

# DAILY TRUST

COMPLIMENTARY

LIBRARY



LIBRARY TRUST LIMITED  
DATE

Abuja's First Daily Newspaper

Trust Is A Burden

VOL. 1 NO. 3

JANUARY 17, 2001

SHAWWAL 23 1421 A.H.

http://www.africanews.org

N50



## RAKUD ENGINEERING LIMITED

Your ultimate answer to electricity generator question:  
We are at: **Head Office:** No.9 France Road, Sabon Gari, P.O. Box 10443, Kano State Nigeria. Tel/Fax: 064-641408, 639712.  
**Kaduna Office:** X 16 Adamawa Road. P.O. Box 8565, Kaduna. Nigeria. Tel: 234-62-241256 Fax: 234-62-241262  
**Abuja Office:** Plot 466 Desmond Tutu Street, Asokoro Abuja - Nigeria. P.O. Box 2895, Abuja. Tel:234-9-2342005. Fax: 234-9-3148033.

**2003 Election:  
South-South  
holds the ace**

Inside Politics - Pg. 21

**Vox Populi  
on Late  
Premier  
- Pg. 16**



## LEMINGSWAY STORES

A convenient spot for  
total shopping

### Location:

Leventis Close,  
Central Area District,  
Abuja.

# Tinubu threatens cattle dealers

From Abdulfattah Olayibe,  
in Lagos

Governor Ahmed Bola Tinubu has given Arewa cattle dealers one week to vacate the Oko-Oba abattoir or face forceful ejection.

Governor Tinubu who also threatened to destroy the N800 million State-owned abattoir if the cattle dealers defy his order, gave this ultimatum yesterday while addressing all interest groups in the abattoir at the State Secretariat, Ikeja.

The governor also ordered that the abattoir must now be closed by 6pm., daily as against its former round-the-clock operations, adding that a joint police and military team has already been informed

to effect the order.

He berated the managing director of Cattle Utilities Limited, which manages the abattoir, Alhaji Grema Mohammed for ignoring his earlier instructions on the operations of the abattoir.

Governor Tinubu stated further that the cattle dealers could take their business elsewhere if they were not ready to comply with the State's market laws.

He hinted that he has already made arrangements with some northern state government to supply cattles directly to the state in the event of the cattle dealers leaving.

The governor said he would not succumb to the political blackmail allegedly being perpetrated by the cattle dealers. Said he: "I cannot because of political



Governor Bola Tinubu of Lagos

sentiments refuse to implement the laws of the state. This is not a case between the Hausas and the Yorubas or Islam and Christianity. I am aware of all the underground campaign to black-

mail me not to enforce the law. I am not afraid. The law will surely be enforced."

He added that: "there is a law governing all markets in the state. "All markets in the state close by 6pm daily. The abattoir market cannot be different. You cannot impose your own laws on us. It is not possible. I will not allow anybody to blackmail me and disobey the laws in the name of politics."

The governor explained that he has received several complaints from the landlords in the Oko-Oba area that the grazing of cattle outside the confines of the abattoir constituted a public nuisance.

He therefore enjoined the cattle dealers to stop the

act forthwith, promising that he would provide an alternative grazing land for them in Epe or Ikorodu area of the state.

The governor also advised the cattle dealers to form a committee that would examine all the logistics involved in the movement of cattle from the free grazing lands to the abattoir for slaughtering, and report to the state commissioner for Agriculture and cooperatives, Mr. Kaoli Olusanya

Responding to the governor's speech, the Sarkin Pawa of the abattoir, Alhaji Dan Azumi pleaded with the governor to extend the ultimatum given cattle dealers resident in the abattoir to vacate the place.

He said the dealers off-load cattles round the clock everyday, as such the government should reverse its 6pm, closing order.

In his reply, the governor said the orders were irreversible adding that he would not bend the rules because of any political sentiment.

He noted that other tribes in the abattoir were also affected by the order.

(See Editorial on Pg. 5)

## N938m for Legislators' Insurance

By Ahmad Shekarau

The Federal Government has earmarked N938 million for a comprehensive life insurance policy for the 469 members of the National Assembly following the death of Major Ibrahim Abdullahi (rtd) during the last Kaduna religious riots.

The amount is part of the N26 billion package ap-

proved for the legislators in the 2001 budget.

Sources at the Federal Ministry of Finance told the *Daily Trust* that legislators of both the Upper and Lower Houses are treated on equal basis with regard to the insurance policy as each of them is to be insured with an equal amount of two million naira.

The Federal govern-

ment wholeheartedly adopted the proposal of the Services Committees of both Houses, which emphasised the danger the lives of the legislators are exposed to due to frequent travels in and outside the country.

The source explained that government adopted the proposals without

Contd. on Pg.2

## Abuja Airport mishap: No danger to President's life

By Suleiman Mohammed

The Commander of the Presidential Air fleet, Air Commodore Paul Dike, yesterday declared that there was no danger to the life of President Olusegun Obasanjo last Thursday night when lights went off at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Interna-

tional Airport as the Presidential plane landed on return from Iran.

Air Commodore Dike told State House correspondents that though there was a blackout while the presidential flight 001 landed, it was however a situation that could have easily been averted. He declared fur

Contd. on Pg.2

## Coup in the Congo: Kabila shot

By Ibrahim Modibbo, with Agency Reports

There are fears that President Laurent Kabila of the Democratic Republic of Congo might have been shot in a coup attempt in the capital Kinshasa yesterday.

A senior intelligence source in Uganda told the press that President Kabila was shot by unknown people in the capital but it is uncertain that he has lost his life.

The source claimed that "he has died. He was shot by unknown people earlier yesterday and I am 101 per cent sure that he is dead."

Although the where about of Kabila remains unknown, the source said there was confusion in the capital as nobody knew who was in control of the city.

Belgium's Foreign Ministry reported that shots were heard around Kabila's palace and that telephone and other communication facilities had been cut in the capital.

Meanwhile, sources said that a personal Chief of Staff of President Kabila, Colonel Edy Kapend had issued a directive to the army to block Kinshasa's main airport and the river border with the neighbouring Congo Republic.

In a state-wide television and radio broadcast, Colonel Kapend who urged the civil

Contd. on Pg.2



Laurent Kabila: Alive or dead?

Pix AFP

## NEWS

# Rep. Flays purchase of N80b Presidential Jet

By Henry Omonu

The planned attempt by the Presidency to purchase another aircraft Presidential aircraft at the cost N80billion has come under severe attack, with Rep Ahmad Lawan (APP), Yobe State condemning the purported approval granted President Obasanjo to buy the said aircraft by the National Assembly.

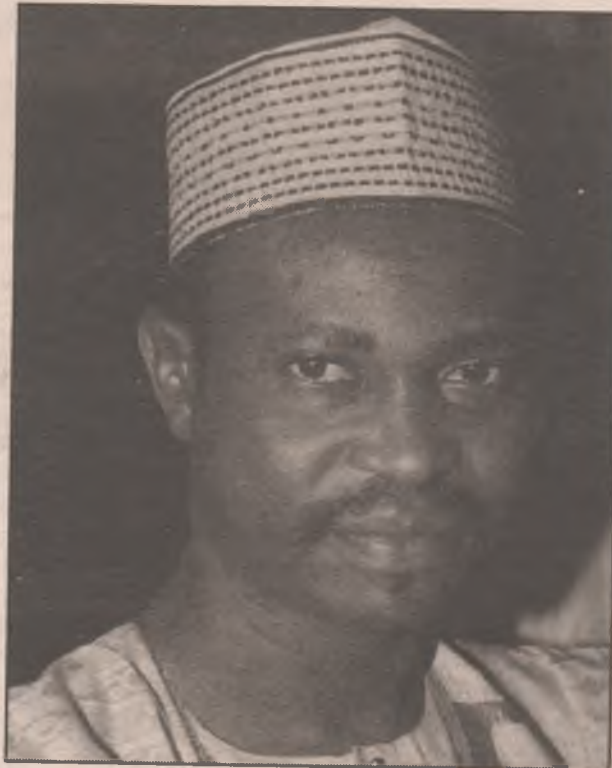
Rep. Lawan in a statement released to National assembly reporters yesterday, the lawmakers described the alleged approval by the National Assembly leadership for the

buying of the said presidential jet as "clearly stone-hearted and indeed anti-people."

He averred that the leadership of the National Assembly ought to have consulted with other members of the Assembly with other members of the Assembly, before acceding to President Obasanjo's request to present a supplementary budget for the purchase of the aircraft.

Similarly, the lawmakers representing Bade/Jakansjo federal constituency, urged the House of Representatives to investigate the alleged N2 billion initial deposit paid by the Presidency to the aircraft manufactur-

## ... Wants N2b deposit probed



Speaker Ghali Umar Na'Abba

ers.

Furthermore, he maintained that while the rapport between the Presidency and the National Assembly was commendable, Rep. Lawan stated that the cordial relationship must not be portrayed as a "gang-up against Nigerians."

"Nigerians are already apathetic towards elected politicians, we shouldn't aggravate that feelings," he added, but warned that while good rapport was desirable, "it should never be allowed to make the National Assembly a rubber-stamp of the executive."

Rep. Lawan while explaining that he was not against the purchase of a new aircraft by President

Obasanjo, stressed however that instead of buying a new aircraft, the Presidency should concentrate all its energies on delivering democracy dividends to Nigerians.

According to him, the National Assembly turned down the same request from the Presidency in 2000, because it felt the request "was premature and indeed callous for the Presidency to spend that stupendous amount on an aircraft."

The reason for the rejection, he elaborated was predicated on the fact that acceding to the request, would amount to insensitivity to the plight of the masses of Nigeria.

"It was therefore, astonishing to me to read that the

leadership of the National Assembly, has given the go-ahead to the President to send a bill to enable him acquire an aircraft for N80 billion."

Arguing that the reason for the earlier rejection was still valid, the lawmakers opined that what the National Assembly should rather do, is to ensure that

Nigerians "see and feel the rewards of this democracy they've sacrificed so much to institute."

Nigerians, he reasoned would benefit more from the provision of potable water, roads, electricity, functional education, effective health care system and other essential facilities.

## N938m for insurance

Contd. from Pg.1

amendments in order to ease tension and end the feud between the executives and legislative arms of government.

Daily Trust also gathered that both the Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim and the House Speaker, Alhaji Ghali Umar Na'abba had personally and variously lobbied President Olusegun Obasanjo not to veto the provision form the budget.

There are indication, therefore, that the tense relationship between the National Assembly and the executive may ease up when the Senate and House return from their recess on January 19 and 31 respectively.

A break down of the proposal shows that at two million naira each, the Senators will be allocated N218 million while the House Representatives will get 720 million.

Apart from the life policy, the legislators will enjoy a comprehensive cover for 186 vehicles of the Senate and a further 150 new Peugeot 406 cars, the comprehensive owner for he vehicles of the House of Representatives was still being worked.

The Federal Government had also agreed on policies on fire, burglary and theft for the parliamentary funding details of which has not yet been handed over to the Nigerian government by the French contractors. Defects have also been detected in the complex, the repairs of which is expected to gulp over N60 million.

The residential houses of the Senators of Apo Legislative quarters which government had given the legislators over N1.8 billion as furniture allowances will also enjoy the insurance cover.

The news of the approval of the insurance

policy has elicited great excitement among insurance companies across the nation. Already no fewer than 22 firms have bombarded the National Assembly complex jostling to be awarded the policies.

Senator Vincent Osolor told the Daily Trust that the list of recommended applicants had been sent to the Senate President for approval, but declined to say how many would be contacted.

The insurance policy for the legislators has been on the drawing board of the national Assembly since mid last year.

But while the Assembly leadership, comprising officers of the Senate and the House of representatives acceded to an earlier proposal to insure all vehicles of National Assembly members, it refused to approve the life insurance policy pending wider consultations on the issue.

However, the National Assembly leadership soft-pedalled on its initial stand, after the killing of a member of the House of Representatives during the last Kaduna religious riots.

Based on this, the Joint Service Committee of the National Assembly may have represented its case and subsequently convinced both the leadership of the Assembly and President Obasanjo to approve the insurance cover.

Indications to this effect emerged during the passage of the 2001 Appropriation Bill by the National Assembly in December, last year when both Houses increased the total budget of the Assembly from N15 billion proposed by the Presidency to N26 billion.

This amount was later approved when President Obasanjo signed the 2001 Appropriation Bill into law.

## Abuja Airport

Contd. from Pg.1

ther, "but let me state categorically here that at no point in time was the life of Mr. President in danger."

According to him, the situation would have been a source of worry if the light went off two minutes, before the plane landed, pointing out that "at the point of landing, the aircraft has crossed the beginning of the runway and the main wing was virtually on the runway, and was the point in time when the runway light went off," he explained. He said, about 20 seconds later, the light came back on.

"It is a situation that pilots on the Presidential Air fleet can effectively handle. We send our pilots twice every year on a course abroad, and part of the training syllabus the ability to acquire certain proficiency level, to land aircraft in an unlit runway."

However, he said it is totally unacceptable to leave the airport in darkness at any time, saying that was why his unit recommended that at all times for all arrival and departures involving the President and other important dignitaries, "a stand by generator should always be used."

Air Commodore Dike said all Presidential pilots have the capacity to land even in darkness but that does not mean that the airport should be left in darkness. "We've recommended that with or without NEPA, a standby generator must always be on," he declared.

But just as Air Commodore Paul Dike spoke on the averted mishap, however, the Minister of Avia-

tion on Monday, Dr. Kema Chikwe announced the suspension of all the operational staff on duty when the situation occurred.

She said while inspecting the Presidential wing of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport that the Airport manager Mr. Salleh Dunama who was earlier interrogated, has also been suspended. Those suspended include all the staff of the control tower on duty the Chief Security Officer of the airport, as well as all the staff of the electrical and mechanical units on duty at the time.

Others affected include all the officials of the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and the staff of the Nigerian Airspace Management Authority (NAMA), who were on duty at the time of the incident.

Dr. Chikwe gave the assurance that the matter would be thoroughly investigated and that any staff found not to be involved would be reinstated, and directed the Managing Director of NAMA, Alhaji Ibrahim Aliyu to compile names of officers on duty at the time of the incidence.

In another development, FAAN has blamed the power cut on an alleged failure by the Presidential protocol office to give prior notice and expected time of arrival of the President from Iran.

The Airport Authority explained in a statement that on the said date, the protocol officer on duty phoned the head of electrical department at the Abuja Airport at about 10.55pm directing him to change over to generating sets due to persistent power fluctuation at the airport lounge.

## Coup in Congo

Contd. from Pg.1

ian populace to remain calm also directed all army commanders to take charge of all the borders and the airport. He warned that "it is forbidden to use arms without prior order."

Sources said, for the nth time Congolese rebels who have the full support of Uganda and Rwandan governments have been fighting to overthrow the government of Kabila in Kinshasa.

Attempts to end the war in the former Zaire, Africa's third largest country, have been shredded by renewed fighting and analysts fear that the conflict will escalate as warring sides jostle for ground and power.

Eighteen months after a peace accord was signed in the Zambian capital, Lusaka, there is still no end in sight to the Democratic Republic of Congo's 29-month long war.

Sources said up to 2 million people have so far been displaced by the fighting and a quarter of a million others have fled to neighbouring countries as refugees, thus exporting with them Congo's insecurity problems.

Kabila took power in the former Belgian colony of Zaire in 1997, ousting veteran dictator Mobutu Sese Seko after a seven-month rebellion with the backing of Rwanda and Uganda.

He later fell out with his former allies, who are now backing the rebels.

NEWS

Briefly

**Integration Group meets in Jos**

Arrangement have reached advance stages for the hosting of the meeting of National Integration Group popularly called Under-50s politician next Saturday in Jos.

**WIN loses national co-ordinator**

Women in Nigeria (WIN), a non-governmental organisation has announced the death of its national co-ordinator, Ms. Gwyneth Okon. A statement by the administrative secretary of the organisation, Mrs. Gloria Alaneme, in Lagos, said that Okon died on Jan. 7 in Calabar as a result of a brief illness.

**Legion wants farm settlement**

This year's armed forces appeal fund and remembrance week has been rounded off in Calabar, Cross River state, with a call by the state wing of the Legion for the establishment of farm settlement scheme to engage retired members of the armed forces. The chairman of the state wing of the Nigerian Legion, Chief Augustine Duke, also appealed to corporate bodies, individuals and philanthropists who are well-to-do to engage members of the Legion in any intente venture.

**Foreign exhibitors expected in Kaduna fair**

Exhibitors from all parts of the world are expected at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Kaduna International Trade Fair which is scheduled to hold from Feb. 17-25, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports. Addressing newsmen on Monday in Kaduna, Alhaji Muhammadu Munir Ja'afaru, Yariman Zazzau and 1<sup>st</sup> deputy president of the Kaduna Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (KADCCIMA), said that exhibitors from about 10 countries had confirmed their participation.

**KNSG denies sacking 30,000 workers**

Kano state government has refuted a report in one of the national dyes (not *Daily Trust*) that it has sacked 30,000 workers who were on contracted in the state. The state deputy governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje said: "the total number of civil servants in the state are 24,000 only that means we have sacked all our workers" and even those who are not our workers".

**Workers puzzle over continued NHF deductions**

Long after they denounced the National Housing Fund (NHF), for failing to deliver the loans, Nigerian workers are puzzled over the continued deductions from their salaries, to finance the scheme, a survey by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), has shown.

The scheme was initiated in 1992 to enable the Nigerian worker to own a personal house, through a mortgage loan after contributing four per cent of his monthly wage for a minimum period of three years.

The almost impossible conditions for the securing the loan, and the fact that only about 500 people had benefited since its inception has pitched the workers against the scheme, has about N5.8 billion in its kitty.

Eunice Udentia, a senior accountant with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, described the deductions as a "rip-off," bearing in mind the pre-conditions set by the Primary Mortgage Institutions (PMI), one of which is that a loan applicant must first deposit 40 per cent of the required sum.

"If I want N2 million for instance, I must first deposit N800,000 to my PMI and because I cannot afford this, I know I can't get the loan, so why force me to contribute", she queried.

Sylvester Iorshagher, a production officer with a government-owned broadcasting outfit, said that the deductions were "day light robbery," as government itself knew that the workers would never benefit from the exercise.

He premised his argument on the five-year repayment period, saying that the few people who could repay within that period, might not need such a loan to own a private house. For Saidu Malami, a staff of the human rights commission, the contribution just did not make sense since there was no passbook given to the workers that showed records of one's deposits.

The NLC, through its National President. Mr. Adams Oshiomhole, had consistently opposed the deductions, insisting that they were "pointless", since the generality of Nigerian workers could not meet the conditions for the mortgage loan.

Oshiomhole had since 1999, insisted that the deductions not only be

halted but also said that workers should be refunded monies already deducted, especially now that the nation was enjoying democracy, where people had the right to decide what they wanted and which group to belong.

The Kaduna state government in November, stopped further deductions from its workers' salaries in respect of the scheme, following incessant pressure from the local branch of the NLC.

But Alhaji Kassim Bichi, the Managing Director of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), (the organisation in charge of the scheme), has continued to fault critics and describing the scheme as the best option for any Nigerian worker aspiring to own a house.

He said eight of the retired workers died between 1998 and 2000 while awaiting the payment of their benefits, and that three others had developed mental problems due to poverty and frustration.

Musa further said attempts by some of the affected persons to seek legal redress was being frustrated by some top management staff of the defunct company, who were allegedly implicated in some financial deals concerning the payment of the benefits.

He therefore, called on the judicial committee of the National Assembly to inaugurate a probe panel on the liquidation of NTC and the way and manner retirement benefits of the affected staff of the company were being settled.

Meanwhile, High Court Nine, in Kaduna had fixed Jan. 31, for continuation of hearing in a suit filed by some NTC retired workers over alleged non-payment of their retirement benefits. Similar cases are before other high courts in Zaria.



Tony Anenih, Works & Housing Minister

**Retired NTC workers threaten mass suicide**

No fewer than 23 of the 145 retired workers of the defunct Nigerian Tobacco Company (NTC), Zaria, have threatened to commit mass suicide if the company continued to ignore their demands for the full payment of their benefits.

Confirming the suicide threat to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Zaria, their leader, Malam Musa Hanwa said their association had employed the services of a psychologist to help erase the suicide thoughts from the workers.

He said that majority of the 23 retired workers were suffering from

one form of tobacco related illness or another, adding that the association had taken the responsibility of offsetting their medical bills.

He said eight of the retired workers died between 1998 and 2000 while awaiting the payment of their benefits, and that three others had developed mental problems due to poverty and frustration.

Musa further said attempts by some of the affected persons to seek legal redress was being frustrated by some top management staff of the defunct company, who were allegedly implicated in some financial deals concerning the payment of the benefits.

**Kebbi, NTI to provide 1,200 teacher for UBE**

From Kabir Dogondaji in Birnin Kebbi

The Kebbi state government and the National Teachers Institute (NTI) are to produce about 1,200 trained teachers for the Universal Basic Education (UBE) in the state.

The state co-ordinator of the Institute, Alhaji Abubakar Sambo Bunza made this known while briefing newsmen on the activities of his Institute recently.

According to him the introduction of the UBE by the Federal Government is a welcome development, considering the fallen standard of primary education, especially in the northern part of the country, adding that it became imperative on the part of the institute to train enough manpower.

He said that to achieve the set objective, the institute had already designated eight centres in the state for the National Certificate in Education (NCE) and Distance Learning Programme (DLP) accordingly.



Gov. Aliero of Kebbi State

Alhaji Abubakar Sambo explained that the centres were strategically located in various zones in the state comprising Government Day Second-

ary School, Danko, Government Teachers College Argungu, GTC Bunza, GSS Yauri, HASS Jega, GSS Koko and Polytechnic Birnin-Kebbi.

He added that the pivotal teachers training programme has commenced since in the state and expected to graduate over 600 teachers at each of the two segments of the year.

The co-ordinator also commended the state government for the support and encouragement, stressing that already the state government has directed all the 21 local government areas to sponsor candidates into the pivotal programme.

He therefore, urged teachers in the state at all levels to re-dedicate themselves in the service of humanity while appealing to the government to provide adequate and conducive atmosphere for learning in the schools he concluded.

**Robbers set Mercedes car on fire**

A GANG of armed robbers, who have been terrorising the residents of Zaria and its environs, set fire to a Mercedes-Benz car, following the inability of family members to part with more money and valuables, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

A NAN correspondent in Zaria reports that the robbers, believed to be numbering about 30, held their victims hostage for over two hours at the weekend, demanding more money and the whereabouts of the head of the family, who had escaped.

Some members of the family were injured in the incident, which occurred at the residential quarters of the proprietor of a bookshop at Agobo area of Tudun Wada, Zaria.

NAN reliably learnt that the robbers, who initially collected about N60,000 from the wife of the

proprietor, accused her of hiding money and refusing to co-operate with them.

They therefore, went to her kitchen and collected kerosene which they poured on the vehicle before setting it on fire.

The fire was brought under control by a group of good Samaritans who trooped into the compound shortly after the robbers had left.

The robbers, who were said to have conducted a house to house raid in the area, also attacked one Abdullahi Baba, a trader, from whose house they carted away a large sum of money and jewellery belonging to his wives.

Meanwhile, the Sarkin Tudun Wada, Alhaji Bilaki, has paid a sympathy visit to the victims and prayed God to facilitate the arrest of all members of the gang.

**DT staff loses mum**

The death has been announced of Mrs. Felicia Obianuju Adinnu (Nee Iloka), on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2001.

Born on December 1955, in Nnewi local government area of Anambra State, she had her primary education at Nnewi and her vocational education at the Republic of Cameroun. She got married to Chief Lous Okafor Adinu of Ozubulu in Ekousigo local government area of Anambra state.

Until her death, she was the Managing Director of Felicity Garments Industry, engaged in the commercial production of baby wears.

She is survived by her husband, sisters and seven children. Among them is Keven Ebele Adinnu. A senior reporter with *Trust* Newspapers.

Burial arrangements will be announced later. May her soul rest in peace.

nounced later. May her soul rest in peace.



Mrs. Felicia Obianuju Adinnu (Nee Iloka)

## NEWS

## Government Stakeholders disagree over Malaria roll-back

By Osborne Adi Jnr.

The federal government and stake-holders in the Roll-Back-malaria project are sharply divided over the sales and distribution of mosquito nets in the renewed bid to rid the country of the recurring disease.

At a meeting between officials of the federal ministry of health and stakeholders in Abuja said on Monday, while it was prepared to create the enabling environment for the production importation and sale of the mesquite nets, it was not in a position to decide what the price should be.

Speakers at the forum, canvassed for government intervention by way of subsidy on the current price of an average mosquito net stood between N450 and N500 which they consider too high considering the poverty level in the country.

Dr. C Abebe, director of public health in the federal



Tim Menakaya, Health Minister

ministry of health? on government of the meeting said government was not interested in awarding contract for the supply and distribution of nets, or the fixing of prices, adding that the rate would be flouting and as determined by market forces.

