



Ethiopian News

February 2014 Issue

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The Embassy of Ethiopia in London would like to introduce you to our official Facebook page, www.facebook.com/EthioEmbassyUK. Become a "friend" and join in the daily conversation.

Please keep us updated with your current contact information and email address so that we can keep you up-to-date with news from Ethiopia. Email at info@ethioembassy.org.uk.

We hope to connect with you soon!

Dr Tedros at Illegal Wildlife Trade conference; meets Ethiopian Community Leaders

Ethiopia's Foreign Minister, H.E. Dr Tedros Adhanom participated at the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference, hosted by the UK government on 13th February. The conference brought together global leaders from over forty nations who vowed to help eradicate the illegal wildlife trade - mostly in elephants, rhinos and tigers - and better protect the world's most iconic species from the threat of extinction. The conference heard first-hand from the Presidents of Botswana, Chad, Gabon and Tanzania.

Chair of the conference, Foreign Secretary, William Hague, said the illegal wildlife trade was not just an environmental crisis, but had become a global criminal industry, to be ranked alongside drugs, arms and people trafficking.

Dr Tedros said African tourism depends largely on wildlife as a major attraction and wildlife tourism had become a priority area in Ethiopia's development and the country was promoting its national parks alongside cultural heritage sites.

Measures are being taken to prevent poaching by fully enforcing the law and introducing legislation.



The London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, also attended by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry

Dr Tedros highlighted the need to support local communities that were negatively affected by the growing illegal trade in wildlife, noting the need for their full cooperation to prevent the killing and to protect wildlife resources.

Dr Tedros announced the **Elephant Protection Initiative** which will secure new funding from private and public sources for the implementation

of the **African Elephant Action Plan**. This includes commitment to an extended moratorium on ivory sales, and plans to put ivory stocks beyond economic use. The UK government will help the Initiative to get started.



(l-r) President Idriss Deby of Chad, President Kikwete of Tanzania, President Ian Khama of Botswana, President Ali Bongo Ondimba of Gabon, Dr Tedros of Ethiopia and UK Foreign Secretary, William Hague

The conference produced the **London Declaration**, which contains commitments for practical steps to end the \$19 billion a year illegal trade in rhino horn, tiger parts and elephant tusks. Botswana will host a further Conference in early 2015 to review progress on the commitments made in the London Declaration.

Dr Tedros meets Ethiopian community leaders

Foreign Minister Dr Tedros held lively discussions with members of the Ethiopian community in the UK, on the extensive engagement of the Diaspora in nation building in Ethiopia.



Diaspora associations facilitate united action, both at home and abroad, to enhance members' involvement in development, strengthening the younger generation's ties to the homeland, to help traditions, dedicating themselves to its progress and transformation, he said.



Dr Tedros stressed the importance of establishing cultural centres and said the Foreign Ministry plans internships in Ethiopian missions abroad and familiarisation visits to Ethiopia for the Diaspora.

Tens of thousands of the Diaspora already invest in trade, tourism and knowledge transfer, to help beat poverty and boost the nation's double-digit economic growth.

The Minister explained the government plan to provide housing for which the Diaspora qualify. Registration for the scheme will proceed after preparations for processing are finalized by the regional states.

He stressed Ethiopia's interest is in a win-win solution for the utilisation of the waters of the Nile. The Grand Dam will start generating 700MW of electricity in less than a year. Ethiopia plans to be a power hub and is working, within IGAD, to enhance infrastructural links, forging economic integration to encourage regional growth.

Dr Tedros also held talks with the Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, John Baird, Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Lynne Featherstone and Africa Minister Mark Simmonds.

Discussions focussed on peace and stability and their development partnership. He also met officials from CDC, the private sector development and investment wing of DFID and pharmaceutical giant

GlaxoSmithKline. CDC has already invested in seven projects through private equity financing.



Clockwise: Dr Tedros with FCO Africa Minister, Mark Simmonds; GlaxoSmithKline CEO, Sir Andrew Witty and CDC officials.

Visit our website for the full press release www.ethioembassy.org.uk.

Urban health programme for 1.6m households

In partnership with Ethiopia’s Federal Ministry of Health, the U.S. Government’s USAID has launched **Strengthening Ethiopia’s Urban Health Programme**, to bring high-quality healthcare to more than 1.6 million households in 49 cities.



USAID Ethiopia Director Dennis Weller and Minister of Health Dr Kesetebirhan Admassu launch Strengthening Ethiopia’s Urban Health Programme

The programme will expand upon the existing partnership and will target HIV, TB and maternal and child health, improving the quality of household-level health services, referral links across health facilities, and urban sanitation/waste management.

Minister of Health Dr Kesetebirhan Admasu said, “Estimates suggest that a huge number of Ethiopians will live in urban settings in coming decades, so one of our priorities is to focus on innovative community-based approaches to reach the growing number of urban dwellers.”

“In partnership with the Ethiopian Government USAID will promote best practice for 1.6 million urban households with high-quality health services,” said USAID’s Dennis Weller.

