



Ethiopian News

June 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Ethiopia attains Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination.....7
- Ethiopia marks World Refugee Day; More than 840,000 refugees hosted.....8
- Africa’s first waste-to-energy facility to launch.....9
- Ethiopian coffee could be a victim of climate change – but we can save it.....10
- Hawassa Industrial Park goes fully operational as Ethiopia pushes to become manufacturing hub.....11
- Simien Mountain National Park no longer in danger15
- Ethiopia’s first botanic garden aims to preserve country’s flora heritage.....22
- Cheers! Researchers find way to make gluten-free beer.....23

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Parliament approves record budget for the Ethiopian fiscal year 2010 (2017-18)

The House of People's Representatives has approved a 320.8 billion Birr budget, (c\$13.9 billion), submitted by the Council of Ministers for the 2010 fiscal year, an increase of 46.9 billion Br (16.9%) compared to the previous year. Of the total, 114.8 billion Birr is for capital expenditure, 81.8 billion for recurrent spending, 117.3 billion to subsidise regional states, and 7 billion for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) projects.

Presenting the bill, Minister of Finance and Economy, Abraham Tekeste (Ph.D.), gave details of the performance of the current fiscal year and federal government priorities for the coming fiscal year. He noted that broad-based and equitable economic growth has contributed to a significant increase in peoples' income level.

About 61% of the budget will be spent mainly to finance infrastructure developments such as road, education, agriculture, water, health and rural electrification projects. Large sections of the budget will be spent on manufacturing, export and urban development, with the specific intention of transforming the economy sustainably.

In addition, the bill aims to collect up to 196 billion Birr, an increment of 26 billion compared to the closing fiscal year, from domestic tax and non-tax incomes. The remaining budget is to be secured from other sources including 80.3 billion from the treasury, 14.3 billion from external loans and 20.2 billion from external grants.

During the second day session of the Parliament, Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalegn elaborated government plans for the upcoming fiscal year and responded to questions from MPs. MPs asked about the financing of the new budget, the drought situation present in parts of the country, measures sought to tackle unemployment, plans for tax collection schemes, trade balance, export trade performance, use of small- and medium-scale irrigation programmes and questions related to the status of the Mega-industrialisation projects.

The premier told MPs that the Government had set out comprehensive and detailed plans to enhance

the tax regime and revenue mobilisation capabilities. The tax targets would, he said, be achieved as a result of improved institutional capacities and public awareness. Referring to export performance and foreign currency earnings, the premier said valuable experiences had been gained from Hawassa Industrial Park and the experience obtained will be emulated nationwide to strengthen exports and increase export revenue earnings.

He reminded the house that in three years' time **Ethiopia will start exporting natural gas** and the revenue obtained from the sales will substantially improve export earnings. A collaborative effort has to be made both by the government and private sector to expand export volume and variety, he added.

On employment, the premier underscored the development of Industrial Parks, three of which are in operation, and many others under construction in various parts of the country. They will provide job opportunities for many youths in and around the major cities and would also be centres of technology transfer and modernisation.

On climate change and the drought, he reaffirmed that the massive development of power projects in the country demonstrated Ethiopia's strategic orientation and the application of its green development vision. He added that Ethiopia has an effective early warning disaster management system (EWRD) which is tasked with collecting early warning information on a regular basis from districts. The government is doing, and will continue to do, its level best to provide water and food to people, to establish more school feeding centres and provide animal feed for livestock from its internal sources, including funds that were previously earmarked for other programmes, to cope with the severe drought.

The premier emphasised that the new budget underlines the Government's determination to continue spending money on its pro-poor policies, on social sectors, which will essentially change the livelihood of the people and transform the economy.

Ethiopia's National Day celebrated in London

Ethiopia's National Day was celebrated in London on 20th June at the prestigious Royal Garden Hotel in Kensington in the presence of a wide range of guests from diplomatic missions, the foreign office, parliamentarians, investors, members of the diaspora and friends of Ethiopia.



In his speech to mark the occasion, the Ambassador recalled that diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the UK had existed since 1900, though there had been numerous contacts in the early 1890s and before. The Ambassador praised the role that Britain had played in helping defeat Mussolini's occupying forces in Ethiopia.



He then outlined the colossal changes that have taken place since the fall of the Derg regime in 1991 – how 80 plus nations and nationalities now have their rights guaranteed, the advantages of the federal system and regular elections, with women participating at every level.

Ethiopia has registered double-digit growth for the last 14 years and this is set to continue as Ethiopia is attracting both foreign direct investment and Private Equity investment as well as encouraging domestic investors to go into manufacturing. Vast industrial parks are transforming the economy which will be carbon neutral by 2030.

The Ambassador highlighted the strong advances made in both the education and health sectors, with now universal primary education and vastly increased levels of secondary and tertiary education. All villages now have health extension workers, clinics and access to an ambulance.

Massive infrastructure projects are linking Ethiopia up with neighbouring countries and beyond with new roads, railways and, of course, state-owned Ethiopian Airlines which links Ethiopia to more than 95 international destinations over five continents. Renewable energy, produced by hydro dams, already offers the cheapest electricity in the world to Ethiopia's neighbours and, in future, this benefit will extend to the rest of Africa and beyond as the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam goes fully operational.

Ethiopia is a strong diplomatic partner within the AU and IGAD, where it works towards economic integration. Ethiopia is now a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Ethiopia's former health minister is now the Director General of the World Health Organisation.

The new Land of Origins logo is inspiring travellers to an ever-widening range of tourism attractions – be they historic, religious or cultural and there is a growing interest in adventure travel and cycling holidays – the latter offered by Tadele Travel, who were at the reception.

The Ambassador concluded by praising Ethio-UK co-operation in development, in promoting trade and investment and job creation, education, health and gender equality, the environment and of course, helping to ensure peace and stability and fighting terrorism in the Horn region.



In speeches, Laurence Robertson MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ethiopia and Djibouti, praised Ethiopia for topping the World Bank's list of the fastest growing world economies, and Julie Green, author of the superlative *Ethiopia Past and Present*, a photographic memoir of Ethiopia, extending over many years, spoke of her long-standing love of Ethiopia.

