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**RAMADAN TIMING  
FOR ABUJA**

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Alfijir - 5:18 a.m  
For other places see  
details on  
Page 18

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## ANTHRAX SCARE

# Al-Bashir arrested

**A** Kaduna-based social commentator and media consultant, Malam Abdulkarim Al-Bashir, has been picked up in Kaduna by men of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in connection with the latest twist in the Anthrax-scare affair.

Also arrested along with Al-Bashir were three

By Garba Deen Muhammad

employees, including a lady, of the United Parcel Services (UPS) in Kaduna.

Al-Bashir, former Editor-in-Chief of *The Democrat* newspapers, was picked up from his residence at the Malali Federal Lowcost Housing estate yesterday at about 4.00 p.m by a group of four CID men who arrived his

house in a Peugeot 504 station wagon.

According to an eyewitness, the veteran journalist did not offer any resistance as he was led away.

As at the time of going to press, *Daily Trust* could not determine exactly what Al-Bashir and the three UPS employees were charged with. But in a telephone chat

with him from the Kaduna State CID headquarters where he was detained, *Daily Trust* gathered that the foursome were arrested in connection with a booklet authored by Al-Bashir titled, "The Ethnic Politics of Borisade and Babalola against the Rule of Law and Progress in Ahmadu Bello University."

Al-Bashir confirmed to *Daily Trust* that over 3,000 copies of the booklet were printed and distributed

(some of them mailed through the UPS) to many prominent persons in Nigeria, including President Olusegun Obasanjo, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, the Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, captains of industry and media executives.

*Daily Trust* further learnt that one of the recipients of Al-Bashir's booklet, who resides in Jos, had alleged

Contd. on Pg 2



Malam Abdulkarim Al-Bashir



Miss World Agbani Darego, (left), with the chairperson, Miss World Organisation, Miss Julian Mony, (centre), and Culture and Tourism Minister, Ms Boma Bromillo-Jack, at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja... yesterday.

## FG pays ex-Biafran soldiers

**T**he Federal Government has issued a directive for the immediate payment of all outstanding pensions and other entitlements to ex-Biafran soldiers and other retired military officers across the country.

By Hammeed M. Bello

Staff, Admiral Ibrahim Ogohi, dropped the hint yesterday in Abuja when he received a delegation of executives of banks selected to make the payment.

"There is a directive from the Presidency for ex-Biafran soldiers to be paid," Admiral

## ... issues guidelines for foreign loans

**P**oised to curtail the nation's indebtedness to international finance institutions, the Federal Government yesterday released stringent guidelines for external borrowing by federal and state governments and their agencies.

By Suleiman Mohammed

The guidelines, which was approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) followed a memorandum by the Federal Ministry of Finance on the need for government to checkmate the excessiveness of some

Contd. on Pg 2

Ogohi told the bank executives.

This contrasts with the earlier position of the Minister of State for Defence

Contd. on Pg 2

## Multiple Stock Exchanges underway

By Ahmed Shekarau

**T**he Federal Government has thrown its weight behind the establishment of multiple stock exchanges in the country to enhance efficiency and competition in the stock market.

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige, said yesterday that as part of its policy to open up the Nigerian stock market for competition, the Federal Government has decided to remove the monopoly earlier granted the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) to create room for "autonomous and independent exchanges."

This may bring to an end the monopoly of the Nigerian Stock Exchange which is currently the only stock exchange in the country.

Contd. on Pg 2

## N12m contract: FRCN replies Rimi

**T**he Director-General of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Mr. Eddie Iroh, has responded to the circumstances that led to the sudden cancellation of a publicity contract between the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) presidential aspirant, Alhaji Mohammed Abubakar Rimi, and the FRCN Kaduna.

In a letter to Rimi on December 4, Mr. Iroh asked for a meeting with him "to review the contract."


Mr. Iroh had earlier queried the Executive Director, FRCN, Kaduna, for entering into the contract worth about N12 million with Alhaji Abubakar Rimi to feature in the popular Hausa language phone-in programme *Hannu da Yawa*

over a one year period.

Only one programme had been aired before Mr. Iroh cancelled it, queried the station director and requested for the files of all

top management staff in Kaduna allegedly for impending disciplinary actions.

In the four-page letter. Contd. on Pg 2



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## NEWS

**Foreign loans** *Contd from Pg 1*

federal agencies and state governments in acquiring foreign loans.

Similarly, the measure, according to the Information and National Orientation Minister, Professor Jerry Gana, is to "protect Nigeria and her citizens against irresponsible debts."

Currently, Nigeria is indebted to the tune of about \$28 billion, out of which 70 per cent is owed the Paris club.

Briefing State House correspondents after the meeting, Professor Gana said



Professor Jerry Gana

the new criteria had earlier been scrutinized and approved by the National Economic Council which comprises all the state governors and Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, its chairman.

According to the new criteria, all Federal Government agencies, state governments and parastatals wishing to obtain external loans must first obtain Federal Government's approval prior to full-scale negotiations for such loans.

Prof. Gana said that state governments must also provide evidence that they have not over-borrowed internally or externally, and that debt service ratio should not exceed 40 per cent of their federation account allocation.

Similarly, state governments wishing to obtain external loans must issue "irrevocable" letters authorizing the Federal Ministry of Finance to deduct at source from their federation account allocation

the amount needed for servicing their indebtedness, "and shall provide counterpart fund for the execution of the project for which the loan is being bought.

"All external borrowing proposals of Federal Government agencies, state governments and parastatals in a fiscal year should be submitted not later than September 30 to the Federal Ministry of Finance, for incorporation into the public sector external borrowing programme for the approaching year," he said.

Professor Gana said that all external loans must be supported by Federal Government guarantee and that projects to be financed with external loans must be supported with evidence that the National Planning Commission had cleared their feasibility studies. "We don't want any agency to take loans for projects that were not feasible and not economically viable," he said.

Other guidelines include:

- Borrowing under the

SBA programme for both states and Federal Government as well as their agencies is limited to highly concessional sources only, when grant element is over 60 per cent.

- Borrowing cost for concessional funds should not exceed one per cent per annum while the moratorium period for the principal

repayment should not be less than 10 years.

- Concessional borrowing under terms and conditions specified should be for the financing of poverty eradication and infrastructure projects only.

- Eligible project would be assessed on the basis of cost benefit analysis, and be highly

concessional in nature with long re-payment period.

- A ceiling of \$500 million should be maintained on external borrowing during a programme period, taking into account the financing gap, identified in the SBA document in line with the IMF and World Bank agencies.

**Stock Exchange** *Contd from Pg 1*

The development also indicates that the Federal Government has finally endorsed the directives given by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to the NSE to revert its name to Lagos Stock Exchange (LSE) to allow for the setting up of other stock exchanges in the country.

The move to set up Abuja Stock Exchange emanated from that basis.

But the NSE defied the SEC orders, promising public row and legal battle between the two bodies.

But in a message sent to the opening of a two-day

seminar on securities laws and the capital market yesterday in Abuja, the Attorney General said that the government would allow the emergence of multiple stock exchanges in the country.

He said the decision to deregulate the stock market followed recommendations of the Chief Daniel Odife committee on review of the Nigerian capital market.

Chief Ige, who was represented by the Solicitor-General, Alhaji Abdullahi Yola, said: "The ultimate aim (of the new policy) is to develop our capital market to

the standards comparable to the developed economies of the world."

He said this new policy led to the promulgation of the Investments and Securities Act (ISA) No. 45 of 1999, which established SEC.

The minister stated that the act gave SEC "enormous powers under Section 8 to include the regulation of investments and securities business."

Other powers of the commission, according to Chief Ige, include registration and regulation of exchanges, capital trade, futures, options and derivative exchanges, as well as commodity exchange.

**Biafra** *Contd from Pg 1*

(Army), Malam Lawan Batagarawa, that the ex-Biafran soldiers would not be absorbed and would therefore, not be paid any entitlements because they were not Nigerian soldiers.

"Let's face it. The Biafran Army was involved in treason, because to fight your country or against your country is treason. These people were not staff of the Nigerian Army, so how do you re-absorb them?" the minister queried in response to a question during an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* last August.

The minister's position may have been reversed as the Chief of Defence Staff said yesterday's meeting with bank executives was to work out the modalities for the payment of the backlog of the pension arrears to retired military personnel, including the ex-Biafran soldiers.

The Chief of Administration at the Defence Headquarters, Rear Admiral Peter Ebhaleme, who was also at the meeting, pointed out that the fund for the pension had been spread into the six geo-political zones for easy disbursement.

Admiral Ebhaleme hinted that as part of efforts to make the exercise hitch-free, 31,000 ghost pensioners had been identified and that their removal would save the government about N5 billion.

He further explained that another 2,500 suspected ghost pensioners have been penciled down for scrutiny, adding that the Defence Headquarters may flush out a total of over 15,000 ghost pensioners.

The Director of Military Pension (DMP), Mrs. Adeleye, revealed that a total of 107,000 pensioners are waiting to be paid nationwide, and that government would pay them through their individual bank accounts.

She added that about 90 per cent pensioners have been paid through their bank accounts in the southern part of the country. She regretted that pensioners in the north have been reluctant to open bank accounts, thereby recording only 40 per cent success.

No fewer than 946,300 eligible pensioners are on the payroll of the Federal Government, the DMP also said.

Mr. Iroh pleaded with Rimi that he alone bore responsibility for the action he took as he absolved all other quarters, "above or below" of any influences. Rather, he blamed the FRCN Kaduna for going into the contract unilaterally and keeping the FRCN headquarters in the dark about the transactions.

Iroh claimed that even as the Chief Executive Officer of FRCN, he only learnt of the contract from the pages of newspapers.

Two other reasons that informed his cancellation of the contract, according to Iroh, was that it violated Section 7.8.2 of the Broadcast Code of the NBC; and that the broadcast was wrongly timed. The timing was poor, he said, because it coincided with the day and time when President Olusegun Obasanjo was also making an appearance. He did not, however, say in which programme the president made the appearance.

Excerpts of the letter read: "I emphasise 'the action which I took' because that is the honest truth. I, personally, without any influence, suggestion, encouragement, persuasion, or nudge from above or below, decided that something had gone wrong in the formulation and execution of your contract with FRCN Kaduna.

"It might interest you to know, Your Excellency, that I, the Chief Executive Officer of FRCN, learnt of your contractual relationship with

newspapers.

"One would have expected that a contract of this magnitude (over N12 million), with considerable legal, political, and broadcasting ethical implications, should have been referred to me in the first place. It was not made known to the Secretary and Legal Adviser of the Corporation, nor was headquarters' legal opinion sought. You can then imagine that something was extremely seriously wrong, something that had nothing to do with you.

"I will like you to please bear in mind that in my letter to the Executive Director, FRCN Kaduna, Alhaji Lawal Saulawa, I stated categorically, "**PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY THAT MY CONCERN HERE IS NOT THAT ALHAJI RIMI WAS GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY ON RADIO NIGERIA. (NO). THAT IS HIS ENTITLEMENT.**"

"My second concern derived from the guidelines on political broadcasting and advertising as clearly outlined in the Broadcasting Code of the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC). Your contract with FRCN Kaduna was to "run (your) Radio Political Campaign in areas of Programming, Jingles, News, Musicals and Commentaries." You will be interested to know that this contract was clearly in direct breach of Section 7.8.2 of the Broadcast Code of the NBC, which clearly states: "*In the interest of fairness and*

*monetization of political broadcast, any form of commercialization of political news or coverage is forbidden*"

"The third issue I raised with Kaduna was the **timing** of your broadcast on 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2001. The ethics of the profession require that we should not have scheduled your appearance the same day and time when the President of the Federal Republic was making an appearance. It was the **timing** which was poor, not the fact. It was also a matter of protocol. Again this had nothing to do with you.

"It was therefore absolutely necessary for me to submit our activities in this contract, whether with Kaduna or any other National Station, to the magisterium of the NBC Broadcast Code. This is without prejudice to the amount of money paid, the highly respected personality involved, and the political and democratic entitlement of Your Excellency.

"As a one-time Chief Executive of the highly esteemed State of Kano, and someone whose commitment to rectitude, professionalism, and compliance with the codes and ethics of any public office is well known, you will agree with me, Sir, that it will be completely irresponsible of me to allow an arrangement which, however well intentioned, clearly breached the code of conduct for political broadcasting and advertisement.

fault or responsibility. But it is clear that if FRCN Kaduna had done the sensible thing of seeking clearance with Headquarters, and referring this agreement to the corporate legal opinion and authority of the Legal Adviser and Secretary to the Corporation, you and FRCN would have been able to reach a concord that would accommodate your democratic entitlement, without breaching the code of conduct which guides our activities."

While assuring Abubakar Rimi that his action was not due to "an ulterior political motive," Iroh asked for a time and venue in Abuja and "I will come with my legal team to work with you to review the contract and find ways of accommodating your entitlement and at the same time upholding our professional and ethical responsibilities."

On his part, Rimi has said he would first explore all normal avenues for redress before disclosing his next line of action.



Mr. Laude Iroh

**Al-Bashir** *Contd from Pg 1*

that his own parcel was laced with Anthrax.

Al-Bashir and the UPS employees were, therefore, arrested and were to be taken to Jos, the Plateau State capital, from where the complaint originated.

It will be recalled that last week, the *Weekly Trust* (a sister publication of the *Daily Trust*) had made reference to the pamphlet

question on its cover story where Al-Bashir was quoted as making critical remarks about a Federal Government committee set up to investigate what the Federal Ministry of Information described as cases of "politically victimized staff and students" in selected institutions of higher learning in

NEWS

# Obasanjo receives Electoral Bill today

## As NASS begins recess

The National Assembly will today present the harmonised version of the controversial Electoral Bill to President Olusegun Obasanjo, even as the All Peoples' Party (APP) advises both the leadership of the National Assembly and state governors to dialogue over the contentious issue of local government chairmen's tenure.

Sources at the National Assembly yesterday told *Daily Trust* that the leadership of the two chambers and the Electoral Bill harmonisation committee were producing the

By Henry Omu, Reuben Yunana and Tashikalmah Hallah

harmonised copy of the bill for onward transmission to the president for his ascent.

However, the source was not optimistic that President Obasanjo would append his signature to the bill owing to the controversy it has generated since the two Houses passed it.

The bill has specifically pitched the National Assembly, on one hand against the state governors and the state Houses of Assembly, on the other over

the extension of local government council chairmen's tenure from the three years sanctioned by state Houses of Assembly and supported by their governors to four years as contained in the bill to be presented to the president today.

However, the All Peoples' Party (APP) National Vice Chairman (North), Alhaji Gambo Magaji, while commenting on the bill, urged the state governors and their Houses of Assembly, and the National Assembly to eschew dialogue over the contentious issue.

According to him, Nigeria is now passing through a trial moment and needs visionary leadership that would push

the country to a greater height "not the leadership that would divide the polity."

Said he: "The problems we are getting in this country today, particularly with regards to 2003, is this syndrome of 'Tazarcé' (self-succession). It is most unfortunate that it has caught up with elected officers from local government to national level."

Meanwhile, the Senate leadership is to meet with President Olusegun Obasanjo over the passage of the 2002 budget as the Senate suspended sitting till 20<sup>th</sup> of this month.

Rising from its sitting yesterday, the Upper House resolved that its leadership

should dialogue with President Obasanjo over the shoddy implementation of last year's budget amidst fears that the 2002 budget might not be passed until the first quarter of next year.

On its part, the House of Representatives yesterday proceeded on a 42-day recess and is billed to commence proceedings again on January 22, 2002.

This is the second time the House is going on recess within a fortnight. The first being when the House mandated its committees to assess the level of implementation of the 2001 budget by the Executive before it can continue to debate on the 2002 budget.

Sources informed *Daily*

*Trust* yesterday that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) caucus in the House had agreed to the break before it was tabled on the floor of the House and approved through a voice vote.

However, it was learnt that in spite of going on recess, the leadership of the House has tasked the appropriation committee and all other House committees to continue working on details of the 2002 appropriation bill.

Earlier, the House had passed a resolution vacating an earlier resolution demanding the appearance of finance minister, Malam Adamu Ciroma, to give details of the level of implementation of last year's budget before the House.

## Yola airport for 2002 hajj airlift

The newly rehabilitated Yola Airport will be used to airlift prospective pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for the 2002 hajj.

The Managing Director of Nigeria Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Alhaji Yusuf Mohammed, who made the disclosure on Tuesday in Yola when he visited the Adamawa Deputy Governor, Alhaji Bello Tukur, said the airport now has a runway of international standard.

Represented by the Director, Air Traffic Service, Dr. Thomas Abalaka, the managing director said there was a presidential directive to that effect and called on the state government to assist in relocating NEPA's high tension installations away from the airport to avoid any disaster.

Mohammed said navigational facilities and street lights would soon be

installed, while a new control tower of international standard would be put in place at the airport before the commencement of the hajj operations.

Responding, Tukur said the state government had set up a committee to see to the smooth conduct of the hajj and added that two vehicles had been provided to NAMA for that purpose.

Meanwhile, some citizens of Adamawa State have hailed the Federal Government's decision to start airlifting pilgrims from the state.

They told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the use of Yola airport would lessen the hardship faced by potential pilgrims from the state who usually had to travel to Maiduguri to be airlifted to the holy land.



President Obasanjo.

## NDDC not money spinning venture - Obasanjo

President Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday inaugurated an 11-member Niger Delta Development Advisory Committee, warning against turning the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) into "a honey-pot to serve the personal greed of

By Sulaiman Mohammed

anybody." President Obasanjo reminded the committee members of the existence of the anti-corruption commission, adding, "I will make sure the commission supports me in this regard."

He said that besides ensuring transparency and accountability, sustainable development of the Niger Delta could be best achieved through the development of a master plan, which would help the commission to avoid the haphazard and uncoordinated development, which characterised the activities of previous agencies.

Already, he said, the board of NDDC had appointed a German firm, GTZ, which has a strong working relationship with a Nigerian firm in the Niger Delta, as the coordinating consultants for the development of such a master plan.

However, President Obasanjo expressed concern over the manner in which the National Assembly is treating the NDDC Bill, stressing that all necessary amendments be carried out in time to make all stakeholders contribute to the NDDC.

"Our collective resolve to speed up the development of the Niger Delta region will be futile if the process is not adequately funded," he said.

He said that adequate funding of the commission could only be achieved if the stakeholders in the Federal Government, state governments, the local governments and the oil companies operating in the region contribute to the funds.

The Advisory Committee is comprised of the governors of Abia, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo, Imo, Ondo and two presidential nominees, Alhaji Yahaya Abdulkarim and Dr. Iyorchia Ayu.

Governor Victor Attah of Akwa Ibom State who responded on behalf of the committee members thanked the president for bringing the NDDC into reality.

## Police inspector murdered

(14 persons declared wanted)

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

The Oyo State Police Command has arrested four persons and declared 14 others wanted over the killing of a police inspector, Celestine Ada, in Ido Local Government Area of the state.

*Daily Trust* reliably gathered that some villagers murdered the inspector during a riot over alleged payment of royalty to the traditional head of the village, Baale Ibrahim Adele.

According to sources, the traditional head had leased a piece of land to a group of people in the village to engage in coal extraction with an agreement that they would be paying him a sum of N1,000 on every bag of charcoal extracted from the land.

The crisis, according to sources, erupted following the refusal of the people to honour the purported agreement in the last nine months. This led to the invitation of the police by the Baale.

Police source in Ibadan told journalists that Inspector Celestine Ada and one other constable followed the Baale to the village to assess the situation on ground.

The police source further explained that when the policemen and the Baale got to the village, the people descended on them and matched to death the

police inspector, while the other police constable escaped to the nearest police station with machete cuts.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Opeyemi Kujore, explained that the police mobilised for the village only to discover the dead body of the inspector lying at the centre of a football field in Ido.

The police image-maker disclosed that four persons have been arrested in connection with the killing while police detectives are already on the ground hunting for the suspects.

Kujore, however, said that the villagers have deserted the entire village since the murder of the police inspector.

## Bisket discharged

From Bamgboye Adelanwa for proper documentation.

An Ebuta Metta Chief Magistrate Court in Lagos yesterday discharged and acquitted 47-year-old Mrs. Adebisi Dan Musa (a.k.a. Bisket) and two others charged with conspiracy, child stealing and slave dealing. But Bisket's hope of walking home with the 15 children alleged to have been stolen was dashed.

Chief Magistrate Sybil Nweka who handed down the judgement ordered that the 15 children be made wards of the Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs

The judge, however, added that if Bisket is desirous of adopting the children, she should apply to regularise the custody of the children.

In her 55-minute judgement, the magistrate held that it was time the police wake up from its slumber, adding that the quality of the police fails the test.

"I had to keep silent. The police did not take pains to prepare for this case. I was

faced with different prosecutions, on every adjournments."

According to the court, the prosecutor had failed to establish the offence of child stealing. The court held that the 15 children were not concealed in the vehicle during the four hours journey from Kwara State to Lagos with Salimonyu Selemi, a 28-year-old commercial driver who was the second accused.

The judge reasoned that the police did not make any effort to verify the claims of Bisket that she was only providing care for the children.

## Afghan factions sign interim government pack

Delegates from four Afghan factions have signed an agreement on a transitional government to run the country after 20 years of war.

The signing came at a ceremony in Bonn yesterday attended by German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, after the factions had agreed on names of the new administration's members.

The power-sharing council is to be headed by Pashtun tribal commander, Hamid Karzai, and will take office on December 22.

United Nations special envoy, Lakhdar Brahimi, welcomed the agreement, and said the international community would stand by

By Musa Aliyu with agency report

Afghanistan. "The UN and the entire international community feel a tremendous sense of hope in the knowledge that agreement has been signed here in Bonn," he said.

But he warned that the new government carried a "huge responsibility" and the eyes of the world would be upon it.

Kaizar, who spoke to *Reuters*, said his men were on the outskirts of Kandahar fighting the Taliban in their last stronghold.

"We are continuing our movement towards Kandahar and let's hope we can be there as soon as possible," he added.

## NEWS

# Father demands dead son's entitlements

The father of a textile worker, allegedly killed by a police stray bullet during a protest in Kano, has appealed to the executives of the National Union of Textile Garment and Tailoring Workers of Nigeria to assist the family in ensuring the payment of his son's entitlements.

Late Samuel Abubakar was allegedly killed by a police stray bullet two years ago when police disrupted a protest by the striking

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

workers of the Angel Spinning and Dying company in Kano.

His father, Mr. Abubakar Simon, told Daily Trust that since the death of Samuel the family has not been given his entitlements.

Mr. Simon who visited Daily Trust office in Kano, accompanied by other members of his family, pleaded with the deceased's former employers to look

into the issue and come to the rescue of his family.

He however commended the union for all their efforts at ensuring justice in the case of his son's death, especially the disciplinary action taken against a union staff who fraudulently misappropriated the monies meant for the treatment of Late Samuel.

When contacted, the Assistant Secretary General of the union in Kano, Malam Aminu Suleiman, said the

union is aware of the precarious condition of the family since Samuel's death, adding that the union has instituted legal action against the company, demanding not only for his entitlements, but also compensation. He assured the family that the union will not rest on its oars until justice is done.

Recalling the incident that led to the death of late Samuel, Comrade Aminu said the incident occurred in March 2000 when the management of the company in Kano invited the police to quell a protest by the striking workers. While shooting to disperse the workers, he said, a stray bullet hit late Samuel which resulted in his hospitalisation and subsequent death on 13th April, 2000.

When contacted, the Managing Director, Angel Spinning and Dying



Musiliu Smith, IG of Police.

Company, Mr. Faid, referred the reporter to the company's Public Relation Officer, Malam Abdulrahman, who confirmed the incident and said "all entitlements of the deceased have been tabulated but could not be collected by the parents because of the legal action instituted by the union."

He stated that the company is ready to pay the entitlements as soon as the union withdraw its legal action against the company.

## Gombe to establish sugar factory

From Abdullahi Dutse, in Gombe

The Gombe State government has signed a \$28 million contract for the establishment of a sugar factory in the state with a Chinese firm, Messrs Nanning Heavy Machinery Works.

Speaking to newsmen shortly after the contract signing ceremony in Gombe yesterday, Governor Hashidu explained that the state government will pay \$4 million or 15 per cent as its counterpart cash contribution while the balance of 85 per cent will be paid by Messrs Nanning.

He also explained that the successful signing of the contract marked another milestone in the state government's quest to accelerate industrial development of the state, adding that the project is expected to commence by the end of May 2002.

The governor further said the 85 per cent of the contract sum is a loan from the provincial government of Nanning which, according to the loan agreement, will be repaid after ten years of the commencement of the project.

Speaking earlier, the General Manager of Messrs Nanning Heavy Machinery Works, Mr. Qin Yong, said the factory, when established, would provide jobs to the natives of Gombe and other Nigerians as well as boost the economic activities of the state.

He however urged the state government to provide them with necessary information as regards local seasons and peculiarities of the climate of the site to enable them prepare for any exigencies that may affect the project.

## Robbers rob bank

Men suspected to be armed robbers have stormed Uromi branch of the Union Bank of Nigeria Plc in Edo State and carted away an undisclosed amount of money.

Reliable source told Daily Trust in Benin that the suspected armed robbers trailed the bank vehicles conveying money from the state capital to Uromi, a distance of about 120 kilometres, and opened fire as the bank vehicles entered the premises of the Union Bank in Uromi.

Our source further revealed that the suspected robbers disarmed both the police on duty at the branch and those who escorted the vehicle carrying the money and made away with an undisclosed amount of money and police rifles.