National cancer committee launched

A national committee, which is to collaborate with international research institutes and coordinate activities on cancer treatment, was officially launched on 3rd February in the presence of First Lady Roman Tesfaye who said establishing a committee responsible for national initiatives is critical since cancer treatment needs an integrated effort, huge investment and new technologies.

Health Minister Dr Keseteberhan Admasu said it will help raise public awareness about cancer and its treatment, including pre-cancer diagnosis. Committee members are drawn from the ministries of Health, Women, Children and Youth Affairs, and the House of People’s Representatives, the media and local and international NGOs.

39th Anniversary of TPLF Marked in London

Members of the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) celebrated its 39th anniversary on Saturday 22nd February, remembering the arduous journey that led to the birth of a new democratic Ethiopia.

Fighting shoulder to shoulder with other democratic forces, TPLF paved the way for the establishment of a federal democratic Ethiopia on the basis of a new constitution, which guarantees the equality and sovereignty of all Ethiopia’s nations, nationalities and peoples.

Characterised by a sense of ownership and empowerment, the new order has registered fast economic development that has lifted tens of millions out of poverty, in rural and urban areas.

Ethiopian Ambassador to the UK, Berhanu Kebede, paid tribute to the freedom fighters who paid the ultimate sacrifice to see emancipation become a reality. Ethiopia would continue to achieve the goals of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) - part of the vision of the Late Prime Minister and TPLF leader Meles Zenawi - which set in motion the Ethiopian Renaissance with its massive projects in energy, road and rail, telecommunications, education and health.

A TPLF statement renewed commitment to development plans saying the TPLF is determined to carry forward the legacy of Ethiopia's truly visionary former leader Meles Zenawi.

On behalf of the community and development associations, Mr Nur Hussein, Chairman of the Ethiopian Somali Diaspora Forum, also praised the sacrifices made by heroes and heroines during the armed struggle and called on compatriots to strengthen equality, democracy and development. He noted that Ethiopia has recently been referred to as "the power hub of Africa".

There was a minute of silence and candles were lit in memory of fallen compatriots. A musical show was staged as part of the anniversary celebrations.

Ethiopian to start daily flights to London; wins GOLD Boeing Award

Ethiopian Airlines, the fastest growing and most profitable airline in Africa, will start daily flights to London from 8th July. A new Tuesday flight will increase frequency from 6 flights a week to 7.

The airline began uninterrupted operations to London on 1st April 1973 and will move to new Heathrow Terminal 2, "the Queen's Terminal", in September. The rebuilt terminal will operate exclusively for Star Alliance members from June.

Ethiopian CEO, Mr Tewolde Gebremariam, said "Now our customers can enjoy convenient and hassle-free daily connections with our state-of-the-art B787 aircraft, with the ultimate on-board

comfort – far less noise, larger windows, dimmable lights, high ceilings and higher cabin humidity."



With daily services to/from London and to/from 48 African cities and prompt connections through its main hub in Addis Ababa, Ethiopian offers the shortest total travel time to its customers. The airline will also start daily services to Shanghai from 29th March.



The airline also won the 2013 "GOLD Boeing Performance Excellence Award" for its Wire Kit Harness Manufacturing Plant, one of only 124 suppliers to be awarded the Gold-level recognition among thousands of Boeing suppliers - the second Gold award it has received from Boeing.



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Unrivalled in efficiency and operational success over almost seven decades, Ethiopian has become one of the continent's leading carriers and commands the lion's share of the pan-African passenger and cargo network, operating the youngest and most modern fleet to more than 79 international destinations across five continents, a multi-award winning airline registering an average growth of 25% in the past seven years.

Starbucks celebrates Ethiopia Espresso

From January to March 2014 customers will be able to drink Starbucks Ethiopia Origin Espresso, with its velvety notes of dark chocolate and sweet citrus. To celebrate, on 13th February, Starbucks with the Ethiopian Embassy, hosted an event at one of their flagship stores in London's Covent Garden, to honour the birthplace of coffee and everything Ethiopian.



The Ethiopia Origin Espresso is available in-store and online until 12th March and Starbucks plan to re-launch it again later on this year.

Kris Engskov, President Starbucks EMEA said “it was fantastic to welcome members of the Ethiopian Embassy to the St Martins Lane store to celebrate Starbucks Origin Espresso Ethiopia with a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony. Ethiopia is the birthplace of Arabica coffee and we are proud to have sourced exceptional coffee from this country since Starbucks was founded in 1971. Our coffee experts chose this coffee for its defining flavour characteristics of dark chocolate and citrus that really distinguish its origin.”

Speaking on behalf of the Ambassador, Trade and Investment Counsellor, Hirut Zemene, said “Ethiopia is one of the top producers in the world, where close to 15 million farmers and stakeholders depend on the coffee sub-sector.” She thanked the Starbucks team for promoting Ethiopian coffee through a dedicated evening. “We hope to work together in similar promotion endeavours in the future,” she added.



(l-r) Kris Engskov, President of Starbucks EMEA, Simon Redfern, Starbucks' Director of Corporate Affairs, Mrs Hirut Zemene, Minister Counsellor – Trade and Investment and Mr Mulugeta Asseratte Kassa, Economic and Business Affairs Officer ©Starbucks/Jason Alden

At a traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony, coffee was served with popcorn, bread and *kolo* (roast barley) to invited guests including the media.

