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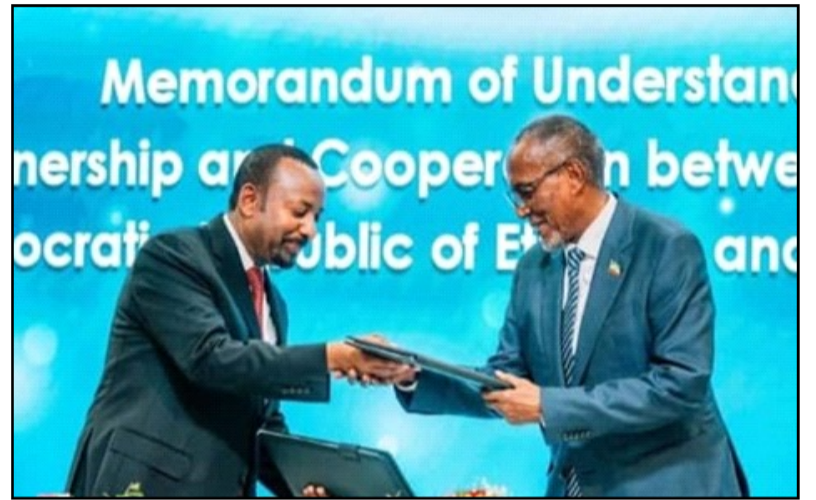
Somaliland government will continue bolstering further bilateral relations with Ethiopia, says Information Minister Ali Marehaan

Somaliland always played a role in seeing to safe neighborhood and stable security in the region



By M. A. Egge
The government of Somaliland has not always been bolstering its relations with its neighbouring country of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, but is convicted to fortify them in as far as the economic, stability, security and bilateral relations are concerned. The sentiments were underscored by the Minister of Information, Culture and National Guidance,

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My conscious wouldn't allow me to bomb my people, says celebrated ex-fighter pilot Ahmeddeere at his biographical launching in Hargeisa



He ditched his Mig-17 plane on a sandy Djibouti beach in defiance of bombing order to annihilate poor Hargeisa masses

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Somaliland's Firm Stand Against Misrepresentation: A Response to the G7 Communique



In a recent turn of events, the Government of the Republic of Somaliland has found itself at

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Senate urges Biden administration to engage with Somaliland, instead of pursuing failed 'One Somalia' policy



Senator Jim Risch, the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee stated for years, "I've urged the US State Department to engage with Somaliland and not ignore its democratic progress". He intoned further, lamenting, "But

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Somaliland Accuses Somalia on Torturing Prisoners

Somaliland on Tuesday accused Somalia of being behind the torturing of five prisoners who arrested in



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The finance minister presides over quarterly meetings of the ministerial departments

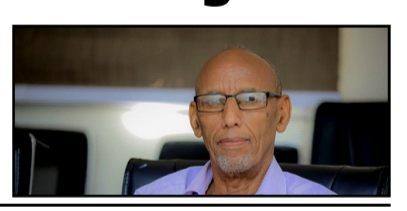


By M.A. Egge
A quarterly meeting to evaluate the performance of the departments of the Ministry of Financial Development for the three months of January - March 2024 was held on Tuesday at the

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Treasury reviewing health and education budgets

By M.A. Egge
The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Finance Hon. Suleiman Jama Diriyeh has



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Somaliland tells IC to channel grants directly and not by proxy



By M.A. Egge
Somaliland has requested the International Community ((IC) to channel whatever grants meant for the Republic of Somaliland directly and not by proxy

through the Somali government of Mogadishu. A letter by the Ministry of Planning of Somaliland to the donor countries

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Media training institute established for the first time



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Road project opens up remote Somaliland village to farming potential

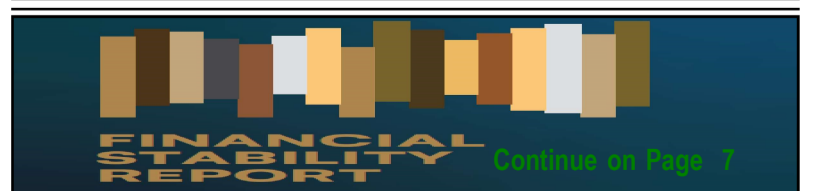


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International affairs editor became unwell while presenting News at Ten on Friday



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Somaliland government will continue bolstering further bilateral relations with Ethiopia, says Information Minister Ali Marehaan



who also holds the portfolio of spokesperson-ship of the Government of the Republic of Somaliland, Hon. Ali Hassan Mohamed (Ali Marehaan) during a luncheon held in honour of the new Somaliland ambassador to Ethiopia Adan Geedi Qayaad, courtesy of deputy health minister Hon. Liban Yusuf Gahnuug over the week. The minister explained at length the competitive interests that several countries have in tapping the vast economical opportunities that the gigantic nation of Ethiopia has given that it is a land-locked country that has a whopping population of more than 120 million people. The minister pointed out that the close cooperation that both nations have, cherish and expect to maintain is deep-rooted. He observed that it was in the context of sustaining and fledging the status quo of the neighbouring countries that the Head of state saw it appropriate to appoint such an experienced person with esteemed maturity to take the mantle of advancing the relations to further heights. Hon. Ali Marehaan stated that all the Horn of African countries were eyeing the robust Ethiopian

economy hence were competing to tap the market since it was a land-locked nation. He said that of all competitors, the nation of Somaliland was in the best position given the long borders that it shared with Ethiopia that has strategic major towns dotting both sides, that's why the country maintains and advances its cooperation. He said that the Ethiopian government is indeed justified in preferring Somaliland for its engagements in bilateral relations for the best interests of both countries because of the strategic chances and opportunities that it has palpated that are much better than options of other countries, in consideration of infrastructural advantages and proximities. He noted that the main cities of the Somali state of Ethiopian Somali state of Jigjiga was almost 50km only from the frontier vibrant town of Tog-wajaale which is along the major Berbera-Hargeisa-Addis Ababa Highway, otherwise known as the Berbera corridor. He further explained that all other strategically economical cities such as Dire Dawa and Herer were along the highway or in the vicinity, such as Ferfer. The minister said that given the

opportunities of other ports such as those in Puntland, Mogadishu, Kismayu or Mombasa in Kenya, the Berbera port boasted the best chances given its strategically geographical position and how adjacent and in proximity it is situated vis-à-vis the major commercial and economical Ethiopian towns.