However, a representative

of Mobil Oil Nigeria, whose name was not immediately known advised that government should not shy away from resource mobilization, saying that by restricting itself to social mobilisation, it would not be enough to create the desired impact on the project.

Health Minister, Dr. Tim

Mekakaue, told the meeting that concerted efforts must be put in place to evolve a workable partnership at all levels, innovative and locally adopted approaches to implement the six elements of roll back malaria with in the context of the National Action Plan.

He said deliberate attempts must be made to break the communication gaps, increase information sharing and ensure that the implementation of Roll Back Malaria is well coordinated through the federal ministry of health to avoid duplication of activities.

Menakaya observed that malaria has consistently remained a cause and effect of economic under development and a major contributory factor to poverty in Nigeria.

"The health sector in Nigeria has been weakened by the disease over load attributable to malaria. Despite the fact that about 70-80 percent of malaria cases are managed at the community level, most actions taken are inappropriate due to wide spread ignorance among the comities," he said.

He noted that despite the fact that the use of insecticides treated nets in Nigeria has remained below two percent despite its proven efficacy in the reduction of malaria episodes among users worldwide.

## IBB campaigner detained

From Akinade Adeniji, in Minna

The arrowhead of the "IBB for 2003" campaign, Alhaji Shu'aibu Badeggi is still in custody of the State Security Services (SSS) in Abuja, 48 hours after he had reported himself.

Alhaji Shuaibu who is the Managing Director designate of the proposed Niger State Media Corporation started the IBB Muke so campaign some weeks ago by printing stickers with various inscriptions all targeted at dragging the former military president, General Ibrahim Babangida to contest the presidential election come year 2003.

The detainee whose invitation came through the office of the state governor, Engineer Abdulkadir Kure, last week, reported to the SSS in Minna

on Monday from where he was taken to Abuja in the SSS car sandwiched by two operatives.

Attempts to get the Niger state government's spokesman on his cellular phone proved abortive as the orderly in possession of the phone could have switched off.

Meanwhile, the national vice-president of the national council of youth sanities, Mallam Nma Kolo have called for the immediate release of Alhaji Shuaibu Badeggi.

In an interview with newsmen in Minna Malam Nma observed that Alhaji Buddeji's were being visited by this arrest and detention, stressing the detainee was only exercising his fundamental human rights guaranteed by the ne democratic dispensation by calling on the former president to contest the presidential race 2003.



Gen. Babangida

## UNIMAID ASUU declares war on rogue lecturers

By Abdullahi Bego, Maiduguri

The Academic Staff Union of University of Maiduguri (ASUU) had declared war on lecturers who extort money from student those with face certificates.

Addressing the press in Maiduguri yesterday, the branchy chairman ASUU Dr. Yunusa M. Dada said some "academic misfits" who have infiltrated into the teaching profession and muddied academic waters by forcing student to buy handouts that the image of all lecturers is.

Dr. Dada was said that in addition to extorting money from students, such lecturers also make the purchase of handout a condition for passing their courses.

The ASUU chairman also alleged that the union

had severally complained to the university authorities but "the administration machinery was too slow" to deal wit the problem.

He said ASUU was committed to taking decisive action. 'We shall intimidate, harass, embarrass and report to the lecturers whose moral bankruptcy has eroded the dignity in lecturing,' Dada added.

Excerpts for ASUU itself however, no other union wrote any memorandum, said Dr. Garba Ibrahim.

The committee had all the same done its work and submitted its report, although the university administration has yet to act on the report. 'If you combine the submission of the committee and the position now taken by ASUU something is going to come out,' Dr. Ibrahim said.

Meanwhile, a day after the resumption of students

for the new academic session, non-academic staff of the university have today embarked on an indefinite strike to protest the university's failure to implement a 20 per cent increase in their salaries as examination administration allowance.

The secretary of the non-academic staff union (NASU) Mallam Mohammed told Daily Trust that the increase was supposed to be effected since November 1999 "but the university authorities are sitting on the matter even though more than six other universities have since started paying."

Mallam Isa also said negotiation with the university broke down yesterday Monday 15-1-2001 when two authorities said the National Universities Commission had asked them not to implement the increase.

## HIV patients testify against Abalaka's vaccine

HIV patients in Abuja on Monday in Abuja testified against the potency of Abalaka's vaccine, contrary to his claim to AIDS cure, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

No sooner had Abalaka ended a 15-minutes presentation on his HIV vaccine research than he was confronted by HIV infected persons who claimed to have been administered with his HIV vaccine.

One of the patients who

identified himself as a former military personnel, said that he was still living with AIDS months after undergoing Abalaka's treatment.

"I was given a dose of Abalaka's HIV vaccine as a preventive measure but unfortunately, I am today HIV positive, even my innocent wife was contacted it, so what is Abalaka claiming?"

The ex-military man said he was aware of HIV patients who developed lung and kidney problems after they were administered with

Abalaka's HIV vaccine. Adding that some of them had died.



Dr. Jeremiah Abalaka

## World Bank Rules to Guide UBE implementation

Osborne Adi Jnr.

The federal governments has declares that it will implement all projects under the Universal Basic Education, (UBE), programme as dictated by its agreement with the World Bank.

Education Minister, Professor Tunde Adeniran who government position on the expenditure of the \$55million credit line granted the country by the World Bank for the implementation of the programme said the programme was designed to be more focused and will concentrate on some selected schools among the all states and the FCT.

He said at the Second Primary Educate Project launching in Abuja that activities under the project were to last for 48 months land were intended to constitute a bridge which will consolidate projects initiated under the First Primary Education Project which will assist in the planning and implementation of an extensive UBE support project by the World Bank.

The minister disclosed that strategic choices for dealing with each component of the project were based on the experience with PEPI, executive capacity within the country and the cost-benefit linkages of specific forms of interventions.

"There is also strong desire on the part of both part-

ners the Federal Government

an the World Bank, to make an early visible and positive impact on the basic education sector in collaboration with all tiers of government as well as local comities and other stakeholders," he said.

He pointed out that because the task of re-engineering of educational system cannot be left in the hands of the government alone, it therefore becomes imperative for joint partnership with several international donor and technical assistance agencies, with the World Bank as the leader in the pact.

Already, he said the World Bank has paid preliminary visits to some of the states for the purpose of assessing their capacity to implement activities related to the futu4re large-scale contribution to the UBE programme.

—Adeniran

"This capacity assessment in essential since the implementation of the UBE is a responsibility of the states and local governments including the comities."

He maintain of that the ultimate objective was to strengthen all decentralised structure for programme execution, a process which will involve capacity building and participatory approaches.

He cited the specific objectives of the Second Primary Education Project to include;

Strengthening human resources capacity in approximately 1,000 primary schools throughout Nigeria;

Create a primary school environment conducive to teaching and learning;

Improve the quality and availability of instructional materials;



Tunde Adeniran

## PEOPLE AND POLITICS

By  
MOHAMMED HARUNA

When General Ibrahim Babangida "stepped aside" as military president on August 26, 1993, some of us close to him were glad to see him return to Minna, his birthplace, in one piece. He had survived coup attempts including that of Orkar, which had been the bloodiest, save for the first one in 1966. He had also survived many controversial decisions including his unprecedented single-handed dissolution and reconstitution of the Armed Forces Ruling Council in February 1989. Having survived all these and more, some of us thought the general was not only stepping aside as military president, we believed he was also stepping aside from active politics for good. We thought he would be content to retire and write his political memoirs and serve as kingmaker and consultant-in-chief of sorts for the new breed politicians of which he appeared to be so enamoured.

Over seven years after he stepped aside, it seems those of us who believed he was doing so for good couldn't have been more mistaken. Indeed, we couldn't have been more naïve in our belief. Here was someone whose vision of a politically and economically restructured Nigeria had remained unfulfilled when he was more or less forced to leave office at a relatively young age of 52. Combine this with the fact that the person was believed to be enormously wealthy and was certainly healthy, intelligent and a political strategist of probably the highest order. To have expected such a person to be content with writing political memoirs must have been quite naïve of one, at least in retrospect.

Naïve as one's belief may seem today, as Babangida plunges into partisan politics, it didn't seem so naïve seven years ago. At least not to me following my several discussions with the general on the prospects of his return to politics. The impression I came away with on those occasions was that he himself believed he would simply be tempting fate to return to active politics having survived the intrigues of the more deadly military politics for eight years,

which is the record as the single longest peace-time military ruler; General Yakubu Gowon who ruled longest for nine years, spent four of those years fighting the civil war. Besides, there was the related fact that it was more difficult to get things done as a civilian president than as a military dictator.

For some of us who continued to believe that Babangida, at the still relatively young age of 59, would be content to remain a king-maker, the rude awakening was the Jos symposium last October on a re-assessment of his regime organized by the Open Press Nigeria Limited in conjunction with the African Centre for Social and Political Research, both of them based in Zaria. The initial idea of the symposium by the organizers was innocuous enough -they merely wanted to document the policies of the Babangida regime and their impact -but as more and more members of the enormous Babangida Network learnt of it, they turned it into an event to persuade the not-so-reluctant general to serve notice that his political hibernation was over henceforth.

"Our vision for a democracy that endures," he told a rapt audience at the end of the symposium, "was only delayed, not destroyed. Our initiative did not die. Whether the time was ripe, democracy emerged upon our nation stronger and finer than we had expected. The setting and the time was not as we had envisaged yet we have defied the odds and arrived at the goal. BY THE GRACE OF ALLAH, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO BE PART OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS" (emphasis mine).

Given the controversy that dogged his rather convoluted transition programme, in particular, given the threat which his cancellation of the June 12, 1993 presidential election posed for the unity of the country, there are many who will dispute his claim that he is an architect of the current democratic dispensation. The fact remains, however, that of the four leading actors on our political stage since 1983 -himself; Major General Shehu Musa Yar'adua, Chief M.K.O. Abiola and General Sani Abacha -he is the only one

## The Return of IBB

who has survived the cloak and dagger politics of that period. As the sole survivor, he has played a central role in the emergence of General Obasanjo as the elected president of the Fourth Republic. To that extent, he can claim some credit for the current dispensation.

Events since the Jos symposium - groups and posters springing up everywhere urging the general to contest the next presidential elections, etc -indicate that the crafty general has indeed returned fully into the political fray. At least two questions arise from this development namely (1) should he contest the next presidential election and (2) will he? To begin with the question of whether he should, there are of course many people who think he shouldn't, albeit for different reasons. Chief Gani Fawehinmi easily Babangida's severest critic, told *The News* last week that the general must be mad to even contemplate coming back to politics, Gbolabo Ogunsanwo, one time Editor and popular columnist of the *Sunday Times* and now a columnist with *The Comet* thinks it is "sheer insult upon indignity of it all!" for Babangida, whom he describes as "this son of Pinochet" to contemplate coming back to rule us (The *Comet*, December 31, 2000). Fawehinmi and Gbolabo probably speak for many more who believe Babangida's annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential election alone is enough transgression to bar him from politics for life.

Personally, I too do not think Babangida should run, but certainly not because of June 12 which for me is not so great a sin as those who swear by it think it is. Not only, in my opinion, is the significance of June 12 exaggerated, the signs are most Nigerians, including those who used to swear by it, have put it behind them, many of them having profited by it. As Tunde Fagbenle put it in last Sunday's *Punch*, Nigerians, after all, have a short memory or at least a purchase able memory. Even then June 12 remains a problem for Babangida.

That date apart, there is the understanding that the South, if not Obasanjo himself, is entitled to a second term before anyone from the North can take a shot at the presidency. Indeed, there are people like Professor Omo Omoruyi, one time

Babangida's political confidante who insist that southern politicians must rule in turns for another thirty years before the baton will return to the north.

Whatever the reasons of those like myself, Fawehinmi and Ogunsanwo who think Babangida should not contest the next presidential election, and however valid those reasons, my suspicion is that we are probably in a minority. Given the widespread disaffection with Obasanjo in virtually all the six political zones of the country including his home base, the South-West, where he is perceived as trying to undermine the hold of *Afenifere* on political power, Babangida is widely regarded as probably the one person with sufficient political savvy and the wherewithal to give Obasanjo a good run for his money.

Which brings us to the question of whether indeed he will run for the next presidential election. He himself has since said he will not. The governor of his home state, Engineer Abdulkadir Kure, had said earlier that Babangida will not run if Obasanjo decides to go for re-election. In confirming Kure's statement over the weekend at an interview with reporters in Minna, the general seems to have disavowed active politics altogether. Age, he said, is not on his side at 59. "I have said it a long time when ago, I left office that I am not going there. I don't feel any pressure for me to run. I don't feel it all," the New Nigerian (15-1-2001) quotes him as saying. Few people will believe this disavowment given the number of times he shifted the end of his transition programme between 1990 and 1993.

Besides, at 66 by the year 2007 he would still have at least 10 years of active life to live, given the current state of his health, and of course, all things being equal. In other words he will still be younger than Chief Bola Ige who at 70 still has his eyes on the Presidency as did Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, among others.

Yes, Babangida will probably not contest the next presidential elections but anyone who thinks we have heard the last word on our political Maradona in Nigeria's politics because of his disavowment, such a person would need to think again.

## EDITORIAL

Famakinwa tribunal:  
Worrying signs

Not many people may be following the strange goings-on at the Justice Victor Famakinwa tribunal which is investigating the ethnic killings that have become the new nightmare in Lagos, the largest and most cosmopolitan city in our country. Beginning from Shagamu in 1999, these attacks on other ethnic groups by the militant Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) have persisted through 2000 in places like Apapa (Port), Ketu, Agege and at Ajegunle and other sites last October.

Rather belatedly, the Lagos State Government recently set up the Famakinwa tribunal to try and establish the cause of the violent clashes, since it has become pretty clear that one more such attack by the OPC may trigger retaliation against innocent Yoruba people living in other parts of the country. But statements by Yoruba politicians and Hausa leaders at the tribunal sitting are to say the least disturbing.

In recent submissions before Famakinwa, two local government chairmen, those of Ifako-Ijaiye and Agege, showed that ill-feeling against Hausa residents in Lagos was not just limited to misguided area boys, but extends to people holding responsible positions in government.

On January 10, the chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye local government council, Alhaji Afolabi Morofu Adefolabi told the tribunal that violence could still erupt in the Lagos abattoir and the cattle utility site at Oko-Oba, a Lagos suburb, "because the peace currently being enjoyed there is still fragile and there are indications that violence could erupt at anytime."

What is interesting about Afolabi's warning is the reason he gave for the problem. The LG chairman attributed the tension in the area to scores of Hausa residents in the area whom he claimed had converted the whole complex to residential apartments. He concluded that "until the whole place is rid of hoodlums and Hausa residents in the area, peace will remain distance dream."

The chairman of Agege local government, Mr. Enoch Ajiboso holds more or less the same position. After claiming that the major causes of the recent ethnic clashes in Lagos were "unguarded utterances of political leaders in different parts of the country, sensational reports by the press and centralisation of the security system in the country," the Agege chairman said the hundreds of Hausa residents who lost their lives in his local government between October 17-20 were "dayinka (sic) or criminals who migrated from the north and settled at the railway line in Agege without parents, wives, children or property, which they could protect."

Given the anti-Hausa atmosphere in the tribunal from the utterances of such responsible Lagos politicians, it was not surprising that the Sarkin Hausawa of Agege, Alhaji Jubrilla Abdullahi at first refused to appear before Justice Famakinwa. When he did on January 11, he was equally uncompromising in his own submission.

The Sarkin Hausawa accused, the leader of OPC, Dr. Frederick Faseun of being "the root cause of the ethnic disturbances in Lagos, demanding that he should be hanged to atone for all the deaths and destruction he caused."

Jubrilla said "Governor Tinubu knows that Faseun is the head of the troublesome group, when during the October clashes he (Faseun) was asked to sign the papers for peace, he refused to do so, saying that the OPC wants to eliminate aliens from Lagos." The Sarkin Hausawa further accused the Agege local government chairman himself of being an OPC member. "He is an OPC member, a liar and a leader that rules his people by phone. He is never around to see what is happening in the area and as such cannot testify factually before the panel."

Both Faseun and his lawyer reacted strongly to the submission by Alhaji Jubrilla. While Chief Ogunsetta, Faseun's lawyer accused him of evading questions and "sentimentalising the matter," Dr. Faseun himself has this to say: "it is very safe to conclude that this man is a major negative factor to the desirable co-existence of Nigerians."

This is the atmosphere at the Famakinwa tribunal four months after the October 17 clashes. The principal actors seem to feel no remorse about the tragedy of the past nor do they show the kind of compassion that may prevent it in the future. This is deeply worrying to us and we hope that by highlighting it we can prompt those in authority to take note and do something to achieve reconciliation between the parties.

If the mood in Lagos is still ugly, the mood in other parts of the country is no better. With warning signs everywhere, governments should step in to ensure their first responsibility to the people: protecting their lives and property.

## LETTER OF THE DAY

Congratulations over your maiden edition of *Daily Trust*

The Nigeria Union of Journalists notes with delight, your debut as the first daily in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory. Your appearance on the streets on such a very

historic and symbolic date, the 15th of January gives your mission the tonic and credibility you deserve to move on with courage and determination.

The NUJ believes that

having come so far, *Daily Trust* is destined to play a historic role in the Nigerian media industry. Please trust in our prayers for your continued progress and development.

We wish you many more years of service to our profession, the media industry and Nigeria in general.

Muhammad Khalid,  
National Secretary, (NUJ),  
P.O. Box 4350, Abuja

## Opinion

## For better, for worse



## The Verdict

No doubt, vice president Atiku Abubakar is a civilian General. He fights many battles alone and shields himself with his bare hands as there are no air or ground forces to depend on. To contend with the revolt from both friends and foes, the man now sleeps with one and a half eyes open. *Eagle Eye* can say with a degree of authority that the war Atiku fights with his unrepentant critics who are bent on scuttling his vision 2003 is really unsettling. Apart from embarking on dramatic struggles to defend a political position that is dear to his heart, from some northern hawks, the vice president is also at war with some of his personal aides who capitalise on opportunities to make sharp practices. Critics are asking *Eagle Eye* several questions on the vice president's wars. *Eagle Eye* does not completely agree with the man's critics who allege that he has renounced his Arewa antecedence and is being held captive by the Afenifere mania. Who says that Abubakar is in complete harmony with a script carefully written by his Oga to sideline the North in the scheme of things? What do you call it marginalisation? Who is lamenting that the vice president has never opposed Obasanjo in his consistent and persistent removal of Northerners from top government positions and their replacement by his Yoruba brothers. And who are those spreading "wild rumours" that Abubakar has kept sealed lips over the unprovoked massacre of people of Northern extraction by the OPC bandits in Lagos, Ibadan and Sagamu? Ah, ha! *Eagle Eye* can now see your mouth trembling and body shaking because you do not like the man's face. Are you also saying that unlike his Oga, the vice president is so obsessed with the Afenifere culture that he frequently wears their cap as a mark of loyalty to and solidarity with his boss? Don't accuse the man wrongly. He is a detribalized Nigerian who believes in the country's secularism as opposed to the Hausa/Fulani clamour for *Sharia* in the North. What makes you think that the man is enjoying the spoils of office, which makes him respect the culture of collective responsibility?

Oh! You are also saying that the Vice President has crowned himself as the political leader of the North when he did not really do anything to deserve such a position? Opinion appears to be divided on the issues raised and it is *Eagle Eye's* appeal that the Mr. Abubakar be dragged before the Oputa Panel to answer probing question on the crimes he committed against the North. Anything short of this would be unacceptable.

Now, don't read this! *Eagle Eye* learnt from a dependable source that the man took it upon himself to spearhead the Obasanjo anti-corruption crusade with religious zeal. It must be singled out for mention that recently he summoned his personal aides to a round table conference with a view to analysing the anti-corruption efforts of the government. The meeting which took place in his conference room, in Aso Rock, Presidential Villa, Abuja. Saw Mr. Abubakar coming out in the true colour of an anti-corruption General. Usually competent sources told *Eagle Eye* that Abubakar got wind of the sharp and corrupt lifestyle of some of his aides and tongue lashed them on account of it. He was said to have told them point blank that he would never condone such practices. After a lengthy sermon that could win him a Nobel award, the Vee pee was quoted as banning down a verdict He told them that he had heard much and would not hesitate to sack anyone found wanting but would also hand over the culprit to law enforcement agents for prosecution.

Atiku is a hard man. He sermonised on the need for the Anti-Graft Commission and how the administration in which he is the second most important person wants the commission to be effective. In addition to police prosecution, he would not hesitate to send any of his aides to the commission.

Some of the aides, according to source, are just on economic adventures rather than working for the public interest. That, in this period when President Obasanjo is busy globe trotting in presumed search for foreign investors, some of the Vee pee's aides are busy constructing Berlin Walls around the Vice President. A local businessman (name withheld) was grumbling aloud to the hearing of *Eagle Eye* that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for some of them to see His Excellency, the Vice President He said. Some of them had to grease both legs, hands and palms of those involved before getting access to the Vee pee.

"Prior to the verdict, it was common sight for some of the aides to be spraying not Naira, but dollars and pound Sterling on friends at weddings while some who had no functional cars before their appointment are now driving the latest Prado Jeeps, state of the art Land Rover (Freelanders) and Flashy Honda cars, the pride of modern, technology in Japan," a source explained the opulence of the Atiku aides. *Eagle Eye* found out that one of them holds court most evenings in his palatial Apo legislative quarters for potential investors and businessmen.

"Ghana must go" bags are recurring decimals in his premises due to his level of influence. Although unconfirmed, *Eagle Eye* reliably learnt that one of the aides had "visiting" armed robbers in his house recently in Yola where apart from goods worth several millions, about 300,000 dollars raw cash was also carted away.

For the avoidance of doubt, let *Eagle Eye* tell you who the vice president is. A God fearing man who rose from a humble background to achieve an enviable status of the North's number one political figure. By dint of hardwork and goodwill in the game of politics, he is today, Nigeria's number two citizen. He shunned corruption and kept it at a far distance throughout his life as a customs officer. His record as an anti-corruption crusader is not only clinical but transparently legendary.

*Eagle Eye* could say with authority that the verdict handed down by the Vice President sent jitters down the spines of those involved. A source told *Eagle Eye* that they are now very careful and discreet on how they go about their businesses. This has made business unusual.

This is only a tip of the iceberg. *Eagle Eye* will give you more gists.

One weakness we share with our leaders, it seems, is not learning from our past mistakes. This is a phenomenon I observed from our voting pattern and the often-lopsided policies of our leaders. For instance, what lesson have we learned from our past experiences that can help shape the decision on how we vote in future elections? Those of us who usually vote along ethnic lines as (in the south) or who sell their votes (as often is the case in the north) do themselves and the public no favour. It is only when we use our votes to either deprive or aid the people who seek to control our affairs that we can get the type of government we desire.

We voted Obasanjo to power because he is a man of proven integrity and honour with lots of experience about government and society. The fact that he did not succeed in improving our standard of living rapidly does not change him to a bad person. It only shows the vulnerability of human nature. We are not just perfect creatures.

Certainly Mr. President

## Calling on the Northern Consultative Forum

First of all, I prefer to introduce myself as a concerned northerner or rather to be precise as a profoundly confused northerner. I am confuse not because I am a confusionist but simply because I cannot make the head and or tail of what is happening in the northern consultative forum.

The northern consultative forum doesn't seem to know the difference between a stick and a snake and that is very clearly manifested in the collection of, people you gave the mantle of leadership of the forum. Any time I tried to visualise what criteria you used in selecting the composition of the leadership, I become afraid because I feel, being a former President or an Emir or a rich thief does not automatically qualify you to lead a forum like the northern consultative forum simply because you are a northerner. It is your conducts and the implications of your conducts in history in whatever capacity that should determine whether or not you should be given that responsibility in this trying period of northern Nigeria. That is why history is very important and only history should be a guideline.

It is inconceivable to say that you have Yakubu Gowon, Shehu Shagari, Muhammadu Buhari, Ibrahim Babangida and Abdulsalami Abubakar as the leaders of the forum because they belong to different worlds if.

Some of them are instrumental to the present condition of northerners (both in North west and central north) especially Babangida and Abdulsalami. After the regimes of all these presidents, remember that Gowon, Shagari and Buhari did not build any 30-50 bedroom house, but Babangida and Abdulsalami did. Gowon, Shagari and Buhari don't have accounts in Swiss bank, Germany, America and England, but Babangida and Abdulsalami have such accounts (as published by London Times Prestigious Maga-

under estimated the trouble his kins and friends would cause him and went ahead putting old-friends in high offices. Now that most of them have been criticized of failure to deliver and have clearly flop he is finding it difficult to sack them. This one of the many vicious circles that he must break in order to move the country forward.