Confirming the robbery to Daily Trust, the Police Public Relations Officer of the command, ASP Akar Ezima, said though no arrest has so far been made, the police have since commenced investigation.

ASP Ezima said the command has intensified its war on criminals, especially with the Christmas and new year fast approaching.

The effort, he said, has already led to the arrest of three different gang of teenage robbers consisting of a total of eight suspects.

Two of the gangs that consists of five teenage robbers, armed to the teeth, were said to have visited Edo

From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin City

from Lagos and were arrested at Uromi after robbing several victims.

In another development, the police in Benin paraded three dead bodies of suspected armed robbers said to have been killed by a team of policemen from Evbotubu Police Division in the state capital during an exchange of fire.

ASP Ezima said the suspects died on their way to hospital.

In the past two weeks, criminal activities, especially armed robbery and car snatching, have been on the increase in the state, a development attributed to the approaching Sallah and Christmas festivals.

## ENRON's trouble will not derail Lagos IPP

- Representative

From Abdulfattah Olayide, in Lagos

The filing of bankruptcy by Enron corporation, the parent company of Enron Nigeria Power Limited handling the Lagos State Independent Power Project (IPP), will not derail the project, the corporation has assured Governor Bola Tinubu.

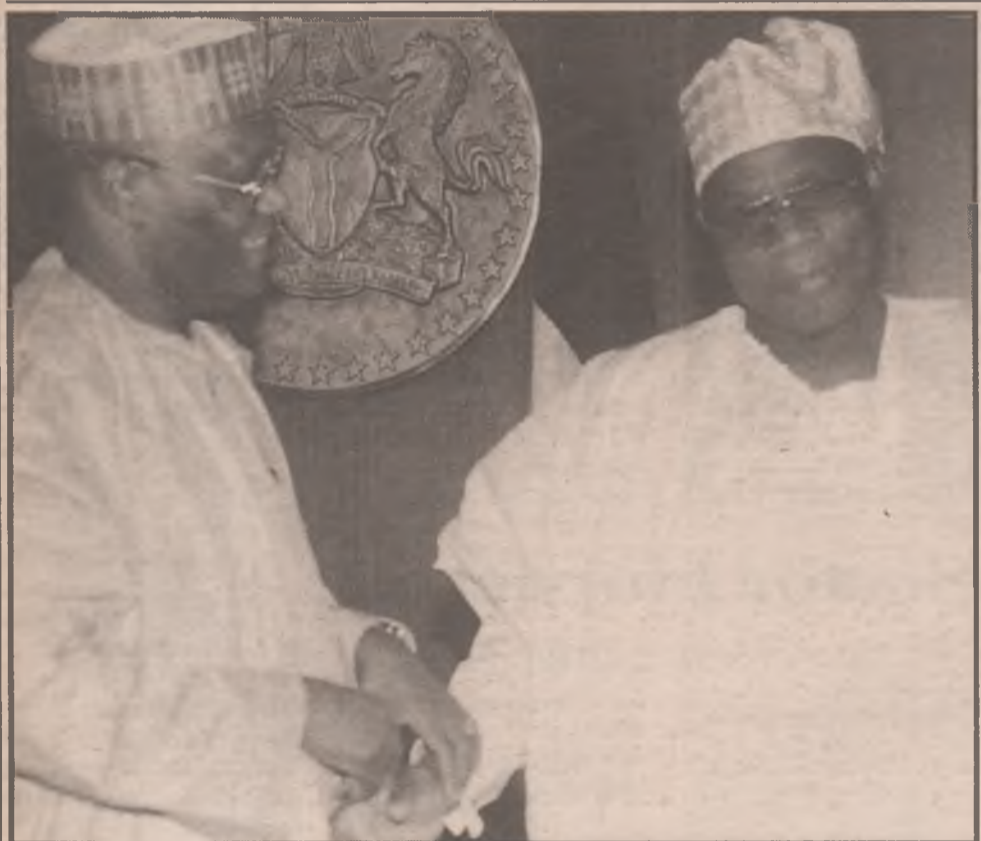
In a letter sent to the governor by Enron corporation and signed by its representative in Nigeria, Mr. Yao Apasu, the company explained that its subsidiaries handling projects in Nigeria are not affected by the bankruptcy filing.

"Enron Nigeria Power Limited and its officials involved in the development

of the Nigeria project are not included in the bankruptcy filing and are free to pursue the development of the Lagos IPP in the ordinary course of business," Apasu stated.

He observed that the Enron barge project at the Egbin Thermal Station was already being successfully operated by its subsidiaries in the country.

Also, the Enron representative noted that many of the corporation's plants and projects overseas were also continuing their operations in the normal course of their business.



President Olusegun Obasanjo (r) and Vice President Atiku Abubakar (l) sharing a joke after the inauguration of the Police Service Commission at the State House, Abuja, recently. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## Nigeria offers more military training to Sierra Leoneans

The Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Jonah Wuyep, has assured the government of Sierra Leone that the Nigerian Air Force will continue to provide training assistance to members of Sierra Leonean armed forces.

Air Marshal Jonah Wuyep gave this assurance while responding to a request made by the Sierra Leonean Defence Attaché in Nigeria, Colonel Khomba Mondeh, who paid him a courtesy visit in Abuja.

He, however, said that the assurance was subject to availability of resources and vacancies in the schools.

Air Marshal Wuyep noted with delight that Nigeria's efforts in ECOWAS sub-region and commitment in restoring democracy and stability to Sierra Leone was appreciated by member states.

He reiterated that the primary purpose of government was the provision of security and ensuring the well-being of the people.

Earlier, the Defence Attaché had expressed the appreciation of the people of Sierra Leone to Nigerian government for the



Jonah Wuyep, Chief of Air Staff.

commitment and sacrifices made to return democracy and stability to his country.

Colonel Mondeh explained the current state of affairs in Sierra Leone, saying that out of about 45,000 ex-combatants in 14 districts, 35,000 have been disarmed in 13 districts by the United Nations Assisted Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

The remaining ex-combatants are mainly soldiers of Revolutionary United Front occupying Tongo, a diamond-rich town in eastern district of Sierra Leone.

He said UNAMSIL is working assiduously to meeting its deadline of the disarmament, which is January 2002. On completion of disarmament, general elections, which would be supervised by UNAMSIL, would be held in the country.

# News Focus

## Afghanistan: Beyond the Bonn Accord

By Musa Aliyu

After days of long and seemingly endless battles followed by nine days of intensive talks, disagreement, concessions and finally compromise, the Bonn summit has provided a glimmer of hope, at least for those Afghans who hope that "a cabinet in exile" could provide a solution to the myriad of problems facing the country.

The talks, an initiative of the UN, provided an atmosphere for peaceful negotiations among the four major parties in the two decades of war in Afghanistan. The only exception was the embattled Taliban.

However, the Pashtun tribe, the root of the Taliban was represented and may probably have come out the better for it. Simply put, the new Afghan head of interim government, Hamid Karzai, is a Pashtun.

The pact signed by the groups – the Northern Alliance (now in control of a greater portion of northern Afghanistan), the Pakistan based Peshawar front, the Cyprus Group, enjoying the backing of Iran and former King Zahir Shah's representative, Rome Process – is to usher, in an interim capacity, a government which comes into

force on December 22, 2001. In a colourful ceremony yesterday morning and attended by German Chancellor, Gerhard Shroeder, names of new administration members, something unusual in Afghanistan history, were endorsed by the parties

Among other issues agreed upon was a power-sharing council to be headed by Hamid Karzai, a highly influential figure who enjoys the loyalty of a large number of Afghans. From Taliban's stronghold of Kandahar and Zahir Shah's clan man, Karzai's commanding aura, western exposure (education) and fluency in English outrightly made him Afghan opposition's best hope for building an alternative Pashtun power base. His perceived moderate disposition may have added to these qualities. Of interest also, is the fact the Karzai's force is currently engaged in what is seen as the final but most difficult phase of the war with the Taliban fighters near Kandahar.

The Northern Alliance, whose recent victories at Kabul, Jalalabad and Mazar-i-sharif made its relevance unquestionable, though backed by heavy US fireworks, has to its



Hamid Karzai, Head of the Afghanistan's Interim Government

advantage three key ministries. Younis Qanooni, powerful pointman and delegation leader, will be the interior minister. Alliance Commander-in-Chief, General Mohammed Fahim, takes charge of Defence Ministry while Dr. Abdullah Abdullah keeps his Foreign Secretary.

Although no post has yet been given to former President Burhanuddin Rabbani, speculations are rife that an important role possibly heading the Supreme Court, is being planned for him.

However, King Zahir Shah has been co-opted into playing a greater role in the council. For women,

two of their own shall serve, including Sima Samar, among the five individuals expected to deputise for Karzai.

An important as well as binding charge to the deco authority, as spelt out by the UN, is the enforcement of such fundamental human rights as free expression and human dignity etc.

Loya Jirga, or traditional grand assembly is to be set up through a special commission of the UN at the end of the first six months, which incidentally marks the end of the regime's span. A transitional government to rule for a maximum of two years until a constitution is drawn up to allow for

proper elections, will then be elected by the assembly.

Included in the UN test is also a proposal for a multinational peacekeeping force to monitor Kabul. But what remains unspecified is the size of the force, its mandate or duration of its operation. An addendum to this, however, is that at the request of the Afghan administration the peacekeeping force shall promptly be deployed.

The agreement arguably a landmark feat has sparked-off reactions both from within and outside Afghanistan. While western countries have expectedly rose to salute the new power configuration with a promise to provide substantial aid, a few salient, yet relevant questions, are unavoidable.

The US whose reaction to the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11 led to the overthrow of the Taliban in Kabul made its first official reaction through Secretary of State, Colin Powell. Powell, who said that the US is pleased with the work done by Afghan leaders themselves and the German government, added that "now the real work is ahead."

Germany's Gerhard Shroeder, capping his country's hosting of the conference promised military assistance to keep peace in Kabul and other areas of the new-government's influence. Others like French President, Jacques Chirac, UK's Head of Delegation, Robert Cooper, the EU External Affairs Commissioner, among other leaders that graced the historic occasion were full of praises for both the factions and Germany.

Beyond this are the pertinent questions that border on the future of the Bonn Pact. While a few like Zabiullah, a Kabul shop owner, received the news of Hamid Karzai's choice gleefully, others like Karim, would have opted for Zahir Shah. Naturally this difference may seem normal but the poser is in the constitution of the government. At the head of a predominantly non Pashtun council is Karzai whose power is likely to be further eroded or undermined by the control of three key positions by Northern Alliance men. Worrysome too is the fact that the 29-member government is obviously to the disadvantage of the Pashtun leader since the bulk of the local force in Kabul, the political capital, is composed of non Pashtun.

Tribal allegiance, unless eschewed, may most likely be Karzai's main source of trouble.

Important stakeholders are the women who, although for the first time are accorded not only recognition but incorporated into the government, do not seem to have complete confidence in the success of the arrangement. For this category of Afghans, despite being ably represented at Bonn, the joy of the new dawn could as well have begun at Bonn and ended there.

Reason is that, apart from the fear of vengeance, the sign of a clear-cut victory are yet to be ascertained. In any case, the Taliban are still in control of their southern bastion of Kandahar. Given the historical odds that favour them, the chance of the Taliban recatapulating to political and military prominence cannot be entirely ruled out.



Afghan delegations sit at a round table after the official signing ceremony of a UN-brokered Afghanistan deal at the German government's guesthouse near Bonn.

## Opinion

## The Tiv and the dilemma of 2003

By Gausu Ahmad

President Obasanjo is a lucky man but at the same time an unfortunate politician. He is lucky because he had, during his military administration, cut an image of a nationalist, nay a statesman, for himself through his patriotic policies. Thus Nigerians had no problem in reposing their confidence in such a man who they overwhelmingly elected in 1999 against a background of a traumatised people and economy.

Soon after taking over, however, Obasanjo declared rather paradoxically, that those who made political investments in his electioneering campaign should consider their investments lost. The declaration was paradoxical because although Obasanjo might be referring to only those who supported him in order to secure political patronages, it actually turned out that even those of us who genuinely voted the president for his nationalist credentials and for the progress of the nation, have now seen our "investments" blown by political winds before our very eyes. Today, the very thing Obasanjo knows best, security, has eluded this nation. Whether in the forms of aimed robbery, ethno-religious conflicts, border

clashes or inter-regional acrimony, the nation has never had it so bad. Not even during 1966-1970 has this nation ever been so insecure and threatened as during these past two and half years of Obasanjo's civilian administration.

The Tiv-Jukun crisis that erupted recently and the subsequent events that led to the slaughter of the 19 Nigerian soldiers on a peace mission can be partly explained by the logic of OPC massacre and also partly by the exigencies of some socio-political and historical factors in ethnic relations in Nigeria. For example, the Tiv militia who allegedly killed the soldiers must have reasoned that when a group of people cause trouble in Nigeria under the guise of either religion, ethnicity or both, they almost always get away with it, no matter the extent of destruction to lives and properties. After all, in our midst today are retired army officers, including generals, political and religious leaders who had planned and carried out wars of ethnic cleansing against other ethnic groups. Such war criminals are not only welcome in various government houses in the country, but are regarded by government as

opinion leaders whose wishes must always be reflected in formulating government policies. The Tiv militia must have thought that having contributed so much to the realization of the Obasanjo project in 1999, and being the most strategically placed bulwark against the much maligned Hausa-Fulani feudal retrogression in the north, they deserved special treatment. After all, without the Tiv they must have thought, the 2003 tazarce project may turn out to be a mirage and the Owellian Johns among these cola-chewing feudalists may stage a come back. They had other qualifications, including possession of more than a fair representation in the military, and above all, the chairman of the ruling party as "shon of the shoil" - Saint Barnabas of yesteryears.

But the militia was mistaken in all these. It must be stated that the action of the Nigerian Army in razing some villages in Benue in retaliation is condemnable, and stands condemned by all responsible standards of behaviour, for we cannot equate the innocent Tiv men and women with the militia. Punishment must be only meted against perpetrators of the crime, and not on their kinsmen as America is doing against Afghan people.

In politics however, the choice of political allies is not a matter of A or B only and all other element(s) exclusive. So, therefore, in the next few months we may expect to see number of appeasement gestures geared towards soothing the wound inflicted on the Tiv. Political patronages such as appointments into plump federal jobs, contract awards, promises of higher officers come 2003, coming to way of the Tiv people. Perhaps the reports that the Tivs are spoiling for further war in all frontiers, are designed to enhance their bargaining power. As General Victor Malu said, you cannot fight against a government. But more importantly, the elite in the Middle Belt must, as Mohammad Haruna said start to face the fundamentals of poverty, disease and illiteracy among their people "and stop fabricating eternal enemies" just to keep them perpetually at war amongst themselves and with other peoples. The Tiv in particular have a lesson to learn from the experience of late statesman, Joseph Tarka.

Gausu Ahmad is of the Writers' Collective, Department of Mass Communication, Bayero University, Kano.

## Our youths, our hope

By Suleiman Nazif

The youths, who form the bulk of the nation's productive sector, need to be economically empowered and politically emancipated. They have to be politically aware and conscious so that when election comes, they come out en-masse to register and vote and be voted for.

It is unfortunate that the youths have all along been used and consequently dumped. Yet the youths are in the majority, are the strongest, have the will-power and strength to do what is expected of them. We have to take the bold step and come out to do just that. The youths have to come out and show the stuff they are made of. It is well known that there are talented and highly gifted youths who can perform wonders but are afraid to come out and show their mettle. They feel they need a godfather or a connection before they are recognised. But this is wrong. The youths have to break the barriers.

The older generation are supposed to be the guide, they are supposed to carry the youths along because as leaders of tomorrow, the youths have abundant potentials which if properly channelled will enable them to reach the greatest height. But the youths need to be guided, need to be encouraged, need to be taught and shown responsibilities at an early stage. The youths should not allow themselves to be used in the negative way by some bad politicians.

It is most unfortunate that the youths today are being used as agents of destabilization, vandalisation and destruction. I believe that the people who use our youths in such a manner are only doing it because they know the youths have been neglected and left behind. They know the youths have been and are still being marginalised.

But the wind of change is fast blowing and the youths must re-orient their minds, know their rights and their responsibilities and should not allow themselves to be used in the negative way by some bad politicians.

It is most unfortunate that the youths today are being used as agents of destabilization, vandalisation and destruction. I believe that the people who use out youths in such a manner are only doing it because they know the youths have been neglected and left behind. They know the youths have been and are still being marginalised.

But the wind of change is fast blowing and the youths must re-orient their minds, know their rights and their responsibilities and should not allow themselves to be used by selfish individuals.

It is gladdening to note that the response of the youths towards their development is gradually changing for the better. The youths are now more conscious, more enlightened and are aware that their future and destiny lie entirely on their own shoulders. In fact the response, is very overwhelming. The youths are very reasonable, very responsible and highly professional in their fields.

Indeed, the youths need to be sensitised, need to speak with one voice and need to resist being used as elements of destruction. Above all the youths need to unite.

The youths have to unite so as to resist being used especially during the so-called crisis of religious nature or tribal outlook. Religion preaches peace, love and understanding. Religion teaches one to love his neighbour and to help him in times of need. No religion preaches violence and no religion can condone the burning of sacred places of worship. Here in Nigeria, our forefathers and parents had lived in peace and harmony with one another. Why do we fight? In fact, our great politicians and leaders in the persons of late Sir Ahmadu Bello, Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe had all worked closely together in spite of their differences. No doubt, that was why they were able to achieve great things for their people. If the youths were to allow agents of disunity to infiltrate their ranks, they can never achieve great things.

On the old breed and new breed politicians, I hasten to say that the two are indispensable to each other. The old breed are the older generation while the new breed are the younger, newer generation that look at the world in a new perspective. The issue of the old breed as far as I am concerned is that even as a father you should train your child to be better than yourself. I think it is the pride of every father to see that his child is better than him. And for the child, it should be his ultimate aim to see that he reaches a position, which will be a source of pride and satisfaction to his father. It is the duty of the older generation to bring out the new ones, to teach them, to educate them and to full them closer to them and guide them is a way that they would be able to lead successfully tomorrow.

The older generation should not hold tight to positions as if it is forever, what if they are gone? Who will take over? It is the youths. That is what the older and younger generation is all about. It is about change of baton. Even the younger generation will have to give way one day for others to carry on. Our leaders have to carry the younger ones along. That is the only way Nigeria can develop, that is the only way any nation can develop, and that is why the youths should do everything they can to discharge this sacred responsibilities.

Finally, our youths should shun the evils of drug-abuse, prostitution, alcoholism, vandalisation, destruction and all negative tendencies. In this area, the youths need all the support and encouragement they can get from the experienced older generation for the necessary guidance and control.

Once the youths are able to get such positive support, it is certain that they have a lot to offer.

Suleiman Nazif, the National President, All-Nigeria Youth Federation is of No.1 Block 2, Uruguay Street, Maitama - Abuja.

## Oputa: Between Shariff and Haruna

By Abubakar Jika

Two of my friends and colleagues at the Arewa Media Forum are embroiled in a heated but relevant disputation on Oputa Panel and its place in Nigerian history. Ujudud Shariff, journalist, Image-maker and spokesman of the Panel, took on our friend Mohammed Haruna, a leading journalist and former image-maker and spokesman of General Abdulsalami Abubakar former head of state. Both are senior northern journalists, columnists, media practitioners and writers.

The controversy was kick started by Reverend Father Mathew Kukah, member of the Oputa panel who's also a leading commentator on public issues and a respected clergyman. He frowned at the refusal of former Nigerian heads of state from the north, principally Generals Muhammadu Buhari, Ibrahim Babangida and Abdulsalami Abubakar, to personally appear before their panel to testify. He then declared that the Pinochet treatment awaits them in future.

A friend, media colleague and a leading northern journalist, Adamu Adamu took up the gauntlet in defence of the leaders for their non-appearance. He contends that the entire Oputa matter was more of a charade to disgrace and demystify former leaders of Nigeria that hailed from the north. He, like Mohammed Haruna, backed their non-appearance. Others who joined the fray were my friend Abubakar Gimba a leading author and former president, Association of Nigerian Authors and Kevin Ebele Adinnu; a journalist and assistant news editor of Daily Trust. Gimba said Oputa is designed to a premeditated end and supported its boycott by the leaders. Ebele saw the entire issue from a structural perspective, as these leaders are stakeholders of the Nigerian State. He believed they would not appear and there was pretty little Obasanjo as president could do as a state transcends a government.

I had extensively looked at the issues and the arguments. I restrained from public commentary on the subject while I looked at all the contending views. I can now intervene. It is obvious that the boycott of Oputa panel by the generals was the most tactical and strategic move ever to come from the northern power elite since Obasanjo took over from them. A look at the antecedents of the Oputa panel, its mechanism and the condition of its public sitting obviously betrayed a sort of a hidden agenda.

The Yoruba power elite in its narrow vision is fond of comparing the Nigerian situation to that of South Africa. That the North, particularly the Hausa-Fulani, represents in their view, the racist world of the Boers, while the rest of Nigeria especially the South stands for black Africa. It is in this context that the Tutu reconciliation was being copied. But the fact remains that our situation is vastly different from South Africa in its origin, growth, context, severity and scope. Our power shift cannot be likened to what happened in South Africa.

In any case, while Desmond Tutu's panel was really for reconciliation, ours, in my view, appears tuned to vengeance and retribution. The very instrument setting up the Human Rights Violation Investigation Commission has as one of its

key terms of reference signed by President Olusegun Obasanjo: *Recommending measures which may be taken whether judicial, administrative, legislative, or institutional to redress the injustices of the past or forestall future violations or abuses of human rights.* This does not look a reconciliatory term to me. Deriving its powers and relevance from its instrument, the panel appears to look for cases of injustice and mete out retribution.

Also as part of the issue locating the proceedings of the panel within the context of its legalism, I do not see the issues Fawehinmi was striving to raise against Babangida on Dele Giwa except to harass the gentleman. Courts of superior jurisdiction consistently handled the Dele Giwa issues, which we all know. From the High Court to Appeal Court to Supreme Court, Fawehinmi had lost against Babangida, Akilu and Togun.

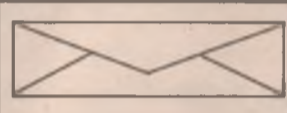
Now, in my view, if Fawehinmi really respects the law as he claimed, he should have accepted defeat and not drag a settled case to Oputa panel. Is Oputa above the Supreme Court? What legal relieves can Fawehinmi secure at Oputa which he could not secure at the highest court in the land, the Supreme Court? Oputa cannot overrule the Supreme Court. If Oputa makes any negative report against Babangida on the Dele Giwa case, and if I were Babangida I would sue them. I would not only sue them for defamation I would demand damages from the panel.

In fact, it is a very clear and straightforward matter. Fawehinmi since 1986 had the privilege of going through various courts in the land on this issue. He failed to prove his case. What would he prove at Oputa? He could of course embarrass Babangida, if he made the tragic error of appearing and legitimising the farce.

As for Buhari, it was a clear case of sour grapes. Dikko should not have taken his case to Oputa. If he has proof of Buhari's involvement he should have gone to court. In fact he could have gone to an English court since the incident happened in England, secured judgement and if he won, wait for Buhari at any of the EEC countries. Since he could not do these, the honourable thing he should have done was to forgive as a Muslim whatever wrong he felt was committed against him. Therefore looking at all these, I do not see the relevance of the Oputa panel to the three former leaders. The closing remarks of Oputa, the chairman also gave impression of a prejudicial mind. He should not have drawn the conclusion he did without first analysing the data and information given to them. As a judge, he knows better than expressing his mind before retiring to his chambers to prepare his judgement. They are now trying to get credibility by offering to take presentations of the leaders in camera or at their homes after vilifying them. If I am one of them I wont even acknowledge their presence if they come to my gate.

Jika teaches at the Department of Mass Communications, Bayero University, Kano.

**HEY AL-MUSTI! I SAID SIT DOWN! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THE RULE OF LAW? DO YOU THINK THIS IS YOUR NORTHERN MILITARY GOFMEN? YOU STILL THINK THE EYE OF THE BRIDE OF JUSTICE IS BLINDFOLDED? GO BACK BEFORE I COUNT 3 !! BOY, THIS IS DEMOCRACY... BY THE WAY, DO YOU THINK YOU ARE "INNOCENT" LIKE GANI ADAMS OUR SHON OF DE SHOIL?**



**YOUR LETTERS**

**Murder in Kano**

The outbreak of cholera epidemic in Kano is no accident or divine cause. It happens because somebody or some people in government have not done their job. Please help expose and punish those responsible. They are guilty of murder.  
*Jibir Abubakar, Garki, Abuja.*

**Sanusi and the adulteress**

Please permit me a space in your most widely read newspaper amongst the Northern Nigerian Muslim to express my feelings on the articles credited to one Sanusi Lamido Sanusi.

When I read the article in your esteemed *Weekly Trust* of November 9-15, 2001, I was left with this question: Is Sanusi Lamido Sanusi truly a Muslim? His name sounds Islamic but his write-ups depict an unbelieving personality. But no wonder it is only amongst the so-called Muslims that we have the hypocrites.

*Adamu Labbo Jega, Headquarters, Air Force Military School, P. O. Box 6271, Jos.*

**NABTEB results for Borno**

I sat for the National Business and Technical Examination Board at Government Technical College, Baba, Borno State in June 2000 with registration number 000124. Up to this present time of writing, all the results for 2000 are not yet out, talk less of 2001 candidates of Borno State. The Borno State commissioner for education needs to ascertain the situation.

*Abubakar Kolo Maidoki, P. O. Box 3184, Maiduguri, Borno State.*

**Thank you, KTSG**

Please, editor allow me to thank the Katsina State government in your popular newspaper.

