

# DAILY TRUST

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**Shagari's Lamentation**

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**The boy becomes a man**

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## MINISTERS

### Out

Chief Dapo Sarumi  
Tunde Adeniran  
Tonye Graham-Douglas  
Alh. Adamu Hassan  
Mrs. Bekky Igwe  
Dr. Tim Menakaya  
Arc. Ibrahim Bunu  
Alh. Sani Zangon Daura  
Mr. Danishi Sango  
Maj. Gen. David Jimbewon (rtd)

### In

Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu (Anambra)  
Muhammed Abba-Gana (Borno)  
Prof. A.B. Borishade (Ekiti)  
Malam Adamu Bello (Adamawa)  
Chief Kolawale Babalola Jamodu (Kogi)  
Alhaji Musa Elayo Abdullahi (Nassarawa)  
Dr. Bimbola Ogunkelu (Lagos)  
Mr. Ishaya Mark Aku (Plateau)  
Alhaji Mohammed Kabir Said (Katsina)  
Ms. Boma Bromillow Jack (Rivers)

## Cabinet reshuffle

# Ten out, ten in

### Senate begins screening today

President Olusegun Obasanjo effected the long expected cabinet change yesterday with the removal of ten ministers from the 47-member cabinet and their replacement with another ten.

Yesterday's changes followed the president's announcement at the last

**By Ibrahim Modibbo and Sulciman Mohammed**

Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting that he would affect changes in the cabinet.

Soon after his return

from a brief visit to Switzerland he summoned the Deputy Senate President, Alhaji Ibrahim Mantu and handed him the list of the ministerial nominees for Senate screening. Mantu

stood in for the Senate President, Ayim Pius Anyim who is on an official tour of the United States and Great Britain.

The president followed it up with an early morning

farewell breakfast yesterday for the 10 ministers he dropped from the cabinet. He thanked them for their service to the nation and urged them to continue to

Contd. on pg2

# Coomassie, Today publisher, is dead

The media industry in Nigeria has lost one of its most intrepid members, with the death of Alhaji Abidina Coomassie, the publisher of *Today* and *Abuja Mirror*

**By Ekele Onwuchekwa**

ror newspapers.

A journalist, public relations expert and publisher, Alhaji Abidina died in the early

hours of yesterday in Katsina at the age of 62. He was ill for most of two years and had been in coma at the Katsina Nursing Home since Friday last week.

Born on December 29, 1939, the late Coomassie made a name in both the print and broadcast journalism, having worked with Radio Ghana and later as the war correspondent of *New Nigerian* newspapers during the Nigerian civil war

between 1967 and 1970. He worked later at the Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria (BCNN) before he went for further studies at the Aberdeen College, Scotland. On his return in 1977, he joined

Contd. on pg2

## NNPC: Nigeria suffers another N150bn loss

With Nigerians yet to recover from the revelations unearthed last week in the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), another shocking find of N150 billion (\$1.5 billion) discrepancies in crude oil receipts between May 1999 and October 2000, has been made.

The N150 billion loss in revenue was allegedly detected from discrepancies in crude oil revenue receipts for the period

submitted by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the NNPC to the House of Representatives ad-hoc committee probing fuel importation by the Obasanjo administration since May 29, 1999.

Only last Tuesday, the same ad-hoc committee had disclosed that Nigeria lost N24 billion in revenue as a result of over lifting of crude oil by the NNPC and five other major oil

Contd. on pg2

## Local governments get autonomy soon

The 774 local government council in the country will get their autonomy soon when a bill in that regard to be presented to the National Assembly is passed into law.

The bill will give greater financial autonomy to the local government councils.

Already, Senate ad-hoc committee on the review of local government system in Nigeria has put in place measures aimed at collating information from the government and stakeholders drafting the bill.

Committee chairman, Senator Tunde Ogbeha said yesterday that the proposed bill would end the "inherent deficiencies and contradictions in the local government system in Nigeria."

He pointed out that former system had resulted in various standards being applied in the management of local government councils in the country. Towards this end, he said, the committee would hold public hearings from February 7 and 12 in Kaduna, Lagos, Enugu

Contd. on pg2



Late Alhaji Abidina Coomassie

## NEWS

## FG pledges commitment to conducive business environment

As part of the multi-sectoral approach to foreign investment Nigeria, another international investment summit opened in Abuja yesterday with government restatement of commitment to providing the enabling environment.

Vice President Atiku Abubakar who declared the summit open said the present administration was committed to providing a conducive business environment that would stimulate investment in the country.

The summit on "International Investment Opportunities for Solid Mineral and Agro Allied Business Financing in the North Central States" is

By Ahmed Shakarau

organised by Standard Trust Bank.

The VP who was represented at the occasion by the Minister of Economic Affairs in the Presidency, Prince Victor Obulafor emphasised that the administration has since its inception focused on a number of economic reforms which he said were "necessary for the development of the country".

According to him, "the long-term objective of the Federal Government is to provide the necessary environment for investment funds to come into Nigeria, while instituting a strong capability for promoting and supporting investment op-

portunities wherever they exist".

Vice President Abubakar commended Standard Trust Bank for organising the investment summit, noting that the Bank "is truly engaging in the age-old profession of creative banking".

He stressed that by organising the forum, "the Bank is setting in motion the machinery for actively linking those who want to invest, with the investment opportunities that are available."

Earlier in an address of welcome, the Managing Director of Standard Trust Bank, Mr. Tony Elumelu said the bank organised the summit

to highlight the various investment potentials of the North-Central Region, which had remained untapped.

According to Elumelu, the North - Central States "have enormous potentials as far as investment opportunities are concerned but the region is very much unlike other investment hubs in the country which get the bulk of investors' attention".

He emphasized that the objective of the summit is to expose the vista of investment opportunities in the Region, to facilitate an interface between the owner governments, potential investors and the providers of capital.

## Ige blames IBB for N891.6bn ID card loan

Nigeria".

Following the intervention of the Ministry of Justice, the Minister said that a few concessions were made by the lender, adding that the ministry again became involved in the project when the lender sued the Federal Government in a London court for default in payment.

Ige told the committee that when in 1996, the Federal Government suspended all payments on loans and was taken to court by NOGA, his Ministry again became involved in the efforts to settle the matter out of court.

While the court action had to be attended to, he said that all relevant arms of government, at the Vanguard of which was the project Ministry, were compelled to work together to realise the full objectives of the project.

Ige also spoke of what he described as "indecent haste to pay part of the debt to NOGA after an agreement to that effect was signed" saying that less than 24 hours after the agreement was signed, Late Gen. Sani Abacha, the then head of state, directed that they should stay action on the payment.

The Attorney General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige has blamed the administration of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida for signing a \$74.3 million, (or) N891.6 billion, for the execution of the national ID card project in spite of the stringent conditions attached to him.

At the Public hearing by the Senate Committee on Public Accounts on the circumstances that led to Nigeria incurring heavy financial losses without an appreciable progress in the project, Chief Ige disclosed that the lender, *Compagnie NOGA D' Importation et D' Exportation S.A.* NOGA, insisted that repayment of the loan would not in any way be conditioned on performance of the contract, but the government went ahead to take the loan because it appeared to have taken an irreversible decision to do so.

Ige said that the Ministry of finance had the primary responsibility to ensure that the terms and conditions of a proposed loan, not only complied with the borrowing policy of the day, but also that the provisions of loan documents did not contain terms prejudicial to the interest of the government.

He noted that when the final draft loan facility agreement was forwarded for clearance to the Ministry of Justice, "A number of provisions were considered rather peculiar, onerous and prejudicial to

## NNPC Contd. from pg 1

companies operating in the country.

But the ad-hoc committee chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Ganyama Abubakar while briefing house reporters yesterday in Abuja, disclosed that while the NNPC said it generated only \$10,371,445,447 billion during the 18 months period, the figures provided by the CBN and the Accountant-General's office was \$11,881,757,897 billion and \$11,820,523,065 billion respectively.

The committee chairman explained that in comparing the figures, the committee discovered a difference of \$1.5 billion in expected revenue, adding that "in all these three figures presented by the NNPC, CBN and Accountant-General, there were disparities.

"The biggest disparity is that of \$1.5 billion between the figures of the NNPC and the other two agencies," he confirmed.

Moreover, Alhaji Abubakar revealed that the NNPC and the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) submitted different figures as the amount of crude exported by the country. While the NNPC gave 431,232,929 million barrels as crude exported, the DPR mentioned a figure of 556,745,864 million barrels as actual export, a difference of 60,460,421 million barrels.

Speaking on domestic crude allocation to local refineries, the lawmaker equally stated that the committee equally received conflicting figures. For instance, he said for the period between May and December 1999, while the Accountant-General said the allocation to NNPC was 67,239,910 million barrels; DPR gave a figure of 45,137,592 million barrels and NNPC, 45,413,299 million barrels.

Between January and October 2000, the Accountant-General's office said the NNPC received 72,404,650 million barrels of crude; DPR said the figure was 25,944,870 million barrels while NNPC gave a figure of 25,284,147 million barrels.

Similarly, the total crude utilized by the NNPC from

May 1999 to December 2000, according to the Accountant-General was 139,644,560 million barrels; the DPR had a figure of 71,082,462 million barrels and NNPC provided 70,697,446 million barrels as amount of crude utilized for the period.

In the same vein, the com-

mittee discovered that the amount of crude refined locally by the NNPC during this period was 67,482,520 million barrels, just as the figures for unutilized crude that was eventually exported by NNPC stood at 55,564,360 million barrels while the figures provided by Accountant-General

was 71,299,320 million barrels.

According to Alhaji Abubakar: "there is a difference of 16 million barrels. The total amount of exported unutilized crude is N73 billion, but the discrepancies of 16 million barrels is about N1.8 billion."

## Coomassie Contd. from pg 1

the *Daily Times* of Nigeria as Chief Correspondent in Kaduna and later News Editor in Lagos.

Public relations soon followed with a stint at Mobil Producing Nigeria Ltd between 1978 and 1981 as Public Relations Adviser and later manager.

Alhaji Abidina was also president of the Nigerian National Committee of the International Press Institute (IPI), Fellow of the Commonwealth Journalists Association (FCJA), Fellow of Nigerian Institute of Journalism (FNIJ) and a patron of various councils of the Nigeria Union of Journalists including Abuja and Oyo, as well as the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA).

A life long reporter even after he became a publisher, Coomassie had a knack for investigative journalism and many of the best reports in his newspapers came from his various contacts in the world of business, politics, intelligent services and the diplomatic corp.

His investigations had put into question the integrity of very notable Nigerians, including Anthony Enahoro, Bola Ige, Bolaji Akinyemi, Wole Soyinka, Gani Fawehimi and even current president, Olusegun Obasanjo.

It would be recalled that the scandal which almost swept Lagos state governor, Bola Tinubu out of his seat was sparked-off by an investigative write up on the governor published by his flagship, *Today* newspaper.

Operating from a base in London, he was for many years constantly on the move, visiting many countries around the world both for business and for pleasure. He even flew in and out of Nigeria, where he

had a wife and children, but only in the last few years did he really make the country his home.

Meanwhile, condolence registers have been opened at his Abuja office, 615, Sultan Ahmadu Bello Way, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja, and the corporate headquarters of *Today*

Communication, in Kaduna.

In one of the earliest messages at the Abuja office, a close confidant of his and consultant of the company, Mr. Uche Ezechukwu said: "He was great in life. We shall ensure that he becomes grater in death..."

## Local govts. Contd. from pg 1

and Abuja.

According to him the public hearings in Kaduna would take place on the February 7 while that of Lagos and Enugu would be on February 8 and 9 respectively, February 12 would be the turn of Abuja, he said.

Stressing that "the task before the committee is very important, serious and difficult, Senator Ogbeka said the outcome of the committee's work would determine the effectiveness or otherwise of the local government system" which is the bedrock of our de-

mocracy.

He revealed that the committee would rely on inputs from the presidency, state governors, speakers of state houses of assembly, local government chairmen and councilors, the press and the public for memorandum on the subject.

"We shall review past and relevant documents and studies. The product of this exercise will give the local government system a greater degree of autonomy and accountability in a federal presidential system of government," the committee chairman said.

## Ten out Contd. from pg 1

make themselves available for services to the nation in other capacities.

They, in turn, thanked the him for the opportunity they were given to serve the nation.

Meanwhile, the Senate will begin screening of the ministerial nominees today as a condition for their confirmation.

The Presidential Liaison Officer (PLO) to the Senate, Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim - Imam told newsmen at the National Assembly Complex yesterday that unlike the previous exercises, the ministerial nominees have to declare their assets they are screened by the Senate.

He said "the new nominees are to appear before the Senate at 10 a.m. for screening but before then, they

should report to the PLO's office at 8 a.m. for mandatory assets declaration for the Code of Conduct Bureau."

Imam further disclosed that after the screening exercise, the new team will join the other 37 ministers who retained the positions for a "radical reshuffle" of portfolios which "the president will fix round pegs in round holes and square pegs in square holes."

While announcing the submission of the list to the Senate, Mantu said security reports or an essential requirement for the screening and confirmation on each of the 10 nominees would be sent directly to the Senate.

He said the nominees will be screened by the entire members of the Senate sitting as a committee of the whole house.

## Court adjourns N500m libel suit against Tell Magazine

An Abuja High Court yesterday adjourned the N500 million libel suit instituted against the *Tell Magazine* by the former President, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, to February 27.

Counsel to Shagari, Mr. Eric Nwaubani, complained to the court that the defendants had refused to appear in court in three previous sittings and urged the court to continue with the case in its next sitting.

In the suit filed in September 1999, Shagari is claiming N500 million as damages and an order of perpetual injunction restraining the defendants from further publication of the offensive article the Magazine's issue No. 27 of July 5, 1999 with a caption "The plot against Obasanjo."

## Pilgrims affairs office concludes preparations for Hajj

The Pilgrims Affairs Office (PAO) has concluded preparations for the Hajj 2001 operations, with a call to all agencies involved in the operations to live up to expectation.

Briefing newsmen on Monday in Abuja, the chairman of PAO, Prof. Abubakar Gwandu, said that officials of relevant agencies, such as the customs police, CBN and the ministry of health, "must make sure that their officials perform their duties diligently in the Holy land.

## Fake Villa Imam arrested

A man who claimed to be an Imam at the Presidential Villa, Aliyu Umar has been arrested by security operatives. Mr. Aliyu Umar who hails from Lafia, Nasarawa State confessed after interrogation that he had gone to a parastatal to ask for assistance under the pretence that he was an Imam attached to Aso Rock.

He said that he came to Abuja to seek a means of livelihood, adding that he was forced by circumstances to commit the act.

Mrs Aliyu who was paraded before State House correspondents however asked for forgiveness, claiming that this was his first time, and promised that it would be the last.

The Special Assistant to the Vice-President on media and publicity, Mr. Chris Mammam said Aliyu Umar would soon appear in court.

# News Focus

## Cabinet Reshuffle: President and Vice President's men

By Sani Babadoko with Ibrahim Modibbo & Suleiman Mohammed.

The most striking aspect about the 10 Ministers nominated is that they are either loyalists of the president or of the Vice President. It will seem that the presidency has now reasserted itself against PDP power brokers in government and in the party, at federal and state level, who played a major role in the make-up of the Obasanjo cabinet.

Presidential spin doctors have often suggested that if the Obasanjo government was not performing, then it was the fault of his party the PDP, which put pressure on him to appoint party men rather than capable Nigerians as ministers. With this cabinet reshuffle, Obasanjo may not have got his 'technocrats' but at least the new men were his and the Vice President's choice.

Many of the new faces who will face the Senate for confirmation are not active political figures and are believed to have made the list through their personal merit. Some are people who have made their mark in their chosen fields as university dons, lawyers, bankers, industrialists and engineers. Those that were in politics have been in the People's Democratic Movement (PDM) tendency Yar'Adua political machine at the head of which is Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

Another interesting feature of the shake-up is that ministers who robbed the President or the Vice President the wrong way, have been pushed out. Sani Zangon Daura former minister of environment may be one of yesterday's men, but as most well informed Nigerians know that may not be the main reason he was shown the door. He was on his own from the time he stood up to the president in a federal executive council meeting last year. After all, other old men, like Bola Ige, Adamu Ciroma and Tony Anenih, not only survived, but may have their positions enhanced in the new cabinet.

Ibrahim Bunu of FCT may have ordered the demolishing of houses in Durumi and other shanty towns, an action not calculated to endear him to the Abuja under class, but his real problems have more to do with relationships he destroyed than buildings he demolished. In most democracies Vice Presidents occupy unenviable positions; in the peculiar case of Nigeria circumstances have made Atiku Abubakar a real second in command, something that the



Danjuma...Retained

Architect from Borno did not grasp quickly enough.

In spite of all the noise about 'democracy dividends' which the governments wants to begin to deliver with an eye on 2003 election, the reshuffled cabinet is not substantially different from the old. First the number will still remain at 46; two in some of the appointments loyalty and



Bunu...Dropped

connection seem as important as competence and record of service. True there are professionals among the new appointees, but none of the whiz-kid types the media spent days speculating on. Still the nation must fervently pray that ten 'fresh blood' can reinvigorate a sitting cabinet of 36 men. Below is their hurriedly prepared profile:

**MOHAMMED KABIR SAIDU**

In his late 40s, Kabir Saidu,



Adamu Bello...Coming-in



Ciroma...Retained

from Daura in Katsina State, must be one of the youngest and most political of the appointees. A graduate of A.B.U, Saidu was a staff of Kaduna Polytechnic for many years before he ventured into politics. He quickly became a trusted aide of Shehu Yar'Adua, his political secretary and a one-time chairman of Social Democratic Party (SPD) in Katsina State. Unlike some Yar'Adua associates he avoided politics during the Abacha years, but it was inevitable that his political pedigree will be recognised and recorded by a government brought into power by elements of the



Zangon Daura...Dropped

Yar'Adua political machine.

**MALAM ADAMU BELLO**

Malam Adamu Bello, Dan Iyan Adamawa was born in Numan, Adamawa State on My 20 1951. He attended Mayo Belwa Primary School, Government Secondary school Yola and Ahmadu Bello University Zaria. He also attended University of Pittsburgh and Harvard University, Boston both in the United State of America.

He started his carrier at the New Nigerian Development Company NNDC as an investment executive. He joined Habib Nigeria Bank in 1983 as Deputy Managing Director becoming its managing Director in 1988. Before his nomination he was the Chairman of the bank's board of directors.



Ige...Retained

**ALHAJI MUSA ELAYO ABDULLAHI**

Before his nomination, has been the chairman Rules and Business Committee at House of Representatives and a close confidant of speaker Umar Ghali Na'abba fueling speculations that his nomination is the result of the rapprochement between the speaker and President Obasanjo.



Douglas...Dropped

Born in Awe, Keana Local government of Nasarawa State. Alhaji Musa attended the Ahmadu Bello University, Nigerian Law School and the University of Jos and was a private legal practitioner in Jos before he joined politics.

**ENGINEER ABBA GANA**

Born in 1943 in Danboa, Borno State Engineer Abba was a senior electrical engineer in the defunct north east state civil service, 1964 - 74 and Chief Engineer with the Chad Basin Development



Mohd. Kabir Saidu...Coming-in

Authority between 1978 -79. He was also commissioner for Work and Housing Borno State in 1979. He is a member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers London and Institute of Material Handling London.

**CHIEF KOLAWOLE BABALOLA JAMODU**

Chief Kolawole who is expected to replace former Police Affairs minister, David Jemibewon is also from Kogi State and a chartered accountant. Born on February 9, 1944 in Ode-Ere, Yagba West Local Government Area, he attended St. Pauls School Ebutte-Metta, Lagos City College (1956-61), London School of Accountant, Harvard Business School, Boston. He was Financial Director, Paterson Zochonis Industries PLC 1987 becoming its Chairman and Chief Executive in 1990.

**PROFESSOR A.B.C. NWOSU**

Professor Nwosu until his nomination was the political adviser to President Olusegun Obasanjo. Before joining politics he was Professor of political science University of Nigeria, Nsukka and one of its youngest professors. Before his appointment as political adviser, he vied for the governorship of Anambra State and lost in the primaries to the incumbent, Chinwoke Mbadinuju.

**CHIEF (DR.) BIMBOLA OGUNKELU**

Dr. Bimbola from Lagos State is expected to replace Chief Dapo Sarumi the former minister of Integration and Co-operation in Africa. He is a consultant physician and a member of the National Revenue Mobilisation Commission.

**MR. ISHAYA MARK AKU**

Mr. Ishaya Aku is to be a replacement for the former sports minister, Mr. Damishi Sango. He is a hydrologist by training and before his nomination the permanent secretary in the ministry of water resources in Plateau State.

**MS. BOMA BROMILLOW—JACK**

From Rivers State, Ms Boma Bromillow—Jack is expected to replace the former minister of culture and tourism, Tonye Graham-Douglas. She has been a private legal practitioner. She attended the University of London where she obtained masters degree in law.

**PROFESSOR A.B. BORISHADE**

From Ekiti State Professor Borishade is a professor of physics. Before his appointment he was a senior special assistant to President Obasanjo.

He was a member of the defunct Social Democratic Party (SDP) and now a staunch PDP member

## NEWS

## Oputa Panel: Col. Komo supervised Saro-wiwa's execution

-Witness

The Human Rights Violations Investigation Commissions (HRVIC) was on Monday told that the former Military Administrator of Rivers, Col. Dauda Komo, personally supervised the hanging of Ogoni Human and Environmental Rights Activist, Mr. Ken Saro-wiwa, and eight of his kinsmen.

In his testimony before the commission, Mr. Ezezor Nasikpo, who works within Rivers Ministry of Health and belongs to the National Council of Ogoni People (NYCOP), said that as a detainee at the Port Harcourt Prisons, he was shocked to see

the former administrator supervising the hanging of the 'Ogoni 9' on November 10, 1995.

Nasikpo, who was one of the 20 Ogoni youths detained at the Port Harcourt Prisons during the trial of Ken Saro-wiwa, said that on Nov. 1, 1995, a day after the conviction by the Auta tribunal of the 'Ogoni 9', he saw the former Attorney-General and Commissioner of Justice of Rivers state, Adokiye Amasiemeka, inspecting the gallows at the Port Harcourt Prisons.

Nasikpo, who said he

watched the hanging from his cell, added that it was ironical that he was being cross-examined by Amasiemeka, who is currently Komo's counsel at the commission.

The MOSOP activist also said that the substance which he suspected to be acid was poured on the corpses of the 'Ogoni 9' on the orders of the authorities.

He called on Amasiemeka, who tried to refute his testimony, to obey his conscience, saying that the former Nigerian Football International, must have acted with the illusion that "a day like this would never come."

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that as a result of dispute on the possibility of a detainee watching the hanging from cell D1, at the Port Harcourt Prisons, the commission quickly rose and visited the prisons.

The chairman of the Commission, Justice Chukwudifu Oputa, while commenting on the observation of the commission at the prisons, asked both the plaintiff's and defendant's counsels to submit their opinions on the visit as exhibits today.

NAN, however, reports that witness accounts of those allowed into the prison with the commission confirmed the possibility of observing the gallows from cell D1 at the Port Harcourt Prisons.



Senate Ad-hoc Committee on the review of Local Government System in Nigeria at a press briefing held at National Assembly, Abuja yesterday. Picture shows (L-R), Senator Tunde Ogbeha Chairman, Sen. I.S. Martins Yellowe, Sen. David Mark, Sen. Idris Abubakar and Sen. Abdalla Wali  
Pic: Onigbinde Felix

## VC escapes assassination attempt

The Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University, Prof. Abdullahi Mahadi, on Friday narrowly escaped being killed by suspected assassins who shot a mobile policeman attached to his (Mahadi's) official residence at Area B7, Samaru.

