



Ethiopian News

August 2020

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Together for a better Ethiopia

Prime Minister Abiy calls for all to ‘Leave a Legacy’ in new national fundraising initiative, ‘Dine for Ethiopia’



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On 11th September 2020, Ethiopians from across the country and abroad will usher in the New Year.

As we welcome the year 2021 in the Ethiopian calendar, on behalf of the Ethiopian Embassy in London, I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes for a peaceful, prosperous and successful new year to all Ethiopians, at home and abroad. I also take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the United Kingdom, and friends of Ethiopia, who have been graciously supporting Ethiopia and advancing Ethio-UK relations throughout the year.

2020 has been a year of tremendous development, as well as challenge, for Ethiopia. We have seen the historic first filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) reservoir, which has brought Ethiopians from all walks of life together to see its realisation. I would like to take this opportunity to call upon Ethiopians, the Diaspora and friends of Ethiopia to continue their support for the GERD.

We have also seen increased trade and investment following the launch of the Home-Grown Economic Policy, and the planting of 5 billion trees through the Green Legacy initiative as part of efforts to curb the effects of climate change.



Mrs Roza Yerukneh
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Head of Diaspora Affairs

However, there have also been immense challenges this year. As the Coronavirus outbreak grips Ethiopia, I urge you all to stay vigilant during this New Year period, and to celebrate in a safely by observing government guidelines to limit the spread of the virus.

The coronavirus pandemic has not only disrupted the way we live but has also taken away friends and loved ones. For those who have lost their loved ones due to this terrible virus, I extend my sincere condolences.

The global nature of this terrible pandemic is a humbling reminder of our common humanity and vulnerability. It is only by standing together in solidarity that we can prevail and overcome this pandemic.

For those who are able, the Embassy's coronavirus appeal is still open for donations. Our sincere thanks to all those who have contributed so far – your donations are saving lives in Ethiopia. Further information about the appeal is available on our website at <https://bit.ly/COVID19-Appeal-EEUK>.

As we move into the New Year, I call upon all Ethiopians at home and in the Diaspora to contribute their part towards the creation of a prosperous and democratic Ethiopia, based on our unity in diversity. Our task for the coming year is to maintain the spirit of hope and transformation and work towards bringing all Ethiopians the growth and unity we all desire for our country and for the generations to come.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to the sizeable Ethiopian community in the UK and our friends and partners, who have stood in solidarity with us as we strive to build a stronger Ethiopia.

May 2021 bring peace and prosperity to us all.

Melkam Addis Amet!

Incident at the Ethiopian Embassy, London



Embassy services were briefly disrupted in August as a result of violent protests by a small group who harassed both Embassy staff and customers who had arrived to apply for visas and other services. One of our staff was injured and received hospital treatment.

On 25th August, State Minister Redwan Hussein met and held discussions with the British Chargé d'Affaires, Mr Alex Cameron, and registered a complaint, expressing the Government of Ethiopia's disappointment over the recent developments surrounding the safety and security of the Ethiopian Embassy in London.

The host country has an obligation to take all appropriate steps to protect the mission against any intrusion or damage and to ensure the safety, security and inviolability of the diplomatic premises and staff, as stipulated in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

The UK government assured the Ethiopian government that measures have now been taken to guarantee the safety and security of the Embassy under the UK's Vienna Convention obligations.

From when the protest began on 20th August, the embassy continued to carry out its duties with a skeletal staff and from 26th August, the Embassy resumed all regular services and all staff are working as it is now safe to do so. Customers should rest assured that visa and other services are available and our staff are ready to assist.

Ethiopian World Federation to contribute towards Ethiopia's growth and development

On 20th August, Chargé d'Affaires, Mrs. Roza Yerukneh, and Head of Public Diplomacy, Mr. Mekonnen Amare, met with senior members of the Chartered Local 3 Administration of the Ethiopian World Federation, Inc.

Discussions were held on the status of the Federation's members and on future engagements.



Mrs Yerukneh, on her part, noted the long-standing and positive relations between the global Rastafarian community and Ethiopia, thanking the EWF for its historic role in cultivating these ties.

On his part, the President of the EWF Chartered Local 3, Ras Tinnish, affirmed the community's desire to contribute every effort towards Ethiopia's future growth and development.

Diaspora support for the Renaissance Dam

Spurred on by the celebrations of the successful first filling of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) reservoir, the Embassy has been welcoming members of the Diaspora wishing to put their mark on this national project.

The GERD is a source of national pride for many Ethiopians – the dam is being built for Ethiopians, by Ethiopians. Most of the funds for the dam have been raised from Ethiopians through the purchase of bonds. The Dam will provide electricity to Ethiopia and to neighbouring countries.

On 11th August, community members - friends and families - visited the Embassy to extend their commitment to the construction of the GERD.

