



Ethiopian News

Autumn 2020

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Ambassador Teferi assumes post

Pledges to launch new era in Ethio-UK cooperation





Editorial

My first weeks in London

Guest editorial by H.E. Ambassador Teferi Melesse Desta

Since arriving in the London with my wife Mekdes and our two boys almost three weeks ago, it feels like I have hardly had a chance to catch my breath. It seems London’s dynamism, for which it is renowned, is well and truly alive even in the time of COVID-19.

Settling into life in London, meeting my staff and introductions to our many partners and stakeholders here have left me little time to pause and reflect as I assume my duties as Ethiopia’s new Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Thankfully, I can attempt to briefly do that here, in my first appearance within the pages of the Embassy’s monthly newsletter – a pillar of our excellent public relations work over the years.

It has been a source of great personal pride for my first appointment as Ambassador to be in the UK, a country with which Ethiopia has shared over 400 years of history. Add to that the fact that I am now leading the oldest African diplomatic mission in London and that I will be representing the interests of a 100,000-member strong Ethiopian diaspora, and the reason for my pride and delight could not be clearer.

Though I arrive at an interesting time in Britain’s recent history - with the pandemic lingering and Brexit’s final chapter on the horizon - I remain extremely optimistic about the future of our relations with the United Kingdom. I am confident that Ethiopia and the UK will stand hand-in-hand in the face of the uncertainties brought on by the threats of COVID-19, climate change and growing challenges to the multilateral system. As longstanding partners, our friendship with the UK



has never been fair-weather and it is my intent to expand our ties and strengthen our coordination further during my tour of duty.

In my first few weeks in London, I have had the pleasure of engaging a variety of stakeholders and constituents from the UK’s Minister for Africa, James Duddridge MP, right here in the heart of Westminster, to members of the Ethiopian

diaspora in cities and towns up and down the rest of the country. It is my ambition to forge new partnerships with our friends in the UK to encourage greater flows of investment, tourists and knowledge to Ethiopia.

Now more than ever, Ethiopia is stretching out to the world, recapturing her confidence and ambition as part of the transformational reforms launched by the administration of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed. The UK, through its vision for a more global Britain, is uniquely positioned as one of Ethiopia’s oldest partners, to take advantage of these unmatched opportunities.

In the weeks, months and years ahead I look forward to working towards these ends, taking this great responsibility forward into a new era of partnership and collaboration between the UK and Ethiopia.

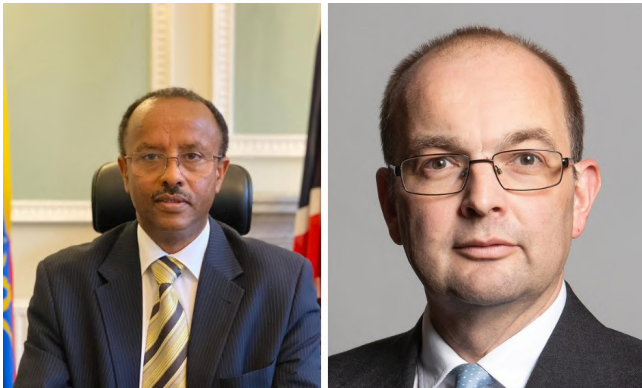
Ambassador Teferi’s bio is available on request. Please email press@ethioembassy.org.uk.



Ambassador Teferi meets UK Minister for Africa

In his third week in office, Ambassador Teferi Melesse, met with Foreign Office Minister for Africa, James Duddridge MP, for introductory discussions.

The Minister briefed the Ambassador on his recent visit to Ethiopia, expressing great optimism in the current administration's reforms and the opportunities it would yield for further UK investment into the country.



The Ambassador welcomed further UK investment, urging UK businesses to enhance their efforts while personally assuring all investors of the Embassy's readiness to support and engage with them throughout their investment journey. In particular, the Ambassador encouraged the British pharmaceutical industry to explore the untapped opportunities present within Ethiopia, highlighting the country as a gateway to the rest of Africa.

The Minister lauded Ethiopia's leading role in climate change initiatives, namely its focus on the renewable energy sector as seen through extensive projects in hydropower, geothermal and wind.

Finally, the Minister gave assurances that the UK would continue to maintain its commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on overseas development assistance as it exits the European Union, confirming that Ethiopia would not be affected. The Ambassador welcomed this commitment and expressed confidence that bilateral ties between the two countries would be strengthened following the UK's departure from the EU.

...Diplomatic ties

In other news, the *Evening Standard* ran a piece on Mr Duddridge wearing a "splendid tie" at the House of Commons in August.



James Duddridge spotted wearing an Ethiopian tie

The inspiration for the tie is a design by renowned Ethiopian artiste, Afewerk Tekle – one of his many masterpieces – in this case a stained-glass window entitled "The struggle and aspiration of the African people", which hangs in Africa Hall at the United Nations building in Addis Ababa.

According to the Minister, the tie was "a gift from the Minister of Finance in Ethiopia...I promised him I would wear it at the dispatch box and send him a photo."



The Minister added, "Diplomatic ties with Ethiopia are strong." Too right!

Lord Bates appointed as new Trade Envoy to Ethiopia

On 5th October, British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson MP, appointed Lord Bates as the new Trade Envoy to Ethiopia.

Lord Bates said this of his important new role:



“It is a great honour to have been appointed as the Prime Minister’s Trade Envoy to one of the fastest growing economies in the world – Ethiopia”

“I very much look forward to meeting those responsible for the success of trade and investment between the UK and Ethiopia and listening to their views on how we can expand this in the future for the mutual benefit of Ethiopia and the UK. I look forward to visiting Ethiopia as soon as possible within the current guidelines and restrictions.”

Trade Envoys are British Parliamentarians appointed by the British Prime Minister to develop the bilateral trade and investment relationship with emerging countries with substantial trade and investment potential. Lord Bates is a Conservative member of the House of Lords.

He was previously Minister of State at the Department for International Development between October 2016 and July 2019 and a Minister of State at the Home Office from May 2015 until March 2016.

Prime Minister Abiy to address FT Africa Summit

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed will deliver the opening keynote address at this year’s Financial Times (FT) Africa Summit.



Following his keynote, the Prime Minister will be interviewed by FT Editor, Roula Khalaf.

The Summit, to be held virtually, is scheduled to take place on 12th October and will also feature two other Ethiopians – Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Ethiopia’s former Health and Foreign Minister, and the current Director-General of the World Health Organisation, who will also deliver a keynote address; and Samrawit Fikru, Chief Executive Officer of RIDE (Hybrid Designs), who will take part in the Doing Business in Africa session.