Guests took part in a ‘cupping’ and ‘aroma lab’/ food pairing demonstration, led by Starbucks’ coffee ambassadors, which compared coffees from all over the world including Ethiopia, Kenya, South America and Asia. Guests came away with an enhanced understanding of the methods used to produce and roast coffee, and how in different regions, these processes impact taste profile.



Guests taking part in the ‘cupping’ and ‘aroma lab’ demonstration. ©Starbucks/Jason Alden

The birthplace of coffee, the **Kaffa** Region in Ethiopia – which gave its name to coffee – grows only Arabica beans. Shared coffee remains central to Ethiopian culture and heritage.

TRADE & INVESTMENT

DMA announces business mission to Ethiopia



Developing Markets Associates (DMA), with the Ethiopian Embassy, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UKTI, will be hosting a **high-level business mission to Ethiopia**, from **25th to 28th March 2014**, enabling UK companies to gain access to key decision-makers at business and government level.

Mission delegates will learn first-hand from government officials, led by H.E. Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, and businesses about new and extended trade and investment opportunities across a range of commercial sectors in both countries. UK companies can raise their own profiles with government and the private sector at an opportune time.

Benefits for mission delegates:

- Meet and network with key Ministers and officials, learn more about progress on their individual development programmes and discuss with them the specific business, trade and investment opportunities in key industry and service sectors
- Follow up with government, at focused business roundtables or detailed 1-2-1 meetings
- Meet and network with potential business partners
- Visit projects to see successes at first hand
- Receive detailed briefings from senior UK representatives in and from UK companies that have already invested

For more information, please contact Frazer Lang at DMA on frazer.lang@developingmarkets.com, 0203 117 2500 or Angela Kolongo at the Embassy on angela@ethioembassy.org.uk, 020 7838 3883.

DMA, a development consultancy, was established in 2007 to mobilise funds to the global South through investment summits and through reducing the costs of international remittance payments to emerging market economies.

Ethiopia has vast untapped resources and a wide range of investment opportunities. The country has comparative advantages in agriculture, agro-processing, textile and garments, leather and leather products, sugar, cement, chemical and pharmaceutical industries, tourism, mining and hydropower. The on-going privatization programme presents enormous opportunities in the agricultural, manufacturing, hotel and tourism sectors.

Priorities of the five-year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) include improving the quality of social services and infrastructure, ensuring macroeconomic stability and enhancing productivity in agriculture and manufacturing. Ethiopia wants to develop local production to lessen its dependence on imported goods, and to encourage investment in the export-oriented sectors.

Please visit our website to download the latest investment guide. You can also contact us for further information on info@ethioembassy.org.uk.

CULTURE & TOURISM

Ethiopia and EU launch cultural project

The Ministry of Culture & Tourism (MoCT) and the European Union (EU) launched a €10 million project on 10th February to support development of Ethiopia's cultural sector.

The 4-year Heritage Development (PROHEDEV) Project, will increase the long-term contribution of culture, by preserving and developing heritage sites and sectors and improving their management and is coordinated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The project will operate five projects including capacity building activities, paleontological heritage, regional cultural projects, training in the music sector and image promotion.

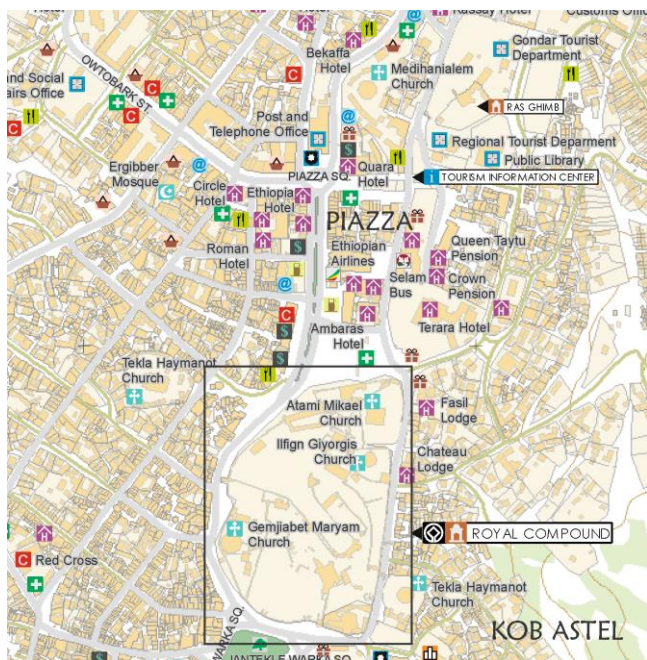
Minister of Culture and Tourism, Amin Abdulkadir, said culture has gained unanimity as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, which the government is keen to promote. He cited Ethiopia's gifts to the world of nine world heritages, 12 manuscripts as world human memory, one intangible cultural heritage, and two biosphere reserves. Others may be added to UNESCO's list. Information relating to the activities of the Project will be published on the PROHEDEV website.

Gondar city gets new tourist map

The Ethiopian Mapping Agency and the Ministry of Culture & Tourism, together with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, has launched a new tourist map for Gondar, one of the cities in the Amhara region.