The President and his Vice are the greatest nationalists this country has every produced and they should therefore not allow tribal leaders who neither think or speak nationally to ruin their own records and plans. It is becoming obvious that the President is surrounded by certain individuals who have their own personal agenda that is not the same as the President's or the public's. Some of them have been suspected of being connected to the ethnic violence that is routinely sponsored in an effort to create national tension in the country. Others block good policies that they view as threat to their privileges, even at the expense of the country's interest. Success

zine), just like the noisy Umaru Dikko. Where did they acquire such monies from? Islam taught us to be accountable, prudent and just. If I talk about corruption, Babangida and Abdulsalam stand out clearly as shown by their foreign accounts (London Times).

Shagari did not steal but allowed the people in his government like (Umaru Dikko) to steal. So his government is guilty of the same offence. Let's not forget that during Babangida's time if you are not a thief they will flush you out of service and indiscipline reached its climax. Buhari is vanguard of discipline and accountability. He and Idiagbon sanitized this country after Shagari. Even an animal in Nigeria can testify to that. Buhari/Idiagbon removed indiscipline and stealing traits from their minds, and inculcated discipline, accountability and prudence in the minds of Nigerians. This makes him stand out among all the former Presidents of Nigeria. We can only remember that Babangida reversed all what Buhari did and it was the collective conspiracy of northerners (especially traditional rulers land the so-called richmen) that led to the dethronement of Buhari regime not because they were found wanting in anything. Do

you expect us to sweep this under the carpet and pretend that it didn't happened?

Another important observation is that it is only Muhammadu Buhari that refused any chieftaincy title and we all know that the central problem of underdevelopment in Northern Nigeria is the Chieftaincy institutions. Any person that steals enough money and make it available to those institutions, will crowned with a Chieftaincy title (civilian or military). This problem even affects the learned class in Northern Nigeria. This is the present trend of events. They destroyed the education system in the North so that they can have enough illiterate thugs for political convenience. They

in many fields is being undermined by widespread fraud, incompetence and mismanagement. One of the most misleading items in the media recently is that of Petroleum supply which they claim is adequate. The truth, however, is that throughout the holiday period petrol is sold at N100 per litre as against the usual price of N80 per litre here in Yola.

The public is outraged and does not understand what they mean when they say fuel is adequate. Are they referring to Abuja and Lagos? Surely there is more to Nigeria than Abuja and Lagos. For goodness sake let them tell the President the truth. Or, better still let the President find his own means of getting in touch with the world outside the two capital cities. What the President needs is information from grassroots to get the real sentiment of the people.

Another distortion of the truth is in electricity supply: Normally we get less than 4 hours of steady uninterrupted supply of electricity in Yola in 24 hours. But I observed that whenever the Vice-President is

around here we enjoy constant uninterrupted supply throughout his stay.

NEPA constitutes a very important sector of the economy. The significance of NEPA lies in the fact that electric power is essential for the survival of all other sectors of the economy. But through neglect, NEPA remains grounded resulting in collapse of small scale industries, rendering chunks of talented youths (welders, tailors, hair dressers, millers, machinist, computer operators etc.) job less. Many have returned petty thieves. Yet the situation is not helped by the introduction of the Poverty Alleviation Programme which is seen by many as a scheme designed by government to add to the privileges of their allies.

Something is clearly wrong with a system that put most of its talented people with the potential to help themselves and help others out of work.

*Umaru Hamman Joda, is of the Adamawa state Ministry of Works, Land and Survey, Adamawa.*

don't provide jobs for Northerners. They prefer you come and greet them every morning and collect money for breakfast. How then do you expect us not to blame them for the present sorry condition of Northerners? The so-called northern leaders are the major black marketers of petroleum products in Northern Nigeria. That is why sometimes it is only when you come up North that the condition of petrol and kerosene is too bad and the implication of such actions is very devastating on the Northerners. The Northern children that are deprived of education and food are the ones that embark on black market retailing of petroleum products to make ends meet. Another interesting point is that Islam prohibits allowing your wives to go out anyhow without observing the *hijab*. It was only Buhari and to some extent Shagari that refused the concept of first ladies among the Muslim former Presidents. This is purely because of innate discipline but we have all seen the kind of irresponsibilities perpetrated by Maryam Babangida, Maryam Abacha and Fati Abubakar ranging from shaking other men, hugging and dancing with other men to acquiring illegal monies and businesses (all in the name of first ladies). Have you seen any sign of responsibility on the sides of their husbands. If you can't be a northern leader as a poor man or an average man, you certainly cannot lead Northern Nigeria if you steal money and build a Mosque or a Church.

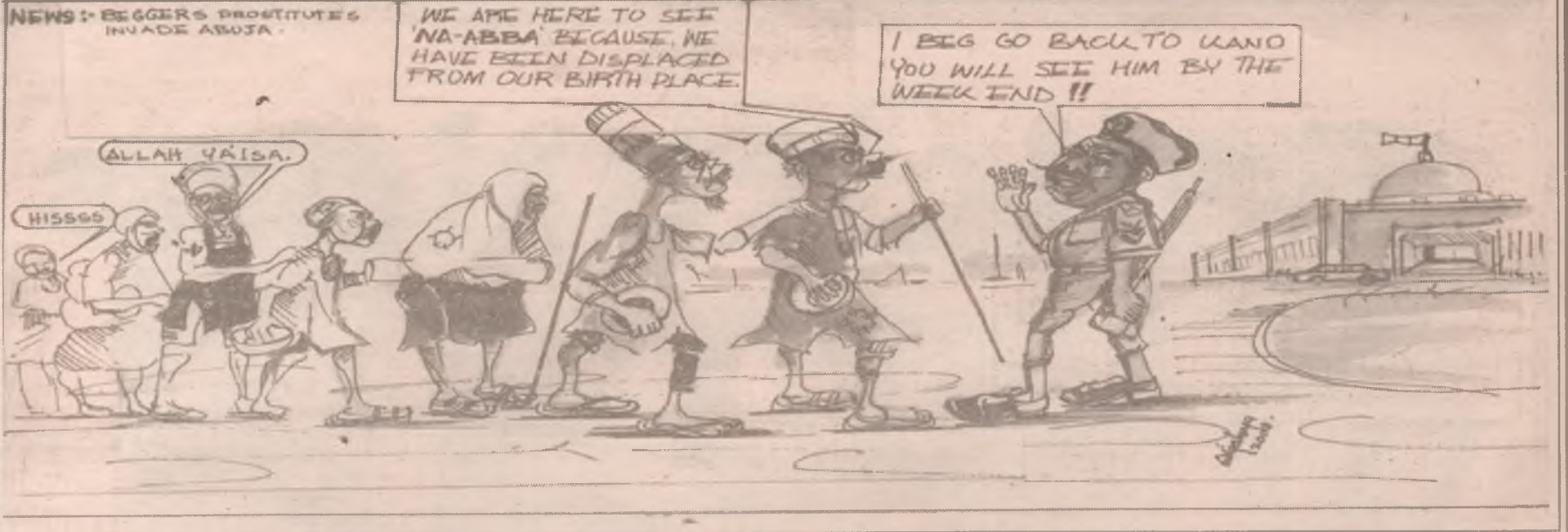
Now, what are you doing about the family of the late Sani Abacha? What wrong have they done to deserve the kind of humiliation they are facing? Are they supposed to pay for what happened during Abacha regime? Did Abacha run the government alone? What about Adamu Ciroma, Jerry Gana, Oladipo Diya, Iyorchia Ayu, Haruna Abubakar, Abubakar Rimi, Solomon Lar and etc. Are there no regimes that committed more atrocities in Nigeria

than Abacha regime? Among the people that portrayed Abacha's family as thieves (Abdulsalami and Obasanjo), who among them did not steal Nigeria's money? Who is the most corrupt President leading the most corrupt country on earth today? It was Abdulsalami Abubakar (a Northerner as well as a leader of Northern Consultative Forum) that started telling the world that Abacha and his family are thieves while he was also busy stealing from Nigeria foreign reserve put in place by Abacha. Obasanjo only continued from where Abdulsalami stops. Obasanjo in a retaliatory attempt pin the death of Kudirat on Mohammed Abacha (whose only crime is being a son to late Abacha), But Obasanjo did not tell us or try to find who killed Mrs Ransome Kuti during his past regime. Was it not Abdulsalami Abubakar that first strengthened and recognized the Afenifere? Who are the architect of bringing the present Obasanjo dictatorial government to power? Was it not Ibrahim Babangida and Abdulsalami Abubakar? Are you being fair to us to say that we should recognize these people as Northern leaders. These wounds are still fresh and it will be a mistake on your side not to heed them because they constitute the basis of fragmentation of Northern Nigeria and I personally feel Obasanjo is aware of all these, that is why he is doing what he is doing to Northern Nigeria today.

Lastly, the other unseen hands against Ghali Na'aba in Obasanjo's government are the Northerners in Obasanjo's government e.g. Atiku Abubakar, Adamu Ciroma, Jerry Gana and etc, because he is becoming too popular and therefore a potential Presidential candidate to be. Thank you very much and I wish you all the best in rendering selfless service of re-structuring the North and Northerners.

*Ahmed Isah Haruna, Geology Programme, ATBU, Bauchi*

CARTOON



YOUR LETTERS

Short 'n' Sharp

Obasanjo's Immorality

No matter the way you wish to address President Obasanjo, either as a Chief General or former warlord, the fact remains that some people appear bent on undoing him and dragging his name in the mind for his abysmal performance and antecedents.

The interview granted to the News Magazine by Mrs. Taawo Obasanjo, has painted a sordid picture of Chief Obasanjo as a randy president caught in the throes of womanising.

Dr. Paul Okorie, Shalom Med. Centre 36 Tariba Street, Onisha.

We would not forgive Obasanjo

While Nigeria moves are yet to witness any development in provision of infrastructural and social facilities (e.g. Education, Health, Power supply etc. President Obasanjo, according to informed sources, spent N7 billion for his own Presidential Clinton in his second term, about 2000, while his first term was expiring in 1999. He also managed to keep himself and his family in the US. This was the time when he had dallied with President Clinton. We would not forgive him.

The Pfizer clinical test on Kano children

It is a great shame on Dr. Isa Dutse to recommend the killing of innocent children just to satisfy selfish and material gains from Pfizer as recently reported in your newspaper.

Honestly, at first I didn't expect that an individual of Kano and a medical doctor by profession will involve himself in this saga knowing fully that it's a clinical test being carried on his people. But greed and the unmitigated nature of the people of the health ministry in order to get some dollars from the multinational company connived with the likes of Dr. Dutse and officials of the Federal Ministry of Health to extend death and deformity to innocent and defenceless children.

Dr. Isa Dutse and co. should be prosecuted immediately or be sent to Oputa Commission on human rights to answer charges committed against humanity to serve as a deterrent to others.

Abubakar A. Ado, Kabuga Housing Estate, Kano.

Atiku and his praise singers

The recent reception for Vice President Atiku gives one cause for much concern.

The reception which gulped N270million is another avenue for siphoning tax payers' money at a time when most Nigerians are hungry. The masses are not happy.

Prof. Boniface Oteka, Enugu State.

Kudos to ALGON

I wish to commend the unique initiative of the council of local government chairmen in providing one thousand Toyota Jeeps to the Nigerian police as their own contribution to the war against crime.

The council of state governors should now borrow a leaf by also pooling in their resources to equip the police with adequate and state-of-the-art communication equipment.

Muhammad. Surajo, Kaduna.

The release of Fasheun was wrong

The biggest problem of this country is injustice. The constitutions of this country, since independence, have recognised equality before the law. Kudirat Abiola was allegedly killed by Government agents. An attempt was made on Chief Ibru's life. For these alleged offences, General Bamaiyi, Al-Mustapha and other have been on trial without bail.

For heavens sake on the other hand, about 500 Northerners were massacred in Lagos by OPC agents. The police arrested the OPC leader, Chief Fasheun. Within day he was released. Not just released on bail. What kind of justice is that? Are they saying that in Lagos, the lives of Kudirat and Ibru is more than the lives of 500 northerners living in Lagos? Legally and politically the unconditional release of chief fasheun was wrong.

The Lagos state Attorney-General cannot be serious in saying no prima facie case was established against the OPC leader. Was he saying we should not even take the president and the federal government serious, when they blamed OPC for all the massacre?

No End to mysterious deaths

I keep asking the question of probing a few mysterious deaths in the past couple of years. In the past couple of years, the rate of brutal murder and robbery has gone up. The number of mysterious deaths is increasing. It is a sad state of affairs. We have actually devalued our sense of reasoning. Recently within a period of one week, two bank executives including an apprentice and an insurance executive were brutally murdered by unknown persons.

The mister truth is that, like it or not, Obasanjo's few months in office have witnessed a far greater number of mysterious deaths than Al-Bashir's tenure. Chief Okunribido, Abacha, Haidings, Al-Harbi, St. Louis.

It is unfortunate that the number of mysterious deaths is growing by the day. Nobody is spared as the robbers are having a field day unleashing mayhem on journalists and newspaper houses as was the case of Daily Times and the editor of THISDAY newspapers. Yet, instead of the press urging the Obasanjo led government to check the growing menace of the men of the underworld, the reverse is the case as the press have struck its nose on our past just because a few men perceived to have dealt with their psyche have been accused of human rights abuses during Abacha's administration.

The agony of democracy

After the return of democracy into this country, the citizens are increasingly disappointed by the way the politicians are squandering dearly in the resources of the Country as if they are planning not to leave a single kobo in the national treasury.

Whatever they do, either official or personal has its own allowance. In their trips, even the chewing stick they use is a cost to government.

The contract scam, forgery and perjury that led some of the top politicians to impeachment is now becoming worse and endless game in the political system of the Country.

The first break fast served for the citizens by the controversial political system was the case of Salisu Buhari, followed by Enwerem an account of forgery. The next was a contract and corruption scam that dismantled Chuba Okadigbo from his Senate President Chair. But the cases have the same target which is making instant wealth. Without that target, one could not forge what he has never secured academically just by being himself minus higher rank that he could not professionally manage. In the case of corruption, one could never betray the mandate given to him by the public and engage in a deceitful business.

After brushing those elements out of the field of democracy, the citizens had peace of mind that all the political thorns were cleared away. But now another scandal involving Ghali Na-

There is a threat of impeachment hanging on his neck if he is found guilty.

We begin to suspect that the politicians are not in their offices to bring a progressive development to the Country, but just to enrich themselves by diverting the national resources into their personal accounts, and leave the National treasury empty.

Tsalha Lawal Gusau, Nigerian Institute of Journalism, Jos.

Incredible donation to PDP

The news making the rounds that chief Ombo Isokrari, former NAFCON boss donated twenty million naira to PDP is actually begging the question "with anti-corruption?"

In the not too distant past, Chief Isokrari was in the news following the report of Justice Akande's panel that indicted the former Managing Director of NAFCON for financially mismanaging the company to the tune of billions of naira.

Perhaps, someone should advice Mohammed Abacha, the son of the late Head of State, who is currently facing charges of corrupt enrichment to toe the same line as Isokrari in order to get some level of immunity of probe.

Otherwise, how is it that Mohammed Abacha who was not handling any appointment, in his father's regime, is kept under lock and key for corrupt enrichment while Gen. Babangida the kingpin of corruption and Isokrari are roaming our streets freely.

Odion Peter Oviasu, Edo Line, Benin City.

# Felicitations

**W**here others failed, *Weekly Trust* triumphed. You have proved to withstand the test of time and remain trusted. The birth of *Daily Trust* we believe is a product of your trust-worthiness and total commitment to humanity.

*On behalf of the Government and the entire people of Kano State, I heartily felicitate with the Management and the staff of TRUST NEWSPAPERS on the DAILY TRUST publication.*



**Dr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso**  
**Executive Governor, Kano state**

*Long Live Daily Trust  
Long Live Kano State,  
Long Live Federal Republic of Nigeria*

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

FOREIGN & DIPLOMATIC



Under the watchful eye: Palestinian girls in the occupied territories

# France has sympathy for ECOWAS

By Abdullahi Doki

Daily Trust spoke to Mr. Phillippe Peltier, France Ambassador in Nigeria about his country, relationships between France and Nigeria, the Uranium controversy and general French involvement in Africa. Excerpts:

**DT: France is a country with rich cultural heritage and noted for its politically independent positions on foreign policy. Would Mr. Ambassador speak on this unique aspect of France that makes it stand out among Euro-American countries when it comes to foreign policy objectives in relations with countries like Iraq, the Balkans, the Middle East or even Nigeria?**

**Phillippe Peltier:** It is in the nature of France to have an independent posture in international relations. We have always been, especially from the presidency of General Charles De Gaulle (1958-1969), who fully restored this millennial tradition of independent mindedness, a kind of «avant-garde» within Europe and on the world scene. You are right to link it with culture: culture means creativity.

Please note that I don't use your expression of «Euro-american countries»: I don't feel at all being a «euro-american», this expression has no meaning for me. Our history, our mentality, our habits (gastro-nomy, for example) are purely rooted in Europe. We are Europeans, we belong profoundly and totally to the greco-christian millennial current of culture and civilisation, which is the basis of our inspiration.

It is in that spirit that France is defending her own positions in all the domains: human rights (but not particularly what you would probably call the «euroamerican model» of human rights, assuming that this monster exists); solidarity with the third world, and in particular Africa (we are the most important aid donor to Africa in the world); international commerce and economy (to make them less savagely dominated by big world companies and more organised in order to face the challenges of environment, em-

--Ambassador

ployment and health), etc...

In spite of certain assets we have (one of the strongest and competitive economies on the planet, a leading position in many sectors of high technology, the second net of embassies around the world just after the U.S., a permanent seat within the Security Council, etc...), we need allies to promote these original ideas. A «european Europe», independentminded, would be the ideal ally. This will take a long time, especially in the essential field of defense, even if, already, there are sectors in which Europe plays really its own part. In between, we will continue to tell our own truth and to try to promote our own ideas.

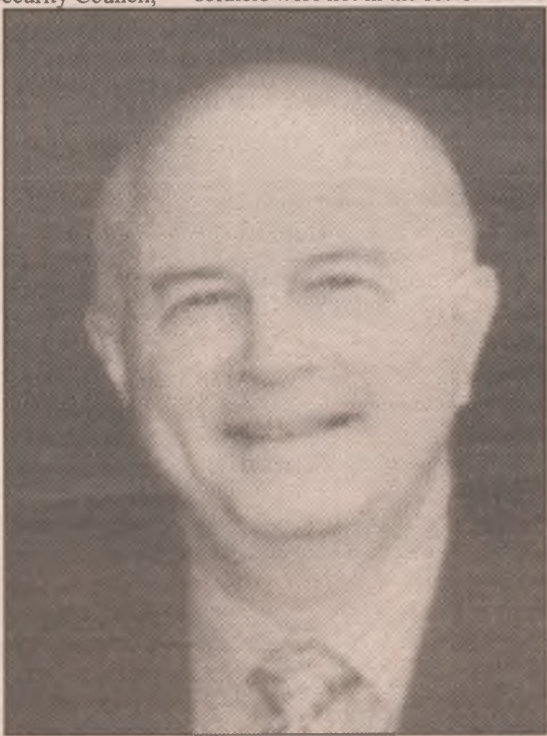
That is why we like particularly being friends with countries like Nigeria, which we consider as sharing the same spirit of independent mindedness. The in-

dependent minded countries must coordinate their efforts. Our cooperation in international politics may help to mould, together with likeminded others who are also our favourite friends in the world, the new world, the world of the new century, a world which would be, not an unipolar one, but multipolar. It is important that in this new world Africa play fully their role, Nigeria being at the forefront.

**NATO is currently embroiled in controversy concerning the use of depleted uranium in weapons used against Serbs during the war in Kosovo by its soldiers. Does France record any casualties among its soldiers that serve in the NATO contingent? How many are affected and what is France doing about this issue?**

**Peltier:** Of course our experts are trying to discover whether there is any link between the cases of cancer, particularly leukemia, and this problem of the use of depleted uranium ammunitions. For the moment, it seems to appear that the proportion of

cases of leukemia among the french soldiers having served in the Atlantic Alliance contingent is the same as the national french proportion, but the testing of all the 90,000 french soldiers who served in Yugoslavia is in process. Maybe the reason for that is that our soldiers were not in the sector where



NATO used that kind of ammunitions. For the moment, I have no more information.

**Relations between Nigeria and France have recently been improved after years of aloofness or even silent belligerence. Is that momentum still being sustained with a view of getting the two countries more closer?**

**Peltier:** Yes of course. The relationship among the two countries is excellent in all fields, and we have no contentious problems. The «Bakassi problem», if your expression on «silent belligerence», which I object to, is an allusion to it, is a purely bilateral problem between Cameroon and Nigeria, pending in the International Court of Justice, and we do not feel concerned in its solution. We hope that there will be an happy end for everybody and we will applaud to it.

This good relationship allows us to share our views on world affairs, and in particular in African and European affairs, in a very friendly and

relax mood. We encourage the management of West-African affairs through ECOWAS (the opposite number in west africa of the European Union in Western Europe), where Nigeria, naturally, has the leading role and plays it with a great sense of her responsibilities. A good french Nigerian relationship holds an important place in our general strategy headed towards a more multipolar world. Nobody can

make a better world alone, but when those who reflect by themselves and have an independent mindedness, unite their efforts, they can be very creative and successfull together.

**Mauritania, a Franco-phone country has recently withdrawn from the ECOWAS because it disagreed with the organisation's common currency programme. There are speculations that France might have instigated Mauritania to withdraw from the ECOWAS, so that gradually, other Frence-speaking countries would also withdraw in the future. Is that view correct?**

**Peltier:** I can assure you that France has not played any role at all in the long matured decision of the President of Mauritania to withdraw his country from ECOWAS. Personally, as an observer in Abuja where the headquarters of ECOWAS are, my impression is that the case of Mauritania is very peculiar: this country is both Western African and north african. They decided to make a choice between the two vocations, for specific reasons, they could as well have choosen not to make the choice. Anyway, it was their own choice.

As far as France is concerned, we fully support ECOWAS, which we consider as the natural frame for west African unity. More than that, ECOWAS is, in Africa, the regional organisation which succeeds the best in its role of peace-keeping, developement, and political cooperation. In some sense, we consider ECOWAS as a kind of sister-ship of the European Union, we have much sympathy for it, we wish it full success and full cohesion. One of the forces of ECOWAS is precisely that, with the only exception of Mauritania now, it groups all the countries which are considered as west african. That is a difference with the European Union, which has still to integrate a large part of its components.

## BRIEFLY

### GAZA

The Israeli army has again completely sealed off the Gaza Strip after a Jewish settler was found shot dead, increasing tension as Israel and the Palestinians try to end early 16 weeks of fighting.

The army also said a orufew had been imposed on the West Bank village of Dahiet at-bareed after Palestinian gunmen fired from there on the Neve Yaacov settlement.

An Israeli peace negotiator said on Sunday political and security talks could continue in the next few days, perhaps as early as Monday, following talks at the weekend and last week.

### AUSTIN

President-elect George W. Bush plans to call for unity when he takes the oath of office in six days as Republicans and Democrats sparred over his choice for attorney general John Ashcroft.

### BEIJING

China defended its crack down on the Falun Gong spiritual movement, saying the 18-month drive condemned abroad for its ruthlessness enjoyed widespread public support and was based on Chinese law.

### JAKARTA

Indonesian police accused rebels of launching a fresh at tack in Aceh province, but locals blamed security forces for undermining a recently extended ceasefire and said many people were ready to flee the region.

Up to 30 people have been killed since Wednesday when the two sides agreed to extend by another month a six-month-old ceasefire, it had been due to expire on Monday.

### BAGHDAD

Iraq said it would not allow UN weapons inspectors to return to the country, as Baghdad and the United Nations prepare for high-level talks next months.

In another development, Saddam's eldest son, Uday, has asked parliament to changed the Iraqi map on the Legislatures emblem to show Kuwait as part of Iraq.

Babel Newspaper, owned by Uday, who is a member of the parliament, said "Iraq's map that represents the symbol of the Assembly does not include the full borders of Iraq asknown to the various segment of the Iraqi people, that is Kuwait city."

It reported that recommendations were made putting the full map of Iraq including Kuwait city as part of larger Iraq.

### BRISBANE

A man charged with murder and arson stemming from an Australian hostel fire in which 15 mainly foreign backpackers were killed was committed to stand trial in the Brisbane Supreme Court.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

## Briefly

### BRAZZAVILLE

A Rwandan refugee shot dead his wife, their two children and six neighbours and then shot himself in the head, police in Congo's capital said.

Police said they had begun an inquiry to find the reason for the killings, in the bustling Poto-Poto district of Brazzaville on Sunday.

Since 1997, Congo has been home to more than 5,000 Rwandan refugees. Most live at a camp 25km (15 miles) north of Brazzaville, but many have found homes in the city.

### EGYPT

Egyptian authorities detained 16 suspected members of the Baha'i religious sect on Monday pending further investigations into charges of "propagating deviant beliefs", security sources said.

The sources said authorities were searching for 15 others suspected of belonging to the banned sect in Shawraniya, an island in the Nile near Sohag, about 400km (250 miles) south of Cairo.