Hon. Ali Marehaan wondered why the Somalia administration is bitter when Somaliland advances its commercial, economic and security relations with Ethiopia, given that it has always been there and is indeed historical.

He characterized the Somalia chagrin to Somaliland's agreement with Ethiopia as being one out of jealousy spite since Somalia itself is in the competition in wanting a chunk of the commercial economic opportunities for their own purposes. He said that it was pointless and untenable for Somalia to propagate seeds of discord between the communities of the two nations following the Somaliland-Ethiopia agreement in fanning tribal sentiments to evoke imaginary historical hostilities.

On the other hand, the minister underpinned the major role Somaliland lays in maintaining stability of security along its borders including that of Djibouti that sees to it that normal cross-border cooperation and relations goes on procedurally in peaceful scenario all through.

He said that Somaliland is strengthening its security relations with the countries of Ethiopia and Djibouti.

He was unequivocal that maintaining stability with the neighbouring countries was pre-requisite for the healthy economical, commercial and security stability for all the people of the nations concerned.

My conscious wouldn't allow me to bomb my people, says celebrated ex-fighter pilot Ahmed-deere at his biographical launching in Hargeisa

By M.A. Egge

A well-organized event attended by cabinet ministers, senior government officials, members of parliament, eminent personalities and politicians, poets and numerous guests from a cross-section of the members of the public converged in a city hotel resort to grace the occasion of launching a biographical book celebrating and honouring the former Somali Air force fighter pilot; who disregarded orders to bomb Hargeisa flat in June 1988 and opted to fly to the neighbouring country of Djibouti ditching the then Mig 17 he was piloting at an empty beach along the Red Sea shores.

The former Lt. Colonel Ahmed Mohamed Hassan alias Ahmed-deere is a house-hold name and figure in Somaliland and has been highly hailed, accorded and showered with many a praise by all and sundry in the country including successive government administrations.

Popularly known locally as the "People's Pilot" for refusing to perpetrate genocide by spilling innocent blood, the book loosely translated from Somali "The Humane Pilot" was launched at the evening of Thursday/Friday night with scores of speakers noting the book for highlighting the struggles the nation underwent in the wake of genocide in the era of the ill-fated union with Somalia all through to re-establishing its nationhood.

Of note, the celebrated pilot in his speech to the audience upon the presentation of the book urged the readers to appreciate situations that led to such inhumanities and perpetrations of ills and take heed of the best way forward for the aspirations of the populaces by learning from history.

He thanked all those who participated in the presentation of the book authored by Ali Abdi Oomay, and said that he will not forget the kindness shown to him by the leaders and the people of Somaliland.

"The history told about me touches me intensely, my conscious could not allow me heed the orders which would have undermine my professional oath hence I opted to escape out of the country and ditch the plane where I could in Djibouti". He said that detailed chronologies of the events are well documented in the book.

Speaker after speaker showered the ex-fighter pilot with praises for his legacy, prayed for his wellbeing and wished him the best of good tidings while urging that his humane conduct ought to be emulated. Most of them revisited and gave re-caps of the events leading to, during

and after the struggles.

The ex-fighter pilot Ahmed joined Somalia's Air Force in the early 1970's where he rose through the ranks to become a Lieutenant Colonel. His family is from the Banadir region, and he hails from the Abgaal clan.

Somalia's military dictator Siad Barre launched a relentless offensive against SNM in Somaliland. As a heavy-handed response, Barre ordered the destruction of many urban centres in the country leading to the death of an estimated 50k to hundreds of thousands of mainly members of the Isaaq clan.

In May 1988, Barre ordered Somali National Army fighter jets to level the city. The indiscriminate bombing and the carnage left in the wake left earned it the name "the Dresden of Africa."

It is in this climate that on July 13, 1988, Ahmed-deere was ordered to go on a bombing campaign in Hargeisa. Once in the sky, Ahmed-deere bravely refused his command and switched off his radio. He flew his Russian-made MiG-17 fighter jet to Djibouti where he made an emergency landing on a sandy beach.

He was granted political asylum in Europe and settled in Luxembourg with his wife and children.

He was given a medal of honour by the Somaliland government in 2020.

Similarly, he was heroically greatly welcomed in the country in 2009 and 2013 and was extensively interviewed by local press.

It is expected that more banquets will be thrown to his honour in the coming days that h is still in the country.

Indeed, he is a darling of Somalilanders wherever they are and hold him with high esteem.

Over the years, he has told journalists that as an air force pilot, he took a solemn oath to protect Somalia from its enemies and not ironically bomb its own. He said to bomb his people would be a betrayal of that oath. He refused to spill the blood of his countrymen.

The Hargeisa campaign was one of the most gruesome theatres of the Somali civil-war as thousands perished at the hands of government troops.

On May 18, 1991, the SNM re-asserted the independence and re-established the Somaliland Republic, a former British colony that first got independence in June 26th 1960.

It is not recognized by the international community despite bearing all the hallmarks of a modern nation-state.

Senate urges Biden administration to engage with Somaliland, instead of pursuing failed 'One Somalia' policy

as our allies praise Somaliland's election progress this week, the US admin is silent given that the "one Somalia" policy doesn't reflect the reality of what's happening there". Senator Jim Risch, the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee points out the disparity between America's single policy approach towards Somalia and the complex reality on the ground.

He criticizes the Biden administration's silence regarding Somaliland's election progress, contrasting it with proactive actions taken by other allies.

Risch's point underscores the disconnect between Mogadishu's



claim of legitimacy and the lived experiences of the majority of Somaliland's population, who have grown up under Somaliland's independent governance since 1991.

Any attempt to force a union that 5.7 million Somalilanders do not want would lead to conflict and

bloodshed, contrary to the stability goals sought by the US in the Horn of Africa region. This is why accepting the reality that the people of Somaliland want that has nothing to do with Somalia is the first step in taking tangible and meaningful steps to stabilize the region.

Somaliland's Firm Stand Against Misrepresentation: A Response to the G7 Communique

odds with the G7 Foreign Ministers over the language used in a communique that referred to Somaliland as the "Somaliland Region of Somalia." This misrepresentation has sparked outrage and disappointment among the government and the people of Somaliland, prompting a strong response to set the record straight.

