirely on wood for fuel, which puts considerable pressure on local forests, FAO energy and forestry expert Arturo Gianvenuti said.



The trees will be planted on 150 hectares of land in Ethiopia's western Gambella region to meet the growing refugee population's demand for energy.

Almost 300,000 people, mostly women and children, have found shelter in Ethiopia since conflict erupted in South Sudan in December 2013.

The FAO and the UN Refugee Agency will monitor deforestation with high resolution satellite images and train local craftsmen to produce energy-saving clay stoves that cut wood consumption by 25%.

## Ethiopia and FAO Great Green Wall Initiative



Ethiopia and the Food and Agriculture Organization re-committed to implementing the **Action Against Desertification** project during a consultative workshop held 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February in Kombolcha, to boost the role of non-state actors and local communities in preventing desertification along the Great Green Wall in Ethiopia.

Over 70 participants from Ethiopia's Ministries of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and of Livestock and Fisheries, NGOs, Civil Society Organizations, universities and research institutions, partners and relevant institutions of the regional governments of Amhara, Tigray and Afar took part.

Addressing the workshop, Amadou Allahoury, FAO Representative in Ethiopia, said: "Desertification and land degradation are serious challenges in the three Regional States (Amhara, Tigray and Afar), which the project targets. Environmental challenges are the lead causes of drought and poverty, and the root of many conflicts in these regions. Despite widespread deforestation and land degradation, the recent successes from the African Union's Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and Sahel, show us these challenges are not insurmountable and we

# ETHIOPIA GOING GREEN

can boost food security, improve livelihoods and reduce vulnerability to climate change.”

Representing the Federal Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr Tefera Mengistu, Forest Sector Development Programme Coordinator, stressed that sustainable land management is crucial to tackling the challenges the regions face from desertification and loss of biodiversity. “Integrated approaches to landscape management are necessary, as well as new policies, investments and capacities,” he said, adding “the project will continue to help the Ethiopian Government and communities to better manage their resources, use them to create jobs and generate income, and invest in them for future generations.” The workshop focused on the enhanced participation of local communities and identification of livelihood options for them.

The lives of over 250,000 people living in rural areas will be improved, with sustainable land management and restoration of drylands, helping to fight hunger and poverty while fostering stability and building resilience to climate change.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

### Renaissance Dam generation capacity revised up to 6,450MW

The installed hydropower generation capacity of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has increased to 6,450MW, with generator upgrades.



Initially designed to generate 5,250MW, with the power plant upgrades, the dam’s generation capacity was raised to 6,000MW. Six years later, the capacity was increased by an additional 450MW. The generation capacity now matches those of

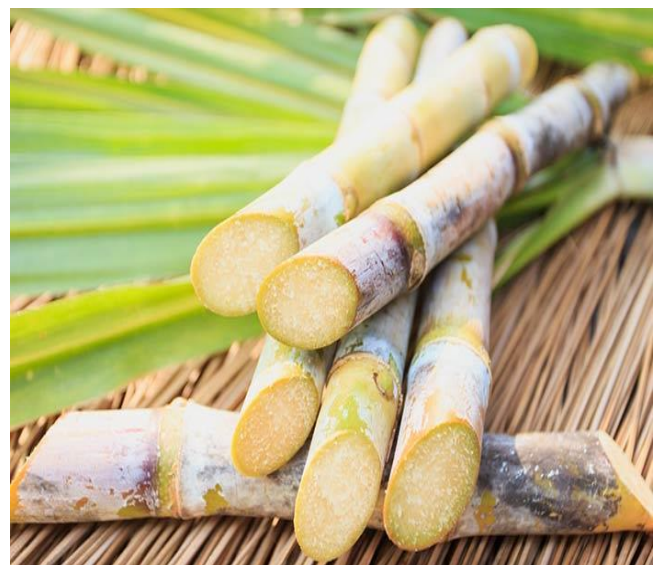
Tekeze, Beles and Gibe-II hydropower plants combined.

The Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Dr Debretsion Gebremichael, said 56% of the dam project has been completed and it will soon generate an initial 750MW.

Final preparations are being made to begin filling the dam’s reservoir and construction of power receiver and transmission stations and installation of power transmission lines have been fully completed. The only thing left is fixing the two turbines that generate 375MW each,” he said, adding that Ethiopia is preparing to celebrate the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of its construction with various fund-raising programmes.

### 200MW to be produced from sugar

The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity says Ethiopia will be able to generate more than 200MW of power from sugarcane by-products, once the construction of the sugar factories is complete.



The electricity will be sold to the national grid once the sugar factories have met their energy needs.

Tadesse Wabela, Operation Deputy Manager at Kessem sugar factory, said Kessem will generate 26MW of electricity, of which 16MW will be fed to the national grid. Once fully operational, the Tendaho sugar project will generate 80MW. Omo Kuraz I factory will have a total capacity of 46MW, with 29MW going to the national grid. Other sugar factories are also expected to contribute.

## HEALTH

### Ethiopia commits to halve maternal and new-born deaths

Ethiopia is among nine countries that have committed to halving maternal and new-born deaths within the next 5 years.



Through a new Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and other partners, the countries will work to improve the quality of care mothers and babies receive in their health facilities.

The Network aims to strengthen national efforts to end preventable deaths by 2030, as envisioned by the Every Woman Every Child Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health, by strengthening capacity and motivation of health professional to plan and manage quality improvement, improving data collection and increasing access to medicines, supplies, equipment and clean water.

Ethiopia will work with partners to deliver the vision of quality that encompasses values of equity and dignity, by building and strengthening its national institutions, accelerating and sustaining the implementation of quality-of-care improvement packages for mothers, new-borns and children, and working with all groups involved to facilitate learning, knowledge sharing and accountability.

### Over 22.8 million children to be vaccinated against measles

The Ministry of Health plans to vaccinate around 22.8 million children against measles through national supplementary immunization activity between the end of February and mid-March.

Children between 9 to 59 months nationwide and 5 to 15 years in *woredas* not covered in the April 2016 immunization campaign are the targeted beneficiaries, as part of an immunization campaign that covers all nine regions and two city administrations.

Vaccines and other necessary resources are being distributed to *woredas* and implementation sites.

The last mass measles campaign was conducted in April 2016 where over 24.9 million children were vaccinated.

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

### Cornerstone laid for new agro-processing parks



As part of the government’s efforts to become a manufacturing hub and to transform the economy from an agriculture-led to an industrial-led one, regional states have begun laying cornerstones to commence construction of agro-processing industrial parks.

One such park is the Humera integrated agro-industrial park, the second in Ethiopia, which was officially launched by Prime Minister Hailemariam as part of Ethiopia’s initiative to develop the parks to facilitate processing of agricultural products,

which adds export value. Livestock, fruit and vegetables, cereals and oilseeds have been exported mostly unprocessed till now.

Dr Mebrehatu Meles, State Minister of Industry, said the park, with 120 medium-sized industries, will employ 779,000 people and, when fully operational, will produce 700,000 tonnes of processed products, earning Ethiopia 18 billion Birr in revenue a year.

Similarly, the Southern Nation Nationalities and Peoples' State will build an agro-processing industrial park in Yirgalem City. When the park goes operational, it will process coffee, avocados and dairy products for the export market.

Two other parks will also be constructed in the Amhara and Oromia Regional States. The construction will be financed by the federal and state governments and the Development Bank of Ethiopia.

Ethiopia plans to construct at least 17 Integrated Agro Industrial Parks and all regional states will benefit. In the second Growth and Transformation Plan, emphasis is given to manufacturing and industrialisation, to provide the basis for economic structural change. A central element in this strategy for transforming the industrial sector is the development and expansion of industrial parks and villages around the country.

### **France's Axereal to invest in Ethiopia**

Axereal, one of France's biggest grain handlers, is set to build a malt processing factory in Ethiopia and expand its Antwerp plant, in a bid to become the world's largest malting facility, with a capacity of 470,000 tonnes.



