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Concern mounts that Ethiopia is on the brink of civil war, as tensions between the government of prime minister Abiy Ahmed (2018-present) and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) have escalated into violent conflict in Tigray Region. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that more than Ethiopian 10,000 refugees have fled the conflict to neighbouring Sudan. Ethiopia's \$1 billion of Eurobonds maturing in 2024 have declined by 4% in November as conflict in the Tigray region continues. Tripartite talks between Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) fail again as parties disagree on a new negotiation approach to resolving the years-long dispute over the controversial dam.

Sudan braces for flood of refugees as Tigray conflict escalates ...

Tensions between the government of prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** (2018-present) and the **Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF)** have escalated into violent conflict in **Tigray Region**.¹ Ethiopia's slide towards civil war threatens to further destabilise the **Horn of Africa** region as thousands flee into neighbouring **Sudan**.

Abiy announced on 17 November that federal troops were marching to the Tigrayan capital, **Mekelle**, after a deadline for rebel forces to surrender had passed.² The government announced that it had liberated the **Raya, Chercher, Gugufto** and **Mehoni** localities on the eastern front along with **Shire** on the western front of the conflict.³ Federal troops destroyed TPLF military bases as they reportedly marched onto Mekelle. TPLF forces accused the government of destroying a dam, sugar factory and attacking people in the region of more than 5 million, although the government denied the allegations.⁴ TPLF president **Debretsion Gebremichael** said battles were continuing around the southern town of **Alamata** that federal forces claimed they had seized the previous day.⁵ The TPLF also seized control of the powerful **Northern Command's** headquarters in Mekelle.

A power struggle between the federal government and the TPLF has been brewing since November 2019, when Abiy – who is from Ethiopia's largest group, the Oromo – unified the ruling **Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF)** coalition into the newly formed ruling **Prosperity Party (PP)** (see *ARC Briefing Ethiopia October 2020*). The TPLF, formerly the dominant party in the coalition until Abiy came to power in 2018, claimed the unification was illegal and withdrew from the newly formed party. Tension increased when the federal government indefinitely delayed general elections originally slated for August 2020 due to the **coronavirus** pandemic. On 6 October, the **House of Federation** (upper house) ordered the federal government to cease all interactions with Tigray Region leaders after Abiy's administration deemed the TPLF unconstitutional due to an "*illegitimate regional election*" held on 9 September and won by the TPLF.⁶

¹ Foreign Affairs, 12 Nov 2020.

² Reuters, 17 Nov 2020.

³ Reuters, 17 Nov 2020.

⁴ Reuters, 17 Nov 2020.

⁵ Reuters, 17 Nov 2020.

⁶ Borkena, 6 Oct 2020

The situation escalated when Abiy on 4 November ordered national defence forces to commence a military offensive against the Tigrayan forces, which the government accused of insurrectionary and traitorous activity.⁷ Tigray responded by banning flights from its airspace and the TPLF reportedly opened fire on the **Ethiopian Defence Force** from three locations in Tigray.⁸ On 6 November prime minister Abiy Ahmed confirmed that the **Ethiopian Air Force** had conducted air strikes on Tigray Region's capital, Mekelle.⁹ The House of Federation on 8 November adopted a resolution to establish a transitional government in Tigray.¹⁰ Abiy appointed Dr. **Mulu Nega** as chief executive of the provisional Tigray National Regional State administration on 13 November,¹¹ insisting that there will be no negotiations with the Tigrayan government until its ruling elite are arrested and its well-stocked arsenal is destroyed.¹² Predictably, the federal government and the TPLF blame each other for starting the conflict, with the TPLF accusing the Abiy administration of targeting and marginalising its officials.¹³

Tigrayan forces escalated the conflict on 14 November by firing rockets into neighbouring **Eritrea**.¹⁴ The TPLF has accused Eritrean troops of assisting the Ethiopian government, an allegation that Eritrea denies.¹⁵ Eritrea's President **Isaias Afwerki** (1993-present), a long-time foe of the TPLF, controls a standing army of about 200,000 according to the **United States (US) Central Intelligence Agency**.¹⁶ The Eritrean government has dismissed reports that its troops have already crossed the border. Any such intervention could potentially tip the conflict with Tigray into a regional war. The TPLF has also accused the Eritrean government of being supported by non-African actors, in reference to potential assistance from the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, which has a military base at **Assab**, an Eritrean port in the **Red Sea**.¹⁷ The UAE has turned Assab into a strategic hub for its military operations in **Yemen**. UAE officials have not responded to the allegations.

