

COMPLIMENTARY

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Trust Is A Burden

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**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

Over 1,000 councillors from the 774 local government councils nationwide stormed the National Assembly yesterday, demanding an upward review of the tenure of council chairmen and councillors from two years to four years.

The councillors under the aegis of the National Councillors Forum (NCF) and led by their chairman, Alhaji Baba Shehu Liman, informed the Speaker of the

## Councillors storm N/Assembly •demand 4-year tenure

By Henry Omu  
House of Representatives, Alhaji Ghali Na'Abba, who received them, that apart from the issue of tenure, they were equally concerned about the existence of State Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC).  
Alhaji Liman, a council-

lor in the Abuja Municipal Council, similarly on behalf of his colleagues, appealed for the payment of the new salaries approved for them by the Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission as well as the direct remittance of council allocations from the federation account, in-

stead of being channelled through state governments as is now practised.  
He accused State Houses of Assembly of being overbearing and denying the various councils in the country of the freedom to run their affairs as they deemed it fit.  
The spokesman for the

councillors also asked the Speaker to support their agitation for a four-year tenure as proposed by the Senate, just as he said the zero allocation to councils was hindering the effective performance of local governments.  
"Local governments are handicapped and cannot op-

erate because of zero allocation and most councils even borrow money to pay staff salaries," he said, adding that, councils no longer want to operate joint accounts with state governments.  
Alhaji Liman further accused state governments of refusing to pay the new salaries approved for councillors. He equally canvassed for the scrapping of state electoral commission as according to him "if they were  
*contd. on pg 2*

## IBB killed Dele Giwa -Abubakar Tsav

The former Commissioner of Police in-charge of Lagos State, Alhaji Abuabakr Tsav, yesterday informed the Human Rights Violations and Investigation Commission (HRVIC) sitting in Abuja that former Head of State, General Ibrahim Babangida (rt) killed Dele Giwa via a parcel bomb on October 19, 1986.

By Uwem Umo  
was an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in-charge of General Investigation Department, (Force CID), Ikoyi, Lagos said the late Dele Giwa made a dying declaration on the way to the hospital after the blast that the President "IBB had killed him."  
Alhaji Abubakar Tsav who was giving evidence before the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa commission on the death via a par-

cel bomb of the Editor-In-Chief of *Newswatch* Communications in 1986, alleged that the slain journalist said the parcel which contained the bomb "must be from the president."  
According to the former police boss, as Dele Giwa tried to open the parcel, there was an explosion which threw Kayode Soyinka (the London Bureau Chief of *Newswatch*) far back to the left side of the house.  
Alhaji Tsav, who was led in evidence by counsel to *Newswatch* Communications Limited, Mr. Dele Awokoya, informed the commission that the telephone conversation between Colonel Haliru Akilu and Mrs. Giwa on October 18, 1986, and between Dele Giwa and Colonel Akilu on October 19, 1986, shortly after which the letter bomb was delivered could not have been a coincidence.



Alhaji Abubakar Tsav taking oath at the Oputa panel in Abuja... yesterday  
Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

The former Lagos State Police Commissioner, who at the time of the bomb blast

## Varsities reopen this week

The three-month old strike embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) was officially called off yesterday in Abuja by the President, Dr. Oladipo Fashina.  
Addressing newsmen in Abuja, Dr. Fashina said ASUU decided to call off the strike in response to "appeals from students, parents and Nigerians whom we respect, including the Government Negotiating Team itself."  
According to him, ASUU embarked on the strike in order to persuade government to sign the

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani  
agreement reached between it and ASUU on December 18, 2000, and to ensure that government began a con-  
*contd. on pg 2*



Dr. Oladipo Fashina

The witness regretted that it was desirable that Colonel A.K. Togun who was second in command of the State Security Service (SSS) and Colonel Akilu who was in-charge of the Directorate of Military Intel-  
*contd. on pg 2*

## Dangote, 15 others vie for NITEL

By Osborne Adi Jnr.  
Four indigenous telecommunications consortia are leading 12 other foreign operators in the chase to acquire the 51 per cent equity stake and management control of the Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL).  
The local companies are Dangote Group, Telnet Nigeria Limited, Newtel Limited and Organisational and Educational Research Consultancy.  
The legion of international operators also jostling for the Core Group/Strategic Investors slot include, France Telecom, Korea Telecom, Telecom Malaysia, Orascom of Egypt, MSI of Netherlands and Investors International Limited of United Kingdom.  
Others are America

Online of USA, Digital Access International Network Inc. of Canada, Investcom of Lebanon, Commonwealth Development Corporation also of United Kingdom and Gijiana Technologies Pty a

consortium of South African and Saudi-Arabian investors.  
BPE spokesman, Joseph Anichebe said at the weekly press briefing yesterday in Abuja that the Bureau received the 16 applications at the close of entry Monday,  
*contd. on pg 2*

## ...No going back on September deadline -Atiku

By Suleiman Mohammed  
Vice-President Atiku Abubakar yesterday warned those against the planned privatisation of the Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL), and at the same time directed the Minister of Communications to facilitate the privatisation of NITEL billed for September this year.

The Vice-President spoke while receiving 693 certificates of NITEL-owned properties across the country, presented by the Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Ali Madaki at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.  
According to Atiku  
*contd. on pg 2*

## NEWS

## 2003: ID card campaigners told to forget it

Campaniers for the use of the National Identity Card in the 2003 elections in the country have been asked to forget the idea as it is impracticable.

Speaking to the *Daily Trust* in an exclusive interview in Port Harcourt, the State Director of the National Orientation Agency (NOA),

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

Professor Fred Alasia, said he agreed there was a need for the national identity card but "we (Nigerians) are not yet mature enough to use it during our elections.

"I agree that we should have a national identity card but you should not say it

should be used for the next elections, it is totally impracticable."

Alasia, however, said there was a need for the country to plan towards the idea as the world was becoming more and more digitalised on a daily basis.

According to him, "if we say as a country, in the year

2030 everyone should have the national identity card that would be better. In that case government would make it as a matter of policy so that when pupils currently in primary six are writing their examinations, an arrangement is made for them to have their ID cards, then you can be sure before 2030 almost the next generations of Nigerians would have their ID cards, then you can talk of using it for election. Anything outside that is nonsense," he stressed.

The NOA director said those calling for the use of ID cards in the next elections were businessmen who were interested in importing negative films.

He said the entire idea was another ploy by a few to further milk the country of its dwindling resources. "Do you know the volume of films they would bring into the country, equipment for developing them and how much they would make?" he asked.

## Benue spends N20m on displaced persons

By Austine Odo

Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume, has announced that his government has spent over N20 million to provide basic needs for about 27,000 displaced people from the communal crisis in Nasarawa State.

The governor has also made it clear that the crisis is neither between Benue and Nasarawa States nor between the Tivs of Benue State and other ethnic groups in Nasarawa State but a local one involving only one senatorial district of Nasarawa State.

Speaking in a statewide broadcast on the crisis in Makurdi, on Monday, Governor Akume emphasised that since the beginning of the crisis, the government of the two states had unequivocally condemned the resort to violence and spared no effort at finding solutions to it.

He pointed out that towards this end, joint meetings had been held at Kadarko, Abuja and Lafia where the paramount rulers of the two states, the Tor Tiv, Dr. Akawe Torkula, the Emir of Lafia, Alhaji Mustapha Agwai and other traditional

rulers lent their full support for the peace moves.

According to the governor, the resolution of the joint meeting held in Lafia on Friday June 29, 2001 pro-



Gov. George Akume

vided a framework for the restoration of peace in the affected areas. He said the meeting among other things, called for cessation of hostilities, the return of displaced people to their homes and the establishment of joint protocols by police commands from both states.

## No going back contd. from pg. 1

Abubakar the documentation became necessary because "whoever will buy an enterprise will be sure that there are documents, and that they are valid and available. This exercise will be done on other enterprises slated for sale," he declared.

Vice-President Atiku who earlier met with representatives of the three companies given licences to operate the Global System of Mobile communications (GSM) - NITEL, ECONET and MTN - said privatisation has come to stay, as government was bent on reviving the ailing companies.

According to him, the programme of privatisation has revealed the sheer inefficiency and negligence going on over the decade in government companies.

Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Ali Madaki, while presenting the certificate of occupancy of NITEL properties for onward presentation to the Communications Ministry, said his ministry was ready to carry out any assignment that will facilitate the privatisation process.

The Director-General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Malam Nasir

el-Rufai told State House correspondents that the bureau was ready to commence the privatisation of NITEL at the stipulated period.

He was reacting to recent criticism by some NITEL staff, who described the exercise as attempt to push them out of job, stressing that the programme was for the good of the company and Nigeria in general.

Minister of Communications, Alhaji Mohammed Bello and the chairman of the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC) Malam Ahmed Joda were also at the meeting.

## Varsities contd. from pg. 1

vincing implementation of the agreement.

The agreement, he said was aimed at the restoration of the Nigerian University system by empowering the institutions to rehabilitate, build new facilities and substantially elevate their academic standards.

He announced that government and ASUU reached agreement on the provision of Restoration and Capital Funds for the next three years with matching stabilisation funds.

"Government and ASUU have also agreed that in accordance with UNESCO guideline, 26 per cent of our annual budget shall be allocated to education, and the target is to be met within three years," Dr. Fashina said.

Noting that there was only one university system in Nigeria and that state univer-

sities produce high level manpower for the country, the ASUU president pointed out that an agreement was reached for the Federal Government to provide general assistance to states-both those that own universities and those that need assistance in the area of higher education.

Dr. Fashina said ASUU and the government agreed that the Education Tax Fund (ETF) should be retained but that certain reforms should be effected in the composition of its board and operations.

He then called on government to publish the recent investigations by the National Assembly on the activities of ETF.

Other agreements reached by the union include non-budgetary sources of funding for universities such as private sector contribu-

tions, patronage of university services, contributions from alumni associations, voluntary agencies and philanthropic individuals.

On the appointment of sole administrators, the two groups agreed to abrogate such while the National Universities Commission shall be structured as a coordinating body with reduced powers.

Furthermore, the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) is to be restructured such that the power of each university to admit its students shall be restored.

On the 60 members of ASUU sacked at University of Ilorin and two sacked at University of Nigeira, Nsukka, Dr. Fashina said the government assured them that all academic staff sacked or suspended due to the strike would be reinstated.

## Councillors contd. from pg. 1

allowed to remain, in the next four years we would have appointed council chairmen and councillors and not those elected."

Responding, Speaker Na'Abba, who decried the unhealthy relationship existing between the state Houses of Assembly and local government councils, assured the councillors that the National Assembly was favourably disposed to all their requests.

He appealed to the councillors to be patient, as most of their demands border on

the final review of the constitution before they can become effective.

Na'Abba said the democratic process of addressing grievances might appear slow, but it is a sure way to justice, adding that the National Assembly "will do everything it can to ensure that democracy does not only survive but is sustained.

"And the only way democracy can survive is when everybody is given unfettered freedom," he stressed.

On the issue of state electoral bodies and new salary for councillors, the speaker

assured that state electoral bodies may eventually be scrapped when the electoral bill is passed into law, while on the new salary, he revealed that the report of the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission on salaries for political office holders was yet to be harmonised.

Lastly, the speaker informed the councillors that the National Assembly had intervened in the zero allocation to local governments, explaining that the result of the legislative intervention will soon become manifest.

July 2, 2001 following the three week extension granted to interested bidders after the initial dateline of June 11, 2001.

According to him, with the close of entries for EOIS, the actual process for the sale of NITEL has now started as the applicants will be evaluated based on the advertised benchmark criteria for pre-qualification.

This will then be followed by NCP approval of the short-listed prospective investors in NITEL and the beginning of confidentiality document by the prospective

investors who will also receive the bid package containing instructions Request For Proposals (RFPs).

Details of the privatisation process indicated that a period of one month will be given for due diligence by the prospective bidders, while the technical proposals of the firms who submitted intents to bid would be evaluated and a short list sent to NCP for approval.

Anichebe said after the NCP approval, the financial proposals of the bidders who were successful at the tech-

nical stage will be opened and the short-listed notified of a reserve price. This would then be followed by actual financial bid, NCP consideration of prices, approval and announcement of winner in September 2001.

He, however, tied the massive reissue by reputable and internationally acclaimed telecommunications companies to NCP's policy of transparency and accountability and an indication of the confidence of potential investors in the privatisation process.

## Dangote contd. from pg. 1

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## IBB contd. from pg. 1

had expected the government of IBB to show keen interest in the detection of the perpetrators of the crime by providing enabling environment for the police to thoroughly investigate the case and find out how the explosive, being the first of its kind, entered the country.

He regretted that the government failed to do so, adding that a responsible government should have established a commission of enquiry comprising all the armed forces and the police to unravel the true story adding that the involvement of only the police in the investigations was merely a smoke-screen designed to cover the act.

Alhaji Tsav said while the police investigations were used as a delay tactics to kill the case, the sophistication with which the parcel was prepared and the use of sticker with Nigerian Coat of Arms coupled with the in-

scription "from the office of the C-In-C" suggested that the government was involved or even sponsored some devilish schemers.

The witness also added that the telephone conversation in which Colonel Haliru Akilu on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1986 sought to know the residential address of Dele Giwa and that he too would stop over to see Dele Giwa on his way to Kano, was a ploy to know the address so that the letter bomb would be delivered correctly by the messenger of death.

While rounding off his evidence, Alhaji Tsav recommended that the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Mr. Chris Omeben who was then his boss at Force CID, Ikoyi be summoned to give evidence.

The commission has adjourned to July 11, 2001 for continuation and cross examination of Alhaji Tsav.

## News Focus

# ASUU: Respite at the ivory towers

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

The much anticipated signing of an agreement between the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and the Federal Government came to be on Monday night at the National Universities Commission (NUC), Abuja, leading to the calling off of the strike by ASUU yesterday.

Prior to that, in the last three months a lot of water had passed under the bridge since the union called out its members from the classrooms on April 2, 2001.

The genesis of the problem is traceable to an earlier agreement reached between government and ASUU on December 18, 2000 which the government had refused to honour until recently.

Before ASUU embarked on the strike action, the Minister of Employment, Labour and Productivity, Alhaji Musa Gwadabe, had under section 8 of the Trade Dispute Act, declared a trade dispute between the Federal Government and ASUU and referred it to the Industrial Arbitration Panel (IAP) for settlement.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2001, IAP issued an order directing ASUU to call off its strike and asked the Federal Government not to lock out members of ASUU in their various universities.

The major issues which were responsible for the sustained strike were in the areas of funding and federal award to state universities, while ASUU was seeking for a 30 percent increase in salary the Federal Government was not ready to offer anything above 22 percent. But before the two reached government, they settled for 22.4 percent instead of the 30 percent.



Prof. Borisade, Education Minister

Probably this was because, the ASUU President, Dr. Oladipo Fashina has been insisting that the strike was not aimed at increasing their salaries. According to him, if their demands had to do with salaries, the union would have gone back to class before now, since the government was ready to pay them.

"We agreed with government on the need to address the issue of brain drain. A basic salary structure that adequately addresses the brain drain problem is necessary for the restoration of the universities. Unfortunately, the agreement on June 2, 2001 did not address the brain drain," the ASUU President had said while addressing the press after the strike was called off.

On the second issue of funding state universities, the Federal Government had emphasized that it was outside the purview of law for them to fund state universities but ASUU thought otherwise.

According to ASUU, the Federal Government has been helping state governments in

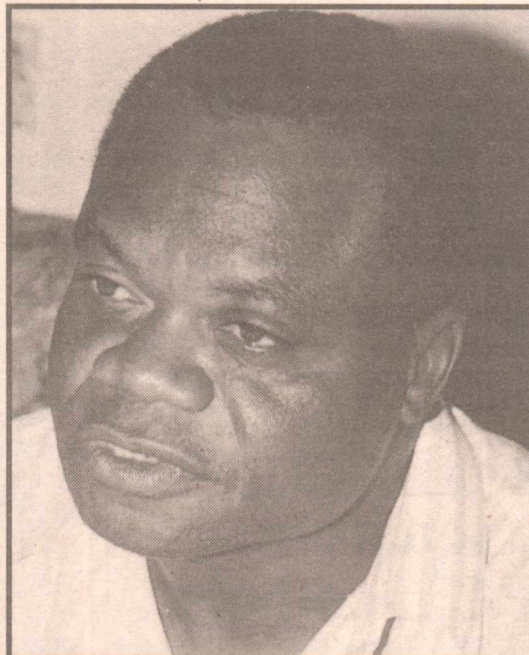
different areas, so why not help them in providing for their universities? ASUU argued that the Education Tax Fund was a federal government body but was involved in disbursing funds to both federal, and state governments.

A second example, ASUU cited is the Universal Basic Education Programme which the Federal Government launched at the federal, state and local government levels.

"In fact, government has been controlling education both at the federal and state levels and should therefore, ensure that all universities were on equal footing since we cannot have first tier and second tier universities."

The government and the union were having serious problems on the date for the take off of the new University Academic Staff Salary Scale (UASS). While ASUU wanted the salary scale to take effect from last year, the Federal Government insisted that the scale will only take off from the day the agreement was signed.

However, there were key areas the Federal Government and ASUU agreed on quite



Dr. Oladipo Fashina, ASUU President

before reaching agreement this Monday. Those key areas included restructuring of the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), the National Universities Commission (NUC), and the Educational Tax Fund (ETF); and university autonomy.

The Federal Government and ASUU were convinced that the creation of policies that will increase the autonomy of universities in the area of admission, management of universities, etc was necessary.

The demands of ASUU therefore, was in three categories; Basic salary and allowances, increased funding of universities and university autonomy. The last category - University autonomy was both accepted as the Federal Government even set up a committee to that effect. The committee has already submitted its report and government was inclined to implementing the recommendations.

Since 24<sup>th</sup> of May, the government negotiation team and ASUU have been battling on the first two categories, to wit funding and basic salaries in their series of meetings. The government negotiating team was led by Prof. Ayo Banjo, a former Vice-Chancellor of Ibadan and presently a Pro-Chancellor of one of the universities.

In the process of the negotiation, several appeals were made by people from different quarters. Notable among these were the Senate and House Committees on Education, the Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, who even invited ASUU National Executive



President Olusegun Obasanjo

Council to his office last week and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Ghali Na'Abba.

The National Parent Teachers Association of Nigeria (NAPTAN) in a statement signed by the President, Alhaji Babs Alade Animashaun had appealed to the union to call off the strike in the interest of their students who were spending quality time at home and constituting greater burden to their parents.

"When any militancy gets to the level of cautious condemnation by the students, their parents, media editorials and the previously supportive general public, it is time to return to peaceful resolution by calling off the strike, otherwise the good intention of the strikers may be misinterpreted to mean sheer blackmail or non-commitment to the genuine academic development of Nigerian youth," the statement said.

The parents therefore, appealed to ASUU to show sympathy and concern for the agony of the university students who were at the receiving end of the strike.

In a similar vein, students under the auspices of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), had appealed to government to treat seriously the demands of ASUU as these were necessary for uplifting the standard of education in our universities.

Elders in the academia had as well intervened in the process of brokering an agreement for the two teams.

In a communiqué made available to newsmen after the signing of the agreement, the two teams said agreement had been reached and signed on the issues of funding, basic salaries and autonomy.

In a press briefing yesterday, the President of ASUU, Dr. Oladipo Fashina said government accepted allocation of 26 percent of annual budget to education and the provision of restoration and capital funds for the next three years, with matching stabilization funds.

Though, ASUU's wish to halt brain drain was not addressed, the government approved 22.4 percent salary increase for them to be effected not later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2001.

To achieve autonomy the government accepted the abrogation of laws that impede university autonomy and academic freedom; a stop to use of sole administrators in the universities and restructuring of JAMB and NUC to reduce their powers.

However, the issue of reinstating the lecturers sacked in UNILORIN and UNN may be a great hurdle to cross if government does not move swiftly to reinstate them as agreed.

Now that the strike is over, it is hoped that all the universities would quickly join their colleagues that have backed out of the strike and resume immediately. Students who have been at home should dust their notebooks and textbooks for once again, it is respite for the ivory towers.

***"In the process of the negotiation, several appeals were made by people from different quarters. Notable among these were the Senate and House Committees on Education, the Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, who even invited ASUU National Executive Council to his office last week and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Ghali Na'Abba."***

# NEWS

## WAEC takes exception to NECO bill

The West African Examinations Council (WAEC) has taken exception to bill granting the National Examination Council (NECO) the sole right to conduct May/June Senior Secondary School Certificate (SSCE) examinations.

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos (SSCE) examinations.



Prof. Borisade

Speaking to *Daily Trust* yesterday in his office in Lagos, WAEC's Principal Public Affairs Officer (PPAO), Mr. Ignatius Apeh, stated that the main business of WAEC in Nigeria was the conduct of the May/June

Mr. Apeh told *Daily Trust* further that when NECO was established, the provisions of the bill were that both WAEC and NECO would compete and provide alternative choice for candidates sitting for the certificate examinations.

He argued that the reasons which the lawmakers advanced in excluding WAEC were not tenable as contrary to widely held views, WAEC still uses cautious assessment in computing candidate's results.

Worried by the continuing decline in the standard of law graduates from the nation's universities, Nigerian Law School Director-General, Chief Kayode Jegede, has appealed to the Federal Government to provide facilities at the four campuses of the institution for improved performance.

The four campuses of the Nigerian Law School are located at Enugu, Kano, Lagos and the main campus in Abuja.

Jegede, who was speaking yesterday in Abuja, at the call to the bar of 1,870 fresh lawyers, said the students produced by many law faculties of Nigerian universities are not properly trained to practice the profession.

"Only 1,870 or 57

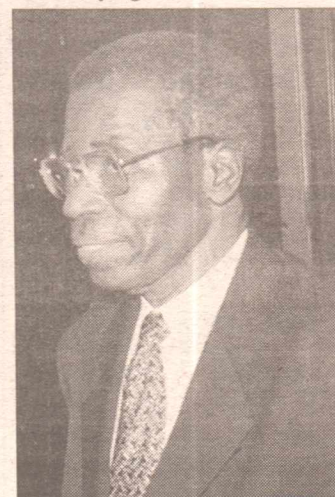
## Law school DG decries poor performance

percent of the 2,500 students, who took the examination passed or have conditional passes in spite of the fact that the Council of Legal Education has continued to be very generous in the

assessment of students for the profession," Jegede said.

The director-general said the three new campuses of the school located at Enugu, Kano and Lagos commenced operations in March, as part of efforts to cope with the increasing demands for law certificates and to improve the performance of the students.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Chairman of the Body of Benchers and Justice of the Supreme Court, Adolphus Karibi-Whyte, charged the new lawyers to uphold honesty, transparency and integrity in the discharge of their duties.



Chief Bola Ige

## Obasanjo seeks senate's confirmation of NPC members

President Olusegun Obasanjo has sent a list of 38 persons to the Senate for confirmation as chairman and members of the National Population Commission (NPC).

The request is contained in a letter dated June 27, 2001 and titled: "Request for confirmation of appointment of chairman and members of

By Reuben Yunana National Population Commission."

"The third schedule, part I section 23 of the 1999 constitution provides that the National Population Commission shall comprise a chairman and one person from each state of the federal and the Federal Capital

Territory, Abuja," the letter reads.

"I have therefore, in the exercise of the power conferred on me by section 154(1)(3) of the 1999 constitution, decided to appoint the following as chairman and members of the National Population Commission," the letter concluded.

| S/No | Name                         | State of Origin | Proposed Designation |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1.   | Mr. S. D. Makama             | Plateau         | Chairman             |
| 2.   | Chief Chidi Ubani            | Abia            | Member               |
| 3.   | Mr. S. D. Kwabe              | Adamawa         | Member               |
| 4.   | Dr. U. I. Asibong-Ibe        | Akwa-Ibom       | Member               |
| 5.   | Chief B. B. O. Emeh          | Anambra         | Member               |
| 6.   | Alhaji Y. A. Giade           | Bauchi          | Member               |
| 7.   | Mr. A. Atuwu                 | Bayelsa         | Member               |
| 8.   | Dr. S. Anande-Kur            | Benue           | Member               |
| 9.   | Dr. Suleiman Bello           | Borno           | Member               |
| 10.  | Barrister H. E. Ezoke        | Cross River     | Member               |
| 11.  | Mr. J. B. Isiayei (JP)       | Delta           | Member               |
| 12.  | Mr. F. J. Nwachukwu          | Ebonyi          | Member               |
| 13.  | Barrister Peter Otaigbe      | Edo             | Member               |
| 14.  | Mr. M. O. Ogunbolude         | Ekiti           | Member               |
| 15.  | Chief M. O. Anih             | Enugu           | Member               |
| 16.  | Mr. Mohammed Tongo Ahmed     | Gombe           | Member               |
| 17.  | Chief Joe Ndu                | Imo             | Member               |
| 18.  | Alhaji Wada Abubakar         | Jigawa          | Member               |
| 19.  | Prof. Bashir A. Ikara        | Kaduna          | Member               |
| 20.  | Alhaji B. A. Wudil           | Kano            | Member               |
| 21.  | Alhaji Abashe Iro            | Katsina         | Member               |
| 22.  | Alhaji Ibrahim K. Aliyu      | Kebbi           | Member               |
| 23.  | Mr. S. S. Lawal              | Kogi            | Member               |
| 24.  | Alhaji Saidu Bamidele Ahmed  | Kwara           | Member               |
| 25.  | Otunba S. Okanlawon          | Lagos           | Member               |
| 26.  | Alhaji Abdulwahab Rajab Nuhu | Nasarawa        | Member               |
| 27.  | Alhaji Muhammadu Liman Doko  | Niger           | Member               |
| 28.  | Chief Kola Bajomo            | Ogun            | Member               |
| 29.  | Dr. Bode Iwaloye             | Ondo            | Member               |
| 30.  | Dr. Duro Famojuo             | Osun            | Member               |
| 31.  | Dr. Jelili Amoloye           | Oyo             | Member               |
| 32.  | Mr. J. Kum                   | Plateau         | Member               |
| 33.  | Mr. M. E. Ofori              | Rivers          | Member               |
| 34.  | Alhaji A. I. Dogon Daji      | Sokoto          | Member               |
| 35.  | Alhaji Abdulrazaq Musa       | Taraba          | Member               |
| 36.  | Alhaji Lawan Musa            | Yobe            | Member               |
| 37.  | Alhaji T. Y. Kaura           | Zamfara         | Member               |
| 38.  | Dr. S. Anjogu                | FCT             | Member               |

## Governors sympathise with Nasarawa govt over crisis

Thirty-five governors have sent a delegation to Lafia, Nasarawa State capital, to sympathise with the government and people of Nasarawa State over the recent bloody communal clashes in some parts of the state. News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the delegation, led by Governor Rabiu

Kwankwaso of Kano State, visited Governor Abdullahi Adamu on Sunday in Lafia, and prayed for the quick resolution of the crisis.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, Kwankwaso urged Nigerians who are aggrieved about certain socio-economic and political developments to express their feelings through dialogue. He stressed the need to avoid the use of violence as a means of settling conflicts,

and urged the warring communities in Nasarawa to lay down their arms.

Briefing the delegation, Adamu said the state government would endeavour to expose the root cause of the crisis and take steps to prevent a re-occurrence. The governor had, earlier on Saturday, visited Tudun Adabu, one of the villages attacked on Monday by unknown people. He urged the people of the affected village to take consolation in the fact that "God Almighty is fully aware of everything."

Adamu urged the people to resist the temptation to retaliate but to "wait for an investigation of the incident by security agencies," adding that government would provide financial assistance for the families of the victims.

On Jun 12, the traditional ruler of Azara village, Alhaji Musa Ibrahim and six others were murdered by unidentified persons on Azara road in Awe Local Government Area. The murder marked a resurgence of endemic bloody conflicts among some communities in the South Senatorial District of the state. The crisis later spilled over to Keana, Obi and Lafia Local Government Areas, resulting in loss of lives and property.

## Internal Affairs Ministry explains removal of passport production machine

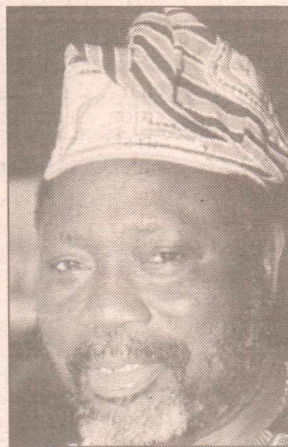
The Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs has said that it was compelled to remove a passport acquisition equipment at the Ibadan zonal office of the Nigerian

Chief Press Secretary of the ministry, Mr. Adeyemi Nelson, said that the machine had already been relocated to the newly established passport office at FESTAC Town in Lagos.

The ministry, however, said that the main passport production machine in Ibadan was still there, adding that "all the state passport offices in the South-West zone have acquisition equipment and they are all working perfectly."

The statement further said that the ministry had the prerogative to deploy any equipment to any of the zones. Speaking later with NAN, the ministry's spokesman said that all the staff involved in the alleged fraud had been recalled to the Immigration headquarters pending further investigations.

He advised members of the public to always take their enquiries to the appropriate quarters, "rather than rely on false and sponsored newspaper reports or rumour."



Chief Sunday Afolabi

In a statement in Abuja yesterday, the ministry said investigations showed that the equipment was not properly utilised. The statement, signed by the



Gov Adamu Abdullahi

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

For whom does the civil war bell toll?

Because of the premise on which he based his prediction, it may be tempting to dismiss the warning of impending civil war given by Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, at a hearing of the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC) last week.

Testifying before the HRVIC, the chief security officer to former head of state, General Sani Abacha warned Nigerian governments against the tendency to allow praise singers to remain intimate with the top operators of every government.

This practice, he said breeds distrust among decision-makers of such governments and could lead to civil war. But unsavoury as the practice might be, it is hard to see how it could cause civil war. For good or ill, no government can afford to sever entirely all connections with the personnel that were active in past administrations or there would not be continuity.

As obnoxious as praise singing is, it certainly is not the stuff that civil wars are made of. The previous civil war Nigeria fought arose when large sections of the federation no longer felt protected by the federal might, when many of the units felt they were not getting an equitable share of the fruits of federation.

The feeling pervaded not just the region that eventually declared secession because, for instance, during the May 1966 riots in major cities of the North, peasants had demonstrated on the streets chanting "aware" (sunder it) and "araba" (divide it).

Incidents similar to those of May 1966 have become only too common in these two years of re-introduction of democracy in Nigeria. The atmosphere of freedom has led too many to dare the federal government, from the youths of Odi to the state governments controlled by political parties other than that controlling the central government. Add to these the deliberate mass murders of non-indigenes by ethnic militias and we might indeed have concocted a potent devil's brew that could spell civil war.

Al-Mustapha's warning should therefore be taken seriously even if the premise for his prediction is faulty. Each deliberate act of provocation of the centre, each poking of the finger in the eye of the federal authorities could be one more step closer to the brink. Such acts may not be intended as declarations of secession, but they may lead to other consequences we can ill afford or ignore as they can trigger a cycle that could lead inevitably to civil war.

Daily Trust believes the stakeholders in the Nigerian enterprise when they declare faith in one united country, but it will take more than verbal declaration to ensure that unity endures.

WEDNESDAY COLUMN

The press versus Buhari

By Mohammed Haruna

The power of the mass media, someone once said, lies not in the supposition that they can tell us what to think – they really have no such power – their power lies in the fact that they are very successful in telling us what to think ABOUT. In other words the power of the mass media lies in their ability to set society's agenda.

Anyone who doubt the power of the mass media in telling us what to think ABOUT, needs go no further than the controversy which has surrounded a recent statement credited to Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, former Head of State, in which he was said to have called on Muslims in the country to vote for Muslims only in future elections. General Buhari was reported to have made the call at the launching of a book on Sharia in Sokoto several weeks ago. Since then the general has come under attack, much of it very vicious, not from the largely Islam phobic press, but also from even some notable Muslim leaders.

After a long silence, the former Head of State has now come out to deny that he asked Muslims to vote for Muslims only. He told, first the *New Nigerian* (June 26) and later the *Weekly Trust* (June 29), both based in Kaduna, that he never said so. His exact words according to both papers, were that "they (meaning Muslims) should vote for a leader who will protect their faith and their feelings". To buttress his denial, he told the *New Nigerian* that he had, among other things, told his audience that "even if it is Pharaoh who comes from somewhere and is ready to guarantee you your right to worship and self-respect, it is the ideal person to choose".

General Buhari said he had refrained from denying the statement attributed to him because he believed the distortion was a deliberate attempt by some powerful forces behind the southern press to destroy his image. He suspected that this denial would not make any difference to what the press and their sponsors chose to believe. "Why", he told the *New Nigerian* in apparent anger, "should I go about chasing the press to deny what I did not say? In any case what has happened to investigative journalism? Why does the press need a retraction? The speech I made was in public. Why shouldn't they meet the organisers of the event to find out what I exactly said? Why must I be the one to deny it?"

Two things, at least, are involved here. First, how accurate were the press interpretation of Buhari's report. Second, and far more importantly, why should his speech have generated so much controversy?

Thanks to *Weekly Trust*, the public now has what it claims was the full text of the general's speech in Sokoto. I have read it again and again and on a scale of one to ten, I find it difficult, if not impossible, to score *Thisday's* account of the speech – an account which started the controversy – less than six. General Buhari did not say Muslims should vote for Muslims only, but he barely stopped short of using exactly those words.

"Ensure that you vote only those who fight your cause", he said. "If Muslims are united here and in the South-West where Muslims are in the majority, I am sure that we can get a Muslim or good Muslims that will rule this country. That is the best for us. You must vote someone who will protect your religion and dignity".

This statement as a whole is somewhat ambiguous. Depending on which words one emphasises, it could mean either Muslims should vote for Muslims only as *Thisday* chose to emphasise Buhari's call on Muslims to vote for only those "who will fight their cause", especially in the light of his call for all Nigerian Muslims to unite.

*Thisday's* emphasis may be out of mischief, but speaking objectively, it is difficult to fault its judgement because it is not logical or reasonable to expect, say, a Christian, to fight for the Muslims' cause, which is not merely to seek to understand and respect Muslims but to actually expand the Muslim community.

In the circumstances, I am not sure if General Buhari's belated denial would serve any useful purpose, as he himself suspected. This is not to say it is never necessary to set records straight. It is, in the general's case, however, the futility of his denial lies in the fact that he most probably meant what he was reported to have said, even if he did not use those words exactly. As someone with a reputation for having the courage of his conviction, General Buhari should not have denied what he probably meant.

All of which takes us to the second issue of why his speech should generate the heat that it has. It is pretty obvious that the reason is politics. Since General Olusegun Obasanjo emerged from prison and eventually became president, it is pretty obvious that there has been no love lost between himself and General Buhari.