The reason is, the state has now provided taxis for women only in the three towns Katsina, Daura and Funtua.

This is very encouraging to Islamic Shari'a and social values. By providing the taxis, the accidents caused by the Okada or 'yan Achaba especially on women may reduce drastically, insha Allahu.

So, thank you Katsina State government and keep it up.

*Yusufu Sani Yassanta, P. O. Box 249, Funtua, Katsina State.*

**Re: Sani 'Roddy' murderer of three**

I wish to congratulate you in your objective and fearless coverage of the above case.

Finally, a paper of the North has emerged, a paper that will say the truth

Drug and alcohol abuse have grown at a staggering pace in the last few decades, threatening the very existence of communities. This problem starts with the individual but eventually affects families and communities as it leads to poverty, child abuse, violence, incest, accidents, homelessness, unplanned pregnancy, escalating medical costs, HIV/AIDS and a host of other societal ills.

The United Nations estimates that at least 40

**Substance abuse**

million people throughout the world regularly abuse drugs. The most frequently abused drugs which are legally and socially accepted are tobacco and alcohol.

Alcohol consumption has been proved to inflict a costly and unwelcome burden on the individual, family and community. Some of the harmful consequences of

consumption of the evil brew include cancer, high blood pressure, cardiac condition, cirrhosis, accidents, separation and divorce. Several mental cases have also been linked to alcohol consumption.

Alcohol abuse also affects work performance and relations in the workplace, loss of man-hours,

absenteeism, low productivity and poor performance. The responsibility to stop this abuse lies with the individual, family and community. Adults have a duty to show good example especially as alcohol consumption amongst youngsters is on the increase. Parents can begin to talk to their children about alcohol at an early age and provide an open line of communication.

Friends, colleagues and employers do not have to wait till the alcohol addict hits the bottom of the barrel before seeking help.

The community can start by identifying the problems in its vicinity, drawing up an awareness campaign which should include recovery programmes for addicts and their families.

Together we can make our community a better place.  
*Nuraddeen Saleh Tsigah, C/o Hon Abdulkadir Global, National Assembly, Abuja.*

**Thank you Supreme Council for Sharia**

I write in support and sincere appreciation of the Supreme Council for Sharia in Nigeria.

The introduction of Sharia legal system by some Muslim predominant states is part of the constitutional right being enjoyed by Muslims of this nation, but yet, there has been a lot of accusations and antagonism. As part of this antagonism, Bola Ige has been appointed Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation and it appears his main duty there is to disrupt Sharia implementation in the country.

The Southern press have also been used indirectly against Sharia. They carry abusive words and wrong captions against Sharia everyday.

It has now been reliably gathered that president Obasanjo has sent many devilish bills to the National Assembly for ratification. Among these bills are: law

against polygamy (one man, one wife), equality of men and women in matters of inheritance, introduction of sex education in our primary and or, secondary schools. All these are part of Obasanjo's agenda to undermine Islam in Nigeria.

However, we the millions of Nigerian Muslims are in firm support of the Supreme

Council for Sharia in Nigeria and we are hereby rejecting and opposing these satanic bills. This is indeed a conspiracy against the lives of Nigerian Muslims. We urge all those who wish Nigeria well to reject this conspiracy.

*Hassan Muhammad S. Karakai, Abdu Gusau Polytechnic, Talata Mafara, Zamfara State.*

**Dangote deserves national honour**

Allow me space in your most widely read newspaper to express my views about indiscriminate conferment of titles to many non-deserving Nigerians by different organisations across the country. It's no exaggeration, corruption which remain a cankerworm in the fabric of our society has embedded itself

even in the conferment of titles to non-deserving Nigerians.

In other words, Nigerians who have acquired fraudulent wealth through fraudulent means have been regarded as saints whereas in reality they were only opportunists who acquire such wealth and in turn use it to acquire titles from some incon-siderate, fraudulent organisations.

Alhaji Aliko Dangote, a man with a Northern lineage has however proven that "not all eggs" hatched by the North are bad. He is a man the North in particular and Nigeria in general must hold

in high esteem because his enterprising activities affected the lives of all Nigerians positively. Alhaji Aliko Dangote has a hand in every sector of the Nigerian economy.

There is no need for exaggeration for the roles played by Alhaji Aliko Dangote because it is generally known by Nigerians. Against this backdrop, Alhaji Aliko Dangote deserves a meritorious honour from the North in particular and the nation in general.

*Usman Mohammed Mane, Ministry of Information, Gusau, Zamfara State.*



## NASARAWA STATE SPECIALIST HOSPITAL LAFIA- NASARAWA STATE **STAFF VACANCIES**

The Governing Board of the Nasarawa State Specialist Hospital, Lafia has approved the Manpower Development Plan of the Hospital. In view of the above, applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the under listed Vacancies.

### **1.A CONSULTANT MEDICAL DOCTORS — SALARY HATIS 15—17**

- (i) General Surgery
- (ii) Orthopedic Surgery
- (iii) Obstetrics & Gynecology
- (iv) Pediatrics
- (v) Internal Medicine (Physician)
- (vi) Ophthalmology
- (vii) Radiology

### **1.B NON-CONSULTANT MEDICAL DOCTORS — SALARY HATIS 12—14**

- (i) Senior Registrar
- (ii) Registrar
- (iii) Senior House Officer

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

For 1(A) Consultants and (B) Non-Consultants qualifications are as required by Medical & Dental Council of Nigeria and the Post Graduate Medical College for entry into such post plus relevant cognate professional experience and satisfactory reference from referees to include that of current place of work where applicable, demonstrable evidence of working in tertiary care hospital and or interest in future residence training for candidates 1 (B) will be an advantage.

### **2. NURSING STAFF — SALARY HATTIS 7—9**

- (i) Nursing Officer I
- (ii) Nursing Officer II

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

For 2 i & ii qualifications are as required by Nursing & Midwifery Council of Nigeria. Candidates with double qualifications have an advantage.

### **3. PHARMACISTS — SALARY HATTIS 7 — 11**

- (i) Principal Pharmacists
- (ii) Pharmacists I
- (iii) Pharmacist II

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

As required by the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria plus cognate professional experience preferably in Hospital Pharmacy practice.

### **4. LABORATORY SCIENTISTS/TECHNOLOGY — SALARY HATTIS 7—9**

- (i) Lab. Scientist I & II
- (ii) Lab. Assistant

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Medical Laboratory Registration Board of Nigeria. Applicants must have qualifications registered with the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences. Emphasis is on Chemical Pathology, Haematology and Blood Transfusion, Immunology, Histopathology/Parasitology.

### **5. RADIOGRAPHERS-SALARY HATTIS 7-11**

- (i) Senior Radiographer
- (ii) Radiographer
- (iii) Xray Technical/Assistant

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

As required by the Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria plus relevant cognate Clinical Radiography services in preferably Tertiary Care Hospital.

### **6. FINANCE & SUPPLY AND AUDIT DEPT. — SALARY HATTIS 9—11**

- (i) Principal Accountant
- (ii) Senior Internal Auditor

#### **QUALIFICATION**

Candidates must possess B.Sc/HND in Accountancy or any related qualification with at least 8-10 years working experience. M.Sc Accounting, MBA or any other relevant professional qualification (ICAN/ANAN) will be an additional advantage.

### **7. ADMIN. DEPARTMENT — SALARY HATTIS 7-10**

- (i) Admin Officers I & II
- (ii) Welfare Officer
- (iii) Public Relations Officer (PRO)

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Candidates must possess B.Sc/HND in any of the social science courses or its equivalent with 2-4 years experience, in relevant field or hospital administration. For public relations officers, candidates should have the requisite qualifications/experience.

### **8. MEDICAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT — SALARY HATTIS 9**

- (i) Senior Medical Records Officer

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Candidates must have B.Sc/HND, and Certificates in Medical records, Bio-statistics and must be registered with the Health Records Officers Registration Board of Nigeria plus cognate working experience preferably in tertiary Hospital care level.

### **9. PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT — SALARY HATTIS 8-11**

- (i) Principal Physiotherapist
- (ii) Physiotherapist I & II

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Candidates must have the necessary qualification and experience as obtained in similar institution.

#### **METHOD OF APPLICATION**

Applicants should forward copies of their hand written applications, credentials and curriculum vitae to the Chief Medical Director, Nasarawa State Specialist Hospital, Lafia. Applicants should come along with N200.00 Non-refundable application fee while submitting their application forms. Applications must be received by 15th December 2001.

**J.O. Ogbere**  
Chief Medical Director

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Foreign & Diplomatic

# Between Sharon, Arafat and Hamas

By Sebastian Usher

Since the attacks on Israel at the weekend that killed 25 people, the Palestinian security forces have arrested more than 100 Hamas militants in the toughest of such clampdown for several years. Coupled with the Is-

raeli policy of assassinating its leaders, some might assume that Hamas would be reeling.

between Hamas and the Palestinian authority has shifted in the past 14 months of the Palestinian uprising. Hamas has gained in popularity among an increasingly radicalized Palestinian population.

tacks on Israel.

Its populist activism has left the old guard surrounding Yasser Arafat behind.

To make up the lost ground, Mr. Arafat au-

would be tacit acknowledgement of the Oslo peace accords, which it rejects.

But Hamas has never yet openly challenged Mr. Arafat's leadership, per-

## Even Bush cannot stop terrorism - Arafat

In the past 14 months, fighting in the Middle East (between Israelis and Palestinians) has claimed about 1,000 lives, three-fourth of them Palestinians. Recently, there were series of suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Heifa that led to the death of 25 Jews. Israel's response saw Ariel Sharon's government branding Yasser Arafat a supporter of terrorism. In addition, air raids have been carried out on Palestinian settlements including Arafat's office. In this interview with CNN's Rula Amin, Mr. Arafat reacts to Israeli's allegations, America's position and the bombings. Excerpts:

**Mr. Sharon is holding you responsible for the terrorist attacks in Israel and he's saying that the Palestinian authority is responsible.**

I can not be held responsible because they are here and killing our people.

**He said you're not acting so he will act.**

Oh, I am not acting?. What have I done? - You saw by yourself how they are attacking various groups even after I had arrested more than 120 persons. Last night (Monday night).

**They said you have to act. You have to stop the attacks, and then there may be ceasefire.**

Stop the attack? Did President Bush succeed to stop the attack of bin Laden? They have the biggest power. I am doing 100 per cent of my effort, but no one can guarantee 100 per cent results. Including President Bush, and all the American, the biggest power of the world have't the ability to stop what has been done.

**So what can you tell the Israelis? When will they feel secure?.**

To continue with the peace process, which I had started with my partner Rabin, who has been killed by these fanatic groups which are now in the top of the government of Israel.

**Are the Americans pressuring you? What are you telling them?**

I am telling them, the pictures on your CNN is giving the whole screen of what is going on against our people and our cities, against our towns, against our Holy Sacred Christian, Muslim places.

**But they said Israel has to defend itself.**

Defend themselves or they are using F-15 and F-16 and Apache to kill our people?

**What do you tell the Israeli people?**

Let us return to the peace of the brave which I signed with my partner Rabin. Not only for us, not only for them, for the whole area in the Middle East. Otherwise, the whole area in the Middle East will be involved in these struggles. (CNN)



Ariel Sharon



Yasser Arafat

But the Islamic militant group remains defiant, confident of its popular support and the apparent reluctance of the Palestinian leadership to act decisively against it.

The relationship between Hamas and the Palestinian authority has long been complex and tense.

The latest Israeli offensive against the Palestinian territories may be at least partly aimed at driving a final wedge between the two.

The balance of power

Meanwhile, the Palestinian leadership's inability to improve political or economic conditions for its people has been its approval rating plummet - some polls suggest as low as 20 per cent.

Hamas has capitalized on the Palestinian authority's failure to establish a functioning infrastructure by setting up a parallel welfare system with millions of dollars of foreign aid - mostly from Saudi Arabia.

Despite the Israeli assassination policy against its leaders, Hamas has also continued to launch deadly at-

thorized a new generation of younger and more radical grassroots leaders from his Fatah organization to form alliances with Hamas and other Islamic militants.

In addition, most of the security forces around Mr. Arafat are veterans of the guerrilla campaign against Israeli occupation and are loath to arrest militants fighting what is essentially the same cause.

Hamas has resisted recognizing the Palestinian authority as the sole national authority in the territories, saying this

haps recognizing that its popular support only goes so far.

In putting increasingly intense pressure on Mr. Arafat to eradicate Hamas and other Islamic militants, Israel may risk turning the delicate balance between them into an all-out clash.

Whether this is part of an Israeli plan to get rid of Mr. Arafat himself is debatable.

What seems probably, though, is that it will further radicalize and harden the attitudes of ordinary Palestinians. (BBC)

*“The relationship between Hamas and the Palestinian authority has long been complex and tense. The latest Israeli offensive against the Palestinian territories may be at least partly aimed at driving a final wedge between the two.”*

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

## AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST



Villagers carry a wounded man hacked by rival groups of Kibera slums in Nairobi. Ten people were hacked to death in a sprawling slum area in the Kenyan capital when more than 2,000 members of rival groups clashed over a recent dispute.

### 10 feared dead in Nairobi slum violence

Several people are reported dead after clashes sparked by a dispute between landlords and tenants over rent in Nairobi's largest slum, Kibera. The unrest began early on Tuesday morning and is reported to be continuing. The clashes have taken on an ethnic dimension as many landlords are Nubians, originating from Sudan, while many tenants are ethnic Luos.

A number of houses have been set on fire and police have intervened firing live ammunition and tear gas to break up the disturbances.

AP news agency, quoting witnesses and police, said at least 10 people have been

killed.

"They're killing our people with machetes and clubs because they want to force us out of our land. They want our residences," said Fatma Nynazwa as she tried to help an injured man.

Chief Government Pathologist, Kirasi Olumbe, told AFP news agency that six corpses had been taken to the city mortuary.

They appeared to have been hacked to death with machetes, he said.

There have been a number of violent incidents in the past week.

BBC correspondent in Nairobi said that tensions between tenants and landlords were believed to

have been fuelled by President Daniel arap Moi in October.

He had told the tenants that they were paying too much in rent because the landlords did not own the land.

Tension was further heightened on Monday when the local MP, Raila Odinga, an ethnic Luo

### US threat worries Somalis

The United States has said that its war against terrorism would not end in Afghanistan but will be pursued against its enemies wherever they are.

This has raised alarm in Somalia where the US has frozen the funds of the main remittance bank for suspected links with al-Qaeda and where people fear they may be the next on the American hit list.

Somalia may still be a patchwork of feuding factions, but when a BBC team visited Mogadishu last week it found everyone united in asserting that there were no terrorist training camps in the country and that any American attack would be a great mistake.

Osman Ali Atto, one of the warlords holding part of

the capital, said: "I don't believe the Americans would be so irresponsible. Where are the terrorists? You show me one. If there are, they are very few, not anything that can scare the Americans off."

Reports from Mogadishu talk about people leaving town - anyone who has ever had anything to do with al-Qaeda or associated groups is discreetly arranging to be elsewhere.

Like-minded Islamic radical groups - the one most frequently mentioned is al-Ittihad - are believed to have received financial support from outside.

Various projects in Somalia have benefited from Islamic charities, some of whom have links with al-Qaeda.

But al-Ittihad has fragmented and is no longer the force it was.

### Sudan to host development summit

Sudan is to host the yearly summit of the sub-regional Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) on January 11, 2002.

This was made known in a statement signed by the Counsellor, Mr. Salah Eldin Ali Elfadil. "The summit would come up next January 1, instead of this year," he said.

"The two-day summit would discuss the secretariat's report on the organisation's performance as well as report of IGAD partners," he added.

He said the IGAD members which include Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Eritrea and Uganda, as well as the US and the European Union which initiated the forum to anchor responsibility of conflict resolution are expected to be in attendance.

According to the statement, the executive secretary of the IGAD, Mr. Attala Bashir, declared the commitment of the forum to bolster the sub-region's agricultural plans but were reserved about the region's road projects because of their high costs.

Mr. Elfadil said that met the IGAD envoy had since met the Sudanese President, Omar Hassan al-Bashir and gave him a written message from the Kenyan President, Mr. Daniel Arap Moi, he has also met the Sudanese Vice-President, Prof. Moses Machar, the presiden-

By Jibrin Abubakar

tial adviser on Peace, Dr. Ghezi Salah Al-Din and energy minister, Mr. Award Ahmed Al-Jaz.

He said Mr. Sumbeiywo, who was Kenya's army commander, was appointed to the position of envoy by Mr. Moi

earlier this month to replace Mr. Daniel Mboya.

In a related development, "the new American envoy to Sudan, Mr. John Danforth, has also visited the country to try to help end the fighting in Southern Sahara," he said.

### Europe urges Israel to restrain

Europe has urged Israel not to wipe out the Palestinian Authority in its efforts to clamp down on terrorism.

A "measured and proportionate" response to terrorism was needed, the European Commission said in a statement, as Israel launched some of its most severe attacks in the current wave of unrest.

Some European foreign ministers went further than the official statement - with France accusing Israel of appearing to be conducting a deliberate policy aimed at destroying the Palestinian Authority.

The EU statement said Israel had a right to defend itself, but said the Palestinian Authority was necessary.

"The Israeli government and the Israeli people need the Palestinian Authority to fight extremists and as a partner for peace," said commission spokesman Gunnar Wiegand.

"While the right of the Israeli government to defend itself against terrorism is recognised, at the same time we call on Israel for a measured and proportionate response within respect of the rule of law," he added.

He called the Palestinian attacks "odious" and said Mr. Arafat should take visible steps to arrest the perpetrators.

French Foreign Minister, Hubert Vedrine, said Israel risked a "fatal error" if the authority was weakened or eliminated.

"Arafat has been weakened by the harassment of the Israeli army ... and as a result people are using his weakness as an argument to say that since he cannot re-establish order in his own camp, he should in some way be eliminated," Mr. Vedrine said.

### Saudi Arabia, others angry at Israeli strikes

The leaders of both Arab and non-Arab states have angrily condemned Israel's missile strikes on Palestinian targets, deeming them "excessive and unjustified".

The leaders of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen discussed the attacks by telephone and unanimously denounced them, Yemen's official news agency reported, citing President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"The Israeli aggression will lead to dangerous consequences and more violence in the region," warned President Saleh, as Israeli helicopter gunships continued to blast targets in the West Bank and Gaza.

Qatar's Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, whose country is one of few Gulf states with diplomatic and economic ties with Israel, urged the international community "to work to stop Israeli attacks on the defenceless Palestinian people".

Jordan has called for an emergency Arab ministers' meeting in Cairo on Sunday to discuss the escalation.

And the Turkish prime minister strongly condemned the country's headline prime minister, Ariel Sharon.

### Attacks will continue, says Israel

Israel says it will continue attacking Palestinian targets in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to impose direct military pressure on Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat.

A second day of military attacks on eight Palestinian targets claimed at least two lives and injured more than 150, including dozens of schoolchildren.

Mr. Arafat, whose movement has been limited

after Israel destroyed his helicopters and airport in Gaza, escaped injury when Israeli missiles hit his Ramallah headquarters.

The air strikes stopped on Tuesday afternoon, possibly due to stormy weather, and it was not clear when they would resume.

A spokesman for the Israeli army, Brigadier General Ron Kiri, said the raids would continue until the Palestinians took effective action to stop

attacks against Israeli civilians.

"I think the attacks will end only when we are convinced that the Palestinian Authority is doing its duty and fighting terrorism," General Kiri told Israel radio.

Lending new support to Israel's operations, US President George W. Bush said that America and its allies had an obligation to help rid the Middle East of "elements willing to use terror to derail any type of peace process".

"It's incumbent upon other friends and allies of ours around the world to help bring those terrorists to justice if we want peace in the Middle East," Mr. Bush said.

The latest attacks follow a statement by the Israeli cabinet on Monday night declaring the Palestinian Authority an "entity that supports terror".

The declaration has caused a rift in Mr. Sharon's unity cabinet, with Foreign Minister, Shimon Perez accusing elements within the government of attempting to bring about the downfall of the Palestinian Authority.

### Bomb hits central Jerusalem

Six people have been slightly injured after an explosion set off by a suicide bomber outside a hotel in central Jerusalem.

A BBC correspondent at the scene said that there was only limited damage, but that the mangled remains of the bomber could be seen lying in the road.

The explosion occurred at 0735 (0535 GMT) at the David Citadel Hotel, formerly the Hilton, near the Jaffa Gate. This is a busy commercial area, but most office workers were still on their way to work when the explosion occurred.

The bomb, the latest in a round of suicide attacks that have left 25 people dead, came as the Islamic militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad both

released statements pushing for a continuation of the Intifada.

"It was a suicide bomber. He crossed the street from one side to another. He detonated the explosives that were strapped to his body," said Jerusalem police chief Micky Levy.

According to the BBC the severed limbs and bits of clothing of the suicide bomber could be seen strewn along the street.

Police officers armed with large plastic bags are picking their way through the human debris, searching for clues.

The Mayor of Jerusalem, Ehud Olmert, who was in the hotel just before the explosion, said that the bomber was probably intending to board a bus and may have blown himself up after being spotted by a police officer.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

B-52 bomb kills two US soldiers

Two US soldiers have been killed north of Kandahar, after an error during a B-52 bombing raid, according to US Central Command.

Another 20 US soldiers were injured and airlifted out of the area, with an unknown number of casualties among Afghan anti-Taliban fighters.

The incident happened around 0530GMT yesterday, when a US special forces team called in air support, and the B-52 dropped a so-called smart bomb in the wrong place.

It is not yet clear whether the bomb's computerised navigation system failed, or had been given the wrong co-ordinates.

US forces have been providing support for Afghan fighters trying to dislodge the Taliban from their remaining stronghold of Kandahar.

On Tuesday, Pentagon officials confirmed that a member of US special forces were shot and injured near the city. His condition is reported to be stable.

US Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld, has accused the Taliban of using Kandahar's civilian population as "human shields".

"The situation in Kandahar is complicated," he told reporters. "It's not easy, but one thing is clear: The Taliban and al-Qaeda will be driven from Kandahar."

Ahmad Karzai, brother of Afghanistan's newly-nominated transitional leader, Hamid Karzai, said there had been heavy clashes earlier yesterday between Pashtun tribesmen loyal to former Kandahar Governor Gul Agha and Taliban troops.

"Gul Agha's men tried to enter the airport itself, but they could not," he told Reuters news agency.

"They are now back where they were, on the banks of the river about one or two kilometres from the centre of the airport."

A spokesman for Gul Agha's men said they had withdrawn so that the US could continue to bomb the area.

"People like Gul Agha wouldn't be a problem for us" if it were not for the air strikes, said Mullah Qasim, a Taliban commander south of Kandahar.

"We could push him back not in days, but hours."

In the east of the country, anti-Taliban forces have advanced towards the caves in the Tora Bora mountains, where Osama bin Laden - accused of masterminding the September 11 attacks on the United States - is thought to be in hiding.

Hundreds of fighters set out from the town of Jalalabad on Tuesday, intent on reaching the area around Tora Bora, about 55 kilometres (35 miles) south of Jalalabad.

According to one commander, hundreds of anti-Taliban fighters travelling from Jalalabad have met no opposition.

"Bombing continues," Hazrat Ali, in Jalalabad, told Reuters. "We have taken some areas which they [Bin Laden's

men] left around Tora Bora. They pulled out from these areas without a fight."

Part of the cave complex is now reportedly held by anti-Taliban forces.

Mr. Ali said everything was now being put in place for a final assault, but warned that the attack was being delayed whilst his troops ensured that they were not inadvertently hit by US air strikes.

"Yesterday, American planes were about to bomb civilians and our people and we want to make sure that they can identify our men," Mr. Ali said.

He added that US air strikes had killed at least 12 members of Bin Laden's al-Qaeda network in or around Tora Bora in the last two days.

Sri Lanka poll violence claims six

Voting in parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka has been reported to be threatened by violence and malpractice.

Six people were killed overnight in a number of clashes in what is being described as the most violent campaign in recent history.

The army has closed several checkpoints, preventing people of the rebel-controlled areas from crossing into government territory to exercise their right to vote.

There are reports from the central district of Kandy of voters being prevented from entering the polling stations in at least six places and it is alleged that ballot box stuffing has taken place in three others.

The army's actions are preventing minority Tamil voters from exercising their right to vote, many of whom would have voted for the opposition.

The head of the European Union monitoring team, John Cuesnahan, said that if these reports are proven to be accurate, he is very seriously concerned about the implications.

He said it would seem that many thousands of voters were being disenfranchised, and he feared that would have a significant impact on the outcome of the elections in those areas.

UK effects police reform

Home Secretary, David Blunkett, is set to announce the most radical police reforms for decades.

He wants to boost performance and scrap what he considers to be outmoded working practises.

In return for an unprecedented rise in the number of police officers, Mr. Blunkett is expected to announce plans for closer scrutiny of how police forces perform.

The Police Federation, representing rank and file officers, has accused the government of trying to rush them into an agreement.

Mr. Blunkett said the

ODD WORLD

Teenagers convicted of treason after 'cake attack'

A Swedish court convicted four teenagers of high treason on Monday, for throwing a cream cake at King Carl Gustaf.

The four boys aged between 16 and 17 were fined in what was the first Swedish treason case in living memory, Sweden's TT news agency said.

In a protest against the monarch, the youngsters had assembled a strawberry cream cake before one of them threw it in the king's face shouting "For King and Fatherland!" during a royal visit to a Swedish park in September.