A NAN correspondent in Zaria reliably learnt that the suspects, numbering about 22, were believed to have been trailing the Vice-Chancellor who was coming from Abuja on the fateful day.

Mahadi's sudden decision to check his office as against moving straight home from the journey saved him from the hands of the assassins who had

already laid an ambush at his house.

An attempt by the security men attached to the Vice-Chancellor's house to challenge the assassins, however led to the shooting of one of the mobile policemen deployed to the house by the criminals.

The injured policeman who was taken to the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital was responding to treatment.

When contacted for comments on the incident, the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Zaria zone, Alhaji Sulaiman Lawal confirmed the story, saying that one suspect had been arrested, while another escaped with bullet wounds.

## Benue showcases investment potentials

As from March, 2001 prospective investors wishing to do business in Benue State would no longer have problems with the availability of information in that respect. The same applies to intending tourists.

This is because the State Government has contracted the firm of management, financial and investment consultants to produce an investors and tourists guides, to assist prospective investors in the State.

The contract which was entered into with Bobec and Associates will ensure that prospective investors no longer have problems of information in the various areas open for investment.

In a chat with *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday, Principal Partner of the

Company, Mr. Bob A. Echikwonye disclosed that the handbook when produced will contain relevant and upto date information on sectarian investment and preferred areas of investment which include among others agriculture, industries mining, solid minerals, fisheries and even forestry.

He also stated that, the Guide would include several state government incentives to investors.

On tourism, the Principal Partner disclosed that both existing and intended tourists sites would be included in the brochure. The project according to Mr. Echikwonye is being supervised by the State Commissioner for Finance Dr. Christopher Obute while the forward to the Guide is expected to be written by Governor George Akume

## Kogi INEC boss dies at 63

The Kogi state government has announced the death of the state chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Alhaji Isa Ahmed Adaji.

A government statement issued on Monday in Idah, described the death of Adaji as an irreparable loss not only to the people of Idah local government, where he hails from, but also the entire Kogi state and the country in general.

In a message to the family of the deceased, the Kogi state Governor, Prince Abubakar Audu, advised them to bear the loss with fortitude and to continue to pray for the peaceful repose of the soul of the deceased.

Adaji, 63, died at the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital in the FCT at the weekend after a protracted illness and has since been buried at his home town Idah accord-

ing to Islamic rites.

Before his appointment as the Kogi state INEC chairman, Adaji, an

APP stalwart in the state, was the chairman of the state Local Government Service Commission.

## Nigeria's profile rises with G-77 chair

Nigeria's chairmanship of the G-77 in the past year has proven her leadership abilities and enhanced its recognition in the comity of nations.

Nigeria's permanent representative to the UN, Chief Arthur Mbanefo said in New York that since passing over the chairmanship of the 133-member group of developing countries in January 12, Nigeria has become a rallying point in getting things done at the UN.

"People are coming to me saying, 'Nigeria you are the leader, do this for us, do this for us'," he said.

The ambassador at-

tributed this recognition to the sterling leadership and commitment that Nigeria had demonstrated while leading the group, which handles social and economic issues for developing countries at the UN.

"I think what came out of our service to the developing countries is the strength of commitment in our efforts, right from the President (Olusegun Obasanjo) to the last person," he added.

Among the issues on which Nigeria demonstrated effective and outstanding leadership was negotiation last December of a new scale of assessment of contributions to the UN budget by member states.

While the US had

would not hesitate to admit the JAMB candidates with NECO certificates that met the universities requirements.

Speaking further, the university of Lagos Vice-Chancellor revealed that the Governing Council of the University had fixed February 15, 2001 for the Convocation ceremony of the University.

Professor Obe announcement was hailed by some of the fresh students who spoke to the *Daily Trust* in the University.

Said one, "I feel highly relieved and elated, it is now that I have truly been admitted to the University of Lagos"

asked that its assessment of 25 per cent for the regular UN budget and 30 per cent and 27 per cent respectively, the G-77 was opposed to such a change.

Over the years, members could not come to agreement, a situation that jeopardized the financial position of the UN.

However, as negotiations reopened last December, the UN began reaching deals with some regional groups to weaken the position of those opposed to a reduction of US assessment, including the G-77.

Not wanting to lose out completely, Nigeria got G-77 members to accept a review of the US assessment on some conditions.

PEOPLE AND POLITICS

By  
MOHAMMED HARUNA

# Shagari's lamentation

The other day, former President Shehu Shagari expressed concern about what he said was the absence of "responsible opposition" in the country. "The present ruling party", he reportedly said, "does not have any opposition and this is not an ideal situation in a multi-party democracy. We should have responsible opposition." The presence of a responsible opposition is indeed not a question of ideal situation, it is a necessary condition for genuine democracy.

The operative term in Shagari's lamentation is obviously the word "responsible", since there are people who oppose either simply for opposition sake or because they want to get some benefits, material or otherwise, for themselves. These are unhelpful of genuine democracy. On the contrary they breed anarchy.

Shagari's lamentation seems to assume that the only credible source of responsible opposition in a democracy is the party. Obviously, this assumption is not exactly correct. There are at least five other sources of opposition to a ruling party in any democracy, namely the mass media, non-governmental organisations especially human rights organisations, religious and ethnic bodies, individuals, and last but by no means the least, the legislature.

In the case of party opposition itself, it should be obvious that in a presidential system of democracy, as opposed to the parliamentary model, opposition is not always along party lines. In a presidential system, legislators can and do vote not necessarily for their party's position, right or wrong, but according to their conscience. This is partly because in a presidential system, parties are little more than electoral machines and also party because all executive powers flow from the president whose mandate is nation-wide and who therefore can cast his net wide in shopping for ideas and for personnel say, for his cabinet. In contrast, in a parliamentary system, the prime minister, who has only a constituency mandate is merely the first among equals, and therefore is as much subject to party dictates as his ministerial and parliamentary colleagues.

All this makes it possible to have legislative opposition to the ruling party, even when it has a majority in the legislature. Indeed, in the presidential system, legislative opposition is more portent than party opposition or any other opposition for that matter.

Having said all this, it must still be admitted that Shagari is absolutely right to worry that we seem headed for an imperial presidency under President Olusegun Obasanjo. Since coming to power, the impeachable offences which Obasanjo has committed can turn even the most insensitive dictator green with envy. He has fired and installed military and police chiefs in complete contempt of the process. He has implemented budgets in a selective manner and above all he has even spent money without legislative appropriation. By the last count, he has brought in the American military to "professionalize" our military without necessary say - so of the National Assembly. One can go on and on.

Yet it is very unlikely that Obasanjo will be impeached or removed from office before his current term runs out. Even if he could, personally I don't think he should, given the fragile nature of our infant democracy. Still it is imperative, as Shagari has said, that there is responsible opposition to the way President Obasanjo has been running the affairs of this country. The prospect for the emergence of such opposition, I am afraid, seems rather bleak for now.

There are, I have said earlier, at least five sources of opposition to the ruling party, apart from opposition from other parties, namely the mass media, non-governmental organisations especially the human rights organisations, ethnic, sectional and religious organisations, individuals and the legislature. As at now only one or two of these sources seem up to the scratch as far as the qualities needed for being able to speak up effectively against executive excesses are concerned. Some of these qualities are integrity, credibility and courage.

The mass media has hitherto shown a lot of courage in opposing dictatorship but their integrity and credibility remains dubious to say the least. They have been highly selective in fighting official corruption and they seem more interested in reflecting and imposing their own agenda or those of their mentors than in reflecting the public agenda. Consequently, they have tended to ignore inconvenient facts and to sensationalize and distort reality or even fabricate "facts".

What is true of the mass media is also true of the NGOs. Any observer of the Nigerian scene will be forgiven if he imagines that there has been absolutely no abuse of human rights or free speech since Obasanjo came to power nearly two years ago. Yet on a number of occasions, security agencies have, for instance, invaded the offices of *Today* newspaper, published in Abuja and the confiscated

some of their editions. In the face of such infringements or in even worse cases like Odi, the NGOs have either looked the other way, or they have been uncharacteristically mild in their criticisms.

The ethnic organisations like Afenifere or Ohanaeze, the sectional organisations like the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), the Association of South-South Progressives (ASSPRO), the religious organisations like the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and the Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI), are for all practical purposes handicapped as defenders of the rights and the common interests of Nigerians. They may claim to speak up for what is good for all and oppose what is bad, but all too often what one organisation regards as good for its members, the others see as bad for their own members. In other words good and bad is, alas, often in the eye of the beholder as far as these organisations are concerned.

As for the parties themselves, it is needless to say that the three registered have been a great let down. All of them are so crisis-ridden they exist only in name. And having served their purpose of putting their candidates in the legislature and the executive seat, they have been reduced to the situation whereby it is the tail now that wags the dog rather than the other way round.

All of which leaves us with the individuals and the legislature as sources of opposition to the ruling party. Individuals like Chief Sunday Awoniyi, Chief Gani Fawehinmi and Dr. Bala Usman have been critical of the presidency. These three have shown courage, credibility and integrity in their criticisms, but as individuals their efficacy cannot be limited. Others like former Head of State, Maj.-Gen. Muhammadu Buhari and Chief Orji Kalu, the Abia's governor, have also been critical, but there is widespread suspicion that there is some personal element to their criticisms.

Up till now, the most effective check against executive excesses at the center has been the National Assembly, particularly the Houses of Representatives, whose Speaker, Honourable Umar Gbali Na'Abba, has survived repeated executive onslaught to unseat him. But as is pretty obvious from the way Obasanjo has, metaphorically speaking, gotten away with murder, the legislative check has not been good enough. The reason is obvious. As I said in my piece on "The Triumph of Na'Abba" (*The Comet* November 8, 2000), the Speaker has survived the presidential onslaughts not because he is upright or principled, but simply because his supporters can see through Obasanjo's crusade against corruption as highly selective.

It would appear of recent that Na'Abba has become battle weary and is now prepared to throw in the towel. Speculations have been rife since he paid a courtesy call on the president during the last Sallah/Christmas period, that there is now a legislative/executive truce. The evidence is said to include the speed with which Obasanjo's 2001 budget was passed and a deal to give him his N80 billion presidential jet in return for new official cars for the legislators, among other things.

It would be sad if these speculations turn out to be true, because unprincipled as the legislative opposition to the executive was, it was still better than no opposition at all. My fear is that the absence of no opposition at all could turn out to be fatal. It has become fashionable to dismiss coups as unfashionable. May be so. But then nature abhors vacuum. And if the civil sector does not fill the position of responsible opposition to executive excesses, the military claps will be tempted to fill it.

In this respect, it is instructive that General T.Y. Danjuma, who President Obasanjo seems to rely upon to keep the soldiers in line, has been very reluctant to remain in the federal cabinet. Health reasons have been cited, but it is doubtful that it is the real reason. It is also equally significant that it is the soldiers themselves, rather than members of the Defence Committees of the National Assembly, who are speaking out against American troops being brought into the country ostensibly to professionalize our army.

These signs may be so ominous right now but the civil sector kids itself if it thinks military intervention in politics is no longer possible. Its chances of success may be slim or even nil, but that has never deterred the adventurous or determined soldier from thing. The sooner, therefore, the civil sector heeds Shagari's call for responsible opposition to the ruling party, the better the chances that our fragile democracy will survive.

Mohammed Haruna, Managing Director of Citizen Communications, is an Editorial Board member of *Daily Trust*.

## EDITORIAL

### The burden of Budget 2001

The positive signals that the frosty relationship between the executive and legislative arms had abated came with the prompt passing of the year 2001 budget proposal by the National Assembly. The late approval of the budget by the National Assembly has been the basic cause of disagreements between the two important arms of government. It began with the supplementary budget sent to the Assembly immediately the administration came in May/June 1999 when it discarded the military budget it inherited. By the time it was passed, the executive had loudly accused the legislature of having delayed the dividend of democracy to the Nigerian masses. This was the beginning of the disagreements that lasted almost 15 months.

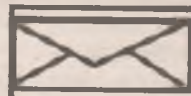
The year 2000 budget generated even more intensive bickerings. It was passed in March and while the executive blamed the members of the National Assembly and explained that the non-release of funds for capital projects, recurrent obligations and other sundry costs was caused by the delay in passing the appropriation bill, the lawmakers said the executive submitted the bill to them late in December and they should be commended for passing it within three months. They had in the course of deliberations, threatened to abandon the budget because the executive had refused to implement the supplementary budget to the letter. The accusations and counter-accusations continued, until the passage of 2001 budget in record time.

The burden of implementation now rests with the executive. Part of the quarrel has been that the executive has always jettisoned any additions on the budget by the legislature with the explanation that their job stops at making laws. This time around, they have refrained from adding anything, they merely stamped and sent the budget back to the executive to implement what it appropriated.

After two years of "learning process", Nigerians now look up to the executive for the full implementation of the budget 2001. On its part, and realising that it will no longer pass the buck on to anyone else, the government proposed to dip into the external reserves to finance the capital projects. Here too, the National Assembly gave its nod.

We commend this new co-operation between the legislature and the executive. The *Daily Trust* urges the Federal Government to implement the budget 2001 in full, now that it has the absolute backing of the legislature. Nigerian governments have always been commended for putting together fine policies but our bane has always been poor implementation. We urge that this time around, the lofty principles of rehabilitation of transportation, power, water, agriculture and education as enunciated in the 2001 budget be fully implemented. With the approval to draw from the external reserves, money should no longer be the problem.

Nigerians have waited long enough for the much talked about democracy dividend, the only way to assuage their appetite is the full implementation of the budget.



#### LETTER OF THE DAY!

### Felicitations!

The management, staff and publisher of *Breaking News* weekly newspaper, Abuja newspaper for taking a bold step to lead all newspapers in Northern Nigeria by going daily. We are proud to be associated with this giant achievement of yours and pray Allah to give you the wealth, strength and wisdom to sustain it. Please accept my congratulations once more.

Malam Mustapha Mohammed, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

## Opinion

## Bush and his stolen Presidency

By Idang Alibi

George W. Bush was sworn in recently as the 43rd president of the United States of America. The world, especially those of us in what is called the third world, should be happy about his ascension to the presidency.

This is because Bush assumed the presidency a severely weak man, lacking the moral authority to lecture other countries about the way they should run their lives, the way other American Presidents before him used to do.

Why do I say so? The reason is simple. Both in the USA itself and the whole wide world, it is common knowledge that Mr. Bush is in power today, courtesy of a rigged election and a politically partisan ruling by the country's Supreme Court justice, most of whom were appointed by Republican presidents including Bush's father. To put it bluntly, Bush is President today through what we Nigerians call *Wuruwuru* and *Mugomago*.

The way and manner Bush got his mandate is no different from the way some Third World Presidents get to power. Bush will therefore lack the moral high ground to lecture other leaders who adopted his strategies and methods to get to office.

Those who believe that there is a higher invisible being somewhere who remote controls the affairs of the world, will easily see the hand of God in the election that produced Bush. The election was designed to humble the Americans, a nation that is unrepentantly arrogant and self-righteous.

America delights in talking to other people in condescension. It claims it is the guardian angel of democracy and its hallowed principles. But God who delights in revealing the under-belly of hypocrites, has shown us America's

nakedness—rigging and other "politricks" also flourish in the hallowed shrine of democracy.

Perhaps, we are opportuned to know this because the two candidates were master "politrickians" who matched each other rigging for rigging money for money and ruling for ruling. That is why the outcome of their election was "too close to call" until the judges of one were clever enough to out-rule the other's.

America also prides itself on possessing high judicial sense. Here again, the ruling of the highest court in the land—the supreme Court—has revealed a lot about the American judiciary. These judges can even be more blatantly partisan than in the so-called Third World countries. Acting like judges in some backward countries of the world, the Supreme Court justices appealed that their infamous ruling on Bush should not be cited as precedence.

If the justices were confident that the position they took was to serve the ends of justice, why are they begging that no one should recall their piece of wisdom?

I believe that the 2000 election was a clear indication that America is under judgement. It is a signal of the commencement of a steady decline and eventual fall of America as a super power. As a nation, America has not exercised, fairly, the powers God has been kind enough to give to it.

First, with all its wealth, America is miserly, mean and churlish. The UN secretary-general, Mr. Kofi Anan, put it more succinctly when he said some time ago that the tragedy of our world today is that the wealthiest nation on earth today happens to also be the least generous.

America does not cherish using its money to provide food for less privileged humanity. Rather, it loves to use its means to buy guns and ammunition to bomb

out poor, hungry and desperate people who disagree with its policies or philosophy.

Second, America's sense of justice is also flawed. It does not operate a single standard in its relations with the rest of the world. Rather, it maintains double or even triple standards. What is good in the sight of America is only what will serve its interests.

That is why America picks and chooses the various forms of governments in existence today. America will love a military dictator in one country but hate another so intensely in another country, it will support a monarchy in one place but pressurize another to become republican; it will train and fund a rebel army in one continent but will go out to bomb another rebel group in another continent.

When a Jorge Haider wins an election in Austria, America and its European allies cannot countenance that democratic choice by Austrians yet America is a notorious supporter of right-wing governments in its backyard—Latin America.

When the islamists in Algeria were poised to win a democratic election, their happy run was aborted by the soldiers in that unhappy North African country, yet America the chief priest of democracy, did not oppose the abortion of democracy in Algeria because it hates a democratic government to be run by islamists.

Third, as indicated earlier, America is too loud, too haughty, too arrogant and too proud. And what does the Holy Book say about a person or a nation who/which has the above mentioned attitudes? Such a person or a country will be humbled.

God says he brings low the haughty and elevates the humble. We saw that in the fate of America and Ghana. Ghana, a small and backward West African country, had a clean, free and fair election while

America, the giant had a rigged and embarrassingly deadlocked election that was eventually decided by a group of unprincipled, partisan and cowardly judges.

Some argue that in spite of the way the American presidential election went, there was still in evidence a measure of the triumph of democracy because unlike elsewhere, there was no coup, no riot or insurrection.

Well, I interpret that position as another evidence of America's well-known hypocrisy. A nation of pretended saints, they use nice words and adopt politically correct attitudes to cover grave acts of injustice or great wrongs against both man and God.

We here have no time for niceties. Bush's victory is naked robbery. Everybody knows that if the Florida votes were recounted, Al Gore would have won and become president. The votes were not allowed to be recounted because of the shenanigans of some high profile crooks in judges' hoods.

To remain quiet is to join in the act of conspiracy against Al Gore. If such a thing happens here, we will make our views known in street demonstrations, not because we are "uncivilised" but mainly because we abhor injustice and roguery. The nature of Bush's victory would have given our cartoonists here a field day. He would have been described as an "executive thief".

God has given us an opportunity to poke fun at the USA. But I will not make a joke at the expense of that country. However, I plead that when next America is holding an election, the world should send foreign observers to the place. Who knows, rigging and other election malpractices may degenerate to violence and coups in the place the next time around. The world will love to hear it all from foreign observers!

Mr. Alibi, a former member of the Daily Times Editorial Board, writes from Abuja.

## Of myth, fallacies and the truth (II)

By Abu Jaafar

Defying history and logic however, Dr. Morey goes on to say that the names il or ilah were changed to Allah under the tutelage of Muhammad. But he also admitted in his book that Muhammad's father had Allah in his name, Abdallah. So also numerous other people like the Jews Abdallah bin Salam and Abdallah bin Ubayy. This shows clearly that the name Allah must have been in existence among the Arabs before the coming of Muhammad. That even Jews were using this name debunks Dr. Morey's hypothesis. Prof Coon has stated that the name il (or el for the Hebrews) is part of the name Emmanuel. It is not surprising that Dr. Morey 'forgot' to mention this detail in his books. How could he explain the Moon-god's name as being part of the name of his lord and saviour Jesus Christ (Emmanuel is another name for Jesus!).

The moon-god theory is one that stands on no foundation at all. There is no evidence that Muhammad worshipped the Moon-God, or any other idol for that matter, before his call to prophethood. Why then should he impose this Moon-God, with which he had no affiliation whatsoever, on any other person? And why was he persecuted for calling to the worship of an idol that was well known to the Arabs then? Why did he prefer this Moon-God of Southern Arabia over and above the more than 300 gods that existed in the Ka'abah in his own Northern Arabia? These are questions Dr. Morey and Fani-Kayode should supply answers for to back up their claim. If indeed Islam has any affiliation with moon worship, then I suppose the Qur'an should give us an inkling of this. Let us then refer to the Qur'anic verses which mention the moon. Examples are:

1. "Don't you see that to Allah bow down in worship all things that are in the heavens and on earth—the sun, the moon, the stars, the hills, the trees, the animals, and a great number among mankind?" (Qur'an 22:18)

2. "Among His signs are the night and the day, and the sun and the moon. Adore not the sun and the moon, but adore Allah who created them" (Qur'an 41:37)

3. "He has subjected the sun and the moon to His laws, each running its course for a time appointed" (Qur'an 31:29,35:13)

4. He has made subject to you the sun and the moon, both diligently pursuing their courses" (Qur'an 14:33)

5. "He makes the night for rest and tranquillity, and the sun and the moon for reckoning of time" (Qur'an 6:96)

6. "It is he who has made the sun to be a shining glory, and the moon to be a light" (Qur'an 10:5).

The picture is clear that the moon is a creation of Allah that is subjected to man to use for reckoning of time. This is why Muslims use the lunar calendar. This does not indicate moon worship because in the timing for prayers, it is the sun that is used. The argument that Muslims use the crescent as a symbol because they venerate the moon is baseless because the symbolism of the crescent came into Islam only long after the prophet has died. Nowhere is the symbolism mentioned in the Qur'an or hadiths. If the crescent in the symbol indicates moon worship, what of the star that is also part of the symbol? Does that indicate star worship? Fani-Kayode's argument that the crescent is a symbol that was adopted to attract followers of idol worshippers has no historical backing. Not so however the Christian use of the Cross, the symbol of the Sun god, which was adopted at the Council of Nicea in 325 AD.

This, together with fixing Christmas on the Birthday of the same Sun-God, and the adoption of the Roman Sun-day as the Sabbath, were aimed at bringing Christianity in line with the pagan practices of Rome. The line of argument that Allah is a pre-Islamic idol god whom Muhammad elevated to a high status while destroying the other idols that inhabited the Ka'abah defies all logic. When Muhammad ordered the destruction of all idols on the conquest of Makkah, no idol called Allah was known to have been spared. If an idol called Allah existed, then Muhammad must have destroyed his own God. Fani-Kayode however went to great lengths to quote various works in order to prove that the pre-Islamic Arabs knew about Allah before Muhammad's advent. If he had opened the pages of the Qur'an, he would have saved himself the effort. He would have appreciated the fact that Muslims are well aware that the pre-Islamic Arabs knew that Allah is the Supreme Being, but they never claimed that He was a pre-Islamic idol. The Qur'an says:

1. "If you ask them who sends down rain from the sky and gives life therewith to the earth after its death, they would certainly say 'Allah'" (Qur'an 29:63).

2. Say 'who provides for you from the sky and from the earth? Or who owns hearing and sight? And who brings out the living from the dead and the dead from the living. And who disposes of the affairs.' They will say 'Allah'" (Qur'an 10:31).

3. "Most of them do not believe in Allah except while joining partners with Him." (Qur'an 12:106).

4. They say, "we worship them only that they may bring us near to Allah" (Qur'an 39:3).

To be continued.