Once upon a time the two were partners in their fight against General Ibrahim Babangida, who had ousted Buhari in a palace coup. Together they fought Babangida until he was forced to

step aside in August 1993. Three months later, General Sani Abacha, whom Babangida left behind as army chief and Minister of Defence, presumably to protect his rear, took over power. Probably because the Obasanjo/Buhari partnership was more expedient than principled, it fell apart as soon as it accomplished its objectives of forcing Babangida out of power. While Obasanjo chose to become a critic of Babangida's military successor, Buhari chose to be his partner, apparently to spite Babangida whom he had found difficult to forgive for the palace coup of August 1985. It was an open secret that even though Babangida left Abacha behind, he had pretty little regard for him as a potential Head of State.

And so it was that Obasanjo ended in prison on trumped up charges of attempting to overthrow Abacha while Buhari went on to serve Abacha's regime as the executive chairman of the Petroleum Trust Fund. It is hardly surprising therefore that the two have since become adversaries. One early indication that Obasanjo was not about to forgive and forget Buhari for supping with Abacha as his (Obasanjo's) worst enemy, was an occasion when he went to visit Binta, Major-General Shehu Yar'Adua's wife, in Kaduna during his presidential campaign, if I remember correctly. Yar'Adua was the next-door neighbour to Buhari. On their way out, someone in Obasanjo's entourage suggested they dropped by to say hello to Buhari who was reportedly at home. Obasanjo was said to have sharply rebuked the fellow and ordered his convoy to move on.

This animosity came out in the open when president-elect Obasanjo served early notice that he will scrap PTF because it was unconstitutional as it was a First Charge on the Federation Account, as Professor Jubril Aminu pointed out during the launching in 1998 of a collection of Buhari's speeches as chairman of the PTF. Obasanjo's reason for scrapping PTF was clearly an excuse since there were many other unconstitutional things he never bothered with.

Buhari, needless to say, has since returned Obasanjo's animosity. In this mutual animosity, however Buhari is clearly at a disadvantage. Apart from Obasanjo's power of incumbency, Buhari is also up against a press which has almost always been against him as the Head of State who enacted Decree 4 which effectively made news an offence if it caused government officials any embarrassment whether or not it was accurate.

Of Buhari's two adversaries, the press is obviously Buhari's more formidable adversary and in the ongoing controversy about Buhari's speech the press has clearly allowed itself to be used into making the speech an issue. Buhari's crime really is not what he reportedly said or did not say. Rather his crime is that, right or wrong, he has been in the bad books of those in authority and of the press.

This, really, is the issue not any impression that the press wants to give Buhari as an Islamic zealot which he is not, at least from his record as Head of State. Under his harsh regime between December 1983 and August 85, he jailed all politicians, Christians and Muslims alike. Alhaji Umaru Dikko was a fellow Muslim but that did not save him from the famous attempt by Buhari's regime to crate him back to Nigeria from his London exile, presumably to face corruption charges. More significantly, the late Sheikh Abubakar Gumi's leadership of Muslims in the country did not save him from Buhari's wrath – among other things Gumi's house was searched, presumably for seditious publications, his passport seized and his salary stopped as consulting Grand Khadi for Northern states, when he seemed to have become too critical of what he regarded as the Head of State's highhandedness in jailing politicians.

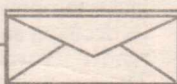
That Buhari's crime is not really what he reportedly said, can be seen from the fact that he is not the first to champion the cause of his religion. Long before his controversial speech, Sunday Mbang, the Primate of the Methodist Church and president of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), had said he would mobilise Nigerian Christians against any presidential bid by Babangida who is a Muslim. The press did not make an issue of it and heavens did not fall.

An argument in support of Mbang could be that he is a priest after all, while Buhari is a secular leader. But then wasn't Gumi too a religious leader like Mbang when he said something similar to Mbang's years back, and hell was let loose by the press as a result? And if Buhari was a secular leader what was President Obasanjo when he presided over an exclusively Christian and well-publicised celebration of his victory in the state-owned International Conference Centre in Abuja? Where was the press when this happened?

Obasanjo apart, where was the press when Chief Bola Ige, the unrepentant Yoruba supremacist, told *Tell* (April 30) that "at the risk of being misunderstood, Yoruba are going to vote one way. If we leaders in Yorubaland decide to support Obasanjo, we will also go and tell the people that we are supporting Obasanjo not PDP and Yoruba people can understand that. They can easily understand the difference between Obasanjo and

PDP". Why is it right for Ige to say Yoruba will vote for Yoruba only but wrong for Buhari to say Muslims will vote for Muslims only?

Granted, Buhari was wrong to play politics with religion in his quarrel with Obasanjo, but if the press attack on the general was based on principle, it would not have been selective in making only his case an issue. The press should either condemn all those who play politics with our differences, or it should leave Buhari alone.



LETTER OF THE DAY

Thank you Makarfi, but . . .

Between 29<sup>th</sup> May, 1999 to date, the governor of Kaduna State has performed so wonderfully in rural transformation. The case of Giwa local government is a typical example. To start with, Maraban Yakawada, Gangara and Yakawada were electrified so also Mahuta, Tsibiri, and Kaya and now Wazata, Turawan-Kakangi and Fatika are on the line.

With due respect, we urge Governor Makarfi to come to the aid of Giwa local government in the field of education. We need a boarding secondary school at the headquarters of the local government. Our primary school education is the worst in the state, we need a patriotic approach to salvage it. In the appointments and postings of district heads, we are solidly

behind the appointments and posting of indigenes to our district offices. The general hospital Giwa needs a facelift and the provision of adequate staff, walling of the hospital, sufficient medicare facilities and construction of staff quarters.  
**Ibrahim Danbaba Abubakar,**  
No. 20 Lamido Road,  
Box 23, Giwa.

## Opinion

## Gana in the press

By Salisu Na'inna  
Dambatta

Teachers are among the most patient and tolerant people that could be found anywhere in the world. Even when they change profession or calling, and join politics, like they commonly do in Nigeria and elsewhere in the world, they carry the twin virtues of patience and tolerance with them into the new field of endeavour.

In Nigeria for example, the late statesmen and patriots, Sir Ahmadu Bello, the *Sardauna* of Sokoto, the Premier of Northern Nigeria and Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the first and only Prime Minister of Nigeria, were teachers who became patient and tolerant politicians at the national level. So also Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari, who left teaching to become an elected President of Nigeria. He is reputed to possess the two virtues and they are ingrained in his entire personality.

Crossing Nigeria's borders in search of former teachers who became politicians and statesmen, the case of the late President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania is illustrative. He bore the vagaries of leading his impoverished people and nation with great patience and a high degree of tolerance.

In the current dispensation under President Olusegun Obasanjo, there is a former schoolteacher, who was so committed to teaching the younger ones that he became a professor in our turbulent university system. He opted out for politics, and is at the moment displaying a remarkable sense of patience and tolerance.

The subject of this write-up, who of recent has been under excessive bashing from the Nigerian media, is not being pilloried for lack of sophistication, charisma, dignity or patriotism as a politician. No. He is being roasted by the print media

simply because he is doing his job effectively with total loyalty and commitment to his boss, the elected president of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

Professor Jerry Hassan Gana, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, who is also a member and secretary of the board of trustees of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), is normally an open, self-effacing and amiable personality; who is endowed with the gift of the garb, deep wit and intellectual integrity, which he has frequently put at the disposal of our fatherland.

But due to a number of factors, including the usual propensity of some Nigerians to judge others from afar without interacting with them adequately enough to capture their personal qualities, the professor of geography cum politician is being unduly blamed for the perceived less-than-miraculous performance of the government of the day as assessed by the media. Luckily, nobody is questioning his integrity.

Being the spokesman of the government, his loyalty to the team in power under the leadership of Chief Obasanjo could only be clearly discerned and appreciated if he truly does his job of informing Nigerians of the policies, programmes and achievements of the government properly. It is for him to inform Nigerians honestly, and to the best of his ability. The freedom and right to disagree with him in the media, is not a licence for commentators to be abusive to his person. He is seen by many as morally upright and dignified. Thus, he cannot pay back those who abuse or insult his person on the pages of

newspapers in their own coin. For this, I sympathise with him. I feel for him for becoming the "whipping boy" of the portion of the Nigerian corps of journalists who take bravery to be the same as ability to abuse and insult our leaders in their columns.

Although writers and commentators are free to exercise their rights of free speech, and dissect issues in the interest of the society, it is always better for them to deploy superior argument than to descend into uncouth language. This approach would make their work useful and elevate the standard of the ongoing debate about the level of achievements recorded by the government.

Professor Jerry Gana, as Minister of Information and National Orientation, presents the facts and figures of government's achievements as they are. He has regularly advised that purveyors of information should find time to travel in the vastness of Nigeria to see and touch completed and ongoing federal projects. Call it monitoring, describe it as verification, the result would lead to making columnists and commentators better-informed writers, whose pieces would become in-depth, authoritative and factual, in place of being shallow, mere fabrications or speculative.

Indeed, it is in the best interest of democracy, the country and its citizens for the media to remain forceful and sincere in subjecting our elected leadership to scrutiny.

But that scrutiny must be constructive, patriotic and a catalyst to achieving total transparency and accountability on the part of the leadership. Scrutiny without proper objective would appear to some as pure witch hunting. The press should not allow itself to be assessed as witch-hunting

Professor Jerry Gana, even if by popular mistake or misperception.

It is not out of place to posit here that, Professor Jerry Gana is an effective politician whose staying power in public service is earned. It is pleasant to note and stress that so far no commentator has doubted his intellect or questioned his patriotism. This fact stands him out as someone who merits his ministerial appointment.

The media in this country should realise that their relationship with the minister should be seen as a partnership. For one, he is always forthcoming and has never turned back any journalist who sought to see him. This openness and his outgoing nature are some of the best attributes of an information manager.

Additionally, the minister was brave enough to apologise for the near-hard words he used in describing the manner in which the media assigned grades to the achievements of the Obasanjo Presidency. This confirms his humility and a willingness to remain open to constructive opinions. The media too were, as expected, courageous in their willingness to recognise his humility.

Since the media and the minister need each other in the discharge of their respective duties for the good of our country, a truce now would help in clearing the fog of the previous misunderstanding. The lessons learnt by both sides as a result of the debate on the performance of the government and the assessment thereof by the media, would hopefully help in generating ideas and actions on both sides that can result in a healthier and more beneficial relationship between the two in the future.

*Na'inna is a chief information officer in the Presidency, Abuja.*

## Setbacks to solid minerals business

By Thomas Bashayi

Several people have negative perceptions about the solid minerals sector. They feel it is a sector that is entirely filled up with rogues. They do not like to hear from professionals like geologists and mining engineers, about the real situation on the ground. Some individuals and organisations have lost tangible amounts of money because of improper execution of the mining programmes. This group of people, out of greed or ignorance believe in illiterates and non-professionals rather than in experienced earth-scientists. The need for a professional to draw up a feasibility study or do a brief research into the mineral of choice, before transaction takes place, is to some investors a waste of time. At last after being cheated or convinced by these rogues, the investors will tell you boldly but blindly that no such minerals in question exists in Nigeria.

It is true that majority of local miners and dealers in solid minerals business are either illiterates, semi-illiterates, school dropouts or professionals from unrelated fields. This group of persons are unaware of professional mining ethics as practiced in the developed world. Surprisingly, most investors, out of greed or ignorance or as a shortcut to make money, feel confident to contract the services of these non-professionals. The uneducated and inexperienced individuals take up mining business as alternative to primitive farming business. They are unaware of the technicalities involved in exploration and exploitation of economic mineral deposits. They are completely ignorant about mining mechanisation, hence, their inscrutability about mining intricacies. If colossal amounts of money are given to these non-professionals, they may try to exploit the minerals primitively or disappear into thin air. If they are successful in getting the mineral in question, you may see them. In case they are unsuccessful, everybody will be at large. Some may return with stories. And this group of investors that patronise the so-called miners/dealers cleverly give money out for one transaction or the other without written evidence or agreement.

Let us look at the oil sector. In most oil companies - whether indigenous or multinational, these groups of professionals work for them: geologists, palaeontologists, geochemists, drilling engineers, petroleum engineers, explorationists, geophysicists, civil engineers, accountants, lawyers and so on. The oil companies spend colossal dollars to explore and produce crude oil. Though one may not expect investors in solid mineral to spend so much, genuine investors should prepare to put in some funds, employ professionals or go into joint venture or partnership agreement with professional organisations or establishments.

Some solid minerals investors, local or foreign, operate illegally in Nigeria. They ignore the need to get the relevant mining licences and transact business in solid minerals without licences, or paying royalties to government. When rogues defraud them, they cannot report to the police because of their illegality in the business. However, the so-called illegal dealers or miners do borrow photocopies of licences from their legal colleagues.

They have photocopies of mining licences different from the identification cards they carry about. Others carry along expired mining licences without fear of arrest from the police. To curb this I think, the Nigerian Customs Service and Nigeria Police Force should recruit geologists and mining engineers to deal with these dubious persons.

Many small-scale investors are cheats who after collecting good quality minerals from the owners on credit will never turn-up again. This act affects the miners and dealers in the immediate future. Similarly, some miners sell poor grade minerals (gemstones) to dealers that cannot differentiate between good grade and poor grade. Immediately payments are made, the sellers will take to their heels. This too affects transactions in solid minerals.

Another case is buyers' lack of knowledge of where to obtain good quality minerals or where to sell the minerals. Some buyers spend time and money endlessly going from place to place with rogues for the purpose of looking for where economic mineral deposits exist or where they can buy samples. At the end, the exercise turns out to be unfruitful.

One will advice local and foreign investors to always patronise professionals within their reach or government for their business contacts. Investors may be surprised that all they need in Nigeria on solid minerals are readily available. Don't patronise rogues and non-professionals.

*Bashayi is a geologist with Novitco, No. 8 Falolu Street, Surulere, Lagos.*

## Nigerian Civil Rights commission at five

By Lambert Oparah,

How time flies. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is five. The Human Rights Act of 1993 established the commission. Barely a year later, specifically on June 17, 1996, the pioneer 16-member governing council led by Justice P. K. Nwokedi was sworn in. The council was charged with the daunting task of establishing and nurturing a viable federal institution with powers to deal with all matters relating to the promotion and protection of human rights.

In the last five years, the council has deployed both human and material resources at its disposal to actualise the broad mandate and justify its establishment.

At inception in 1996, the commission was faced with a credibility problem. Being a product of a military regime, the commission was seen by many as a mere window dressing. The international community was unimpressed by the news of a human rights commission in a Nigerian military government, the Nigerian public was sceptical, NGOs were cynical. Here is a regime that was accused of the gravest human rights

violation dangling a human rights carrot in the face of Nigerians. Can it be taken seriously?

All these constituted a great challenge to the young commission. But with some sense of commitment and hard work, the commission has been able to inspire sufficient credibility within and outside the country, especially among human rights NGOs which initially thought that the commission was set up to undermine their efforts. In the areas of human rights, monitoring, investigations, education and collaboration with relevant bodies, the commission has done considerably well.

The period of five years cannot be enough to redress the wrongs of a country that had descended into abysmal depth of despair and suffered global isolation occasioned by years of military dictatorship. However, the good thing is that today, Nigerians have an institution that could offer an alternative, albeit cheap, means of seeking redress.

Although democracy itself cannot guarantee human rights, the prospects of democracy heralded by a

successful two years civilian regime provides fresh challenges to the commission and it is bracing up to meet the challenges.

The reconstituted governing council is re-engineering the programmes of the commission to meet the challenges posed by our new democracy. The council has established special rapporteurs manned by seasoned Nigerians to take care of thematic issues. The measure is to deal in concrete terms with issues arising from human rights in any part of the country. The special rapporteurs include those on women, children, Niger-Delta, corruption, judiciary, prison and extra-judicial killings. For effective performance, each special rapporteur has a staff attaché whose responsibility is to form a link between the rapporteur and the secretariat of the commission.

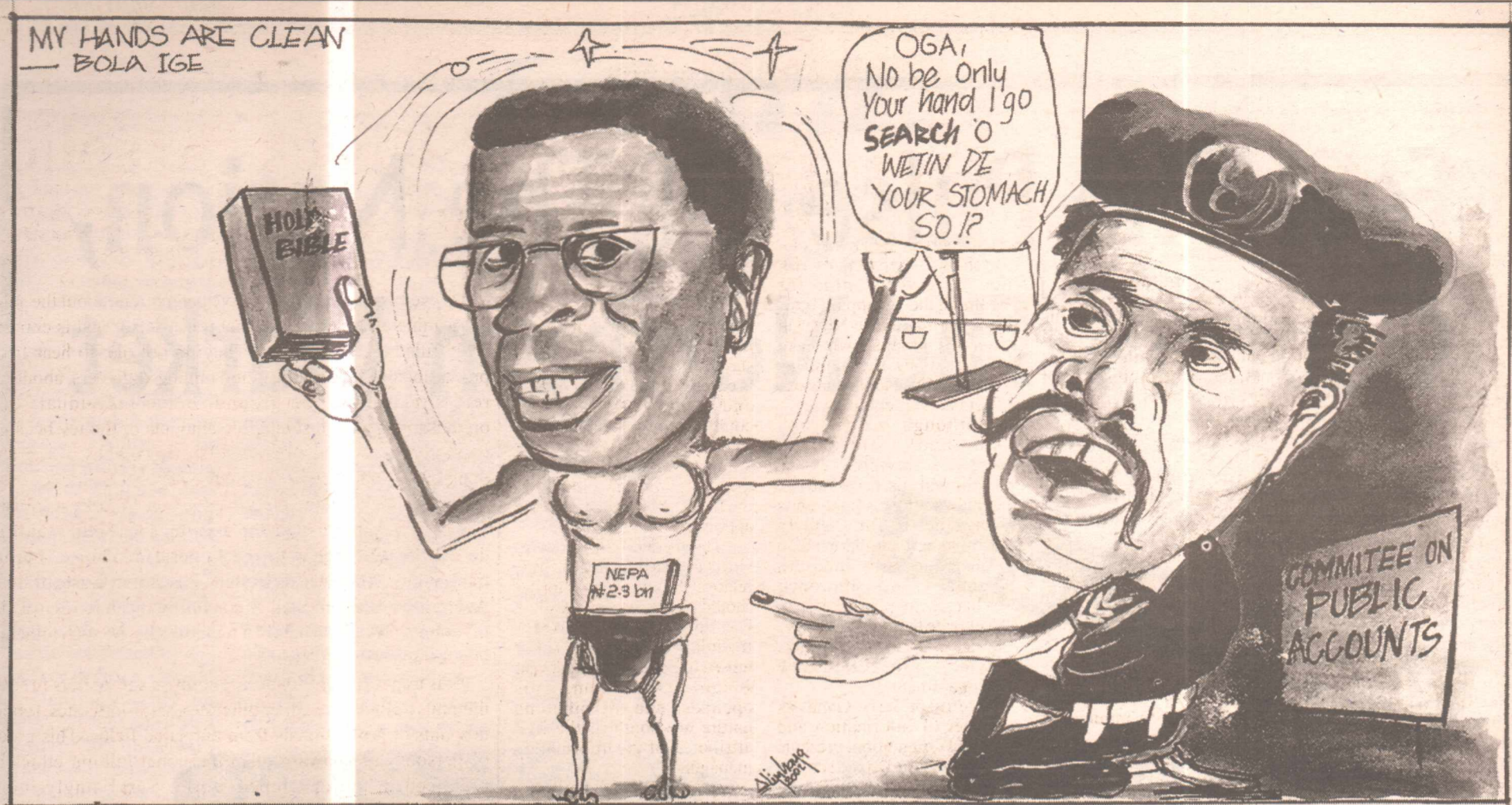
The council has also established six zonal offices and a headquarters situated at Plot 800, Blantyre Street, Wuse II, Abuja. Four of the six zonal offices, in Lagos, Maiduguri, Kano and Enugu, are fully functional. It is envisaged that Port Harcourt and Jos zonal offices will be on board before the end of

this year.

The inauguration of the Human Rights National Action Plan for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria recently by the federal government has added filipp to the governing council's efforts. It is also a demonstration of government's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights.

Amidst all these there are still some nagging problems facing the commission. Inadequate funding has prevented the commission from expanding its services to the nooks and crannies of Nigeria. The commission lacks the powers to enforce its decision and this seems to render its work ineffective. There is therefore the urgent need to review the Human Rights Act establishing the commission to bring it in line with similar institutions the world over. The commission should be made part and parcel of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as obtains in countries like Ghana and South Africa. In the years ahead, the commission promises to do much better.

*Oparah is the Principal Public Affairs Officer, Nigerian Human Rights Commission, Abuja*



## YOUR LETTERS

### Why would Obasanjo want a second term?

I have been hearing and reading all different views expressed by different people in this country and I have not seen anyone that gave any view that is good or which interests me. Many of the speeches are only mere lip service, only few speeches are true or genuine. Also many do not wish this our country peace. If not, why should a former Senator say that 'no second term for Obasanjo no Nigeria' as we know it today? Why should Senator Nzeribe also foresee the crisis that may erupt come 2003 if Obasanjo is not given a second term? Was it not Nzeribe who instituted impeachment notice against Obasanjo some time last years? Why should he now turn back and say those words if not that he was bought?

My piece of advice is that he should please emulate the action or borrow a leaf from Mr. Nelson Mandela of South Africa.

I believe that when Mandela was given a life sentence in 1962, hardly did he know that he would come out to become president of his country. But when God has destined that he will him to become president of South Africa, many events took place and became one.

I also believe that like Mandela, Obasanjo is a nationalist and a patriot and has the love of his country in his mind.

Therefore, I would advise Obasanjo to step down honourably after his first term like Mandela did.

He (Obasanjo) has set a record for himself when he handed over peacefully to President Shagari in 1979. That honour and respect were with him up to that time he was sentenced by General Sani Abacha. I believe also that that was the reason that he was called to head this country for the second time.

Obasanjo should thank God more for sparing his life and making him rule this country twice. For that, I advise him for the love of this country and for the sake of peace to reign in this country to step down after his first term to allow anybody who feels he can do better than him to come out and contest for the presidency by 2003 no matter whom the person may be and no matter where the person comes from, provided the person is a Nigerian qualified to be elected.

I hope any good citizen of this country that is chanced to read my candid advice will support my view and help contribute his own views too.

Abdullahi D. Ginya,  
P. O. Box 831,  
Bida,  
Niger-State.

### Open letter to Turaki and Kwankwaso

Your Excellencies, you have just celebrated your two years in office as chief executives of Kano and Jigawa States. I congratulate you both. You should note that Jigawa State was created out of Kano State. Indeed, the two therefore have similarities in everything. Kano State is considered as the "mother of all states".

What motivated me to write this important letter to your Excellencies is an article I read in the *New Nigerian* in May, 2001, captioned "Assets sharing divides Kano and Jigawa States". This is a disturbing affair. Your Excellencies should not allow such a situation to arise.

The sharing of assets has been a long affair between the two states. In 1993, ex-governor Kabiru Gaya raised similar alarm over the assets between the two states but became silent when he was alleged to have got personal shares of the assets. He threatened to quit Jigawa State civil servants occupying government official quarters just the way Rabiu Kwankwaso's administration is currently pursuing. At least both ex-Jigawa and Kano State governors believed to have cheated the two states over the issue decided to abandon it. The situation is unfortunate.

In the same vein, in May, 2001, Governor Rabiu Kwankwaso met with his cabinet and took a decision to disgrace Jigawa State patriotic civil servants by appointing *shakiyi wada Waziri* to flush them out of their quarters. Later, I believe the government was advised to use the Ministry of Works instead of a non-reputable committee chairman whose duty was to create public disgrace.

Now the Jigawa State civil servants numbering over 150

have been arraigned before rent tribunals in various courts in Kano. The idea behind sending these innocent civil servants out of such quarters is for Kano government functionaries to personally purchase them. Added to this, members of the House of Assembly in Kano State are also eager to involve themselves in this shady deal.

Your Excellencies, I wish to advise you as a concerned citizen to keep your good faces out of this act. The dust behind assets sharing may likely sweep many people including the two ex-governors.

There are vital documents in the hands of people and they may be released for public consumption at the appropriate time. The people elected you all and as such those people will not spare any

minute in exposing the social ills and other corrupt practices in the society and your administration. The assets sharing issue is solely an affair between Kano and Jigawa State governments. Such an exercise took place between states like Kebbi and Sokoto; Zamfara and Sokoto; Yobe and Borno; Bauchi and Gombe and Osun and Oyo, why shouldn't Kano and Jigawa share their assets amicably?

From the look of things, the two states have formed review committees, but from all indications, Kano State's approach to the issue is unfriendly, unpatriotic and has a certain political motivation which at the end may destroy the good and cordial relationships of their peoples. The patriotic Jigawa State civil

servants who are the target of the Kano State government are not enemies. They simply occupied the houses as the only means of conducting an honest and most sincere assets sharing. Therefore, the sooner Kano State government withdraws its so-called tribunal actions against any civil servant either from Jigawa or Kano, the better because civilian administration does not in any way mean to molest its people. After all, the bulk of this class of people are the backbone of the formation or running of the government. In conclusion, he who refuses to listen, will in the end cry woefully.

Ibrahim Maloho Baure,  
Dogon Maje,  
Jahun Local Govt.  
Jigawa State.

### The agony of federal civil servants

Any appointment into the federal civil service in those days was considered a special privilege for one to come across different cultural, social and economic aspects of other Nigerians, which opportunity working for the local or state government does not give.

The current trend with federal civil servants is however agony, anguish and regret. Gone are the days when federal workers were classified as special civil servants because of their reputation and the special emoluments attached to such appointments.

These days, one cannot be proud to be a federal civil servant due to the total neglect and other oppressive laws that are now being enacted to the detriment of federal civil servants, an example of which is the withdrawal of rent allowance for federal civil servants.

Take it or leave it, anybody working in any federal establishment and living in his locality and occupying his

family home or his own house is now not entitled to rent allowance.

Junior federal civil servants are worst hit because they are paid peanuts as salary after the rent allowance is withdrawn.

Take the example of a federal civil servant transferred from let's say Akwa Ibom to Sokoto and not put in quarters. He is made to sleep in the office or squat with friends or co-workers. These days, it is a common saying that it is better to serve in a local or state government than in the federal civil service where everything is centralized in Abuja.

Take the case of salary payment. Nowadays, local governments and state governments fare better. The workers in the local and state civil service do not travel to any other place to either pay for transport or any house rent like their counterparts in federal service. It is a shame for one to identify himself as a federal worker in any place,

because you would be looked at with scorn.

The case of councillors and chairmen of local government is a clear testimony of how not to be a federal civil servant. A case of doctors or lecturers who are left with crumbs from the tables of local government officials is a case in point.

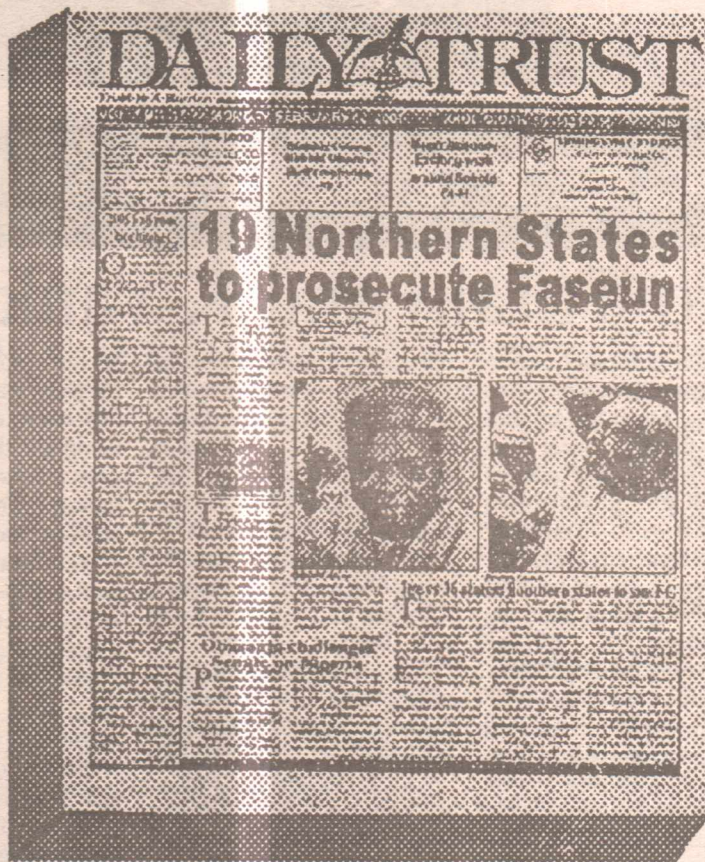
We cannot run away from reality, the federal government has ridiculed its workers and exposed them to shame and disrespect in the eyes of the public by the wasteful venture called "head count".

The federal government and the Federal Ministry of Finance know that all the ghost workers emanate from the accounts department of each federal ministry and yet they count and ridicule federal civil servants in answering a stupid roll call every quarter in the name of detecting ghost workers.

Bala Mohammed Lokoja,  
No. 1, Edward Lane,  
Lokoja.

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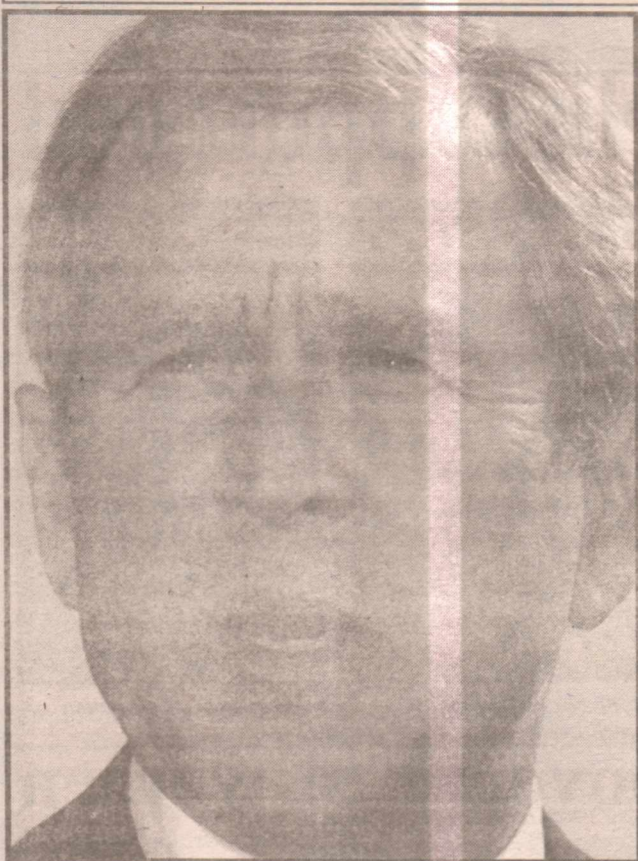
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# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

# Foreign & Diplomatic

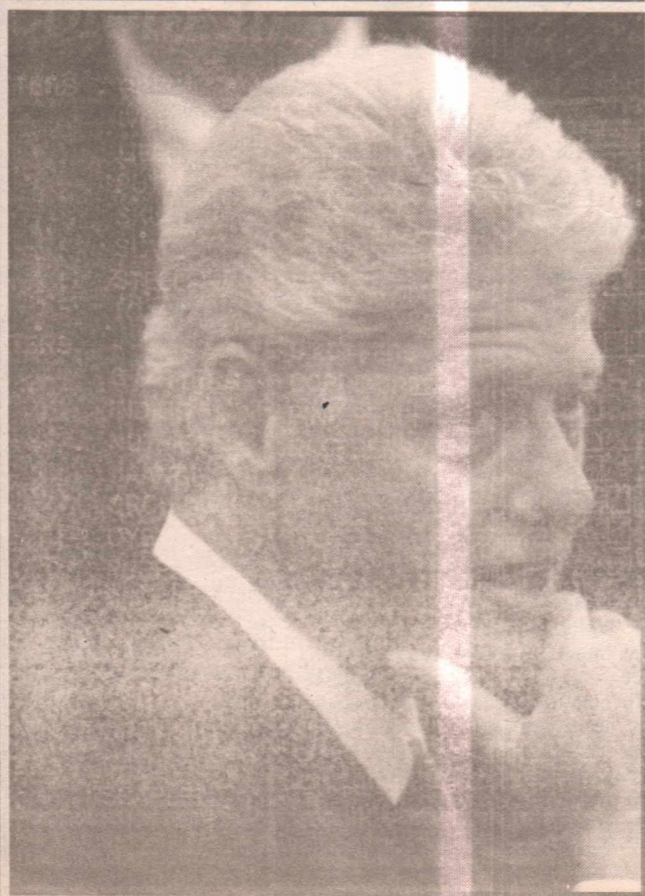


President George W. Bush.

**We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal; that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights. And among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.**

**To protect these rights, government is instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the ruled.**

From the American Declaration of Independence - 1776



Former President Bill Clinton.

*As the United States celebrates its independence anniversary today, the Fourth of July, Bo Niles reminisces, recalling the wave of migration that turned the US into a melting pot of diverse cultures; into a...*

## Home of the brave

**A**fter nearly 30 years I take my neighbourhood almost for granted, but on the rare occasion when I sit down and think about it, I find the place pretty amazing. On any given day within a few blocks of where I live, I can encounter people who represent more than two dozen nationalities or ethnic groups, men and women who have relocated to this country and to this city from enormous distances and vastly different cultures. I conduct my weekly errands at the Lebanese grocery, the Korean greengrocer, the Greek florist, the Chinese laundry, the French baker, the Indian tailor, the Israeli dry cleaner, the Japanese fish store, the Puerto Rican bodega.

Our neighbourhood is bracketed by a Russian Orthodox Church and a newly erected mosque. At noon, when the neighbourhood schools let out for lunch, students prattle away in French and Italian, which is not surprising when you realise that the French Lycee and Scuola Italiana back up to each other, only one block away from the kids' favourite Sicilian pizza hangout. All of these people have come – as my ancestors once did – to create a better life for themselves and their families in a New World.

Because I have lived in this utterly familiar place for more than half my life, I have almost forgotten what it must be like to pick up and leave everything behind to make a fresh start in an all-too-unfamiliar, unknown place. I say almost, because my family did exactly that back in 1958 when I had just turned 14. We picked up, left everything behind, and moved to Italy. But we went only for a sojourn, not for a lifetime. What we did was an adventure, and, one might add, an indulgence because we went for the music. My pianist-composer father had inherited some money, so my parents knew we would be comfortably set for a year or so. What we might have anticipated, but couldn't fully imagine ahead of time, was what it would be like to live as foreigners in another land. Finding a place to live, finding a school for us children, finding my parents a tutor in the language – in other words finding a new life – all were strange. Strange and scary and, ultimately, wonderful.

