



# Ethiopian News

June 2012 Issue

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### Prime Minister Meles at the G20 Summit calls for fairness from the IMF and the World Bank

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi attended the G20 summit in Los Cabos, Mexico, which concluded on 19<sup>th</sup> June.



PM Meles Zenawi with Mexico's President Felipe Calderon

Addressing the Summit, Prime Minister Meles noted that disproportionate development among countries is one of the main causes for the current global economic crisis; and stressed how important it was that the two main international financial institutions, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank should serve all nations fairly and with due diligence.

The Summit ended with the signing of the Action Plan of Los Cabos for Growth and Jobs. Agreements were also reached to provide an additional US\$456 billion to the IMF.

Regarding food security, the G20 agreed to promote greater public and private investment in agriculture, to develop technology and increase the productivity of the sector. An Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) will be created to prevent worldwide food price speculation.

### Rio+20 conference: at a glance



**RIO+20**  
United Nations  
Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development

At the Rio+20 Conference, world leaders, along with thousands of participants from

governments, the private sector and NGOs, came together to shape how we can reduce poverty, advance social equity and ensure world environmental protection.

The conference ended on 22<sup>nd</sup> June with release of a final document 'The Future We Want', which covers financing and means of implementation, with goals and commitments that must be met.

There were side-line discussions, panels and other meetings. One such panel was The **Food for Life and the Life of Food** panel, organized by the FAO, IFAD, WFP, Biodiversity International and the World Bank. The panel was designed to share experiences in poverty reduction and hunger while achieving a sustainable environment.

Prime Minister Meles Zenawi was among the panellists in this session, as well as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and a number of other leaders.

The UN secretary general unveiled a five-point food security campaign - the 'Zero Hunger Challenge' - aimed at a future where all enjoy 'a fundamental right to food' calling on leaders, business and civil society to step up efforts to end hunger.

The UK's deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, said Britain would be allocating £150m from the international climate change fund to support about 6 million farmers, particularly in Niger and Ethiopia. The money will be used to help farmers adapt to the impact of climate change.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June, hundreds attended Africa Day celebrations themed "**Accelerating Progress towards Sustainable Development in Africa**", including dignitaries and representatives of African countries. The ECA said it reflected the continent's priorities and charted a course for post-Rio action plans.

Mr Abdoullahi Janneh, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the ECA, told participants that Africa would need to make conscientious efforts to fully integrate principles of good governance. A statement from AU Chair, Dr Jean Ping, recalled how African countries had struggled to meet their commitments to sustainable development. He called for more collaboration from partners: "Africa's expectations from this Conference are for all nations to show leadership to make Rio+20 a conference of decisive impact and ambition".

### **Norway to provide NOK 850 million for green energy**

PM Meles Zenawi also took part in the "**Partnering for a Transformational Energy Future**" discussion, organized by the International Energy and Climate and Partnership Programme, Energy+, launched in October 2011 to increase access to modern energy and avoid greenhouse gases emissions in developing countries through the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures.

Norway entered agreements on energy cooperation with Ethiopia, Kenya and Liberia, amounting to 850m kroner (NOK). The agreements were signed by Minister of International Development Heikki Holmås and ministers from the three countries.

"The cooperation with Ethiopia, Kenya and Liberia will give ordinary people new development opportunities and help to improve public health. At the same time we can avoid increased emissions of greenhouse gases," said Minister Heikki Holmås.

Ethiopia will receive NOK 500m over the next five years to be spent on energy, forests and agriculture, with the main focus on projects in rural communities.

This is performance-based financing, which means that most of the money will be disbursed in step with results achieved, such as providing more people with access to energy and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Norway is also using aid funds to facilitate private-sector investments.

The objective is to make more clean and efficient energy available. More energy is needed for development, but producing and using energy often causes substantial emissions of greenhouse gases.

Norway's Energy+ initiative builds on Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative. It has over 40 international partners including the UK, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the UN, international organisations, the business community and think tanks.

### **Ethiopian village recognised at Rio+20**



Abrha Weatsbha, a village in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, received official recognition at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) during a 21<sup>st</sup> June awards ceremony

hosted by the UN Development Programme (UNDP). The village has found the route to a sustainable future by transforming degraded hillsides into productive farmland.

Gebremichael Gidey, chairman of the local farmers' association in Abraha Atsbeha, accepted a UNDP Equator Award on behalf of his community.