Police first arrested the 16 suspects on Sunday and authorised their detention for a further 15 days on Monday, pending further investigations, the security sources said.

In the past, some Egyptians arrested for belonging to the Baha'i sect were set free after renouncing the faith in front of a court, sources said.

The Baha'i faith emphasises the spiritual unity of humankind.

### ABIDJAN

Fresh fighting in Guinea has forced aid workers to abandon more than 200,000 refugees only a week after venturing back to help them, the UN refugees agency said.

A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman said the agency's own and other aid workers were pulled out following an attack at the weekend on the town of Gueckedou, near the border with Liberia and Sierra Leone.

"Apparently there's a large-scale military operation going on," Peter Kessler said.

"Because of that we've had to temporarily suspend humanitarian activity that we only resumed a week ago in the so-called Parrot's Beak region. This means that 200,000 refugees are once more out of our reach."

The UNHCR describes the situation as the most desperate humanitarian crisis that it currently faces. Many of the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees have received no aid since November.

### YAOUNDE

Africa's reservation with the concept of economic globalisation will top the agenda of discussions at the January 17-19 21st summit of French and African leaders in Yaounde, Cameroon.

Informed sources in Yaounde said this emerged from talks between Cameroonian President Paul Biya and visiting former French leader Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

## Why embassies shun Abuja

Stories by Kevin Ebele Adinnu

Members of the diplomatic corps in the country have described the ultimatum to relocate their missions to Abuja as unnecessary as it is not feasible unless infrastructure is provided in the areas allocated to them in Abuja.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Abuja, an envoy said that the area lacked telephone and electricity facilities and it would be difficult to run an embassy effectively without these facilities.

Another diplomat said that members of the diplomatic community discussed this with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alhaji Sule Lamido in a meeting he held with them during which he had promised that something would be done.

"Nothing has been done in these respects and the Minister of State,

Chief Dubem Onyia, is threatening to give an ultimatum to countries to relocate their embassies from Lagos to Abuja," he said.

*Daily Trust* discovered that only three countries have relocated to the area allocated to foreign missions in the Central Business District of the Federal Capital Territory. The countries are Ghana, Sudan and the People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

Some countries allocated plots in the area prefer renting buildings in other parts of the city to building on these plots.

The former ambassador of Sudan to Nigeria, Brig-Gen El-Awad El-Hassan, last year, while inaugurating its embassy and ambassador's residence in Abuja, complained of difficulty in getting phone lines and elec-

tricity to the buildings.

The inauguration was done with light tapped from another compound far from the embassy.

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Chief Dubem Onyia, last week, threatened to give ultimatum by the end of this month to countries that still had their embassies in Lagos to relocate to Abuja.

He made threat when he received the new ambassador of Belgium to Nigeria, Mr. Jozef Smets, who said Belgium would relocate to Abuja before the ministry issued any ultimatum.

The minister said that continued operation in Lagos would present difficulties in case of urgent transactions with foreign missions still in Lagos.

According to him, it was not always easy to fly to Abuja from Lagos because of flight cancellations or bad weather conditions.

## Lingering cholera stalks Zambians

More people are dying from the cholera outbreak in Zambia. The latest victims from the were two children who died early this week as 13 people were admitted to hospital.

The children, who died in the central town of Kabwe, brought the number of Zambians killed by cholera since December to 30.

Mr Gavin Silwamba, director general of Zambia's Central Board of Health told reporters that 13 cases reported in Kabwe overnight brought the number of patients in hospital to 37.

"The anti-cholera campaign is in full force but we are struggling to start providing clean water to residents," Silwamba said.

Health officials said several cases had been reported in refugee camps in the northern border with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Zambia has treated more than 100 people for cholera on the past two months.

"As from last Monday, water taps were dry in Kabwe and yesterday the district had dry water coming out of the taps," Silwamba said, adding that "If we can assure good quality water to residents then the problem can be reduced."

Southern African and international health authorities said last week they were battling regional outbreak of cholera that has killed dozens of people and infected thousands since the start of summer rains.

Although no cholera has been reported in the capital Lusaka, the Zambia copperbelt or Livingstone, a tourism hub in this impoverished country of 10 million people, cases have been reported in South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Sixty-three people have died in South Africa since August.

## Al-Bashir forms govt. next month

President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, who got another term of office after he won the December elections, would form his government next month, the Sudanese envoy, Salaheldin El-Fadil has said. He told *Daily Trust* that the electoral committee had just submitted its report to the president to enable him inaugurate the parliament and takes his oath of office.

President Bashir, he said, was still negotiating with other parties to form a broad-based government and widen his power base.

He is wooing the religion-based Ummah Party of Sadiq Al-Mahdi, whom he ousted as prime minister in a 1989 military coup and other opposition groups.

If he succeeds, it would further weaken, Dr. Hassan Turabi the leader of the National Congress, a breakaway from the national congress, the party of the president.

Bashir would like to draw in Mahdi, who returned to Sudan in November, after four years in exile, breaking with his former allies in the National Democratic Alliance that links northern opposition parties with southern rebels fighting Khartoum. Mahdi, however, needs to satisfy his supporters that he would

not sell-out to Bashir. By dropping his demand for a comprehensive political solution, including peace with the south and a return to democracy.

Several opposition figures have

of the votes against the president's 85.5 percent.

"The elections were very one-sided. But some credibility could be restored if Ummah joins the government. It would mean a major northern party has accepted that democratization and the reconciliation process are worth a try," the head of Khartoum's center for Strategic Studies, Sayad al-Khateel said.

Meanwhile, president Bashir has said his country will sign the UN convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), because it contradicts his country's values.

"We will not sign the CEDAW convention because it is against the morality and principles of the family," Bashir told an audience attending a festival marking his re-election for a second term as the country's president.



Al-Bashir return from exile in the past two years, including former military ruler, Jaafar Numeiri, who lost to Bashir in the election, winning less than 10 percent

## Palestinian refugees mobilise back-home initiative

Palestinian refugees are expressing their eagerness to return to their homes in the occupied territories after years of living abroad in exile.

"Palestine is our homeland and I will return there sooner or later," said Safi Ahmed, an 83-year-old Palestinian, as he held a rust-covered key of his home in Acre.

"I have been keeping this key since I left my home in Palestine in 1948 in the hope of using it again when I return, if my wish is materialised in my lifetime I will give it to my son." Ahmed told at his house in the Yarmouk refugee camp, some 15km (nine miles) south of Damascus.

Ahmed is one of about 410,000 Palestinian refugees who have been living in Syria since 1948, when they fled their homes after the defeat of Arabs in the first Arab-Israeli war.

The refugee issue is one of the main obstacles which have so far blocked the achievement of a Palestinian-Israeli peace deal to end the 52-year-old conflict.

Peace proposals presented by outgoing US President Bill Clinton, in harmony with the Israeli position,

have denied a right of return to Israeli for the approximately 3.5 million Pal-

Syria.

"The US position is trying to



Palestinian youths watch a funeral procession

estian refugees scattered in various countries. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara, in remarks published by official newspapers strongly rejected any attempts to settle the refugees permanently in

ignore the right of return and to find alternatives outside the framework of the international legitimacy resolutions. This is strongly rejected by Syria and the Arabs," Shara said.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

# Central America recounts losses to earthquake

Hundreds of emergency rescue workers and volunteers still search for missing persons and expected survivors of the weekend earthquake in Central America as death toll c

Two sides were detected where people are still alive. Most of the survivors however are in such critical condition that the San Salvador Rosales Hospital were victims are taken was packed beyond its capacity. Several of the patients who were taken there with multiple fractures, had to make room for others flown in by helicopter from the provinces. The hospital treated an over

flow of the injured in tents set-up on its ground. "This is one of the worst emergencies we have had," rescue worker Manuel Guzman was quoted telling reporters.

The quake was so severe that over 800 people were reported missing in one neighbourhood, along. The Red Cross said more than 1000 people might have been buried under fallen

buildings. Rescue workers said as many as 70 people were also buried under fallen homes in Comasagua in La Libertad, and another at 50 might have been trapped inside the San Salvador volcano, a tourist centre. Since president Francisco Flores declared a national state of emergency, in El Salvador, help and relief materials have been arriving.



Part of a busy sub-way like this is now a collection of rubble and waste after the earthquake

## Donors identify priorities for the poor

The concept of sustainable development in Africa has been given a boost at a conference in Rio Janeiro, Brazil. International experts at the conference concentrated on interactions between activities and the environment. Guided by the principles adopted during the conference, France developed concept of the French Cooperation which has since

placed such interactions at the heart of its sustainable development policy. Tangibly expressing France's commitment to human development, French assistance concentrates on three main targets: economic and social development, the fight against poverty, the structuring of legally constituted states. The French approach to the environment covers both the human condition and the natural environment, including natural resources.

It predicts that in 2025, more than half the inhabitants of sub-Saharan Africa will live in towns and cities. In all its operations relating to urban and rural planning, infrastructures, training and support for society, urban development is therefore a major concern of the French Cooperation.

Contrary to the situation in industrialized societies, natural resources account for most of Africa's productive base. Against a background of rapid demographic growth, there is a danger of uncontrolled pressure on such resources. The issue is therefore to promote forms of sustainable management while simultaneously diversifying economies. The French Cooperation considers that such an objective can only be achieved if users and populations are closely involved in decisions concerning the management of such resources. With this in mind, support for decentralization and the structuring of local authorities is a major focus of its projects. To insure both productive potential and the long-term quality of life requires deliberate action to preserve the global environment. In order to achieve this goal and in addition

to its contribution to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), France has therefore created a special bilateral instrument: the FFEM. This document emphasizes five issues. The two first, health and cities, relate to human beings, the key players and main beneficiaries in environmental protection. The third

theme is water, which is vital to life. The last two subjects, tropical forests and desertification, are more obviously related to the natural environment. While the former are reservoirs of biodiversity, threatened by the large-scale looting of their resources, the latter is the ultimate environmental consequence of harmful

human activity. French official development assistance has reached FF 37 billion (\$ 6,35 billion). In absolute terms, France is the world's second-largest contributor of official development assistance after Japan, and is the largest contributor of the G7 countries in terms of percentage of GDP.

## Democracy makes in-road in Myanmar

A leader of Myanmar's military government has denied rumours of a split between members of the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in the secret talks with the pro-democracy opposition.

Khin Nyunt, Secretary One of the SPDC and the country's powerful intelligence chief, told the Myanmar Times in an interview that rumours of a split within the ranks in the military had been spread by foreign media and some diplomats.

"These are rumours brought in by foreign media and some diplomats Nyunt told Myanmar Times, a private English language weekly paper.

"Also some diplomats here like to voice the same thing and one can see a lot about this written in foreign newspapers. It's all just wishful thinking on their part," he added.



A cross section of attendant at and ASEAN Conference delivering on issues affecting the Asian sub-region

Famous circulated last week among diplomats in Yangon the newspaper said that the SPDC, the powerful body governing the country since the late 1980s, had divided into two factions over the recent talks with the opposition movement.

Myanmar's National League for Democracy (NLD) led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi confirmed last week it had been holding secret talks with the military.

The NLD won the last general election in 1990 by a landslide victory but it has never been allowed to govern.

Few details of the discussions have emerged but the United Nations has said the two sides have not held initial direct talks that involved face-to-face meetings.

The NLD said the dialogue al-

ready appeared to have made some progress but did not elaborate.

Rumours have circulated that part of the Myanmar military was unhappy about the talks. One hawkish faction, led by SPDC Vice Chairman General Maung Aye, was said to be opposed to any weakening of the military's grip on power.

"We in the military have a tradition of respect from one rank to the next," he said, "We have a regard for each other. We have no problem."

In a possible sign of easing tension between the Myanmar military and the opposition, a court case over the ownership of Suu Kyi's house was postponed on Monday.

Judge Usae Thein told lawyers representing Suu Kyi and her elder brother Aung San Oo that a court ruling on whether to partition the opposition leader's lakeside Yangon home would be made on January 22. He gave no reason for the delay.

Aung San Oo, a US citizen, sued his sister last November for half of the home in an elite residential areas where she has mostly been under house arrest since 1989.

Suu Kyi has been confined to her residence for the last three months with all diplomatic access barred and her telephone cut.

Some diplomats have suggested the court case might be a ruse to put pressure on Suu Kyi to force her to come to terms with the government or even to leave the country, something the ruling generals have wanted to see for more than a decade.

A general feeling of nostalgic yearning to return to their homeland in overcoming Palestinian

### BRIEFLY

#### LONDON

The British government's nuclear safety watchdog issued a health warning about depleted uranium shells used in the Gulf War as long ago as 1991. The Times reported on Monday.

#### JAKARTA

Mass protests threatened in the Indonesian capital failed to materialise on Monday, but President Abdurrahman Wahid set the stage for more tension by refusing to attend parliamentary probe into scandals linked to him.

#### PHNOM PENH

Cambodia's upper house of parliament, or Senate, passed a key bill on Monday to set up a tribunal to prosecute former top members of the communist Khmer Rouge government accused of genocide.

#### JERUSALEM

The 39 Scud missiles that Iraq fired at Israel 10 years ago drove home a non-conventional message - that the Jewish state could stay out of a war and emerge a winner.

#### CAIRO

Once it was a glorious sanctuary for those seeking peace and tranquillity in the midst of one of the world's noisiest cities.

#### TORONTO

Two gay and lesbian couples were married in a Toronto church on Sunday in a challenge of Canada's federal ban on same-sex marriages, Canada's CTV television reported.

#### PARIS

A William Tell-type circus act went horribly wrong when a performer trying to shoot an apple of his wife's head with a crossbow hit her under the eye instead.

#### SAN SALVADOR

Desperate friends and relatives of the hundreds of people mission after an earthquake killed more than 400 worked against the clock on Monday in hopes of finding survivor in a devastated middle-class neighbourhood.

# Congratulations

When we read about the coming of *Daily Trust* we believed it because *Weekly Trust* had set a precedent of good record.



Alhaji Abubakar Hashidu  
Executive Governor, Gombe State.

I, therefore, on behalf of the government and the people of Gombe State wish to congratulate Media Trust Limited on the birth of *Daily Trust*.

Long Live *Daily Trust*  
Long Live Gombe State.  
Long Live Federal Republic of Nigeria

₦ £ \$

BUSINESS DAY

₦ \$ ¥

BPE recovers Durbar Hotel from Dan Kabo

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) has recovered Durbar Hotel, Kaduna, from Alhaji Adamu Dan Kabo. The BPE Director-General, Malam Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai, has announced.

"We made the mistake of selling Durbar Hotel to Dan Kabo, and he was not in the hotel business and he closed it down," El-Rufai said in Kaduna.

The Director-General, who spoke on

"Privatisation as a vehicle for economic transformation and survival" at the 2001 Gamji lecture, said, however, that the property would soon be re-sold.

He said that the sale of the Hotel to Alhaji Dan Kabo was one of the shortcomings of the first privatization exercise, adding that the BPE was now working to correct the mistakes in subsequent phases of the exercise.

El-Rufai also urged the members of the public to make

their inputs into the on-going privatization of public-sector enterprises in the country.

He noted that privatization entailed labour issues, citing



Mallam Nasir el-Rufai, DG-BPE

"the case of the Nigerian Paper Mill, Jebba, where workers have not been paid any salary for the past five years and are yet to be laid-off."

Other labour issues that must be taken into consideration include pension liabilities, job losses and the percentage to be privatized in the various enterprises, he added.

The Director-General called on Nigerians to realize that "state capitalism has failed and to we must endeavour to keep face with globalisation if we are not slip further from

product chart to about 170th."

He explained that the Bureau planned to fragment NEPA into six different companies which would generate power for those to distribute it.

"This way, there will be no endless turn-around-maintenance (TAM) because they will know that each time they shut down under the guise of carrying out TAM, they are losing money," Nasir stressed.

The BPE Director-General, who is also the secretary of the National Council on Privatisation (NCP), observed that the northern states were doing well in the on-going privatization programme, "but states in the south and south-east

zones are not doing well."

He said that Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, in his capacity as chairman of the NCP, would lead a delegation to entities the states to participate actively in the programme.

He assured Nigerians that the BPE had put in place adequate enterprises were not cornered by any group of person, stressing that the exercise was being guided by the principles of accountability, equity and justice.

Duty Rate on "Tokunbo" cars still 30 per cent

Imported fairly used cars, known as "Tokunbo", will continue to attract a duty rate of 30 per cent contrary to popular belief that the duty has been slashed of five per cent, the National Association of Government-Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF) has said.

The Federal Ministry of Finance had announced in its tariff amendments and fiscal policy measures a reduction of the duty rate payable on a car chassis fitted with engine H.S. code 8706.0000 from 30 per cent to five per cent.

The government also reduced the duty rate on Luxury buses H.S. codes 8702.1900 and 8702.9900 from 25 per cent to 15 per cent.

NAGAFF said in a statement faxed to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the weekend by its Technical Committee that its position on the matter was informed by the committee's understanding of the phrase "H.S. code 8706.0000" (chassis fitted with engine).

It cited the Customs and Excise Tariff Decree No. 4 of March 195 and noted that special emphasis was on H.S. code 87.03 for motor cars and vehicles principally designed for the transportation of

persons other than H.S. code 87.02, including station wagons and racing cars.

The Association explained further that H.S. code 8703 contained various engine capacities, either with spark ignition, internal combustion reciprocating engine or with compression ignition internal combustion piston engine.

It referred to the general rule on vehicle classification in chapter 87 which states that an incomplete or unfinished vehicle is classified as the corresponding complete or finished vehicle provided it has the essential character of the latter (chassis fitted with engine)".



Mallam Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister

NAGAFF further cited interpretative rule 2 (A) on chassis fitted with engine as indicating a motor vehicle not yet fitted with wheels or tyres and battery, a motor vehicle not equipped with engine or interior fittings and a bicycle without saddle and tyres.

"Having given all these hopes for cars to come under five per cent rate of duty, not 3

of chapter 87 removed chassis with cab from H.S. code 8706 to 8702 to 8704" it stated.

It explained that "this simply implies that imported cars will continue to attract the duty rate of 30 per cent for year 2001, while established car assembly and commercial car assembly will enjoy the reduction to five per cent as a relief and encouragement to these industries."

The Association noted that the government was encouraging local vehicle assembly companies so as to create jobs, save foreign exchange and transfer technology.

NAGAFF said it had to clarify the matter because of the misunderstanding among freight forwarders involved in car clearance within the approved customs ports and border posts.

Meantime, the National Council of Managing Directors of Licensed Customs Agents has sent a letter to the Finance Minister requesting clarification on the new tariff policy as it affects vehicles.

The President of the Council, Mr. Lucky Amiwero, said the Tariff was likely to confuse people.

He explained that vehicles categorised under H.S. 8706.000 were those "without bodies which may be fitted with bonnet, windscreens, mudguards, running boards and dashboard whether or not equipped with instruments, tyres, carburetors or batteries of other electrical equipment" (NAN).

Zambian president kicks against privatisation

Zambia President, Fredrick Chiluba has said that his government would maintain all remaining strategic companies and would not privatize them in spite of demands by the donor community, including the World Bank, to do so.

Chiluba said the government would contest the sale of the Zambia electricity supply corporation limited, Zambia, National Commercial Bank, Indene Oil Refinery, Zambia National Oil Company, Tanzania-Zambia Railways Authority and Zambia Telecommunications Company Limited because the firms were critical to the security of the country.

Who spoke in the Northern Cooper Mining town of Ndola, said donors who are calling for the privatization of the remaining six strategic utilities would find it difficult to convince him to sell the companies.

Chiluba, who called on trade unions and the ministry of labour to join in the battle, said that there was no country in the world which did not own commercial utilities. He said Zambia would not fall into the trap that led to the sale of

some important companies like Chilanga cement which was secured by the commonwealth development corporation (CDC), a British parastatal.

Chiluba said that government had made a mistake in selling some companies to Western firms in the belief that the firms were run by the private sector when in fact they were owned by their governments.

He accused foreign investor of manipulating the fluctuation of the local currency. The Kwacha, in preference for the dollar which they had adopted as legal tender. He warned that the government would intervene in the operations of investors.

"We can't leave everything to foreign investors. If the US intervene in the running of the country's economy, who are we not to intervene. We will intervene but not interfere. Zambia should not be force to sale off state-owned companies when Britain started privatizing its firms in 1945, after the Second World War, and yet it still owns some commercial utilities," Chiluba said.

The federation of free trade unions (FFTU) has also criticised the main international donors

for forcing Zambia to privatize its strategic companies without regard to the current negative consequences.

FFTU national executive secretary Lawrence Chileshe said in Lusaka that the IMF and world bank were forcing Zambia to privatize their strategic companies only for the advantage if the west.

He said privatizing the strategic companies would in a way be handing over Zambia's Infrastructure and well-trained human resources to multinational corporation in the US and Europe.

According to Chiluba, Zambia has privatized more than 90 per cent of its companies in the last few years but the indigenous citizens were not reaping the benefits of privatization because the owners are externalizing all earnings.

Chiluba said that he had information that some new investors, including those in the mining sector, had opened other branches in West Africa with funds generated from Zambia investments.

"The Kwacha is bleeding. The Kwacha is hemorrhaging. I will consult cabinet so that a law is passed in parliament to stabilise the Kwacha." He said.

Summary of money market report last week

Market activities were on the upswing last week as Treasury Bills worth N42.324 Billion were traded, up from N28.914 billion in the previous week.

The bulk of the transactions were done through the Primary Market Auction (PMA) where bills worth N341.324 billion were traded.

Bills valued at about N23.863 billion were sold at the PMA in the previous week.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had offered bills worth N100 billion to investors at the PMA last week, but bills valued at N41.324 billion only were picked up.

The range of bids at the PMA hovered between 12.5 per cent and 14 per cent, while the true yield rate for the 91-day tenured bills was 13.43352 per cent.

Bills worth only N1 billion were sold at the Open Market Operation (OMO) last week, a drop from N5.051 billion recorded in the preceding week.

The range of bids at OMO ranged from 12.5 per cent to 12.65 per cent, while the true yield rate stood at 12.8374 per cent.

The minimum rediscount rate (MRR) remained at 14 per cent. Also last week, the naira maintained its stability against convertible currencies as it was traded for between N118 and N119 to the dollar at the parallel market, while it was exchanged for between N110 and N11 to the dollar at the inter-bank foreign exchange market.

Meantime, the gradual reduction of the MRR by the CBN has started paying off as Banks' lending rates have begun to fall.

The rates have gone down to between 14 per cent and 19 per cent from the old rates of between 17 per cent and 28 per cent. Overnight placement attracted between five per cent and seven per cent last week; seven-day calls attracted between six per cent and 12 per cent, while 30-day placements ad between six per cent and 15 per cent.

A total of 18.91 million shares worth N191.66 million were exchanged in 1.321 deals on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange with 8' companies participating, according to information from the Abuja Trading Floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

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

# BUSINESS DAY

## Energy

### Oil cuts: OPEC decides today, as Lukman quits

By Aliyu Ma'aji,  
with Agency Reports

In a landmark decision aimed at jerking up global oil prices, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, at the end of its Vienna Conference is expected to issue a decisive statement on reduction of oil exports. Out-going OPEC Secretary General, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, at the weekend in Vienna, Austria confirmed that OPEC member countries have concluded that cutting production is inevitable. He however, did not say specifically the exact amount of reduction expected.

There are speculations that some OPEC nations are in favour of a 1.5 million barrel per day (bpd) cut. The exact figure is however expected to be revealed when OPEC issues a communiqué at the end of today's parley.

The cut is coming on the heels of the cartel's inability to stabilise sliding oil prices. OPEC accounts for about 40% of the world's hydrocarbon resources. U.S., the world's largest oil guzzler has kicked against the move. Bill Richardson, US Energy

Secretary has embarked on a worldwide lobby to scuttle OPEC's recent moves. He was quoted by Reuters as saying that Washington preferred that OPEC not cut output at its meeting, but hoped that any reduction would be modest so as not to harm the world economy.

"The United States feels there should be no production decrease," Richardson said. "But we are realistic and it is important that any cut in January not aggravate the market." He again called for any output curbs to be "modest" adding: "our objective is that there should not be steep production cuts at the next OPEC meeting because that will spur a price hike that is unhealthy for the world economy."

He said his meeting in Abu Dhabi with UAE oil minister, Obaid Bin Saif Al-Basseri was "very productive", adding: "the minister listened carefully and promise to take all views into account."

Richardson held talks on Saturday with OPEC powerhouse Saudi Arabia as

part of a tour of some oil producers ahead of today's decisive ministerial conference.

Most of OPEC's argument centres around the position that Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) nations of the world, who are the leading importers of fuel, impose heavy tax on fuel products, hence they should be held responsible for high cost of oil, OPEC cut/or no cut.

At today's conference also, Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, Nigeria's Advisor on Petroleum & Energy will officially quit his job as OPEC Scribe. He will be succeeded by Mr. Ali Rodriguez, former Venezuelan Minister for Mines & Energy.