## Hadejawa's greed is their undoing (II)

Continued from yesterday

By Safiyau B. Ringim

I am sure not many of those watching Hadejawa's she nanigans since then can recall that even in old Kano, like the Yorubas, they were always the problem of the State, with their inability to work with others as a team, but only as Hadejawa. Of course, there may be some historical explanation to this, since they had had a run-in with Amir Alu of Kano as a result of their unjust and treacherous assassination of a Dutch traditional ruler—it was a Galadima, or Madaki, I think—leading to their being squashed by the might of Kano and her allies. Gumel was ordered to annex all of Hadejawa territory, so too were all of Kano's allies and vassals ordered to evacuate the Hadejawa in their midst. Despite the poetic justice of Hadejawa's subordination to Dutse (almost a hundred years later) the Hadejawa had miraculously persisted in continuing to have their cake and eat it. At Hadejawa town meet-

ings they fight Jigawa.

In Dutse they fight for the choicest of what Jigawa has to offer. First, they fought against Jigawa, insisting on Hadejawa or nothing. When burning and looting couldn't get them anywhere, like the Yoruba and June 12, they made the best use of their blackmailing prowess to get the best of all appointments in government. The very first secretary to the Jigawa state government was a Hadejawa prince. Subsequently, of the total of some six occupants of the post, two more Hadejawa had held the job, including the incumbent, Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan. How many have held it from Gumel? Not one, and no one is complaining from Gumel? How many have held the job from Kazaure? Not one, not even in an acting capacity, I believe. And no one is complaining. What of Ringim? Only once did Dr. Ahmed Rufa'i serve as a sit-in SSG when a Hadejawa man was the SSG. Are the people of Ringim complaining over this?

Consider that even with the noise from Hadejawa, today, the Deputy Governor, holding

the post for the second time, is from Hadejawa. Apart from the number two man and the SSG, being from Hadejawa, three other full cabinet portfolios are manned by Hadejawa—the commissioners for Agriculture (Ibrahim Shehu Kwatalo); Education (Abba Anas Adamu); Justice (Barrister Aishatu Rufa'i). This is not to talk of permanent secretaries and other key posts, ranging from the Pilgrims Board where a Hadejawa man has been in charge, albeit doing creditably well, for all of eight years and the budget directorate where another Hadejawa man has been holding fort as permanent secretary, the state's director of information (Ishaq Hadejawa) and numerous other directors and board members, all of them good and patriotic Hadejawa serving the state diligently. Generally, Hadejawa is actually much better off, and certainly much more strategically represented than all other emirates put together in all the governments we have had in Jigawa.

So, the question now is why all the hue and cry over marginalisation? For us in

other areas, it smacks of an Oliver Twist syndrome, one that I daresay is as counterproductive as the apocryphal tale of the young man who kept crying wolf when there was none, to the extent that when indeed the vicious marauding wolf came no one was ready to believe him. For those good people of Hadejawa and its outlying districts in the Jigawa North East Senatorial Zone, it is high time they came out to disown the trouble-makers, the wolf criers in their midst. After all, with all the appointments they have, if no project gets done in Hadejawa, who really is to blame? Hadejawa of course!

The good Hadejawa, and there are thousands of them, including the scores of them serving in various government ministries and departments in Jigawa and elsewhere, need to caution those opportunist political warlords still fighting the will of Allah for a decade and more to desist. They should be advised that there is virtue in being truthful. The facts here speak for themselves.

Safiyau B. Ringim, No. 17 Marakawa Qtrs, Ringim, Jigawa State. Concluded.

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NEPA HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN  
\$ 51 MILLION  
— DANJUMA GOJE



**YOUR LETTERS**

**Short 'n' Sharp**

**Come out three days only!**

I am very happy with the coming of *Daily Trust*. But it is advisable to publish the paper three times in a week, say Monday, Wednesday, and Friday so that readers will remain interested in the paper.

Sanusi Tanko,

P.O.Box 09,

Nuguru - Yobe state.

**A baby is born**

Let me welcome *Daily Trust* into the world of news papers. The baby will meet a lot of challenges and sabotage. Challenge in the quality and quantity and sabotage by some vendors. My main fear is that the quality and quantity of the mother publication (*Weekly Trust*) may be reduced. I will In-sha-Allah support the new baby by buying it daily (Mondays - Thursdays) and I hope all readers and patriots will do the same.

Umar A. Audu Andaha,

Rapp Foundation Clinic,

No. 4, Gangare - Jos.

Plateau State.

**Re: Lagos Justice Ministry**

The position of the Lagos Justice Ministry on Faseun's release and continued detention of Bamaiyi and others (*Weekly Trust*, December 22-28, 2000) is to say the least unfortunate.

There is no place in the world where evidence brings itself, rather it is always sought. Evidence against Faseun then needs to be sought by the Justice Ministry. Also Faseun has said it time and again that he was the leader of the OPC, the group which perpetrated the pogrom. As such evidence against him is over-whelming.

Habeeb Idris Pindiga,

18, Bajoga Quarters,

Gombe - Gombe state.

**Between UBE and begging**

It is basically true that these children learn the wordings of the Holy Qur'an without their practical applications, which is why they end up begging. Islam does not condone any act of begging because, it leads to weakness and dependence on others.

But government should incorporate Qur'anic education into the UBE programme, especially in the northern states so that children are not deprived of knowledge of their religion, and the mallams could also gain employment as teachers.

Ibrahim M.S. Jega,

Kaduna.

**Abdulsalam Abubakar has done well**

Permit me a space in your widely-read newspaper to extend my thanks to General Abubakar Abdulsalami for creating NECO which broke the monopoly enjoyed by the WAEC in our beloved nation.

Many students woefully failed the WAEC every year for no justifiable reason.

I hereby appeal to the present government to support the NECO with all that they need to raise up the quality of education in Nigeria. Nigerian universities should please not reject NECO results.

Haruna Moh'd Talle,

Kano State Library Board, No. 11, Emir's Palace Road, Kofar Nassarawa, P.O.Box 3094, Kano - Kano state.

**Re: Middle Belt autonomy, myth or reality?**

People tend to forget quickly what history has taught us. When I went through the pages of history books, I wonder about the calibre of people agitating for the so-called Middle Belt. Our elite, have failed us; instead of them to come out to apologise, rather, they are looking for a cheap way out.

I remember vividly what Col. Umaru Dangiwa (ret) told them in the meeting he

attended with them, which was published by this paper some time last year. There he said, "what have you got to show for it" (the North), I quite agree with him.

With regards to the above statement, I hereby call on those agitating for Middle Belt autonomy to watch their respective stewardship or rather, they should tell us the contributions they have made so far

to the zone that informed their struggle.

For the benefit of doubt, they should look through the history books of their counterparts and see how colourful it is, when compared to their own, they will realise that they have not made any reasonable contributions to the so-called Middle Belt they seem to protect, apart from enslavement and killing of the people.

The same people who

mised us in the past are at it again, championing the autonomy of the Middle Belt for their selfish interests. What they should fight for at this age is not Middle Belt auto-nomy, but they should come together and combine their wealth and knowledge and give us scholarship to various institutions the way Awolowo, Sardauna, Zik have done in the past and the way Gani is doing at present. This is the only way we will believe they are fighting for our course and not agitating for stratification of the northern region. I think their cries are wild goose chase.

Shuaib D. Adama, Aloko-Dekina, Kogi state.

**Mohammed is not the same as Muhammad**

The name Muhammad is an Arabic word literally meaning, "He who is praised" or "The praised one". Muhammad was the novel name given to the prophet of Islam. Ever since, the name has been adopted by the Mus-

lim community all over the world. The word Mohammed has however no root in the Arabic language, it is a deliberate distortion by the enemies of Islam to render the real meaning useless. All indi-

viduals, media houses, newspapers should take note: Muhammad or Ahmad is the correct spelling. Not Mohammed or Ahmed.

Ya'aqub Alhassan, Dept. of Rel., Studies, University of Jos, Plateau state.

**Revisit NYSC practice**

Youths are indeed the bedrock of future generations, the progress or otherwise of this class of individuals reflects the pattern and nature of that community. NYSC was introduced to unite and bring closer, the youth across the nation, so as to have unity in diversity.

The mission behind the NYSC programme is indeed commendable, but through which manner should it be conducted? Because Nigeria is a big, democratic, multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. Therefore, to be just and fair to these citizens, their individual background should be considered in the course of mapping out any policy programme for them. To put all Nigerians into a mono-cultural straight jacket is a counterfeit logic, fraudulent and unconstitutional.

As a citizen of Nigeria, Muslim by religion, NYSC activities are against our constitutional rights, likewise NYSC dress/uniform is not fitting to our fellow sisters. We therefore call on all Muslim organisations and leaders to project to the authorities

concerned that: < Most activities carried out during camping are unislamic, so Muslim corporers should be given a way out; < That the NYSC authority should make these activities optional so as to set Muslim corporers in harmony with their faith.

Otherwise, the re-definition of NYSC to Muslim Ummah will sound as National Youth Sinful Course, why? Because an ordinary youth just graduating from the university, away from the watchful eyes of his parents, overnight becomes exposed to females half-naked, dressing seductively, exposing their beauty i.e. nudity in the name of fashion, he would definitely end up enticed, having his faith disfigured.

Let's revisit unnecessary and deliberate intermingling of opposite sexes during registrations, payment of allowances at dining halls and at parade grounds. Muslim youth are indeed at the receiving end as their faith is at stake in a national programme where condoms are shared freely. Sanusi Iguda Kano, 156B, K/Nasarawa

**Is Diya truly born again?**

Oladijo Donaldson Diya (former chief of general staff during Abacha's administration) claimed to be a born again Christian without knowing the meaning of born again. "A born again Christian should confess all his sins and sin no more". My surprise is that Diya is still insisting and claiming that there wasn't a coup attempt during Abacha regime. However Diya's Chief

security officer Mr. Seun Fadipe confessed that there was a coup plot, Abdulkarim Adisa a Yoruba officer and part of the coup plot also confessed, I wonder why Diya wants to remain a liar, despite being a born again Christian.

Murjantu A. Saeed Wadata Pharmacy No 10 Ahmadu Bello Way Jos Plateau State

**Open Letter to Governor Hashidu**

Governor Abubakar Hashidu the first executive governor of Gombe State has very good initiatives in terms of development programmes for the natives of Gombe State.

But Kumo town. The headquarters of Akko local government and also the food basket of Gombe State is neglected and left far behind in terms of infrastructural facilities like higher institutions of learning and roads that link some impor-

tant villages together. Some of the roads and bridges are dilapidated and some have caved in, ready to collapse.

I am calling on our first executive governor to endeavor to lay tarred feeder roads in the town and renovate some bridges, so as to alleviate the suffering of Rural dwellers.

Mohammed Bello Adamu, T/Mayarya Kumo

**Repair the Rimaye water system!**

I want to appeal to the authorities of Kankia Local Government in Katsina state to kindly repair Rimaye solar energy water system for the betterment of all.

The water system is estimated to consume rightly N60,000 (Sixty Thousand Naira) before it becomes opera-

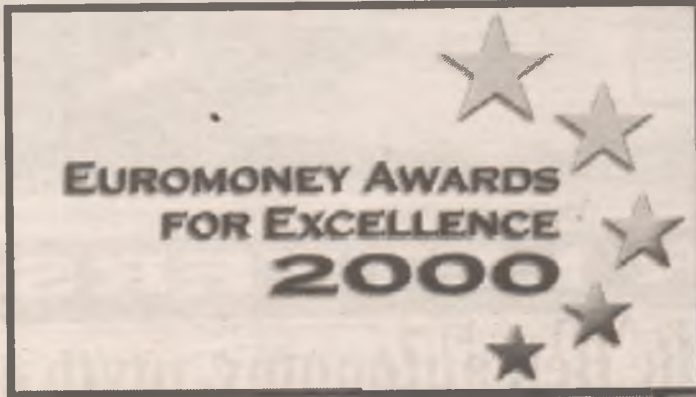
tional again. Honourable chairman should please squeeze water out of stone to make life a bit easier for the people of Rimaye.

Rimaye Musa Ado, No. 16, Abubakar Burga Road, Keffi - Nasarawa state.



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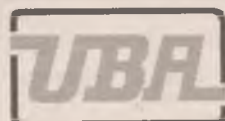
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# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

## Foreign & Diplomatic

Following the at tempted coup to topple the new government of Laurant Gbagbo in Cote d'Ivoire, Ivoiriens attacked foreigners including Burkinabes and looted their property, accusing them of supporting the coupists. Clement Sawadogo is a member of the Burkinabe parliament. He spoke to Daily Trust on this and other issues. The interview was conducted in French. Below is the translation.

I want to know the nature of the relations between Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire after the political crisis recently in Cote d'Ivoire.

Thank you. You will have noticed that since the political crisis started in Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso has abstained greatly from interfering in this affair because, for us, Burkina Faso, we and Cote d'Ivoire are neighbouring countries.

But above all, we are brother countries. We have a strong Burkinabe community living in Cote d'Ivoire for several decades, even before the complexity of the relations which exists between the two countries but also the necessity of always maintaining fraternal relations to facilitate the life of these populations. It is for this reason that, from the beginning, you will find with

## Foreigners created wealth for Cote d'Ivoire -Burkinabe member of parliament

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu

difficulty even declarations by Burkinabe politicians on the Ivoirien problem. From time to time, a small intervention by the Head of State or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but we don't speak much because we don't think it will quench the fire. We had favoured as much as possible dialogue both with our Ivoirien brothers. Now, I must also say that on the Ivoirien side, they have several times accused us of supporting one party or the other on the Ivoirien problem. Well, I consider that false. It is not true because, since they started speculating that the origin of Alassane Ouattara is Burkina Faso.

Is Alassane Ouattara Burkinabe?

Alassane Ouattara, truly from the ancient times originated from Burkina Faso...From the moment his father established in Cote d'Ivoire since several decades even before independence, is he still from Burkina Faso or Cote d'Ivoire?

Ouattara has been a prime minister in Cote d'Ivoire.

He has been the Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire...I have to remind you that throughout the time he was

the Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire whenever he visited Burkina Faso, it was the Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire who visited

in the country. We are not interested in that.

There was this coup d'etat in Cote d'Ivoire.



Clement Sawadogo

Burkina Faso. I believe that if Ivoiriens have political problems, I think they should resolve them among themselves and not look elsewhere for those that intervene from outside...we do not have interest in influencing politics in Cote d'Ivoire in a way to put fire

The coup d'etat against Laurent Gbagbo. Yes, Laurent Gbagbo accused some unknown men from neighbouring countries, in Burkina Faso, but I say that in all these accusations, no one has shown any convincing proof. They are accusations, that is to say, a

sort of allegation to make up for fear. There are no proofs. We have such interest in Cote d'Ivoire.

Ivoirien populations rose up against foreigners living in their country. Is that kind of reaction good for peaceful co-existence in Africa?

Actually, there were demonstrations, acts of vandalism against foreigners. I think it is not at all acceptable to vandalise things belonging to foreigners. The foreigners working with Ivoiriens have created wealth for Cote d'Ivoire. I challenge anyone to say the contrary. Today, in Cote d'Ivoire, if there is a country that is as economically important in the sub-region, it is due to the sweat of all those who work in Cote d'Ivoire whether Ivoiriens or by origin. Consequently, I don't think that today, it is good that Ivoiriens should develop xenophobia against a part of the population who are foreigners to the extent of seizing their goods and property...In all countries, international laws protect everybody and his property and the members of his family. There is no reason for one to develop such xenophobia against foreigners. I think that if there is a political problem in Cote d'Ivoire, it is between Ivoiriens...It has been the

same set of politicians how have been ruling Cote d'Ivoire. I don't know why anyone would today say that foreigners create the problems in Cote d'Ivoire.

As a member of the ECOWAS Parliament, what does one do concerning all these political problems in West Africa?

Well, as members of ECOWAS Parliament we are at the beginning of our mandate. We have not yet had the opportunity to look into of our countries' political, economic, social, cultural problems etc. but there are the main objects (goals) of the Parliament. Therefore, I am sure that in our next session, we are going to look into these questions. It is evident that we are going to understand clearly what must be from now the relations among West Africans because if there is a parliament, it is good in order for the parliament to facilitate the integration of West Africa. Therefore, we are going to develop clear understanding because we think it is necessary to move towards the dissolution of the barriers between the countries and the population. We are the same people. It is the English and French colonizers who came and divided us. There is no reason for us to continue being divided today. As long as we continue as micro states with our small interests, we will continue to play the game of our colonizers and in the same manner continue to weaken ourselves.

Consequently, I think clearly that it is evident for us to work to favour and strengthen our integration.

In your opinion, what is the future of this ECOWAS Parliament?

This parliament has a beautiful future before it because the Heads of States who launched this parliament wanted it to be one single parliament. You should note that it is the first such sub-region parliament, even, in Africa. Before that, there had been inter-parliamentary organs maintaining inter-parliamentary relations. Now it is no longer inter-parliamentary relations between and among nations. It is one single parliament.

This parliament is obliged to accomplish its mission. The parliament has put in place its organs - an elected speaker, elected offices, and committees to work with.

## Annan urges end to trade barriers for poor nations

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has urged rich nations yesterday to

ways to pay for global development.

Anna, in a 65-page report recommending 87 dif-

ferent measures to better meet the developing world's financing needs, also said poor countries should have

the power to regulate short-term capital flows in times to crisis, a recommendation certain to stir controversy among champions of free markets. Activists at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and elsewhere have seized on a global tax on short-term investment flows and similar mechanisms as ways to discourage financial crises such as those differed recently in Argentina, Turkey, Russia and Asia.

While Annan backed controls on short-term capital flight in time of crisis, he added that restraints "cannot be used as a substitute for sound and appropriate macroeconomic policies."

The report was part of a drive by the UN official to push governments, corporations and international organizations to do more to help the world's poorest nations and their citizens share in the benefits of globalization.

The campaign will culminate in a UN conference on financing for development in early 2002.

To date, the wealthiest nations have benefited far more than their poorer cousins from an era of faster growth, more jobs and rising living standards drives by a thriving global financial marketplace.

Annan reported that in one promising step, the European Commission has proposed fully opening the markets of the European Union's 15 member-nations to all goods except arms exported by the world's poorest countries.

That plan would provide the 48 least developed countries with a duty-free, quote-free marketplace in much of Europe, a model for the rest of the world, he said.

The developing nations must increasingly look to private investment and trade growth to finance their needs because foreign aid is shrinking.

Countries offering foreign aid on average dedicated just 0.24 percent of their gross national product (GNP) to such aid in 1999 compared to 0.33 percent in 1999, the report said.

While donor countries have widely agreed that foreign aid should equal 0.7 percent of their GNP, only a handful of countries - including Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden - have consistently met that target in recent years.

"The trends in official development assistance during the 1990s were particularly trouble some " as aid levels fell off even though the economy was booming in industrialized world and many developing countries adopted major economic reforms.

As foreign aid declined, private and domestic investment have become increasingly important, the report said, setting out a raft of ideas on how to promote investment.

Among the recommendations for poor nations were tax simplification, a crackdown on tax evasion, better economic planning, strong corporate governance requirements, the development of national pension funds, banking reforms and more open financial markets.



Annan

end all their trade barriers on goods and services exported by poor nations as one of dozens of novel

ferent measures to better meet the developing world's financing needs, also said poor countries should have

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Briefly

Benin

Three more candidates over the weekend declared their intention to contest Benin's Presidential election in March.

These are Sacca Lafia (49), Chairman of the union for Democracy and National Solidarity and first Deputy-Speaker at the National Assembly, Wallis Zoumarou (about 60) the Chairman of the National Union for Solidarity and Progress and Rhetice Dagba (51), a retired BCEAO employce. This raises the number of Presidential aspirants for the top post to 10.

Qatar

World Trade Organisation (WTO) member states formally agreed to hold the body's next ministerial meeting in the Gulf state of Qatar near the end of the year. diplomats said

The decision was taken by consensus at a meeting of the WTO's general council, grouping all 140-member states. Some radical anti-globalisation groups as well as labour and environmental organisations groups as well as labour and environmental organisations have condemned the move, saying it is an attempt to shelter the WTO from protests by holding the gathering in what they called an authoritarian state.

Rwanda

The trial of three journalists accused of inciting mass slaughter in Rwanda's 1994 genocide has been postponed until next week after one of the judges fell ill, a UN court said.

The so-called "media trial" was scheduled to resume on Wednesday, but officials from the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) said it had been postponed until February 5.

Jean-Boseo Barayagwiza was director of public affairs in the Rwandan Foreign affairs ministry in 1994, Hassan Ngeze edited a Hutu extremist newspaper named Kangura and Ferdinand Nahimana was a director of Radio Television Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM) which became known as "hate radio".

The three men are charged with conspiracy and incitement to commit genocide and crimes against humanity.

Pending before the court in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha are several motions filed by defence lawyers.

Lamido backs presidential council

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu

Foreign Affairs Minister, Alhaji Sule Lamido, has pledged his ministry's support and cooperation to the Presidential Advisory Council on International Relations.

In his first meeting yesterday, with the council headed by the former Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Alhaji Lamido expressed happiness with the composition of the council describing "as the beacons of the foreign ministry at

one time or the other." The minister explained to the council that Africa as centre piece of Nigeria's foreign policy had yielded to an arrangement with the well being, prosperity and security of Nigerians at the core.

According to him, ideological cleavages had yielded to globalisation and Nigeria had to adjust in the new circumstances. He however noted that the shift in policy did not mean Nigeria's loss of interest in her neighbour and Africa.

Responding, Chief Anyaoku said his council's role was to support the ministry as the main instrument for the formulations of the Nigerian foreign policy. "We see our task as advising the president on the whole range of external interests and commitments of Nigeria," he added.

He indicated interest in understanding the structure, operation and organization of the ministry vis-



Sule Lamido

à-vis recruitment, training, visa, Technical Aid Corps among the things.

"We will therefore be guided by your perceptions of what is going on in the world. The council will give your ministry and your leadership the full benefit of your input into the issues we are interested in," he added.

Annan encouraged by latest Middle East peace talks

Secretary-General Kofi Annan said yesterday he was encouraged by progress made in the latest round of Middle East peace talks.

Annan told reporters he hopes talks between Israeli and Palestinian leaders would resume immediately after Israeli prime ministerial election on February 6.

"I think the last talks between the Palestinians and the Israelis went very well in a good atmosphere," Annan said.

"Both parties worked very seriously, constructively, and they are very close on almost all the issues," he said, referring to talks in Egypt which ended inconclusively at the weekend.

"There are certain areas which still need to be bridged but I am very encouraged and I hope that as

soon as the elections are over they can go back to the table and continue their work."

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak is trailing right-wing opposition leader Ariel Sharon in opinion polls.

Annan was speaking on the second day of a three-day visit to Sweden where he attended an international conference on combating xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance. The UN chief held talks on Tuesday with Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson and Foreign Minister Anna Lindh.

"The prime minister and myself have discussed this and of course both of us support the process and are working closely with the parties," Annan said.

Sweden, holder of the rotating European Union presidency, has tried to raise the

bloc's profile as a Middle East peace mediator, hoping to fill the vacuum left by the change of administration in Washington on January 20 when President Bill Clinton, who had played an active role, was succeeded by George W. Bush.

Annan said he expected the Palestinians to raise anew the issue of deploying more UN peace monitors in the region in addition to UN forces currently stationed in the Golan heights and on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

"There has been discussion of sending a UN observer mission to Palestine but this has not been approved yet by the Security Council and it is quite likely that the Palestinian authorities will bring the issue up again in the Security Council," he said, but did not elaborate.



The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Chief Duhem Onyia (right) and the Namibian Minister of Industries (left) signing bilateral agreements after the sitting of the Nigeria-Namibia Commission recently.

A senior Iraqi army general, ratcheting up his country's propaganda assault on Israel, has said Iraqi artillery units could hit targets deep inside Israel if they were moved to a site near the Jewish state's border.

Lieutenant-General Yassain Taha Mohammed head of artillery units, said that Iraq was able to upgrade its mortars and missile launchers to give them a range of about 40km (24 miles), which would not vio-

Iraqi artillery to hit Israel if based near border

late UN arms control restrictions.