Overcoming that feeling of strangeness, or integrating that strangeness into one's experience, or adapting strangeness to a totally new way of feeling and being, is, to me, a truly brave act. I am in awe of the courage it takes to leave everything behind and, unlike our family, take absolutely nothing and create new life from only hopes, dreams, memories, and the clothes on your back. My family could never pretend to that degree of bravery when we moved abroad. And yet I believe it was courageous for my parents to make that break from their families, who criticised their move (especially with children)

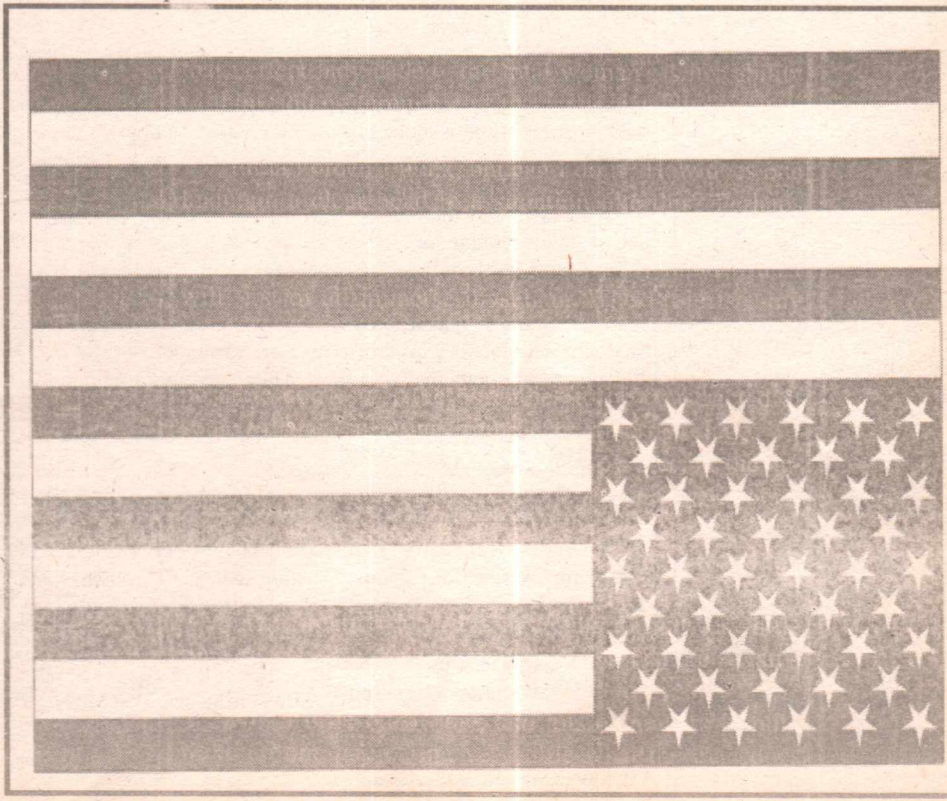
and wondered what on earth they were trying to prove. It was, I believe, brave of my parents to hope and dream that they could create a new life for us all that could be predicated on music and art. We were lucky that the culture in which we found ourselves nurtured those hopes and dreams. During our family's six years abroad, my father found out what he wanted to do with the rest of his life, a discovery that he was able to translate into a new career when we returned to the United States for good.

History texts tell us about the millions upon millions of immigrants who have come to America as a consequence of war or persecution or famine. Most started over, slowly evolving new lives for themselves. Many learned new trades and skills. Some took or were given new names. Some assumed new identities. All wanted a better life.

On the Fourth of July when I look up at the American flag which flies so grandly at the head of so many parades and graces the facades of so many houses the star-studded blue appears to unfurl and, like the fireworks that also celebrate this day, burst forth into a sparkling canopy. Instead of 50 stars representing 50 states, I visualise a firmament of millions of stars, each star representing a culture and a language and a heritage that have all become a part of this land every one of us calls home. On this day, the flag seems especially vibrant. It invites us to look deeply into ourselves and consider the potential of who we are and who we might become in the land of the free, the home of the brave.

*Culled from Country Living, July 1998.*

**Instead of 50 stars representing 50 states, I visualise a firmament of millions of stars, each star representing a culture and a language and a heritage that have all become a part of this land every one of us calls home.**



The star-spangled banner

## TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA &amp; THE MIDDLE EAST

# Mideast-polls: Palestinians, Israelis support end to settlement activity

An uncommon consensus has emerged among Palestinians and Israelis, with vast majorities on each side voicing support for an end to Jewish settlement for an end to Jewish settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But while most Israelis would trade the 145 settlements for peace, recent surveys suggest Palestinians would oppose any deal that links removal of the 200,000 Jewish settlers with the end of their nine-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation.

A pool conducted June 14-17 for the Jerusalem Media and Communication Centre showed 67 per cent of Palestinian adults favoured continuing their uprising regardless of the settlements. The pool had a three per cent margin of error. Comparatively, about 57 per cent of Israeli Arabs and Jews supported freezing settlement activity in exchange for a ceasefire, according to a June 1 poll by the Dahaf Institute. The poll had a 4.5 per cent margin of error.

Both pools were taken before a shaky U.S. brokered

ceasefire took effect on June 13. The truce has been marred by shootings and bombings. Fourteen Palestinians and eight Israelis have been killed since the ceasefire began.

Analysts say this may complicate efforts to end the violence that erupted in September after peace talks stalled.

"Stopping the settlement activity is not enough to stop the Intifada," Palestinian political analyst Ghassan al-Khatib, who conducted the JMCC poll, told Reuters.

Overall support for the uprising remained strong in the Palestinian territories, with 79 per cent of the 1,201 respondents, saying they supported the uprising in which at least 469 Palestinians, 120 Israelis and 13 Israeli Arabs have died.

About 70 per cent endorsed military-style attacks within Israel. Sixty-nine per cent said they supported suicide bombings against Israeli targets.

"It's difficult to differentiate the settlements from the occupation because the public sees the settlements as an expression of the occupation," al-Khatib said.

Palestinians want the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, for a future state.

An international panel led by former U.S. Senator George Mitchell had called on Israel to freeze construction in Jewish settlements as part of a blueprint to end the bloodshed and eventually lead to the resumption of peace talks.

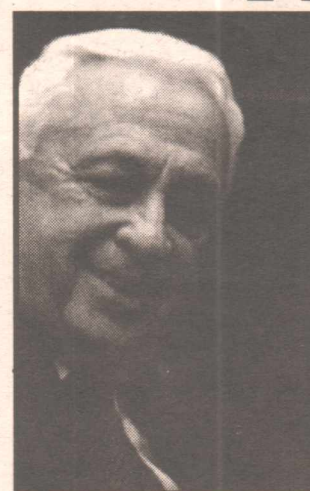
The Mitchell report calls for a cooling-off period, followed

by confidence-building moves such as the halt to building in Israeli settlements and finally a resumption of peace talks.

Yet recent polls show most Palestinians familiar with the peace efforts by the United States to fail.

"Israelis still want to leave the door open, though many don't believe peace can be achieved," Mina Izemach, an Israeli pollster with the Dahaf Institute, told Reuters.

In a June 13 poll of 500 adults for Israel's largest daily Yedioth Ahronoth, Tzemach found 34 per cent considered peace a possibility, down from 47 per cent last July.



Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Israeli Leader.



Yasser Arafat, Palestinian Leader.

## Africa's poverty to worsen unless... - Ogunkelu

By Musa Aliyu

The Minister of Cooperation and Integration in Africa, Chief (Dr.) Abimbola Ogunkelu, has warned that Africa's overall economic

decline is likely to continue unless it devises an alternative strategy to make gains in the current globalisation process.

The Minister whose keynote address at the workshop on "African States and the challenges of globalisation" in Abuja, yesterday, was delivered by Ambassador Dede on his behalf, also urged African states not to opt out of the globalisation process.

According to him, there must be a means by which the continent will adjust to globalisation, hasten recovery and sustain the growth of the economies of the various states.



Chief Abimbola Ogunkelu.

This, Dr. Ogunkelu said, requires working together towards a common developmental challenges of our time.

Globalisation, he further posited, may preclude those policy initiatives needed to stop and eventually reverse Africa's marginalisation in the global economy.

"It would also generate substantial gains for the developed countries at the expense of the less developed ones," he said.

To forestall this trend, Africa must develop strategies to address the problems of poverty and underdevelopment, he advised.

In a related development, Dr. Sunday Ochoche, Director General of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, the organiser of the workshop, has also called on Africans to resolve the problems of insecurity and instability so as to properly tap from the benefits of globalisation.

According to him, the opportunities and challenges derivable from globalisation are numerous, especially to developing countries.

Dr. Ochoche also noted that Africa's fragility is a direct product of its underdevelopment.

He also blamed Africa for evading facts by blaming entirely its woes on others.

"We blame everything from slave trade, through colonialism to capitalism. Indeed, these phenomena have done so much to underdevelop and impoverish Africa," he said.

However, he reassuringly submitted that emerging strategies from the workshop would no doubt effect a reordering of the domestic economy through repositioning and improved policy formulation.

"This will enable Africa address the seemingly intractable problem of underdevelopment and poverty which has left it on the fringe of global economy," he concluded.

## South Africa ready to test AIDS vaccine

South Africa may soon begin human trials of a unique local vaccine that could make AIDS as preventable as measles, polio or hepatitis, says Prof. Tim Tucker, head of the country's 2 million U.S. dollar AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

Tucker said that it was hoped that South Africa's new vaccine would work against all types of HIV infection although it was based only on genetic samples of the predominantly Southern African strain of HIV.

The vaccine which scientists hope will activate the body's immune system to kill HIV has been developed, using blood samples from HIV-positive prostitutes in Kwazulu-Natal province of South Africa.

According to Prof. Salim Karim, head of Medical Research Council's vaccine research unit, vaccine-testing sites have already been chosen while 48 people will be assembled to receive the first dose by early next year.

"There's no question about it we will find a vaccine," said Karim, adding: "But it's a long road. It's not something we're going to have tomorrow."

He added that AIDS appeared more preventable than cancer. Karim said that the HIV genes were inserted into a special kind of virus that was specially modified to serve as a "carrier" hopefully to stimulate immune cells in the body. The studies allowed scientists to isolate what appeared to be HIV-resistant immune cell, he added.

The South African government and Eskom, the country's power utility company, jointly sponsored the vaccine programme.

One in nine South Africans or 4.7 per cent of the population is infected with HIV/AIDS virus, according to a survey released in March.

Meanwhile, a South African widow, who claims her husband died from taking AZT, a popular HIV/AIDS therapeutic drug, is suing the drug supplier and manufacturer for \$200,000, saying that AZT was highly poisonous, and that the risks far outweighed its benefits.

The 41-year-old teacher from waZulu Natal province, Annet Hayman instituted the legal action against Glaxo Wellcome on behalf of her young son and herself for the damages they have suffered as a result of the death of her husband, Hames, in 1998.

In her case, Hayman also named President Thabo Mbeki, Health Minister, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, and head of the country's Medicines Regulatory Authority as defendants because of their "interest in the outcome" and their statements on the toxicity of AZT, questioning of the efficacy of the drug.

Hayman claimed that her husband "died directly as a result of cellular toxicity of AZT."

## Zimbabwe survives sanction bid

Swedish-led efforts to impose sanctions against Zimbabwe have flopped dismally during the recent EU council meeting in Brussels, *The Herald* newspaper reported yesterday.

When the Zimbabwean situation came under discussion, only Sweden and the Netherlands voted for sanctions while the rest, including Britain,

known to be in favour of radical action against Zimbabwe, voted to go the dialogic way, the report said.

Zimbabwean Foreign Affairs Minister, Stan Mudenge on Sunday said that the Zimbabwean government had informed the EU that it was ready to launch discussions with the EU at the ministerial level.

## Kuwait PM returns home from latest medical trip

Kuwait's Prime Minister and Crown Prince, Sheikh Saad al-Abdulla al-Sabah returned home on Monday from his latest private visit to Britain for "successful" routine medical tests.

The second in command in the OPEC member states had left the country on May 28 after forming a new government in mid-February.

Sheikh Saad, 72, has been going abroad regularly for medical treatment and tests, mainly in Britain, since 1997 when he underwent an emergency colon surgery in Kuwait.

He last returned to Kuwait from such a trip in November.

The Sheikh, known for his hands-on style, has in recent months cut his work schedule in line with advice from doctors, diplomats say, but, when in Kuwait, he heads weekly cabinet meetings and receives visiting foreign officials.

He has been premier since first being named crown prince in 1978.

Sheikh Saad's deputy, influential Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, acts as prime minister in his absence, running the day-to-day affairs of the small state, which sits on almost 10 per cent of the world's oil.

Following differences within the cabinet and debates among key members of the ruling al-Sabah family, Sheikh Saad formed the current government after Sheikh Sabah insisted on stepping down.

# UN tribunal is illegal

## — Milosevic

**C**aged but defiant, Slobodan Milosevic told the UN war crimes court in The Hague on Tuesday it was an "illegal" body set up by his Western enemies and refused to enter a plea on charges of crimes against humanity.

Making his first appearance in court after being spirited out of Belgrade five days ago, Milosevic refused to cooperate with British Judge Richard May, the tribunal chairman, who said he would read the former Yugoslav president's refusal to plead as a "not guilty" plea.

Milosevic, who also refused legal counsel in a show of contempt for a court whose legitimacy he refuses to recognise, said: "This trial's aim is to produce false justification for the war crimes of NATO committed in Yugoslavia."

"This is why it is a false tribunal, an illegitimate tribunal," he said during a 12-

minute arraignment hearing. Judge May, who repeatedly asked Milosevic to reconsider his decision not to appoint defence counsel, asked him if he wanted the entire indictment read out.

"That's your problem," came the reply.

After consulting his colleagues on the bench, a Jamaican and a Moroccan judge, May added: "We will treat your response as waiving your right to have the indictment read."

Milosevic faces three counts of crimes against humanity in Kosovo in 1999, including mass deportation and murder, and one count of breaking the Geneva Conventions on the conduct of war.

When the 59-year-old fallen strongman launched into a further statement, May, in clear and deliberate tones, cut him off: "This is not the time for speeches.

"We treat your response as a failure to enter a plea. We shall enter a plea of not guilty on each count on your behalf."

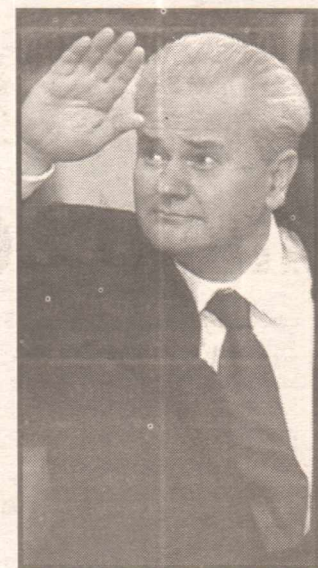
May set the next hearing would be in the week starting August 27 although tribunal officials said an earlier date was possible.

The judge said the tribunal could assign a lawyer to defend Milosevic if the continued to insist on saying he did not recognise the court since that could be interpreted as failing to make a defence, even on his own behalf.

Milosevic, who was handed over to the UN last week by the Serbian reformists who ousted him last October, wore a dark suit with white shirt and red, white and blue striped tie. He stood erect, chin high and scowling, when asked to rise for the entry of the judge.

He made his first remarks in English: "I consider this tribunal a false tribunal... It is illegal."

History was made when the four charges were read out in Court No. 1 at the International Criminal Tribunal. Milosevic is the first head of state ever indicted before an international court for war crimes while still in office and could spend the rest of his life behind bars if convicted.



Slobodan Milosevic.

## India prepares for Musharraf

**F**or a country which had demonised Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf, India is going to remarkable lengths to ensure he gets a warm welcome at next week's summit.

A casual observer of the Indian media over the past few days could be forgiven for concluding that the preparations under way have very little to do with the dangerous dispute over the Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

Instead it seems the key questions are whether Musharraf should be served Kashmiri cuisine, whether his hotel room will have a view of the Taj Mahal and where his wife will do her souvenir shopping.

The Pakistani president and army general is scheduled to arrive in New Delhi on July 14 and then hold talks with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in the city of Agra the next day.

It will be the first summit between the nuclear-capable rivals since their undeclared war on the snow capped peaks of northern Kashmir two years ago was masterminded by none other than Pervez Musharraf.

But hope for a détente seems to have brushed all that under the carpet, especially in New Delhi, where Musharraf was born in 1943 before the bloody carve-up of the subcontinent into India and Pakistan.

A frantic drive has begun to spruce up the area around his ancestral home in the dilapidated old quarters of the capital, and an Indian politician has even offered him a ride in a hot air balloon above the site.

The Indian government had at first fretted over whether to rollout a red carpet for the military ruler, but after he made himself president recently his programme suddenly included a banquet at the presidential palace.

The only hiccup was over high tea on the lawns of the Pakistani High Commission, to which Islamabad was planning to invite leaders of Kashmir's separatist alliance until New Delhi put its foot down and said no.

## Former policeman sought over death of Red Cross boss

**F**ijian police said on Tuesday they were hunting a disgraced former policeman over the murder of the head of the country's Red Cross.

Fiji Red Cross Society, Chief John Scot, who played a key mediating role in the South Pacific nation's political hostage crisis last year, and his long-time partner, Gregory Scrivner were found murdered in Scott's Suva home on Sunday.

Both had apparently been stabbed repeatedly with a cane knife found nearby.

Police Commissioner Isikia Savua said information gathered since the slayings led them to suspect the former policeman, whose name he would not release.

Post-mortem examinations

were carried out on the bodies on Tuesday and the findings will be released on Wednesday, he said.

Scott, 53, was a Fijian national with relatives in Britain and New Zealand. He joined the Red Cross in Fiji in 1994.

Scots played a key humanitarian role after failed businessman, George Speight and an armed gang of nationalist rebels stormed parliament on May 19 last year and took the then Prime Minister, Mahendra Chaudhry and most of his cabinet hostage.

Speight is being held on a prison island off Suva awaiting trial on treason charges.

Police and government prosecutors stressed there was no apparent political motive in the killings.

## Pakistan arrests Kashmiri leader

**A**uthorities in Pakistan-ruled Kashmir yesterday arrested a pro-independence Kashmiri leader, Amanullah Khan, his party said.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said Khan, its chairman, was arrested in Kotli town of Pakistan-ruled Kashmir while he was addressing a public rally there. No comment from the state police was immediately available.

A JKLF statement faxed to Reuters in Islamabad said Khan had arrived in Kotli on Tuesday morning to meet some 50 party activists detained there for about a month when the local authorities issued an order

expelling him from Kotli district.

Khan refused to comply and instead led a march of protesters to the city's Shaheed Chowk intersection, where a large number of police and paramilitary rangers stormed the venue and arrested him, it said.

The JKLF has been holding protests in recent weeks after authorities barred most of its candidates from taking part in the state Legislative Assembly elections due on Thursday because they refused to sign a declaration in the election rules that they want the disputed Kashmir region, about 45 per cent of which is ruled by India, to join Pakistan.

## Indonesia sticks to August impeachment hearings

**I**ndonesia's top legislature said on Tuesday it would stick with holding an impeachment hearing against President Abdurrahman Wahid from August 1 despite calls to bring the session forward.

On Monday, top political parties urged the hearing in the supreme People's consultative Assembly (MPR) be accelerated to bring a swift end to the long-running political crisis hobbling the world's fourth most populous country.

"If something extraordinary happens before August 1, then the MPR will consider it. But for the moment... it is best to wait and see," MPR Chief and Wahid critic, Amien Rais told reporters.

An agenda for the week-long hearing seen by Reuters showed Wahid was scheduled to account for his rule on August 1 itself, a demand he has said he would ignore, calling it unconstitutional.

Should Wahid fail to appear on August 1, it will virtually guarantee his ousting, as legislators have already expressed outrage that the Muslim cleric

would snub what they consider to be the critical component of the session.

The hearing is being convened over Wahid's erratic 20-month rule and two financial scandals, and caps months of growing unhappiness with his leadership.

However, Wahid has threatened to declare a state of emergency and call snap elections should legislators insist he account for his rule. On Monday he repeated the warning, ensuring the country remains in limbo for a few more weeks.

With little hope for a political compromise, the main question now is will Wahid carry out his threats or back down at the last moment?

Rais added that the MPR

had finished drafting decrees to formalise the out-come of the hearing, such as removing Wahid's President Megawati Sukarnoputri as the new head of state.

"A draft of the MPR decree to accept or to reject the accountability speech by the president is now ready," Rais said.

Another item placed on the agenda was the election of a new vice-president should Megawati take over the country, Rais said.

The 700-member MPR comprises the 500 seats in parliament and 200 regional representatives and other appointees. Only it has the power to sack and appoint presidents.

# US spy plane ready to leave China

**T**he American spy plane held on Hainan Island could be flown out in pieces soon, Chinese and US officials said on Tuesday, signalling an imminent end to a diplomatic dispute, which rocked Sino-US relations.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Zhang Qiyue declined to give an exact date for the plane's removal from Hainan where it made an emergency landing after a collision with a Chinese

jet fighter on April 1.

"The dismantling is already drawing to a close and it is expected that it will soon be finished," Zhang told a news conference.

A spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Command in Hawaii said it could be a matter of days.

Equipment used in dismantling the aircraft and a few non-salvageable parts had already been shipped off the southern Chinese island, he said.

"A lot of stuff has gone

out," he said. "But we're still waiting to hear whether the work is on progress in moving the remainder of the aircraft back to the continental United States."

"Tentatively, we're looking to get it done by the end of this week."

China held the 24-man crew for 11 days after the collision, releasing them only after Washington said it was "very sorry" for the death of the Chinese pilot and that the EP-3 spy plane had landed without

permission.

Talks on removing the plane had dragged on as a series of other disputes erupted, including one over a U.S. pledge of arms sales to Taiwan which China considers part of its sovereign territory.

But Beijing eventually agreed to let the plane be dismantled and flown off Hainan in a giant Antonov cargo plane.

Last week, Chinese Foreign Minister, Tang Jiaxuan promised in a telephone conversation

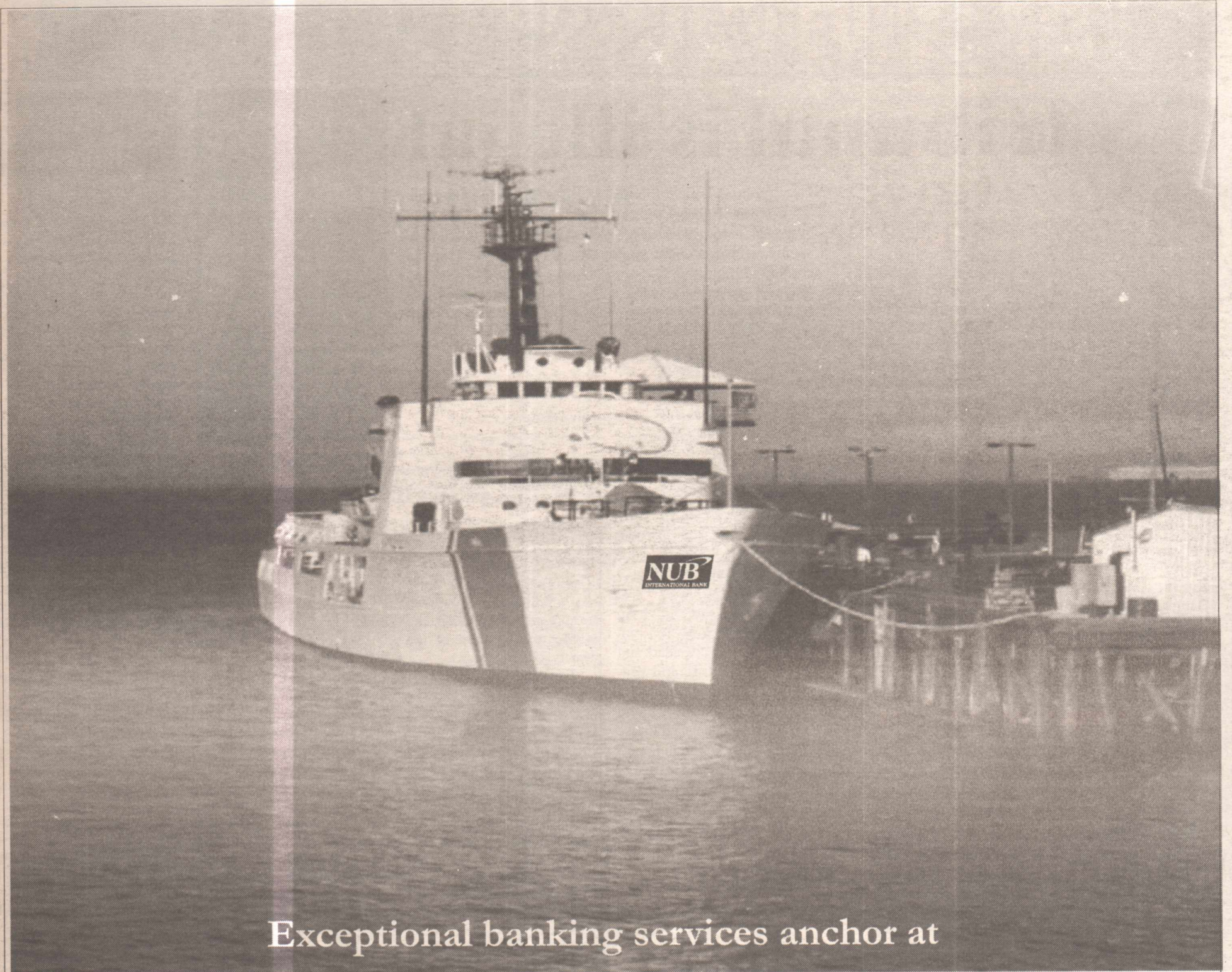
with US Secretary of State, Colin Powell to boost bilateral relations after the recent troubles.



Colin Powell, US Secretary of State.



President Abdurrahman Wahid



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Yakubu Gowon Way, P. O. Box 1066, Kaduna  
Tel: (062) 249143, 247615, Fax: (062) 247616

Abuja: Plot 554, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Cadastral Zone, Wuse II Abuja.  
 Kaduna: Yakubu Gowon Way, Near Central Bank, Kaduna. Tel: 062-245519  
 Apapa: Nasco Building, 29, Burma Road, Apapa, Lagos. Tel: 01-5874290  
 Katsina: NICON Building, IBB Way, Katsina. Tel: 065-432109

Zaria: 4B, Main Street, Zaria. 069-332936  
 Sabon-Tasha: 26, Kachia Road, Sabon-Tasha, Kaduna. Tel: 062-242112  
 Kachia: Beside Kachia Police Station, Kachia.

# BUSINESS DAY

## No going back on 100% inspection of imports, says Obasanjo

For the second time in less than a week, President Olusegun Obasanjo in Abuja said that no amount of pressure would make the Federal Government to rescind its decision on 100 percent inspection of all imports.

Obasanjo, speaking at a meeting with a delegation of the Manufacturer's Association of Nigeria (MAN), said that although tremendous amount of pressure was being mounted on government to halt the inspection, the Federal Government would not budge.

The President, who made the same pronouncement during the last edition of his media chat, said that the inspection would continue because, "unbridled importation of undeclared and concealed imports negated ongoing efforts to review the national economy."

While noting that such unbridled imports had also contributed to the depreciation of the naira, Obasanjo said that the Customs department had

been issued "strict directives not to relent in the inspection."

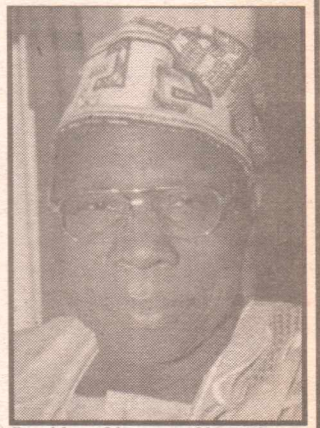
"The entire nation is suffering and gradually bleeding to death as a result of these illegal imports. We had to do something to stop them and we will not relent," he said, adding that additional equipment have also been approved for the Nigeria Ports Authority to help ease the congestion.

he said that X-ray screening equipment and the needed software for examination of goods at the ports would be acquired and installed before the end of the year.

The MAN President, Mr. Charles Ugwu, expressed "absolute support for the 100 percent inspection of imports," pointing out that an independent survey

conducted by MAN had revealed that as much as 77 percent of containers coming into the country never went through any pre-shipment inspection.

"It is an alarming situation," the MAN president said, noting that the scenario at the ports before the latest directive compelled the association to cry out about dumping and smuggling, which were responsible for the closure of many local industries.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

## MOWCA to seek implementation of new finance system

The Maritime Organisation for West and Central Africa (MOWCA) has resolved to work towards the effective implementation of the new system of financing the organisation with a view to executing its work programmes and budgets.

In a communique issued at the end of the 11th ordinary session of the organisation held in Abuja recently, MOWCA also resolved to set up a ministerial committee to monitor the implementation of the new system of

financing and management of the regional maritime fund.

The communique, which was made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja also stated that MOWCA decided to institute a regulatory framework for exclusive exploitation of the sub-region's traffic right by shipping companies of member states.

it stated that the organisation agreed that the shipping companies of the sub-region should come together to establish an

## Lion Bank offers automatic credit facility

The Lion Bank of Nigeria PLC, has announced automatic loan package to the first 100 applicants among its

customers.

Accordingly, the managing director said the bank would accept certificate of occupancy (C of O) issued by the Abuja Municipal Area Council and not only those from the Federal Capital development Authority (FCDA) as collateral for loans.

Earlier, chairman of Building Materials Traders Association, Mr. Vincent Okoye, showered praises on Lion Bank for granting loans to members of his organisation and other small scale entrepreneurs to boost their businesses.

Specifically, he commended the bank for assisting over 80 percent with loanable funds even as he said the bank single handedly finance the Nyanya building materials market with any collateral from the beneficiaries.

Managing Director and Chief Executive of the bank, Mr. Micheal Abdul, who rolled out the package at a customer forum and official commissioning of the branch at the weekend said the package was intended to reward the bank's customers for their support and loyalty in the area since it started agency operations a few years ago.

In order to ensure prompt and efficient delivery of services to its teeming customers, Mr. Abdul promised to equip the branch with the latest electronic banking facilities, just as he said they will soon introduce modern services and products relevant to the businesses of the Nyanya

it would also reconstitute its technical committee in order to examine the administrative, financial, technical and academic situation of the Regional Maritime Academies of Abidjan and Accra as well as support the adoption of a harmonised system of financing the Union of African Shippers Councils' (UASC).

MOWCA would also work closely with the other regional and sub-regional organisations to facilitate implementation of sub-regional and international conventions on transit transport.

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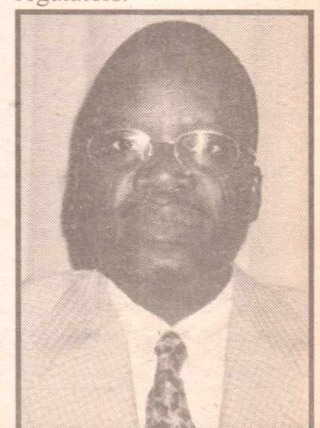
## Ndanusa emerges IOSCO vice chairman

The Director General of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Malam Suleyman A. Ndanusa, has been elected Vice Chairman of the African and Middle East Regional Committee of the International

Organisation of Securities Commission (IOSCO).

The election which took place at the just concluded annual conference of the organisation in Stockholm, Sweden is a further recognition of Nigeria as an active and respected member of the organisation coming a year after the Director - General was nominated to the five-man steering committee of the Emerging markets Committee, which examines vital issues of concern to the EMC and advises on them.

IOSCO is the umbrella organisation of securities commissions, which, among other things sects international standards and best practices for securities market regulation, and forges cooperation among regulators.



Suleyman Ndanusa, DG, SEC

## Digital services: NITEL stalls hope of Onitsha residents

The hopes of residents of the commercial city of Onitsha in Anambra State to enjoy digital phone services have again been stalled by technical hitches encountered by the Nigeria Telecommunication Limited (NITEL), checks by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has shown.

The upgraded 21,000 lines which was split into five exchanges of Awada (2,000), Nkpor (2,000), Tsoafpr (2,000) Onitsha (Alcatel 10,000) and second Onitsha (Siemens 5,000) would have taken off on June 28.

Mr. Ikechukwu Uba, the NITEL south-east zonal Public Relations Officer told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Onitsha that the cut-over was put on hold because of technical hitches.

He said that the engineers handling the job were making efforts to correct the faults, adding that the cut-over would be carried out without delay once the faults were restored.

According to him, Onitsha was the largest of NITEL's operations in south-east, stressing that everything would be done to give the city satisfactory digital phone services.

Uba said that acceptance and allocation of new lines had been suspended to make for effective take off of the new system.

He called for understanding from traders in the Onitsha main market, as the market was yet to be digitalised, stating that N9,000 was still the fee for the installation of a new telephone line.

### TENDER NOTICE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that 91-day Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills amounting to N100,000 million will be issued by an auction-based system on Thursday, 12/07/2001.

Interested Authorized Dealers (Commercial/Merchant Banks, Designated Discount Houses and Brokers) are invited to submit tenders to reach the Public Debt Office, Central bank of Nigeria, Lagos, not later than 1.30p.m. on Tuesday, 10/07/2001.

Each tender must be in multiple of N1,000, subject to a minimum of N10,000 per tender. Authorized Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids and quote multiple rates. A tender may be for own account of Authorized Dealers or made on behalf of interested members of the public, who are advised to apply to their banks or Brokers for the Bills.

Tenders for the Bills should be submitted on the prescribed printed forms in duplicate and in sealed envelopes clearly marked "TENDER FOR BILLS". The result of the tender will be announced before the close of business on Tuesday, 10/07/2001. The Bank reserves the right to reject any tender in part or in full.

Allotment letters will be issued to successful tenderers on Wednesday, 11/07/2001. Payment in full for the amounts of the accepted tenders must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30p.m. on the issue date. 12/07/2001. This will normally be effected by direct debit to the accounts of the affected Authorized Dealers which should ensure that their accounts with the Bank are adequately funded for this purpose.

PUBLIC DEBT OFFICE  
CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA  
TINUBU SQUARE  
LAGOS.

