



# Ethiopian News

June 2013 Issue

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### *Ethiopia in the News - Spotlight on Ethiopia's Northern Circuit (page 12)*



#### **PM Hailemariam announces a government reshuffle; House approves new budget**

The House of Peoples Representatives on 4<sup>th</sup> July approved the appointment of ten ministers nominated by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, including a number of new appointments as well as several shifts of office.

- Bereket Simon (previously Head of the Government Communication Affairs Office with the rank of Minister) and Kuma Demeksa (previously Mayor of the Addis Ababa City Administration) are now Policy Study and Research Advisor Ministers in the Prime Minister's Office.
- Shiferaw Shigute, previously the Chief Administrator of Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region is now the Minister of Education. Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen will be dropping his additional post as Minister of Education.
- Mekonnen Manyazewal, who was previously Minister of Industry, will now be the Commissioner for the newly established **National Planning Commission**.
- Belete Tafese, from Tigray Regional State, will be the Minister of the newly established **Ministry of Environment Protection and Forestry**.
- Redwan Hussien, previously Public Mobilization and Participation Advisor Minister to the Prime Minister and Head of EPRDF Secretariat, has replaced Bereket Simon as Minister of Government Communications Affairs Office.
- Workneh Gebeyehu, Commissioner of the Federal Police Commission, is appointed Minister of Transport, replacing Diriba Kuma.
- Ahmed Abetew, Deputy Chief Administrator of the Amhara Regional State and Head of the Amhara

Regional State's Trade and Industry Bureau is now Minister of Industry.

- Roman G. Sellasie, Member of Parliament and Government Whip has been appointed Chief Government Whip in the House of People's Representatives, replacing Aster Mamo.
- Demitu Hambessa, the Speaker of the Oromia Regional State Council (Cheffe Oromia), has been appointed as Minister for Technology and Science replacing Dessie Dalke.
- Getachew Ambaye, previously Public Relations Advisor to the Mayor of Addis Ababa with the rank of Deputy Mayor, is now Minister of Justice.
- Bekir Shale's appointment as Director General of Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority has now been made permanent.

Similarly, the House also approved the **2013/14 budget of 154.9 billion birr (\$8.3 billion)** which will focus spending on infrastructure, health and education – a **12.4% increase** compared to that of last year.

A 15 billion Birr budget is allocated to help regional states achieve MDGs.

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said Ethiopia's economy is expected to maintain a growth rate of 11% for this budget year.

### **Prime Minister Hailemariam attends the G8 session on trade, transparency and tax**



Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn was one of three African leaders who participated at the G8 Summit working lunch session on 18<sup>th</sup> June in Northern Ireland, devoted to the three 'Ts' namely **trade, transparency and tax**.

In his contribution to the session the PM stressed that land deals in Africa, as with other resources, were prone to corruption. Much could be done in addressing transparency in land deals, but two points stood out. Firstly, ensuring that citizens benefit from the deals as much as they deserve;

African leaders should ensure that these deals are transparent and legal.

Secondly, in many parts of Africa there are questions over transparency over land deals as there is little credible scientific data about land.

The PM stressed the importance of land registration and certification in land acquisition for both private investment and public projects. He said the question of transparency could only be fully addressed if African countries had reliable cadastral maps that clearly identified occupied and unoccupied land, thereby ensuring that transfers of land were made in a predictable manner. He called on developed countries to help African countries to develop the human and institutional capacity for rational and accountable utilization of their natural resources.

On tax evasion, the PM pointed out that many African countries had successfully increased their tax revenues in the last few years following the implementation of serious reforms. He cited the particular experience of Ethiopia, which he said had managed to increase revenues significantly with the support of partners, in particular the UK government. He also stressed that there was still much more that could be done by way of improving collection of tax revenues. One of the difficulties in improving tax collection comes from the illegal transfer of money from Africa to Europe, to North America and, today, to the Middle East. To address this challenge, which is increasing, African countries need access to information about the bank deposits of foreign and domestic businessmen and citizens concerning deposits that are made outside African jurisdiction with an emphasis on those who engage in tax fraud, whether businessmen or politicians.

PM Hailemariam expressed his appreciation of the measures taken by developed countries to track fraudulent activity, including securing access to databases in foreign banks, but he called on G8 members and other developed countries to offer similar access to African countries. He asked the G8 countries to take the lead on this matter.

At the end of the session, the Lough Erne declaration was adopted. The declaration highlights the role of private enterprise in driving

growth, reducing poverty and creating jobs and prosperity for people around the world. Governments should make proper rules and promote good governance. It recognizes the importance of fair tax, increased transparency and open trade in the realization of these objectives.

Before the session, the PM had consultations with US President Barack Obama, the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, IMF Director, Christine Lagarde, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and, the UK's Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg. Also present were the Presidents of Liberia and Senegal.

In discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, on bilateral and regional issues, the two sides appreciated their bilateral co-operation, which continues to register results that benefitted both countries. PM Hailemariam thanked the UK government for its valuable development co-operation programme and for its contribution to Ethiopia's protracted efforts to eradicate poverty.



The two sides also noted the progress made in restoring peace and stability in Somalia and called on the international community to provide comprehensive assistance to the Government of Somalia to discharge its responsibilities. PM Hailemariam also briefed the UK's Deputy Prime Minister on Egypt's recent rhetoric over the use of the Nile waters. He highlighted the major benefits of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam for Egypt and Sudan and the findings of the report of the International Panel of Experts. He reiterated Ethiopia's readiness to discuss and implement the recommendations of the International Panel of Experts, embracing a win-win formula within the spirit of dialogue and regional cooperation.