"Our artillery forces are ready any time to hit targets deep inside the Zionist entity (Israel) whenever we are ordered to do so," he told Iraq's weekly al-Rafidain newspaper, on Tuesday.

"We have been able to improve the range of mortars to reach as far as 40km (24 miles)...and improve munitions," he said.

President Saddam Hussein has called on Arab

countries bordering Israel to give his troops a piece of land close enough to attack Israel with his artillery. He has also said Iraq is ready to put an end to Israel.

Baghdad, theoretically at war with Israel, fired Scud missiles from its own territory at Israeli cities during the 1991 Gulf War.

Another Iraqi newspaper, al-Jumhuriya, said on Tuesday that Baghdad had

proof that its anti-aircraft missiles had hit one of a group of Western planes patrolling the no-fly zone in northern Iraq on January 24.

The paper said Iraqis living in the area where the plane was hit saw an aircraft on fire and columns of smoke coming from it.

Jumhuriya said Iraqi radar had sighted several US aircraft flying in the area later to rescue the plane's pilot.

Iraq frequently alleges it has hit Western aircraft flying over its territory, claims which are routinely denied by Washington and London.

US and British planes patrol no-fly zones set up to protect Muslim Shi'ites in south Iraq and a Kurdish enclave in the north from possible attack by Baghdad's forces. Baghdad does not recognize their right to impose the no-fly zones.

Zimbabwe's ex-president freed after sodomy jail term

Zimbabwe's former President Canaan Banana has been released from prison after serving a one-year jail term for sexual assault and sodomy.

Banana left Chikurubi Maximum Security prison on Monday morning. He spent the last month of his term at the complex after being transferred from an open prison in central Zimbabwe to receive treatment for blood pressure problems.

Prison officials and Banana were unavailable for comment on Tuesday.

Zimbabwe's Supreme Court last May overturned Banana's appeal against his conviction after a highly publicised trial in which one of his former aides, Jefta Dube, said he was forced into a homosexual relationship with Banana between 1984 and 1986.

Banana, 63, married with four adult children, is a former Methodist minis-

ter and was titular president for seven years until 1987 when then Prime Minister Robert Mugabe was sworn in as executive president.

Banana was found guilty last year of 11 counts of sodomy, attempted sodomy and indecent assault. The court sentenced him to 10 years in prison, but nine of those were suspended.

Sodomy is illegal in Zimbabwe and Mugabe has referred to homosexuals as "lower than pigs and dogs".

During the 17-day trial, Dube described how Banana drank, danced and played cards with him before drugging and sodomising him in the presidential State House library.

He also said he had sex with Banana many times in the State House grounds during regular evening walks, and in a sports dressing room on the estate.

Banana was also ordered to pay Dube Z\$250,000 (\$4,545).

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2.	RELATIONSHIP OFFICER	Minimum of Second Class Degree. Professional Qualification such as ACA, ACIB or Post Graduate Degrees will be an advantage.	Must have a total of between 2 to 4 yrs. Banking Experience	All Locations.	Not more than 35 yrs.	RO/002
3.	RESIDENT AUDITORS	Minimum of Second Class lower degree plus ACA.	Must have a minimum of 2 yrs. Post qualification experience in the internal control or inspection of a bank or large audit firm.	All Locations.	Not more than 32 yrs	RA/003
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5.	TREASURY OFFICERS	Minimum of Second Class Degree	Minimum of 2yrs. in the Treasury of a reputable bank	Lagos	Not more than 30yrs.	TR/005
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7.	HEAD, AUDIT/INSPECTION	Minimum of Second Class Degree plus Professional qualification of ACA	Minimum of 5yrs Experience in the Risk Management Department or Audit of a Bank	Abuja	Not more than 35yrs.	AI/008
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12.	CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARIES	Must have a HND in Secretarial Studies (Minimum credit)	2yrs. Working Experience and must be Computer Literate.	All Locations	Not more than 30yrs.	CS/013
13.	TRAINEE GRADUATES	Must have a minimum of Second Class Degree		All Locations	Not more than 30yrs.	TG/014

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S/N	POST	QUALIFICATION	EXPERIENCE	DUTIES	SALARY GL
1.	Chief Trade Promotion Officer	A good Honours Degree with Second Class Upper in Economics Marketing Finance, Statistics, Social Sciences, Business Administration/Management from any recognised University. MBA OR ANY OTHER Post-graduate qualification in any of the above-mentioned disciplines or related fields including Computer Studies will be an added advantage.	At least 15 years post-qualification experience in Commercial or Industrial Organisations with emphasis on industrial production, product development or market research.	Organising export market research and product/export market analysis. Operating incentive schemes and tariff structures for Industrial/production systems. Organising trade publicity and publications. Handling of trade procedures and documentation matters.	14.
2.	Chief Accountant	B. Sc or HND in Accounting, Finance and Banking from a recognised institution. Possession of professional qualifications e.g. ICAN, ACCA, ACA, c.t.c would be an advantage.	At least 15 years Post-NYSC cognate experience. Should be conversant with Government Financial disseminating Regulations.	Assisting the Director Finance Department. Planning, co-ordination and supervision of the Accounts of the Council. Other duties that may be assigned from time to time.	14.
3.	Assistant Chief Trade Promotion Officer	Same as in (1) above but in addition, candidates with post-graduate qualification in project evaluation will also be considered.	Same as in (1) above but the candidates must possess at least, 12 years post qualification experience	Undertaking and analysing export market research, statistics, Undertaking supply- base studies. Advising on product design and adaptation including quality, standards, packaging and labelling. Advising producers on export costing and pricing. Assembling, collecting, analysing and trade information. Collecting and on disseminating regular basis, information on shipping, air and land transportation, c.t.c	13.
4.	Principal Trade Promotion officer	Same as in (3) above	Same as in (1) above but candidates must possess at least, 10 years, post-qualification experience	Assisting in performing any of the duties stated in (3) above.	12.
5.	Senior Trade Promotion Officer	Same as in (1) above.	Same as in (1) above but candidates must possess at least 6 years post qualification experience.	Same as in (3) above but at a lesser degree	10.
6.	Trade Promotion Officer I	Good Honours Degree in Economics, Marketing, Statistics, Business Administration, French, Computer Sciences, Law and Library Sciences.	Candidates with relevant experience will be given preference. Such candidates must have worked at least 3 years on similar jobs.	Same as in (4) above but at a lesser degree	09.
7.	Trade Promotion Officer II	Good Honours Degree in Economics, Marketing, Statistics, Business Administration, French, Computer Sciences, Social Sciences, Law and Library Sciences.	Candidates with relevant experience will be given preference	Same as in (4) above but at a lesser degree.	08.
8.	Accountant I I	Good Honours Degree in Accountancy from any recognised University or any of the following recognised Professional accounting bodies: ICAN, ACCA, ACA, ACMA, CPA.	Post-qualification experience will be an advantage.	Accounting and Financial functions.	08.
9.	Confidential Secretaries Gd.II, III, and IV	RSA/FTC/HND/OND: 120/50, 100/50 w.p.m. in shorthand and typewriting. Good knowledge of computer operation will be an added advantage.	Post-qualification experience will be an advantage.	All secretarial duties.	08/07
10.	Senior typists: typists Gd.III	SSCE/GCE (O/L) plus 50/35/25 w.p.m. in typewriting. Good knowledge of computer operation will be an added advantage.	Post-qualification experience will be an advantage.	All secretarial duties	07/04

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**Note: Only short-listed candidates shall be invited for interview.**

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**BUSINESS DAY**

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**ALSCON boss refutes allegations of seizure of \$150m grant**

By Ahmed Shekarau

The Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON), Engr. Murtala Salik Mohammed has refuted reports that the contracting firm engaged in completing the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON) is laying claims to 70 per cent of the \$150 million grant for payment for works it had earlier executed.

In an exclusive chat with *Business Day*, the DMD said "definitely part of that money will be given to the foreign partners who are also the general contractor to be mobilised to provide some of the key facilities that are required for the immediate re-start of the ALSCON plant. A plan has been put by the shareholders for the twin objectives of completing the plant and reactivating it with the same amount.

The DMD also refuted allegations of corruption levelled against the company's manage-

ment. Engr. Mohammed explained that the suspension of production by ALSCON has nothing to do with "lack of expertise and corruption", stressing that the management



Engr. Murtala Salik Mohammed, DMD, ALSCON

has been utilising all company resources effectively to enhance its performance.

He said the plant suspended production because it was producing at about 30 percent capacity which made it to be "running at a great deficit," thus, the federal govern-

ment which is the major financier of the project, directed that the company should suspend production.

Commenting further on the DMD's explanations, the Assistant General Manager, Public Relations Department of ALSCON, Alhaji Garba Shehu said "the foreign partners are also the technical partners and managers of the company so if they complain about lack of expertise and mismanagement as alleged, then they would be indicting themselves."

Alhaji Shehu also noted that contrary to the notion that ALSCON shut down, it suspended production.

He said: "ALSCON is still open. If you go there (Ikot Abasi), you will see men and women reporting for work". The company only suspended production to reactivate dormant parts of the Smelter."

The AGM Public Relations noted that ALSCON will "in the next few weeks" publicise its programmes for the final part of the reactivation of the project as well as resumption of production.

**FG projects 3.5 per cent industrial growth this year**

By Aliyu Ma'aji Business Editor

The Federal Government has assured that the nation's industrial capacity will be recharged in order to reverse dwindling capacity utilisation trends experienced in recent years, Minister of State for Finance Alhaji Jubril Martins-Kuye revealed this at a recent parley with journalists in Abuja.

"The manufacturing sector is envisaged to attain a growth rate of 3.5 per cent this year. Our vision is to build a strong and competitive manufacturing sector by establishing an industrial order capable of facing the challenges of modern

day globalisation". Alhaji Kuye said.

According to him, government will continue to increase the industrial production capacity by reducing the cost of locally manufactured goods through the provision of much needed industrial infrastructural facilities.

In addition, the directive that banks and financial institutions should devote part of their loanable funds to Small and Medium scale Enterprises (SMEs) at concessionary rates is expected to stimulate industrial growth.

On the issue of power supply, Alhaji Kuye said the authorities concerned are being overhauled to improve en-

ergy supply. He, however, conceded that despite government's efforts, the energy sector is still hampered by high transportation costs, the naira's depreciating value, poor road network and high cost of loanable funds.

He also lamented on the high level of inflation in the economy. According to him, available data from the Federal Office of Statistics (FOS) revealed that there was an upward trend in general price level during the third quarter of last year. "The inflation rate a percentage change in the average Composite Price Index (CPI) increased from 0.9 per cent in June to 1.2, 2.2, and 3.3 per cent in July, August and September 2000 respectively".

**NEPA decentralises operations nationwide**

NEPA has commenced the decentralisation of its operations nationwide, to give full control and responsibility to its zonal offices and power stations, *Business Day* has learnt.

A source at NEPA said yesterday in Abuja that the move was an effort to ensure better service delivery to electricity consumers throughout the country.

"We have started working on the administrative structure and operational base of the organisation, by giving more powers to the zonal offices,

generating stations and transmission regions.

"They do not have to come to the headquarters for their operational needs."

The source said that the exercise, described as a gradual process, would include the devolution of power to General Managers in the zonal offices, and the generation and transmission stations, to enable them to carry out functions without necessarily obtaining permission from the corporate headquarters.

According to the source, the organisation recently

granted 100 per cent funding to the zones and other operational areas in preparation for the decentralisation process.

"The decentralisation process will turn around our operational capability and enhance service delivery," the source noted.

The current re-organisation is part of NEPA's technical board action plan, which was prepared by the Sen. Liyel Imoke-led board, to facilitate the smooth operation of the organisation and also to enable it to meet its obligations.



The Executive Chairman, Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, Engr. Hamman Tukur stressing a point at a press briefing on January 23rd, 2001. He is flanked by his Deputy, Otunba Bola Koforiji Olubi (left) and the Commission's Secretary, Deacon Patrick Emehana (right)

**ASYCUDA, CIT enhanced FG's revenue collections - Kuye**

The implementation and installation of Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA), reduced to the barest minimum, the cumbersome method of manually processing documents in some thirteen customs stations nationwide, thereby improving revenue collection, Minister of State for Finance has said.

Senator Jubril Martins-Kuye told journalists in Abuja at the weekend that the system helped in decongesting Nigeria's seaports and airports, thus facilitating efficient maintenance of records.

He announced that out of the N506.11 billion of

government's total revenue receipts for the third quarter of year 2000, reconciled revenue from customs (import duty, excise duty, fees and others) amounted to N27.66 billion.

This was N1.66 billion higher than the proportionate budget estimate of N26.00 billion for the period. A breakdown showed that the amount was also N4.4 billion higher than the N23.26 billion collected in the preceding quarter.

The monthly average revenue from Customs sources in the third quarter stood at N9.22 billion which represented a N1.47 billion improvement over that of the last

quarter which was N7.75 billion.

Senator Kuye equally revealed that total Value Added Tax revenue (VAT) was N15.74 billion. The monthly average collected during the period under review was N5.24 billion. This showed a difference of N1.88 billion from the collections of the preceding period that stood at N13.86 billion.

On Company Income Tax (CIT) he said the amount was N17.20 billion, about N0.95 billion higher than the budgetary projection of N16.25 billion. The monthly average cash collection stood at N5.73 billion as against N4.17 billion recording in the previous period.

**CBN governor laments excess liquidity in economy**

From Adelanwa Bamgboye in Lagos

The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Chief (Dr.) Joseph O. Sanusi has attributed the lingering problem of excess liquidity in the banking system to the rapid monetisation of oil wind fall earnings and the transfer of public sector accounts to commercial and merchant banks.

In a keynote address at a one-day policy seminar on the 2001 Federal Budget held in Lagos, the CBN Governor said the two developments induced rapid monetary expansion that substantially outpaced the stipulated targets, with adverse consequences for domestic price and exchange rate stability.

According to Chief Sanusi, "although interest rate movements remained relatively stable for most of the year, the level remained high, in real terms, and the persistent wide spread between rates continued to be a source of serious concern to CBN.

On the Year 2001 budget, the objective of government according to the CBN governor was to use fiscal stimulus to jump-start and put the economy on the path of sustainable growth.

He said that while the CBN is a part of this endeavour, its primary focus is the maintenance of price and exchange rate stability.

"Our preliminary assessment of the revenue and expenditure profile, including the use of past savings, shows that the budget would be highly

expansionary and concomitant risk of destabilising the relative macro economic stability that has been maintained in the past year would be very high".

According to Sanusi, the gross external reserves rose from U.S \$5.4 billion in December, 1999 to U.S \$9.4 billion at the end of December, 2000.

He added that the foreign exchange market however remained persistently under pressure. This he said reflected the effect of excessive growth in demand for imported goods and services.

Sanusi said that despite the improvement in oil fortune, the Nigerian economy continued to perform below potentials.

He said further that the growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) remained weak at 2.8 per cent compared with the projected 3.0 per cent for the year.

**House hearings on NNPC begins Feb. 18**

The House of Representatives Ad-hoc Committee on NNPC will commence public hearing on the activities of the corporation on February 18, the Chairman of the Committee, Alhaji Ibrahim Ganyama said that officials of the NNPC, the Directorate of Petroleum Resources (DPR), and Major Oil Companies would appear before the committee on February 11, to clarify certain issues before the take-off of the public hearing. He said that during the hearing, the NNPC Group Managing Director and the Managing Directors of the

corporation's subsidiaries would appear before the Committee.

Those expected to also testify during the public hearing, he said, include the Accountant-General of the Federation, the Special Adviser to the President on Petroleum Matters, the Permanent Secretary in the Petroleum Ministry and the Minister of Finance.

Others are the CBN Governor, officials of the Customs Service Department, the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), the National Maritime Authority (NMA), all the Chairmen and managing Directors

of Major Oil Companies as well as the Chairman and Secretary of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN).

Ganyama also alleged that the Committee had discovered that some members of the House had been talking with NNPC officials with a view to thwarting the efforts of the Committee in the execution of its assignment.

"We will do our best to ensure that no one brings any hitch in the conduct of the assignment given to us by the House," the Chairman pledged.

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### N2.4 billion steel mill at CEPZ starts production in April

The N2.4 billion Chinese steel mill, "Bao Yao Iron and Steel Ltd." at the Calabar Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) is to resume full production in April, the CEPZ General Manager, Mr. Sina Agboluaje, has announced.

Agboluaje said that the products were also expected to feed the Jos and other steel rolling mills in the country with billets and to meet other needs of medium scale steel mills.

In an interview, the company's spokesperson, Ms. Nancy Qinyan, confirmed that it was set to commence production but that the initial 20 million

dollars that was sunk into the firm was not sufficient to meet its long-term needs.

She said that the company would engage 500 workers and that 75 per cent of whom must be Nigerians, adding that the firm was being assisted by the CEPZ management to source funds for its production activities.

"We are the largest steel company here and we are confident that the CEPZ management will help us to improve on our capital base", she added.

The CEPZ General Manager, who later confirmed that the management was taking steps to assist the steel company to

source additional funds for its operations, said that the Nigerian Export/Import (NEXIM) Bank had made some commitment in that regard.

Agboluaje also expressed satisfaction that some foreign firms had already started to patronise the CEPZ, adding that investors from countries like the U.S., China, Taiwan, Israel, Italy, Germany, India and South Africa, had already registered their presence at the zone.

The CEPZ was established in 1992 to provide incentives to local and foreign investors to process the nation's raw material into finished goods for export.

### NITEL manager denies knowledge of maintenance work

Mr. Albert Ibrinke, Territorial Manager of NITEL's Lagos Mainland Zone, said in Lagos that he was unaware that a contracting firm, ITATEL, was maintaining the organisation's equipment in the territory as claimed by the company.

Ibrinke, continuing his testimony before the Justice Daniel Adeniyi Judicial Commission of Inquiry investigating past management of NITEL and M-Tel,

said that if there was any such maintenance arrangement, he ought to be aware as the Territorial manager.

He also stated that correspondences between NITEL and ITATEL, allegedly signed on his behalf as Territorial Manager, were neither carried out with his consent nor copied to him and dissociated himself from such letters.

The Territorial Manager said that NITEL generated about N2 million daily from

Alaba International Market in Lagos because of the nature of businesses in the area, noting that most of the people there used the international direct-dialling facility.

Ibrinke also stated that he was involved in emergency operations in Calabar while he was in the office of the Executive Director, zonal administration in Abuja and generated a lot of revenue for NITEL.

The Commission continues its sitting on Monday.

### Analysis of NSE transaction as at January 29, 2001

A total of 22.84 million shares worth N169.93 million were exchanged in 1,695 deals on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange with 101 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.

#### Price Movement:

The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index closed at 8,967.78 an increase of 0.42%. The index opened today at 8,930.22. While the market capitalisation closed at N516.11 billion, appreciating by 0.42%, it opened at N513.95 billion.

The bears lost their lead on the floor but are still handing in, with a total of 25 companies making gains in their share prices and 20 making losses.

Gains were recorded in the Petroleum marketing, Conglomerates, Breweries, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Banking, Health Care, Industrial/Domestic products, Real Estate, Insurance and Textile sub sectors.

Total Nigeria Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 314 kobo to close the day at N66.15 per share, followed by Texaco Nigeria Plc, it appreciated by 284 kobo to close at N59.84 per share.

Other price gainers include Levbros (102 kobo); PZ (70 kobo); NB (49 kobo); NNFM (45 kobo); Chartered (18 kobo); Skbeecham (16 kobo); CFAO (15 kobo); FirstAlum (13 kobo); IGL (11 kobo); and Flourmill (9 kobo).

Losses were recorded in the Chemical and paint, Insurance, Banking, Automobile & tyre, Textiles, Printing and Publishing and the Conglomerates sub sectors.

Agip Plc led the price losers, crashing by 126 kobo to close at N25.14 per share, followed closely by Cadbury Plc, which dropped in its share price by 103 kobo to close at N20.63.

Other price losers include Union Dicon (74 kobo); DN Meyer (37 kobo); Niger Insurance and UBN (31 kobo apiece); UBA (22 kobo); Dunlop (21 kobo); Afribank (20 kobo); UNTL (18 kobo); Owcnabank (10 kobo); UTB (9 kobo) and Savanna (7 kobo).

### The Nigerian Stock Market

Gainers/Losers as at 29/01/2001

#### Gainers

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
TOTAL	63.01	66.15	3.14
TEXACO	57.00	59.84	2.84
LEVBROS	20.50	21.52	1.02
PZ	14.00	14.70	0.70
NB	27.56	26.05	0.49
NNFM	9.13	9.68	0.45
CHARTERED	3.62	3.60	0.18
SKBEECHAM	3.26	3.42	0.18
CFAO	3.00	3.15	0.15
FIRST ALUM	3.57	3.70	0.13
IGL	7.20	7.31	0.11
FLOURMILL	1.20	11.29	0.09
UAC-PROP	1.81	1.90	0.09
INLANDBANK	1.86	1.94	0.08
COOPBANK	1.78	1.86	0.08
JOHNHOLT	1.63	1.60	0.07
COOPDEV	1.40	1.46	0.06
VITAFOAM	3.75	3.79	0.04
UNIC	2.65	2.68	0.03
EKOBANK	0.90	0.93	0.03
UACN	3.30	3.33	0.03
CMB	0.23	0.96	0.03
CAPOIL	0.30	0.31	0.01
AFPRINT	1.44	1.46	0.01
ETERNAOIL	0.99	1.00	0.01

#### Losers

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
AGIP	26.40	25.14	1.26
CADBURY	21.66	20.63	1.03
UNIONDICON	19.74	19.00	0.74
DNMEYER	7.52	7.15	0.37
NIGERINS	6.22	5.91	0.31
UBN	29.11	28.80	0.31
UBA	17.20	16.98	0.22
DUNLOP	4.41	4.20	0.21
AFRIBANK	9.00	8.80	0.20
UNTL	3.62	3.44	0.18
OWENABANK	2.17	2.07	0.10
UTB	3.49	3.40	0.09
SAVANNA	1.49	1.42	0.07
GUARANTY	4.76	4.70	0.06
ACCESSBANK	1.35	1.29	0.06
LONGMAN	6.20	6.16	0.05
WEMABANK	2.05	2.00	0.05
NBC	13.96	13.35	0.01
FIRSTBANK	27.07	27.00	0.01
SCOA	2.72	2.71	0.01

#### Summary of NSE Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	%AGE CHANGE
MKT. CAP	513,952,606,641.13	516,114,195,977.48	0.42
INDEX	8,930.22	8,967.78	0.42

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,748	38,787,915	378,677,385,048.00	102

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office.

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**Obasanjo woo investors in Switzerland**

President Obasanjo's trip to Switzerland for the just concluded World Economic Summit



President Obasanjo

may have begun to yield fruitful result as Swiss Economic delegation are expected in Nigeria in May for on the spot assessment of the nation's economic potentials.

Briefing state House Correspondents on the outcome of the Summit, the Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Tunji Oseni said the Swiss delegation to be led by the country's Economic Minister, Mr. Pascal Couchapin would arrive the country on a date yet to be fixed.

According to him, Presi-

By Suleiman Mohammed

dent Obasanjo used the occasion to meet with world leaders including the UN Secretary General, Kofi Anan, the South African President, Thabo Mbeki and British Lynda Chalker among others, and discussed on the issue of development in Nigeria since May 1999 when President Obasanjo assumed office.

Mr. Tunji Oseni who was on the President's entourage explained that President Obasanjo also spoke on the privatisation programme, education, the steel industry and telecommunication among others.

**Inland Bank posts N250 profit**

Inland Bank Plc has announced an after-tax profit of N250.02 million for the third quarter ended December 31, 2000.