Further information is available at <https://africa.live.ft.com/home>.

Embassy staff pledge month's salary to 'Dine for Ethiopia' initiative

As part of the 'Dine for Ethiopia' fundraising initiative, launched by the Prime Minister last month, Embassy staff have each pledged a month's salary to support the development of three projects in Gorgora, Wonchi and Koysa.

The 'Dine for Ethiopia' initiative follows on from the hugely successful 'Dine for Sheger' project, which last year raised significant funds for the 'Beautifying Sheger' and 'Entoto Park' projects.

DINE for ETHIOPIA - LEAVE A LEGACY

The new initiative aims to raise 3 billion Birr within two months and wealthier donors can attend a 10-million Birr V-VIP and a five-million Birr VIP dinner programmes which will be hosted by the Prime Minister in October.

A committee established to spearhead the resource mobilisation has begun engaging stakeholders at all levels. Donating is open to all, including friends of Ethiopia. A new SMS scheme and a diaspora account have also been launched to expand fundraising activities (details below).

Foreign Affairs Minister, Gedu Andargachew briefed resident Ambassadors on the initiative, saying the "Dine for Ethiopia" National Scheme will create jobs in addition to building a green resilient economy and transforming the image of the country.

He also called upon the diplomatic community to contribute to the National Greenery and Beautification Projects.



Prime Minister Abiy welcomes guests at the 'Dine for Sheger' evening in 2019

Businesses and the community at large can buy tickets individually or for their family, or company.

3 BILLION BIRR FOR PROJECTS IN

GORGORA
Amhara Region

WONCHI
Oromia Region

KOYSHA
South Region


DINE FOR
ETHIOPIA
LEAVE A LEGACY

 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

TOGETHER FOR A PROSPEROUS ETHIOPIA

FOR
10
&
5 MIL.
BIRR

FOR
DIASPORA

DEPOSITS
Plus Domestic
Contributions of Any Amount

1000339911267

Commercial Bank of Ethiopia,
Addis Ababa Branch

SWIFT Code: **CBETETA**

Contributions of Any Amount

0100101300591

National Bank of Ethiopia

SWIFT Code: **CBETETAA**

In addition, all citizens are invited to leave a legacy by texting any contribution amount via

SMS • 333

Embassy celebrates International Coffee Day

Every year on 1st October, International Coffee Day is celebrated to promote coffee as the world's most beloved beverage, and to show appreciation for all the people around the world who work hard to bring it to us, including farmers, roasters, baristas and coffee shop owners. It is also an opportunity to promote sustainable coffee practices and to raise awareness of the plight of coffee growers.

...Ethiopian Cup of Excellence

This year, the Embassy kicked off celebrations by paying a visit to Queens of Mayfair, a coffee shop in London that is serving one of the rarest and finest brews in the world - the Ethiopian Cup of Excellence Coffee.

The coffee shop recently made headlines across the world for serving the Ethiopian Cup of Excellence coffee, which retails at £50 for one serving, making it the most expensive cup of coffee in the UK!

Ambassador Teferi and the Business Diplomacy Team were one of the lucky few to try the coffee.



Ambassador Teferi and Mrs Workaferahu Aklilu from the Business Diplomacy Department sample the coffee

The coffee is graded a 91/95 and has undergone rigorous tasting and testing. It is expertly weighed to the gram, ground by hand and then brewed in a v60 filter and enjoyed in a crystal wine glass. The flavour develops and intensifies as the coffee cools and is light, fruity and floral in flavour.

Co-owner of Queens of Mayfair, Victoria Sheppard states "we pride ourselves on the finest produce throughout our menu at Queens of Mayfair, to have such a rare and highly sought-after coffee to offer the true connoisseur highlights the standards we are aiming for".



Queens of Mayfair was opened by sisters Grace and Victoria Sheppard in August 2020 (Courtesy of Queens of Mayfair)

Difference Coffee Co, an artisan UK roaster which supplies Queens of Mayfair, was one of only two UK companies invited to buy the coffee at auction in June – the other company being Harrods.

Owner of Difference Coffee, Amir Gehl said "We are extremely excited to continue our collaboration with Queens of Mayfair in terms of pushing the boundaries of what is possible in terms of quality and by showcasing one of the world's best certified coffees. Not only is it an incredible and rare commodity it is also making a difference to the farmers in Ethiopia".

The exclusive batch of the Ethiopian coffee, which won first place at the Cup of Excellence competition, retails for up to £2,000 per kilogram and the farmer receives full auction price, making the coffee truly fairtrade.

The farmer in question is Nigussie Gameda Mude, who grows his crop in a three-hectare area of the Sidama region of Ethiopia and had a limited haul of 270kg. Queens of Mayfair managed to get 225g of his beans, which is equivalent to 15 cups of coffee.



Nigussie Gemeda Mude, who took home the Cup of Excellence grand prize and sold his coffee at international auction for \$185 USD per pound - that's 15,000ETB a kg.

Speaking exclusively to the Embassy, Victoria Sheppard, co-Founder of the coffee shop, which she started with her sister Grace, said the Ethiopian coffee was so popular that they have managed to get their hands on a limited quantity.

...coffee is the green gold

At an award ceremony on 24th September in Addis Ababa, Nigussie Gemeda Mude, the Cup of Excellence Ethiopia competition winner received his record-breaking cheque from the sale of his Sidama coffee from the Minister of Agriculture, H.E. Oumer Hussein.



The Minister said, "Quality deserves recognition. For the first time in Ethiopia's coffee history our farmers sold 1kg coffee for \$407. This year's Cup of Excellence has surely put our coffee on the map. Thank you to our development partners and all those involved in the coffee market chain specially our farmers...This is why we call coffee green gold."

....Embassy staff celebrate International Coffee Day

Meanwhile, diplomats and staff at the Embassy celebrated International Coffee Day with a traditional coffee ceremony, in the presence of our guests of honour Victoria Sheppard (Queens of Mayfair) and Enrico Molino (Difference Coffee Co).



The coffee for the ceremony was provided by ETHIOCOFFEE Importers and Distributors.



Coverage of International Coffee Day celebrations will be available on our YouTube page soon. Subscribe at www.youtube.com/EthioEmbassyUK.

...A taste of Ethiopia in the Great British Bake Off tent

Viewers of popular British show, *The Great British Bake Off*, got a little taste of Ethiopia on 29th September.