A copy of the declaration, communiqué and other information on the G8 can be found online on the UK's Inside Government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/g8-summit-live>

## PM Hailemariam meets investors

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn on 27<sup>th</sup> June held talks on a consultation forum with private sector business, organised by the Ministry of Trade and the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations. Queries raised included limitations on loans to the private sector and advancing public sector investment.

Responding to questions, PM Hailemariam said public sector investment in areas that cannot be addressed by the private sector should be welcomed as it is mainly focused on building infrastructure, schools and other social amenities. This all helps facilitate and support private sector investment, demonstrating that the nation's policy is not against the private sector rather it favours it.

Responding to a query about why private banks cannot conduct registration of housing programmes based on saving, Governor of the National Bank of Ethiopia, Atnafu Teklewold said the housing programme is not something that is profitable for banks. He said if private banks are ready to cover the 80-90% construction expenses to be paid in 17 to 20 years, the Bank can allow the private banks to participate based on advice from the government. He said the banks should know that the housing programme, that requires from 70 to 90 billion Birr, is not profitable.

In his response to the provision of loans to private businesses, Atnafu said of the 243 billion Birr of loans provided up to the end of May in the current Ethiopian budget year, the public sector secured 57%, of which 90% is for long term investments. The private sector, that secured 43% of the loan, has used only 15% of it for investment and the sector is skewed towards the service sector.

## Ethiopia to reach middle income status by 2025: World Bank

The World Bank, in its latest **Ethiopia Economic Update** report, said if Ethiopia continues its historically impressive growth performance, it could reach middle income status by 2025. Over the past decade, Ethiopia has attained high growth, averaging 10.7% a year. In 2012, it was the 12<sup>th</sup> fastest growing economy in the world.



World Bank Country Director for Ethiopia, Guang Zhe Chen, said “Ethiopia has been implementing a growth strategy which emphasizes a strong expansion of public investment. So far, this has delivered positive results. However, the public investment rate of Ethiopia is the third highest in the world, while the private investment rate is the sixth lowest. In order to sustain high economic growth, the development of a strong and vibrant private sector is essential.”

In addition, Ethiopia needs to make progress on two interrelated and equally important fronts: enhancing domestic savings, and resolving the bottlenecks of the trade logistics system.

The Economic Update is the 2<sup>nd</sup> report launched this fiscal year and is a key element of the World Banks’ programmatic knowledge services. It is prepared in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia.

Read the full report via the World Bank website: [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/06/17/000333037\\_20130617104518/Rendered/PDF/785010WP0P14370eport0no.07438500WP0.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2013/06/17/000333037_20130617104518/Rendered/PDF/785010WP0P14370eport0no.07438500WP0.pdf)

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) special envoy Kal Wajid said government policies have been playing a key role in registering ongoing sustainable economic growth in Ethiopia.

Mr Wajid made the remark after holding talks with Prime Minister Hailemariam in Addis Ababa. Policies and strategies set by the Ethiopian government are registering results, he said. But he suggested the need to give due attention to the private sector, especially in facilitating supports such as bank loans.

PM Hailemariam said his government would give the necessary attention to the private sector so that it can play its role in the development of the nation, particularly by advancing infrastructure.

### **Land administration programme launched**

The Ethiopian Government, in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has launched the Land Administration to Nurture Development (LAND) programme, worth \$11m, to improve agricultural productivity in Ethiopia.

This is their third joint project, following two previous ones, carried out between 2005 and 2013 where farmers in selected pilot tests in Amhara, Afar, Oromia, Tigray, Somali, and SNNPR (Southern) regions benefitted from greater transparency and predictability regarding land use through land mapping with GIS technology, the issuance of land certificates, and the development of land laws and local systems to resolve land disputes.

The Ministry of Agriculture and technical experts from the LAND programme will work with the Ethiopian Mapping Agency and rural land administration agencies in the regions to strengthen land governance and administration practices and policies.

The key areas of focus will be improving legal and regulatory frameworks for rural land tenure and property rights, bolstering the skills of judges, and expanding educational programmes on land management.

Speaking at the launch of the programme in Addis Ababa, the State Minister of Agriculture, Sileshi Getahun, said the new project would build upon the experiences of previous projects which had made significant contributions to improving rural land administration and governance.

The previous projects had addressed important issues of harmonizing land administration legislation, tested various cadastral surveying methods, devised a proper land registry archiving system, created public awareness and provided information on rural land laws.

Under the U.S. President’s **Feed the Future** initiative, the LAND project will be implemented by TetraTech-Associates in Rural Development with local partners including Haramaya and Bahir Dar Universities.

### **African leaders vow to end hunger by 2025**

African Heads of State and Government and International leaders met at the African Union on 1<sup>st</sup> July to decide on innovative and actionable measures to put an end to hunger in Africa.



The high-level meeting on ***“Renewed Partnership for a Unified Approach to end Hunger in Africa by 2025 within the CAADP Framework”***, took place at the initiative of the AU, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Lula Institute along with broad non-state actors.

AU Chairperson, Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam Desalegn, stressed the need for member countries to address the root cause of poverty to eradicate hunger in Africa. He assured that the strong political commitment by governments in conjunction with partnerships has begun to bear fruit in addressing hunger.

The PM said Ethiopia is on the right track to eliminate hunger as it has delivered millions out of hunger and food shortages. The environmental conservation work underway in Ethiopia is improving a degraded environment.

“In our deliberations today we are confident that our continent will make strides in fighting hunger and attain sustainable development.”