Business Day learnt that OPEC oil ministers, shrugging aside consumer concerns about energy inflation, start arriving in Vienna on Monday for a meeting that appears certain to sanction a deep cut in crude supplies.

Determined to underpin the price of OPEC oil at \$25 a barrel. Producing countries say they will push ahead with export curbs of about 1.5 million barrels a day.

"All our figures indicates that there has been oversupply

of crude over the past few months and stocks at the level of the consumer have risen sharply," Ali Rodriguez said.

"The cut in production is aimed at stabilising prices within the \$22-\$28 price band for OPEC's basket."

The West fears that a big cut in output could aggravate an economic slowdown in the United States by forcing up energy costs.

OPEC oil was valued at about \$24.50 last Monday but U.S. light crude, trading at an abnormally large premium, rose beyond \$30 last week.

Crude still remains much cheaper than the 10-year peak of \$37 for U.S. crude seen last October.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Saud al-Sabah said early last week that OPEC remained on course to slice 1.5 million barrels daily, cutting 10 nations to a collective 25.2 million bpd.

That is the policy favoured publicly by OPEC's leading producer Saudi Arabia for the past two weeks.

Some say they will push for a larger reduction of to two million bpd.

Riyadh already has told its customers to expect a reduction in deliveries in

February equivalent to its one-third share of an OPEC cut.

Washington argues anything other than a modest cut in supply could hurt already fragile economic growth.

OPEC looks at the issue from the opposite perspective. It is worried that slower world growth will translate into lower consumption of its crude.

"World economic growth is going to be slower this year than last and that will impact oil demand," said Rodriguez.

But he conceded that if cartel policy forced prices too high, then production could be lifted again.

"After cutting production, if prices rise to much we can always correct that because it is always more

easy to correct an increase in price than a fall."

Key price movements will be the impact on inventories of the output curbs.

Stocks of crude and petroleum products that fell dangerously low last year are on the mend but consumers fear that OPEC's intended action could halt stock builds prematurely.



Dr. Rilwanu Lukman

#### REVISED PROGRAMMED FOR THE INSTALLATION AND PRESENTATION OF STAFF OF OFFICE TO NEWLY APPOINTED AND ELEVATED EMIRS AND CHIEFS IN KADUNA STATE.

DATE	CHIEF/EMIR	CHIFDOM	CAPITAL	PLACE OF CEREMONY
WEDNESDAY 17/01/2001	Chief of Kumana Chief of Kauru Chief of Kurama	Kumana Kauru Kurama	Geshere Kauru 'Yar Kasuwa	Geshere Kauru 'Yar Kasuwa
THURSDAY 18/01/2001	Chief of Gbagyi Chief of Kajuru Chief of Adara	Gbagyi Kajuru Adara	Kakau Kajuru Kachia	Kakau Kajuru Kachia
FRIDAY 19/01/2001	Chief of T'sam Chief of Piriga Chief of Lere Chief of Saminaka	T'sam Piriga Lere Saminaka	Dama Kasuwa Piriga Lere Saminaka	Dama Kasuwa Piriga Lere Saminaka
SUNDAY 21/01/2001	Emir of Jama'a Chief of Kaninkon Chief of Fanswam Chief of Godogodo Chief of Jaba	Jama'a Kaninkon Fanswam Godogodo Jaba	Kafanchan Ugn. Fari Zikpak Gidan Waya Kwoi	Kafanchan Kafanchan Kafanchan Kafanchan Kwoi
TUESDAY 23/10/2001	Emir of Birnin Gwari Chief of Takad	Birnin Gwari Takad	Birnin Gwari F/Attakar	Birnin Gwari F/Attakar
THURSDAY 25/01/2001	Chief of Ikulu Chief of Bajju Chief of Atyap Chief of Moroa	Ikulu Bajju Atyap Moroa	F/Kafamantan Zonkwa S/Kataf Manchok	F/Kamantan Zonkwa Samaru Kataf Manchok
SATURDAY 3/3/2001	Chief of Kagoma	Kagoma	F/Kagoma	Fadan Kagoma

(CHARLES BONAT)  
SECRETARY TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT, KADUNA

# DAILY TRUST

## ADVERTISEMENT RATE

With effect from January 15, 2001

Sizes	Inches/col	Product Advert (N)	Public Notice (N)	Political Statements (N)	Colour Rates (N)
(1) Full page	14.5" x 6 Cols	62,162.10	67,422	72,843	103,843.00
(2) Half page (upright)	14.5" x 3 Cols	35,583.30	41,193	47,457	66,509.00
(2) Half page (Across)	7.25" x 3 Cols	35,583.30	41,193	47,457	66,509.00
(3) Quarter page	7.25" x 3 Cols	17,314.20	19,512	24,606	51,620.00
(4) 10" x 6 cols		38,646.00	41,544		
(5) 10" x 5 cols		32,817.60	34,308		
(6) 9" x 6 cols		33,056.80	38,649		
(7) 9" x 5 cols		28,087.20	31,237		
(8) 8" x 6 cols		30,600.00	33,300		
(9) 8" x 5 cols		20,667.60	22,050		
(10) 7" x 6 cols		23,084.10	24,760		
(11) 7" x 5 cols		18,856.80	20,498		
(12) 6" x 5 cols		15,660.00	17,460		
(13) 6" x 3 cols		12,589.20	13,183		
(14) 3" x 3 cols		4,050.00	4,341		
(15) 1" x 1 col		978.80	1,017		
<b>Special position</b>					
Strip Ad Colour (FP)	2" x 6 Cols.	36,909.00	=	Colour	
Front page solus	6" x 2 Cols	32,976.00	=	Colour	
Back page solus	6" x 2 Cols	28,593.00	=	Colour	
				<b>Series Discount</b>	
Strip Advert (ROP)	2" x 6 cols	12,654.00		5-10 insertions 2.5%	
Earpiece(Front page)	2" x 2 cols	6,309.00		11-20 insertions 5%	
Earpiece(Back page)	2" x 2 cols	5,130.00			
Earpiece(Abuja Trust)	2" x 2 cols	4,500.00			
Classified Adverts	1" x 1 Col	675.00		21-50 insertions 10%	
Advert Box nos	-	1,044.00			
Change of Name	-	N20 per word			
<b>Loose Inserts</b>				<b>Technical Data</b>	
N6,210 per 1000 insertion. Handling charges N25,875.00				Columns - Six (6)	
				Depth - 14.5"	
				Width - 10"	

### Conditions for placing adverts

- All Adverts are to be prepaid in cash/cheque/bank draft.
- Special positions in the supplement attracts 35% surcharge.
- Copy date is 5 days for Northern Region customers and 7 days for Southern Region customers.
- Cancellation of Adverts can only be acceptable at 3 days written notice before publication date.
- Artwork, bromide & films where not provided shall attract additional 35% cost.

### For further inquiries call:

**Media Trust Limited**  
No.22, Lusaka Street  
Off Tunis Street  
Wuse Zone 6  
Abuja FCT  
Tel: 09-5238726  
Tel/Fax: 09-5238725  
E-mail [mtrust2@inet-global.com](mailto:mtrust2@inet-global.com)

**Kaduna Office**  
6, Sulubawa Close  
Off Katuru Road  
P.O. Box 3675  
Ungwar Sarki GRA  
Tel: 062-235916  
Tel: 062-242496  
E-mail [mtrust1@inet-global.com](mailto:mtrust1@inet-global.com)

**Lagos Office**  
260C Murtala Mohd. Way  
Alagomeji - Yaba  
Lagos  
Tel: 01-4707296  
Fax: 01-861008

**Kano Office**  
Abdullahi Mai'adua House  
Murtala Moh'd Way, Kano.

**Port Harcourt Office**  
Suite 339-340  
PAN African Bank Building  
3, Azikiwe Road, Port Harcourt  
Tel: 084 - 237503, 216711

**Jos Office**  
No. 1 Katoko Junction  
Opposite Texaco Filling Station  
Off Zaria Road, Jos  
Tel: 073-610340

**Sokoto**  
No.6 Zungeru Road  
Off Gusau Road  
Third Floor

# Star Interviews

## Sardauna apologized twice in one day

By Musa Umar Kazaure

**A**lh. Muhammadu Jega was late Sardauna's private secretary from 1964-1966. He spoke to Daily Trust in Sokoto.

**DT:** Sir, you were late Sardauna's Private Secretary for three years (1964 - 1966). How did he relate with his staff, was it difficult working with him?

**Jega:** Well, I would say working with time. Sardauna was both easy and difficult. It was easy in that he was good-natured and very generous to his staff. That is one thing. But the difficulty was that he did not joke with Sardauna is that he is meticulously accurate and he does

not joke with time. Sardauna would not tolerate any late coming, not even by half a minute. If he gives you appointment for 8 O'clock or 9 O'clock, if you fail to show up at the tick of that 8 O'clock that appointment is automatically cancelled. So any body working with Sardauna has to value time very greatly.

To his staff, he has full trust with them. Not until you betray him or betray yourself, he will give you all the support and encouragement you need to succeed in your work.

**DT:** Where were you when he was killed and what was your

immediate reaction.

**Jega:** I was in Kaduna, it was in Ramadan, what I remembered was that I was on my bed that night, at about 2 a.m. when I heard this big explosion. The next morning when I went to my office at the ministry of information, a colleague Malam Gimba came to inform me of what happened. He told me that the Premier's house had been shelled and I asked him the whereabouts of Sardauna, he said he didn't know. Later on another friend rang me and told me that the Premier had been killed. My immediate reaction was "Inna lillahi wa ina ilaihi raji'un"

**DT:** What would you remember late Sardauna for in your

three years as his private secretary.

**Jega:** His capacity to accept his mistakes even to the most junior staff. Once in Mecca for the lesser Hajj. He was offended somehow by someone in the entourage and when I came to invite him to dinner, he exploded on me. I kept my cool but I felt offended because he insisted I should accompany him for the lesser Hajj. But on our way back in the aircraft, he picked the microphone of the cabin crew and announced that as we have completed our religious obligations, let everyone forgive him if he has offended him one way or the other, and

he said, on his part, he has forgiven anyone who offended him. So when we arrived Kaduna, I met him privately and complained of his behaviour in Mecca, and told him that if I had the means, then I would have returned home. Then Sardauna said, "didn't you here my plea on the plane? I said yes but I did not know it was directed at me. He said Ok, he was sorry. And that evening, he sent his Chief of Protocol to me at home with a cheque of fifty pounds and another verbal apology. That was Sardauna, the man with the large heart.

-Muhammadu Jega, P.A.



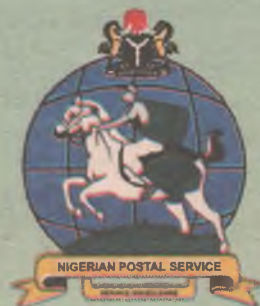
Alh. Muhammadu Jega



# Reliable the most

From time, NIPOST rates and tariffs have always going transformation in the NIGERIAN POST mean real value for you.

Our new service features include back-up and parcels will arrive on time and intact. dedicated routes nationwide and the intro expect faster delivery of your-time bound



**NIGERIAN PO**  
Our new ways will p

# Star Interviews

## Akintola chose to die with Sardauna

By Suleiman Mohammed

— Mahmud Atta

**T**he assassination of the Premier of Northern Region and Sardauna of Sokoto, Sir Ahmadu Bello in the early hours of January 15 1966 is one event that will ever remain unforgotten in the minds of northerners, particularly those that worked closely with the late Premier in one capacity or the other. In this interview with Suleiman Mohammed in his Abuja office, Alhaji Mahmud Atta, former Chief Protocol Officer to Sir Ahmadu Bello spoke on how his boss was killed and the multiple warnings that the Sardauna heard and ignored

among other things.  
**Daily Trust:** Sir, may we know from you who Sir Ahmadu Bello was?  
**Atta:** Sir Ahmadu Bello, apart from being a member of the royalty, was also an institution particularly in the North. He led the North and the country with modesty, sincerity, justice and accountability.  
**DT:** As the Chief Protocol Officer to the late Premier, where were you on January 15, 1966 when the coup took place?  
**Atta:** Well, the Sardauna spoke to me last before he was



Alhaji Mahmud Atta

killed. This was confirmed by one of his personal aides – Zaggi after the incident. On the eve of the fateful day (Jan. 14, 1966) the Premier was preparing to receiving Arch. Bishop MacCary and Ambassador Yakubu Telly of Ghana. The Premier was also expected to attend a ceremony in Sokoto on January 15, so he said I should remain behind in Kaduna to receive Ambassador Telly and take him to Sokoto for the ceremony.  
 In the morning of January 14, we were also expecting to receive Chief Akintola (Premier of Western Region) who was coming on a visit to Northern Nigeria. He phoned Sardauna that he was coming for a special discussion. So we immediately left for the airport together with Michael Audu

Buba and other aides. To our surprise, Chief Akintola did not arrive on time and when it was 12 noon Sardauna left because it was on a Friday and he had to prepare for Juma'at on time. So we were left at the airport, and Sardauna said I should tell Akintola to see him after Friday prayers. Then the Premier left and attended to the outgoing Yugoslavian Ambassador, who came on a farewell visit that morning.  
 Our greatest surprise was when we saw Chief Akintola alighting from an F.27 plane without any of his cabinet Ministers who usually accompanied him on such visits. I conveyed Sardauna's message and took him to the State House. After the Friday prayers, Sardauna headed for

Continued on page 18



# Service at affordable rates

ways been the lowest. They still are. With on-AL SERVICE however, our low cost services now

vans and security escorts that ensure your mail And, with 10 mail exchange centers, several duction of a new postcode system, you can now mail and parcels.

OSTAL SERVICE

leasantly surprise you.

# VOX POP ON SARDAUNA

Musa Kazaraue, in Sokoto & Kaduna

## Sardauna cannot be replaced

- Gero Zarto, local musician, Sokoto

January 15, 1966 will forever remain indelible in our minds because Sardauna's death was the biggest blow to the unity of the north and the country in general. If Sardauna was alive today, all these atrocities against northerners would not have taken place, because he was a man of action and principles who believed in the interest of his people first before anything, unlike our leaders of today who



Mal. Jelani Binachi, School Headmaster

are only concerned with themselves and their children.

## He catered for all people

Mal. Jelani Binachi, School Headmaster, Sokoto

I was a school teacher when he was killed and I still remember the shock we went through. As far as I am concerned, Sardauna's legacy has been betrayed because none of his policies were pursued by the so-called Sardauna disciples when they took over the helm of leadership. You see people organising lectures, seminars to



Gero Zarto, local musician.

commemorate his death, but they are only using his name to get what they want not to promote his ideals. Sardauna was a nationalist, he did not differentiate between tribes or religion. You ask the Christians of his time; they will tell you that they were adequately catered for.

## Ahmadu Bello lived again in IBB

Alh. Tsoho Amale, Businessman/Politician, Sokoto

The north has never missed Sardauna as during this regime. Look at what they are doing to northerners, retrenchment, dismissal, sack and so on. All our people in the military, police, customs, immigration and Federal Civil Service are being edged out just because they are northerners. The north no longer has Sardauna to protect them. I pity our situation, but all hope is not lost, there are still some few people around among northern leaders who still believe and can turn things round for northerners. Somebody like Babangida. Forget about

the propaganda by the Yoruba media using June 12 against him, we know it is part of their wider plan to smear all northern leaders of thought who can perform, so that we are left with only their puppets to mislead us. Just look at the composition of Nigerian Civil Service before Babangida came to power, northerners were deprived employment into strategic organisations like NEPA, NITEL, NPA, NMA, etc but by the time he left, northerners were occupying managerial positions in these organisations. That was Sardauna's philosophy, and that is why southerners want to run him down, for breaking the monopoly of the Federal Civil Service. Sardauna's legacy lives on in people like Gen. Babangida, and Shagari.

## North has no legacies besides his

Bello Adamu Goronyo, Civil Servant, Kaduna

Most of our leaders of today are basking in Sardauna's glory but have



Alh. Tsoho Amale, Businessman/Politician.

betrayed his trust. Just look around, apart from the legacies left behind by Sardauna, can you see anything else? No, they are busy amassing wealth for themselves and their families leaving the masses in poverty. We can never get another leader like Sardauna ever.

## Northerners must unite again

Alh. Halilu Musa, Karaye Road, Kaduna

Sardauna left us a legacy that could not be maintained by those who succeeded him either because of their selfishness or their lack of will to continue from where he stopped. Northern

problems began with his death on January 15, 1966. All the atrocities committed against northerners today are part of the effort to completely erase his legacies and policies of one north, one destiny. The earlier we understand this and come together, the better for the entire people of the north whether Christian or Muslim. Those joining up against one another, tried it even in the time of Sardauna, but they failed, and will fail this time around. This is the message for northerners of all creeds to unite and revive Sardauna's ideals so that we can forge ahead. Yoruba conspiracy notwithstanding.



Alh. Bello Adamu Goronyo

# Akintola chose to die ...

Continued from page 18  
the State House and they began their meeting with Akintola.

DT: What was the meeting all about?

Atta: In fact, after I saw off the Yugoslavian envoy, I returned to the State House, and at the gate, I met Brigadier Ademulegun (Special Adviser to the Premier on Security Matters) and asked him why he was not at the meeting. He told me that they got an information that there would be a coup tomorrow (Jan. 15,) but he said, he doesn't believe in the story. He then told me that even if there would be a coup he will be the first person to be killed. And as the predicted, when it happened, he was the first to be killed. Today nobody remembers this gentleman soldier who was killed because of Sardauna. He has been completely forgotten even by northern military leaders who are supposed to honour him. That was why I donated a trophy in his honour for lawn tennis competition.

DT: How did Brigadier Ademulegun get the information about the coup?

Atta: They got the information through the late Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa who phoned Sardauna to inform him that Akintola had taken his ministers with his F-27 plane to their respective villages in anticipation of a coup. And that Akintola was coming to

pick Sardauna to Niger Republic. Similarly, the outgoing Yugoslavian envoy alerted Sardauna that there was plan for a coup.

Few days to the coup, Nigeria had hosted the first Commonwealth meeting held outside Britain. At the end of the meeting, the then British Prime Minister, Mr. Wilson told Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa that there would be a coup, and that because of that he (Mr. Wilson) brought some troops and stationed them on the high sea to foil the coup and arrest whoever is involved. But in his usual manner of trusting everybody, Sir Abubakar said it was not true. He thanked the British Prime Minister and told him that Nigerian army was well disciplined and organised, that he had confidence in them. Mr. Wilson was so disappointed with Sir Abubakar.

DT: Then what happened?

Atta: Well, Sardauna gathered his ministers and informed them about the situation. Young ministers boasted that they were not going anywhere that they were not cowards and nothing will happen. So after the meeting with Akintola, at about 6pm on our way to the airport to see him off, suddenly we were asked to stop. Sardauna and Akintola who were in the same vehicle came out from the car and asked all the ministers to come out, that Akintola wanted to say one last word

to Sardauna. So we went back into the room with everybody standing. Then Akintola announced that he was going back to Ibadan to die because in his words, "I will not see myself alive while Sardauna is dead. I will better die with him." On hearing that, the Makaman Bida, Aliyu then advised the Premier to take what Akintola said with all seriousness. But as it was destined to happen, there was no action taken.

DT: Then what happened?

Atta: To our surprise, since that day (Jan. 14,) unknown to us, Major Chukwuma Nzeogwu had been trailing Sardauna wherever he went. There was a time when Sardauna noticed it when he was coming towards Kaduna South and alerted his driver that he spotted a particular vehicle trailing them behind. This was also confirmed by Nzeogwu himself after the coup that he trailed the Premier effectively particularly on the eve of the coup.

DT: You mean Major Nzeogwu confirmed this?

Atta: Yes, Nzeogwu confirmed that he trailed the Sardauna and even planned to bomb the plane if there was attempt to fly the Premier out of the country. He had information that Chief Akintola wanted to take Sardauna to Niger Republic.

DT: Then how did the coup happened?

Atta: Well, according to Sardauna's driver, Mallam Aliyu, who narrated the incidence to me, it all began at about 2am (Jan. 15, 1966) when he heard gun shots from the small hill along Rabah road close to the Premier's residence. The coupists positioned their vehicles and tanks there. So they got into Sardauna's house with Nzeogwu leading, throwing grenade everywhere and searching for the Premier.

According to the Zaggi - Sardauna's traditional aide, the Premier, on hearing gunshots came out of his room with no cap on his head. Similarly, the senior wife came out, and it was at that point that Nzeogwu emerged. Sardauna's wife asked Nzeogwu why he wanted to kill her husband, and tried to cover the Premier, but Nzeogwu shot her not knowing that Sardauna was behind her. So when this happened, Sardauna came out and said, "look, if you came to kill me, kill me but don't kill anybody here." Sardauna sat down, then Nzeogwu shot him on the jaw and the bullet pierced through his mouth. In fact, a post mortem carried out by Dr. Dikko after the incident showed that Sardauna died because he lost a lot of blood as a result of the shot, and that if he had been rushed to the hospital immediately, he could have survived. Sardauna died two hours after he was shot.

DT: What happened to the

corpse then?

Atta: In fact, everybody was thrown into confusion. It was the late Aliyu, (Turakin Zazzau) and late Musa Gashash that first went to the spot (Sardauna's house) to carry the corpse.

DT: As the Chief protocol Officer, how did you get the news of Sardauna's death. Were you with him that time or where were you then?

Atta: Well, I got the news through my brother who was the Commandant Police College, Kaduna. He phoned me at about 2am (Jan. 15, 1966) that he had report of gunshots and he had despatched policemen to the scene. I came out of my house but I didn't hear any gunshot, so I went back.

DT: What happened then, did you go to the scene later?

Atta: Yes I did, went with my brother, Adamu Atta (late) and then we stopped to fill our tank. It was when we were filling our tank at the Handalla filling station that Mr. Edet Lewis, the Attorney General of Northern Nigeria met and broke the news to us that the army had killed the Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Chief

Akintola (Premier, Western Region) and Sir Ahmadu Bello among others. I asked of Michael Okpara, and I was told that his whereabouts was not known then. I asked him where he got the information, and he said it was from the American Embassy. So we headed for Sardauna's house. As we were going, we got information that Ahmed Ben Musa (Chief of Security to Sardauna) was killed by the coupists when he attempted entering Sardauna's house. So, we had nothing to do other than to turn back home.

DT: Later did you care to go to Sardauna's house to see things for yourself?

Atta: Oh yes. We went much later. That day (Jan 16) in the morning, the Counsellor-General of Germany who was the Doyen of Diplomatic Corps in Nigeria, Mr. Eisher Wheller came and asked me to lead the diplomats to Major Chukwuma Nzeogwu. In fact it was from him that I got to know the name of the coup leader. So I thought about it then I led them there. Major Chukwuma met with us and the doyen of diplomats pledged his support. Also Nzeogwu told the diplomats that the coup was well arranged to eliminate all the leaders, but unfortunately his men in the East led by one Okafor did not execute the plan there. There, he called upon the then Major Hassan Katsina (late) to take

"Then Akintola announced that he was going back to Ibadan to die because in his words, "I will not see myself alive while Sardauna is dead. I will better die with him." On hearing that, the Makaman Bida, Aliyu then advised the Premier to take what Akintola said with all seriousness."

NEWS

# Commissioners supervise fuel sales in Kano

From Musa Umar  
Kazaure, in Kano

Commissioners in Kano state are now supervise the sale of petroleum products at filling stations in Kano metropolis

Other top government officials to supervise the sale of the commodity include special adviser, permanent secretaries and vehicle inspection officers.

The Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Nura



Gov. Kwankwaso  
Muhammed Dankadai said the decision was to

ensure orderly conduct at the filling stations.

On diversion, the Commissioner announced that the government had placed a ceiling on the sale of petrol at filling station to a maximum of one thousand naira per vehicle at a time.

Alhaji Nura Dankadai assured the public of government's genuine desire and determination to ensure a lasting solution to the acute fuel scarcity in the state.

Meanwhile, the gov-

ernment has set up a technical Comiitee to arrest the devastating effect of water blockages in canals and reservoirs of the state irrigation projects.

Areas affected by the

blockages under the Kano irrigation project are Garun Mallam, Kura Bunkere and Kano Local government areas.

The Commissioner for information Alhaji Nura

Muhammad Dankadai who disclosed this said the water blockages resulted in low level of water for irrigation, a development that discourage faming and reduce productivity.

## Veepee's wife laments ordeal of Nigeria girls in Europe

Stunned parents in Edo, on Monday in Benin, heard from the wife of the vice-president, Hajiya Titi Abubakar, how young Nigeria girls sent to Europe by traffickers were sometimes forced to "sleep with dogs".

Hajiya Titi, who was in Benin to address a public forum in pursuit of her pet programme aimed at eradicating women trafficking and child abuse in the country, further disclosed that in other cases, Nigerian girls were forced by their agents by their agents "to sleep with as



Hajiya Titi Abubakar

may as 40 men in a night".