The history of Somaliland's independence and its subsequent decision to break away from Somalia is a crucial aspect that cannot be overlooked. The union between Somaliland and Somalia lacked a legal basis and was dissolved following the collapse of the Somali government. The Republic of Somaliland emerged as a sovereign state with its own laws and constitution, validated by a democratic constitutional referendum.

It is disheartening that the G7,



stability and peace of the entire region, particularly for Mogadishu. In conclusion, the Republic of Somaliland reiterates its commitment to upholding its sovereignty and democratic values. The government's response to the G7 communique serves as a reminder of the importance of acknowledging historical truths and respecting the aspirations of nations striving for peace and self-determination. It is imperative for the international community to stand in solidarity with Somaliland and support its rightful place on the global stage.

The Government of Somaliland remains resolute in its pursuit of recognition and justice and will continue to defend the rights and sovereignty of its people against any attempts to distort or undermine its legitimate status as a sovereign state.

Read below the [full statement](#) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

April 20, 2024 – First and foremost, the Government and the people of the Republic of Somaliland are deeply offended by the language in the communique issued by the G7 Foreign Ministers referring to the Republic of Somaliland as "Somaliland Region of Somalia."

It is disingenuous and unacceptable that G7 governments knowing fully well the history of the union between the **two states of Somaliland and Somalia** which had actually no legal basis and the subsequent dissolution of that union upon the collapse of the Somali government, to refer to the Republic of Somaliland as "Somaliland Region of Somalia". Inventing names and trying to erase history is not going to change the actual facts. The Republic of Somaliland, is a sovereign state with its own laws and constitution, reaffirmed by the people of Somaliland in a democratic constitutional referendum.

It was bewildering to see the G7 who carry the torch of democracy for diplomatic expediency, decide to neglect the realities of a democratic and stable Somaliland.

Somaliland statehood is sacrosanct and non-negotiable and the Government of Somaliland rejects unequivocally, any attempts to undermine the peaceful aspirations of its people.

Lastly, the Government of Somaliland urges the G7 to take note of the growing belligerence of Somalia and the attempts by their leadership to reignite past historical conflicts which the region as a whole and Mogadishu in particular in its current state of fragility, can ill afford.

The finance minister presides over quarterly meetings of the ministerial departments



Conference Hall of the Public Accounts Office.

The meeting, which is held every three months, aims to evaluate what each department has done in relation to the expected plan, with each sectional head giving briefs on

what has been done in terms of his department's target for the three-month period.

Included are reports on the pros and cons envisaged and challenges thereof.

The meeting which was chaired by the Finance Minister Hon. Dr. Saad Ali Shire, was attended by his Deputy Hon. Suleiman Jama Diriye, Director General Mr. Mohamed Hussein Osman (Mu'adinka) and all the directors and sectional heads of the various arms of the ministry. While underpinning the importance of the quarterly meeting, the minister said, "I want to make you aware of the importance of this three-monthly meeting of the Ministry. Administration is planning, implementation, follow-up and evaluation, and that is what we are here for today. We are sitting here to evaluate what has been done in the plan that we had for January-March, 2024 and for the way forward".

Somaliland tells IC to channel grants directly and not by proxy

has stated the importance of establishing ways for the international community to communicate with Somaliland.

It noted that while Somaliland recognizes and acknowledges the aid and grant support that the friendly partner nations and organizations accord the country, the nation underpins the importance and the need to work directly with Somaliland, through official channels in accordance with international aid regulations

It is stated in the letter that the aid needs to improve the lives of people, regardless of their political affiliations, and that furthermore, there are several nations that are not internationally recognized who are dealt with directly without uncalled for proxies.



Somaliland expressed its gratitude for the support it receives from the donor countries, and said that it hopes that they will continue to increase their cooperation.

The issue of directly dealing with the nation of Somaliland was last week underscored in one of the resolutions adopted by the cabinet meeting.

champions of democracy, failed to acknowledge the democratic achievements and stability of Somaliland. By referring to Somaliland as a mere region of Somalia, the G7 not only disregarded historical facts but also undermined the peaceful aspirations of the Somaliland people.

The statement which was issued during a meeting of foreign ministers from the G7 major economies in Naples read: "We express our concerns regarding the Memorandum of Understanding between Ethiopia and the Somaliland region of Somalia, announced in January 2024.

We encourage both Ethiopia and the Federal Government of Somalia to maintain open channels of dialogue to prevent further escalation, working with regional partners within the framework of the African Union and through bilateral engagements, in accordance with international law and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity as outlined in the UN Charter.

The Government of Somaliland asserts that its statehood is non-negotiable and sacrosanct. Any attempts to undermine the sovereignty and peaceful existence of Somaliland will be met with unequivocal rejection. The government stands firm in defending the rights and aspirations of its people against any form of misrepresentation or aggression.

Furthermore, the Government of Somaliland calls upon the G7 to recognize the growing belligerence of Somalia and its leadership's attempts to reignite past conflicts. In a region already fraught with fragility, such actions could have detrimental consequences for the

Media training institute established for the first time

By M.A Egge

A credible state training center of journalism in Somaliland has been inaugurated over the week for the first time by the Ministry of Information of the Republic of Somaliland at its own premises.

The Somaliland Media Training Centre was launched on Tuesday in a function that saw several cabinet ministers and top government agencies grace the occasion.

It is expected that the new journalism center would subsequently rise to the occasion of becoming a reputedly formidable academy of excellence in the media profession, according to both the Minister of Information, Culture and National guidance Hon. Ali Mohammed Hassan and the Director General Mr. Mustafa Abdi. Both the ministry of education and the civil service commission have declared that they will be at hand to support the initiatives and bolster the

academy.

The minister who is popularly known as Ali Marehaan said that the center will teach the basic skills of the journalism profession, and that it would subsequently turn to a fully fledged media academic center in due course. The training center at the ministry was a long overdue institution that was indeed needed direly.

In his address at the event, the minister underscored the fact it was of utmost importance the scribes got ample skills and that they should depict patriotism

It is worth noting that upon the taking over of the helm of ministry; Minister Ali Marehaan has in a very short while so far lived to his pledge of taking the ministry to the next level he had promised to, a reputation he has depicted wherever he managed.