PM Hailemariam urged African countries to expand their hunger eradication programmes to address the root causes of poverty which is ravaging a continent which possesses enormous resources.

Former Brazil President and founder of the Lula Institute, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, in a keynote address, said hunger will not be eradicated unless we include the poor in the government budget.

At the end of the meeting, Heads of State and Government of AU Member States, together with representatives of international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, cooperatives, farmers, youths, academia and other partners, unanimously adopted a Declaration to end hunger in Africa by 2025.



The declaration calls for a combination of policies to promote sustainable agricultural development with social protection, for a budgetary allocation focused on the poor, and recognizes the importance of non-state actors in ensuring food security. The seven-point declaration reaffirms the determination to accelerate the implementation of the Maputo Declaration (July 2003) on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa as outlined within the CAADP (Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme) framework.

The Declaration can be found on the AU website: <http://www.au.int/en/sites/default/files/DECLARATION%20FINAL%2012%2030PM%201%20JULY13.pdf>

### **Revised nutrition programme launched**

Ethiopia has launched a two and a half year National Nutrition Programme (NNP), costing \$547m, aimed at reducing stunting from 44% to 30% by 2015 (the Growth and Transformation Plan period).

This programme addresses the causes and effects of malnutrition and provides a basis for future nutrition policy and will strengthen multi-sectoral coordination and follow the life-cycle approach to map key actions needed to improve nutritional status.

Speaking at the launch, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Mr Demeke Mekonnen, stressed the need for stakeholders to work towards the success of the programme, which will contribute towards the renaissance of the country. Nutrition security is key to developing the country.

Despite some improvements over the last 5 years (from 2005 to 2011 stunting declined from 52% to 44%, underweight dropped from 33% to 29% and wasting reduced from 12% to 10%), malnutrition remains the underlying cause of more than 20% of child deaths in Ethiopia.

The Government has put in place a strategy to reduce the rate of stunting and underweight from 29% to 21% and wasting from 10% to 3%, taking

into consideration the contribution of nutrition towards the country's prosperity.

The NNP launch in Ethiopia came in the wake of new evidence from the "Cost of Hunger in Africa" study and The Lancet series on Maternal and Child Nutrition, both released in June.

### **New HIV infections among children halved**

Seven countries in Sub-Saharan Africa – Ethiopia, Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia – have reduced new HIV infections among children by 50% since 2009.

A new report on the *Global Plan towards elimination of new HIV infections among children and mothers by 2015* has revealed a marked progress in stopping new infections in children across these priority countries.

Ethiopia substantially increased access to HIV prevention and treatment services among pregnant women and children living with HIV between 2009 and 2012, and the number of new HIV infections among children has dropped.

Lifelong antiretroviral therapy for pregnant women with HIV, known as option B+, will be rolled out in 2013 and there are plans to integrate programmes for preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV with existing maternal and child health programmes, to increase coverage. Ethiopia's health extension programme has employed 31,000 lower-cadre health workers, who are stimulating demand for and increasing access to critical HIV services.

The Global Plan is spearheaded by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which was unveiled in June 2011 at the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS. It has two main targets for 2015: a 90% reduction in the number of children newly infected with HIV and a 50% reduction in the number of AIDS-related maternal deaths. The Plan focuses on the 22 countries which account for 90% of new HIV infections among children.

See the full report on the UNAIDS website: [http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2013/20130625\\_progress\\_global\\_plan\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaidspublication/2013/20130625_progress_global_plan_en.pdf)

### **Ethiopian Academy of Sciences launched**

The 20<sup>th</sup> June saw the Ethiopian Academy of Sciences officially launched with the backing of the Overseer of the launch in the presence of MPs, Ministers and other government officials, the Minister of Science and Technology, Dasse Dalke, said the academy would create a huge potential for undertaking problem-solving researched and advance science and technology.



Professor Demissie Habte, President of the Academy, said members of the Academy are undertaking research work that has a significant impact on the nation's development. The Academy will follow a system that will enable the research work to be put into practice, thereby resolving society's ills. The Academy is currently making preparations to host the African Academy of Sciences conference, taking place in Addis Ababa in November, 2013.

The Ethiopian Academy of Sciences was established three years ago by a group of prominent scholars who wish to promote the sciences to bring about development, prosperity and improved health services for the peoples of Ethiopia.

### **New Diaspora policy launched**

On 15<sup>th</sup> June, the Diaspora policy, ratified by the House of People's Representatives, was officially launched. It will enable the Ethiopian diaspora to actively participate in Ethiopia's on-going peace, development and democratic system building.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Tedros Adhanom, Minister of Foreign Affairs, said the policy will help

the diaspora to address challenges they face ensuring their rights.

Participants at the ceremony said the policy helps the diaspora participate in development and investment activities. They also reiterated their commitment to supporting the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

The following day, Deputy Prime Minister, Demeke Mekonnen, called on the diaspora to strengthen their participation in the on-going development efforts at home. More than 2.5m Ethiopian diaspora members have a huge capacity to develop the nation, he said.

The Government has been working hard to create an enabling environment for the diaspora, he said.

### **International Ethiopian professionals' support for the Nile**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Ethiopians composed of experts from different disciplines across various continents establish an international organisation called **International Ethiopian Professionals Support for the Abay [Nile] (IEPSA)**. Its main objective is to mobilise Ethiopian professionals to provide support in their professional capacity for the successful completion of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).

In a press release it issued, IEPSA said it also aims to ensure that the continuous utilization of the Abay (Nile) River by Ethiopia is based on fair, equitable and internationally acceptable principles.