They were welcomed by Head of Diaspora Affairs and Chargé d'Affaires, Ms Roza Yerukneh, who thanked them for their continued support and kind gesture.



A group of family and friends are welcomed to the Embassy by Chargé d'Affaires, Mrs Roza Yerukneh

She also encouraged others to follow suit and urged the Diaspora at large to fully support Ethiopia's principled stand over the construction of the Dam.

For information on how to support the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, please contact our Diaspora Department on 07939 956086 or 07575 827053.



EMBASSY OF THE
FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA
LONDON, UK

#ITSMYDAM IS IT YOURS?

Prove it! Own the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam
today and leave a lasting legacy for tomorrow.

ETHIOPIA COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE

...Cases surge past 50,000

The threat of the Coronavirus pandemic is on the rise in Ethiopia and over the last few weeks the virus has taken hold amongst communities across the country, with Addis Ababa at the epicentre.

As of 3rd September, Ethiopia had reported 55,213 cases with 20,283 recoveries and 856 fatalities.

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.

Amid the rapid spread of the virus in recent weeks, the government is intensifying its mass COVID-19 testing campaign.

The government is also mobilizing resources to ensure there is no shortage of laboratory materials and quarantine centres.

Ethiopia is also boosting its COVID-19 testing capacity at border points with neighbouring countries.

So far, 970,591 laboratory tests have been conducted.

...Rate of ICU admission on the rise

The number COVID-19 patients being admitted to intensive care units is on the rise in Ethiopia, according to the Medical Director at the Millennium COVID-19 Treatment Centre in Addis Ababa.

Dr Wuletaw Chanie said his facility is receiving only coronavirus patients who need critical care.

The Intensive Care Respiratory Support Unit is providing support for 20 patients on a daily basis - beyond its accommodation capacity, Dr Wuletaw noted, adding that the rise of new coronavirus infections is causing pressure in other intensive care units. Dr Wuletaw called on the community to avoid negligence and follow precaution advice, to curb the spread of the pandemic.

...EPHARM begins local production of sanitisers and face masks

The Ethiopian Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Share Co. (EPHARM) has begun large-scale production of hand sanitiser and face masks as part of efforts to curb COVID-19 in the country. The company can produce 100,000 face masks a day. Both the sanitiser and face masks meet international quality standards.

...Ethiopia joins WHO's Wear A Mask challenge

7th of August marked the start of World Mask Week, during which health organisations across the globe encouraged everyone to wear face masks in public spaces to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), launched the #WearAMask challenge at a press briefing on 3rd August, asking people to share photos and videos of themselves wearing masks on social media and to tag their friends.



“As well as being one of the key tools to stop the virus, the mask has come to represent solidarity. Like the Safe Hands and Healthy-at-home challenges, we’re going to be spreading further positive messages about how

everyone has a role to play in breaking chains of transmission...By wearing a mask, you’re sending a powerful message to those around you that we are all in this together,” Dr Tedros said.

In response to the challenge, Ethiopia launched the Mask Ethiopia campaign, led by President Sahle-Work Zewde.

The president expressed optimism that the country can curtail the spread of the virus through increased public participation and unwavering behavioural change.

“Let us all take part in this campaign by promoting the proper use of face masks as we all work to put a stop to this pandemic,” the president added, calling for collective preventive efforts, including the production of sufficient face masks.



“My fellow Ethiopians, the World Health Organization has launched the #WearAMask challenge to promote the use of face masks in fighting the spread of COVID-19. Ethiopia has followed suit by launching #MaskEthiopia...Let us all take part in this campaign by promoting the proper use of face masks as we all work to put a stop to this pandemic. Wearing masks saves lives!”

~ President Sahle-Work Zewde

In August, the Ministry of Health officially launched a nationwide month-long COVID-19 testing campaign - Community Based Activities and Testing (ComBAT) - aimed at determining the level of COVID-19 infections within Ethiopia, as well as understanding the current awareness on COVID-19 prevention measures among the population.

The community-based mobilisation monitored hundreds of thousands of citizens in all parts of the country, offering coronavirus testing, screening and surveillance activities.

The results are expected to inform the next stage of the government’s overall response strategy.

...Ethiopian schools to reopen in September

Following the closure of schools in March as the coronavirus pandemic spread around the world, the Ministry of Education has announced plans for Ethiopian schools to reopen next academic year, which begins in September.

At a media briefing, the Minister of Education Dr Getahun Mekuria, said both private and state-run schools will commence registration and schools will reopen in mid-September with all the necessary health precautions taken.

During the teaching-learning process, schools will be supplied with face masks, hand sanitisers and other related materials to help prevent the spread of the virus, the minister said, adding that pupils will be required to wear face masks, keep their distance from others and wash their hands regularly.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) last week urged African governments to accelerate the reopening of schools. The organisations warned that the continent’s youths will suffer from prolonged closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to a survey conducted across 39 countries across the continent, only six African countries have fully opened schools.