"Where they refuse, they are either killed or brutalized", she said, emphasising that she had

first hadn information of the travails of the girls, "having just returned from there myself about a fortnight ago".

She counseled parents not to encourage their daughters into the ignoble trade because of money, as they risked losing their daughters to the scourge of aids or other deadly diseases and risks that went the trade.

Hajiya Titi, reiterated her commitment to the task she had set for herself, stressing that her project had made big gains in the area of rehabilitation of the ladies deported from overseas.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that four of the girls took turns at the public forum to narrate their harrowing experiences while in the ignoble trade abroad.

Earlier, in her address of welcome, the wife of the Edo Governor, Mrs. Eki Igbinedion saluted the initiative of Abubakar, saying that in as much as Edoe was regrettably being associated with the international trafficking women, the ugly phenomenon was not society, including the traditional institution, religious bodies and all tiers of government and corporate organizations must join hands to tackle it.

## Emir bemoans neglect of police

The Emir of Dass in Bauchi state, Alhaji Bilyaminu Usman, has urged the Federal Government to give priority attention to the welfare of the Nigeria Police Force to enable it to effectively discharge its constitutional responsibility.

Speaking while receiving the assistant inspector-general of police of police in charge of zone 12, Bauchi, Alhaji Labaran Wurno, in his palace at the weekend, Usman said that if the police force was properly funded, well equipped and the welfare of its personnel was guaranteed, its role of crime detection and presentation would be better enhanced.

He urged Wurno to put in place effective security measures that would curtail the rampant cases of armed

robbery in the north east.

"We will continue to educate our subjects on the need to complement the efforts of the police by reporting any suspected character in their midst," the Emir pledged.

Speaking earlier, Wurno had assured the emir that the police was determined to ensure adequate security of lives and property in the zone.

He said that the lack of useful information that could lead to the arrest of criminals was the major setback facing the police in their efforts at crime detection and prevention.

"All that we expect from members of the public is information on the movement of criminals in the society".

He said, the police boss commended the emir for his fatherly advice to the state police command. (NAN)

## ETF received only N15.9 billion in 2 years

By Osborne Adi (Jnr.)

The Educational Tax Fund (ETF), said yesterday, that it received the sum of N15.9 billion from the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) in the two years of its existence.

Consequently, the fund has disbursed the sum of N13.02 billion for the rehabilitation of dilapidated

physical structures at all the levels of the nation's educational system within the period under review.

A breakdown of the expenditure indicated that the fund allocated about N8.8 billion in 1999 and N4.22 billion for the rehabilitation of academic facilities and other infrastructures like the provision of electricity, water supply roads, student's hotels and centers as well as staff quarters.

The fund's director of operations Mr. S.O. Agunbiade who spoke at consultative meeting with

the Librarians of Nigerian Institutions in Abuja, said the board of trustees of the fund has set aside an average of five percent of disburseable fund for the year 2001 for library development.

He observed that the development of library system at different levels of education and higher education book development fund, are very strategic to the rehabilitation and consolidation of education of Nigeria.

"This fund, therefore, is intended to provide books

to equip and upgrade the libraries of all levels of education an in various disciplines in the country" he said.

In doing this, he maintained that there was the need to learn from the mistakes, failure and successes of part attempts so as to make the current intervention programme a huge success.

This can only be achieved according to him, if all books and equipment to be supplied were of the latest editions with competitive pricing and in right quantities and qualities.

Agunbiade noted that the situation of the libraries in most educational institutions in the country was nothing but pathetic adding that while some buildings housing some of these libraries were in various state of disrepair, the materials needed for teaching learning and research were lacking.

"Where the materials are available, they are either in little quantity or out dated thereby making them useless for any meaningful academic activities."

He said it was inrealisation of the fact that library was an important component in any educational system the ETF decided to focus its attention non the year 2001 ? rehabilitation and stocking.

## Director dies on fuel queue

From Ita Bassey, Calabar

The continuing fuel crisis has claimed the life of one Mr. P.T. Edet an assistant director, in the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital in Calabar, (UCTH) at the weekend.

Mr. Edet died on his car steering after a long wait at a fuel station where he had been exposed to the effect of the sun's heat.

The deceased who until his death was the assistant director clinical services at the UCTH is believed to have died of a prolonged stress as a result of the endless wait, although no post mortem examination was conducted.

Disclosing the death to Daily Trust in her home, Mrs. Edet's said that her husband had left the home to the filling station only to be told that her

husband had died.

The recurring fuel scarcity in the Cross River State Capital in particular has made life difficult for the people.

The cost of transportation has gone up by 50 percent while long queue of motorist awaiting the purchase of fuel sat filling stations are university scen.

Meanwhile, the special assistant to the state governor on special duties Mr. Denis Nkiri said the fuel crisis could be attributed to the burst pipelines of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) which has caused the wastage of petroleum products.

Meanwhile the Department of special duties of the governor's office has swung into action to reduce the artificial scarcity of petrolcum products it the state.



Professor Tunde Adeniran

NEWS

# S.S.S. Official Nabbed for Robbery

By Wisdom Patrick in Lagos.

The Police in Lagos has arrested an official of the State Security Service (SSS) in connected with the theft of over N30 million naira at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos.

Daily Trust gathered from Police Services in Lagos that the robbery took place on the December 24 last year at the Murtala Mohammed Airport when the victim, one Victor Okogi arrived Nigeria from London for the Christmas and New Year festival.

It was learnt that the SSS official who the police said was later arrested at a wedding reception in Asaba Delta State treated the victim upon his arrival with his gang members and robbed him at gunpoint along Oshodi Apapa highway in Lagos.

Daily Trust learnt that after the incident, the suspect and his gang members fled Lagos to Airport destinations for safety. "But they did not know that we have dispatched our crack detectives after them. We are happy about arrest their arrest because from him we wont surely get others, the source added.

The suspect fled to Asaba with some of the items, stardom from the victim "they removed a gold wrist watch, camera and the sum of N30 million from the young man so when we arrested the suspect the gold wrist watch and the camera were removed from him" said the police source.

Investigations by Daily Trust reveal that the detained SSS official was until his arrest was attached to the intervention wing of the airport sources also gave out his name as one Herry Ukwadiechi.

The incident which is



Mr. Misiu Smith, IG of Police

now being investigated by the Lagos State Police Command special anti-robbery Squad (SARS) was confirmed to Daily Trust by the Lagos State Commissioner of Police Mr. Mike Okin.

He told Daily Trust on phone that investigation was still on over the unfortunate robbery incident, "as usual when we make further breakthrough we would let you know," said Okin.



President Obasanjo and speaker Na'Abba ... Have they really made up?

## Remembrance Day:

# Soldier slumps at Parade

One of the Soldiers detailed for the gun salute at the Armed Forces Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremony in Abuja collapsed as a result of exhausting. The news agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

Other colleagues of the soldier, who noticed that he was slumping, swiftly moved him out of the parade ground. President Olusegun Obasanjo, who led other dignitaries in laying wreath at memorial arcade, Deliver a smooth sailing address off-the-cuff. Outside the normal practice.

Obasanjo also inspected a parade by 250 members of the armed forces and released pigeons to symbolise unity and peace that the country's fallen heroes fought for.

Other dignitaries at the occasion included the speaker of the House of Representatives. Alhaji Ghali Na'Abba, the Chief Justice of the Federation, Justice Muhammad Uwais the minister of defence, retired Lt. Gen. Theophilus Danjuma, Service Chief. Among others.

Meanwhile, Lagos State Governor Bola Tinubu de-

fied the early morning rain to lay wealth at the remembrance arcade at the Tafawa Balewa Square Complex.

Other dignitaries who participated in the ceremony include the Commander of Motorised Brigade, Brigadier General G.K.S. Emdin, the Commanding Officer NWS Olokun, Navy Captain S.L. Baje, the Commander 435 base services group, Nigerian Air force Ikeja, Captain S.M. Ethuan.

Others were the state commander of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro, the state chairman of the Nigerian Legion, major Adekunle Ogunyina, among others.

# Surrender UBE to States — Onazi

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

Former vice chairman of University of Jos professor, Ochapa Onazi, has urged the federal government to surrender the affairs of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) to states and local government.

Professor Onazi who stated this while answering questions from the pressmen during a press conference to mark the golden Jubilee of Gindiri Old Boys Association (GOSA) in Jos last Monday said, the federal government lack the capacity and resources to be able to handle primary education.

Speaking further on the federal government programmes, professor Onazi said, "I don't know

about UBE, I only hear it but I don't see anything on the ground. I think it was one of these projects that only attract headline on the pages of national Dailies" he noted.

Commenting on the golden Jubilee of the Association, the National president of GOSA explained that because of the love for their alma mata, they want to make the celebration worthy of its name and to continue to touch the lives of the present and future generation of the school.

However, a week long period of activities has been scheduled which will culminate in a fund raising dinners on Saturday at the Halls Station Hotel Jos, with the vice-president Abubakar Atiku and Govern-

nors from other states in attendance.

The old student stressed that all the activities will afford them an opportunity to reconstruct a better vision for their Alma Mata.



Prof. Adeniran, Educ. Minister

# Yobe budgets 18bn

From Abdulahi Bego, in Damaturu

Yobe State governor has budgeted N18,480,771,000 billion for the 2001 fiscal year out of this amount, N14,414,210,000 billion is set for capital while N4,560,550,000 billion for recurrent expenditure respectively.

The budget recorded a 1000 per cent increase over that of last year "to meet the expeditions of the people."

Speaking before members of the state House of Assembly in Damaturu today, the governor Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim said his administration will prioritise the improvement of living condition in the rural area through the provision of more and better water supply, improved health care services, roads, poverty reduction, and provision of better and qualitative education.

The governor also said that the principles of accountability and probity shall continued to be ad-

hered to by all government departments while more measures for financial control and discipline shall be enforced this year.

In line with this, said the governor the department of budget and planning has been transferred from

From the ministry of finance to the governor's office for improved efficiency and supervision.

Chafing under Yobe's



Gov. Bukar Ibrahim of Yobe State

continued dependence on the Federation account allocation for its budget financing. Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim reiterated his government's determination to prop up internal revenue generation regime by strengthening revenue-generation agencies to do better.

The budget speech of the governor however did not refer to the monies expected from the federal government or other revenue sources such as loans from international (financial) organisations. But the state is budget.

From the ministry if fi-

nance to the governor's office for improved efficiency and supervision.

Chafing under Yobe's continued dependence on the federation account allocation for its budget financing, Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim reiterated his government's determination to prop up internal revenue generation regime by strengthening revenue-generating agencies to do better.

The budget speech of the governor however did not refer to the monies expected or other revenue sources such last year was largely financed from these sources.

With Yobe State currently operating the Islamic legal system (Shariah), the governor promised continued enforcement while ordering the state transport company Yobe Line to allocate different vehicles for men and women. Alhaji Bukar Abba also urged private commercial vehicle operators to do the same to avoid unnecessary close contact between the sexes in the public.

Governor Ibrahim also said that an Islamic economic system should be operated in the state this year where "standard weights and measures" shall be used in the state of productions such as grains and other measurable commodities. "I wish to advise our traders farmers, petroleum dealers, hawkers and all those involving in some form of business to fear Allah by being fair in their dealings and to moderate their profits," he said.



Lt. Gen. Malu, COAS



# INSIDE POLITICS

## Yorunba muslims challenge Afenifere supremacy

By Abdulfattah Yinka Ogun, Lagos

**A** PARALLEL Yoruba Muslim elders groups will soon emerge to counter the alleged anti-Islamic stance of the Afenifere, and the newly established Yoruba Elders Council (YEC) both of which have been described as adjuncts of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN).

This hint was dropped by the Western Zone Co-ordinator of the National Council of Muslim Youth Organisation (NACOMYO), Mr. Abdul-Lateef Adetona, who is also a lecturer in the department of religious studies in the Lagos State University (LASU).

Adetona who was reacting to the on-going struggle for the leadership of Yorubas between the Afenifere leader, Chief Abraham Adesanya and Pa Emmanuel Alayande of the YEC in an interview with the *Daily Trust*, said Yoruba Muslim youths would soon hold a conference under the aegis of NACOMYO to harmonise the various lists of Yoruba Muslim elders to be mandated to speak on behalf of Muslims in the Southwest.

The don noted that

claims by both the Afenifere and the YEC of representing the entire Yoruba race was fallacious, adding that both groups were only representing the interests of Yoruba Christians as they are both 'adjuncts of CAN'.

He stated emphatically that the subtle propagation of Christianity and a disguised denial of Muslim rights have always been the "ultimate objectives of the so-called leaders of Yorubaland and their groups."

He recalled that the Afenifere particular had acted against the interest of "the term Yoruba Mus-

lims" on several occasions despite its claim of being a pan-Yoruba cultural organisation.

Said he, "They (Afenifere) have gone to the various houses of assembly in the region to speak against the introduction of Sharia and the return of schools to the missions against the wish of majority of muslims in the southwest. So now, we want to mobilise our own fathers too, to rise and match them for everything. We are giving our muslim fathers the mandate to represent us unlike they who just assumed that role".

The muslim youth leader opined that whoever was aspiring to absolute Yoruba leadership, must possess such qualities as sincerity, neutrality, and transparent honesty which he said were lacking in those currently jostling for

leadership in Yorubaland. On the argument that both the Afenifere and the YEC have some muslims as members, he contended that such people could best be described as nominal muslims who have been rendered inconsequential in both organisations.

## Okoye threatens court action against *Tempo*

**T**he National Co-ordinator of Human Rights Monitor, a human rights organisation with its headquarters in Kaduna, Barrister Festus Okoye has threatened to sue *Tempo* Newsmagazine for listing him amongst "IBB boys in the field" in one of its publications last year.

Speaking to our correspondent in an interview in Kaduna, Barrister Okoye declared that whatever informed that action was certainly not borne out of goodwill. Although he claimed he has not seen the said publication, he said that court action is inevitable if it was true that his name featured as "a canvasser for a regime that confiscated my international passport and held me in solitary confinement".

The lawyer who hold almost despicable, opinion of the IBB regime which he strongly believes brought

Nigeria to her knees, explained however that it is perfectly normal and constitutional for Gen. Babangida to aspire to rule the country in a democratic set up once more. Elaborating further, he averred that as a conscious Nigerian citizen, he has the right to associate freely with whoever catches his fancy.

A renowned pro-democracy activist, Okoye is not particularly impressed by the performance of the Obasanjo administration so far largely on account of the fact that the much expected democratic dividends are nowhere to be found.

"I am not satisfied with the performance of this government because the masses cannot see the democratic dividends up till now and instead of focusing on the people, the President expended his energy on the bickerings between the legislature and the executive.

## 2003 election: South-South holds the ace

**A**HEAD the 2003 presidential polls, politicians and power brokers in the South-South geo-political zone are spoiling for controversy over the choice of their presidential aspirant.

*Daily Trust* reliably gathered that although nobody has been pencilled down for the presidential ticket, the controversy may emanate from whether to

endorse Obasanjo for a second term, or any other aspirant from another geo-political zones.

Already, the plan by some elements to front for Obasanjo is causing a stir, moreso, as governors of the states in the zone are also throwing their weight behind picking a South-South candidate, or a Northern who would endorse their development master-plan

for the region.

Last week, the zonal secretariat of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the zone ruled out the choice of President Obasanjo for a second term, but the governors took a swipe at the decision and countered the arrangement.

A report credited to the Deputy National Chairman, South-South zone of the PDP, Mr. Harry Marshal castigate President Obasanjo's ambition for a second term and stated that, the zone will come out with

a credible candidate for the presidential race.

But the governors countered the report, claiming that Mr. Marshal's sudden outburst was not the voice of the South-South people as he does not represent them.

The governors are however claiming that they still have confidence in Obasanjo. But, political analysts see the controversy as a ploy by the governors to buy time with Obasanjo, who is believed to be playing pranks with the development programmes of the South-South zone.

## Interview: We've only suspended probing Gov. Kachalla

*The Borno House of Assembly Speaker, Alhaji Bulama Fugu, spoke with our Maiduguri Correspondent, Abdullahi Bego on the probe of Gov. Kachalla by the House of Assembly and the performance of the House in the last one year. Excerpts:*

**DT:** As Speaker of the Borno State House of Assembly for nearly two years, how have you found the job so far?

**FUGU:** The job is interesting, albeit difficult because leadership of the legislature is not exactly like that of the executive. In the legislature, you are first among equals. Also, management of the house is done collectively. There is nothing that the Speaker does without the prior knowledge of the members.

**DT:** The state assembly had so far passed many bills including that on the reactivation of the water supply system within Maiduguri metropolis. But water supply is still inadequate within the state capital. Is the house doing anything about this?

**FUGU:** We are doing a lot. We will consider it in the year 2001 budget. We will also ask the house commit-

tee on water supply to find out and report to us what the government was or was not able to do in that regard. It is after the assessment that we will take the next step.

**DT:** Local government council chairmen have vehemently opposed the local government law 2000 recently enacted by the house. They say the house was trying to unfairly limit and usurp their powers. Why is the law so controversial?

**FUGU:** The law is not controversial. Rather the chairmen of the local governments themselves are controversial. They did not read the law. They don't (seem to) know anything about it. That is why they dragged the matter to court and are complaining about it.

The law grants them the powers to execute any project using their own funds without seeking for

### - Borno speaker

permission from the state government either through the local government ministry or the local government service commission, provided the local government council approves the projects and the contract. They can execute them no matter how much is involved. What can be more than this?

Presently they have to apply for approvals to execute the projects and have to give bribes, and lobby before they are allowed to do the people's job. We see this as undemocratic and that's why we empowered them through the law to do the project themselves.

The issue they do not want is the provision that the House of Assembly will probe into the finances of the local government. This is a constitutional issue. The House of Assembly can inquire into and investigate the finances of any government agency or body about which it is competent

to make laws. And we are quite competent to make laws for the local government.

As far as we are concerned, our desire to probe the local government councils is to provide for accountability. There is nowhere in this world where money will be given to someone, in the name of government or service to the people without being investigated or controlled. If this cannot be done, then it is monarchy we are operating not democracy.

But the intention of the local government chairmen is bad. They want to loot the resources of the people. They want to cheat the people that elected them. They want to re-impose themselves on the people as permanent monarchs.

**DT:** Presently too, lawmakers in the state and Governor Kachallah were embroiled in serious crisis over gross misconduct. When you dropped the

charges, people alleged that members were settled financially.

**FUGU:** What do they mean by (being) settled?

**DT:** That you were financially rewarded for dropping the charges against the governor.

**FUGU:** No, we were not rewarded. You know in this country, we believe in money more than (we believe) in God. In this country, people respect people with money more than their religious prophets. That is why, whenever they hear of a conflict between a rich party and a poor party being resolved, probably the poor party playing the role to resolve the issue, they will think that the rich party had settled the poor party.

But this case is not a matter between individuals. We were elected by the people to serve them and not to serve ourselves. The issues we raised are constitutional and so were our actions. The constitution does not say if you start probing the governor, you must end by removing him.

It does not say so.

In our resolution too, we did not say we have dropped the charges. We said "suspended", which means we can take it up anytime. But for now, we are decelerating the process of probing the allegation of gross misconduct but we can revive it any moment the need (to do so) arises.

**DT:** Such as when a court of law orders you to do so given, for instance, the suit filed by the Maiduguri branch of the Nigerian Bar Association on the issue?

**FUGU:** If the court orders us to do it, we will do it. We are in a democracy. If the court says this is what we should do, we must respect the judgement of the courts.

But I don't think any court on earth can judge it that way because even the NBA itself, lacks the *loco standi* to take us to court on this matter.



# INSIDE POLITICS

## ECOWAS parliament convenes on Jan. 20

**T**HE ECOWAS parliament will hold its first plenary session in Abuja on Saturday, to elect officers and consider the adoption of the report of two of its ad-hoc committees, a statement from the secretariat of the parliament issued in Abuja has said.

The statement said that the committees dealt with the budget and draft rules of procedure of the assembly.

The assembly would during the week-long ses-

sion elect a speaker, deputy speakers, treasurers and secretaries the statement added, but stressed that the number of deputy speakers, treasurers and secretaries would be determined by the rules of the house.

Apart from the speaker who will be in office for the life of the parliament, other officers will serve for a renewable

one-year term, the statement said, adding that the speaker would nominate a general secretary for the assembly.

According to the assembly secretariat, the plenary session would be preceded by meetings of the sub-committees on the draft budget and draft rules of procedure.

The 120-member

assembly was inaugurated at a two-day session in Mali on Nov. 16, 2000, by the ECOWAS Chairman, President Alpha Konare of Mali.

The oldest member of the assembly, Mr. Oumarou Sidiku from Niger, chaired the session, while the youngest member, Mr. Assan Seibou from Benin, was secretary.

**T**HE Kaduna state caretaker committee chairman of the All People's Party (APP), Dr. Abubakar Baba has joined his voice to the over the recent extradition of a Lagos businessman, Alhaji Lanre Shittu by the US government over financial offences committed by him.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Kaduna recently, Dr. Baba described the action as not only unwarranted, but also a sad testimony to the bitter fact that we have a government that is tied to the apron strings of some foreign groups.

Also, the deputy national legal adviser of the party, wondered with how a government which pledged to guarantee the security of lives and property of its teeming citizens can allow such a thing to happen on its shores.

He lamented that apart from the security implication which should be a national concern to any well-meaning Nigerians, the action also put the sovereignty of the country in question.

"What sovereignty do we have then, if a foreign government can just come

## Shittu's abduction condemned

*From Ibrahim Hameed, Kaduna.*

into our country and snatch one of our citizens and fellow countryman out without the government even putting up a show of protest?" he queried.

The APP top notcher's position is equally shared by some Nigerian professionals, who expressed their anger over the manner in which the car dealer was whisked out of the country.

These professionals, 42 of them, in a petition to President Olusegun Obasanjo said that the action of the Americans was "a slap on Nigeria's sovereignty, as due process of the international norms of extradition were not followed".

It will be recalled that at the North-West zonal meeting of APP in Katsina last November where Dr. Baba featured prominently, the party caucus stopped short of passing a vote of no confidence on the PDP led Federal Government.

## APP chieftain opposes national conference

*From Buhari Bello Jos*

**A**chieftain of the All Peoples Party (APP), Alhaji Sale Hassan has called on the federal government to disregard the agitations for the holding of a Sovereign National Conference (SNC), saying that those clamouring for such a conference "don't mean well for the nation".

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Jos, the former national chairman of the defunct DPN explained that, there is no need to hold such a conference for whatever reason, in spite of its demand by a section of the country.

He observed further that issues such as the review of the revenue sharing formula, true federalism, reconciliation and

marginalisation should be left for the National Assembly and state assemblies to handle.

Alh. Hassan explained that the convening of a Sovereign National Conference (SNC) would further heighten tension in the country, adding that the demands of the agitators can as well be addressed by the present democratic government.

"The convening of such a conference cannot resolve all the issues being raised by the agitators. We had several of such conferences in the past. What's their role then", the politician queried.

He noted that if the members of the national assembly and state assemblies were serious enough, they ought to

present some of the issues for deliberation, so that we don't allow some elements to drag us back".

According to Alh. Hassan, those insisting on the holding of a Sovereign National Conference should not in the first instance have voted their representatives into the existing democratic structures. "So that we will know that they are serious with their pronouncements".

The former party chairman who described the agitators as trouble-makers, said their thinking was premature and based on sectional and personal biases. He advised government therefore to disregard such calls in the interest of one Nigeria.

## Kano APP accuses Kwankwaso of sabotage

**K**ANO state governor, Alhaji Rabi Kwankwaso has been accused by the Kano state chapter of the All People's Party (APP) of attempting to disrupt its state congress scheduled for January 26.

The APP in Kano state, is holding the January 27, congress in order to pick its gubernatorial and National Assembly candidates for the 2003 national elections.

A member of the party's caretaker committee, Alhaji Adamu Babaiwo who made the accusation, alleged that Gov. Kwankwaso is plan-

ning the imposition of a gubernatorial aspirant, Alhaji Aminu Sulen Garo on the APP in the state.

According to the APP chieftain, Kwankwaso is afraid of squaring up against the party's favoured candidate, Alhaji Ibrahim Little in the 2003 guber elections, in the event the later picks the APP ticket.

Gov Kwankwaso is making moves to disrupt the Jan. 26 congress. He is sponsoring Alh. Aminu Garo to contest the gubernatorial primaries, all in a bid to destabilise the APP

and win a second term", Alh. Babaiwo alleged.

*Daily Trust* further learnt that, Kwankwaso is married to Alh. Garo's immediate sister.

Also our findings revealed that, Alh. Garo has gone to the APP national chairman, Alhaji Yusuf Ah, requesting him to appeal to Alhaji Little to step down for him.

Similarly, another source told our reporter that Alh. Garo equally went to one of the Abacha family members, who is also a close friend of Alh. Little, to prevail on him to step down for him.

### Your Memory lingers on.....

Daudu, it's been 5 years now that you left us. Your friendly Advice, Love, Care and Transparency are the virtues that had strengthened our friendship.