The organisation was established because :

- there is no other non-governmental body to deliver researched and organized information to the international community about GERD
- the majority of the Egyptian people know only what they are told by their politicians and have no information about the significance and importance of the GERD for upstream countries
- there has not been any platform or mechanism to bring Ethiopians across different countries together so they could professionally support the efforts of Ethiopia on water and related projects

IEPSA will provide scientifically conducted and research-based information about the GERD,

provide professional support and work in cooperation with the National Committee for the Coordination of Public Participation on the Construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam on a range of issues which need expertise, working towards maintaining and protecting Ethiopia's national interest on the international stage through strengthening public relation works and lobbying, establishing a database to make any information on the Nile River in general, and the GERD in particular, available to the public and answering all related questions.

The organisation invites all Ethiopian professionals and scholars to join the network to contribute and participate in this timely issue. For further information, please contact the organisation on [abayipsa@gmail.com](mailto:abayipsa@gmail.com)

### **Embassy launches worldwide access to first book in Ge'ez**

Five hundred years ago on 30<sup>th</sup> June, the first ever book was printed in the ancient Semitic language of *Ge'ez*, the foundation of languages spoken in Ethiopia today including Amharic, Tigrigna, Tigre, Argobba and Zay.

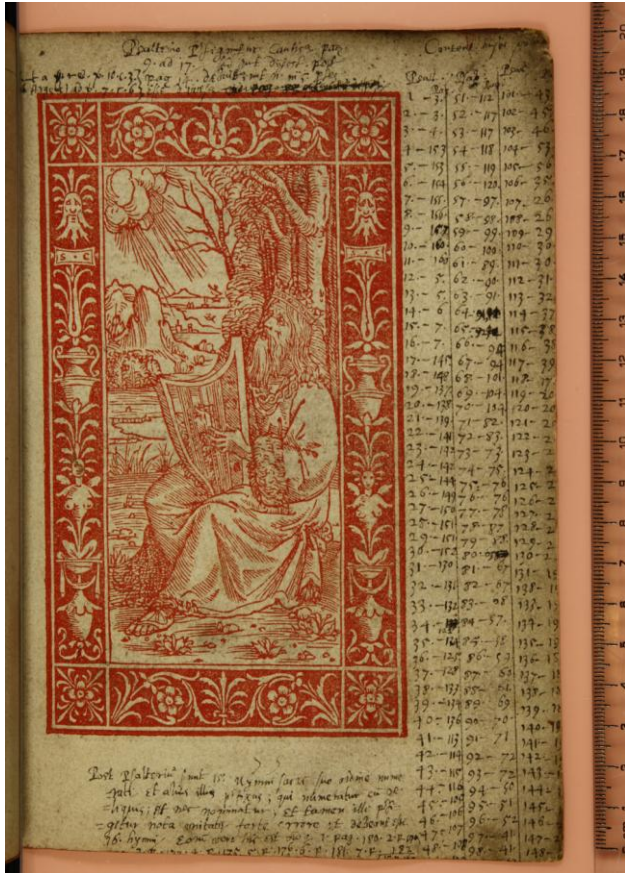
The *Psalterium Æthiopicum* consists of The Psalms followed by the Sacred Canticles and the Song of Songs and was printed in Rome in 1513. Only a few printed copies exist.

On its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Psalterium was made available on-line, with insight brought to the fore by a unique backlighting, which heightens the clarity of the text and reveals the watermarks in the paper. The same watermark – an eagle rampant - has been found throughout copies of the Psalterium Æthiopicum held by the British Library, Kings College London (KCL) and Lambeth Palace.

Scholar and historian Ian Christie-Miller launched the on-line version at a reception held at the Ethiopian Embassy on 27<sup>th</sup> June, sponsored by the Ordre Souverain Militaire et Hospitalier de Saint Jean de Jérusalem, Chevaliers OEcuméniques de Rhodes et de Malte, OSJ.

Welcoming guests, the Head of Public Diplomacy and Communications at the Embassy, Mr. Tewolde Mulugeta said, "We are delighted that, though ancient, the Psalterium is about to take on a new

lease of life as it will acquire world-wide renown through the inspiring work of Dr Ian Christie-Miller.”



King David with harp, from the Lambeth Palace Library copy. There are notes in the margin about the Psalms and where they are to be found in the book



Reception guests included diplomats, scholars and representatives from the above institutions. Also in attendance was Abuna Enthons, Ethiopian Orthodox Church Archbishop for Northern Europe, seen here on the left. Guests were able, to access all the pages of the Psalterium at an interactive installation.

The Psalterium will be available on-line free of charge at <http://www.earlybook.info>. For the full press release, please send an email to [info@ethioembassy.org.uk](mailto:info@ethioembassy.org.uk)

## Ethiopian Airlines wins SKYTRAX, Bombardier awards; launches new destinations

Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing airline in Africa, was named the **Best Airline in Africa for Staff Service** at the 2013 World Airline Awards for its outstanding customer service.

The Award gives a combined rating for an airline's performance across Airport and Cabin Staff.

South African Airways came in second place, followed by Air Seychelles. Kenya Airways came in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

Receiving the award on 18<sup>th</sup> June the airline's CEO Tewolde Gebremariam said, "We are proud that our first-class service delivery is being recognized by the most reputed customer-service tracking organization in the airline industry. We thank Skytrax for this recognition and make the pledge to our customers to work even harder to meet their high expectations...we have been investing heavily in training and development of our staff and in state of the art information and communication technology and fleet. The award is a testimony to the hard work of our employees. We thank our customers and for their strong vote of confidence."