# BUSINESS DAY

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Price List as at 26/06/2001

| COMPANY      | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE | CHANGE | DEALS        | VOLUME            | VALUE                 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 7UP          | 6.00          | 6.00          | 0.00   | 6            | 11,200            | 66,752.50             |
| ABOSELAS     | 0.70          | 0.067         | 0.03   | 1            | 86,120            | 57,700.40             |
| ACCESSBANK   | 1.25          | 0.25          | 0.00   | 3            | 25,000            | 31,250.00             |
| AFPRINT      | 0.98          | 0.98          | 0.00   | 4            | 6,7000            | 6,566.00              |
| AFRIBANK     | 8.56          | 8.52          | 0.04   | 58           | 224,935           | 1,916,708.25          |
| AGIP         | 31.53         | 30.60         | 0.93   | 49           | 280,557           | 8,503,332.92          |
| AGLEVENT     | 1.18          | 1.18          | 0.00   | 2            | 2,502             | 2,952.36              |
| AIICO        | 3.70          | 3.70          | 0.00   | 1            | 100               | 370.00                |
| AP           | 19.34         | 19.34         | 0.00   | 16           | 4,737             | 91,613.58             |
| ASHAKACEM    | 16.70         | 16.40         | 0.30   | 36           | 220,676           | 3,546,774.00          |
| BATA         | 0.34          | 0.34          | 0.00   | 1            | 5,000             | 1,700.00              |
| BCC          | 4.40          | 4.40          | 0.00   | 2            | 1,900             | 8,360.00              |
| BERGER       | 2.65          | 2.54          | 0.11   | 16           | 111,225           | 293,511.50            |
| C&ILEASING   | 1.37          | 1.43          | 0.06   | 12           | 199,400           | 283,251.50            |
| CADBURY      | 25.00         | 24.00         | 1.00   | 54           | 338,214           | 8,196,185.214         |
| CAP          | 3.30          | 3.15          | 0.15   | 4            | 8,200             | 26,310.00             |
| CFAO         | 2.25          | 2.25          | 0.00   | 13           | 67,206            | 151,243.50            |
| CHARTERED    | 8.49          | 3.50          | 0.01   | 16           | 61,855            | 513,309.50            |
| COOPBANK     | 2.14          | 2.14          | 0.00   | 3            | 1,700             | 3,638.00              |
| CORNERST     | 1.80          | 1.82          | -0.02  | 7            | 28,320            | 51,542.40             |
| COSTAIN      | 1.36          | 1.30          | 0.06   | 1            | 50,000            | 65,000.00             |
| CRUSADER     | 2.00          | 2.00          | 0.00   | 4            | 15,000            | 30,080.00             |
| CUTIX        | 3.40          | 3.40          | 0.00   | 1            | 1,000             | 3,400.00              |
| DELTGLAS     | 6.40          | 6.40          | 0.00   | 2            | 16,700            | 106,880.00            |
| DNMEYER      | 16.10         | 15.99         | 0.11   | 27           | 60,107            | 944,233.30            |
| DUNLOP       | 3.27          | 3.32          | 0.05   | 33           | 250,227           | 838,293.60            |
| EKOBANK      | 1.79          | 1.78          | 0.01   | 13           | 296,677           | 523,724.42            |
| EPICDYNAM    | 0.60          | 0.58          | 0.02   | 1            | 6,300             | 3,654.00              |
| ETERNAOIL    | 1.17          | 1.20          | 0.03   | 3            | 12,000            | 14,055.00             |
| EVANSMED     | 1.42          | 1.38          | 0.04   | 1            | 10,000            | 13,800.00             |
| FIRSTALUM    | 1.85          | 1.89          | 0.04   | 4            | 20,700            | 36,810.00             |
| FIRSTBANK    | 33.20         | 34.00         | 0.80   | 387          | 2,285,376         | 78,321,528.91         |
| FLOURMILL    | 17.98         | 17.25         | 0.73   | 52           | 87,126            | 1,513,926.46          |
| FSB          | 6.58          | 6.26          | 0.32   | 17           | 164,300           | 1,028,518.00          |
| GROMMAC      | 0.81          | 0.81          | 0.00   | 4            | 3,000             | 2,430.00              |
| GUARANTY     | 5.70          | 5.70          | 0.00   | 20           | 5,036,000         | 28,705,200.00         |
| GUINNESS     | 37.16         | 37.75         | 0.59   | 35           | 51,916            | 1,934,401.79          |
| HALLBANK     | 5.15          | 5.10          | 0.05   | 6            | 52,400            | 264,522.00            |
| IGL          | 6.25          | 6.26          | 0.01   | 14           | 21,407            | 134,254.58            |
| IMB          | 1.67          | 1.75          | 0.08   | 45           | 1,458,472         | 2,397,586.80          |
| INLANDBANK   | 1.55          | 1.62          | 0.07   | 10           | 58,450            | 90,702.50             |
| INTERLINK    | 1.64          | 1.56          | 0.08   | 1            | 23,450            | 36,582.00             |
| JOSBREW      | 0.62          | 0.65          | 0.03   | 4            | 150,500           | 93,825.00             |
| LAWUNION     | 1.57          | 1.57          | 0.00   | 1            | 1,000             | 1,570.00              |
| LENNARDS     | 0.27          | 0.27          | 0.00   | 1            | 1,500             | 405.00                |
| LEVIBROS     | 24.99         | 24.50         | 0.49   | 78           | 475,500           | 11,605,701.90         |
| LIVESTOCK    | 3.79          | 3.79          | 0.00   | 1            | 100               | 379.00                |
| LONGMAN      | 5.52          | 5.52          | 0.00   | 3            | 7,500             | 41,380.00             |
| MANNYBANK    | 1.90          | 1.81          | 0.09   | 6            | 499,956           | 904,920.36            |
| MAY&BAKER    | 3.51          | 3.51          | 0.00   | 1            | 1,000             | 3,510.00              |
| MOBIL        | 64.00         | 63.50         | 0.50   | 7            | 9,065             | 572,237.10            |
| MORISON      | 3.43          | 3.43          | 0.00   | 5            | 8,343             | 28,616.46             |
| NAL          | 5.69          | 5.97          | 0.28   | 25           | 303,224           | 1,807,447.28          |
| NB           | 28.00         | 27.51         | 0.49   | 54           | 238,996           | 6,572,349.79          |
| NBC          | 21.00         | 20.00         | 1.00   | 24           | 142,530           | 2,86,680.35           |
| NEM          | 0.64          | 0.67          | 0.03   | 1            | 75,959            | 50,892.53             |
| NESTLE       | 64.00         | 61.06         | 2.94   | 16           | 1,839,160         | 111,845,608.56        |
| NIG-GERMAN   | 2.41          | 2.41          | 0.00   | 9            | 33,393            | 80,477.13             |
| NIGERINS     | 6.04          | 6.04          | 0.00   | 9            | 5,137,661         | 29,513,317.34         |
| NIGLAMPS     | 0.27          | 0.26          | 0.01   | 1            | 20,000            | 5,200.00              |
| NIWICABLE    | 2.17          | 2.17          | 0.00   | 4            | 2,250             | 4,882.50              |
| NNFM         | 12.00         | 12.00         | 0.00   | 3            | 19,793            | 237,691.00            |
| NOLCHEM      | 46.72         | 44.39         | 2.33   | 7            | 2,211             | 100,597.45            |
| OKOMUOIL     | 9.45          | 9.45          | 0.00   | 3            | 6,054             | 57,120.30             |
| OWENABANK    | 3.77          | 3.77          | 0.00   | 11           | 63,060            | 237,736.20            |
| PRESTIGE     | 2.55          | 2.45          | 0.10   | 9            | 51,372            | 127,061.40            |
| PZ           | 14.50         | 14.08         | 0.42   | 62           | 437,647           | 6,267,528.77          |
| ROYALEX      | 5.10          | 5.10          | 0.00   | 9            | 105,000           | 535,500.00            |
| SAVANNA      | 1.22          | 1.23          | 0.01   | 21           | 723,895           | 914,904.16            |
| SCOA         | 1.91          | 1.91          | 0.00   | 2            | 3,600             | 6,876.00              |
| SKBEECHAM    | 2.48          | 2.36          | 0.12   | 14           | 119,996           | 283,190.56            |
| TEXACO       | 63.00         | 63.00         | 0.00   | 17           | 30,630            | 1,929,553.87          |
| TIB          | 2.66          | 2.66          | 0.00   | 5            | 346,021           | 901,498.13            |
| TOTAL        | 65.00         | 65.00         | 0.00   | 29           | 37,045            | 2,388,489.00          |
| TRADEBANK    | 1.04          | 1.04          | 0.00   | 10           | 24,000            | 24,960.00             |
| TRIPPLEG     | 1.29          | 1.29          | 0.00   | 7            | 8,999             | 11,608.71             |
| UAC-PROP     | 2.70          | 2.58          | 0.12   | 56           | 1,217,510         | 3,219,589.23          |
| UACN         | 3.55          | 3.60          | 0.05   | 75           | 694,248           | 2,491,589.23          |
| UBA          | 13.01         | 13.66         | 0.65   | 83           | 1,170,518         | 15,841,183.12         |
| UBN          | 38.35         | 39.50         | 1.15   | 161          | 1,754,865         | 70,516,445.05         |
| UNIC         | 2.35          | 2.35          | 0.00   | 3            | 2,500             | 5,875.00              |
| UNIONDICON   | 15.50         | 14.75         | 0.75   | 8            | 38,970            | 583,557.50            |
| UNIPETROL    | 47.16         | 44.81         | 2.35   | 72           | 210,207           | 9,472,376.00          |
| UNTL         | 3.00          | 3.00          | 0.00   | 1            | 2,000             | 6,000.00              |
| UTB          | 4.47          | 4.69          | 0.22   | 6            | 200,120           | 938,562.80            |
| UTC          | 1.44          | 1.44          | 0.00   | 5            | 3,000             | 4,320.00              |
| VANLEER      | 3.11          | 3.00          | 0.11   | 1            | 1,000             | 3,000.00              |
| VITAFOAM     | 4.20          | 4.10          | 0.10   | 20           | 70,693            | 294,075.30            |
| VONO         | 1.59          | 1.59          | 0.00   | 1            | 10,000            | 22,168.47             |
| WAPCO        | 40.27         | 38.26         | 2.01   | 45           | 328,134           | 12,554,406.84         |
| WAPIC        | 1.36          | 1.40          | 0.04   | 4            | 17,003            | 23,768.20             |
| WEMABANK     | 2.88          | 3.01          | 0.13   | 36           | 345,059           | 1,038,412.52          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |               |               |        | <b>2,021</b> | <b>28,662,877</b> | <b>437,799,448.46</b> |

## Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Gainers/Losers as at 03/07/2001

| Gainers    |               |               |        |
|------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| COMPANY    | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE | CHANGE |
| UBN        | 38.35         | 39.50         | 1.15   |
| FIRSTBANK  | 33.20         | 34.00         | 0.80   |
| UBA        | 13.01         | 13.66         | 0.65   |
| GUINNESS   | 37.16         | 37.75         | 0.59   |
| NAL        | 5.69          | 5.97          | 0.28   |
| UTB        | 4.47          | 4.69          | 0.22   |
| WEMABANK   | 2.88          | 3.01          | 0.13   |
| IMB        | 1.67          | 1.75          | 0.08   |
| INLANDBANK | 1.55          | 1.62          | 0.07   |
| C&ILEASING | 1.37          | 1.43          | 0.06   |
| DUNLOP     | 3.27          | 3.32          | 0.05   |
| UACN       | 3.55          | 3.60          | 0.05   |
| FIRSTALUM  | 1.85          | 1.69          | 0.04   |
| WAPIC      | 1.36          | 1.40          | 0.04   |
| NEM        | 0.64          | 0.67          | 0.03   |
| JOSBREW    | 0.62          | 0.65          | 0.03   |
| ETERNAOIL  | 1.17          | 0.20          | 0.03   |
| CORNERST   | 1.80          | 1.82          | 0.02   |
| IGL        | 6.25          | 6.26          | 0.01   |
| CHARTERED  | 8.49          | 8.50          | 0.01   |
| SAVANNA    | 1.22          | 1.23          | 0.01   |
| Losers     |               |               |        |
| COMPANY    | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE | CHANGE |
| NESTLE     | 64.00         | 61.06         | 2.94   |
| UNIPETROL  | 47.16         | 44.81         | 2.35   |
| NOLCHEM    | 46.72         | 44.39         | 2.33   |
| WAPCO      | 40.27         | 38.26         | 2.01   |
| NBC        | 21.00         | 20.00         | 1.00   |
| CADBURY    | 25.00         | 24.00         | 1.00   |
| AGIP       | 31.53         | 30.60         | 0.93   |
| UNIONDICON | 15.50         | 14.75         | 0.75   |
| FLOURMILL  | 17.98         | 17.25         | 0.73   |
| PZ         | 14.50         | 14.08         | 0.42   |
| FSB        | 6.58          | 6.26          | 0.32   |
| CAP        | 3.30          | 3.15          | 0.15   |
| SKBEECHAM  | 2.48          | 2.36          | 0.12   |
| UAC-PROP   | 2.70          | 2.58          | 0.12   |
| VANLEER    | 3.11          | 3.00          | 0.11   |
| BERGER     | 2.65          | 2.54          | 0.11   |
| PRESTIGE   | 2.55          | 2.45          | 0.10   |
| VITAFOAM   | 4.20          | 4.10          | 0.10   |
| MANNYBANK  | 1.90          | 1.81          | 0.09   |
| INTERLINK  | 1.64          | 1.56          | 0.08   |
| COSTAIN    | 1.36          | 1.30          | 0.08   |
| EVANSMED   | 1.42          | 1.38          | 0.04   |
| ABOSELAS   | 0.70          | 0.67          | 0.03   |
| EPICDYNAM  | 0.60          | 0.58          | 0.02   |
| NIGLAMPS   | 0.27          | 0.26          | 0.01S  |

| DEALS | VOLUME     | VALUE          | No. OF COMPANIES |
|-------|------------|----------------|------------------|
| 2,021 | 28,662,877 | 437,799,448.46 | 92               |

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

## Bears maintained lead at NSE yesterday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 28.66 million shares valued at N437.80 million in 2,021 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

There were no transactions in the Industrial Loans/Preference Stocks sector and the Federal Government Development stocks sector.

### Price Movement:

The bears maintained their lead on the floor today, with a total of 21 companies gaining and 25 losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Banking, Breweries, Managed Fund, Automobile and Tyre, Conglomerates, Industrial & Domestic Product, Insurance and the Petroleum Marketing sub sector.

Union Bank Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 115 kobo to close the day at N39.50 per share, followed by Firstbank Plc, which appreciated by 80 kobo to close at N34.00 per share.

Other price gainers include UBA (65 kobo); Guinness (59 kobo); NAL (28 kobo); UTB (22 kobo); Wemabank (13 kobo); IMB (8 kobo); Inlandbank (7 kobo); C&I Leasing (6 kobo); Dunlop and UACN (5 kobo apiece) and Firstalum and WAPIC (4 kobo apiece).

Losses were recorded in the Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Petroleum Marketing, Building Materials, Conglomerates, Banking, Chemical and Paint, Healthcare, Real Estate, Packaging, Industrial and Domestic Product, Engineering Technology and the Construction sub sectors.

Nestle Food Plc led the price losers, crashing by 294 kobo to close at and N61.06 per share, followed by Unipetrol Plc, which lost 235 kobo, to close at N44.61 per share.

Other price losers include Nolchem (233 kobo); WAPCO (201 kobo); NBC and Cadbury (100 kobo apiece); Agip (93 kobo); Uniondicon (75 kobo); Flourmill (73 kobo); PZ (42 kobo); FSB (32 kobo); CAP (15 kobo); and SKBeecham (12 kobo).

# BUSINESS DAY

## Gas-to-liquid joint venture to cost N272b

The Gas-to-liquid (GTL) joint venture involving NNPC, Chevron and Sasol of South Africa would gulp more than two billion dollars or N272 billion when it comes on stream in the year 2004, the Managing Director of NNPC, Mr. Jackson Gaius-Obaseki has said.

Gaius-Obaseki told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja that the three oil giants conceived the deal to convert gas to liquid for domestic and industrial

use, in October last year and that the deal would be finalised in Abuja.

The Managing Director explained that the project was a clear demonstration of Nigeria's commitment to ensure maximum utilisation of its huge gas reserve.

He announced that engineering work had already begun at the project site at Escravos in the oil-rich Niger Delta region.

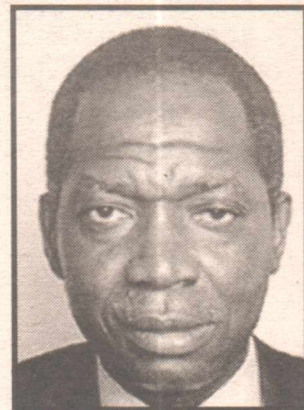
Gaius-Obaseki said that the project, when inaugurated, would reduce

the pollution caused by gas flaring, in addition to other economic gains for the country.

NAN learnt that the Escravos gas project EGP would begin production in phases and that phase one will gather gas from Okan/Mefa fields, which will involve the processing of

130 million cubic feet of gas for domestic use.

Phase two of the project will collect 100 million cubic feet of gas for regional sale, while phase three of the project would gather 300 million cubic feet of gas from offshore operations for the international market.



Gaius-Obaseki, NNPC, GMD.

## FG appoints firm to monitor airports' utilisation

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

The Federal Government in conjunction with the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has appointed an indigenous firm, Pan Express as a cargo airfreight agent to monitor the capacity utilisation of the nation's international airports on imports and exports movement.

*Business Day* reliably gathered that the decision to appoint a cargo airfreight agent was in line with the Presidential Ports Reform Policy programme and was approved late last year.

*Business Day* also learnt that the agent is charge with the responsibility of documentation, management, development and handling of all imports and imports information such as collation and collection of all statistical data which would eventually lead to the realisation of the much awaited Aviation Data Bank in the country.

Sources close to Pan Express informed *Business Day* that it would assist the government in budget forecast planning, monitoring and implementation as well as rapid improvement of internal productivity which will increase the nations exports earnings.

Most beneficiaries of this scheme according to an airport source are the importers and exporters who from the airport departure to delivery would encounter no delay or unnecessary expenditure because the scheme will bridge the reaction time against international phoney billings charges, clearing agents/customs manoeuvring and other sectorial connivance.

The firm, *Business Day* further learnt is taking off the scheme through collection of port charges payment against every consignments, in all the airports of the federation on behalf of FAAN.

*Business Day* investigation revealed that the policy would enable the Federal Government to eliminate corruption and other sharp malpractices for which cargo handling at the airports was associated with.

The implementation would guide against, among others, falsification of airways bills/manifests, falsification of cargo delivery sheet, gate passes and other various receipts; wrong description of cargo and consignment and under declaration of weight among others.

Also, the scheme intends to harmonise and create a central data control base where all airfreight references will be provided.

Pan Express has however been mandated to ensure total reengineering of all cargo handling system in the country.

## ...as foreign firms apply for private refinery licences

By Ahmed Shekarau

(NNPC), Mr. Jackson Gaius-Obaseki has confirmed that some expatriates oil companies have applied for licences to establish private refineries in Nigeria after the liberalisation of the downstream oil sector.

Speaking at the opening of the 22nd class of the Chief Officers' Management Development Course organised for chief officers of the corporation by its Group Administration and Personnel Division recently in Abuja, the NNPC GMD said "anybody," including foreign oil firms and state governments.

He said the NNPC encourages foreign oil companies to come and establish refineries in the country.

Specifically, the NNPC GMD said his corporation liaises with the refineries directorate to facilitate the expatriate firms' access to licences.

Commenting on the proposed privatisation of the oil industry, Obaseki assured

that the NNPC will come out stronger after the privatisation programme.

Already, as part of corporation's subsidiaries, the NNPC, he said, has started reviewing its "core business," stressing that "it is also one of the reason why we are going into the retail (fuel filling stations) business."

On the Chief Officers' Management Course, the GMD said the NNPC organised the course to fully position its staff for the challenges posed by the increasing trend of developments in the oil industry across the globe.

He reiterated the critical role the petroleum sector plays in the economic life of the nation, as the propellant of its economic and industrial development.

This therefore made it necessary for the corporation to update its staff at all levels, he added, stressing that "any organisation that does not continuously and dispassionately gauge and assess its business environment will sooner than later go out of business."

## Aviation seminar holds in Abuja

The Nigeria aviation industry will be brogught into focus from a strategic, legal and commercial viewpoint at the first National Aviation Law and Business Seminar which will take place at the NICON HILTON Abuja on the 26 through 27 of this month.

Organised by Adeyegbe and Company, a firm of legal Practitioners in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Aviation, the seminar will bring together a concentration of stakehodlers including political leaders, top government functionaries, leading bankers, insurers and lawyers.

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

The Honourable Minister of Aviation, Dr. (Mrs.) Kema Chikwe is expected to delvier the keynote address at the two-day seminar while eminent speakers to elucidate the topics include Prince Tony Momoh, former Chairman of Nigeria Airways Limited (NAL), Mr. Sule Ozenua, M. d. FAAN, Mr. Remi Oluwude, CEO, IGI.

Other top speakers and session chairpersons incldue Alhaji Abubakar Maikafi, M. D. Inland Banik, Dr. O. B. Aliu, Director Air Transport Regulation, NCAA and Captain Ed Boyo, MD

Handover Company Limited.

The seminar will treat in-depth topics such as aircraft leases, security and safety in Nigeria Airports, Aviation Insurance Liabilities of Airlines, Private Aircraft Owners and Operators, Legal Requirement for Starting Airlines in Nigeira, open skies. The New Era in International Aviation, Aviation Finance, Aviation Litigation and the rights of consumers, privatisation and the Nigerian Aviation Industry, Aviation Alliances and Legal Implications of Hostage taking and hijacking of aircrafts in Nigeria amongst others.

## ENRON project saved Lagos from outage

The recent injunction of 66 mega watts of power into the National Grid by the Lagos State Independent Power Project (IPP) being managed by ENRON has saved the state from experiencing total blackout, the State Commissioner for Works, Engr. Rauf Aregbesola has said.

Aregbesola made this revelation while conducting members of the State House of Assembly round the project at Egbin.

Engineer Aregbesola disclosed that NEPA's facilities supplying electricity to the state have broken down since the past few weeks.

He further disclosed that two of the new fired three

From Abdulfattah Olajide & Rakiya Muhammad, in Lagos

80mw barges which are expected to supply a total of 90mw in the National Grid have been working consistently for the past two weeks.

The commissioner stated that spare parts worth over 7 million US dollars have been imported to complement and service the turbines so that they would not suffer the same fate as NEPA facilities.

He explained that when all the three turbines are eventually fired, there would be a constant supply of power to all residences in the state.

Meanwhile, the National Electric Power Authority, (NEPA) is working towards ensuring that a law is promulgated to deal with cable vandalism.

Assistant General Manager, Public Affairs, Malam Muhammad Mousa-Booth disclosed this in a chat with *Business Day*, in Lagos.

He stressed that NEPA was set to curb acts of vandalism and has put various other machineries in motion among which he said

-Commissioner

was in liason with the police and the other in direct contact with community vigilante groups."

Malam Mousa-Booth said there were other strategies which they are working on, but that he can't make details public now.

On the target of 4,000mw electricity generation by December this year, the public affairs executive reassured that NEPA would meet it, "there would be progressive improvement from time to time and we would achieve the target."

He explained that Nigerians had a drop in power supply because "we have limited generation from hydro power stations due to low water level, ideally you would expect that the thermal stations would give us backup, but even then a lot of units in the thermal stations have been taken out for rehabilitation."

Malam Mousa-Booth raised hopes that with the restoration of the units, there would be a progressive improvement in power generation.



Governor Ahmed Tinubu of Lagos

## KDSG, U.S. firms sign solid minerals exploration agreement

From Dare Oyewole, in Kaduna

The Kaduna State Government has entered into an agreement with the United States Geological Survey and some mining corporations in that country for the full exploration of solid mineral deposits in the state.

Towards this end, the US Trade Development Agency has offered to provide financial assistance for proper geological study on the mineral potentials of the state after which the American Corporate Council and Africa would scout for interested firms to invest in the venture.

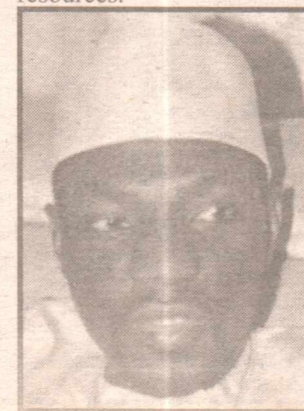
A press statement issued by the Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to the State Governor, malam Mukhtar Surajo said this was sequel to a series of meetings and consultations held between officials of the various agencies and Governor Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi who is on an official visit to the United States.

Governor Makarfi had ensured the investment climate of the state and its

potentials as regards solid mineral resources which, he said, could free Nigeria from the imprisonment of mono economy if properly tapped.

He cited as an example the large deposit of tantalite stating that this alone could earn the country five times more money than oil.

The Governor also said that conducive environment has been created for investment and other business transactions and that the state's land allocation policy was most liberal with abundant human resources.



Governor Ahmed Makarfi of Kaduna

For people living in Tafawa Balewa Bauchi State, the word crisis is nothing new to them as it has almost become a part of them.

Therefore when on Friday, 15th June a group of Sayawa youths started what seemed like a peaceful protest against the Sharia legal system, the Hausa residents of the town immediately read the handwriting on the wall; the beginning of trouble. Experience they say is the best teacher. Recounting similar tragedies of 1991 and 1995, which befell them, they wasted no time in preparing for the exodus carrying along with them few belongings and sending their wives and children to the neighbouring villages.

According to an eye-witness account, trouble started around 2pm in the motor park when an attempt was made by a bus conductor to make a special sitting arrangement separating the males from the females, an idea which did not go down well with those around who saw it as an attempt to start enforcing the Sharia, the legal system which was said to have come into effect in the state on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2001. As tempers were about to cool down after this minor incident, another one reared its ugly head when in the same motor park, similar attempt was made to make two different queues separating the males from the females. In what appeared to be the last straw that broke the camel's back, the few anti-Sharia groups felt the Shariarists have gone too far. In protest, they started

By Danlami Baban Takko, in Tafawa Balewa

pouring anti-Sharia abuses, hitting and smashing wind-screen of some vehicles. All this time, however, protests were restricted to the motor park.

Around 3.30 pm that same Friday, protests spread to town and according to one Mijinyawa Kanwa a group of youths were seen carrying leaves with the inscription "No Sharia" "We don't want Sharia" boldly written on their bodies. They assembled near the market and went through the town chanting anti-Sharia songs to be joined by women and children and the protests were to last up to sunrise when elders prevailed on them to stop which they did. Throughout the protest on Friday there was no report of any violent clash.

On Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, a peace meeting was held between elders of the Muslim community and their Christian counterparts, in which the need for peaceful co-existence was discussed. During the meeting, which was held at the local government secretariat, elders promised to prevail on their followers (especially the youths) not to repeat the ugly episode. Throughout the Saturday and Sunday all was peaceful in Tafawa Balewa town. However, based on security reports and fully knowing Tafawa Balewa for what it is, a horn of crisis, the State Governor Alhaji Ahmad Adamu Mu'azu was said to have gone there on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June. In his address to the Sayawa people the governor told them that they

# Tafawa Balewa

have nothing to fear about the Sharia as it will not affect them and they would be fully protected and guaranteed the right to practice their religion. However, the Sayawa used the opportunity to once again express their opposition to the Islamic legal system especially in Tafawa Balewa, an area which they not only felt they are in the majority but rightly belong to them. The meeting ended without reaching a compromise.

On Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> June events took a new bloody and destructive turn. One would have thought that the peace meeting held by elders on Saturday and the subsequent visit by the Governor on Sunday were enough to let sleeping dogs lie. However, that was not to be. According to Mijinyawa: "On Monday morning I was sitting in the market when a group of Sayawa youths (numbering about sixty) came and started saying "We don't want Sharia and pouring all the anti-Sharia remarks. Sensing trouble, our people started moving to the police station for protection. After the afternoon prayer, we heard gun shots coming from the West and that fire had broken out at Sarkin Kasuwa's house and that of a black smith. From the mosque we hurriedly went to the police station." At the police station a safe passage was made for the Hausas and two buses were made available which took them to the neighbouring villages of



Victims of the crisis in their new found abode, Central Primary School, Dass.

Bununu and Dass under heavy armed police escorts they left behind them tales of blood letting and destruction which had more than twenty people killed and several houses destroyed and about five thousand people displaced.

More than two weeks after the Monday incident, Tafawa Balewa has re-

mained a no-go area with the police and only the Sayawas inhabiting the town. Houses were burnt and some destroyed while properties equally perished. At present not a single Hausa man or woman is living in Tafawa Balewa. They now live as displaced persons in Dass, Bununu, critical liman Katagum and in Bauchi. The

seed of destruction can also be seen in surrounding villages like Gital (where the villages are completely burnt) Kwachiya and Jigawa among others.

In the first public comment on the crisis, the Bauchi State government through the Director of the Press, Mohammed A. Abdullahi, issued a press release dated 20/6/2001. Part of the press release reads: "The Bauchi State Government has successfully averted an attempt by some disgruntled individuals in Tafawa Balewa Local Government to cause a breach of the law under the guise of protest on the implementation of the Sharia Legal system in the state.

The individuals who mobilised themselves in strategic corners of the town molested the Local Government Chairman, Mr. William Wadni, the village Head of Bununu, Mallam Shai Mohammed and set a motorcycle on fire at the local government secretariat. Government, therefore, wishes to warn all those engaged in spreading rumours on various issues that could lead to a breach of the peace in some areas of the state to desist from such acts or face the wrath of the law when apprehended."

Indeed, part of the factors, which prevented the escalation of the crisis in some parts of the state, especially Bauchi the state capital, was the government's prompt and mature handling of the situation. Reliable sources say that "... At the initial stage of the crisis. Probably on Friday, based on security reports, government decided to hold a security meeting during which it was agreed that media reports on the situation must be completely censored, a



Some of houses burnt in Gital Village

Feature

# explodes again!



Even when it became necessary to speak, only the state governor was mandated to do so..." The decision to downplay reports on the crisis did not only stop at media censorship or comments, but the government also took extra measures to ensure that dead bodies and the wounded are not taken to Bauchi, the capital. This was to avert the ugly experiences of a similar incident of 1991 when victims from Tafawa Balewa were taken to Bauchi and this inflamed emotions which subsequently led to retaliatory measures resulting in more deaths and destruction throughout the state.

Regarding the molestation of the Tafawa Balewa local government chairman and the village head of Bununu, reports had it that the latter had earlier gone to the chairman in order to sympathise with him over his encounter with armed robbers on his way back from Uyo in Akwa Ibom State. That fateful day, the protesters had gone to voice their anti-Sharia grievances and opposition to the chairman, and on fighting the village head, they physically molested him. According to a source, this incident (the physical assault on the village head was partly because as he puts it... "The people of Bununu saw the act as an assault on their dignity and as such made preparations to enter Tafawa Balewa to deal with the *Sayawas*" in his comment, the Local Government Chairman Mr. J. Wadni would not like to say much on the crisis, as he is now a member of the committee on reconciliation and Resettlement. The chairman who is visibly shaken by the sad episode said "We did not know anything about them un-

til they came. They completely took us by surprise. Immediately after we called an emergency security meeting and requested for police re-enforcement."

In his reaction to the crisis, the state chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Reverend Dauda Marafa said: "We are not happy with the crisis.

Actually nobody is happy with what happened, but this is something that government has to address squarely." He said so far he had made about seven submissions, five to the state house of Assembly and two to the state government concerning the implementation of *Sharia* in the state. Reverend Marafa described reli-

gion as a personal matter which should not be imposed on others and if at all the country is to exist, the constitutional rights of others should be protected. He called on the government to look into the actual cause of the crisis with the aim of finding a lasting solution. The chairman also welcomed the decision by government to set up the reconciliation committee of which he is a member and expressed the hope that this would give him the opportunity to restate his case.

However, on his part, the State Chairman of the Task Force on *Sharia* Implementation retired deputy Inspector General of Police Alhaji Muhammadu Danmadami (Sa'in Katagum) described the action of the Christian *Sayawas* as illogical. He wondered how they want to be allowed and yet deny the Muslims the right to practice their own. He said the constitution is clear in granting everyone the right to practice his religion unhindered adding that "...*Sharia* is part and parcel of a Muslim's way of life and you cannot separate *Sharia* from Islam." Alhaji Danlami said so far as the implementation of *Sharia* is concerned in Bauchi State, only federal institutions are exempted and the legal system will be implemented in Bogoro and Tafawa Balewa areas. He urged the Christians to adopt the spirit of give and take so that the two religions would co-exist peacefully.

Meanwhile, as part of efforts aimed at finding a lasting solution to the lingering Tafawa Balewa vicious cycle of violence and destruction, the present administration of Alhaji Adamu Mu'azu has already set-up a 17-member committee on reconciliation and resettlement headed by Alhaji Muhammed Yusuf AIG (RTD). According to a letter of appointment sent to each member dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, reference number GO/SS/POL/S/83, and signed by the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Muhammad Nadada Umar, the government says: "In the light of the recent communal dispute in Tafawa Balewa LGA, the need for the state government to adopt confidence building measures towards the re-establishment of harmonious co-existence has become imperative. Consequently, his Excellency, the Executive Governor of Bauchi State has, after due consultation with the Security Council, approved the setting up of a committee on reconciliation and resettlement.

The Committee would be required to make efforts toward reconciling the various disputing communities with a view to restoring their confidence to live together in peace and harmony. The committee is also required to see to the resettlement of the displaced persons.

