ERITREA PROFILE

Vol. 33 No. 22 | *Saturday, 14 November, 2026* | *Pages 8, Price 2.00 NFA*

RESOLVE TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL RESILIENCE



At public seminars conducted from 5 to 8 November for nationals residing in the US and the Netherlands, participants expressed their resolve to strengthen organizational capacity and unity and to play their due part in the national resilience program.

At seminars conducted in the US cities of Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Denver, Mr. Berhane Gebrehiwet, Chargé d'Affaires at the Eritrean Embassy, provided detailed briefings on the objective situation in the homeland and called on nationals to strengthen their resilience and assume their timely national responsibilities.

Ms. Hadinet Keleta, head of Public and Community Affairs, also conducted a similar seminar for nationals in Los Angeles, while Mr. Al-Nur Humed conducted a seminar for nationals in Minneapolis. Dr. Gideon Abay and Mr. Mihreteab Andebrhan, heads of national committees, conducted seminars for nationals in Raleigh and Orlando, focusing on the objective situation in the homeland in relation to regional and global developments.



Likewise, Mr. Negassi Kasa, Eritrea's Ambassador to the European Union, and Mr. Kibreab Tewolde, head of Consular Affairs, conducted seminars for nationals in the Dutch cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Tilburg, Arnhem, Zwolle, and Amersfoort, focusing on the objective situation in the homeland as well as regional and global developments.

In the same vein, the Geneva and Biel-Bienne branches of the National Union of Eritrean Women held their congress on 8 November.

At the congress, Ms. Sara Woldeabzgi, chairperson of the union's branch in Switzerland, said that strong efforts will be made to enhance the participation and contribution of Eritrean women to the national resilience program and to nurture competent youth who adhere to national values. She also called on all sub-branches of the union to work earnestly toward that end.

The participants held extensive discussions on the issues raised at the congress and elected an executive committee for a two-year term.

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR HIS REVEREND ABUNE LUCAS



Funeral services for His Reverend Abune Lucas, Administrator of the Office of the Patriarch, Member of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Tewahdo Church, and Archbishop of the Southern Region (Adi-Keih Section), were held on 11 November at Debre Libanos Monastery in Ham.

The funeral services were preceded by extended prayers at St. Mary Church in Asmara in the early morning hours of Wednesday.

The Book of Condolences was also signed by senior Government and PFDJ officials, religious leaders, and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

His Reverend Abune Lucas, Administrator of the Office of the Patriarch, Member of the Holy Synod of the Orthodox Tewahdo Church, and Archbishop of the Southern Region (Adi-Keih Section), passed away at the age of 94 due to illness.

TRAINING IN ADMINISTRATION TO MEMBERS OF THE POLICE AND REHABILITATION AND PRISON SERVICE

The Dekemhare Police and Security Training Center provided training in administration to 55 members of the Police and the Rehabilitation and Prison Service.

The Public Relations Office of the Eritrean Police indicated that the theoretical and practical training covered administration, law, public relations, and reporting.

Mr. Andom Mosazgi, head of training at the center, said that the trainees were from various police stations and the Rehabilitation and Prison Service, and commended the interest they demonstrated during the program.

The trainees, for their part, said that the knowledge they gained from the training will significantly contribute to facilitating their daily activities at their workplaces.



PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM TO BOOST VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION

A promotional activity aimed at increasing the number of voluntary blood donors and instilling a culture of voluntary blood donation in society was conducted in Adi-Keih town from 9 to 12 November.

At the promotional program organized by the Voluntary Blood Donors Association in the sub-zone, Mr. Kiros Gebremariam, chairman of the association, said that the objective of the program was to enhance public understanding of the role of voluntary blood donation in saving lives.

Mr. Kibrom Shumangus, head of Promotion and Information on Voluntary Blood Donation at Adi-Keih Hospital, provided a detailed briefing on the history of blood donation in Eritrea, the health benefits of blood donation, the mission and objectives of the Blood Transfusion Service, as well as ongoing programs aimed at minimizing health consequences arising from blood shortages.

Noting that blood donation is a voluntary and humanitarian initiative, Mr. Woldeab Gebrezgiabhier, head of health services, called for greater public participation.

Mr. Habtai Tesfazgi, administrator of the sub-zone, for his part, called on the public to strengthen their participation in saving lives through regular blood donation.

At the event, members of the Voluntary Blood Donors Association elected a new executive committee.



Development

Strengthening Eritrea's Healthcare System Through International Medical Cooperation



By: Kidane – Shimendi

Eritrea's healthcare sector has benefited significantly from sustained international medical cooperation, particularly in the provision of specialized treatment for children. A prime example is the International Operation Center for Children in Asmara (IOCCA), an initiative that has saved thousands of young lives while transferring vital medical knowledge and strengthening local clinical capacity.

What began in 1995 through the commitment of German medical professionals has gradually evolved into a comprehensive partnership spanning pediatric cardiac surgery, neurosurgery, neonatal care, general pediatric surgery, ophthalmology, and plastic surgery.

Dr. Peter Schwidtal, a German specialist in internal medicine, began his engagement in Eritrea in the spring of 1995, shortly after the country's independence. Initially, he visited to assess children's medical needs and identify ways to support patients requiring complex care. At the time, he worked with the German humanitarian organization Hammer Forum, which arranged free surgeries for children in Germany. Following his initial assessment, Dr. Schwidtal returned in autumn 1995 with a team of orthopedic and eye surgeons, and subsequent missions enabled roughly 20 to 25 Eritrean children to travel to Germany twice a year for free operations.

However, the growing number of children diagnosed with congenital heart conditions presented a formidable challenge. Because performing cardiac procedures in Germany was prohibitively expensive, Dr. Schwidtal and renowned German pediatric cardiac surgeon Dr. Andreas Urban explored the feasibility of conducting these operations directly in Eritrea. (In 2010, Dr. Schwidtal went on to found ARCHEMED – Ärzte für Kinder in Not e.V., the German organization that continues to coordinate these missions today.)