The site will have an annual capacity of 60,000 tonnes and be operational before the end of 2018.

### **Bagir fully acquires Ethiopian apparel facility**

Bagir Group has acquired the remaining 50% stake from its joint venture partners in Nazareth Garments in Ethiopia for \$1.9 million. The Group, a

global innovative tailoring provider, specialises in high quality men and women's tailored fashions.



It first acquired 50% of the company in November 2014, and has since been focused on investing in and developing the site by upgrading the machinery and infrastructure.

In late 2016, they completed their first international export order for H&M along with a trial order for Haggag Clothing.

Bagir also plans to expand over the next five years, with a facility that produces up to 3,000 trousers and 200 jackets a day, by upgrading the machinery.

### **KEFI Minerals to raise £5.6 million for projects**



KEFI Minerals plans to raise £5.62 million, partly for the finalisation of the financing of Tulu Kapi, its gold development in Ethiopia. The remainder of the funds will go towards its asset in Saudi Arabia.

In an interview with *Proactive Investors*, chairman Harry Anagnostaras-Adams said, "We have continued to advance the Tulu Kapi gold project in Ethiopia and are now at a pivotal stage of the company's development. The proceeds of the fundraising will underpin the activities for the whole of 2017 as we look to start development of this quality project during the year."

KEFI Minerals said they have been able to do business in Ethiopia because of the incentives that the Ethiopian government have offered.

Once up and running, the output of Tulu Kapi will be 100,000-ounces a year at \$780 an ounce. This would make the operation one of the most economic gold mines in the world.

## African, Caribbean and Pacific states discuss Brexit at the Ramphal Institute

On 17<sup>th</sup> February, Ambassador Hailemichael attended the launch of Ramphal Institute's study, *After Brexit - Securing ACP Economic Interests*, and spoke on behalf of the President of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States Council of Ministers, a role which Ethiopia currently holds.



The UK's trade with ACP countries is quite substantial, with exports at \$8.3 billion in 2015 and imports totalling \$12.3 billion. The launch explored Brexit's implications for the important trade and economic relations between the UK and ACP countries and the options available to the two parties.



The Ambassador said Brexit will impact far beyond the bounds of Europe and across the world. "I believe that Brexit will be an opportunity for the African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States to attract trade and investment from the UK by improving governance, developing capacities in various areas and putting in place incentives for investment and promotion of trade."

The Ambassador also highlighted Ethiopia's various economic endeavours, saying Ethiopia's economy has been growing in double digits over the past 12 years through consecutive five-year development plans. The current one is in line with the Sustainable

Development Goals and envisages increasing rapid development by focusing on education, skills development and health, modernization of agriculture and rural transformation, massive infrastructure schemes, paving the way for industry to lead the economy. The Ambassador recognised the role of the private sector as a key engine in this endeavour, saying Ethiopia is attracting investors from many countries, including Britain.

The Ambassador noted that ACP countries need to invest in their youth as they are the pillars of the future.

The UK's International Development Secretary, Priti Patel, recently said that it is in Britain's best interest to create jobs in developing countries. Ms Patel said this at the launch of the first Economic Development Strategy, which sets out how investment in economic development will help developing nations speed up their rate of economic growth and trade more and industrialise faster. This strategy is part of the U.K. Government's "Global Britain" strategy as the U.K. splits from the E.U.

He concluded by saying, "Britain leaving the E.U. does not have to be all doom and gloom. I believe this will be an opportunity for the UK to focus more on bilateral relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries."

Also in attendance at the event were the Secretary General of the ACP, H.E. Dr Patrick Gomes, Ambassadors and High Commissioners from ACP countries, diplomats, academics and industry specialists.



The *After Brexit: Securing ACP Economic Interests* study, and the live-stream from the event, can be accessed on the Ramphal Institute's website.

## TRAVEL AND TOURISM

### AccorHotels to open three hotels in Ethiopia

Europe's largest hotel group, Accor Hotels, will open three hotels in Addis Ababa by 2021, as Ethiopia's tourism and business industries continue to grow. The new properties will offer more than 520 rooms.