The court fined the boys between 100 days' and 80 days' income each, which legal sources said would equate to a maximum fine of about \$370 (about N48,100). They were also convicted of minor assault.

Saudi hospital fights tobacco 'terrorists'

Official figures say over 40 per cent of Saudi men are smokers. Saudi Arabia's leading cancer hospital said it has filed a multi-billion-dollar law suit in Riyadh against 10 international tobacco firms.

A lawyer representing the King Faisal Specialist Hospital declared his client was fighting a holy war against smoking.

Classing a tobacco firm as a sponsor of terrorism demands a certain leap of the imagination, but that is exactly what the leading Saudi lawyer, Ahmad al-Tuwarjiri is trying to do.

Mr. Tuwarjiri was quoted as saying that smoking had killed so many people that tobacco firms should be classed as sponsors of terrorism.

"We are fighting a holy war to eradicate the source of the biggest corruption on earth," he said.

He said tobacco firms should be included on the lists of terrorist organisations because of the large numbers of deaths caused by smoking.

His client, the hospital, is seeking initial damages of nearly \$3bn (about N390b) to recoup the costs of 25 years of treating smoking-related illnesses.

The lawyer said the hospital would also be hiring firms in Switzerland and the United States to pursue its case around the world.

30-year-old 'terror' statement earns man detention

One of the world's most famous conductors was briefly detained by Swiss police on suspicion of being linked to terrorist activities.

Frenchman Pierre Boulez had his passport confiscated in the town of Basle where he had been conducting at a music festival last month.

Europe has seen a series of anti-terrorist dawn raids since September 11, but this must be the strangest.

Pierre Boulez was sleeping in his five star Swiss hotel when police dragged him from bed and informed him he was on their national list of terrorist suspects.

The 75-year-old, who once conducted the BBC symphony orchestra, had his passport confiscated for three hours before he was free to go.

Strangely, it was not a case of mistaken identity. In the revolutionary 1960s, it seems that Boulez said that opera houses should be blown up, comments which the Swiss felt made him a potential security threat.

'Father Xmas' allegedly slaps child

A German Santa Claus came under investigation on Monday, for slapping a boy and locking him in a broom cupboard, police said.

The man apparently lost his patience when he was taunted by a group of children who wanted to see what he was wearing under his red Santa Claus outfit, police said.

A nine-year-old boy accused him of slapping his face and locking him in an unlit broom cupboard in the town hall of Pfungstadt in western Germany for a number of minutes.

"He vehemently denies having done that," a police spokesman said.

The child's parents filed a legal complaint against the man, aged about 55. Police said they did not plan to detain him. He had been working in a Christmas market. It is unclear whether he would be allowed to continue handing out presents.



Police officers carry Andres Felipe Perez, a 12-year-old boy suffering from cancer, upon his arrival at his hometown of Boga, in southern Colombia. The father of the boy, Norberto Perez, is a police officer being kept captive by rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (RAFC).

Anti-Taliban forces head for Bin Laden's hide-out

Hundreds of anti-Taliban fighters are reported to be heading for a mountain stronghold in eastern Afghanistan, hoping to hunt down members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network who have retreated there.

The fighters set out from the town of Jalalabad intent on reaching the area of Tora Bora, where bin Laden - accused of masterminding the 11 September attacks on the United States - is thought to be in hiding.

One of the leaders of the anti-Taliban advance on Tora Bora said he was assembling a 3,000-strong force to hunt for the al-Qaeda leader.

Hazrat Ali also told the Associated Press news agency that a patrol comprising about a dozen of his men exchanged fire with al-Qaeda fighters in the Tora Bora area on Tuesday.

The al-Qaeda fighters abandoned a tank and fled to higher ground, he said.

Mr. Ali said that weeks of US bombing had driven up to 1,200 al-Qaeda fighters high up into the mountains, where they were split into small groups.

At least 12 al-Qaeda fighters had been killed in the past two days, he added.

Meanwhile, in the south of the country, opposition forces reportedly withdrew from an area near the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar after meeting fierce resistance - apparently from foreign al-Qaeda fighters.

Ahmad Karzai, the brother of Pashtun leader Hamid Karzai, told Reuters news agency that there had been heavy clashes between Pashtun tribesmen loyal to former Kandahar governor Gul Agha and Taliban troops at Kandahar airport.

"There was very heavy fighting. Gul Agha's men tried to enter the airport itself, but they could not," he said.

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# BUSINESS DAY

## Foundation urges FG to stop dumping

The Obafemi Awolowo Foundation has urged the federal government to intensify measures to stop dumping of foreign products in the country.

The call, contained in a communique issued at the end of the foundation's two-day 10th annual dialogue on Tuesday in Lagos, noted that dumping would hamper the growth of local industries.

Government, the communique suggested, should also formulate and implement policies that would address infrastructural deficiencies and adverse interest rates, and stem the decline of the naira.

The dialogue, with the theme "Nigeria: Role of the Private Sector in National Development," urged regular dialogue among all stakeholders in the economy and also advocated for the strengthening of the rule of law, judicial institutions and law reforms.

Participants in the dialogue suggested that the government, rather than compete for business with the private sector, should concern itself with providing an enabling environment and a level playing field for investors.

They emphasised that since the country could not shy away from globalisation, the government should formulate policies to protect local industries and reform the private sector to play a leading role in the economy.

Arguing that the solution to the unemployment problem was not in poverty alleviation but in wealth generation, the foundation said that the informal sector should not be considered inferior but harnessed into the mainstream economy.

In an earlier session, Mr. Odunayo Olagundoye, Managing Director of the National Bank of Nigeria, said the government's priority should be "to create excellent infrastructure assets and upgrade human capital assets."

In a paper entitled, "Government: The New Thinking," Olagundoye said the country would be an effective competitor in the emerging global opportunities if its infrastructure and human assets were developed.

On the continued downward slide of the naira against the dollar, he said that, the only alternative was to reduce the amount of the currency in circulation or increase key interest rates to reduce the demand for foreign currencies.



Commissioner for Insurance, Chief Oladipo A. Bailey (l) in a handshake with the Managing Director of Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), Alhaji Abdulganiyu Ogunleye (m); while the Director of Home Finance in the Federal Ministry of Finance, Mr. Basil N. Osuji looks on during the 1st Insurance Directors' Conference recently in Abuja. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

## NAL MD says Kano's 12% equity won't change direction

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of NAL Merchant Bank Plc, Mr. Ben Akabueze has said that the recent acquisition of 12 percent of NAL by Kano State Government would not change the bank's direction.

He said it would be wrong to describe Kano State as the core investor in NAL Bank Plc., as there are other investors.

Mr. Akabueze said this even as the bank changed its name to NAL Bank Plc and transformed its logo to reflect its multi-dimensional approach to banking.

He said while briefing newsmen in Lagos that along with the new name is a new logo. It consists of four double-headed arrows printed in various directions but all emanating from a central point of togetherness. The space between the arrows form the letter x, which symbolises multiplicity of expertise, while the edges of the arrows touch each other to reflect collusion.

"Our new identity therefore embodies a deepening of our expertise, which encompasses investment banking, commercial banking, stock broking, asset management, trusteeship insurance, brokerage and registrar services."

Akabueze disclosed that NAL has no equity stake in the Akwa Ibom State refinery construction, saying its role in the project is to lead a syndicate of banks that would underwrite the project that would be bankrolled by the United State Export-Import Bank (EXIM).

From Bright Ewule, in Lagos

According to him, this was in line with the American Bank's requirements, they are on standby to finance the refinery which he said will have production capacity of 12,000 barrels per day.

He stated that NAL shareholders approved the right issue planned by the board of the bank, but added that the date and time of the issue is yet to be determined by the bank.

On lack of support for the real sector by banks, the NAL managing director stated that it was wrong to slam banks for the medicare situation in the nations productive sector.

According to him, the real problem of the productive sector are lack of infrastructure, unstable fiscal policy and death of access to markets and not finance.

On why the board decided to retain the NAL name in its new packages, he said "we believe that there is a strong franchise value in the name of NAL."

## Obasanjo tasks centre on investments

By Ahmed Shekarau

President Olusegun Obasanjo Tuesday told the National Productivity Centre to do more to attract foreign investments into the country.

Specifically, President Obasanjo told the centre to compile productivity indices

of various sectors of the Nigerian economy for distribution to international and local investment bodies to attract more investments, especially foreign direct investments.

The president who was addressing the National Productivity Order of Merit award day for 1999 and 2000, in Abuja, warned that unless concerted efforts are made to woo foreign investments, the investors may not patronise countries like Nigeria.

According to him, in a globalised economy, investors patronised countries with comparative



President Obasanjo.

economic advantage, stressing that it was only through the productivity indices that such comparison could be made.

He said government would continue to provide infrastructures to open up all parts of the country to massive industrial development, which he said was the bedrock, catalyst, and a spring board for the expansion of the nation's economy.

"The short and long term benefits of the above would include job creation, greater social security, crime reduction, socio-economic stability, and better standard of living of our people," Obasanjo stressed.

He said the nation must improve on its level of productivity to realise its much-yearned dream of economic growth.

President Obasanjo decried that the social services rendered by government agencies in the form of subsidies, had been counter-productive.

"Therefore, government agencies must find ways of generating their own revenues from collaborative ventures with private sector organisations through productive commercialisation of their activities," Obasanjo said.



Kola Jamodu, Industries Minister.

# BUSINESS DAY

## NCAA boss proposes new measures on air safety

The Director General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Engineer Zakari Haruna has advocated the need for civil aviation authorities in the developing countries to strengthen their regulatory and monitoring framework to ensure safe and secure air transportation.

In a keynote address at the inaugural meeting of International Federation of the Aeronautical Communications Associations (IFACA) in Lagos, Engineer Haruna said "as these tasks in terms of volume and quality increase on profit, making mega alliances like IFACA must emerge to assist Civil Aviation Authorities to cope effectively with these burden.

This can however be achieved through meaningful cooperation, harmonisation of operating standards and dissemination of information to all practitioners for the control and management of the industry."

The conference, Engineer Haruna noted, could not have come at a more opportuned time by the earliest part of the new millennium in order to strengthen the global effort at the economic efficiency and safety of the air transport industry as pioneered by international agencies like ICAO and supported by international agencies like IATA, IFALPA and AFCAC. The NCAA boss observed that the role of Aeronautical communications cannot be over-emphasised in the aviation industry.

Consequently, he

From Shikarat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

advocated the need to have a pool of seasoned Aeronautical Telecommunications through ab-initio training,



Kema Chikwe, Aviation Minister.

on-the-job training and experience, which he said is non-negotiable.

He was of the view that the relatively large number of incidents and accidents traceable to deficiencies in Aeronautical communications bear witness to this crucial aspect of the practice in the industry and underlines the importance of the formation of the association.

"Professional Associations like yours have a lot to contribute to the development of human society through the establishment of code of ethics, standardisation of practices and articulations of short/long term strategies to guide the growth of the profession," he noted.

He stated that the pace of technological advancements across the globe poses challenges to IFACA, particularly the revolutionary developments in the information and communication technology.

The Communication, Navigation Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) system, according to the DG, was a case in point adding that the need to adapt very rapidly to emerging technologies will be imperative, while methodologies/instructional techniques to impart theoretical and practical skills to both old practitioners and new entrants will need to be constantly researched.

## British Airways launches inflight medicare manual

Passengers well being while on air received a major with the launch by British Airways, of Med Aire and Dorling Kindersley medicare manual, set to establish new industry standards of inflight

healthcare.

British Airways' new manual of inflight medical care, replaces the 1995 manual and is a full guide to in-flight medicare. It has taken over four years of planning to produce and is

already attracting interest from several other airlines in the U. K.

*Business Day* learnt that the manual apart from being distributed to all the airline's cabin crew, would also be placed onboard every British

Airways aircraft.

The 140-page fully illustrated manual aims to provide cabin crew with the most comprehensive guide to in-flight medical care.

Areas covered in the manual include basic anatomy and physiology, aviation medicine, first aid for in-flight emergencies, resuscitation procedures, use of onboard medical kits and obtaining medical assistance.

The medical information was written by aviation health experts from within British Airways' health services and aviation medical training departments.

## Maduekwe solicits port workers' support for privatisation

The Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, has urged workers of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to show understanding and embrace dialogue with the Federal Government on its plan to privatise the port.

Speaking Tuesday in Lagos in what he called a "Family Meeting" between himself, the Senior Staff Association of NPA and other in-house unions,

Maduekwe said it was important to understand government's position on the privatisation.

The minister said that he preferred dialogue with the NPA unions, saying: dialogue paid and was very essential to prevent people from misconstruing good intentions.

Maduekwe told stakeholders at the meeting that he felt disturbed in the past few days by persistent press reports that the

leadership of the senior staff association was planning a showdown over the issue.

"As the minister of transport, the chief servant and a father, I felt it will be irresponsible of me to pretend as if their was no problem," said the minister who shelved his tour of the nation's coastline for the meeting.

He remarked that the issue of privatisation was fundamental to the economic recovery, growth and development of the nation, adding that Nigeria was coming much after many other nations had done so, but that the government would ensure that it studied the process adopted by them to avoid any pitfalls.

He said that the government was determined to embark on privatisation of the port for the benefit of the people and the country in general.

"For us there would always be privatisation with a face," he said, but suggested that the word "privatisation" could be dropped for another if it was being misconstrued.

On the rumoured attempt by the government to sell NPA's property in London, the minister denied this and said that the move would be made public whenever the government decided to.

## FG to set up fund for rural telecoms

-Ndukwe

grassroots rather than wait for the telecoms operators.

"So where the operators do not reach, either because of distance and viability of such locations, the Universal Service Fund will be used to extend services to such communities to ensure that as many people as possible get connected," Ndukwe said.

Ndukwe said the NCC was also considering a joint application by NEPA and South Africa's ESKOM for long distance operator's license, adding that if their application met the requirements, the firms would get one of the licenses.

NAN quotes the NCC boss as saying that opening up of the telecoms sector did not in any form pose a threat to national security, adding that only countries which did not want to progress would be engaged in holding such a view in this age of information technology.

"The world is a connected village. Satellite communication does not know boundaries. The internet has opened up boundaries in a limitless fashion and knowledge is spread from one continent to another, so really, those talks about national security is an old wife's tale that have no bearing on modern reality," Ndukwe said.

The NCC chief said that opening up the country to competition and liberalisation can only improve the living standard of the people and put the country on the same footing with other parts of the world.

## FG reviews tourism policy

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

The existing federal government policy on Trade and Tourism is being reviewed to address issues of tourism development in the country.

This hint was contained in a progress report of the steering committee on hospitality and tourism which was inaugurated recently by Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

Briefing the press over the progress report, the Conservator-General of the Federation, Alhaji Lawan Marguba said the hospitality and tourism steering committee met and came up with a draft national tourism policy on how to move the Nigerian tourism industry forward.

According to him, the committee held a joint meeting with stakeholders and references were made to other African countries' experiences on their tourism policy and master plan.

Among other things, the

committee also urged that a special tourism police be established with all their activities to be controlled by the Nigerian Police Force.

The committee also called for the setting up of the National Tourism Development Fund (NTDF) to enable private operators contribute freely in the system.



Boma Jack, Tourism Minister.



Albarka Air Services Director of Engineering, Mr. Mike Aylene (l) and its Managing Director, Col. Honest Stephen (rtd), during the inspection of the airline's 256 series 173 passenger capacity Boeing 727 aircraft at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, recently in Abuja. Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

# BUSINESS DAY

## CIL: Irabor wants Obasanjo to intercede

**C**hairman House Committee on Communications, Rep. Nduka Irabor has asked President Olusegun Obasanjo to intercede in the GSM licence controversy between the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and Communications Investment Limited (CIL).

Rep. Irabor said in a statement made available to *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday, that Obasanjo should intervene in the controversy in the public interest and right the obvious

By Henry Omu

injustice meted out to CIL.

He said his plea for presidential intervention is based on Obasanjo's prompt intervention when the sale of privatised Nigerdock and NITEL ran into murky waters.

In these two instances, the lawmaker disclosed that Obasanjo first intervened to allow payment by the preferred bidders after the set deadline, while in the second case, clear technical issues were reviewed after the close of bidding by the presidency

to provide comfort for the preferred bidder.

"The president's action is in my view, a vindication of the case of CIL" and has therefore provided the president an opportunity to intervene, "in the public interest, and right the obvious injustice meted out to CIL."

Moreover, he stated that since the president had ordered the voidance of all frequency spectrum allocated by the ministry of communications because of bureaucratic mistakes, is a vindication of the House of

Representatives, resolution that the NCC erred in cancelling the GSM licence and band frequency awarded to CIL.

Obasanjo's action in respect of Nigerdock and NITEL, Irabor added is a tacit admission that "conditions did exist for CIL to require a letter of comfort from the NCC in the circumstances."

"The president's findings and action further exposes the fact that the NCC did not have what it purported to offer the world at large in terms of clear frequency," the lawmaker said.

According to him, the intervention of the president in the CIL/NCC GSM licence controversy would improve the image of the Obasanjo administration, rather than diminish it.

## Nigeria Reinsurance declares N51m profit

By Hassan Idris

**T**he Nigeria Reinsurance Corporation has realised over N51.1 million as net profit as at 31st December 1999 and it has entered into a performance agreement with the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) whereby it was obliged to attain a certain level of operational efficiency and profitability.

The chairman of Nigeria Reinsurance, Chief P. C. Onuoha made this declaration at its 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) yesterday, in Abuja.

Chief Onuoha stated that at the beginning of the year 1999 the entire polity was pervaded by a cloud of uncertainty regarding the possible outcome of yet another round of a military orchestrated transition to

civil rule programme, including general global economic downturn.

He said that has affected the overall business performance of the company thereby, the net profit stood at N51.107 million in 1999, as against its level of N73,085 million in 1998, which recorded about 30 per cent drop in comparison, he said.

He added that in compliance with the provisions of section 11(1) and (2) of the Nigeria Reinsurance Decree of 1977, the sum of N3.0674 million was proposed adopted as dividends payable to the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and the balance General Reserve Account (GRA).

## Interview

### We'll revolutionise Plateau into an industrial state — PIPDC MD

*DT: You have been the Managing Director of PIPDC for about two years. Can you tell us how the company has fared under your leadership?*

**MULWUS:** Well, basically the main objective is to promote investment and property development in the state. And already the foundation for that has been laid in 1992 with the amalgamation of all other agencies that were hitherto independently operating, into what is today called Plateau Investment and Property Development Company (PIPDC). And you know the journey so far has been very encouraging. When from 1992-1994, the investment worth of the company has increased — substantially to about two hundred million worth and that has been increased also to about six hundred million before 1999, and from 1999 to date, we have about 1.9 billion. So that goes to show the progress we had made. But the critical thing if you are talking in terms of activities, our main focus in the past two years is to inculcate into the people a long-term investment culture that they should imbibe. And that we have achieved substantially when we talk of the privatisation and commercialisation that the Federal Government embarked upon. Infact hitherto, the state could not buy up its own allotment in the previous exercise. Today, the situation has change because the state was able to over-subscribe in all shares that were allotted to it. We are able to meet our target of trying to satisfy people towards investment which has been achieved. The civil servants and most people in the state have taken up this issue of long-term investment and cottage investment which is one of the greatest achievements made in trying to ensure that people see the benefit of investing in what will continue to give them long term dividends.

*DT: Plateau State has been*

*Plateau State is identified as a civil service state because of its low level of industrial base. The present administration in the state however came up with a programme of re-engineering the state's economy to empower its citizens. In this interview, Daily Trust correspondent in Jos, Buhari Bello asked the Managing Director of the Plateau State Investment and Property Development Company (PIPDC), Mr. Alexander Mulwus, what the administration is doing to transform the state's economy.*

*described as a civil servants dominated state. What are you doing to change it to a commercial or industrialised state?*

**MULWUS:** Well, it is a long term promotional preaching as it were, to make the people appreciate the magnitude of the need for them to invest in the state. But you see the fact of the matter is that in Nigeria as a whole (except in a few states), majority or almost all the states are dependent on government or their enterprises. So Plateau is not an exception. But Plateau State is an exception because the civil servants here in the state have not embarked on entrepreneurship. You see the difference between the civil servants in Plateau State and the civil servants in other parts of the country is that those other parts of the country have entrepreneurship orientation which makes them to appreciate that one day they will leave service and set-up a business of their own. But in Plateau State, people believe that they would want to work and work until they attain an age that they cannot be productive to themselves. That is what is bad and that is what we want to change. We don't want people to be in the civil service and continue to be in the civil service until thy kingdom comes. So what we have adopted in the state is to change that attitude to make them know that life is not all that terribly bad in the civil service as they think. So the idea that we are trying to do is to really preach to them to see the difference of having an entrepreneur capacity that would make them to start planning when leaving the service one day. And of course, we have changed them tremendously. You can see one or two of the civil servants doing one or two things that they know they

can fall back on after service. These are the kind of things that as far as we are concerned some achievements that have been made in that respect and one day we would overcome it.

*DT: Can you tell us any concrete measures taken by the State Government towards ensuring that the civil servants in the state become self-reliant after retirement?*

**MULWUS:** Basically, there are two major plans; one is the issue of government encouraging civil servants to buy shares which are aimed at enabling them becoming self-reliant are now seeing the important role in going to monitor their investment in these companies through the annual report and general meetings of most of the companies. When the AGM

of Lion Bank was held at Awka, the number of civil servants from Plateau who went down for the AGM goes to show the interest. And you will discover that the state has given loans to women in rural areas the largest in the history of Plateau State, amounting over N30 million. We never had that in the past. And when you see this issue of one million naira per ward for programme for which many of us try not only to encourage the setting up of infrastructures but also some basic framework that will spring up enterprising activities in these wards. If these monies are properly and judiciously used, the number of enterprises and economic activities that will rise in all the 207 wards that we have in the state will be

enormous. So the long run effect will be very great for entrepreneurial activities in the state. Recently, you are aware that the state governor has directed that civil servants that were retrenched who may not want to go back to the civil service be given loans to set-up enterprises of their own and I think this is a very magnificent step forward in re-engineering the people.

*DT: But some of them said their economy may be better if they are paid their full entitlements by the state government?*

**MULWUS:** Well, PIPDC is not involved in the settlement of their entitlements. Infact, we are saying that with their condition now, one would wish that they have potentials of enterprise protection. So we are trying to make our own contributions towards enhancing their standards of living.

*DT: What is the position of the shares purchased by the state government for the civil servants through PIPDC?*

**MULWUS:** Well, it is interesting to note that two hundred million naira was given and this exercise was carried out to the letter. It was very clear that every beneficiary was given a percentage in all the ministries. The lists were compiled from PIPDC and we are working with the ministry of finance for the purpose of deducting those facilities for each of the civil servants who benefited in the exercise. So you will discover that it was a loan given to them and it was secured by the deduction from their salaries. And until that is done, PIPDC holds the share certificates as collateral pending when the payments are finalised. Infact, many of them are coming to collect their share certificates and they are

attending the various AGMs of their companies. Only recently, the state committee on privatisation and commercialisation has approved that we are going to place the master list of all of the beneficiaries at the state secretariat so that each one of them will get to know what he got. But the only thing they will not get is the certificate until deductions are completed.

*DT: We understood that PIPDC bought official cars for commissioners through loans inspite the level of indebtedness of the state to both foreign and local creditors. Why was it necessary and what was the basis for such borrowing?*

**MULWUS:** You know the whole nature of democratic system and particularly a presidential system of government is very expensive. Really, anybody that has been provided with office needs to get atleast an official car. And I think that it is unfair to the government to say that because there's debt here and there they should be footing or use their private cars for government work. So, the minimum requirement of each of them should be met. And these things are for commissioners. So that is why we came in to get some facilities to provide the cars. It was PIPDC that secured the loan and am sure that the process of the payment is almost completed by now.

*DT: But they all inherited cars in their offices?*

**MULWUS:** I am glad that you mentioned that. I wish you had seen those vehicles they inherited. Infact some of them cannot even go along with the governor's convoy on the road. I remember there was a time we were on an assignment and a commissioner's car knocked. I had to carry him in my car. It is very degrading. Atleast there are minimum comforts that people should not talk about because as far as I am concerned it is unfair to talk about that. And to me there is nothing wrong about it.



Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS IN PICTURES**

The Annual General meeting and conference of the Nigerian society of Chemical Engineers (NSChE) was held in Abuja from the 8th-10th of November 2001, at the Nicon Hilton Abuja.  
 Highlight of the occasion was the conferment of fellowship of the society to the president of the Federal Republic, Engr. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR.  
 Below are some of the pictures shot during the welcome Cocktail Party, Annual Conference, AGM and Annual Dinner.



Minister of FCT Engr. Mohd. Abba Gana reading the President Obasanjo's address at the opening ceremony



Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum & Energy, Dr. Rilwan Lukman, FCT Minister, Engr. Abba Gana representing Mr. President and LOC Chairman Engr. A.O Ogedegbe



Dignitaries at the conference Left to Right: Engr. Sani Bello, Senator Dr. Fred Brume, Chairman, Finance Committee of LOC, Dr. Rilwan Lukman Special Adviser to the President and Dr. T.M. John former GMD, NNPC



Cross section of conference delegates, in the fore ground L-R Engr. Solanke, Engr. Mansur Ahmed Rep. NNPC GMD, and Engr. Mohd. M. Bello Secretary LOC. Abuja 2001



MD, Nig. LNG Dr. A. Jamieson, his wife and Senator Dr. Brume at the Annual Dinner of the NSChE Abuja 2001.



Presentation of Fellowship award of the NSChE to the Rep. of Mr. President showing the award to the gathering at the opening of the Confab, while the first President of NSChE Engr. Sholanke assisting the current President Engr. Soyode to confer the honour.