Presenting the results to stockbrokers on the Lagos Floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) early in the week in Lagos, the bank said its profits for the period under review rose significantly from N68.83 million recorded in the corresponding period of 1999.

The Bank's turnover rose from N1.3 billion in the nine months period of 1999 to N1.5 billion in the comparable period of last year.

Pre-tax profit also surged to N367.7 million in December 2000 from N101.2 million during the same period last year, while the company's provisions for tax increased to N117.7 million from N324.4 million in December 1999.

The company's Directors recommended 5k as dividend to shareholders in December 1999,

while no dividend was paid in the corresponding period of last year.

The Deputy Managing Director of the bank, Malam Saidu Samaila, attributed the increase in the Bank's profits to the divisional structures put in place, which he said, had started yielding benefits of cost containment.

According to him, the bank will open up 212 more branches across the country this year to position itself for further growth.

The bank opened trading on the Lagos Floor of the NSE this year at N2.09 with an earning per share of 0.06k. between 16 per cent to 24 per cent.

The Nigerian Money Market Association said it envisaged that lending rates would converge between 17 per cent and 23 per cent this week.

The Nigerian Inter-Bank Offered Rates (NIBOR) released by the association at the weekend also indicated that deposit



Alh. M. Danmadami, Chairman Inland Bank Plc

rates would hover between four per cent and 15 per cent depending on the nature of the deposit.

It said that while savings deposits would attract between four per cent and six per cent interest, seven-day deposits would garner six to 10 per cent; 30-day deposits, 10-14 per cent, and 60-day deposits 12-15 per cent depending on the bank.

**Sadiq Petroleum acquired AP by open bid - official**

Contrary to allegations that the management of Sadiq Petroleum (Nigeria) Limited might have manoeuvred its way to clinch the federal government's 30 per cent shares in African Petroleum Plc (AP) to become its core investor, General Manager of Sadiq Petroleum, Mallam Abdullahi Sule has condemned as spurious, such allegations.

Sule, told *Business Day* in Abuja that: "Sadiq Petroleum Limited passed through the BPE's due diligence auditing to clinch the federal government's shares in AP."

He said though Sadiq

By Ahmed Shekarau

Petroleum's earlier bid was cancelled for its "inability to meet the technical expertise required" by the National Council on Privatisation (NCP), the company now possesses the technical and managerial expertise.

According to Sule, who is also the Executive Director, Operations of AP "What happened was that after we won the bid earlier on, it was cancelled because of our inability to possess the technical expertise required then."

Sule noted however that Sadiq Petroleum has signed a partnership agreement

with British Petroleum, as its technical partner, adding, "this made us qualified to serve as core investor for African Petroleum Plc was proved after the NCP's due diligence.

An assistant director of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) who pleaded anonymity confirmed Sule's claims to *Business Day* saying that "It was actually discovered that Sadiq does not possess the technical expertise after the initial offer of AP's core investor shares to it, but we are now satisfied that it has."

It would be recalled that Sadiq Petroleum's earlier selection as core investor for

AP during the first phase of the ongoing privatisation programme early last year, was cancelled after industry analysts refuted Sadiq's claims to the expertise.

Eyebrows were then raised as to the authenticity of the due diligence carried out by the Technical Committee of the NCP, in conjunction with the BPE. The initial offer of 30 per cent out of the federal government's 40 per cent shares of AP, previously held through the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) was therefore cancelled.

Sadiq Petroleum however succeeded in clinching the shares after the bids for

the government's shares in AP were re-opened for another round of bidding during the second phase of the privatisation programme.

Meanwhile, Sule has assured of Sadiq Petroleum's commitment to re-energising African Petroleum Plc to greater heights.

According to the ED Operation: "We are working to combine our relevant experiences - Sadiq Petroleum in the upstream and AP Plc in the downstream oil sectors - to diversify into other areas of business in the oil industry and improve the company's marginal profits."

He said the company

has already been awarded a licence to venture into the marginal oil fields, adding that Sadiq Petroleum will "exploit further a field" to boost shareholders dividends.



Abba Gana, AP Boss

**Govt. Securities Market active last week**

Government Securities Market was active last week with N44.57 billion Treasury bills traded, up from N20.471 billion in the previous week.

The bulk of the transactions took place at the primary market auction (PMA) where government had intended to raise N121.957 billion.

While the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) had offered to sell N121.957 billion worth of Treasury bills through the PMA, investors were willing to pick as much as N39.968 billion worth but N37.518 billion worth was eventually allotted. Market operators attributed the inability of the CBN to raise the required amount to paucity of liquidity and the speculative activities by investors who preferred to hold foreign currencies.

The range of bids offered by investors at the PMA last week hovered between 12.5 and 15 per cent while the true yield rate for the 91-day was 13.9708 per cent.

About N7.06 billion worth of Treasury bills were traded through the Open Market Operations (OMO) last week against the N5.3 billion worth sold in the previous week.

The range of bids at OMO ranged from 12.9 to 13.159 per cent while the true yield rate for the 42-day tenured bills stood at 13.0529 per cent.

The Minimum Rediscount Rate (MRR) was still 14.5 per cent. NAN reports that the increase in MRR by the CBN from 14 per cent to 14.5 per cent has led to a review of lend rates by banks, many some of them charging between 17 per cent and 23 per cent as against the old rate of between 16 per cent to 24 per cent.

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The Nigerian Inter-Bank Offered Rates (NIBOR) released by the association at the weekend also indicated that deposit rates

would hover between four per cent and 15 per cent depending on the nature of the deposit.

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Chief Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor.

**Exchange rates for World currencies against the US dollar as at Jan. 29**

	CURRENT	HIGH	LOW
U.S. Dollar	0.9187	0.926	0.9184
Japanese Yen	107.11	108.7	106.97
British Pound	0.6307	0.633	0.628
Swiss Franc	1.5231	1.5285	1.5233
Danish Crown	7.4619	7.4625	7.4615
Greek Drachma	340.75		
Norwegian Crown	8.191	8.2135	8.1897
Swedish Crown	8.8657	8.8877	8.8555
Australian Dollar	1.6904	1.704	1.6905
Canadian Dollar	1.3825	1.3929	1.3811
Hong Kong Dollar	7.176	7.2173	7.1774
Russian Rouble	26.05	26.27	26.11
Singapore Dollar	1.6133	1.6155	1.614
	CURRENT	HIGH	LOW
Euro	0.9188	0.926	0.9186
Japanese Yen	116.53	117.69	116.13
British Pound	1.4568	1.4645	1.4565
Swiss Franc	1.6567	1.657	1.648
Austrian Schilling	14.9798	14.978	14.8631
Belgian Franc	43.91	43.91	43.573
Danish Crown	8.1105	8.1133	8.0605
Dutch Guilder	2.3987	2.3987	2.3803
Finnish Markka	6.4719	6.4719	6.4223
French Franc	7.1401	7.1401	7.0853
German Mark	2.1289	2.1289	2.1126
Greek Drachma	370.9	370.9	368.06
Irish Punt	1.1663	1.1755	1.1665
Italian Lire	2107.62	2107.62	2091.46
Norwegian Crown	8.9147	8.9196	8.8641
Portuguese Escudo	218.22	218.22	216.55
Spanish Peseta	181.11	181.11	179.72
Swedish Crown	9.644	9.6495	9.588
Australian Dollar	0.5429	0.545	0.542
Brazilian Real	1.974	1.974	1.9715
Canadian Dollar	1.5031	1.506	1.5033
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7992	7.7996	7.7997
Mexican Peso	9.665	9.665	9.662
Russian Rouble	28.396	28.396	28.378
Singapore Dollar	1.7456	1.7495	1.7465
South African Rand	7.8615	7.8825	7.8625

Star Feature

From one end of the country to another, a new generation of Black prodigies is challenging the historic barriers of European classical music. From the time they were toddlers, these Black musicians have taken the seriousness of their crafts to heart and have mastered the works of Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and other masters.

Almost all of them have enjoyed the initial triumphs of the classical music genre and have won the support of influential musicians and community leaders.

Among these prodigies are St. Louis' Session twins, Adeshia and India, 12 who wowed jazz great Wynton Marsalis at a private concert when they were just 10 years old; the Constant Trio (Pierre, 16, Daniel, 15, and Jessica, 13) of New York; and Indiana violinist Tai Murray, 18, whose skills have drawn accolades from music critics.

These prodigies, supported by their parents' sacrifice and the collective efforts of their close-knit communities, are among a rising generation that is giving another dimension to the African-American musical picture.

The Constant Trio, composed of Pierre, Daniel, and Jessica, are all students of the prestigious Julliard School in New York. They are respected by their peers and their professors and the tightly knit community of Bellerose, where they are regarded as classical superstars. From subway stations to Carnegie Hall, the three are known to whip out their bows and flawlessly perform Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* at the drop of a dime - proving that for them, sibling rivalry has taken a back seat to sibling artistry.

Pierre was introduced to classical music while on a field trip with his fourth-grade teacher, an opera lover. It was there that he found his passion for the violin, a passion that would subsequently draw his younger siblings to classical music as well.

When Pierre was 9 years old, his parents, Daniel, a math professor, and Jessie, a nurse, who never had any musical training, bought him a violin for Christmas. Pierre instantly began making music.

Pierre later applied for a Music Advancement Program (MAP) two-year



Spring family has helped Murray stick to her goal of becoming a career violinist. Continued

# The New Black Prodigies

scholarship designed to support minorities in music, and became one of the first African-American students from MAP to be accepted into the pre-college division at Juilliard. Now his siblings attend Juilliard with him.

Daniel was introduced to the violin by watching his brother Pierre play. "It seemed very interesting, and I liked the sound of the violin," Daniel recalls. "And he looked like he was having a lot of fun doing it".

Unlike her big brothers, Jessica plays a three-quarter-sized cello. She admits that she first decided on the cello because she could play it while seated, but over the years

she's come to enjoy her instrument for obvious reasons. She loves the sound of the cello and the control that she has over it.

"Music is my life," she says. "First I tried the piano and then I tried the violin. So while I was at the music shop, they gave me this instrument and I said, 'Okay, I'll try this. I'll give it a shot'".

The trio's bustling schedules keep them on their toes: For starters, there are four hours of music practice daily, seven days a week, no exceptions. On the weekend, Daniel takes classes at the Mannes College of Music in Manhattan, and Pierre and Jessica rehearse at Juilliard. Their class schedules include theory, orchestra,

car training, chamber music, a private studio session, and - somewhere during the day - a lunch break.

Modest and well-mannered, the siblings look to one another for support and inspiration. But big brother Pierre has emerged as Daniel's and Jessica's hero. His music is "his life", and his sole intention at this state in his life is to perfect his virtuoso skills.

"My siblings look up to me because I am the one who started to get them into music", Pierre explains. "I feel I have a responsibility to be a good role model, to guide them. I guess they really need somebody like that." As for a relaxation tactic, Pierre lets his hair down by, well, what else, listening to classical music.

"I just lie across my bed and listen to music", he says. "I don't have a girlfriend; well, right now, my music is my girlfriend," he laughs.

Three major factions that have given unconditional support to the Constant Trio have been their parents, their music instructors and members of their community - all of whom have spent endless hours in training, raising funds and promoting the young musicians.

"I respect them for all of the hard work they've done to us where we are," Pierre says of his parents. "It's been a lot of hard work - the financial investments and the stress of getting into school. I truly respect them".

Given the talent and ambition of the Constant Trio, their future goals seem probable enough: Jessica want to be an M.M.D. (musical medical doctor) "who plays the cello for my patients." Daniel's goal is to be a career violinist, and Pierre aims to follow the footsteps of the first Black virtuoso in the 19th century, George Augustus Polgreen Bridgetower. "I want to be the first Black virtuoso in the 21st century, to share my music with other people," he says. "I want to show the world that rap and R&B are not the only



Tai Murray, 18



The session twins pose with their parents, Garry and Denise

# Star Feature

music that our people know. Our people know classical music as well."

Showcasing her knowledge of classical music is violinist Tai Murray, 18, who is as mesmerizing as the beautiful music she plays. Born in Chicago, Murray was home-schooled and began her violin studies at the age of 5. She recently graduated with honors from the Artist Diploma program at University of Indiana's School of Music and is fluent

phrasing, too, is gorgeous and her sense of pitch is unerring." Murray was barely 10 years old when he reviewed her performance.

Murray, with many other young Black musicians must depend on her family and community to sustain her success. The violin is perhaps the most expensive of all string instruments, (the most popular violins, the Stradivarius collection, start at about \$150,000) then add in the private

lessons and traveling fees - the end result is financially staggering.

"Playing the violin is a very expensive endeavor, which is why you don't see many Black violinists,"

says mom Ellen Murray. "It takes the efforts of the whole family to help us in this endeavor. It takes a village to raise a Black violinist."

Murray practices five hours a day and then studies with her foreign language tutors. She's working steadily toward her goal of conquering the world through music, and recently won a coveted spot in an international competition in Helsinki, Finland.

Murray has attracted the support of a number of national figures, including Minister Louis Farrakhan, also a violinist, who has called for other prominent Blacks to help underwrite the purchase of a vintage violin, which is generally required for a serious career violinist.

In St. Louis, a set of talented twins are in the first stages of creating a serious career in classical music. Talented twin violinists India and Adeshia Session, 12, first displayed their musical talents when, as toddlers, they danced in the living

room, crooning Oleta Adams' records, says their mother Denise Session, a nurse. Their father, Garry, a tool and die maker and budding saxophonist, bought the whole family violins. Denise Session says she was shocked at how fast the twins progressed.

"I've never played an instrument," she explains. "I was just excited to get a chance to play, but then the girls would come back from their class and they were progressing at a steady rate. And I couldn't keep up."

Today the girls have outgrown their miniature violins and are now using their parents' instruments.

Garry Session, who says he initially chose the violin for his daughters because it was lightweight and wouldn't put a strain on them, has been

playing the role of "proud father" for quite some time now. "My children had been playing the violin since they were 3," he says. "I thought it would be best to get them started in music at an early age. And it has worked out well."

"Worker out well" is indeed an understatement. The twins have won several awards, including one from the Mid-America Music Association, and

also performed for international jazz great Wynton Marsalis at a private concert after his show at St. Louis' Powell Symphony Hall in 1995. Marsalis was thoroughly impressed, and told the girls to stick to their violins. They have obeyed.

Says Adeshia, "I enjoy the violin because it's productive and I like to play. Meeting Wynton Marsalis was great, and he was very nice. He told us to keep playing. "India, the eldest twin by four minutes, shares her sister's musical ambitions.

"I love playing the violin, and I like to play a mixture of everything. I want to travel around the world, playing my violin," she says excitedly. The

twins have also showcased their talent on several local television programs.

When the top seventh-graders at Stormin-Stuffin Elementary School are not making music, they are running their publishing company-and have just completed their first book, *The Session Family: Short Stories Poetry*. "It took us about a year to finish our book, but it wasn't hard work," says India. Asked whether they preferred playing music or writing books, they spoke

nearly in unison: "We like both," Adeshia says. Adds India, "If anything goes wrong, I'll always have my publishing business. Running my business and playing my violin are the most important things right now.

*Culled from Ebony Magazine.*



The twins, India and Adeshia, 12

in French and Japanese. Murray has appeared as a soloist with the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra and on several occasions with the St. Ambrose Chamber Orchestra in St. Louis. She has also performed with the symphonies of Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. She says that as a toddler she heard the violin and instantly fell in love with it music.

"I was very young when I first heard the sound," Murray recalls. "I learned it by ear and I enjoyed the sound, and I began taking violin lessons soon thereafter." Today one of her favorite compositions is the mellow *Havanaise*, a beautiful Camille Saint-Saens composition that she delivers with crystal clear runs and oscillations.

"Apparently her instrument is quite modest, yet the sound she draws from it bears an uncanny resemblance to her teacher's," writes critic James Wierzbicki of the St. Louis Post Dispatch. "Her



Taking a time out with their parents.

# DAILY TRUST

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With effect from January 15, 2001

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NEWS

## Jajere emirate donates 46 cattle to Gov. Ibrahim

The people of Jajere emirate council in Yobe at the weekend donated 46 heads of cattle to Gov. Bukar Ibrahim to enable him meet with the requirements for the award of a chieftaincy title in the emirate.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the 54 cows, owned by the governor fell short of the 100 cows required to enable him wear the crown of

"Ardo of Yobe". The People



Gov. Turaki

of Jajere decided to contribute the remaining number of cows for the governor to be turbaned at a colourful ceremony in Babangida town, headquarters of the emirate.

With the conferment of the title, Ibrahim who had more than ten other traditional titles to his credit, now assumed the headship of the teeming Fulani population in the state

Speaking to Newsmen shortly after the ceremony,

the governor said he would establish a large frame within the emirate to cater for the animals.

He explained that he had been a lover of animals all his life. As such, the responsibility of looking after the cows would not be a new experience to him.

Ibrahim also said that he would delve into large scale gun Arabic farming in two years time.

NAN reports that "Ardo" is a Fulani title bestowed on Fulani leaders in appreciation of their contributions to the development of the area.

## Strike looms in universities

The National Secretariat of the Senior Staff Association of Nigeria Universities (SSANU) has ordered its members to start a one-week strike from next Monday.

The decision was taken at the end of the Union's Executive emergency meeting, which was held last Friday at the University of Abuja.

According to a communiqué issued at the end of the meeting by the national president, Sam Piwuna and the national Secretary, Samuel Olaniyan, the union said that the action was necessary following the withdrawal of FG/SSANU agreement by the National University Commission (NUC).

The SSANU noted with dismay, the unilateral withdrawal of the May 11, 2000 agreement between the federal government and SSANU vide a letter of reference NUC/ES/138/vol,

xxxv111/298 of January 2001 and which was been communicated to all Vice-Chancellors.

While condemning the role played by the committee of Vice-Chancellors (CVC) in connivance with the Executive Secretary of NUC and the ministry of Education, the call on the Federal government to withdraw the letter had been largely ignored.

The NEC, according to the communiqué, therefore directed its members to embark on a one-week warning strike action, after which the union would resume its suspended strike action fully indefinitely with effect from Monday 19 February, 2001.

The union however expressed their concern that the unilateral withdrawal of the agreement was a calculated attempt to introduce crises in the university system and consequently discredit and destabilise the federal government.

## American auto firm sued over fraud

A US based auto-giant, General Motors of Detroit, Michigan has been taken to court by a Calabar lawyer, Chief Victor Udoma-Egba for selling refurbished Cars as new.

In the suit No HC/24/20001, the plaintiff, Chief Victor Udoma Egba also joined 510 motorists in Nigeria and her sales manager, Umo Ekanem as co-defendants.

Chief Udoma-Egba stated that he was led by the defendant to pay the sum of N4.2 million for a Chevrolet blazer

Jeep passed as a brand new 1997/98 model.

The plaintiff alleged that the car was a 1995 refurbished model and not a brand new 1997/98 model as the defendants had warranted.

A Calabar High Court judge, Chief Ndoma-Egba is praying for either specific performance of the contract for a brand new model of the car or a refund of N4.2million along N300,000 he paid for insuring the car and 25 percent interest on the N4.2million from the 1st day of July, 2000 till date of

final payment.

Sitting at the high court No 2, Calabar Justice Evansus granted the plaintiff leave to serve the defendants with writs of summons

Counsel to the plaintiff George N. Nciji (ESQ) alleged that SIO motors and her agent Umoh Ekanem agreed in a letter dated 30th January 1999 to deliver to his client a 1997/98 model jeep "from the Chevrolet table."

And to entice him, he was presented with a 1997 Chevrolet TAHOE Brochure

and was told that there was no blazer Brochure at the time adding that the Brochure does not matter as it had the same features with TAHOE except that the latter was slightly bigger.

According to him, the battery went down about three months after delivery even as the central lock stopped functioning and the passenger window could not be wound less than five months after.

Similarly, the seat fabric was torn and the bodywork "developed obvious patches of rust".

## Commission empowered to arrest corrupt public Officers

The Zamfara State Government has given full powers to the state Anti-corruption Commission to arrest any corrupt public officer. Gov. Sani Ahmed has said. The governor who stated this while speaking with newsmen in Gusau said that last year, the function of the commission were limited due to the learning process of the sharia legal system.

"The commission has now been vested full powers to discharge its duties", he added. Sani said that any government employee caught diverting or mismanaging government's funds and resources, would face the wrath of the law, in accordance with the sharia legal system.

The governor said Sharia law was binding on all Muslims including the civil servants, adding that the prosecution of top civil servants would serve as a

deterrent to others. He urged all muslims in the state to continue to be law abiding, and

respect the tenets of Sharia legal system and other Islamic doctrines and teachings.

## Justice Ministry needs more than N500 million to settle damages

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige, said in Abuja today, that the Ministry needed between N500 million to one billion naira to settle damages resulting from claims. Testifying at the resumed Public hearing on the National ID card project organised by the Senate Committee on Public accounts, Ige said that the Ministry needed more funds to enable it discharge its responsibility of defending the country's interests.

He said his Ministry had the smallest allocation in this year's budget, but did not disclose how much was allocated to it.

"There is need to ensure that the ministry is adequately funded because nothing must be done to allow those whose duty it is to defend the government, to compromise or collude with the other side," Ige said.

He explained that if the counsel representing the government was unable to go to court because of lack of funds, a judge was not bound to wait for him indefinitely, adding that the ministry should be empowered to discharge its duties.

The Minister claimed that in the past, the ministry was regarded as a service ministry, but noted that no contract could be signed without the ministry looking into it. He further pointed out that it was only last month that the ministry was able to buy two official cars for him since he came to the ministry in June last year, adding that he had been using the car he took from the ministry of Power and Steel, where he last served.

Fielding questions from Newsmen later, Ige said that Mr. Nessim Goan, Chief Executive of Afro-Continental (Nig) Ltd, the company which initially handled the National ID card project, would be prosecuted if he was found wanting. Goan, a Swiss National, had while testifying before the committee late last year, described the National ID card project as a "Golden cow to be milked by every successive administration since 1992."

But while reacting to the comment, Ige said "If that is what Goan himself said, then he is the first person to be indicted because he has said with his own mouth that he belonged to a consortium that was milking Nigeria.



Gov. Ahmed Sani

### CONVOCATION! CONVOCATION!! CONVOCATION!!! USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY SOKOTO

This is to inform the general public that the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Sokoto is holding its 20th Convocation ceremony on Saturday, February 10, 2001 at the Convocation square located at the Main Campus of the University. The ceremony will feature award of Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates to graduands of the 1998/1999 and 1999/2000 session. Five distinguished personalities namely Alhaji Ahmadu Kurfi, Alhaji Idris Koko, Alhaji Bello Gidadawa (Dangaladiman Waziri), Alhaji (Dr) Abdulwahab Folawiyo and Chief Emeka Anyaoku, former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, will be conferred with Honorary Degree at the ceremony.

The University wishes to call on all graduands who will be attending the convocation ceremony to take special note of the following information:-

- graduands are advised to arrive Sokoto early enough in preparation for the ceremony
- academic robes, to be issued on first come first served basis, will be available at the Students Affairs Office for collection by graduands upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N200.00,
- there will be a re-union meeting of all graduands preparatory to the Silver Jubilee celebration;
- graduands are encouraged to invite their relations for the ceremony, and
- all affected graduands are advised to attend the Convocation ceremony

(Signed)  
ABUBAKAR S. USMAN  
Registrar.

UDUS/R/AD.93  
January 18, 2001

## NEWS

## Lam charges National Assembly on FCC

The Governor of Oyo state, Alhaji Lam Adesina has urged the National Assembly to approve the bill on guidelines on employment and distribution of socio-economic services in the country, submitted by the Federal Character Commission (FCC).