Late Squadron Leader Elisua Nalaku Daudu  
Captain of the ill-fated HS 125 Presidential Jet crash  
near Kano Aiport on the 17th January, 1996

Fondly remembered today by  
**Daniel D. Dibal & Family**

# Arts & Entertainment

## Tourism

By Tadaferua Ujorha

The Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism has released a preliminary programme of cultural Activities for the year 2001. The Calendar which is divided into four quarters. Here is a veritable Cultural Rainbow which is bound to entertain

## FG releases tourism programme for 2001

covering January-March 2001 contains the following: Inauguration of Boards of parastatals of the Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism - Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Venue: Conference hall, office of the Head of service at noon.

Inauguration of the planning com-

Other members include Dr. Sola Williams, Duro Oni, Hope Dateme, Eloyemi Omotoso and Dr. Catherine Acholonu. On Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January the Honourable Ministers Meet The Artistes cocktail at the Roof Garden, National Theatre Lagos. Next will be the inauguration of the Task

International Affairs with the Honourable Minister as the special guest of honour. Thereafter there would be the commencement of distribution and sales of the Tourism Stamp, (date not yet fixed). On the calendar too is the ministerial visit to Yankari Game Reserve. The date for the visit would shortly be provided.

In March, 2001, there will be the International Tourism Fair (ITB) which would hold at Berlin, Germany from the 3<sup>rd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> of march. The last week in March has been scheduled for the launching the National Endowment Fund for the Arts, although this is subject to the presidents' confirmation.

The calendar for this first quarter reveals that some new blood has began to course through the cultural veins of the Nation. With all hands on deck a new cultural Rainbow is bound to evolve shortly.

The proposed Inauguration of the planning committee for the National Endowment Fund for the Arts is commendable. The Honourable Ministers contact with Artistes on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January is also noteworthy and could lead to greater successes by both groups. The Tourism Stamp is another delightful possibility. There is something both charming and enchanting about this innovation, not to talk of the sweet memories that echo from musical distances as we contemplate the revival of the Nigeria Magazine!



A performance by members of the National Troupe

and to delight, as much as it will inform and instruct.

The programme is not exhaustive however, and a few additions are expected in the future. The first quarter

mittee for the National Endowment fund for the Arts (Date yet to be fixed) Inauguration of the Nigeria Magazine Editorial Board under the chairmanship of Professor Femi Osofisan

Force for the Tourism Master Plan.

On February 27<sup>th</sup> there will be the lecture to be given by Professor J. F. Ade Ajayi at the Nigeria Institute of

## Food

Luigi's Restaurant at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers is undergoing a major renovation, and very soon, precisely by the end of January, renovation work should have ended, and Luigi's would get back to playing the dynamic role it has always played in the fields of entertainment and hospitality.

The name Luigi is of Italian Origin and whenever it is used, it evokes a powerful association with the best of Italian cuisine.

Mrs. Dayo Benjamins. - Laniyi, the Public Relation officer of Sheraton Hotel and Towers explained to Daily

## New Luigi's unfolds at Sheraton

Trust that the Hotel has a new management which include Mr. Thomas Flindt who is the Executive Assistant Manager and Mr. Sanjeer Gohlan who is the General Manager. She further mentioned that the renovation of Luigi's is an aspect of the new vision and the drive which the present management is out to emphasise as it stresses a refreshingly new concept

of hospitality. The management wishes to highlight a vibrant and more contemporary décor that is powerfully related to the best in terms of contemporary. Italian cuisine, she emphasised. By the end of January Luigi's would open with a flourish, and the management is preparing for a major Valentine show on February 14<sup>th</sup>. This would naturally hold at

Luigi's.

Mrs Dayo Benjamins. - Laniyi added that there is a plan by the PR department of the hotel to feature Miss Njideka Agba at Luigi's. Miss Agba is an excellent musician who is, perhaps, the only female saxophonist in Abuja. At Luigi's you can encounter the best of Italian meals, together with a continuing flow of Italian music, classical music and jazz.

## Art Watch

Zee TV

The world's largest South Asian channel broadcast ing 24 hours a day of quality cultural programming to Africa from India, Pakistan and the UK. Every day the Indian way.

BET International

Includes internationally established jazz pioneers, exciting newcomers, live in-store, performances, festivals, club concerts, documentaries, biographies and much more, Broadcasts 24 hours, every day.

Sony Entertainment Television Asia

The search for quality Asian entertainment ends here! This young and dynamic channel offers discerning viewers an innovative blend of family entertainment including soap operas, drama, sitcoms, and the biggest and latest Bollywood blockbuster movies.

## Toys

## Children sing and play at Zaria

Children's Toy Fair held at Ganga-uku Zaria from 11-16 December, 2000. The open field in the location had a series of canopies erected and it was within these that the Toy Fair took place.

Children from 17 schools at-

tended the week long event. The children had a happy time playing games with one another and discovering new and exciting toys.

Publishers such as Longman, Macmillan and Spectrum were present and the children were exposed to vari-

ous works which have continuously excited children for generations. Mrs. Obadofin the organiser of the Toy Fair was quite happy with the fact that she was able to bring children together in a friendly environment. She added that the Toy Fair will become an annual event.



The children looking at some items of interest during the Toy Fair

## Prime Viewing

### Discovery Channel

- 06:00 Hunters
- 06:55 Rex Hunt Fishing
- 07:20 Greg And Max's Just for Starters
- 07:50 Living On The Edge
- 08:15 Space Invaders
- 08:45 Room For Improvement
- 09:10 The Painted House
- 09:40 The Diceman
- 10:05 Ultra Science
- 10:35 Connections
- 11:00 Walker's World
- 11:30 Emergency Vets
- 12:00 Profiles of Nature
- 12:30 Wings
- 13:25 Fightline
- 13:50 Discover Magazine
- 14:20 Infinite Voyage
- 15:15 Forces of Nature
- 16:10 War Stories
- 16:35 Great Battles
- 17:05 Lonely Planet
- 18:00 Flightline
- 18:30 Discover Magazine
- 19:00 Wild Things
- 20:00 Croc Files
- 21:00 Wild Asia
- 22:00 On the Inside
- 23:00 Big Stuff

### Hallmark

### Entertainment Network

- 06:05 A Season For Miracles
- 07:45 With Hostile Intent
- 09:15 Not Just Another Affair
- 10:50 The Magical Legend of the Leprechauns
- 14:00 A different Kind of Christmas
- 15:30 Finding Buck McHenry
- 17:15 Quarterback Princess
- 19:00 Catherine Cookson's The Glass Virgin
- 22:00 The Audrey Hepburn Story
- 01:05 Payback: The Kathryn Stanfill Story
- 02:30 A Different Kind Of Christmas
- 04:00 Finding Buck McHenry
- 05:30 Quarterback Princess

### Movie Magic

- 06:00 Law Of The Underworld
- 08:15 Time to say Goodbye
- 10:00 Basil
- 12:00 Letting Go
- 14:00 Mighty Joe Young
- 15:40 Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me
- 17:15 True Crime
- 19:30 Star News
- 20:00 A Step Toward Tomorrow
- 22:00 The Huntley
- 23:40 King Lear
- 02:05 The Sweet Hereafter
- 04:00 Inventing the Abbotts

### Stirring Lines!

The Eternal Feminine holds us up

—Goethe

## Features

## Not just waiting to die

From Waynesburg you take a right turn along a road which leads you into the hills of rural Pennsylvania. This is Progress Drive and it goes straight to SO Greene, the State Correctional Institution, and Death Row.

Around about a mile along Progress Drive you come to a ridge. As you hit the brow of the hill you can see the maximum-security complex neatly stretched out below. At its core is block L5, commonly known as Death Row. Within these walls is Mumia Abu-Jamal, the journalist framed for the murder of a Philadelphia police officer in 1981.

Before visitors get to the parking lot they pass through two high fences decorated from top to bottom with double-edged razor wire. As you pass through the main gate you are surrounded by prison guards and security cameras. So Greene is the state-of-the-art maximum-security unit.

Once in the main entrance you go through a strict procedure: sign in, empty your pockets, take off your jacket, and then shoes, before walking through a metal detector. You then get a drug test: first your hands, then all your clothes. You are forbidden to take in cameras, recording equipment of any kind, pens, pencils or paper.

Journalists and interviews are officially prohibited. All you have to go on is your wits and memory. The last time Mumia Abu-Jamal was officially interviewed by a journalist, and only then after a court order, was in February 1996.

As he put it, "they don't just want my death, they want my silence." As the visitor waits in Death Row, a guard, who has been electronically surveying you since you entered the complex, calls out the prisoner's name. You then enter through a series of corridors and remote-controlled doors. At last, you enter the visiting room, divided up into small cubicles. In one stall, behind a Plexiglas screen, is seated a handcuffed black man with dreadlocks, dressed in a blue prison uniform. This is 46-year old Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Despite the surroundings you are struck by his broad smile and his handsome appearance. As his deep voice resonates against the cubicle walls, Mumia Abu-Jamal comes across as an intelligent and articulate person, eager to tell the truth about himself. Asked about the next steps

American journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal is on death row in Pennsylvania, proclaiming his innocence of the murder of a police officer. His case has become a focus for the campaign against the death penalty in the USA and round the world. Amnesty International has condemned the death sentence and called for a retrial of his case.

For 18 years he has been held in a solitary confinement for 23 hours a day. Even there he is a prolific journalist, writing regular columns (more than 400 to date) and a book published two years ago.

He is forbidden interviews by journalists, but the journalist's **ROB SEWELL** managed to arrange a private visit for this exclusive interview.

on the legal front, given the latest refusal of Judge Yohn to grant a re-trial, he smiles.

"That's a damn good question that I am thinking about at this very moment," he says nodding his head. "It is my understanding that lawyers for the amici are going to a higher court," he continues, deeply aware of the years he has spent in the appeal process. In August US District Judge William H. Yohn rejected four "amicus" (friend of the court) briefs -including one from 22 British MPs -as "unnecessary and unhelpful." The judge was hearing Mumia Abu-Jamal's last-ditch habeas corpus petition for a new trial. He said he was "aware of the worldwide interest" in Mumia Abu-Jamal's fate, but more legal briefs would only "add to the record and complexity of this case without any particular benefit" to the condemned man. At present there does not seem to be any further



Mumia Abu-Jamal

legal avenue to follow.

From his time as a youth in the Black Panthers, Mumia Abu-Jamal has sought to expose the injustices around him. "I'm an addicted reader and writer", he says. He talks about his past as a radio journalist, broadcasting the injustices against black people by the police regime in Philadelphia. "My career was both fascinating and

terrifying", he recalls. "I loved the job and loved meeting people from every walk of life."

In the late 1970, as a leading radio journalist, he became president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Black Journalists. He won a Major Armstrong Award for radio journalism, and was named one of Philadelphia's

"people to watch" in 1981 by Philadelphia magazine. But he was to risk much in exposing the authorities and earning himself the title of "voice of the voiceless."

"I hated the fear that loomed over me as I approached stories or subjects that I knew could get me in trouble with my bosses", he admits. To clarify the point he added, "I speak of the perennial journalist's fear of being fired", understanding how widespread this can be. "It was something I experienced all too often." This precarious existence led him to supplement his family income by driving cabs in Philadelphia. It was on December 7 1981, driving his cab downtown, that he saw his brother being assaulted by a police officer. In the altercation that followed both Mumia Abu-Jamal and the officer were shot. "I am not guilty of the charges I was committed on," he said forcefully. For

the last 18 years Abu-Jamal has been locked alone in a

Cell 23 hours a day, denied contact visits with his family. "I have grandchildren I've only seen through a glass barrier. Never touched them. Never held them."

The new legal setback could result in a new execution date being set before the end of the year. The Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge, who has twice signed a warrant for Abu-Jamal's execution by lethal injection, was considered a contender to become George W Bush's vice-presidential candidate. Now, with his career temporarily blocked, he has indicated he would be willing to do so a third time.

In Britain, Mumia Abu-Jamal was made an honorary member of the NUJ in 1995. He said he was extremely grateful and honoured. Smiling, he said, "Please thank your colleagues for your high offer, which I accept with alacrity." Then, as with all Death Row inmates, Mumia Abu-Jamal went off for a body-cavity strip search before returning to his isolation cell.

Culled from *Journalist of London*

## Minna prepares for the "Talba"

By Nuhu Yarwa

When there is joy, there are always tears of joy signifying happiness and peace, but when there is sorrow, there are always tears of sadness, expressed by wailings and cries of anguish. This is the paradox of life. But which-ever takes precedence in our daily lives, we must bear it as human beings.

For the inhabitants of Minna, the Capital of Niger State, Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 2001, will be a memorable day due to the upcoming event of turbaning of "The Talba of Minna"; organised and assisted by honourable men and women under the watchful eyes of the distinguished Nigerian people.

At Minna, within the vicinity of the Emir's Palace, along the Stadium Road, will be crowned a promising young man, Dr. Babangida Aliyu, a native of Minna, and Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja, which is the heart of the Nigerian Nation and politics.

Organisers are the Minna Emirate Council headed by its Amir (Emir),

## The turbaning of Dr. Babangida Aliyu

Alhaji (Dr.) Umaru Faruk Bahago. The Chief host are Engr. Abdulkadir Kure, The Governor of Niger State, and the Sardauna of Minna, Mal. Ibrahim Aliyu, the new Talba's elder brother who was himself a former Federal Permanent Secretary.

As Minna gets agog, co-hosts include distinguished Nigerlites like the former Military President, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida (CFR), former head of State, Gen. Abdulsalami Alhaji Abubakar (GCFR), former Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Muhammadu Inuwa Wushishi (rtd), Prof. Jerry Gana, three-times Minister of Information; and Engr. Mustafa Bello, Federal Ministry of Commerce.

Others include esteemed members of the National Assembly, Senator (Dr.) Idris Ibrahim Kuta, Hons. Abdullahi Musa and Musa Dattijo Aliyu, of the Federal House of Representatives as well as the Chairman, Chanchaga Local Government Council, Minna, respectively.

Expected guests include the Vice President and "Turaki of Adamawa"

Alhaji Atiku Abubakar (GCON) who will represent himself and his boss, the Commander-in-Chief, Chief Obasanjo (CFR, GCFR).

Other special guests include Chief Obong U.J. Ekeate (CFR, Mni), Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), the Head of Service of the Federation (HSF), Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed; Chief of Staff to President Obasanjo and formerly National Security Adviser to Gen. Abdulsalami, Major Gen. Abdullahi Muhammed (rtd.) (CFR, GCON).



Dr. Babangida Aliyu

Lt. Gen. Aliyu Muhammed Gusau, the current National Security Adviser (NSA), Hon. Ministers, and Federal Permanent Secretaries who will honour one of their own.

Because the gathering promises to be a blend of the new and the old to rub minds on what positive service to ones community brings, Retired technocrats and now traditional community title holders are also well represented. In this category are two former secretaries to the government of Federation (SGF), Alh. Aminu Saleh -

"Sarkin Yakin Katagum", Alh. Gidado Idris (OON, Mni); Alh. Sarkin Ibrahim, who doubles as "Makaman Kano" and District Head of Wudil in Kano State.

Also expected are Sir Emeka Ofor, the Chairman of Chrome Oil Ltd; and Mr. Adebayo Sarumi, the Managing Director of Shipper's Council.

On hand to support "Dr. Talba" of Minna are three other distinguished Nigerians wearing the 'princely' crown of Talba in their respective communities: Alhaji (Dr.) Garba A.D. Inuwa (Talba Kano), Dr. Ibrahim Tahir (Talban Bauchi) and an Internationalist, Ambassador Zakari Ibrahim (Talban Katsina).

Indeed this is a ceremony of what gives value to a community; what selfless service to mankind entails; and what large-heartedness offers-peace, self-actualisation, contentment, respect and honour from God and man.

Congratulations Dr. Babangida Aliyu.

By Nuhu Yarwa, S.W. 319, Bida Close, Kwangilla, Minna, Niger State.



**₦16 MILLION  
TO 400 BENEFICIARIES  
IN ONE YEAR!**

**With a Minimum Balance of ₦10,000 Over  
Three Months, You Can:**

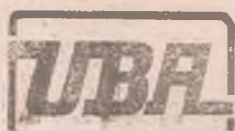
**Get a Bursary Award of N40,000**

**BE ONE OF 100 BENEFICIARIES EACH QUARTER!!**

**Earn Prevailing Interest On Savings**

*..Saving for a brighter future*

**MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE FROM UBA BRANCHES NATIONWIDE**



**UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC**



# Consumer Guide



## Tomorrow's Flights

### Albarka Air Services

--N5,000.00--

Abj-Lag: 8.30am; 10.0 am;  
1.00 pm; 4.30 pm  
Lag-Abj: 7.00 am; 9.45am;  
1.00 pm; 3.00pm

--N7,000.00--

Abj-Maid (1.30 pm)  
Abj-Maid (4.30 pm)  
Maid-Abj (7.30 Pm)

### Bellview Airlines

Abj-Lag: 8.35am; 1.00pm;  
5.20 pm  
Lag-Abj: 6.50am; 11.15;  
3.25 pm  
Lag-PHC: 7.30am; 3.15  
pm  
PHC-Lag: 9.00 am; 5.05  
am

### Chanchangi Airlines

N6,000.00--

Abj-Lag 8.00 am, 11.45 am,  
1.40 pm; 3.00 pm; 5.30 pm  
Kad-Lag (8.30 am)  
Kad-Abj-Lag (11.40 pm)  
Lag-Abj: 7.15; 11.00 am;  
1.10 pm; 3.30 pm; 4.45 pm  
Lag-Abj-Kad (11.00 am)  
Lag-Kad (9.00 pm)

PHC-Lag: 9.00 am; 5.05  
am

### EAS Airlines

--N5,000.00--

Abj-Lag: 8.30 am;  
1.00 pm; 4.30 pm  
Lag-Abj: 7.00 am; 9.45 am;  
1.00 pm; 3.00 pm

PHC-Lag: 9.00 am; 5.05  
am

### Nigeria Airways

--N5,000.00--

Abj-Lag: 8.30am;  
Abj-Lag: 2.00pm; 3.30pm;  
5.30pm  
Lag-Abj: 7.00am; 12.30pm  
Lag-PHC: 9.00am;  
Lag-Enu-PHC: 4.00pm  
PHC-Lag: 10.30; 6.20pm  
Abu-Yola: 3.30pm;  
Lag-Abj: 4.45pm

## BUS SCHEDULE

**ABC Transport** at  
Banex Plaza  
Abj-Lagos, N2,250  
Departure: 7.00am, 8.00am

**CHISCO** at Utako  
District, Abj-Lag, N1,810.  
Departure: 7:30am, 7.30pm

**C.N.OKOLI** at Berger  
Junction, Abj-Lag, N1, 710  
Departure: 8 pm only

# Market days in Abuja

By Edith Meta

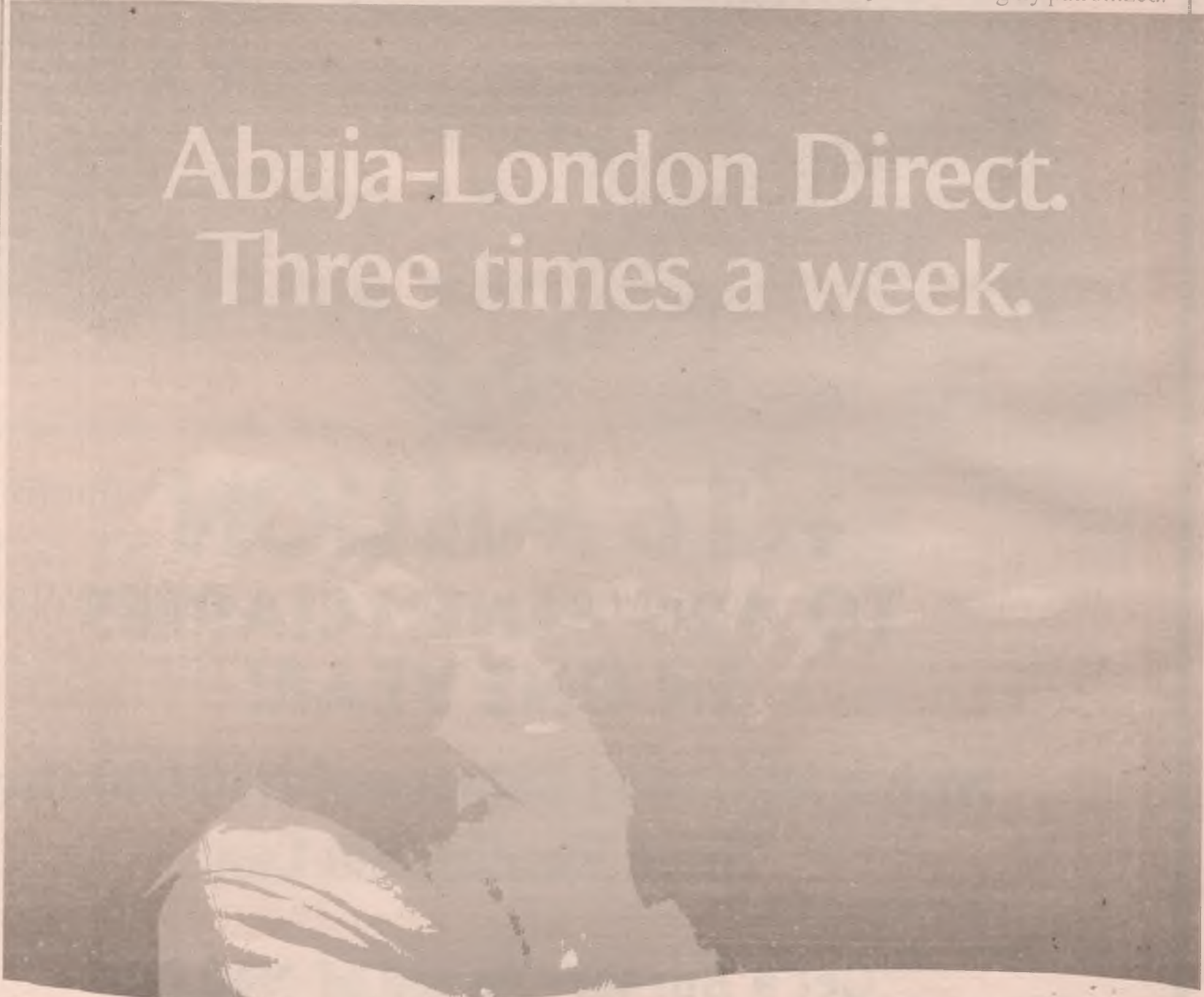
**L**ike Lagos, petty traders hawking varieties of food stuff commodities and other consumable items, have taken over the beautiful landscape of Abuja.

While some are cheap others are very expensive. *Daily Trust*, consumer investigations revealed that some residents survive the exorbitant cost of consumable items by sourcing for cheap food commodities whose prices are

high in the city. One of this, is by going to the local markets. To go to the markets however, you need to know the market days. While some are static, others are not. This is because they are held only after a number of days.

This may be after five days or four days, after the day it was held. Monday's are static market days for Dutse and Garki. Every Tuesday, Karmo holds her market day. Thursday is the exclusive day for Madalla market while Friday is for

Wuse new market. Bwari holds her own market day every four days, after the last day it was held. These markets are usually jam-packed with people who come from far and near, to buy and sell. They are highly patronized.



## Abuja-London Direct. Three times a week.

### Celebrate for just \$675:00.

You can now fly British Airways from Abuja non-stop to London without the stress of a stopover in Lagos. And at a Celebration Fare of \$675:00 that lasts till February 28, 2001. Plus the comfort and convenience of our new Boeing 777 Aircraft and connection to over 250 destinations worldwide.

[www.british-airways.com/nigeria](http://www.british-airways.com/nigeria)

For further enquiries call:

Victoria Island. 01-2613004, 2621225-8. Sheraton Hotel and Towers-Ikeja. 4978660-9, 4970311.  
Kano: 064-637310, 637320, 632230. Port Harcourt: 084-238351, 331986, 334600. Abuja: 09-4139610, 4139608

**BRITISH AIRWAYS**  
The world's favourite airline

INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI'UN

Fifth Year Prayer



*Late Barrister Ibrahim Sani Abacha  
(1966 - 1996)*

We remember you today as always since the day you answered the call of the Almighty Allah Five Years Ago. Though your life was brief, admirable, and beautiful, yet you left your footprints on the sand of our time for future generation to emulate.

We shall always remember you for all the sterling qualities, love, simplicity and kindness you extended to all those who knew you.

Your care and brotherly advice would always be our guide.

Rest in perfect peace our dear GAJI.

*Signed:*

ABBA SANI ABACHA

*On behalf of your brothers & sisters*

# Abuja News

## AMAC cracks down on drug hawkers

## Teenager jailed for pick-pocketing at National Mosque

Stories by Musa Badamasi

The Abuja Municipal Council Area (AMAC) has cracked down on drug hawkers who have endangered the lives of Nigerians in the capital city.