"Gondar hosts UNESCO-listed historic treasures", Tadelech Dalacho, State Minister for Tourism said, adding, "this year, Ethiopia is expected to be one of the world's top tourist destinations.. The perception of Ethiopia is changing and the desire of international tourists to visit is growing".

The map gives clear directions, shows key tourist sites and will encourage tourists to stay longer in the city of Gondar in particular and in the region in general.



An extract from the map

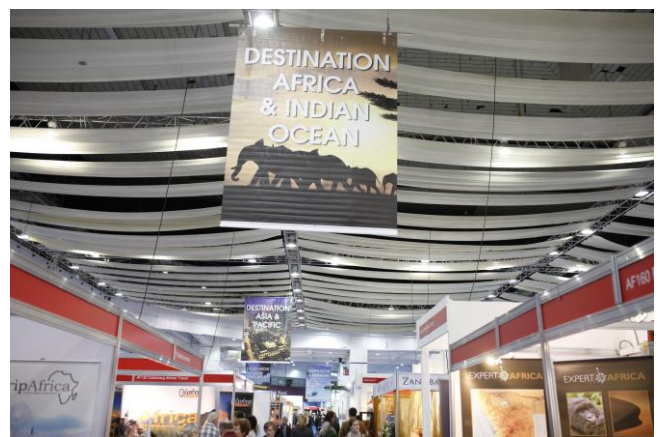
The map won the **New Mapmaker Award** from the National Geographic Society, granted by the British Cartographic Society in November last year. Prepared using Geographic Information Technologies, it will show sights off the usual tourist routes.

Ethiopia at Destinations Travel Show



As part of the Embassy's efforts to develop relations with UK tour operators selling Ethiopia, the Tourism team visited *The Times Destinations Travel Show* at Earl's Court from 6th to 9th February.

Destinations, the UK's leading consumer travel event, was celebrating its 20th year in London and was opened by TV presenter Simon Reeve. The event attracted the biggest choice of leading tour operators and tourist boards for over five years and 37,485 visitors.



Ethiopia. A Tourist Paradise

What tour operators said...



Ethiopia specialist Wild Frontiers staged a fascinating, sell-out talk on the highlights of Ethiopia at the *Stanfords Meet the Experts* stage, where Founder Jonny Bealby, and Operations Manager Marc Leaderman, spoke about the many varied attractions - from the northern circuit including Lalibela and Axum, to the Omo Valley region and the spectacular but harsh Danakil Depression. Wild Frontiers is offering a 10% discount on all Group Tours and Tailor-made tours to Ethiopia for travel in 2014 until 31st March 2014, as part of their Ethiopia promotion.



Janet Shankland of One Greenstone, representing Kibran Tours, was encouraged that Ethiopia is gaining in popularity. "There is definitely more interest in Ethiopia, with enquiries and bookings on the increase, a renewed confidence and some great work going on in tourism promotion."



Oasis Overland, an independent adventure travel company based in Somerset said "At *Destinations* the map of Africa drew lots of attention and interest in the countries that we visit there, including Ethiopia. The **Nile Trans Tour** travels from Cairo to Cape Town via Ethiopia, where the tour visits Gondar and Bahir Dar. Tourists can visit the holy city of Axum and the rock-hewn churches at Lalibela. The tour heads south via Lake Tana and the spectacular Blue Nile Falls, to Addis Ababa and on to the Omo Valley with some of the most varied ethnic groups in Ethiopia.



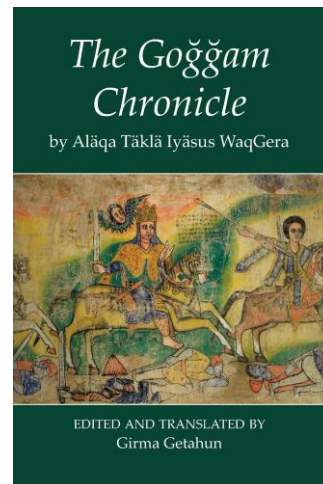
Explore, who have run small group adventure holidays since 1981, were busy meeting existing group and FIT clients, with many new customer enquiries. Their Ethiopian holidays include trekking in the Simien Mountains and historic and cultural routes into Axum, Lalibella, Harar and Gondar.

**RAINBOW
TOURS**

"We had a fantastic time at the Destinations Travel Show, and enjoyed telling clients about what the 'Roof of Africa' has to offer, including the breath-taking scenery dominated by highlands mostly more than 2,000 metres above sea level, the variety of its habitats and the diversity of its ethnic groups. Our well-travelled team arranges custom-made trips and escorts small group tours to Ethiopia, and our clients enjoy an unrivalled variety of experiences. Guests can see everything from the rock-hewn churches and ancient monasteries, to spectacular scenery such as the vast Simien Mountains and Rift Valley lakes and a plethora of endemic wildlife and birds."

Next year's event will be held at London's Olympia from 29th January to 1st February 2015.

Reception to celebrate the publication of *The Goḡgam Chronicle*



The British Academy held a reception on 10th February to celebrate the publication of *The Goḡgam Chronicle*, edited and translated by Girma Getahun.