Full coverage of the celebrations can be found on our YouTube page at <https://goo.gl/H2k2H4>



Ethiopia joins UK in mourning Grenfell Tower fire victims

On 14th June, the Embassy was shocked to see the horrific scenes of the fire at Grenfell Tower in Latimer Road, London.

Eight British nationals of Ethiopian origin were tragically impacted by the fire including: mother and son Berikti and Biruk Habtom; five-year old Isaac Paulos; and Hashim Kidir, his wife and their three children.



Mother and son Berikti and Biruk Habtom

According to the latest update from the Metropolitan Police, a total of around 80 people are either dead or missing presumed dead. They expect this figure to change. As of 14th June, 34 victims have been formally identified including Isaac Paulos, Berikti Habtom and 13-year old Yahya Hashim.

The Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, H.E. Hailemichael Aberra Afework PhD and other diplomats visited the families on Friday, 16th June to offer their support.

Following the visit, Ambassador Hailemichael said: *"I cannot imagine what these families must be going through right now. This has hit home, especially because we know these families. The Embassy and the Ethiopian community stands united at this difficult time and is providing ongoing support to them. I would also like to express my deepest sympathy to all those who have been affected and convey our thanks to the public for their messages of support and donations, and to all emergency services, volunteers and support workers who are working tirelessly to support the victims."*

In a letter to his counterpart The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu said: *"It is with deep shock and utter disbelief that we learnt of the tragic fire accident at Grenfell Tower...On behalf of the Government and people of Ethiopia, I would like to extend to you, to the people of the United Kingdom, and in particular, to the residents of London and the*

families and friends of the bereaved, our heartfelt condolences."



The Hashim family

The Embassy continues to offer support to the affected families.

...Isaac's funeral held

Isaac Paulos, one of the youngest victims of the fire, was laid to rest on 14th June in the presence of hundreds of mourners at Kensal Green Cemetery. Earlier, a service was held at the St Mary of Debretsion Orthodox Church in Battersea.



Embassy staff led by H.E. Ambassador Hailemichael Aberra Afework, joined Genet Shawo, her husband Paulos Petakle, family, friends and well-wishers, in bidding farewell to Isaac.

Isaac, a regular visitor at the Embassy with his mother Genet, who described him as a "beautiful boy", will be sorely missed by all staff.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Isaac's family and loved ones during this very difficult time.

May He Rest In Eternal Peace.



African Union Summit concludes

The 29th Ordinary Session of the Summit of the African Union came to a close after nine days of decision-making on issues of importance to the continent, during which various statutory organs of the Union met to gather status updates.

At the final press conference, the AU Commission (AUC) Chairperson H.E. Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat said the summit focused on three main issues:

Institutional reform of the African Union – H.E. President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, who is the leader of the reform team presented a report to his fellow Heads of State and Government and the Assembly agreed to expedite the reform process, taking into account the inputs received from member states.

This year's theme is ***"Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth"*** and

strong commitments were made to improve the lives of young people. The summit also discussed migration and employment with a presentation by H.E. President Idris Deby Itno of Chad, who is the Leader on the AU theme of the year. He updated the summit on the various initiatives undertaken across the continent in line with the theme.

Peace and security - the AUC Chairperson, H.E. Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, said that Africa would continue to do its best to Silence the Guns by 2020 and to speak with one voice on major peace and security issues, especially through agreed common positions. Throughout the summit, which started on the 27th June, the AUC Chairperson emphasised the need for the continent to give priority to conflict prevention. He called upon the regional groupings and mechanisms to intensify their actions, in close cooperation with the relevant bodies of the African Union.

During the closing ceremony, two AUC Commissioners were sworn into office - H.E. Ms Agbor Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang of Cameroon, who was elected to the post of Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology and H.E. Mr Victor Harison of Madagascar, who was elected as Commissioner for Economic Affairs. In addition, three members were elected to the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption and another four were elected as members of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

Liberia's President H.E. Ms Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, gave her final address to the AU Assembly before her country proceeds to elections to elect a new head of state. She thanked the African Union for its support in the fight against Ebola. "In challenging times when we were faced with the Ebola virus, the solidarity of the African Union was phenomenal", she said. She highlighted the role played by the 855 African health workers from various African nations who provided support in the three countries affected - Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Full coverage of the Summit can be found on the AU website at www.au.int.

ON THE AU SIDELINES

Emperor Haile Selassie and late PM Meles to be commemorated with statues



The AU has decided to erect monuments to honour former Ethiopian leaders Emperor Haile Selassie and the late Prime Minister, Meles Zenawi, for their contribution to creating the former Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the AU.

The decision was made on 4th July at the closing ceremony of the 29th AU Summit.

At a press conference following the summit, Prime Minister Hailemariam thanked African leaders for their recognition of Ethiopia's contribution to Africa's political and diplomatic evolution.

African leaders adopt new framework to end AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2030

African Union Heads of State and Government adopted the AIDS Watch Africa Strategic Framework that will bolster the work of AIDS Watch Africa, the highest level continental vehicle for joint action, advocacy and accountability towards ending AIDS, TB and Malaria.

During the meeting, the leaders endorsed the Emergency Catch up Plan to accelerate the HIV response in West and Central Africa, a region that is lagging behind in its response. The meeting also endorsed the **two million community health workers initiative** that will build and create decent jobs while harnessing capabilities in a seamless integrated health system.

The new AIDS Watch Africa strategy seeks to further mobilise and sustain high-level leadership and commitment and galvanise all stakeholders and actors to form partnerships to end AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2030. Ending the three diseases is critical to the achievement of the bold aspirations of Agenda 2063 that seek to transform the continent's development path. A key element of the strategy is to generate and disseminate strategic, culturally sensitive information to partners and others to ignite action at the international, regional, national and grassroots levels. The new strategy further seeks to strengthen accountability by Member States for measurable results and impact at grass-root level.

First Lady Roman Tesfaye elected President of OAFLA

Ethiopia's First Lady, H.E. Roman Tesfaye, has been elected President of the Organisation of African First Ladies against HIV/AIDS (OAFLA) for 2017-2019.

OAFLA was established in 2002 by 37 African First Ladies as a collective voice for Africa's most vulnerable people, and today has over 40 active African First Ladies as members, each leading their national chapters, undertaking exemplary work in

the areas of HIV & AIDS, empowering women and children.