...Open air markets redesigned to limit COVID-19 spread

On 21st August, Ethiopia's Minister of Urban Development and Construction, Ms Aisha Mohammed, laid a cornerstone at a ceremony in the northern city of Bahir Dar to mark the redesign of markets in the country to curb the spread of COVID-19. The guidelines on the redesign were produced by UN-Habitat and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

"These new guidelines promote physical distancing, controlled access to the markets, crowd control within markets, and the observance of personal hygiene. This will ensure the provision of essential food to communities, and make markets safe spaces for sustaining livelihoods, reducing the risk of the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases," Haregewoin Bekele, an urban planner with UN-Habitat, said at the event.

A local street in the city will be used as an extension of the market with markers to designate spots for the women's market. In the main market, there will be spaced queues, physical distancing markers between shoppers, safety barriers between vendors and shoppers and hygiene centres at the entrances.

Where the markets are extremely congested, some traders will be relocated to other open spaces. In Fara Gebaya market in Hawassa city, where a pilot is being run, part of the market will be moved to another open space while the main market is retrofitted.

Tiratu Beyene and Amare Alemu the Deputy Mayors of the two cities welcomed the initiative and pledged joint cooperation. "Open markets are a common means of livelihood in Ethiopia. We are therefore very grateful for this intervention that will ensure that our people are safe as they earn their daily bread," said Mr Alemu.

UN-Habitat has ensured that the new market designs will be practical and sustainable beyond the pandemic. The two pilot markets should be completed within two months, to be followed by a major roll out of market innovations across Ethiopia, drawing from lessons learnt in the pilot runs.



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

DONATE TODAY. SAVE LIVES!

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

LOCAL NEWS

Ethiopia hits 5 billion trees target as part of 2020 Green Legacy

In 2021, Ethiopia plans to plant 6 billion trees to help curb the effects of climate change and deforestation

Despite the global pandemic, Ethiopia has successfully planted 5 billion tree seedlings - a month ahead of the conclusion of the rainy season - as part of the 2020 Green Legacy Initiative.

At the closing ceremony, held in Bahir Dar on 12th August, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed thanked all Ethiopians for actively responding to the call for the greening campaign.

“We started this year’s Green Legacy in Hawassa and we close it in Bahir Dar. In between two ceremonies in two lake towns, Ethiopians have once again shown we can rise to the occasion of planting our generational legacy,” the Prime Minister said in a social media post.

Officially launched by Prime Minister Abiy on 5th June, coinciding with World Environment Day, the 2020 Green Legacy tree-planting campaign is a demonstration of Ethiopia’s efforts to sustain biodiversity and commitment to green, climate-resilient growth.

As part of the Green Legacy, Ethiopia has set an ambitious goal of planting 20 billion trees. Last year’s campaign saw the planting of over 4 billion seedlings nationally, including a record-breaking 353 million seedlings in one single day on 29th July.

In 2021, Ethiopia aims to plant 6 billion trees.

The Prime Minister said that Ethiopia will gift 1 billion trees to neighbouring countries to help green the region as well.



Prime Minister Abiy plants a tree at the closing ceremony in Bahir Dar

**“Ethiopians have once again show we can rise to
the occasion of planting our generational legacy.”**

-PM Abiy Ahmed

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

#PLANTYOURPRINT

GREENING ETHIOPIA

ONE SEEDLING AT A TIME

...UNHCR plants trees in refugee camps as part of #GreenLegacy

Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative has given a new impetus to UNHCR's environmental rehabilitation and reforestation programme.

So far, during the current rainy season, UNHCR has coordinated the planting of over 755,000 multi-purpose trees in the 26 refugee camps across the country, as well as in the neighbouring host community sites. This will continue during the rest of the rainy season.

In August, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, joined regional and local authorities, representatives of the government refugee agency - ARRA, NGO partners and refugees in planting a variety of tree seedlings at the Bambasi refugee camp in the Benishangul-Gumuz region. The camp shelters approximately 18,000 Sudanese refugees.

Climate change contributes to the underlying causes of conflict and displacement. From drought and famine to more frequent extreme weather events, the impacts of climate change are most acutely experienced by the world's most vulnerable and marginalized populations, including refugees and their host communities.

Ethiopia is one of the largest refugee hosting countries in Africa, sheltering 769,310 registered refugees and asylum seekers as of 31st July 2020.

