



Ethiopian News

July 2017

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ETHIOPIA IN UK

Ambassador Hailemichael and team visit British Library

On 11th July, Ambassador Hailemichael and staff visited The British Library to view a sample of the Ethiopian manuscripts collection and hold discussions with senior management on ways of establishing links.



The delegation was received by the Chief Executive of the British Library, Mr Roly Keating and the Head of Curations and Collections, Mr Kristian Jensen. Dr Dan Levene, Professor of Semitics and the History of Religion at the University of Southampton, and Professor David Phillips, also of Southampton University, accompanied the delegation.



Mr Eyob Derillo from the Library showed the manuscripts to the delegation. Professor Dan Levene of Southampton University commented on the 'Miracles of Mary' (ተአምራ-ማሪያም), which showcase the literal history and genius of Ethiopia.

During the visit, the team also met British Library curatorial staff and discussed possible areas of

collaboration between the Library and Ethiopian institutions owing to the long and rich history of both countries.

The team also explored the possibility of involvement in one of the world's biggest manuscript conservation projects. Ethiopia has over 200,000 manuscripts that exist in churches, monasteries and local private ownership. While a considerable effort goes into recording and conserving this heritage, the logistics are of such a magnitude that even producing a full inventory is challenging. The British Library's reputation in this kind of work is valuable and would be of benefit to Ethiopia. 7

The Ambassador thanked the library for its support through the "Endangered Manuscript Preservation Project" and welcomed the initiative, by Mr Derllo and other partners, at providing equipment (Microfilm readers) to Ethiopian libraries in the future.

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and the second largest library in the world by number of items catalogued. It holds well over 150 million items from many countries.

Usain Bolt celebrated in London

On 16th July, Ambassador Hailemichael joined sports stars, politicians and fans at the Dorchester Hotel in London for an exclusive *The Voice* Newspaper charity dinner and auction to honour the phenomenal achievements of Usain Bolt and his coach Glen Mills.



Top Table: Bolt and Coach Mills (sitting) with Hon. Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Sports, Entertainment and Gender, H.E. George Ramocan, Jamaican High Commissioner and Ambassador Hailemichael (right)

An auction on the night raised more than £35,000 for Jamaica's athletics club, The Racers Track Club, as guests bid on coveted items such as a pair of Bolt's spikes, which sold for £10,200.



British Olympian, Christine Ohuruogu won a holiday to Ethiopia

Speaking of the event, the Ambassador said:

“Ethiopia and Jamaica have more in common than we know. Like Jamaica, Ethiopia is also a country of runners. Jamaica has the world’s fastest man in Usain Bolt and Ethiopia has some of the greatest distance runners of all time. We also have historical links in religion and culture. These aspects go a long way in contributing towards developing these links further.”

The Ambassador seized the opportunity to invite the great Usain Bolt to visit Ethiopia and congratulated Christine Ohuruogu on her winning bid for a holiday to Ethiopia. “We look forward to welcoming you to Ethiopia, the *Land of Origins*, and showing you the quintessential hospitality Ethiopians are known for,” the Ambassador said.

Africa's largest airline, **Ethiopian Airlines**, was one of the main sponsors of the event.

Laurence Robertson MP re-elected as Ethiopia APPG Chairman



Mr Laurence Robertson, MP for Tewkesbury, has been re-elected as Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Ethiopia & Djibouti.

Mr Robertson said, “I am delighted to have been re-elected as Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ethiopia & Djibouti. **The friendship between the United Kingdom and Ethiopia is an important one, and I look forward to our countries moving forward together to improve upon and grow this relationship further.**”

Mr Robertson has been Chairman of the Group since 2010.

UK and Ethiopia sign Energy Compact

On 2nd August, British Ambassador to Ethiopia Susanna Moorehead, signed an Energy Compact with the Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity of Ethiopia H.E. Dr Engineer Sileshi Bekele.



The compact, which is part of the UK's Energy Africa campaign, will support the acceleration of the off-grid solar market in Ethiopia by creating business opportunities, more jobs and helping improve access to electricity.

With this agreement, the UK will help Ethiopia achieve its ambitious energy access targets by developing partnerships with the private sector.

The UK will also provide support to build delivery capacity within the Government, and support businesses that wish to work in and expand this market.

The UK's Energy Africa campaign was launched in October 2015 and focuses on developing the household solar market as one of the cheapest and most effective ways of accelerating universal energy access in Africa.

Theresa May unveils package to support wealth creation in Africa

During the G20 meetings in Hamburg, Prime Minister Theresa May unveiled an ambitious package of support to create new wealth in Africa, aimed at reducing the continent's reliance upon aid and improving global security.

The new long-term approach will be based on three key principles:

- Building a modern **partnership with Africa**, which is focussed much more strongly on **supporting African aspirations for trade, investment and growth**;
- **Creating millions of new jobs**;
- A commitment to work with others including the private sector to stimulate trillions of pounds/dollars **investment into Africa**.

Ethiopia is among the beneficiaries of the new package and will receive £35 million of UK support to help **attract private investment and reduce dependency on aid**.

The PM called on other G20 leaders to provide similar assistance to African countries to help create millions of new jobs, stimulate trillions in investment and harness the power of trade.

Speaking on the margins of the G20 summit, PM May said: We must not forget that progress in Africa benefits the UK at home. Our international aid work is helping to build Britain's trading partners of the future, creating real alternatives to mass migration, and enhancing our security, while simultaneously ensuring we abide by our moral responsibility to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of some of the poorest people on earth. This is the future of aid, delivering value for money for the taxpayer.