Gebremichael Giday (centre), receiving the award with the WFP's Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction team.

Suffering desertification, soil degradation and lack of water, the Abrha Weatsbha community reclaimed land through targeted water, soil, and forest management. Tree planting activities have resulted in improved soil quality, higher crop yields, greater biomass production, groundwater functioning, and flood prevention. They constructed small dams, created water catchment ponds, and built trenches and bunds to restore groundwater functioning. More than 180 potable water wells have been built.

This has led to improvements in local livelihoods, crop irrigation and expansion into supplementary activities such as apiculture. Modern beehive management resulted in a 300 percent increase in honey production over a three-year period. Incomes from vegetable and spice cultivation tripled in recent years. Farmers planted high-value fruit trees – apple, avocado, citron, mango, orange and coffee – improving incomes, food security and nutrition.

A joint venture between the Ethiopian government, the WFP and the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), the MERET (Managing Environmental Resources to Enable

Transition) programme involves chronically food-insecure communities in “food-for-work” environmental rehabilitation to improve livelihoods.

“I have good production from the rain-fed field and the irrigated land and orchard using my [new] shallow well,” said Hiwot Gebre-Tsadikan, a farmer in Abraha Atsbeha. “All of this is thanks to MERET. The money I was getting enabled me to build a house. I can now send all three of my children to school.”

### Ethiopian Company wins International Award



Ethiopian company, Dream Light Solid Waste Cleaning and Recycling, was among eleven companies that received the 2012 WBDA for their efforts to improve living standards in some of the world's most disadvantaged communities.

Winners were recognized at a Business Action for Sustainable Development Business Day ceremony, during the Rio+20 summit.

The Awards recognize innovative business models that deliver both commercial success and help improve social, economic or environmental conditions - ‘inclusive business models’. The Awards attracted 115 applications from 38 countries.

Located in Bahir Dar, capital of the Amhara region, Dream Light is a public-private initiative, supported by the Local Economic Development Programme, engaged in the collection and recycling of solid waste and producing bio-fuel, smokeless briquettes and compost for use in the local community. The company currently employs more than 300 young people and women, primarily from vulnerable sections of society.

### **Ambassador urges Humber companies to invest in Ethiopia**

Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Berhanu Kebede, called on Humber companies to assist Ethiopia to develop its agricultural and food processing sector, during a recent visit to Hull.

The Ambassador described East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire as the ‘most developed region for agriculture and agricultural technology in the UK’.



During his visit, which included a tour of the Chaucer Foods factory, he said: “We have 76m hectares of arable land set aside for farming. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. You have the technology we need to help us develop the industry.” Other developing sectors include construction, telecommunications, hydroelectric power (and other renewable energy), mining, tourism and air-travel.

The Ambassador said Ethiopia’s economy is growing at 11 per cent a year and there is an emerging middle class. Ethiopia is the biggest non-oil producing economy in Africa and the second most populated country on the continent.

Agriculture was the main focus of the visit. “Ethiopia is divided into 48 agro-ecological zones, which means we have the climate and environment to grow everything to the required global standards,” the Ambassador said. “Food processing is very much encouraged, as is private investment, and British businesses with the skills that are abundant here in the Humber region will

be among our important partners in developing our agricultural sector.

“There are many opportunities for businesses to work with us and gradually move the engagement of the two countries from aid to trade.”

Gary Rutter, operations director at Chaucer Foods, which specialises in freeze-dried fruit, croutons and other bread products, said the company was keen to break into the North African and Middle East market and was already taking steps to achieve this.

He said: “Visits like this are very useful because they allow us to learn more about the countries we ought to be working in. As a business, Chaucer Foods has a lot of experience of working in emerging markets, it is something we are familiar with, so it is something we will certainly be following up.”

### **Ethiopia participates on Denmark Africa business promotion event**

Under the theme “**Business Conference on Africa Rising**”, a half-day promotion event organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, was held in industrial hub Kolding.

The mayor of Kolding H.E. Mr Jorn Pedrson and H.E. Mr Christian Finis Bach, Minister of Development Cooperation, both highlighted the growing business opportunities in Africa. H.E. Mr Finis Bach cited various examples of fast growth on the continent and encouraged Danish businesses to seize this opportunity to take advantage of the continent’s conducive business environment. The Danish government is ready to introduce a new fund to support environmental issues. Ethiopia’s London mission showed a power-point presentation demonstrating ample opportunities in trade and investment. Links were established with businesses interested in engaging in agriculture, livestock and renewable energy.