African leaders have adopted the AIDS Watch Africa Strategic Framework, which seeks to further mobilise and sustain high-level leadership and commitment and galvanise all stakeholders and actors to form partnerships to end AIDS, TB and Malaria by 2030.

At the AU Summit, a 2 million community health workers initiative was also endorsed.

LOCAL NEWS

Ethiopia attains Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination

Ethiopia is the 42nd country in the world to eliminate Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus. The news was announced after the conclusion of a joint UNICEF/WHO mission on 30th June at its debriefing sessions with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health.



Ethiopia began accelerating Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination (MNTE) efforts in 1999. By 2011, all regions except the Ethiopia Somali Region were validated. The 2011 validation mission made recommendations, including corrective vaccination campaigns against tetanus in 2016, that would see the Somali Region progress to MNTE over time. The administrative and post-campaign survey data revealed more than 85% coverage in each of the 9 zones of the Somali Region. The Joint validation mission reviewed these and other related data between 28th and 30th June 2017, and concluded that maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination had been achieved in the Ethiopia Somali Region and, by extension, in the whole of Ethiopia.

The State Minister of Health, H.E. Dr Kebede Worku, said of the news that “[Ethiopia] had worked hard on improving Maternal and Child Health services delivery with tangible results, including the record attainment of MDG 4 three years ahead of the target year of 2015. Along with this, MNTE was given emphasis and hence between 1999 and 2009, over 15 million women of reproductive age in 59 high-risk zones were immunised during three rounds of Tetanus Toxoid Supplementary Immunisation Activities. The health ministry will sustain this gain by integrating maternal and child health care services with other public health priorities”.

WHO Representative, Dr Akpaka A. Kalu, congratulated the country and said that WHO is grateful for this remarkable result, adding that WHO will continue to support the Ministry by prioritising risk areas that need more support through specific targeted strategies, with active community involvement. Dr Kalu also revealed that the integration of vaccine preventable disease with other health programmes will also be incorporated into the WHO response strategy.

“I would like to extend my warm congratulations to the Ministry of Health and its partners for this excellent achievement, which benefits the health of women and children” said Ms Shalini Bahuguna, UNICEF Officer, Ethiopia. UNICEF will continue to support the Ethiopian government to sustain this achievement and deliver results for every child.”

Sustaining the attainment of MNT elimination is possible only through: maintaining tetanus protection levels at above 80% in every zone especially those that achieved elimination through

SIAs; strengthening partnerships for improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health activities; and implementing the 2014 sustainability plan of action, which incorporates a switch from Tetanus Toxoid to Tetanus diphtheria vaccine, and an annual joint review of national MNT risk status.

Ethiopia marks World Refugee Day; More than 840,000 refugees hosted

Ethiopia joined the rest of the world in commemorating World Refugee Day on 20th June as it became the second top refugee-hosting country in Africa, after Uganda.

This year, the day was marked in the Gambella Regional State, which houses most of the South Sudanese refugees, in the presence of Ethiopia’s

Foreign Minister, Dr Workneh Gebeyehi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi, diplomats and other officials. The Day was marked in Ethiopia under the theme **“We Stand Together with Refugees”**.

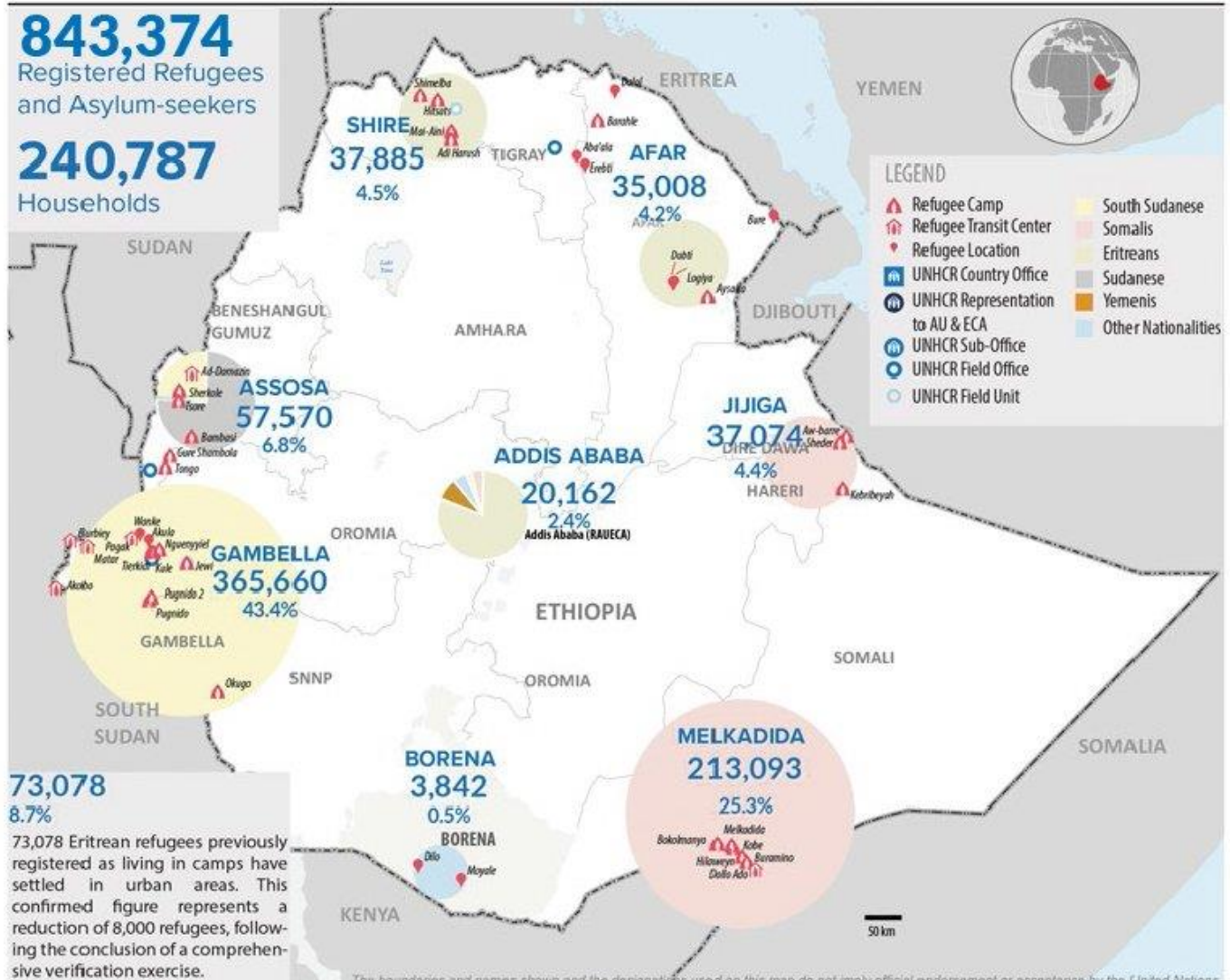
Speaking on the occasion, UNHCR Commissioner Filippo Grandi praised efforts made by the government in handling the regional refugee crisis.