LOCAL NEWS

Government lifts state of emergency

The State of Emergency, introduced last October was lifted on 4th August.

Ethiopia declared a six-month state of emergency last October following the security problems that occurred in some parts of the country. In March, the House of Peoples' Representatives (HPR) extended it by an additional four months.

Siraj Fegessa, Minister of Defence and Secretariat of the Command Post, said that peace has been restored and existing minor problems can be handled in the regular legal system.

As a result of the joint efforts of administrative bodies at all levels, the public at large and other stakeholders, the security threat caused by the unrest was foiled, he said.

...three new ministers appointed

The House of Peoples' Representatives has approved the appointments of three ministers, nominated by Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn.

Dr Tilaye Gete is now the **Minister of Education**, Kebede Chane is **Minister of Federal and Pastoralist Development Affairs**, and Moges Balcha is **Director General of Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority** with the rank of Minister.

...anti-corruption crusade in full swing

No sooner had the Government completed its intensive deep-renewal crusade to clean-up Government offices from the scourge of corruption and rent-seeking, than it embarked on a first wave of arrests of "high-level government officials" alleged to be responsible for the loss of billions of Ethiopian Birr.

In a statement issued on 26th July by the Attorney General's Office, those arrested included senior officials with decision-making powers from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Addis Ababa City Roads Authority, Ethiopian Roads

Authority, Metehara Sugar Company, Tendaho Sugar Factory and Omo Kurtz V Sugar Factory.

The Attorney General said that the Government's no-nonsense approach to rid Ethiopia of corruption will be applicable to all, irrespective of their rank. The clean-up operation is expected to continue amid public clamour for more sweeping efforts.

The number of government officials, businesspersons and brokers arrested so far on suspicion of corruption has reached 50.

Foreign nationals, including Rastafarians, to get Ethiopian IDs

Rastafarians, Ethiopian Jews and foreign nationals who have made positive contributions to Ethiopia will get national ID cards.



The new directive issued by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia allows them to play their part in Ethiopia's economic, public diplomacy and Pan-Africanism activities as well as to serve as cultural ambassadors.

The ID cards will enable them to enter Ethiopia without entrance visas and residence permits. However, they cannot participate in the country's foreign affairs, security and defence sectors.

1.7 mln plus jobs created in last fiscal year

According to the Ethiopian Urban Job Creation and Food Security Council, over 1.7 million job opportunities have been created through the government's job-creation initiative during the just completed Ethiopian fiscal year. The manufacturing sector, followed by the construction industry, were at the forefront in creating job opportunities.

From the total of 1.7 million Ethiopians who have secured jobs, 61,000 were graduates from higher education institutes while 128,000 others were graduates of technical and vocational schools across the country.

The Council said 71% of the beneficiaries were youngsters and 46% of them were women.

Through its employment opportunity creation initiative, the government has established over 17 billion Birr (over \$740 million) value-chain trading by engaging close to 258,000 enterprises.

Child malnutrition reduced to 38 per cent

A significant reduction in child malnutrition for children aged 6 to 23 months has been achieved in Ethiopia according the UN International Children's and Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

In a consultative workshop on improving complimentary feeding for children, UNICEF Representative Siddig Ibrahim said Ethiopia has reduced child malnutrition from 58% in 2000 to 38% in 2016, due to the government's commitment to ending child stunting and malnutrition.

Ethiopia is committed to further reducing stunting among children to ensure the wellbeing of children and sustained economic growth.



"As we continued our joint effort to make child malnutrition history in Ethiopia, we must continue to invest in robust and effective government systems", Ibrahim said.

Director of Maternal and Child Health at the Ministry of Health, Dr Ephrem Tekle, said the period from 6-8 months when children transit from exclusive breastfeeding to crop-based complimentary feeding are critical.



“As these periods are crucial for the healthy growth of children, the government has been engaged in community mobilization works through health and agriculture extension programmes to reduce child malnutrition”, he added.

He pointed out that a monthly child malnutrition monitoring programme and feeding children suffering from stunting is one of the strategies used to improve the complimentary feeding practice throughout the country.

New camp for South Sudanese refugees

Ethiopia will open a new camp for South Sudanese refugees in a bid to cope with the growing number of people entering the country to escape civil war in the youngest Nation of Africa.

Located in Benishangul Gumuz Regional State, the new refugee camp, is expected to ease the burden on the region's main refugee camp Sherkole.

Benishangul Gumuz along with Gambella Regional State host the majority of more than 280,000 South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia registered by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) as of 30th June.

About 2 million people have fled the civil war in South Sudan, principally to neighbouring countries like Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya.

...Over 34,000 refugee children to be enrolled in Ethiopian schools

In related news, the Administration for Handling Refugees and Returnees (ARRA) announced that more than 34,000 refugee children will be enrolled in Ethiopian primary schools from September.

Construction of 300 classrooms is already underway in 27 refugee camps, and suitable teaching materials are also being provided.

To date, around 116,500 refugee pupils are enrolled in 56 primary schools, with the aim of increasing the number to 151,000 in the next school year.

Ethiopia hosts more than 850,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia. ARRA is working to increase the number of refugee students

in secondary schools to more than 2,500 for the next school year.

Ethiopia to launch satellite into orbit in 2019

Ethiopia is building a satellite to launch into orbit in two years' time, the Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Council announced at its first regular meeting, held in July, to discuss collective works, legal frameworks, policies and strategies needed to advance the ongoing work in the sector.