Prime Minister Abiy appoints new officials

On 18th August, the Prime Minister's Office announced the appointment of 10 officials in a cabinet reshuffle. They are:

1. Dr Kene'a Yadeta - Minister of Defence
2. Dr Gedion Timothewos - Attorney General
3. Dr Samuel Urkato - Minister of Science and Higher Education
4. Engineer Takele Uma - Minister of Mines and Petroleum
5. Tesfaye Daba - Deputy Attorney General
6. Yohannes Buayalew - Director General of the Ethiopian Foreign Relations Strategic Studies Institute
7. Nigusu Tilahun - Commissioner of the Job Creation Commission
8. Engineer Endawek Abte - Deputy Director General of Metals Engineering Corporation
9. Fekadu Tsega - Deputy Attorney General
10. Prof. Hirut Woldemariam - Social Sector advisor to the Prime Minister with the rank of minister

3 BILLION
BIRR FOR
PROJECTS IN

GORGORA
Amhara Region

WONCHI
Oromia Region

KOYSHA
South Region


DINE FOR
ETHIOPIA
LEAVE A LEGACY



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: **CBETETA**

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

SMS • 333

Prime Minister Abiy officially launches “Dine for Ethiopia” fundraising programme

May 2019 saw the launch of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s highly successful ‘Dine for Sheger’ initiative, that mobilised funds for city projects to improve Addis Ababa’s tourism potential. Within a year, refurbishment of both Sheger and Entoto parks was complete, creating many jobs, boosting the service economies while changing the look and feel of the capital city.

“Gratitude to the bold and courageous who have been a part of manifesting dreams to reality”, as the Prime Minister tweeted.

These initiatives demonstrated innovation, purposeful planning and execution within a short timeframe and, most importantly, highlight the benefits of Ethiopia’s abundance, which can be effectively utilised to bring prosperity. Similar projects are now kicking off in other parts of the country.

DINE for ETHIOPIA - LEAVE A LEGACY

On 16th August this year, Ethiopia’s prosperity initiatives went regional. The ‘Dine for Ethiopia’ programme will mobilise funds for three projects - in Gorgora, Wonchi and Koysha. The new initiative aims to raise 3 billion Birr within two months, when 10-million Birr V-VIP and five-million Birr VIP

dinner programmes will be hosted in the first weeks of October. Business and the community at large can buy tickets individually or for their family, or company.



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

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

The projects are in Gorgora, south of Gondar on the north shore of Lake Tana, in the Amhara region; Wonchi, in the Oromia region, with a legacy of once powerful volcanoes, hot springs and water falls, where a crater lake is “a piece of paradise”; and

Koysha, uniquely situated in the green hills and lush forests of the Southern region. With the Koysha hydropower plant in progress and the Chebera Churchura National Park in proximity, the new integrated eco-project in Koysha aims to enhance existing endowments and create a service industry and jobs in the area.

On 21st August, a panel discussion was held at the Prime Minister’s office entitled "From Sheger to Ethiopia." It focused on the process, benefits and experiences of the Addis Ababa projects. Minister of Innovation and Technology Dr Abraham Belay, State Minister for the Ministry of Finance Dr Eyob Tekalign, Chief Executive Officer of the Ethiopian Roads Authority Eng. Habtamu Tegegn and Meskerem Aseged, the founder of Zoma Museum and an investor in the development projects, participated in the discussion along with representatives from stakeholder institutions. They shared the experience gained, challenges faced and the benefits of the projects, which support sustainable development in all sectors, beyond tourism.



The successful completion of the initial projects developed trust between the public and the government and paved the way for the equitable participation of both genders. They also encouraged volunteerism, patriotism and cultivated respect and love for fellow citizens.

Dine for Ethiopia will raise resources, be completed to schedule, jobs will be created and there will be a strengthening of public-private partnerships. Ethiopia's potential for economic growth is enormous and the new projects will further develop future prosperity.

Over 15,000GWh electric power generated last budget year

Ethiopia generated 15,192 gigawatt hours (GWh) of electric power during the just-concluded budget year – a 9.5% increase compared to the same period last year.

The Power Production Operation Office said the country did not witness significant power outage over the last fiscal year as full operations were carried out in all power production units.

There are currently 21 power production stations in Ethiopia including the Amerti and Repi Solid Waste to Energy Plants.

Ethiopia is set to produce over 17,000 GWh of electric power for both local consumption and electricity export to neighbouring countries.

Ethiopia to launch second satellite into space

Ethiopia is set to launch its second satellite into space in September, just eight months after the launch of its ETRSS-1 Satellite. The ET-SMART-RSS earth observation nanosatellite is expected to take off from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site, in Wenchang, Hainan province, China, and will be used for data collection.



Launch of ETRSS-1 in December 2019

Ethiopia’s first satellite, which is manned by a team of engineers at the Entoto Observatory and Research Center on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, analyses weather patterns to extract data and enhance the country’s preparedness in cases of drought. Ethiopia’s collaboration on space projects with China was signed into agreement in 2016, by Ethiopia’s then minister of Science and Technology, the current prime minister Abiy Ahmed.