Many esteemed personalities who have in recent times visited the



information ministry have hailed the minister in his face-lifting of the headquarters and its environs.

He coaxed people with responsibilities to leave behind better legacies at the places they are charged with when he hilariously quipped, "Naysayers may assume that I improve things for glamour, but no, charity begins at home".

In the short spate of time of his tenure, the minister pledged the

services of the ministry to every corner of the nation with installations of FM relay stations in every major region, setting up of the Togdeer ministry headquarters in Burao and beautification of the national headquarters and planting over 500 tree seedlings.

The Minister of Education and Science, Hon. Dr. Ahmed Aden Buhane, said that he is grateful to the officials of the Ministry of Information, for the significant changes they have made in the ministry and indicated that they deserve to be rewarded. He also promised that the Ministry of Education will help implement this institution.

The Minister of the Ministry of Financial Development, Dr. Saad Ali Shire said that he commends the Ministry of Information for the change made in the beauty of the Ministry's headquarters and the establishment of the press institute, which he pointed out as one that is important for the nationalism of the Republic of Somaliland.

The Minister of Animal Husbandry

Hon. Saeed Sulub Mohamed indicated that he was contented with Minister Ali Marehaan suitability in running the information docket and noted that the fruits of his labour are now palpable.

The Director General of the Ministry of Information and the Deputy Minister of Information, Mustafa Abdi Isse (Shiine) and Hon. Said Hassan Habane, informed the audience present on the stages of the journalism training institute implemented by the ministry, and said that it will play a significant role in building the knowledge of journalists in the country.

The chair of the Civil Service Commission and the director of the Civil Service Institute Messrs. Khalid Jama Qodah and Omar Eid Qolumbi also addressed the function and who promised to work with the training center for journalists opened by the Ministry of Information.

The Director of the Communications Department of the Ministry of Information, Jama Adan Mohamed, veteran scribe Abdilahi Adan Omar (Wayab), Sahra Eidle Noor, Ahmed Abdirahman Hirsi (Heello) and the Chair of the Somaliland Journalists Association of SOLJA, Shaafi Mohamed Ibrahim talked about the importance of this center and the role of the media in society and congratulated the ministry on its efforts to build the press. The governor of Marodijeh region Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Aalin Timbaro, welcomed the training center and said that he was very amazed by the performance of the Ministry and admired the progress made.

Somaliland Accuses Somalia on Torturing Prisoners



He added that if Somalia did not release them in the coming 24 hours, they would take action immediately, but it is not known what action in which they will take against Somalia.

Somaliland also described members of the Federal Parliament whose constituencies were Somaliland, of weak ones as they could not dare to comment the misconduct as they said the speech. This comment comes a day after Senator, Osman Dubbe spoke about the conditions of five prisoners at Mogadishu's CID, saying that he received report of torture from MPs who visited them at the directorate.

The Somali Government did not comment on the allegations from the Somaliland and members of the Somali Parliament that the five prisoners were being tortured in Mogadishu.

connection of the killing of Somalia' Civil Aviation Authority at Criminal Investigation Directorate in Mogadishu.

"We strongly condemn the acts of Mogadishu Government of torturing and punishing inside CID which was 2 KM away to Villa-Somalia, we

believe that those prisoners hailing from Somaliland, were not behind the killing of Abdnasir Dahable in Mogadishu on February this year", Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of Somaliland, Abdullahi Hussein Mohamed said in a press conference over the week.

Treasury reviewing health and education budgets

opened a two-day workshop jointly organized by the Ministry of Finance and Unicef whose purpose is to review the education and health budget shares.

During the meeting, a collection of information was presented on the allocation of expenses or the budget received by both the two ministries of education and health in reflection to the effectiveness of providing education and health services in the country.

In focus were the evaluations of budget allocations for the past decade and the services rendered so far.



Ensuing deliberations, discussion and analysis is expected to collate and produce recommendations that would point out or indicate the

areas of the expected services to be revitalized, bolstered, strengthened or improved given the current level as a base pointer.

Road project opens up remote Somaliland village to farming potential



Building of the road from Borama to the remote village of Heego in Somaliland's Awdal region has brought appreciated jobs to local families, as well as prospects of opening up this rural area for development.

Buuh Farah Du'ale and his two older sons are earning \$10-15 a day each working on the road, providing a good income of around \$900 a month for his family of 15 people.

"Before I got this work life was difficult, but when my two children and I started working, our life changed in terms of the food we

get and our savings," he said. Buuh's family were pastoralists until drought culminating in 2021 reduced his herd of 280 goats down to 50, meaning they could not survive on this livelihood.

He joined many others in charcoal production but found cutting down trees was arduous and time consuming and brought little money. He was making just \$19 after selling two sacks of charcoal produced from a week's work. He had to sell some of his last animals to keep the family going.

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Op-ed: The Turkish-Somali Agreement: A calculated adventure or a step into the unknown?

Key Takeaways

The Turkish-Somali framework agreement on military and economic cooperation is an exceptional and unprecedented one for Turkey. It grants Ankara an almost complete land, sea and air military influence over Somalia.

Turkey's sizeable military presence in Somalia could serve as a key card in Ankara's hand in any future negotiations with the U.S., potentially influencing the scope of cooperation or disagreement between Ankara and Washington in



will have full rights to use existing Somali ports and establish new ports and naval bases.

The two countries will collaborate and coordinate maritime navigation and trade.

Turkey will help Mogadishu to establish Somali coast guard forces.

Ankara will aid Somalia in extracting petroleum and gas resources from its territorial waters.

Turkish as well as joint military bases (air, naval and land) will be established in Somalia.

Turkey will help Somalia to protect its marine environment and combat pollution.

Turkish companies will handle all installations and industries provided for in the agreement; otherwise, Somalia will need Ankara's permission to cooperate with non-Turkish firms.

After the signing of the agreement, some foreign media outlets reported that Turkey will extract oil and gas from Somali territorial waters for 10 years, with 30% of the revenue allocated to Turkey to fund projects and industries which will be launched by Ankara in Somalia. But the Somali government, which signed an oil and gas cooperation memorandum of understanding with Turkey on 7 March 2024, refuted such reports. Somali Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Abdirisaaq Omar Mohamed said there was no agreement to grant Turkey 30% of any future oil and gas revenue.