Following discussions with Eritrea's Ministry of Health, a dedicated building at Orotta Referral Hospital was allocated for the project. In April 2002, the center performed its first pediatric cardiac operation, marking a major milestone in Eritrea's healthcare development.

According to Dr. Schwidtal, approximately 1,700 children have since undergone cardiac surgery at the center, achieving a postoperative mortality rate of less than two percent. Today, three cardiac surgical teams visit twice a year, conducting a total of six missions annually.

Beyond cardiac surgery, the partnership has broadened to encompass neurosurgery, general pediatric surgery, ophthalmology, and plastic surgery—including reconstructive care for children suffering from severe burns.

Another landmark achievement has been the expansion of neonatal services. Following a request for support in treating infants born with very low birth weights, a dedicated neonatal unit—known as Ward A—was established in 2003. Originally accommodating 16 infants, the ward has expanded to care for approximately 40 to 50 newborns at a time, with survival rates improving considerably to roughly 80 percent.

Recognizing the financial and logistical hurdles families face when traveling to Asmara, the initiative has also extended its services to Keren, Barentu, and Mendefera, bringing specialized care closer to communities across the country.

Professor Martina Messing-Juenger, a member of the German neurosurgical team, noted that their collaboration in Eritrea began in January 2016, initially focusing on children with congenital brain and spinal malformations alongside other neurological conditions. She commended the preparedness, discipline, and motivation of Eritrean medical personnel, noting that their dedication encouraged the visiting specialists to steadily expand the complexity of surgical procedures performed.

Crucially, the partnership prioritizes hands-on training for local surgeons, anesthetists, and operating-room nurses. Each visiting team—typically comprising six to ten specialists—works side-by-side with Eritrean counterparts to build self-sustaining surgical expertise.

Professor Messing-Juenger expressed confidence that continued collaboration will enable Eritrea to field fully independent specialized neurosurgical teams. Alongside surgical intervention, she stressed the importance of preventing neurological conditions and congenital malformations, particularly hydrocephalus (an accumulation of cerebrospinal fluid in the brain that causes abnormal enlargement of the head) and spina bifida (an open spinal defect). While hydrocephalus frequently occurs alongside spina bifida, it can also develop independently following early infections such as meningitis.

Continued on page 4

ERITREA PROFILE

Published Every
Wednesday & Saturday

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SpotLight

Towards a Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Future

Bana Negusse

The 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) is taking place from November 9 to 20, 2026, at the Antalya Expo Center in Antalya, Türkiye. With more than 92,000 registered participants, COP31 is also provisionally the largest UN climate conference ever held. Türkiye is officially hosting the conference, with Australia serving as President of Negotiations. Against a backdrop of record-breaking temperatures, escalating climate impacts, and growing energy insecurity, COP31 comes at a critical moment for global climate action. With increasing emphasis on moving beyond high-level commitments towards tangible implementation of the Paris Agreement, discussions are focused on some of the most pressing priorities, including climate finance, adaptation, and the transition away from fossil fuels. Among the prominent proposals being considered is the 35-by-35 Global Electrification Pledge, which aims to increase electricity's share of global final energy consumption to 35% by 2035.

Beyond the negotiations and global commitments, however, COP31 also provides an important opportunity to reflect on how climate change is affecting countries differently, particularly those with limited resources and a high degree of vulnerability. For Eritrea, a young developing nation situated in one of the world's most climate-exposed regions, many of the issues at the center of the summit are not simply matters of international policy but pressing national realities.

Eritrea faces a range of climate-related and environmental hazards, including recurrent droughts, floods, storms, high coastal winds, locust infestations, and volcanic activity. Since the 1960s, national temperatures have risen by approximately 1.7°C, at an average rate of 0.37°C per decade, significantly above the global mean. Meanwhile, Eastern Africa, including Eritrea, has experienced increasingly frequent precipitation extremes, ranging from prolonged droughts to intense and damaging rainfall. These changing conditions place considerable pressure on the country's already vulnerable ecosystems, agricultural systems, water resources, and livelihoods.

Additionally, Eritrea ranks high on the United Nations' Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI), reflecting its exposure to environmental and economic shocks. Yet, despite contributing less than 0.01% of global cumulative greenhouse gas emissions, the country bears a disproportionate share of the consequences of climate change, particularly through severe and prolonged droughts. This disparity underscores the broader climate justice challenge facing vulnerable developing countries: those that have contributed least to the problem are often among those most severely affected by it.

Despite these challenges, Eritrea has continued to invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and rehabilitation. Its efforts span international commitments, national policy development, and practical interventions at the community level. The country has ratified several international climate agreements, including the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol in 2023, committing to the gradual reduction of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), potent greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. The country has also drafted its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), reaffirming its commitment to climate action. The NDC outlines both unconditional and conditional emission-reduction targets. Using its own resources, Eritrea has committed to reducing emissions by 8.6% below the business-as-usual scenario, while with adequate international support, it estimates that it could achieve a 24.4% reduction by 2030, bringing emissions below 2018 levels. The latter represents the country's highest level of ambition and highlights the importance of international cooperation and climate finance in enabling developing countries to pursue more ambitious climate action.

On the ground, much of Eritrea's adaptation work has focused on strengthening water security, conserving land, and protecting vulnerable communities and livelihoods. The country has established protected areas and enclosures, expanded sustainable irrigation schemes, including drip and sprinkler systems, and constructed hundreds of terraces, dams, and ponds. Since independence, the number of dams of all sizes has increased from 138 to more than 800, collectively impounding hundreds of millions of cubic meters of water, with additional projects in planning or development. Plans to desalinate seawater for domestic and economic use are also underway. At the community level, households and communities, particularly in vulnerable areas, receive targeted support in adopting adaptation strategies and technologies. These interventions are helping to reduce vulnerability, strengthen resilience, and safeguard livelihoods in the face of increasingly unpredictable climatic conditions.