One of the show's contestants, Mark Lutton, from Liverpool, paid homage to Ethiopia with a biscuit creation featuring the Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony for his showstopper.



In a social media post, Mark said:

“Some people are asking about the inspiration for my showstopper. I’ve visited Ethiopia a few times for work, and have been fortunate enough to experience traditional coffee ceremonies.”

Referring to the strong coffee flavour while tasting the creation, Paul Hollywood, one of the show's judges said, “I really like the coffee flavour.” To which Prue Leith, the other judge said, “It will keep you up all night, Paul!”

Watch the “Biscuit Week” episode on Channel 4 On Demand at <http://bit.ly/GBBOxETH>.

...Ethiopian coffee ranked the best in the world

In related news, Ethiopia was ranked the best coffee country in the world by hundreds of professional coffee tasters.

This is according to data from 1,229 coffees from around the world that were harvested from 2010 to 2018 and graded by professional tasters certified by the Coffee Quality Institute – a non-profit organisation that works internationally to improve the quality of coffee and the lives of the people who produce it.



The chart shows where coffees from the top 16 countries fell on the grading scale, with a maximum score of 100. Each coffee is represented by a dot.

Coffees from Ethiopia fell higher on the scale than those from any other country with an average score of 84.88.

Two other African nations, Kenya and Uganda, rounded out the podium.

The chart excludes the coffee-growing regions that had fewer than 20 coffees graded.

Maaza Mengiste's *The Shadow King* makes Booker Prize shortlist

On 15th September, Ethio-American author, Maaza Mengiste was one of the six authors shortlisted for the 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction.



Set during Italy's 1935 invasion of Ethiopia, the novel explores female power and casts light on the women soldiers written out of African and European history.

With the threat of Mussolini's army looming, the recently orphaned Hirut longs to do more than care for the wounded and bury the dead. When Ethiopia loses hope, it is Hirut who offers a plan to maintain morale, and soon inspires other women to take up arms.

In January this year, the Embassy hosted the UK launch of the novel where Maaza said it took her ten years to research and write the novel, and in the process, she ended up learning Italian.

When asked why she focused on women she said that that wasn't her plan, initially. Her research changed everything when she started finding hints and old photographs of Ethiopian women who had been enlisted into the army.

Speaking exclusively to the Embassy, Maaza said: "I am deeply honoured and grateful to find myself on the shortlist for the Booker Prize. It is an indescribable feeling to realise that a work you have done in solitude over many years is being recognised like this."

"This story of Ethiopia's women and their contributions in war is a reminder of the many women across Africa who have made a difference in world history. I am proud to be their daughter, their sister."



Born in Addis Ababa, Maaza is a Fulbright Scholar and professor in the MFA in Creative Writing and Literary Translation programme at Queens College, she is also the author of *Beneath the Lion's Gaze*, which was named one of the *Guardian's* Ten Best Contemporary African Books.

The shortlist of six books was selected from 162 submitted books and was selected by a panel of five judges, including Ethio-British writer and broadcaster, Lemn Sissay.

The 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction, the UK's most prestigious literary award, is open to writers of any nationality, writing in English and published in the UK or Ireland between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020.

The winner will be announced on Tuesday 17th November in an event broadcast from London's Roundhouse in collaboration with BBC Arts and will take part in the BBC's first digital event in partnership with Southbank Centre on Saturday 21st November as part of its 'Inside Out' series.

The shortlisted authors each receive £2,500 and a specially bound edition of their book. The winner will receive a further £50,000 and can expect instant international recognition.

Good luck Maaza!

Addis Fine Art represents Ethiopia at the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair, London

Addis Fine Art will be exhibiting at the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair in London, taking place between 8th and 10th October at Somerset House.

1 ——— 54
Contemporary
African Art Fair



This will be the fifth time the gallery exhibits at the Fair. It will be presenting new works by Ethiopian artists, Addis Gezehagn, Ermias Kifleyesus, Tsedaye Makonnen and Tesfaye Urgessa.



Tsedaye Makonnen, Astral Sea II, 2019 (Courtesy of Addis Fine Art)

Each of the artists will be showcasing powerful works which explore the tumultuous nature of the human condition, relating to topics of migration, race and identity.

Thursday 8th October - By invitation
Friday 9th October - By invitation
Saturday 10th October - General Public
7th - 12th October - 1-54 Online

Founded in 2013, 1-54 is the leading international art fair dedicated to contemporary art from Africa and its diaspora. For further information about the fair, visit <https://www.1-54.com>.

Founded in 2016 by Rakeb Sile and Mesai Haileleul, Addis Fine Art is a pioneering gallery based in Addis Ababa and London.



Addis Fine Art founders, Rakeb Sile and Mesai Haileleul

Listed as one of the “Most Important Young Galleries in the World” (Artsy 2019), it is the very first local white cube space and international platform based in Ethiopia. The gallery focuses on highlighting modern and contemporary fine art from the Horn of Africa region and its Diaspora.

Since the Gallery’s first art fair participation at the Armory Show, New York in March 2016, Addis Fine Art has been invited to over thirty international art fairs and now attends 8-10 fairs a year, including Art Dubai, Cape Town Art Fair and 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair.

Through the quality of its represented artists and its unique position as the only Ethiopian gallery active on the international circuit, Addis Fine Art is quickly becoming one of the leading galleries from Africa. It has been lauded for facilitating critical engagement with the local and mainstream art markets and championing an underrepresented, yet, rich space in modern and contemporary fine art.

...Inaugural exhibition

The gallery is set to relocate to their permanent new space in South Kensington’s Cromwell Place on 27th October, with an exhibition of Ethiopian modernist Tadesse Mesfin. “Pillars of Life” will be Mesfin’s first-ever European solo show, which will run until 15th November. For further information, visit <http://bit.ly/AFaxCromwellPlace>.

COVID-19 Situation Update

...cases surge past 79,000

As of 6th October, Ethiopia has reported 79,437 cases with 44,189 recoveries and 1,230 fatalities.

Addis Ababa is currently the epicentre of the virus accounting for more than 50% of all confirmed cases.

...Ethiopia hits 1 million tests milestone

Ethiopia, Africa's second-most populous nation with about 110 million people, has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the East Africa region.

A nationwide month-long testing campaign was launched in August to determine the next steps Ethiopia would undertake and the government is intensifying its mass COVID-19 testing campaign and mobilising resources to ensure there is no shortage of laboratory materials and quarantine centres. It is also boosting its testing capacity at border points with neighbouring countries.