“Ethiopia is a very good model of how a country with limited resources and a great challenge of its own keeps its doors open, its arms open to people from neighbouring countries that are in trouble and seek protection here...We must help Ethiopia carry out this heavy responsibility and also be inspired by Ethiopia because it is a very shining example of African hospitality and international hospitality,” Grandi said.



ETHIOPIA
Refugees and Asylum-seekers

as of 30 June 2017



Ethiopia vowed to continue its open-door policy for people affected by war and looming famine in South Sudan.

With the world home to more than 65 million refugees, Ethiopia is playing its dutiful part as one of the top refugee hosting countries globally.

The UNHCR say 843,374 refugees are currently registered in Ethiopia, with 6,186 registered in the month of June, raising the number of refugees registered in Ethiopia in the first six months of 2017 to a total of 60,293.

Most refugees in Ethiopia come from Somalia, South Sudan and Eritrea. Smaller groups of refugees, fleeing war in Sudan and from across the Red Sea from Yemen, are also part of the group the UNHCR has registered as refugees in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia is one of five African countries participating in a **Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)**, which is a vehicle for the implementation of pledges made at the UN leaders' summit in September 2016 in New York, wherein refugees in Ethiopia will be given funds for assisting with education and employment opportunities in Ethiopia.

Western Countries, in particular, hope that schemes like CRRF will persuade refugees living in Ethiopia and other African nations not to undertake perilous trips to reach their countries and instead stay in their current host countries.

Ethiopia elected as regular member of ILO executive body



Ethiopia has been elected as a regular member of the executive body of the International Labour Organisation (UN ILO) for the period 2017-2020.

Ethiopia's membership will provide an opportunity for it to strengthen its relations with the organisation, and acquire technical and policy support. It will also enable Ethiopia to prioritise the interests of Africa.

Ethiopia previously served as a regular member of the ILO governing body from 1999-2002.

Africa's first waste-to-energy facility to launch

Construction of the Reppie Waste-to-Energy facility, the first of its kind in Africa, is set to be completed in September 2017, providing alternative energy generation and fuelling the country's rapidly growing economy.



Located at Koshe landfill site in Addis Ababa, the facility will process 1,400 tons of municipal waste a day and produce 185 GWhr of electricity annually, for the national grid, sufficient to power 25% of Addis Ababa's households.

To sustainably supply the feedstock for the facility, the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation is collaborating with Addis Ababa's City Municipality to ensure waste collection is streamlined. The Facility will eliminate over 80% of the waste delivered to it, maximising energy recovery to deliver much-needed renewable power to the City.

Ethiopia has experienced rapid economic growth in recent years with GDP growth averaging 10.9% between 2004 and 2016. The plant is expected to mitigate Ethiopia's ever-increasing waste disposal, due to the rise in income, which will likely create a parallel increase in waste generation and increased urbanisation.

The plant is just one facet of Ethiopia's seven-year-old Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy, which aims for Ethiopia to be a middle-

income country by 2025, while limiting its carbon footprint to less than 2010-levels by 2030.

The Waste-to-Energy facility complies with and applies to EU emission standards.

Development, design and construction of the project was conducted by a consortium comprising of Cambridge Industries Ltd and its partner China National Electric Engineering Co (CNEEC).

Africa's first smart parking system in Addis Ababa

Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa is the first city in Africa to introduce a smart parking system, solving the city's lack of parking space.



The system uses modern Chinese technology to park vehicles inside a 50-storey steel-structured building using an automated lift. 90 cars can be parked in a space which could hold only nine cars.

The project costs around \$2.2 million and there are plans to build more across the city.

"The number of vehicles is increasing and so is demand for parking. For our master plan, we selected 60 places to construct smart concrete parking systems. Several smart parking systems are being built in Addis Ababa. Some even have a capacity of parking about 1,500 cars at once," Solomon Kidane, head of the city's Transport Programmes Management Bureau told CTGN News.

Ethiopian coffee could be a victim of climate change – but we can save it

Scientists at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and collaborators in Ethiopia have published an innovative new study on the impact of climate change on coffee farming in Ethiopia.



The research, *'Resilience potential of the Ethiopian coffee sector under climate change'*, conducted over a 3-year period, shows the potential for building a climate-resilient coffee economy for Ethiopia, and was published in *Nature Plants*.

Ethiopia is the world's fifth largest coffee producer and Africa's main exporter. In 2015/16, 180,000 metric tons of coffee, valued at \$800 million was exported from the country, generating a quarter of the country's export earnings and providing livelihoods for around 15 million Ethiopians. With rapidly increasing temperatures and decreasing rainfall, there was an urgent need to understand how climate change is influencing coffee production and what the options for the future are.

Justin Moat, co-leader of the study at Kew Gardens said: "This is the culmination of many years work, where we are trying to understand in detail the influence of climate change on coffee production in Ethiopia. We found that a 'business as usual' approach could be disastrous for the Ethiopian coffee economy in the long-term. Timely, precise, science-based decision making is required now and over the coming decades, to ensure sustainability and resilience for the Ethiopian coffee sector."

In its wild state Arabica coffee (*Coffea arabica*) is a forest plant restricted to the highlands of Ethiopia and neighbouring South Sudan. It has been used in Ethiopia as a food and beverage for many hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Currently 80% of Ethiopia's coffee comes from forests or forest-like habitats, and covers around 20,000km of the country's landscape, with another 20% grown in small plots in sun or partial shade.

