



Ethiopian News

April 2018

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A year of debate on Ethiopia's treasures

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Editorial

Premier appoints new Cabinet, sets out early Reform Priorities



It has now been just over three weeks since the [swearing-in of Dr Abiy Ahmed](#) as Prime Minister of Ethiopia. The historic and peaceful transfer of power which ushered in his election followed the [resignation of the former Prime Minister](#), earlier this year, in the face of growing public demand for good governance. Since his election, the first few weeks of the Premier's tenure have been characterised by a renewed sense of hope and determination in the country. In an effort to address public grievances, maintain the country's socio-economic gains and guarantee peace and security, the new Prime Minister has engaged in a series of public consultations while setting out the vision for reform going forward.

To accomplish this vision, the new Premier [reshuffled his cabinet](#) last week, appointing sixteen new cabinet ministers in the process – six of which were women – and naming the House of People's Representatives' first ever female Speaker, Muferait Kemil. In appointing his new cabinet, Dr Abiy explained that the selections were made on the basis of each candidates' integrity, experience in public service and proven track record of delivery. Addressing Parliament, the Prime Minister said all ministers would be expected to administer their new roles in line with reform priorities and as per two red-line agendas – the fight against corruption and the efficient delivery of public services. Dr Abiy went on to highlight that there would be no

compromise on the part of the government in the pursuit of these twin agendas.

Additionally, the Premier spent his first few weeks in office on a number of official visits across the country – traveling the length and breadth of Ethiopia to engage in a series of public consultations with citizens drawn from across society. In the span of less than two weeks, Dr Abiy addressed constituents in Jijiga, Ambo, Mekelle, Addis Ababa, Gondar, Bahir Dar and Hawassa – listening to the public’s grievances and committing his government to resolving them. In these consultative meetings, the Prime Minister exchanged views with ordinary citizens, emphasising the urgent need to nurture the country’s unity in diversity and to jointly find constructive solutions to the various challenges facing the country. In particular, he urged the youth, during an event at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa, to avoid, at all costs, any recourse to violence as a means of giving vent to feelings of anger and frustration.

It was at a meeting with business people and entrepreneurs from the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce that the Prime Minister addressed the state of the nation’s economy, and particularly, the foreign currency crunch afflicting it. In his explanation to the gathering, he invited the private sector to closely collaborate with government in its efforts to eliminate illicit financial flows, curb black market exchanges and recover foreign currency held abroad. Furthermore, he vowed that the Government, on its part, would do everything in its power to address concerns raised by businesses related to red-tape, excessive bureaucracy and unethical practices within the public sector. He concluded by acknowledging that, as is common in many rapidly developing states, the foreign currency crunch would persist in the medium-term due to the ongoing need to deliver on value-adding capital-intensive infrastructure projects.

Amongst other engagements, Dr Abiy also hosted a dinner reception at the Jubilee Palace for leaders of opposition parties, religious leaders and members of civil society. The Premier’s discussions with these groups focused on the government’s continuing efforts to enhance democracy in Ethiopia by opening up the political space and encouraging political participation across society.

The first few weeks of the Prime Minister’s tenure have been illustrative of the Government’s ongoing determination to deliver reform while sustaining the socio-economic gains of the past decade. With news this week from the World Bank confirming that Ethiopia will, yet again, be the fastest-growing economy in Africa this year, the outlook looks bright. As put by the Premier in his address to young people at Millennium Hall, **“if we work as one – displaying unity in confronting our shared challenges - I can guarantee that tomorrow will be a better day than today!”**

Who are the new Cabinet Ministers?

On 19th April, the House of Peoples’ Representatives (HPR) approved the appointment of members of the Council of Ministers nominated by Prime Minister Dr Abiy Ahmed.

The following ministers were appointed, including 10 new cabinet members, while 6 others were reshuffled from other ministerial positions. Others remained in their previous positions.

- Melaku Alebel – Minister of Trade
- Dr Amir Aman – Minister of Health
- Siraj Fegessa - Minister of Transport
- Motuma Mekassa – Minister of Defense
- Dr Ambachew Mekonnen - Minister of Industry
- Fozia Amin – Minister of Culture and Tourism
- Melese Alemu – Minister of Mines and Energy
- Berhanu Tsegaye – Attorney General
- Shiferaw Shigute - Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
- Amb. Teshome Toga - Minister of Public Enterprises
- Yalem Tsegaye – Minister of Women and Children
- Ahmed Shide - Minister of Government Communications Affairs Office
- Dr Hirut Woldemariam - Minister of Labour and Social Affairs
- Uba Mohammed - Minister of Communications and Information Technology
- Jantrar Abay – Minister of Urban Development and Housing
- Umer Hussen – Director General of Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority with the rank of Minister

A full list of all cabinet ministers can be found on our website www.ethioembassy.org.uk/politicalaffairs

ETHIOPIA IN THE UK

150th anniversary of the Battle of Maqdala commemorated in London

On 5th April, the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) opened its *Maqdala 1868* exhibition, a year-long display of 20 Maqdala artefacts, seized by British troops 150 years ago at the Battle of Maqdala, when the British “Abyssinian Expedition”, led by General, later Lord, Napier invaded Ethiopia and attacked the mountain fortress of Emperor Tewodros at Maqdala, killing all with its superior fire-power and ransacking the Emperor’s treasury. British troops carried off crowns and gold chalices, over 350 manuscripts, at least 11 *tabots* (representations of the Ark of the Covenant), many crosses, necklaces, drums, amulets, and even the Emperor’s clothes and his hair. In addition, they took away the Emperor’s 7-year-old son, Alemayehu, who died from pleurisy, aged 18, in Leeds.



V&A Director, Dr Tristram Hunt (left), shows Ambassador Hailemichael the Maqdala display. ©Ethiopian Embassy UK

Prime Minister Gladstone deplored the manner in which the expeditionary force had behaved and said the treasures should never have been brought to Britain and should be returned. Lord Napier agreed, stating that the treasures were only brought to Britain “for safe-keeping” until they could “be safely returned to Ethiopia”.

Some restitution has been made. A Kebra Negest (Book of Kings), was returned following a request from Emperor Yohannes in 1872. A silver crown was presented to Ras Teferi in 1924 by King George

V and in 1965 Emperor Tewodros’ seal and cap were returned by Queen Elizabeth II to Emperor Haile Selassie during a state visit to Ethiopia. Individuals in the UK have returned two *tabots*, a book of Psalms, a shield, two paintings and an amulet belonging to Emperor Tewodros. In 2007, Italy returned the Axum obelisk, seized during its invasion in 1935-36.