Alongside adaptation, renewable energy remains a national priority, both to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and to lower emissions from power generation. Eritrea is working to improve energy efficiency and promote cleaner alternatives across transport, manufacturing, and household consumption. One notable intervention has been the introduction of improved traditional stoves, locally known as "Adhanet." Designed by the Ministry of Energy and Mines and distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture, these stoves reduce energy consumption by approximately 50%, while helping to minimize deforestation and reduce associated health and safety hazards. Since their introduction in 1998, more than 170,000 units have been installed nationwide, making them an important example of how locally appropriate technologies can contribute to both environmental protection and improved household well-being.



Eritrea is also making efforts to expand access to electricity through the development and deployment of renewable energy, particularly solar power. With some of the highest solar energy potential in the world, the country is well positioned to harness this abundant resource to address its energy needs and accelerate its transition towards cleaner energy. Among the ongoing initiatives is the Dekemhare solar project, alongside several smaller solar energy projects being developed in the Gash-Barka region. In addition, Eritrea is progressing on a national plan to establish 12 standalone energy grids across the country, with renewable energy playing an important role in expanding electricity access, particularly in remote and underserved communities. These initiatives reflect the country's efforts to develop more diversified, sustainable, and locally appropriate energy systems while reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels.

Recognizing that addressing climate change requires collective effort, Eritrea also engages in cooperation and partnerships with various international and development partners. These partnerships are guided by principles of mutual respect, national ownership, and alignment with the country's development priorities, with an emphasis on addressing existing capacity, technological, and resource gaps. The approach seeks to strengthen local capabilities, preserve national autonomy, and ensure that externally supported initiatives respond to actual needs and contribute to sustainable, locally owned development.

Equally important is the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of the country's natural environment. Nationwide afforestation campaigns bring together communities, students, and youth groups, while complementary water and soil conservation programmes help protect ecosystems, combat land degradation, and sustain agricultural productivity. These efforts recognize the important role that healthy ecosystems play in strengthening resilience to climate change, particularly in a country where land and natural resources are closely linked to the livelihoods of much of the population.

Crucially, Eritrea is also placing increasing emphasis on environmental education and public awareness, particularly among young people, recognizing that lasting climate action requires not only policies and investments but also a population that understands the challenges and its role in addressing them. Sustainability, climate, and environmental issues have been integrated into school curricula, helping students develop relevant knowledge and practical skills from an early age. This growing emphasis on awareness is also reflected in the creativity and ingenuity of Eritrean youth. For instance, a few weeks ago, an innovation competition held in Asmara showcased a range of cutting-edge, locally developed solutions by young Eritreans from diverse backgrounds, highlighting the country's growing potential for homegrown innovation in climate action and sustainability.

Overall, Eritrea's experience reflects both the severity of the climate crisis facing vulnerable countries and the importance of sustained, locally driven responses. Despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, the country is pursuing a range of measures spanning adaptation, renewable energy, ecosystem restoration, environmental education, and youth-led innovation. While significant challenges remain, these efforts demonstrate a continued commitment to building resilience and pursuing a more sustainable future. They also reinforce a central message of the global climate discussions at COP31: countries on the frontlines of climate change need not only the space to shape the global climate agenda but also the financial, technological, and institutional support necessary to translate their commitments into meaningful action.

Culture & Arts

A Glimpse into Kunama Society: Heritage, Matrilineal Power, and Enduring Traditions

By: Lwam Kahsay

Nestled in the fertile plains of southwestern Eritrea, where lush landscapes sustain thriving agriculture and pastoralism, lives one of the nation's oldest indigenous communities: the Kunama. Making up roughly two percent of Eritrea's population, the Kunama possess rich cultural traditions, a distinct linguistic identity, and social structures that set them apart from neighboring ethnic groups. While modernity and globalization have inevitably reshaped aspects of daily life, core Kunama values—centered on communal harmony, female leadership, and vibrant artistic expression—continue to captivate historians, anthropologists, and fellow Eritreans alike.



Origins, Language, and Clan Identity

Historical and oral traditions trace the origins of the Kunama to the southern shores of the Nile River, placing them among the earliest known inhabitants of the region that now comprises modern-day Eritrea. Unlike most of Eritrea's ethnic groups, whose languages belong to the Afro-Asiatic family, the Kunama's language is classified under the Nilo-Saharan linguistic phylum, specifically within the Chari-Nile branch. This unique linguistic heritage serves as a powerful bond, fostering deep solidarity and mutual understanding across their settlements.

Alongside this strong sense of unity, the Kunama social fabric is intricately organized into four major clans: the Shuwa, the Karawa, the Gurma, and the Serma. Each clan maintains a distinct identity represented by sacred totems and symbols, traditionally displayed atop family homes as emblems of heritage and belonging. The Shuwa clan is identified by a native bird known as the kumbraza; the Gurma bears the symbol of the elephant's trunk; the Serma is represented by the horn of a bull; and the Karawa is marked by the sign of the moon. Far more than mere decoration, these emblems serve as enduring markers of lineage, kinship, and social responsibility.

Matrilineal Authority

Perhaps the most defining feature of the Kunama—and one that sharply distinguishes it from the patriarchal norms prevalent across much of the Horn of Africa—is its matrilineal social system. Within Kunama communities, lineage and inheritance are traced through the mother's line, and women occupy the central seat of authority both inside the household and in broader civic life.

As the heads of their families, Kunama women command profound respect, loyalty, and decision-making power. Their influence extends well beyond domestic management; they are the primary architects of community events, social gatherings, and sacred ceremonies. While men contribute significantly through farming, herding, and public deliberation, the stabilizing force of the Kunama society rests firmly on the hands of its women, whose leadership ensures social cohesion and continuity across generations.