LOC Chairman, Engr. A.O. Ogedegbe FNSChE, in a chat with NSChE. President, Engr. B.A. Soyode, FNSChE, and Alhaji Lawal Yari.



Opening ceremony of the conference L-R: Dr. Rilwan Lukman Special Adviser on Petroleum and Energy, Engr. Alex Ogedegbe, Chairman Local Organising Comm. of the conference and Minister of FCT. Engr. Mohammed Abba Gana representing Mr. President.



NSChE President, Engr. B. A Soyode FNSChE, Chats with Representative of FCT Minister as Chairman of the Annual Dinner



LOC Secretary, Engr. M. M. Bello MNSChE and another guest listen to a presentation during the Technical session.

Star Feature

# The fascinating world of Home videos

In recent years Home Videos have become popular sources of entertainment and relaxation, among Nigerians of all ages. Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman recently explored this social phenomenon, and wrote this account.

**Background**

Something unique happened when the British Colonial masters exhibited the first film in Nigeria at Glover Memorial Hall, Lagos, in August 1903. Cultural Historians have traced the development of film culture in the country from this period.

It is however important to note that film during this period, was not more than a propaganda weapon targeted at strengthening and justifying colonial interests and activities.

Upon the attainment of independence in 1960, the Nigeria film unit was established taking over the activities of the colonial film unit. This was the time Nigeria was to benefit from the use of film as a means of socio-cultural self-realisation and change. But far from realisation, it was observed that not even the indigenisation decree of 1972 had the desired impact in nigerianising the industry. Indians and Lebanese were said to have come onto the scene, holding monopoly to the distribution and exhibition of foreign feature films.

A film is not only a means of education and entertainment. It is also a formidable tool for socialisation, mobilization, and Cultural Revolution. Against this backdrop, the emerging Nigerian film was not left to operate in a vacuum. A national policy was formulated to guide the production content of Nigerian films.

**Home videos today**

Since the emergence of independent local films or what is popularly known as Home Videos, many questions are being raised as to the socio-cultural relevance, and as to whether the frame work of the policy within which the Nigerian Film is to operate, are observed. Issues regarding the use of talents have also been raised.

Thousands of films have been produced in the meantime. One interesting thing about the emergent Home Video tradition is the use of local talents, and mainly local themes, which form the background of production.

Nigeria has also established her presence in such varieties as comedies which have greater prominence in the movie. However documentaries are only given very little attention in the industry.

It is interesting to know that apart from the use of local talents in Nigerian films, majority of the scenes are also shot within the country. What seems to have been the

loves Nigerian films, and she comments on Home Videos thus "Nigerians have actually tried a great deal. In fact it has been so wonderful watching Nigerians when they act. The scenic beauty of Lagos and other cities are extensively used. Nigeria is also blessed with good village settings which simply delight the viewer.

Personally I like Nigerian films. The only matter, which

them play some parts today in one film. If you slot in another film, you will also see them again.

You know, these things have made the whole thing boring. Although you have a variety of ideas expressed in different films, but the frequent reappearance of the same faces is a thing to worry about."

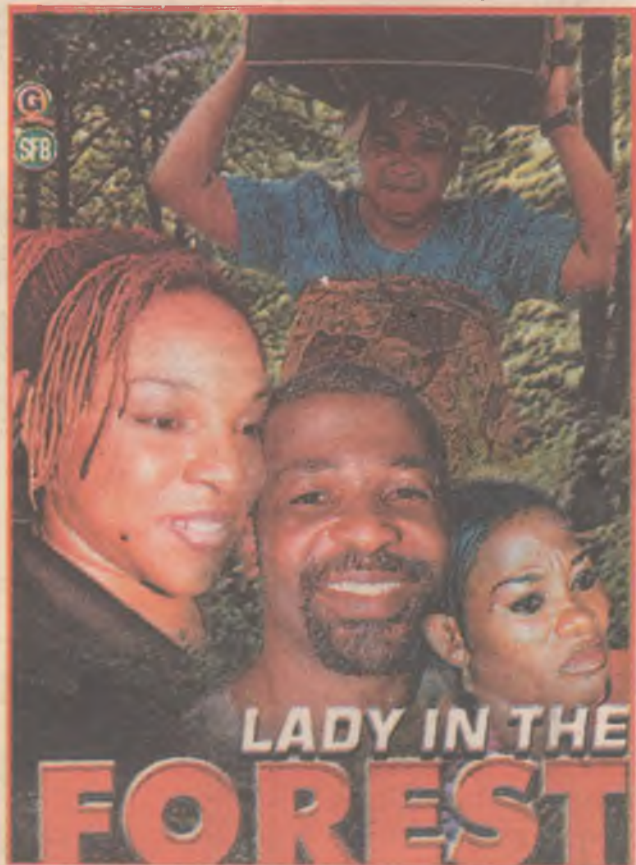
Celsus Agla is also another ardent lover of home movies. He is equally not comfortable with the frequent appearance of some actors and actresses in the films. Agla however, sees reason in the fact that the industry is still very much in its infancy.

"I sincerely hope that this would change for the better over time. I believe it all has to do with time. I am pretty sure that when America was beginning Hollywood, which came to be the largest film producers in the world today, they faced the same problem. As you can see, in some of the recent home movies, you find new faces being introduced. That shows that the producers are equally aware of the monotony created by the frequent use of some particular artists."

Some people are of the view that Nigerian Films have gone a long way in fighting some of the social problems in the society. These include phenomena such as robbery, marital misconduct and witchcraft, and equally some traditional beliefs, which are considered harmful to man's relationship with the Almighty.

Films like "End of the river", "Glamour Girls I and II", "August meeting" and a host of others, are considered to have had some strong effect on the society.

The initial fears expressed by some film lovers about the home videos, are to the effect that they reflect the practice of witchcraft in our society. It was held by many that producers were only trying



Poster advertising a new Home Video

issue of concern is the over concentration of content on certain geographical areas of the country. It is obvious that majority of the home videos have themes centred on the socio-cultural problems, revolutions and changes in the Eastern part of the country.

The themes, issues and ideas that are central to the production of majority of the home videos are derived from the East. In the same vein, it is observed that majority of the actors and actresses used in Nigerian films are from the East.

This has reached such an extent that the Igbo language is spoken in almost all the films available in the market. Apart from this, the audio background used in most of the films is Eastern in its essence.

Similarly, the issue of talent participation has been raised. Miss Elizabeth Izeabhor is keen on films. She

I am not very pleased about, is the reappearance of the same persons in most of the films. You find out that people like Liz Benson, Hilda Dokubor, Pete Edochie, and others, are frequently seen on the screen. You watch



Local actors of the Bajinta Cultural and Dramatic Club, Zaria, in a performance of "Queen Amina". Talents often abound in such clubs.



Another poster announcing a new Home Video

to show the rest of the world that nothing good happens in Nigeria except witchcraft. To a great extent, there have been changes in themes in this context.

The changes that have occurred tended however to strengthen the western genre in the Home videos. The pattern of costume used in any movie would largely depend on the theme and the ideas to be passed across.

It is now very common to see naked women in such films. To attract buyer's, posters are used to show how sex appeals are used in the films. In the view of some people, this is an ugly development in the industry, which clearly contradicts the essence of the Nigerian film policy.

True to the text, section 4.1.4(g) of the Nigerian Film Policy states "In order to give a positive orientation to locally produced films, the state shall through appropriate legislation ensure the promotion of decency of appearance and discourage dehumanisation of the Nigerian people, and (h) encourage the extensive

and authentic use of indigenous costumes, make-up, music and dance in Nigerian Films.

Chinedu Ogbunike is a distributor of home videos for infinity merchants. In his own words, "Producers have to be excused for the frequent appearance of the same faces on the videos." He sees reason in the fact that the industry is just coming up. He added that even the distribution of these films at times poses problems, which he believes would be overcome in the course of time. "As a matter of fact, what is presently produced in Nigeria cannot be regarded as films, in the real sense of the word. That is why they are called home videos. There is a great deal of difference between films and home videos. The former involves the use of a higher technology. It is more spectacular and uses what we technically call space. Our home videos still need some time to reach that stage. One cannot, for example, compare what is obtainable in Hollywood with that of Lagos.

"Our country is relatively small, and so you even find that it is not only faces of people that are often repeated. Even scenes are repeated, and you know, it is very expensive. I am referring the business of film production. You have to travel from place to place to shoot scenes. In some cases, this is done repeatedly. Where an actor or actress has to be invited from another country to play a role in a film, production expenses would involve the entire period such a person would be invited for rehearsals. So we only need time to improve upon everything we do from scripting to even post-production and distribution."

NEWS

# Minister reiterates FG's commitment to integration

The Minister of State for Justice, Mr. Musa Elayo Abdullahi, has reiterated the Federal Government's commitment to co-operation and integration among African Nations especially within the

West African sub-region. He made this remark while receiving, on behalf of the Attorney General of the Federation, the Chadian Minister of Justice, Mr. Mahamat Abdoulaye, in the Ministry of Justice on Tuesday.

Mr. Abdoulaye, who led a delegation of Chadian officials to Nigeria to discuss issues bordering on security at Nigeria's border with Chad, noted with great admiration the good will of the Nigerian Government towards the large Chadian

community in Nigeria. The visiting minister, who was accompanied by the Chadian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Dusaodu Dfidde, however, informed the Minister of State of some problems along his country's border with Nigeria on the

Borno State axis, some of which include border banditry and harassment. In his response, the Minister of State for Justice assured the Chadian delegation of the readiness of the Federal Government in implementing all identified and agreed strategies to

practicalise the principle of good neighbourliness "which is a stepping-stone towards achieving integration within the African Union." Other members of the delegation were Messrs Maikambo Solili, Hoyndoyw and A. Hamid."



Mr. Musa Elayo

## Provost advocates educational revolution

The Provost of the College of Arabic and Islamic Legal Studies, Ilorin, Dr. Badmus Lanre Yusuf, has called for educational revolution in the country.

Speaking in an interview

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

with Daily Trust, Dr. Badmus said government should increase the percentage of revenue allocated to the education sector in the budget.

In addition, the provost said government must de-emphasise the huge sum of

money committed to defence "since it is viewed that such monies are allocated for some people to misappropriate or embezzle."

According to Dr. Badmus, "if you improve the condition of service for teachers, improve the learning facilities and motivate students, the standard of education will improve tremendously and its quality will be restored."

He blamed parents, students and government for the falling standard of education, saying, "a little ethical rejuvenation of the entire society will refocus our attention to what should be our priority - nobility, probity and moral rectitude."

Dr. Badmus said in order to reverse the trend of the falling standard of education, "we need to go back to the drawing board to review our educational policy and emphasise the importance of education not necessarily for material gains but to transform a person completely and appreciate life in reality."

He said teachers must be motivated to produce the best in them while infrastructural facilities must also be put in place to provide a conducive learning environment.

## Fall in crime rate attributed to govt support

The fall in crime rate in Edo State has been attributed to the commitment of the state government towards assisting security agencies in the state with logistic support, the Edo State Comptroller of Immigration Service, Alhaji Abubakar Kaigama Hassan, has said.

Alhaji Abubakar disclosed this in his office in Ikpoba Hill, Benin City, the Edo State capital, while exchanging views with journalists.

Alhaji Hassan, who was recently given a Peugeot 505 official car by Governor Lucky Igbinedion, said "it is

From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin

very necessary for states and local government councils in the country to complement the efforts of the Federal



Gov Igbinedion

Government towards funding and equipping security agencies for maximum security in the country, especially in this period of global unrest." Daily Trust investigations revealed that the state government has within the year assisted the state command of the Nigeria Prisons Service with a custom-built Black Maria vehicle and also sank a bore-hole at the prison yard in Benin City.

The Nigeria Police were assisted with 18 patrol vans fully equipped with modern communication gadgets while the state command of the Nigeria Civil Defence Corps (NCDC) was also given a Peugeot 504 to enhance its activities.

The Federal Road Safety Corps, Daily Trust gathered, were equally given an ambulance to boost their highway operations.

## Katsina resettles 102 disabled people with N2.5 million

The Katsina State government has released N2.5 million to resettle about 102 disabled persons and train 40 others under the institutional and community-based Vocational Rehabilitation Programme (VRP).

The training, which is in tailoring, shoe making, carpentry, welding and refrigeration among others, is aimed at making the disabled

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

persons self-reliant. The Commissioner for Special Duties, Alhaji Mansir Usman Mazofi, who disclosed this during this year's International Disabled Day (IDD), said, "the state government is committing substantial resources into the training of the disabled in the state so that they too can contribute their quota to the socio-economic development of Katsina State."

He disclosed that the six rehabilitation centres established by the state government in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a pilot scheme in four local government areas of the state have been increased to all the 36 local government areas for maximum reach.



Gov Musa Yar'Adua

## Speaker tasks police command

The Speaker of the Ogun State House of Assembly, Hon. Muiwa Oladipo, has declared that the only way he could give the state police command pass marks is if they recover his official car, a Honda Civic Ex salon, which was stolen last year.

Hon. Oladipo, who stated this at the monthly Night Gathering of the command in Abeokuta, said recovering the lost vehicle would go a long way in redeeming the image of the Nigeria Police.

He, however, commended the command for its crime prevention measures, saying "we are all witnesses to the relative

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

peace we have enjoyed in recent times and this is a function of effective fighting crime, especially car-snatching. It is no doubt a commendable feat."

Responding, the state Commissioner of Police, Prince Udom Ekpoudom, assured the speaker that "no stone would be left unturned" in ensuring that the vehicle, and other stolen cars are recovered and on time too.

"I am saying it again that with the level of arms and ammunition at our disposal, criminals should stay away from the state, else it will be too hot for them," he warned.

### Ramadan 21 1422H (Thur 6 Dec, 2001)

P.M. Ishai	P.M. Magrib	P.M. Asar	P.M. Zuhur	A.M. Fatar-rana	A.M. Alfijir
7.02,	6.07,	3.31	12.26,	6.35,	5.20

The above represents the earliest times of the daily obligatory prayer for Kaduna. Below are the times variations in respect of named towns. Zuhur variations can serve for Asar prayer while those in respect of Magrib could do well for Ishai.

TOWNS	المغرب Magrib Minutes	الظهر Zuhur Minutes	الاجرة Alfijir Minutes
Abeokuta	+23	+17	+11
Abuja	+4	+1	-1
Akure	+14	+9	+4
Argungu	+7	+11	+15
Ankpa	+4	-1	-6
Auchi	+11	+5	-1
Azare	-13	-11	-9
Bama	-27	-25	-23
Bauchi	-9	-9	-9
Benin	+15	+8	+1
Bichi	-6	-3	0
Bida	+9	+6	+4
Birnin Kebbi	+10	+13	+16
Biu	-19	-19	-19
Calabar	+6	-3	-12
Damaturu	-21	-18	-16
Daura	-8	-4	0
Dutse	-10	-7	-5
Enugu	+7	0	-7
Funtua	-1	+1	+2
Gombe	-15	-15	-15
Gumi	+6	+9	+11
Gusau	-1	+2	+4
Gwadabawa	+4	+9	+13
Hadejia	-13	-10	-7
Ibadan	+19	+14	+9
Ife	+17	+12	+7
Ilorin	+15	+12	+9
Jalingo	-13	-16	-18
Jere	+1	-1	-2
Jos	-5	-6	-7
Kafanchan	-1	-3	-5
Kalama	+15	+13	+12
Kafin Maiyaki	-6	-3	-1
Kano	-7	-4	-2
Katsina	-4	0	+4
Kontogora	+8	+8	+8
Lafiya	-2	-5	-8
Lagos	+23	+16	+9
Lokoja	+7	+3	-1
Maiduguri	-26	-23	-21
Makurdi	+1	-4	-9
Minna	+6	+4	+2
Misau	-15	-13	-12
Mubi	-24	-24	-24
Nguru	-16	-12	-8
Okene	+10	+5	0
Ogbomoso	+17	+13	+9
Onitsha	+11	+3	-5
Oyo	+18	+14	+10
Port Harcourt	+11	+2	-7
Potiskum	-17	-15	-13
Sagamu	+21	+15	+9
Saki	+19	+16	+13
Sokoto	+5	+9	+13
Umuhia	+9	0	-9
Wukari	-5	-9	-13
Wurno	+3	+8	+12
Warri	+16	+7	-2
Yola	-18	-20	-22
Zaria	-2	-1	0
Cotonou - Benin	+27	+20	+13
Ndjamena - Chad	-33	-30	-28
Niamey - Niger	+16	+21	+25
Zinder - Niger	-12	-6	-1
Yaounde - Cameroun	-5	-16	-26

NEWS

**Briefs  
Benin**

A 400 level Economics undergraduate of the Edo State-owned Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, Mr. Osasu Osagie has been arrested by the Police in Benin city over bank theft.

Osagie, who was paraded before newsmen by the Public Relation Officer of the Edo State Police Command, ASP Akan Ezima, was said to have entered the cashier's cubicle of the First Bank of Nigeria, Ring Road branch, Benin city, and stolen N19,000

**Lagos**

Police authorities in Lagos have arrested 23 Togolese women at Ojuelegba for prostitution.

Daily Trust sources revealed that at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, where they are being kept since their arrest a fortnight ago, papers are being processed preparatory to handing them over to the immigrations.

**Owerri**

The Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has come to the aid of the victims of the November 5, oil pipeline explosion at Umudike in Ohaji/Egbema council area of Imo State.

The commission donated drugs worth N500,000 and a cash of N500,000 to the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri, to enable the hospital treat the victims who were admitted at the centre after the disaster.

**Makurdi**

The Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume, Tuesday swore-in the former Accountant-General of the State Mr. Pius Agbo Idoko, as a Permanent Secretary.

The governor who described Mr. Idoko's appointment as "most deserving," said his promotion was "confirmation that selfless service pays."

**Abuja**

The Nigerian Air Force (NFA) has announced new closing dates. For its schools this year. While the new closing date for the Air Force Military School and Air Force Girls Military School is December 7, that of Air Force Secondary Schools nationwide has now been brought forward to December 8. This is against the earlier announced date of December 15, 2001.

This was contained in a press statement signed by Squadron Leader P.E. Aghimien on behalf of the Director, Public Relations/Information and made available to Daily Trust yesterday.

**Okadigbo commends Obasanjo over disposition to women**

The former Senate President, Dr. Chuba Okadigbo, has declared that the Obasanjo administration has given more opportunities to women than all previous governments.

The Senator, who was speaking at the "Best of the Best" Special Award and launching of the book, "What if Women Are In Charge?" organised by the Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) in Abuja Tuesday, said the National Assembly will continue to encourage President Obasanjo to do so.

He charged the women to work hard for all positions they aspire to and pointed out that women should learn to support their kind in elections.

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

"Women should be in charge not because they are women but because they have what it takes," he said.

In her speech at the occasion, the wife of the Vice-President, Mrs. Titi Abubakar, who was awarded the "Nigeria's Heart of Gold award" at the occasion, called on women to position themselves to be seen as symbols of, "decency, decorum and moderation."

"Your mode of dressing, your carriage, your actions and activities must preserve your dignity in whatever you do. These I believe when taken care of will go a long way in making a better professional woman," she told the women journalists.

Mrs. Titi Abubakar commended the journalists for their contribution to the return of democracy in the country.

Earlier in her speech, the President of NAWOJ, Mrs. Kande Daniel, said the organisation decided to present awards to people to encourage them to consistently excel, and called on all to donate generously to the launching of the book.

Among those honoured at the occasion were the governors of Kaduna, Borno and Gombe States.

Others were the wife of a former head of state, Mrs. Maryam Babangida and Mrs. Titi Abubakar.

Over N500,000 was realised at the occasion.



Dr. Chuba Okadigbo

**Mantu accuses NNPC of working against Senate Committee**

Deputy Senate President, Senator Ibrahim Mantu, Tuesday accused the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) of working against the objectives of the Senate Ad Hoc committee on the non participation of indigenous companies in stated oil fields.

Addressing NNPC Group Managing Director, Mr. Gaius Obaseki, at the samed public hearing of the ad-hoc committee, Mantu noted that the corporation's chief ex-

By Reuben Yunana

ecutive had shunned previous attempts to appear before the committee by sending his subordinates.

He told Obaseki: "NNPC has constituted itself into a clog in the wheel of progress. We learnt that the chief executive officer of the corporation directed chief executives of oil companies not to appear before this committee.

"This has affected the progress we would have made in getting to the root

A non-governmental organisation, Northern Youths Association (NYA) has called on the Federal Government to release General Ishaya Bamaayi (rt) who has been in detention since June 1999.

In a press statement signed by the association's chairman, Dr. Musa Bashir, and made available to Daily Trust yesterday, the association said "For someone who put more than 35 years of his productive years in service to the Nigerian Army and the Nigerian nation, it is unfortunate that rather than give him national honours, he has been thrown into needless detention."

The statement went on: "He is being incriminated, victimised and witch-hunted by some powerful forces within and outside the army. We maintain that our son, brother and uncle is innocent

**FG urged to release Bamaayi**

By Simon Imobe-Tswam

and is being persecuted rather than prosecuted.

"We say this because there is not enough evidence as proof for the crime he is alleged to have committed. As the nation's Chief of Army Staff under the late General Sani Abacha, he showed commendable loyalty to his fatherland and commander-in-chief.

"This is why we appeal to the Federal Government to release him to us, especially as the charges against him are trumped-up, and the evidence raises more questions than answers.

"He has suffered undue separation from his family and his business has collapsed. We believe he has suffered enough."

While commending the Obasanjo administration for setting up the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRIVC), the Northern Youths urged the President to release Bamaayi as "it would be in line with the reconciliation posture of this administration.

The Northern Youths Association called on youths, human rights organisations, individuals as well as organisations, all over the country to join the appeal on the Federal Government to release General Bamaayi.

"We are not alone in our struggle for his release. We are also calling on our southern and eastern youths, human rights organisations and well-meaning individuals to prevail on the Federal Government to let General Bamaayi breathe the air of freedom," the statement further added.

"President Obasanjo should please take heed to our patriotic call and use his good office to grant unconditional pardon for his release. Let our brother enjoy the dividends of democracy too," Dr. Bashir stated.



Dr. Musa Bashir

**Anthrax scare continues in NASS**

Fresh fears of Anthrax attacks continued yesterday as Deputy Senate President, Ibrahim Mantu, had a letter containing a white powdery substance delivered to his office Tuesday.

The letter, retrieved from Mantu's pigeon-hole in the Senate by a Dispatch Clerk, raised fresh fears as five similar letters had been received by legislators in the National Assembly last Thursday.

The dispatch clerk, Malam Aminu Muhammad, told journalists that he picked the letter about 11:00 a.m. and upon getting back to the office of the Deputy Senate president, opened it only to discover a powdery substance which spilled over his face and hands.

He was subsequently rushed to the National Assembly clinic where he was treated with antibiotics and the office sealed off by the Senate Sergeant at Arms.

Like the five previous envelopes received on Thursday, the envelope was an official envelope marked

"Federal Ministry of Communications."

Malam Uba Mana, Special Assistant (Media) to the Deputy Senate President, who confirmed the incident, stressing the matter was being handled by the Security Department.

However, Senator Mantu told journalists in the wake of the first attack last week that the matter was a joke.

"Personally, I think the whole thing is a joke," he said.

But other senators seem to think otherwise. Senator

**Niger nets N30m from sale of houses**

The Niger State Privatisation Scheme has netted N30 million from the sale of some of its housing estates to civil servants in the state.

The State Commissioner for Works and Transport, Alhaji Hussieni Danrangi, gave this figure while briefing journalists in Minna, the state capital.

Alhaji Hussien disclosed that the decision to sell the houses was not only to provide shelter to the

From Kashim Sule, in Minna

occupants, but to also enable them own their own personal abodes where they can live upon retirement.

He further disclosed that all the monies realised from the sale of the houses would be ploughed back into building more houses to meet the housing requirements of Niger's teeming civil servants.

In another development, the works commissioner

of the problem," Mantu said.

He said the senate was disturbed that despite the fact that oil exploration in the country began in the country almost 50 years ago, the involvement of indigenous companies in the sector was almost nil.

Defending the position of the NNPC, Obaseki explained that it did not issue directives to any oil company as the Senate's invitation to NNPC's joint venture partners did not pass through the corporation.

"I hold the senate in high esteem and if there were mistakes here and there, it was not deliberate nor were they made to deride the Upper House," he added.

He further listed high costs, high custom duties, labour instability, limited capacity of local companies as well as absence of legislation in this direction as factors hindering indigenous participation in the upstream sector of the oil industry.

The public hearing is expected to enable the National Assembly come up with a new law that would enable more local content in the joint venture agreements.

revealed that the ministry has auctioned about 400 government unserviceable vehicles to workers in the state.

He said it was another gesture from the state government to ease the transportation problem facing civil servants stressing that "the state government will create a conducive working environment for its "classic" civil servants.

# INSIDE POLITICS

## N19m for ballot boxes in Bauchi

Bauchi State Government has released N19 million for the procurement of ballot boxes for the April 2002 local government election.

Alhaji Sabo Gadau, chairman of the State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC), made this known when the new zonal manager of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Malam Sani Adamu, visited him in Bauchi.

Gadau said that in spite of the controversy surrounding the new electoral bill, the state INEC was making arrangements to conduct next year's local government

election. "This passage of the



Gov. Mu'azu

electoral bill by the National Assembly will not stop us from making preparations for the election," he said.

The SIEC chairman said that another N2.9 million had been released to the commission for the procurement of rubber stamps, which would also be used during the election.