Meanwhile, there are increasing fears that the conflict risks becoming the world's next refugee crisis as thousands of residents are fleeing Tigray. The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** reported on 11 November that the clashes had forced thousands to flee to neighbouring Sudan and that it was working with Sudanese authorities to provide lifesaving assistance to more than 30,000 refugees from Ethiopia.¹⁸ The UNHCR reported that refugees are being temporarily sheltered in transit centres located near border entry points of **Ludgi** in **Gederef** and **Hamdayet** in **Kassala** state.¹⁹ However, the UNHCR said it would struggle to continue running operations in the next two weeks.²⁰ UNHCR spokesman **Kisut Gebreegziabher** said the physical security of refugees is at stake if the conflict expands.²¹ There is concern that up to 200,000 refugees from Ethiopia could pour into Sudan in fleeing the deadly conflict in Tigray.²²

International voices have called on Abiy to bring an end to the conflict. The **Sweden**-based **Nobel Committee** has spoken out against the actions of former Nobel laureate Abiy. The **European Union**, the **African Union (AU)**, UN secretary general **António Guterres**, **Pope Francis** and

⁷ Addis Standard, 4 Nov 2020.

⁸ Borkena, 5 Nov 2020.

⁹ Addis Standard, 6 Nov 2020.

¹⁰ Addis Standard, 8 Nov 2020.

¹¹ Addis Standard, 13 Nov 2020.

¹² APN NEWS, 11 Nov 2020

¹³ APN News, 11 Nov 2020.

¹⁴ ; Reuters, 17 Nov 2020

¹⁵ Reuters, 17 Nov 2020.

¹⁶ Reuters, 17 Nov 2020

¹⁷ Reuters, 17 Nov 2020

¹⁸ United Nations Refugee Agency, 11 Nov 2020; Reuters, 17 Nov 2020

¹⁹ United Nations Refugee Agency, 11 Nov 2020

²⁰ APN News, 11 Nov 2020

²¹ APN News, 11 Nov 2020

²² APN News, 11 Nov 2020

others have called for an immediate de-escalation as the conflict threatens to destabilise the strategic but equally vulnerable Horn of Africa region.²³

... as Ethiopia's Eurobonds slump amid emerging market rally

Ethiopia's **Eurobonds** have slumped on concerns that the conflict in the Tigray region will broaden, rattling investors and creating uncertainty in the market. The conflict has raised concerns that a full-fledged civil war may develop in **Africa's** second most populous country, at a time when the Ethiopian government is struggling to end ethnic conflict. The conflict may further delay the government's plans to open up the Ethiopian economy to foreign investors who were expected to lure tens of billions of dollars in foreign direct investments.²⁴

According to US-based news outlet **Bloomberg**, investors in Ethiopia's Eurobonds are losing out on a rally in emerging market debt.²⁵ Ethiopia's 2024 dollar securities dropped for a fourth consecutive day on 9 November as conflict in Tigray continued.²⁶ Ethiopia's \$1 billion of Eurobonds maturing in 2024 have declined by 4% in November, the greatest decline after that of **Venezuela** among emerging markets.²⁷ **United Kingdom**-based research corporation **Tellimer** said the conflict has not materially increased the risk of default for the time being, but the political risk premium would remain elevated with tensions simmering on several fronts across the country and region,

"...continued escalation could distract from reform efforts and undermine Ethiopia's investment case."²⁸

Nile dam talks between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan hit the wall again

Tripartite talks between Ethiopia, **Egypt** and Sudan on the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)** have once again failed as parties disagreed on a new negotiation approach to resolving the years-long dispute over the controversial dam. The abrupt ending of talks, which had resumed in late October, has created another deadlock in the long-running negotiations on the filling and maintenance of the \$4 billion project.²⁹ Negotiations had resumed following controversial comments by US President **Donald Trump** (2017-present) that Egypt could blow up the dam which it has called an existential threat.³⁰ Ethiopia broke ground on the controversial GERD in 2011, and it is now three quarters complete, with the government hoping that it will reach full power generating capacity in 2023.³¹ The GERD is built on the **Blue Nile**, which joins the **White Nile** in Sudan to become the **Nile River**.³² In July, the government declared it had reached its first-year target for filling the reservoir of the mega dam, which can hold 74 billion cubic metres of water.³³

Both Sudan and Egypt have expressed concern that the dam will reduce the flow of Nile waters to their countries. Egypt is heavily dependent on the Nile's water supply for agriculture and for the livelihood of its more than 100 million citizens, while 85% of the Nile's flow originates in Ethiopia.³⁴ Sudan claims millions of its residents would be at risk if Ethiopia unilaterally fills the dam, saying it *"cannot keep negotiating without an end and must guarantee the safety of its water installations"*.³⁵ Egypt and Sudan have rejected Ethiopia's unilateral actions and long maintained that a political solution to the dispute is necessary. Observers say Ethiopia's recent request to link the GERD to an