Customs of Courtship and Marriage

This matrilineal ethos is vividly reflected in Kunama customs of marriage, which treat matrimony as a sacred union built strictly upon mutual consent and individual agency. Forced marriages are entirely alien to Kunama culture; no family would compel a daughter to wed against her wishes. Instead, marriage unfolds through four deliberate, celebratory stages: the initial proposal, the formal engagement, the Toba Falla (the setting of the wedding date), and finally, the wedding celebration itself. Each milestone is made colorful by feasts and the reciprocal exchange of gifts.

True to their social structure, women initiate the marriage process. The journey begins when the groom's mother, accompanied by her sisters, visits the home of the prospective bride and presents gifts. During this visit, the women engage in dialogue with the prospective bride's family, formally requesting her hand on behalf of their son. Rather than offering an immediate answer, the parents promise to consult their daughter. Then the two families set a date for a follow-up meeting, and before parting, they say their prayers and blessings. Once the matter is presented to the young woman, the final decision rests entirely in her hands. Only upon her approval do preparations for the engagement and wedding commence.

Following the wedding, Kunama tradition diverges once more from regional norms. Rather than relocating immediately to the groom's household, the newlyweds spend their honeymoon period at the bride's family home. This arrangement ensures that the bride receives abundant care, comfort, and emotional support from her relatives during her transition into married life. Three days after the wedding, the couple is honored with a cherished gift-giving ceremony known as Anjiba Teda, during which the bride's father and maternal uncles present cattle to the newlyweds, providing them with a vital economic foundation for their future together.

Rites of Passage: The Ana Ella

Historically, transitioning from youth to adulthood in Kunama society required passing a rigorous initiation ceremony known as Ana Ella. Comparable to the Miwtag among the Bilen or the Shingelot among the Tigre, the Ana Ella took place annually in September for sixteen-year-old boys. Designed to test both physical endurance and psychological resilience, the rite determined whether young men were prepared to shoulder the responsibilities of adulthood. Until a youth successfully completed this ordeal, he was not recognized as a full member of society.

A boy's social standing was immediately visible through his hairstyle. Those who had passed the Ana Ella earned the right to grow out their hair, styling it into full Afros or intricate braids. Conversely, uninitiated boys—or those who had not yet reached the age of sixteen—had the sides of their heads shaved, signaling to the entire community that they were still children.

The Ana Ella itself spanned four to five grueling days, pushing initiates to their physical limits through long-distance endurance marches, fasting from food and water, swimming across rivers, and enduring strikes from the churaf, a traditional whip crafted from animal hide. Emerging victorious from this trial transformed a boy's status overnight. Graduates were welcomed into adulthood with full civic rights: they could herd cattle day and night, marry and start families, participate in communal festivities, and give opinions and judgments before the village assembly. Today, while global influences and modern education have largely phased out the physical rigors of the Ana Ella, the memory of the rite remains a proud symbol of Kunama fortitude.

Mourning, Music, and Celebratory Joy

Kunama customs surrounding death and mourning are equally distinctive, blending deep respect with quiet dignity. When a community member passes away, the body is carefully washed and adorned with precious ornaments before burial. If the deceased is an elderly man or woman, the funeral procession becomes a communal tribute that includes traditional songs celebrating a long, well-lived life. Notably, surviving spouses observe a unique mourning protocol: a widow does not attend her husband's funeral, nor does a widower attend his wife's, choosing instead to grieve privately within their home.

Yet, if Kunama society is solemn in mourning, it is unmatched in celebratory joy. Across Eritrea, the Kunama are known for their vibrant traditional attire, captivating rhythms, and dynamic dances. At the heart of their musical heritage is the Abangalla, an iconic traditional instrument played with a distinctive technique that anchors their energetic melodies. When the music begins, Kunama dancers captivate onlookers with expressive movements characterized by rhythmic foot-stamping, torso twisting, and spirited hip-shaking. Whether performed at local harvest festivals or national celebrations, Kunama music and dance radiate an infectious vitality—inviting everyone to marvel at and celebrate one of Eritrea's most treasured cultural legacies.

Strengthening Eritrea's . . . . .

Continued from page 2

To reduce the prevalence of these conditions, Professor Messing-Juenger underscored the value of fortifying staple foods—such as salt and flour—with folic acid. Adequate folic acid intake can reduce the incidence of neural tube defects by as much as 60 to 70 percent, an approach backed by a United Nations resolution and already adopted by several African nations.

The long-term impact of this collaboration is clearly visible in the professional growth of young Eritrean physicians. Dr. Yonatan Fitsum, who graduated in 2020 and served in Assab for two years before being reassigned to Halibet Hospital in Asmara, is currently a first-year general surgery resident at Orotta Referral Hospital. He has recently assisted in pediatric neurosurgical procedures for patients under 15 alongside Professor Messing-Juenger's team.

Dr. Yonatan described the visiting missions as a vital avenue for knowledge exchange and practical mentorship. Through direct participation in surgeries, clinical discussions, and training workshops, young doctors gain hands-on experience that would otherwise be difficult to access. Between international missions, local physicians continue performing routine procedures and conducting clinical research, while consulting visiting specialists on complex cases ahead of subsequent visits. He expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to build these skills and help save children who might otherwise face life-threatening risks due to limited access to specialized care.

Reflecting on nearly three decades of engagement in Eritrea, Dr. Schwidtal described the country's greatest asset as its young generation, praising the intelligence, ambition, and dedication of Eritrean healthcare workers. Their commitment and compassionate care for young patients and their families remain the primary reasons international teams return year after year. For Dr. Schwidtal, the bond has grown far beyond professional duty: "Eritrea is my second home," he said.

The experiences of these medical teams demonstrate that international cooperation achieves its highest value when it looks beyond immediate clinical aid. By strengthening local institutions, transferring specialized expertise, and investing in preventive health, this partnership has laid a durable foundation—ensuring that more Eritrean children have the opportunity to survive, grow, and lead healthy lives.