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Ahmed Shide named African Finance Minister of the Year



On 16th August, the editorial board of UK-based *African Leadership Magazine* unveiled the winners of the African Business Leadership Awards 2020.

In the African Finance Minister of the Year category, Ethiopia's Minister of Finance, Ahmed Shide, was named winner with Benin's Finance Minister, Romuald Wadagni, as runner-up. The keenly-contested awards attracted over 220,000 entries on the website and across social media platforms, as well as submissions via email from Africans across the continent and in Diaspora.

Winners of the African Business Leadership Awards will be presented with their award at the 5th US-Africa Investment Forum & Policy Dialogue 2020, scheduled to be held (via Zoom) from 29th-30th September 2020.

The publisher of the Magazine, Dr Ken Giami, while unveiling the list of 17 winners, maintained that "Africa depends on businesses and its leaders for sustenance, jobs and wealth creation." Continuing, the publisher stated that, "at this time when there are widespread disruptions occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic, the role and place of the business community to not only serve their clients, but become strong positive references for society on how to thrive amidst uncertainties, and inspire hope in people's ability to aspire to solve more of the problems facing the African people today, is more important than ever."

"Our winners and all the nominees truly deserve to be recognized for the outstanding work they have done over the last year, and they continue to do for the development of our continent". Dr Giami added.

Mr Shide has served as Ethiopia's Minister of Finance since October 2018. In the Trade and Investment Minister of the Year category, Melaku Alebel was first runner-up.

Ethiopia exports first avocados by train

Europe will soon discover the delicious fruit and vegetables Ethiopia has to offer!

On 22nd August, Ethiopia carried out its first export of avocados by train from Modjo Dry Port, under a pilot project forming part of the National Cool Logistics Network.



The 24-tonne refrigerated consignment, which marks a major milestone in the development of a cool logistics corridor by sea, was produced by dozens of farmers in the Koga area, south of Bahir Dar, and packed by KogaVeg Agricultural Development. After the 750km train journey, the fruit will be shipped from Djibouti to Europe, taking around 20 days.

At the inauguration ceremony, Ethiopia's transport Minister, H.E. Dagmawit Moges, said the project highlighted the government's commitment to improving the country's logistics infrastructure to support fruit and vegetable production and exports.

"This innovative cool supply chain Modjo-Djibouti-Europe for fruits, vegetables, flowers and other perishables will balance the trade and maximise the use of the Ethio-Djibouti railway", said Aboubakar Omar Hadi, chairman of the Djibouti Ports and Free Zones Authority, and a member of the Cool Logistics Steering Committee overseeing the cool logistics projects in Ethiopia and Djibouti.

Ethiopia has significant potential to develop its production and export of fresh produce. The

country has plenty of available arable land, a perfect climate for horticulture and is strategically located between Europe, the Middle East and Asia. By drastically reducing transport costs and lead times, investment in cool logistics could unlock the perishable industry.

“The fruit and vegetable sector in Ethiopia has the potential to become the next flower sector” said Tewodros Zewdie, executive director of the Ethiopian Horticulture Producer Exporters Association.

As well as increasing foreign currency earnings, unlocking the horticulture sector would create a positive impact on the country in a number of ways, such as providing a higher income for farmers than traditional crops and improving the availability of nutritious food for local consumers.

In the Koga region alone, about 10,000 smallholder families own a farm that is suitable for growing avocados. The fruit is grown organically, without the use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers.

Another key component of the National Cool Logistics Network is the development of Cool Port Addis, a cold-storage facility integrated into a railway terminal near Addis Ababa. At this facility, produce from the hinterland is consolidated into reefer containers to be put on the train to Djibouti. The warehouse will also be used for national and regional distribution.

Ethiopia becomes Africa’s second largest flower exporter

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Ethiopia is now the second largest flower exporter in Africa, after Kenya.

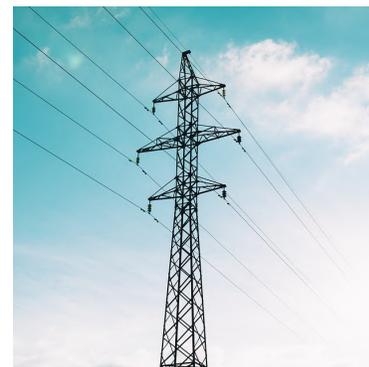
Ethiopia ranked as 5th largest cut flower exporter to the Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, Norway, Sweden, UK, the Middle East and others.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry said the Netherlands is the top destination for Ethiopia exports, followed by the US, Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Germany.

In the financial year that ended on 7th July, Ethiopia exported more than \$320,162 worth of products.

Power exports to Sudan, Djibouti fetch over \$66m

Ethiopia earned \$66.4 million from electricity exports to neighbouring Sudan and Djibouti during the last Ethiopian Fiscal Year. The revenue earned surpassed the previous year collection by \$11.5 million.



