Tax free agricultural equipment imports allowed

Ethiopia will permit the import of agricultural mechanization, irrigation and animal feed technologies, and equipment tax-free starting this week.

Eyob Tekalegine, State Minister of Finance wrote a letter to the Ethiopian Customs Commission listing a total of 45 agricultural mechanization, irrigation and animal feed technologies, and equipment items with their code numbers on May 6, 2019.

Some of the items include poultry tech equipment, honey processing machines, pesticides, surface or submersible generators and pumps used for irrigation.

The Agricultural Transformation Council (ATA) and Agricultural Transformation Council in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and natural resources (MoA) initiated the tax reform policy by conducting systemic constraints of agricultural development, and recommended solutions in order to ensure sustainability and structural transformation and identified and listed the equipment to be imported tax-free.

Gov’t to drop land allotment system for real-estate developers

The new land lease draft proclamation will not give land to real-estate developers without an auction if the draft is accepted by the parliament.

The draft which is formulated by Ministry of Urban Development and Construction (MoUDC) will allow the developer to participate in the auction like any other business if they want land for housing construction.

“There are three ways in the current situation that real-estate developers can get land for construction, buy from individuals, participate in the auction or get land from the government by allotment,” a source at MoUDC told Capital.

Businesses pensive about excise tax

Some businesses owners are concerned that the expected excise tax revision, which has not yet been disclosed, will lead to economic slowdown and confusion.

The government is working to expand the tax base and improve the tax regime. One of the taxes under amendment is the excise tax that has been
UNIPOLARITY LEADING TO MULTIPOLARITY

What are the telling signs of demise that awaits uni-polarity? We are using the words polarity, uni-polarity and multipolarity to describe the ongoing flux in structural geopolitics. The unsustainable extraction of non-renewable resources and the saturation of natural sinks on the blue planet might well hasten the collapse of the existing world system, which is nothing more than a frivolous social construct aggressively enforced by empire and headed by its reigning hegemon—the USA! Be that as it may, the scenario associated with the realignment of geopolitical positions due to many factors, the least of which is not the scarcity of resources, will be our preoccupation of the day. After the demise of the USSR, bipolarity was replaced by uni-polarity. We can look at the current status of uni-polarity from two different perspectives. Internally, from the point of view of empire, and externally, from the perspective of the outliers, if we can call them that!

The telltale signs from the outside include all sorts of challenges emanating from the continuous activities of emerging states. Increased dissatisfaction about the whole lopsided global arrangement in the non-core countries mostly affecting the down trodden sheep (human mass) is another of the major signs. In addition, the unsustainability as well as the crony-ness of the prevailing global economic order keeps fuelling insecurity all over the world. Amidst all these, the clear failure of the current hegemon to inspire and forge a more sustainable mode of collective human existence is accelerating the pace of systemic collapse. Almost all empires disintegrate as a result of hubris. Overreach is one of the Achilles heel’s of empires; past and present. See Smith’s article next column. By and large, it is the built-in rigidity of empires that make it almost underlie their demise. To adapt to changing circumstances is something empires were and still are, incapable of doing, despite wealth of accumulated knowledge to show the way out! By empire, it is usually meant the powerful triad: USA, EU and Japan. The signs that are coming out from within are; political apathy with respect to establishment institutions (political parties, state institutions, etc.) A restless and increasingly inquisitive populace, demanding radical alternatives in all spheres of collective existence, is another sure sign of disintegration. The ‘Yellow Vests’ movement in France might well be a precursor to such bold initiatives. Various internal conflicts amongst the citizenry due to excesses, excessive economic polarization that keeps on marginalizing the large majority of the sheep, are another of the telltale signs. Depending on the chosen strategy of conflict management (by the power that be), conditions can easily get ugly and society might degenerate to a point of no return. As identity politics gain traction, we are in the early stages of terminal internal decay. There are a number of dynamics shared by decaying empires/states:

1. The ruling elites lose the moral imperative to sacrifice for the good of the empire/state. Instead they use the power of the state to further their own private interests and agendas.
2. As the elites battle it out, the nation/empire falls apart as the public grasps the enormity of the elites’ betrayal of the nation and the public interest. Faith in the leadership’s focus is on internecine conflicts over the spoils of power. Trust is lost, the public from reality and reflect positively on their self-serving leadership.
3. With the state’s wealth and power, the ruling elite splinters into warring camps which squander the empire’s remaining wealth on private battles over which camp will rule what appears solid and eternal-empire.
4. As the elites battle it out, the nation/empire falls apart as the leadership’s focus is on internecine conflicts over the spoils of the empire, rather than on preserving the foundations of the empire’s wealth and security.
5. Whether the elites or the public are aware of it or not, this rot has been fixed early becomes widespread and fatal.
6. With the state’s wealth and power, the ruling elite splinters into warring camps which squander the empire’s remaining wealth on private battles over which camp will rule what appears solid and eternal-empire.
7. As the truth inevitably leaks out, the public grasps the enormity of the elites’ betrayal of the nation and the public interest. Faith in the elites and the institutions they control plummet, and the Great Unraveling becomes unstoppable.
8. In a last-ditch effort to save their wealth and power, the elites distract the public with Bubble and Circus—“free money” in various guises (Universal Basic Income, Modern Monetary Theory, etc.)—and the distracting Circus of political theater and a plethora of distractions and diversions.

The good news is renewal becomes possible when the entire rotten status quo collapses in a putrid heap. There are two basic pathways to systemic collapse: one of external shocks or internal decay. The two are not mutually exclusive, of course; it can be argued that the most common path is internal decay weakens the empire/state and an external shock pushes the rotted structure off the cliff. As Dave of the X22 Report and I discuss in The World Is About To Change & It’s Going To Be Glorious, we are in the early stages of terminal internal decay. There are a number of dynamics shared by decaying empires/states:

1. The ruling elites lose the moral imperative to sacrifice for the good of the empire/state. Instead they use the power of the state to further their own private interests and agendas.
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The good news is renewal becomes possible when the entire rotten status quo collapses in a putrid heap of broken promises, dysfunctional institutions, blatant lies, unpaid debts and cascading defaults.
MoH urge docs to behave ethically

By Dawit Astatike

Health Minister Amir Aman (MD) is urging medical professionals to behave ethically and serve citizens while they are simultaneously raising their concerns. “The requests by medical professionals have been forwarded for over five years and the government is aware of them,” Amir said.

Education opportunities, professional structure, incentives, obtaining medical equipment to provide adequate medical services and mismanagement were some of the main issues presented when 3,000 medical professionals across the country held discussions with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed last week.

“The ministry categorized all the requests into three areas in order to solve the problems. Some of them may need revised proclamations, policies, directives, legal frameworks to get these resolved,” he said.

According to the Minister, the discussion went well and some problems are being worked on even though medical professionals may not be satisfied yet.

The ministry needs interventions from the prime minister to solve many issues and remembering the establishment of task forces to oversee issues raised by medical professionals to address the rest of the demands based on the analysis.

Concerning incentives and paradigms the ministry has no right to decide upon rather regional states are mandated to provide depending on their budget.

There is still a shortage of medical professionals and the ministry is working towards quality training by building the capacity of teaching hospitals and reducing the number of students.

Because of the limited number of medical professionals, the ministry allowed medical graduates to work in anywhere they want if they remain for two years. They have also created a uniform civil service system. The ministry hopes that medical professionals will not disrupt health services.

“Further discussion with the regional states and two city administrations will be held to address the concerns in a regional context,” Amir added.

New Electoral Board members to be endorsed

By Dawit Astatike

The House of People’s representatives (HPR) is expected to endorse the nomination of four members of electoral board in accordance with the new electoral law in the coming weeks.

Ethiopia is preparing for the upcoming national election, electoral proclamations and laws are being revised as part of an effort to conduct a fair and free election.

The House of People’s Representative approved the appointment of Birtukan Mideksa as National Election Board Chairperson last November replacing Samia Zakaria.

The parliament is also expected to endorse the nomination of four members of the electoral board. The recently ratified proclamation, of the National Electoral Board Ethiopia (NEBE) and a new nomination procedure for selecting potential board members, will be undertaken by a special committee under the Prime Minister made up of prominent personalities, academicians, religious leaders as well as civil society organizations.

The Prime Minister has the power to make the nomination and/or to remove any board member upon the endorsement of the House.

The board members shall be appointed by the HPR in accordance with article 102 of the Constitution, upon nomination by the Prime Minister advised by the Committee. “The Prime Minister established an independent committee that will engage in the recruitment of nominees to membership of the Board,” Soliyana Shemelis communication advisor of the board confirmed.

“Their very first task would be issuing a license for the awaited political parties who finalized collecting signatories to have legal status.” She adds that according to the proclamation, the term of office of management board members will be two electoral terms.

The salary and benefits of the chairman of the management board shall be the same as that of federal government minister and the rest of the management board members shall be the same as that of federal government state minister.

Prime minister Abiy Ahmed has promised that the 2020 election will be free and fair, and that will be thoroughly tested in what promises to be the country’s first real competitive election ever.

Currently there are over 100 registered political parties in the country.
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Businesses pensive . . .

Continued from page 1

license for companies engaged in business activity which would be expected to pay excise tax. At first it was unclear which companies would be subject to excise tax, commonly known as ‘sin’ taxes.

Excise taxation, which is one of the oldest indirect taxes imposed in the country, was first introduced in 1931, before the Italian occupation, on excisable products such as alcoholic beverages, cigarettes, incense, carpets and clothes.

According to experts, the amended draft document indicated that an ad valorem tax would be considered and manufacturing companies that paid tax on the raw material would be exempt and the calculation would be made on sales instead of production. However, the exemption or excise tax deduction does not include alcohol, tobacco and sugar products.

One of the new things that the draft proclamation added is revising the rate based on the market condition. Articles 10 states that the ministry shall adjust the tax rate every two years and take inflation into account.

The new proclamation gives the ministry the power to identify what business is subject to excise tax. It said the ministry will approve those who want to engage in a business in which excise tax will be calculated, which is new. The draft has stated several criteria where they can prevent an entity from engaging in excise tax related businesses.

Sugary drinks, alcohol, tobacco, salt, petroleum, perfumes, textile, types of adornment like gold or silver, TVs and video cameras, some types of cars, carpets, asphalt, watches, and dolls are some of the products subject to excise tax.

Tax free . . .

Continued from page 1

“Farmers will have access to agricultural technologies which will ensure food security at the household and commercial level as well,” said Oumer Hussen Ministry of Agriculture.

The tax reform should enhance agriculture by removing duties and taxes on imports of farming machines, irrigation and drainage equipment as well as animal feed ingredients and technologies; thus providing incentives to invest in there importation and local production.

Policy makers and donor agencies in the agricultural sector have emphasized the use of modern farm technologies as a sole source of agricultural growth in Ethiopia. However, the cost of modern technologies is so prohibitive that few farmers in limited areas are using them.

Regarding the tax incentive, the government is giving attractive schemes for several local and international investors. In agriculture the government is providing tax and duty incentives but the number of investors is very limited and they contribute less than one percent to agriculture sector.

According to the information from Ministry of Agriculture, agriculture accounts for 34 percent of GDP and 71 percent of employment, including 12 million smallholder farmers.

The Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources will have the mandate to license and supervise privileges, the letter reads.

“Allowing duty free for agriculture equipment by itself is not an end goal, access to adequate capital for agriculture is essential in addition to sharpening the structural barrier in the sector to achieve agricultural transformation and Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals,” Demosie Chanyalew, an agricultural economist told Capital.

International trade show, agrofood, plastprintpack

The 3rd agrofood and plastprintpack Ethiopia exhibition featuring 152 global technology leaders from 18 countries was concluded yesterday Saturday May 11.

The exhibition was complemented by conferences on reducing food losses and waste, increase of agricultural productivity through innovation, financing for SMEs, post-harvest losses - focus on food safety, recycling, during the three day event at the Millenium hall.

The 2019 event is more than twice as big as last year, according to the organisers.

Organised by the German trade show specialists fairtrade in cooperation with their Ethiopian partners Prana Events the event runs from 9 to 11 May 2019 at the Millennium Hall in Addis Ababa.

Gov’t to drop land allotment . . .

Continued from page 1

“The reason we started the land allotment system for real-estate developers was to encourage investors and now the business is in a good position and the land is provided by tender not allotment. We have sent the draft articles to the Attorney General for comment and after their responses we will send it to the parliament for ratification,” the source added.

Residential homes and neighborhoods built by real estate developers are now becoming increasingly common ever since the first large-scale development was initiated by the pioneer in this sector, Aayt Real Estate. At present, the dominant real estate developers for residential villa homes include: Aayt Real Estate, Sunshine Real Estate, Flintstone Homes, Ropack International, Ambassador Real Estate, Trancon Real Estate, Gift Real Estate, Eini Real Estate, Country Club Developers, Akakas Real Estate, Boran Real Estate and Zenebe Frew Real Estate.

Many more are also operational, though with more limited activities.

Several real estate development sites located in outlying neighborhoods were targeted to diaspora buyers, with as much as 50 to 60 percent of total buyers from this group.

The sources added that the lease interest rate will also be calculated in single interest rate and the current double interest rate will be dropped.

The interest rate a person will pay will not be calculated according to the total sum of the money they paid. Instead it will be calculated based on the amount of money they pay each year.

The sources also said that added that the new proclamation will force many cities to transact and administer the land in the lease system.

“Many cities still use the old soil tax system and the money we get from such tax is a very small amount and the revised proclamation will force them to apply the lease system which will increase the government revenue apart from modernizing the land management system,” the sources added.
Ethiopia’s mining revenue falls sharply

By Dawit Astatke

Although, Ethiopia considers mining to be one of its main foreign currency earnings, the revenue from mineral exports drastically fell for the last nine months of this fiscal year, reports the third mining council after a meeting held in Addis Ababa last Tuesday.

According to Samuel Urkato, Minister of Mines and Petroleum, the country earned only 39.6 million USD against the projected 766.9 million USD in the stated period.

Only 8.85 percent of the target was attained by the ministry, according to Kiros Alemayehu communication officer at the ministry.

The revenue declined by 78.5 million USD compared to the same period last fiscal year.

According to the ministry, various reforms are under taken to fix the huge mismatch and maximize the revenue from the sector and pointed out that Ethiopia is in the final stages of reforming the mining sector to shore up its potentials.

Mines and Petroleum Minister Samuel Urkato pointed out that the major factors that contributed to the low performance were peace and security, illegal mining, corruption, and rent-seeking, contraband trade of minerals and shortage of foreign currency for importing inputs have contributed to the income decline from the sector.

About 160 companies are engaged in the sector and the ministry hopes to attract more foreign investors.

Other than gold, which is the country’s major export mineral, Ethiopia exports: sapphire, opal, tantalum, emerald, gemstones, marble, and other metallic and non-metallic minerals. The country is also endowed with huge deposits of phosphate and potash minerals.

Presently, mining contributes only 1 percent of Ethiopia’s GDP. Gold, industrial minerals and gemstones make the bulk of the mining commodities the country exports. Tantalum is also proving to be profitable.

Although Ministry of Mines and petroleum announced that the mining sector in Ethiopia is expected to contribute to the transformation of the country from an agriculture led economy to industry, the mineral export earnings, have been declining in the past consecutive years, the sector registered low revenue of 130 million USD in the 2017-2018 fiscal year that ended last June.