Some of the objects on display including a golden crown and solid gold chalice. ©Ethiopian Embassy UK

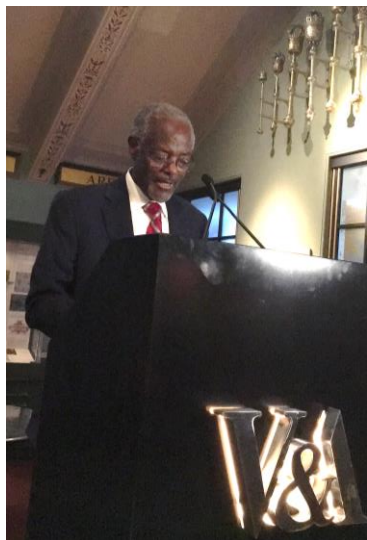
Professor Andreas Eshete, co-founder of the Association for the Return of Maqdala Ethiopian Treasures (AFROMET) welcomed the V&A’s long-term loan offer, telling *The Guardian* newspaper that it was “a great improvement on what had happened before”. He said “Certain things that are important to Ethiopia are never on display in the UK”, adding that he hoped that “Once they [UK museums] see they are used in a proper way and in a way that is accessible not only to the Ethiopian public but internationally, people may well change their mind about the value of holding on to them forever.”

During Ethiopia’s Millennial year (2008) the President of Ethiopia wrote to six UK institutions formally asking for looted Maqdala treasures to be returned to Ethiopia. Former Minister of Culture and Tourism, Hirut Woldemariam, has made it clear that full restitution is called for and has urged UK museums, institutions and individuals to return artefacts looted from Ethiopia, as it is “the rightful owner of the treasures”. UK institutions holding Maqdala loot are the British Museum, the Royal

Library at Windsor Castle, the Bodleian Library in Oxford, Cambridge University Library, Manchester University, and at least three northern regiments. The National Army Museum in London holds the Emperor's hair, but has recently acquiesced to a request to remove an image of it from its website, at the Embassy's request.

Maqdala 1868 evolved out of a year of discussions between the Museum and Ethiopia's Embassy in London. V&A Director, Dr Tristram Hunt, commended Ambassador Dr Hailemichael Aberra, for "engaging proactively" with the Museum. He looked forward to "discussion and debates on our shared history" and said a compromise had been offered: "The speediest way, if Ethiopia wanted to have these items on display [in Ethiopia], is a *long-term loan*...that would be the easiest way to manage it."

The Museum's decision to hold the exhibition was warmly welcomed and the Ambassador said the gesture was a step in the right direction and a springboard for further collaborations around conservation, research and curatorial exchange. But full restitution was the government's policy.



The Battle of Maqdala and its aftermath, he said, constituted "a deeply sad episode in [our] shared history." He acknowledged the lead made by the Museum, in displaying, for the first time, some of the items from 1868 and encouraged other museums to follow suit. He

informed guests, including African diplomats, journalists and academics, that even the Napier family had recently returned a necklace and a prayer scroll to the **Institute of Ethiopian Studies** in Addis Ababa. This was, he said, "Yet further proof that times change and so do attitudes!"

Ethiopian-British poet and Manchester University Chancellor, Lemn Sissay, spoke passionately about the chequered life in the UK of the son of Emperor Tewodros, Prince Alemayehu, who died at the tender age of 18 and is buried within the precinct of St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. Lemn is a strong voice in the campaign for the repatriation of the remains of Prince Alemayehu to Ethiopia.



World-wide media attention has been prolific and continues apace.

The Ethiopian-American author Maaza Mengiste, told *Museums Journal*: "Though this is a hopeful sign that what belongs to Ethiopia will finally be returned to the country, I do not think those of us who want to see full repatriation of the objects should rest."

...200th anniversary Emperor's birth celebrated



Meanwhile, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Emperor Tewodros II was commemorated from 10th to 16th April in the Amhara Regional State at Debre Tabor and in Addis Ababa. Then Minister of Tourism & Culture Hirut Woldeselassie said the Emperor had played a significant role in uniting and modernizing the country and establishing libraries. The Amhara Regional State, in collaboration with three universities in the region, are restoring Tewodros' birthplace and its surroundings, and preparations are also underway to convert it into a tourist destination.

Visit our YouTube page for an exclusive video about Maqdala: <http://bit.ly/Maqdala150>.

7th Anniversary of Renaissance Dam celebrated in London

On 28th April, diplomats and members of the Ethiopian Community converged at the Ethiopian Embassy in London to celebrate the 7th anniversary of the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).



Speaking about the role of the Ethiopian Diaspora, the Ambassador appreciated the community's support and called upon them to scale up and intensify their all-around support for the grand project.

On the day, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam Tombola Lottery tickets were sold, of which prizes include residential plots and money, apartments, condominiums and tours to different parts of the country and to the GERD



construction site. For information regarding the Tombola Lottery, visit the Embassy or contact the reception desk.



In his speech, the Ambassador described the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam as a “symbol of national unity” and “a Living Monument of Self Reliance”. He noted, since the day of launching the construction of the dam,

Ethiopians from all walks of life including those in the diaspora community are supporting the construction in many ways believing the completion of the Dam would enable Ethiopia to become a middle-income country and foster and strengthen economic integration with neighbouring countries and beyond. The Ambassador noted that the construction of GERD has reached 66% and said: "as we mark the 7th anniversary of the launch of the construction of GERD, we are reminded that each day leads to more successes in making the finalization of the dam a historical reality".

The \$4.7 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, fully financed from domestic resources, is 66% complete. When complete, the 6,450MW dam will be Africa's largest and is a landmark project signalling Ethiopia's renaissance.



In Ethiopia, the anniversary was celebrated in the presence of high level government officials, artists, and invited guests at the construction site in Guba, Benishangul Gumuz Regional State.

Speaking at the event, Etenesh Mekuria, State Minister of Water, Irrigation & Electricity, said the dam will produce electric power but also cement national unity and reduce poverty.

In addition to purchasing bonds, farmers have planted 4 billion tree seedlings around the dam to protect the ecosystem.

Around 9,000 Ethiopian and 260 foreign workers are participating in the construction of the dam.

...PM Abiy visits Renaissance Dam site



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed visited the site of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on 1st May accompanied Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonnen and other government officials, including the Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Dr Sileshi Bekele and Engineer Azeb Asnake, CEO of Ethiopian Electric Power.



During their visit, the delegation was given an update on the progress of the dam by Engineer Simegnaw Bekele, manager of the project.

Following the visit, the Prime Minister addressed residents of the Benishangul Gumuz Regional State, calling on them to stand united to meet the targets set to realise a prosperous Ethiopia.