The hotel group has been active in Africa for 40 years and is its leading hotelier by number of rooms, operating in 21 African countries.

### Restoration of Ethiopia's first mosque nears completion

The restoration of the ancient mosque of Al-Nejash, 800km north of Addis Ababa, is nearing completion.

The restoration project, lasting 3 years, is financed by Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency.

The mosque attracts tens of thousands of visitors a year, both from within Ethiopia and abroad.



Located Wukro town, Al-Nejash is said to be the first mosque in Ethiopia and was built in the 7<sup>th</sup> century by the companions of Prophet Muhammad who were exiled from Saudi Arabia by the Quraysh

tribes. It is named after Ethiopian King Ahmed Nejashi, who hosted the Muslim refugees.

The tombs of 15 of the original settlers are protected in a new mosque.

### 'LIVE COFFEE' in Addis Ababa's first signature café-roastery



Just as she changed the way the world enjoys shoes (soleRebels) and leather (Republic of Leather), Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu is doing the same for another beloved Ethiopian gift to the world, coffee, via her newest brand Garden of Coffee, which opened its first Café-Roastery this month in the Bole area of Addis Ababa. It serves Ethiopia's legendary single origin coffees, hand roasted by Ethiopia's top coffee artisans.

### If you are looking for the best malt whisky you would go straight to Scotland. When it comes to coffee, go to Ethiopia

Being Ethiopian is a real and authentic differentiator", explained Bethlehem. "As all coffee lovers know, Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee, and Garden of Coffee is showing it is the home of the finest artisan hand roasters on the planet – a logical thing given that we are coffee's birthplace. When you want the BEST malt whisky you would go straight to Scotland and their deep array of whisky artisans. If someone wants a truly MAGICAL coffee experience they should be embracing coffee that is grown, processed and roasted by hand by the top Ethiopian coffee artisans."



Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu (centre left) and the Ethiopian First Lady H.E. Roman Tesfaye (centre right) cutting the ribbon at the new Garden of Coffee roastery and café in Addis Ababa

Bethlehem passionately believes that once people taste hand-roasted Ethiopian coffee, their perspectives are forever changed. The result: a more exciting, authentic and rewarding experience for lovers of Ethiopian coffees.

**“Garden of Coffee is about allowing coffee lovers to LIVE COFFEE. In Ethiopia we don’t just grow coffee. We LIVE coffee each and every day. It’s embedded in the DNA of our daily life. Coffee personifies Ethiopia and we in turn personify it. We want to showcase and share that MAGIC with people everywhere on the planet and our café-roastery’s are the perfect format to do this in.”**



The finest beans from across Ethiopia are hand roasted on a “roast-to-order” basis with great care, in a manner that’s been perfected in Ethiopia for millennia - by hand, watching, smelling and hearing

every single bean roast. Garden of Coffee customers can select the exact type of Ethiopian coffee they want and then select the level they want that coffee roasted at from 6 different roast levels.

To date there is not a single global Ethiopian coffee brand that controls the brand in all facets. Garden of Coffee is doing this and also because they believe this method of coffee roasting is the KEY to unlocking Ethiopian coffee’s true magical tastes.

The café-roastery will create over 70 full-time well-paid jobs for the community and plans to open similar roaster-café’s in two major markets in the United States within the next four to six months, and in Germany, China, Japan, the U.K. and Australia.

Further information is available at <https://gardenofcoffee.com/>.

### **Ethiopian Airlines receives its 3<sup>rd</sup> Airbus A350; ranked first in Africa for punctuality**

Ethiopian Airlines, the largest and fastest growing African airline, received its third Airbus A350 XWB on 1<sup>st</sup> February and named it *Erta Ale* after the large basaltic shield volcano located in the Afar Region of north-eastern Ethiopia.

