

WORLD EXCLUSIVE DIANA DOC ON CHARITY SAVING LIVES IN ETHIOPIA

From SHARON HENDRY
in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

MOST of football-mad Tiliku Kebede's heroes are Manchester United players – except the one sitting by his bedside in intensive care, Dr Hasnat Khan.

Tiliku, a 14-year-old Ethiopian orphan, has just had his heart valves repaired by the cardiac surgeon in a four-hour op after a decade of grinding illness, and he cannot wait to begin a healthy life.

The Red Devils-obsessed teenager said: "Dr Khan and his team have helped me to start my life again and do everything I've ever dreamed of.

"Now I can dance, play football and one day my dream is to become an engineer.

"If I can concentrate better at school and get a good education I can help other children.

"I want to help children who live on the streets."

Tiliku's saviour is a man who has spent years shunning the limelight since his love affair with Princess Diana, which lasted from 1995 to 1997.

But now the surgeon – based at Basildon University Hospital in Essex – wants the focus to be on the work of his elite and dedicated cardiac team who are saving lives in Ethiopia.

Dr Khan, 54, said: "I looked at Tiliku today after surgery and thought, 'Now this boy has a chance'. He could grow up to be anything. He could even be a politician and change his entire nation."

'Now Tiliku can join our football club'

The Sun visited the capital Addis Ababa to see Tiliku's orphanage – a government-run refuge for 200 boys aged from seven to 16. Tiliku has lived there since he was four.

How and why he was parted from his parents is too painful for the youngster to reveal, but in a country still ravaged by poverty and disease, his tragedy is sadly not unusual.

A group of his friends emerged across a rubble-strewn yard and gave us a tour of their basic but dignified home, which consists of sparse bunk-beds and a dimly lit kitchen serving up small plates of spaghetti and bread for lunch.

They said earnestly: "Please tell Tiliku's doctor a big thank you from us.

"He has saved our brother. Before he could hardly breathe or walk. Now he can join our football club."

These lads have it tough – even in a country where almost everybody struggles.

Ethiopia is showing signs of economic progress but 78 per cent of the country's 86million people still have to live on £1 day.

And the life expectancy of the average local is around 59 years – hardly surprising given that state health expenditure is just £13 per person per year. That compares to £2,029 per person in the UK.

For every 1,000 children five years old and younger there are 166 deaths.

And preventable diseases including malaria account for at least 60 per cent of its health problems. Dr Khan's Ethiopian team is determined to make a difference.

It is made up

I looked at Tiliku after surgery and thought now this boy has a chance

– Dr HASNAT KHAN

Become a link
in the
chain of hope

HELP send Dr Khan and more volunteer teams of doctors and nurses to help save Ethiopian children suffering from heart disease by sending a donation.

ONLINE: Go to chainofhope.org

CHEQUE: Make payable to Chain Of Hope and send it to: Chain Of Hope, South Parade, Chelsea, London SW3 6NP.

TEXT: Text COHE02 £2 or £5 or £10 to 70070.

NEW
BEGINNING
... Tiliku is
checked on by
Dr Khan after
life-saving op

of experienced doctors, nurses and technicians from hospitals including Basildon and London's Royal Brompton and Harefield – as well as Ethiopian colleagues.

The British members

have taken unpaid leave to volunteer in the east African nation for UK charity Chain Of Hope. Fresh despite an eight-hour flight, they have immediately decamped to the Cardiac Centre Ethiopia, a shiny new building that sits proudly in the centre of bustling Addis Ababa.

It was set up in 2009 following a £500,000 donation from Chain Of Hope to fund two cardiac operating theatres and a six-bed intensive care unit.

The centre had been the dream of Ethiopian doctor Belay Abegaz for 20 years.

He travelled the dusty roads of his country trying to raise money to make it a reality by trumpeting the slogan: "One birr for one heart".

One birr is the equivalent of just three

pence. Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub, the eminent UK heart surgeon who founded the Chain Of Hope charity to provide heart care to the developing world, heard of Dr Abegaz's quest and stepped forward to help.

In 2009, Professor Yacoub led the first Chain Of Hope volunteer medical mission to Ethiopia, which saved 12 children's lives.

'The lives of all children must have equal value'

Since then, the world's leading consultants such as Professor Yacoub and Dr Khan have treated 700 children and young adults in Addis Ababa.

They are also training Ethiopian doctors and nurses so the project can one day be self-sustaining.