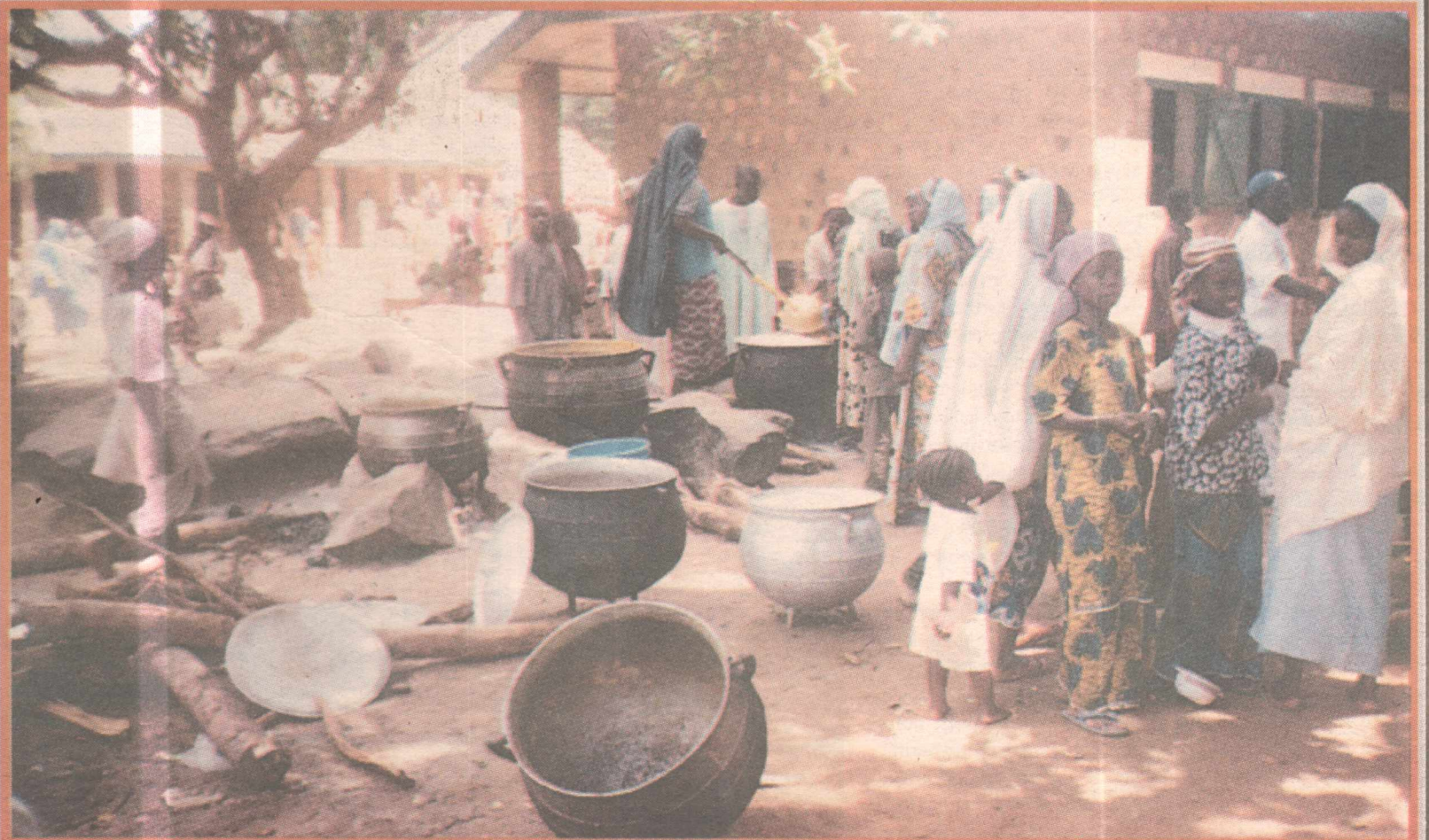
The Committee, which was given, four weeks within which to complete its work and submit its report to government was urged to discharge its assignment diligently and to the satisfac-

tion of all parties.

In the same vein, government has set up another committee headed by Alhaji Aliyu Bununu whose mandate it is to distribute relief materials to the displaced ones. With about two thousand displaced people consisting of men, women and children in Dass, and the remaining ones scattered in Bununu, Gital and Bauchi among others, the work of the committee is no doubt a Herculean task. On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June the Deputy Governor was in the village of Dass where he delivered blankets, mats and foodstuff. Similar materials were delivered in Bununu. But as Yalwa Augusta (a Tailor) puts it: "We are thirty-five people in a house and we only got seven mudu of maize which we were told came from the Emir's palace, Bauchi."

After all, how enormous is the task before the Committee on Reconciliation? The Committee's Chairman Alhaji Muhammad Yusuf who is also the security adviser to the governor observes: "It is very simple. We have listened to the people's grievances. We have it on tape and recorded on video cassettes which we hope to submit to government."

But as Mallam Salisu Shehu, a lecturer with the Bayero University Kano (BUK) and an indigene of Tafawa Balewa noted: "Tafawa Balewa is a strategic area to both the Muslims and the Christian and the issues bordering on the area must be handled with the greatest caution, otherwise the consequences will be horrible and devastating."



Displaced victims queuing for food at the Dass Central Primary School

# Feature

## Beyond the differences in Nasarawa State

By Ahmed Shekarau

Nasarawa State, like Plateau out of which it was created in 1996, is one of the few states in Northern Nigeria that have the highest number of ethnic groups. The state has a barrage of ethnic nationalities comprising the Kambari, Mada, Eggon, Wamba, Afo, Zage-Zagi, Kantana, Bassa, Egbira, Alago and Gbagyi, besides the pot pourri of settlers which include Hausa, Tiv, Fulani, Igala, kwalla and Idoma.

Regrettably, however, while these tribal differences are being exploited to the advantage of some states, it is the other way round in the case of Nasarawa State. Right from a time predating the creation of the state, some of the tribal groups within the area now known as Nasarawa State have been embroiled in communal clashes.

For instance, the Bassa-Egbira clashes in Toto Local Government Area of the state started with minor skirmishes since 1995, though the actual conflict broke out on November 14, 1997. This crisis has lasted for over six years. Today, Toto is the only local government area in the country that is still administered by a sole administrator. Elections could not be conducted in such a tense atmosphere prevalent in the area as at 1999.

Besides the Bassa-Egbira feud in Toto, other parts of the state have been experiencing pockets of crisis over the past 20 years. Most of these conflicts result from minor differences, or what many people would regard as silly disagreements over market venues, market days etc.

This is not to suggest that some of the clashes do not emanate from highly sensitive issues. Some have often been caused by highly emotional issues like disagreements over chieftaincy stools, mining fields and farmlands among others.

But even where such sensitive issues may be involved, it is expected that a community disposition would be guided by reason of a high sense of maturity and caution, especially where the leader of the various communities involved command the respect of the followers.

Unfortunately, however, it is not the case in most of the communities. Most of the traditional rulers, who are supposedly custodians of good morals and good values do not command respect from their followers. A good example could be found in the recent assassination of the Chief of Azara District in Awe Local Government Area of the State, Alhaji Musa Ibrahim, which has left the Southern part of the state in a seemingly unending crisis that has resulted in bloodbaths. It is expected that the leaders of the alleged assassins would stop them from acting, particularly when reports indicate that the murder was a plan hatched over a long period.

The paramount ruler of Azara, who until his death doubled as the Special Adviser to Governor Abdullahi Adamu on Special Duties was believed to have been trailed by his as-

July 3, 2001, "Toto Local Government was the most vibrant local government in the state. Its people are hardworking and resourceful."

Regrettably, however, Governor Adamu stated at the same

Kambaris who are the original inhabitants, the Tivs have been acknowledged to be key players in developing the Nasarawa State economy. They produce a substantial part of the yams and other farm produce cultivated in

paramount ruler was assassinated. More disturbing to this writer were the kind of fierce-looking gunmen that accosted his vehicle on the road leading to Azara.

This situation would appar-

their differences for the young state to prosper. There is no doubt, as stated earlier, the state has been handsomely blessed. But the Nasarawa people need to be reminded that no meaningful progress can be achieved under such an atmosphere of anarchy. They need to look beyond their primordial sentiments and the formidable persons, who are alleged to be instigating such violence.

Again, the people need to realise that they are the losers in this very unfortunate development. The state just happened to have its first civilian governor, who incidentally has been up and doing in an effect to develop the young state. In spite of his measures, Governor Abdullahi Adamu has within the last two years of his administration done a lot of improve conditions in the state.

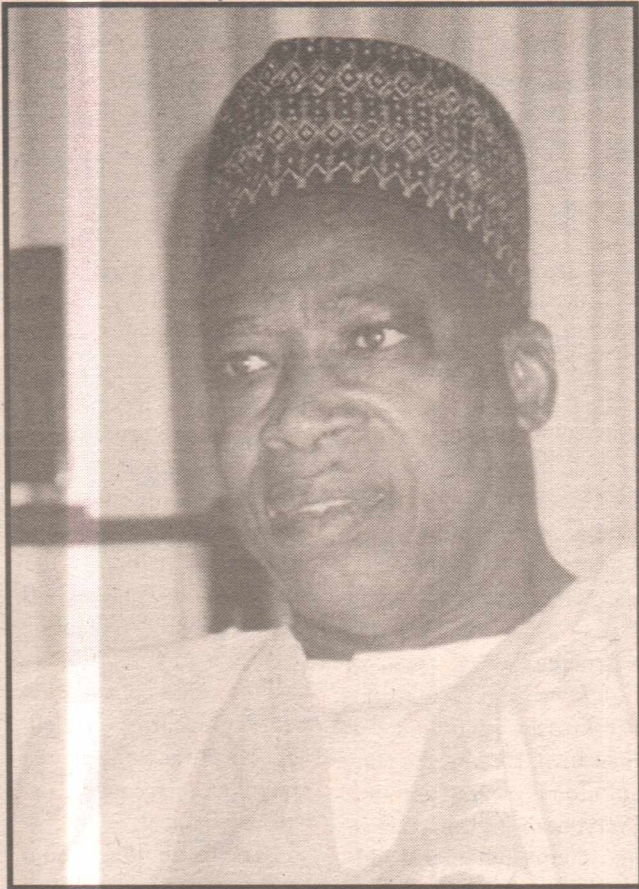
Regrettably, however, since negative minds are out to destroy what the former administrators, including the incumbent Abdullahi Adamu have achieved. This will not augur well for the entire populace in Nasarawa State.

To borrow from the incumbent governor's speech during the return of Bassa refugees once more; "Guns have never solved problems. They only complicate them."

It is therefore time for the divergent groups in Nasarawa State to learn the vital lessons of history; and unless peace returns to the area, the situation could only get worse, not better.

And by that, therefore their impoverished conditions would only be accentuated further. This is enough reason for the feuding communities to pledge to themselves now that the sore of animosity would be allowed to heal for their own sake and the sake of future generations.

Ahmed Shekarau, is Asst. Business Editor of Daily Trust



Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, Nasarawa State Governor

sassins, alleged to be Tivs, for over one year. Incidentally, the Tivs, were also alleged to have killed the late Chief's closest friend; one Anthony, a Kwalla from the Kwalla ethnic group in Plateau State, who had resided in Azara for over a decade. Anthony, was killed June 26, last year along with two of his wives in the early hours of the morning on that day, while his house was burnt down, including his harvest for the year.

While the reasons for the assassination of the late Special Adviser still remain unclear, the consequences of such a macabre act are obviously grave.

Already, over 14,000 Tivs settling in virtually all parts of Nasarawa State have fled the whole area. Moreso, the atmosphere is still tense, as people believed to be aggrieved are said to be hunting for the heads of Tiv people in the area.

The economic repercussions of the communal feud are enormous. First, it would not be an exaggeration to conclude that Nasarawa State is more endowed in terms of mineral resources than the present Plateau State from which it was created.

Around the Toto area, for instance, towns like Ugya, Umaisha and Gadabuke are endowed with vast mining fields from which huge mineral deposits such as bryrites are extracted. Also, it has very fertile farmlands as well as rich marine life. In fact to quote the incumbent Governor of the State, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu in his address on the occasion of the 'Return of Bassa Refugees' on Monday

occasion with deep concern that: "The other local governments are now leaving it far behind. It is the only local government in the state without an elected government. It has no members in the state and national legislatures. The area did not benefit from the recent creation of new districts and village areas either. For more than three years, the government has undertaken no single development project in the entire local government area."

A similar trend is happening on the Southern flank of the state, resulting from the murder of the late Chief of Azara alongside six others in his entourage.

In spite of their perceived violent disposition towards other residents of the areas such as Fulanis, as well as the



Mr George Akume, Benue State Governor

the state. We do not, therefore, require the services of any prophet to predict what the state's harvest for this year would look like, now that virtually all the Tivs have fled the area.

Also very importantly is the fact that a great percentage of the Bryrites extracted in Nasarawa State comes from the Southern Senatorial District. Mining fields are located in Azara and Keana, all of which fall under the crisis-ridden zone.

This writer, who was in Azara and some parts of the Southern Zone of the state a few days after Alhaji Musa Ibrahim was murdered, authoritatively gathered that no single individual had visited any of the mining fields to prospect for bryrites ever since the Azara

entirely result in a colossal loss of revenue generated by the state through bryrites and salt mining in the affected areas. Indeed, the number of Tiv houses, harvests and animals such as goats, sheep, fowl and pigs, among others, that were vandalised through plundering, looting, and burning in the course of the clashes are enough to retard the state's development efforts. Tiv settlements such as 'Gidan Agori', Imon town, Agor compound, Adudu Ntsendive, as well as other non-Tiv settlements like Adudu, have been completely deserted as a result of the skirmishes. Most of these towns and villages are situated along the Lafia-Awe-Azara road.

It, therefore, becomes imperative for the entire groups in Nasarawa State to look beyond



Lobuna Hotel, Lafia, one of the best hotels in Lafia, which was burnt down previous Tuesday, June 26, 2001, after the Awe clashes spread to Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

# NEWS

## Saudi Islamic lecturers visit Bauchi

A high-powered committee of Islamic lecturers from the University of Medina; Saudi Arabia, is in Bauchi.

The committee, led by Dr. Mohammed Ibn Abdullah Zarban, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration of the University of Medina, told the Governor of Bauchi State, Alhaji Adamu Mu'azu during a courtesy visit at the Government House, that they will be in Bauchi for a period of three weeks to teach Islamic scholars and Arabic teachers the modern ways of teaching Arabic and Islamic studies in primary and post-primary institutions in the state.

According to Dr. Zarban, whose speech was interrupted by the North-East zone coordinator of the programme, Sheikh Jafar Mahmud Adams, the purpose of the "Daura" (Arabic word for imparting of knowledge is

From Ardo Abdullahi Hazzad, in Bauchi

a refresher course for Ulemas that are handicapped in Islamic teachings and it is the first of its kind to be held in Bauchi, meant for all



Gov Mu'azu Ahmed governmental and non-governmental Islamic institutions within the state. The "Daura" was first introduced in 1980-81 in Kano and then extended to Kwara, Sokoto and Borno States

where thousands of Islamic teachers benefited from it and those that excelled were given automatic scholarship awards to study at the University of Medina for a period of four to five years for Islamic studies.

Presently, there are over 180 Nigerians students studying, 18 of them are post-graduates and doctorate degree students.

The deputy vice-chancellor informed the governor that the University of Medina extends this type of course not only to Nigeria but also to countries in Europe, and Asia where countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and India also benefit.

Dr. Zarban noted with happiness, the zeal and enthusiasm with which the Bauchi State government received them.

## Shelter belt: Kano to produce 4m seedlings

Kano State is expected to produce four million tree seedlings from the four standard tree nursery centers annually as part of its contribution to the 150 million trees required for the proposed inter-state shelter belt in northern states of the country.

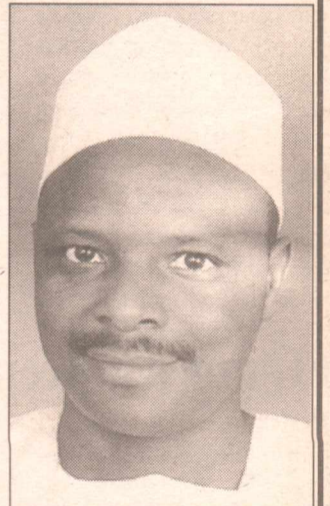
The Minister of Environment, Alhaji Kabir

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

Sa'id, who announced this project in Kano State which will be flagged-off today at Mainika village in Gwarzo Local Government Area.

He also announced that his ministry has approved the study of waste management control system in Kano and also operate a full-fledged laboratory in Kano for continuous monitoring of industrial pollution in the city.

Alhaji Sa'id said in view of the relationship between poverty and environmental degradation, his ministry is developing strategies and programmes for sound and sustainable management of the environment by the most vulnerable groups particularly



Gov Kwankwaso women and children.

He assured that his ministry plans to address both problems through rehabilitation of degraded resources like forest, mine field, soil and water bodies, and also promote sustainable use of efficient fire-wood utilization.

The minister urged the state government to properly utilize the laboratory provided by his ministry in Kano so that his ministry could obtain up to date on environmental problems of the state.

## NSA chairman blames FG over electricity, fuel shortages

The increasing shortage of power supply and petroleum products in the country has been blamed on the Federal Government's refusal to make a proper arrangement in solving the problem. The Chairman, National Solidarity Association, Alhaji Sale Jambo has disclosed.

According to the British

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa Service reports monitored in Abuja, the NSA boss was reported as saying that Obasanjo didn't tell the National Electric Power Authority's (NEPA) officials the role they are expected to play in the provision of adequate electricity supply.

His words: "Obasanjo

wants to show that he alone can do everything, he does'nt encourage NEPA officials to understand that the adequate provision of electricity is not the government's duty but their own and the same government should also commend them whenever they did a good job, this will motivate them to work hard to bring an end to the problem."

Speaking further on fuel shortage, Sale Jambo stated that he was surprised that despite the large importation of petroleum into the country during the Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar regime, the hardship is still there, "I think Obasanjo administration involves corrupt practices in this part. When he came into power, he invited Shell, Mobil, Total and Texaco among others to import petroleum products in order to eradicate its shortage, but uptill now nothing very tangible has been done," he said.

Meanwhile, another sub-committee was formed to visit the area and stop farming activity on the disputed land to prevent the possibility of further clashes between the two communities.

meanwhile, another sub-committee was formed to visit the area and stop farming activity on the disputed land to prevent the possibility of further clashes between the two communities.

## Parents, traditional rulers urged to counsel wards on drugs

Parents and traditional rulers in Dutsin-ma Local Government Area have been urged to ensure proper and prompt counseling of their wards so as to protect them against the devastating menace of drug abuse.

Chairman of the council, Alhaji Mustapha Nuhu Kuki, disclosed this to *Daily Trust* in an exclusive interview in Katsina. The chairman advised parents to educate their wards so that government's continued efforts at eradicating poverty and social vices could be achieved.

Alhaji Mustapha Kuki

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

said that youths being agents of development are assets that any government must assist and protect for it to achieve development.

"Let me urge both parents and religious leaders to inculcate into our youth a sound moral up-bringing that

will enable our society achieve growth," he called.

He then assured people of the area that his government would do everything possible to curtail drug menace so that his government's policy on youth development could not be hampered.

In a related development, the district head of Dutsin-ma

Alhaji Balan Gwaggo through his representative, Yariman Dutsi-ma called on security agents in the area to publicise anybody engaged in trade on drugs so that people would contribute towards curtailing the prevailing menace on drugs.

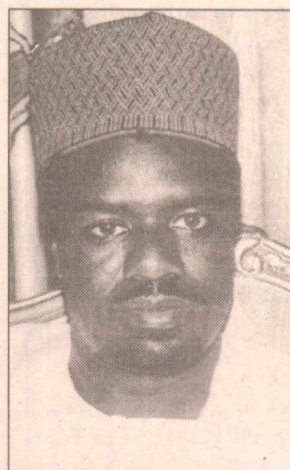
## No end to Jigawa, Bauchi communities' conflict

The end to the border dispute between communities of Kafin-Hausa and Itas-Gadan in Bauchi and Jigawa States respectively may not be resolved as final resolutions could not be reached

between the two states during a meeting held in Dutse, the Jigawa State capital last week.

The meeting which was held behind closed doors was

From Bala Mohammed Nasir, in Dutse



Gov Saminu Turaki

the fourth since the last clash between the two communities last year. However, the deputy governors of the two states are leading the teams from their respective states.

It was reported that four lives were lost last year in the clash when the two communities engaged in physical combat over the disputed land which both are claiming ownership.

At the meeting of the joint committee, comprising the two teams from both states, the findings of the technical committee earlier set up was received and

## Rivers to revive school-to-land programme

The moribund school-to-land programme of the Rivers State government would soon be given a life line to enable it regain its lost glory and contribute toward food production in the state.

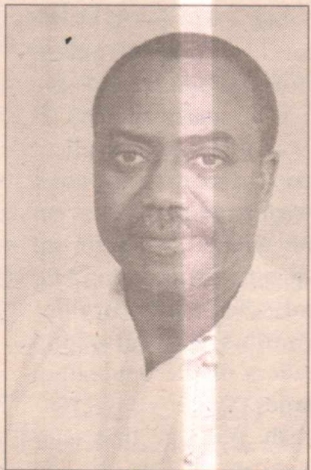
Announcing this to the Government House correspondents shortly after a meeting of the State Executive Council in Port Harcourt at the weekend, the Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. Tele Ikuru, added that over 1,000 metric tones of fertilizer have been procured for distribution to farmers in the state.

Mr. Tele Ikuru stated that the measure followed the current astronomical rise in the prices of food items and government's determination

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

to force it down.

According to him, the council deliberated exhaustively on the need for extensive cultivation of cassava in particular and called on all local government chairmen and



Gov Odili

supervisors of agriculture in the various council areas to collect their seedlings from the state Ministry of Agriculture.

Ikuru also disclosed that the state government has also acquired grains for distribution to the people, while grants would be given to cassava farmers to facilitate the cultivation of the crop for production of garri, a staple food in the state.

The school-to-land programme has suffered neglect from various successive governments especially during the military regime but Dr. Peter Odili said he would reactivate the scheme to boost food production in the state.

## "Mutual cooperation is vital for peace"

The Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, has said cooperation is an essential ingredient for peace.

The vice-president, who spoke through his Special Adviser on Political and Religious Affairs, Dr. Usman Bugaje, during the N243 million appeal fund launching for the Kankia Islamic Centre in Kankia, Katsina State recently, averred that no society can enjoy prosperity if its people do not cooperate

From Abdu Labaran, in Katsina

with one another.

He stressed that it was imperative, especially in developing societies, for people to eschew their differences and make the progress of the nation central to their actions, utterances and thoughts.

Atiku Abubakar also enjoined Nigerians to shun rumour-mongering as anti-progress and anti-development.

# NEWS

## Education board to rehabilitate 24 primary schools

The Katsina State Primary School Board is to rehabilitate 24 primary schools at Dandume Local Government Area of the state at the cost of about N7 million, the council's education secretary, Alhaji Bala Dandume, has said.

Dandume told the News agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Dandume at the Weekend, that seven of the schools were destroyed by rainstorm.

He said the gesture would go a long way in alleviating the problem of the local authority in the area in providing a conducive atmosphere for teaching and learning.

To ensure the success of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) scheme, he said the council required 20 new primary schools and 200 teachers, to fully accommodate the more than 8,000 pupils enrolled for the programme.

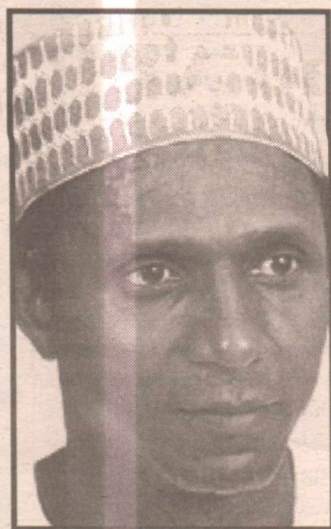
The Secretary commended the council for employing 50 primary school teachers, adding that plans

were on to employ 60 others.

He urged the state government to follow suit and employ new primary school teachers, to solve the problem of shortage of teachers in the state.

Dandume also announced that the UBE co-ordinating authority would construct 12 classrooms blocks, stores, and offices at Jarmai, Kandanma Arewa and Nasarawa Dantankari primary schools.

He warned primary



Governor Yar'Adua

school teachers and non-teaching staff of the LEA in the state, against absenteeism, insubordination, and laziness, saying that anyone found wanting would be dealt with accordingly.

## "Shortage of staff hampers academic excellence"

Lack of adequate qualified teaching staff in unity secondary schools in the North-East zone, has negatively affected the academic performance of students from the area, the chairman of school principals in the zone, Mr. Joshua Ladan, has said.

Ladan made the remarks at the opening of the president's debate competition among unity schools in the zone, in Yola on Friday.

He said it was disheartening to note that, while the same curricula were used by all secondary schools in the country who sat for the same

In an attempt to eradicate begging in Sokoto State, the state government is now working hand-in-hand with Mallams in order to make Western education available to all school age children.

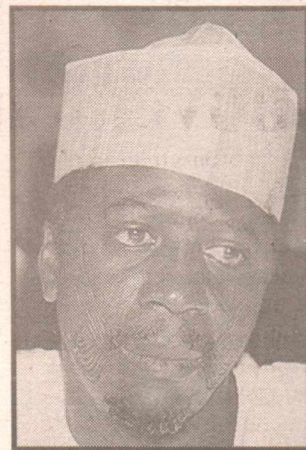
This was disclosed by the Honourable commissioner for education, Dr. Sanusi Usman Junaidu, while charting with newsmen at Government House, Sokoto last week.

## Sokoto set to eradicate begging

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, in Sokoto

He said the Mallams in the state operating Quranic schools are now in full discussions with the ministry of education on how western education would be included in their syllabus.

He explained that the ministry is now placing the



Governor Bafarawa

Mallams in all the Quranic schools on monthly salary, adding that teachers to handle subjects relating to western education in all these schools were being recruited.

Dr. Junaidu maintained that serious enlightenment campaigns to see to the enrolment of children in primary schools had started to yield positive result.

This commissioner disclosed that the state is ready to assist any community that embark on community development projects in the area of education, adding that N12 million worth of equipment have been provided to Nomadic primary schools in the state.

He urged them to be symbols of national integration and unity, saying that the state government would borrow a leaf from such debate competitions, to be organised among post primary schools in the state, so as to enhance cohesion among the various ethnic groups in the area.

The national co-ordinator of the competition, Mr. Dare Oritu, said the debate competition was aimed at inculcating the strategies of public speech making among the students, as well as engage them in other curricula activities that would keep them busy, to shun social vices like drug abuse and cultism.

## FG urged to keep promise for stable power supply

The Federal Government has been asked to strictly keep to the December deadline for stable electricity and regular fuel supply throughout the country in view of the importance of the energy sector.

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

on the Federal Government to overhaul all security agencies and as a matter of priority provide them with adequate resources.

The communiqué urged the Federal Government and ASUU to resolve their differences in the interest of students and the overall integrity of the educational system.

Other resolutions taken after the meeting included a call on all tiers of government to remain focussed on redeeming electoral promises made rather than sacrificing performance on the altar of preparations for the next general election in 2003.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

The standing committee of the Nigerian Guild of Editors expressed concern about the energy crisis in the country, in the communiqué they issued after a two-day meeting in Kano.

The communiqué, signed by President of the Guild and its Asst. General Secretary, Mrs. Remi Oyo and Mr. Gbemiga Ogunleye respectively, also urged government to urgently address the problem of rising cost of food which has made life unbearable for the people.

Expressing concern over the state of security throughout the country, the Guild of Editors also called

Nigerians were also asked to make constructive criticisms on accountability of elected representatives.

Worried over the growing allegations of unprofessional conduct against journalists, the Guild enjoined media practitioners to remain thorough and uphold ethics of their profession in the discharge of their duties.

Meanwhile, the Guild cautioned against the arbitrary arrests and detentions without trial as stipulated by law, noting the increasing resort to legal process in the resolution of disputes among tiers of government.

Adding that the reform of the legal system is a sine qua non to the quick dispensation of justice.

Kwara state government has accused some people it described as disgruntled elements under the umbrella of Association for Political-Oriented Youths and Ilorin Emirate Alliance, of fanning the ember of discord between Governor Mohammed Lawal and the Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Sulu Gambari.

A terse statement titled: "KWSG warns against Black Mail" and signed by the state Commissioner for Information, Mr. Wale Oladepo, warned such elements to desist from acts capable of causing a breach of peace in the state or face the full wrath of the law.

"Anybody caught causing a breach of the peace

## Commissioner warns troublemakers in Kwara

From Abdul Laro in Ilorin

or found taking steps that could lead to disruption of the peaceful co-existence and harmony for which the state is noted, will face the full wrath of the law," the statement declared.

It regretted that despite the appreciated good works of the ruling All Peoples Party (APP)-led state government "some disgruntled elements are ranting, trying to discredit the government and sowing seeds of discord and disaffection in Kwara state."

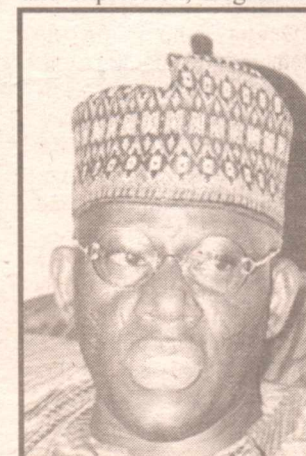
"They have been buying spaces in newspapers trying to distort facts and figures, presenting them upside down to suit their purpose and that of their sponsors," the statement added.

Mr. Oladepo said the state government acknowledged the massive show of appreciation by all Kwarans for the excellent performance of the governor which he explained was not only limited to traditional supporters of the ruling APP and the generality of Kwarans, but also top leaders of the opposition parties.

He recalled that only recently, a fair-minded chieftain of the peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and chairman of state

coordinating Committee of National Poverty Eradication Programme, Alhaji Kuntle Sulyman, said "Kwarans generally are very proud of governor Lawal's performances as state governor."

The Commissioner said while government appreciated the people's rights to freedom of speech and expression, disgruntled



Governor Lawal

elements who were set to abuse these rights "should know that full force of the law will be applied to anybody using these rights to foment trouble in the state and breach other people's rights."

He said the government was focused and remained so in its onerous task to move the state forward and achieve great and appreciable developments for the generality of Kwarans.

## Kwankwaso reconstructs markets in Kano

Kano state government has expressed the need to modernise the famous Kurmi market by decongesting it.

Towards this end, government has pledged to reconstruct market stalls and ensure fair allocation to original owners.

Governor Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso gave this indication while receiving committee's report on the decongestion of Singer Market and the improvement of the market.

Dr. Kwankwaso, who stated that government has no interest in the ownership of stalls in the market said government would swing

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa in Kano

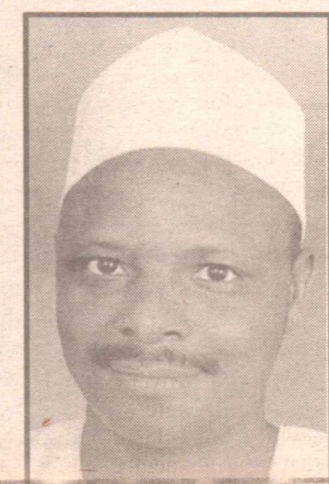
into action after meeting with representatives of traders on the issue.

He commended the committee for the timely submission of their report adding that the report would be tabled before the executive council for study and consideration.

Responding, the chairman of Singer market decongestion Committee, Alhaji Sabiu Bako, commended governor Kwankwaso for looking into the issue and involving the people in solving their problems.

Similarly, the chairman of Town's Cars market

improvement committee Alhaji Bature Adamu said the report if adopted would go a long way in making Tourist Vehicle market more attractive.



Governor Kwankwaso

# INSIDE POLITICS

## Obasanjo-Atiku success movement launched in Abia

A non-governmental organisation, which is committed to the success of President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, through an effective monitoring of the implementation of government's programmes, has been launched in Umuahia, the Abia State capital.

Speaking at the launching, the national chairman of the group, "Obasanjo-Atiku success movement" (OASM), Mr. Hassan Umoru, said the pressure group was interested in stimulating Nigerians "to fully understand, apprehend and support the people-oriented and laudable programmes of the administration."

He also said that OASM was aimed at creating an enabling socio-economic, political and cultural conditions that would help democracy to succeed in Nigeria.

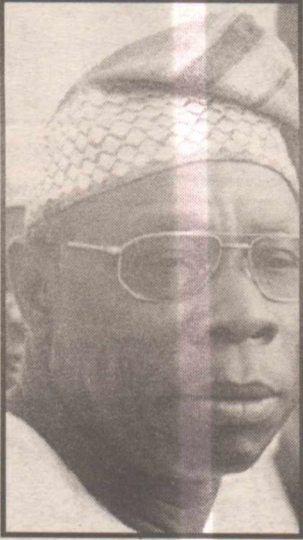
Umoru said that the group would "seek for, select, support and enthrone capable Nigerians with impeccable characters into leadership positions for the purpose of rendering open, accountable and sincere service to the people."

He said that they would keep the government adequately informed about the

effect of their programmes and policies on the well-being of the generality of all Nigerians. He said that they would gauge the mood and true feelings of the governed and convey the same to the government to enable them to adjust their programmes accordingly for the betterment of the masses.

The chairman said that the national leadership of the organisations had "noticed the low level of federal presence in Abia and would advise the federal government to make its presence felt in the state."

He charged the state chapter of the group to adopt "a



President Obasanjo

friendly posture rather than a confrontational one" in their agitation for federal attention.

He said that the organisation would be used by the federal government for the implementation of the poverty alleviation programme (PAP), adding that 100,000 members, comprising 25,000 from each state would benefit from PAP.

In his address, the state chairman, Chief Sunny Nwoshiri, said that the organisation would "create a

favourable environment between Abia and the federal government so that some misconceptions, particularly on the part of the federal government could be redressed.

"We call on all the people of Abia to see the need to support the federal government rather than to castigate, cajole or insult the person of the president since we need more federal presence in the state.

"We should all understand that no government is perfect, therefore, the Obasanjo administration may have its own share of mistakes but with dialogue, constructive criticism and understanding, it would transform the nation," he added.

## FG agrees to national conference - Akinyemi

The Federal Government may have finally succumbed to calls for the convening of a national conference, former Foreign Affairs Minister, Professor Bolaji Akinyemi, has disclosed.

He said that to this end, a committee has been set-up by government to organise the said conference.

Akinyemi, who made this revelation as chairman of the fifth anniversary lecture of the *Post Express* newspaper held in Lagos, said that the onus is

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

now upon all Nigerians to support the conference in order to chart a better course for the nation.

The former minister promised Nigerians that the committee of which he is the secretary will not fail Nigerians in the onerous task before it.

Akinyemi, further declared that no Nigerian should have anything to fear from a national conference, saying that even public office holders should not lose sleep about it since the "sovereignty they are out to protect belongs to the Nigerian people."

According to him "why should people be afraid of a national sovereign conference. Why should people be afraid to talk.

"Nigeria should not be allowed to fall into a ditch."

The Enugu State Governor, Dr. Chimaroke Nnamani, who delivered the keynote address at the occasion held at the M. n centre, Lagos stressed that they issue facing the nation is not the 2003 election as some people would want the country to believe.

In his lecture, Nnamani said the grand issue facing Nigeria is "poverty, illiteracy and disease bedevilling the greater majority of the Nigerians."

He described Nigeria as a nation replete with injustice, inequality and unfairness, adding that "the onus to improve the lives of the people lies in the hands of the powers that be at the federal, state and council levels to live up to their social contract with the citizenry."