So far, 1,307,632 laboratory tests have been conducted.

Ethiopia's Minister of Health, Dr Lia Tadesse said:

“As we pass 1 million COVID-19 tests, I would like to sincerely thank all our health workers working tirelessly, particularly those working as sample collectors, our lab technicians, rapid response teams, contact tracers, logistic teams, drivers and all coordinators and leaders of all labs and facilities across the country...I also thank the community for your support in the process and for wearing masks, practicing social distancing and hand hygiene to stop the spread.”

...COVID-19 test kit factory opened

On 13th September, Prime Minister Abiy inaugurated a COVID-19 test kit factory, at the Bole Lemi industrial park near Addis Ababa.

The BGI factory is the first coronavirus test kit production factory in Ethiopia and will produce 6–8 million test kits a year and can expand the annual capacity to 10 million in accordance with local demand and exports, with priority given to other African countries. The factory will help save much-needed foreign currency that the Ethiopian government is spending on importing test kits.



Prime Minister Abiy said “The commencement of COVID-19 test kits production will boost the testing capacity of Ethiopia and other African countries,” adding “the factory will additionally provide commercial laboratory services for a total of three million transit passengers at Addis Ababa Bole International Airport and in Addis Ababa city,” thus boosting the testing capacity of Ethiopia and other African countries.

Chen Songheng, General Manager of BGI Ethiopia, a subsidiary company of China's biotech giant, BGI Genomics Co., Ltd., said: “We have opened our first factory, not only in Ethiopia but also in the whole of Africa, to provide localised production in Ethiopia. Our aim is to make affordable test kits for all African countries to help them in the fight against COVID-1,” Chen added.

Chen also applauded the Ethiopian government's high-level support for the new test kit factory. "We appreciate the support from the Ethiopian government. With the Ethiopian government alongside us, we feel a very strong confidence in the fight against COVID-19," said Chen.

After the COVID-19 pandemic is over, the factory will diversify and later be converted to produce test kits for HIV, malaria, tuberculosis, and other locally needed RT PCR test kit products.

...UNICEF, UKAID and USAID hand over 380 oxygen concentrators to Ethiopia

On 18th September UNICEF handed over 380 oxygen concentrators to the Ministry of Health to support its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The oxygen concentrators and their accessories were procured with funding from the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). A 100 of the concentrators will be allocated to the recently inaugurated field hospital in Addis Ababa under St Peter's Hospital.



USAID Ethiopia Mission Director Sean Jones (left) and partners from UNICEF and UKAID handed over new oxygen concentrators to Minister of Health Dr Lia Tadesse (centre), to support COVID-19 response in Ethiopia.

"I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to the US and the UK governments for their continued commitment to supporting Ethiopia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Minister of Health Dr Lia Tadesse. "We are delighted that these concentrators have come at a time when Ethiopia

needs them most. With the increasing number of COVID patients in the country, these concentrators, as well as previously donated ventilators, will help save lives that would have otherwise been lost due to COVID-19."

The oxygen concentrators will not only support the treatment of patients suffering from severe forms of COVID-19, but in the long-term, they will be repurposed for the treatment of pneumonia in children, one of the leading causes of child deaths in Ethiopia.

"The British Government has a valued partnership with the Government of Ethiopia to address the challenges of COVID-19. We look forward to continued collaboration and partnership to address this global challenge and strengthen essential health care provision."

**Dr Christian Rogg,
FCDO Development Director in Ethiopia**

"Today's event is a great example of the power of partnerships, which has made possible the procurement of this essential oxygen equipment. Only together will we – as partners, as countries, and together as a strong, unified global community – prevail over the coronavirus pandemic," said USAID Mission Director Sean Jones.

UNICEF has provided 1,000 pulse oximeters to COVID-19 treatment centres, 6,000 pulse oximeters for non-COVID related treatment and personal protective equipment for over 200,000 health workers in Ethiopia since the start of the outbreak of the pandemic.

...committee assesses schools' readiness to open

The Ministry of Education has said that an assessment committee is currently underway checking whether schools in Ethiopia are ready to reopen amid the pandemic.

Minister of Education, Dr Getahun Mekuria, said the country has been undertaking a wide range of

preoperational activities to realize safe reopening of schools.

The committee, comprised of Health and Education Ministries and parents' representatives, will assess if the schools have adequate facilities and protective supplies vital to preventing the spread of the virus.

The plan is for schools to have classes capable of accommodating pupils while adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Both public and private schools which fail to meet the requirements stipulated by the committee will not be allowed to reopen and enrol students.

At least 25 million students are expected to return to school once the assessments have been completed and will take place in stages, with primary schools set to open first. Teaching will be offered in shifts based on individual schools' needs.

...COVID-19 test results via text

Ethiopia has unveiled a system through which people can receive their COVID-19 test results via text messages, within three hours via the Ethiopian Public Health Institute's regular hotline number, 8335.

...EDTF donates 6.6m gloves

The Ethiopian Diaspora Trust Fund (EDTF) has donated 6.6 million gloves to protect health workers fighting COVID-19 in Ethiopia.

This is EDTF's second donation to support Ethiopia's efforts in the fight against the spread of the virus. In June, it donated 40m Birr's worth of medical supplies to the Ministry of Health.

...Addis Ababa to cover health workers' income tax

The Addis Ababa City Administration passed a decision to cover the cost of income tax for workers in health institutions.

The support will continue until COVID-19 is no longer declared a public health threat.

...The Guardian features Ethiopia's battle against the pandemic in a photo essay

In a series of sobering photographs, Ethiopian photographer Yonas Tadesse, has been documenting the men and women fighting coronavirus since the beginning of the outbreak. This series focuses on the taskforce at the Eka Kotebe hospital in Addis Ababa.



"Doctors, nurses, janitors, security guards and drivers donned hats they had never dreamed of wearing as they worked to develop systems and techniques to minimise the damage from the virus – often at the cost of their health, their home lives, their reputations, and sometimes their lives."

"My name is Paulos Seid. I was born and raised in a town called Elebabor, Gore. I am married and a father of a son and twin daughters. I'd worked at Kotebe hospital as a security guard for five months when the coronavirus pandemic was reported in our country."



"During the preparations to battle the virus, there was a big shortage of manpower, so I was asked to carry the responsibility of 'sprayer'. I did not hesitate. Every time I do the job, I feel that I'm eradicating the virus, so I feel proud."

To see more photos and the stories behind them, go to <http://bit.ly/GuardianCOVID19-ETH>.