The Chronicle is a detailed regional history of Ethiopia by the chronicler, Alāqa Täklä Iyāsus, who enjoyed the artistic favour and friendship of

King Täklä Haymanot. Of particular importance are the collection of poems inspired by dirge, martial boast and religious devotion. The Chronicle was and still is a goldmine for scholars of history, students of the Amharic language and early Amharic literature and for those interested in the study of genealogy, church painting, migration and settlement.

The Chronicle was previously known only to a handful of scholars. This new translation is based on careful study of all the manuscripts to produce an authoritative and coherent text. It is the latest volume in the *Fontes Historiae Africanae* (Sources of African History) series published by the British Academy.

SPORT

Genzebe Dibaba in world record hat-trick

Genzebe Dibaba set her **third world record** in just **two weeks** by shattering the **indoor two-mile** record at the Sainsbury's Grand Prix meeting held at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham on 15th February.



Joining other Ethiopian legends, the 23-year-old's time of nine minutes and 0.48 seconds eclipsed compatriot Meseret Defar's by almost six seconds

"I'm very delighted, because to break three world records was what I'd planned," said Dibaba.

Genzabe had never before run over two miles, indoors or out, and now holds not only the world, African and Ethiopian records for the distance, but the family record too! Genzabe comes from a family of running greats – she is sister of three-time Olympic champion Tirunesh Dibaba and Olympic silver medallist Ejegayehu Dibaba, while their brother Dejene is a promising 800m athlete. She is also the cousin of former two-time Olympic champion Derartu Tulu.

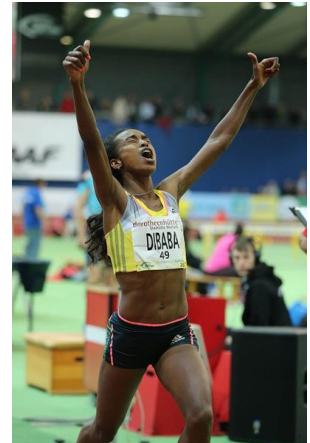


On 6th February, Genzabe broke the **3,000m world indoor record at Stockholm's XL Galan**, finishing in 8:16.60, cutting more than seven

seconds from the previous record of 8:23.72 set seven years ago by Meseret Defar and bettering the 8:23.23 set outdoors by Kenyan Edith Masai in 2002, making it an **African record** as well.

Five days earlier, she set the **1,500m world indoor mark in Karlsruhe, Germany**, by more than three seconds with a run of 3:55.17 beating the previous best, 3:58.28, set by Russia's Yelena Soboleva in 2006. Her time was more than a second faster than Abeba Aregawi's Ethiopian outdoor record of 3:56.54 and the outdoor African record of 3:55.30, set by Hassiba Boulmerka.

"I felt I was ready for a world record," Genzabe said after finishing the race. "But I didn't think I would run 3:55. I was well prepared for tonight, though. I'm extremely happy."



Genzabe now aims to defend her title in Poland, for the IAAF World Indoor Championships. While in Birmingham she said, "I'm hoping to win gold again at the World Indoors. I have a 1,500m gold from last time, so this time I want the 3,000m."

...Other Ethiopian Athletes also triumph



In Birmingham, Mohammed Aman set a national record of 1:44.52 to win the men's 800m in the fastest time so far this year. Earlier in Stockholm, Aman won the men's 800m in 1:45.08, a world-leading mark, ahead of Poland's Marcin Lewandowski and Spain's Kevin Lopez.



In the men's 3,000m, Ethiopia won a 1-2-3 with Hagos Gebrhiwet finishing first in 7:35.73 and Dejen Gebremeskel and Yenew Alamirew finishing second and third. In the men's



1,500m Mekonnen Gebremedhin finished fifth in 3:38.61.

In the women’s two-mile race Hiwot Ayalew came in second after Genzabe in 9:21.59.

And in Germany, Mekonnen Gebremedhin came second in the men’s 1,500 metres finishing in 3:37.42, while Yenew Alamirew finished third in the men’s 5,000 metres in 7:38.18.

...preparations for Poland

Ethiopia will send 11 athletes, to the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Sopot, Poland in March, where Aman and Ginzabe will hope to replicate their recent successes in 800m and 3,000m respectively.

TEAM ETHIOPIA FOR SOPOT:

Men

- 800m:** Mohammed Aman
- 1500m:** Mekonnen Gebremedhin, Aman Wote
- 3000m:** Yenew Alamirew, Dejen Gebremeskel, Hagos Gebrhiwet

Women

- 1500m:** Axumawit Embaye, Gudaf Tsegay
- 3000m:** Genzebe Dibaba, Almaz Ayana, Hiwot Ayalew

Haile - lead pacemaker at London Marathon

Haile Gebrselassie, the greatest distance runner of all time, will be the lead pacemaker for the elite men’s race at the 2014 Virgin Money London Marathon on Sunday 13th April, just five days short of his 41st birthday.