Mr Tewolde GebreMariam, CEO of Ethiopian Airlines (left) receives Award from Edward Plaisted of Skytrax

Gebremariam was also recently elected to the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Board of Governors. IATA is the trade association for the world's airlines, representing some 240 airlines or 84% of total air traffic.



The airline also won the **2013 Airline Reliability Performance Award** from Bombardier Aerospace for the third time in a row.

The award was given to Ethiopian for achieving an average dispatch reliability rate of 99% or better on revenue passenger flights in 2012. EAL stood first in the overall Q-400 product category for the Middle East and Africa region.



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

“This is testament to our dedication to excellent customer service which continues to improve daily,” Tewolde Gebremariam said.

EAL recently launched its new destination to Seoul, as part of its Vision 2025 of connecting Africa with the major world economic and financial hubs. The launch coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and South Korea. Seoul is the airline’s 73<sup>rd</sup> international destination.

The inaugural flight was made with the Boeing 787 Dreamliner to Incheon International Airport in the presence of senior government officials, diplomats and members of the business community.

The launch of the Seoul destination will bring more benefits to Ethiopia and Africa at large as South Korea is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and is also well known for its tourists.

The launch will also expand the export market for Ethiopian produce, which is currently limited to Europe and the Middle East.

EAL also added South America, the fifth continent in its route network, by launching new routes to Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil on 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The addition of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro will bring the number of its international destinations to 75. The flights will be the only connection between West Africa and Brazil. From September, they plan to venture into Singapore, Manila (Philippines) and Saigon (Vietnam).



EAL is currently implementing a 15-year strategic plan, Vision 2025, which will see it become the leading Aviation Group in Africa, offering its passengers an international standard product with five star service delivery. The company recently reported record profits despite the temporary grounding of its Boeing 787 Dreamliner planes, with 20% to 25% growth in revenue and number of passengers. The airline’s CEO said they would have been even more profitable, if it had not been for the grounding of its four 787 planes for more than three months.

**TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

**\$2.8 billion earned from exports**

The Ministry of Trade said \$2.8bn was earned from commodity exports in the last 11 months.

Gold and other minerals generated \$1.55bn, coffee \$653.8m and oilseeds over \$404.1m. The rest was from pulses, flowers, fruit and vegetables and other products. This budget year, Ethiopia plans to earn \$5bn from exports.

The Leather Industry Development Institute (LIDI) said \$111.1m was earned from the export of leather products, with nearly \$92m from the export of finished leather products. This shows an

increase of \$11.9 million from last year. LIDI has projected that \$226.9m will be earned in the current fiscal year.

To promote the export of pre-processed leather, the government banned export of raw hides and skins last year, encouraging the technological capabilities of leather factories.

### **Sub-Saharan Africa key investment opportunity**

In a recent report, Euromonitor Internatuibak said economic growth, young populations, a swelling middle class and untapped consumer-spending potential, are making Sub-Saharan Africa a key investment opportunity.

The report cites Ethiopia as a frontier market which stands out for its population size, the relative maturity of its economy and its growth prospects.

Ethiopia has experienced sub-Saharan Africa's fastest average annual gross domestic product growth over 2007-12 of 8.7%, and has the second-largest population in the region behind Nigeria, at 86.6-million, providing major consumer market opportunities. Despite risks, these frontier markets will offer attractive long-term investment potential.

## **TOURISM**

### **Viewpoint Lodge gets top TripAdvisor rating**



Viewpoint Lodge received the coveted TripAdvisor 2013 Certificate of Excellency, for the second year running.

Located about an hour's drive out of Addis Ababa on Lake Babagoya near Debre Zeit, the lodge is set on the rim of the crater lake, overlooking the clear waters and offering a vista of the Yerer volcano and the Zequala Mountain.

The lodge has eight rooms available for visitors, which is also popular with birdwatchers with some 360 species of birds identified around the lake and at least 50 found within walking distance of the grounds.



Owned and operated by a Belgian-Ethiopian couple the lodge offers kayaking on the lake, bicycle tours around the crater, visits to the six other lakes found in the vicinity and just two and a half hours away is the Awash National Park with its waterfalls.

The Certificate of Excellence award celebrates hospitality excellence and is given only to establishments that consistently achieve outstanding traveller reviews on TripAdvisor. Winners of the Certificate of Excellence are located all over the world and represent the upper echelon of businesses listed on the website, with only the top 10 percent receiving the prestigious award.

More information about the Lodge can be found on their website: <https://sites.google.com/site/viewpointlodge/welcome>

## **SPORTS**

### **Haile receives AIPS Power of Sport Award**

Haile Gebrselassie has received an AIPS (Association Internationale De La Presse Sportive) Power of Sport Award in the Olympic City of Lausanne for his achievements in athletics, which have made him popular all over the world.

He was also recognised for his work off the track, as an ambassador for charity organizations, his role in the successful Great Ethiopian Run and the G4S 4teen programme. His World and Olympic titles and 27 world records have made him one of the best long distance runners ever.



Haile Gebreselassie receives his award from Jean Luc MonerBanet, CEO for the LoterieRomande in Switzerland

The AIPS seeks “to recognize three very special people who, through sport, have made an impact on the world, their countries and their immediate communities”. IOC president Jacques Rogge and the American former swimmer Donna de Varona were the other recipients of the AIPS Power of Sport award.