SpotLight

Flying High Together: The Chinese Kite Festival Sets the Stage for a Greater Eritrea-China Friendship

By: Kesete Gebrehiwet

Every child dreams of flying a kite as high as possible. In Eritrea, this aspiration has long been part of everyday life. From an early age, children craft their own kites using simple materials at hand—colorful plastic sheets, slender wooden sticks, and string—before sending them into the sky. Known locally as Alel Felel, kite-flying is more than a childhood pastime; it



represents innocence, creativity, friendship, and the simple joy of growing up together.

In China, kite-flying is likewise a deeply rooted tradition carrying centuries of history and cultural significance. Although Eritrea and China have distinct histories and customs, the universal joy of flying kites is something their people naturally share—offering a natural bridge to bring both societies closer, particularly among younger generations.

Against this backdrop, the annual Chinese Kite Cultural Festival in Eritrea has matured into a premier platform for cultural exchange. Its eighth edition, held on 7 November 2026 at Asmara Stadium under the theme "Eight Years of Ties, China-Eritrea Building a Shared Future," was far more than a celebration of traditional kite-flying. It offered a meaningful occasion to deepen bilateral ties and look toward a future of broader cooperation, mutual understanding, and people-to-people engagement.

The central message was simple yet resonant: just as a kite climbs higher when guided by a steady hand and anchored by a strong string, the friendship between Eritrea and China can reach greater heights through shared commitment, mutual respect, and sustained collaboration.

Growing attendance at the annual festival reflects an expanding appetite among citizens of both countries to share their traditions and experiences. This year's event brought together 46 institutions and drew more than 1,600 participants and spectators from all walks of life. A vibrant parade of contestants and opening cultural presentations immediately set an atmosphere of energy and togetherness.

Following the national anthems of Eritrea and China, Mr. Dai Demao, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Eritrea, delivered the opening remarks. He recalled seeing Eritrean children and youths flying kites across streets, schoolyards, and parks in Asmara—a sight of colorful skies and laughter that, he noted, captures the simple happiness kite-flying brings to daily life.

Mr. Dai urged participants to join hands in holding the kite of China-Eritrea friendship more firmly, flying it higher, and letting it travel further. His words underscored the festival's broader mission: transforming a shared pastime into an enduring bond between two friendly nations. Indeed, the event's steady growth proves that international friendship is not forged through diplomatic agreements alone, but through ordinary people meeting, learning from one another, and building lasting personal connections.



Eritrean Blen Traditional Performance

Expressing delight at the surge in youth participation, Mr. Dai thanked the Eritrean Government and the Confucius Institute for their vital support. Crucially, he emphasized that friendship comes first and competition comes second. While friendly contests add excitement and color, the festival's true value lies in the spirit of camaraderie among participants.

This spirit offers a clear blueprint for the future: cultural events become powerful diplomatic tools when designed not merely as entertainment, but as spaces for genuine human interaction. The festival also affirmed that cultural exchange must be a two-way street—not only introducing Chinese heritage to Eritrean audiences, but creating space for Chinese visitors to experience Eritrea's rich traditions. As Mr. Dai noted, the Chinese Embassy looks forward to participating in major Eritrean occasions, including Independence Day celebrations, while introducing new initiatives in Asmara such as a Chinese Spring Film Festival.

The cultural program at Asmara Stadium vividly brought this mutual exchange to life. Chinese Loong and Ribbon dances shared the stage with traditional Eritrean performances, blending the artistic heritage of both nations. Chinese songs and dances—including "Ode to Coral," the Tibetan piece "Snowy Wheat Fields," the Miao dance "Soul of Miao People," and a children's kite dance—alternated seamlessly with traditional Eritrean music and dances, including vibrant performances in Blen.

Particularly memorable were the Tai Chi and Kung Fu demonstrations performed by young Eritreans. Their involvement illustrated how cultural exchange moves beyond passive observation into



Mr. Dai Demao, Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Embassy

active learning—turning cultural appreciation into a lived personal experience rather than an abstract topic at formal meetings.

The kite-flying competitions drew enthusiastic crowds. Junior and secondary school students took to the green field of Asmara Stadium, showcasing their creativity and competitive spirit. Their energy was especially encouraging, as young people represent the future of Eritrea-China relations, and the friendships



Eritrean Young Ladies Performing Traditional Chinese Dance

formed today lay the groundwork for future educational, cultural, and professional ties.

The adult division was equally impressive. Forty-six institutions—representing government ministries, mining companies, women's and youth associations, student unions, the Confederation of Eritrean Workers, medical teams, the Commission of Culture and Sports, and the China-Eritrea Friendship Group—took part. Their presence demonstrated that the festival has evolved from a children's pastime into a broad civic celebration uniting diverse sectors of society.

Mr. Liu Quan, Director of the Confucius Institute, hailed the festival's success in fostering bilateral goodwill. Jointly organized by the Chinese Embassy, Eritrea's Commission of Culture and Sports, and the Confucius Institute, the event reflected strong institutional commitment on both sides. Established in June 2013 and recognized by Eritrea's Commission of Higher Education and Research Institute as a cultural, training, and educational body, the Confucius Institute has played a central role in promoting Mandarin language studies and cultural dialogue—proving how educational institutions serve as vital bridges between societies.

Looking ahead, the festival provides a strong foundation for deeper engagement. Regular student exchanges, language programs, joint sporting events, film festivals, and community initiatives involving schools, universities, and professional associations can translate annual enthusiasm into year-round partnerships. More broadly, the festival's spirit mirrors wider possibilities for win-win cooperation across education, technology, infrastructure, and trade—efforts strengthened by the trust and goodwill built through people-to-people ties.

Although the formal program concluded with the announcement of winners and presentation of awards, the celebration did not end there. Spectators and participants alike were invited onto the field to fly their own kites, turning the entire audience into active participants—a fitting finale for a gathering dedicated to bringing people together.

Ultimately, the eighth Chinese Kite Cultural Festival served as a reminder that the strongest international bonds are woven from shared experiences and genuine human connection. A kite may look small against the vast sky, yet it carries a powerful message when two nations hold its string together—flying higher toward a greater shared future.