He commended Governor

Adamu Mu'azu for making money available for the election, saying that the state government had spent more than N10.5 million on the renovation of SINEC office complex.

Gadau advised Nigerians to be wary of the kind of comments they make on the controversial electoral bill, saying: "We hope we will not be the destroyers of our democratic process."

## Abia legislators' tour of U.S. gulps N20 million

The Abia assemblymen's tour of Alabama in the U.S. gulped more than N20 million in the state funds, the Speaker of the House, Chief Stanly Ohajuruka, said.

The Speaker, who made the disclosure at news briefing in Umuahia at the weekend, dismissed speculations that the legislators did not travel to

Alabama, "but collected the money and went to cool off somewhere."

He explained that the 14-day trip was on the invitation of the Alabama House of Representatives, which offered them the opportunity to understand the legislative procedure of the country.

The tour further enriched their knowledge, he pointed out "on the crisis that befall the house over the suspension of Dr. Sampson Orji, representing Arochuku constituency, Ohajuruka said the suspension," he said, explaining that Orji was suspended "because of truancy and signing of the register for days attend the house sitting."

The speaker warned the "suspended legislator as well as other government officials to desist from unruly behaviour and indiscipline."

## 305 benefit from poverty alleviation in Imo

Imo government has issued soft loan packages of various amount to 305 small-scale traders under its poverty alleviation programme.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the government plans to disburse N20 million to 500 small-scale businessmen and women in the first phase of the programme.

Presenting cheques to the beneficiaries in Owerri, the chairman of the state poverty alleviation committee, Dr. Chuka Okonwo, said the revolving loan scheme was designed to empower small-scale traders.

Okonwo, said that the beneficiaries were expected to refund the loans within 14 months to enable others to benefit.

He urged the beneficiaries to reciprocate the government's gesture by making good use of the loans and repaying within the agreed period.

The committee chairman said the government had entered into an agreement with the national union of road transport workers to purchase 30 vehicles to ease transportation in the state.

According to him, the government will procure additional vans for schools children as part of efforts to alleviate the problems facing the people.

One of the beneficiaries,

Mr. Edward Abiazem, who deals in frozen foods, expressed gratitude to the state government for the gesture.

He said that the beneficiaries would strive to live up to the expectation of the government.

## Benue SIEC in a fix

The Benue State Independent Electoral Commission (BSIEC) is at cross roads on how to conduct bye-elections into eight vacant councillorship slots in six local government areas in the state. While BSIEC shift blame the State House of Assembly for its inability to create an electoral law to empower the commission to conduct the bye-elections, the assembly has absolved itself of the blames.

In an exclusive chat with *Daily Trust*, John Chen, BSIEC Secretary, said since the commission was established through an edict in June 2001, it has no power to conduct any election until the State House of Assembly passes an enabling law, which will define the procedures for elections and how to handle litigations arising from the elections.

He said; "The State House of Assembly has to enact an electoral law for the conduct of the bye-elections. If the electoral law is made today, we shall conduct elections today."

In a swift reaction to the insinuation that the State Assembly, is responsible for the delay in conducting bye-elections, Alhaji Sule Audu, Deputy Speaker, told *Daily Trust* that the assembly has passed the BSIEC law and it is entirely the duty of the commission to bring out the guidelines for the elections. "We have given them the power, we have done all there is to be use, the guidelines for the elections has to come from BSIEC and not the Assembly."

Alhaji Audu who said he was not impressed with the disposition of BSIEC towards the bye-elections described the pace of work of the commission as extremely slow.

However, the secretary of commission has assured constituencies with vacant

From Terna Doki, in Maiduguri

seats to exercise patience as the commission is currently solving, logistics problems is readiness for elections as soon as the State Assembly gives the green light.

Commenting as whether BSIEC will join other State Independent Electoral Commissions in conducting council elections next April, Chen said his commission is generally preparing for the elections. He explained that the controversial new electoral law is yet to be signed by law and, absolutely foolhardy for anybody to stop preparing for elections. "So we are preparing for elections now as if no law forbids us from conducting elections next April."

He described the present clamour for more constituencies in the state is justifiable because it is borne out of the people's desire to bring government closer to them.

## Mbata urges FG to fund NDDC

Senator John Mbata has urged the federal government to pay up its financial contributions to the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to enable the organisation provide social services to the people of the area.

Speaking at a dinner organised by the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) in honour of opinion leaders of oil producing states in Abuja, Mbata said that it was gratifying to note that most of the oil companies had fulfilled their financial commitment to the NDDC.

He said that the federal government was under obligation to fund the commission, and expressed dismay at the delay in releasing money to it.

He declared: "There is a law on the funding and empowerment of the NDDC by the federal government and the oil companies.

In spite of the fact that the oil companies have to make profit, they have lived to their financial obligations to the organisation.

"Shell employs more than 5,000 Nigerians and has been a good corporate citizens, the company has been sensitive to the needs of the host communities.

In her speech, the head of women programme, eastern division of Shell, Dr. Anthonia Adindu, said that Shell had established 15 women development centres in the host communities for skill acquisition programmes.

## PDP scores Lam low

The 30 months old administration of Governor Lam Adesina of Oyo State has been critically assessed by the rival Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which concluded that the

From Yinka Oladayinbo, in Ibadan

He stressed that despite the increase in the revenue accruing to the state from the federation account, the present administration can not point its meaningful and developmental projects it has embarked upon to positively affect the lives of the people of the state.

His words: "despite the fact that the state government being controlled by the AD currently receives from the federation account an allocation that is five times as much as the state was receiving before the inception of democracy, there are no known forcible achievements to show for it except as reflected in regular media propaganda and campaign for a free ride to a second time."

Chief Adegbite further identified as the biggest joke, the treat of the governor to dissolve local government council this December, saying that that would have been tantamount to contravening the law of the land.

He said that since the 1999 constitution was silent on the

tenure of local government which nescitated the intervention of the National Assembly, the governor should not be taken serious as his treat his an empty one.

"Our concern as a party is not border on the councils being controlled by the PDP, but we are out to save the entire thirty-three councils in the state, and I do not see the possibility of any governor dissolving the councils that are being founded from the federal government allocation.

He therefore, charged the people of the state to be "wary of the erroneous belief and mis-information that the best interest of Yorubas can be served under a regional-based political party.

On the crisis rocking the PDP in Oyo State, the party chieftain besieged the parties to the crisis to bring their hatchet and imbibe the spirit of dialogue, reconciliation and accommodation, adding "these were for a successful way forward to achieve the ultimate goal of the party in the state and to consolidate its leading position as a national party."



Gov. Adesina

governor has not lived to expectation.

The new chairman of the party in Oyo State, Chief Machael Adedokun Adegbite who said this while addressing the press at the press centre Iyajanku, Ibadan noted that the state has been misruled in the last two and half years.



FCT, Alliance for Democracy (AD) Chairman, Hon. Sunday Kuku Iyakwo (left) and FCT, AD Deputy Chairman, Alh. Bala Hassan during a press conference in Abuja

This  
space  
is for  
sale

Court summons  
lawyer as  
accused jumps  
bail  
- Page 22

Julius Berger  
honours  
Abuja staff  
- Page 22

My 40 years  
in the North  
as Igbo man  
- Page 23

Useful  
addresses and  
where to stay  
in Abuja  
- Page 24



Edited by Kevin Ebele Adinnu

### Two cow thieves get 3 years each

By Uwem Umo

Two men have appeared before an Abuja Upper Area Court charged with being in possession of cows suspected to be stolen.

The men, Musa Abubakar and Umaru Mohammed both pleaded guilty to the charge of being in unlawful possession of the cows contrary to section 319A of the penal code.

According to the prosecuting police officer, Mr. Dominic Joseph, the two accused men were arrested on November 29, this year at the Abuja abattoir by one Abdulwahab Alfa who reasonably suspected them.

The prosecution averred that out of 12 cows allegedly stolen by the two men, the police were able to recover 10, while the accused persons had sold two.

He urged the court to try the accused persons summarily under section 157(1) of the criminal procedure code (CPC) since they had pleaded guilty.

The two accused persons pleaded for leniency while the presiding Upper Area Court Judge, Alhaji Aliyu Abdulrahman, sentenced them to three years each or pay a fine of N15,000 each. He ordered the exhibits to be tendered in court.

### Abba-Gana woos private estate developers in Abuja

By Emmanuel Ande

The Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Engr. Muhammed Abba-Gana, has called on private estate developers to extend their business operations to FCT to assist government to address the accommodation crisis in the federal capital.

Engr. Abba-Gana made the call on Tuesday at the foundation laying ceremony of 5,000 housing units at Mbora district, Abuja during the two-day state visit to the FCT by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

He said to encourage private sectors to participate in developing the federal capital, special assistance should be given to private estate developers by government.

"In this scheme, large parcels of land are allocated to developers, who will in turn provide secondary and



Roadside traders remain undaunted.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

## We will continue trading

By Godwin Tyonongo

Traders at the Julius Berger junction, Abuja have vowed to continue with business even after President Olusegun Obasanjo read a riot act on Tuesday, stopping trade in the area.

The president had on Tuesday, after inspecting the overhead bridge under construction by Julius Berger, ordered that petty trading in the area should stop.

He observed that the

activities of hawkers and petty traders close to the bridge were retarding the pace of work on the project.

Staff of the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) had immediately after the president's visit, stormed the place to enforce his order.

But, less than 24 hours after the operation by the AEPB task force was carried out, the traders re-grouped

involvement in real estate development in the territory," he maintained.

Engr. Abba-Gana assured that the project would be sustained so that private sector participation could complement government's effort towards building a befitting capital.

The 5,000 housing units will be completed in 2003, although the minister did not disclose the total amount of money government will invest in the project.

The housing units comprise one-bedroom terrace houses of 278 units, two bedroom semi-detached houses of 1,222 units, three bedroom semi-detached houses of 1,448 units and four bedroom semi-detached houses of 800 units, another four bedroom duplexes of 982 units and five bedroom duplexes of 270 units are to be built in the estate by the contractor, Citec International Limited.

### - Berger traders dare Obasanjo

for their normal businesses.

Products like clothes, shoes, household utensils and foodstuff have been put on display and the market is still bubbling.

A cross section of the traders who spoke with *Abuja Trust* vowed to continue selling in the area irrespective of any harassment.

"So far as Obasanjo can not give us jobs and a place to stay, we will continue doing our business," a trader said.

When *Abuja Trust* visited the Julius Berger junction yesterday, the place had come alive, as passers-by were busy buying items ahead of the Yuletide.

For over a month now, the task force on environmental protection has been having running battles with the traders who display their wares at Berger junction.

Last Saturday, the task force comprising heavily armed policemen and men of Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), drove away the traders, seizing their wares in the process.

The task force burnt planks, tables and other makeshift stalls and stands used by the traders for displaying their wares.

The operation, which lasted for about four hours,

left the area in a hale of smoke as the determined task force men chased away traders from their hideouts, seizing their tables and burning them down.

The exercise also involved a bulldozer that pulled down solid structures and dilapidated vehicles used by some traders as stalls.

One of the AEPB men who did not want his name in print had told *Abuja Trust* that the area had been designated for an amusement park, adding that the operation of the traders would defeat that aim.

It could also be recalled that late in October, following a series of warning to the roadside traders, the task force had embarked on an evacuation of traders which resulted in violent protests by the traders.

Determined to quell the protest, policemen who were part of the task force had fired gunshots occasionally into the air to scare away the angry traders who set up bonfires to express their anger with the evacuation.

Some of the traders who had spoken with *Abuja Trust* agreed their activities were wrong but said they had no alternative.

# Abuja Trust

## News



Permanent Secretary of MFCT, Dr. Babangida Aliyu flanked by the Chief Executive of Winners Medical Diagnostic/Herbal Centre, Chief Jacob Abdullahi right and the Director of Education, MFCT, Dr. Longinus Ofoegbu, during a courtesy call on the Minister of FCT, Engr. Muhammed Abba-Gana by Chief Abdullahi recently.

## Police inaugurates committee on Advance Fee Fraud (419)

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Musiliu Smith, has inaugurated a national inter agency collaborative committee to tackle the menace of advance fee fraud popularly referred to as 419.

The 14-member committee headed by Mr. Ade Ajakaiye, a Commissioner of Police comprises other representatives of government owned parastatals, ministries and the private sector.

Among the government ministries in the committee are the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

By Uwem Umo

Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Information.

Other government agencies include the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Nigerian Telecommunication Services (NITEL), the Nigerian Postal Services (NIPOST), private telephone operators and Internet providers.

The committee also includes other security agencies like the State Security Service (SSS), the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)

The Chief Economic Adviser to the president is also represented in the committee.

Inaugurating the committee at the conference room of the police headquarters in Abuja, the IGP reminded Nigerians that on May 29, 1999, when the civilian president was sworn in, he had identified 419 as one of the priority issues for resolution, having been noted as one of the principal causes of loss of life, property and investment.

He said if 419 were allowed to flourish unabated, it could create economic problems for the country.

According to Mr. Smith, previous governments have sought to address the problem of advance fee fraud adding that in 1993, the police launched an all out war on the problem with the establishment of the special fraud unit and in 1995 with the promulgation of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Related Offences Decree.

However, the police boss expressed regret that with the incredible growth in communication technology particularly the development

of the Internet, there was the need for a reappraisal of strategy.

He vowed that with the setting up of the committee, government is therefore making a clear statement that it intends to leave no stone unturned in carrying the battle to the doorstep of fraudsters and those bent on denting the country's image.

The functions of the committee will cover among others, prevention, investigation and prosecution of all advance fee fraud cases having international linkages.

The chairman of the committee, Mr. Ade Ajakaiye, who spoke on behalf of other members, promised to work relentlessly to check the menace of advance fee fraud.

## Court summons lawyer as accused jumps bail

An Abuja chief magistrate's court has ordered that a bench warrant be issued against one Barrister Tony Ogbulafor to appear in court and show cause why he should not forfeit the bond he entered into when he stood surety for one Samuel Erayetan in 1999 but who has since jumped bail.

The order of the chief magistrate, Alhaji Mohammed Kolo, follows an application made by the prosecuting police officer, Mr. John Udech that the bench warrant be issued against the lawyer because the accused person he stood bail for had since absconded.

Meanwhile, the prosecution also submitted an application requesting the court to allow the continuation of the case against two others standing trial along with the fleeing suspect.

It would be recalled that the runaway accused, Samuel Erayetan, Ayodele Olusegun and Hamza Abdu Sambo were arraigned on June 23, 1999 before the chief magistrate's court on charges of criminal conspiracy, forgery and theft of property worth N2,534,455.36k belonging to Modern Business Machines Limited, Abuja.

The offences are contrary to sections 97, 364 and 28 of the penal code.

However, the three accused persons had pleaded not guilty and were granted bail whereby Barrister Tony Ogbulafor was said to have stood surety for the first accused person, Samuel Erayetan who has since absconded.

The prosecution had also told the court that the surety

had paid part of the bond money he entered into and requested the court to compel the attendance in court of the lawyer on the next adjournment.

Meanwhile the case has been adjourned to January 29, 2002 for continuation.

## Man, 35, in court over stolen car

By Zakari Suleiman

A 35-year-old man, Aminu Adamu, has been arraigned before the Abuja chief magistrate's court for stealing a car.

According to the police First Information Report (FIR), Aminu Adamu of Kado village in Abuja was arrested with a vehicle, Toyota Corolla with registration number AR 28 DAL suspected to be stolen.

Aminu was charged with being in possession of property, which was suspected to be stolen or unlawfully obtained, contrary to section 319A of the penal code. Aminu pleaded not guilty to the charge.

The accused could not give satisfactory account of how he got possession of the car and thereby committed an offence, according to the magistrate's court.

The case was presided over by Mallam Abubakar Baba Shani, who refused the accused bail and adjourned it to January 23, 2002 for mentioning.

## Incessant fire outbreaks worry traders

Incessant fire outbreaks in the Wuse Old Market and new markets have become a major source of concern to traders in the markets.

Speaking with *Abuja Trust*, some of the traders said fire outbreaks could result in a disaster.

"Last week Sunday, one of the shops here in Wuse old market caught fire. Even when men of the fire service came, they could not gain entry into the shop because it was in the night," Okechukwu, one of the traders, said.

According to him, the fire was said to have occurred due to electrical fault.

At the new market, a fire was reported in one of the shops in the early hours of Monday.

An eyewitness, Mr.

Innocent Eze, said one of the boys who slept in a shop forgot to put off the candle before going to sleep.

"The candle finished and caught fire on the bags of stockfish. You know stock fish has oil so the flame started going up," he said.

He explained that residents at the market brought the fire under control without any intervention from the fire service.

"It has always been the case here. There is no month that passes by without an outbreak of fire in the market because a lot of people live here," he said.

Other traders who spoke with *Abuja Trust* said they were worried over the incessant fire outbreaks, adding that they would not want what used to happen in other markets to occur in Abuja.



Mr. Musiliu Smith, IGP.

## Julius Berger honours Abuja staff

Nigeria's leading construction company, Julius Berger Nigeria Plc, will on December 15, 2001 in Abuja honour no fewer than 692 (six hundred and ninety two) of its over 20,000 work force who have put in from between 10 to 30 years of service to the company.

Of this number, 266 of them will be honoured.

The company, which recently won the Nigeria Stock Exchange President's Merit Award 2000 as the best construction company in Nigeria for the 10<sup>th</sup> time, will honour its distinguished staff who has served meritoriously these number of years.

Among the Abuja recipients, 182 will be

honoured for 10 years service, 116 for serving for 15 years, 95 for 20 years, 57 for putting in 25 years and seven for 30 years service.

Already, the Lagos office of Julius Berger Nigeria Plc has honoured 101 members of staff who have served 10 years in a ceremony in Lagos on November 21, 2001.

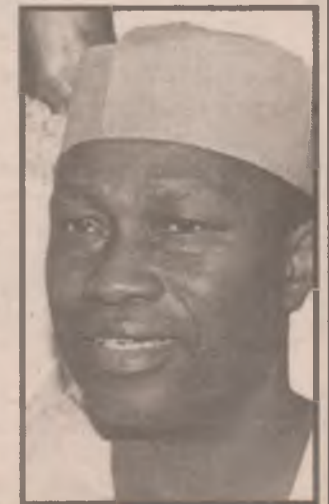
Recipients in the senior staff category at the Lagos ceremony received a certificate of recognition, one-month basic salary and a compact disc player.

The junior staff recipients got N5,000.00 cash, a certificate of recognition and a compact disc player.

Other Julius Berger sites are expected to hold similar ceremony to honour qualified staff before the end

of December.

Julius Berger Nigeria Plc has a tradition of honouring its long serving and dedicated staff for their meritorious services to the company.



Alh. Musa Gwadabe, Labour & Prod. Minister.

# Abuja Trust

## People

### My 40 years in the North as Igbo man – Joseph Ajude

*Having spent over 40 years in northern Nigeria, Joseph Ajude, initially a house help, then a bricklayer, recounts his good, bad and ugly experiences with the Hausas with whom he lived. His poor background has forced him to pass through life the hard way. In this piece, he shares his experiences with Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman of Abuja Trust.*

There would be no happiness. Inter-personal hatred would rise swiftly. Inter-ethnic hostility would mount, even within the new nations that may emerge if Nigeria should break." This was a remark made by Joseph Ajude, an Igbo man who has been resident in Northern Nigeria for over 40 years. He added, "and it would all be a product of sheer lack of genuine knowledge of one another."

Born in 1953 to a family of Mr. and Mrs. Ajude in Orgu Local Government Area of Enugu State, Joseph Ajude is an ordinary man whose poor parental background and childhood experiences took him to the northern part of the country before the age of 10, far back before the Nigeria civil war.

Joseph might only have seen the structure called school, but never

help and learn something more of a handwork. The man took me away and I joined a team of masons from whom I learn the job and became a specialist in bricklaying."

Quite affirmative of Gowon's reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation programme, Joseph said, "This was the time the soldiers that went to fight in the civil war were returning. There was mass construction work going on in every part of the country. In Yola, a new Army barracks was being erected. I was part of the team of masons who constructed the barracks in Yola. One amazing thing was that I remained in the north as a free Igbo man even when the war was going on. I still go out for works, and in a day I earn N2.50 out of which I normally save N1.50 and use N1.00."

**To say the fact, Hausa people as I have experienced them are not the envious type. They don't have the trait of envying others' progress. If you meet a Hausa person for help, take your time and explain your problems to him. Once he knows that you are the hardworking and God-fearing type, he would be very quick to come to your aid.**

for once had he sat down in a classroom to be taught as an enrolled pupil. He is not educated. Perhaps worse is the fact that Joseph had barely outgrown breast-feeding when he lost his father. "I don't know my father. I came to the north here at about the age of 7 with my uncle, himself of blessed memory." Joseph added, "I have been living in Northern Nigeria for over 40 years. Initially when I arrived with my uncle as a little boy, I was residing in Donga in the present Taraba State. I was in this place when the Nigeria civil war broke out. There I remain as a growing child until 1973 just after the war when I relocated to Yola. I have lived briefly in places like Kaduna and Kano from which the present Katsina and Jigawa States respectively emerged. It was however in Yola that I grew up to become a man."

Before the age of 15, young Joseph, left on his own, had already learn to struggle to eke out living. "I lost my uncle much too early, but even then, I had to survive. So, as a young boy, I was moving from house to house, searching for one who may take me as house help.

I spent a formative part of my life doing the job of house help. Only one day I ran into somebody who sympathised with me and advised that I quit the job of house

Joseph spoke further on his experiences in northern Nigeria, particularly of the Hausa people. "To say the fact, Hausa people as I have experienced them are not the envious type. They don't have the trait of envying others' progress. If you meet a Hausa person for help, take your time and explain your problems to him. Once he knows that you are the hardworking and God-fearing type, he would be very quick to come to your aid. By nature, they are calm and God-fearing people. Very patient and always interpreting occurrences as the wish of God. They are nice neighbours to have. The don't interfere in your life unnecessarily and they are never envious of you.

"However, there is only one thing about the Hausa which I am not pleased about. If there is any crisis involving their men, they would not take time to know who is actually guilty, instead, they could go straight into supporting their men. I suppose this is an over stretch of self-love among them. The solidarity among them is very high. But even then, if you don't ask for their trouble, you would be very pleased to live among them.

"The traditional northerners that I experienced for over 40 years do not discriminate. It is only the influx of people and the subsequent growth of personal interests that

have distorted things. Even the so-called religious intolerance in the north is fallacy. Before the war in the north, I was a Christian, attending church. During the war I remained Christian and here I am after the war as a Christian. I have never for once experienced intolerance from any of my Hausa-muslim neighbours. For over 40 years that I have lived as an Igbo Christian. I must tell you that the people we call our contemporary leaders are unfaithful. They are not God-fearing and are not sincere with us.

"Whether they are Igbo, Hausa or Yoruba, I mean, they are not sincere with us. They cause the rise in inter-tribal hatred because they use us to fight for their pockets.

"In the early days of the Nigeria I grew up to know, leaders compete to get their names into good records. This one want people to hear that he did such good thing for his country. The other one wants the same. But today, things are regrettably different."

Joseph could very easily be confused for an Hausa man. He is incredibly very fluent in Hausa,

perhaps much better than a northerner born and brought up at home. But why couldn't Joseph marry a northern woman? "I regret his a lot. You know, like I told you, if not for our tradition which ordains that once a man grows up and wants to marry, he should come home and pick a wife, honestly I could have married a northern (Hausa) woman. I am very pleased with my life in the north and I tell you, even my children. I have a plan that as long as I live, they would grow, educate, live and work in the north!"

Married with one wife and three children, Joseph Ajude came to Abuja from Yola in 1980 as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Igbo man to live in Mabushi District. Said he: "In 1979, there was a wide spread information which got to me in Yola that construction work in the proposed federal capital – Abuja had been intensified and that people are needed for employment. In late 1979, I left Yola for Abuja. I was residing in Suleja. From there, I visited FCDA where I was absorbed into the team of surveyors. For this, I relocated to Mabushi where I presently have my personal house. As at the time I

arrived Mabushi, there were only Hausa men, one Tiv man and one Igbo man living in the village I was the second Igbo man who came to settle in Mabushi.

"It was in Abuja here I took the decision and indeed gathered the financial strength to pick a wife. Since settling here, I have worked in Dumez Construction Company Julius Berger, G. Cappa and a host of other minor construction companies."

There is only one regret that Joseph has in his life – the mistake that led to the death of his one and only son. "I am supposed to have 4 children now but I lost the first and the only male to an error of medication. The boy was actually grown up to the point of going on errand. In fact he laboured in assistance to the building of my personal house here in Mabushi. One day, he fell sick. My wife was uncomfortable. She took him to a nearby clinic where he was overdosed with an injection that finally got into his brain and led to his death. No protracted sickness. Nothing! Joseph said with intense remorse and apparent pains.



Mr. Joseph Ajude.



Mr. Joseph Ajude and family at his residence in Mabushi.