Group CEO Mr Tewelde Gebremariam said, “As part of our continuous fleet modernization programme, we have now phased in a third Airbus A350 XWB 900. Both the B-787 Dreamliner and the Airbus A-350 are the most technologically advanced airplanes in the world today and we are highly delighted that we are **one of the very few airlines in the world to own and operate both airplanes at their early stage in service.**”



The new aircraft has 30 Cloud 9 business and 313 economy class seats. Ethiopian was the first African Airline to operate the Airbus A350 XWB in 2016.

### **...Outperforms in flight punctuality**

Ethiopian Airlines was **ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the world in flight on-time performance** for the month of January 2017, according to FlightStats, the leading provider of real-time global flight data to companies and individuals across the travel ecosystem.

Of the almost 8,000 flights operated by the airline in January, 81% arrived within 15 minutes of the scheduled arrival. Not only did Ethiopian rank 11<sup>th</sup> worldwide, but it **ranked number 1 for airlines based in the Middle East and Africa.**

### **...More awards!**

During the 2017 Air Cargo Africa Conference, held in Johannesburg 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> February, Ethiopian, the largest cargo operator in Africa, was awarded the African Cargo Airline of the Year Award.

Air Cargo Africa 2017 is organised by STAT Media Group in celebration of excellence in the industry while supporting Africa's steady growth. Winners are selected through two rounds of online polling by worldwide readers of the magazine.

Receiving the award, the Group CEO, said, "The credit goes to our strong workforce...I would like to congratulate our cargo team for [a] job well done."



In 2016, the airline won "Best Airline Staff in Africa" with SkyTrax, and "Airline of the Year" for the fifth year in a row by the African Airlines Association and is fast becoming recognized worldwide for its service levels and employee dedication.

Ethiopian is implementing a 15-year strategic plan, Vision 2025, that will see it become the leading Aviation Group in Africa, offering passengers five-star service.

### **Gelada baboons photo shortlisted for the Sony Photography Awards**

Bar Kaufman's photo of Gelada baboons, which can only be found in Ethiopia, has made the shortlist for the 2017 Sony World Photography Awards (Open Wildlife Category).



Writing exclusively to the Embassy, Bar said, "[This is] just one picture of many things that can be found only in your beautiful country which I have enjoyed traveling in and exploring for a month."

Bar Kaufman's "Red Heart of Africa" was taken during his travels through Africa.

Kaufman said of the Gelada baboons: "At the highlands of Ethiopia, those amazing creatures live. A few days of hiking in the Simien Mountains takes you to their home. It was on that hike that I taught myself to take pictures with a 24mm lens, and those baboons were the best models. I got in as close as they let me and took this picture. Looks like they're just sitting there — thinking about life."

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Sony World Photography Awards is the world's largest photography competition.

Overall winners will be revealed on 20<sup>th</sup> April. The winning and shortlisted images will be exhibited at Somerset House in London from 21<sup>st</sup> April – 7<sup>th</sup> May.



## Trevor Cole wins Travel Photographer of the Year with Ethiopia portfolio

Congratulations to Trevor Cole, on winning *Wanderlust* travel magazine's Travel Photographer of the Year competition with his portfolio of Ethiopia's Danakil Desert.



Photo: Danakil Desert, Afar Triangle, Ethiopia. "At certain times of the year, the water table rises and the journey of the camels is reflected on the thin veneer of liquid that is left on the desert surface. It is this very water, which is saline in nature, that then evaporates to create new salt deposits."

You can see more of Trevor's images on the *Wanderlust* website.

## SPORTS

### Ethiopian women win African Cycling silver



Ethiopian women won silver at the 2017 African Continental Cycling Championships Team Time Trial, held in Luxor, Egypt on 14<sup>th</sup> February.

They were Selam Amha, Tsega Beyene, Birhan Fkadu Abrha and Tesfoam Gebru Eyeru.

The men taking part in the same race finished in fourth place. A total of 24 African national teams took part in the time trial.

### Dibaba keeps breaking records

#### ...breaks World 2000m record in Sabadell

World 1500m champion Genzebe Dibaba added to her growing list of record-breaking achievements by breaking the world 2000m record at the Miting Internacional de Catalunya in the Spanish city of Sabadell on 7<sup>th</sup> February.