²³ APN News, 11 Nov 2020

²⁴ Yahoo Finance, 13 Nov 2020

²⁵ Bloomberg, 9 Nov 2020

²⁶ Bloomberg, 9 Nov 2020

²⁷ Yahoo Finance, 13 Nov 2020

²⁸ Bloomberg, 9 Nov 2020

²⁹ The East African, 10 Nov 2020

³⁰ Aljazeera, 5 Nov 2020

³¹ Aljazeera, 5 Nov 2020

³² Aljazeera, 5 Nov 2020

³³ Aljazeera, 5 Nov 2020

³⁴ Aljazeera, 5 Nov 2020

³⁵ Aljazeera, 5 Nov 2020

agreement on water-sharing represents an obstacle to the progress of the talks.³⁶ Ethiopia continues to build the GERD in accordance with the right granted to it by the co-operation agreement signed in 2015.

AU-sponsored talks ended without significant progress on 28 August.³⁷ The ministers of water resources in Ethiopia, Egypt and Sudan agreed to continue discussions on 8 November, and approach the AU Executive Council and South Africa's foreign minister for a way forward.³⁸ However, the parties reportedly failed to agree on divergent points, with each country sticking to its objectives.³⁹

Egypt opposed Sudan's proposal, supported by Ethiopia, to maximise the role of AU experts in the negotiations.⁴⁰ Key remaining areas of contention include the quantity of water Ethiopia will release downstream if a multi-year drought occurs and on how the three nations will resolve future disputes.⁴¹ Ethiopia rejects any binding arbitrations on the final stage of the project. Ethiopia views the GERD as crucial for its electrification and development, and maintains that the flow of water downstream will not be affected.

Ethiopian Airlines prepares to transport global Covid-19 vaccine cargo

State-owned **Ethiopian Airlines** announced on 12 November that it was preparing to transport **Covid-19** vaccines globally. Cargo managing director **Fitsum Abadi** said that 21 cargo freighters, including Boeing 777s, Boeing 778s and Air Bus 350s, would be ready to transport the long-awaited vaccine. The vaccine needs to be stored at temperatures of up to -78 degrees Celsius during transportation and the airline is making arrangements to meet that requirement.⁴² Fitsum said:

*"Ethiopian Airlines is well ahead of the situation where we have investigated what is required and established what is important on ground in terms of dedicated human resource to handle vaccines, maintain the cold chain from warehouse up to the aircraft. We have also signed agreement with **Envirotainer** suppliers."⁴³*

Fitsum noted that **Global Finance** magazine had awarded Ethiopian Airlines the "Overall Excellence for Outstanding Crisis Leadership 2020 Award" on 13 November.⁴⁴ The award recognises businesses that excelled in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic assisting customers, protecting employees and providing critical support to society at large.

Ethiopian Airlines CEO **Tewolde Gebremariam** says the airline's strategic decision to switch to cargo helped avert financial ruin by allowing the airline to maintain half of its income while 90% of its passenger fleet is grounded, giving the airline an excellent chance of surviving the pandemic. Building on its cargo fleet of 10 Boeing 777s and two Boeing 737s, the airline converted 25 additional passenger aeroplanes into cargo planes.⁴⁵ Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest carrier, is now shipping cargo to 70 destinations compared to just 10 at the start of the pandemic.⁴⁶ Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Ethiopian Airlines has operated over 360 cargo flights and transported medical supplies to at least 80 countries.⁴⁷ The airline delivered all three shipments of personal protective equipment (PPE) donated by **Chinese** billionaire **Jack Ma** to 52 African countries.⁴⁸ By leveraging its capacity to

³⁶ The East African, 10 Nov 2020

³⁷ Foreign Brief, 27 Aug 2020

³⁸ The East African, 10 Nov 2020

³⁹ The East African, 10 Nov 2020

⁴⁰ Aljazeera, 5 Nov 2020

⁴¹ Aljazeera, 5 Nov 2020

⁴² ENA News, 12 Nov 2020

⁴³ ENA News, 12 Nov 2020

⁴⁴ All Africa, 13 Nov 2020

⁴⁵ Business Day, 10 Aug 2020

⁴⁶ Business Day, 10 Aug 2020

⁴⁷ ENA News, 12 Nov 2020

⁴⁸ Business Day, 10 Aug 2020

fly to 75 countries, Ethiopian Airlines generated further income through repatriation flights, repatriating more than 63,000 citizens of other countries.⁴⁹

Despite its income generating strategies, Tewolde estimates that Ethiopian Airlines lost \$1 billion in ticket sales at the end of the first quarter in June.⁵⁰ While cargo has provided some relief during the crisis, the airline is expected to struggle if its core business of passenger travel remains on hold for much longer. Many regional and international competitors have dealt with the pandemic by reducing salaries and seeking government bail outs. Predicted global industry annual losses of \$84.3 billion have forced giants such as **Emirates** and **American Airlines** to seek government support.