Pix: Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

**I have never for once experienced intolerance from any of my Hausa-muslim neighbours. For over 40 years that I have lived as an Igbo Christian.**

# Abuja Trust

## News you can use

### Useful addresses in Abuja State Government liaison offices

<b>Abia State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, T.Y. Danjuma Street, Asokoro, Abuja.	<b>Benne State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Near Yakubu Gowon Centre, Asokoro, Abuja. 09- 5230926.	<b>Edo State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Plot 215/2 Dodoma Street, Zone 6, Wuse, PMB 5010, Ibadja 09- 5236751	<b>Imo State Govt.</b> Restoration House Liaison Office, Asokoro, Abuja.
<b>Adamawa State</b> Govt. Liaison Office, Plot 1213, Asokoro, District, PMB 305 Abuja. 09-2344949	<b>Borno State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Behind ECOWAS, Asokoro District, Abuja.	<b>Ekiti State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, 11A Suez Crescent, Ibrahim Sani Abacha Housing Estate, By Sheraton Hotel and Towers, PMB 388, Abuja 09- 5235720	<b>Jigawa State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Block 24, FHA, Asokoro District, PMB 314, Abuja. 09-5235304 09- 2345728
<b>Akwa Ibom State</b> Govt. Liaison Office Plot 816, Central Area PMB 370, Abuja. 09-2346637-8	<b>Cross River State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Plot 2439, Off Alvan Ikoku Way, Cadastral zone A6, Maitama, PMB 047, Abuja. 09-5235648	<b>Enugu State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Plot 882, Obafemi Awolowo Street, Area 11, (Opposite Sofitel Hotel) - PMB 271, Abuja. 09- 2342244.	<b>Kaduna State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, c/o Kano State Govt. Liaison Office, 1, Aba Close, Section 1, Area 8- Abuja. 09-5237683
<b>Anambra State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Block 2, Douala Street Zone 5, Wuse 09-5239375 Abuja. 5232589 (DG House)	<b>Delta State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Plot 45, Asokoro District. Abuja.	<b>Gombe State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Plot 2022 Cotonou Crescent, Zone 6, Wuse, Abuja. 09-5236295	<b>Kano State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, 1, Aba close, Section 1, Area 8, 09- 2346320 Abuja Fax: 2346320
<b>Bauchi State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Plot 1017, Jos Street, Area 3, Garki, Abuja. 09-2344257	<b>Ebonyi State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Plot 2438, 011' Alvan, Ikoku Way, Cadastral Zone, A6, Maitama, PMB 5034, Abuja 09-5237459	<b>Katsina State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Block 14/15 Imani Estate, Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama District, Abuja 09-5236869	
<b>Bayelsa State Govt.</b> Liaison Office, Block 8, Federal Housing Authority, Asokoro District, Abuja. 09-5239279			

### International Agencies

<b>World Bank</b> Asokoro District Abuja <b>Economic Community of West African States</b> ECOWAS Secretariat, Plot 6 Yakubu Gowon Crescent Asokoro District, Abuja. 09-2343005	<b>United Nations Abuja Office,</b> Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Off Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama District, Abuja. <b>Association of Foreign Diplomats in Abuja</b> 13 Kainji Crescent, Maitama, Abuja. 09-5235557, 5230960, <b>Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)</b> 17 Ontario Crescent, Off Mississippi Street Maitama - Abuja
<b>Uganda High Commission</b> Plot 347, Bamako Street, Zone I, Wuse District, Abuja. Tel: 09-523424-5	

### Banks and other financial institutions

<b>Access Bank Limited</b> Medife House, Plot 2135 Herbert Macaulay Way Zone 6, Wuse District P.M.B 502 Abuja. Tel 09-523, "89-91	<b>African International Bank Limited</b> 3 Ogbomoso Street Area 8, Garki P.M.B. 148 Abuja Tel 09.2342940-1	<b>Co-operative Development Bank Limited</b> 6, Ogbomoso Street, Area 8 Garki-Abuja Tel 09-2346130	<b>Centre Point Merchant Bank Limited</b> Plot 2087 Herbert Macaulay Way Zone 5, Wuse -Abuja Tel 5238758
<b>Afribank Nigeria Plc.</b> (Garki Branch Office & Zonal Headquarters) Kaura Namoda Street Area 3; Garki PMB 75, Abuja Tel 09-2343896	<b>Allstates Trust Bank Limited</b> Plot 230, Suez Crescent Off Herbert Macaulay Way Cadastral Zone A2 Zone 4, Wuse -Abuja	<b>Bank of the North Plc</b> Kaura Namoda Street Area 3 Garki PO.Box 7001 Tel 09-2341906	<b>Eko Int'l Bank</b> Plot 618 Ihjala Close Area 8, Garki - Abuja 09-234712
<b>(ii) Afribank Plc (Cash Point)</b> Nicon Noga Hilton Hotel Maitama Abuja Tel 09-523181	<b>Nigerian Assurance Bank</b> Plot 12104, Festival Road Gidan Isa Area 10, Garki PMB 62, Abuja Tel 09-2341900	<b>Broad Bank</b> Plot 2104, Festival Road Gidan Isa by UTC Junction Area 10, PMB 3561 Garki Abuja Tel : 09 - 2 3 4 4 3 1 2 , 2344300, 2344313	<b>Chartered Bank Limited</b> Plot 596 Ringim Close Area 7, Garki PMB 337 Abuja Tel: 2346232-5
			<b>Citibank Nigeria</b> 2, Yola Street, Area 7, Garki - Abija Tel: 09-2343225-6

Just arrived Abuja? Are you bothered about where to relax and organise yourself? Below are some of the hotels, suites and guest houses in the city, depending on the depth of your pocket:

### Where to stay in Abuja

Rate/Standard Room	Hotel/Guest House	Address
N1,000 - N3,000 per night	1. Duhu Guest Inn. Ltd.	Plot 21/29, Ladi Kwali Way, Zone 4, Wuse
	2. Amanda Guest Inn.	Ibrahim Sani Abacha Estate, Wuse Zone 4,
	3. Elyte Guest Inn	Zunguru Close, Off Jos Street, Area 3, Garki
	4. NUJ Motel	NUJ National Secretariat, Area II, Garki
	5. A. Avison Hotel	Plot 456, Kontagora Close, Area 3, Garki
N3,000 - N5,000 per night	1. Amana Suites	Off Michael Okpara Street Zone 5, Wuse
	2. Arewa Suites	Central Business District, Tel: 52338925-3
	3. Dayspring Hotel	Juba Street, Zone 6, Tel: 09-52338714-5 Area
	4. Savannah Suite	3, Garki, Abuja. Tel: 09-2340090
N5,000 and above	1. Sheraton Hotel & Towers	Maitama, Abuja FCT., Tel: 09-52302325
	2. Agura Hotel	Area 10, Garki. Tel: 09-2341758
	3. Bolingo Hotel & Towers	Area 10, Garki. Tel: 09-2344701-00
	4. Chelsea Hotel	Central Area, Abuja FCT.
	5. Nicon Hilton	Maitama, Abuja. Tel: 09-4130801

### Bus Schedule

Ifesinachi Transport (Berger Junction)		
Abj - Lag	-	N1,500 (Busscar)
Lag- Abj	-	N1,500 (Busscar)
Abj-Enu	-	N450.00 (MB 800)
<b>Departure: Morning and Evening</b>		

### E. Ekesons & Sons (Berger Junction)

Abj - Lag	-	N1,750 (Busscar)
Lag- Abj	-	N1,750 (Busscar)
Abj-Osha-PHC	-	N1,650 (Busscar)
PHC-Osha-Abj	-	N1,650 (Busscar)
<b>Departure: Morning and Evening</b>		

### Chisco Transport (Berger Junction)

Abj-Lag (Morning)	-	N1,760 (Busscar)
Abj-Lag (Evening)	-	N1,720 (Busscar)
Abj-Osha - PHC (Morning)	-	N1,760 (Busscar)
Abj - Osha - PHC (Evening)	-	N1,720 (Busscar)
<b>Departure : Morning and Evening</b>		

### TOMORROW'S FLIGHTS

#### Albarka Air Services

Abj-Lag:	8:30am, 12:00pm
Lag-Abj:	10:00am; 2:00pm
Maid-Lag:	6:50am.
Lag-Maid:	2:00pm.
Abj-Maid	4:00pm.

#### Bellview Airlines

Abj - Lag:	8:20am, 1:00; 5:30pm
Lag-Abj:	6:50am; 11:15am 3:25pm
Lag-PHC:	7:30pm; 3:15pm.
PHC-Lag:	9:00pm; 5:05am.

#### Chanchangi Airlines

Abj -Lag	8:00am, 11:45am; 1:40pm 2:15pm; 3:00pm; 5:30pm
Lag-Abj:	7:15am; 10:00am; 11:15am 1:10pm; 3:30pm; 4:45pm
Kad-Lag:	7:30pm; 12:40pm
Lag-Kad:	10:00am; 5:00pm
Lag-PCH:	9:30am; 1:30pm; 4:15pm
PHC-Lag:	8:00am; 11:30am; 3:30pm
Lag- Cal:	4:pm.
Cal-Lag:	8:00am.

#### EAS Airlines

Abj-Lag	10:30am; 2:30pm; 4:30pm
Lag-Abj:	7:15am; 9:30am;
Abj-Jos:	11:00am.
Abj-Jos-Lag:	11:00am.
Ow-PHC-Lag:	7:45am.
Lag-PCH-Ow:	4:15am.
PHC-Lag:	8:30am

#### Nigeria Airways

Abj -Lag	8:30am; 4:00pm
Lag-Abj:	7:00am; 12:30pm;
Lag-PHC:	9:00am.
Lag-Enu-PHC:	4:00pm.
PHC-Lag:	10:30am; 6:20pm.

Arts & Entertainment

# Bollywood eyes Afghan film market

India's Bollywood film industry is once again eyeing the Afghanistan market where Hindi films did roaring business before being banned by the Taliban.

Afghanistan was among the biggest overseas markets for Bollywood films until the early 1990s.

Hindi film stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Hema Malini and Sridevi had a huge fan following among Afghans.

With a majority of Afghans finding it difficult to understand Hindi, musicals and action films were more popular.

Even during the civil war years Hindi films continued to do brisk business in cinemas of bigger cities like Kabul, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif.

But with the Taliban coming to power, the screening of films was banned, and a major overseas market was lost to Bollywood.

With cinemas reopening in Kabul, Bollywood moghuls are hopeful about Hindi entertainers coming back in demand.

A none-too-successful Bollywood action film, "Elaan", was amongst the first films to be screened in Kabul's Bakhtar cinema shortly after Northern Alliance forces assumed control of the Afghan capital.

Bollywood distributor, Chandrakant Mehta, plans to visit Afghanistan in

*Bollywood is India's version of Hollywood, the theatre and film capital of the U.S. With the fall of Kabul, Bollywood is now keen on reviving old film and acting links with Afghanistan.*

December to explore opportunities and revive his old business contacts.

"I had contacts with several Afghan film distributors who used to buy film rights from us. I have lost all contact with them and the first thing I

"The Man from Kabul" which starred Balraj Sahni as a tough Pathan with a kind heart.

Another film to become a big commercial success in Afghanistan was

Well known Hindi film actor, Pran, played the role of a big hearted Pathan and

Bachchan's best friend in the film.

Bachchan's love affair with Afghanistan continued



Hindi films did brisk business even during the civil war

need to do is to find out whether they are still alive. Then comes the issue of reviewing business ties with them," he said.

Bollywood's links with Afghanistan are quite old. Amongst the first Hindi films to make an impact in Afghanistan was the 1956 release "Kabuliwallah" or

the early 1970s release Zanjeer, or Chain, which incidentally was also the film which created the angry young man or rebel persona in Hindi films.

The film marked the beginning of Amitabh Bachchan's meteoric rise as the biggest superstar of Hindi cinema.

until the 1990s when one of his films, "Khuda Gawah," was shot extensively in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahar.

Even though the film was a box office disaster back home in India, it ran to packed houses for 10 weeks in Kabul, according to Manoj Desai, producer of

the film.

"It was an amazing experience to shoot in Afghanistan," Mr Desai told the BBC.

"There was a civil war raging in the country but because of the then Indian Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi's friendship with Amitabh Bachchan, the Najibullah government took great care of us.

"The film unit used to be escorted by a convoy of five tanks in the front and another five guarding the rear," he said.

According to Mr Desai, so popular was Amitabh Bachchan amongst all sections of Afghans that the security seemed unnecessary.

"While shooting we once got a message from the then opposition leader and now Afghanistan's President, Burhannuddin Rabbani, who conveyed that he was a big fan of Bachchan and the film unit should not fear about their safety from rebels," Mr Desai said.

Even Feroz Khan, the well-known actor-producer, remembers his days in Afghanistan with great

Bamiyan Buddhas which have been bombed out of existence by the Taliban.

However, it might be a while before Bollywood could actually start making money out of the Afghan market, and many film distributors would prefer to wait and watch for the moment.

According to Amar Achrani, who distributes Hindi films in overseas markets, there are a number of imponderables about the Afghan market as of now.

"We do not even know how many cinemas are in a condition to screen films right now in Afghanistan. Then there is also the question of business and monetary transactions.

"We would like our money in dollars and it may be sometime before even a proper exchange rate is fixed for the Afghan rupee," he said.

But these procedural wrangles are unlikely to keep old and new Bollywood releases from finding their way into cinemas across Afghanistan.

According to Komal Nahta, editor of *Film*



Screening of films was banned by the Taliban

fondness.

He was there in the 1980s to shoot his film, "Dharmatma," an action film modelled on "The Godfather."

"When I went there to select locations King Zahir Shah was at the helm of affairs. By the time we went there to shoot, a coup had taken place.

"But we did not face any problems, and everybody treated us with great respect and affection," Mr Khan told the BBC.

Dharmatma was shot in Kunduz and also had spectacular shots of the

Information, a Bollywood trade magazine, even in the days of the Taliban there were instances of Hindi film prints being smuggled into Afghanistan.

"There will be some in Bollywood who will wait till things become completely normal in Afghanistan.

"But sensing a good business opportunity some others will go in right now. Like in every other business it's these people who will get the early bird incentive," he told the BBC.

## Taxi!

### 3 LETTERS

- BUS
- FEE
- JAM
- MAP
- RUN
- TIP

### 6 LETTERS

- DRIVER
- LONDON
- PICK-UP
- PLACES
- ROAD-UP
- ROUTES
- STREET

### 9 LETTERS

- CROSSINGS
- PASSENGER

### 4 LETTERS

- CARS
- CASH
- HIRE
- RANK
- RIDE
- TAXI

### 7 LETTERS

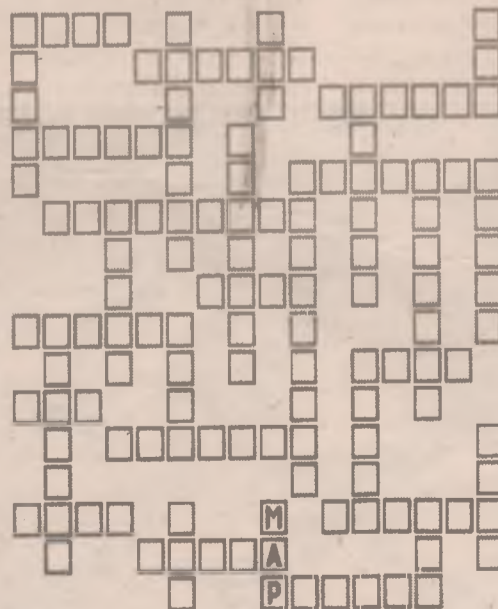
- CENTRAL
- JOURNEY
- LUGGAGE
- RUNNING
- TRAFFIC
- WAITING

### 5 LETTERS

- LIGHT
- RADIO
- ROADS
- SPEED
- ZEBRA



## PUZZLE 51



# Features

## The rise of Condoleezza Rice

In a new BBC documentary, *Gain Esler* charts the rise and rise of US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

Condoleezza Rice, US National Security Adviser, is the most powerful woman in the world and the first person George W. Bush speaks to every morning after his wife Laura.

She is the first woman, and the first African-American, to hold the key post of advising the US president on foreign and defence policy, following in the footsteps of great egos like Henry Kissinger.

Ms Rice defies all stereotypes - a black woman from the Deep South who, unlike nine out of 10 African-Americans, has found a home on the political Right and has



Rice at age 5 sitting on her Uncle's car

conquered the largely white, male bastion of international relations.

Condoleezza was named by her mother after the Italian musical term which means "to play with sweetness."

Ms Rice was born in 1954 in Birmingham, Alabama, once the most racially segregated city in the United States.

On 15 September 1963 when Condi, as everyone calls her, was nine-years-old when the Ku-Klux-Klan carried out one of the most notorious atrocities of the civil rights period.

They bombed an Alabama church and killed four 10-year-old girls, one a friend of Condi's since

kindergarten.

This was a turning point. The Rice family did not take to the streets to demonstrate or riot, as many African-Americans did.

Instead Condi's father, a Presbyterian preacher, helped



Condi at school aged 7

organise armed street patrols to protect the black community from white racists.

The state, the police, and the law had failed decent black people, and the Rice family pursued their constitutional right to bear arms. It was a very conservative response in radical times, a lesson which underpins her thinking today.

Condi went on to study international relations and became an assistant professor at Stanford University. It is hardly surprising that a young, clever black woman stood out in the clubbable male world of superpower relations.

Two of the most powerful men in the US, General Brent Scowcroft and Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State George Shultz, immediately spotted Condi as a high-flyer.

When General Scowcroft became President Bush senior's national security adviser in 1989, Condi found herself in the White House with the toughest brief in foreign policy, handling the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe at the time of the collapse of communism.

She became close to the Bush family, and in last year's election, was the natural choice to advise George W. Bush on foreign affairs. Privately, the Washington whisper is that Dubya found Condi a good teacher.

The Bush family also prizes loyalty and Condi is known as a team player. In Washington, that city of gargantuan egos, she pulls the strings but rarely claims the glory.

At 47, she is helping to direct America's war against terror - her life has been given over to her career. But friends speculate that one day she will seek elected office. Governor Rice? Senator? Or, as one relative suggests, President Rice?

Far-fetched? Perhaps, but no more far-fetched than the idea of a black girl from segregated Alabama now driving the foreign policy of a superpower.



Condoleezza Rice: Mr. Bush's right-hand woman



Rice skating at 13

## Coffee crisis hits Brazilian producers

Coffee producers in Brazil - the world's largest producer of coffee - are seeing their livelihoods squeezed by falling coffee prices.

Local economies reliant on coffee production have been hit hard, with a drought early in the season adding to their problems.

With a bumper Brazilian harvest forecast for next year and no sign of a pick up in demand some say that many small farmers will go bust.

Vietnam's rise to be the world's second-largest coffee exporter is one of the reasons there is a glut of coffee.

Although it produces robusta - rather than the stronger flavoured Arabica coffee grown in Brazil - prices have fallen to record lows.

Even as producers suffer

from this glut of coffee, there appears to be little prospect of an agreement between worldwide coffee producers to limit production.

PM Marketing's Carlos Brando - who sells Brazilian coffee around the world, doesn't see any near-term solution.

"I think in the past it was easier, there were fewer producers and they shared common values and a common culture. Now some of the main growers are not prepared to sit around a table and talk, and so we have a different situation than we had ever before," he told the BBC's World Business Report.

Brazilian coffee farmer Alexander Husemann da Silva blamed the short-sighted approach taken by coffee producers for their current problems.

He told the BBC's World Business Report: "Paradoxically all the advances that we have made in the last 10 years increasing the productivity per area has acted like a double-edged



Coffee glut hits Brazilian products

sword.

"Production went up too much and there is now too much coffee. While we invested in productivity, we didn't invest in propagating the idea of coffee to increase

consumption."

He predicts that many of his colleagues will go out of business before things get better.

The falling price is already hitting the local

economies - reliant on dollars from coffee.

P&A Marketing's Carlos Brando has seen the effects of falling demand for coffee in his local town.

"You just have to go to the main street here, and ask at the shops. Sales are terribly down.

"The local car dealerships are not selling as much as they used to sell and the price of real estate is falling," he said.

"We know this from the past - when [coffee] prices are bad, the prices of real estate fall dramatically. But this time they have fallen even further," he added.

Some argue that one solution for some Brazilian producers is the specialty coffee market, where producers enjoy better relationships with their customers and often have long term contracts at fixed prices.

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The Trustees are:

- 1) Mr. E.O. Elaiho -President
- 2) Mr. J.E. Obazee -V/President
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- 4) Mr. S. Osemwengie -Special Adviser
- 5) Mr. T.O. Okunrobo -Executive Member
- 6) Mr. T.O. Iyamu -Executive Member
- 7) Mr. J.O. Osunde -Chief Provost

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General of the Corporate Affairs Commission, Area, 11, Garki - Abuja within 28 days of this notice or publication.

SIGNED  
SECRETARY

## CHANGE OF NAME

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I formerly known and called RASI DAHIRU. Henceforth wish to be known and called HAUWA MOHAMMED BARAYA, general public to take note.

I formerly known as ABUBAKAR JODOMA now wish to be known and addressed as MUSTAPHA SHEHU SULEI. All former documents remain valid. Pivotal Teacher Training Programme Centre, Dukku and public to note.

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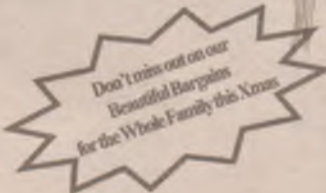
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SPORTS



# Brazilian scandal Commission accuses F.A. chief • Luxembourg also

**B**razilian Football Confederation (CBF) president Ricardo Teixeira was accused on Tuesday, of negligent administration which allowed him to live in luxury at his organisation's expense.

Meanwhile, former Brazil coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo, sacked one year ago amidst allegations of wrongdoing and poor results, was accused of tax evasion as a Congressional probe into the crisis-hit national sport produced its final report.

The commission of inquiry in the Senate was one of two set up last year to investigate suspected mismanagement and corruption in the Brazilian game following a public outcry at the decline of the sport.

Brazil boasts an unequalled four World Cup wins.

General secretary Geraldo Althoff described as "voracity" and "lack of control" over CBF expenditure and accused Luxemburgo of declaring only Real 10 million (4.12 million dollars) of the Real 18 million (7.43 million dollars) he was said to have earned between 1995 and 1999.

Althoff said that between

1998 and 2000, the CBF had spent 31 million Real (12.79 million dollars) in air fares and hotels, all with the same travel agency, without providing receipts for the expense incurred.

CBF directors had illegitimately paid themselves wages, all-expenses-paid trips to the World Cup for people with no soccer connections, he said.

Listing dozens of deals he said gave cause for suspicion, Althoff claimed that the CBF had accumulated debts of 25 million Real (10.32 million dollars) between 1995 and 2000 after being "administered in a negligent manner."

"Lack of control, disorganisation and bad management reign in the CBF, said Althoff.

"Mr Ricardo Teixeira, as President, is directly responsible for creating an environment which is ripe for an administrative disaster."

Althoff said that on one trip to New York, Teixeira -- who has run the CBF since 1989 -- had spent 1,175 dollars on limousines in four days and, on a separate 18-day trip abroad, 12,594 dollars on restaurant bills.

"The directors of sport

have to learn that there is a limit to their expenses," said Althoff.

Over the last year, the commission had questioned leading figures in the sport and enacted powers to investigate the bank accounts of clubs, federations and their officials. It was set up with the

domestic game in disarray and with the once mighty national team suffering a series of humiliating defeats.

Althoff said that between 1998 and 2000, the CBF's income had rocketed thanks to lucrative television and sponsorship contracts.

But, he added, this had

been offset by "the voracity and lack of control over its expenditure" and by the fact the confederation did not have a budget.

He said expenditure on staff had jumped 400 percent and on services -- including transportation and hotels -- by 600 percent.

Althoff said Teixeira had paid himself a salary of 126,000 Real (52,000 dollars) in 1998, jumping to 418,000 Real (172,500 dollars) last year, even though the practice was forbidden by CBF statutes.

He said a CBF meeting at the start of 1998 had voted to change the statute but was invalid because not everyone who was entitled to vote was present.

Althoff also accused the CBF of financing trips to the World Cups in 1994 and 1998 for people who had nothing to do with the sport, including magistrates and other officials of the Brazilian judicial system.

He said that the daughter of one of the officials involved, who is a judge, shortly afterwards ruled in Teixeira's favour in a libel case he brought against a Brazilian journalist.

The decision was overturned shortly afterwards, Althoff said,

because the journalist "was not given the right to defend himself."

Other cases were found where directors travelled abroad with their wives at the CBF's expense even though there was no international football taking place at their destinations, Althoff said.

One of the trips was 34 days long and involved visits to Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Venice, Paris and Zurich. Lawyers who were initially contracted to work for the CBF had also taken on private cases for Teixeira while remaining on the CBF's payroll and the CBF contributed "to various European cups and three UEFA cups. Of 38.7 million shares on offer, 16.9 percent stake in the club owned by Ifi, a holding of the powerful Agnelli family whose empire includes carmaker Fiat.

At least 13.5 million shares, or 35 percent of the offer, would be reserved for individual investors with a maximum of 400,000 shares reserved for individual investors with a maximum of 400,000 shares reserved for employees.

The offer was due to run December 10-14 and a final price for the shares on offer would be set on December 14, the prospectus said.



Sepp Blatter FIFA President

## Juventus sets to rival Man utd

**J**uventus suffered a setback on the pitch in the Champions

League on Tuesday, but the Italian club is racing ahead with its plans to become

one of the world's richest clubs.

Juventus, beaten 3-1 at

English side Arsenal in Champions League group D, said on Wednesday it would

price shares in its forthcoming stock market flotation at between 3.50 and 4.20 euros, valuing the company at up to 437 million euros (\$391 million), according to its IPO prospectus.

The IPO will make the Turin-based club a stock market competitor to the world's richest soccer club, Manchester United of England. United's market valuation currently stands at around 340 million pounds (\$484.2 million).

Juventus, one of the biggest names in world soccer, wants to capitalise on its record as the most successful club in Italian history to raise cash developing its off-field business activities.

Juventus has won 25 league titles, nine Italian cups, two European cups and three UEFA cups.