Out of the total revenue, \$29.3 million was secured through selling energy to Sudan while the remaining \$37.1 million was from Djibouti.

EEP attributed the better achievement to adequate rainfall and water in the country’s reservoirs and the government’s commitment to effectively achieve the plan.

Ethiopia is working to create integration through electricity with additional African countries including Tanzania and South Sudan.

Ethiopian Electric Power said the transmission line that links nation’s power grid with Kenya is to be completed and go operational soon.

All Industrial Parks under construction to go operational soon

The Industrial Parks Development Corporation said that Industrial Parks currently under construction across Ethiopia will go fully operational in the coming Ethiopian New Year, which commences on 11th September.

So far, there are 12 industrial parks in the country seven of which are operational.

The government is building industrial parks in different parts of the country to boost Ethiopia’s economy.

Textiles, garments, pharmaceuticals and medical equipment are some of the products to be manufactured in the industry parks.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Ethiopian Airlines unveils Bole International Airport's new terminal

The new terminal is the first in the world to be completed after Covid-19. It was designed, not re-purposed, with Bio safety and Bio security in mind.

Ethiopian Airlines has successfully completed a new passenger terminal at its hub Addis Ababa Bole International Airport with emphasis on Bio Security and Bio Safety measures.

The new terminal check-in hall has sixty check-in counters, thirty self-check-in kiosks, ten self-bag drop, sixteen immigration counters with more e-gate provisions and sixteen central security screening areas for departing passengers, all of which comprise the new face of the airport.

In addition, it has three contact gates for wide body aircraft and ten remote contact gates with people movers - travellers, escalators and panoramic lifts. It will house thirty-two arrival immigration counters with eight e-gate provisions at the mezzanine floor level.

Regarding the expanded infrastructure, Mr Tewolde GebreMariam, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines said, "I am very pleased to witness the realisation of a brand-new terminal at our Hub. While Addis Ababa Bole International Airport overtook Dubai as the largest gateway to Africa last year, the new terminal will play a key role in cementing that position. The new terminal is unique as it's the first terminal in the world to be completed after Covid-19. It was designed, not re-purposed, with Bio safety and Bio security in mind. I'm sure our esteemed customers will highly appreciate that."

Aviation infrastructure expansion is one of the core pillars of Ethiopian's Vision 2025 and it is continuously working on expanding airport facilities. The features of the new airport play a key role in protecting passengers' and employees' safety as airport experience becomes contactless.

Fly with confidence. #FlyEthiopian!



Saddle Skedaddle launches Ethiopia cycling adventure

Thanks to pristine new roads and panoramic views, Ethiopia is fast becoming an exciting destination for cyclists. UK tour operator, Saddle Skedaddle, recently launched their brand new, 15-day guided cycling adventure holiday in Ethiopia.

“Here at Skedaddle we are always on the lookout for unique and interesting destinations and Ethiopia has been on our wish list for many years. The question was really would we be able to cycle there and to find the right ground handler/tour operator. After numerous emails and phone calls I headed to Addis to meet Chewy Alemu, who runs a small cycling holiday company, and we set off to craft our trip. The country easily surpassed my expectations and although just known for cycling trips we decided to include a few days hiking in the Simien Mountains, as I was so blown away with their beauty and wildlife. The end result is a trip that not only ticks off the most prestigious sites the country has to offer but combines them with the best cycling and hiking imaginable. Add to this the new direct flights from London Heathrow and Manchester with Ethiopian Airlines and the mix is complete,” Skedaddle founder, Andrew Straw said.

2020 is the first year Skedaddle is offering trips to Ethiopia and due to the coronavirus pandemic, some of the trips scheduled for the end of the year have had to be postponed for 2021. “It seems everyone still wants to go to Ethiopia, despite the current situation globally,” Andrew said.

The tour begins at the Blue Nile Falls near the city of Bahir Dar before heading to the country’s former capital, Gondar. The riding continues into Simien Mountains National Park – one of Ethiopia’s nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites – into the Tekeze Mountains before reaching the ancient city of Axum, which dates back to the 1st century A.D.

The trip ends with a visit to one of Ethiopia’s most important cultural landmarks, the town of Lalibela and its eleven medieval monolithic cave churches, which are a place of pilgrimage and devotion for many Christians.

 **saddle
skedaddle**
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Ethiopian Airlines sponsors RIDE 4 RANGERS

On 23rd August, Ethiopian Airlines welcomed riders supporting 'Ride 4 Rangers' at Manchester Airport. 'Ride 4 Rangers' is an initiative by the UK Africa Travel Industry in partnership with conservation charity Tusk, which saw a team of British amateur cyclists ride 874 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats from 15th–29th August, with thousands also taking part in virtual bike rides.