The country used to earn more than 600 million USD from the mining sector in 2011-2012, the nation earned 618 million dollars from mineral exports.

In 2014 the country earned about 541 million USD from mining exports. This largely declined because gold production was inefficient. Ezana gold mine failed because hard currency was scarce and MIDROC also had difficulties with complaints from the local community accusing the company of polluting the environment.

MIDROC Gold previously exported four tons of gold per annum from its Lega Dembi gold mine in Oromia Regional State.

Grand dinner for Addis to be held on May 19

By Muluken Yewondwossen

Sheger Grand Dinner, which will gather do-gooders willing to fork five million birr for a plate to help rehabilitate rivers in the city, will be hosted on May 19 at the Hall of Atse Menelik II Palace.

The river side grand project is covering a distance of 56 kilometers from Entoto to Akaki and will be finished within three years for an estimated cost of 29 billion birr.

So far several countries and international organizations have promised to back the project by providing finance, while local and international companies are already buying the five million birr plate to be part of the historical contribution for the beautification of the capital city, Billene Seyoum, Press Secretariat of Office of the Prime Minister, told Capital.

“We expect more in the coming few days but currently 200 plus have already registered,” she said.

The program will start at 3 pm by visiting the historical compound that was closed to the public since its establishment but when PM Abiy Ahmed came to power, he stated that, after renovation, he would open the historical Atse Menelik II Palace, which is on the same compound of the PM office and residence, to the general public and tourists.

Currently, the renovation work is ongoing and should be open to visitors around the beginning of the next Ethiopian New Year in September, 2019.

The Press Secretariat stated that exclusive tour would be facilitated for the guests at part of the 40 hectare Menelik Palace compound, which is considered as the starting point of renovation and beautification of Addis Ababa that will extend to all over the country.

“The tour would give a chance what is undertaking there and show the guests where their positional fund is going and how is valuable and historical,” she explained. According to the PM office statement the contributors name would be tagged at the river side project and how is valuable and historical,” she explained.

According to Billene, there are two schemes for raising the funds. “The one is the upcoming grand dinner, while it is also open for those who are interested in providing their support directly for the project,” she said.

For instance, the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE) announced that it has allocated half a billion birr for the project. “CBE has put its funds in two ways. It bought ten plates on the dinner and the balance 450 million birr in direct support for the project,” she explained.

Currently individuals, financial institutions, companies (local and FDI), and other interested bodies have already paid their five or more million birr to be part of the event.

Nigusu Tilahun, Press Secretariat at the PM Office, told journalists on Thursday May 9 that the goal of the project is for this and other Ethiopian cities to be clean and suitable for citizens and tourists.

“Several local and international communities appreciate the project and are providing their support. So far from abroad UNDP/UNIDO, African Development Bank, and the Italian government provide USD 1 million, USD 600,000 and five million euro respectively,” he added.

He said that the government of China has agreed to undertake the design and contribute a quarter of the project.

Currently, renovation work at the old Menelik Palace and establishing recreation parks, a zoo, a kids’ play ground area and other facilities is in progress. The coming World Economic Forum on Africa 2020 is also expected to be held in the over a century old Menelik Palace Hall.
About the up-coming presidential elections in Kazakhstan

There are totally different views on the issue of whether presidential-type regimes correlate with democratic governments. It’s widely assumed that presidential systems are highly associated with authoritarianism and lack of democracy. However, this is not the case with the Republic of Kazakhstan where presidentialism goes closely together with the promotion of democratic standards and rules.

To begin with, on March 19, 2019 the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev willingly resigned and announced that the Speaker of the Senate, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, will serve as President before the next presidential election, the date for which was fixed for June 9, 2019.

From my view his decision to leave office voluntarily might prove his most significant contribution to his country and to a region. By resigning voluntarily, Nazarbaev could set a new precedent for Central Asian transitions of power.

It’s a well-known fact that Nazarbayev has been Kazakhstan’s first president since the country’s independence in 1990. His role is highly appreciated in terms of promoting peace, stability and security, including the successful chairmanship of Kazakhstan in the OSCE and the Organization's Summit in 2010. Owing to his balanced and consistent foreign policy, Kazakhstan has become a recognized leader of the global anti-nuclear movement, integration processes in Eurasia, the initiator of unique dialogue platforms and structures aimed at creating an atmosphere of trust in modern international relations - the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions.

It was under Nazarbayev’s leadership that Kazakhstan reached qualitatively new frontiers in all sectors of the national economy. The model of dynamic development brought the country to the front ranks of the fast-growing states of the world. Having successfully coped with the task of transition to a market economy, the country was able to lay the foundations for sustainable economic growth. Thus, over the years of independence, the national economy has grown 20 times, which allowed Kazakhstan to become one of the 50 most competitive economies in the world. In addition, Kazakhstan was able to create real favorable conditions for doing business - over 27 years of independence, more than 300 billion dollars of foreign direct investments were sent to Kazakhstan. According to this indicator, Kazakhstan is the leader among the post-Soviet states. Currently Kazakhstan is building a legal democratic state and a just civil society. Republic is deservedly regarded as a state distinguished by the harmonious and stable development of inter-ethnic relations.

Touching upon the issue of up-coming presidential elections in Kazakhstan, I would like to stress that they are absolutely needed to ensure continuity, predictability and stability after the long-serving President Nursultan Nazarbayev resigned. That is why I firmly believe the early election of the head of state is absolutely necessary. There is a need to remove any uncertainty and to ensure social and political harmony, firmly move forward, keep on solving the tasks of social and economic development.

Personally I wish that the country will maintain its peaceful foreign policy based on the principles of a balanced multi-vector approach and pragmatism coupled with observing all international obligations.
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Emirates Unveils its Pavilion for Expo 2020 Dubai

Emirates Airlines unveiled the design and visitor experience concepts of its ultramodern pavilion for the 6 month mega-event of Expo 2020 Dubai. The Emirates Pavilion’s design and visitor experience will utilise interactive technologies and design-thinking focusing on the future of commercial aviation. Emirates has already broken ground on the pavilion and construction began in March 2019.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline & Group said “we are incredibly proud to unveil the first details of the Emirates Pavilion, which celebrates the themes of Expo 2020 Dubai. The aim for our pavilion is very much in line with that of Expo 2020 Dubai, to stimulate connections, create experiences and foster creativity and innovation, inspiring a commitment for a better future. The forward-thinking experiences will highlight the best that is yet to come in aviation, and will be a platform to showcase how important mobility is for the world today and in the future.

“Emirates and the wider transportation ecosystem here in the UAE will play a key role in providing connectivity for a successful Expo 2020, and the economic impact of the transport, hospitality and tourism sector will contribute AED 16.4 billion to the UAE economy, underscoring the vital role these industries play in generating economic value by bringing people together and breaking down barriers.”

Reem Al Hashimy, UAE Minister of State for International Cooperation and Director General of Bureau Expo Dubai 2020 said “we are excited to be bringing the whole world together to experience this incredible mega event. For almost 170 years, World Expos have united people in a spirit of inspiration and excitement for the future, and have amazed them with innovation, culture, art, food and fun.”

“Air travel has transformed the ability of people to experience everything that the world has to offer. Expo 2020, and Emirates as our Official Airline Partner, will be bringing all of that together in one place, Dubai, in 2020. And the Emirates Pavilion will tell the incredible story of the role that air travel will continue to play in transforming mobility and shaping our futures.”

Taking place from 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021, Expo 2020 Dubai is a must-attend event for visitors with an array of unique experiences at 190 country pavilions, and a packed entertainment programme with daily live events, parades, music and cultural festivals, inspiring talks and workshops and more. Food lovers and gourmands looking for innovative dining concepts will be able to sample cuisines from every corner of the globe, with over 200 dining experiences from casual food truck concepts to fine dining, and 34 ‘never seen’ before food concepts in Dubai.

In related development Emirates and SpiceJet have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enter into a reciprocal codeshare agreement, which is set to open new routes and destinations for passengers travelling between India and popular destinations across Africa, America, Europe and the Middle East. The partnership will enable Emirates’ passengers to enjoy seamless connectivity on flights to India, leveraging SpiceJet’s strong domestic presence and adding six new destinations: Amritsar, Jaipur, Pune, Mangalore, Madurai and Calicut - to the nine existing cities in India served by Emirates. This will bolster Emirates’ already-extensive network adding a total of 67 weekly connections between Emirates’ hub in Dubai to these six fast growing destinations in India. This includes increased domestic connectivity from Emirates’ nine Indian gateways to points such as Goa, Hubli, Guwahati, Vishakhapatnam and Tuticorin which would allow for a greater variety of travel options between both Emirates and SpiceJet flights.
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Net & Com, a leading Reseller for Oracle in Ethiopia, in collaboration with Oracle and Redington, hosted a half-day event themed “Oracle Autonomous Database and Data Security” on the 25th of April 2019. The main aim of the event was to engage with the customers on the Oracle Database technologies and understand the security features available to them.

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Chambers presents Ag Fair

By our staff reporter

The 12th Addis Chamber specialized International Agriculture and Food Trade Fair (Agrifex), and the First Medical Trade Fair organized by the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations opened on Thursday at the Addis Ababa Exhibition Centre.

Getachew Regassa, Secretary General of Addis Chamber, said his association has been undertaking various trade promotional activities in the course of enacting its mandated mission of stimulating trade and investment in Ethiopia. He said that such kind of specialized fairs are part of the chamber’s activity.

A total of over 125 companies are participating in both fairs.

Mesenbet Shenkute, President of Addis Chamber, said despite the huge agricultural resources existing in the country’s, private sector investment in agriculture remains very low and is the reason why the Addis Chamber consistently promotes private business participation in agriculture and agro industries.

“In a similar manner, the pharmaceutical and medical sector is also considered one of the priority and strategic sectors that has received due attention in the government’s development plan. Ethiopia enjoys a comparative advantage in pharmaceuticals and can provide the country with substantial growth and employment,” she said.

Aynalem Nigussie, State Minister of Agriculture, said that still agriculture is at the heart of the country’s economy, contributing 45 per cent of GDP, 85 per cent of employment and 85 per cent of exports.

Aynalem said “the government recognizes the significance of such events organized by the chamber in promoting agricultural and food products and medical products of exhibitors in creating appropriate platforms for business to business linkages between local and foreign companies in facilitating knowhow and technology transfer and in promoting Ethiopia as a suitable investment destination and by so doing to enhancing the flow of Foreign Direct Investment to the sector.”

Sesame rise continues

By Muluken Yewondwossen

The price of sesame seeds continues its hike in April according to reports from the Ethiopian Commodity Exchange (ECX) indicated. The average price has also increased by a record 35 percent compared with a similar period last year. According to the monthly report of ECX, in April 19,436 tons of sesame seeds were traded for a total transaction price of 1.03 billion birr, while 70 percent of the volume and 72 percent of the value was secured from the seeds from the product of Hummera/Gonder type.

The report indicated that the product has also reduced by 26 percent and 19 percent of volume and value respectively, the price has been shooting up compared with a performance a month ago.

During the stated period even though the volume and value of the product has been reduced the price has been boosted by 11 percent compared with the trading in March. The seed price in March 2019 has increased by 12.04 percent compared with March 2018.

Comparing with a similar period of April 2018 and this April volume and value of sesame seeds has increased by 81 percent and 140 percent respectively. The figure indicates that both the traded volume and particularly the price registered sharp increase compared with a year ago. The report has also added that the average price of sesame seeds has increased by 35 percent compared with April 2018.

In February the price of sesame seeds has gone up by 12.9 percent compared with the preceding month.

The trend indicates that the increase in April compared with the same period in the preceding year is much higher than the performance of the previous two months.

In the past couple of weeks the price of sesame seeds has gone up daily on the trading floor that is concerning several actors in the sector, who expressed their confusion that the price at the local market escalated with no change on the international market.

Experts in the sector stated that the total cost of the seeds including FOB Djibouti reach at USD 2,655 that clearly indicate how the trading is managed on huge loss.

On this week the price has shown some decrement compared last week, while it is still the highest compared with international market. According to the trading information held on May 8 the maximum price of the seeds was 6,643 birr per quintal.

In the past year the trading floor has also traded washed, unwashed and specialty coffee bean for export market besides the local consumption. According to ECX, over 19 thousand ton of unwashed coffee has been traded at the value of one billion birr; the washed bean volume was 1,045 tons, which targets the export market.

There were 19,004 tons of soybeans, and the recently included product that has risen significantly since it came in terms of value and volume, traded on the floor. It has changed by 11 percent and 5.5 percent in volume and value. 3,888 tons of white pea beans has been traded at a cost of 73.6 million birr.
Condo lottery to be held for houses at beginning stage

By Tesfaye Getnet

A new committee is being formed from the management and staff of the housing agency in order to hold the lottery draw for houses in the footing stage. The new rules which have been formulated by the Ababa Housing Development & Administration Agency will apply to the new condos which are expected to be constructed at the center and the outskirts of Addis Ababa. This doesn’t mean that the winners will receive the houses at the footing stages rather they will make a committee and follow up the construction of the houses to be completed on time. Currently, condo houses are transferred in the finishing stages although the construction takes a long time and winners have waited at least a year after the lottery draw. Sources from the committee told Capital that any contractors working on the construction will be terminated if they don’t complete their work on time. “The main idea behind holding the lottery draw of the houses at the footing stages is to stretch a better controlling system, if people know where their house is located they will push the contractors to do their job on time and in addition to that the government will have a supervisor which will follow the job. Two follow ups from the government and the owner means the supervision of the house construction will be better.” “The new mandatory rule which the committee will apply is, if the contractors fail to complete the house without a tangible reason, the committee will take the project f from them and give it to another contractor. In other related news, people who got condo houses in the recent condo draw are complaining that some youth are asking them for money when they go to see their houses. A man who got a condo in Koye Fetche and asked for anonymity told Capital “a group of men came to me when I went to Koye Fetche to see my house, they asked me 500 birr to see it and I gave it to them because I had no option there were no security people.”

Currently near 100,000 condo houses are being built around the disputed Koye Fetche sites and 20,000 houses of 40/60 around Bole Hayat and Bole Arabissa but over 920,000 people still are waiting houses in both schemes. Recently the administration retook 200 hectares from investors including 54 hectares of the MIDROC fenced land but no plan has been made so far as to which places will be used for condo construction. So far the government has constructed less than 170,000 houses but more than one million people need houses.