Trajectory of endorsing the agreement and developing its terms On 21 February 2024, the Somali cabinet ratified the military cooperation agreement with Turkey. In Turkey, the agreement is supposed to be submitted to parliament for debate and ratification before getting published in the official gazette.

However, the Turkish constitution allows the president to ratify agreements with secret terms without parliamentary approval. Most likely, Ankara will follow this path to maintain the confidentiality of certain provisions. Alternatively, the Turkish government might delay submitting the agreement to parliament, especially if the agreement contains clauses that could endanger Turkish soldiers, given the context of recent local elections.

Two weeks after signing the Somali-Turkish framework agreement, the Turkish parliament approved the government's request to permit Ankara to deploy its navy off the Somali coast, as well as in the Bab el-Mandeb, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Arabian Sea. This deployment falls within the framework of Turkey's participation

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International affairs editor became unwell while presenting News at Ten on Friday



The ITV News presenter Rageh Omaar is receiving medical care after he became "unwell" live on air, ITV has said. maar was presenting the News at Ten programme on Friday night when he appeared to struggle to read the news bulletins, sparking

concern online. "We are aware that viewers are concerned about Rageh Omaar's wellbeing," an ITV News spokesperson said. "Rageh became unwell while presenting News at Ten on Friday

and is now receiving medical care. He thanks everyone for their well wishes."

It is not clear what happened to Omaar, 56, during the broadcast. However, ITV pulled the show from its scheduled reruns on ITV+1, with a message instead telling viewers that ITV was "temporarily unable to bring you our +1 service. We will resume shortly."

Omaar is responsible for covering major news stories around the world as ITV's international affairs editor, while also presenting ITV's current affairs programme On Assignment. He has previously been a senior foreign correspondent for the BBC. Omaar rose to prominence during the invasion of Iraq in 2003, reporting from a hotel rooftop in Baghdad.

the Middle East.

The expanded military agreement between Ankara and Mogadishu could hinder Ethiopia's plans for Red Sea access. However, Turkey believes that Addis Abeba will prioritize maintaining good ties with Ankara in light of its ongoing dispute with Egypt.

The effective implementation of the Turkish-Somali military agreement will depend on Turkey's economic and military capabilities, as well as its ability to navigate related challenges and strengthen its relationship with Washington. On February 8, 2024, Turkish Defense Minister Yasar Guler and his Somali counterpart, Abdulkadir Mohamed Nur, signed in Ankara a comprehensive framework agreement for economic and military cooperation between Turkey and Somalia. This agreement is an exceptional and unprecedented one for Turkey. It is an expanded agreement that grants Ankara an almost complete land, sea and air military influence over Somalia.

Provisions of the agreement While the full details of the agreement were not made public initially, portions of its articles were shared. Anadolu Agency said the agreement – which according to the Turkish defense ministry came at the request of the Mogadishu government – aims to support Somalia and help it to protect itself from external threats, terrorism, piracy and illegal fishing. Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said "the agreement aims to establish a joint force from both countries to safeguard the coast and territorial waters of Somalia and invest in Somalia's maritime resources for 10 years. This joint force will be active for 10 years only. After that, Somalia will have its own naval force to perform this task."

According to additional information leaked to the media, the framework of this initial agreement includes the following components:

The two countries will conduct joint air, land and sea military exercises.

Turkey will construct and sell ships to Somalia. The Turkish navy

Road project opens up remote Somaliland village to farming potential

Now, however, Buuh has managed to enroll four of his children in a local school for the first time, paying \$36 for their education. They are saving as well to invest in a future business. He has repaid the \$600 debts he incurred during the drought and feels relieved not to be chased any more by businessmen wanting their money back.

Another father of 12, Abdi Muse Suldan, is also working on the same 25 kilometres stretch of road. He is another former pastoralist, who lost most of his livestock to the drought in 2017.

"We have been doing well in the past three months, my children and wife are all doing well, we get our daily food," he said.

Abdi owns a three-hectare farm in Heego but has made losses due to the poor state of the old road and the difficulty in getting fresh produce to markets. He is pleased that the new road will help farmers in the area who have been struggling.

Truck drivers hesitated to brave the journey to Heego because the road was so rugged. This meant that transportation costs were high and passed on to local consumers on any items brought in to the village. Basic amenities such as schools are also lacking in Heego.

"There were no schools in this area, there is no way for people to access us. My father never gave me an education, and my children have also grown older with no teachers. We don't have Koranic teachers, so where would we get an education?" Abdi told Radio Ergo.

Abdi has made \$1,500 since starting work on the road in January, both as a construction worker and as a guard. He plans to invest this in his farm.

The road construction funded by the Somaliland Development Fund is part of the Ministry of Agricultural Development's Sustainable Land Management Project.