The research shows that an increase in temperature of around 4°C by the end of this century could lead

to a 39–59% decrease in the current coffee-growing area of Ethiopia, if no interventions are made. Conversely, relocation of coffee-growing areas **could result in a fourfold increase in the coffee farming area within Ethiopia, even under climate change.** This would require a major shift in the coffee growing landscape, mostly to higher altitudes, as temperatures continue to increase. Considerable numbers of farmers would need to diversify away from coffee, whilst others would need to take up coffee growing for the first time.

Dr Aaron Davis of RBG Kew, co-leader of the research said: “On the basis of the study we now have a clear vision of what needs to be done to make the Ethiopian coffee sector climate resilient, at least until the end of this century. In the longer term, however, the only truly sustainable solution is to combat the root causes of climate change.”

Professor Sebsebe Demissew, a senior botanical scientist from the University of Addis Ababa and a co-author of the research said: “Arabica coffee originates from the highland forests of Ethiopia, and it is our gift to the world. As Ethiopia is the main natural storehouse of genetic diversity for Arabica coffee, what happens in Ethiopia could have long-term impacts for coffee farming globally.”

Ambassador Hailemichael said, “Ethiopia is doing its level best to combat climate change through the development of renewable energy and the introduction of modern farming technologies, including soil and water conservation. This study will contribute hugely to developing a climate resilient coffee economy in Ethiopia and other countries. The Ethiopian coffee sector could benefit from these endeavours, so coffee growers can retain their fair share of the global market.”

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Hawassa Industrial Park goes fully operational as Ethiopia pushes to become manufacturing hub

The first phase of the Hawassa Industrial Park has gone fully operational.

Marking the official opening of the park, PM Hailemariam said Hawassa Industrial Park is a

foundation for Ethiopia’s ambition to become the leading manufacturing hub in Africa.



“Our goal is to create millions of new jobs in labour-intensive and export-oriented light manufacturing”, he said, adding that “the full operation of the Hawassa industrial park is the most evident and concrete example yet towards achieving our national vision and marks a milestone in our quest for industrialisation”.



Hawassa Industrial Park is said to be the first sustainable textile and apparel industrial park in Africa, with state-of-the-art infrastructure and facilities.

Designed, constructed and operated as a green industrial zone, the park applies cutting edge technology to treat and recycle about 90% of its water usage.

The PM visited factories located within the park.

...Two more industrial parks inaugurated, creating more than 40,000 jobs

During the weekend of 8th July, PM Hailemariam inaugurated two new industrial parks in Kombolcha and Mekelle, bringing Ethiopia one step closer to becoming the hub of manufacturing in Africa. The Parks will earn \$1 billion annually, while providing much needed jobs.



At the inauguration ceremony, PM Hailemariam said the culmination of the first phase of the industrial parks will play an immense role in Ethiopia’s economy, industrial growth and job creation efforts.

According to the Ethiopian Investment Commission, the industrial park has already attracted renowned companies from the U.S., South Korea and Italy.



Kombolcha Industrial Park, built at a cost of \$90 million in the Amhara regional state, is dedicated to the textile and apparel sector.

Built on 75 hectares of land, Kombolcha industrial park has 13 industrial sheds and will create jobs for 20,000 people.



KOMBOLCHA INDUSTRIAL PARK Quick Facts

- Location**
 - North-central Ethiopia. Located in the South Wollo Zone of the Amhara Regional State
 - KIP is located next to Kombolcha Airport
- Population and Employment**
 - 1.5 million people live within 50 km radius of Kombolcha
 - In two shifts, it can create employment for up to 20,000 employees
- Industrial Park Area**
 - Land area of 750,000 m (Phase-I)
 - Factory shed built up area of 60,500 m
- Industrial Park Facilities**
 - Health center
 - Police station
 - One Stop Service
 - Commercial building
 - Fire brigade & 24x7 security services
 - Waste treatment facilities (STP & ETP)
- Park Specialization**
 - Designed to host investors in the textile and apparel sector
- Key Principles of the Park**
 - Specialized park
 - Sustainability (environmental and social)
 - Vertical integration
 - Export-oriented
 - Skills development and competitiveness

Mekelle Industrial Park, built at a cost of \$92 million in the Tigray regional state, is also dedicated to the textile and apparel sector.

PM Hailemariam said in addition to creating employment opportunities and raising economic growth, the park will allow Ethiopia to join the group of other countries that have good reputations in the textile and apparel sector, he said.

Dr Arkebe Oqubay, Board Chairperson of Industrial Parks Development Corporation, said the park will play a significant role in promoting technology transfer and transforming the country's economy.

Mekelle industrial park is expected to create jobs for 20,000 people.

...agreement for construction of Bahir Dar industrial park signed

The Ethiopian Industrial Parks Development Corporation has signed an agreement with the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation Ltd (CCECC) for the construction of Bahir Dar Industrial Park in the Amhara Regional State at a

cost of \$60 million. The park will focus on the export of value-added agricultural products. According to the agreement, 8 factory sheds will be built on 75 hectares of land.

The construction of the park, including related infrastructure, will be finalised within nine months. Once completed, the Park will create employment opportunities for more than 20,000 people.

...15 industrial parks by June 2018

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.

Arkebe Oqubay, Board Chairperson of the Ethiopian Industrial Park Corporation, said that in January 2018 Kilinto Pharmaceutical and Bole Lemi 2 industrial parks will be commissioned, by May Bahir Dar and Jimma industrial parks will be operational, and in June expect Debre Birhan and Arerti industrial parks to start operations. Two other industrial parks, Dire Dawa and Adama will be commissioned in September 2017.





TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Ethiopia launches online entry visa – e-Visa



ALREADY REGISTERED? LOGIN

HOME APPLY STATUS HELP CONTACT

THE AMAZING BLUE NILE FALLS

Visit Ethiopia, the land of origins, the home of LUCY, AXUM, LALIBELA, FASILEDES, ERTALE and many more wonders.

REGISTER APPLY CHECK STATUS

Planning to be frequent e-VISA user? Register and let us remember you. So you won't have to fill application forms from scratch every time you visit.

Provide requested information and apply for Ethiopian e-VISA.

Track the status of your e-VISA request here.

WELCOME TO ETHIOPIAN E-VISA

Some nationals can now apply for their Ethiopian tourist visas online, thanks to collaboration between Ethiopia’s Immigration Department and Ethiopian Airlines. The initial phase of the e-Visa service was launched on 12th June.