With cases continuing to rise at an alarming rate, help support Ethiopia through the Coronavirus crisis by donating to our appeal.

Your donations will help provide essential support to the vital work that the Government of Ethiopia is doing to safeguard the health and wellbeing of the people of Ethiopia.

For further information, visit our website at <http://bit.ly/EEUK-COVID19Appeal>.

HOW TO DONATE

By Bank Transfer

Bank: Lloyds Bank
Account No: 43178968
Sort Code: 30-65-41

By Cheque

Cheques should be made out to “**The Ethiopian Embassy in London**” and mailed to:

Embassy of Ethiopia
17 Princes Gate
LONDON SW7 1PZ

HOW YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your donation today can help people in urgent need

£50 can provide a food and water for vulnerable families

£100 can provide vital PPE for frontline healthcare professionals

£500 can contribute to the procurement of life-saving medical equipment for healthcare facilities

DONATE TODAY. SAVE LIVES.

Ethiopia has no intention of harming downstream countries with GERD

In his address at the United Nations General Assembly on 25th September, Prime Minister Abiy reiterated Ethiopia's longstanding ambition to reach a mutually beneficial outcome for all parties with regards to the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).



In a pre-recorded statement, the Premier said:

“I want to make it abundantly clear that we have no intention to harm [downstream countries]. What we are essentially doing is to meet our electricity demands from one of the cleanest sources of energy. We cannot afford to continue keeping more than 65 million of our people in the dark.”

“I want to assure you that we are firm in our commitment to addressing the concerns of downstream countries and reaching a mutually-beneficial outcome in the context of the ongoing African Union-led process,” the Prime Minister added.

...Ethiopia remains committed to UN ideals

In a high-level meeting to commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, world leaders in the General Assembly gathered in a virtual format on 21st September to adopt a declaration honouring the multilateral framework

put in place by its founders in 1945, pledging to better live out the promise to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.

Entitled “*Declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations*,” the text lays out 12 succinct commitments to reanimate global resolve: leave no one behind, protect the planet, promote peace, abide by international law, place women and girls at the centre, build trust, improve digital cooperation, upgrade the United Nations, ensure sustainable financing, boost partnerships, work with youth, and, finally, be prepared.

In his address, Prime Minister Abiy said that at a time when the world needs global leadership and collective action to tackle increasingly complex challenges, the ongoing standoff in the Security Council is undermining its credibility, demonstrating the need for reform that, among other things, addresses the historic injustice against Africa, through adequate representation. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals has also been slowed by COVID-19, with an undeniable burden on African countries requiring a stimulus package for recovery efforts.

“Ethiopia, as a founding member of the UN, is immensely proud of our longstanding and significant contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations...Ethiopia is also fully committed to the UN’s transformative agenda of ensuring sustainable development for all on a safe and secure planet. We have also been responding to the call for climate action through our Green Legacy Initiative, part of our efforts to build a green and climate-resilient economy.”

The Prime Minister also highlighted the reforms undertaken in Ethiopia since 2018:

“Over the past two years, we have opened up the political space and promoted the exercise of democratic freedoms and human rights.”

PM Abiy’s full statement is available on request. Please email press@ethioembassy.org.uk.

Press briefing on the current issues in Ethiopia

On 24th September, PM Office spokesperson Billene Seyoum and Attorney General Dr Gedion Timothewos resumed press briefings to English-speaking journalists - international and local - at the government's new media studio in Addis Ababa.

Billene began with a “**New Year broad overview**” listing the successes of the past year including the widening of the political space.



PM Abiy's winning of the Nobel Peace Prize was a recognition of what Ethiopia, but also what Africa, can offer the world. She then listed other key achievements which included Ethiopia's first satellite into space; the first filling of the GERD, “proving that Ethiopians can come together to successfully meet the goals they have set.” Ethiopia's Green Legacy has met targets set for the year, which had also seen the initiation and completion of the Sheger and Unity Parks.

Illicit financial flows, illegal transfer of weapons and human trafficking were brought to light and weapons seized - a result of good coordination between regional and federal authorities, who brought the perpetrators to book.

Ease of doing business has been improved with an online portal and the tax system has been modernised with Addis Ababans now able to pay their tax online. Agricultural productivity increased and economic growth was encouraging with 3.3 million jobs created particularly in agriculture and the service sectors.

Large-scale government projects including enterprise development and sectoral financing support, and the extension of the private sector, had contributed enormously.

Citizen-centred diplomacy has continued to support the repatriation of citizens from around the world who wished to return to Ethiopia.

Concerning COVID, Billene said Ethiopia had championed collective leadership across the continent and had set up 54 laboratories across the country, which soon generated testing results within 24 hours, down from the original 7 days.”

Rule of Law

The new Attorney General Dr Gedion Timothewos then spoke on the peace and security situation. Compared to the previous year there is now stability in the majority of the country as action is being taken by both the federal and regional governments, with support from local communities, who are at the centre of policing, and from the Ministry of Peace. Further threats and terrorist activities have been thwarted, but these cases “don't make it into the news,” Dr Gedion said.



The rule of law has been strengthened through law enforcement efforts. New judges have been appointed so there will be less burden on the judiciary. The government is committed to the reforms that have begun, despite speculation to the contrary - it is “a multi-dimensional journey”. Reforms are deep and entrenched attitudes mean it will take time especially in the democratisation sector.

Politicians are not charged because of their political activities but because of their engagement in violence and “the upcoming election will be free and fair and the ongoing trials will not impact the election, which is run on a party basis - not just on personalities.”

Watch the full press briefing at: <http://bit.ly/Sept24PressBriefing>.

Parliament approves holding of postponed elections

During an extraordinary session on 22nd September, the House of Peoples Representatives passed a resolution allowing Ethiopia to hold its general election by September next year, with adherence to COVID-19 guidelines laid out by the Ministry of Health.

Ethiopia was to have held its national election on 29th August but postponed it due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Minister of Health Dr Lia Tadesse said COVID-19 won't pose a threat to conducting the postponed election if precautions are taken, and Ethiopia has benchmarked best preventive practices from around the world and implemented them, and "the people have been implementing precautionary measures and developing protective awareness."

With regards to political campaigning, candidates can do door-to-door campaigning. Public gatherings and rallies can be held subject to adherence to COVID-19 guidelines.

The National Electoral Board of Ethiopia will announce the exact election schedule in due course.

...50 million expected to vote

In a recent media briefing, the National Electoral Board said around 50 million Ethiopians are expected to cast their vote in the upcoming general election.