Although the 2000m isn't an official world record event indoors, Dibaba's performance – pending ratification – can be classed as an outright world record as it is faster than Sonia O'Sullivan's outdoor mark of 5:25.36.

#### ...runs World Lead in Torun



Hot on the heels of the 2000m world record, Genzebe went on to run a 1500m world lead at the Copernicus Cup 2017 in Torun, Poland on 10<sup>th</sup> February. She ran in a time of 3:58.80, which is the sixth-fastest 1500m in history.

### **...sets personal best in Madrid**

Genzebe Dibaba, set a 1000m Personal Best at the 'Villa de Madrid' international meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> February, falling a couple of seconds short of her world record target.

She finished the race in a national indoor record of 2:33.06, with compatriot Gudaf Tsegay second in 2:38:05. She holds six world indoor records or bests – 1500m, mile, 2000m, 3000m, two miles and 5000m. She hopes to make the 5000m/10,000m double at the World Championships in London later this year.

### **Belachew wins Hong Kong Marathon in record time**



Ethiopia's Bizuneh Melaku Belachew smashed his personal best to win the Hong Kong Marathon on 12<sup>th</sup> February in a new course record and slashing almost a minute off the course record to cross the

line in two hours, 10 minutes and 31 seconds. Kenya's Julius Kipyego Keter finished just three seconds behind him.



Ethiopia also claimed first place in the women's race, with Gulume Tollesa Chala crossing the line in 2:33:39.

### **Ashenafi appointed Ethiopia coach**

Ethiopia has appointed former Adama City FC coach Ashenafi Bekele as the new man in charge of the national team.



"We have appointed Ashenafi as our new head coach after a lot of consideration and vetting he emerged as the best candidate," Ethiopian Football Federation (EFF) President, Junedin Basha said.

Ashenafi's first game as coach will be a 2019 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier away to Sierra Leone in June where Ethiopia is drawn in qualifying Group F alongside Kenya, Sierra Leone and Ghana.

## **NOTICES**

### **Embassy Refurbishment**



Refurbishment and maintenance works began on the Embassy building on 8<sup>th</sup> February, with an expected completion date of December 2017.

We hope these extensive renovations will restore the building to its old standard and modernise it, to provide the very best experience to our valued visitors and staff.



The consular section is now based on the ground floor, until further notice.

During the renovation period, we apologise for any inconvenience caused and offer our sincere thanks for your patience, support and cooperation.

If you have any comments or concerns, please contact us at [info@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@ethioembassy.org.uk) or call us at 020 7589 7212.

### Your opinion counts

If you have recently visited the Embassy for our Consular services, we would really appreciate your feedback on the service you received.



The following link will take you to a short survey that will take just a couple of minutes to complete and your comments will be used for training purposes and to help us improve the service we provide.

Complete the survey at <https://goo.gl/zJMR8P>

Thank you for participating.

## EVENTS

### Ethiopian artist in first solo exhibition in London

Ethiopian artist, Daniel Soresa, will be showcasing a selection of his new and recent works at the Gallery of African Art in London, his first solo UK exhibition.

Born in Ethiopia, Daniel is based in Norway but has travelled extensively. He moved to Barcelona at an early age and later returned to Ethiopia, where he immersed himself in art and became fascinated with colours and light. As a young adult, he travelled in West Africa, and later settled in Bergen, Norway. His experiences of these various cultures have shaped his personal views and influenced his art.



*Untitled 2016* (Daniel Soresa/Courtesy of the Gallery of African Art)



Daniel’s abstract works are born of a medley of colours. Reflecting the visual imagery that fascinated him as a youth, he also focuses on the importance of light and how it impacts a piece.

His first drawings and paintings produced in his teens were influenced by the Ethiopian artist Maitre Afewerk Tekle.