Commission to set national minimum wage

By Dawit Astatike

Although some public sector institutions and enterprises have set their own minimum wages, there is no consistent minimum wage in Ethiopia. In response to this situation, the Ethiopian Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs drafted a labor proclamation to establish a Commission to set a minimum wage. The proclamation will not set a minimum wage rather establish a commission that sets a base wage across time depending on the economy, cost of living and other factors in order to avoid the hassle of revising the proclamation repeatedly. “The draft labor proclamation is believed to solve recurrent issues demanding for salary increment, and other work related issues raised by workers particularly in manufacturing sector, says Kassahun Follo, president of the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions (CETU). The draft proclamation also holds issues that govern private agencies who work in security and other service providing agencies. There is a high grievance raised by employees of various agencies that the companies swallow more than 70 percent of the money and denied maternal, medical leaves besides violating basic other rights. Labour Unions cannot play a role in organizing workers or advocating for better pay or conditions particularly in industrial parks even though Ethiopian law, in theory, guarantees freedom of association, However CETU’s blames lack of attention paid by the government. “CETU’s effort to establish labor unions in industrial parks bare no fruit except succeeded to establish a single labor union in Eastern industrial zones,” adds Kassahun. The government’s eagerness to attract foreign investment led it to promote the lowest base wage in any garment-producing country. Factories in Ethiopia making clothes for top global brands are paying their workers far less than counterparts in other low-paying countries, according to a report by New York University’s Stern Center for Business and Human Rights released this week. The new report is based on a visit to the flagship Hawassa Industrial Park that currently employs 25,000 people. Workers in Industrial parks earn less than 30 USD per month. CETU is therefore advocating with government and employers for any new labor law to include an adequate minimum wage. In comparison, Chinese garment workers earn USD340 a month, those in Kenya earn USD207 and those in Bangladesh earn USD95. The proclamation is expected to be ratified by council of ministers in the coming weeks.

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IOM calls for release of migrants held in Yemen, including Ethiopians

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) called on this week for the release of over 3,000 migrants, mainly Ethiopians, who it said remain held in inhumane conditions in two detention centers in southern Yemen. The detentions began two weeks ago in the city of Aden and the neighboring province of Lahj, which are under the control of the internationally-recognized government backed by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

“Some 3,000 migrants continue to be held in two temporary detention sites in Yemen’s Aden and Abyan governorates,” IOM spokesman Joel Millman told a news briefing in Geneva.

They include about 2,500 held in a football stadium in Aden, where aid workers are fighting disease outbreaks, he said. IOM said last week that on April 30, guards fired on migrants detained at Aden sports stadium, two of whom suffered gunshot wounds, leaving a teenage boy likely paralyzed for life. It had no further information on the incident on Tuesday. IOM remains extremely concerned for the people being held in inhumane conditions in Aden and Abyan,” Millman said. The IOM was talking to the authorities to try to get them released, he added.

Ethio-EU business forum to be held in Brussels

Hosted by the European Commission, the Ethio-EU business forum will be held on May 14-15, 2019 in Brussels, Belgium, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The objective of the forum is mainly to support and stimulate European private sector trade and investment. The event will attract high-ranking Ethiopian and EU officials, including Mrks Katainen, vice-president of the European Commission and Commissioner for Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness. The forum will focus on agro-processing, textile, apparel and leather as well as pharmaceutical, medical and ICT.

US airstrike kills 13 Somalia ISIS fighters, AFRICOM Says

A U.S. airstrike in has killed 13 Islamic State fighters in northern Somalia, U.S. Africa Command said. The Wednesday, May 8 airstrike targeted an ISIS encampment in the Golis mountains, the press release said. “We are supporting our Somali and AMISOM partners with increased, mature intelligence sharing,” said Rear Admiral Heidi Berg, U.S. Africa Command director of intelligence. “There is a deliberate campaign underway, that is intelligence-driven, that capitalizes on what we learn during each operation and rapidly leveraging that information to drive the next operation, including discovering where terrorists may be training, massing, and preparing to commit atrocities.”

STOP ORDER

A market order to buy or sell a certain quantity of a certain security if a specified price (the stop price) is reached or passed.

Usage Example

Since the investor was not going to have the opportunity to monitor his portfolio over the next couple weeks, he issued a stop order in hopes of ensuring minimal losses while he was away.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to sale the following used vehicle on competitive bidding. Interested bidders are therefore invited to submit their bids as per the following instructions:

1. Bidders should pay Birr 300 to collect a bid document. Bidders should deposit the amount in to UNDP account No here below and bring the deposit slip to the registry office in below address

   Depositing Bank detail
   Commercial Bank of Ethiopia
   Acct No: 0171804383200
   UNDP- Ethiopia country office

2. Bidders can inspect the vehicles from 2:00PM to 4:00PM at UNECA compound from May 13 up to June 10 ,2019, from Monday to Thursday only.

3. The last day of submission of bid June 10, 2019 3:00 PM. Bid documents shall be submitted with a CPO of bid bond ETB 3,000.00 (Three Thousand Birr) for each vehicle. CPOs will be returned to unsuccessful bidders.

4. Bidders should attach only CPO not deposit slips.

5. Bid winners are required to pay the full amount of the winning price within 10 working days after the award and collect the vehicles within 15 working days.

6. UNDP reserves the right to appropriate bid securities, if unsuccessful bidders fail to collect their bid securities within six months after notification of bid result.

7. Bid winners are responsible to settle any government duties as may be applicable before receipt of the vehicles.

8. UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

9. Bidders who submit different amount in Figures and words will automatically be disqualified from the bid.

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Contact: Mekdelawit Hallu, Head of Procurement Unit a.i. or Ayenaddis Kebede; Procurement Officer
ECA Congo Building 6th floor, Africa Hall
P.O.Box 5580, Tel: +251-115-444352 or 0115-444455 Home Page: www.et.undp.org
La Rinconada, in the Peruvian Andes, is the home of the world’s highest, chaotic, poisonous and illegal goldmines. La Rinconada is also considered one of the most horrific places on earth: a crime gang-run city, spreading through a valley and up the hills, no running water, no sewerage, no electricity grid. It’s survival of the fittest. These criminal organizations are all local, meaning from the vicinity. No foreign mining companies are allowed. They, huge world (in)famous gold and precious metals corporations, are waiting ‘downstream’ to buy the blood-ware, without identity, without origins. So that nobody can trace them to the crime. If this is the case then, who buys the “blood gold” of Peruvian Andean? According to the report, large corporations do. One of them is the Swiss registered Metalor, one of the world’s largest gold foundries. Annually, about 3,000 to 3,500 tons of gold are mined across the globe. Switzerland refines about 70% to 80% of all the gold in the world. An estimated 20% to 30% of it is considered ‘blood gold’ - gold that stems from illicit mining practices, child labor, environmental and social destructions, land theft, corruption - just like from Rinconada.

As of now, Switzerland, the host of the globe’s largest mining corporations and gold foundries does not want to know the origin of the gold - possibly the environmentally and socially most destructive precious metal. Peter Koenig, an economist and geopolitical analyst indicated that Switzerland does not impose a code of ethics on the corporations that enjoy the real industrial value of gold. It’s survival of the fittest. These criminal organizations are all local, meaning from the vicinity. No foreign mining companies are allowed. They, huge world (in)famous gold and precious metals corporations, are waiting ‘downstream’ to buy the blood-ware, without identity, without origins. So that nobody can trace them to the crime. If this is the case then, who buys the “blood gold” of Peruvian Andean? According to the report, large corporations do. One of them is the Swiss registered Metalor, one of the world’s largest gold foundries. Annually, about 3,000 to 3,500 tons of gold are mined across the globe. Switzerland refines about 70% to 80% of all the gold in the world. An estimated 20% to 30% of it is considered ‘blood gold’ - gold that stems from illicit mining practices, child labor, environmental and social destructions, land theft, corruption - just like from Rinconada.

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Strong leadership needed to curb traffic accidents, injuries, and deaths

The Fifth United Nations Global Road Safety Week, which runs from 6-12 May, kicks off this week with a rallying call for strong leadership around the globe to advance road safety in countries and communities. The campaign has an ambitious goal - to halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020. Underpinned by SDG Goal 3.6, which calls on governments to take new steps to reduce road traffic fatalities, the campaign is pushing for strong leadership at national and local levels for the world to attain road safety, as this is a critical component of achieving the sustainable development goals.

Vera Songwe Economic Commission for Africa’s (ECA) Executive Secretary, has decried the risk of death from road traffic accidents in Africa. “The figures, which stand as high as 26.6 per 100,000 compared to 17.0 in South-East Asia and 9.3 in Europe, according to the 2018 WHO Report on Road Safety, and analysis by the ECA should cause us to make major changes in policy and legislation,” she says.

Furthermore, Road Safety Performance Reviews, jointly undertaken by ECA and the Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Road Safety, show the extent of the road safety challenge in countries like Uganda and Cameroon.

The accident severity index in Uganda reveals that 24 people are killed per 100 road crashes. On average, Uganda loses 18 people per day in road traffic crashes, the highest level in East Africa. The impact is equally tragic. The overall annual cost of road crashes is currently estimated at approximately US$1.2 billion, representing 5 percent of Uganda’s GDP.

In Cameroon, 16,583 road accidents and 1,500 deaths are recorded on average every year. The risk of road deaths is estimated at 26.7 per 100,000 people.

The situation in Uganda and Cameroon is reflective of that of the entire continent. ECA’s research shows that African countries perform poorly in road safety management.

“Many of our countries have inadequate institutional arrangements, finance, and data to deal with the carnage on our roads and addressing these issues in their entirety requires strong leadership, which is why the theme of the 2019 UN Road Safety Week; Leadership for Road Safety, is apt,” says Songwe.

The campaign falls under the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020 that was officially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in March 2010. Its goal is to stabilize and reduce the forecast level of road traffic deaths around the world. The campaign is also calling on the public to speak up and demand adequate legislation and policies that can save lives.

The Decade of Action seeks to prevent road traffic deaths and injuries which experts project will take the lives of 1.9 million people annually by 2020. The plan outlines steps towards improving the safety of roads and vehicles; enhancing emergency services; and building up road safety management generally. It also calls for increased legislation and enforcement on speeding.

Ethiopia among top four in hotel dev’t in Africa

According to a survey by the Lagos-based W Hospitality Group, Ethiopia is ranked fourth in hotel development in Africa.

Egypt is ranked first, followed by Nigeria and Morocco, according to the Africa Business Communities.

The four countries head the top ten by numbers of rooms in the internationally-branded hotel development pipeline, with Egypt showing 15,158 rooms in 51 new hotels. A total of 75,155 branded rooms in 401 hotels are in development across the whole of Africa – a net increase of almost 11,000 rooms in the pipeline, 17% up on 2018.

W Hospitality Group’s survey had a record 43 international and regional hotel contributors this year, covering 54 countries in north and sub-Saharan Africa, and the Indian Ocean islands.

The top-line figures show that in North Africa the rooms’ pipeline is up 2.3% on 2018, and down 3.8% in sub-Saharan Africa – largely due to several of the chains “cleaning” their pipelines, deleting deals that they believe are not going to happen.

Ethiopia, has seen another increase in pipeline deals, up from 31 hotels in 2018, signed by international chains such as Accor and Hilton, as well as by regional chains such as aha and Latitude. Best Western and IHG each signed two hotels in 2018.

The majority of these deals, 27 hotels with 84 per cent of total rooms, are in Addis Ababa. This year, the top ten countries account for 69% of the total hotels in the survey, and 74% of the rooms.

According to the Group, full details will be revealed and discussed at the Africa Hotel Investment Forum (AHIF) in Addis Ababa, September 23 – 25 2019, organized by Bench Events.

It is the leading conference of its kind in Africa, connecting business leaders and fuelling investment in tourism projects, infrastructure and hotel development across the continent.

U.S. marks completion of five-year capacity building program for Ethiopian CSOs

The United States marked the completion of its five-year local capacity development project that invested in helping over 100 local organizations improve their performance and enhance the Ethiopian civil society sector.

Through this project, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provided training to strengthen financial and project management capacity to help Ethiopian institutions improve the quality of services they provide to their communities, and contribute to the country’s democratic reforms.

Over the past five years, Ethiopian civil society organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, and private enterprises completing local capacity development training demonstrated an increase in their capacity to manage projects, mobilize resources more transparently, and deliver services more effectively, according to a press release the US Embassy sent to FBC today.

As a result, participating organizations won 246 grants worth a combined 616 million Ethiopian birr to implement various projects, such as helping families access clean water and training birth attendants to ensure babies are born in a safe environment.

Closing out the event, USAID Mission Director Leslie Reed encouraged representatives from civil society organizations to expand their roles in Ethiopia’s socioeconomic development.
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Around forty artists showcased their artistic work at Hilton Addis Ababa to back humanity while the Ethiopian Red Cross society celebrated Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. The Exhibition was opened by President Shalework Zewdie. A total of 50 artistic work were presented for sale. All of the money went to support internally displaced people. It was organized jointly with the Ethiopian Visual Art Association and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society. Famous young artists contributed their work for free to support the idea. The exhibition will continue to be displayed at Alliance Ethio-Française.
To whom is nation abandoned?

Last week prime minister Abiy Ahmed had a discussion with over 3,000 medical professionals (health service providers as per WHO) drawn from all over the country. This was a good opportunity for the health service providers (doctors, nurses, midwives, health extension workers, pharmacists…) to voice their grievances to the PM. I can sense the burden the prime minister is shouldering these days. He should deserve appreciation for taking time to involve himself in the discussion.

The event reminded me of a similar discussion that was conducted between instructors of higher learning institutions and the late prime minister, Meles Zenawi. That discussion held some 17 years back was the kind of unforgettable one. Some questions and opinions forwarded to the late prime minister by participants drawn from various local universities and colleges were worth listening… We don’t forget in particular the challenging opinions and comments forwarded by two young instructors named Animaw (Dr) and Mulugeta.

Animaw, an English language instructor at Addis Ababa University, bombarded the premier with significant and challenging questions. That time many people including the forum participants, were alarmed by the boldness of the young instructor. Such thing was unthinkable then. Many of the participants were taken aback by the courage the young enquirer has shown to confront the stern look premier. At that time, it was startling to see such a daredevil instructor. Yes, it was very terrifying to take a look at the face of the premier let alone confront him with challenging comments and opinions. Anyways, the opinions forwarded by Animaw were about the fate of this country which has deliberately been made to be decimated by ethnic divisions.

Animaw reflected the common issue of the entire nation. He said that the fate of the country was in the hands of the then premier and he is “the one” who should work for the deliverance of it. “…I don’t want to drift back in to the past and say that ethnic politics annihilates us. Because it is too late… What must we do now? The ball is under your control… We can say now that the the ethnic politics unprecedentedly. Mulugeta indeed expressed concern about the dangerous track the country has been made to embark on… In this way the intellectuals tried to unveil the hidden political agenda of the ruling party. Every citizen was taken away by the subtle way of the intellectuals to urge the government to take immediate corrective measures.

In general, that discussion was impressive… I expected to hear such challenging comments, questions and suggestions from the health service providers during the recently held discussion with the premier. I don’t know, probably it is just my ignorance to think of this. But it is my thought that the medical practitioners should have expressed concern regarding the current status of this country. As concerned citizens, they should have done this. Excuse my ignorance… But I thought that apart from raising personal issues, they could have put forward advisory words in connection to the political uncertainty of this country. I expected that they would challenge the premier by posing questions regarding the political unrest, civil conflicts, mass displacements and insecurity being sparked across the country. I thought that they would enquire the premier regarding the local extremist media outlets and hostile elements that are creating problems. I had expected there would have been a discussion as to how the government would ensure the prevalence of rule of law in this country… Why there is no strong national leadership? Why regional states do not obey orders of the federal government? Why the incumbent government has kept many? Why has it not taken decisive steps against these things? To whom has it abandoned the nation? If I am mistaken, excuse my ignorance. But I tell you I expected robust debates and discussions on issues like these ones. This day the entire people are in the state of confusion. Innocent people are being shot dead. Citizens are deprived of their right to live wherever they want… Of course, one may say that as these people are mere medical professionals, they have nothing to do with politics. No way! National issues should also be their concern.