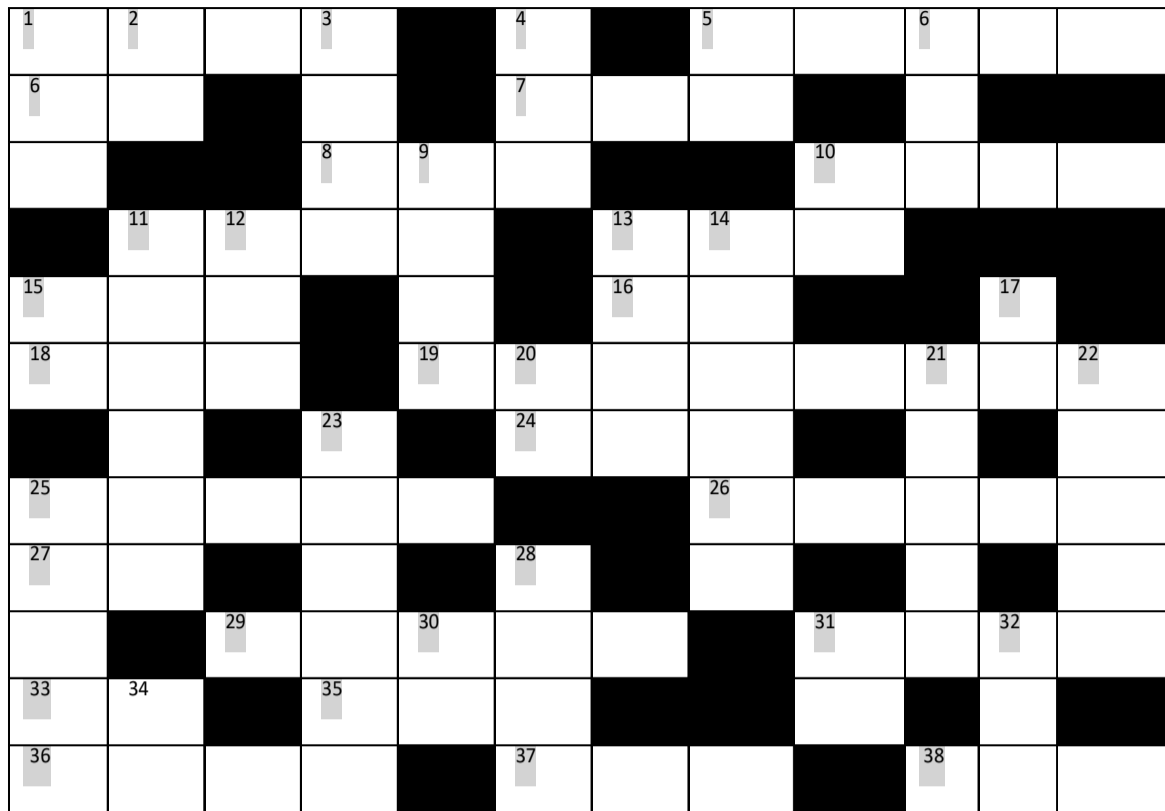
The local NGO Agricultural

Development Organisation (ADO) has been providing agricultural skills trainings for local farmers and also implemented a well facility. ADO's coordinator, Hassan Hussein Nur, said the project launched on 16 January 2024 had offered job opportunities for 150 people, including former pastoralists and farmers.

The work also aims to stop the soil erosion that has plagued the village during the rainy seasons, when the farms around the village lose land as sudden rains carry away the soil and lead to flooding. Heego has frequently been cut off as a result.

"We have worked on two parts of the road, Kidile and Bololo. The road gets inaccessible because of water gushing down from the mountains. We have diverted the water away from the road using gabions, and we have levelled the ground and refilled the holes," Hassan explained.

THT Puzzle



DOWN

- 1 spicy
- 2 Atop
- 3 Simple
- 4 Be able to
- 5 BE THERE
- 6 Mined
- 10 United Nation
- 11 Want choose
- 12 Add together
- 13 Extra
- 14 Detention
- 15 Or else
- 17 Inside
- 20 U'S
- 21 Use
- 22 Powders
- 23 Uncover
- 25 Approximately
- 28 Calmness
- 31 Firearm
- 32 Drink
- 34 Thus

ACROSS

- 1 House
- 5 Audial
- 6 Resting on
- 7 Take aim
- 8 Sunlight
- 10 Intimidating
- 11 Wages
- 13 Guy
- 15 Older
- 16 Otherwise
- 18 Reddish
- 19 Frame
- 24 Look at
- 25 Property
- 26 Seating
- 27 Be there
- 29 Legal
- 31 Becomes
- 33 U'S
- 35 Everything
- 36 Implement
- 37 Angry
- 38 Eyeball

Previous Answer

	F 1		A 2	G 3	E		H 4	I 5		A 6	M 7
O 8	R			E				N		R 9	E
	I 10	N	S 11	T	R 12	U	C	T	O	R	
	E		O		O			O		I	
O 13	N	E		B 14	O	O 15	K 16		E 17	V	E
	D		W 18		F 19	I	N	E 20		E	
M 21		B 22	E	G		L 23	I	N	E 24		
O			A		A 25		F 26	E	A	D	
U 27	S 28	E	R		P 29	E	E	R	S		U 30
S 31	O				R			G 32	Y	M	S
E 33	U		I 34		I 35	S 36		Y			E
	L 37	E	D		L 38	O	W		M 39	A	D

Op-ed: The Turkish-Somali Agreement: A calculated adventure or a step into the unknown?

in European forces to protect maritime navigation from piracy and terrorism.

Agreement motives and Turkey's balancing act between Somalia and Ethiopia

Several factors motivated the expanded and exceptional agreement between Ankara and Mogadishu. Regional conditions facilitated its realization. The following are some of the key motives:

1. The Somali government felt threatened after Ethiopia signed the Berbera Port agreement with Somaliland in early 2024. This agreement allows Addis Ababa to rent a land route from Ethiopia to the Red Sea along the coastline of Somaliland and use Berbera Port for 50 years in exchange for Addis Abeba's recognition of the independence of Somaliland. On 7 January 2024, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud issued a law that annuls this agreement, calling it a threat to Somalia's territorial integrity and describing it as "illegal". Turkey's stand was in line with Mogadishu. On 4 January 2024, the Turkish government said in a statement that "Ankara follows with concern the signing of an agreement between Somaliland and Ethiopia to establish land roads and build a port. Ankara reaffirms the need to protect Somali territorial integrity, respect of the international law, the settlement of disputes between Somalia and Somaliland through diplomatic dialogue." In the past, Ankara tried to mediate between the two Somali parties, but Mogadishu stood by its declared position rejecting any foreign mediation on this matter which it considers an internal dispute. However, Mogadishu has approved in 2014 Ankara's request to open a consulate in Somaliland. A spokesperson for the Somali government welcomed the statement of the Turkish foreign ministry and said that it is "a strong and sincere expression of Turkey's support for Mogadishu."

2. For years, Turkey has been trying to expand its influence in the Horn of Africa by cementing its ties with Somalia, Ethiopia and Djibouti. Ankara maintains a military base in Somalia for training purposes without having any actual military activity by Turkish troops there. The Red Sea crisis – which started after Houthi attacks against commercial vessels under the pretext of supporting Gaza – has increased international military presence in the region. For Ankara, this means a growing competition over influence in this vital region. Consequently, Turkey has found in Mogadishu's

request for military support a key opportunity to boost its influence in the region without the need to join the American-British coalition and antagonize the Houthis.