As he stated, "the transition we want is the transition from unfair society to a fair society; the transition from an unjust to a just society and a transition from dictatorship to democracy.

Calling for the scrapping of the unitary system of government inherited from the military, in order to unleash the creative energies of all parts of the country, Nnamani wondered why the average Nigerian still sees election as democracy.

To him, democracy is more than ordinary election, adding: "When the Americans talk about democracy they talk about equity, justice and freedom. When a Nigerian talks about democracy, he is talking about food, water, shelter and health."

He therefore, canvassed for the return to federalism and its principles, which he said was the reason why the erstwhile regional governments of the 50s and 60s performed creditably.

## Crisis rocks Borno APP

Despite several efforts by the national secretariat of the All People's Party (APP) to resolve some of the long-standing disputes within the party in Borno State, there appears to be no end in sight in the dissention and schism as a parallel leadership emerged for the Borno APP last week.

Led by Governor Mala Kachallah himself, a gathering of many APP members at the Maiduguri International Hotel last Friday endorsed the election of Alh. Tahir Abba Shuwa as chairman of the party and Steven Iliya Msheliza as secretary.

The election of the new party executive was a climax of the crises that have rocked the

From Abdullahi Bega in Maiduguri

APP for over a year.

Three weeks ago, an election organised and conducted by the national secretariat of the APP under the supervision of Alh. Sule Yari Gandi, a House of Representatives member representing Wurno constituency, led to the emergence of a party leadership for the Borno APP under the chairmanship of former gubernatorial aspirant Alh. Abba Gana Terab.

That election was conducted by the APP national secretariat to resolve the leadership crisis between Mr. Stephen Iliya Msheliza who had Governor Kachallah's backing and Alh. Abba Asheik both of whom held rival claims to the chairmanship of the party in Borno State.

However, during the election, many pro-Msheliza (and thus pro-Kachallah) members of the party did not show up, indicating that the last was not heard of the party's leadership crisis.

Daily Trust checks showed that Governor Kachallah was particularly not happy with the election of Alh. Abba Gana Terab who was widely considered to have been supported by Senator Ali Modu Sherif, an APP stalwart said to be at loggerheads with Governor Kachallah.

Sources said Governor Kachallah could not count on

Terab reliably to achieve his objectives at the party level.

Thus, with the backing of his deputy, Ali Abubakar Jatau, his commissioners and several other supporters, Governor Kachallah convened the Maiduguri International Hotel meeting where his own leaders of the party were elected.

Pundits' views are that two chairmen and two separate executives would not be able to achieve objectives, such as winning elections or getting a majority in the state legislature.

Governor Kachallah's ambition, sources said, was to have a loyal party executive that would do his bidding.

APP national secretariat's aim, on the other hand, is to coalesce opinions and strengthen the party by resolving differences among members.

With Kachallah and the party's national body at crossroads, many observers believe that the APP is heading towards the end of the road in Borno State.

Governor Kachallah's romance with the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and his personal relationship with President Obasanjo has also been cited by some observers as a sign of his possible movement to the party.

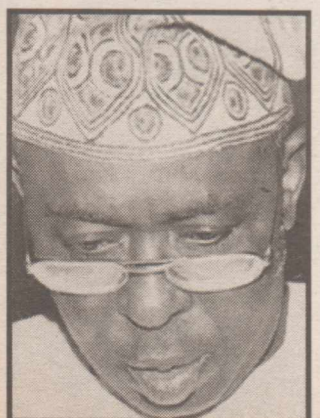
## 2003: Ogun will not vote Obasanjo, says Osoba

The Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) onslaught on the South-West preparatory to the 2003 election suffered a serious threat, as Governor Osoba of Ogun State has declared that the state may not support Obasanjo's re-election bid because of the antecedents of his political associates.

Osoba, who made the statement at the commissioning of electrification projects at Idofa and Ilara in Imeko-Afon local government of the state, said all Obasanjo's political associates are evil and as such must be avoided.

"President Obasanjo should beware of some of his political associates, they are evil. He should not allow them to put sand in his garri. If his people continue in this way, Ogun State may not work for his re-election come 2003."

One such political asso-



Gov Osoba

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

ciate of Obasanjo mentioned by Osoba is the chairman, Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA), Commodore Bode George (rtd) whom the governor described as a loud-mouth, who opens his mouth at will to say nonsense and rubbish.

"Nigerian ports are suffering today because Bode George came in and destroyed the ports. He destroyed our ports. Revenue meant for federal government is now going to Benin Republic because Nigerian ports are

unsettled. Benin is enjoying while Nigeria suffers.

"Bode George wants to destroy Ogun the way he did Lagos. He thinks he is still in the military. He should come and learn political management," Osoba advised.

Commenting on some federal government road projects abandoned in the state, the governor promised the Ilara community that his administration will rehabilitate the road linking the community to other parts of the state.

"We will do the road but do not forget me during election," he concluded.

## Anambra Forum challenges Mbadinuju for 2003

The Anambra Peoples Forum (APF), a group within the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Anambra State has declared that it will produce the next gubernatorial candidate of the PDP for the 2003 polls.

Making this disclosure at Ojoto, Idemili South Local Government Area of the State on the occasion of the launching of the local chapter of APF during the weekend, a founding member of the Forum, Chief Annie Okonkwo, stated that APF is PDP's only hope of survival in Anambra State.

The former senatorial aspirant on the platform of PDP during the last elections stated that APF is the authen-

From Osy Ibeh, in Awka

tic PDP in the state, promising to use the platform of APF to bring back members who defected to other political associations and parties.

Chief Okonkwo, Daily Trust learnt, recently signified his interest to run for the governorship position, an ambition that has already pitched him against Governor Mbadinuju who was sponsored in the 1999 election by the Odera organisation within the state PDP.

He condemned the spate of attacks against, perceived enemies of the governor, and warned that a state of emergency will be declared in the state if any APF member's life

is threatened.

Chief Okonkwo called on the PDP members to shun the last minute reconciliatory moves by Governor Mbadinuju, disclosing that majority of Anambra citizens know that "the Odera administration is a failure. Stand firm with APF, don't be lured to join Odera organisation. Be steadfast for victory is assured."

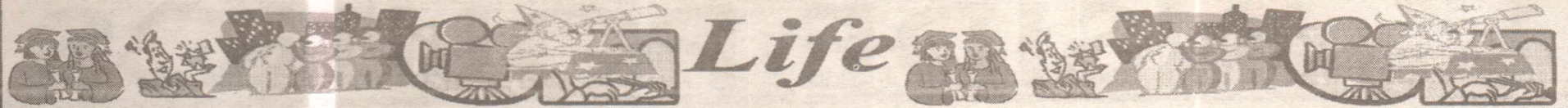
He described as rumour the purported allegation that he is eyeing the governor's seat even as he said he is qualified to occupy the seat if elected.

Also speaking, a member of the Federal House of Representatives, Rep. Emma Anosike, frowned at the ex-

pulsion threat issued PDP members who attended the APF launching at Oraifite, Sir Emeka Offor's home town.



Gov Mbadinuju



**Ladies' Line**

**BRITAIN**

**More babies born out of wedlock in Britain**

Forty percent of babies are now born out of wedlock in England and Wales, according to figures by the British Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The forty percent figure, reached in the last three months of year 2000, indicated a ten per cent rise over the 1995 figures, the statistics revealed.

It stated that the figures suggested a deep social divide, with numbers soaring in the poorest and most crime-ridden areas, while remaining comparatively low in the wealthiest regions.

About two-thirds of babies were born to single women in several districts of Merseyside, more than half in the poorer parts of the North-East, the North-West, Midlands and Scotland, while rates in parts of the South-East and East Anglia remain barely above one in five, said ONS.

NAN reports that the Home Office recently linked rising crime wave among young people to the growing number of children brought up by single parents.

It stated that the children were usually brought up by single mothers or women in cohabiting relationships, stressing that such children were likely to become single parents themselves.

**GERMAN**

**Eggs, bottles thrown at top German conservatives**

Demonstrators threw objects including eggs and a bottle at leaders of Germany's conservative opposition during an election rally in the former Communist part of Berlin on Monday.

Conservative Bavarian state premier, Edmund Stoiber was pelted with eggs during his speech.

The parliamentary leader of the Christian Democrats, Friedrich Merz, had fruit thrown at him as he addressed the crowd in the Alexanderplatz square in old East Berlin.

Officials finally called the rally off after a full water bottle was thrown at the Christian Democrats candidate in the forthcoming Berlin city elections, Frank Steffel. An aide blocked the flying bottle with an umbrella.

Merz roundly condemned the demonstrators. "The majority in Germany don't want to see this kind of screaming riff-raff. It's time they got a job," he said.

An earlier speech by the Christian Democrats' leader, Angela Merkel, was loudly whistled and booed.

Police led a number of protesters away.

The city of Berlin's coalition of Christian Democrats and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats collapsed last month over a financial crisis and fresh elections are expected in the autumn.

**USA**

**Sweet nothings are better heard in the left ear**

Lovers take heed. If you are going to whisper sweet nothings to your sweetheart, make sure it is through the left ear, says Teow-Chong Sim of Sam Houston State University in the United States, who found in a study that emotional words got through to people better when spoken through the left ear, not the right.

"The findings are consistent with the role of the brain's right hemisphere in the processing of emotional stimuli," Teow-Chong said in a statement at the British Psychological Society's European Congress.

The left ear is controlled by the right side of the brain.

The research involved speaking sets of emotional and non-emotional words to 62 people through each ear.

When asked to recall the list of words they had heard, there was a 64 percent recall rate when emotional words were heard in the left ear compared with 58 percent in the right.

Scientists have also found a left-ear advantage for stimuli.

**THAILAND**

**Lizard threatened by superstition in Thailand**

A monitor lizard in Thailand, believed to be the reincarnation of a boy, might die soon because of abusive handling by superstitious people, a newspaper report said yesterday.

The English-language daily *Bangkok Post* reported the lizard was said to be the reincarnation of a 13-year-old boy killed in a car accident two weeks ago.

But the animal would probably die within two weeks of malnourishment and a skin ailment caused by superstitious people rubbing baby powder over its body to see lottery numbers.

The lizard, nicknamed Yui after the dead boy, is kept at the residence of the boy's mother, Chamlong Taengiam, in Nonthaburi province, 30km north of Bangkok.

The former chief veterinarian of Bangkok's Dusit zoo examined the lizard recently and was appalled to see hundreds of people gathered at the house and rubbing baby powder on the animal in the hope of seeing lottery numbers.

"I predict the next lottery number will be zero because this poor lizard might die soon from the abuse," the veterinarian was quoted as saying in the report.

The carnivorous reptile also suffers from malnourishment as it had been fed milk and yoghurt, the dead boy's favourite foods.

Taengiam said the monitor lizard, usually shy and elusive, had appeared during her son's funeral and followed her home afterwards.

**Girl 10, emerges winner in a Qur'anic recitation competition**

By Habiba Adamu

A ten year-old girl, Hadiza Shehu has emerged winner of the Qur'anic recitation competition organised by Al-Bayan International Academy over the weekend in Abuja.

Although, there were senior students in the academy who participated in the competition, Hadiza, a primary five pupil of the academy emerged best memorizer and recited some chapters of the Holy Qur'an at the competition.

Fadhil Abubakar Adamu, three years, a pupil of the nursery of the academy emerged second winner.

Commenting on her success, Hadiza said "I can not believe it! I was announced as the winner of the competition, I am very happy." She further wished that her col-

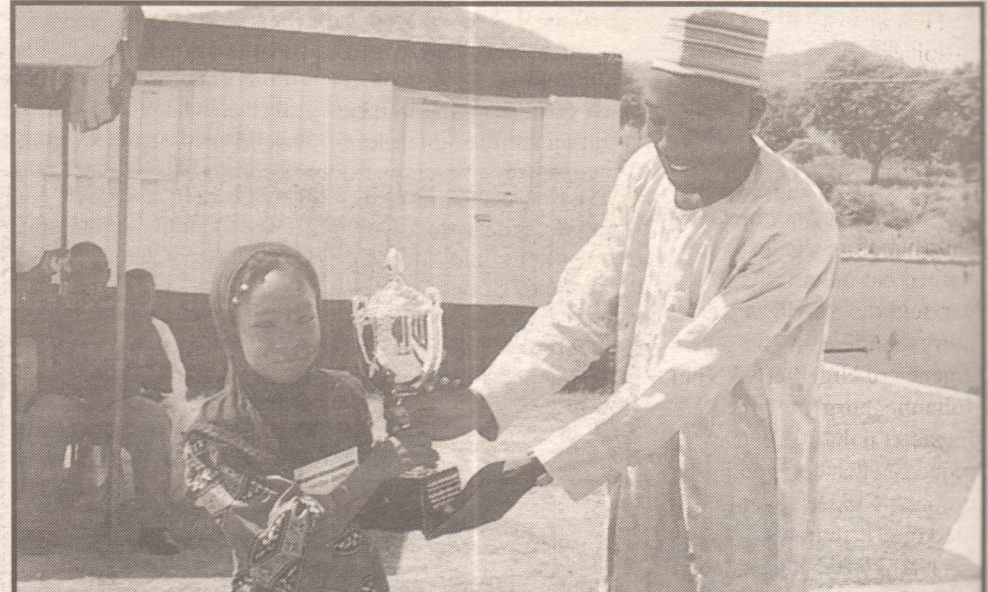
leagues could perform as she did or even better.

In response her mother, Hajiya Maimuna Shehu said "Alhamdulillah I am very

happy. I thank Almighty Allah (SWT) for guiding her through the competition."

Hajiya Maimuna also called on other parents to always assist their children in reciting the Holy Qur'an "at

least fathers or mothers should make it a habit to sit with the child to guide him or her in the recitation of the Holy Qur'an. They should be taught and made to understand the difficult parts," she concluded.



Hadiza Shehu receiving cup from the chairman of the occasion during Al-Bayan 2nd Qur'anic recitation competition on Saturday

**Car dealer poisoned by suspected girlfriend in Zaria**

A prominent Zaria-based car dealer (names withheld) has allegedly been poisoned to death by his girlfriend of over ten years.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the deceased who was confirmed dead at Salama clinic along PZ-Zamaru road, Zaria, was alleged to have been vomiting shortly before he died.

When contacted, the assistant commissioner of police in charge of Zaria, Alhaji Suleiman Lawal, stated that though he knew of the death of the car dealer through a friend, the incident had

not been officially reported to the police for investigation.

The deceased was said to have been poisoned by the girlfriend and her brother after discovering that he was in possession of foreign currencies running into millions of naira.

The girlfriend and her brother, who were nowhere to be found since the announcement of the death, were alleged to have escaped with the foreign currencies to an unknown destination.

The deceased, who was the only male child of his father was buried last Friday at his village in Makarfi local government area according to Islamic rites.



Second winner Fadil Abubakar Adamu with his mother 1st from right during the Al-Bayan 2nd Qur'anic competition

**FRSC arrests motorist carrying 300-litre tank**

The Federal Road Safety Commission officials in Kaduna have arrested a motorist and impounded his car, fixed with "an abnormal 300-litre petrol tank."

The sector commander, Mr. Bulus Darwang, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday in Kaduna, that the vehicle also had two different plate numbers, BN 4449 in front and AH 886NSR at the rear.

He said the car, a volvo model, was used in hoarding petrol, thereby "sabotaging the federal government's efforts at sanitising the petroleum industry."

"The extra large tank constructed in the car's booth, is a public risk, as the pressure from the tank

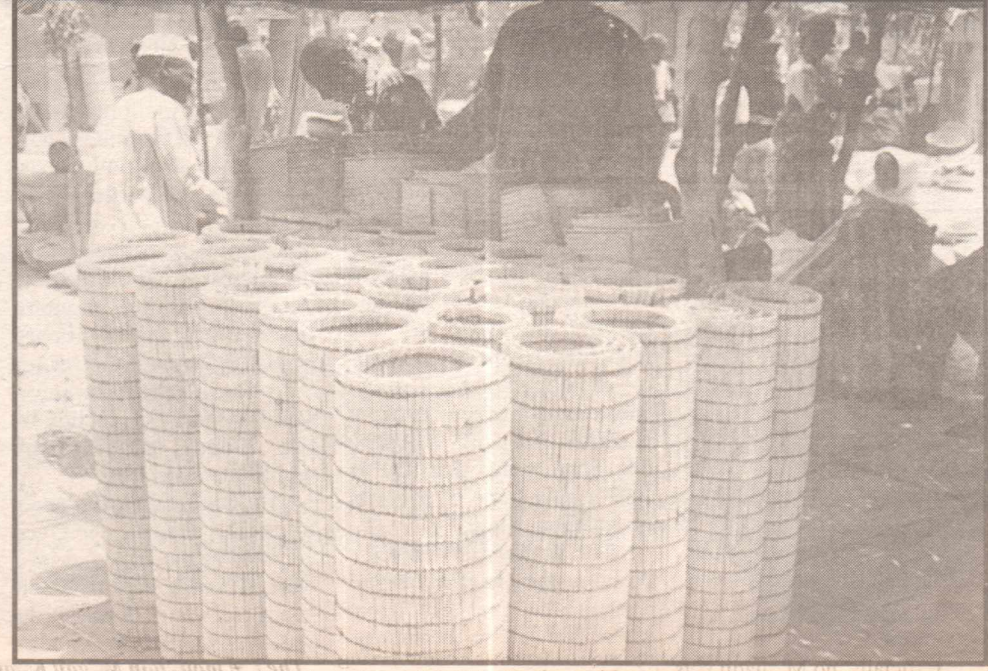
could cause an explosion," the commander added.

Darwang said the suspect would be charged for traffic offence and later

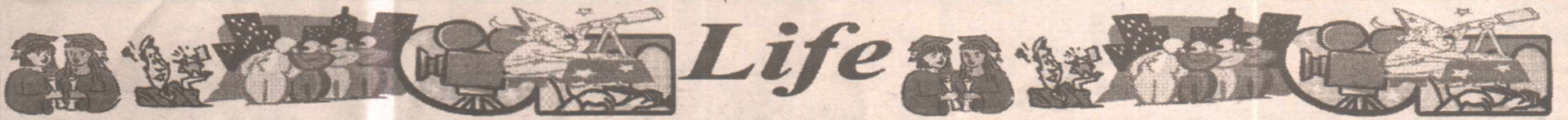
handed over to the state task force on petroleum Product for further investigation.

He advised the public to assist law enforcement

agencies by reporting saboteurs of government's programmes, adding that the command had intensified its routine checks on vehicles in the state.



Mats such as these can be bought at Kwoi in Kaduna State.



# Late Tyna Onwudiwe's body may be cremated

The remains of late Nigerian musician, Tyna Onwudiwe, who died last Friday in a Johannesburg hospital may be cremated, if her family would follow the last wish of the multi-talented artiste.

Tyna's immediate family members, who were with her shortly before she lost a prolonged battle with lung cancer, told the Southern Africa correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Johannesburg that the late music star had specifically requested that her remains be cremated if she eventually died of the illness.

NAN learnt that doctors who treated Tyna at Johannesburg's Rosebank Hospital had last week gave her only one week to survive, when the ravaging cancer which had already affected her lungs, heart and liver, spread to her brain, resulting in two consecutive strokes within a fortnight. She died five days later at about 4.45 p.m (local time) on Friday.

When NAN visited Tyna's Melville Johannesburg home on Monday, her family said that they would have to wait for the arrival in South Africa this week of Tyna's British mother and her Nigerian father before taking

decisions on her funeral.

Among the decisions awaiting the arrival of Tyna's parents are those relating to her last wish for cremation while a decision is also to be taken on whether her remains would be buried in South Af-



Tina Onwudiwe

rica or Nigeria, NAN learnt.

One other issue waiting to be resolved is that of the outstanding medical bill of about N4.5 million incurred in South African hospitals during her six-month illness.

A "Save Tyna Campaign" spearheaded by her colleagues Onyeka Onwenu and Charles Oputa a.k.a Charly Boy was instituted to raise money for her medical bills which ran into millions. This culminated in the duo's recent visit to South Africa during which the proceeds were delivered to her.

In response to her plight, kind-hearted Nigerians, including state governors and National Assembly members made financial contributions which helped in offsetting part of the bill.

Although, Tyna, who turned 47 on June 12, lost the battle to death, she would be remembered as an artist who served her country diligently through her music and the arts, particularly through her Nigerian Day Project established in South Africa between 1996 and 1998.

## Ladies' Line

### Is your partner angry? How to respond

We all fail each other from time to time. When your partner blows it, here are some suggestions to help you maintain your sanity.

- Accept your partners anger as a valid expression of emotion

His outburst may be offensive and unreasonable, but he has the right to be angry. His anger may not be pleasant, but it doesn't signal the end of the relationship. The best marriages allow room for some turbulence.

#### MAKE YOUR PARTNER RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN ANGER

Your partner may blame you for his anger. Refuse to accept that kind of faulty thinking. You are not responsible nor are you the cause of his anger despite what he says. *He is choosing to display anger*, and in all probability it is an attempt to get you to conform to his wishes. Refuse to be manipulated through anger.

#### STAY REASONABLE

Even though your partner breaks the rules by cursing, yelling, or acting disrespectful, *you can choose to stay reasonable*. Quietly confront him with the reality of the situation. With *controlled assertiveness* state your thoughts, feelings and convictions in *I-message* form: "I really hurt when you threaten divorce because it breaks the ground rules we laid down and makes me feel very insecure in your affections." Continue to state your comments in a *logical but caring manner*.

#### SET LIMITS ON UNREASONABLE ANGER

If your partner continues an unreasonable display, becoming increasingly abusive physically or emotionally, it may be necessary to exit the scene. Calmly state that you will be happy to *discuss the matter further when he gets his anger under control*. Then retreat to another room until he has calmed down.

#### RESTRAIN FROM APOLOGIZING

Some people are terrified of another scene and rush to avert it through an apology. However, a verbally abusive partner does not deserve an apology. You may be partially responsible for the problem, but to reward *offensive behaviour with apologies* would teach him that such behaviour succeeds. An apology may be appropriate at a later time *when your partner is under control*. Save it for him.

#### REWARD YOUR PARTNER QUICKLY FOR REASONABLE RATHER THAN UNREASONABLE DISPLAY OF ANGER

Whenever your partner shows progress or makes headway in controlling anger, reinforce the positive behaviour by showing a *willingness to listen and negotiate*.

#### GIVE YOURSELF A HUG

Refuse to allow your mate's verbal abuse to devastate your self-worth. His put-downs *do not make you inferior* unless you choose to believe him. Be good to yourself. Take yourself to dinner or engage in a rewarding activity, hobby or class etc.

Culled from Heart to Heart by Nancy Van Pelt

# South African rain queen joins ancestors

Hundreds of South African mourners, including ministers and premiers at the weekend attended the funeral of a legendary woman monarch who was believed to have possessed magical powers to make rain.

Rain Queen Mokohe Modjadji, 64, died last Thursday after a 20-year reign over her tiny Balobedu tribe and was buried at Maulwe royal cemetery in South Africa's northern province.

The fifth in a line of rain queens and the only ruling clan queen in modern day South Africa, Modjadji's predecessors have ruled the Balobedu people for 200 years. But it was not yet clear who would succeed Modjadji as her only daughter and appointed successor, Princess Makheala, died just two days before the queen's death.

Ga-Modjadji, the capital of the rain queen kingdom, experienced an unexplainable downpour last week, which was seen as a symbol of the queen's tears at the loss of her daughter. Her grand daughter, Mmakobo, was being tipped for the crown.

Although details of the queen's actual rain-making powers have long remained sketchy, anthropological texts say the line of Modjadjis started in 1800 when Mugodo, a chief of the Dzugudini tribe, had a vision that he should marry his daughter and initiate a female dynasty.

According to oral tradition, the Balobedus came from ancient Ethiopia and built the stone fortress of Great Zimbabwe.

Officially, no Modjadji gets married. They take several

spouses, but they bear children by secret consorts.

For generations, the Balobedus were left unmolested by their more powerful Zulu and Swazi neighbours for fear of their queen's power over rain. Instead,

in times of drought, caravans of gifts were sent to their kingdom to induce their assistance in bringing forth rains.

The high valley around the village is a climatic anomaly. Set on dry slopes above a drier plain,

it squeezes enough rain from the cloud off the Indian Ocean to grow bananas.

The nearby Modjadji forest is full of rare cycads, fern-like trees that date back to the time of the dinosaurs.

# New rose garden to be dedicated to Princess Diana

Work will begin soon on a major new rose garden north of London dedicated to the memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, who was killed in a car crash in Paris in 1997, organisers said on Tuesday.

"This will be the people's garden for the people's princess and will be a fitting and lasting tribute to England's rose," Royal National Rose Society (RNRS) director general Ken Grapes told a news conference.

"It will be a place of peace and tranquility where people of all ages can remember Diana," he added.

The Princess Diana rose garden will be one of three new royal garden developments which together will cost 20 million pounds (\$28 million) and cover 50 acres next to the RNRS headquarters in Saint Albans, just north of London.

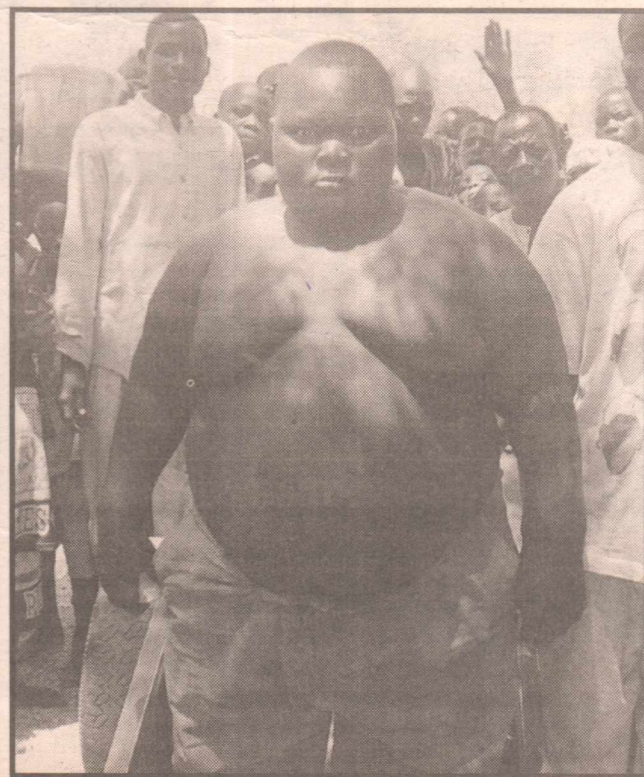
The other gardens will be dedicated to Queen Elizabeth and her 100-year-old mother.

News of the new memorial to Diana, whose death in a Paris underpass unleashed an unprecedented wave of worldwide grief, follows the announcement last week that a fountain will be built in her honour in London's Hyde Park.

Construction of the rose garden dedicated to Princess Diana is expected to take about two years. It will feature a towering golden spire mounted on a rock with a cascade of water running

down it into a pool. The water will flow to a series of other pools surrounded by rose beds and paths.

"The spire is the hope and faith she represented, the rock is her solidity," designer David Stevens said. "It will be a garden for everybody, adults and children."



The Kid mountain Magaji Kwarzo surrounded by spectators at the Kangiwa Square, Katsina



# Arts & Entertainment



## Vangelis, major Greek composer

Whether it's exploring space, conquering an athlete's inner limits or discovering a new continent, Greek Oscar-winning composer Vangelis has made the music to match.

The top-selling artist, who has an asteroid between Jupiter and Mars named after him, has merged his love of music, space and mythology in an ode to the 2001 NASA mission to Mars.

"Music dominates the universe. It is the prime force, it has given shape to space," he told Reuters in an interview.

Vangelis, who won an Academy Award for his theme to "Chariots of Fire", performed his new choral symphony Mythodea amid the ruins of the temple of Zeus in central Athens last week to an audience of thousands.

Chosen by NASA to accompany its Mars Odyssey Mission, launched in March to study the red planet, Mythodea was inspired by Vangelis's childhood fascination with mythology and science.

Last week's concert was the first public event to be performed at the ruined temple, which dates from the 6th century BC.

By Dina Kyriakidou

"Although it was a difficult project, it felt like magic," he said. "All these spaces called ancient, which I call magic, were chosen by our ancestors very carefully. It is a very important setting with very significant energy."

The London Metropolitan Orchestra, a 120-strong chorus and the voices of opera divas Jessye Norman and Kathleen Battle filled the vast venue, drowning out the Athens traffic.

### Product of Greece

Vangelis, who has worked and lived abroad since the 1960s, said performing his

work in Greece was "appropriate".

"They work more naturally here. They are a product of this country, the same way I am a product of this country," he said.

Born Vangelis Papathanassiou in the small central Greek town of Volos, he started making music at the age of four and gave his first public performance at six.

He moved to Paris and then to London in the mid-1970s, exploring electronic music and was already well-known when he won the Oscar for "Chariots of Fire".

He went on to write

music for several other films including Ridley Scott's 1982 futuristic thriller "Blade Runner" and the 1992 movie about the discovery of America, "1492".

His music has had huge commercial success and in 1996 he was declared the biggest-seller Greek artist in the world.

In 1997 he put together the opening ceremony for the World Athletics Championships in Athens, an event many Greek officials said helped gave Greece the 2004 Games.

Vangelis has written the music for the 2004 logo and there is speculation he will be asked to direct the opening and closing ceremonies of the Athens Games. (Reuters)



Potters at Ushaffa

## Ancient Summer re-echoes

A Finnish academic whose quirky recordings of Elvis Presley songs in Latin have gained cult status has now put the King of Rock 'n' Roll back a few thousand more years - with a record in the ancient Sumerian language.

Jukka Ammond told Reuters on Thursday release his record featuring the rock classic

"Blue Suede Shoes" in Sumerian, one of the world's oldest languages spoken in 4000-1800 BC in southern Mesopotamia, an area that now lies in southern Iraq.

"I'll be wearing a lion cloth and blue sandals," Ammond told Reuters, describing his attire for the launch to be held at an international conference of Assyriology and Near

Eastern Archaeology in the Finnish capital Helsinki this week.

Professor Simo Parpola, who translated the lyrics, settled for sandals in the song's famous refrain "Do anything that you wanna do, but uh, uh honey, lay off of my shoes".

In his version it comes out "but my sandals of sky-blue leather do not touch" or in the world's oldest

written language: nig-na-me si-ib-ak-ke-en, e-sir kus-zagin-gu ba-ra-tag-ga-en.

"I believe this record will give people an understanding of their roots and that we here in Finland respect those roots," said Ammond.

Ammond's Elvis songs recorded in Latin won him a following around the world and an honorary medal from the Pope. (Reuters)

## Colour In

### 3 LETTERS

ASH  
ELK  
ICE  
OUT  
SUN  
TAR

### GREEN

IVORY  
LILAC  
PUTTY  
SKULL  
SLATE  
STEEL  
TOAST

### 8 LETTERS

APRICOTS  
CHESTNUT  
EGGSHELL  
LAVENDER  
SAPPHIRE  
SEA GREEN

### 4 LETTERS

DUST  
ECRU  
FERN  
LAKE  
LIME  
NILE  
PLUM  
RUST  
SAGE  
SEAL  
WINE

### 6 LETTERS

INDIGO  
NUFMEG  
ORANGE  
ORCHID  
OYSTER  
PURPLE  
SILVER

### 9 LETTERS

COPPER RED  
PINK PEACH  
RASPBERRY

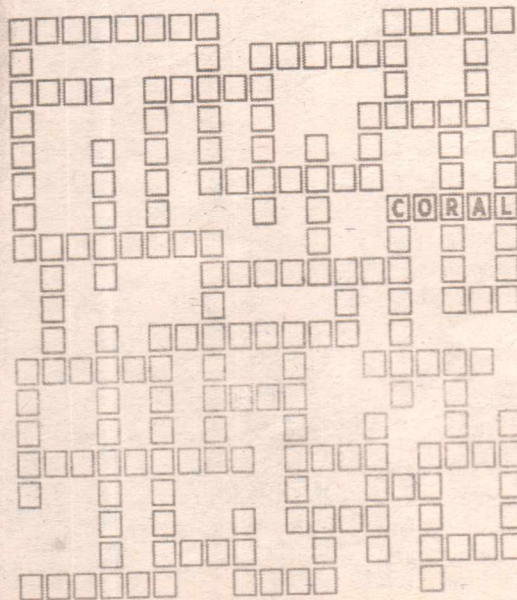
### 7 LETTERS

CUSTARD  
GREYISH  
NATURAL  
SCARLET

### 5 LETTERS

ANISE  
BROWN  
CORAL  
FROST

## PUZZLE 54



## The seventh-year itch? (II)

First published in Weekly Trust, December 25th, 1998

I mean it isn't enough to know the illness without knowing the cure. How do you behave towards a man who treats you as second-best?

Some how the more I think about it the more I believe that Tahir has something to hide.

Consider the day he came to tell me about the transfer, the next thing he said was "of course you people won't be coming along, you have your work to do and the children have their school to attend". I would have argued that I work with a national corporation that has branches all over the country including Owerri, and to say that nursery and primary schools are scarce in Owerri is to state a great big lie, but I held my peace. Because I recognised that tone of voice, it brooked no argument. Anytime he used it, then there was no use labouring the point, the case is already decided.

I remember how I had to give vent to my anger by simply ranting about the injustice of transfers, especially when someone was doing well where he was. But Tahir just sat there unperturbed. While I continued my tantrums all he volunteered was "it is one of those things". Can it be that he was actually behind the transfer, that he was suffocated by us here and couldn't wait to wriggle his way out of town at the first opportunity? Can anybody go this far just to run away from his loved ones (if they are truly his loved ones)?

Oh this is getting me depressed and I don't want to feel this way, especially since I can't confirm anything yet. May be the best thing to do now is to watch him closely, list how many more things he chooses not to communicate and come to a conclusion only after I have some weighty evidence against him.

But this is all easier said than done, I certainly can't stop thinking about this. These negative thoughts, well even in medical circles they are supposed to be extremely dangerous to health. Can I afford to indulge myself?

May be I should put to practice the advice from The Ladies Club. The last lecture we had talked about "The Total Woman". According to the speaker one quality of that perfect lady called "the total woman" is her ability to think things through and to handle negative circumstances with maturity and a clear head.

Hm tall order, I think, but can I do it? How does one maintain a clear head in a situation like this? Perhaps having a diversion will do. Yes I think it would really help to have something else to occupy my mind with. I will first of all immerse myself in "The Projects" -my name for the voluntary activities I undertake as member of The Ladies Club. As it is, I need to write a list of possible donors for the boreholes to be constructed at some villages suffering from acute water shortage.