The Premier also held discussions with representatives of the residents, drawn from all parts of the region, where he addressed various issues including investment and infrastructure development.

Ambassador at Circus Abyssinia's London Debut

Ambassador Hailemicheal and diplomats were among guests at the press night of *Circus Abyssinia: Ethiopian Dreams*, showcasing at the Underbelly Festival in Southbank, London until 20th May.



Circus Abyssinia, a team of young talented acrobats from Addis Ababa, made their London premiere at the Festival on 5th April, following a smash hit run at last year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and performed on ITV's Royal Variety Performance, and had a sell-out tour in Singapore.

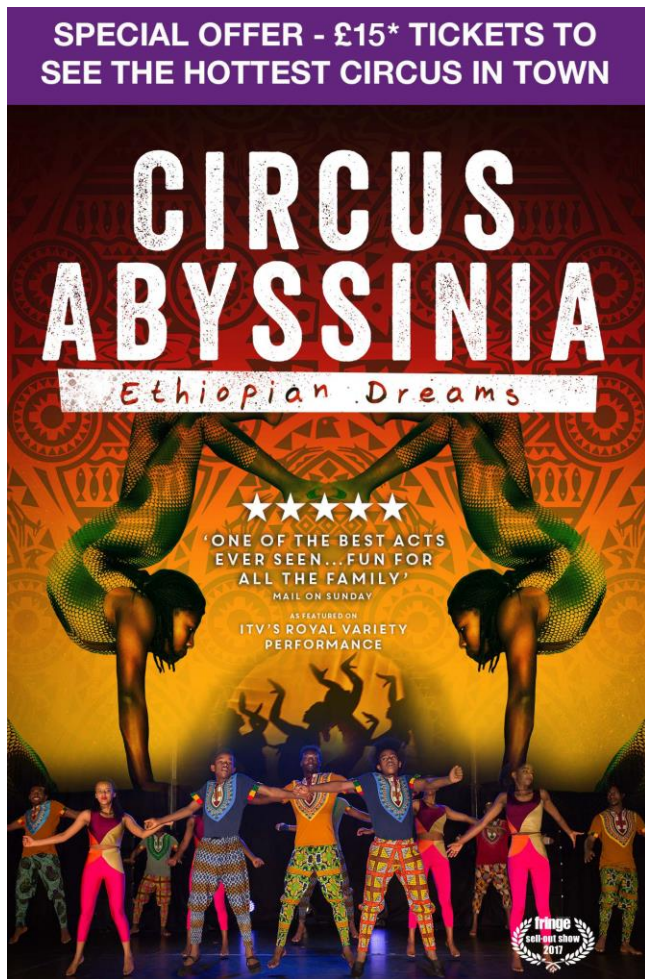
Circus Abyssinia: Ethiopian Dreams celebrates the birth of a new Ethiopian tradition through a breathtaking range of circus skills such as human juggling, hand-vaulting, contortion, cloth spinning, clowning and the astonishing double Chinese Pole act.

The show dramatizes the story of two Ethiopian brothers, Bibi and Bichu, who dreamed as young

boys, of joining the circus, and the journey of how their dream came true.

Fusing theatrical storytelling with astonishing stunts, the show combines the arts and innovations of contemporary circus with Ethiopia's artistic and rich musical heritage.

Following the show, Ambassador Hailemichael said that the whole performance was a great success in promoting Ethiopia in general and Ethiopian culture through music, dance and circus. The reaction from the audience speaks for itself, he said.



Circus Abyssinia: Ethiopian Dreams runs from 5th April – 20th May at Southbank. For tickets and further information, visit their website at www.underbellyfestival.com.

SPECIAL OFFER TICKETS: £15 tickets are available for Sunday – Thursday performances up until 10th May. Call box office and quote **SPRING15 or use online.**

LOCAL NEWS

Former PM receives highest honour

PM Abiy Ahmed hosted a farewell ceremony at the National Palace for former PM Hailemariam Dessalegn, who was bestowed Ethiopia's highest medal and diploma of honour for his relentless service to the people of Ethiopia, during his term in office.



During the ceremony attended by senior government officials and diplomats, PM Abiy thanked the former Premier for his contribution to the country, describing him as “an academic who has a special quality that is a model for all of us.”

Hailemariam said the new Premier should be given time, support and advice during the challenges that lie ahead, adding “I’m happy to see that our country is in good hands.” He finally thanked his former cabinet, public service staff and all Ethiopians for the contribution they had made to his success during his stay at office.

Hailemariam resigned from his posts as Chairman of EPRDF and Prime Minister of Ethiopia in February to become part of a solution for the reforms underway in the country. The former Premier transferred power peacefully to the newly elected PM Abiy Ahmed. Hailemariam was elected as Chairman of EPRDF and Prime Minister of Ethiopia in September 2012 following the sudden death of the late PM Meles Zenawi in August 2012.

Former First Lady Roman Tesfaye was also recognised for her extraordinary contribution in the social sectors and for being an icon to Ethiopian women.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visits Ethiopia



The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein visited Ethiopia from 22nd-25th April and held talks with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, Foreign Minister Workneh Gebeyehu, new Speaker of the House Muferihat Kamil, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commissioner, Officials from Oromia Regional State, Addis Ababa University community and Ethiopians from all walks of life in and outside Addis Ababa.

In his discussion with PM Abiy, the High Commissioner noted that during his visit to various parts of the country, he witnessed a new chapter unfolding in the development of human rights and democracy in Ethiopia, adding that he was “deeply impressed” with the inaugural speech of the Premier, by the renewed interest, hope and commitment all Ethiopians have demonstrated. This renewed feeling would give further impetus to the Government’s ongoing efforts to bring about social justice in the country, he said.

He was able to visit areas outside Addis without any restrictions, he said, highlighting his talks with Aba Gaddas and Officials of Bishoftu, who confirmed the longstanding Ethiopian culture of democracy that has transcended millennia.

He pledged to support the Government of Ethiopia in its commitment to fulfil the demands of the wider public for a fast-paced transformation, with an

emphasis on technical and institutional capacity building, particularly in the field of human rights protection.



Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed with Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

During the visit, Foreign Minister Dr Workneh Gebeyehu and the High Commissioner signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a UN regional office in Addis Ababa to oversee 17 Eastern and South African countries.

In a statement at the conclusion of his visit, Mr Zeid said: “I am grateful to the Government of Ethiopia for inviting me not once, but twice to this remarkable country during my term as High Commissioner. Inviting a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights once already shows that a Government is willing to openly discuss the human rights challenges in the country. Inviting me twice

demonstrates real sincerity and is very encouraging indeed.”