3. Turkey's military role on Somali shores could strengthen future rapprochement between Ankara on the one hand, and Washington and NATO on the other. Ankara realizes that American military presence in the region might not be permanent and that Washington may prefer to rely on its Middle Eastern allies to ensure stability, given its focus on confronting China in the East. Therefore, if this American-Turkish rapprochement happens, Ankara's military presence on the Somali coast could facilitate cooperation between Washington and Ankara through serving shared interests that include ensuring freedom of navigation and combating piracy and terrorism. On 14 February 2024, the U.S. and Somalia signed an agreement to construct five military bases in Somalia. However, the presence of Turkish troops with greater jurisdiction on Somali territories may either ease the burden on Washington there or provide Ankara with a leverage in case Turkish-American ties weaken. Therefore, Turkey's substantial military presence in Somalia could be a strategic asset for Ankara in any future negotiations with the U.S. to define the scope of cooperation or disagreement between Ankara and Washington in the Middle East. Moreover, expanding Turkey's growing influence in Somalia could bolster its position in its competition with China in the Horn of Africa.

Turkey's decision to sign a military agreement with Somalia may be viewed as a calculated risk in its relationship with Addis Abeba and with other countries supporting Somaliland, such as the UK.

In spite of all these key motives, Ankara recognizes the need to strike a balance in its relationships with both Somalia and Ethiopia. Turkish-Ethiopian ties have recently strengthened when both countries signed military agreements. While the expanded military agreement between Ankara and Mogadishu may hinder Addis Abeba's plans for Red Sea access, Turkey believes that Ethiopia prefers not to sacrifice its good relations with Ankara in light of its ongoing dispute with Egypt. Even if the Turkish-Somali agreement leads to the decline of Ankara's relations with Addis Abeba, Turkey is willing to prioritize its ties with Somalia over its relationship with Ethiopia for several reasons, notably:

To be continue next week

Ethiopia Financial Stability Report



Overall, Ethiopia's financial institutions face variety of risks due to the state of the global economy, with multiple macroeconomic shocks implied by the weakening of global growth along with high food, fuel and other commodity prices. This affects Ethiopia's external position by driving up import costs and stifling exports.

Consequently, there by raises the risks for financial institutions in the country.

Furthermore, developments in various foreign exchange markets and the trend towards higher benchmark (policy) interest rates could increase the foreign exchange and interest rate risks that financial institutions face in Ethiopia. Positively, though, global growth has proven remarkably resilient against a background of rising geopolitical tensions and violent conflicts. In addition, the diversity of developments across economies offers an opportunity to reduce risks by building diversified portfolios of economic relations.

Domestic factors will also impact the health of the Ethiopian financial system. According to the analysis, certain factors raise risk while others support stability and resilience.

a) Economic Growth

Over the last five years, Ethiopia's economy has registered high growth, which is projected to continue in the coming years (Figure 1). Real GDP growth at above 6.0

percent remains higher than the average growth for Sub-Saharan Africa (projected at 3.3 percent for 2023 and 4.0 percent for 2024). The composition of GDP continued

to change gradually, recovering from the distortions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The share of services in GDP increased slightly from 40.0 percent in 2022 to 40.3 percent in 2023 – surpassing the level of 39.8 percent in 2019, and thus recovering from the contraction induced by COVID-19 (Figure 3). The share of industry decreased slightly from 28.9 percent in 2022 to 28.8 percent in 2023 – above the 2019 (pre-COVID) level, indicating a strong performance of the sector in the longer term. The share of agriculture declined steadily from 33.3 percent in 2019 to 32.1 percent in 2023.

b) Inflation

Over the last two years, domestic interest rates have remained stable, despite the fact that inflation is still

high (Figure 4). Notwithstanding a number of unfavorable factors, such as droughts, inflation expectations, lack of foreign exchange, instability in some parts of the country, and the effect of the war in Ukraine on commodity prices, the average annual rate of inflation fell from 34.0 percent in 2022 to 29.3 percent in 2023.

c) Inflation and Yields

The yearly weighted average yield on government T-bills was 9.7 percent in 2023, slightly up from 9.5 percent in 2022 (Figure 4). The average long-term lending interest

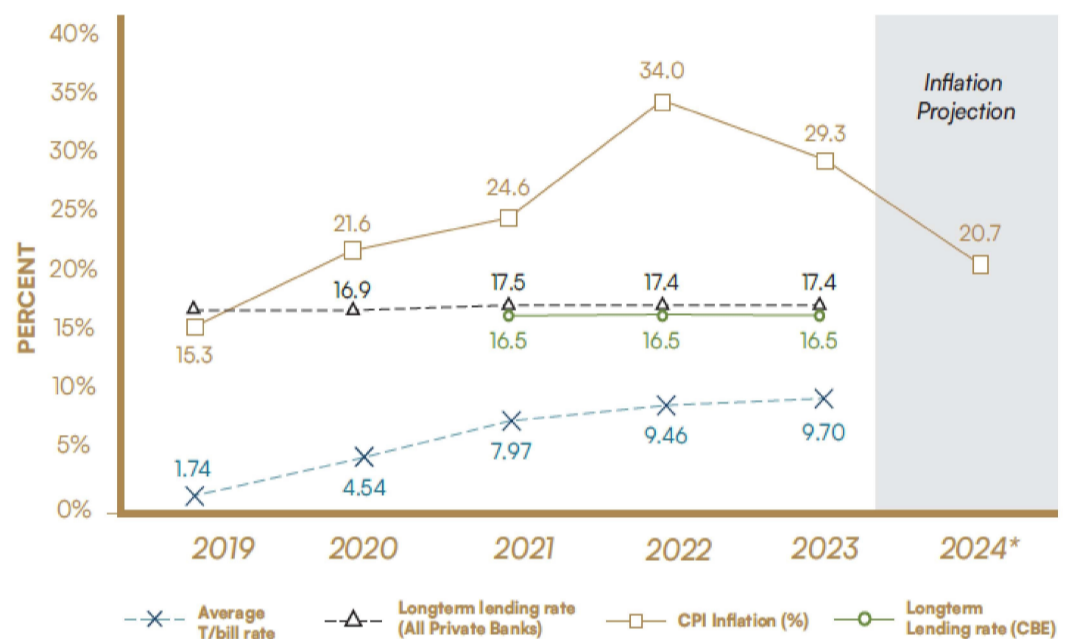
prices.