Alhaji Adesina made the call in Ibadan, Monday while receiving the executive chairman of the commission, Alhaji Adamu Fika who paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

According to the governor, considering the importance of the commission to the Nigeria situation, the National Assembly ought to have approved the said guidelines so as to further enhance the smooth running of the commission's operation.

The governor, also noted that the federal character commission is an organization that the country needed urgently to correct the imbalance of the past and to also look into the cases of marginalization as has been touted in some

From Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

quotas.

Alhaji Adesina however advised the commission to put an effective machinery in place through



Gov. Lam Adesina

which the activities of the commission could be disseminated to the ordinary people arguing that most of these people do not know about the activities of the commission.

He also urged the FCC to recruit its own staff instead of relying on officers seconded to it by the various state governments, "the commission being a statutory commission should employ its own staff

that would be dedicated and loyal to the commission," he added.

Speaking earlier, the chairman of the commission, Alhaji Adamu Fika said that the data for the federal civil service for 1997, 1998 and 1999 have been compiled.

He said the commission had proposed two guidelines; one, for employment and the other one for distribution of socio-economic services with the former approved by the military government while the later was still awaiting approval by the National Assembly.

## N3m equipment for honey processing in Cross Rivers

From Bassegy Ita, in Calabar

The Cross River state government has procured equipment worth three million naira to enhance bee farming and honey processing in the state.

Special Adviser to the state governor on Trade and Investment, Mr. Atta Ochinke directed that the equipment be taken to the richly endowed Obudu cattle Ranch for installation shortly after inspecting them.

He said the state government was irrevocably committed to the take-off of the project which will act as an aspect of the Poverty Alleviation Programmes of the government.

Attah further said that the bee farm and honey processing factory at the ranch will divert the attention of the local destruction of forest at the ranch moroso as it will stimulate economic growth and empower the local people.

The items received, the Special Adviser said, consist of a processing and packaging equipment with 70 units of top-bar hive, twenty units of smokers, twenty units of bee dress, twenty units of hive tools as well as fifty units longstroth hive.

Also received, were solar wax extractor, MG wax extractor and a hundred and twenty units of hive stands, all valued at N1 million.

The new commissioner of police in Niger State, Alhaji Tsoho Hussaini has advised armed robbers and criminals in the state to start thinking of where to move to, saying that the command had devised measures to make the state too hot to accommodate them.

Speaking in an interview with our correspondent in Minna yesterday, Alhaji Tsoho said his command was set to crack down on the nefarious activities of men of the underworld, particularly those who engage in violent crimes.

He however called for the full co-operation and support of members of the general public in the command's efforts at ridding the state of criminals and the protection of lives and property of the residents.

The commissioner believed that the public could do this by helping the police with useful information capable of helping to arrest hoodlums.

Alhaji Tsoho also enjoined traditional rulers in the state to help mobilise and enlighten their subjects on the need to expose suspicious characters and criminal activities to the police.

"The traditional rulers

## Police promise criminals hell in Niger

From Akinade Adeniji, in Minna

have a great role to play in combating crime in the state, especially as they are closer to the people."

The police boss also solicited for maximum co-operation the press "to successfully prosecute this war against crime in Niger State."

He pledged to adequately take care of the welfare of officers and men of the command but warned that any policeman caught engaging in acts capable of bringing the force into disrespect would not be spared.

The commissioner disclosed that the command had arrested two petrol attendants, Murtala Mohammed and Yedu Madu, who connived with another armed robbery gang in December last year to rob their employer of the sum of N40,000 in New Wuse.

He said his command had equally beefed up surveillance activities through increase in foot and vehicular patrol of Suleja following the upsurge of crime in the area.

## Child labour: ILO to the rescue with N170 million

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) is to spend more than N70 million to keep over 3,000 Nigerian child labourers off the streets by sending them to school and vocational institutions to acquire skills.

The current edition of *Partnership*, a publication of UN agencies, explained that the project was part of the organisation's international programmes on elimination of child labour (IPEC).

According to Mr. Cornelious Dzakpasu, ILO's director in Nigeria, "the programme aims at rescuing children in hazardous and exploitative work.

"The goal is to mainstream working children into regular and non-formal educational programmes, pre-vocational and vocational training and strive to improve and adapt teaching materials to the needs of the beneficiaries," he said.

He urged the federal government to join other countries which have ratified conventions 182 and 138, all touching on the

elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

Dzakpasu explained that the conventions define such labour as all forms of "slavery or practices similar to "slavery, such as sales and trafficking of children, debt bondage and compulsory labour."

Included in the definition are the use of children for prostitution, pornography or pornographic performance, illicit activities and jobs that are likely to harm them. *Partnership* reports that children worldwide between ages five and 14 are approximately 250 million, of whom 120 million are working full time in hazardous and exploitative areas.

It noted that child labour was rampant in Nigeria as children could be found in streets working as vendors and apprentices in workshops and farms involved in commercial agriculture.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme was introduced to help in solving the problem and eliminating illiteracy by 2015.



SENATE HEARING: Senator Idris Abubakar, Chairman, Senate Public Accounts Committee (right) going through some documents with Senator Ahmed Muktar Aruwa. Pix: Kennedy Eghonodje

## FG invests N125 billion on job creation

The Information and National Orientation Minister, Prof. Jerry Gana has said in Abuja, that the present administration has invested N125 billion on job creation to eradicate youth unemployment.

Gana said at a one day Corpeps banquet organized by the Nigerian Christian Corper's Fellowship (NCCF), FCT chapter, "that God was going to positively use the

Nigerian youths to touch the lives of the entire populace."

Speaking on the topic, "the victorious youth" Gana stressed the need for the youths to first desire to be victorious, and also to be imbued with the word of God saying: "let the word of God dwell richly in you as you cannot be victorious on your own."

He further declared the year as "a year of open



President Obasanjo

doors" for those youths whom he described as "tremendous potentials" called out from cults and crimes and driven to serve God and the nation.

The FCT chapter president, Mr. Abiodun Akinlola, expressed appreciation to the Guests for their presence and also thanked the Federal Government for the recent increase in the allowance for corps members to N7,500.



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## GOODWILL MESSAGE

On behalf of the management and staff of News Engineering Nigeria Limited, I heartily congratulate His Excellency, Engineer Abdulkadir Abdullahi Kure, the Executive Governor of Niger State over his laudable achievements since assumption of office twenty months ago.



Engineer A.A. Kure

Executive Governor of Niger State

Your people oriented programmes especially in the areas of Agriculture, Rural Electrification, Rehabilitation of township roads, health care facilities and provision of potable water has led to the transformation of the state within such a short period.



Alh. Awwal Ibrahim  
Emir of Suleja

Commissioned the Enagi Project.



All. Muh'd Attahiru  
Emir of Agaie

Commissioned the Kudu Project



Her Excellency

Hajiya Zainab A.A. Kure  
Commissioned the Kpaki Project

News Engineering Nigeria Limited, is particularly delighted to be associated with your Rural Electrification programme which has led to fifty-five towns and villages being provided with Electricity through the installation of transformers and connection to the National Grid.

Our involvement especially in the Electrification of Enagi, Dikko, Labozhi, Kudu, Kpaki, Takuma, Kpatagi and Ezhi including their inter township distribution network is also worthy of mention. We assure your Excellency of absolute loyalty and support to your government as you commission all these projects.

We are also determined more than ever before to continue to provide quality service to the people of Niger State and Nigeria in general and remain partners in progress.

Signed

Sir Cyprain Ojimadu Nwaeze  
Managing Director.



# INSIDE POLITICS

## Enugu lawmakers exchange blows

The floor of the Enugu State House of Assembly was turned into a boxing arena as legislators freely exchanged blows.

The pandemonium ensued when a member of the house tried to move a motion for the removal of both the deputy speaker and majority leader of the House, Jonathan Chukwuma and Uchenna Ekete respectively.

The attempt to remove both officers created a sharp division in the House as members loyal to the officers tried in vain to raise a counter-motion, calling for the removal of the speaker himself.

Most of those who resisted the removal of the two officers openly accused their colleagues of collecting the sum of N500,000 each from the executive arm of government for the purpose of executing the motion.

The resistance to the motion notwithstanding, a voice vote was taken and both the deputy speaker and majority leader were declared removed by the speaker.

One of the legislators who physically resisted the change, Nwabueze Ugwu later told newsmen that the House did not adopt the constitutional procedure of removing the two officers.

Ugwu, who has been having a running battle with the executive arm of government, alleged that he had evidence that the removal of the two officers was sponsored by the executive through the distribution of money to willing legislators.

On his part, the former deputy speaker, Jonathan Chukwuma told journalists that his only offence was his

*From Chike Ajaraonye in Enugu*

uncompromising attitude towards injustice and illegality.

His words: "The reason for my purported removal is because I always opposed illegality. I always say no to the maltreatment of workers. I always stand against injustice."

"The Speaker is being piloted from somewhere, and he is at the centre of the plot. Thugs attacked me and threatened to shoot me. I am now using this medium to alert the people of Enugu State that my life is in danger."

Reacting to the event, the Speaker of the House, Mr. Chukwu, refuted the allegation that some of the members of the House had collected bribes from the executive for their action.

In his words: "I am not aware of any monetary inducement. The deputy speaker and majority leader have been constitutionally and legally removed and all the benefits attached to their offices have been withdrawn."

On the allegation that he refused to recognise one of the legislators (Calistus Nnamani), who wanted to raise a counter-motion calling for his removal, the speaker dismissed the issue, saying that he did not notice the said member.

During the riotous proceeding, unprintable allegations and counter allegations were made on the floor of the House, with members calling each other names.

The physical combat later shifted to the balcony of the

House where guns were even drawn.

The orderly to one of the legislators (Nwabueze Ugwu) who pulled a gun was disarmed by a legislator.

The situation was however brought under control by Assistant Police Commissioner, Andrew Ordia who disarmed all the combatants.

The Enugu State House of Assembly is the most volatile legislature in the country.

Since inception, the House has had four speakers in the following order: Dr Cletus Enebe, Mr Festus Uzor, Mr. Kenneth Ogbozor and Abel Chukwu



Senator Tunde Ogbeha (left) discussing with Senator Martyns Yellowe at the press briefing by the Senate committee on the review of the local government system in Nigeria held...yesterday.

Pix: by Onigbinde Felix

## PDP chieftain defends Obasanjo's administration

A top member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Kaduna State, Alhaji Umar Gana has chided chief Sunday Awoniyi and other critics of President Obasanjo's administration.

He took sides with the chairman PDP board of trustees, Dr Alex Ekwueme stressing that it was too early to do a proper assessment of the government.

Chief Awoniyi, a member of the party's board of trustees, had at a book launch in Kaduna last week, lambasted President Obasanjo for "shamefully" wasting two years without any tangible achievement.

Reacting to Chief Awoniyi's criticisms, Alhaji, Gana described them as "unfair" to the administration maintaining that those who embarked on

*From Dare Oyewole in Kaduna.*

pull-him-down exercise are impatient people.

Gana wondered why most people were eager to see the dividend of democracy, saying that the freedom that pervades the air was something to celebrate.

"President Obasanjo is picking the pieces and is trying to assemble the country. This is a Herculean task and no miracle can solve that problem overnight."

"It has taken the destroyers not less than 10

years to destroy the country. Are we saying that what has been destroyed for the past 10 years be built within 18 months, are we being fair", Alhaji Gana asked.

He however, urged Nigerians to be patient and persevere and give the administration reasonable time to re-build the country.

On the level of insecurity in the country, Alhaji Gana said government should restructure the police.

He stated that even though he did not subscribe to state or regional police, there was the need for

financial independence of the force.

According to him, if the police was not given some financial independence, it will continue to witness inefficiency and lack of rapid response demanded of their calling.

He argued that a situation where the money meant for the police goes through many hands was not the best saying that there was nothing wrong in the commissioners of police and the divisional police officers receiving their funds directly from the federation account.

## Nwuche reassures Nigerians on democracy dividend

The Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Chibudom Nwuche, has called on Nigerians to be alert to their responsibilities and to be vocal in matters concerning them.

In a statement made available yesterday in Abuja, Nwuche said that the House would pursue its legislative obligations with added vigour to ensure that

Nigerians were not short-changed in any form.

He said that the priority of the House this year, would be to ensure that Nigerians began to feel the impact of governance and the consolidation of the gains of democracy.

Nwuche noted that the democratic process was hampered last year by the

between the executive and the legislature, adding that with better understanding between both arms of government, Nigerians would begin to reap the dividends of democracy.

He called on the mass media to promote issues that would highlight the nation's potentials and "not to sensationalise those that tend to divide us as a nation."



Senators David Mark (left), Idris Abubakar (centre) and Abdullah Wali chatting during the press briefing by the Senate adhoc committee on local government reforms held...yesterday.

Pix: by Onigbinde Felix

## Don wants mathematics bill

The President of Mathematical Association of Nigeria (MAN), Prof. M. S. Audu has called on the National Assembly to prepare and approve the mathematics bill.

In a paper he presented at the prize-giving ceremony of the Sen. Sunday Dung mathematics Olympiad 2000, Audu said such a bill should ensure the formulation of policies for the improvement of

mathematics education in the country and ensure the establishment of indept guidelines for the proper implementation of such policies.

He said the bill should also put in place, a permanent monitoring unit for the policies and contain provisions that would inspire young Nigerians to show interest in mathematics through sponsorship to mathematics Olympiads

locally, nationally and internationally.

He noted that competition for students in the various fields of science was keen, adding that mathematics should be able to provide sufficient inducement to candidates to maintain its vitality.

Audu noted that the failure rate in mathematics at primary and secondary school levels had continued unabated.

# Arts & Entertainment

## Signature, an expanding galaxy of enchanting signs!

By Tadaferua Ujorha

At Signature, Arts and Interior Design, colours seem to sing and exult, as they exert a magnetic pull on the visitor. Mr. Hussein Akar is the Managing Director of the outfit which has its headquarters at Lagos, and the establishment of the Abuja office took place two years ago. In Mr. Akar's words, 'it was felt that there should be a cultural aspect to Abuja as well as the political, to take a bit off the people's minds'. Signature is a rare and enchanting name which betrays much creative genius. Mr. Akar declares: 'Signature has become a signature when it comes to the world of Nigerian art'. The range of works present which include paintings, wood carvings,



Stained Glass

exhibited all over the world. 'They have exhib-



Shadow Framed Bronze Piece

metal sculptures, stained glass and shadow framed bronze pieces, confirm this very eloquently.

He adds that young artists with the proper talents are being encouraged in the country through the various galleries. He opines that the awareness of African art is growing with Nigerians, and also internationally.

At Signature, Abuja, an airconditioning system cools the lofty room while soft music echoes, and these add to the charm and splendour of the place. There are works of art downstairs, and also upstairs, The walls of the staircase are also lined with paintings. Mr. Akar says that the artists he promotes have

ited in Europe, in North America, in South America and in Japan.' He maintains that he travels a lot, and that he is permanently on the search for up-coming artists. In his words, 'we have very good connections with some of the top African artists in Senegal, Ghana, Zimba-

bwe, Uganda, South Africa, and Egypt.

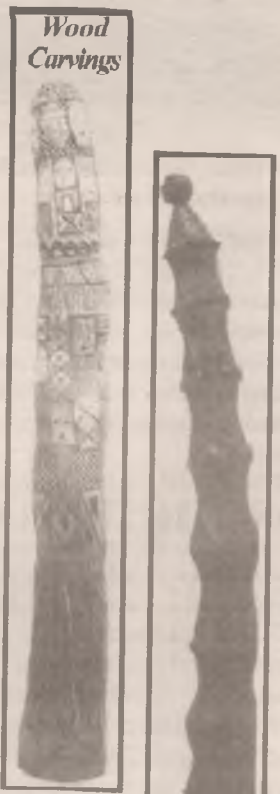
Signature is one of the most distinguished interior outfits in Nigeria and Abuja, and other sites are also being negotiated to cater for the European Art clientele. Recently,

because of its visionary expansion to include interior design to cater for the Aesthetics of living, it was renamed Signature Arts and Interior Design.

Signature is worth visiting. The dynamic array of colours, and the wonder occasioned by the unfolding works of art, produces a luminous rainbow that beams to all.



Shadow Framed Bronze Piece



Wood Carvings

Wood Carvings



Clay Models



Wood Carvings



Metal Sculptures

### PRIME VIEWING

#### M.N.E.T

- 06:00 BBC World Service
- 07:00 K-TV Transmission
- 09:00 Hornblower: The Duchess And The Devil
- 11:00 Kansas City
- 13:00 The Oprah Winfrey Show
- 14:00 K-TV Transmission
- 17:00 Egoli- Place Of Gold
- 17:30 where Ya @
- 18:00 The Pretender
- 19:00 Big Business
- 21:00 The Jerry Springer Show
- 22:00 Beaches
- 00:10 Truth Or Consequences
- 02:05 Paradise Road
- 04:10 Jawbreaker

#### HALL MARK

- Entertainment Network
- 06:15 Molly
- 06:45 Danger Bay
- 07:45 Eversmile, New Jersey
- 09:15 Sarah, Plain And Tall: Winter's End
- 10:50 To Dance With The White Dog
- 12:30 Foxfire
- 14:15 Resting Place
- 16:00 Grave Secrets
- 17:30 The Canterville Ghost
- 19:00 The Wishing Tree
- 20:45 The Legend Of Sleepy Hollow
- 22:15 Don Quixote
- 00:35 A Woman Of The North
- 02:00 When Innocence Is Lost
- 03:30 Fighting For My Daughter
- 05:05 The Boys Next Doors
- 21:00 Green Mansions
- 23:00 Logan's Run

### Stirring Lines!

#### Genius

The eagle never lost so much time as when he submitted to learn of the crow.

- Blake.

When a true genius appears in the world, you may know him by this sign, that the dunces are all in a confederacy against him.

- Swift, thoughts on various subjects.

Doing easily what others find difficult is talent; doing what is impossible for talent is genius.

- Amiel, Journal, Dec. 17, 1850



# Recent immunization in Nigeria: the step forward

From Aminu G. Magashi

The third round of the National Immunization Exercise which was carried out from Saturday 20th to Monday 22nd January 2001, when compared with the first and second rounds encountered poor turn out, lack of zeal and commitment to the course from the recipients, especially in northern Nigeria which is dominated by Muslims.

These problems, if not handled properly will definitely affect future immunization exercises in the nation which invariably will deter the progress of the operation kick-out polio by the year 2002 worldwide and other infectious diseases. Based on the available information from many sources, the decline in coverage could be attributed to a lot of strong campaigns by various religious groups and individuals against the immunization in totality. The agitation is linked to the fact that the vaccine contains HIV/AIDS virus and contraceptive agents for family planning being used to counteract the rising population of the third world and Muslims in particular, which will pave way for America and its allies to maintain supremacy over the entire world.

Kano State was in the center of this controversy and seems to be defending the course of Northern Nigeria and Islam. It is not surprising, due to the fact that the state is a cosmopolitan; the most populous in northern Nigeria, politically and economically viable; and Islam has almost 99% followership. In anticipation of the poor coverage by the federal government, the Minister of State for Health, Hajiya Amina Indalolo had to pay a working visit to the state to meet the stakeholders that will ensure the success of the program. Among her entourage was the agent of the Indonesian company that produced the polio vaccine, who gave the assurance that it is safe (taking into consideration that Indonesia has the highest muslim population in the world).

On Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd, January 2001, the 2 days for the exercise, I appointed myself, an independent observer of the on-going exercise; I went round to two immunization centers in Gwale Local Government of Kano State. On Sunday i.e. Dorayi and Ja'in districts, apart from poor turn out of the people at the centers, the vaccine givers were busy filling in their record forms. On Monday, I checked the local government secretariat and there I witnessed pandemonium, when I asked some-

one what went wrong, he mentioned that the people trained to give the vaccine were replaced by another group of people enlisted by various councilors and politicians for material gains because they believe they have a take in the exercise, so they had to go and call the health ministry representatives to settle the conflict. It may be interesting to know that people were interested in the program because of an allowance of N2,800 per person.

I concluded that the poor turn out and the politically-motivated controversies unless tackled in totality and addressed properly would affect not only future immunization exercises but also routine immunizations done at hospitals. And addressing this problem goes beyond mere advocacy visits by government officials, and the receiving of funds from International donor agencies but rather a coherent and practical approach which I will come to later.

In most African countries, Nigeria inclusive, it has been estimated that about 70% of death occur in children under the age of five years. It is not surprising, because in those countries children under fifteen years of age constitute about 45% of the population. From available statistics, of the 20 million children born each year in Africa, 4 million die before their fifth birthdays. Factors attributed to the death of these children are poverty, poor socio-economic status, housing and poor environmental sanitation and non-chalant attitudes from the part of the government.

The realization of the threat which infectious diseases posed to the survival of children has led to the establishment of African Child Initiative Project. According to the 1987 UNICEF and WHO estimates, the major cause of mortality among children were Diarrhea diseases, acute respiratory infections, Malaria, Malnutrition, Measles to mention a few. Emphasis therefore was shifted from curative medicine to preventive medicine. Such intervention was summed up in the UNICEF-GOBIFF program. In the GOBIFF, the alphabet 'I' stands for immunization, so immunization is given special priority to reduce the morbidity and mortality among unimmunised and immunized children.

The immunization program was introduced in Nigeria as Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and later changed to National Programme on Immunization (NPI). Vaccination is carried out at health centers routinely and immunization exercises are introduced to reach out to those children who miss their opportunities at the right time. This is a welcome innovation and initiative

**"Many people (some intellectuals inclusive) are with the opinion that international donor agencies cannot contribute to health sector development in Nigeria unless there is motive and such motive must always be devilish. Well I regard this as myopic without facts, I strongly advise the four stakeholders in the immunization programme i.e World Health Organization, United Nations Children Fund, United State Agency for International Development and Rotary International not to be reluctant but rather to sit down with the federal government to reassess the needs of Nigerian children based on priority so that the eradication of those killer disease would be incorporated into kick-out polio mission."**



Dr. Tim Menakaya

that enables wider coverage.

Immunization is a means of conferring immunity to children against diseases such as measles, polio, malaria and diarrhea by injecting or taking orally attenuated or dead microorganisms, which activate the body to produce antibodies against specific diseases.

It is estimated that immunizable diseases account for over 3.4 million childhood deaths annually and as such, they are tagged killer diseases, among them are measles, tuberculosis, whooping cough (pertussis), diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis. Recently cerebrospinal meningitis, hepatitis and yellow fever were added.

Poliomyelitis is single out to be eradicated by the year 2002 and among the killer diseases, it is among the few with very low mortality rate, so the fundamental question that raised the controversy was why are we interested in eradication of a disease which has less mortality rate? Definitely in an environment with people that know and understand children's problem, believe that in Nigeria, our children are at great risks of malnourishment, death by malaria, diarrhea diseases and acute respiratory diseases more than anything else. So what people are saying is that why not the resources and funding be channeled towards the eradication of serious diseases first before tackling problems with less prevalence and incidence?

#### Recommendations

Many people (some intellectuals inclusive) are with the opinion that international donor agencies cannot contribute to health sector development in Nigeria unless there is motive and such motive must always be devilish. Well I regard this as myopic without facts, I strongly advise the four stakeholders in the immunization programme i.e

World Health Organization, United Nations Children Fund, United State Agency for International Development and Rotary International not to be reluctant but rather to sit down with the federal government to reassess the needs of Nigerian children based on priority so that the eradication of those killer disease would be incorporated into kick-out polio mission.