“In all my meetings – in the Oromia region and in Addis Ababa – I heard clear expressions of optimism and hope that the new Government, led by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, will deliver on the heartening and inspiring speeches he has made during his first three weeks in office, when we heard the Prime Minister’s recognition of ‘the need to address existing inequities that led to recent unrest’, that ‘democracy cannot be realised in the absence of rights – be it civil or economic rights’ and that the ‘right of people to express opinions, the rights of people to organise themselves and engage in effective dialogue and participate in the governance system is inherent in our humanity...not for any government to bestow...as it sees fit.’”

“Ethiopians, young and old, women and men, expressed their eagerness to work constructively with the Government to ensure that the Prime Minister’s vision is realised, to ensure that the momentum is sustained.”

The full statement is available on the UN website at <http://bit.ly/OHCHRET>

7th Tana Forum held in Bahir Dar

The 7th Tana Forum concluded on 22nd April with more than 200 participants gathering to discuss the theme of ***Ownership of Africa’s Peace and Security Provision: Financing and Reforming the African Union***. The Forum is an informal, high-level platform for African decision makers, experts, partners and youth representatives to discuss and explore African-led solutions to peace and security in Africa.



Opening the Forum, Prime Minister Abiy said the Tana Forum has “proved itself worthy of being taken seriously as a veritable platform for energetic and purposeful conversation on pressing, actionable and relevant peace and security challenges facing Africa”. Recognizing the significance of member states being able to finance their own security, he further stated, “Only through sustainable long-term funding can the AU follow an independent agenda that speaks to the common practices and needs of its member states”.



Other high-level government officials attending the Forum included Omar al-Bashir, President of Sudan; John Dramani Mahama, former President of Ghana; Dr Aminata Touré, former Prime Minister of Senegal, Kgalema Motlanthe, former President of South Africa; Louise Mushikiwabo, Foreign Minister of Rwanda; Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, Foreign Minister of Ethiopia; Eusebio Lambo, Minister for Combatants, Mozambique; Graça Machel, Founder and Director of the Graça Machel Trust; and Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The 2-day meeting featured a public lecture delivered by the new Forum chairperson John Dramani Mahama, side events, the annual book launch featuring a new release on pastoralism in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, the annual Meles Zenawi lecture on African leadership – with a focus on Gamal Abdel Nasser and presented by Samia Nkrumah, and a special roundtable on human security organized in collaboration with the Munich Security Conference.

At the close, Forum Board chairperson President Obasanjo, who has held the post since 2012 when the Tana Forum was created, stepped down. Former

Ethiopian PM Hailemariam Dessalegn, thanked Obasanjo for his commitment and welcomed new chairman, former Ghanaian President, John Mahama, who possesses a “pedigree as a tested and committed pan-Africanist and respected statesman”.



Since its inception in 2012, the Tana Forum has grown to become one of the most relevant meetings on peace and security in Africa.

Electric power coverage surpasses 57%

Ethiopia's access to the grid system has now reached more than 57% according to a report by the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity.

...Universal access by 2025

The World Bank says Ethiopia has the second highest available energy generation capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa, with nearly 100% coming from renewable energy generation (mostly hydropower), and vast and mainly untapped solar, wind, and geothermal clean energy resources.



By the end of 2020, Ethiopia plans to reach 17,300MW of energy, a major leap from the current

4,280MW, through the hydro, wind, geothermal and biomass energy sectors.

The biggest project towards the 17,300MW target is the 6,450MW Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam hydropower project, under construction on the Blue Nile river which is 66% complete.

Other projects include the 254MW Genale Dawa I hydropower project and the 120MW Aysha Wind farm project. The 50MW Reppie waste-to-energy project and the 70MW Aluto Langano geothermal energy project, are also expected to contribute to the grid.

The government plans to achieve universal electricity access by 2025.

Photobook on Ethiopia’s success story of reducing malnutrition launched

On 25th April, the European Union (EU) and UNICEF launched a photo book entitled “Ending malnutrition in Ethiopia – A SUCCESS STORY”.



The book launch and photo exhibition were held in the presence of Dr Abreham Alano, Head of the SNNP Regional Health Bureau, H.E Ambassador Johan Borgstam, Head of the European Union Delegation to Ethiopia, Ms Gillian Mellsop, UNICEF Representative to Ethiopia and other key stakeholders from the Government, and other partners.

The book is a celebration of the success achieved so far in the reduction of malnutrition in Ethiopia while advocating for continued multi-sectoral efforts, since malnutrition among children and women in Ethiopia remains a major concern.

It is also a celebration of how Ethiopia has managed to sustain improvements in nutrition, yet also a reminder of all the work that needs to be done to ensure everyone enjoys optimal nutrition.

Ethiopia has experienced rapid and sustained improvements in nutrition during the past 15 years, such as a steady reduction in stunting – the fastest rate of improvement in Africa – and a significant decline in the percentage of underweight children.

Dr Abreham Alano thanked the EU and UNICEF for their support in reducing stunting and malnutrition, in health care utilization and maternal and child mortality reduction and urged them to continue their support until the targeted results are achieved.

“While the achievements we recognize today are indeed a success story, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels. Undernutrition still remains a challenge and it requires us all to redouble our efforts to ensure that every child enjoys better health and nutrition,” said Ms Gillian Mellso, UNICEF Representative to Ethiopia. With the Government’s leadership and the strong commitment of partners, this goal is achievable.”

Ethiopian scientists in quest for perfect chicken

Scientists and government officials, who are committed to developing healthy, productive chickens for Ethiopian farmers and consumers, joined forces with a Belgian artist dedicated to developing biocultural diversity, to launch ‘Incubated Worlds’, a unique combination of art and science that aims to improve nutrition and incomes in East Africa with disease-resistant, climate-resilient poultry.

Incubated Worlds is an advanced poultry research and breeding facility that emerged from the African Chicken Genetic Gains (ACGG) project, an initiative that is tapping the rich genetic diversity found in poultry to provide more opportunities for rural poultry producers - the majority of whom are women – so they can earn a decent living and raise healthy, well-nourished families. Partners in Ethiopia include the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR), Ethiopia’s Haramaya University, and the International Livestock

Research Institute (ILRI) - the latter is part of the CGIAR global research partnership.



Adding a new dimension to the project is Belgian artist Koen Vanmechelen. His 20-year-long artistic odyssey has involved creating some 20 generations of chickens that combine traits from breeds from around the world, including several from across Europe and the Americas, and indigenous chickens from China, Egypt, Senegal, Indonesia and Cuba.