Alongside the Land's End to John O'Groats ride, 15th August also marked the start of a series of global Ride 4 Rangers events and activities where Africa and wildlife lovers across the UK, Europe and 9 African Nations, including Ethiopia, got involved clocking their own miles and raising vital funds.

Stopping off at Manchester Airport, on route to thank the Ethiopian Team for their support, Michael Yohannes, Director UK & Ireland Ethiopian Airlines said, "We are delighted to be supporting this amazing charity and welcome the cyclists to Manchester Airport where we operate to Addis Ababa and connecting across Africa. During these difficult times it is a pleasure to support and work with the African Travel Industry on this incredible project."



The riders with Ethiopian Airlines' Traffic and Sales Manager at Manchester Airport, Timothy Bettney

Julian Carr, Airline Development Director at Manchester Airport, said: "We were thrilled to welcome Ben, Jean and Joel to Manchester Airport as they approached the halfway mark on their lengthy journey, raising money and awareness for a very important cause.

"In these unprecedented times, it is important we do whatever we can to continue building on the crucial links between the North and the rest of the world. We're delighted that Ethiopian is maintaining its thrice-weekly service to Addis Ababa, linking Manchester directly with sub-Saharan Africa, and it's also fantastic to see three British cyclists helping to make a huge difference to wildlife conservation across the continent."

Tourism is the key funder of conservation in Africa through park fees and a healthy wildlife population is what the industry is built on. Since the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic there has been very little money going into the conservation system. With most holidays on hold until next year, the Africa travel industry is in dire straits and the trickledown effect on the ground across the continent is already being felt. The loss of park and conservancy fees from visiting tourists has meant that budgets have been cut dramatically.

The Ride 4 Rangers Challenge aims to raise £100,000+ as part of a wider WILDLIFE RANGER CHALLENGE being coordinated by Tusk and Natural State - a new initiative specifically designed to support the salaries and deployment of African Rangers during this crisis. The initiative has been established with the support of the Scheinberg Relief Fund, which has pledged to generously match all monies raised up to \$5 million.

All funds raised will be distributed by Tusk across some 60+ reserves and protected areas throughout Africa. The fund aims to raise and disburse \$10 million into the field over the next 6-9 months supporting over 5,000 rangers and their families. This month an initial US\$2 million is being distributed.

Charlie Mayhew MBE, CEO of TUSK said: "We are delighted to support this inspiring challenge. It is wonderful to see the drive and energy of the UK Africa Travel industry coming together to raise valuable funds to keep rangers on the frontline - recognising the extraordinary bravery and commitment they demonstrate on a daily basis in the protection of our natural world."



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STAY HOME TODAY, #TRAVELTOMORROW

SPORTS

Full 2020 London Marathon fields confirmed – Ethiopians dominate

The Virgin Money London Marathon confirmed the full fields for the historic elite men's and women's races, scheduled to take place on Sunday 4th October.

The elite men's race - headlined by the greatest marathon runners in history, Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele and Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge, will include eight athletes who have run sub 2:05 marathons, including Mosinet Geremew and Mule Wasihun, also from Ethiopia, who were second and third respectively at the 2019 Virgin Money London Marathon.



Geremew and Wasihun pushed Eliud Kipchoge to the limit at the 2019 London Marathon finishing in 2nd and 3rd place respectively.

Other Ethiopians joining the stellar men's line up include Sisay Lemma, Tamirat Tola and Shura Kitata.

The news that World Athletics will lift its suspension of the Olympic qualification system for marathon races from 1st September means there will also be a clutch of athletes racing with the ambition to achieve the Olympic standard of 2:11:30.

Four-time British Olympic champion, Sir Mo Farah is set to be a pacemaker.

The elite women's field is headlined by Kenya's world record holder Brigid Kosgei.

From Ethiopia, 2019 Valencia Marathon champion Roza Dereje and 2019 Amsterdam Marathon champion Degitu Azimeraw, who have both run inside 2:20, will be joined by Ashete Bekere, the winner of last year's BMW Berlin Marathon, and Alemu Megertu, the 2019 Rome Marathon champion.



Roza Dereje (right) finished in third at last year's London Marathon after Kenya's Brigid Kosgei and Vivian Cheruiyot.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the elite races at the 2020 Virgin Money London Marathon will be held on a closed-loop circuit around St James's Park in central London with the iconic finish on The Mall remaining the same as in previous years.

The races will be held in a secure biosphere as has been the case with other major sporting events. No spectators will be allowed on the road-side to watch. BBC Sport, however, is planning eight hours of live coverage of the event.