Planner

Mar 2021 **(Ethiopia)** Election campaign period

Jun-Jul 2021 **(Ethiopia)** Voting expected to take place;

Chronology

17 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Reuters*. **Ethiopia** says its troops are marching on the capital of the **Tigray** region after a deadline for rebel forces to surrender passed;

17 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *UN News*. The **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** suggests a "*full-scale humanitarian crisis*" is unfolding as thousands of refugees flee ongoing fighting in Ethiopia's **Tigray** region each day to seek safety in eastern **Sudan**;

16 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *The Nation*. The **Emergency Task Force on Tigray**, a platform established by the Ethiopian government, has denied reports that **Uganda's** President **Yoweri Museveni** will mediate talks between Ethiopian government authorities and the **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)**;

14 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Al Jazeera*. **Tigrayan** regional forces bomb two airports in neighbouring **Amhara** region and the international airport in **Asmara (Eritrea)** as violence escalates amidst a government offensive against Tigrayan authorities;

13 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *CNN*. **African Union** head **Moussa Faki Mahamat** dismisses Ethiopian national and Tigrayan security head **Gebreegziabher Mebratu Melese** after Ethiopian government questions his loyalty to the country;

13 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** appoints Dr. **Mulu Nega** as chief executive of provisional administration of **Tigray National Regional State**;

12 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **European Union** High Representative /vice-president **Josep Borrell** and commissioner **Janez Lenarčič** say the ethnically targeted measures, hate speech and allegations of atrocities occurring in Ethiopia are deeply worrying;

12 Nov 2020 **Mykadra (Ethiopia)** *Amnesty International*. **Amnesty International** confirms that scores, and likely hundreds, of people were stabbed or hacked to death in **Mykadra, South West Zone**, of Ethiopia's **Tigray Region** on the night of 9 November;

12 Nov 2020 **Tigray (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Ethiopian Red Cross Society** requests respect for its logo during the ongoing conflict in border areas between **Tigray** and **Amhara** regions;

12 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. The **House of People's Representatives** approves the attorney general's motion to revoke the immunity of 39 **Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF)** individuals suspected of armed rebellion, attacking national defence

⁴⁹ Business Day, 10 Aug 2020

⁵⁰ Business Day, 10 Aug 2020

forces and other related crimes;

11 Nov 2020 **Tigray (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **International Rescue Committee** warns of looming humanitarian crisis in Tigray region as supply of social service to the most vulnerable is disrupted following military operation;

11 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Ethiopian Human Rights Commission** condemns arrest of journalists;

11 Nov 2020 **Nairobi (Kenya)** *APN News*. **Sudan** braces for up to 200,000 fleeing conflict in **Ethiopia**;

11 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Ethiopia's confirmed **covid-19** cases surpass 100,000;

11 Nov 2020 **Mykadra (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Authorities in **Amhara** region claim an alleged genocide in **Mykadra** region is planned to trigger civil war between Ethiopians;

10 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **African Union Commission** chairperson **Moussa Faki Mahamat** issues statement saying that he is following with concern the escalation of military confrontation in Ethiopia;

10 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Israeli** locust fighters task force arrive in Ethiopia to help suppress the spread of desert locust swarms;

9 Nov 2020 **Vatican (Vatican City)** *Vatican News*. **Pope Francis** appeals for peace in **Ethiopia** and says he is following with concern the news regarding an escalation of violence in the country;

8 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** announces the replacement of the leadership of the national armed forces, the intelligence and the federal police as well as the replacement of the Minister of foreign affairs minister;

8 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Agegnehu Teshager** is sworn in as new head of **Amhara** regional state;

8 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Amhara** regional state president **Temesgen Tiruneh** tenders his resignation to the regional council;

7 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** says airstrike will continue in the Northern part of the country;

7 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. The **Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)** expresses its concern regarding the conflict in the **Tigray Region** of Ethiopia;

7 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *United Nations Ethiopia*. **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet** calls for de-escalation amid alarming developments in **Tigray** and **Oromia** regions;