Did I hear the premier admonishing the health service providers not to add fuel to the problems being witnessed in the country? Did I go him right? He said that the medical practitioners should not be a cause for other problems. “We need a big support from you. As you can realize the situations of the world and the country, we need your support… In time of such situation in which total chaos are created, don’t inject a single drop of fuel backing it. Support us by flushing a drop of water extinguisher… When the problems occur, when legs are amputated, when people are injured… the problem will crawl back to you. You will shoulder the burden…” See? In such a way the premier nudged the health service providers in to discussion of national issues…

We had seen that the university instructors and staff members were not limited to personal demands. They did not dwell much on the issues of salary and other benefits. Instead, they put forward demands of personal benefits is wrong. Not demands of personal benefits is wrong. Not...
INTERVIEW

What drives the Wollo Famine reporter

One of the popular coverage that BBC covered so far in Ethiopia is the Wollo Famine that presented horrible picture of people who died with hunger and loose there weight. Though it is a past history some westerner still picture Ethiopia in the film that they saw back 46 years ago. The man behind the story and whose name is very popular in the BBC as well in the global media is Jonathan Dimbleby. The journalist agreed that the famine was a horrible and shocking situation in the history of Ethiopia but he said that Emperor Haileselassie was not aware of the situation and did not concealed to the global world.

Last Mondy Jonathan Dimbleby came to Addis for his TV show and host a debate program.

Before the show Capital’s Reporter Tesfaye Getnet talked to him about the film he made about Wollo famine and the global media challenge and achievements. Excerpts.

Capital: When was the first time you came to Ethiopia?

Jonathan Dimbleby: I first came here in 1973. I exposed to the world the famine in Wollo because the famine was not known around the world or indeed very much in Ethiopia. There was a cover up when was it revealed. These terrible and serious horrors made a vibrant impact all over the world and a great deal of money was raised to help the victims. Politically as a result of that, Haileselassie fell from power because of the famine and the Derge as it came to power. The Derge took my film and cut it. They ran the picture of the Emperor having a good life and enjoying himself as if to say he did not care about the famine. In my own view that was very unfair because he did not know what was happening in Wollo. The famine was concealed from him as well as from the world. Anyway as result of that I was not able to come to Ethiopia a great deal during the early days of the Derg. I became critical when the Red Terror campaign started and I was then banned for ten years and came back in 1987 I was critical again and banned again but since 1991 after the arrival of Meles Zenawi I have been able to come freely like any other foreign correspondent who works here. So I followed the Ethiopian story closely for 45 years and Ethiopia is both professionally and personally very important for my life.

Capital: Do you think Haileselassie hid the famine in Wollo to create a positive spin to world?

Dimbleby: No! It think Haileselassie was unaware of the famine. He was surrounded by powerful figures in the regions as well as in Addis who made it their business to conceal from him unpleasant facts and they did not want to acknowledge the truth about what was happening in Wollo because to do so would have shown them to be failing from power rather than succeeding in their position and I think that was what was happening and I do not personally believe Haileselassie was saying: “There is a famine in Wollo, no problem”. Of course not.
Capital: What feedback did you get from that story?

Dimbleby: The film was shown in the United Kingdom on the ITV network and on the BBC network and it then went around the world and was shown in many countries and people were shocked and horrified and I think it was the first time in television such scenes or suffering had been presented. I just reported the fact the Ethiopian government at that time made up the images which were not true which was very silly. I just confirmed that they are hiding or trying to hide what was self-evident that people were hungry, that people confirmed that they are hiding or trying to hide what was true. I just filmed what I saw but it was too late for his rule because there was unrest that lead the other agitations like the taxi drivers strike, students were protesting and the combination of that unrest that lead the other agitations like the taxi drivers strike, students were protesting and the combination of that unrest that lead the other agitations like the taxi drivers strike, students were protesting and the combination of that unrest lead the radical young army officer effectively taking power.

Capital: Who told you about the famine in Wollo?

Dimbleby: I had actually a friend who was from Sri Lanka at my university who got in touch with me. She was studying in Holland and she met a group of Ethiopian students who said there is a big problem in Ethiopia and she knew I was by then a journalist and said to me “You have to follow this!” and I came to Addis. We saw the drought when my team arrived and we filmed what we saw.

Capital: Did you get permission to cover the Wollo story from the Ethiopian government?

Dimbleby: We had permission to come to the country. We had a visa and we had also a minder and he was sleeping at what he saw and said to us film what you want. When I went back to Addis the Minister of Information who was an army officer tried to intimidate me by saying; “you just are showing a bad thing and lying about our country” and I said “I just filmed what I saw,” I thought maybe I might not have been allowed to take the film out and in fact I was and the film was shown in October 1973.

Capital: How did Haileselassie respond to the famine broadcast?

Dimbleby: Haileselassie was a country like UK, it is easy to say despite the pressure but in some parts of the world it is very difficult.

Capital: What were your thoughts about the development of professional journalism globally?

Dimbleby: I have been involved in an organization that has actively sought to help process development by mentoring and by advising and I think there is much greater professionalism now in journalism around the world but there are lots of problems. Having opinion is important and the journalists have the right to have an opinion but the opinion must be quite carefully related to the evidence to have validity, particularly in the parts of the world which are prone to unrest, conflict and division.

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Capital: What can be done to make media more neutral and less beholden to parties, groups and investors?

Dimbleby: Instead of using the word ‘Neutral’ I would use the word ‘Impartial’. It is not right to be neutral about apartheid, it is not sensible to be neutral about climate change that is silly. You have to be more accurate. The BBC is impartial in assessing evidence and in presenting it to its audience of the 80 million people around the world.

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Africa amongst the poor people. When I arrived in Wollo I was shocked by the amount of hunger and the scale of suffering and nothing was done to help the victims. There was one health worker in Dessie and a priest who tried to help the victims. I asked what I could do to help people? On one hand there was horror and shock and on the other hand there was a coup. So finally I told the fact to the world and responses helped the victims.

Capital: Who told you about the famine in Wollo?

Dimbleby: I had never met Haileselassie but after the film he went up to Wollo and the region and expressed his sympathy and I presumed that he was shocked by what he saw but it was too late for his rule because there was other agitations like the taxi drivers strike, students were protesting and the combination of that unrest that lead the radical young army officer effectively taking power.
FINTECH TECHNOLOGY IS A POTENTIAL DRIVER OF AFRICAN ECONOMIES

The Economic Insight: Africa report provides a snapshot of East Africa, Central and West Africa, Franc Zone, Northern Africa and Southern Africa’s economic performance.

According to the report, East Africa is expected to remain the strongest growing region with a 6.3% economic expansion this year. Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are all expected to record real GDP growth above 6% this year, largely due to infrastructure investment and the expansion of financial and telecoms services.

African economic growth has in general been driven by public infrastructure investment and the expansion of services to a largely underserviced population. However, financial technology (FinTech) is increasingly receiving attention from both private and public sector, facilitating innovation in other sectors of the economy and allowing African nations to leapfrog more traditional infrastructure.

Almost one-third of total funding on the continent was raised by fintech start-ups in 2017. This can be supported by the fact that 60% of all mobile money accounts globally can be found in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), according to an Ecowas study.

The Franc Zone is expected to record a commendable 4.9% expansion this year. Senegal saw a relatively free and fair election in February setting the stage for positive increase in economic performance of 6.5%. Ivory Coast’s economic growth is forecast to reach 7.0% this year, boosted by a rebound in agricultural exports and a strong industrial sector.

In Central and West Africa, there are signs of a more broad-based economic recovery in Nigeria, which is set to grow by 2.5% this year. Rising oil output should continue to boost GDP in Ghana which will grow by 6.4% this year. The DRC’s economy will benefit from strong momentum in the mining sector, but non-mining activity will remain constrained by a weak currency and high inflation. GDP growth is nonetheless forecast to rise to 4.4% in 2019.

In Southern Africa the economy is expected to contract by 1.5% this year. This situation if further compounded by Zimbabwe’s political instability which still remains a concern. Onlookers were hoping for Angola’s to grow by 1.1% this year owing to reform efforts, which have continued to build confidence. South Africa’s economy whose growth is currently at 1.3% saw a sombre budget reading in February.

In North Africa, the past quarter has raised the spectre of widespread instability. Sudan is expected to grow by 1.2% despite the popular uprising which has led to the resignation of long-time President Omar Al-Bashir. Egypt, which is set to grow by 5.4%, is grappling with the idea of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi seeking to change the constitution to stay in power past 2022.

When we find researches/opinions from other publishers that might interest you, we pass them along. Below you’ll opinions on trade agreements by Abebe Aemro Sellassie, director of the African department of the International Monetary Funds and by Francis Mangeni is the Director of Trade and Customs at the COMESA Secretariat. Their opinions may differ from what you read in CFTA.Now. These articles were retrieved from Business Day and Busiweek respectively.

Trade agreement ideal to create jobs in Africa

The African Continental Free Trade agreement (AfCFTA) has the potential to establish a market of 1.2-billion people with a combined economic production of $2.5-trillion. This is an exciting prospect for a region that has been striving for greater integration for a long time.

Trade integration can help propel development and has prompted success stories in other regions. The momentum for the agreement to become a reality has been strong. About a year since its launch in Kigali in March 2018, 52 out of 55 countries on the continent have signed the agreement and 22 have already ratified it, which means the threshold for the agreement to take effect has been met.

What does this mean for the countries that are part of the agreement? The promise of closer trade integration is that it is a driver of economic transformation, delivering higher growth and more jobs. A large free trade area in Africa will provide a single market for goods and services, help spread knowledge and technology, and facilitate the development of regional supply chains. It will also better position African countries to be part of global supply chains and offer large opportunities for companies from other regions to invest in domestic markets.

An important set of supportive policies for countries to benefit more fully from the trade agreement includes investing in infrastructure to better connect internal markets and improving trade logistics.

Intra-regional trade in Africa has expanded rapidly, particularly between countries in sub-regional economic communities that essentially have near-zero preferential tariffs. For example, three quarters of African intra-regional trade took place within these sub-regional communities. In the process, regional trade hubs emerged such as Ivory Coast, Kenya, Senegal and SA.

Unlike exports to the rest of the world, intra-regional trade is more diversified and contains higher value-added goods, including a sizeable share of manufactured products.

The data is quite striking: 75% of Africa’s total exports to the rest of the world are minerals such as crude oil, while 40% of intra-regional trade is accounted for by manufactured goods.

Removing barriers to trade will impact countries and people within countries differently. Opportunities to expand regional trade are sizeable across all sectors of the economy, including agriculture-related commodities, manufacturing, and services.

It is important to acknowledge that these potential benefits also come with costs. Inequality may increase, particularly in countries with more diversified economies and large shares of skilled labour. However, these effects can be offset through active labour market programmes such as training and job-search assistance, and measures that bolster safety nets (income support and social insurance programmes).

As with all policies, the overall impact needs to be assessed on a country-by-country basis and complementary policies will be needed to maximise the benefits. This requires giving adequate time to consult with the key players affected and devising suitable supportive policies, as needed.

An important set of supportive policies for countries to benefit more fully from the trade agreement includes investing in infrastructure to better connect internal markets and improving trade logistics.

In addition, lowering trade tariffs will also lower fiscal revenues. The impact appears to be limited in most countries, but a few countries that still apply high import tariffs will have to look for alternative revenue sources.

Overall, while some details such as rules of origin or local content still need to be worked out, the AfCFTA could be an important catalyst for growth and structural transformation across the continent.

At a time when the youth population is growing rapidly and the pressure to create jobs is high, boosting intra-regional trade is a valuable opportunity that should not be missed.
PACCI is the lead business organization with members in over 50 countries of the continent representing the interests of businesses and industry associations of every size and sector. PACCI operates as Africa’s voice of business, advocating for pro-business policies that create jobs, growth and prosperity.

**ACFTA Success And The Lessons From Regional Economic Blocs**

Driven and demanded by clear and determined political leadership, the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) was negotiated in just over two years and entered force in just over a year; an astounding record for Trade Negotiations and Agreements in history. The eternal lesson is that with political leadership and clarity, mobilised at the highest level around specific objectives and programs, the unthinkable can be rapidly achieved.

A retrospection at this point in time could assist to internalise and maintain this trajectory in African continental economic integration and inspire better quality in progress into the future. Over the years, especially since the 1960s, Africa has established continental and regional integration bodies and frameworks, that have provided auspices for political and economic milestones.

For instance, political decolonisation was achieved in 1994 under the Organisation for African Unity, the African Union was put in place in 2002 and a continental peace and security architecture established 2003, eight regional economic communities were formally recognised in 2006, the COMESA-EAC- SADC Tripartite Arrangement was agreed in 2008, and the ACFTA has just entered into force this 2019.

To deal with public policy challenges of peace and prosperity, by ensuring better security and creation of decent jobs and wealth, Africa has adopted the overarching strategy of developmental economic integration.

This approach prioritizes as complementary programs, at least the following: large markets achieved through effective and modern Free Trade Areas underpinned by robust trade facilitation and digitalisation interventions; industrialisation that covers both manufacturing and services; infrastructure that includes surface and air transportation, energy and information and communication technologies; innovation for development; as well as political and macroeconomic stability.

Rather than theoretical constructs, the actual entry points for African economic integration have been the current existential issues the regions faced: drought and desertification for IGAD, peace and security for ECOWAS, infrastructure and industrialisation for SADC, trade and financial facilitation for COMESA; and nostalgia over a beloved economic community collapsed in 1977 in EAC. And nostalgia over a beloved economic community that formalised in 2006, the COMESA-EAC- SADC Tripartite Arrangement was agreed in 2008, and the ACFTA has just entered into force this 2019.

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ACFTA Success And The Lessons From Regional Economic Blocs

Critical, though, is that trade and investment support institutions have an important role, in supporting the private sector to better utilise the opportunities. COMESA, for instance, established the Business Council for advocacy, the Federation of Women in Business (FEMCOM) to mobilise and empower women, the African Leather Institute (ALLPI) to grow the leather value chains and the Africa Trade Insurance Agency (ATI) to assist de-risk the region.

It also established the Clearing House and the Regional Payment and Settlement System (CH/REPSS) to facilitate regional payments, the Re-Insurance Company (ZEP-Re) to provide reinsurance and retrocession, the Trade and Development Bank to finance regional development through loans to government and the private sector, the Regional Investment Agency to attract investment, the Regional Competition Commission to underpin a fair market, and the Regional Court for the rule of law.

A number of these COMESA institutions are now continental in scope in terms of operations and membership.

Large markets are created for the private sector to take up. It should be a no brainer then that appropriate institutions should be in place to galvanise and support the private sector.

Deeper and broader integration requires political ownership and leadership, based on long-term social-political impetus, beyond the technical level bean-counting and negotiation or haggling processes.

It is all about how much and soon the leaders want it to happen. The leadership should mobilise all relevant key players and stakeholders in the public and private sectors, and in the academia and civil society.

African economic integration still takes place in a global political and economic order. However, African must secure its financial autonomy and progressively eliminate over-dependence on some partners.