As a first measure, AMAC in charge of the administration of the federal capital city will soon enact laws to check the menace of the illegal drug vendors in Abuja.

Daily Trust reliably gathered that the documentation process of the proposed bye laws has gone through the first and second phases successfully.

According to source at AMAC chairman's office, the bye laws is only waiting for vetting at the third phase of consideration by

AMAC council before it will finally come to effect.

The general situation of how every individual, without any medical training or experience, carry out sales of drugs in Abuja would not be tolerated according to AMAC authority.

It was gathered that immediately the bye-law come into effect, the enforcement agents would be given specific directive to arrest and prosecute any offender in such regards.

Already AMAC has constituted an enlightenment campaign committee to ensure that general public are accurately informed on the danger involved in patronising drugs vendors for any medical needs.

Also, the bye-law is expected to adduce the issues of unauthorised patent medicine stores and that of sub-standard private clinics

scattered all over the satellite towns throughout the whole twelve political wards that make up the AMAC.



Mrs. Esther Audu, AMAC Chairman

A 19 year-old auto-technician, Sani Garba, will spend the next two years in prison for pick-pocketing in a mosque.

Garba, was sentenced by an Abuja upper area court presided over by Judge Aliyu Abdulrahman to two years' imprisonment without an option of fine, for pick-pocketing in the national mosque, Abuja.

The police prosecutor, Osmand Adinna, had told the court that Garba removed the sum of N6,500 from the

pocket of one Mr. Hamid Mahmud during a jummat prayer at the central mosque, Abuja.

The accused person, pleaded guilty to the charge, and begged for leniency.

Delivering judgement, Abdulrahman, said that he declined to grant an option of fine, because the convict could easily be bailed by members of his syndicate.

"It is true that they operate a syndicate to perpetrate this bad conduct in our place of worship", he said, adding that the jail term was meant to teach him and others a lesson.

PHILLIPS CONSULTING

Workforce Development

Training Programmes for February 2001

LOGISTICS

Time ▶ 8am - 5pm daily

Venue ▶ Learning Centre Phillips Consulting Limited 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, UBA House 57 Marina Lagos

Or ▶ Any other location of your choice for in-house programmes

Date	Programme	Cost	For Whom	Duration
1 - 2	Effective Presentation Skills	N 36, 750	Professionals at all level in the Organisation	2 days
6 - 7	Effective Communication Skills	N 36, 750	Managers, Team Leaders, Supervisors	2 days
6 - 7	Basic Management Skills for IT Specialists	N 36, 750	IT specialists who seek to enhance their business management skills	2 days
8 - 9	Quality Customer Service	N 36, 750	Customer Service personnel with responsibility for managing both the internal and external customer.	2 days
15	Time Management & Prioritisation	N 19, 950	Professionals at all levels in the organisation	1 day
21 - 23	The Management Development Programme	N 48, 300	Middle level managers, Trainee Managers who have responsibility for managing others	3 days
21 - 23	IT Management Skills for Business Executives	N 48, 300	Business managers to whom the IT function reports or who manage the IT function.	3 days

PHILLIPS CONSULTING

4th Floor, UBA House, 57 Marina, Lagos, Nigeria (01) 264 3111-4 Fax: 2665325. pcl@hyperia.com

6th Floor, Norwich Life Towers, 13 Fredman Drive, Sandton, Johannesburg, South Africa (011) 784 5450 - 1 pnp@icon.co.za

Website: WWW.Phillipsconsulting.net

For further information. Please call Yemi or Nneka

# Abuja News

## Head of Service pledges to fight corruption

Stories by Musa Badamasi

The head of Service of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, today in Abuja declare that during his tenure he will fight corruption in all its manifestations.

Speaking when member of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, lead by its Chairman, Retired Justice Mustafa Akanbi, visited him Ahmed said that the crusade against corruption should start from top.

He said that once the

leadership was seen to be open, honest and transparent, the followership would fall in line, nothing that "only leadership by example, openness, and sincerity can bail us out of this quagmire".

Ahmed pledged to support all relevant agency that were out to fight corruption and to ensure public accountability, stressing that the civil service being the implementing agency for all government programmes play a cardinal and focal role in the fight against corruption.

He said that the civil

service will fully support the commission in its monumental assignment of ridding the nation of corruption.

The head of service said "sometimes politicians come and ask civil servant to take certain action in the disregard of set down laws, rules and decorum, while some people blame the military regimes for dictating to civil servants".

He blamed civil servants who succumbed to such intimidation

"I will like to said with deepest sense of responsibility and a little modesty that to a large extent it is the conduct of the civil service that

encourages or discourages the public leadership from over stepping their bounds or acting accessively"

He blamed the problem of corruption on the insincerity of the people stressing that "if the people were sincere with themselves they would do the right thing without being corrupt".

Earlier, the chairman of the commission has said that anti corruption unit would be establish in all Federal government ministry and extra ministerial departments to coordinate the war against corruption.

He promised to step public enlightenment on the evil of corruption explaining that the campaign would be taking to the grassroots.

## House-to-house immunazation begins in Abuja

The third phase of house-to-house National immunization programme would begin in Abuja, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of January this year

Daily Trust reliably gathered that the exercise is scheduled to carry out immunization

for children between the age of 0-5 years old, the exercise is to last for one week.

Already Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) has recruited and trained over 500 personnel for the exercise, among whom were vaccinator, guides and vaccination supervisors

Investigations revealed that the office of National Programme for immunization (NPI) Abuja would be responsible for the payment of the officials that would participate in the exercise.

The exercise is expected to cover all the twelve wards in the Federal capital city which include Gwagwa, Karmo, Idu, Nyanya, Karu, Lugbe, and other villages.

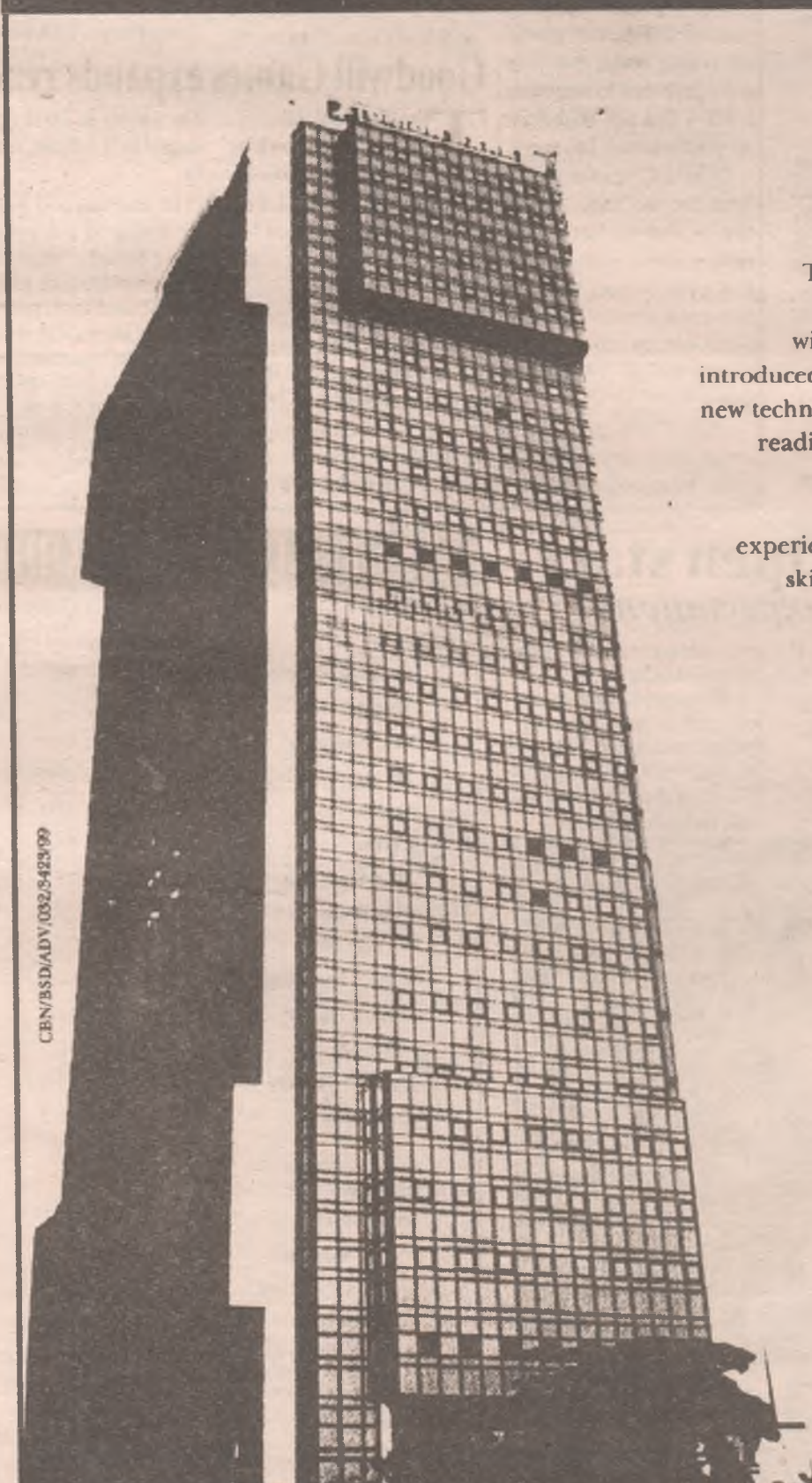
The National programme for Immunization (NPI) coordinator, in AMAC Alhaji Mohammed Musa disclosed that the vaccination would be a continued exercise on periodical basis to prevent children from the wrath of six deadly discases that usually attack children below the age of five.

Alhaji Musa said that the house to house approach to the vaccination exercise is to ensure that greater numbers of children benefit from the exercise without inconveniencing their parents

He urge residents of FCT to give maximum cooperation to the vaccination Officers to ensure a successful immunization exercise.

Similar exercise is expected to be carried out in all local government areas through out the country.

### UNION BANK IN THE AGE OF CHANGE



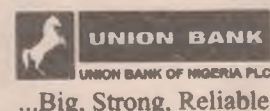
CBN/BS/D/ADV/032/5423/00

To you our customers, time is of essence. To help you keep pace with the changing times, we have introduced; new products, new structure, new technology and our new office. All in readiness for the millennium, where time is money.

Our over 80 years of banking experience in Nigeria has given us the skill to lead the forces that change and shape events in Nigeria's financial landscape. Our customers can now deal easy and enjoy a wide choice of banking opportunities.

*We never wait for things to change us, we change things.*

For further information on reliable banking call:



**Head Office:**  
36 Marina, Lagos. Tel: 01- 2644358, 2644368, 2664815, 2644149. Telex: 28723, 28729, 28873. Fax: 2669873, 2644306.

**London Office:**  
14/18 Capthall Avenue, London EC 2R 7BN. Tel: (0171)-400-0751. Fax (0171)-6387642.

**Johannesburg Office:**  
13 Fredman Drive, 8th Floor, Norwich Towers Sandton, Johannesburg 2199, South Africa. Tel: 27-11-863-3313, 27-11-863-2915 FAX: 27-11-863-2781.

TW/1-2001/16



## Australian Open Court under scrutiny

The withdrawal of two players through injury and a nasty fall for women's 12th seed Jennifer Capriati Monday left the Melbourne Park Courts under scrutiny again on the first day of the Australian Open.

American Brie Rippner suffered an ankle injury and was forced to retire after just one came of her match on the new showcourt, laid with the hardcourt rebound acc, with compatriot and fourth seed Monica Seles.

Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui suffered a recurrence of a recent knee injury and retired at 2-6, 4-5 against Ivo Heuberger of Switzerland in their first round match on court.

Capriati, the 24-year-old American, slipped while serving at match point against Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia on the Rod Laver Arena Centre Court.

Capriati hurt her right ankle but recovered to win 2-6, 6-4, 7-5, before receiving treatment to the injury. She had the ankle heavily strapped and said afterwards "the heat always makes the courts more sticky."

"I think they have tried to slow them down compared to last year. They



Andre Agassi in action at the Aussie Open. Experts have raise concern over the Melbourne Park courts.

must resurface them every year - it certainly felt like I was playing on a new court."

The courts at Melbourne Park are resurfaced every year as a routine. Last year players complained they thought they were playing too quickly.

As a result, officials and groundstaff attempted to produce courts that would match the speed and feel

underfoot.

Defending champion Andre Agassi, who beat Jiri Venek of the Czech Republic in their first round match on the newly-titled Vodafone Arena, said "the surface tends to get bit tacky, especially when the sun beats down."

"I think they are slower than last year. But it is always interesting to play on a new court at a grand slam event for the first time."

## Leeds chairman attacks FIFA over transfer

Leeds United chairman Peter Ridsdale attacked FIFA on Tuesday over their controversial proposal to allow soccer players to break their contracts by giving three months notice.

"I think it's potentially a disaster for the sport," Ridsdale told BBC radio.

"I can't believe FIFA have come forward with that proposal because players willingly enter into a contract and that contract is for a period of time that is mutually agreed by the two parties."

UEFA, European soccer's governing body, warned FIFA, the global governing body, that they were prepared to negotiate a FIFA did not withdraw proposals tabled last week.

The EC wants to restructure the transfer system in Europe because it says current rules break European Union laws on fair competition and the rights of workers to move freely in the 15-nation union.

The FIFA proposals would allow players to walk away from contracts with

their clubs if they disagreed with a coach's tactics. They could also break contract by submitting three months' notice or if their club faced relegation.

"Does that give the club the right to say that, if a player has tow bad games, they can tear up the contract?" asked Ridsdale. He said the FIFA proposals would also leave the majority of footballers badly exposed.

"Under the proposed new rules, if the clubs feel they (players) are not performing or if they have a short notice period, they will find themselves on the

dole within months."

Meanwhile, the love-hate relationship between UEFA and FIFA reached a new low on Monday over proposals for the introduction of an international transfer system agreeable to the European Commission.

UEFA, the European governing body, lashed out at FIFA, the world governing body, saying they were prepared to negotiate a new transfer system alone with the EC if FIFA did not withdraw proposals they submitted to the EC without consulting UEFA first.

## Goodwill Games expands reach

The Goodwill Games alliance between the USA and Russia is over, and no longer will the quadrennial competition be limited to those two countries.

The games have been staged since 1986, beginning in Moscow and then moving to seattle in 1990 and to St. Petersburg, Russia 1994. The last edition was held in New York.

The games in 2002 will be staged in Brisbane, Australia.

"The formula and goal we are trying to achieve is to find a balance... going back to the traditional games," said Mike Prant, president of the Games. "It is a 150 million dollars project something that a local entity has to be able to put on."

The first three editions of the Games lost an average of about 40 million dollars.

## Williams sisters make bold Open start

...top-seeds lived up to expectations

The Williams sister grabbed the limelight in the first round of the Australian Open on Tuesday, Venus in a darling new outfit while younger sister Serena let her racket do the talking.

Third seed Venus, the Wimbledon and U.S Open champion, struggled through her first match against Spanish qualifier Maria Jose Martinez 6-3 2-6 6-0 and her low-cut, blue and black combination outfit drew more gasps than her tennis.

World number one Gustavo Kuerten strode into Australian Open second round on Tuesday by beating Argentina's Gaston Gaudio 7-5 6-7 6-3 7-5.

Kuerten, the top seed, is chasing a third grand slam singles title and his first Australian crown at Melbourne Park.

Sweden's Magnus Norman felt the memories of his success over the last year helped him to struggle past journeyman French

player Stephane Huet 1-6 7-5 6-1 7-6 in the first round of the Australian Open on Tuesday.

Norma, a semifinalist at Melbourne Park in 2000, faced an ignominious exit

when world number 114 Huet raced to a 6-1 4-1 lead.

Switzerland's Martina Hingis strolled into the second round of the Australian Open on Tuesday with a 6-1 6-1 win

over Hungary's Katalin Morosi-Aracama.

The world number one took just 30 minutes to defeat her outclassed Hungarian opponent and advance to a second-round meeting with Belgian Els Callens.



Spaniard Sergi Bruguera returning a serve from American Todd Martin at the Colonial Classic in Melbourne, Australia, recently. Photo: AFP

## AUSTRALIAN OPEN ODDS

Players	Odds
<b>Men</b>	
Gustavo Kuerten	5:1
Marat Safin	7:1
Pete Sampras	10:1
Yevgeni Kafelnikov	10:1
Andre Agassi	12:1
Leyton Hewitt	15:1
Magnus Norman	15:1
Tim Henman	20:1
JC Ferraro	25:1
Wayne Ferreira	30:1
Patrick Rafter	30:1
Cedric Pioline	30:1
Dominic Hbarty	35:1
F. Squillari	35:1
<b>Women</b>	
Martina Hingis	3:1
Venus Williams	4:1
Lindsay Davenport	5:1
Monica Seles	7:1
Conchita Martinez	9:1
Serena Williams	9:1
Mary Pierce	10:1
Anna Kournikova	10:1
Jelena Dokic	12:1
Arantha S. Vicario	14:1
Anka Huber	16:1



# Onigbinde condemns NFA for poor performances

By Samson Ojo, Lagos

Chief Festus Adegboyega Onigbinde, former coach of the Green Eagles and currently the coach of Trinidad and Tobago national team has accused the Nigeria Football Association (NFA), the apex soccer ruling body of being responsible for the dwindling standard of the game in the country.

Speaking in a chat with *Trustsports* in Lagos yesterday, he affirmed that NFA was not developing the game of football in Nigeria.

The Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) technical committee member identified some pitfalls associated with the NFA, which he suggested must be discarded for football to develop the



Dr. Tijjani Yusuf, NFA scribe

country.

Enumerating these pitfalls, Chief Onigbinde observed the poor standard of Nigerian coaches who according to him should be improved upon by the NFA through the technical department. Chief Onigbinde however, laments the inactivity of the technical department, which he said has not been productive. Said he: "how many

coaching courses have the so-called technical department organize in the country."

The Trinidad and Tobago Chief tactician also condemned the NFA on its choice of employing foreign coaches. He told *Trustsports*, that the NFA is fond of employing foreigners as technical advisers. The Modakeke-born chief stated, I regard those foreign coaches including Westerhof and Bonfrere, as coordinator. They are just coaching on the talents and motivations which we gave our players." These foreign coaches were easily exposed whenever they moved to other countries, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Qatar, which cannot boast of abundant talents like Nigeria as they always turn out to be failure.

Commenting on the Nigeria/Zimbabwe match, Chief Onigbinde

condemned the Eagles technical adviser Bonfrere Jo's inability to replace most of the ageing Super Eagles players with young and talented ones. According to him Nigeria has the talent

and potentials to rule the continent, if only the football authorities will adopt the right approach. The Eagles former coach, however, insisted that Nigeria will surely qualify for the final of the Nation's Cup tournament.

## Lack of funds hamper swimming

Clement Iyaluegbeghe, the secretary of the swimming federation has blamed the federation's inability to run its programmes for the past year on unavailability of sponsors.

Iyaluegbeghe told the News Agency of Nigeria (NANS) that it had not been easy getting sponsors for the federation's programmes.

'What will we do when

we can't get sponsors for our championships. We try our best but are unable to get sponsors.'

He said that in 1999 the federation was able to get sponsors for the National Water Polo tournament which was which was sponsored by the office of the Vice President, adding that the federation was only to run only one of its championships, the Chief of Naval Staff tournament which was late last year in Benin.

'We also featured in the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the National Sports Festival in Bauchi last year,' he added. He said the federation could not consider participating in international championships when it could not get sponsors for its national competitions.

He then urged the Federal Government to aid the federation by ensuring the complete rehabilitation of the swimming pool at the National Stadium, and proper funding of the federation.

# Tension at Plateau United camp

By Buhari Bello, Jos

Sequel to the dismal performance of Plateau United Football club of Jos, at the on-going league season, the management has warned the players to intensify effort or loss their monthly salaries.

The decision *Trustsports* learnt was taken after the Plateau boys were defeated 2-1 by Katsina United recently.

Sources revealed that the management of the team has been under severe pressure from the state government on the need to stem the dwindling fortunes.

Plateau United, which lifted the Challenge Cup in 1999, is presently managing to get its feet away from the bottom half of the league table.

Consequent upon this development it was reliably gathered that the team's management and players recently escaped being lynched by irate fans when they were held to 2-2 draw by Jigawa United at the Jos township stadium.

At the beginning of the season, United churn-out an away victory in Abeokuta when they defeated Julius Berger by a lone goal.

In another round of the league Gombe United compounded the team's woes when they win them

## ...players may lose monthly salary

1-0 in Gombe before they scraped a 1-1 draw against visiting Rangers.

They wanted to restore hope and confidence in the mind of their supporters when they beat Lobi of Makurdi 2-1 but that victory seem to signified edifice their man in the league.

Questions are now be-

ing asked as to whether the Plateau United will be able to maintain the standard it set at the start of the season?

Sports analyst said the club's recent dismal performance has weakened the morale of its fans who are now in support of the management action for threat-

ening the players.

But some sports observers are of the opinion that the woes of Plateau United F.C started "when the officials of the ministry of sports refused to allow management free hand to handle the affairs of the team."

## Premiership plans elite league for reserves

The Chairmen of England's 20 Premiership clubs have voted to establish their own exclusive team competition. The project is a potential money-spinner, but it also

poses another significant threat to the health of clubs with Football League.

Furthermore, it could sign the death warrants for two long established second-term competition, the Pontis

League in the north and midlands, founded as the Central League in 1911, and the slightly younger and more southern-based Football Combination.

The decision by

Premiership clubs to create an even wider gulf between themselves and the rest of professional football clubs follows disquiet among many of their managers over the proposals in the Charter for Excellence drawn up by Howard Wilkinson, the FA technical director.

While details of the new reserve league have yet to be finalized, the Football League finds itself threatened from several sides by the suggested Premier League reserve format and a damage control strategy has already been mapped-out to build a new structure for their own reserves out of what will remain of Pontis League and Football Combination after the withdrawal of 20 Premiership clubs.

Whatever new format emerges, it is bound to be of a lower standard and make it harder for young players at League clubs to test their skills against top quality opposition, while clubs already suffering from reduced transfer suffering in the wake of the Bosman ruling will find it increasingly harder to groom youngsters to sell on—a production line system so vital to the survival of many smaller league clubs.



Frank Lebeouf (second left) during Chelsea's UEFA Cup tie with St. Gallen. He is now set to dump the Premiership side for AS Monaco.

### Briefs

## Lebeouf set for move to Monaco

Chelsea's French defender Frank Lebeouf could be returning to his home country this week to join AS Monaco, British newspapers reported on Tuesday.

"I have had some great times with Chelsea, but I feel a need to go back to France and rediscover my home region," Lebeouf to the *Guardian*.

## Rookie wins Tucson Open

Garrett Willis won the weather-delayed Tucson Open in his first tournament as a PGA Tour member, defeating Kevin Sutherland by one stroke on Monday.

The 27-year-old Willie compiled a four-round total of 273, 15 under par. Sutherland, whose last round was a 68, finished at 274.

## West Ham call off Amoruso deal

English premier league club West Ham United have called off a move for Rangers defender Lorenzo Amoruso.

The 29-year-old Italian failed to agree personal terms after West Ham had a 3 million pounds (\$4.43 million) bid accepted by the Scottish champions.

## Agassi rules himself out of Davis Cup

American Andre Agassi opened the defence of his Australian Open title with a 6-0-7-5-6-3 win over Jiri Vanek on Monday and then turned his back on the United State's Davis Cup squad.

Agassi will miss the Americans' tie against Switzerland next month and said he was unlikely to return in the foreseeable future

**AMANA Suites**  
**ABUJA**  
Sokode Crescent, Off Michael Obasanjo Street,  
Wuse, Zone 5, Abuja - Nigeria.  
Tel/Fax: 09-5238664, 5238671, 5238623 & 5238619  
E-Mail: amanaSuites@inetweb.abj.net

# DAILY TRUST

## Sports Illustrated

*This Space is For Sale*



Britain's Tim Henman at the Australian Open. He is one of the handful tennis stars in the second round action tonight.



Bordeaux and Toulouse players squaring up in the French League. European football authorities are at loggerheads with FIFA over players transfer. Photo: AFP



Latrell Sprewell led his side, the New York Knicks to a 104 - 82 points victory over San Antonio Spurs Monday night.

### Beijing should not get Olympics, says Zelezny

Jan Zelezny, winner of three Olympic Games to Beijing. Beijing is one of five cities seeking to host the 2008 Olympics. The others are Toronto, Paris, Osaka and Istanbul. Zelezny and his fellow IOC members will vote on Monday on the Games venue in Moscow in July.

### Waugh faces anti-corruption investigators

**Cricket** officials visit Australia next month. The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said on Tuesday that Waugh had been asked to speak with investigators as part of a worldwide investigation into match-fixing.

Australian batsman Mark Waugh will be interviewed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) anti-corruption unit when its

### Professor Nomau's travails, written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