With the exception of Rwanda and Uganda, which recorded 21.6 percent and 10.2 percent in December 2022, respectively, annual inflation in most East African countries remained at single digits in 2022 despite the shock to commodity prices following the war in Ukraine. Ethiopia, which had previously seen double-digit inflation, saw a spike in December 2021 at 35.1 percent; and the rate hardly changed in 2022, standing at 33.8 percent in December 2022. But it is expected to drop to 24.5 percent and 18.5 percent by the end of 2023 and 2024,

Birr exchange rate on the interbank market in 2023 was 53.3 per USD, a 9.7 percent decline from 2022 (Figure 5). Due to the significant increase in the surplus of the services trade balance and the narrowing of the merchandise trade deficit, the current account deficit decreased from 4.1 percent in 2022 to 2.8 percent of GDP in 2023.

e) Fiscal Operation in Public Debit Both external debt and budget deficit decreased in 2023. Public external debt decreased from 28.2 percent of GDP in 2019 to 17.2 percent of GDP in 2023 (Figure 6). In the years 2020 and 2021,

Figure 4: Inflation and Interest Rates, 2019-2024 (percent)

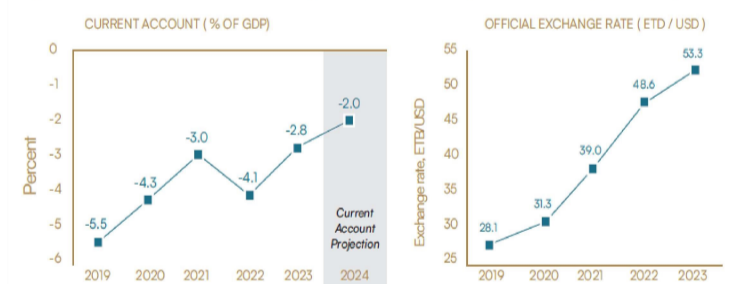


Source: NBE and projections by the IMF World Economic Outlook: October 2023 Edition

rate of the Commercial Bank of Ethiopia (CBE), the largest state-owned bank,

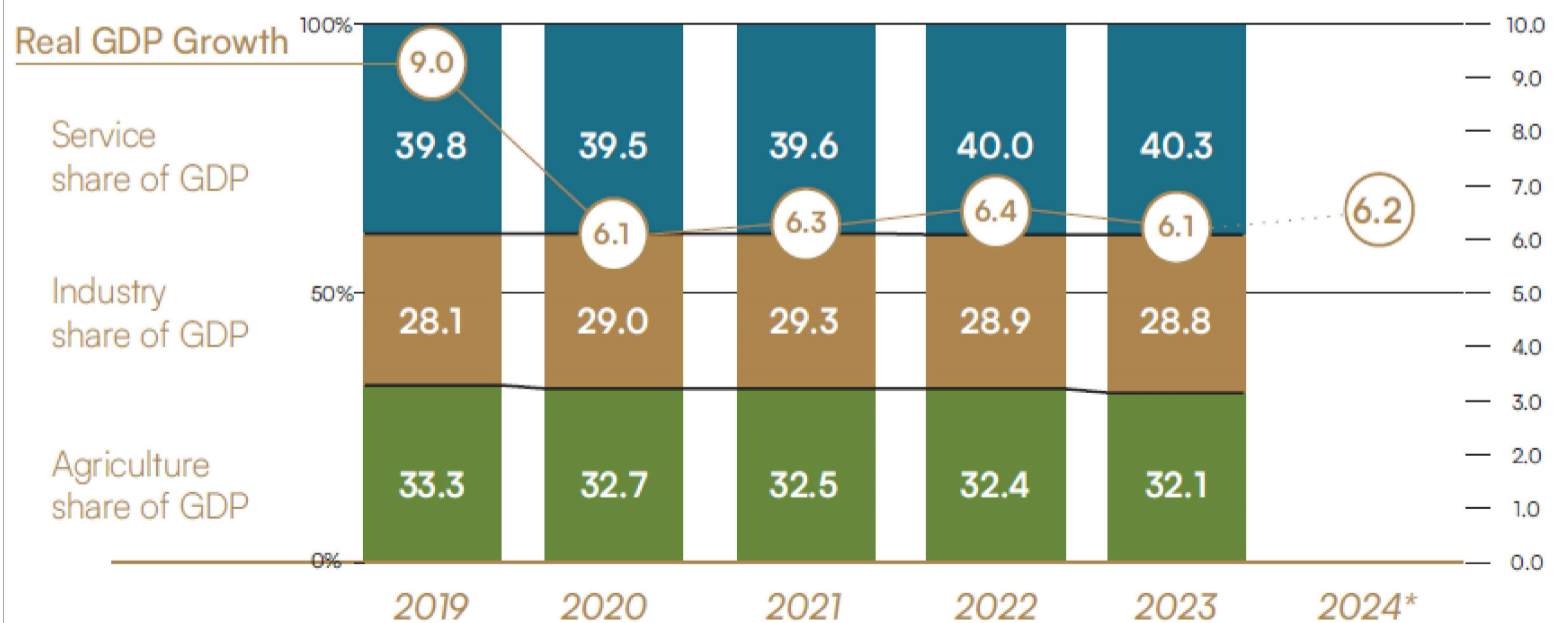
and private banks remained at 16.5 percent and 17.4 percent, respectively, in both 2022 and 2023. Global annualized headline inflation is set to fall from 8.9 percent in December 2022 to 6.4 percent in December 2023 and 5.1 percent in December 2014. Monetary

Figure 5: Current Account and Exchange Rate, 2019-2024 (Percent of GDP, ETB/USD)



Source: NBE and projections by the IMF World Economic Outlook: October 2023 Edition.

Figure 3: Ethiopian GDP by Sector and Economic Growth, 2019-2024 (percent)



Source: NBE and *projections by the IMF World Economic Outlook: October 2023 Edition

policy tightening is expected to gradually dampen inflation, but a central driver of the disinflation projected for 2023 and 2024 is declining international commodity

respectively (Figure 2).

d) Current Account Balance

While the current account deficit has shrunk, the value of the Birr has decreased. The weighted average

Ethiopia had benefited from the G20 Debt Service

Suspension Initiative. However, Fitch and S&P downgraded Ethiopia's sovereign rating from B to CCC when the country applied for the G20

To be continue next week