The e-Visa is processed and issued in three easy steps, where applicants apply, pay and secure their entry visa online. Once the online application is approved, applicants will receive an email authorising them to travel to Ethiopia and they will get their passport stamped with the visa upon arrival in Addis Ababa.

The CEO of Ethiopian Airlines, Mr Tewolde GebreMariam said, “Ethiopia, the oldest independent civilisation in Africa and one of the oldest in the world, is endowed with historical places, natural beauty, colourful and diverse cultural activities and endemic wild animals which are of great interest to international tourists. However, we have not made best use of these natural resources to attract large numbers of tourists. This project is part of a new national initiative to transform the tourism sector in the

country. The full commencement of the online visa application and issuance system will promote tourism, trade and investment in the country. It will save time, energy and cost for travellers to Ethiopia in addition to the simplicity and convenience that it facilitates. With direct flights to/from more than 95 destinations from all corners of the world operated by the most modern airplanes, we will continue to make travel to Ethiopia, dependable, easy, convenient and affordable.”

Mr Gebreyohannes Teklu, Director Main Department for Immigration & Nationality Affairs, said “Now international visitors to Ethiopia, from countries provisioned for visa upon arrival, can make use of this service. Moreover, we have set up separate counters to process the visas of travellers under electronic travel authorisation.”

For information on eligibility and to apply for an e-Visa, please visit www.evisa.gov.et.

Please note that this system is only applicable to tourist visas.

Simien Mountain National Park no longer in danger



The World Heritage Committee meeting in Krakow decided to remove Simien Mountain National Park from the List of World Heritage in Danger in recognition of improvements in its management.



Gelada Baboon

The World Heritage Committee welcomed Ethiopia's commitment to building an alternative road to alleviate the disturbance of traffic on the main road that crosses the property, and reduce cattle overgrazing and visitor impact. The Committee also welcomed the stabilisation of the

site's endemic animal populations of, notably, Walia ibex and Gelada baboons.

Massive erosion over the years on the Ethiopian plateau has created one of the most spectacular landscapes in the world, with jagged mountain peaks, deep valleys and sharp precipices dropping some 1,500m. Simien National Park is home to extremely rare animal species.

Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1978, the site was added to the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1996 due to the impact of a new road across it, excessive cattle grazing, agricultural encroachment and a drop in Walia ibex, Simien fox and other large mammal populations.

New ancient city discovered in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has been proved yet again to be the Land of Origins. A team of British archaeologists have uncovered an ancient city thought to date back as far as the 10th century AD in the Harlaa region in eastern Ethiopia.



The archaeologists also uncovered a 12th Century mosque (pictured above), similar to those found in Tanzania and Somaliland.

Archaeologists says this proves historic connections between different Islamic communities in Africa.

Lead archaeologist from the University of Exeter, Professor Timothy Insoll, said Harlaa was a "rich, cosmopolitan" centre for jewellery making..."Residents of Harlaa were a mixed community of foreigners and local people who traded with others in the Red Sea, Indian Ocean and possibly as far away as the Arabian Gulf," he said.

"This discovery revolutionises our understanding of trade in an archaeologically neglected part of Ethiopia. What we have found shows this area was the centre of trade in that region."

The team also found jewellery and other artefacts from Madagascar, the Maldives, Yemen and China.

Further excavations are expected to be conducted next year.

More awards for Ethiopian Airlines!

New month, new award!

Ethiopian Airlines won the SKYTRAX World Airline Award for ***The Best Airline in Africa*** on 20th June at the Paris Air Show.

Skytrax is the most respected global air transport rating organisation and conducts the world's largest annual airline passenger satisfaction survey where customers make their own personal choices as to which airline they consider to be the best.



Ethiopian CEO Mr Tewolde GebreMariam and Mr Yinessu Fikadneh (VP Customer Service) along with Ethiopian cabin crew

While receiving the award, Group CEO Ethiopian Airlines, Mr Tewolde GebreMariam, said "We are thrilled that Skytrax has honoured Ethiopian Airlines with this award of *Best Airline in Africa* based on customer survey. This is a very strong testimony that is in line with our vision 2025, our heavy investment in customer service, Human Resource Development, modern fleet, infrastructure and ICT has resulted in the desired customer delight, which is expressed by the strong vote of confidence in the global survey. It will motivate us to continue to invest time, energy and money in the four pillars of our vision 2025 with sharp focus on customer service.

I would like to thank Skytrax for this recognition and our valued customers for their strong vote of confidence. As always, we shall continue to work hard to exceed your expectations and provide you the best possible travel experience every time you fly with us. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate my colleagues at Ethiopian for their exceptional commitment and hard work to keep our airline flying high in the skies."

Ethiopian Airlines is a multi-award-winning airline and has twice previously received SKYTRAX World Airline Award for Best Airline Staff in Africa.

...most reliable airline



Ethiopian Airlines won the 2016 Airline Reliability Performance Award, for the 6th year in a row, from Bombardier Aerospace.

The Airline Reliability Performance Award recognises operators of Bombardier CRJ Series regional jets and Q Series turboprops who have achieved the highest rates of dispatch reliability.

Ethiopian flies the Q-400 to 20 domestic destinations and regional routes such as Djibouti, Mombasa, Kilimanjaro, Dar-es-Salaam, Zanzibar, Entebbe, Kigali, Juba, Khartoum and Hargeisa.

...more Airbus ordered for long-haul flights

The airline has placed an order for 10 Airbus A350-900 aeroplanes, in addition to at least another 10 it already has on order, for use on long-haul flights connecting Addis Ababa with destinations in Africa, Europe, the Middle East and Asia.



Last June, Ethiopian Airlines became the first African carrier to operate the A350 when it took delivery of the first of 12 aircraft. Today the carrier operates a fleet of four A350s, two of which are on lease. Today's order tops up the carrier's fleet, enabling it to pursue its growth strategy and objectives over the coming years.

Ethiopian operates the youngest and most modern fleet with an average fleet age of less than five years.

...Africa's largest cargo terminal inaugurated

PM Hailemariam opened Ethiopian Airlines' new state-of-the-art cargo terminal.



