

# Ethiopian forces push back against rebels

Ethiopia's government says it has recaptured two strategic towns from Tigrayan rebel fighters, the latest in a series of territorial gains claimed by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's administration

📍 Towns recently recaptured by pro-government forces



**Abiy Ahmed** (above) rose to power in 2018, ushering in political reforms that sidelined TPLF – party which had dominated Ethiopia's central government for almost 30 years



## TIMELINE OF ETHIOPIA'S TIGRAY CONFLICT

■ **Nov 2020:** Conflict erupts when Abiy sends troops into Tigray to topple **Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF)** – region's ruling party. Abiy accuses TPLF of attacking Ethiopian army base

■ **Jun 28, 2021:** Government announces ceasefire after TPLF retakes regional capital, Mekele

■ **Aug 5:** TPLF captures UNESCO World Heritage site of Lalibela, as conflict spreads to neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar

■ **Oct 29-31:** TPLF seizes strategic towns of Dessie and Kombolcha, situated on main A2 highway leading to Addis Ababa

■ **Nov 2:** Government declares nationwide state of emergency and calls on citizens to arm themselves to defend capital

■ **Dec:** Abiy's administration claims series of victories against rebels, including recapture of Shewa Robit and Lalibela (Dec 1), followed by Dessie and Kombolcha (Dec 6)