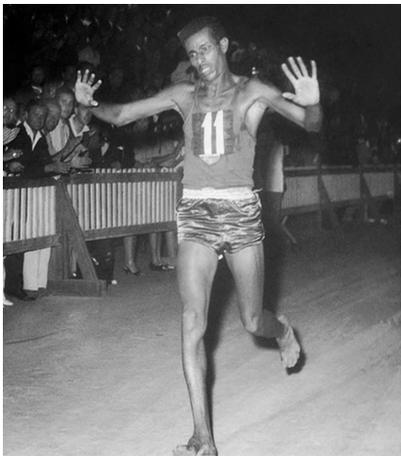
It will be the 40th Race in London Marathon history and the first to have elite-only races.

Those with a place in the mass-participation 2020 event will still have the chance to take part in the 40th Race by running the famous 26.2 mile marathon distance from home or anywhere in the world on the course of their choice.

Athletics Federation launches the 'Abebe Bikila Scholarship'

The Ethiopian Athletics Federation (EAF) has announced the launch of the 'Abebe Bikila Scholarship', which aims at empowering women in sports by providing a fully funded higher education scholarship for two women athletes/coaches a year.

Abebe Bikila was an Ethiopian marathon runner and back-to-back Olympic marathon champion, and the first African Olympic gold medalist, winning his first gold medal at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome while running barefoot.



Abebe Bikila clocked 2:15:16 during the World Record Olympic marathon in Rome to become the first African athlete to win a gold medal.

At the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, he won his second gold medal. In turn, he became the first athlete to successfully defend an Olympic marathon title. In both victories, he ran in world record time.

The decision to start the 'Abebe Bikila Scholarship' comes after the executive committee of EAF agreed to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the legendary athlete's impressive barefoot marathon victory at the Rome Olympic Games.

The special memorial event of the victory will take place in the presence of athletes and their families who have represented Ethiopia in the modern Olympic Games, starting from its maiden participation at the 1956 Melbourne Games.

Following his 2:15:16 World Record Olympic marathon victory in Rome, Abebe became an inspiration to fellow countrymen and Africans that follow in his footsteps to excel in the international athletics arena.

Since the 1980s, the Ethiopian Athletics Federation has also organised an annual marathon event named after the legendary athlete, who passed away in 1973, at the age of 41, from a cerebral haemorrhage.

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

African Renaissance: When Art Meets Power



In BBC Four's latest docuseries, British writer and broadcaster, Afua Hirsch shows Africa on its own terms, exploring the histories of Ethiopia, Senegal and Kenya through their extraordinary art, music and culture.



In Ethiopia, Hirsch traces a proud 3,000-year history as significant as any civilisation in the west. A beacon for the black diaspora, Ethiopia's story is one of defiant independence, of kings and communists, of a country that has survived catastrophe but bounced back, underpinned by a culture inspired by an ancient faith and devotion.

At the heart of recent Ethiopian history is the complex reign of Emperor Haile Selassie. One of the most influential world figures of the 20th century, he was the midwife to African liberation and the generator of a global culture in Rastafarianism. Yet ultimately, Haile Selassie was a tragic figure.

With renowned artist Eshetu Tiruneh, Afua explores the impact of the 1974 famine that led to the emperor's downfall, and she talks to photographer Aida Muluneh about her return from exile to the dynamic new Ethiopia of the 21st century responding to the dark days of the past.

Watch on BBC iPlayer at (UK only): <https://bbc.in/310JSsv>

8 of the most surreal landscapes in the world

Bridport^{©LymeRegis}**NEWS** From early sci-fi writers to the marvels of modern CGI, humans have long crafted worlds of weirdness and wonder, but sometimes reality is even stranger than fiction.

Think psychedelic hillsides, a bright pink lake, a hellish 30-metre-deep fire pit and terrifyingly high pillars of rock. Some of these surreal scenes have to be seen to be believed...

7. Dallol, Ethiopia



One of the hottest places on Earth – or the hottest depending who you ask – Dallol sports an altitude more than 100 metres below sea level, and a distinctly Martian aesthetic. Ensnared in a remote region of Ethiopia (aptly named ‘Afar’), the area is littered with bubbling geysers and toxic, sulphurous off-shoots. Completely unique, Dallol resembles science fiction more than anywhere else that is actually real.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/Dallol-Ethiopia>

The ten best walking safaris around the world, from India to Ethiopia



Walking safaris are not for the faint-hearted: you are often within feet of unpredictable creatures in remote locations with only a guide for safety.

But they are the most thrilling way to experience incredible wildlife and scenery — much better than rides in 4x4s as you are more connected to nature.

CAMP IN ETHIOPIA



Trek to the summit of Ras Dashen (4,543 metres), Ethiopia’s highest peak in the Simien Mountains on a safari of a lifetime...See extraordinary wildlife up close, including Ethiopia’s gelada baboons and indigenous ibex.

This camping safari is great for adventure and breath-taking scenery.

Best thing? Camping out in the mountains!

Read more: <http://dailym.ai/3fLLjf0>

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