The satellite will be used for various purposes such as weather forecasting to assist farmers.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn who, at the conclusion of the meeting, said that space science and technology-centred recommendations, research and satellite launches are aimed at supporting the national agendas that are designed to improve peoples' livelihoods.

The Ethiopian Space Science & Technology Council is mandated to make recommendations on issues related to space science and technology, and to manage the activities of the Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute.

...50 weather forecasting centres to be set up

In related news, the Ethiopian Agricultural Transformation Agency (ATA) said it has set up 50 weather forecasting centres in remote parts of the country in order to protect Ethiopia's agricultural production.

The newly-established centres will help farmers in four major crop-producing regions with access to up-to-date weather information, as the imminent major rainy season approaches.

The agency stressed that developing countries, including Ethiopia, are frequently vulnerable to climate change related challenges.

The centres would help farmers to mitigate these challenges by providing access to timely information about weather conditions in their respective locality.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Addis-Djibouti railway to start commercial operations in October



The Ethiopia-Djibouti railway will start commercial operations in October. The electrified rail line is expected to cut the transportation time needed for goods to reach Djibouti port from Addis Ababa and vice versa from at least two days to 10 hours.

The rail line will also provide a passenger service, at an average speed of 120 km an hour with a single coach holding 118 passengers.

Test runs are currently ongoing and preparations to establish a joint venture company with Djibouti to manage it are being finalised.

The Ethio-Djibouti railway line was launched in October 2016 as part of efforts to open up landlocked Ethiopia to business. The government plans to have 5,000 km of new lines working across the country by 2020.

Grand Renaissance Dam 60% complete

Construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has reached 60%.

Construction of the dam, which will be Africa's largest dam upon completion with a total volume of 74,000 million cubic metres, was started in April 2011 at a cost of around \$4.7 billion.

The engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract was awarded to the Italian company, Salini Costruttori.

Preparatory works to commence preliminary electric power generation, are currently underway. Upon going fully operational, the dam will generate up to 6,450 megawatts of electricity.

The GERD project is owned and financed by the Ethiopian government and Ethiopians at home and around the world.

Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt formed a tripartite committee in 2012 to create understanding and examine the benefits and impacts the project would have on the three countries.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

3,000 hectares ready for investors in floriculture

Following increased interest in the floriculture sector, the Ethiopian Horticulture and Agricultural Investment Authority has readied 3,000 hectares of land for investors who wish to engage in flower farming.



To attract investors, the government has put in place a range of incentives and will give priority to those investors who come with their own capital. The government has also put in place a mechanism to provide 70% of the capital required for investment from the Development Bank of Ethiopia on a loan basis if investors provide the other 30%.

Local investors will be given 75% of the capital required for investment if they possess 25%.

Ethiopia is the fourth largest supplier of flowers to the world market with ideal weather conditions for flowers and other horticultural products. Ethiopia's

flower industry sector has registered steady growth over the past decade, making it one of the top flower producers and exporters in Africa.

Those wishing to invest are encouraged to contact the Embassy's Trade and Investment Department for further information and assistance.

Ethiopia to set up first pharmaceutical park

Ethiopia is constructing its first ever pharmaceutical industrial park in the Addis Ababa area, with the aim of transforming the health sector.



The new park is expected to meet the country demand for a continuous supply of medicines for Ethiopians, adding value to the goal of sustainable health reform for Ethiopia.

The park will help fulfil Ethiopia's pharmaceutical manufacturing development strategy.

Construction will be completed in eight months.

...industrial parks attracting investment

Industrial parks currently being built across Ethiopia have moved the country into third position in Africa in attracting the highest foreign direct investment (FDI) in the small- and medium-sized manufacturing sector.

According to McKinsey Global Institute, availability of affordable labour is the main factor behind FDI inflows to Ethiopia, especially in the textile, apparel and leather sectors.

The labour cost of producing a t-shirt in Ethiopia is \$0.14, which is less than half of the cost needed to produce it in countries such as Vietnam and China, that are well known for production.

According to information obtained from the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC), 130 investors with a combined capital of 20.2 billion Birr were licensed during the past few months, with 101 of them being foreign companies.

Dr Admasu Nebebe, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation, said the quality of the FDIs which Ethiopia has attracted will contribute towards achieving the second Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP-II) and create many employment opportunities.

...\$30 billion from textiles by 2030

Ethiopia aims to generate \$30 billion in foreign exchange earnings from the textile and clothing sector by 2030 by increasing cotton production. In a year, Ethiopia produces around 100,000 tonnes of cotton.

Currently, only 20% of 3 million hectares of land is used for cotton production, the plan is to increase this area to around 80%.

Investment in the textile industry is on the rise due to the provision of power and labour at an affordable price.

With a workforce of more than 47 million, Ethiopia offers a large supply of valuable human resources at affordable wages, while at the same time generating employment opportunities for its citizens.

By 2020, Ethiopia intends to have around 150 companies in textiles. With seven industrial parks currently in operation, Ethiopia plans to increase the number of industrial parks to 15 by June 2018 as part of its efforts to boost manufacturing and exports.

After Vietnam, Ethiopia is the second largest country to attract foreign direct investment in textiles, states the 2016 World Investment Report.

...fastest growing economy

The World Bank's latest edition of **Global Economic Prospects** says Ethiopia is the fastest-growing economy in 2017, with its GDP forecast to grow by 8.3% in 2017. By contrast, global growth is projected to be 2.7%.

The accelerating growth comes on the back of government spending on infrastructure, such as the industrial parks.

A record \$866 million earned from coffee export

The Ethiopian Coffee and Tea Development and Marketing Authority revealed that during the just-concluded fiscal year, Ethiopia earned a record \$866 million from the export of 221,000 tonnes of coffee to the global market, achieving 92% of its target.