Vanmechelen’s artistic crossbreeding project has culminated in an exceptional bird he calls the Cosmopolitan Chicken, which livestock experts say is also a potential treasure trove of valuable genetic traits.

‘We wanted to combine Ethiopia’s new poultry research facility with Vanmechelen’s fascinating art installation because he conveys the importance of the genetic diversity in livestock in ways that science alone simply cannot’, said ILRI Director General Jimmy Smith. ‘By undertaking this work, we aim to develop productive, resilient poultry for a part of the world where demand for livestock

products is rising rapidly and climate change is undermining agricultural productivity.'

The art installation component of Incubated Worlds includes photographs, videos and books that provide insights into the complex genetics of both Vanmechelen's many generations of poultry and an indigenous Ethiopian village chicken. The genomes of both birds have been sequenced by scientists to study their wide variety of genetic traits. The scientists and artist say they want to give the public a greater appreciation of the importance of genetic diversity to the economy and well-being of the country. Vanmechelen's installations have featured in major exhibitions in galleries from New York to London.



Belgian artist Koen Vanmechelen stands before the quote and signage he developed (photo credit: ILRI/Koen Vanmechelen).

This is going to be the most intriguing poultry facility in the world. I see it as a place where people can immediately understand that this very global farm animal - one found in almost every country in the world and acceptable as food in every religion - is the product of many, many local communities. And if we don't maintain and value this cosmopolitan heritage, then we could lose it.

— Koen Vanmechelen

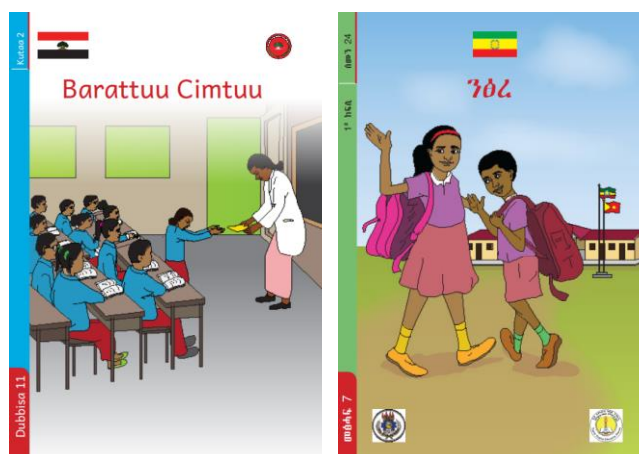
For further information, please visit the IRLI website at <http://bit.ly/IRLIET>.

Ethiopia first country to launch Global Digital Library

The Global Book Alliance, comprised of donor agencies from the United Kingdom, United States, Norway and other countries, have launched a new Global Digital Library in Ethiopia to increase the availability of high quality reading resources for children and youths across the country.



Ethiopia was selected as the first country to launch the Global Digital Library, which is collecting existing, high-quality, open educational reading resources, and making them available on digital platforms (web, mobile) and in print. It will also eventually facilitate translation and localization of these resources to more than 300 languages worldwide.



Some of the books available for download

In Ethiopia, the Library will be hosting openly licensed high quality reading resources in seven Ethiopian languages (Amharic, Tigrigna, Afaan Oromo, Af-Somaali, Sidama Afoo, Wolayttatto, and Hadiyyisa).

TRADE AND INVESTMENT

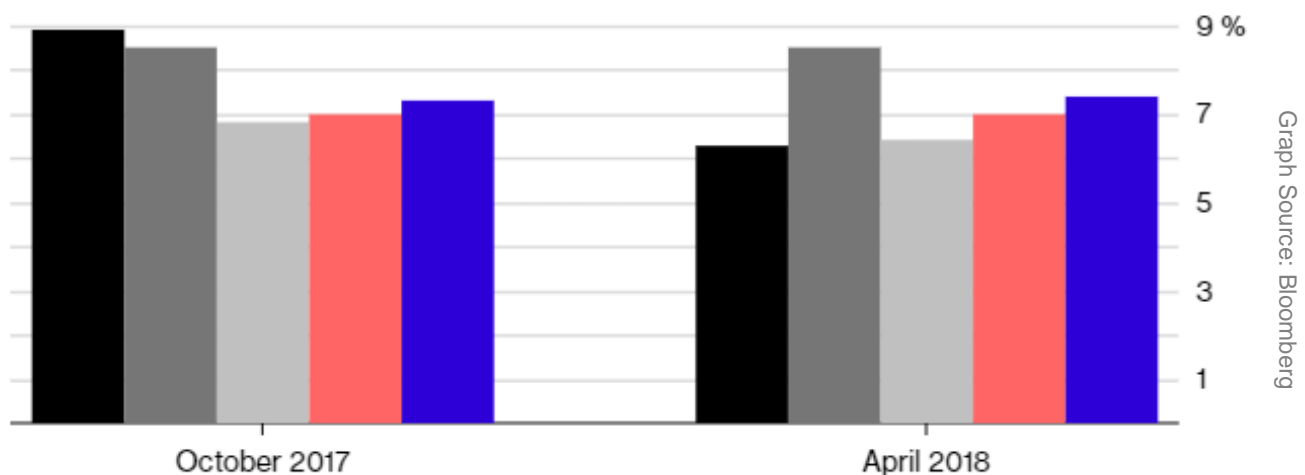
Ethiopia is fastest growing economy in Africa: IMF

According to the latest International Monetary Fund report, Ethiopia will be the fastest growing economy in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018, growing by 8.5% thanks to continued economic expansion following a long period of impressive growth, which has averaged around 10% in the last decade.

Ethiopia Overtakes

Ghana loses No. 1 sub-Sahara spot as IMF revises 2018 economic growth forecasts

■ Ghana ■ Ethiopia ■ Tanzania ■ Senegal ■ Ivory Coast



To boost the economy, the government is pursuing a number of large-scale infrastructure projects, including the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam and a railway network. Furthermore, the government is boosting industrial production and manufacturing sectors.

Ivory Coast is expected to be the second fastest growing economy in the region at 7.4% and Senegal at 7% growth. Ghana, forecasted as the fastest growing economy in Sub-Saharan Africa in October 2017, at 8.9%, slowed in its predicted growth to 6.4%.

Growth across the whole region is forecast to average 3.4%.



Ethiopian Investment Commission named best investment promotion agency in East Africa

During the sixth Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) Investment Awards in Dubai on 9th April, the Ethiopian Investment Commission (EIC) was awarded *Best Investment Promotion Agency in East Africa* for its success in attracting sizable investments into industrial parks, which have high potential for export-growth, technology and skills transfer, sustainability and local linkages.