50,900 polling stations are ready around the country 152,700 people have been nominated by the board to register voters ahead of the poll. Another 254,900 have been appointed to administer the election process at the polling stations.

The Board has secured voter-registration forms (in five local languages), voters' smart ID cards, transparent ballot boxes and voting equipment including keys, bags and other containers.

Ethiopia to launch second satellite into space in December 2020; 10 more by 2035

Ethiopia seeks to advance its space science development and will launch the country's second satellite on 20th December from China.

Named ET-SMART-RSS, the second earth observation nano-satellite was designed by Ethiopian engineers in collaboration with China's Smart Satellite Technology Corporation under an initiative co-funded by both Ethiopia and China.

Director-General of the Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute (ESSTI), Dr Solomon Belay said, "The major mission of the second satellite is flood and disaster prediction, and agriculture and environment are its secondary missions."

The satellite is also expected to collect data in areas in Ethiopia not covered by the first satellite, which was launched in December 2019 and is used for weather forecasts, environment and crop monitoring.

Dr Solomon said work is in progress to launch ETRSS-2 in 2022.

Dr Belay said, "In the next 10 years, we will launch seven satellites including a communication satellite next year. We are planning to launch 10 more satellites in the next 15 years."

Ethiopia also plans to set up a satellite assembly and manufacturing plant in the country that will also serve the region.

"Once Ethiopia's satellite assembling and manufacturing centre is completed, East African countries won't have to send their satellites to Japan, China or Europe. They can come to Ethiopia and test and assemble their satellites here," Dr Belay said, which "would further pave the way for regional collaboration and integration."

With its Entoto Observatory and Research Centre, the only one of its kind in Eastern Africa, Ethiopia has been collaborating with astronomers from around the world as well as training students from the region.

New currency notes unveiled

On 14th September, Ethiopia unveiled a new set of banknotes of 10, 50 and 100 Birr, and introduced a new 200 Birr note.

According to PM Abiy, who unveiled the new currency, the new notes will “curb financing of illegal activities; corruption and contraband”, adding that “introducing the changes in our currency notes was deemed necessary to salvage the economy.”

Enhanced security features on the new notes will also cease counterfeit production, the Prime Minister added.



Local banks were instructed to immediately begin issuing new notes.

The new and old notes will remain in circulation until December, following which the older notes of 10, 50 and 100 denominations will be demonetised.

Ethiopia's first Braille newspaper launched

A young Ethiopian journalist has produced and distributed the country's first Braille newspaper, allowing visually impaired Ethiopians to access information.

The newspaper, called *Fetil*, (“thread” in Amharic), will be published every Wednesday covering social, economic and political issues. It will also include special investigative reports on the challenges that people with disabilities face in Ethiopia.



In an interview with *BBC Amharic*, Fiyori Tewelde, said, “There are around four million Ethiopians with a visual impairment and I noticed that they didn't have access to information - and they miss out on things like job vacancy announcements that are published in the print media.”

Copies of the first edition were given to the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind, government officers and other organisations. It will also be sold on the streets of Addis Ababa and cost 30 Birr (£0.64).



**VISIT | INVEST | TRADE
IN THE LAND OF ORIGINS**

Two telecom licences to be issued by March

The Ethiopian Communication Authority (ECA) has announced a decision to issue licences to two telecom operators by March 2021.

Bidding documents are currently being reviewed by ECA and the bidding process will start within a month and remain open for 40—50 days, with special attention given to communication service improvement and national security.



In June last year, Ethiopia formally invited foreign telecom companies to buy a 40% stake in Ethio Telecom, as part of Ethiopia's Home-grown Economic Reform Agenda – ECA received 12 bids from interested parties.

A 5% stake will be sold to Ethiopian citizens.

As well as service providers, the privatisation of Ethio Telecom has attracted a number of telecom infrastructure companies such as Helios Towers, a UK based telecom infrastructure developer.

...mobile money use on the rise

In related news, it was reported that mobile money is taking off in Ethiopia and the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the trend.

According to a Deutsche Welle report, the dramatic increase in the number of mobile-money providers and subscribers in recent months has made Jijiga a leader among Ethiopian cities. In the Somali region, the main providers are HelloCash, which has been present there for years, E-Birr and Sahay.

In Addis Ababa, using a phone to pay is not yet commonplace, but companies such as Amole have found ways to target new users.

A recent policy shift allowing non-financial institutions to act as mobile-money providers could make mobile money more accessible.

"The new proclamation enables technology services providers like ourselves to have an electronic payment issuer licence, giving us more flexibility acquiring customers, merchants, agents and running transactions," says Samson Getu, the vice president of operations at Amole. "It really gave us a lot of room for growing and expansion."

Despite its many negative impacts, COVID-19 has given the mobile-money market a boost. The government introduced incentives for citizens to increase their use of digital payment methods.

Paperless customs service launched

The Customs Commission of Ethiopia has introduced a fully paperless online service that allows traders to get one window service online.

The new service, launched in the presence of PM Abiy, is integrated with the banking system and will enable Ethiopia to provide modern and seamless customs clearance services.

It also brings transparency, avoids corruption, invoicing fraud and shortens the lengthy process, which many importers and exporters in Ethiopia have experienced in the past.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM



Limalimo Lodge open for business

Limalimo lodge, a remote mountain eco-lodge in the spectacular landscape of Ethiopia's Simien Mountains, has re-opened its doors to customers following months of being closed due to coronavirus.

Located in the Simien Mountains National Park north of Gondar, the lodge is built using sustainable techniques, with just fourteen rooms which combine simple luxury and elegant design in a stunning setting. The Lodge also prides itself on bringing sustainable tourism to the area, with minimal environmental impact, and creating jobs in the local community.

Limalimo Lodge contributes \$10 per night to the Africa Wildlife Foundation for each guest that stays with them, which supports a range of conservation efforts in the park, including the Adisge Village Conservation school.

In an interview with the Embassy, the Lodge manager said that “99% of staff are from the local area, and we have continued to employ all staff (on full wages) throughout the pandemic.”

“We have also been supporting the local community more widely with food packs and will be repeating the effort shortly. To date more than 1,200 people have benefited from the program”

Shiferaw Asrat, Limalimo's founder, said:

“We can't wait to get back to doing what we love: showing people from all over the world this beautiful park... It's so beautiful up at the lodge these days and the whole team are excited to get back to doing what they love.”