### Boston marathon winner returns medal to city

In our last issue we reported on Lelisa Desisa’s decision to return his medal to honour the victims and families of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing in April.

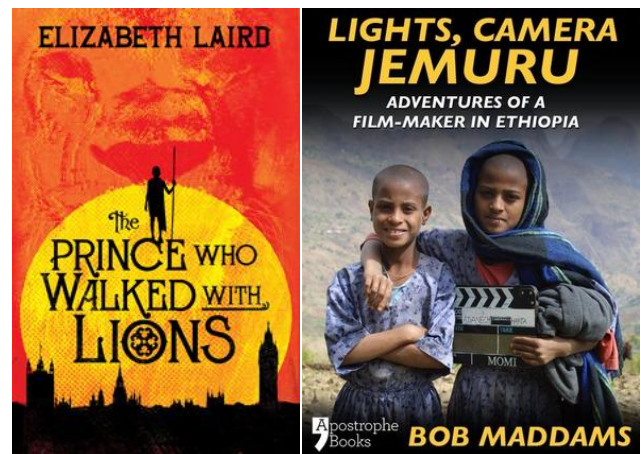
On 23<sup>rd</sup> June, he did just that in the presence of the Mayor of Boston, Thomas Menino as thousands gathered for the city’s first major race since the bombings. Lelisa who also participated in the 10k race hosted by Boston Athletic Association, where over 6,400 participants took part, came second.



At the ceremony, Desta said, “Sport holds the power to unify and connect people all over the world; it should never be used as a battleground.”

The Mayor said that he had never seen Boston come together like it has after the attacks. “Thank you for making Boston stronger,” Menino told the gathering.

## SUMMER READING



For those off on holiday and looking for summer reading, for children there is the highly recommended *The Prince who walked with Lions* by renowned children’s writer Elizabeth Laird (Macmillan Children’s Books), a moving account of the life of Prince Alemayehu, son of Emperor Tewodros whom the British took to Britain following the death of his father at the battle of Magdala. Former books by the author include *The Garbage King*, which is also set in Ethiopia, and *Red Sky in the Morning*.

For adults there is the remarkably good value *Lights, Camera, Jemuru, Adventures of a Film-Maker in Ethiopia* by Bob Maddams (self-published by Apostrophe Books), a light-hearted and witty account of how film-school training transformed the lives of Ethiopian street children and their families. *Jemuru*, Amharic for “Action!” tells the remarkable true story of young people from Addis Ababa whose films continue to help and inspire people all over Ethiopia to change their lives for the better. Bob has previously written a humorous account of world travel called *I did it for George*, inspired by Hollywood, and numerous travel articles for the UK broadsheets.

Both books give perceptive insights into Ethiopia and its history and both are available as e-books.

## ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

### Ethiopia's monastic highs

## The Telegraph

Alastair Sooke ventures into Ethiopia to report on the extraordinary churches of Ethiopia and scales a cliff to visit one of the oldest buildings in the world still in use in Debra Damo, which his grandfather, Derek Matthews, helped restore in the 1940s.

**“It’s beautiful up there at Debra Damo – as close to heaven as you can be.”** – local tour guide



Alastair was a guest of Wild Frontiers ([www.wildfrontiers.co.uk](http://www.wildfrontiers.co.uk)), which offers small-group tours and tailor-made holidays to Ethiopia. He also briefly covers Axum, Lalibela and Gondar.

The full article can be found on the following link: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/africaandindianocean/ethiopia/10134005/Ethiopia-s-monastic-highs.html>

### Lalibella Rock churches, Jerusalem of Ethiopia



As part of CNN’s coverage on **Inside Africa**, Errol Barnett travels to Lalibella, home to 11 “spectacular churches carved inside and out from a single rock some 900 years ago.. The chieseled creations”, he says, “have turned this mountain town into a place of pride and pilgrimage for worshippers of the

Ethiopian Orthodox Church, attracting 80,000 to 100,000 visitors every year...nowhere does the spirituality of the church’s followers echo louder than in Lalibella.”

The full article, including photos and videos, can be found on the CNN website: [http://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/27/travel/rock-churches-lalibela-ethiopia/?hpt=hp\\_c5](http://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/27/travel/rock-churches-lalibela-ethiopia/?hpt=hp_c5)



**It's not a museum; it's a living heritage. Every day, every morning, there is a service in all the churches.**  
Fikru Woldegiorgis, Lalibella guide

**MailOnline** Also read the Daily Mail’s take on Lalibella: *The amazing 900-year-old churches of Ethiopia's 'New Jerusalem' built into solid rock.*



Out of stone: Bete Giyorgis, one of the 11 rock-hewn churches of Lalibella, Ethiopia during the celebration of the Epiphany - the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River ©AFP/Getty Images

See journalist Ashley Collman’s article at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2352138/The-amazing-900-year-old-churches-Ethiopia-s-New-Jerusalem-built-solid-rock.html>

## ..And volcanic craters and sociable monkeys



Everything felt raw, imposing and beautiful, says CNN senior editor Brice Laine of his recent trip to Ethiopia. Looking down into the Erta Ale volcanic crater was, he says, "like witnessing the birth of Earth." Located in the Danakil Depression and known as "the gateway to hell" among local Afar people, it's the world's oldest active lava lake.

More photos can be viewed on the following link: <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/03/travel/gallery/ethiopia-gallery>

### Delving into Ethiopia's ancient past

## The Japan Times

International best-selling author, Lesley Downer, travels to Ethiopia alone to the land where "one of our earliest ancestors was born — and where the Queen of Sheba lives on".