The federal government should encourage local production of vaccines and should be fully involved in the monitoring of vaccine production, packaging, transportation and distribution as well as establish vaccine research centers across the nation to be managed by indigenous professionals who have the community at heart. The centers shall be charged with the responsibility of analyzing any vaccine that comes to the country to declare it safe for its populace. Also advocacy visits, dialogue and demonstration of transparency and honesty should be put in place by both the government and donor agencies to prevent future occurrence.

We appreciate the concern on the part of the religious groups to protect our children. We advise them to always analyze issues with open mind, not to be always xenophobic. On the part of the community the people are urged to be more responsible, not to allow politics to always influence health issues and they should be involved to ensure the success of the exercises.

The local NGOs and CBOs should engage into community mobilization, health education and enlightenment campaign to ensure a change of attitude and practice of the common man towards Health matters.

In conclusion, we should all bear in mind that if these vaccines are safe and beneficial and we are stopping our children from being vaccinated because of suspicion, speculation and failure to carry out research. Then we shall bear in mind that our children in years to come will never forgive us.

Aminu G. Magashi  
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Arts & Entertainment



BOOKS: The Shagari Autobiography part VI

The boy becomes a man!

Yesterday we saw Alhaji Shagari as a young pupil teacher. Today time expands, and our subject is seen teaching in various places such as Sokoto and Argungu. He mixes with the Royals and pupils with increasing grace. He gets married and raises a family, and wears his first turban!

Except for the drastic change in the teaching staff, the school did not appear to have changed much since my departure in 1940. There was still no running water and no electricity supply, although door and window shutters had now been fitted to the round-hut hostels. The names of the four hostels had been changed from South, North, West and East to Waziri, Magajin Gari, Magajin Rafi and Sarkin Zamfara houses respectively.

I was soon made the House Master of Sarkin Zamfara House following the departure of its Master, Mallam Umaru Gwandu; and I also moved into his staff quarters. The other house masters were Mallam Ahmadu Wurno for Waziri House, Mallam Sa 'idu Jega for Magajin Gari House and Mallam Muhammadu Zako for Magajin Rafi House. In my absence, the school itself had acquired an additional class known as Feeder class. It was an elementary IV class of selected pupils from elementary schools within Sokoto Province designed to "feed" the Remove class in the Middle School. The teacher in charge of the class was Mallam Isa Sokoto, a Grade III teacher who was also assigned the additional supervision of games, farming and gardening.

In addition to my science teaching, I was also assigned to teach geography and history. I started with tremendous enthusiasm but found to my dismay that the atmosphere was not as encouraging as the one in Zaria. There was open hostility to Muhammadu Bida, the new headmaster, from both teachers and students, some of who regarded him as an alien - being from Bida. Although I myself was a "son of the soil", my views and approach on many issues were regarded as unsympathetic and too radical. The headmaster, however, rapidly contained the situation and won the confidence and co-operation of all, thanks to his wise and tactful approach.

But things were not easy on my part largely, I suspect, because of my youthfulness and a variety of problems. My salary was cut by 25% because Sokoto, unlike Zaria where I was, had been classified for the purposes of COLA as a rural area whose workers were entitled to 25% rather than 50% increase. By this time, too, my folks in Shagari had practically imposed a wife on me. This is how it came about. My uncle Magaji Basharu, who had survived his younger brother Magaji Aliyu (my father) and his own son Bakoshi, was looking after Bakoshi's daughter Nasara who had also lost her mother. Being the eldest, Magaji Basharu had the right to arrange any marriage involving the family.

One day while I was still away at Kaduna College, he simply decided he had given his granddaughter to me in marriage. Both my mother and elder brother Bello supported him. When I tried evading the issue by refusing to visit Shagari on my return to Sokoto from Zaria, they unilaterally proceeded with the wedding ceremonies!

Soon after, in June 1945, they despatched the hapless bride in the company of some escorts to me in Sokoto. They all got a cold reception but were still unmoved. Anyhow, shortly after the escorts returned to Shagari the bride quietly followed suit. It was a great relief albeit a brief one. Her grandfather immediately sent her back with more escorts. This exercise was repeated three times and further attempts were only averted after the old man died. The unhappy marriage ended soon after. In May 1946, I married a Shagari girl of my choice called Amina, with whom I was also related and lived happily together until her demise in February 1976.

To make ends meet, I decided to teach



The book

Hausa to British colonial officials in my spare time. I was paid two shillings per hour out of which I usually hired a bicycle for six pence per hour to enable me to get to the posh Government Reservation Area (GRA) where they lived. Later, I also ran a Hausa class at the school for five to six Europeans at a time. Each paid one shilling per lesson lasting an hour. I also earned a little extra from drawing building plans for locals who could not afford the fees of professional draughtsmen. I had developed the skill while in Zaria where the local town

planning authority found my building plans quite acceptable. The skill also came in handy when the Sokoto Middle School could not afford a long wait for the Public Works Department to design some temporary buildings it required. Some of the buildings I designed included a mosque, a granary, dining rooms and two additional hostel blocks which were respectively named Madawaki and Turaki House. The granary, designed in 1949, remains until today among the buildings in the school!

If part-time jobs alleviated my financial

*"We left the palace to Sardauna Ahmadu Rabah's residence where the Sardauna reiterated the advice of the avuncular Sultan. Actually, the Sardauna went a step further. He despatched one of his attendants to a tailor to have the Sardauna's own turban (rawani) cut into two, one of which he turbanned me with. I felt rather old-fashioned and embarrassed by this first experience of wearing a turban, but also greatly honoured by the gesture."*

problems, friendships from a community that was deeply conservative, dogmatic and suspicious of western-educated indigenes did not come easily. The bulk of the community was simply not interested in understanding, let alone accepting, the forces of change that were sweeping through the country. In the absence of an interface for constructive engagement between traditionalists and modernists, I directed most of my energy to extra-curricula work.

In the relative comfort of the school's Reading Room (library), I started a voluntary evening class on general knowledge, which enabled students to freely engage each other over a variety of issues. Within a short time, the forum became tremendously popular. So impressed was I by the students, enthusiasm that I also agreed to individual discussions whenever I was free of any school commitments. Naturally, I developed a rapport with the students to the point where they sometimes felt free to interrupt my siesta in order to discuss one issue or another.

I discovered in the course of these interactions that the students enjoyed Hausa poetry. So I followed in the footsteps of my former teacher, the late Adamu Koko, by composing picturesque songs to simplify difficult issues. This further popularised the lessons, not to mention the poems themselves. Incidentally, many of my former students (some of whom became academics, top civil servants, judges and professionals) still delight me by being able to recite the poems with ease and relish. One such poem, "Wakar Nijeriya" (Song of Nigeria), has since been translated into English and published; and it is being widely used in schools in the study of Nigeria's history and geography. It has also been waxed into a record!

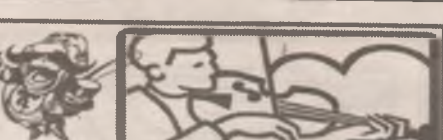
Perhaps as a result of my interactions with the students, science subjects also became very popular. They were pleasantly curious about laboratory experiments in physics, biology and chemistry; and about "Nature Study", which I often conducted outside the classroom. Their particular keenness on science practicals led me to order a substantial amount of science equipment for the school. Alas, the equipment was rendered useless on arrival from abroad following a shocking directive from the Director of Education in Kaduna. For some mysterious reasons, the colonial education authorities decided to discontinue forthwith the teaching of science in all northern middle schools. The official reason was that the standard of English had fallen so low that students could not be expected to understand the sciences properly since the subjects could be taught only in English!

The explanation was plainly spurious since other subjects were being taught in English. It was a sad and demoralizing decision. It was particularly outrageous when a Mr Thomas, the Provincial Education Officer, having earlier brought the Government Pharmacist to remove any of our laboratory equipment and chemicals which the General Hospital might need, instructed me to destroy the remaining equipment and bury all the fragments. I simply defied the order and even threatened to resign in protest. In the event, it was the intervention of my headmaster and Sardauna Ahmadu Rabah, the Councillor for Education, which averted my resignation. But my science teaching career came to an abrupt end. I was henceforth to teach mainly English, geography and history.

Rural Science was later introduced. I was sent to the Gusau Agricultural Research Centre on a short course under a Mr Vigo, a



# Arts & Entertainment



## BOOKS: The Shagari Autobiography VI

Caribbean expatriate and the only black agricultural officer in the North at the time. I returned to establish a poultry farm and a vegetable garden in the school. But all this did not quite appeal to me. So, I began searching for an alternative job. My first serious effort was in Zaria when Muhammadu Jega and I, were on a refresher course in history and geography. I renewed my acquaintance with friends at the Gaskiya Corporation and solicited their assistance over a job on the news desk of Gaskiya Ta Fi Kwabo ("Truth is worth more than a pretty penny"), the corporation's weekly Hausa publication. I was interviewed and offered the appointment but my employers, the Sokoto NA, refused to release me. I then applied to serve in the Royal Society for the Blind, of which I was its honorary secretary in Sokoto, as well as of the local Boys' Scout movement. Again, after being interviewed and offered an appointment, my employers refused to release me.

So, I decided to change direction, by applying for a scholarship to study Social Welfare abroad. An interview was scheduled in Lagos, enabling me to make my first visit there in 1949. I travelled by train from Gusau to Lagos for three days, and stayed at Agege with Alhaji Buhari, a businessman, later the Galadiman Gari of Sokoto. Among other interviewees I met were my friend and classmate Abdurrahman Katsina, and one Hassan Rafindadi also from Katsina. At my interview, I was asked if I would be prepared to change my proposed subject of study to education. I declined mainly on the ground that my science teaching career had earlier been abruptly ended after only three years. I was refused the scholarship.

My two friends from Katsina agreed to study education and were accordingly awarded scholarships. I returned to Sokoto to continue with teaching and to make the best of the situation. Indeed, I became for a while quite enthusiastic about the subjects I was teaching, notably history and geography. In 1950, for example, Mamman Jega and I took a class on a geographical tour of Bida and Ilorin. It was a fascinating and enlightening tour that we all thoroughly enjoyed.

No sooner, however, I made another attempt at quitting teaching. This was in early 1951 when the Radio Redifusion Service of the Nigerian Broadcasting Service (NBS) was extended to Sokoto. I was keen to join the NBS as a newscaster. But conscious of my employer's reluctance to release me, I first consulted Sardauna Ahmadu Rabah, the Councillor for Education, and solicited his assistance in the event of my getting the NBS job. As I was going on vacation to Shagari, he promised to let me know what the official attitude might be by the time I return. The vacation was still on when I got a message to see him.

I rushed back to Sokoto, thinking that my request had at last been granted. On meeting the Sardauna, I was surprised to hear that I was being posted to Argungu as the headmaster of the new Senior Primary School there. When I reminded him of our discussion about the NBS job, he simply asked me to forget it and to proceed to Argungu. It was an order, he said, and that he himself was personally committed to sending me to Argungu. He had been consulted about the posting and had affirmed on my behalf that I would be delighted by the appointment. As with my first marriage, and true to an age-old Fulani custom, my personal wishes were once again to take second place to that of an elder. I was, therefore, not surprised when, prior to my being made the Parliamentary Secretary to Nigeria's first Prime Minister,

Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, in 1958, the Sardauna acted in the same fashion.

The school which I was to head was the product of post-World War II educational reforms in Northern Nigeria. Among the aims of the reforms was the phasing out of middle schools and their replacement with regular secondary schools. The elementary schools, which previously ran a four-year course, were also to be upgraded to seven-year primary schools. The first step in these educational reforms, which took seven years to complete, was the establishment of senior primary schools. They were to be fed by the elementary schools, hence they would have classes V, VI and VII. The senior primary schools were in turn supposed to feed the new secondary schools.

The first of these new senior primary schools in Sokoto Province were the ones in Birnin Kebbi, Kotorkoshi and Argungu. They were originally to be headed by Saidu Jega, Danjuma Jega and Muhammadu Kamba respectively. A problem, however, arose in the case of Argungu when its NA realized that Muhammadu Kamba, would not be acceptable to the Education Department as headmaster because he had failed his Grade II teachers' certificate examination. Hence, they arranged with the Sokoto NA to loan them a qualified Grade II teacher whose teaching slot could then be filled by Muhammadu Kamba while he completes his training. That was how I came to be posted to Argungu Senior Primary School where I assumed duty in March 1951 - exactly six years after I had started teaching at Sokoto Middle School.

While all the above educational reforms were on, a large number of British nationals were being recruited into the northern public service. Many were demobilised soldiers. A number were posted to Sokoto Middle School as teachers rather than as supervisors as was previously the case. Some were very good teachers and helped to raise the academic standard of the school, leading to its being up-graded to a fully-fledged secondary school in 1956, and then to a college.

Attempts were also made to bring in girls into the middle schools. Pressure to extend western education to girls had been building up since the early 1930s. Sultan Hassan and Emir Usman of Gwandu (1918-38) even provided buildings and pledged to pay for British or southern female teachers in their quest for girls schools. A few such schools were founded first at Sokoto and Birnin Kebbi (the Gwandu capital) in 1934. Sokoto Middle School also admitted a few girls into its "Remove class" in 1948, but they were boarded at Girls' College, Sokoto. Some British female teachers also joined the staff. Unfortunately, this initial experiment in co-education did not quite succeed and was abandoned in 1950.

The six years I spent as a teacher at my Alma Mater were trying but rewarding. It was my first exposure to the harsh realities of life as a young man with heavy official

and family burdens. At only twenty-five, I already had responsibility for two wives and two children in addition to a 10-year old nephew, Attahiru. At twenty-six, I was to be headmaster in a place (Argungu) that was absolutely new to me and on a meagre salary of £10.0.0 per month. While at Sokoto, I had also to cope with the vagaries of a teaching career as well as adapt to the contradictory forces of traditionalism and modernity in a colonial setting. The unwarranted cancellation of science teaching in Northern Region middle schools was a severe blow to those of us who saw the sciences as crucial to the rapid advance of our society. If that dream was shattered, going to Argungu provided yet another but different opportunity in that tortuous march.

Before my departure for Argungu in March 1951, Sardauna Ahmadu Rabah, the Education councillor, presented me formally to the Sultan of Sokoto, Sir Siddiq Abubakar III, as the headmaster-designate of Argungu Senior Primary School. Sir Siddiq advised me sternly that it was a position of trust, requiring great sense of honour and leadership. I was also expected to project the good image of Sokoto and of the Fulani in particular. My youthfulness, he cautioned, should serve as a positive influence on the youths under my charge rather than a charter for irresponsibility.

We left the palace to Sardauna Ahmadu Rabah's residence where the Sardauna reiterated the advice of the avuncular Sultan. Actually, the Sardauna went a step further. He dispatched one of his attendants to a tailor to have the Sardauna's own turban (*rawani*) cut into two, one of which he turbaned me with. I felt rather old-fashioned and embarrassed by this first experience of wearing a turban, but also greatly honoured by the gesture. I was almost imperceptibly being initiated into a system I had consciously been seeking to reform. The overall import of the gesture was, however, not lost upon me. I left for Argungu determined to make a success of my assignment regardless of any difficulties that may come my way.

Armed with that determination, my less than favourable preconceptions of Argungu - notions which derived from the hangover of the historical rivalries between Sokoto and Argungu - dissolved into something of an irrelevance. What was now at stake was a test not only of my moral but political and intellectual calibre. Besides, it would be doubly disappointing if I were to fail as the Argungu NA was quite enthusiastic to have me. In fact, it was kind enough to provide the lorry that conveyed my family and me from Sokoto to Argungu.

The school was situated outside the town and the buildings looked drab and desolate. There were three blocks of classrooms, a small office, and a store. The school hostel was a row of round huts with thatched roofs, similar to the ones in Sokoto Middle School. The headmaster's residence was a dilapidated cluster of three round huts

and a zaure. There were four teachers' quarters close to the hostel. Their occupants were Muhammadu Mera (later the Emir of Argungu, 1959-1997), Garba Kangiwa, Isa Kangiwa and Muhammadu Yaldu. Mallam Balarabe, the Arabic teacher, lived out of the school premises. The staff and pupils welcomed me warmly, which made for an excellent start. The Emir of Argungu, Alhaji Sama'ila (1942-53), was especially welcoming and identified fully with my task of revitalizing the school. I had the warm support, too, of *Muza* (Crown Prince) Muhammadu Shehe, the Argungu NA Schools Manager. He became Emir in 1953 but was deposed in 1959.

On settling down, I immediately reviewed all aspects of school activities with a view to improving them. We first set out to make physical improvements by planting trees and flowers and by building roads and lanes within the school premises. A new sports field was constructed and games such as hockey, tenniquoit and rounders were introduced. With the acquisition of new sports equipment, physical training (PT) sessions became more exciting, especially after the introduction of educative songs. As in Sokoto, my schedule was hectic.

The headmaster normally performed the functions of the school clerk, accounts clerk and storekeeper. Besides administrative duties, I taught English, geography and history. An evening discussion forum, similar to the one I conducted in Sokoto, became an additional and active feature of the school.

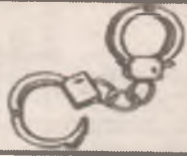
A mosque was built, of which I was the imam. Within a short time, the school changed dramatically. We were duly commended by the District Officer (DO) who was especially impressed by our administrative efficiency. Mr. Greswell, the Provincial Education Officer, later endorsed his assessments when he inspected the school.

But while my official work went on well, there was no real change in my miserable material circumstances. Unknown to my colleagues, I was often under financial stress as the size of my family continued to grow whereas my income remained more or less constant. By contrast to the regular three square meals which obtained in the school-dining hall, there were times when my own family had only one meal a day. Occasionally, naming ceremony expenses and transport fare for the family to Shagari during vacations were a bit of a problem locally, I went about on foot, as I could not afford a bicycle. Whereas my monthly salary was £10.00, the cost of a bicycle was £7.10.0. I once applied for a loan to buy one but the application was rejected by the DO who insisted that a headmaster did not need a bicycle.

Unlike in Sokoto where I did some part-time jobs, Argungu, being a much smaller place, did not offer such opportunities. Although I taught English to the Emir Alhaji Sama'ila, this was not for a fee. We got on so well that he once offered to appoint me as his secretary (*magatakarda*), but I politely declined. Prior to that, I had also politely refused a similar offer from the Emir of Yauri, Alhaji Abdullahi Abarshi (1923-55). In addition to these key contacts, I also made many friends among the local people, and got well acquainted with their customs. I also toured the six districts of the emirate several times to interview elementary school pupils for admission into the Senior Primary School, Argungu. My most reliable means of transport was the horse as commercial passenger lorries were not always available, while some of the places did not, at any rate, have good access roads.

To be continued.

***"Attempts were also made to bring in girls into the middle schools. Pressure to extend western education to girls had been building up since the early 1930s. Sultan Hassan and Emir Usman of Gwandu (1918-38) even provided buildings and pledged to pay for British or southern female teachers in their quest for girls schools. A few such schools were founded first at Sokoto and Birnin Kebbi (the Gwandu capital) in 1934."***



# Crime & Punishment



## Businessman 55, killed by gunmen in Zaria

From: Waziri Isa Gwantu in Zaria

Heavily armed robbers numbering about ten recently shot dead a fifty-five year old Zaria-based business mogul, Alhaji Abubakar Haruna.

Confirming the incident to *Daily Trust*, an eye witness and eldest son of the deceased, Muhammad Abubakar Haruna, said the robbers forced their way into the deceased house at about 2.30 a.m. after having raided several other houses in the neighbourhood.

He said the robbers, while in the house, "first broke into the rooms of our mothers where they extorted large sums of money from them at gun point and later forced them to show them the room of our father".

"To demonstrate their readiness to kill, they started firing gun shots into the air, an incident that made me and my younger ones summon courage to face them", he said.

"On seeing us, they corked their guns wanting to shoot us, but I pleaded with them not to and promised to give them

whatever they really wanted. I calmly asked them what their demand was, and one of them quickly responded, "money!"

"Our father who was then unknown to us, listening, attempted to open the window of his apartment to throw the money to them, but sensing that, one of them swiftly fired through the window and got him on the belly whereupon he fell on the ground", he disclosed, adding that after they were sure



Late Alh. Abubakar Haruna

that he was shot, they ran out of the house.

He pointed out that after they departed, "we then rushed

him to the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital where he later gave up the ghost".

Commenting on the incident, the Area Commander, Zaria Police Command, Alhaji Suleiman O. Lawal, confirmed the incident and promised to dig into the root cause of the incident to know who the culprits were.

An unemployed middle aged man, John Alexander, who pleaded guilty to a charge of wearing an Army uniform illegally, was sentenced to one year imprisonment or an option of N3,000 fine, in an Abuja Upper Area Court.

Before he was sentenced, Alexander told the court that he wore the uniform to do some farm work on the instruction of his father, a soldier.

He also told the court

## Man jailed for wearing Army uniform illegally

that he was returning from a market where he went to sell the tomatoes, he harvested from the farm when the police arrested him.

Police constable Ambrose Ajibo who prosecuted the case, however, told the court that Alexander, of no fixed address, was arrested January 26 at about 3 am, while loitering around

one of the dark spots in Maitama, Abuja

He said that the police strongly believed that Alexander was a member of a gang of thieves terrorising residents of Abuja and that the bruises on him resulted from the beatings he got from the police while attempting to escape arrest.

Malam Aliyu Abdulrahman, who presided over the case, said that the sentence would serve as a deterrent to Alexander and other members of the underworld.

## Three die as Customs, smugglers clash

Officers of the Nigeria Customs Service and a syndicate of smugglers have clashed in a bloody battle at the Idiroko border in Ogun, leaving three of the latter suspected dead, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

The incident, according to police report, occurred when a team of customs anti-smuggling patrolmen in the area intercepted a group of smugglers trying to smuggle about 30 assorted unregistered vehicles into the country.

The report said the smugglers were armed with sophisticated weapons, including guns, cutlasses and axes.

It explained that on sighting the customs men, the smugglers opened fire on them but that they were overwhelmed by the superior firepower of the patrol team.

According to the record, three of the smugglers were killed instantly and one Akem Sanusi shot in the head, while some Customs men, according to police sources, sustained injuries.

The Zonal Public Relations Officer of Zone 1 of

the Nigeria Police Force in Onikan, Lagos, Mr. Emmanuel Ajayi, confirmed the incident, saying that those injured had been moved to a hospital in

Idiroko, while the bodies of the dead had been deposited in the mortuary.

Ajayi added that two vehicles were recovered from the smugglers while five of them fled.

## Girl, 22, found dead in Cop's apartment

The police in Lagos have recovered the decomposing corpse of a 22-year-old lady from the private apartment of a serving police officer

attached to the Idimu Police Station in Lagos, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

Police records indicate that the deceased, whose

name it gave as Faboola Adebayo, was the officer's girl friend. The police said that it was difficult to ascertain when the lady died.

Mr. Emmanuel Ajayi, the Police Public Relations Officer in charge of Zone 1, Onikan, Lagos, who confirmed the incident, said that the corpse of the young lady had also been deposited at the mortuary for autopsy.

He added that the officer had been arrested and was helping in police investigations.

## ... and trader in Maiduguri

A gang of thieves has attacked Bulunkutu ward in Maiduguri, injuring a prominent trader, Mallam Bura and four others.

According to an eye witness, Mallam Hambali, who said the gang of seven thieves entered Mallam Bura's house around 2.00 a.m. on the fateful



IGP, Musiliu Smith

day, two thieves fired several shots into the air, shouting while being followed by a brand new station wagon as an escape car before entering the house.

Although Mallam Bura received several knife and dagger cuts and was admitted to the intensive care unit at the Maiduguri Specialist Hospital and could not speak with out correspondent, family sources say the thieves made no efforts to break Mallam Bura's shop even though it was stocked with wares.

"The thieves went directly to him and told him they wanted to kill him. It was as if someone sent them to do so," a family friend told *Daily Trust*.