ADS

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Employees of Bisha Mining Share Company are invited to apply for the Following positions.

1. **Position: Mechanical Field Specialist**
   Department: Processing Plant
   Section: Engineering Maintenance
   Number Required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Lead maintenance in the field concentrating on quality of work order instructions, ensure field inspections are correctly performed and issues / follow up work identified and captured by the planning system for scheduling. Ensure that repairs carried out are correctly performed to a high standard of workmanship. Participate in fault finding as necessary. Lead/ mentor and train national supervisory staff and artisans to ensure an effective workforce delivering a reliable process plant with high Mean Time Between Failures and reasonable Time To Repair . Ensure approved shut down plans are adhered to too.

Essential Functions

- Ensures effective, accurate daily inspections that capture emerging issues and follow up work.
- Assist in prioritizing daily work with the main considerations being safety and disruptions to production.
- Ensure work is completed timeously and correctly to a high standard of workmanship.
- Assist with fault finding and diagnosis of problems and implement long term solutions
- Perform workshop and field competency training, identify skills gaps and suggest appropriate training.
- Assists with evaluation of national staff to validate skills for training progression.
- Participate in daily, weekly and shutdown scheduling.
- Ensure shutdown schedules are followed ensuring staff are efficient and perform accurate, high-quality work.
- Be a safety leader and ensure Field Level Risk Assessments, Team Based Risk Assessments are Accurately filled in before work commences.
- Develop SOPs for repetitive work.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS
Planning

- Be part of the team that forecasts and plans mechanical maintenance activities.
- Makes use of "Planned Maintenance Schedule". (Planned Task Document Observation).
- Tracks the use of maintenance and repair parts and orders accordingly.
- Must be able to interpret mechanical and structural drawings for plant improvements and upgrades.
- Uses reliability centered maintenance strategy to ensure availability of equipment
- Participative in RCA workshops to identify recurring issues and find long term solutions.
- Develop ideas/plans to improve production capacity and reliability, follow MOC procedure
- Implement a reliability centered maintenance strategy to ensure availability of equipment

Implementation of the Plan

- Prioritize and manage daily, weekly, monthly, yearly maintenance schedule
- Ensures maintenance and repairs of Maintenance Equipment are carried out in an efficient and effective way to minimize downtime through rework
- Performs regular equipment inspections to detect potential problems before they cause breakdowns.
- Controls downtime by ensuring the best techniques are being used to repair breakdowns.
- Ensure safety requirements are utilized, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.
- Comply with mine's cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules and standards as directed. Identifies any hazards in the workplace.

Writing Reports & Data Control

- Compile daily; monthly performance reports for the department.
- Must be able to use MS projects where project plans are required to achieve goals(deadlines)
- Ensure all repairs, PM and services provided are documented properly in the CMMS
- Able to forecast an OPEX budget and write a formal CAPEX request to management.

Supervise/Manage team

- Provide technical support/motivation for the team, by supervising various activities.
- Provide training for the team (especially safety standards and procedures);
- Conducts daily "Tool Box" meetings with the team.
- Manages time and attendance. Be able to apply skills and transfer knowledge to team members. Ensure proper housekeeping in shop, stores and at worksites.

Unique requirements/other information

- Candidate must be physically medically fit. Candidate must be Mechanically Qualified
- Prior Ball Mill, SAG Mill experience with regards to maintenance and hydraulic fault finding and repairs Primary crusher experiences inclusive of conveyors repair and maintenance
- Proven expertise in diagnosing and repairing complex mechanical systems.
- Strong knowledge of hydraulic, pneumatic and mechanical system.
- Ability to read and interpret technical drawings and specifications.
- Experience with plant maintenance and shutdown
- Must be able to work outside exposed to heat, wind and dusty environments
- Must be able to work at Heights. Must have a Light vehicle license

Knowledge, Experience and Skills

Qualifications:
• Mechanical Degree/Diploma
Knowledge and Experience:
• 10+ years relevant experience in heavy engineering and mining environments. • Experience on a verity of mineral process equipment from a range of Manufacturers

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
• Computer Literacy (MS Office – Intermediate) • Report writing and budgetary skills • Mechanical & Maintenance experience • Problem solving skills • Supervisory experience • Pumping system knowledge and rebuild experience • Reliability, CBM and Planning (MS Projects).	• Communication (English) • Assertiveness • Interpersonal Relations and Integrity • Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling • Ability to work towards strict deadlines • High level of accuracy and Attention to detail • Analytical skill and Self-motivated

2. **Position: Rigger and Cranage Specialist (Rigger)**
   Department: Processing Plant
   Section: Engineering Maintenance
   Number Required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- A Rigger/Operator makes use of cranes, manitous and forklifts to transport, load and offload heavy equipment, machinery, or large heavy cargo such as fixed plant equipment, construction equipment, containers, mobile equipment in the opencast, processing, and underground operations. Riggers are also responsible for preparing the preparations and calculations of lift plan for critical lifts.

Essential Functions

- Setting up and assembling the rigging equipment required for lifting and moving heavy loads.
- Communicating with crane operators to guide them in moving objects and depositing them in the correct location.
- Inspect rigging equipment regularly, identify potential hazards, and take corrective actions to mitigate risks.
- Inspecting and maintaining the rigging gear, as well as repairing or replacing worn-out or damaged components.
- Perform rigging studies to plan a lift and to ensure that the rigging equipment and cranage can safely handle the weight of the load.
- Train national rigging workforce by developing training programs and facilitating the programs.

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS
Planning

- Perform pre-engineering studies (rigging studies) to undertake rigging activities
- Determine the lifting and moving requirements (weight and size of the object)
- Determine the rigging equipment requirements (design, load, length, etc.)