The new Cargo Terminal-II combined with the existing Terminal-I will give Ethiopian a total tonnage capacity of around 1 million per annum, which is the largest in Africa. This milestone will make Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services one of the world's largest cargo terminals; comparable with cargo terminals in Amsterdam Schiphol, Singapore Changi, or Hong Kong.

Addis Ababa to get new luxury hotel



Accor Hotels Group is set to expand in Ethiopia with a new hotel, MGallery by Sofitel, near the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa. This follows the signing of three other hotel management agreements (Mercure, ibis and ibis Styles) early this February.

The new hotel, which will open towards the second half of 2018, will feature 218 guestrooms and suites.

In line with the MGallery by Sofitel brand standards, the hotel will benefit from a unique modern design coupled with a strong African identity.

“We are delighted to sign this new management agreement in Addis Ababa, which brings our confirmed projects to over 1,000 keys across all market segments (economy, midscale and upscale). This project reaffirms our ambitious development strategy for Africa, with Ethiopia as one of the key-targeted markets. The new MGallery by Sofitel Addis Ababa will reinforce our role in the luxury segment by offering our clientele one of the best addresses in town.” said Steven Daines, CEO of AccorHotels for Africa & Middle East.

Addis Ababa is a fast-growing regional economic centre and is home to the African Union, the UN Economic Commission for Africa, foreign missions, regional NGOs and the UN Conference Centre.

SPORTS

Ethiopia finishes first at African Junior Athletics Championships

Ethiopia topped the medal tables at this year’s African Junior Athletics Championships with a haul of 38 medals including: 13 gold; 13 silver; and 12 bronze medals.



Go **#TeamEthiopia!!**

Football Federation prioritising women



Meanwhile, 35 women received their CAF C Licences as part of the Ethiopian Football Federation (EFF) bid to prioritise women’s football.

The move comes after research showed that women’s teams in Ethiopia were largely coached by men, and women coaches were not up to speed with the requirements, hence the introduction of a platform for them to receive more education.

EFF Deputy Secretary General Meskerem Goshime Tadesse, the first woman in Ethiopia to hold such a position at EFF said: “This will help us develop women’s football immensely. Women’s football development cannot be achieved without the involvement of women coaches.

“Currently, up to 90% of women’s team coaches are men and this is not just here in our country but across the continent. We hope this course will change this and we shall see more women’s teams coached by experienced women coaches.

“Most of the participants are experienced former national team players currently coaching at different levels in Ethiopia.

“We hope this course will motivate other women to come to football. It is not just coaches we want to produce but we want to get women football administrators, managers and medical staff who know and understand the game.”

Manni, who has coached the Ethiopia women's football team commonly known as Lucy, made history in 2015 when she became the first woman tactician to coach a men's team – Dire Dawa Kenema in the Ethiopia Premier League.

Currently, only three teams in the 20-team Ethiopia Women's Premier League are coached by women with only one female assistant coach, a worrying statistic that Tadesse feels should improve with time.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Djibouti port to serve Ethiopia

Djibouti inaugurated a new \$90 million port in the town of Tadjourah in the Northern part of the country, that will serve as the main gateway for potash exports from Ethiopia's Afar and Tigray regions, where a number of foreign companies are developing potash mines.

Koshe landslide victims receive compensation

More than \$4 million is being distributed to the victims of Koshe landslide, which killed more than 100 people on 13th March.

The money was raised through a combination of private and government donations.

The cause of the landslide is yet to be determined.

Free legal aid service to be introduced

Ethiopia's Attorney General announced that a free Legal Aid Services Strategy will be introduced in the next fiscal year, aimed at bolstering the constitutional right that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law.

The Strategy will enable those who cannot afford to pay for legal services to get free legal advice.

Every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer will be required to render at least 50 hours of *pro bono publico* legal services a year.

DIASPORA CORNER

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PhD student Naima Ali has been awarded a highly competitive internship with the UK's Government Office for Science (GoS).



The scheme provides an opportunity for RCUK-funded PhD students to work for three months in one of a selected group of highly impactful organisations relevant to UK policy.

The GoS works to ensure that government policies and decisions are informed by the best scientific evidence and strategic long-term thinking. The placement offers the opportunity to work for the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, whose role is to advise the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Upon being offered the internship, Naima said: "I am honoured to have been awarded this internship. It will help me understand how scientific research influences government policies and how far scientific research is used to adjust current and future policy."

Based in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Naima currently works in the Surface Particles Engineering Laboratory under Dr Daryl Williams.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

Big Ride Ethiopia: Into the cradle of civilisation

Cyclist Thanks to pristine new roads, Ethiopia is now an exciting destination for cyclists...Expect tough climbs, friendly people, endless views and delicious food!, writes Pete Muir.



According to anthropologists, it was about 200,000 years ago that the first modern human beings originated in Africa. Another 100,000 years later they set out to colonise the rest of the world, by all accounts starting in the Horn of Africa, in what is now Ethiopia...By 50,000 years ago humans were in Europe. It took another 49,800 years for mankind's greatest achievement – the bicycle – to be invented...Leap forward to January 2017 and *Cyclist* is packing a modern carbon bicycle into a travel case to make the journey back to where it all began: Ethiopia.

The landlocked country in the northeast of Africa is not the first place you might think of when considering a cycling destination... It's been a truly extraordinary ride in a country that before today I would never have considered as a road cycling destination. It's proved to be fascinating and friendly, beautiful and challenging – everything I could have hoped for.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/4zuMfd>

Mars on Earth: Scientists look to the Danakil Depression for clues to alien life



The Danakil Depression is one of the hottest and most hostile places on earth. Not much can survive in Danakil. The average year-round temperature is 34.4 degrees Celsius and the area gets about 100 millimetres of rain per annum...Astonishingly, humans live here. For the Afar people it's home. Accompanied with long lines of donkeys, the Afar people mine rich salt from the ground to sell at local markets. It's remarkable they can work in such heat, over 50 degrees Celsius in the summer.



Scientists are now looking to the Danakil Depression for clues to alien life 🤖.

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

The Land of Salt and Fire



The New York Times also features Dallol in a Virtual Reality film that will transport you to the hottest place on Earth! Where camel caravans move salt across the vast plains, and

active geothermal zones turn into a landscape of psychedelic colours.



