

# The Daily Monitor

The paper that enlightens

Vol. XIII, No. 223

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA, The Daily Monitor, Wednesday September 20, 2006

PRICE Birr 1.50



**S.Africa's Mandela gets top Amnesty Int'l award**

AFRICAN NEWS ...2



**Customer oriented thinking is good**

VIEWS, OPINIONS ...3



**Bush detainee plan fuels doubts over US : Powell**

WORLD NEWS ...4

www.theafricamonitor.com

## USAID launches USD 20 mln agribusiness enhancement project

**SCHEME AIMS TO BOOST SALES, EXPORT REVENUES OF FOUR PRODUCTS BY USD 450 MLN**

By Hayal Alemayehu

ADDIS ABEBA - A 20-million US dollars Agribusiness and Trade Expansion Project aimed at boosting the productivity of Ethiopia's major exports officially launched on Tuesday by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) at the Addis Ababa Hilton Hotel. Project Contractor Chief of Party Steven Humphreys disclosed to reporters on Monday.

The biggest USAID private sector project since 1961 - according to USAID representatives - the program is planned to inflate sales and export revenues of four targeted major export items by 450 million US dollars over the coming three years, Humphreys said.

The project, which will be implemented in four regions, namely Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, and SNNP, will involve horticulture, coffee, hides & skins and leather, and oil seeds and pulses.

According to the Chief of Party, the activity will employ market led approach and help pick up sales and export revenues of horticultural products, coffee, hides & skins and leather, and oil seeds and pulses by 700%, 60%, 70%, and 45% respectively over the coming three years.

Funded by the USAID, the Ethiopia Agribusiness and Trade Expansion Project (Activity) is



One of the project sites involved in enhancing leather production

scheduled to run 2006-2009 as a three-year initiative, with two additional option years.

The project will be providing clients with an integrated program of technical assistance and training focusing on the four agricultural sub sectors of major importance to the country, according to a USAID monthly bulletin.

"By targeting farmers and allied agribusiness including processors, traders, and exporters, the project will offer a bold, integrated approach to developing the agricultural sector in order to improve the competitive-

ness in the field," the USAID publishing read.

According to the USAID, the ultimate aim of the project is to increase productivity in the stated agricultural sectors, raise farmers' incomes, boost agribusiness sales, and dramatically increase Ethiopia's agricultural exports.

The project activity will be overseen by a steering committee comprised of representatives from the funding Agency, Ministries of Trade & Industry, Agricultural & Rural Development, and Finance & Economic Development as well as Associations engaged in the targeted sub-sectors.

The project contract has last April been awarded to Fintrae, "a leading US agribusiness consulting firm."

## New diarrhea cases kill 40 in Regions

By Dagnachew Teklu

ADDIS ABEBA- 49 people died of the newly reported Acute Watery (AWD) said to be spreading in the country bringing the total death toll to 182.

Last week the Ministry of Health (MoH) reported that the number of people who died of AWD was 129.

However, during the last few days more and more people are reported to have died from the new Diarrhea case, mainly in the Southern regional state of the coun-

try.

"Last week, 1,608 AWD new cases with 49 deaths were reported across the country, brining the total case number to 19,176 with 182 deaths," UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) said on Tuesday.

Officials at the MoH also confirmed the death of around 50 people in and out side Addis Ababa.

Two people died from AWD in

Continued on page 3

## Country's road network Poor despite growing construction sector

FOREIGN COMPANIES TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ILL EQUIPPED LOCAL ONES

By Yonas Abiye

ADDIS ABEBA - Although the increasing number of capital and investment in the construction sector in general have resulted in a marked growth of the sector, this has not been the case with construction of roads in the country and the road network remains poor, a report revealed.

This was stated at a half day tax awareness workshop that Revenue Authority (FIRA) organized in collaboration with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) for the construction sector.

The report released by FIRA said it was true that favorable investment climate for the construction sector has driven a significant number of local and foreign investments, but

that has not been reflected on improvement of country's infrastructure.

According to the report, Ethiopia's road network is one of the lowest in the world as measured in terms of Road Destiny per 1000 km<sup>2</sup> and road destiny per 1000 population, making the country one of the least networked nation in sub-Sahara Africa, the others being Mali, Niger, Mauritania and the Sudan.

The reports called for an increased involvement of foreign and local companies in the construction of roads and dams.

The report also revealed domestic construction companies suffer from lack of capacity as compared with

Continued on page 3

## Lucy to go to USA

By Dagnachew Teklu

ADDIS ABEBA 'Lucy' aka 'Dinkesh', the famed paleontological discovery of human fossils dating back to 3.5 million years, will

Ethiopian Culture and Tourism officials said Lucy's fossil will be taken to a museum in the US as part of the new national campaign recently launched to promote tourism



be traveling to the US, officials disclosed.

Minister of Culture and Tourism, Ambassador Mohammed Dirir, said the Lucy's exact date of departure was not yet decided but preparations are underway to finalize the necessary preparation.

According to Dirir, the country's share of receipts from global tourism remains meager.

Continued on page 3

## Repatriation of refugees hampered by lack of funds

By Our Staff Writer

ADDIS ABEBA-Unless additional funding received, UNHCR will be forced to suspend all repatriation movements from Ethiopia for the remainder of 2006, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs OCHA indicated in a report.

OCHA said the financial con-

straint also affects the repatriation of Sudanese refugees from Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR).

A tripartite agreement for the repatriation of the refugees was signed between UNHCR, Ethiopia and Sudanese Governments in February 2006, said the report.

To date, the report said, 2,542 refugees from Bonga and Sherokole camps have voluntarily returned to their country in organized movements.

According to the report, there are 70,000 Sudanese refugees currently living in five camps in Ethiopia.

Out of this, approximately 17,000 refugees have registered to be repatriated the report said.