ECOWAS has been able to mobilise US$ 630 million annually from its community levy system. The African Union levy of 0.2 per cent on imports has so far raised US$ 800 million for the Peace Fund to support peace and security operations.

Donor funding in the meantime continues to fill in existing gaps in other regional bodies. The EAC has mobilised US$ 500 million in project financing mainly for trade facilitation.

Long term, the sustainable building of capabilities is a critical success factor. The capabilities are entrepreneurial, leadership, intellectual, diplomatic and negotiation, mobilizational, proposal and drafting and textual preparation and explanation, and managerial.

The Pan African University and the COMESA Virtual University are poised to play critically influential roles in cutting out the next generation of Pan Africanist leaders in all fields.

As a general thrust, though, massive training, of a long term and executive nature, will assist to catalyse a critical mass of pertinent skills for economic integration in government, private sector, academia and grassroots organisations.

Without innovation, which continuously brings new goods, services, assets, and business processes onto the market, an economy stagnates and even regresses. Innovation programs must, therefore, be at the heart of regional economic integration, to assist deliver the benefits of larger markets and inter-governmental cooperation frameworks in all relevant sectors.

COMESA has established an Innovation Council and a Ministerial Committee on Science Technology and Innovation; as well as Annual Innovation Awards in various categories: youth, women, and institutions.

The world ever becomes vulnerable and susceptible to new threats. Economic and religious related disaffection brews extremism, with dire unexpected consequences for human life, property, and sanity. Environmental stress has contributed to recurring disasters. Diseases hit now and then: mad cow disease, avian flu, Ebola for instance.

The African Union was pleasantly surprised to mobilise 900 doctors and nurses from various African countries, to raise US$ 15 million from the private sector at their own initiative, and US$ 34 million through SMS-based crowdfunding, for the Ebola crisis in West Africa in 2014.

The private sector has formed the Afro-champions Initiative to proactively support the growth of African multinational companies to utilise trade and investment opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area and enhance their regional and global operations.

About 150 African companies already have a multinational scope in Africa, 75 of them with registered offices and subsidiaries and undertaking substantial operations outside Africa.

Regional economic integration in Africa has matured and taken off. Best practices and progress at the regional level is being consolidated at the continental, in a pragmatic manner that doesn’t roll back whatever has been achieved.

This maturity and political ownership should not be squandered. What is therefore required are mechanisms to sustain the momentum through documentation and continuous building of capabilities as a collaborative effort led by Africa but equally supported by all institutions and people of goodwill the world over.

The good of Africa, as a geographically large and populous continent, with resources to drive the global economy, will be good for the whole world.
THE AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING COMPANY OF ETHIOPIA S.C. (A.M.C.E.)

INVITATION BID
FOR GARDENING & COMPOUND UPKEEPING SERVICE

1. The Automotive Manufacturing Co of Ethiopia Share Company (AMCE) is a company engaged in commercial vehicles Assembly, Sales & Marketing and aftersales service. AMCE invites interested and eligible bidders for the provision of Gardening and Compound Upkeeping service.

2. Interested bidders can obtain the complete bid document from Purchasing & Logistics Department upon payment of a non-refundable birr 100.00 (One Hundred) within 10(ten) days during working days and hours (Monday to Friday) starting from May 13, 2019.

3. Bidders shall submit copy of a renewed Trade License, Tax Clearance Certificate, VAT and TIN Certificates, other documents required in the TOR together with their offer.

4. The sealed bids shall be marked “Bid for the Procurement of Gardening & Compound upkeeping Service”, addressed to:

Purchasing & Logistics Department
AMCE
P.O.Box 5736
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

and deposited in the box provided for this purpose in the above stated address not later than Wednesday 29th May, 2019 at 3:00 P.M.

5. Bid should be accompanied with a bid security of Birr. 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand) in the form of CPO. The bid will be closed on May 29th, 2019 at 3:00 PM and the technical proposal will be opened on May 31st 2019 at 10:00 AM in the presence of the bidder’s representatives who choose to attend at AMCE Meeting Room.

6. The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids.

7. Interested bidders can obtain additional information from the Company’s Purchasing & Logistics Dept Manager at the address below:

The Automotive Manufacturing Co of Ethiopia Share Company (AMCE Sh. Co.)
P.O. Box 5736
Tel. No. 0116463311/46
Fax No. 0116463342
E-mail: eskinder@amceiveco.com
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

THE AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURING COMPANY OF ETHIOPIA S.C. (A.M.C.E.)

INVITATION BID
FOR CLEANING & JANITORIAL SERVICE

1. The Automotive Manufacturing Co of Ethiopia Share Company (AMCE) is a company engaged in commercial vehicles Assembly, Sales & Marketing and Aftersales Service. AMCE invites interested and eligible bidders for the provision of Cleaning and Janitorial service.

2. Interested bidders can obtain the complete bid document from Purchasing & Logistics Department upon payment of a non-refundable birr 100.00 (One Hundred) within 10(ten) days during working days and hours (Monday to Friday) starting from May 13, 2019.

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E-mail: eskinder@amceiveco.com
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Title: Supplies of Drinking Water

SAVE THE CHILDREN, the world’s leading independent non-profit organization for children intends to procure various “Supplies of Drinking Water” and hereby invites potential suppliers to submit a sealed tender for these services.

Potential service providers may obtain the tender documents against payment of a non-refundable amount of ETB 100.00 from the Save the Children Country Office, Addis Ababa from May 16, 2019 to June 03, 2019 during working hours from the following Address:

Save the Children, Ethiopia Country Office, Addis Ababa
Near Bisrate Gabriel Church, Supply Chain | Procurement Office
Tel # 0113 728455/61 Ext. 388

Tenders submitted must be accompanied with:

- Renewed business license for the year 2011 E.C. VAT | TIN | Registration certificate;
- Bid Security in the name of “Save the Children International” amounting to ETB 20,000.00 in the form of CPO or bank guarantee valid at least for 3 months from the date of tender submission. (Cash and insurance bond are not accepted)
- Authorization to Import, Manufacture and/or Distribute products

Tenders must be submitted in four (4) sealed envelopes, bearing the bidder’s official seal, and clearly marked TEHCINICAL and FINANCIAL “Original” and “Copy”, and must include the bidders’ name, and contact address, as well as the Tender title and Tender Reference number.

Tenders must be submitted in the bid box prepared for this purpose at Save the Children, Ethiopia Country Office on June 04, 2019 before 10:00 A.M.

Save the Children Committee will open tender responses on the same day at 10:30 A.M. in the presence of bidders who choose to attend.

Save the Children reserves the right to accept or reject this bid, in partial, or in its entirety.

INVITATION TO TENDER

Tender Title: Produce and Broadcast of Serial Radio Program and Radio Advertisements

SAVE THE CHILDREN, the world’s leading independent non-profit organization for children intends to work with Media agency that has extensive experience in producing radio programs that can help shape attitude and influence reproductive health and family planning behaviors of the project livelihood. For the “Produce and Broadcast of Serial Radio Program and Radio Advertisements” and hereby invites potential Medias to submit a sealed tender for these services.

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Save the Children, Ethiopia Country Office, Addis Ababa
Near Bisrate Gabriel Church, Supply Chain | Procurement Office
Tel # 0113 728455/61 Ext. 388

Tenders submitted must be accompanied with:

- Renewed business license for the year 2011 E.C. VAT | TIN | Registration certificate;
- Bid Security in the name of “Save the Children International” amounting to ETB 50,000.00 in the form of CPO or bank guarantee valid at least for 3 months from the date of tender submission. (Cash and insurance bond are not accepted)
- Company profile
- Documentary evidence in the form of detail specifications, sketch, and/or drawings, verifying conformity of items to requirements
- Evidence of past performance record on similar servivc and other relevant credentials
- Completely filled SCI Price Schedule
- Warranty services
- Statement of Declaration in compliance to Save the Children Policies

Tenders must be submitted in four (4) sealed envelopes, bearing the bidder’s official seal, and clearly marked TECHNICAL and FINANCIAL “Original” and “Copy”, and must include the bidders’ name, and contact address, as well as the Tender title and Tender Reference number.

Tenders must be submitted in the bid box prepared for this purpose at Save the Children, Ethiopia Country Office on June 04, 2019 before 2:00 P.M.

Save the Children Procurement Committee will open tender responses on the same day at 2:30 P.M. in the presence of bidders who choose to attend.

Save the Children reserves the right to accept or reject this bid, in partial, or in its entirety.
The spring has brought new bloom for African art currently being featured in Europe and the USA, with more to come in the summer months. For instance, Contemporary 1:54 art fair, one of the leading fairs for contemporary African art, had another successful run in the West Village of New York City. Leading galleries, including Cohan, joined other dealers at 1:54 who share a commitment to contemporary art out of Africa. Cohan presented works by artists Nigerian Yinka Shonibare MBE and our own Ethiopian Elias Sime, rising fast over the past five years. He was named “...two of the bigger current art stars with roots in Africa”, according to James Cohan. Elias is well known here at home for his “elaborate works made with materials like intertwined electrical wire and disembodied keyboard parts bearing random letters looked on from the walls...whose prices at 1-54 range from $100,000 to $150,000...” according to artnews.com. Cohan goes on to say, “We’ve since sold works to over 20 museums, and he’s got an exhibition touring the U.S. and Canada that starts in the fall.”

At the Venice Biennale, national pavilions from the continent are also attracting attention for those who wish to experience art from Egypt, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and Zimbabwe. But it is Ghana, my ancestral home, that ones are watching my attention. The West African country has increased its presence on the global stage and to increase tourism.” Ghana's First Lady, Rebecca Akufo-Addo, and her husband, President Nana Akufo-Addo, were present to inaugurate their country's pavilion—a series of curved, interlocking chambers designed by architect David Adjaye—houses an all-star lineup, including new works by sculptor El Anatsui, video artist John Akomfrah, and painter Lynette Yiadom-Boakye. Nearly all of the art was commissioned especially for the occasion. At the inauguration yesterday—an event which was attended by Ghana's First Lady, Rebecca Akufo-Addo—officials were unusually direct about their objective for the project: to enhance Ghana's position on the global stage and to increase tourism. This is a task as a tool for soft power—a diplomatic tactic that many countries across the globe have stepped away from as governments continue to slash arts funding. However it is Chicago or more specifically Bronzeville that will also be blessed, this summer, with art from Ethiopia. According to Illinois Institute of Technology, “Bronzeville, also known as the “Black Metropolis” and the “Black Belt,” is the center of African-American history on Chicago’s South Side, 10 minutes south of downtown. 1916 began the Great Migration when African Americans left the American South for Chicago with the promise of better jobs and reduced oppression. The reality, however, fell far short of this promise.

African Americans were restricted to live in the Black Belt in white-owned housing that was largely dilapidated and densely populated yet more expensive than housing in white areas. Bronzeville’s residents toiled hard and cooperatively to establish a full-fledged community with business, culture, and community institutions that did not have the racial restrictions enforced in most parts of the city. Bronzeville’s institutions grew to have national influence rivaling and even exceeding those of New York’s Harlem.”

Bronzeville will welcome Merid Tafesse, the colorful and soft-spoken Ethiopian prodigy, known as the King of Charcoal, realizing his vision of intriguing the world with his art, opening Stream of Consciousness II at Gallery Gachahc on June 6th. The proud 6th gen direct descendant of King Sahlé Selassie of the Imperial House of Solomon was born in Ethiopia in 1974 and raised in Addis Ababa by his well-traveled banker father, Tafesse Damtew. Merid’s intellect and artistic trajectory were fed by his father’s extensive collection of reggae icon Bob Marley and the prose of H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie I, the music of reggae icon Bob Marley and the prose of Kahlil Gibran and Oscar Wilde, Merid graduated in ‘98 and was immediately selected for a ‘99 residency in Jerusalem. By 1994 the gifted but budding painter was accepted into the Addis Ababa University Alle School of Fine Art and Design (ASFAD) where his skill thrived alongside his social consciousness. Fueled by his blood ties to H.I.M. Emperor Haile Selassie I, the music of reggae icon Bob Marley and the prose of Kahlil Gibran and Oscar Wilde, Merid graduated in ‘98 and was immediately selected for a ‘99 residency in Jerusalem. Since then the steadily rising humble painter has exhibited internationally and accepted special commissions such as the huge paintings displayed at the Red Terror Martyr’s Museum and urban wall mural at Coke Factory in Addis. His provocative charcoal paper works are in the distinguished MOMA archives, submitted by anthropologist and curator, Mesekorem Assaaged, who also helped launch Merid’s career in 2002 with Three Generations exhibition featuring founder of ASFAD, Allefeagle Selam and Bahihu Bezabu at Sheraton Addis. After Chicago, Merid is off to Kingston, Jamaica, where he will be received by the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Barbara “Baby” Grange and will participate in LET’S TALKE ABOUT LOCKS Colloquium and Art exhibition at the Bob Marley Museum, based on his exceptional illustrations in the children’s book I LOVE LOCKS authored by yours truly.

Dr. Desta Meghoo is a Jamaican born Creative Consultant, Curator and cultural promoter based in Ethiopia since 2005. She also serves as Liaison to the AU for the Ghana based, Diaspora African Forum.
Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company EDR/MC

Invitation for International Competitive Bid

Bid No. EDR/MC/ICB/001/2019

1. Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company EDR/MC would like to invite interested and qualified bidders for the procurement of Spare Parts and Materials for Rollingstock and Railway (gauge 1.435m) Line Maintenance with the international open tendering procedures.

2. EDR/MC invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of goods mentioned below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lot</th>
<th>Descriptions of Goods</th>
<th>Bid security Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part One</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lubricant and grease</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tools and equipment for train maintenance</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Spare parts for train</td>
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<td><strong>Part Two</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rail Material</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Materials for The Communications</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Material for The Traction Substation</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Material for railway electricity maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Material for The Signaling</td>
<td>50,000 ETB</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Material for The Electric Power</td>
<td>10,000 ETB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tools</td>
<td>10,000 ETB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Safety and Security Equipment</td>
<td>50,000 ETB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open international competitive tendering procedures contained in the Public Procurement Proclamation of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and EDR procurement Directives and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from EDR/MC and inspect the bidding document at the address given below at 10(a) from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders at the address given below at 10(a) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 200 Birr. The method of payment will be in cash.

6. Bid must be delivered to the Address below at 10(b) on or before 2:00 PM on June 26, 2019. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of CPO or Unconditional Bank guarantee from recognized Bank and/or counter guarantee from the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10 (b) at 2:30PM on, June 26, 2019.

7. The Winner supplier shall present a 10% performance bond in the form of CPO or unconditional bank guarantee in ETB.

8. All suppliers should adhere to the rules and regulations stated in the bid documents, otherwise would not be considered for evaluation.

9. (a) Documents will be issued at Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company EDR/MC, Furi Lebu Railway Station, office Building, Logistics Department. (b) Bid must be delivered to, and will be opened Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company EDR/MC, Furi Lebu Railway Station, office Building, Ground Floor, Meeting Room.