Watch the film at <https://goo.gl/sqwdys> or download the NYT VR app for a fully immersive experience.

Pilgrimage to Ethiopia's 12th-century iconic churches



The 11 medieval churches hewn from solid, volcanic rock in the heart of Ethiopia were built on the orders of King Lalibela in the 12th century. Lalibela set out to construct a "New Jerusalem" in Africa after Muslim conquests halted Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/NazD2o>



The churches were designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1978. The blocks were chiselled down, forming doors, windows, columns, various floors, trenches and ceremonial passages - some with openings to hermit caves and catacombs. Seven of the churches are organically embedded in the rock, while four are self-standing.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/NazD2o>

A Legendary Photographer Visits an Isolated Christian Community in Ethiopia



Smithsonian Magazine features stunning black and white photos by legendary photographer, Sebastião Salgado, of an isolated Christian community in Ethiopia's Simien Mountains, where an ancient way of life continues apace.

"In every step we discovered new things," Salgado explains. "You feel the power there."

"These communities are Christians from the beginning of time." In these communities, he saw churches fashioned from caves, Bibles written on animal skins and traditions that reflect Christianity's Judaic roots, such as forgoing milk and meat on Wednesdays and Fridays. He was especially taken with the highlanders' terraced farms: "I looked at all this incredible, sophisticated agriculture, I said, 'We had these 10,000 years ago.'"

Read more at <https://goo.gl/D789hr>

Beauty and Color: Scenes From Ethiopia



The Atlantic presents some stunning photographs from all corners of Ethiopia, to convince the reader why Ethiopia should be their next destination.

"Ethiopia is home to more than 100 million people and is composed of wildly varying landscapes, and an incredible diversity of ethnic and religious groups. *Lonely Planet* recently ranked Ethiopia among the top ten 2017 world tourist destinations."



Photo: Children from the Suri tribe pose in Ethiopia's southern Omo Valley region near Kibbish on September 25, 2016

More pictures at <https://goo.gl/BGuzhd>

Meet the Ethiopian tribe that recycles items the modern world discards into incredible fashion accessories



M"The Daasanach are a semi-nomadic tribe numbering approximately 50,000 individuals who live in the Omo Valley in southern Ethiopia. French photographer Eric Lafforgue has spent several years documenting the life and culture of these people, and how they have changed under the influence of modern manufactured goods...An interesting fashion trend amongst the Daasanach is their elaborate headgear, which they make from the strangest of materials bottle caps, wristwatches, hairclips, and other discarded pieces of plastic and metal."

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

Land restoration in Ethiopia: 'This place was abandoned ... This is incredible to me'



20 years of restoring the hills and river valley at Gergera has brought life back to this area of the Tigray region in Ethiopia's far north.



"The work has been painstaking, complex and multidimensional and continues to this day...The people took the initiative to rehabilitate the environment...and we became a model watershed for the region and the world. You can see how the area is transformed! Biodiversity has increased and we have hand dug wells at 1m deep because of recharge. And none of this is in vain. Now we have TVs in the houses. Before we slept on mats, now we have beds."

Read more at <https://goo.gl/tka28S>

Ethiopia's first botanic garden aims to preserve country's flora heritage

MONGABAY

When Ethiopia's first botanic garden was established six years ago, few Ethiopians knew of the country's flora heritage.

But with agro-ecological zones ranging from 125 meters below sea level to about 5,000 meters above sea level, Ethiopia boasts one of the richest flora heritages in Africa...Gullele Botanic Garden (GBG), situated on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, used for research, education, eco-tourism and conservation currently hosts 780 of the country's estimated 6,500 plant species.



The primary aim behind establishing the garden was to save plants that have economic value, are endemic, have medicinal value or are endangered.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/Lmpsx8>

Cheers! Researchers find way to make gluten-free beer



People with gluten intolerance have reasons to cheer. Researchers have found that *teff*, a small cereal native to Ethiopia that does not contain gluten, may be a promising raw material for malting and brewing beer.



The new study, published in the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*, showed that beers made with a white *teff* variety called *Witkop* may be a good alternative to traditionally brewed barley beers.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/D4uHXC>

Open Sesame! Tahini Spreads From Ethiopia To Israel And Beyond



The Israelis' affection for [Tahini] (and for hummus, of course, for which tahini is a key ingredient), has turned the country into a world-class sesame superpower. And Ethiopia is one of the greatest sesame producers in the world.

After coffee, sesame is the second largest export product in Ethiopia, writes Anat Barzilai.



According to the Ethiopian sesame seed exporters association, 335,000 tons of sesame were grown in the country in 2016 — some 15% of the world output! Only Myanmar grows more...Israel is the second largest buyer of Ethiopian sesame after China...Today, all the tahini made in Israel is produced with Ethiopian sesame.

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

Why runners are reaching for *teff*, the new supergrain



Move over chia seeds and quinoa, there's a new superfood in town...and Ethiopia's elite runners swear by it!

What makes *teff* such a nutritional powerhouse? This poppy-seed-like grain is high in protein, fibre, calcium, magnesium, iron, zinc and vitamin B6. It contains high levels of lysine, the amino acid that our bodies use to build and maintain muscle tissue. It's gluten free and easily digestible, so it's good for people who have #Celiac disease or other digestive conditions. And it has a low glycaemic index, so it's

a good choice for diabetics or others who need to closely regulate their blood sugar levels.



So, yeah, *teff* has a lot going for it, and it doesn't hurt that it tastes great and can be used in a wide variety of sweet and savoury dishes.

Read more at <https://goo.gl/wVoq9k>

NOTICES

Embassy Refurbishment

...Update: Consular Section completed

General refurbishment and maintenance works on the Embassy building has been ongoing since 8th February 2017, with the expected completion date of December 2017.



It is our sincere hope that these extensive renovations will allow us to restore the building back to its former glory, while at the same time, modernising it to provide the very best experience to our valued visitors and staff.

We are pleased to announce that Phase 1 of the refurbishment, the Consular Section, has been completed.

Phase 2 of the refurbishment, the Ground Floor, has begun. During this time, access to the Embassy will be via the Consular Section in the Basement until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and offer our sincere thanks for your patience, support and cooperation.

If you have any comments or concerns, please contact us at info@ethioembassy.org.uk or call us at 020 7589 7212.

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