Germany, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Belgium, Sudan and South Korea are among the top importers of Ethiopian coffee, accounting for close to 86% of the total coffee exported from Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is one of Africa's largest producers of Arabica coffee and coffee production is the backbone of the economy.

Kefi secures \$135 million for Tuku Kapi

Kefi Minerals, a British exploration and development company, has entered into an agreement with Oryx Management for \$135 million of project funding for the Tulu Kapi gold project in Ethiopia.

The funding will be used to finance and operate all on-site infrastructure at the firm's Ethiopian gold project.

The Ethiopian government will also fund the construction of all off-site infrastructure for the project.

A mining licence was granted in April 2015 to the Tulu Kapi gold project, which is in western Ethiopia.

Kefi executive chairman Harry Anagnostaras-Adams said: "KEFI has selected a development funding approach considered more appropriate for start-up purposes than bank debt due to its longer 9-year tenure...This Project has been designed in close collaboration with the selected project contractors, and in partnership with the Ethiopian Government."

Ethiopia to offer shares in road projects

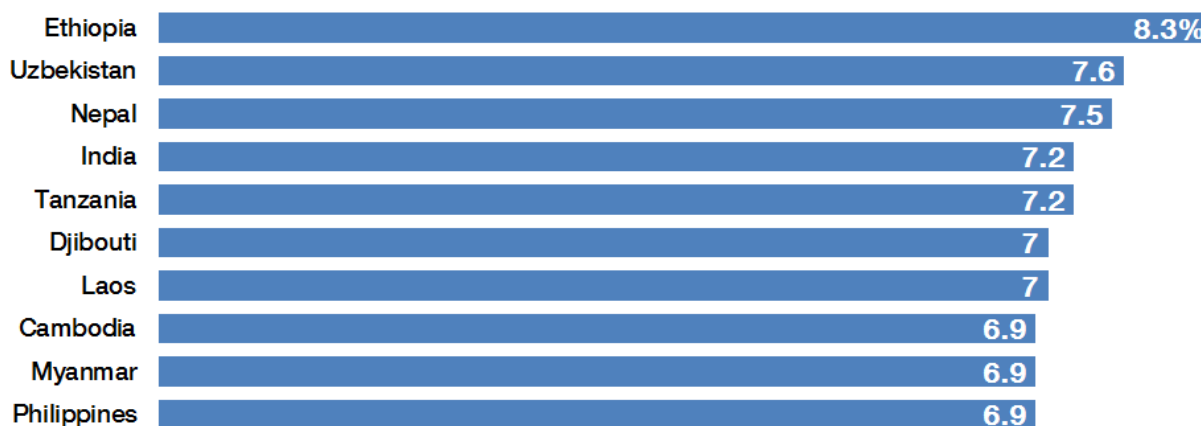
In an interview with Reuters, Ethiopia's finance minister said that the country plans to offer shares in its road-building and maintenance projects to private investors.

According to the latest data, Ethiopia currently has over 113,000 kilometres (69,000 miles) of paved roads and plans to increase that to 220,000 kilometres by 2019/20.

The move to partly liberalise the sector follows Ethiopia's decision to offer foreign companies stakes in the government-operated Ethiopian Shipping and Logistics Services Enterprise early this year and its energy sector in 2013.

The world's fastest growing economies

Forecast GDP growth, 2017



24 HOURS IN ADDIS ABABA

DISCOVERING AFRICA'S DIPLOMATIC CAPITAL

Each year, all of Ethiopia's tourist traffic, passes through Addis Ababa on its way to the historic north and idyllic south of the country. The capital may not boast the history or natural beauty of the rest of the country, but is quickly emerging as an ideal destination to mix business with pleasure.



Addis Ababa has officially arrived.

Following the revelation that the Ethiopian capital was visited by over 650,000 people in the last nine months, the city traditionally known as a transit point has now emerged as a destination in its own right.

Travellers connecting to the rest of the world are now opting to spend more and more time in Addis Ababa pursuing business and taking in the sights. According to the latest figures from the Addis Ababa City Administration Culture and Tourism Office, tourists are opting to spend an average of 12 days in the capital. With so much to experience, 24 hours in the city can seem short but with the right planning a lot can be covered...

7:30 a.m

Start your day in the heart of the city where the **Radisson Blu Hotel** acts as the perfect basecamp for a day of business meetings or exploring. The hotel is located just a short drive from the **African Union** and the growing financial district and a stone's throw from the **United Nations Economic Commission for Africa**.

Grab a world-famous coffee in the land of its origin at the **Tomoca Café**, located in the hotel lobby. We recommend a cup of what is quintessentially Addis Ababa, the 'macchiato'. Alternatively, venture out of the hotel on foot to the nearby **Limmu Café and Restaurant** for a hearty breakfast and experience the traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony.

9:00 a.m

For the perfect introduction to Ethiopia's millennia-old history and culture visit the **National Museum** and the **Ethnological Museum**, both found in the beautifully-kept grounds of Addis Ababa University. The National Museum, which can be seen in a relatively short trip, features archaeology and anthropology exhibitions, as well as a collection of contemporary Ethiopian art. It is also home to **Lucy**, the 3.2 million-year-old hominid and 'grandmother of humanity'.

Another real highlight is the Ethnological Museum, which should not be missed! It is housed in the former imperial palace of Emperor Haile Selassie, and you can walk through the royal bedrooms and bathrooms which still retain their original features.