## IMF raises Ethiopia 2012/2013 growth forecast; praises Ethiopia's Macro Economic Performance

The IMF has issued a statement praising the macroeconomic and general development performance of Ethiopia in the last year.

The IMF delegation, lead by Michael Antingi-Ego, announced that the execution of tight monetary policies by the central bank including efforts contracting the money supply and sterilizing foreign exchange has contributed to decelerating the rate of inflation significantly.

The report cited the National Bank's initiative to reduce gross foreign exchange reserves to cover less than two months of imports from the considerably high reserves in the last fiscal year, which had been an inflationary principle.

The national budget execution and the strict commitment of the government to eliminate borrowing from the national bank to finance public expenditure were also praised by the IMF delegation.

The report raised concern at the increasing fiscal impulse from public enterprises. The fund had expressed concern over the growing level of debt channeled to the public sector, which is not seen on the government balance sheet. The fund also stressed the need for higher interest rates to support domestic resource mobilization and monetary policy implementation.

The IMF forecasted an inflation rate of about 22%, and 7% real GDP growth for the next financial year. The Ethiopian economy will continue to grow at a healthy pace with declining inflation anticipated should the tight monetary and fiscal policies remain in place, the IMF concluded.

The full statement can be found on the IMF website: <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2012/pr12224.htm>.

## Yale honours Ethiopian Minister of Health

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ethiopia's minister of health, was awarded the Stanley T. Woodward Lectureship at Yale University, given to distinguished international visitors to the University.

Dr Tedros was one of 23 senior health practitioners and researchers from South Africa, Liberia, Ethiopia, and Ghana who convened at Yale for the fourth annual Global Health Leadership Institute (GHLI) conference held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Elizabeth Bradley, faculty director of GHLI, presented the award to Dr Tedros during a ceremony held in honour of this year's participants. Yale President Richard C. Levin commended the delegates' commitment to improving health conditions for people around the world.



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (centre), with Elizabeth Bradley, faculty director of the Global Health Leadership programme, and President Richard C. Levin.

"Dr Tedros' leadership has contributed to major gains in achieving the Goal of providing universal access to primary health care through Ethiopia's community-based health extension programme," said Bradley. "GHLI looks forward to continuing to work with him in developing a long-term strategic plan to further efforts to build a strong national health system that provides services of an acceptable standard for all Ethiopians."

GHLI collaborated with Dr Tedros through the **Ethiopian Hospital Management Initiative**, launched in 2006 as a partnership between the Clinton Health Access Initiative, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health, and



Yale University. Catalysed by the work at the GHLI conference at Yale in 2011, GHLI partnered with Dr Tedros to launch the Ethiopian Hospital Alliance for Quality, the first national quality improvement collaborative that recognises the local leadership spread across Ethiopia’s hospitals.

Dr Tedros has led Ethiopia’s Ministry of Health since 2005. The recipient of the 2011 Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Humanitarian Award, he has been recognised for his outstanding leadership in the field of global health and has been working steadily to enhance Ethiopia’s active engagement in major international forums. He served on the board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

The annual GHLI conference is designed to facilitate collaborative, locally driven solutions. Each country’s delegation — comprised of senior leadership from ministries of health, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions — brings a health challenge to address at the conference. Working with Yale faculty and experts, the delegates learn and apply strategic problem solving tools to national health priorities.

### **Health Minister urges local action**

In a speech entitled **Linking Commitment to Action** at *Child Survival Call to Action* conference in Washington, held from 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June, Ethiopia’s health minister, Dr Tedros Adhanom encouraged countries to take ownership of new international momentum to reduce child mortality. Over 700 representatives from the governments of Ethiopia, India and the United States, together with UNICEF attended the conference. All were asked to sign **A Promise Renewed**, a pledge to work toward greater child survival.

## **CHILD SURVIVAL CALL to ACTION**

“Local action can change the tide,” he said. “If there’s no ownership, there’s no commitment.” Dr Tedros highlighted the substantial global progress seen in child survival over the last couple of decades. Global under-5

mortality has dropped 35% since 1990, and many countries, including Ethiopia, have achieved annual rates of decline of about 5 per cent, he said.