10. EDR/MC reserves the right to accept or reject part or all of the bidding process.

Ethio-Djibouti Standard Gauge Railway Share Company EDR/MC
Telephone No.
+251-966-21-36-86
+251-920-61-57-18
Invitation to Bid for the Construction of Aluminum Partition and Wood Works for Different Branches of Dashen Bank


2. The Employer invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the provision of the works stated above.

3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the open national tendering procedures as per FPPA directive and is open to all bidders.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from:
   a) For Information
      Dashen Bank, Engineering Service Department
      Head Quarter Building, 7th floor, In front of National Bank of Ethiopia
      Street Address: Sudan Street
      P.O. Box 12752
      Tel. +251-115-18-03-52 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
      And purchase the bidding documents at the address given below;
   b) For Document Purchase and Submittal
      Dashen Bank, Supply Chain Management Department
      Head Quarter Building, 14th floor, In front of National Bank of Ethiopia
      Street Address: Sudan Street
      Tel. +251-115-18-31-51, +251-115-18-31-52
      Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Monday to Friday: from 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM in the morning and 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM in the afternoon, and Saturday morning: from 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM.

5. Interested and eligible bidders are invited to purchase the bid document starting from May 13, 2019 within 21 (Twenty One) days at the addressed stated above (4b) and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ethiopian Birr 150 (One hundred fifty Birr) at any Dashen Bank branches account No.1800020002 and present copy of advice ticket.

6. Bidders must submit the TECHNICAL and the FINANCIAL OFFER in separate envelopes in duplicate copies labeled as original and return unopened to bidders.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address stated above (4b) at 2:00 PM on or before June 04, 2019. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of Ethiopian Birr 5,000.00 (five Thousand Birr) in the form of CPO or Bank Guarantee. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders’ or their representatives at the address stated above (4b) at 2:30 PM on June 04, 2019.

8. The bid security shall be presented separately. Failure to do so is ground for rejection of bid.

9. Bidders must meet the minimum requirement set for Technical qualification for the consideration of their Financial Offer.

10. Bidders shall read the bidding document thoroughly and respond accordingly.

11. Financial offer of those bidders who fail to meet the minimum Technical requirement, stated in the Bidding Documents, will be returned unopened to bidders.

12. Financial offer of bidders substantially responsive to the Bidding Document will be opened and evaluated further as stated in the Bidding Document.

13. Declaration of financial statement in the technical proposal is ground for the rejection of bid.

The employer reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
Name: Nardos Isayas
Education: Diploma in accounting
Company name: Nahoo Décor
Studio Title: Owner
Founded in: 2016
What it does: Decoration service for events
HQ: Jemmo Michael
Number of employees: Three

RESUME

STARTUP CAPITAL
60,000 birr

CURRENT CAPITAL
Growing

Sebhatu & Sons Property Administration and Security Services Plc. invite competent applicants for the following position:

JOB POSITION: Supervisor

JOB SUMMARY:

- prepare and monitor work plans and deliverables of the respective group according to agreed priorities;
- participate in planning, coordinating and setting policies for the development and implementation of the organization
- supervise the staff of the group and coordinate their development and training programmes;
- Capable of represent the company’s image to clients.
- develop and monitor service performance;
- act as a responsible member of the management team;
- Perform other related duties as required.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS:

Under the general supervision of the senior management, the supervisor will be responsible for the effective planning, management, and supervision of the functions carried out by S&S security guards

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENT and EXPERIENCE:

- Ten years of consecutive and responsible management experience
- Excellent Working knowledge of English (Ability to read, write, speak, understand and effectively Communicate the language to perform the duties of the position).
- College Diploma in Management or related field
- should possess computer skill (word, excel, power point, and other applications)
- Honourable military and police experience in leadership
- Five years of responsible management experience
- Excellent Working knowledge of English (Ability to read, write, speak, understand and effectively Communicate the language to perform the duties of the position).
- College degree in Management, or related field,
- should possess computer skill (word, excel, power point, and other applications)
- Honourable military and police experience in leadership

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT: Permanent
DUTY STATION: Addis Ababa
TO APPLY: Send your hand written application, CV, Copy of all necessary documents and award certificates to:

Sebhatu and Sons PASS plc.
Kasanchis, behind Enderasi Condominium
Tel:- +251 5 53 9525 / 26 / 27 / 28, +251- 93 00 34393,
+251- 911 41 2910
Fax No: +251 5 52 8677,
P.o.box, 101504, E-mail: Sebhatu@gmail.com

Simien Mountain

The Simien Mountains National Park in Northern Ethiopia is an exotic setting with unique wildlife and breathtaking views on a landscape shaped by nature and traditional agriculture. The natural beauties of this region have always filled visitors from Ethiopia and abroad with awe. Gentle highland ridges at altitudes above 3600 meters above sea level, covered with grasses, isolated trees (Erica &bored) and the bizarre Giant Lobelia (Lobelia rhynchopetalum) are found on the high plateau that ends abruptly at 1000- to 2000-m deep escarpments.
US GLOBAL POWER

The Trump Period, The End of Unipolarity

By Prof. James Petras

Introduction

US global power in the Trump period reflects the continuities and changes which are unfolding rapidly and deeply throughout the world and which are affecting the position of Washington. Assessing the dynamics of US global power is a complex problem, which requires examining multiple dimensions. We will proceed by:

- Conceptualizing the principles, which dictate empire building, specifically the power base and underlying changes in relations and structures which shape the present and future position of the US.
- Identifying the spheres of influence and power and their growth and decline.
- Examining the regions of conflict and contestation.
- The major and secondary rivalries.
- The stable and shifting relations between existing and rising power centers.
- The internal dynamics shaping the relative strength of competing centers of global power.
- The instability of the regimes and states seeking to retain and expand global power.

Conceptualization of Global Power

US global power is built on several significant facts. These include: the US victory in World War II, its subsequent advanced economy and dominant military position throughout five continents. The US advanced its dominance through a series of alliances in Europe via NATO; Asia via its hegemonic relationship with Japan, South Korea, Philippines and Taiwan as well as Australia and New Zealand in Oceania; Latin America via traditional client regimes; Africa via neo-colonial rulers imposed following independence.

US global power was built around encircling the USSR and China, undermining their economies and defeating their allies militarily via regional wars. Post WWII global economic and military superiority created subordinated allies and established US global power, but it created the bases for gradual shifts in relations of dominance.

US global power was formidable but subject to economic and military changes over time and in space.

US Spheres of Power: Then and Now

US global power exploited opportunities but also suffered military setbacks early on, particularly in Korea, Indo-China and Cuba. The US spheres of power were clearly in place in Western Europe and Latin America but was contested in Eastern Europe and Asia.

The most significant advance of US global power took place with the demise and disintegration of the USSR, the client states in Eastern Europe, as well as the transformation of China and Indo-China to capitalism during the 1980’s. US ideologies declared the coming of a unipolar empire free of restraints and challenges to its global and regional power. The US turned to conquering peripheral adversaries. Washington destroyed Yugoslavia and then Iraq - fragmenting them into mini-states. Wall Street promoted a multitude of multi-national corporations to invade China and Indo-China who reaped billions of profits exploiting cheap labor. The believers of the enduring rule of US global power envisioned a century of US imperial rule.

In reality this was a short-sighted vision of a brief interlude.

The End of Unipolarity: New Rivalries and Global and Regional Centers of Power: An Overview

US global power led Washington into ‘overreach’, in several crucial areas: it launched a series of costly prolonged wars, specifically in Iraq and Afghanistan, which had three negative consequences: the destruction of the Iraq armed forces and economy led to the rise of the Islamic State which overtook most of the country; the occupation in Afghanistan which led to the emergence of the Taliban and an ongoing twenty year war which cost hundreds of billions of dollars and several thousand wounded and dead US soldiers; as a result the majority of the US public turned negative toward wars and empire building.

The US pillage and dominance of Russia ended, when President Putin replaced Yeltsin’s vassal state. Russia rebuilt its industry, science, technology and military power. Russia’s population recovered its living standards.

With Russian independence and advanced military weaponry, the US lost its unipolar military power. Nevertheless, Washington financed a coup which virtually annexed two thirds of the Ukraine. The US incorporated the fragmented Yugoslavian ‘statelets’ into NATO. Russia countered by annexing the Crimea and secured a mini-state adjacent Georgia.

China converted the economic invasion of US multi-national corporations into learning experiences for building its national economy and export platforms which contributed which led to its becoming an economic competitor and rival to the US.

US global empire building suffered important setbacks in Latin America resulting from the the so-called Washington Consensus. The imposition of neo-liberal policies privatized and plundered their economies, impoverished the working and middle class, and provoked a series of popular uprisings and the rise of radical social movements and center-left governments.

The US empire lost spheres of influence in some regions (China, Russia, Latin America, Middle East) though it retained influence among elites in contested regions and even launched new imperial wars in contested terrain. Most notably the US attacked independent regimes in Libya, Syria, Venezuela, Somalia and Sudan via armed proxies.

The change from a unipolar to a multi polar world and the gradual emergence of regional rivals led US global strategists to rethink their strategy. The Trump regime’s aggressive policies set the stage for political division within the regime and among allies.

The Obama - Trump Convergence and Differences on Empire Building

By the second decade of the 21stcentury several new global power alignments emerged. China had become the main economic competitor for world power and Russia was the major military challenger to US military supremacy at the regional level. The US replaced the former European colonial empire in Africa. Washington’s sphere of influence extended especially in North and Sub Sahara Africa: Kenya, Libya, Somalia and Ethiopia. Trump gained leverage in the Middle East namely in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, and Jordan.

Israel retained its peculiar role, converting the US as its sphere of influence.

But the US faced regional rivals for sphere of influence in Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Algeria.

In South Asia US faced competition for spheres of influence from China, India, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In Latin America sharp and abrupt shifts in spheres of influence were the norm. US influence declined between 2000 - 2015 and recovered from 2015 to the present.

Imperial Power Alignments Under President Trump

President Trump faced complex global, regional and local political and economic challenges.

Trump followed and deepened many of the policies launched by the Obama-Hillary Clinton policies with regard to other countries and regions. However Trump also radicalized and/or reversed policies of his predecessors. He combined flattery and aggression at the same time. At no time did Trump recognize the limits of US global power. Like the previous three presidents he persisted in the belief that the transitory period of a unipolar global empire could be re-imposed.

Toward Russia, a global competitor, Trump adopted a policy of ‘rollback’. Trump imposed economic sanctions, with the strategic ‘hope’ that by impoverishing Russia, degrading its financial and industrial sectors that he could force a regime change which would convert Moscow into a vassal state.

At the beginning of his Presidential campaign Trump flirted with the notion of a business accommodation with Putin. However, Trump’s ultra-belligerent appointments soon turned him toward a highly militarized strategy, rejecting military – including nuclear – agreements, in favor of military escalation.

Toward China, Trump faced a dynamic and advancing technological competitor. Trump resorted to a ‘trade war’ that went far beyond ‘trade’ to encompass a war against Beijing’s economic structure and social relations. The Trump regime-imposed sanctions and threatened a total boycott of Chinese exports.

Trump and his economic team demanded China privatize and denominalize its entire state backed industry. They demanded the power to unilaterally decide when violations of US rules occurred and to be able to re-introduce sanctions without consultations. Trump demanded all Chinese technological agreements, economic sectors and innovations were subject and open to US business interests.

In other words, Trump demanded the end of Chinese sovereignty and the reversal of the structural base for its global power. The US was not interested in mere ‘trade’ – it wanted a return to imperial rule over a colonized China.

Continued on page 42
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Exhibition & Congress

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www.ethio-health.net

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## US Box Office Sales

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Source: Box Office Mojo

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### The Intruder

Scott and Annie Russell couldn’t be happier after buying their dream home from a mysterious and lonely widower named Charlie in Napa Valley, Calif. Their newfound paradise soon turns into a living nightmare when Charlie -- still strangely attached to the house -- begins to show up and interfere in their daily lives. When his erratic behavior turns to obsession, the young couple soon find themselves caught up in a violent confrontation that threatens to destroy everything they hold dear.

(C) Distributor: Buena Vista

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### Dilbert

- **I’m not a good communicator, so I hired a narrator.**
- **How will a narrator help?**
- **Cynthia was as dumb as she looked.**
to talk rather than work. Your options may be limited at the end of
or repairs on tools you use regularly. Expect some people to want
Wednesday and Thursday, don’t neglect necessary maintenance
homework at the end of this week. This is a positive time to find
what your feelings. Thursday and Friday are lucky for marketing
long-term career interests.

The weekly horoscopes are as follows:

**Aries**
You’ll be feeling strong and rather feisty this week. Your natural mysterious charisma is strong. There could be some undercurrents of attraction on the job. It’s important to be as professional as possible, no matter what your feelings. Thursday and Friday are lucky for marketing or bringing people together around an idea or concept. Do your homework at the end of this week. This is a positive time to find help with co-workers, clients, or customers. Stick with the familiar. On Tuesday and Wednesday, there could be sudden changes of plan on Thursday. Pick your battles and don’t believe rumors or gossip. Things will settle down by the end of the week.

**Cancer**
Much of the energy generated this week could be hard to channel constructively. Competition fueled by ego concerns, disagreements, and unexpected roadblocks are possible. If you stay active and work hard toward a common goal or against a common enemy, you can be quite successful. Be ready to review or revise whatever’s necessary. The energy lightens on Thursday and is the best time for pleasant contacts. Being a good listener on Tuesday and Wednesday is especially satisfying. Your naturally diplomatic nature is fluid time. You may feel very enthusiastic about some things and not realize you’re isolating others with some people but not realize you’re isolating others who are risk takers. There’s a unique energy at work at the end of the week that helps bring people together while usually in separate camps.

**Leo**
There’s a mixed energy that’s best used sticking with routines at the beginning of the week. You may be able to work with some people but not realize you’re isolating others on Tuesday and Wednesday. There could be sudden strangements midweek. Do your best to be a good listener and don’t believe rumors or gossip. Things will settle down by the end of the week.

**Scorpio**
This can be a very upbeat week. Stick with your regular routines. Network as much as possible to get the best results on Wednesday and Thursday. This is a great time to be on your feet and on the move. Work that offers a great deal of variety will be the most satisfying. The end of this week is a very fluid time. You may feel very enthused about some things in the morning that you reject by day’s end.

**Virgo**
Anything you can do to make your contact with people more pleasant on Monday and Tuesday can set you feel more balanced and better prepared for the week ahead. It will be easy to present yourself in more positive, assertive manner midweek. Expect helpful encounters. Someone may give you insight into people and problems that sparks creative solutions. Family demands may need to take priority at the end of the week.

**Sagittarius**
You can learn a great deal this week if you’re willing to put aside any personal doubts and push forward. Bringing in some food to share can be a pleasant mini-event. Tuesday and Wednesday are best for little errands and finishing up things you may have been avoiding. Co-workers or customers could challenge you on Thursday. The best use of this energy is friendly barter or trading.

**Capricorn**
Expect some challenges to your authority this week. Give feisty people room to vent unless you want a confrontation. Wednesday is positive for any sort of team-building activity. Work friends could present you with a new way of seeing or doing things. This is a positive time for making sure you have all the materials to do a good job. What isn’t said could be more important than what is at the end of the week.

**Aquarius**
This is a very positive week for developing good working relationships. Spend some time sorting out your workplace, wardrobe, or paperwork by the middle of the week. Putting things in order supports confidence. Expect multiple demands or sudden changes of plan on Thursday. Pick your battles wisely. You may have to accept less than you expect. Be willing to volunteer to help others.