10:30 a.m



Travel next to the **Holy Trinity Cathedral** built in the 1940s to commemorate the country's liberation from Italian occupation during World War II. The ornately decorated and painted interiors culminate in the massive granite tombs of Emperor Haile Selassie and his wife Empress Menen Asfaw, located within. Walk the grounds which feature the graves of prominent Ethiopians from across society, including the mausoleum of the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

11:30 a.m

Visit the craft shops on **Churchill Road** to pick up some souvenirs for home. From delicate textiles to artisanal woodwork and jewellery, there will be something for everyone. Just make sure you haggle, its tradition after all.

1:00 p.m

Head to **Gusto Restaurant** for an elegant fine-dining experience overlooking the city as you indulge in some of the finest Italian cuisine south of the Mediterranean. The perfect place for a business lunch or to celebrate a

personal milestone, the spectacular service and staff speak to Ethiopia's celebrated culture of hospitality.

2:30 p.m

Drive up to the **Entoto hills** above the city for panoramic views, refreshing highland air and the historic church of **Entoto Maryam** built over a century ago. The tranquillity will revive you, away from the busy bustle of the city below.

5:00 p.m

Descend to **Piassa**, in the historic heart of Addis Ababa. This quarter of the city sees Ethiopian culture intersect with the heritage of Italian, Greek, Armenian and Indian immigration to the country during the 20th century. Take in the quaint cinema halls and coffee houses as well as the iconic silver and goldsmith shops, which exemplify the spirit of entrepreneurship in the city. Finish with a baklava and coffee at **Ras Mekonnen Café**, one of the oldest in the city.

7:30 p.m

After a quick refresh back at your hotel, treat yourself to some dinner and dancing (optional) at the popular Ethiopian cultural restaurant, **Habesha 2000**, in the lively *Bole Medhanialem* area of the city. This theatre-restaurant is as much about the entertainment as the food, with dancers and singers embodying the diversity of Ethiopia by performing to music from across the country.

Indulge in *injera*, made from *teff* of course. Whether a carnivore, vegetarian or vegan there is something for everyone. Use your hands to tear the *injera* and to scoop up the variety of sauces on your plate. Accompany with traditional honey wine called *tejji* or one of the many local beers on offer.

10:30 p.m

If you're not ready to call it a night, experience Addis Ababa's popular nightlife at the nearby **A.V Club** or the **Vanquish Lounge** where the cocktails and music flow through to the early hours.

Return to the Radisson Blu. Rejuvenated and refreshed by your experiences, why not begin preparing for your next journey. Fly **Ethiopian Airlines** so you can fit in that extra day in Addis on your way back home.

Remember not to sleep in and miss your flight in the morning! If you do, however, rest assured that there remains even more to see and do in Africa's capital, tomorrow.

Ethiopia among safest countries in Africa

In a report released by Gallup, Ethiopia is ranked the fourth safest country in Africa after 80% of its population said that they have confidence in their local police and feel safe walking alone at night.

Algeria was ranked the safest country with 90% followed by Rwanda with 84% and Egypt third with 82%.

Africans least likely in to feel safe walking alone at night are in Gabon with only 33% of the population saying they feel safe walking at night, Liberia at 35%, South Africa at 37%, Botswana at 38%, Congo Kinshasa at 39% and Mauritania at 39%.

The insecurity has been attributed to soaring crime rates in these countries, reflecting a common problem among societies that have experienced uneven economic growth from industrialization or technological change and high levels of income inequality.

More than six in 10 people worldwide say they have confidence in their local police (68%) and feel safe walking alone at night where they live (64%).

The research was based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted throughout 2016 in 135 countries.

\$3.3 billion earned from tourism

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism said \$3.3 billion was earned from tourists from all over the world including Europe, North America and Asia.

More than 886,000 tourists have visited Ethiopia in the just-concluded fiscal year and the sector has created over 297,000 jobs in the same period.

As part of the government's activities to increase the income generated from the sector, expansion of infrastructure at tourist sites is underway.

For the current fiscal year, Ethiopia plans to earn \$7 billion from the sector by attracting 2 million tourists. The recent lift of the state of emergency is a positive move towards achieving this goal.

SPORTS

40-strong team in London for World Championships

A 40-member team represented Ethiopia at the IAAF World Championships in London from 4th – 13th August.



Notable athletes such as the Dibaba sisters (Tirunesh and Genzebe), Almaz Ayana, Muktar Edris, Mohammed Aman and other younger aspiring athletes took centre stage at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Stadium in front of a record number of spectators.

Held in the UK for the first time ever, 2,200 athletes from 203 nations travelled to London while fans from across Britain and the globe poured into the London Stadium and onto the capital's streets to make history - The London championships has been awarded an official Guinness World Record for the number of tickets sold at any IAAF World Championships event.

Long-distance legend and current world and Olympic record holder in both 5,000m and 10,000m events, Kenenisa Bekele, excluded himself from the selection due to current form, saying "I'm not fit enough to compete at the event."

Ethiopia's medal haul kicked off with an Ethiopian 1-2 in the women's 10,000m final, which saw Almaz Ayana secure the gold medal in style, finishing around 300 metres clear of her rivals, in what was her first race this year.

The 25-year old finished in 30:16.32 while compatriot Tirunesh Dibaba, the former world and Olympic champion, took the silver with Kenya's Agnes Tirop in third.



In a press conference after the race, Ayana said, "I am very happy to win this title, much more than when I won the Olympic gold because I have been sick this year and didn't expect it. In fact, this was my first race of 2017."