**Exhibition Information:**

**Exhibition:** 23<sup>rd</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017

**Admission:** FREE

**Venue:** Gallery of African Art (GAFRA)  
45 Albemarle Street  
London W1S 4JL

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Ethiopia extends support to drought-hit  
Somaliland**

Ethiopia is providing relief support for 500,000 people affected by drought in Somaliland, the autonomous region of Somalia.



Mitiku Kassa, the Commissioner for Disaster Risk Management, said that the support for drought

affected people in Somaliland included some 8,000 quintals of various grains, 26,611 cartons of milk and 100 quintals of nutritious biscuits.

To alleviate the drought induced food shortage, the Somaliland administration has established a committee chaired by the vice-president and is working to provide an urgent response.

The UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), said the Horn of Africa received only a quarter of the expected rainfall between October and December, leaving over 17 million people in crisis.

**Martyrs’ Day commemorated**

The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martyrs’ Day (Yekatit 12) was commemorated in Ethiopia on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

This day marks the indiscriminate massacre of thousands of Ethiopians by the troops of fascist Italy following the attempted assassination on Marshal Rodolfo Graziani. Estimates show that as many as 30,000 Ethiopians were killed during the massacre.



Martyrs Monument, Sidist kilo, near Addis Ababa University

Wreaths were laid in memory of the dead at the Martyrs Monument in Addis Ababa, in the presence of patriots and Ethiopians from all walks of life.

## **PM Hailemariam attends inauguration of Somalia's President**

Prime Minister Hailemariam attended the inauguration of Somalia's newly-elected President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed or 'Farmajo' as he is known.

Djibouti President Ismail Omar Guelleh and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta were among the representatives from 124 countries who attended Farmajo's inauguration in Mogadishu.



Speaking at the inauguration, Prime Minister Hailemariam pledged to stand by Somalia.

"Ethiopia's government and its people will stand on your side. It's our wish to see a stable Somalia that contributes to regional stability and prosperity," the Premier told the crowd.

## **Ethiopia to Build another University**

Ethiopia is set to construct another university - Borena University in the Oromia State.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn and the President of Oromia State, Lemma Megerssa laid the cornerstone for the university on 25<sup>th</sup> February and work began.

PM Hailemariam said the university will help conserve the culture and values of the pastoral community and address socio-economic problems and allow researchers to conduct more research on the Gada system.

The university will play a big role in improving pastoral community livelihoods and the area's livestock resources.

In 1991, there were only two universities in Ethiopia. Currently 33 universities and the government plans to build a further 12 universities in the coming years.

## **Ethiopian women promote girl power on Valentines Day**

While the rest of the world turned red on Valentine's Day, students from Addis Ababa University (AAU) were turning yellow as part of the Yellow Movement, an initiative to empower women.



Students sold flowers donated by flower farms to raise money that will support poor students through university.

The idea was sparked in 2011 after two violent attacks on women at AAU.

With the help of one of the professors, a group of female students decided to start a campaign that could support women and raise awareness about gender based violence. The group also holds regular debates on campus about gender equality and share some of the experiences they face and get help for victims.

## **Mulatu Astatke receives Life Time Achievement Award; celebrates 52 years in the music business**

The Father of Ethiopian Jazz, Mulatu Astatke, received a Life Time Achievement Award for his significant role in introducing Ethiopian culture and boosting the country's image in the world at large, through his music.

Former African Union Commissioner, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma presented Mulatu with the award

after he performed his first Ethio-Jazz concert in Ethiopia.



Mulatu has also previously received Honorary degrees from Boston Berklee College of Music and Jimma University.

Mulatu has been working on Ethio-Jazz for the past fifty-two years.

### **The Ethiopian artist behind Beyoncé's famous pregnancy photo**



The artist behind Beyoncé's pregnancy photo is none other than Ethiopia-born Awol Erizku, a 28-year-old who now lives in the United States.

Beyoncé's announcement portrait is now the most liked Instagram post of all time, after gaining more than 10 million likes.



## **ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS**

### **23 ancient cities that have survived more than just time**



Ethiopia's historic city of Gondar is among CNN's 23 ancient sites that "offer glimpses into humanity's past, and the ingenuity that people brought to creating wonders without computers or heavy machinery."