In between raising the funds and overseeing the actual construction of the wells, I will certainly have something to distract me. The children too will provide quite a distraction as the first two, Ruqayya and Ahmad are on holiday and Mahmud is always a handful.

Yes if I really try hard I am certain to find very little time to spend worrying about Tahir's change of attitude.

With a little bit of luck and lots of prayers I could wake up one day caring very little what the man does with his life.

Seventh-year itch *ko!* Well best of luck to him!

# Feature

## U.S. – Nigeria civil/military communication pact -The Abuja workshop in focus

By Hammed Bello

In appreciation of the progress made at democratisation by Nigeria, especially with the military tightening its grip on its constitutional vote of defending the territorial integrity of the state and losing interest in governance the United States Department of Defence and American Embassy, Abuja, in conjunction with the Nigeria Ministry of Defence, last week held a week-long Workshop in Abuja entitled "Effective Military Information in a Democracy."

The workshop which started with an opening ceremony conducted by the Minister of Defence, General T.Y. Danjuma (rtd) on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June and ended on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> June with presentation of certificates to the participants was specifically convened to brain storm forces on how public affairs are managed in the U.S. armed forces and come up with an acceptable blueprint that would consolidate Civil-Military relations in Nigeria via the mass media. Also, the workshop was aimed at making Public Affairs Officers in the military, who are its image makers, to be professional and develop planned and sustained programmes to establish and maintain goodwill and mutual understanding between the military and the general public. The role of the press was emphasised as the middlemen between the military and the public in the discussion sessions.

The membership of the workshop included senior and intermediate Public Affairs Officers in the military, the paramilitary, government establishments like the Ministry of Information and Defence correspondents of media houses. The membership was so constituted considering the patriotic complimentary roles of the press in creating awareness in public about how the nation is defended.

The workshop was a significant landmark as it ushers in a new dawn of symbiotic media-military relations characterised by accountability, honesty and security. Specifically, at the end of the workshop, a number of recommendations were been adopted as the Proposed Media-Military Public Affairs Guidelines. For the media, it was agreed thus:

That media reporting will be objective, factual, balanced and fair;

That a professional journalist must be trained and informed about military subjects;

That a professional reporter will subjugate tribalism, politics and religion to objectivity, balance and fairness;

That the media should be willing to share the risks of

military operations after training; and that the media will be sensitive to the legitimate security needs of the military.

For the military, the agreements are that: the military will provide complete, timely, accurate, factual information subject to National Security interest;

The military will ensure accessibility to media to adequately inform the Nigerian public of military activities;

The military should understand the needs of the media and assist them in meeting those needs; and the military will provide reasonable assistance to the media to cover military-related activities and events.

*Daily Trust* is optimistic that these guidelines, if upheld without prejudice and reservation, would strengthen media-military relations.

Earlier in his opening address, the Minister of Defence, retired Lt. General T.Y. Danjuma hinged the success of the proposed effective military-civil relation on transparency in our national lives. According to him, "...transparency means

openness and accountability. In a democracy, public officials are stewards who are accountable to the people to the common man to whom democratic power belongs."

He added that the public has a right to know what government and public officials are doing because they are accountable to the people.

Furthermore, Danjuma who recommended that Civil-Military relations be based on understanding, trust and co-operation emphasised that information managers and image makers in the military need to relate with the public professionally.

In his remark, the Ambassador of the United States to Nigeria, Howard Jeter, noted that Nigerian armed forces have happily withdrawn from politics and begun to refocus on the security and defence of the nation.

He said that the U.S. assistance programme to Nigerian on democracy and governance, economic development, trade and health have greatly multiplied

in the past two years.

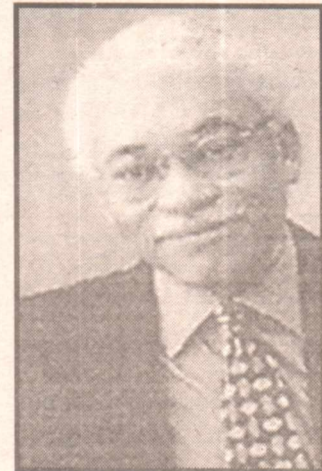
Commenting on U.S. military assistance to Nigeria, the ambassador who said that a small group of retired American Senior Officers with distinguished careers as combat leaders is working to restore the capacity and pride of Nigeria's leading military institutions to their former lustre, added that U.S. special forces came to Ibadan and Sokoto last year to train with Nigerian troops to strengthen peace keeping mission in Sierra Leone.

Similarly, the Ambassador expatriated on the U.S. – Nigeria joint' military training in Ibadan and Sokoto last year tagged *Operation Focus Relief*', stating that the U.S. provided new equipment to enhance the capacities of two Nigerian Army Battalions.

Three resource persons from U.S. were the main lecturers at the workshop. The lead lecturer, Clifford H. Bernath, Director, American Forces Information Service, U.S. Department of Defence, in sharing the U.S. experience of Public Affairs in the armed forces commented that the military need to provide

timely and accurate information about its programmes and activities to create awareness and trust in the public.

Bernath enjoined the Minister and military leaders to set good examples as policy makers. He said, "Minister and military leaders.... You make the policies that must make the military a respected and trusted institution in Nigeria. You are responsible for the training and readiness of the Armed Forces. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to make the Armed Forces a good choice for young people to join and make a career." He added that



Howard F. Jeter, U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria good public affairs being with the policy makers.

While addressing the press to be sceptical in nature so as to dissect every policy and weigh every statement to ensure the truth, is told, charged the press to ensure that no information is protected from the public. He however added that to achieve those objectives, journalists need to be accurate, complete and fair in their report.

The second lecturer, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Barnes, of the United States European Command Office of Public Affairs, spoke on the Media Interview, why the military need to work with the media and on Information as an instrument of national power.

Donald Bishop, Counsellor for Public Affairs at the American Embassy, Abuja, who spoke during brain-storming session on *Operation Focus Relief* suggested that there is need for open publicity to ease speculation and fear of the Operation troops. Similarly, he said *Operation Focus Relief* is a Military agreement reached by Nigeria and the U.S. at re-professionalising the military to enhance combat readiness.

## Photography: Back to the old times

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

Beginning from the first half of the 19th century when Joseph Nicéphore Niepce and Louise Jacques Danguerre, both of French origin invented photography, the art and science of photography had undergone revolutionary changes.

What we have on the scene today are electronic cameras by which images are digitally recorded in colour, previewed and edited before processing. The advancement of camera technology over the time takes into account the ease of operation, precision, size, durability and versatility among others.

However, the speed of camera procedures in relation to film processing matters a lot, and this is what appears to have brought the pinhole camera back into use today.

Being the actual invention of Niepce and Danguerre, the pinhole is a sort of camera that combines a darkroom (film processing room) with the camera body itself. Going by local fabrication, its lens is adapted from that of a double lens reflex camera, a camera which came decades ago as an improvement on the pinhole camera but which is out of use today. The lens of the pinhole camera is connected to its wooden body by means of a push-and-pull device called

photographs unlike the miniature colour cameras. Abuja, being the administrative headquarters of the country had in recent times attracted job seekers. The present demand for urgent passport might not be unconnected with this reason.

Other parts of the pinhole camera include a detachable focussing stick which is placed directly in the front of the lens when necessary, to refocus the negative for final transfer into the positive card. Others include the "negative" and "printing" margins, some square papers to which the film is attached and placed directly behind the lens during shooting and printing respectively.

Today in Abuja, the Federal Capital the pinhole camera is commonly used on the streets for instant monochrome passport services. Why should a choice be made for the pinhole camera? Does it imply that the miniature colour cameras, including the digitals are not useful for instant services? What is the implication of this for the acclaimed advancement in technology?

*Daily Trust* encountered one of the commercial photographers in Abuja who uses the pinhole camera. It was gathered that the current return to the pinhole camera was prompted by its efficiency in producing instant monochrome passports

This is because of the advanced processing machineries associated with colour photography.

With the pinhole camera, exposure timing is done by oral counting. The volume of count for one exposure depends on the weather situation, as the rating of Film is essentially 100.

The dark room is divided into two parts as film pocket, which is tightly covered, and located inside the darkroom and stocked with 8, 9x14cm photo cards as negatives.

Once a frame of film is exposed, the processing takes place inside the dark room. An exposed film is dropped in a chemical known as developer, where it spends some minutes depending on the length of exposure of the film. This enables the image to surface on the card. The negative leaves the developer into the "Fixer", a sort of chemical used to stabilize the image on the card.

The length of time within which the negative is allowed to remain in the fixer would determine the durability of the picture. If the timing is short, the picture would likely fade in a short time.

The photographer who spoke to *Daily Trust* noted that it is at the point of fixing negatives that they could serve the purpose of using passport for fraudulent cases, depending on customer's demand.

Although the business of using pinhole cameras for instant photographs witnesses its peak patronage whenever there is mass recruitment in the city, it nevertheless remains a viable and commendable self-employment initiative, especially because a larger part of the components are locally devised. Four passports photographs cost N300 and a photographer who could serve six customers would certainly go home with N1,800.00.



Instant passport photograph being snapped with a pin hole Camera.

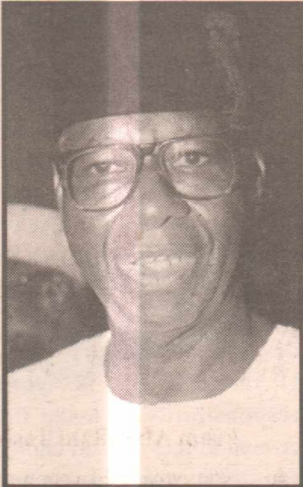
NEWS

# Why FG constructs roads —Anenih

Minister of Works and Housing, Chief Tony Anenih, has explained that the decision of the Federal Government to develop roads across the country is based on the fact that road development is the bedrock of the economic transformation of the country.

Speaking through the Minister of State in the ministry, Mr. Garuba Madaki Ali, at the flagging-off ceremony of the completion of Kaduna Refinery road in Kaduna on Monday, he said commerce and educational attainment are made possible through roads.

From Dare Oyewole, in Kaduna



Tony Anenih adopted road development as its focal point in the drive to revamp the economy of the nation and alleviate poverty, adding that the policy of the administration at the inception was to develop 5,000 kilometres of roads

According to him, good road enhances agriculture, as it provides access to farmers for evacuation of farm produce.

He said it was in this regard that the government

every year.

Chief Anenih said in consonance with this objective the government awarded three contracts in Kaduna State, which include Kaduna-Kachia-Gimi road, Saminaka-Zangon Kataf-Kafanchan road and the River Wonderful Bridge as well as the inter-state road between Plateau and Kaduna States.

He stated that many other road constructions embarked upon by the government across the country had been completed.

Chief Anenih stated that the flagging-off of the

Kaduna Refinery road signified the commitment and sincerity of the present administration towards the road development policy in the country.

Also speaking at the occasion, the State Acting Governor, Engineer Stephen Shekari, said the state government shared the commitment of the Federal Government in the provisions of adequate roads.

He said so far, the state had committed N13 billion to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of rural roads evenly distributed across the state.

The six-kilometre dual carriageway that was awarded to PW Nigeria Limited at a cost of N1.4 billion is expected to be completed in four months.

# Kogi government to refurbish 30 tractors

The Kogi State government has set aside N15 million for the refurbishment of 30 tractors and the procurement of vital inputs for farmers for this year's farming season.

Governor Abubakar Audu made the disclosure in Lokoja when he signalled the commencement of this year's Food-For-All Programme and the sale of fertiliser in the state.

He said that his administration would continue to give necessary support and encouragement to farmers through the supply of farming inputs at subsidised rates.

Audu noted that under

the programme, over 100 hectares would be ploughed, harrowed and ridged for allocation to interested farmers at highly subsidised rates.

The Governor added that the programme was intended to encourage local farmers, civil servants and public officers to engage in large scale mechanised farming and urged the people of the state to seize the opportunity to engage in profitable agricultural activities.

He said that adequate arrangement had been put in place to ensure prompt and equitable distribution of fertiliser in every nook and cranny of the state.

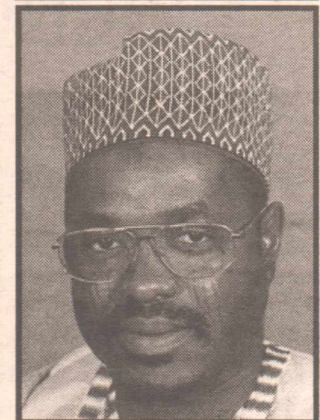
Governor Audu also said that a special committee would be constituted to monitor the distribution of the commodity, stressing that stiff penalty would be meted out to anyone involved in diversion of the product or selling it above the approved prices.

Over 2,460 metric tonnes of various brands of fertilisers were procured by the state government and would be sold at the following approved rates per bag: NPK, N1,140; UREA, N1,102 and SSP, N960.

# Bahago appeals for calm

The Emir of Minna, Alhaji (Dr) Umar Faruq Bahago, has called on the people in his emirate to remain calm and be law abiding, even as more and

From Akinade Adeniji, in Minna



Gov Kure

more groups continue to pledge their loyalty to the emir over a recent call for his removal.

Speaking in an interview, the emir said that the reaction of the people, especially their show of love, support and loyalty had proved that the call by the petitioners was unpopular.

Alhaji Umar Faruq Bahago enjoined the people to keep on maintaining peace even in the face of provocation by

those who occupy strategic positions in the state, warning that nobody should jeopardise the existing peaceful co-existence in the emirate.

It would be recalled that the former chairman of the All Peoples Party (APP), in Niger State, Alhaji Isah Waziri Sulaiman, had in a petition dated 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2001 accused the emir of enslaving the various people of Minna emirate and "the defederalisation of the Minna Emirate as presently constituted."

Gov Kure

# Anglican diocese says no marriage without HIV certificate

The Enugu Anglican diocese has directed that any couple intending to wed in an Anglican church must provide certificates of HIV and blood group tests before the marriage can be solemnised.

The directive was contained in a communiqué issued in Enugu at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> synod of the diocese.

The synod decried the increasing rate of crime among teenagers in the country, and called on parents and guardians to wake up to their responsibility of giving their children and wards a Godly upbringing.

It advocated an increase in religious instructions in schools, and urged the government to censor foreign and local films, some of which could induce young people into crime.

According to the communiqué, the synod unanimously accepted the Enugu Bishop's presidential address, which would serve as policy document for the diocese this year.

The synod also decried the rising cost of staple food items in the country, and urged every Nigerian to go back to the farm to

produce agricultural products for industrial and domestic consumption.

It called on the Federal Government to avoid duplication of political offices as part of efforts to cut down on the cost of democracy.

Other areas of national life that attracted the concern of the synod, the communiqué said, were the "outrageous foreign exchange rate," irregular payment of workers' salaries, incessant strikes, rising wave of ethnic clashes, and religious bigotry in some parts of the country.

# Muslim journalists elect new officers

The Association of Muslim Media Practitioners (AMMPON) has elected Mr. Qasim Akinreti, of Voice of Nigeria, to serve as its president for the next two years.

Akinreti took over from Alhaji Liad Tella, who is now Managing Director of Monitor newspaper in

Ibadan, Oyo State.

Also elected were Alhaji Biola Lawal, of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), as Vice-President; Taiwo Junaid, of Lagos State Television, Secretary; and Rashidat Hassan, of Murhi International Television, Assistant Secretary.

Waheed Adebayo, of Punch newspaper, was elected Publicity Secretary, while Wasiu Olayiwola, of Radio Lagos/Eko FM, was returned as Social Secretary.

In an address, the new AMMPON President assured the association's members that he would do his best to protect their interests and ensure that the association's objectives were equally achieved.

# Gov Odili canvasses support for Niger Delta indigenes

The Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, last weekend canvassed support for a proper place for the indigenes of the Niger Delta in every field of human endeavours.

He stated this when the Rivers/Bayelsa States

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

chapter of the Nigeria Institute of Architects paid him a courtesy call at the Government House in Port Harcourt.

Odili said: "The Niger Delta should be given her proper place professionally, environmentally and economically."

According to Odili, the measure would boost the economy and also stimulate the people to become more conscious of their environment, saying, "Rivers State and indeed the Niger Delta is the only way to go in the new economy."

The Rivers State governor welcomed the marriage of various professional groups, noting that it would help to

strengthen the nation's economy.

He also disclosed that the state government's prototype houses under its urban renewal programme was conceived, designed and supervised by members of the institute and hinted that government still looks forward to a stronger cooperation with the institute.

Earlier, the chairman of the Rivers/Bayelsa chapter of the institute, Mr. Ezigbo Okoro, had told the governor that it was a joint agreement by architects of the South-South and South-East zones that the Archbuild exhibition be held in Port Harcourt.

He said the international exhibition would help develop not only the South-South area but the South-East markets as it would attract tourists and other benefits to the zones.

# Thriffs and credit society disburses N2.7m

The Nigeria Union of Teachers' Thrift and Credit Co-operative Society has disbursed about N2.7 million as loans to more than 100 members of the society in Kogi Local Government Council.

The chairman of the co-operative, Malam A. Odaudu, who made this known in Koton-Karfe at a meeting of the organisation, said that the gesture was to encourage members to establish small-scale businesses to better their lots.

Odaudu stressed the need for all beneficiaries of the scheme to pay back on time to enable other members to benefit.

He appealed to those who were yet to join the scheme to do so without further delay and commended the education secretary in the area, Malam S. Aliyu and other officials of the education authority for their support and co-operation to the scheme.

Also speaking, an official

of the council, Alhaji Mohammed Abdullahi, suggested effective ways of credit management as part of activities for finance management system in co-operative societies.

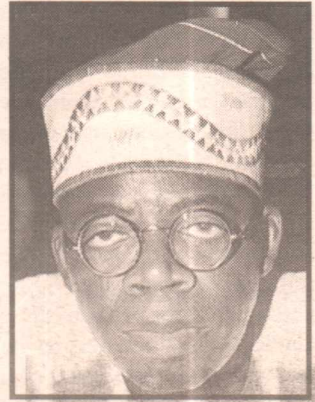
# Tinubu inaugurates 152 housing units in Lagos

Governor Bola Tinubu of Lagos State has inaugurated 152 housing units, built at a cost of N119.8 million under phase II of the Ayangbunren housing estate in Ikorodu.

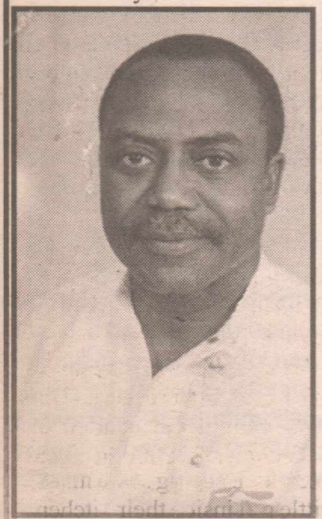
Tinubu, speaking on the occasion, said that the project was meant to reduce the housing problems confronting Lagos residents, adding that 45,000 units more would be provided by the year 2003.

He urged the people to continue to keep the environment clean and join hands with the government in its efforts to build a new Lagos.

The State Commissioner for Housing, Mr. Lanre Towry Coker, described the housing estate as "democracy dividends," saying the state government believed that Lagos residents were entitled to decent accommodation.



Gov Tinubu



Gov Odili



# Crime & Punishment



## Dismissed cadet sues Nigerian Defence Academy for N1m

A former cadet of the Nigerian Defence Academy, (NDA), Kaduna, Abdulrauf Atiku has described his dismissal from the academy for alleged involvement in homosexual practices as "wrongful" and is claiming one million naira from the institution as general damages.

In a suit filed before a Federal High Court in Kaduna, Atiku said he was dismissed by the academy without committing any offence and that he was not afforded the opportunity to defend himself on the allegations upon which his dismissal was based.

He said in a seven-point affidavit in support of his claims that some time in September 1999, his commanding officer, one P. E. Duke informed him that there was an allegation of his involvement in acts of sodomy and advised him to stop it.

Atiku who was a regular combatant course cadet averred that he denied the allegation and immediately informed the academy adjutant of his encounter with the commanding officer adding that the adjutant denied

From Dare Oyewole in Kaduna

knowledge of the allegations.

According to him, in October 1999, both the commanding officer and the adjutant called him and informed him that they had investigated the allegations and found them to be false and incorrect.

Atiku stated that all these changed when on November 26, 1999, he was ordered to be locked up in the guard room till the following day when he was taken before a board of enquiry.

The plaintiff further

averred that it was before the board that he was informed that one Cadet Ndounofit accused him of initiating him into the act of sodomy.

Atiku stated that the board also informed him that Cadet Ndounofit alleged that they committed the acts of sodomy about 12 to 13 times since August 1998

"I told the board of enquiry that I had not committed any act of sodomy with Cadet Ndounofit or any other person at all and that Cadet Ndounofit was one of the cadets staying in our block in October 1998",

Atiku stated.

He said he was subsequently arraigned before the commanding officer on a formal charge to which he pleaded not guilty but the commanding officer told him that he was not convinced and referred the matter to the cadet brigade commander and ordered him to be locked up.

The plaintiff averred that after 26 days in the guard room, he was informed by the commanding officer that he had already been found guilty and was withdrawn from the academy.

According to him, no proper investigation was con-

ducted into the allegations levelled against him before the commandant ordered his dismissal.

He therefore prayed the court to quash his dismissal or in the alternative direct the release of his certificate and award him one million naira

as general damages and make such other further orders as the court shall deem fit in the circumstance.

Joined in the suit as respondents are the NDA commandant, NDA board of enquiry and the Attorney General of the Federation.

## Clergyman, musician charged with murder

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abdulkadir, in Yola

A clergyman and a popular musician appeared before a Yola magistrate court on Monday, charged with attempting to murder the chairman of Numan Local Government Area in Adamawa State, Mr. Napwama George.

Pastor Vinkoh Myambalagi; musician Innocent Moses; his wife, Mrs. Mary Moses; and a civil servant, Mr. M. Dihakapwah (now on the run) are accused of attempting to assassinate Mr. George, contrary to sections 97 and 229 of the penal code law.

They were docked before magistrate court I, headed by Chief Magistrate, Mr. Nathan Musa.

The charged sheet stated that "the suspects criminally conspired to procure arms and ammunitions to assassinate the incumbent chairman of Numan Local Government Area, Mr. Napwama George, based on the political ambition of Pastor Unikoh Myambabagi."

The four suspects were also charged with attempting to implicate the chairman in the murder of the former state Commissioner of Agriculture, late Daniel Tayedi, contrary to sections 97 and 159 of the penal code law.

Late Tayedi was murdered last January by unknown assassins, and the State Government

has offered to pay one million naira (N1m) for information that can lead to their arrests.

The prosecutor alleged that the four suspects conspired and gave false evidence to implicate Mr. George in the murder of the late commissioner.

Also, the four suspects along with two soldiers, corporal Umaru Iliyasu and private Sunday Kyara, were charged with unlawful possession of firearms, contrary to section 3 (1) of the robbery and firearms decree of 1984.

The suspects are accused of procuring 90 rounds of prohibited live ammunitions of 7.62mm from the two soldiers of the 23 Armoured Brigade, Yola, at the rate of N50,000 (Fifty thousand naira only).

When the charges were read, the suspects pleaded not guilty. They then applied for bail.

The magistrate, Mr. Nathan Musa, after hearing the application, however, fixed next Wednesday (4/7/2001) for ruling on the bail application.

A large number of people (mainly from Numan Local Government Area, the home base of all the suspects, the chairman and the late commissioner) stormed the court premises to witness the proceeding.

## Solicitor-General losses suit against Benue govt

A Makurdi high court on Monday dismissed a suit filed by a former solicitor-general and permanent secretary in the Ministry of Justice, Benue State, Mr. Gabriel Fanyam against the Benue government, challenging his removal from office.

Delivering judgement, Mrs. (Justice) Elizabeth Kpojime said that the claim by the plaintiff lacked merit since he failed to prove his case on the balance of probabilities.

Fanyam had challenged the Benue government for removing him from office as solicitor-general and permanent secretary when he had

served on the position for only five years.

He described the action as a breach of the contract of employment since he had not attained the age of 60 years nor 35 years of service and claimed N12.8 million as special damages.

In a six-point submission the incumbent solicitor-general and permanent secretary in the Benue Ministry of Justice, Mr. Stephen Ato, urged the court to dismiss the case.

Ato said that the plaintiff's claim lacked merit, since his appointment as solicitor-general and permanent secretary was not permanent and pensionable,

but political.

He said that the appointment required him to vacate the office when deemed necessary under 1999 constitution.

Kpojime, in her ruling said that she would not grant the relief sought by the plaintiff since he failed to prove the claim before the court, and thereby dismissed the case in its entirety.



Gov. George Akume

## Pastor, blind man arrested for importing munitions

A pastor and a 75-year-old blind man were among nine persons paraded on Tuesday by the Ogun State police command for illegally importing 26,500 shotgun cartridges.

Pastor Samuel Akanbi of the Celestial Church of Christ and the others were said by the Ogun State Commissioner of Police, Udom Ekpoudom to have been arrested at Alabata village in

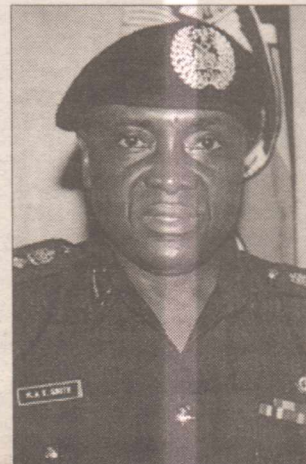
Odeda Local Government Area "upon a tip off by the public".

"A team of detectives from the command intercepted seven different brands of unregistered second hand vehicles illegally imported into the country from neighbouring Benin Republic", he said.

"When these vehicles were searched, a total of 108 cartons containing 26,500 shotgun cartridges of three different calibres were recovered", the commissioner added.

Prince Ekpoudom stressed that such cartridges always end up in the hands of men of the underworld who use them to terrorise innocent souls in the country.

He said those involved operated like a cartel, "from our preliminary investigation, it is clear that operators of this cartel are spread across the states of the country".



Musiliu Smith

## Fake army major arrested for fraud

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

The police in Lagos have nabbed a fake army major who has been charged with advance fee fraud 419 before a Lagos State magistrate court.

The accused person, Muhammad D. Muhammad was alleged to have conspired with Kelechi Enyeribe and Henry Onyekware to obtain goods under fake pretence on May 31, 2001 at about 2135 hours at Idumota Lagos.

According to the prosecuting police officer, Nicholas Atunmoye, on the same date, time and place, the fake Major unlawfully wore a Nigerian Army uniform with the rank of a Major and presented himself as an officer of the Ministry of Defence.

Muhammad was also alleged to have unlawfully put on the complete uniform of an army Major with intention to commit a felony. The offence is punishable under sections 484, 508 and 516 of the criminal code, cap 31, vol. II laws of Lagos State of Nigeria (1973).

The two accused persons were equally alleged to have obtained and stolen one microscope, one diagnostic set, two P.H. metre and top loading balance altogether valued at N200,000 property of one John Eze.

The accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charges.

In her decision, magistrate E. B. Dawodu granted them bail in the sum of N200,000 each with two sureties, further hearing has been fixed for July 7, 2001.

## Man bags two years for rape

A 60 year-old man, John Emeka, charged with raping a 12 year-old girl has been sentenced to two years imprisonment with hard labour without an option of fine by a Lagos chief magistrate court.

Chief Magistrate Ayo Odugbasen who read the judgement handed down the sentence as the decision of the court in charge No. M/11/2001 preferred against the accused person.

Before delivering the judgement, the court had found the accused person guilty of having unlawful carnal knowledge of 12 year-old Joy Eze on different occasions in her father's one bedroom apartment along Kingsway road Ikoyi.

In the judgement, the

court described Emeka as an irresponsible man. On the strength of this, the court handed down the minimum punishment of a two year jail term as prescribed by section 223 of the criminal code vol. II cap 32 laws of Lagos State of Nigeria.

In his plea for leniency, the accused begged the court to temper justice with mercy, claiming that it was the hand work of the devil.

In her evidence in-chief Joy told the court that Emeka was their neighbour. She said that he was aware that her father leaves home 5:30 a.m. every morning.

According to her, on an occasion, sometimes in December last year, while she was sleeping when her father had left for work, Emeka barged into their one room

apartment, overpowered her, after which he raped her.

She told the court that the man had warned her of the ugly consequences if she dared to tell her father.

In his evidence before the court, Joy's father claimed that he noticed some funny changes in his daughter and when asked, she confessed that Emeka had been having fun with her regularly.

It was later discovered that the girl was carrying a four months old pregnancy.

The matter was reported at the Ikoyi police station. There after police detectives set a trap for the accused who was caught red handed on December 9, 2000 at about 5:30 a.m. having sex with the little girl inside their kitchen.

A medical report also confirmed that Joy was four

# Abuja News

## AMAC workers call for land allocation

Workers at the Abuja Municipal Area Council have called for the provision of loan facilities and land allocation for housing as a way of checking accommodation problem in the municipality. Speaking with *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday, the workers who requested anonymity said in view of the acute accommodation problem in Abuja, there is the need for workers in the city to get provision for land allocation to be able to build their own houses.

By Austine Odo

The workers pointed out that AMAC has a vast land which could be cleared for allocation to staff to build houses according to specifications in the master plan. According to the workers, the former sole administrator of the council, Alhaji Sabo Kiana did promise them such facilities, to the point of taking the list of those interested in the land scheme but nothing had come out of it since then.

The workers called for what they called "AMAC staff estate" which would comprise homes built by workers in the council assisted by loans as a motivational strategy.

"The council has a vast land, this can be cleared and allocated to the staff, it will assist us in the accommodation battle," the workers told *Daily Trust*.

They reasoned that Bwari Area Council had loan facilities which according to them, was very instrumental to their welfare and productivity. They said they needed such facilities as car, motorcycle and bicycle loans to enable them to as well brace up to transportation difficulties.

## Slow pace of work on Abuja-Keffi road worries residents

The dualisation of the 51 kilometre Abuja-Keffi Road, whose contract was awarded at the cost of N7.5 billion four months ago to an indigenous company, Setraco Nigeria Limited, is now giving residents of the Federal Capital Territory sleepless nights, as signs of serious work was yet to manifest on the road.

Setraco, which won the contract, was given 30 months to complete the project, which is regarded by many as the solution to the frequent fatal accidents recorded on the road.

Last year alone, more than 164 people died while serious injuries were sustained in three other major accidents recorded along the road.

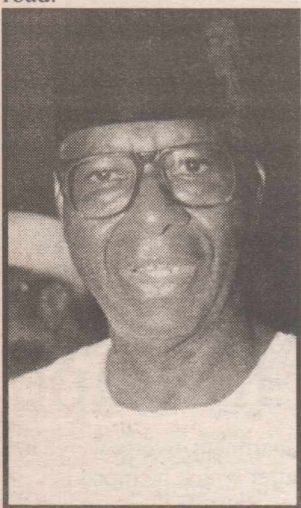
A Nyanya resident, Alhaji Alasan Adamu, told *Daily Trust* that besides heavy traffic jam, the hills on that portion of the road caused frequent break failure for tankers and trailers, which had led to the crushing of cars, trapped in the massive hold-ups on the road.

He said that due to these sad events occurring on the Nyanya-Keffi Road one expected the company (Setraco) to speed up the work so that they could even finish it before the stipulated time.

Another resident, an employee of the Federal Ministry of Health, Mr. Joseph Yemi told our reporter that the company needed to brace up or stand to lose the contract since they are not willing to do the job as quickly as the condition on the ground demanded.

He wondered why the government chose to award such a sensitive project to a "baby" company that is just learning the job with less working materials and fewer staff.

Mr. Yemi called on the federal government to re-evaluate the performance of the company and take actions that would save commuters plying the road.



Chief Anenih, works Minister

## MFCT loses N12.5m monthly to ghost workers

The pay-at-sight strategy recently introduced by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) has exposed the presence of ghost workers on its pay roll a reliable source has revealed.

A senior employee of the authority who spoke to *Daily Trust* said the ministry was losing about N12.5 million monthly to the ghost workers.

Our investigations revealed that some heads of

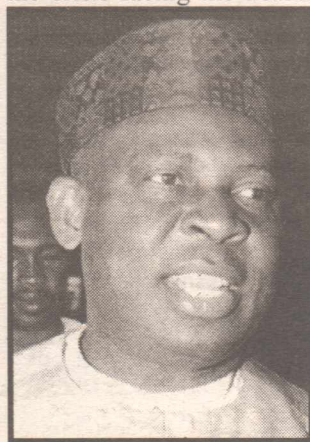
personnel department are standing indoor trials over the discrepancies in the salary vouchers of the staff.

It was also gathered that this development is in every every department of FCDA where the pay-at sight method has been adopted.

However, plans have reached an advanced stage to put in place an investigation panel to look into the case and check its recurrence in the Federal Capital Development Authority, the source revealed.

Barely three months after the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Engr. Muhammad Abba-Gana, promised to revive the health sector in the capital city, the general hospital in Wuse is now counting its days.

When the minister visited the hospital in March this year, he promised to look into the crisis facing the health



Pro. Nwasu, Health Minister

## Wuse general hospital in shambles

sector with all seriousness and also take a hard look into the allegations of contractors supplying old malfunctioning equipment to the hospital at highly inflated prices.

Abba-Gana during his tour of public hospitals within the Federal Capital expressed dismay over lack of functional equipment and facilities in all the hospitals he visited which he described as "mere consulting clinics."

The heartbreaking case was at Wuse General Hospital, where the minister was visibly angry asking the director of health in FCT Dr. Moses Ayo, why he accepted substandard equipment supplied by the contractor to the hospital.

Abba-Gana made it clear that he would not fold his arms and watch unpatriotic people destroy government establishment in the Federal Capital.

The Minister was informed by employees of the hospital that there was no single microscope in the hospital and that the only two X-ray machines were obsolete.

The former chairman of the hospital Dr. Bitrus Madu told the minister during the visit that the equipment supplied to the hospital if allowed to be used may turn to death traps for the patients.

He called for a thorough investigations into how and why old substandard equipment were supplied to the hospital.

## Commuters face fresh problem in FCT

Commuters in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja are going through another round of transportation hardship as a result of what commercial drivers call fuel scarcity.

Though transport fares within the city has yet to be increased as at press time, fewer commercial vehicles could be noticed on the city's major roads, compared to the number previously noticed.

This has resulted in

over-crowding at bus stops for long hours and a serious scramble for available spaces in commercial vehicles.

At the Federal Secretariat motor park on Monday, commuters were seen waiting in the scorching sun for the few buses that managed to ply that route.