In the men's marathon on 6th August, Tamrat Tola finished in second place behind Kenya's Geoffrey Kirui.



Tola, the Rio 10,000m bronze medallist and fastest in the field, required medical treatment after the race, finishing in 2:09:49 ahead of Tanzania's Alphonse Simbu in third place.

"I am very happy and proud with my result, I do not feel like I lost the gold medal," said Tola. "Although I was in pain I was able to finish the marathon...The course was difficult for me with so many curves and four laps, this makes it difficult for me. I have never run a course like this. Last time I took the bronze, now the silver, so I want to improve a lot next time. What is next for me will be to treat my leg, train hard and then get the gold medal."

But the highlight of the 10-day tournament was perhaps the 5,000m final where 23-year old Muktar

Edris ended Mo Farah's dominance of the distance. The 2012 World Youth Champion produced a strong charge on the final stretch to lift his first ever major senior world title in 13:32.79, with Farah finishing in second place in 13:33.22. Paul Kipkemoi Chelimo of the United States took bronze in 13:33.30.



After the race, Muktar said, "I was highly prepared for this race and I knew I was going to beat Mo Farah...I am the new champion for Ethiopia...I did the Mobot out of respect as well as for him."

Compatriots Yomif Kejelcha and this year's U18 3,000m winner, Selemon Barega, finished fourth and fifth respectively.

On the last day of the Championships, Almaz secured a silver medal in the women's 5,000m finals behind Kenya's Hellen Obiri. Sifan Hassan of the Netherlands finished in third place.



"Compared to Rio this is a bigger achievement," Almaz said. "I've had many injuries this year so I am very happy with two medals. I have been injured for the whole season and haven't been able to get over it. The pain came back after the 10,000m. I did my best today but Hellen was too good at finishing...I

won't give up going for 5000m and 10,000m. I won gold and bronze in Rio and now gold and silver, so this is a step up."

Farewell to Bolt



Bolt pictured with Almaz Ayana and Tirunesh Dibaba earlier in the tournament

The last day of the athletics also featured a special tribute to Usain Bolt, who is retiring from athletics after winning a record 11 golds and a total of 14 medals. Bolt was presented with a framed piece of lane seven of the original track in the same arena, in which he won the second of his three Olympic 100m titles (in a Games record of 9.63) and

200m titles (in 19.32) in 2012, by IAAF President Sebastian Coe and London Mayor Sadiq Khan.

Team Ethiopia finished seventh in the medal table with 5 medals, two gold and three silver, behind the United Kingdom which secured 6 medals – 2 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze. Ethiopia came in third place in the Championships from Africa, with Kenya first and South Africa second.



Upon their departure from the UK, the Embassy presented a certificate of appreciation to the Ethiopian Athletics Federation in recognition of the

salient results obtained from the Championships and also for the remarkable role that the athletes have played in promoting Ethiopia's image internationally.

Full coverage of events can be found on our Twitter and Facebook pages (@EthioEmbassyUK). Search for #TeamEthiopia. Videos are also available on our YouTube page at www.youtube.com/EthioEmbassyUK.

THINGS TO DO

Royal Gifts at the Summer Opening of Buckingham Palace

This summer visitors to the State Rooms at Buckingham Palace will enjoy a special display of more than 200 gifts presented to Her Majesty The Queen throughout her 65-year reign.

Among some of the intriguing objects on display is a gold tray presented to Her Majesty by Emperor Haile Selassie during her State Visit to Ethiopia in February 1965.



Gold tray, presented to Her Majesty The Queen by Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia during her State Visit to Ethiopia, 1–8 February 1965. Royal Collection Trust / All Rights Reserved

The exhibition explores Her Majesty's role as Head of State, Head of the Commonwealth and Head of Nation through gifts presented by people from all walks of life and from over 100 countries and territories during State Visits, overseas tours and official engagements both at home and abroad.

Further information is available at <https://goo.gl/B2CwaL>

DIASPORA NEWS

Ethiopians in Milton Keynes showcase culture



On 5th August, the Ethiopian and Eritrean community in Milton Keynes showcased their culture during the **Africa Diaspora Day** event, which was part of the Milton Keynes' 50th anniversary celebrations.



On display were traditional dresses, food and information on Ethiopia's array of historical landmarks. The community also expressed Ethiopia's rich cultural heritage through its unique language and dance.

Speaking at the conclusion of the event, one community member said, "[today} we have achieved a sense of satisfaction, acknowledgment, pride in our country and we might have also changed some people's opinions about Africa, Ethiopia and Eritrea. We think that this by itself is a remarkable achievement".

Milton Keynes, located roughly 50 miles north of London, has a reputation of being one of the most diverse and fastest-growing towns in the United Kingdom.

Ethiopian Diaspora buy bonds worth over \$4.9 million

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Ethiopian diaspora have purchased bonds worth over \$4.9 million to contribute towards the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, during the concluded Ethiopian fiscal year.



Diaspora Engagement Affairs Directorate General with the Ministry, Demeke Atnafu, said that Ethiopians are participating in the overall growth and development of their country through investment, skills and knowledge transfer and foreign exchange schemes.

Mr Atnafu said more than 440 discussion forums have been organised by Ethiopian embassies abroad to mobilise over 43,000 members of the Ethiopian diaspora in different countries to scale up national consensus. New diaspora associations have been established and over 230 former associations strengthened.

Over 5,000 Diaspora bank accounts have been opened, saving over \$25 million in the past eight months.

Over 600 members of the Diaspora have also registered to invest in Ethiopia and 234 of them have started running their own business so far, mostly in the manufacturing sector in the Oromiya Regional State.