Gondar, Ethiopia: The capital of the old Ethiopian Empire, Gondar suffered under repeated invasions from the mid-1800s. However several castles and churches - including Fasil Ghebbi, a royal citadel pictured here - remain, offering a look into one of the few medieval African cities that's still alive today. Gondar is the centre of a culture that's connected to the broader Christian world and completely distinct from it.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/jv0o6u>

### **Five globally important archaeological sites in Africa**



"Africa, as the Cradle of Humankind, holds

many of the world's greatest archaeological treasures. Lying untouched and hidden for thousands of years, they can sometimes provide us with some understanding of who we are, as Africans, today.

### **The Lalibela Churches, Ethiopia**



The Lalibela Churches in Ethiopia were an early example of Christian architecture in Africa and are one of Africa's most significant archaeological discoveries.

Once considered one of the holiest places in Africa, the 11 Lalibela churches were built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Inspired by their connection to King Solomon, early African Christians, unable to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem, were able to travel here to pay homage.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/p1lCKM>

### Living History in Ethiopia



Don Mankin, writing for the *Huffington Post* says "History lives in Ethiopia. It's one thing to read history, it's another to experience it. While the practices, dress and decorations reflect the religious roots of the western world, the familiar is often counterbalanced by the strange in this evocative, mysterious land... Ethiopia is definitely authentic...for travelers interested in diverse

indigenous peoples and a fascinating history that is also immediate, real, and personal, Ethiopia is a must-see destination. The experience will be both exotic and reassuringly familiar, and as authentic as it gets."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/w6lQQG>

### Exploring Ethiopia: Novelties abound in the cradle of mankind on horn of Africa

*Irish Examiner's* Damien Enright recounts more tales from his travels in Ethiopia.

There are 862 bird species in Ethiopia: we have approx 300 in Ireland and Britain.

Some natural history statistics of this vast, diverse tract of the Horn of Africa make the mind boggle. I'd suggest to adventurous readers that possibly nowhere on earth has a richer fauna...In addition to the birds, there are 279 mammals, 201 reptiles, 63 amphibians, 150 fish and who knows how many butterflies, dragonflies etc.

There are 80 ethnic human groups, ranging from fierce, desert-living nomads, the Afar/Danakil in the north, to peaceful Nuer herdsmen in the south west.

Travelling reveals novelties.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/izwyiv>

### Ethiopia looks to mining to add shine to its success



Ethiopia is set to add significant shine to its economy by developing its untapped mining sector. The Minister of Mines, Petroleum and Natural Gas, Motuma Mekassa Zeru, said at the Investing in Mining Indaba in Cape Town in February.





The focus marks the government’s plan to shift from an agriculture-led economy to an industrial one.

Recognising the potential of the mineral sector to trigger further industrialisation and wider economic development, Ethiopia’s policy framework envisages the minerals sector to be the backbone of industry by 2023.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/QxXY6p>

**Ethiopia must continue to help stabilise South Sudan**



Rashid Abdi, Project Director of Horn of Africa for the International Crisis Group, commended Ethiopia’s peacekeeping efforts in a commentary by saying that “Ethiopia’s commitment to peace-making in South Sudan has been critical for regional stability...[the country] has shown strong leadership and a level of direct involvement in peace efforts in Sudan and South Sudan that few countries can match.”

Read more at <https://goo.gl/jcwCRi>

**Coloured skin: the body art of Aida Muluneh – in pictures**



Ethiopian photographer, Aida Muluneh, is featured in *The Guardian* with some colourful and striking images. Aida returned to Ethiopia to cut through the cliches of ‘animals, war, and famine’ with ultra-colourful images...And this one of our favourites!



"City Life"

‘When I do something, I do it passionately. I want a passionate colour – something that’s both beautiful and disturbing at the same time, like a car accident you can’t help but look at,’ Aida Muluneh.



"Age of Anxiety"

See more at <https://goo.gl/WFB2vV>.

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