The Simien Mountains are home to the largest population of the Gelada baboon, which live in large groups of up to 200 individuals, the Walia Ibex (a horned mountain goat) and the Ethiopian wolf - all endemic to Ethiopia - as well as leopards, various antelopes, hyenas and more.



A troop of Geladas at the Simien Mountains National Park

There is rich birdlife including lammergeier vultures, tawny eagles and thick billed ravens. Over 180 species of bird are found within the national park – five of which are seen nowhere else.

Massive erosion has created jagged mountain peaks and a dramatic escarpment that stretches for miles with breath-taking views over the rugged lowlands below. The park includes Ras Dejen, Ethiopia's highest mountain at 4,542m. The park was listed by UNESCO in 1978, as the second ever site of outstanding beauty.

The lodge recently won a “traveller’s choice award” from TripAdvisor, which is based on a full year of Tripadvisor reviews, placing them in the top 10% of hospitality businesses.

For further information and bookings, visit the Lodge’s website at <https://limalimolodge.com>.

Ministry deliberates plan to reopen tourism

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism also held discussions with various stakeholders, from the private sector including hotel owners and tour operators and government officials, on ways of reopening Ethiopia’s tourism sector in adherence to COVID-19 precautionary measures.

Discussions focused on a proposal tabled by tourism experts, on the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, which has stalled the tourism sector for months.

The Minister of Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Dr Hirut Kassaw, said recommendations from the proposal will be implemented in line with World Health Organisation and African CDC guidelines.

Ethiopia is set to reopen the tourism sector within the next month.

LONGING TO TAKE YOU TO YOUR DREAM DESTINATION!



SPORTS

Shura Kitata sprints to London Marathon victory

Shura becomes the third Ethiopian to win the elite men's title

Shura Kitata won the 2020 London Marathon on Sunday 4th October, producing a devastating sprint finish to depose four-time winner and world-record holder Eliud Kipchoge and become only the third Ethiopian to win the elite men's title.

The 24-year-old finished second to Kipchoge two years ago when the Kenyan won the third of his four London crowns. This time he triumphed in a thrilling three-way sprint for the line ahead of Kenya's Vincent Kipchumba and fellow Ethiopian Sisay Lemma, in one of the most thrilling finishes.

Despite the cold and wet weather conditions and an unfamiliar looped course in St James's Park, Kitata crossed the line in 2:05:41, just one

second ahead of Kipchumba with Lemma a mere three behind. According to London marathon, the thrilling finish was the closest finish since 2003, when Ethiopia's first-ever London winner Gezahegne Abera and Italy's Stefano Baldini crossed the line in the same time.

Paying tribute to compatriot Kenenisa Bekele, who had to pull out of the race due to a calf injury, Kitata said:

"I prepared well and was full of concentration today because Kenenisa has helped me so much...Kenenisa has been training with me and advising me about the race, so I am very grateful to him."

“I’m very happy to have won the race against a very strong field for my country and for my group of teammates. It is very good and will be really good to boost morale.”

Sisay Lemma who came third in 2:05:45, said “the conditions were very hard, but it was a good competition. With 100m to go I focused on the Finish Line but they [Kitata and Kipchumba] were faster than me.”

Speaking of his hopes for 2021, Lemma said, “I don’t know when I’ll next race because of Covid-19. I don’t know if the next competition will be Tokyo. If it’s Tokyo, I will go, I’m ready for that.”

Three other Ethiopians followed suit - Mosinet Geremew, Mule Wasihun, and Tamirat Tola, finishing in 4th, 5th and 6th places respectively.

Kipchoge finished eighth due to a sore right hip. “My right hip was really blocked, and my legs felt cramped in the last 15km,” the disappointed Kipchoge said later. “It only happened during the race. I had been feeling good beforehand. I can’t blame the conditions; it was more in my head.”

On 2nd October, Olympic champion and the second-fastest man in history, Kenenisa Bekele, also had to pull out of the race with a calf injury.

Bekele, who was due to race for the first time since he clocked 2:01:41 to win the 2019 BMW Berlin Marathon in September 2019, said: “I am very disappointed that I cannot race on Sunday. It has been a tough preparation time with lockdown when I couldn’t have my NN team around me. I was in good shape but then I picked up a niggle in my left calf after two fast training sessions too close together in the last weeks of preparation.”

“I have been having treatment every day since then and I truly believed I would be ready but today it is worse, and I now know I cannot race on it. This race was so important to me. My time in Berlin last year gave me great confidence and motivation and I was looking forward to show that again, I have worked so hard for it.”

“I know many people around the world have been looking forward to this race and I am sorry to disappoint my fans, the organisers and my fellow competitors. I will take time to recover and become fit again and I hope to be back in London next year.”

Kenenisa Bekele

In the women’s race, Kenya’s Brigid Kosgei successfully defended her London Marathon title winning the race in 2 hours 18 minutes and 58 seconds. Ethiopia’s Ashete Bekere and Alemu Megertu finished in 4th and 5th places respectively.



Meanwhile, 45,000 other marathon runners went for it on their own, each of them targeting a socially distanced 26.2-mile challenge. Runners from 109 countries entered the virtual marathon and each of them had almost 24 hours to complete a 26.2-mile course of their own choosing.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

7 Lawyers Continuing RBG's Fight for Women's Rights Around the World

GLOBAL CITIZEN

The late US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a champion of women's rights and prevailed over systemic sexism in the legal ranks to become one of America's best-known jurists. Ginsburg cast key votes in landmark rulings securing gender equality, expanding gay rights, and safeguarding abortion rights.

Across the world, other women trailblazers from Ethiopia and India to Kenya and Colombia have achieved similar victories in their home countries.

Meaza Ashenafi, Ethiopia



Ashenafi was appointed Ethiopia's first female Supreme Court Chief in November 2018.

As an adviser to a commission drafting Ethiopia's new constitution in the early 1990s, and later as a lawyer fighting for victims of domestic and sexual violence, inheritance disputes and custody battles, Ashenafi helped enshrine in law many protections for women and girls.

Her most famous case was turned into the 2014 award-winning Ethiopian film *Difret* — Hollywood actor Angelina Jolie was executive producer.

The film is based on a court case where Ashenafi defended a teenage girl for killing a man who had abducted and raped her and got the charges against the teenager dropped — and resulted in the outlawing of the tradition of kidnapping girls to be forced into marriage in Ethiopia.

The advocate is also credited with creating a word in Amharic — one of Ethiopia's main languages — to describe sexual harassment.