With regards to skill and knowledge transfer, 93 members of the Ethiopian Diaspora have linked to 20 governmental sectors to assure health and engineering knowledge and skill transfer.

Diaspora members from the United Kingdom and the Netherlands are contributing to course and curriculum preparation and research and thesis advice for second degree and PhD candidates at Jimma and Bahir Dar Universities.

The “Grandfather of Ethiopian children” passes away



Ethiopians, at home and abroad, are in mourning over the loss of Tesfaye Hailu, who passed away on 31st July aged 94.

Affectionately known as Ababa Tesfaye, he was a great educator and entertainer who, for decades, shaped the lives of millions of children in Ethiopia.

Ababa Tesfaye dedicated his life to the well-being of all, and was well known for his unmatched talent for storytelling, his iconic programme on Ethiopian Television and promoting Ethiopian culture.



Millions of Ethiopians loved him, and he will be sorely missed but fondly remembered.

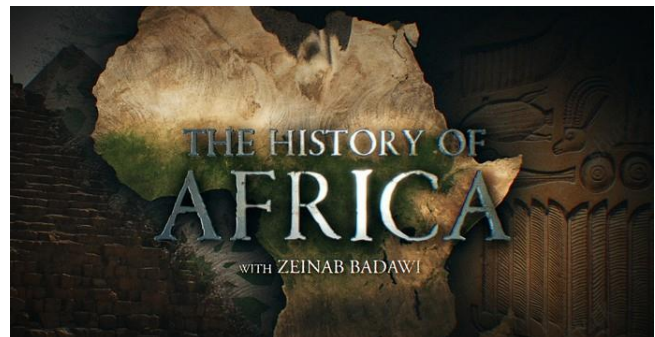
May His Soul Rest in Eternal Peace. 🕯️

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

The History of Africa with Zeinab Badawi



Zeinab Badawi delves into the history of Africa for a brand new, nine-part series on BBC World News.



The continent of Africa has a long, complex history, and its people built civilizations which rivalled those that existed anywhere else in the world. However, much of the continent’s history is not widely known, and what we are presented with often projects a distorted and partial picture. Sudan-born Zeinab travels to all four corners of Africa, interviewing African historians, archaeologists and citizens whose accounts and stories paint a vivid picture of their continent's past and how it informs their present lives. It is a series that informs, educates and entertains - Africa’s history told by Africans themselves.

In the first episode Zeinab travels across the continent, examining the origins of humankind and how and why we evolved in Africa. During her journey, Zeinab is granted rare access to the genuine bones of one of the most iconic discoveries in the field of palaeontology: **Lucy in Ethiopia**, or as she is known in Amharic ‘*Dinkenesh*’ – which means ‘you are marvellous’!

While in Ethiopia, she also charts the rise of the Kingdom of Aksum (Episode 5). Described as one of the four greatest civilisations of the ancient world, Zeinab examines archaeological remains dating from many hundreds of years before Christ. She explains how the Kings of Aksum grew rich and powerful from their control of the Red Sea trade and how they were one of the first civilisations that officially embraced Christianity in the 4th century.

Also find out why the Queen of Sheba and the Sacred Ark of the Covenant are so critical to the story of Aksum.



In the sixth episode, Zeinab Badawi focuses on the fall of the kingdom of Aksum, and how the Christian kings that followed in Aksum's wake left powerful legacies, especially that of King Lalibela. He is credited with building a complex of rock-hewn churches, which represent amazing feats of engineering. She also charts the arrival of Islam in this part of Africa and how the Christian kings and Muslim emirs co-existed. In the most Muslim of Ethiopia's cities, Harar, she observes the bizarre, long standing tradition of the Hyena Men of Harar.

The series run until 27th August on the BBC World News channel.

Harar - the Ethiopian city known as 'Africa's Mecca'



A look into the historic city of Harar's unique heritage as it marks its **1,010th anniversary**.



Harar is a city that goes by many names, from the city of saints to a living museum, while some consider it to be Islam's fourth holiest city after Mecca, Jerusalem and Medina. It has even been called the city of peace...the city itself was founded a millennium and a decade ago. For more than 40 years during the 16th Century, it served as the capital of the Harari Kingdom, before becoming a part of Ethiopia in 1887...Today it is the capital of the Harari People National Regional State - the smallest state in Ethiopia...In 2006, Harar was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site to highlight its unique and exceptional architecture, which captures the African and Islamic culture of its habitants.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/2YZWly>

Hyenas spark admiration, not fear, in Ethiopia's Harar city



Meet Abbas Yusuf a.k.a. the Hyena Man of Harar...where Hyenas spark admiration, not fear.



Abbas learnt to feed the hyenas from his father, Yusuf Mume Salleh, who fed them for 45 years before passing the job to his son 13 years ago.

His work is now an attraction, drawing in tourists who come to see the city's ancient mosques nestled within its old stone walls...To encourage visitors to trust the hyenas, Abbas feeds them directly from his mouth!

"I am privileged by God to be a good friend to those misunderstood animals...I have a baby hyena in my house and keep it in my bedroom (and I'm) not worried it will bite me when I sleep."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/8QgHr4>

10 things that make Ethiopia extraordinary



What sets Ethiopia apart from its African neighbours? The excellent coffee? The fact that it was never colonized?

Or that Rastafarians regard it as their spiritual home?

Or could it be the smooth, well-maintained roads, so rare on the continent, that make exploring the country by car such a joy?

After a 1,430km drive through Ethiopia's Northern Circuit - up mountains, through Mars-like landscapes, into lost kingdoms of yore - CNN found 10 crucial things that define the country...here's our pick...