**Pisces**
It’s a naturally upbeat time for you. You can enjoy pleasant conversations early in the week. Artistic interests can be especially satisfying. Your naturally diplomatic nature is strong. This is a positive time for research. Wednesday and Thursday are lucky for any team project or event that brings people together. Your ability to explain things clearly works to your advantage.
Delivering for 125 Years
Dashen Bank S.C invites all interested and eligible bidders to submit their proposals for the Supply and Implementation of Secured WAN with High Availability Project for its Main Data Center.

**Bidding Requirements:**

1. Interested and eligible bidders are invited to purchase the bid document starting from May 13, 2019 up to June 12, 2019 from Supply Chain Management Department; Procurement Section, New Headquarter Building 14th floor, in front of National Bank of Ethiopia having paid non-refundable fee of Birr 300 deposited in account Number 180020002 at any Dashen Bank branches & Present copy of credit advice ticket during the office hours (Monday to Friday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM, 1:00-5:00 PM and Saturday 8:00 AM-12:00 PM).

2. Bidders must have present the renewed Trade License, VAT Registration Certificate and TIN Certificate and other legal requirements as described in the bid document.

3. This tender is open for any globally recognized standards and products.

4. Bids shall be accompanied by a bid bond of Birr 200,000.00/ Two Hundred Thousand Birr / through Unconditional Bank guarantee or cashier’s payment order (CPO) at least valid for 90 days upon submission of offer.

5. The sealed bid document shall be placed in the box prepared for this purpose on or before June 12, 2019, 2019 5:00 PM at the place mentioned under No. 1 above. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders’ or their representatives at the address stated above at 9:45 AM on June 13, 2019.

6. Failure to comply with any of the conditions stated above from No. 1 to 4 shall result in automatic rejection.

7. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject the bid either partially or fully.

**NB. For any information you can contact with**
Tel no. +251 115 18 3152/54 or +2519 10276439 /+251915948105
Having no capable goalkeeper appears not a problem to Abraham Mebratu

A two year lucrative contract attached to no commitment, national head coach Abraham Mebratu appeared shy of speaking against the domination of foreign footballers in particular goal keepers. There are only two sides without any foreign players while 14 out of 16 sides employing foreign goal keepers each boasting an average of three players.

The foreign strikers may not be real threat to Abraham since the home grown locales are the one performing by far better than the imports in their respective sides. Amanuel G/Kidan of Mekele leads the top scorers' chart with 14 goals followed by Addis Gidey with 13 and Mekelakya’s Menyelu Wondemu with eleven goals.

On the other hand there appeared no goal keeper that stands taller than others for there are only two goalies currently active. Upcoming Sidama goal keeper Coffee’s Lealem Berhanu decaying on the reserve bench since joining Saint George last season, Abraham is left with no option other than taking in the only two goal keepers regularly in line for their teams. But Abraham kept quiet to voice his concern of the threat to the public.

Abraham could have advised Lealem to look for a club that could give him a chance to regular play or advice Saint George to lend him to another club so that he could stay active and fit. But charming and diplomat Abraham appeared cautious of antagonizing the clubs as well the Football Federation that appears oblivious about the chronic problem. Nevertheless the problem is growing and no one charge in addressing it the proper way. As usual lucky Abraham once again saved from hell for Ethiopia lost the chance of staging 2020 CHAN Championship. Therefore he is hardly under pressure to get worried about Ethiopian goal keepers.

Middle distance queen Semenya cleared to compete with men

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) says the difference of sexual development (DSD) athletes such as Olympic 800m champion Caster Semenya can enter men’s athletic events if they refuse to take suppressants to regulate their testosterone levels.

The World Medical Association (WMA) has asked physicians around the world to take no part in implementing the Eligibility Regulations for Female Classification. They cited weak evidence and questioned the validity of the evidence.

In a statement, WMA president Dr Leonid Eidelman, said: “We have strong reservations about the ethical validity of these regulations. They are based on weak evidence from a single study, which is currently being widely debated by the scientific community.

The IAAF responded by saying their methods and reasoning are well thought out and not unethical.

Importantly, the IAAF said that female athletes with high testosterone levels, such as Semenya, would be welcome to compete with male athletes in the 400m hurdles, 800m and 1,500m and mile if they’re not comfortable with taking suppressants for their testosterone levels.

“In any case, it is the athlete’s right to decide whether or not to proceed with an assessment and/or treatment. If she decides not to do so, she will not be entitled to compete in the female classification of any Restricted Event at an International Competition.

However, she would still be entitled to compete:

- in the female classification;
- at any competition that is not an International Competition: in any event, without restriction; and
- at International Competitions: in any discipline other than track events between 400m and a mile; or
- in the male classification: at any competition at any level, in any discipline, without restriction; or
- in any ‘intersex’ (or similar) classification that the event organiser may offer at any competition at any level, in any discipline, without restriction.

Adama close to women’s 2018 trophy

Final before Cup final Ethiopian Women first division showdown between host Adama Town and visitors Ethiopia NgedelBank ended in a 2-1 victory to the home side thus Adama firmly gripping one hand of the coveted trophy.

Banks Coach Berhanu Gizaw suggesting two days before that his worry was more about the referring than their encounter, the showdown turned out one of the best in the season with Adama Town deservedly winning in a 2-1 score line. Dominating in ball possession as well creating chances, the home side took the lead at the half hour mark through Senait Bogale then the winning goal from Senaf Wakuma eight minutes before the whistle. Rehima managed to pull an equalizer fifteen minutes in to the second half but hardly to save the day for the former twice champions.

Following the result wrestled out the league top spot from Banks to take the driving seat with 52 points while the losers sitting second a point behind. The win was more than three points for the season is two fixtures to go therefore Adama Town already claiming the trophy’s one hand despite remaining matches. Berhanu’s worry never materialized for both sides praised Federal arbiter Binyam Hailu for his genuine performance.

“It is a proud moment for Adama for we won the fierce showdown against rival NgedelBank at the same time coming to the closest to the dream championship title. Just two matches to go before party time” remarked a player who felt never happier before.
Mekele, Fasil title favorites; Sidama an outsider

The 2018 Ethiopian Premier League season coming close to an end, the title race turned out to be amongst regional clubs. Record champions Saint George is the only side from Addis Ababa among the five remaining sides contesting for the trophy. Mekele Seba-Enderta from Tigray, Fasil Town from Gondar, Sidama Coffee from Southern Region and Jimma are the visitors. More top-back title if it stays consistent while defending champions Jimma AbaJifar are the four regional clubs are teams in contention of the title.

Top table Mekele appears to face difficult times to come. It has four away remaining matches: against third in the table Sidama Coffee, defending champion Jimma AbaJifar, popular side Ethiopia Coffee and in the standings Mekelakaya. Except The Army side the rest three are tough under takings that could make life difficult for Mekele. The home matches are against humble sides: Hawasa, Debub Police and Diredawa.

In the meantime second place Fasil’s face Wolayta Dicha, Adama Town and Sehul Shere away while entertaining Welwalo, AbaJifar, Bahedar and Giorgis at home. Considering Fasil’s current consistency, the comparison tends in favor of it. Life appears easier for Fasil. Third in the table Sidama Coffee is considered an outsider for it is already eight points behind the leader Mekele. Although its away matches appear easier, Ethiopia Coffee, Dedebit and Melakelaya, facing at home Mekele, Welwalo, Diredawa and a derby match against Debub Police, its title dream once again to wait for another season. But no other team to stands as the season’s surprise package than Sidama.

Considering its inconsistency plus lack of a strike force, fifth place Saint George’s title dream is a far fetching reality. Of course bottom of the table Dedebit and Fasil Town are the only matches outside Addis. But the problem is the record champions are not up to their previous standard therefore even could be tested in the home fixtures against: Debub Police, Melakelaya, Diredawa, Welwalo and Wolayta Dicha. Forget not Giorgis is ten points behind the leaders. Though coming late in to the title race, defending champions Jimma AbaJifar has also a chance of a miraculous back-to-back title if it stays consistent while the other contenders taking nap for some time. Okiki Afolabi’s return made a huge impact but unlikely to go all the way through the remaining seven matches. Fasil, Dicha and Bahedar are away while Hawassa, Mekele, Ethiopia Coffee and Debub Police are the visitors. More in need of divine intervention than a mathematical probability.

KENYA SELECTS MARATHON SQUAD FOR DOHA 2019

Defending champion Geoffrey Kirui and two-time world champion Edna Kiplagat are among the athletes named by Athletics Kenya for the marathon at the IAAF World Athletics Championships Doha 2019.

Nine athletes have been selected, but two of those will be reserves. As Kirui gets a wildcard entry by virtue of being the defending champion, Kenya will have four men on the marathon start line and three women. The final line-up will be decided nearer to the time of the World Championships.

Kirui, who also won the Boston Marathon in 2017, is joined on the team by Amos Kipruto, Laban Korir, Paul Lonyangata and Ernest Ngeno.

Kiplagat won back-to-back world titles in 2011 and 2013. She finished fifth in 2015 and returned to the podium in 2017, taking the silver medal in London.

The 2:19:50 runner is joined on the Kenyan World Championships team by Ruth Chepngetich, Sally Chepyego and Visiline Jepkesho.

Chepngetich won in Istanbul last year in 2:18:35 and then took the Dubai Marathon title earlier this year in 2:17:08, moving to third on the world all-time list. Chepyego earned the bronze medal at the 2014 IAAF World Half Marathon Championships and set a marathon PB of 2:23:15 last year.

KENYAN MARATHON TEAM FOR DOHA

Men: Amos Kipruto, Geoffrey Kirui, Laban Korir, Paul Lonyangata, Ernest Ngeno

Women: Ruth Chepngetich, Sally Chepyego, Visiline Jepkesho, Edna Kiplagat

Hadiya-Hosana commands Super League Group “C”

Despite an away draw against lowly side Negele, Hadiya-Hossana appeared to be destined to return to the Ethiopian Premier League after three seasons battling at Super League. Hadiya tops group (C) with 35 points followed by regional arch rival Arbaminch Town that lost an away faceoff against hosts Bench-Maji.

A hard fought one all away draw against hosts Negele, Coach Girma Bekele’s Hossana proved to be a side ready to get tougher when the going gets tough. Team skipper Tegestu Abera’s saved the day with an important equalizer seven minutes before the final whistle gone. Ten wins, five draws and a single defeat, Hossana collected 35 points that is six points clear of runner-up Arbaminch Town. Scoring twenty-five goals while conceding ten, Hossana has a strong strike force as well a strong defense thus a balanced side in quest of Premier League promotion.

Though in strong form earlier in the season, Mesay Teferi’s Arbaminch are losing momentum since the second round. Arbaminch lost to 5th in the table home side Bench-Maji thanks for braid from second half substitute Wondemagen. Eight wins, five draws and three defeats real promotion contender Arbaminich sits second with 29 points. Praise to Timotios Areqa’s double, Selte-Werbabe stayed third in the table after 2-0 home victory over Jimma AbaBuna. Weraba is ten points behind the leaders thus a slim chance of promoting to the top tier at the end of the season.

Butagena Town and Bishoftu Automotive are in relegation zone each with 14 and 10 points respectively.

Liverpool, Tottenham, Arsenal and Chelsea make history

English clubs have made European football history by securing all four places in the Champions League and Europa League finals. It is the first time that all four places in the two major European finals have been taken by one country.

Aston Villa booked their place in the Europa League final on Thursday, easing past Valencia after Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang’s hat-trick helped secure a 4-2 victory (7-3 on aggregate) at the Mestalla, while Chelsea edged past Eintracht Frankfurt on penalties at Stamford Bridge to complete England’s quartet of finalists.

Before that, there were two nights of drama in the Champions League as Liverpool and Tottenham completed thrilling comebacks to set up the first all-English final in 11 years.

Jurgen Klopp’s Liverpool progressed to the Champions League final in sensational fashion by coming back from 3-0 down to beat Barcelona 4-0 in the second leg at Anfield on Tuesday.

Tottenham thrillingly beat Ajax 3-2 in Amsterdam on Wednesday night, with Lucas Moura completing a hat-trick in stoppage time, to go through on away goals after the tie finished 3-3 on aggregate.

The feats of Liverpool, Tottenham, Arsenal and Chelsea mean there will also be an all-English UEFA Super Cup final. The UEFA Super Cup is contested by the winners of the Champions League and the winners of the Europa League and it will be the first time that it will be contested by two English teams.
T he US is formally committed to dominating the world by the year 2020. With President Trump’s new Space Directive-4, the production of laser-armed fighter jets as possible precursors to space weapons, and the possibility of nuclear warheads being put into orbit, the clock is ticking…

Back in 1997, the now-re-established US Space Command announced its commitment to “full spectrum dominance.” The Vision for 2020 explains that “full spectrum dominance” means military control over land, sea, air, and space (the so-called fourth dimension of warfare) “to protect US interests and investment.” “Protect” means guarantee operational freedom. “Freedom and investment” means corporate profits.

The glossy brochure explains that, in the past, the Army evolved to protect US settlers who stole land from Native Americans in the genocidal birth of the nation. Like the Vision for 2020, a report by the National Defense University acknowledges that by the 19th century, the Navy had evolved to protect the US’s newly-formulated “grand strategy.”

In addition to supposedly protecting citizens and the constitution, “The overriding principle was, and remains, the protection of American territory … and our economic well-being.” By the 20th century, the Air Force had been established, in the words of the Air Force Study Strategy Guide, to protect “vital interests,” including: “commerce; secure energy supplies; and freedom of action.” In the 21st century, these pillars of power are bolstered by the Cyber Command and the coming Space Force.

The use of the Army, Navy, and Air Force—three dimensions of power—means that the US is already close to achieving “full spectrum dominance.” Brown University’s Cost of War project documents current US military intervention in 86 countries—over 40% of the world’s nations. This includes 65 so-called counterterrorism training operations and 40 military bases (though others think the number of bases is much higher). By this measure, “full spectrum dominance” is nearly half way complete. But the map leaves out US and NATO bases, training programs, and operations in Estonia, Latvia, Poland, and Ukraine.

As the US expands its space operations—the fourth dimension of warfare—the race towards “full spectrum dominance” quickens. Space has long been militarized in the sense that the US uses satellites to guide missiles and aircraft. But the new doctrine seeks to weaponize space by, for instance, blurring the boundaries between high-altitude military aircraft and space itself. Today’s space power will be harnessed by the US to ensure dominance over the weapons infrastructure that allows for the modern world of internet, e-commerce, GPS, telecommunications, surveillance, and war-fighting.

Since the 1950s, the United Nations has introduced various treaties to prohibit the militarization and weaponization of space—the most famous being the Outer Space Treaty (1967). These treaties aim to preserve space as a commons for all humanity. The creation of the US Space Force is a blatant violation of the spirit, if not the letter, of those treaties. In more recent decades, successive US governments have unilaterally rejected treaties to reinforce and expand the existing space-for-peace agreements. In 2002, the US withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (1972), allowing it to expand its long-range missile systems. In 2008, China and Russia submitted to the UN Conference on Disarmament the proposed Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force Against Outer Space Objects. This would have preserved the space-as-a-commons principle and answered US claims that “enemies” would use space as a battleground against US satellites. But peace is not the goal. The goal is “full spectrum dominance,” so the US rejected the offer. China and Russia introduced the proposed treaty again in 2014—and again the US rejected it. Earlier this year, the US withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty. Last month, President Trump sent an unclassified memo on the new Space Directive-4 to the Vice President, Joint Chiefs of Staff, NASA, and the Secretaries of Defense and State.