The former world record holder and two-time Olympic 10,000m champion, will pace the leading

men to the 30km point at world record speed, including reigning London Marathon champion Tsegaye Kebede from Ethiopia, Britain’s double Olympic and world champion Mo Farah, the current marathon world record holder Wilson Kipsang from Kenya, the world and Olympic marathon champion Stephen Kiprotich, and the London Marathon course record holder Emmanuel Mutai.

Ethiopia’s 18-year-old Tsegaye Mekonnen, added to the line-up after his sensational performance at this year’s Dubai Marathon, will also join the field. Running his first marathon, Mekonnen beat an experienced field in 2:04:32 and smashed the unofficial world junior record by more than a minute. It was the third fastest debut marathon on a legitimate course.

It is the first time Haile has run as a pacemaker in a top class international race, and the London Marathon race director, Hugh Brasher, welcomed the legendary Ethiopian to the 2014 line-up.



“Haile is an icon.., a man who has broken 27 world records on the track and road during his long and brilliant career, and we can’t think of anyone better to set our elite men up for a crack at the world marathon record. Everyone knows how difficult it is to break the world record on London’s course, especially with such a competitive field, but with Haile pacing and four of the fastest marathon runners in history in the race, there’s a real chance we will see something special,” Brasher said.

Ethiopia, Land of Sporting Legends

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

Ethiopia to be an African power hub



Katrina Manson in Addis Ababa talks of Ethiopia’s ambitious 25-year master plan to boost power exports from 223MW a year now to at least 5,000MW, transforming the country into one of the top, and cheapest, power suppliers in Africa.



As part of a \$22bn AU-backed project to develop a pan-continental electricity highway by 2020, Ethiopia plans to increase its power exports to Djibouti, Kenya and Sudan, and establish grid links to South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and even to Yemen across the Red Sea.

Donald Kaberuka, president of the African Development Bank (AfDB), says it is the first time an African government has looked “at energy as an export sector the way you export gold, and it’s going to be a huge advantage for them”.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/14d2026a-902d-11e3-a776-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=uk#axzz2tZVwnGdb>

Manufacturing in Africa - An awakening giant



The 8th February edition reports on the “quiet boom in manufacturing in Africa”. Farming, services and commodity exports are still dominant, “but new industries are emerging in a lot of African countries. New companies, for example, an affiliate of SRAM, the world’s second-largest cycle-components maker, based in Chicago, are aiming to invest in Ethiopia, joining companies such as H&M, a multi-national

Swedish retail-clothing firm, and Ireland-based Primark, who source a lot of material from Ethiopia.



Ethiopia...is attracting industry. Huajian, a Chinese shoemaker (pictured above), has built an export factory

<http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21595949-if-africas-economies-are-take-africans-will-have-start-making-lot>

The Ethiopian Approach to Food Security



Khalid Bomba and Dan Glickman report on how “a unique Ethiopian government agency, dedicated to agricultural transformation, is emerging as a model for bureaucratic collaboration and helping to feed millions of Ethiopians.”

“Fighting an uphill battle against the challenges of food insecurity and climate, Ethiopia brought the percentage of its population living under the global poverty line down from 77.6 per cent in 2012 to 66 per cent in 2013...a result of the country’s policy commitments and supportive programmes around agricultural development. Ethiopia has invested in the establishment of agricultural centers to train nearly 60,000 extension workers across the country, significantly increased road density to connect all administration districts with all-weather roads, and is planning to increase irrigation coverage and bring electricity to 75 per cent of the population.”

<http://www.ssireview.org/blog/entry/the-ethiopian-approach-to-food-security>



Custodians of diversity: small farmers - video

globaldevelopment

Supported by BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

Filmmaker Jess Phillimore, on behalf of the Gaia Foundation, shows new film, **Seeds of Justice**, on Ethiopia's national seed bank, which was instigated by Melaku Worede. The seed bank has embraced participatory planting since the 1980s and Melaku's pioneering work is widely promoted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and other agencies. It involves opening the bank's doors to farmers and rural communities, drawing on their knowledge and establishing new partnerships as a means of conservation and preserving diversity.

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/video/2014/feb/19/custodians-diversity-ethiopia-small-farmers-conservation-video>



How Community Health Workers Dramatically Improve Healthcare

The Atlantic

Ankita Rao reports on the rise of community health workers in Ethiopia, who have "helped

Ethiopia reduce child mortality by two-thirds since 1990 and death from malaria, a common disease, by 55 per cent" and have become an integral part of the tiered national healthcare system put in place in 2004 to reach mostly rural families vulnerable to disease, hunger and isolation. The country's Ministry of Health employs 38,000 health extension workers—an all-women workforce of mostly high school graduates with one year of health training."

<http://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/02/how-community-health-workers-dramatically-improve-healthcare/283555/>



Sacred Landscapes of Ethiopia



In her first blog, Simoon Travel's Amelia Stewart explores Ethiopia's landscapes in the North.

"Ethiopia is home to some of the most spectacular, beguiling and beautiful landscapes in the world -

and many of them sacred. Throughout our journey in Northern Ethiopia we have wound our way up, around, and down mountains, passed deep blue lakes, never-ending plateaux and vast agricultural plains, with the jagged peaks of mysterious finger shaped rocks looming large in the distance.