By pledging support for A Promise Renewed, partners vow to redouble efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 by 2015 and to reduce child mortality in all countries, achieving 20 or fewer under-five deaths per 1,000 live births by 2035, with a focus on reaching the most disadvantaged and hardest-to-reach children in every country.

Dr Tedros’ address is available on demand; please send an email to [info@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@ethioembassy.org.uk).

### **Ethiopia praised for reducing child mortality**

Ethiopia has received a lot of praise from organisations on its achievements in reducing child mortality. The 19th May issue of *The Economist* states that Africa is experiencing some of the biggest falls in child mortality ever seen, anywhere - Ethiopia is one of three countries in Africa showing how widespread child mortality rates have fallen. [The full article can be found on the following link: www.economist.com/node/21555571.](http://www.economist.com/node/21555571)

Also back in April, USAID Chief, Rajiv Shah, hailed Ethiopia’s reduction in child mortality rates, saying that development assistance to Ethiopia’s health sector has helped save thousands of children’s lives in the past year.

A new survey launched on 5<sup>th</sup> April by Ethiopia’s health minister showed improvements in several areas. The number of children with stunted growth has dropped to 44%, down from 58% in 2000. Twenty years ago, every fifth child died by the age of 5. Today, 10 out of 11 make it past their 5th birthday. The results, according to USAID, are a credit to Ethiopia’s effective use of aid. “It is one of the most rapid reductions in the rate of child deaths experienced anywhere in the world over the past five years.”

UNICEF said “In the past two decades, Ethiopia has witnessed steady and social and economic development, together with rapid expansion of rural health services.” Launched in 2004, the Health

Extension Programme has exceeded its target by training and deploying over 38,000 health extension workers countrywide, covering each and every village in the country. Female health extension workers are deployed, working in pairs out of 15,000 village health posts.

Programmes such as these mean that Ethiopia is on track to meet MDG 4, the goal to reduce child mortality by two thirds by 2015.

### **Mathematical model to predict malaria outbreaks**

A new model for forecasting malaria epidemics has been developed by researchers from Ethiopia and Norway.

The computer model, Open Malaria Warning (OMaWa), incorporates hydrological, meteorological, mosquito-breeding and land-use data to determine when and where outbreaks are likely to occur.

Torleif Markussen Lunde, one of the model's developers and a researcher at Norway's University of Bergen, said the model made direct use of limited real-time information available in typical rural areas.

"The model also reproduces observed mosquito species composition in Africa. It's the first time this has been done with a biophysical model. We are now looking at which areas in Africa the model can be applied to," he said.

Daniel Argaw, of the World Health Organisation in Ethiopia, said that "the development of a model that can predict malaria outbreaks will have a significant role in combating malaria," adding that no other models have been developed for this purpose.

More information on this can be found on the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU) website: <http://sciencenordic.com/forecasting-malaria>

### **Ethiopian genomes reveal links to Queen of Sheba**

A multinational team of researchers from the UK, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Italy has found that the genomes of some Ethiopian populations bear striking similarities to those of populations in Israel and Syria, a potential genetic legacy of the Queen of Sheba and her companions.

The team detected mixing between some Ethiopians and non-African populations dating back about 3,000 years. The origin and date of this genomic admixture, along with previous linguistic studies, is consistent with the legend of the Queen of Sheba who, according to the Ethiopian Kebra Nagast book, had a child with King Solomon of Israel and is mentioned in both the Bible and the Qur'an.

*The American Journal of Human Genetics* carries an article about how the scientists studied the DNA of more than 200 subjects from 10 Ethiopian and two neighbouring African populations.

"From their geographic location, it is logical to think that migration out of Africa 60,000 years ago began in either Ethiopia or Egypt. This is the first genome study on a representative panel of Ethiopian populations," explains Luca Pagani, first author from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and the University of Cambridge. "We wanted to compare the genome of Ethiopians with other Africans to provide an essential piece to the African - and world - genetic jigsaw."

They found that the Ethiopian genome is not as ancient as was previously thought and less ancient than the genomes of some Southern African populations. There were also links with other populations.

"We found that some Ethiopians have 40-50% of their genome closer to the genomes of populations outside Africa, while the remaining half of their genome is closer to populations within the African continent," says Dr Toomas Kivisild, co-author from the University of Cambridge. "We calculated genetic distances and found that these non-African regions of the genome

are closest to populations in Egypt, Israel and Syria, rather than to the neighbouring Yemeni and Arabs".