Eyerusalem Amdemariam, Consul General of Ethiopia in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), received the award on behalf of the Commission.

AIM awards the most dynamic and proactive investment promotion agencies across the world that successfully attract sizeable and beneficial foreign direct investment projects which contribute immensely to economic growth.

The investment promotion agencies of Belgium, India, Serbia, Egypt, Ghana, Rwanda, and Swaziland also received awards as outstanding agencies in their respective regions.

Ethiopia eyes \$1 billion revenue from gas export

Ethiopia plans to generate close to \$1 billion annually from a recently-discovered natural gas reserve in the Somali Regional State.

Chinese firm Poly-GCL made the 7-8 billion cubic trillion feet (TFC) discovery of natural gas in the Ogaden fields. An agreement has been reached with the firm to install a pipeline and transport the gas to neighbouring Djibouti. The Chinese firm will also build a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant in Djibouti

Port in order to process the natural gas and export it to China. **The natural gas will also be used for domestic consumption in Ethiopia.**

The Minister of Mines, Natural Gas and Petroleum, said: “We are expecting \$1 billion of revenue from gas exports in the first year of operation and anticipating the figure would rise in the subsequent years due to the huge reserve.” The gas discovery will diversify the economy and will make a substantial contribution to sustaining Ethiopia's rapid economic growth in the years to come, the Minister said.



The energy sector is one of Ethiopia's priorities in its vision to become a light manufacturing hub in Africa and a middle-income economy by 2025. Four other foreign firms are engaged in gas exploration in the Ogaden basin. Ethiopia's natural gas prospect is not limited to the Ogaden and extensive exploration activities are being carried out by local and foreign companies in the Rift Valley areas, Gambella, Afar and Amhara states.

Kilinto pharmaceutical industrial park to go operational

Ethiopia will commission the Kilinto Industrial Park (KIP), which will host pharmaceutical companies in June.

The \$204 million Industrial Park was built with a view to attracting world class companies. Upon completion, it will encompass 18km of asphalt roads, provision of basic social services, green spaces, warehouses and business centres.

According to local reports, around 10 global pharmaceutical companies have expressed interest in entering the park.



As Ethiopia imports more than 85% of its medicine from abroad, the industrial park will help save foreign currency and create jobs.

Ethiopia is currently constructing or has commissioned 15 industrial parks as part of government plans to turn the country into an African light manufacturing hub by 2020.

Ethiopia to develop aerospace manufacturing Industry

Ethiopian Airlines has signed an agreement with South African aerospace company Aerosud to establish a joint-venture manufacturing company.

The Joint Venture Aerospace Company will manufacture and supply aircraft parts to Boeing, Airbus and other aerospace companies.



Speaking at the signing ceremony, Tewolde GebreMariam, CEO of Ethiopian Airlines said:

“Pursuant to our government’s industrialization policy embedded in the five-year Growth and

Transformation Plan (GTPII), we have reached an agreement with Aerosud Group to establish and develop a labour-intensive Aerospace manufacturing industry.

“The establishment of these facilities will surely create significant job opportunities for the young, educated task force and be another face of the industrial park development. The manufacturing facilities will be located in the vicinity of Bole International airport for good reasons of economy of scale and ease of import/export transportation. I would like to thank all who worked hard towards the conclusion of this agreement.”

Ethiopia has long been keen to establish an aerospace industry under its 15-year strategic plan called Vision 2025, which will see it become the leading aviation group in Africa.

Pizza Hut first major international food brand to open in Ethiopia

Popular American pizza brand, Pizza Hut, inaugurated its first store in Ethiopia on 10th April, becoming the first major international food chain to set foot in Ethiopia.



The United States’ Ambassador to Ethiopia, Michael Raynor, Yum! Brands representatives, government officials and special guests attended the opening of Pizza Hut, at the restaurant’s latest outlet.

Pizza Hut’s franchise in CMC, Ethiopia is held by Belayab Foods & Production PLC, which also

launched a second outlet in the popular Bole Medhanialelem neighborhood on 14th April.



“We’re very excited for this milestone event,” said Belayab Foods CEO and shareholder, Michael Ghebru. “While there are a few regional franchise restaurants in Ethiopia, Pizza Hut is the first global international restaurant franchise to enter the Ethiopian market.”

Keeping up with the pizza chain’s American trend of employing a major chunk of workers who are below 25 years of age, Belayab Foods will focus on hiring candidates right out of school. Ahead of the launch, the Ethiopian company sent several of its young employees on training programmes abroad to familiarize them with the Pizza Hut model.

53rd Annual International Sugar Organization conference to be held in Ethiopia



The 53rd conference of the council of the International Sugar Organization will be held in Addis Ababa from 25th-28th June, following the

Ethiopian Sugar Corporation's election as chair of the council for 2018 at a conference held in London last year. Sugar industry professionals, researchers, producers and other key stakeholders will attend the conference. Further information is available on our website at <http://bit.ly/ET53ISO>.



Sugar Corporation

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Building Competitive Sugar Industry!

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Ethiopian Airlines Milestones and More!

In 1973, Ethiopian first began operating out of the UK, so this year the airline will mark 45 years of service operating on the London Heathrow route to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and beyond.



The airline has another milestone in the making, with the arrival of their latest Airbus it brings their fleet to 100. This makes Ethiopian the airline with the youngest fleet of aircraft in the industry with aircraft an average age of 5 years.

Awards

Ethiopian has also won a raft of awards including the SKYTRAX 4-stars awarded for consistent quality in passenger service and experience, AFRAA's 'Airline of the Year' for six consecutive years, and two years in a row, the PAX International Readership Award for 'Outstanding Food Service by a Carrier in Africa.'

London Service

Ethiopian operates a daily flight from London Heathrow to Addis Ababa, their hub and gateway to 58 African and 26 International destinations including Cape Town, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Windhoek and Victoria Falls.

From June 2018, Ethiopian’s passengers will have even more choice and convenience with 3 additional flights added to the current daily service from Heathrow.

For information about Ethiopian’s services go to www.ethiopianairlines.com/uk/en

SPORTS

Brazilian football great, Ronaldinho, in Ethiopia

Ethiopian football fans were in for a treat in April as the Brazilian football legend, Ronaldinho Gaúcho, visited Ethiopia as part of the UEFA Champions League Trophy Tour.



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Workneh Gebeyehu, received the footballer, and expressed his admiration.

'Sports diplomacy is an important element of contemporary diplomacy,' Dr Workneh said during the meeting with Ronaldinho, who was in Ethiopia for the first time.



Dr Workneh presents Ronaldinho with a Jano, traditional Ethiopian attire

The Foreign Minister said sports bring together people of all colours and religion, so they serve as a powerful platform to forge unity.