In her special for The Japan Times, Lesley describes Ethiopia as "very safe – the safest country in Africa no less" and "peaceful and orderly, with very friendly people."



Worlds of color: A basket-seller in Aksum. ©LESLEY DOWNER

Intrigued by Ethiopia ever since she heard stories of the Ark of the Covenant being there, her trip starts off in Addis Ababa where she pays homage to Lucy, the 3.2 million year old female fossil discovered in Awash. She then travels to Aksum - believed by many Ethiopians to be the Queen of Sheba's capital – where the Ark of the Covenant is based. Her final leg of the journey takes her to Lalibela, home to the famed rock-hewn churches.

There are, she says, aspects of Ethiopia that remind me of Japan – its long history, proud people...and the uniqueness of its culture. Brimming with history almost literally from the beginning of time...Ethiopia is endlessly fascinating."

Read her full story on the Japan Times website: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2013/06/30/general/delving-into-ethiopias-ancient-past-and-present/#.UdFHnPmTg4o>

Also read her article on "*How the Ark of the Covenant got to Ethiopia*": <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2013/06/30/travel/how-the-ark-of-the-covenant-got-to-ethiopia/#.UdFHdfmTg4o> and *A cup of coffee in cheerful ceremonial style*, where she describes it as "a fabulous sensory experience as well as a great social occasion": <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/life/2013/06/30/travel/a-cup-of-coffee-in-cheerful-ceremonial-style/#.UdGJGmTg4p>

### Letter from Ethiopia: Special brew

*Guardian* reader Andrew Davison reports on Ethiopia's revered coffee ceremony which remains "a constant for all to savour."



An invitation to join in an Ethiopian coffee ceremony is considered a mark of friendship and respect. Photograph: Karel Prinsloo/AP



“With more than 70 ethnic groups and over 80 different languages...there appears to be one link that every Ethiopian agrees on: a strong, sweet brew of a rich, dark liquid that settles the nerves and pacifies the mind. It is coffee.” Read more at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jul/02/guardian-weekly-letter-from-ethiopia>

### **Diaspora coming home to boost economy**

Jenny Vaughan reports for AFP on the “burgeoning diaspora community returning to Ethiopia to invest in its booming economy,” such as Tadiwos Belete “who moved to Ethiopia from the United States a decade ago to open a luxury spa.

Returning diaspora offer hard cash investment, but also invaluable skills, education and experience acquired in the West. Ethiopia's main pull seems to be the drying up of economic possibilities in recession-hit Western countries, she reports.

Read the full article on the following link: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hv02hyA1DRe8CqaARsMHEzc7SKMw?docId=CNG.c5e0bb13ef4600c59b76403f437a6a0e.431>

### **Ethiopia’s tech hopefuls**



Jonathan Kalan reports that Ethiopia has, in recent years, become a model of rising Africa. From a poster child for poverty and famine in the 1980s to an economy with average 10% growth since 2004, the country is witnessing a remarkable turnaround.

“Addis Ababa, the capital, is attracting investment and talent from around the world, and cranes and construction projects are now a hallmark of the city,” he says.

He speaks with Markos Lemma, co-founder of iceaddis, Ethiopia's leading technology hub, accelerator and co-working space, who says there are a lot of opportunities in Ethiopia where “the middle class is increasing, the market is growing.”

Full story on the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-23086014>

### **Addis Ababa is the showcase for Ethiopia’s economic great leap forward**

Florence Beaugé, reporting for the Guardian Weekly, says a new Addis Ababa is springing up with an urban middle class appearing.

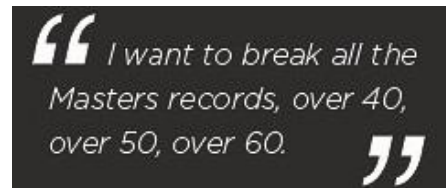
Ethiopia has achieved almost 100% school enrolment, largely thanks to former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, who ousted the dictatorship in 1991 and ruled the country until his death in August 2012.

Come back in five years' time and the place will have lost its rural air...It will be a modern city, with broad tarmacked avenues and ultramodern blocks and shopping malls.

Read the full article on the Guardian website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/jun/18/ethiopia-addis-ababa-middle-class>

### **Haile Gebrselassie: I will run until I die**

As part of its *Human to Hero* series which celebrates inspiration and achievement in sport, Paul Gittings and Natasha Maguder, speak to 40-year-old legend, Haile Gebrselassie.



In the interview, Ethiopia’s ‘smiling assassin’ says a day without running is not a good day and he wants to keep breaking records.

The full article, video and more photos can be accessed on CNN on the following link: <http://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/12/sport/athletics-haile-gebrselassie/>

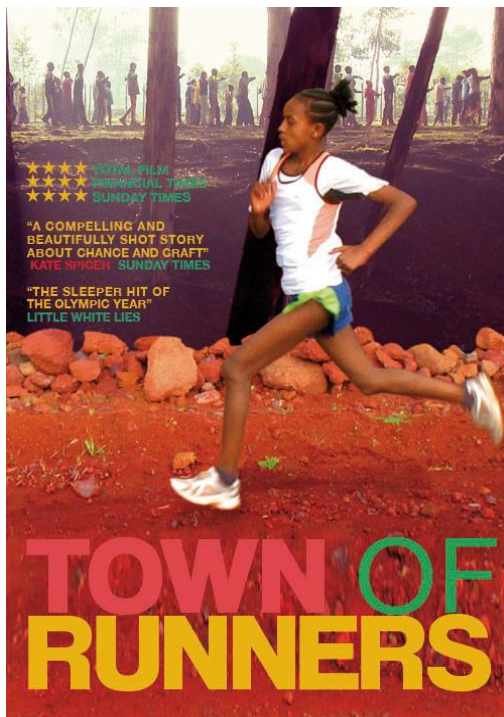
Also catch Haile’s interview with The Telegraph, *Haile Gebrselassie turns sights on Ethiopian presidency*, where he talks to Oliver Brown on his career, his mentoring programme the G4S '4teen' programme and Ethiopia. <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/othersports/athletics/10128506/Haile-Gebrselassie-turns-sights-on-Ethiopian-presidency.html>