1. The best Italian restaurant in the world

The buzzing bedlam of Mahatma Gandhi Street in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital, is the setting for *Castelli's* -- arguably the best Italian restaurant this side of Bologna.

An Italian soldier, Francesco Castelli, founded the modest-looking eatery at the end of WWII. Since then it's gained a global profile thanks to endorsement from celebrity diners such as Bob Geldof, Bono and Brad and Angelina.

8. The Ark of the Covenant



Is Ethiopia the final resting place of the Ark of the Covenant?

The Lost Ark? In Ethiopia?

Someone should have told Indiana Jones that before he set off for Cairo.

According to enthusiastic local sources, the historic town of Aksum - focal point of the Aksumite Empire (AD 100-940) - is the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant.

The catch? No one's actually allowed to see it.

10. A fairy tale kingdom

British and Dutch colonial buildings attract the most architectural attention in east Africa, but Ethiopia again stands out as the only country on the continent with its own fairy tale castles.



Aside from a few eye-catching art deco buildings left over from the Italian occupation, the castles of Fasilides, Iyasu and Mentwab, in the former imperial capital of Gondar, are the structures that stay in the mind.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/V7PDCU>

Where to go if... you're a vegetarian



Part of the fun of travelling (or a lot of it for the food-focused among us) is indulging in dishes you'd never get back home....While you can find vegetarian-friendly eateries in most tourist hotspots these days, if you look hard enough, vegos in search of culinary nirvana should head to one of the many destinations around the world where plant-based cuisine reigns supreme.

ETHIOPIA

Even *The Simpsons* know the Ethiopians can cook. There's an episode in which Marge dubiously

follows Bart and Lisa into a dodgy-looking Ethiopian restaurant only for the food that had looked so unappetising on the menu to create a literal disco inside her mouth.



Almost all Ethiopian dishes are served with *injera*, a gluten-free bread made from an ancient grain called *teff*, which just happens to be loaded with protein, calcium and iron...Not all Ethiopian fare is vegetarian but a good portion is.

One of the most popular dishes is *shiro be kibbe*, traditionally a peasant dish but so good that even the rich can't get enough of it. A comforting blend of ground split peas and chickpeas and spiced clarified butter, it's ultra-rich and ultra-delicious. Wash it down with a glass of *tej* (aka honey wine).

Read more at <https://goo.gl/ju3o1h>

In Earth's hottest place, life has been found in pure acid



Scientists have found living microbes in the hot springs of Ethiopia's Danakil Depression - the hottest place on earth.



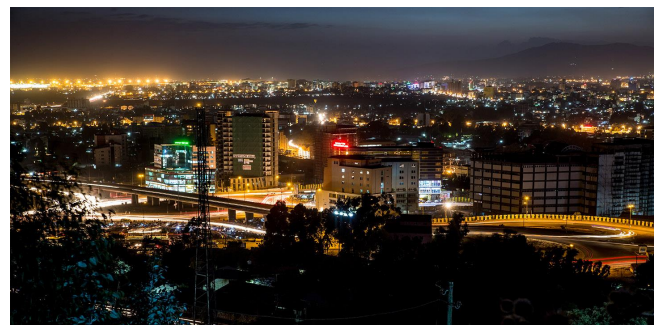
Known as the "gateway to hell", the Danakil Depression is scorchingly hot and one of the most alien places on Earth. Yet a recent expedition to the region has found it is teeming with life. They managed to isolate and extract DNA from bacteria and found that the bacteria are "polyextremophiles", which means they are adapted to extreme acidity, high temperatures and high salinity all at once. It is the first absolute confirmation of microbial life in the Danakil acidic pools.

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

Sheba Valley- Ethiopia's 'Silicon Valley'



The US has Silicon Valley, Nigeria has its own Yabacon Valley and Kenya Silicon Savannah....Well, Ethiopia has Sheba Valley as its emerging tech hub and there are a few examples of emerging technology companies transforming lives in Ethiopia, from the way communication is done to the way the banking sector operates.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) development including emotion detection & voice/facial recognition is being designed and made by AI experts of IcoG-Labs in Ethiopia, the first Ethiopian research and development laboratory specialising in AI.

A taxi hailing service which incorporates text messaging and app/online booking and e-payment solutions has been developed by a company dubbed 'Africa's Uber' - *Zayride* of Ethiopia.

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



Drinking coffee leads to longer life

Two new studies, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, have revealed that consuming more coffee could lead to a longer life.



The first surveyed more than 5,020 people in 10 European countries and the second focused on 185,000 non-white populations in the Americas. They concluded that drinking 2 to 4 cups of coffee a day lowers risk of death by 18%.

As if we needed another excuse to drink more coffee!

Ethiopia is the birthplace of coffee where Kaldi, a goatherd, discovered coffee after he caught his frisky goats eating the leaves and red berries and then tried it for himself. The rest is history.

Ethiopia has a strong culture around coffee or ‘buna’ and the aroma of freshly-roasted beans is one of the country’s most characteristic odours. Coffee is Ethiopia’s most important export crop - almost 400 million kilos of coffee (about 5% of the global total) is produced in Ethiopia, the world’s fifth-largest coffee exporter.

Half the coffee produced in Ethiopia is consumed there. Guests are honoured with ‘coffee ceremonies’ in hotels, restaurants and private homes, with frankincense, popcorn and freshly cut grass on the floor.



The beans are roasted, then ground, then brewed with boiling water in a black clay pot known as a *jebena*.

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