<http://www.originaltravel.co.uk/blog/ethiopia-travel>



Holy water washes away sins at Ethiopia's Timket festival



CNN's *Inside Africa* reports on Ethiopia's unique Timket (Epiphany) celebrations in Gondar, an Orthodox Christian festival re-enacting the baptism of Jesus which dates back to the 16th century.



On the morning of Timket, priests hold services, then bless the waters in the Fasilides bathing pool


<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/02/18/travel/ethiopia-timket-holy-water/>



MailOnline Also see Ruth Styles' article at MailOnline, where the explosion of colour that is Ethiopia's ancient Timkat festival, one of the world's oldest Christian ceremonies celebrated with processions of dancing priests and midnight river swims, with photos by Eric Lafforgue who attended the January celebrations.



A little boy waits for the ceremony to begin on the blue-painted roof of one of the cliff churches

 <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2553150/Spectacular-photos-reveal-explosion-colour-Ethiopias-ancient-Timkat-festival.html>

Lalibela: Holy Ethiopian Stone-Hewn Churches

Slate Atlas Obscura on Slate is a blog about the world's hidden wonders.

An Ethiopian "Jerusalem" featuring a church hewn out of a single rock

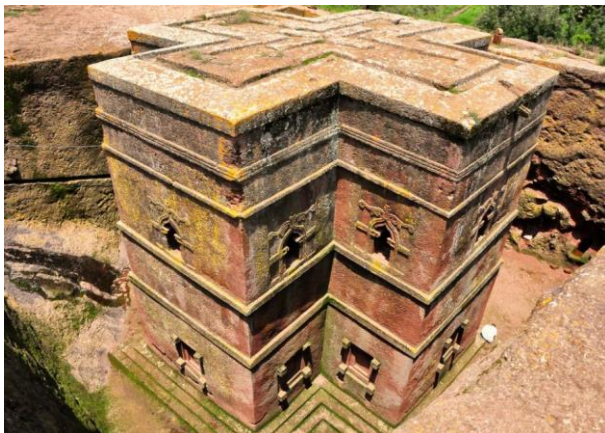




Photo: Rod Waddington/Creative Common




The town of Lalibela is completely isolated from the modern world. Without motor vehicles, gas stations, or paved streets, the town goes about its business as it has for hundreds of years. One tenth of its population is devoted to priesthood. The eleven solid rock churches, in the hills round Lalibela make it one of the holiest places in Ethiopia. This religious architecture and the simplicity of the town's way of life, gives the city of Lalibela "a distinctively timeless, almost biblical atmosphere."

 http://www.slate.com/blogs/atlas_obscura/2014/02/19/bete_giyorgis_in_lalibela_is_one_of_13_stone_hewn_churches_from_the_13th.html

 <http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/bete-giyorgis-lalibela>

Teff - Ancient Crop with Modern Potential

 **foodtank** THE FOOD THINK TANK Brett Aronson, an International and Community Development Practitioner, says Teff (*eragrostis tef*) is an ancient crop which could address food insecurity throughout the developing world.



Teff, highly nutritious and hardy - the next quinoa (A. Davey)

With its recent popularity, Brett hopes that this "newfound attention will bring more research on this unique, adaptable, and highly nutritious crop, to the betterment of agricultural development throughout the developing world." The article also includes a recipe for teff porridge.

 <http://foodtank.com/NEWS/2014/02/INDIGENOUS-CROP-ANCIENT-CROP-WITH-MODERN-POTENTIAL>



The Daily Mail reports – *Hollywood's new favourite food revealed: Victoria Beckham and Gwyneth Paltrow are fans of teff, an iron-rich Ethiopian grain that costs a whopping £7 a bag.* Martha Cliff says Teff is “set to be 2014's coolest cupboard essential.”

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2549320/Victoria-Beckham-Gwyneth-Palrow-fans-Teff-iron-rich-Ethiopian-grain-costs-whopping-7-BAG.html>



How to make an Ethiopian vegetarian feast



Jennifer Bain shares six fabulous Ethiopian recipes prepared by two local Ethiopian chefs. “When a beloved restaurant closes, the food obsessed among us panic at the prospect of losing a favourite dish forever...I act quickly.”

Recipes include *Yemisir Wot* (Berbere Lentils), *Misir Aicha* (Green Lentils with Turmeric Sauce), *Tikil Gomen* (Cabbage, Carrots & Potatoes), and Ethiopian Green Salad and Tomato Salad.



Vegetarian stews with salads, served on injera

“Eating Ethiopian food with family and friends brings you closer,” says Kinde one of the chefs.

http://www.thestar.com/life/food_wine/2014/02/21/how_to_make_an_ethiopian_vegetarian_feast.html



Cross-Country Skiing - Jamaican Bobsleigh? No, Ethiopian ski team!



“There is no precise word for 'snow' in the Amharic language of Ethiopia, but that did not stop the Teklemariam brothers from establishing the country's first ski association and opening the doors to winter sports for young African athletes.”

Hoping to represent Ethiopia for the first time in the Winter Olympics, Yoseph, Benyam, and Robel Teklemariam founded the Ethiopian Ski Association (ESA) in 2005.