## Oxford children inspired by ‘Town of Runners’

Bekoji, famous for its runners, is a source of great inspiration for the children of St Barnabas, Oxford, who took part in the school’s annual fundraising one-mile run, ‘Run Jericho’.

Situated in the Ethiopian highlands, Bekoji is locally known as the ‘town of runners’, and it has produced world-class long distance runners including Olympic champions Kenenisa Bekele, Tirunesh Dibaba and Derartu Tulu.

St Barnabas’ relationship with Bekoji began with a visit to the school last year by film director, Jerry Rothwell, who made the documentary titled ‘Town of Runners’, about two girls from the town whose dream was to perform at the Olympics.



The film, now widely available, touched many of the children at the school, resulting in a surge of interest in the school’s running club. Funds raised from the Run Jericho run last year helped build a library in Bekoji, this year they hope the funds will help pay for a full-time librarian. The full article can be accessed on the following link: <http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/120122-oxford-children-inspired-by-ethiopias-town-of-runners/>

## Girls and migration: best practice for growing trend

It’s increasingly a fact of life that adolescent girls in developing countries are migrating to cities in large numbers. With the right support it can be a positive experience, says the new report from the Population Council, **Girls on the Move: Adolescent Girls and Migration in the Developing World**, which examines, for the first time, the social and economic drivers of internal migration for adolescent girls in developing countries, and the links between urban migration, risk, and opportunity.

In Ethiopia, they report on the **Biruh Tesfa** programme, a partnership between the Population Council, the Ethiopian Ministry of Women, Children & Youth Affairs and its regional bureaux, and local administrations. It aims to reduce social isolation among out-of-school girls aged 10–19 living in low-income urban areas.

Read the full story on the Guardian’s website: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development-professionals-network/2013/jun/24/adolescent-girls-migration-and-development>

## Bringing rock and roll music to Ethiopia, CNN

CNN’s Erroll Barnett interviewed members of the new Ethiopian rock band, Jano, and their manager Addis Gessesse, in Ethiopia.



“I felt that each generation has its own sound, so I talked to a few people around and I just decided that if I bring the younger generation together, educated young kids, I felt that I can come up with something very unique and different from Africa,” Addis, who talent-spotted the ensemble, told CNN. Watch the interview on CNN: <http://edition.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/international/2013/06/17/inside-africa-ethiopia-culture-c.cnn.html>



### **Africa Beats - Ethiopia's Krar Collective**

BBC's Africa Beats featured UK-based Ethiopian band, The Krar Collective, whose name derives from the traditional krar harp that is central to their music. They play a song entitled "Gondar" after the city in north-east Ethiopia where their krar player, Temesgen Zeleke, comes from.



(l-r) Grum Begashaw (Drums) Genet Assefa (Vocals) and Temesgen Zeleke, who is a former pupil of Ethio-Jazz legend Mulatu Astatke.

You can watch the video on the following link:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-22798037>

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### **Africa's tallest building to be built in Addis**

Addis Ababa is poised to host Africa's tallest building by 2017 with a 99-storey office-cum-hotel tower.

Currently, South Africa's 50-storey Carlton Centre in Johannesburg is the tallest tower in Africa.

The site of the tower will be in the new Addis Ababa Exhibition Centre, and its developers said they have already acquired a 41,000m<sup>2</sup> site and plans have been approved.

If completed, the tower will be renamed the Meles Zenawi International Centre in honour of the later Prime Minister.

### **Ethiopia improves food security**

According to a new report by the Global Food Security Index, Ethiopia, Botswana and the Dominican Republic have made the largest gains in food security in the past year. The report, published by the Economist Intelligence Unit, says increases in income and larger than average food supplies in developing countries drove the largest improvements. The index comprises 27 measures of food affordability, availability and quality and is funded by the seed and chemical company DuPont.

### **2013 AGOA Forum**

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, in association with the US Government, will host the 12<sup>th</sup> African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum in Addis Ababa for the first time from 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> August. The theme of this year's Forum is **"Sustainable Transformation through Trade and Technology."** The Ministerial-level event will include a high level dialogue on the future of U.S.-Africa trade and economic cooperation. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is the U.S. Government's signature trade initiative with sub-Saharan Africa. Online registration is open.

### **MDG in TB prevention, control will be attained**

Ethiopia will attain the Millennium Development Goal in preventing and controlling Tuberculosis, by deploying health extension workers and providing quality health services. Ethiopia's Growth and Transformation Plan envisages reducing the prevalence of TB to 156 per 100,000 population and the death rate to below 20 per 100,000.

### **72% Gibe III construction completed**

Some 72% of construction of Gilgel Gibe III Hydroelectric Power Project has been finalised according to Project Civil Work Supervisor, Engineer Abayneh Getnet. Upon going fully operational, the project will have the capacity to generate 1870MW electric power. €1.47 billion has been allocated for the implementation of the project, which was launched six years ago.