Dr Khan said: "When I'm doing the surgery on these missions, I'm really, really stressed because I

want everything to go right. Back home, there is a lot of support. Everything is set up for you and you just do your job.

"In countries like Ethiopia it's different because we're working in unfamiliar surroundings."

The normally reclusive surgeon has put himself at the forefront of Chain Of Hope's quest to raise more money for Ethiopian children.

Dr Khan said: "Bill Gates makes his argument for aid by talking about the lives of all children having equal value and he's right.

"We must also make sure this is reflected in medicine and healthcare.

"When a child becomes sick in the UK, everything is done for them. In

AFFAIR... Dr Khan
romanced Diana
from 1995 to 1997

Ethiopia and other poor countries, nothing is done.

"They are lucky if something – anything – is done for them.

"Without surgery, these children we treat have no chance to grow or have a normal physical life, go to school, get married.

"They have no access to healthcare, there is no safety net for them, no NHS."

During this mission, Dr Khan and his team are treating nine patients, at a cost of around £30,000 to the charity.

Most of Dr Khan's Ethiopian patients suffer from rheumatic heart disease, a condition that has now been all but eradicated in the Western world. It is a

result of rheumatic fever, which can attack the valves of the heart if left untreated and require surgery.

But Ethiopia is just one of the countries Dr Khan visits to treat sick children for Chain Of Hope.

He flies out on two or three medical missions every year, to countries including Mozambique, Egypt and Pakistan, where he was born. Everywhere, the children bowl him over – and some get under his skin.

'It's amazing how quickly people get better'

He said: "I will never forget this little boy in Pakistan who just couldn't stop running around after his heart op.

"I don't think he'd ever been able to run in his life before – for him it was such a novelty. He just kept looking at me and smiling. Those moments stay with you in life."

It might sound like surgery was

a vocation for Dr Khan – but actually, just like Tiliku, he grew up dreaming of being an engineer.

He explained: "My dad was studying at a London university so I moved to England with my family when I was six months old.

"After he graduated we moved back to Pakistan, where he set up a business in the glass industry.

"I always wanted to be an engineer because I grew up watching my dad in his factory but my maths was terrible and I had to admit defeat.

"My mum suggested medicine. My grandfather was a professor of orthopedics and my uncle was a heart surgeon so there was some family history.

"After I qualified as a doctor I spent four years in Sydney and that's where I started doing heart surgery. I quickly became passion-

ate about it because it's challenging but it's amazing how quickly people get better.

"You might see an old man who can't walk his dog and that really matters to him. After surgery, the quality of life changes completely and it's very rewarding."

For Ethiopian doctor Belay Abegaz, who first dreamed of building a cardiac centre in his home country more than two decades ago ago, just watching Dr Khan at work has been something he will never forget.

He said: "We didn't give him simple cases this week but the surgery he performed has been quick and successful. I am very excited by his work.

"I want to tie him to this spot and keep him here in Ethiopia for ever."

s.hendry@the-sun.co.uk

CARE
... with
colleague
Paolo Bosco
at work in
Addis Ababa

POVERTY
... the
state-run
orphanage
where
Tiliku lives

ROOM
MATES...
Tiliku's pals
in their
orphanage
dormitory

PRIDE...
Dr Khan at
hospital
part-funded
by charity
donations

Pictures: MARC GIDDINGS

A dream team for sci-fi film

By STEPHEN MOYES

ARNOLD Schwarzenegger's teenage love child is being considered for a role in the new Terminator film.

Producers are planning for Joseph Baena, 16, to portray a younger version of the T-800 in the new story of the sci-fi classic.

Joseph, conceived from Arnie's fling with housekeeper Patty Baena – is a dead-ringer for his Hollywood star father.

The sports-mad teen has just been treated to a gym by his dad Arnie, who has been bonding with his son since his affair emerged in 2011.

Movie bosses feel the back-story on how the cyborg assassin took over Arnie's frame could work with Joseph in the role.

An LA movie source said: "At this stage it is just an idea – Arnie would need to sign off on it, but it would make the kid an overnight star."

The film, said to be released around June 2015, will be Arnie's fourth time playing the leading role.

While Paramount Pictures are keeping plot details secret, they did say the film is the first of an entire new trilogy.

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CLASHES IN CAIRO

RIOT police fired tear gas at Islamist supporters of ousted President Mursi marching to Cairo's Tahrir Square, Egypt, on Friday