"Naming it was very important," said Ashenafi in an interview with American broadcaster VOA last year. "Unless you name it, it's difficult to advocate for legislative reform to articulate the issue and publicise and expose the practice."

Read more at <http://bit.ly/RBGxMeaza>.

6 Black-Owned Spaces Shaking Up the London Arts Scene

VOGUE In a sea of mainstream arts institutions, ripples of change are afoot. The narrative of art history must be rewritten, and our art institutions dramatically reshaped, if the British cultural landscape is to shine with a rich diversity of talents.

In London, a handful of Black-owned and -run arts spaces have led the long campaign towards visibility of, and equality for, people of colour — tirelessly working to amplify the voices of Black artists, curators and directors. In the words of Trinidad and Tobago-born journalist and activist Claudia Jones, "A people's art is the genesis of their freedom." Read on for some of the best Black-owned galleries and institutions in the capital to visit and support now.

Addis Fine Art

Even though it's less than five years old, Addis has already been named as one of the "Most Important Young Galleries in the World" by Artsy. Founders Rakeb Sile and Mesai Haileleul launched their first arts space in Addis Ababa, establishing their London gallery just six months later.

Today, the UK outpost represents the best modern and contemporary art from the Horn of Africa, bolstering Ethiopia's reputation on the international art stage. Addis was set to move into a first-of-its-kind flexible exhibition space in Kensington this spring, but plans were halted by Covid-19. Instead, the team has embraced the world of VR — including an exhibition of Black American artist Tsedaye Makonnen for *Untitled*, Art's first-ever virtual fair experience.


Read more at <http://bit.ly/AFAxVogue>.

The time of their lives

Forget the clock and enjoy each day to the full in this extraordinary East African country.



Conical huts in a Konso village

THE AUSTRALIAN  At the time of writing it is 2012 in Ethiopia. The country's 115 million-strong population uses the Julian rather than our Gregorian calendar, which means arriving there is like stepping back in time, literally and metaphorically. This extraordinary East African country, a beacon of relative stability landlocked by Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea and Sudan, is home to one of the oldest Christian civilisations. Hence the ancient calendar and the timeworn prayer rituals that look more like Islam's salat (prostrated worshippers, long white robes) than your average neighbourhood church service.

Ethiopian culture is complex and noble. Trying to reconcile it with Western notions rarely works. Like *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, at times it feels as if everything is in reverse, or upside down, or otherwise refracted from my own reality.


The Ethiopian concept of time is an excellent case in point. Not only are the years all topsy-turvy but days are counted differently. The local clock starts with sunrise at 6am. So, 7am is one o'clock, 10am is four. If meeting a work colleague for lunch at midday you'd say, "See you at six." An 8pm dinner booking would be made for "two in the evening".

When I ask my guide and friend Freo why Ethiopians start the day at 6am, he says simply that that's when the day begins, with the rising of the sun. "In Ethiopia we start the day when we wake up. It's very logical to tell the truth."

Read more at <http://bit.ly/EthiopianTime>.

Handmade in Africa: Dorze House



 Filmed in the remote Gamo highlands of southern Ethiopia, this BBC4 episode tells the story of Dorze house builders as they weave a traditional bamboo home for an elderly woman in their community.

The Dorze are a minority ethnic group who live in the mountains and have retained their distinct culture and dialect. They are renowned as producers of colourful cloth and for their unique houses, which are woven from strips of bamboo.

The film follows village elder Admasu Ourage as he oversees the building of a new house for his friend Dasanshi, whose old house is falling down. The whole process is captured, from the moment Dasanshi's old house is moved, and the cutting and preparation of the bamboo, to the construction and completion of the new house. Their work is a window on the significance of Orthodox Christian faith in Ethiopia; each stage of the build is accompanied by blessings and prayers of thanks, led by Admasu.

The film is also a portrait of a community in flux, as more and more Dorze people choose to build their houses with corrugated iron roofs instead of traditional, woven bamboo. For the Dorze, the construction of a new woven house is like 'a child being born'. It is testament to a thriving community. Once complete, the whole village comes together to sing and dance in celebration.

Watch on BBC iPlayer at <https://bbc.in/2Gs3YAt>.



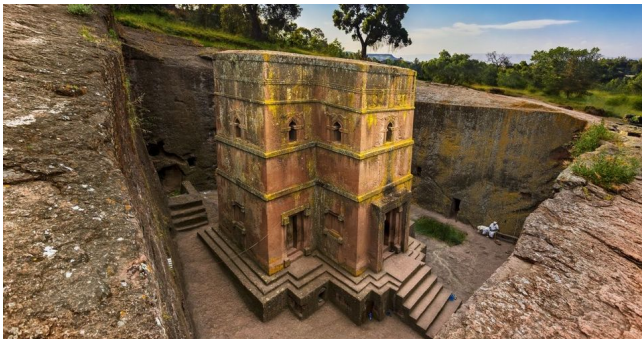
The rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia, known as 'New Jerusalem,' and their construction is still a mystery

With the tallest church reaching 33 feet, it's still unknown how these churches were built in such a short timeframe with so few tools.



Religious structures have a different meaning to everyone.

No matter what the building is, it's the history, spiritual meaning, and skilful construction that make these destinations some of the most popular in the world. One of the most astounding of these is the rock-hewn churches of Ethiopia, also known as 'New Jerusalem.'



The origins of these churches remain shrouded in mystery as it's known by whom they were created, but not how. Archaeologists and researchers have been able to determine which tools would have been required but in terms of time and manpower, the explanation simply is not there. Supposedly, angels would work through the night while men worked through the day in order to complete the churches within a total of 24 years.

Those who have been there - and continue to make pilgrimages to their location - will say that being in the presence of such great work is humbling, extraordinary, and unlike any other.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/TravelEthiopia>

Monkeying around! Gelada baboon relaxes in the wilds of... Bristol



They might be more at home in the wilds of Ethiopia, but this gelada seemed happy enough relaxing at his home near Bristol.

The magnificent beast, technically a monkey though often called a baboon, was pictured frolicking on his deck at the Wild Place Project, a conservation park in south Gloucestershire.



The family-run park has six males, ranging in age from 10-year-old Kito to 18-year-old Hobbit. Geladas are also known as 'bleeding-heart monkeys' due to the red patch on their chests.

Their thick coats protect them from the extremes of temperatures in the mountains of northern Ethiopia, but also come in handy if it gets a bit blowy off the River Avon.

And judging by the yawn this one let out, they keep you the perfect temperature for an afternoon nap.

Read more at <http://dailym.ai/34wQyLM>

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