The team found that these two groups of African and non-African people mixed approximately 3,000 years ago, well before the historically-documented Islamic expansions and the colonial period of the last centuries.

An earlier study found that Ethio-Semitic, an Ethiopian language belonging to a linguistic family primarily spoken in the Middle East, split from the main Semitic group 3,000 years ago, around the same time as the non-African genomic component arrived in Ethiopia. All this evidence combined fits the time and locations of the legend of the Queen of Sheba, which describes the encounter of the Ethiopian Queen and King Solomon.

"None of this research would have been possible without the superb fieldwork of our Ethiopian colleagues Professor Endashaw Bekele and Dr Ayele Tarekegn over many years, said Dr Neil Bradman, co-lead author from UCL (University College London). "The Ethiopian Government has a practice of encouraging genetic research, a policy that bodes well for the future".

Dr Chris Tyler-Smith, co-lead author from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute said. "We see imprints of historical events on top of much more ancient prehistoric ones that together create a region of rich culture and genetic diversity. The next step for our research has to be to sequence the entire genomes, rather than read individual letters, of both Ethiopian people and others to really understand human origins and the out-of-Africa migration."

More information can be found on the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute website: <http://www.sanger.ac.uk/>

### **Ethiopia to study potential for \$250 million Wind Farm; 56% of Gibe III completed**

Ethiopia is to conduct a feasibility study for the construction of a \$250 million wind power plant in

Assela using a \$1 million dollar loan from the African Development Fund.

The Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation is in the process of identifying a suitable site and laying the groundwork to hire contractors for an environmental and social impact assessment and investment costs and financial analysis.

Assela Wind Farm, with an expected installed capacity of 100MW, is one of the six wind farms planned in the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan. The other wind farms are Ashegoda (120MW), Ayisha (300MW), Adama I (51MW), Adama II (50MW) and Debre Berhan (100 MW).

In related news, 56 per cent of the construction work on the Gibe III hydro-power project has been completed and it is expected that the project will produce 187MW using one of its ten units in 15 months' time.

The project will have the capacity to generate 1,870 MW when it becomes fully operational in 31 months. Gibe III will be the second largest hydro-power plant in Ethiopia, after the Grand Renaissance Dam.

### **Ethiopia and USA sign development assistance deal**

Agreements on cooperation for economic and social development were signed between Officials of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ethiopian Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MoFED) on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

The programme goals – in education, health, agriculture, and good governance - closely complement Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation strategy and address cross-cutting issues covering the status of girls and women, the inclusion of the disabled, water, nutrition, conflict mitigation, and social accountability.

The new development assistance agreements for 2011-2012 mark the first year of operation of a new USAID Ethiopia Country Development Assistance Strategy for



2011-2015 called “Accelerating the Transformation towards Prosperity”. In 2011-2012, the first year of the new five-year strategy, USAID assistance to Ethiopia is US \$675 million.

At the signing ceremony at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth said that US assistance to Ethiopia for development is “working to enable people in every region of Ethiopia to live and work with dignity, and through their own efforts, to achieve the prosperity they desire”.



USAID Mission Director Thomas Staal, Ambassador Donald Booth and State Minister of Finance and Economic Development Ahmed Shide after signing the agreement

USAID Mission Director Thomas Staal said: “Seeing the close consultations with our key partners in the Government, other international donors, and the private sector, I am confident that working all together we will help transform the lives and livelihoods of Ethiopian families and communities through improved healthcare services, better schooling, greater food security and economic opportunities, and by promoting good governance and public accountability practices across all these programmes.”

#### **Dr Eleni to leave ECX**

Dr Eleni Gabre-Madhin, founder and Chief Executive of the Ethiopia Commodity Exchange (ECX) is transitioning out of the leadership role as of 30<sup>th</sup> September.

The transition is part of a carefully implemented succession plan which aims to ensure a smooth

transition as the team of internationally recruited management professionals, in charge of the ECX since April 2008, hands over responsibilities to locally recruited and trained leaders said Dr Eleni at a press conference.

The locally recruited team, which will take over senior management positions, is highly capable and has been with the ECX since the exchange began operations, she said.

The board of directors of the exchange appointed Anteneh Assefa, currently Vice President of Operations with the Bank of Abyssinia as the next Chief Executive of the ECX.

The outgoing team consisting of international officers will retain advisory roles to ensure a smooth transfer of duties.