He said **'Brazil is the home of soccer legends, while Ethiopia is best known for its legendary long-distance athletes.'**

The football player expressed his enthusiasm to know more about Ethiopia and asked his Ethiopian colleagues to work hard so they may shine in the main international tournaments, and turn their nation into a source of soccer champions.



The UEFA Champions League Trophy was displayed to the public at several key points in Addis Ababa and during a friendly match, in which Ronaldinho took part.



Ronaldinho with his Ethiopian National Football Team jersey with his name and number written in Amharic script.

At the conclusion of his trip, Ronaldinho said:

"Ethiopia amazing!! I didn't imagine receiving so much affection in my life, coming to a country that has such a special way to live, with a culture and habit so different and unique, and get a reception like this! I don't have words to thank everyone."

Runners brave hottest London Marathon on record

On 22nd April, thousands of runners took part in what was the hottest Race Day at the Virgin Money London Marathon, with temperatures of up to 24 degrees. This year's special guest was Her Majesty The Queen, who pushed the event's famous red button in front of Windsor Castle to start the race.

Kenya's Vivian Cheruiyot took the title in the elite women's race, becoming the fourth fastest woman of all time over the gruelling marathon distance. Vivian finished more than a minute ahead of fellow Kenyan Brigid Kosgei, who clocked 2:20:13, with Ethiopia's Tadelech Bekele third in 2:21:40.



The big story in the build-up was three-times winner Keitany's assault on Paula Radcliffe's 15-year-old mixed-race world record of 2:15:25 with the aid of male pacemakers.

Ethiopia's legendary track champion Tirunesh Dibaba was the only athlete who opted to go with her. But things did not go as expected as at the 15km mark, Dibaba began to show signs of fatigue. At the 130km mark, Dibaba slowed to a walk and dropped out of the race, saying afterwards, "I felt tired".

In the men's race, Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge was crowned champion for the third time, with Ethiopia's Tola Shura Kitata in second place followed by Sir Mo Farah who broke Steve Jones' longstanding British record.

Kenenisa Bekele, the second fastest marathon man in history and the athlete thought most likely to challenge Kipchoge, the Ethiopian distance legend finished sixth in 2:08:53.



For the first time, more than 40,000 runners completed the London Marathon, making the 38th edition of the race the biggest in its history. A total of 34 Guinness World Records were also set at the Marathon, as runners cautiously braved the conditions in all manner of fancy dress costumes.

Dibaba is snooker champ's favourite sportswoman

According to an interview with *Eurosport*, British snooker player, Ronnie O'Sullivan said his favourite female sportswoman is Ethiopian running great Tirunesh Dibaba, the 5000m world record holder and three-times Olympic champion.



"I met Tirunesh Dibaba a few years ago. Obviously, I'm a keen runner myself so when the opportunity presented itself to meet her and go on a little training run it was a chance I had to take...She invited me out to Ethiopia. She didn't see how serious I was as a runner. Because she knew and because she had seen my time. She's said come run and train with us in Ethiopia. I didn't take her up on her offer but maybe when my snooker career is over I'll probably get out to Kenya and Ethiopia to do a little bit of training with them."

DIASPORA CORNER

Vintage Addis Ababa on a mission to preserve Addis Ababa's rich heritage and history

Wongel A. Abate, one of the founders of Vintage Addis Ababa, a crowd-sourced digital archive, gave a talk on the project on 24th April at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London.

Vintage የሕደስ
Addis አበባ
Ababa ተዘጎ

The event, mainly attended by the Ethiopian community living in London, highlighted the concept behind the project that collects and publishes old photos from personal archives to show photos of everyday people that were not captured in history books.



Supported by the Embassy of Switzerland and the European Union in Ethiopia, their online archive has drawn over 43,000 followers on its social media platforms.

Most of the current and old photographs of Ethiopia which appear in photography books or magazines are taken by photographers with little or no cultural ties to their subjects, the founders Wongel, Philipp Schütz and Nafkot Gebeyehu say.

Although these pictures have great documentary value, they often tend to lack intimacy. Through Vintage Addis Ababa, they aim to bring to light photos that were taken by everyday Ethiopians and preserve them by creating a digital archive and visual memories for current and future generations.



One of the founders of the project, Wongel Abate, speaking at the SOAS event

Vintage Addis Ababa is bringing to light diverse perspectives – stories told from the viewpoint of everyday Ethiopians, showing that they lived lives worth remembering, even in the hardest of times.



Mekonnen Teshome and Almaz Gobeze's wedding in the 1970's

Through (open-source) preservation we hope that young Ethiopians will learn about and cherish their heritage and that everyone will get to know

Ethiopia and her people in a new and fresh way through these intimate photographs.



1974; Almaz Woldemedhin (with bag) and her friend dressed elegantly

Vintage Addis Ababa, two years now since its inception, has grown into a curated collection of hundreds of photos from many submissions of contributors in Addis Ababa and the diaspora worldwide.

To contribute to the archive and learn more about Vintage Addis Ababa, please visit their website at www.vintageaddis.com and follow them on [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

You can make submissions online via their website, social media platforms or email them at submit@vintageaddis.com.

An exclusive interview with Wongel Abate, will be available on the Embassy YouTube page at www.youtube.com/EthioEmbassyUK in due course.

Diaspora support for Renaissance Dam

The government has helped form an association, Ethiopian International Professional Support for Abay (EIPSA), that brings together economists, engineers and water experts of Ethiopian origin to give technical expertise to the government on the 6,450MW Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam being built on the Blue Nile river, as part of efforts to include the diaspora in nation-building exercises.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam will be the largest hydro project in Africa once completed, with entirely domestic funds.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Major General Gebre Adhana Woldezgu appointed as Force Commander for UNISFA

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the appointment of Major General Gebre Adhana Woldezgu of Ethiopia as his new Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA).

Major General Woldezgu succeeds Major General Tesfay Gidey Hailemichael of Ethiopia who will complete his assignment on 23rd April 2018.



Secretary-General António Guterres with Major-General Gebre Adhana Woldezgu.

Major General Woldezgu brings 38 years of experience in the Ethiopian Army, regularly travelling to Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda and the African Union Mission in Somalia to coordinate common security and border issues with neighbouring countries, as well as being fully

involved in force preparations, planning and deployment of forces for international and regional peacekeeping operations.

Currently a Director in the Ethiopian Ministry of National Defence (since 2008), he also served as a Division Commander (1999-2008) and Mechanized Deputy Division Commander (1995-1998).