Of 38.7 million shares on offer, 16.9 million would be new shares and the rest would come from the 99.6 percent stake in the club

owned by Ifi, a holding of the powerful Agnelli family whose empire includes carmaker Fiat.

At least 13.5 million shares, or 35 percent of the offer, would be reserved for individual investors with a maximum of 400,000 shares reserved for employees.

The offer was due to run December 10-14 and a final price for the shares on offer would be set on December 14, the prospectus said.



Arsenal's Sylvain Wiltord, right, and Sotiris Kirgiakos of Panathinaikos go for the ball during their UEFA Champions League, Group C game at Highbury, London, recently.



Barthez Man Utd goal-keeper

## SPORTS

## Houston stars for Knicks

Allan Houston got the better of Glen Rice, spoiling Rice's return to Madison Square Garden for the first time since being traded, as New York defeated Houston 89-86 on Monday evening.

Rice scored a season-high 20 points and was at his best when matched against Houston, repeatedly driving around and scoring over his former teammate.

But when Houston got the ball isolated against Rice with 18 seconds left, he dribbled to his left and launched a quick jumper from the baseline to give New York an 87-85 lead.

From there, Houston and Latrell Sprewell each made

one of two free throws and the Knicks survived an off-balance 3-point attempt by Cuttino Mobley just before the final buzzer to win for the fourth time in five games.

Sprewell scored 23, Houston 22 and Charlie Ward had eight points and six assists while playing the final 16 minutes and leading the Knicks back from a 17-point deficit.

Kenny Thomas also scored 20 for Houston.

Magic 113-71 Grizzlies  
In Orlando, Florida, Mike Miller scored 26 points and Orlando snapped a three-game home losing streak with a victory over Memphis.

Tracy McGrady added 22 points and eight rebounds, and Pat Garrity had 18 points,

including 13 in the second quarter for Orlando.

The Magic shot 56% and out-rebounded the Grizzlies 52-33 en route to their second-biggest home victory and fourth-largest overall.

Stromile Swift scored 13 points, and rookies Shane Battier and Pau Gasol each had 12 for Memphis.

Suns 110-93 Warriors  
In Phoenix, Shawn Marion scored 23 points, and Stephon Marbury had 20 and 11 assists in just three quarters as Phoenix beat Golden State to claim its season-high fifth consecutive game.

Rodney Rogers had 15 points and Penny Hardaway added 14 for Phoenix, which has won 21 of 25 games against Golden State.

Marion, who had 19 points at halftime, also had nine rebounds and six assists.

Larry Hughes had 19 points for the Warriors, who lost their fourth consecutive game. Antawn Jamison had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Danny Fortson had 12 points and 10 rebounds.



AS Roma captain Francesco Totti (L) jumps for the ball with Venezia's William Viali during their Serie A soccer match in Rome's Olympic stadium on Sunday. AS Roma won the match 1-0.

## Panathinaikos coach gives reason for defeat

Panathinaikos coach, Yiannis Kyrastas, was frustrated that his team was not more adventurous as they slumped to a 3-0 defeat against Real Madrid in their group C Champions League match at the Bernabeu on Tuesday.

"It was a great experience for our team, but in the first half we showed far too much respect for Real Madrid," Kyrastas said.

"We did not have the confidence and calmness to pass the ball around and we did not close down their speedy forwards quickly enough.

Real Madrid dominated the first period and a 1-0 halftime lead was scant reflection given their monopoly of possession and scoring opportunities.

Midfielder, Ivan Helguera, notched the only goal of the half as he

squeezed his acute angled shot between the legs of goalkeeper, Antonis Nikopolidis, four minutes before the break.

"I tried to correct these things in the second half," said Kyrastas.

"I told them we need to be more adventurous, keep the ball and give our forwards the ball more quickly and we certainly played better after the break.

Panathinaikos agreed to take need of their coach's advice as they had a brief attacking spell at the beginning of the second half, but Raul grabbed two opportunist strikes in six minutes to put paid to any hopes of a comeback.

The Spanish international striker scored his first with a bounced off Fernando Morientes into his path and wrapped up an easy win six minutes later.

The victory puts Real Madrid three points clear at the top of group C ahead of Sparta Prague who won 1-0 at Porto.

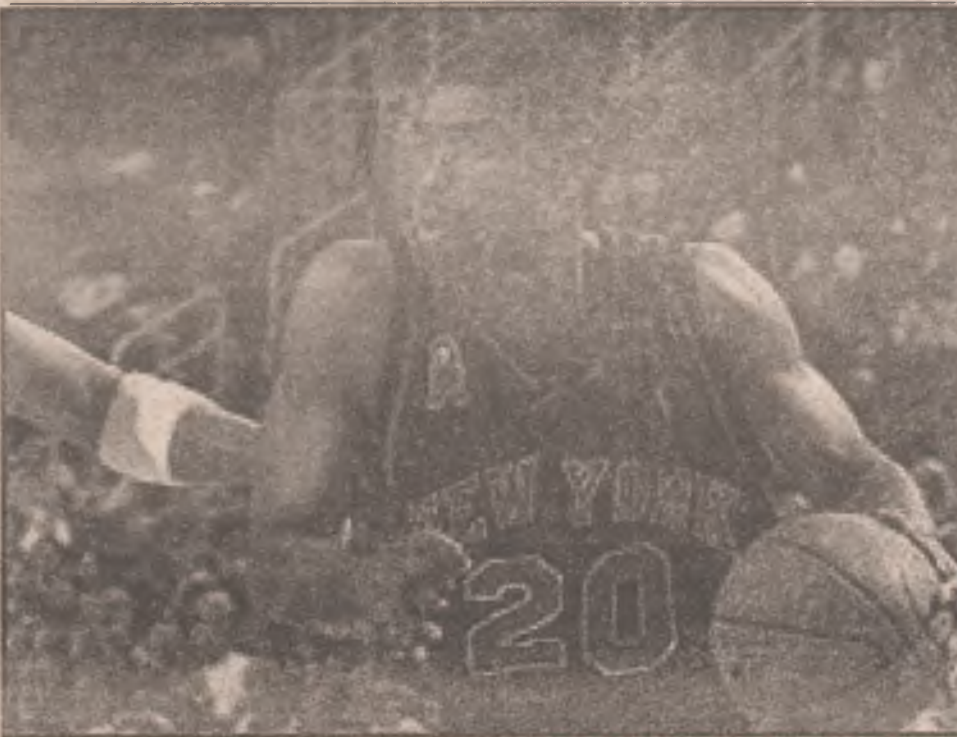
Panathinaikos prop up the group level on one point with the Portuguese side.

"I think we played a very complete game," said Real coach, Vicente del Bosque.

"There was a moment at the start of the second half when they had a chance or two but otherwise we were as good in defence as we were in attack.

"In the first 45 minutes we didn't have a single problem. All in all we were far superior.

"You don't know if that's down to your own qualities or perhaps the opposition being timid but I think the way we played the ball and positioned ourselves on the field was very good.



Allan Houston gave New York an 87-85 lead.

## Briefs

## Owen

Liverpool and England striker, Michael Owen, believes AS Roma's Gabriel Batistuta is the best striker in the world.

Owen, who was due to face the Argentina in Rome in the Champions League on Wednesday, told the Daily Mail: "There is no doubt in my mind that from the point of view of finishing and making inclusive runs, Batistuta has to be the best there."

## Robinson

New Zealand may make an official complaint over the performance of umpire Ian Robinson during the third test against Australia.

The Zimbabwean officials denied two calls for caught behind both of which looked valid on television replays -- to hamper New Zealand's push for victory over Australia in the final test on Tuesday.

## Dokic

Jelena Dokic was the only notable absentee when entries closed on Wednesday for next month's Australian Open Women's Championship.

The world number eight said last month she would skip the first grand slam of 2002 because it was "too far away" and she was also worried about the reception her controversial father, Damir, might receive.



Dokic

## Mercer

Ron Mercer scored 22 points and Marcus Fizer added 17 as the Chicago Bulls crushed the Houston Rockets 103-75 on Tuesday.

Mercer shot 11-of-22 from the field in 37 while Fizer made 8-of-13 shots to help the Bulls improve to 3-4 at the United Center this season. Chicago is 3-13 overall.

## Man Utd

Manchester United are waiting to receive the result of a scan on England international defender, Wes Brown's knee injury, British newspapers reported on Yesterday.

Manager, Alex Ferguson, said Brown and striker, Andy Cole, were fitness doubts for Wednesday's Champions League game against Portuguese side Boavista at Old Trafford after both players were hurt in last Saturday's 3-0 premier league defeat by Chelsea.

## Mercer plots Tyson shock

Ray Mercer plans to wreck any prospect of Mike Tyson ever meeting Lennox Lewis.

The veteran heavyweight believes he can shock Tyson in Atlantic City next month and line up his own shot at the heavyweight title.

"He's got to be crazy to fight Ray Mercer. Everybody is looking past Ray Mercer and I'm in the seat that I want to be in," Mercer told Radio 5 Live.

"I want to be the underdog, I don't want to have a chance or anything. I'm going in there as the fall guy.

"I see Mike Tyson getting frustrated with the plan that I'm going to do, and I see me winning the fight."

Tyson has been an inspiration to Mercer throughout his career, but that will not stop him from taking the fight to the former champion.

"I like Mike. I went to see him when he was locked up and everything," said Mercer, who is now fit again after being dogged by hepatitis.

"He was like my idol, Mike Tyson. He was the baddest man on the planet, and being friends with him is great."

Tyson's last outing saw him beat Brian Nielsen in Copenhagen, but Mercer was not impressed by the display.

"I don't think he was in good shape at all, to tell you the truth," he said.

"Somebody with the stuff that I have is going to teach Mike Tyson a lesson. I'm telling you."

If the result goes against him Mercer does not see Tyson going on to regain the title.



Tyson

## Everton eye Zamora

Everton are weighing up a move for Brighton's £2m-rated striker Bobby Zamora.

Boss Walter Smith has been handed a small pot of transfer cash to cover the absence of injured strikers Duncan Ferguson and Kevin Campbell.

He has also been given some financial leeway by the Everton board - despite the club being around £20m in debt - as a reward for guiding the team into the top half of the Premiership on limited resources.

Smith has been scouring Europe for loan signings without success, and any incoming deal will be at the lower end of the scale and likely to focus on unproven talent.

Everton have shown an interest in Brett Ormerod, but he is leaving Blackpool to join Southampton in a £1.75m deal.

And they have also watched Crewe's exciting young striker Dean Ashton, although they are unlikely to have any success in prising him away from Gresty Road.

Crewe rate Ashton highly - and also have an agreement with Everton's rivals Liverpool to give them first option on top talent.

Zamora is potentially the most exciting of the three, with his goals shooting Brighton to the top of Division Two.

Everton had spies watching Zamora score at Bury, on Saturday, and were impressed by his emerging talent, but the price tag will again be a problem.

Smith is unlikely to have as much as £2m to offer for Zamora, and Brighton will be determined to hang on to their prize asset with a promotion push on the horizon and the club still in the FA Cup.



# SPORTS



Boston Celtics Paul Pierce (34) gets around Miami Heat's LaPhonso Ellis, back, as he heads to the basket for a shot attempt in the second half at the American Airlines Arena in Miami. Pierce scored the winning bucket in the final seconds of the game that handed the Heat it's ninth loss in a row with a 84-83 Celtics win.

## Muhammad Ali lights Olympic torch

Boxing legend, Muhammad Ali, lit the Olympic torch during a ceremony in Atlanta on Tuesday, as the Olympic Flame arrived US from Greece for the first time since 1996.

Ali, who lit the flame at the 1996 Summer Olympic in Atlanta, passed the torch with hands shaking from Parkinson's disease to Olympic gold medal figure skater Peggy Fencik, who began the first leg of a 13,500-mile (21,700-km) relay destined for Salt Lake City, the host of the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The opening ceremonies of the Winter Games are on February 8 in Atlanta, was the starting point for the US torch relay because it hosted the last Olympics in the USA.

"The Olympic spirit overcomes fear, hatred and misunderstanding," Georgia Governor Roy Barnes, told a cheering crowd during the ceremony at Centennial Olympic Park.

"It is my hope that the Olympic spirit will spread across our nations and our world," Barnes said.

The ceremony had special poignancy for Americans touched by the September 11 airline attacks, as the relay's torches have been lit in the

include Washington, New York and Pennsylvania in memory of victims.

Among the torchbearers will be Lyzbeth Glick, the wife of Jeremy Glick, one of the passengers aboard the flight that crashed on September 11 in Pennsylvania after passengers apparently struggled with hijackers.

Nearly 4,000 people were killed in that crash and the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon.

Glick is scheduled to carry one of the torches, which are made of glass, silver and copper, on December 23 in New York.

The torch left the Atlanta area on Tuesday afternoon after passing through the hands of former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Evander Holyfield and Olympic champion speedskater, Bonnie Blair. It was taken to Athens, Georgia, by truck and is scheduled to end the day by crossing into South Carolina.

The flame will be carried on foot, by plane, rail, ship, dog sled, horse-drawn sleigh and snowmobile through 46 states and 80 cities before arriving in Salt Lake City.

## Korea/Japan 2002

# Pele tips England

By Patrick Andrew

Soccer legend, Pele, has tipped England as the most likely to win the World Cup, next year.

The Brazilian legend said yesterday, that the English squad was good enough to lift the gold trophy notwithstanding the current FIFA rating which favours France and Argentina.

"I believe England are capable of winning the World Cup. At the very least they

can reach the final," Pele, 60, was quoted as saying in the *Daily Star* newspaper.

England was, drawn in group F along side dreaded Argentina and Nigeria and Sweden in the group roundly acclaimed as the "group of death."

Incidentally, England coach, Sven-Goran Eriksson, who led Lazio to

glory in the Italian Serie A believes he was in the complete knowledge of dreaded Argentina having personally recruited and worked with over half a dozen Argentine stars.

But the English squad would need to bulk a 33 years jinx against Sweden to move beyond the first round even as they would find African soccer giants, the Super Eagles a hard nut to crack.

Pele acknowledged these but insisted that the current form of England, persistence and character of the bulk of the English players were sufficient and positive qualities



Pele that facilitate and earns England the World Cup.

England won the World Cup in 1966 but have been unable to repeat the feat ever since despite the motley of stars they have produced.

## NFA board member allays fear on foreign coach

The Chairman of the Technical Committee of the NFA, Mr. Christo Davies, has expressed the group's total support for the technical crew of the Super Eagles.

Davies told the News Agency of Nigeria (NFA) in Uyo, on Tuesday, on the speculative foreign coach for

stepped in, adding that the technical crew should not be blamed, if things did not work out well.



Oneya

the Eagles.

Davies said "if the NFA insists on hiring a foreign coach, we must also be ready to hire foreign football administrators."

He expressed confidence on Shuaibu Amodu and his men, stating that the preparatory programme submitted by the technical crew was good enough to produce excellent results.

He maintained that the stressed working conditions for indigenous coaches was enough to reduce any highly talented football coach to mediocre.

In another development, the football tactician has also called on the government and corporate bodies to help sponsor friendly matches for the Super Eagles.

Davies, who expressed regret over the shoddy preparation of the team for the Nation's and World Cups next year, however, blamed inadequate funds not the failure of the NFA to organise friendly matches for the team.

He stated that NFA had no money to prepare a World Cup team except if sports

## Nations Cup 2006

### S/Africa, three others bid to host

South Africa is one of the four countries who have applied to host the African Nations Cup finals in 2006, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) said on Wednesday.

South Africa, who narrowly missed out in hosting the 2006 World Cup finals, were joined by Algeria, Egypt and Gabon in meeting the deadline for the bid submissions.

Morocco, who were bitter rivals of South Africa in the 2006 World Cup bid, were a surprising omission from the list of bidders de-

spite earlier pronouncements they would be putting their candidature forward.

CAF has already announced that the 2006 Nations Cup finals are to be used as the qualifiers for the 2006 World Cup as part of the streamlining of the international calendar.

This will give the host country distinct advantage in the attempt to gain one of the Africa's berths in the 2006 finals in Germany.

The 2006 Nations Cup will also be seen as a litmus test for possible African host country for the 2010 World

Cup finals, when FIFA is to select the country for the 2010 World Cup finals, when FIFA are to introduce



Hayatou

a rotating system among the continental confederations for the hosting of the World Cup.

South Africa will be the favourites along with Egypt, who have also announced their intention to bid for the 2010 World Cup.

Gabon is the only one of the four bidders who are yet to host the bi-annual continental championship.

South Africa held the event in 1996 while Egypt were hosts in 1958, 1974 and 1986. The Nations Cup was played in Algeria in 1990. Only in 1974 did the host country fail to win the trophy.

The four countries will have to present detailed bid submissions to CAF's executive committee next year. There are also likely to be inspection tours of the four countries.

Next year's African Cup finals are to be hosted in Mali, with the tournament starting on January 19. Tunisia won the right to host the 2004 Nations Cup final, beating off challenges from Zambia and Zimbabwe.



Ipswich dependable wing attacker and Super Eagles midfield maestro, Finidi George, attempts to dribble the all pass a Camerounian defender. Finidi and his colleagues would have an uphill task against Argentina and England in the first round of the Korea/Japan 2002 World Cup.

# This Space Is For Sale

From the available records one can safely assert that Safiya Hussein was suspected by a group of *Hisba* that she was carrying an illegitimate pregnancy and upon which she was apprehended and taken to the police for investigation. It was the police which took her to Upper Sharia Court Gwadabawa after completing their investigations. This assertion was corroborated by both the police in Gwadabawa and the Sokoto Sharia committee chairmann Sheikh Muhammad Mode Abubakar (See *Weekly Trust* November, 2-8 -2001).

One can also assert that the Police/*Hisba* were made a party as a result of which the Judge extracted a confessional statement from Safiya that she had an illicit sexual intercourse with one Yakubu. It is also not in dispute that when Safiya was first brought before the Upper Sharia Court, Gwadabawa, she was not pregnant, as she was in fact carrying a baby.

In a nutshell, there was an extra judicial function perpetrated by the police. Also the *Hisba* group on their part had carried out some spying activities on Safiya which resulted in her being accused of committing *Zina* based on alleged illegitimate pregnancy. Their action can best be termed as overzealousness to implement the newly introduced Sharia in Sokoto State.

**The Hadd For Zina** - *Zina* or adultery is divided into two. *Zina* committed by a girl or an unmarried man and *Zina* committed by a married woman or divorcee and a married man or once married. This distinction becomes necessary because punishment (*Hadd*) varies for each group.

**Punishment for Zina** for a girl or man who never marries is 100 strokes of lashes, (See *Suratul-Baqarah* verse - 187) while the punishment for a married man or woman is death by stoning. This punishment was unanimously upheld by all the Islamic jurists on the basis of the famous Hadith reported by Abi Hurairah. (See *Fiqhus - Sunnah* Vol. 2 Pg 347) See also *Fat-hur-raheem* Part 3 Pg 50)

**Proof of Zina** - Before any Muslim is convicted of the offence of *Zina* one of the following facts must be established:

1. Production of four honourable witnesses, all of them at the same time saw the actual sexual intercourse.
2. Confession, the person making the confession must be adult, sane and such confession is given out voluntarily without inducement or rebuke.
3. *Lian* (action of imprecation) - Failure of the husband or the wife to take the four judicial oaths denying committing *Zina*. This situation arises when a husband makes an allegation against his wife that she either committed *Zina*, or the pregnancy is not his or disowns paternity of a particular child of the wife. If the husband confirmed his allegations against the wife by swearing on the Holy Qur'an four times and adding with 5th Oath that if the allegation he levied against the wife is false, may the curse of Allah descend on him. And where the wife, refuses to rebut this allegation by swearing four times denying such allegation, her failure to do so shall be a conclusive proof that she really committed *Zina* and shall be punished accordingly, i.e. stoning to death.
4. Evidence of Pregnancy - This form of proof is only exceptional to Maliki Law School. The other schools, namely Shafii, Hanbali, Hannafi and even the Shi'ah do not recognise evidence of pregnancy as proof of *Zina*.

It is not very difficult to find some contradictions even under the Maliki Law School, which recognises this type of proof as the school has fully recognised *Lian* as a proof to establish an illegitimate pregnancy where the other party fails to take the four judicial oaths to rebut the allegation levied against him/her.

Evidence of pregnancy as proof of *Zina* may only be relevant where a girl (*bikr*) carries a pregnancy which in this case her punishment should not be death by stoning but strokes of 100 lashes. On the whole, it is safer to regard evidence of pregnancy as proof of *Zina* as rebuttable presumption/proof. Situation abound where pregnancies are taken outside wedlock but Sharia does not take cognisance of them as *Zina*. Take for example the case of pregnancy caused as a result of rape or pregnancy caused as a result of void or invalid marriages.

Having said all these, it is now pertinent to ask or exam-

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THURSDAY COLUMN

## Trial of Safiya and issues of law

By Buba Imam

ine the following issues, which directly have bearing to the trial and subsequent conviction of Safiya Hussein of *Zina* by Gwadabawa Upper Sharia Court.

1. When was Safiya divorced and when was she pregnant?
2. Under the Sharia, is it lawful for *Hisba* group or any person for that matter, to spy on women who carry suspected illegitimate pregnancies?
3. Is it lawful under the Sharia for a *Hisba* group to apprehend a woman and take her to a police station for investigation on mere suspicion that she is carrying an illegitimate pregnancy?
4. Is it allowed under the Sharia for a *Hisba* group or the police to carry out some investigation in the case of *Zina* on behalf of the court?
5. Who is the Complainant? And what is the nature of the claim or right complained on
6. Did Safiya really confess to committing *Zina* or was her confession taken as a result of the investigation carried out by the *Hisba* group and the police?
7. Was Safiya pregnant when she was first brought before the court?



Safiya

Sharia does not generally recognize public prosecution whether civil or criminal cases except in the case of *Ridda*. It is also difficult to separate the substantive law from the procedural law when deciding *Hudud* cases especially that of *Zina*.

It is also important to note that, it is only the court, in this respect the Judge who has the sole authority to receive complaints and take evidence. Any complaint, investigation or evidence received by any person or authority other than the Judge is void. Under the Sharia, there is nothing like preliminary investigation or filing First Information Report before a Sharia court. Determining who is the complainant by the judge is a fundamental issue in trying all cases especially that of *Zina*.

Under the Sharia, the executive arm of government, i.e. the police and the *Hisba* group for that matter are completely

excluded from any judicial function in order to protect the independence of judiciary and dispense justice in accordance with the laws of Allah (SWA). The duty of the executive with regards to *Hudud* (crimes) is to prevent the commission of the crimes but once a crime is committed, it is the victim or one whose right has been violated to initiate legal action before the court of law. The *locus standi* as obtainable under the common law is given a very narrow interpretation under the Sharia.

**The Appeal** - Having considered all the facts and issues at our disposal, it is my humble submission that should Safiya's case go on appeal before the Sokoto State Sharia Court of Appeal, the decision and judgment of Gwadabawa Upper Sharia Court should be set aside and the following orders be made on the following grounds.

1. There was no legal claim or complaint (cause of action) before the Upper Sharia Court, Gwadabawa as both the police and the *Hisba* group are incompetent under the law to lodge a complaint against Safiya of committing adultery. They cannot be parties to this case. The proper parties are either Safiya's former husband coming to the court to disclaim the pregnancy or the paternity of the baby or Safiya herself coming to court to confess that she committed *Zina*. And since there is no proper claim and no complainant recognised by Sharia, the Gwadabawa upper Sharia Court judge is duty bound to dismiss the complaint of *Zina* lodged by the police/*Hisba* against Safiya.
2. Evidence of pregnancy as a proof of committing *Zina* can only be upheld where a husband or former husband disowns the pregnancy by way of *Lian* or where a woman on her violation comes to court and confesses that she committed *Zina* as a result of which she is pregnant. Though the Gwadabawa judge erroneously assumed jurisdiction to try the case when there was no complaint known under the Sharia, as both the police and the *Hisba* group cannot lay complaint against Safiyatu of committing *Zina*, he should have adverted his attention to the issues of *Lian* or paternity of the child. Under the Sharia, a child born six months of the time of pregnancy is deemed to be child from that marriage. This is the minimum period of gestation. The maximum period of gestation under the Maliki law is five years. The Legal position is therefore, where a divorcee becomes pregnant within the period of five years, that pregnancy or child is deemed to be a legitimate child of the former husband unless and until disowned by way of *Lian* by the former husband.
3. Going by several authenticated/sound Hadiths on confession of *Zina*, it was a wrong decision for the Gwadabawa judge to have acted on confession by Safiya extracted by the police/*Hisba* group. Before a confession is termed valid confession, it should be given freely and voluntarily. Safiya, on her volition should come to the court and say, "I have committed *Zina* by this pregnancy". Safiya was apprehended, taken to the police and made not only to confess that the pregnancy was outside wedlock but was forced to mention the name of Yakubu who made her pregnant.
4. Safiya Hussein should be discharged and acquitted of committing *Zina*, but should be sentenced to 80 strokes of lashes for making false and injurious allegation against Yakubu of committing *Zina*. (*Suratun-Nur* verse 4).
5. Likewise, the *Hisba* group who spied on Safiya Hussein, apprehended her and took her to the police for investigation and subsequently lodged a complaint against her of committing *Zina* should be similarly sentenced to 80 strokes of lashes each for false allegation against Safiya Hussein for committing *Zina*. (*Suratun-Nur* verse 4)
6. Any enabling law passed by the Sokoto State Assembly vesting power or authority on any individual or group of persons to spy on women or men for alleged commission of *Zina* should be repealed forthwith, as such law is in contradiction and incompatible with the Qur'an the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet in particular and the Sharia in general.  
Wallahu 'alam.

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