Continued on page 7

ADS

Continued from page 6

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Implementation of the Plan

- Identify the highest priority for each week and focus on completing relevant tasks.
- Ensures good housekeeping.
- Ensures "rigging/cranes/forklift" operations on the mine are carried out in an efficient and effective way to minimise downtime, possibly effecting production. (60-, 70 -,120- & 350-ton cranes)
- Performs regular legal inspections on all lifting equipment (including overhead and tower cranes) on site to detect potential problems before they cause breakdowns.
- Controls downtime by ensuring the best techniques are being used to repair breakdowns.
- Ensure safety requirements are fulfilled at the workplace, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.
- Comply with mine's cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules and standards as directed. Identifies any hazards in the workplace.
- Maintains equipment; parts and supply stocks by carrying out regular stock takes and ordering replacements as required.

General Rigging:

- Inspect rigging equipment for any defects before use
- Splice cables to prevent ends from fraying
- Splice cables according to required standards (Thimbles)
- Sling complex loads and communicate during crane operations.
- Sling normal loads and communicate during crane operations.

Lifting:

- Manage the transportation of abnormal loads
- Supervise advanced mobile crane operations
- Perform pre-use maintenance and inspection on lifting machinery and equipment
- Direct the operation of an overhead crane
- Lift and turn a load
- Lift and move a load using manual lifting equipment and tackle

Writing Reports & Data Control

- Compile daily progress reports for the department. (Action Tracker)
- Demonstrate autonomy in learning through:
- Interacting with and developing, the capacity of team members to maintain and support legislative, regulatory, quality, safety, and health systems.
- Taking the initiative by addressing problems arising from the supervision of lifting and moving tasks.
- Develop rigging training programs as per company requirement and facilitate/ moderate.

Unique requirements/other information

- Candidate must be physically medically fit
- Candidate must be qualified as a rigger
- Must be able to work outside exposed to heat, wind, and dusty environments
- Must be able to work at heights and Underground experience
- Processing plant experience and Opencast experience
- LMI (lifting machinery inspector)
- Rigging Training Coordinator/Facilitator/Moderator

Knowledge, Experience and Skills

Qualifications:
• Grade 12 (Technical School) • Technical College Mechanical/Rigging/Cranes Diploma • Rigging Trade (Expats).
Knowledge and Experience:
• 3 - 5 years relevant experience.

Technical Skills	Behavioral Skills
• Attention to detail • Problem solving skill , High level of accuracy & Supervisory experience. • Ability to work towards strict deadlines • Rigging & Crane experience	• Communication (English) • Self-motivation, Prioritizing skills • Coordination skills • Team and leadership skills • Specialized organizational skills (evaluating, planning and scheduling work).

1. **Position: Boilermaker**
   Department: Processing Plant
   Section: Engineering Maintenance
   Number Required: One (01)

Primary Purpose

- Carries out general "Boilermaker / Welding / Fabrication" work/repairs on allocated equipment. (General repairs; fabrication of steps & handrails; door frames; feed chutes; pipes, etc.).

TASK DESCRIPTION Expanded TO CORE PERFORMANCE AREAS

Planning

- Follows the "Planned Maintenance Schedule". (Work Orders)
- Makes a list of parts and equipment required.

Implementation of the Plan

- Identifies the highest priority for each day and focus on completing relevant tasks.
- Ensures good housekeeping.
- Lays out, positions and secures parts and assemblies according to specifications, using "straight bridge"; combination square; callipers; and ruler.
- Tack-welds or welds components and assemblies, using electric, gas, arc, or other welding equipment. First assesses the area to be welded.
- Operates manual and automated welding units and equipment by depositing metal from electrode to work piece and joins the edges.
- Uses disc grinder to smooth out, weld, or grind parts prior to welding.
- Maintains correct length of arc and speed of movement to form specified depth of fusion and bead.
- Welds in flat and vertical planes (all position welding).
- Examines weld for bead size and other specifications.
- Grinds or cleans weld joint of work piece.
- Fabrication of new or replacement parts for equipment; ladders; walkways; covers; etc.
- Assembles component parts, using hand and small power tools.
- Follows other instructions relating to the position.
- Ensure safety requirements are fulfilled at the work place, including leading Field Level Risk Assessment (FLRA) and proper use of the appropriate PPE. Report any safety issues/incidents.
- Comply with mine's cardinal rules and other safety, environmental or other rules and standards as directed. Identifies any hazards in the work place.
- Attends technical and other training as required by supervisor**.**

Writing Reports & Data Control

- Compile daily; progress reports as requested.

Unique requirements/other information

- Candidate must be physically medically fit
- Must be able to work outside exposed to Heat, wind and dusty environments
- Must be able to work at Height
- Eritrean Driver's License Minimum Code 2 will be an advantage.

Qualifications:
• Formal Trade for Ex-Pats (Boilermaker / Welder). Diploma in Management
Knowledge and Experience:
• 3 - 5 years relevant experience

Technical Skills	Behavioural Skills
• Computer Literacy (MS Office – basic,) • Attention to detail, Analytical skill • Boilermaker & Welding experience • Problem solving skill	• Communication (English) • Integrity & High level of accuracy • Prioritizing skills & multi-skilling • Ability to work towards strict deadlines & Self-motivation.

General Information and other requirements:

- **Place of Work: Bisha.**
- **Salary: As per Company salary scale.**
- **Type of Contract: Indefinite**
- **Candidate must be Physically and Medically fit.**

Additional requirements for Nationals:

- **Having fulfilled his/her National Service obligation and provided evidence of release paper from the Ministry of Defense.**
- **Present clearance paper from current/last employer.**
- **Testimonial documents to be attached (CV, work experience credentials, a copy of your National Identity Card etc.).**
- **Only shortlisted applicants will be considered as potential candidates for an interview.**
- **Application documents will not be returned to sender.**
- **All applications should be sent through the post office.**
- **Deadline for application: 10 days from the day of publication in the Newspaper.**

Address: Please mail your applications to.
Bisha Mining Share Company,
P. O. Box 4276
Asmara, Eritrea
Note to Eritrean applicants:
Please send a copy of your application to
1.Aliens Employment permits Affairs,
P. O. Box 7940
Asmara, Eritrea.