8 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. The **House of Federation** adopts resolution to establish a transitional government in **Tigray**;

6 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** confirms that the **Ethiopian Air Force** conducted air strikes in **Mekelle** during the military engagement between federal and **Tigray** region forces in the regional state;

6 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Ethiopia's ministry of foreign affairs says **Egypt** has refused to accept Ethiopia's and **Sudan's** call for a greater role for the **African Union** in the tripartite negotiation on the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam**;

6 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Ethiopian Civil Aviation** announces that

the **Mekelle, Shire, Axum, and Humera** airports are closed for all services;

6 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Sudan** closes its border with Ethiopia amid concerns that clashes in its northern region country may spread;

5 Nov 2020 **Gambella (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Ethiopian Intelligence claims it has foiled a plot to trigger ethnic violence in **Gambella**;

5 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Nile Dam** talks between **Egypt, Ethiopia** and **Sudan** fail again;

5 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Ethiopian refugee **Oballa Oballa** becomes first Black elected official in **Austin, Minnesota**.

5 Nov 2020 **Tigray (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. **Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF)** reportedly opens fire on **Ethiopian Defence Force** from three locations in **Tigray**;

4 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **United Nations** secretary-general **Antonio Guterres** expresses his concern over the reported armed clashes in the **Tigray** region and calls for immediate measures to de-escalate tensions and ensure peaceful resolution to the dispute;

4 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. The **United States Embassy in Addis Ababa** urges an immediate de-escalation of the current situation in **Tigray** and a measured response by both sides;

4 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Tigray** region bans flights from airspace after prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** ordered a military response against the region;

4 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Federal Council of Ministers** declares state of emergency in **Tigray Region**;

4 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Internet disrupted in Ethiopia as conflict breaks out in **Tigray** region;

4 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** issues order to national defence forces to start military offensive against **Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF)**;

3 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Parliament proposes labelling **Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF)** as a terrorist organisation;

3 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. According to a draft schedule, the 2021 election campaign period is expected to take place from the second week of March to the beginning of June 2021 and voting is expected to take place from first week of June to late July 2021;

3 Nov 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Water, irrigation and energy ministry announces resumption of tripartite negotiation on **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam** as delegations from **Ethiopia, Egypt** and **Sudan** held virtual discussions on 1 November;

1 Nov 2020 **Tigray (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. **Sudan Sovereign Council** chairman General **Abdel Fattah al-Burhan** visits Ethiopia to bolster bilateral ties and discuss the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam**;

31 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Urban development and construction minister **Aisha Mohammed** says the newly established **Ethiopian Mayors Forum** will provide an opportunity for city mayors to work together to solve their residents' problems;

31 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Prime minister **Abiy Ahmed** launches a 300-km road project in **Somali Region**, expected to be completed within four years;

29 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. At least 27 killed in clashes in the border region between **Afar** and Somali regions;

29 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Ethiopian government and funders from the **United Kingdom** and **Germany** launch a \$6.5m fund to help protect textile industry jobs in Ethiopia and ensure the industry survives in Ethiopia's economic recovery from **COVID-19**;

28 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. A new generation of desert locusts and flooding threaten food security in Ethiopia;

27 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Opposition party **National Movement of Amhara** says police in Addis Ababa surrounded its office where a meeting of senior members was taking place;

27 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **Ethiopian Electricity Utility** reports first phase of power lines for the **Djibouti** water project in the **Somali Region** between the border of **Adigala** and **Kulen** towns has been completed;

26 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. Ethiopia's farmers battle worst locust invasion in 25 years - the insects have damaged about 200,000 hectares (500,000 acres) of land since January, as the country struggles with food insecurity amid the **coronavirus** pandemic;

26 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Addis Standard*. **African Union** chair President **Cyril Ramaphosa** of South Africa announces that after a seven-week break, trilateral negotiations will resume on the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)**;

24 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Ethiopia summons **United States** Ambassador over President **Donald Trump's** remark that Egypt may blow up **Ethiopian Grand Renaissance Dam**;

20 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. **China** suspends **Ethiopian Airlines'** flights to **Shanghai** due to **COVID-19**;

20 Oct 2020 **Afar (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. **Afar Revolutionary Party** accuses Ethiopian government over failure of peace agreement;

15 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. Fire at **National Bank of Ethiopia** is under control.

15 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. **Eritrea's** president **Isaias Afeworki** visits **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam** but does not comment publicly;

15 Oct 2020 **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)** *Borkena*. **Tigray** opposition leader is appointed as director of **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)** public support mobilisation.

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