Debark University inaugurated

Debark University, Amhara regional state, was officially inaugurated on 23rd April in the presence of Minister of Education, Dr Tilaye Gete, Chief Administrator of the regional state, Gedu Andargachew and other federal and local officials. "The construction of new universities is an indication of the government's commitment to equitable access to education," Dr Tilaye said. Gedu said the regional state will continue to provide support for the expansion of higher educational institutions in the state. The university is currently training more than 1,500 students in first degree programmes.

is hunky-dory and perfect in Ethiopia, but everything isn't dark and dreary either."



"I hope people Google my name and Google Ethiopia and see something completely different that they haven't seen in international media."

Read more at <https://n.pr/2qTTcrZ>

ETHIOPIA IN THE NEWS

With paint and a camera, She's forging a new artistic vision of Africa



Many images of Africa in Western media focus on war, famine or other crises on the continent. But Ethiopian artist Aida Muluneh wants to help people understand that there's more to her country than what they typically see in the news. Since moving back to Ethiopia 11 years ago, Aida has been creating bright, primary-colored portraits that both celebrate and transcend Ethiopian culture.

Aida says: "The cliché of Ethiopia is war or famine. The international media consume images, not only about Ethiopia, but across all of Africa, related to those stereotypes. But this place has so much complexity. There are so many subcultures, so many contemporary things happening here, so many cities with interesting people. The international media.. is not focused on that, and it's never about perspective. I'm not saying.. everything

Ethiopia: The last Greeks of Addis Ababa

Ethiopia and Greece's relationship dates back to ancient times. A small community is keeping both cultures alive.



"Did you know that Ethiopia gets its name from the Greek word Aethiopia, first used by Homer?" Greek Ambassador to Ethiopia Nikolaos Patakias says proudly.

Greek sailors and merchants began emigrating to Ethiopia in significant numbers in the late 1800s. Some were refugees of the Greek Genocide, Greek Civil War and later the military dictatorship.

In its heyday, the Greek community numbered between 5,000 and 6,000 people...the embassy is encouraging Greeks to invest in Ethiopia's agriculture, technology, textile and export

industries. Ambassador Patakias says trade between the two countries has risen from 12 million euros (c14.7m) in 2013 to 22.5 million euros (c\$27.6m) in 2016, and he expects it to increase at an even faster rate over the next few years.



The Greek Club in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia [Thomas Lewton/Al Jazeera]

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

Travel Monday: A Photo Trip to Ethiopia's Danakil Depression

The Atlantic In the Afar region of northern Ethiopia, lies a vast desert plain called the Danakil Depression, which lies 410 ft (125 m) below sea level, one of the hottest and most inhospitable places on Earth—temperatures average 94°F (34.5°C) but have reached above 122°F (50°C).



Hot springs in the Danakil Depression, Afar region

Sulfur springs, volcanoes, geysers, acidic pools, vast salt pans and colorful mineral-laden lakes dot the area, formed above the divergence of three tectonic plates. Volcanic activity heats spring water, bringing sulfur and iron to the surface, leaving yellow, green, and orange deposits. For centuries, locals have been trekking in with camel caravans to mine the salt by

hand, and in recent years, a few have been guiding tourists into the alien-looking landscape.

See more photos at <https://theatlantic.com/2014/02/20140220>

The Sacred Rock Churches of Lalibela, Ethiopia

CONDÉ NAST
Traveler

“Carved from the top down out of a single rock, Lalibela’s cave churches are connected by a maze of light-speckled, ceremonial passages. Our guide, Yonas, is one of many who believe the structures were built with the blessings of angels. It’s a tale passed on for nine centuries claiming that men would work through the day, but the hands of angels would get twice as much done by night...”



“I had visited my fair share of historic churches before, but unlike many that can seem manicured for tourists and no-flash photography, Lalibela’s are living heritage. Seven times a day, seven days a week, followers still gather here to chant prayers in unison.

“It’s hard not to be humbled by the daily crowds’ unwavering devotion to their faith...The natural and supernatural meet here in a place that is sacred for over 45 million Ethiopian Orthodox Christians worldwide. Lalibela’s 11 churches are a conduit between a world we can touch and mold, and one we can only feel. It’s been that way for almost a millennium and it shows no signs of letting up.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/VisitET10>.



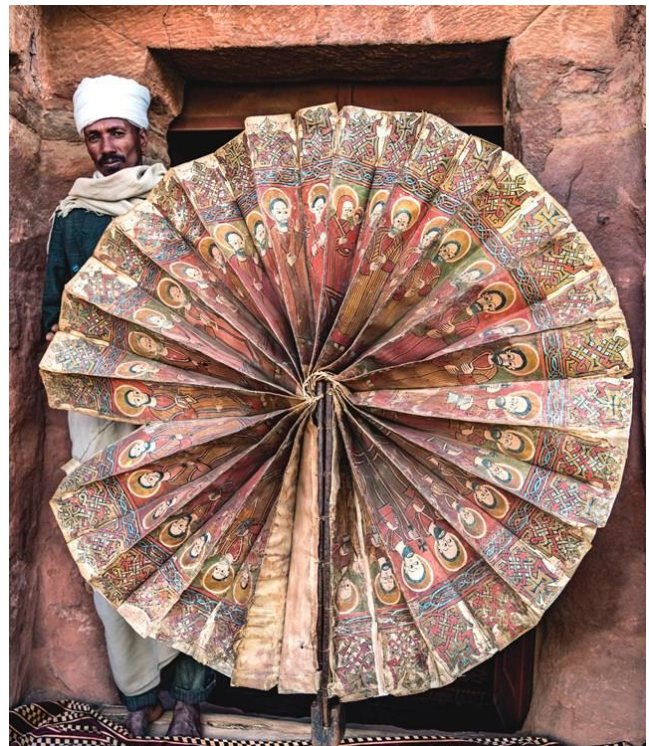
Photo gallery: Ethiopia's amazing rock churches and the people who worship there

Wanderlust
TRAVEL MAGAZINE

Dating back as far as the 5th century, Ethiopia's extraordinary rock churches continue to astound visitors and provide solace and inspiration for worshippers, monks and priests.



Worshippers holding tapers outside the sanctuary of St Mary of Zion (Nigel Pavitt)



A priest with a 15th-century ceremonial fan in Abuna Abraham, Gheralta Mountains (Nigel Pavitt)

See more photos at <http://bit.ly/VisitET9>

CUSTOMER NOTICE

Change to opening hours of the Consular Section

From 9th April 2018 the Consular Section is operating under the following working hours, unless otherwise advised:

**9.00am – 3.00pm
Monday to Friday**

For information on the services that we provide, please visit our website at <http://bit.ly/EEconsularUK>.

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