The document makes for chilling and vital reading. It recommends legislating for the training of US forces “to ensure unfettered access to, and freedom to operate in, space, and to provide vital capabilities to joint and coalition forces.” Crucially, this doctrine includes “peace time and across the spectrum of conflict.” As well as integrating space forces with the intelligence community, the memo recommends establishing a Chief of Staff of the Space Force, which will join the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The memo also says that US space operations will abide by “international law.” But given that the US has rejected anti-space weapons treaties, it is barely constrained by international law.

In late-2017, Space.com reported on a $26.3m Department of Defense contract with Lockheed Martin to build launchers for fighter jets under the Laser Advancements for Next-generation Compact Environments program. The report says that the lasers will be ready by 2021. The article links to Doug Graham, the Vice President of Missile Systems and Advanced Programs at Lockheed Martin Space Systems. In the original link Graham reveals that the Air Force laser “is an example of how Lockheed Martin is using a variety of innovative technologies to transform laser devices into integrated weapons systems.”

As if all this wasn’t bad enough, the British Ministry of Defence (MoD) states in a projection out to the year 2050: “Economies are becoming increasingly dependent upon space-based systems … By 2050, space-based weapons may also be deployed, which could include nuclear weapons.” But this is extremely reckless. Discussing technologies, including the artificial intelligence on which weapons systems are increasingly based, another MoD projection warns of “the potential for disastrous outcomes, planned and unplanned … Various doomsday scenarios arising in relation to these and other areas of development present the possibility of catastrophic impacts, ultimately including the end of the world, or at least of humanity.”

“Full spectrum dominance” is not only a danger to the world, it is a danger to US citizens who would also suffer the consequences, if and when something goes wrong with their leaders’ complicated space weapons.

T.J. COLES
Dr T. J. COLES is director of the Plymouth Institute for Peace Research and the author of several books, including Voices for Peace (with Noam Chomsky and others) and the forthcoming Fire and Fury: How the US Isolates North Korea, Encircles China and Risks Nuclear War in Asia (both Clairview Books).

**US New World Order 2.0. Russia and China Constitute An “Obstacle” Which Undermines Washington’s Imperial Ambitions**

By Stephen Lendman

A ddressing the German Marshall Fund (GMF) think tank on Tuesday, Mike Pompeo sought to reinvigorate GHW Bush’s new world order extremism – endless wars of aggression its defining feature, world peace, stability, and mutual cooperation among all nations considered abhorrent notions.


Others are likely planned, Iran a prime target, maybe “fire and fury” against North Korea if demunucrization talks fail as expected over unacceptable US demands and empty promises made to be broken.

US hardliners oppose ending post-WW II hostility toward Pyongyang.

Advancing America’s imperialism depends on replacing all sovereign independent governments with US vassal ones.

It’s a prescription for endless wars, instability and chaos, serving the nation’s military, industrial, security, media complex.

Russia and China represent the final frontier of resistance against Washington’s imperial aims – why unthinkable nuclear war is ominously possible, a doomsday scenario if ever launched.

Neocon extremists John Bolton and Mike Pompeo run the Trump regime’s geopolitical agenda. DLT abdicated authority to them. Straightway in office he was co-opted to continue dirty US interventions as usual, including hostility toward Russia exceeding the worst of Cold War bilateral relations.

In his Tuesday address, Pompeo called for reasserting new world order leadership by whatever it takes to achieve US aims, turning reality on its head, saying:

“We are acting to preserve, protect, and advance an open, just, transparent and free world of sovereign states” – polar opposite what US imperialism is all about, Pompeo adding:

“This project will require actual, not pretend, restoration of the liberal order among nations. It will require an assertive America and leadership from not only my country but of democracies around the world.”

“New liberal order” is code language for US sought unchallenged global dominance, demanding all nations bend to its will, outliers targeted for regime change – forcefully by war if color revolutions, violent coups, political assassinations, and other methods fail.

“A(s)sertive America(n) leadership” is all about pressuring, bullying, bribing,
China’s Belt and Road Initiative: A Tectonic Shift in the Geopolitical Balance of Power

By Mike Whitney

Your Geopolitical Quiz for the Day:

Two countries are embroiled in a ferocious rivalry. One country’s methods are that with it or on a path to become the world’s biggest economic superpower while the other country appears to be slipping into irreversible decline. Which country will lead the world into the future?

Country A builds factories and plants, it employs zillions of people who manufacture things, it launches massive infrastructure programs, paves millions of miles of highways and roads, opens new rail corridors, vastly expands its high-speed rail network, and pumps profits back into productive operations that turbo-charge its economy and bolster its stature among the nations of the world.

Country B has the finest military in the world, it has more than 800 bases scattered across the planet, and spends more on weapons systems and war-making than all the other nations combined. Country B has gutted its industrial core, hollowed out its factory base, allowed its vital infrastructure to crumble, outsourced millions of jobs, off-shored thousands of businesses, plunged the center of the country into permanent recession, delivered control of its economy to the Central Bank, and recycled 96 percent of its corporate and financial profits into a stock buyback scam that sucks critical capital out of the economy and into the pockets of corrupt Wall Street plutocrats, whose voracious appetite to gain control of the “engine”, creating an economic powerhouse that will drive the world towards another catastrophic meltdown.

Which of these two countries is going to lead the world into the future? Which of these two countries offers a path to security and prosperity that doesn’t involve black sites, extraordinary rendition, extrajudicial assassinations, color-coded revolutions, waterboarding, strategic disinformation, false-flag provocations, regime change and perennial war?

China’s Belt and Road Initiative: A Tectonic Shift in the Geopolitical Balance of Power

Over the weekend, more than 5,000 delegates from across the world met in Beijing for The Second Belt and Road Forum For International Cooperation. The conference provided an opportunity for public and private investors to learn more about Xi Jinping’s “signature infrastructure project” that is reshaping trade relations across Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa.

According to journalist Pepe Escobar, “The BRI is now supported by no less than 80 governments, plus a host of international organizations” and will involve “six major connectivity corridors spanning Eurasia.” The massive development project is “one of the largest infrastructure and investment projects in history,...including 65% of the world’s population and 40% of the global gross domestic product as of 2017.” (Wikipedia) That improvements to road, rail and sea routes will vastly increase connectivity, lower shipping costs, boost productivity, and enhance widespread prosperity.

The BRI is China’s attempt to replace the post-WW2 “liberal” order with a system that respects the rights of sovereign nations, rejects unilateralism, and relies on market-based principles to effect a transportation projects that draw the continents closer together in a webbing of high-speed rail and energy pipelines (Russia). Far-flung locations in Central Asia will be modernized while standards of living will improve. By creating an integrated economic space, in which low tariffs and the free flow of capital help to promote investment, the BRI initiative will produce the world’s biggest free trade zone, a common market in which business is transacted in Chinese or EU currency. There will be no need to trade in USD’s despite the dollar’s historic role as the world’s reserve currency. The shift in currencies will inevitably increase the flow of dollars back to the United States increasing the already-gigantic $22 trillion dollar National Debt while precipitating an excrecuting period of adjustment.

Chinese and Russian leaders are taking steps to “harmonize” their two economic initiatives, the Belt and Road and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). This will be the unified trade task as the expansion of infrastructure implies compatibility between leaders, mutual security guarantees, new rules and regulations for the common economic space, and the creation of political structures to oversee trade, tariffs, foreign investment and immigration. Despite the hurdles, both Putin and Xi appear to be fully committed to their vision of economic integration which they see as based on the “unconditional adherence to the primacy of national sovereignty and the central role of the United Nations.” It comes at no surprise that US powerbrokers see Putin’s plan as a significant threat to their regional ambitions, in fact, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton admitted as much in 2012 when she said, “If it’s going to be a customs union, it will be called the Eurasian Union and all of that, but let’s make no mistake about it. We know what the goal is and we are trying to figure out effective ways to slow down or prevent it.” Washington opposes any free trade project in which it is excluded or cannot control. Both the EEU and the BRI fall into that category.

The United States continues to demonize countries that simply want to use the market to improve the lives of their people and increase their prospects for prosperity. Washington’s hostile approach is both misguided and counterproductive. Competition should be seen as a way to improve productivity and lower costs, not as a threat to over-bloated, inefficient industries that have outlived their usefulness. Here’s an excerpt from an article that Putin wrote in 2011. It helps to show that Putin is not the scheming tyrant he is made out to be in the western media, but a free market capitalist who enthusiastically supports globalization:

“For the first time in the history of humanity, the world is becoming truly global, in both politics and economics. A central part of this globalization is the growing importance of China. Asia-Pacific region as compared to the EuroAtlantic world in the global economy. Asia’s rise is lifting with it the economies of countries outside Asia that have managed to latch onto the “Asian economic engine”….The US has also effectually hitched itself to this “engine”, creating an economic and financial network with China and countries in the region.

The “supercontinent” of Eurasia is home to two-thirds of the world’s population and produces over 60 percent of its economic output. Because of the dramatic opening of China and the former Soviet Union to the world, almost all the countries in Eurasia are becoming more economically, politically, and culturally interdependent. …There is huge potential for development in infrastructure, in spite of some formidable challenges. The parallel and homogeneous common power market stretching from Lisbon to Vladivostok is not necessary, because electric power markets do not operate that way. But the integration of infrastructure that could support a number of regional and sub-regional common markets would do much for the economic development of Greater Eurasia.” (Russian newspaper, Izvestia, 2011)

Keep in mind, the article was written back in 2011 long before Xi had even conjured up his grand pan-Asia infrastructure scheme. Putin was already a capitalist looking for ways to put the Soviet era behind him and skillfully use the markets to build his nation’s power and prosperity. Regrettably, he has been blocked at every turn. Washington does not want others to effectively use the markets. Washington wants to threaten, bully, sanction and harass its competitors so that outcomes can be controlled. No one in the world’s wealth can be skimmed off the top by the noncompetitive, monopolistic corporate behemoths that diktat foreign policy to their political underlings (in congress and the White House) and who see their enemies that must be ground into dust.

Is it any wonder why Russia and China have emerged as Washington’s biggest enemies? It has nothing to do with the fictitious claims of election meddling or so-called “hostile behavior” in the South China Sea. That’s nonsense. Washington is terrified that the Russo-Chinese economic integration plan will replace the US-dominated “liberal” world order, that cutting edge infrastructure will create an Asia-Europe super-continent that no longer trades in dollars or recirculates profits into US debt instruments. They are afraid that an expansive free trade zone that extends from Lisbon to Vladivostok will inevitably lead to new institutions for lending, oversight and governance. They are afraid that a revamped 21st century capitalism will result in more ferocious competition for their chunker corporations, less opportunity for unilateralist meddling, and a rules-based system where the playing field is painstakingly kept level. That’s what scares Washington.

The Belt and Road Initiative and the Eurasian Economic Union represent the changing of the guard. The US-backed “neoliberal” model of globalisation is being rejected everywhere, from the streets of Paris, to Brexit, to the rise of right wing groups across Europe, to the unexpected election of Donald Trump in 2016. The Russo-Chinese model is built on a more solid, and less extractive, foundation. This new vision anticipates an interconnected multipolar world where the new models governing commerce are decided by the participants, where the rights of every state are respected equally, and where the new guarantors for regional security scrupulously keep the peace. It is this vision of “revitalized capitalism” that Washington sees as its mortal enemy.

This article was first published on the UNZ Review
US New World Order 2.0. Russia...

Continued from page 40

The Trump regime rejected negotiations and recognition of a shared power relation: it viewed its global rivals as potential clients. Inevitably the Trump regime’s strategy would never reach any enduring agreements on any substantial issues under negotiations. China has a successful strategy for global power built on a 6 trillion-dollar-world-wide Road and Belt (R and B) development policy, which links 60 countries and several regions. R and B is building seaports, rail and air systems linking industries financed by development banks.

In contrast, the US banks exploits industry, speculates and operates within closed financial circuits. The US spends trillions on wars, coups, sanctions and other parasitical activities which have nothing to do with economic competitiveness. The Trump regime’s ‘allies’ in the Middle East namely Saudi Arabia and Israel, are parasitic allies who buy protection and provoke costly wars. Europe complains about China’s increase in industrial exports and overlook imports of consumer goods. Yet the EU plans to resist Trump’s sanctions which lead to a blind alley of stagnation!

Conclusion

The most recent period of the peak of US global power, the decade between 1989–99 contained the seeds of its decline and the current resort to trade wars, sanctions and nuclear threats.

The structure of US global power changed over the past seven decades. The US global empire building began with the US command over the rebuilding of Western European economies and the displacement of the US empire building was not a linear process as witness its unsuccessful confrontation with national liberation movements in Korea, Indo China, Southern Africa (Angola, Congo, etc.) and the Caribbean (Cuba). By the early 1960’s the US had displaced its European rivals and successfully incorporated them as subordinate allies. Washington’s main rivals for spheres of influence was Communist China and the USSR with their allies among client state and overseas revolutionaries.

The US empire builders’ successes led to the transformation of their Communist and nationalist rivals into emergent capitalist competitors. In a word US dominance led to the construction of capitalist rivals, especially China and Russia.

Subsequently, following US military defeats and prolonged wars, regional powers proliferated in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia and Latin America. Regional blocs competed with US clients for power.

The diversification of power centers led to new and costly wars. Washington lost exclusive control of markets, resources and alliances. Competition reduced the spheres of US power.

In the face of these constraints on US global power the Trump regime envisioned a strategy to recover US dominance – ignoring the limited capacity and structure of US political, economic and class relations.

China absorbed US technology and went on to create new advances without following each previous stage. Russia’s recovered from its losses and sanctions and secured alternative trade relations to counter the new challenges to the US global empire. Trump’s regime launched a ‘permanent trade war’ without stable allies. Moreover, he failed to undermine China’s global infrastructure network; Europe demanded and secured autonomy to enter into trade deals with China, Iran and Russia.

Trump has pressed many regional powers who have ignored his threats.

The US still remains a global power. But unlike the past, the US lacks the industrial base to ‘make America strong’. Industry is subordinated to finance; technological innovations are not linked to skilled labor to increase productivity.

Trump relies on sanctions and they have failed to undermine regional influential. Sanctions may temporarily reduce access to US markets’ but we have observed that new trade partners take their place.

Trump has gained client regimes in Latin America, but the gains are precarious and subject to reversal. Under the Trump regime, big business and bankers have increased prices in the stock market and even the rate of growth of the GDP, but he confronts severe domestic political instability, and high levels of turmoil among the branches of government. In pursuit of loyalty over competence, Trump’s appointments have led to the ascendancy of cabinet officials who seek to wield unilateral power which the US no longer possesses.

Elliott Abrams can massacre a quarter-million Central Americans with impunity, but he has failed to impose US power over Venezuela and Cuba. Pompeo can threaten North Korea, Iran and China but these countries fortify alliances with US rivals and competitors. Bolton can advance the interests of turmoil among the branches of government.

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Award winning author Prof. James Petras is a Research Associate of the Centre for Research on Globalization.
ISO Trainings

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EXCHANGE RATE

10-05-2019

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