The case was worse at major bus stops, including the popular Berger Junction and Wuse Zone 5 junction where several thousands of workers waited deep into the night for

buses to take them home after work. Many who could not wait, tried to walk some distance while waving down vehicles for lift.

Drivers and filling station attendants attributed the new development to a slight delay in fuel supply at the stations. A manager at a filling station in Wuse II told *Daily Trust* that there was no cause for alarm as the "minor problem" would soon be sorted out.

Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Mr.

Jackson-Gaius Obaseki said in a recent chat with newsmen in Abuja that the NNPC had concluded arrangements to operate retail filling stations which he hoped, would check such artificial scarcities and prevent pannick buying.

Mr. Obaseki said on that occasion that apart from the NNPC, other major marketers could if they wish, operate similar retail stations to ease supply problems within the FCT.

## Nyanya wears new look

Nyanya district in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), now wears a new look as the solid waste management project begins full operation of clearing the environment of heaps of refuse.

The project, according to the public relations officer of Abuja Environmental Projection Board (AEPB), Mr. Samuel Musa, is for the effective management of solid waste in the environment.

By Emmanuel Ande

He told *Daily Trust* in a chat in his office that the project is designed to be a pilot community project which would stimulate private and community participation in solid waste management.

Mr. Musa further maintained that the project is also to draw public attention to the economic potentials of waste and job creation.

According to the image maker of the Board, the En-

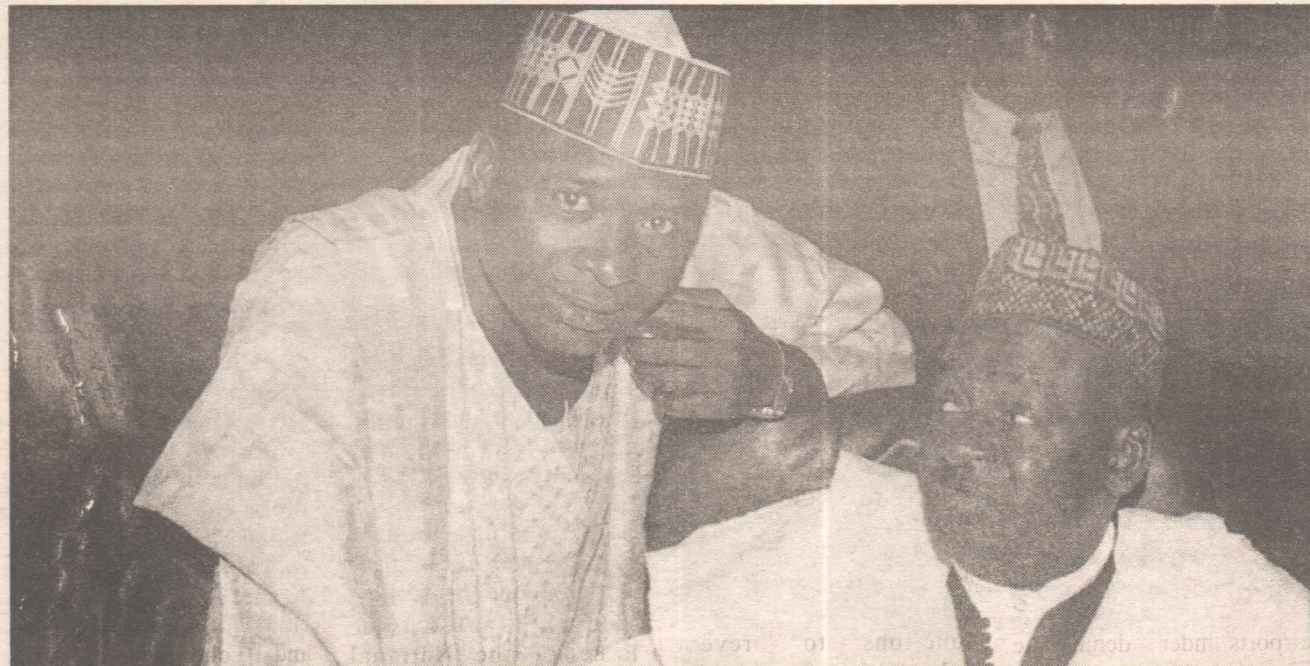
vironment Ministry is in collaboration with the AEPB has approved the expansion of the project's scope to include drainages. It will also involve the conversion of organic matter into manure which will be collected in bags and sold to end users.

In order to ensure the success of the project which was officially lunched last month by the ministers of FCT and that of Environment, a comprehensive strategy has been drawn up to

sensitise the residents towards mass participation, including a "catch them young" programme targated at school children.

Speaking further, the public relations officer described the project as a timely one, especially now that the population in the federal capital is growing rapidly.

He assured that his board would do every thing necessary to ensure the success of the programme.



FCT Minister, Engr. Muhammad Abba-Gana (R) listens to Minister of State for Justice, Eleyo Abdullahi during the Federal Executive Council meeting at the State House, Abuja, ... Saturday.

Pix: Kenedy Egbonodje

# Abuja News

## AMAC thrives despite zero allocation-Audu

The Executive Chairman, Abuja Municipal Area Council, Chief (Mrs.) Esther John Audu (JP) has described as a credit to her council, the non reference to zero allocation as an excuse to abdicate its responsibilities to the people.

Giving this indication in a profile for the two years of her administration in the council, Chief Esther John Audu said the challenges of implementing programmes and projects designed to improve the living

By Austine Odo

conditions of the people, as well as of nurturing the new democratic dispensation at the grass roots level and that of zero allocations had been enormous.

"It is indeed difficult to come to terms with the consequences of deduction from source, of primary school teachers' salaries, from the statutory allocation," she said, adding that the incidence of these deduction, fell most on AMAC as it was constrained

to pay the federal salary structure to its nearly 1,600-strong teaching and non-teaching staff who are spread across the council's nearly 60 primary schools.

According to Chief Mrs. Esther Audu, in keeping with the council's commitment to running a broad based, open and accountable administration, she decided to present a report card of her administration, the success therein which would have been impossible without the team spirit of his vice chairman, Chief (Hon.) Chris Ekpunobi (JP) and her dedicated staff.

opening of access roads, markets, electricity, including the 500 KVA rural electrification project in Orozo I and II, establishing of an internet web site, a quarterly newsletter, among others.

In the field of health, the council has among other things, constructed a prototype dispensary at Hulumi and Piwoyi, redesigned and reconstructed the donated town hall into a clinic in Pyakasa and the renovation of a dilapidated clinic in Jikoyi.



Chief Mrs. Esther John Audu (JP), AMAC Chairman

## Market woman tasks govt on food prices

The Federal Government has been advised to pay more attention to the provision of agricultural inputs to check the rising cost of food prices in the country.

Giving the advice in an exclusive chat with *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday, a food retailer, Mrs. Monica Okoye, said unless government puts in place more stringent formulae towards controlling food prices, the prices would continue to rise.

"Garri is not beer," she argued, "you can or may do without beer, you can, of course, do without tobacco, but you cannot do without food, so government should look into this more seriously with a view to reducing the prices."

Asked how she thinks government could effect more drastic measures

towards reducing food prices, Mrs. Okoye said there was no basis for fertiliser to be sold at above N500.00 per bag. She called for a drastic cut in its price, as well as "special transportation" for dealers of food stuff.

Though Mrs. Okoye herself doubts the possibility of implementing such measures, she said those were her own views on how to curtail the rising prices of food stuff especially in the FCT.

"We cannot run away from the fact," continued Mrs. Okoye, "We've got to start somewhere to get things better. Blaming the market women does no one any good, we need more practical measures, and it is government that should show more practical signs to effect positive changes," she postulated.

It would be recalled that in the past two years, AMAC's achievements have spanned rural infrastructure, agriculture, education, health, revenue generation and administration.

These include achievements in the areas of comprehensive pipe borne water scheme, mono hand-pump bore holes, drainages, culverts, and bridges,

## Abuja quarry site residents call for help

Settlers in Mpape, a village situated about 10 kilometres from Abuja city, have appealed to the Federal Government to protect them from the blasting activities of construction companies operating in the area.

Mr. Osee Isigwuzoro, an

employee of a security company who lives in the village, said residents faced the danger of being hit by flying rocks on daily basis and called for prompt intervention by the government.

Isigwuzoro told newsmen that the blastings were on certain occasions followed by wailings which indicated that there had either been deaths or fatal injuries.

Two weeks ago, an official of a security agency was said to have lost his life after being hit on the head by a rock while on official duty.

But an official of the Ministry of Solid Minerals said the area had long been designated as a "quarry site" and as such, it was wrong for anyone to live there.

Construction companies engaged in blasting activities in the area are Julius Berger, Setraco, Crushed Ruck, Arab Contractors and other multinational companies.

Investigations showed that about 20 years ago, when most of the construction firms first arrived at the village, no residential structure was near the quarry site.

The structures that had recently sprung up around the quarries were illegally put up by the new arrivals who got their allocations from the chief of Mpape, it was learnt.

Investigations further showed that the new structures were erected, mostly by non-indigenes, without approved plans.

It was also gathered that before the establishment of the chiefdom, indigenes were living far away from the blasting sites with the expansion rate very slow.

Things however, took a different dimension when indiscriminate sale of land started and settlers began to build houses without approved plans.

A non-indigene, who is a provision dealer, said that

whenever the blasting affected "the other people," (meaning non indigenes), no compensation would be paid, but any time it affected the Gwaris, compensation would be paid.

The man, who would not want his name mentioned, accused the companies of "divide and rule tactics" which, according to him, made it impossible for the people to speak with one voice.

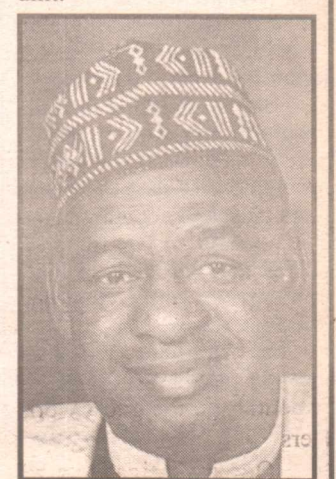
The chief of Mpape, Alhaji Ibrahim Gimba, however, controverted the claims of the villagers, saying, "all is well in my domain."

Reacting to the claims, the administrative manager of Crushed Ruck Industries, Mr. Samuel Umoh, corroborated the statement that "the entire Mpape area was designated as a quarry site."

"When the company started operations in the village about 20 years ago, we met a small settlement which was never close to the quarry site," he said.

According to him, each time the company blasted rock at the quarry site, "the security agencies were represented and the people were adequately informed."

Umoh stressed that the company always carried out its blastings with the approval of the Ministry of Federal Capital Territory and the Police Bomb disposal unit.



MFCT Minister, Engr. Abba-Gana

## NCWS urges Nigerians to uplift women

The National Council for Women Societies (NCWS) yesterday in Abuja appealed to all Nigerian to support the council in its desire to uplift the status and dignity of Nigerian women.

The NCWS National President, Mrs. Zainab Maina, said at a news conference that the council was determined to ensure that women were salvaged from societal problems that had continued to bedevil their progress in the country.

"Consequently, we have collected some poverty alleviation forms for distribution to all our state offices, because we are concerned about poverty among women," Maina said.

She said, "the council is also committed to any project embarked upon by government that would rightfully target women as major beneficiaries, while alleviating poverty among them."

According to Maina, the council will from now, focus on women's health issues to ensure that women's reproductive health care is given priority attention.

She said that as a result, the council had called on government to reverse the status of the National Hospital in Abuja to its original position of Women and Children's Hospital.

"NCWS is calling on the government to revisit the issue of the National Hospital and convert it back to Women's and Children

Hospital as originally conceived." Maina said. She also said; "We are equally calling on the National Health Insurance Scheme to provide priority attention to healthy



Haj. Aisha Isma'ila, Minister of Women Affairs

needs of women and children."

Maina called for the domestication of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEAW) adding "Nigeria is among the first countries to ratify the CEDAW but yet to domesticate it."

Meanwhile, the NCWS has set up an independent electoral committee headed by a former President of the council, Mrs. Emily Aig-Imoukhuede, for the conduct of the council's election scheduled for July 26 and July 28 at Port Harcourt in Rivers.

All 36 chapters of the council and the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, are entitled to 20 voting delegates and 10 observers each while 15 positions would be contested for

## Workshop wants military commandants banned at airports

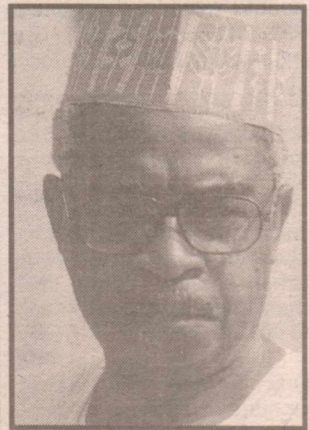
The presence of military commandants at the nation's airports may be banned if the recommendations of participants in the on-going

commandants came to be during and after the Nigerian Civil war and since then, such an idea has remained with us," the participants said in their recommendations.

They pointed out that the military could still make their presence felt at the airports, strictly as military intelligence personnel.

International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Annex 17 recommended that "each contracting state shall designate an appropriate authority within its administration to be responsible for the development, implementation and maintenance of national civil aviation security programme."

The annex also suggested the creation of a specialised aviation security unit within the airport to carry out such functions to prevent unlawful interference with civil aviation.



Lt. Gen. T.Y. Danjuma, Defence Minister

national civil aviation policy review workshop are implemented.

Participants at the workshop held in Abuja yesterday frowned at the continued presence of military commandants at the airports under a democratic administration.

"The idea of a military



# SPORTS



## Federer comes of age on biggest stage

Swiss teenager Roger Federer brought Wimbledon King Pete Sampras to his knees on Centre Court and came of age on the biggest stage of all.

Admired by his peers and tipped by many as the man to succeed Sampras at the very pinnacle of tennis, Federer had failed to shine at the four Grand Slam tournaments.

Friends and fellow players were calling him the "male Anna Kournikova" because he had failed to win a title, he joked earlier this year.

But after Monday's milestone victory against the holder of a record 13 Grand Slam crowns, Federer is having the last laugh.

"It's just a great feeling I have never had before," the 19-year-old from Basle said after his 7-6, 5-7, 6-4, 6-7, 7-5 win.

"It is the biggest win of my career definitely."

Junior champion at Wimbledon in 1998, Federer has all the shots in the game.

A bullet-like serve is teamed with ferocious ground strokes and an exquisite touch around the net.

This year he has added a crisp volley to his already extensive repertoire, and Sampras himself acknowledges the youngster's impressive armoury and coolness on court.

"He's got a great backhand, serve as well... he's definitely got a good all-court game," Sampras said.

"He's a great athlete, doesn't have any holes in his game. He's pretty relaxed, just goes out and plays... doesn't get too emotional."

Federer turned professional in 1998 and after three years of promising much, he has exploded into life in 2001.

He was voted the outstanding player on the ATP Tour in February after winning his first title in Milan, reaching the final in Rotterdam and almost single-handedly leading Switzerland to a first round Davis Cup victory over the United States.

### Tennis

Federer won both his singles matches - against Todd Martin and Jan-Michael Gambill - and teamed up with Lorenzo Manta to win the doubles as Switzerland beat the US for a victory Federer described at the time as "the best weekend of my life."

"People were starting to

compare me to Anna Kournikova because I hadn't won a title," he joked after winning in Milan.

"But now the pressure is off me... now I can say 'At least I've won one'. I feel so much better now and I want to win some more titles."

Federer finished last year ranked 29. Now he is 15<sup>th</sup> in the world and seventh in the

Champions Race, which takes into account, only results from 2001.

"It's been a great few years," he said. "Three years ago I was ranked 302 in the world. I came into this year looking to reach the top 15."

The pressure will be on Federer now, not to win a title but to seize a Grand Slam crown.

## Juve officials to face court on doping charges

Two Juventus officials have been charged with "sport fraud" relating to alleged doping offences, after a three-year inquiry, ANSA news agency reported on Monday.

Juventus director Antonio Girardo and club doctor Antonio Agricola will be tried in a Turin court on January 31 next year, the report said.

The charges include the alleged "irregular use of medicines which are either banned by the International Olympic Committee or subject to particular restrictions", ANSA reported.

The pair had been interviewed as part of Turin public magistrate Raffaele Guariniello's investigation into doping in the game.

There was no indication if others may face charges as a result of the probe.

Lawyers representing Girardo and Agricola said they were looking forward to the chance to present their case in court.

"Bring the court case so that we can demonstrate that we haven't broken any laws," Luigi Chiappero, who with Vittorio Chiusano is representing the Juventus officials, told Italy's ANSA news agency.

"I am awaiting our day in court with serenity."

Chiappero said his defence would likely focus on the fact that Guariniello's investigation has named products that are in regular commercial use and, he said, were available in high-street phar-

macies.

Guariniello began his probe in August 1998 after claims made by former AS Roma coach Zdenek Zeman that drug use was rife within Italian soccer. The magistrate has interviewed a number of players and officials at Juventus.

Argentine Diego Maradona testified in front of Guariniello in November 1998 and the magistrate late extended his inquiry to look at the deaths of over 40 players he suspected might have died as a result of doping.

In early 1999 Guariniello interviewed a host of top Serie A players including Rui

Costa, Alessandro Nesta, Lilian Thuram and Roberto Baggio.

In June of that year he handed in a 'black list' to Italian Olympic Committee president Gianni Petrucci which was said to include the name of 60-200 players from Serie A, B and C.

Italian football has been rocked by a series of doping cases this season.

Juventus's Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids and Lazio defender Fernando Couto are among nine players who have tested positive for the banned steroid nandrolone.

## Rui Costa set for Milan move

Fiorentina's Portuguese international midfielder Rui Costa is set to sign a five-year contract with AC Milan, Italian media reported yesterday.

Cash-strapped Fiorentina announced last week that Rui Costa and goalkeeper Francesco Toldo had been sold to Parma, but the two players rejected the moves.

The Italian news agency ANSA cited sources at Milan saying Rui Costa has agreed a five-year deal that he will sign on Wednesday after completing a medical.

The transfer has been valued at around 80 billion Italian lire (\$35.01 million).

Rui Costa, who joined Fiorentina from Benfica in 1994, has emerged as one of the best playmakers in Serie A during his seven seasons in Florence.

Should the transfer go through, it would complete an impressive series of deals for Milan as they seek to strengthen their squad for next season.

They signed Italy striker Filippo Inzaghi from Juventus on Monday and have also brought in midfielder Andrea

Pirlo from local rivals Inter.

The club also announced that Ukrainian striker Andriy Shevchenko has signed a one-year extension to his current contract, keeping him at the San Siro until June 2006.

New coach Fatih Terim will also be able to call on

Spanish striker Javi Moreno and Romanian wing-back Cosmin Contra, who both moved to Milan from UEFA Cup finalists Alaves last month.

Milan have sold young striker Gianni Comandini to Atalanta for 30 billion Italian lire (\$13.13 million).

## Brazil set to defy wisdom of Socrates

They may not yet have resorted to a Scandinvian coach, but Brazil's football problems look all too familiar.

Brazil are currently fourth in South America's 10-country World Cup group, holding the last automatic qualification place, after losing 1-0 to Uruguay in Montevideo on Sunday.

Brazil are the only country to have played in every World Cup, and until last year had only ever lost once in the qualifying stages.

The poor results have been blamed on the 18-game schedule, and the national coaches have also had to cope with Brazilian clubs rarely releasing their players on time and Europe-based players reluctant to fly back once a

month.

Yet Argentina - leading the group - have coped, and Brazil have also fallen to humble opposition in other tournaments: to Cameroon in the Olympics and to Australia in the Confederations Cup.

It is no coincidence that Brazil's worst phase on the pitch is mirrored off it. Two parliamentary investigations into how the country's football is run have uncovered incompetence and fraud at almost every level of the game. Ricardo Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF), was this month accused by congressmen of 13 tax-related crimes.

According to Socrates, Brazil's captain in the 1982 and 1986 World Cups, the alleged corruption in the CBF produced the instability in the national team. He accuses the CBF of using the team as a negotiating table. "Players get into the squad to be sold to Europe. There is a kind of prerequisite that clubs in Europe like to contract players who already have a Brazilian cap."

"If you change the team every match because there are other interests in play, of course you will never get anywhere. You could make a beautiful team; you have the players who could win the World Cup. It's just a question of wanting to."

Pele used to have the role of Brazil's leading football reformer. During his time as minister for sport he tried - and ultimately failed - to democratise the game's structures. But this year he surprised and dismayed his sup-

porters when he hopped to the other side, making up with Teixeira, his former bitter foe.

Socrates has taken Pele's mantle as football's freedom fighter, launching himself as "anti candidate" for the CBF presidency. "It is a banner that I have decided to wave to mobilise public opinion," he says. "The moment Pele shook hands with Teixeira I realised they had done a deal to continue with the status quo. I said to myself: 'Let's go to war'. The repercussions were massive. If there were direct elections I have no doubt I would get more than 95% of the public vote. But it's not like that. It's a closed shop."

Socrates, a qualified doctor, believes the whole structure of Brazilian football needs emergency surgery. Playing standards have dropped because, he says, as Brazil has changed from a rural to an urban society, young children have had fewer places to develop their skills freely.

He wants the national coach to be chosen by a referendum. "If this isn't feasible you need to make as many people participate as possible. There should be a big committee of journalists, coaches and footballers. It should be like a parliamentary system, with votes of confidence. If the vote fails, then the committee makes a new decision. You want to be as democratic as possible."

He adds: "Football is our greatest identity; perhaps it's our greatest ambassador. Yet intrinsically there is no public control over who commands it."

## Valencia's Mendieta targeted by Real Madrid

Real Madrid have dropped their strongest hint yet that they are interested in signing Valencia's Spanish international midfielder Gaizka Mendieta.

"No one can deny that he is a brilliant player, but at the moment I don't want to make any further comments because it could complicate matters," Real's deputy sporting director Emilio Butragueno was quoted as saying in the Spanish media on Tuesday.

The future of the influential midfielder, who has helped guide Valencia to successive Champions League finals, has been the subject of intense speculation in the Spanish media after his failure to commit himself publicly to the Mediterranean club.

But Valencia president Pedro Cortes has insisted on a number of occasions that the player will not be for anything less than 10,000 million pesetas (50.83 million) stipulated as the buy-out clause in

his contract.

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez said that the club was interested in the player, but went on the stress that they were not prepared

to pay any price to secure his services.

"We like the player, but we are not going to pay 10,000 million pesetas for him," he was reported as saying.



Costa Rican player Paulo Cesar Wanchope, center, fights for the ball against Honduran players during their World Cup qualifying match in the national stadium in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on Sunday.



# Sports



## Coaches caution Eagles, call for early preparations

Godfrey Esu, chief coach of NPA FC of Warri, has called for a code of conduct for the national team to check indiscipline among the players.

Reacting to Sunday's 4-0 spanking of Sudan by Nigeria in a World Cup qualifier, Esu told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Lagos that the code was imperative for the country to win its last and crucial game against Ghana on July 28.

He said indiscipline among the players had almost robbed the country of a 2002 Korea/Japan World Cup ticket.

"Once a deadline is set for reporting to camp, all players, no matter how big, must abide by it or else they should face rejection," he said.

Esu blamed the foreign-based professional players for Nigeria's World Cup qualification problems, saying "when we are supposed to be thinking of winning the World Cup, we are still struggling for qualification because our players did not take previous matches seriously."

He also identified maladministration by the NFA as partly responsible for the problem.

Esu pointed out that most often players having problems with their clubs or agents were left to suffer, noting that it was time the NFA started taking players' welfare seriously.

"It is not only when you need players in camp that you start looking for them. You should from time to time get in touch with them and assist where they have problems."

He said it was not yet time for celebration in spite of Sunday's victory over Sudan, as there was still a bigger hurdle to cross.

Esu said the victory had thrown open the contest for the sole Group B World Cup ticket among Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia and Sudan, adding that the Super Eagles must beat Ghana in the last encounter to ensure qualification.

He said by beating Liberia at home, the Black Stars had proved a point - that they can also triumph over Eagles in Nigeria - and urged the NFA to start

preparations now for the July 28 crucial match.

Former international goalkeeper Emmanuel Okala said: "If they (Super Eagles) know what they did to beat Sudan 4-0, they should start now to do it to Ghana for us to qualify."

Christian Chukwu, technical adviser of Rangers, warned that Nigeria should not underrate Ghana.

He said if Ghana could beat Liberia in Monrovia "what stops them from beating us on our soil?"

"I think the best way to solve the problem is early camping. Amodu should not rest on his oars now, he should ensure that the boys are in camp early enough for proper blending and understanding," Chukwu said.

For Chief Segun Odegbami, the Eagles are as



Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, left, in a discussion with the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Naval Command, Real Admiral Francis Agbiti at the 2001 Eastern Naval Command Sports Championship which took place in Port Harcourt...recently.

good as qualified for the World Cup.

"We have rediscovered our spirit. It was a call to order. The will to win is back.

"When things are rosy,

we don't do well. But it is only when the situation appears hopeless that we show what we are capable of. We are grateful to the Super Eagles," Odegbami said.

## All Africa Games We shall host to win - Adamu

In a bid to forestall a repeat of what happened in Nigeria '99, Dr. Amos Adamu has said that all efforts are geared towards Nigeria emerging overall winner at the end of the day.

Adamu, who is the Director of Organisation for the 2003 All Africa Games, told *Trustsports* in Lagos that they are working con-

scientiously to ensure that Nigeria organises a befitting games in the millennium.

The former Director of Sports Development disclosed that COJA has appointed three patrons Chief Earnest Shonekan, Dr. Rilwan Lukman and Chief Suny Odugwu. "Even Prof.

Wole Soyinka has been brought in to coordinate both the opening and closing ceremonies."

"We brought in these people so as to add value to games and also to benefit from their international connections to attract sponsorship for the games," he explained.

He revealed that the

organisers of the games have opened up discussions with foreign countries, international organisation and multi nationals basically to exchange ideas and see the areas where they can make inputs into the games.

He reiterated that all hands must be on deck to ensure that the games are successful, adding that COJA would maintain an open door policy.

## Rangers will win Super League, say officials

Officials of Rangers FC of Enugu said yesterday in Lagos that Governor Chimaroke Nnamani's administration had mapped out a master plan to win the Super League.

Chinedu Eze, the Special Assistant to the Enugu State Governor on Youth and Sports, told newsmen that the Coal City Boys would top the Super League just as they dominated the first division Pepsi league.

Rangers kicked off the elite competition for the four top clubs in the premier division with a match against the Nigeria Ports Authority (NPA) Warri last Tuesday. The second match of the day followed with a clash between Enyimba of Aba and Gombe United.

He said that victory would coincide with the club's 30th anniversary. "The anniversary will start shortly after we emerge champions

of the Super League on Sunday," Eze said.

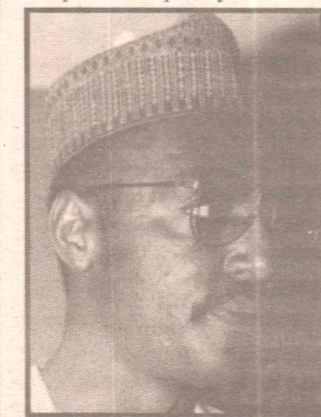
"Immediately, we emerge the champion of the Super League on Sunday, there would be a major re-organisation of the team towards ensuring that we also win the 2002 edition of the Champions League," Eze said.

According to him, the government had given the team its maximum support to win the Super League.

Davidson Owumi, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Rangers Matters, said that the team was in Lagos with a 28-man squad for the competition.

He described the squad as a highly disciplined side, promising that it would play "good football."

Christian Chukwu, the team's Technical Adviser, said that they would not underrate any of their opponents as no team are pushovers.



Aku, Sports Minister

## Kano braces up for sports fiesta

Kano State government, in conjunction with 44 local government councils in the state, is to organise a mini-sports festival for sportsmen and women in the state.

The festival which commences on Sunday 8th July and ends on the 15th is aimed at promoting mass participation in amateur sporting activities by youths at the grassroots level.

The sports fiesta, according to a statement by the publicity committee, is also to discover the hidden talents that abound in local government areas of the state, and also strengthen social interaction among youths for unity, understanding and friendship.

Games that are expected to feature at the weeklong sports festival include, athletics, cycling, handball, basketball, football, volleyball

and hockey. Others are traditional sports like *langa*, traditional boxing and wrestling, para-soccer and others.

The festival which has been tagged "Kano 2001" is to be held at Sani Abacha Sports Hall and Stadium, Ado Bayero Square, Kano Pillars Stadium and Nassarawa Sports Ground.

## Alozie is still our property - AFN

Despite the report in the media that the Nigeria-born Gloria Alozie has changed her nationality, the Athletic Federation of Nigeria scribe, Caleb Gidado is still insisting that the Olympic silver medallist remains a Nigerian.

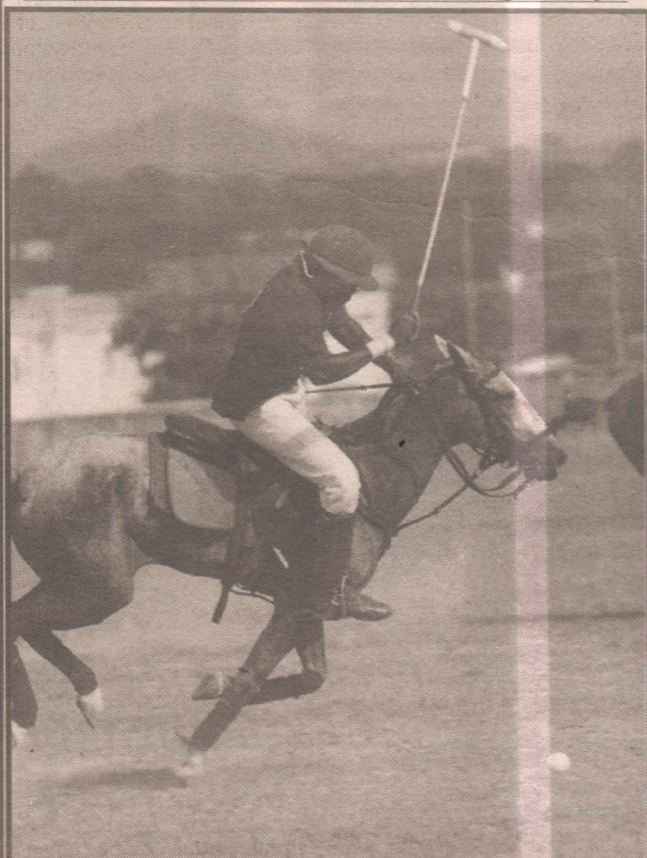
Alozie, who opted out of the World Indoor Meet held in Lisbon early this year, has not notified the federation officially of her new nationality.

"Until Alozie informs the federation officially, she still remains our athlete," he argued.

He allayed fears that the Super League going on presently at National Stadium, Surulere would disrupt the classics which comes up at the weekend.

"Our events would come up on Sunday when the teams would be observing their rest day," he explained.

As for the Grand Prix date that clashes with Mobil Championship coming up next month, the former Nigeria Cycling Federation scribe said the date for the Mobil Championship still remains unchanged until the board decides otherwise.



Ali Hassan Hadejia of Kaduna Trappco in action during the Bauchi Polo Tournament. Top polo players are preparing for the forthcoming Kano Polo Tournament.

## Na'Abba hails Eagles

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Ghali Umar Na'Abba has joined millions of soccer loving Nigerians at felicitating with the Super Eagles for their resounding victory over Sudan in Sunday's World Cup qualifier in Omdurman.

In a congratulatory message addressed to the national team handler, Shuaibu Amodu Monday, Hon. Na'Abba said the 4-0 away victory demonstrates once again the characteristic Nigerian resilience, which makes it prove over and over again that it has the character and ability to become a great nation.

Hon. Na'Abba, therefore, reminded the Eagles technical crew and players that the task is not done yet, stressing that the next match against arch-foes Ghana whose rivalry with Nigeria is legendary should not be taken for granted.

"I am sure that if we do everything right as the team did in Sudan, we will qualify for the tournament. Therefore, you have to approach this assignment with commitment," he noted.

Speaker Na'Abba continued: "Nigerians want to be at the World Cup not just to participate. They would wish to use the competition to register its profile as an emerging soccer power, which means we have to surpass the achievements of the past. They want that competition to herald the turning point in our sports development."

He then, enjoined coach Amodu to discharge the assignment with diligence and commitment. He assured the Eagles handler that the Lower House will do everything within its powers to ensure he succeed.

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Netherlands' Youssouf Hersi (R) kicks the ball away from Mohamed Shawky from Egypt in the quarter finals of the FIFA World Youth Championship at the Newell's Old Boys Stadium in Rosario, north of Buenos Aires on Sunday.



Defending champion Venus Williams returns to Japan's Shinobu Asagoe, during their women's singles, first round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon...recently.

## Starlets, Eyadema Juniors reject Eaglets

Ghana's Black Starlets and Eyadema Juniors have turned down the request for friendly duels with the Golden Eaglets.

They rejected the friendly duels on the ground that they were not prepared to trade tackles with their Nigerian counterparts who are currently turning up for the World U-17 Championship in Trinidad and Tobago in September.

Confirming the development, Golden Eaglets' chief sweat merchant, Musa Abdullahi, said the refusal of the teams to accept the friendly match has compelled the NFA to cancel the proposed tour of the West African sub-region.

The Eaglets were supposed to begin the tour yesterday had the initial arrangements sailed through. The tour itself was to last for two weeks. Taking the team through Mali, Ghana, Togo, Benin Republic, and the Ivory Coast.

Coach Abdullahi, however, said that he was optimistic that the European tour which was planned to follow the now botched West Africa friendly tour would still hold.

Coach Abdullahi whose

By Patrick Andrew  
squad defeated NEPA FC Abuja on Sunday said the friendly matches are crucial because they would expose the inadequacies in the teams and enable the technical crew to seal up loose ends before the world fiesta in September.

The Eaglets, who struggled to over whelm NEPA were hardly impres-

sive, a situation that drew disparaging comments from the handful of spectators who turned up to watch the game.

But coach Abdullahi said the average performance of the squad was occasioned by the absence of some key players who were excused from the match because of injury while some were on club assignments.

He, however, assured that he would endeavour to

produce a qualify team from the crop of boys in the camp even as he said recruitments were still being made to fill up observed areas of inadequacies.



Andy Roddick of the U.S. celebrates beating Sweden's Thomas Johansson during their second round match of the Wimbledon Championships...recently.



Brazil's Fernando Menegazzo (L) fights for the ball with Sulley Muntari of Ghana in the quarter finals of the FIFA World Youth Championship played in Cordoba on Sunday. The Ghanaians will face fellow Africans Egypt in the semi final tonight.