“I feel exceptionally lucky to have had a dream, had the opportunity to work with an incredible group of dedicated individuals...I have absolutely no doubt that the future for ECX is as bright as ever,” said Dr Eleni.

Since its inception in April 2008, ECX operations have grown from a single warehouse to over 55 warehouses today. The Exchange traded 608,000 tonnes during the last fiscal year worth over 1.5 billion birr. Its market information system is attracting 1.1 million phone inquiries a month and the trading system is now linked to 2.4m farmers. It has received numerous international awards and widespread recognition in Africa and elsewhere.

### **Ethiopian Postal Service wins awards**

The Ethiopian Postal Service Enterprise (EPSE), Ethiopia's sole mail carrier, has won two bronze awards from the Universal Postal Union (UPU) - the first award for its efficient Emergency Message Service and the second award in recognition of the enterprise establishing a mechanism for complaints management.

The awards, which will help the postal service to enhance its competitiveness, will be presented to the General Manager of the EPSE at the 25<sup>th</sup> Universal Postal Union conference to be held from 24<sup>th</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> October in Qatar.

The UPU is the primary forum for global cooperation between postal organizations through its 192 member countries.

The union sets the rules for international mail exchange and advises on postal exchange. Established in 1874, the UPU, with its headquarters in the Swiss capital Berne, is the second oldest international organization worldwide.

### **Lalibela secures 64 million Birr tourism revenue**

Over 64 million Birr revenue was secured from more than 47,990 foreign and local visitors, who visited the rock-hewn churches of Lalibela during the past eleven months.

Most of the income was mostly obtained from over 33,800 foreign tourists from the USA, Europe and the Far East countries.



The rock-hewn churches of Lalibela are exceptionally fine examples of a long-established Ethiopian building

tradition and are the first of nine Ethiopian cultural heritage sites to be registered by UNESCO - in 1978.

Lalibela is a small town at almost 2,800m in the Ethiopian highlands, surrounded by a rocky, dry area. Here in the 13<sup>th</sup> century devout Christians began hewing out the red volcanic rock to create 13 churches.

### **Events**

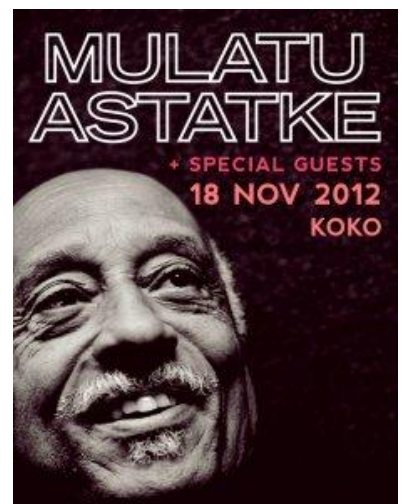
#### **Mulatu Astatke live at the Koko Club**

Legendary Ethiopian musician, composer, and arranger, Mulatu Astatke, will be making his long-awaited London return, playing old favourites as well as tracks from his new EP to be released this autumn at Camden's Koko Club on 18<sup>th</sup> November, as part of the London Jazz Festival in association with BBC3.

Mulatu is known as the father of Ethio-jazz, a unique blend of pop, modern jazz, traditional Ethiopian music, Latin rhythms, Caribbean reggae, and Afro-funk.

Born in 1943, Astatke was musically trained in London, New York City, and Boston, where he was the first African student at Berklee College of Music. He went on to work with Duke Ellington and other acclaimed jazz artists, found a music school, and open his own club. Astatke's work shepherded in a golden age in Ethiopia's pop and jazz circles from 1968 to 1974.

In 2004, he began collaborating with the Either/Orchestra and in 2009, he released an album with the London-based collective the Heliocentrics. Since 2010, Mulatu and his band have toured regularly behind Mulatu Steps Ahead, his latest release on Strut Records.



Mulatu's music crosses borders, the 'Ethiopiques' CD series has opened a new audience to his 'Ethio-jazz'

experiments, but it wasn't until Jim Jarmusch's 'Broken Flowers' film featured his music that momentum started to gather and a young generation of urban artists started sampling his music, the greatest example being Nas & Damian Marley's sample of 'Yegelle Tezeta'.

Tickets for this event are available from the venue box office. For more information: <http://www.koko.uk.com/listings/mulatu-astatke-18-11-2012>.