2.Mineral Resources Management
P. O. Box 272
Asmara, Eritrea

Q and A

Dawit Berhane: A Young Artist Shaping His Own Creative Identity

Mussie Efriem

Meet Dawit Berhane, a young Eritrean artist whose artistic journey is marked by curiosity, experimentation, and an ongoing exploration of styles, forms, symbols, and colors. At 22 years of age, he has an impressive body of work, having produced over 300 paintings since he first began painting at the age of six.

Working with a variety of mediums, including watercolor, acrylic, oil paint, and collage incorporating different materials, Dawit always explores new ways of expressing his artistic ideas. As a largely self-taught artist, he draws inspiration from diverse cultural and artistic influences. His work moves between realism, surrealism, impressionism, and Coptic art, sometimes embracing these styles independently and at other times combining them into distinctive compositions.

Driven by an enduring passion for discovery, Dawit approaches art as a continuous process of exploration and experimentation. Each painting represents an opportunity to investigate a new idea, challenge an existing perspective, and discover another dimension of his artistic language. Dawit has recently had his 5th solo art exhibition. Here is an interview with Dawit.



Please, tell us about your artistic journey.

I started painting when I was six. Growing up, I was surrounded by artists, including my father, Berhane Adonai; my uncle, Michael Adonai; my aunt, Elsa Adonai; my older brother, Isaias Berhane; and my cousin, Robel Solomon and others. I think art, in many ways, is my family's legacy. Since as far back as I can remember, art has always been present in our family environment. However, my passion for painting was not simply a result of being surrounded by artists. I developed a genuine love for it from an early age. Their presence and encouragement certainly inspired me, but I also made use of every opportunity available to learn, experiment, and develop my skills. That is how my artistic journey gradually took shape. I still remember putting my first brush to canvas at the age of six, and that moment marked the beginning of a journey that continues to this day.

When did you hold your first exhibition?

My first exhibition was in 2018 when I was 14 years old. By that time, I had already produced around 50 paintings. I approached my father and told him that I was thinking of organizing an exhibition. He encouraged me by simply saying, "Go for it." That encouragement gave me the confidence to organize my first solo exhibition at Seghen Gallery. It was a very special experience for me. Until then, most of the encouragement and appreciation I received came from within my family. However, during the exhibition, I experienced something different. I received positive responses, encouragement, and appreciation from people outside my immediate circle.

That experience became an important turning point in my artistic journey. The motivation I received from visitors was particularly meaningful at that young age. It encouraged me to push further, work harder, and continue developing my artistic practice. Since that first exhibition, I have held five exhibitions in total, each contributing to my growth and allowing me to explore new ideas and directions in my work.

What inspires your paintings, and where do you draw your ideas from?

My inspiration comes from many different sources. I draw ideas from my surroundings, cultural traditions, history, and everyday experiences. I am also influenced by artistic and cultural movements, including hip-hop culture and spiritual art. Sometimes an idea comes from something I observe; at other times, it emerges from a question, a memory, or simply an image that develops in my imagination. I enjoy taking inspiration from different worlds and bringing them together in my paintings. I believe that art gives me the freedom to explore these influences and transform them into something personal.



You are now presenting your fifth exhibition. Visitors may notice that many of the paintings have faces without detailed facial features, accompanied by dates and stamp-like inscriptions. Could you tell us more about this particular body of work?

Yes, the exhibition features several portraits with indistinct or seemingly unfinished facial features. The concept comes from my interest in history, memory, and the way we imagine people from previous generations. For instance, when we hear stories about our forefathers and ancestors, we can imagine their lives, personalities, and experiences. However, when it comes to their actual faces, our imagination becomes blurred. We may know their names and stories, but we do not necessarily know exactly what they looked like. This gap between historical knowledge and visual memory became an important inspiration for this series. The characters depicted in these paintings are imagined as being contemporaries of my great grand ancestors, who lived during the 1800s, a period when photography was not widely available in our context. I wanted to explore the idea of what an old photograph might have looked like if such photographs had existed for these individuals. Of course, I have included a particular child's face whose actual photo I was able to access; that child is my great grandfather.

That is why I incorporated stamp-like inscriptions and imaginary photographic details into the paintings. Each work includes a year, a location, and a date. While the year is presented as it is, the dates are based on the traditional Coptic calendar and its commemorative feast days. Historically, when literacy and access to written records were limited, religious feasts and important events could serve as familiar points of reference for remembering and marking time. The locations indicate where these imaginary photographs might have been taken. All these details are part of an imagined photographic archive, giving the paintings the appearance of historical documents. In a way, the whole concept begins with questions that do not necessarily have factual answers. You imagine a person from the past, wonder about their appearance, their surroundings, and the circumstances of their life, and then try to answer those questions through your imagination and artistic expression. The portraits are therefore not simply representations of people; they are explorations of memory, history, identity, and the relationship between what we know and what we can only imagine. The Afro-inspired hairstyles are influenced by hip-hop culture, particularly its celebration of Black identity, beauty, confidence, and self-expression.

Hip-hop has always had a strong visual language, extending beyond music into fashion, hairstyles, attitude, and cultural identity. I am particularly interested in how it highlights Black beauty and presents it as something powerful and worthy of celebration. Through these paintings, I explore that visual influence and incorporate it into my own artistic language. It is another example of how I bring different cultural references and sources of inspiration into my work.



Naked Faces

Who inspires you from the legendary painters and artists?

There are so many legendary artists who inspire me, so choosing just one is quite difficult. But if I had to pick one, I would choose Damien Hirst, the English contemporary artist. I am particularly inspired by his distinctive artistic style and creative approach to art.

What are your future plans?

I want my artistic journey to have no limits. My ambition is to keep creating and produce a large body of artwork, continue to develop my artistic identity, and build my own distinctive brand in the world of art. I want to keep pushing my creative boundaries.