Robel competed at the 2006 and 2010 Games in Turin and Vancouver, where he and his brother, were constantly mistaken for the Jamaican bobsleigh team because of their dreadlocks.



Robel Zemichael Teklemariam (L) and Nepal's Dachhiri Sherpa carry Portugal's Danny Silva after finishing the men's 15 km individual start cross-country

“While walking around Vancouver, we often heard people shouting out: 'Jamaican Bobsled!' and we would retort: 'Ethiopia Ski Team!' Yoseph said.

<http://uk.eurosport.yahoo.com/news/cross-country-skiing-jamaican-bobsleigh-ethiopian-ski-team-091424983--spt.html>



Julia Bleasdale: the joyful simplicity of training in Ethiopia

British long-distance runner, Julia Bleasdale, training in Ethiopia ahead of the Commonwealth Games and European Championships, offers an insight into life as an elite athlete.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Patent sought for Teff

“The rhythm of daily life in the Ethiopian highlands starts early, with the coolness of the refreshing mountain night giving way to the pleasant warming rays of the equatorial sunrise...Ethiopia offers inspiration in a variety of ways...Looking back at the women's 5,000m, 10,000m and marathon at London 2012, all were won by outstanding Ethiopian athletes. Living and breathing here, it is clear why. For much of the year the climate in Addis Ababa is ideal...the high altitude is felt with every running, or walking, step. The oxygen-deprived environment stimulates an increase in the production of red blood cells, all-important for the transport of fuel to our muscles, and thus very relevant to endurance capacity.”



“Ethiopia's greatest runners also attribute their success to food. The national dish, injera, is a yeast-risen flatbread made from iron-rich teff flour. Raw meat is frequently eaten – when lunching with Haile Gebrselassie, he proclaimed: "Eat this and you will be a champion," while slicing off another chunk of raw beef.”



<http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/the-running-blog/2014/feb/14/julia-bleasdale-training-ethiopia-long-distance-runner>

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn said efforts are underway to obtain the patent rights for *teff*, a staple food grain in Ethiopia, following discussions with World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Director-General Dr Francis Gurry.

Dr Gurry said WIPO will provide training for professionals in Ethiopia - to help the country improve the quality of teff - and capacity-building assistance to minimise wastage.



Ethiopia is the source and main producer of teff, a species of lovegrass native to the northern Ethiopian Highlands. The seeds from the plant, the size of a poppy seed, are rich in amino acids, protein, iron and calcium and are gluten-free.

62% of GTP achieved by roads authority

The Ethiopian Roads Authority built 9,156km of roads during the first three years of the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP) period – 62% of its target.

Ethiopia plans to build 14,787km of roads by 2015. The authority also carried out the construction and upgrading of 701km of roads and seasonal maintenance on 7,155km in the last six months.

More than 30 billion birr has been allocated for the road sector this budget year of which 8.8 billion birr will be covered by foreign aid and loans while the balance will be covered by the government.

President Mulatu meets investors

In discussion with a business delegation from Malaysia, the UAE, Turkey, Lebanon and Iraq, President Dr Mulatu Teshome said Ethiopia provides many incentives to investing companies, adding that there are various agro-ecological zones suitable for every kind of crop production and abundant natural resources.

Over \$172 million earned from mineral exports

Ethiopia earned \$172.6 million in revenue from mineral exports in the last six months, from the export of gold, tantalum, marble and gemstones, mined by both companies and artisanal miners. There are 147 foreign companies in Ethiopia engaged in exploration, excavation and production of minerals.

Ministry working to build capacity of teachers

Efforts are underway to build up the capacity and competency of teachers to maintain education quality and improve the knowledge and skills of teachers at primary and secondary schools, the Ministry of Education has said.

Teachers are receiving on-job short- and long-term training - previous training brought encouraging changes. Certification of occupational competence will be provided to teachers. Over 90% of the teachers at government primary schools in Ethiopia are diploma holders.

Council of African Cabinet Secretaries set up

A Council of African Cabinet Secretaries was established on 7th February following a workshop held in Addis Ababa, bringing together key staff from 11 African cabinet secretariats.



Roundtable workshop delegates in Addis Ababa



“Using Evidence to Improve Cabinet Decision-Making”, also established an Africa Cabinet Government Network, to provide formal and informal opportunities for collaboration, mutual support and sharing of practical experiences.

Victory of Adwa colourfully observed

On 2nd March, Ethiopians observed the 118th anniversary of the victory of the Battle of Adwa, where the Ethiopian army, led by Emperor Menelik II, defeated the Italian army who attempted to colonise Ethiopia.



Painting by an unknown Ethiopian artist which depicts the Battle of Adwa, fought between Italy and Abyssinia in 1896.
©The British Museum

The city of Adwa is located in the northern part of Ethiopia in the Tigray regional state. The decisive battle was fought on 1st March 1896 between Ethiopia and Italy.

Ethiopia was the first and only country in Africa that defeated a European colonial power during the “Scramble for Africa”, making it the only independent nation in Africa that has never been colonised.

The victory was a symbol of independence and pride for all black people around the world. The colours of Ethiopia's flag [Green, Yellow, and Red] was adopted by many African countries after their independence.

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