### Krar Collective at BT River of Music Africa Stage



The BT River of Music, a free two-day festival, hosted at six iconic sites along the banks of the River Thames and featuring hundreds of artists from across the globe will take place on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, the weekend before the Olympic Games.

Upcoming Ethiopian band, Krar Collective, will join Sunday's line-up. Fronted by the stunning voice of Genet Assefa and driven by the gritty Krar lines of Temesgen Taraken, a former pupil of veteran Ethiopian vibraphone player Mulatu Astatke, and Robel Tesfaye on traditional Ethiopian Kebero drums, this band has been dubbed 'The Ethiopian White Stripes'. They bring you dynamic roots music from different parts of Ethiopia and different ethnic traditions with a contemporary edge.



The band developed through Genna Ethiopian Arts and Theatre (GEAT) and has performed regularly at festivals and venues in the UK.

Krar Collective will be joined by Staff Benda Bilili collaborating with Zao; Indie-rock band The Noisettes and Muntu Valdo.

Playing host to the BT River of Music Africa Stage is the brand new London Pleasure Gardens. Tickets for the Africa Stage are available now for free (subject to an admin fee) - secure yours at [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)

### Aster Aweke, live in London

Aster Aweke, sometimes referred to as Ethiopia's Aretha Franklin, will perform her hit Album "CHECHEHO" in London on 7<sup>th</sup> July at Camden Centre.



Born in 1959 in Gondar, Ethiopia, Aster started her career at Hager Fikir Theatre in Addis Ababa. By her late teens, she was singing in Addis Ababa clubs and hotels with such bands as the Continental Band, Hotel D'Afrique

Band, Shebele Band, and the Ibex Band before they became the internationally known Roha Band.

Her performance in London will be accompanied with a full band and a live performance by London-based Ethiopian dance troupe, Dan-Kira.

Tickets can be purchased at the door. Over 18s only. For more information, please contact the organisers on 07944 255180/07956 425882.



## Sports



### **Bekele breaks all-comers' record at UK Trials**

Kenenisa Bekele moved up to third place on the world 10,000m list for 2012 when he broke the UK all-comers' record at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, on the first day of the Aviva UK Trials - producing his best performance of the season so far finishing in 27:02.59, 0.61 seconds slower than this year's world leader Wilson Kiprop.

The reigning Olympic 5,000m and 10,000m champion was invited to run as a guest in the men's 10,000m final along with his younger brother Tariku and fellow Ethiopians Sileshi Sihine and Gebre Gebremariam.

His brother Tariku ran a personal best to finish second in 27:03.24, Gebremariam was third.

Kenenisa hopes this win will be good enough for him to secure his place at the London 2012 Olympics. "Now I hope to be selected for London. I am improving my confidence after injury. I had to finish fast or somebody would have beaten me. It was very important to finish fast," he said.

### **Haile Gebrselassie carries Olympic Torch**



Olympic gold medallist Haile Gebrselassie was among 31 torchbearers on day 29 who carried the Flame along Coast Road in South Shields. The Flame was carried 98.90 miles from Gateshead to Durham.

He handed the Flame to Brendan Foster, who carried it across the Great North Run finish line. Foster competed in three Olympic Games and won bronze in the 10,000 metres in Montreal in 1976.

Councillor Alan Kerr, deputy leader of South Tyneside Council, said: "To have two such legendary athletes carrying the torch through South Tyneside is a real coup for the borough and they received a warm and enthusiastic welcome."



Haile Gebrselassie and Brendan Foster carry the torch across the finishing line

Gebrselassie has won two Olympic gold medals in the 10,000m, four World Championship titles and four Indoor titles. He has also won numerous marathons and set 27 world records.

## News in Brief

### **Ethiopia to assemble its first Smartphone**

Hong Kong-based mobile manufacturer, Tecno Mobile's Ethiopian counterpart is set to release its first Smartphone completely assembled in Ethiopia. The Smartphone will hit the shelves in mid-July and will range between \$339 and \$400.



The Smartphone, called the Tecno T3, will run on Google's Android 2.3 operating system.

The new phone will, for the time being, support only Amharic which was developed in Ethiopia. "It was developed by a local company called Information Technology Transfer Services (ITTS). The software, Amharic Soft Keyboard and Messaging Application, works on all phones supporting Android", said Ayalew Aseffa, CEO and founder of the company.