Before leaving Bulunkutu,

the thieves also entered the house of one Ibrahim Mohammed, an employee of the National Maritime Authority, Mallam Mohammed told *Daily Trust* how they arrived his house, "my daughter was sick so she was awake crying deep into the night. When she finally slept, I heard my wife yelling. Before I realised, they had broken the door, they tied my neck, gave me a beating but left without taking anything", he recounted.

Despite a lull in the activities of thieves recently, house breaking is becoming more rampant in Maiduguri even though the police maintain night patrols in the city. Ibrahim Mohammed, who said this was not the first time thieves entered his house, insinuated that "the police only patrol major streets but don't extend their patrols to the neighbourhoods. That is why the thieves are continuing to have a field day

## Man, 24 docked for theft of NEPA metre

An Abuja Upper Area Court on Monday ordered a 24-year-old man, David Nduka, to be remanded in police custody for alleged theft of NEPA metre.

The prosecutor, police constable Joseph Dominic, told the court that on January 24, one Mr. Mlake Sifideen of Bida Street, Area 2, reported that Nduka of no fixed address broke into his house and stole a NEPA metre.

Dominic added that the accused had a notoriety of stealing NEPA metres and that a lot of metres he had stolen in the past were yet to be recovered from him.

He added that many residents of the area had reported the theft of their NEPA metres after Shifideen lodged his complaint.

Nduka pleaded guilty to the charge and the Judge, Malam Aliyu Abdulrahman, adjourned hearing in the case to February 20.

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# Abuja News

## I.G. directs police to impound vehicles with tinted glasses

In a bid to stem the increasing crime rate in the country, officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force have been directed to impound any vehicle with tinted glasses, the Force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), Mr. Haz Iwendi has said.

Iwendi told newsmen in Abuja yesterday that the

Inspector-General of Police, Alhaji Musliu Smith, has directed all Commissioners of Police to arrest any driver found violating the rule and to impound the vehicle.

"As from today, anybody who wants to use tinted glasses in his vehicle must apply to the Inspector-General of Police in writing", Iwendi said, adding: "a

permit containing the particulars of the vehicle involved would be issued by the I.G. if the application is approved."

He also said that the owners of such "permitted vehicles" must carry the permit along with them and produce it for police inspection whenever demanded.

Iwendi also said that the

directive became necessary as many criminals hide under the guise of tinted glasses to commit serious atrocities in the country.

He advised motorists to comply with the directive to avoid harassment by members of Police Force assigned to monitor the enforcement of the law.

## Senate committee on Niger-Delta begins public hearing

The senate committee on the Niger-Delta has begun public hearing on the activities of the defunct Oil Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC).

OMPADEC was established by the Federal Government to handle the provision of social and economic infrastructure for the Niger-Delta from where crude oil is produced to earn about 90 per cent of the nation's foreign exchange.

Chairman of the committee, Sen. Victor Oyofa, told newsmen in Abuja that the hearing was aimed at providing the successor to OMPADEC, the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC), a clean arena to operate.

"We have decided to hold this public hearing based on the injunction of the scriptures which says, 'thou shall not put new wines into old bottles,'" Oyofa said, adding that the

hearing was merely a fact-finding mission and that it was not aimed at witch-hunting anybody.

He observed that an investigation of the ills that plagued OMPADEC would afford the committee the opportunity to make useful recommendations that would help the NDDC to achieve the objectives for which it was established.

"We hope to lay down some recommendations that will help the NDDC meet the objectives of the Federal Government which set it up and help fulfil the yearnings for the upliftment of the people of the Niger-Delta," Oyofa stressed. He said that the committee already received 206 memoranda on OMPADEC.

A correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the chairman of the NDDC board, Chief Onyema Ugochuwku, witnessed the hearing.

## N200m Kuje trans-national market takes off

By Leke Adelere

Global Bank Limited, Lagos has earmarked about N200 million to finance the multi-billion Naira Abuja trans-national market at Kuje, Kuje Area Council of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

The Honourable Minister of State for FCT, Barrister Solomon Ewuga disclosed this yesterday at the foundation laying ceremony of the market project.

He informed that Global Bank is to lead other consortium of banks to the capital market sourcing for fund

to facilitate the speedy completion of the project within the period of three years stipulated.

Barrister Solomon Ewuga commended the fore-sight and the efforts of Kuje Area Council Chairman, Hon. Usman J. Wowo, whose administration moved for the establishment of the market during his first tenure in 1997.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Area Council Chairman, Hon. Usman J. Wowo has said that the market project is to improve and promote the socio-economic ventures of the area, federal capital and the na-

tion generally being a trans-national market.

The proposed market, he stated covers a land area of about 78.3 hectares, uniquely planned and structured towards meeting the commercial needs of the international community as well.

Features and facilities to be provided in the market according to the chairman include cold stores, warehouses, business, restaurants, furniture factories, banks, police post among others.

Later, the Managing Director and the Chief Executive Officer of Global Bank

Limited, Mr. Yinka Bolade having commended the concept of the market as a private initiative economic venture by the Kuje Area Council, said is to diversify the sources of revenue by shifting emphasis from total dependence on the Federal Government subventions.

He disclosed that the bank has recently financed a lease of 11 buses to the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

## FCT women commission to open alms collection boxes

By Musa Badamasi

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) commission for women and social welfare has concluded arrangements to officially open alms collection boxes publicly.

The alms collection boxes project was part of the scheme put in place by the commission to get alms from the general public and forward it to appropriate quarters where beggars are kept in various locations in the FCT.

Daily Trust gathered that some selected leaders and representatives of various beggar communities are expected to be present at the official opening of alms collection boxes scheduled for Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February this year.

The beggars' representatives were selected from Wadata, Wuse, Karmo, Idu, Gwagwa and Garki village where beggars are rehabilitated to enable them learn one form of trade or vocation that will keep them off street begging.

Mr. Nuhu Goro Sadalafia, the Commission's Public Relation Officer disclosed to Daily Trust that about 20 boxes are expected to be

retrieved from different locations within Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) for the first phase of the exercise.

He said that after the boxes are opened, whatever amount realised from the boxes would be distributed among various beggars according to their respective needs.

According to him, "the commission has already assessment reports on the needs of various disabled groups from their respective locations and it would be based on those reports that

money would be allocated according to beggars' needs".

Recently, an official statement from MFCT was released that a law that would ban street begging in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) would soon be put in place.

Mr. Nuhu explained that as soon as the law comes out, the commission would commence evacuation of beggars from the streets of Abuja.

He said over 600 beggars are presently in the rehabilitation centres under the care of the commission.

## Mixed reaction greets increase in corps members' allowance

Members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) serving in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have expressed delight over the increase in their monthly allowance from N3,822 to N7,500. Some corps members who spoke with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja, said that even though the increase was belated, it was good that the government effected the it at long last.

Mr. Wallace Udoh, serving with the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), described the in-

crease as a welcome development, adding that corps members would now be more dedicated to their primary assignments.

Dupe Aloko, who is with the Federal Housing Authority, said that she had been jubilating since the increase was announced and expressed the hope that the arrears would be paid as promised by the director-general during the orientation.

Kunle Oleshin, serving with the Ministry of Police Affairs, said that corps members were tired of pronouncements not matched with action and hoped that this time it would be real.

## Visit 22nd

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#### VENUE:

KADUNA INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND  
INVESTMENT CENTRE KM.4, KADUNA-ZARIA  
ROAD, RIGACHIKUN, KADUNA-NIGERIA.

#### DATE:

SATURDAY 17TH -SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY, 2001

#### ORGANISERS:

KADUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,  
INDUSTRY,MINES AND AGRICULTURE  
(KADCCIMA)

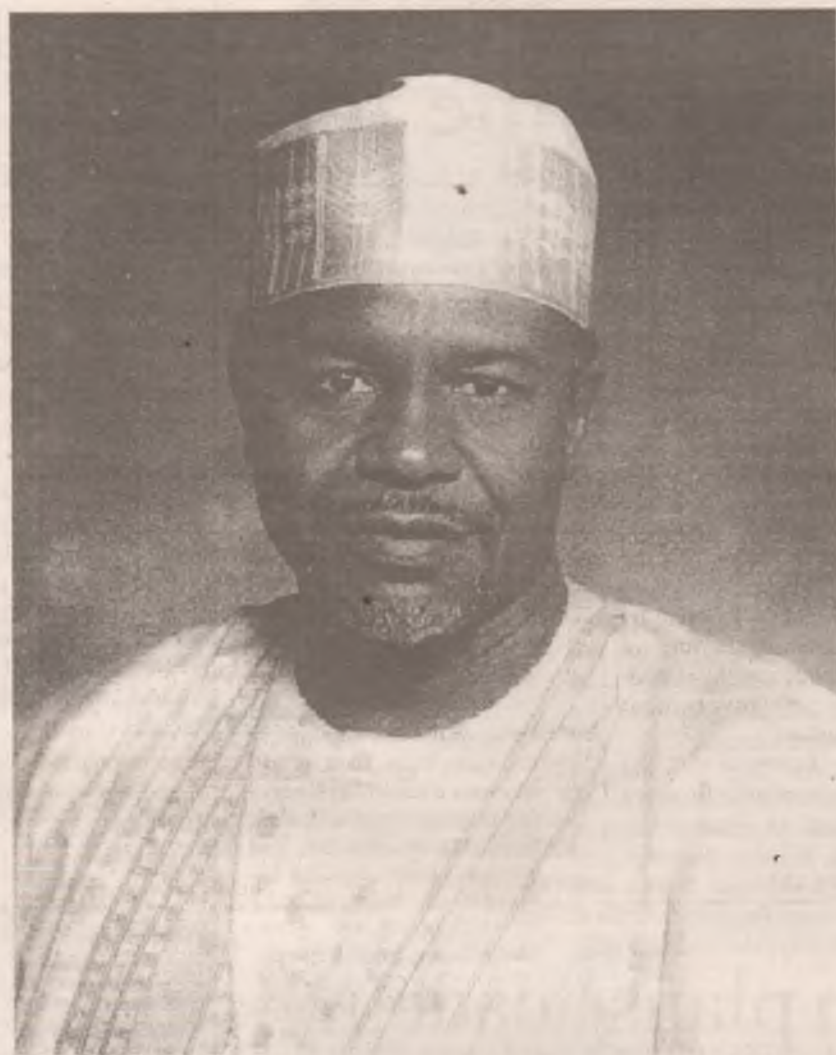
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Alhaji Hassan Usman Sokodabo  
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Alhaji Hassan Usman Sokodabo on behalf of the entire people of Abaji Area Council congratulates Arc. (Dr) Ibrahim Bunu (FNIA) on the occasion of his conferment with an **Honourary Doctorate Degree in Technology Management** by the Federal University of Technology Owerri.

We particularly commend your uprightness and sterling leadership qualities.

Signed  
Alhaji H.U. Sokodabo  
Chairman Abaji Area Council



# Rangers edge out Gombe, but...

Brilliant Rangers International of Enugu have mounted the citadel of professional league division one table over the weekend following their stunning 1-0 away win over Iwuanyanwu Nationale of Owerri.

The Enugu outfit overtook erstwhile leaders Gombe United, who could only managed a goalless draw against the Jigawa Stars on Saturday.

Rangers and Gombe have 21 points each from 12 matches the latter having the edge as a result of superiority in goals aggregate. However, Rangers lead could be short-lived as Gombe have one outstanding game

against bottom of the table Sharks. The rescheduled fixture would be decided this afternoon at the Liberation Stadium, Port Harcourt. A win or draw will see the team from the "Jewel of the Savannah" taking back the pole position on the 16-team league table.

Not so many goals were recorded in a weekend that heralded two away wins—something of a rarity in the Nigeria football circuit. The other team to have managed an away victory, besides Rangers, are Enyimba who scrapped a 1-0 win over Sharks in Port Harcourt.

The surprise team of the season, NPA of Warri inched their way towards the apex with a lone goal

triumph over Insurance, while defending champions Julius Berger, who are squirming at the bottom of the table became the

weekend's biggest winners following their 3-0 mauling of visiting Lobi Stars in Abeokuta.

Jasper United and

Katsina United share the three points at stake after a goalless draw at the Power Mike Stadium, Onitsha.

League Round Up with Ismaila Umaru Lere

## ...Total war at the top

The countdown to Sunday's league cracker between Rangers International and Gombe United at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium, Enugu is well and truly underway.

The fixture will be the cynosure of all eyes as the Nigerian football moves into another busy weekend of professional league action. The clash between first and second has generated a lot of interest among Pepsi-league followers across the country as the result of this week 13 tie could easily determine the eventual top-notcher in the league's first phase.

Gombe's scintillating form and remarkable resolve would be put into test against a brilliant Rangers side whose performance so far has compounded several

pundits. The Flying Antelopes will be guided by the experienced Christian Chukwu back from a national coaching stint in Kenya. He's assisted by coaches Christian Madu and Okey Emordi - a combination that has worked magic for the Coal City and brighten up their league title aspirations.

Chukwu would rely on club's top scorer Uche Okereke and attacking midfielder, Chukwudi Odita for goals, whereas the visitors Gombe United will be out to contain the Rangers forays.

Another weekend cracker involves two of the most enterprising teams in the league. Third placed NPA will trade tackles with in-form Enyimba of Aba at the Enyimba stadium, Aba.

The Seaside trained by Solomon Ogbeide are enjoying a dream season having been promoted from the lower division at the close of last season. But they would now have to face the might of Enyimba.

Insurance, on fifth position entertains rejuvenating Julius Berger of Lagos at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, Benin, while sixth placed Gabros International travels to Kaduna to face Katsina United in another intriguing tie.

Other fixtures include Iwuanyanwu Nationale engaging Lobi Stars, Wikki Tourists welcoming Sharks at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Stadium in Bauchi, and Plateau United battling El-Kanemi in a northern derby at the Jeremiah Useni Stadium Jos on Saturday.

### League Results

Division One	
Gabros Int.	1
Plateau Utd.	0
El-Kanemi	1
Wikki Tourist	0
Sharks	0
Enyimba	1
NPA	1
Insurance	0
Julius Berger	3
Lobi Stars	0
Iwuanyanwu N.	0
Rangers Int.	1
Jasper Utd.	0
Katsina Utd.	0
Jigawa Stars	1
Gombe Utd.	1
Division 2A	
Kano Pillars	2
JUTH	0
Adamawa Utd.	1
Ranch Bees.	1
NEPA FCT	2
Kwara Stars	0
Kwara United	1
Zamfara United	0
Niger Tornadoes	2
Yobe Stars	0
BCC Lions	2
Mighty Jet	0
Division 2B	
Delta United	0
Shooting Stars	1
Air Safety FC	1
Bayelsa United	0
Bendel United	1
Okomu Oil	0
C. Rovers	1
Sunshine Stars	1
Ebonyi Angels	2
NITEL	1
Udoji	1
Dolphin FC	0



Eugene Yilzen (left) of Katsina United vies with Jigawa's Sani Abubakar during a league tie in Kaduna recently. Pix. Joe Oroye

## Beckham plans academy

David Beckham has revealed that he wants to set up a football school of excellence for children after he hangs up his boots. "Management holds no appeal for me, but what I would like to do is open a school of excellence for kids of both boys and girls," says Beckham. "It's not a normal ambition for a footballer, but it's something

girls were as good as the boys and getting them involved removed some macho nonsense that marks the game."

He's just as happy at United as well. "I have no great desire to play abroad but

you can never say never. United might get sick of me and sell me abroad or to London, but I want to stay at United for the rest of my career and continue to repay the debt I owe to the boss, the club and the best fans in the world."

## Kalu earmarks N500 million for Enyimba

Gov. Orji Kalu of Abia says he has set aside N500 million to spur Enyimba FC of Aba to bag a ticket for any of the African club championships next year.

Speaking during a visit to the Nsulu games village, Isialanga North Local Government Area where under-16 players are currently being camped. Kalu expressed regrets that Enyimba had no feeder team.

The Governor said that he was determined to ensure Enyimba won an

African title

He explained that the camp was established as a feeder team for Enyimba adding that the players would be camped their during their holidays.

Kalu assured the boys that their studies would not be neglected as he had made provisions for teachers for them while in camp and reminded them of the need to maintain discipline at all times.

The 74 players from primary and secondary schools were picked from



Beckham

I have always wanted to do.

"A lot of people helped me to get where I am today and I want to give something tangible back to the game. As for it being for girls as well as boys, it's something I feel strongly about. It's important to remove the idea that football is just a male domain. When I was at school, some of the



Gov. Kalu

the 84 that began the camping exercise.

### TOP OF THE WEEK (NIGERIA)

(4-3-3)



### Division One Table

Teams	PL	WN	DR	LS	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Rangers Int.	12	6	3	3	19	10	9	21
Gombe Utd.	11	6	3	2	14	9	5	21
NPA FC	12	6	2	4	11	12	-1	20
Enyimba FC	12	5	3	4	16	9	7	18
Insurance FC	12	5	3	4	9	6	3	18
Gabros Int.	12	6	0	6	16	14	2	18
Katsina United	12	5	2	5	10	13	-3	17
Iwuanyanwu Nat.	12	5	1	6	10	11	-1	16
Wikki Tourists FC	12	5	1	6	9	10	-1	16
El-Kanemi FC	12	5	1	6	8	11	-3	16
Lobi Stars FC	12	5	1	6	12	18	-6	16
Jasper Utd.	12	4	3	5	8	10	-2	15
Plateau United	12	4	3	5	11	15	-4	15
Julius Berger FC	12	3	4	5	9	7	2	13
Sharks FC	11	3	4	4	11	11	0	13
Jigawa Golden Stars	12	3	4	5	8	14	-6	13



# SPORTS



## 2002 World Cup Ticket:

# Finidi writes off Black Stars

From Owoidoho Otong, who was in Port Harcourt

Super Eagles Mallorca FC winger, Finidi George has written off the Black Stars of Ghana in the race for the World Cup 2002 ticket.

The dazzling winger whose deft runs dwarfed Sudanese defenders in last Sunday's qualifier in Port Harcourt said the Black Stars would remain jinx in their quest to post a World Cup ticket.

Finidi, whose sleeky combinations with Arsenal FC super substitute Nwankwo Kanu set the packed filled arena—the Liberation Stadium, Port Harcourt agog with overwhelming applause and delight, observed that the Super Eagles have never disappointed when tasked.

The Mallorca idol stressed that the qualifier in which Ghana's Black Stars and the Super Eagles are the fore winners was a major challenge

to the Eagles who would leave no stone unturned to ensure that Nigeria picks the only ticket available in the group to the detriment of other aspirants.

Finidi, who made the assertion before Liberia drubbed the Black Stars 3-1 last Sunday urged soccer fans not to entertain any fear about failure to qualify noting that the Eagles have resolved never to drop a point in subsequent games.

Workaholic Finidi had illuminated the arena with scintillating runs that climaxed with a brilliant lob which was skilfully nodded in by Victor Agali to open the flood gate of goals.



Mallorca ace winger Finidi George attempts to meander the ball pass a Camerounian defender during the Nations Cup final. George believes the Black Stars are no threat

# Maradona let us down - UAE

Diego Maradona has been accused of letting down organisers of a testimonial game in the United Arab Emirates four times.

They have now given up trying to involve Argentina's former World Cup captain in the match for ex-United Arab Emirates skipper Abdullah Rahman Mohammed.

"We did all we could, but it was of no use. Maradona will not be coming," said Mohammed Abdul Rahman Ja'afar of Al-Nasr, Mohammed's club who are host for the benefit game.

Ja'afar told the Gulf news: "we are completely and want to put this whole mess out of the way. We found it hard to trust him and his agents."

"He let us down not once, but four times. Even when we opened the negotiations they allowed small things to come in the way. They were never clear about anything."

"To tell you the truth, many people were against Maradona coming to Dubai because of his history with drugs. They felt that he would not be a good example to the youth in the United Arab Emirates."

"We were willing to over look that and go ahead with the



Maradona

plans. But we seem to have made a mistake and we are really sorry, and frustrated.

"Maradona had ruined our reputation. The whole thing became a joke, nobody was willing to believe us any more. We are totally fed up with him."

Maradona had initially been scheduled to arrive in Dubai last week. But he failed to appear despite flight and hotel bookings being made for himself and his entourage.

Ja'afar said other top soccer players would now be involved in the Match 8 testimonial match.

# Ohagwu, Tanko demand back their jobs

Former NFA deputy secretary general, Mr. Donatus Ohagwu and head national competition, Alhaji Ahmed Tanko made a sudden appearance yesterday at the secretariat to demand for reinstatement.

The duo touting a release from the office of the civil service of the federation, which indicated they have been reabsorbed into the civil service said they came to officially resume after waiting without formal invitation by the NFA to that effect.

Both were affected in a major shake-up of the service soon before the military administration of Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar bowed out of office.

But following the enthronement of democratic government many alleged to have been improperly retired and rationalised petitioned the Obasanjo administration which promptly set up a committee to review their cases.

The review recommended the re-absorption of 6,000 out of the 8,000 persons with such cases but with only 2000 names released for re-absorption in the first phase.

Ohagwu who had deputised Alhaji Sani Ahmed Toro had his appointment terminated allegedly for not being recruited through the proper channel—federal civil service commission.

But Ohagwu was not alone, Ahmed Tanko and the then HOD pro-league Mr. Charles Ojughana were also affected. It was however not clear whether Ojughana's case was positively reviewed.

# Sango dropped!

By Owoidoho Otong

Erstwhile sports minister, Mr. Damishi Sango was yesterday finally relieved of his job in a major cabinet shake-up which swept off nine other ministers.

The former minister whose tenure was dogged by controversies bordering on non-performance and undue interference in the NFA got the boot only after 18 months in office.

Sango's sack in the long awaited cabinet shake-up may have been consequent upon a certain lull in the sports scene since assumption of office and the general checky vituperations over minor issues.

Sports watchers also fault Sango for obvious bereavement of foresight, focus and vision in the management of sports particularly football while he held sway.

The erstwhile minister's last official function was in Port Harcourt where he was largely inconspicuous during the Sudan-Super Eagles World Cup 2002 qualifier. He had declined all entreaties to join other distinguished guests in the pre-match introduction of the players.

The former local government administrator

came under scorching fire during the Nations Cup finals and the Sydney 2000 games where Nigeria failed to win any gold. Lately the minister engaged in war of attrition with Arsenal FC supportive striker, Nwankwo Kanu for putting club above nation during the summer Olympic games.

The Plateau United indigene under whose tenure Plateau United broke an excruciating FA Cup jinx and many Plateau State indigenes found themselves in national jobs was the backbone of technical adviser, Johannes Bonfrere.

As a result of this worrisome support, Bonfrere has assumed thin god posture, often treating the NFA officials with disdain.



Damishi Sango

# Nandrolone research reinforces fears of supplement contamination

Research into the spats of positive drug tests for the banned anabolic steroid nandrolone suggest that contamination of legitimate food supplement may be responsible.

Tests on around 100 food supplements at the International Olympic committee (IOC)- sanctioned laboratory in Cologne found substance on 16 occasions that would lead to adverse nandrolone findings.

## Briefs

### Security staff meets golfer after row flight

Australian golfer Wayne Riley was met by security staff at Perth airport after an argument with a fellow passenger on a flight from South Africa., the player said on Tuesday. Riley, 38 the 1991 Australian Open champion, was travelling to Perth on Monday for the Heineken Classic which starts on Thursday.

### Mark Waugh sweeps

Australia home with 100 Mark Waugh, apparently undistracted by his involvement in a cricket corruption probe, stroked exactly 100 not out as Australia beat Zimbabwe by six wickets in their tri-series match on Tuesday.

Australian romped to 282 for four in 44 of their 50 over to make light work of the victory target after Zimbabwe made 279 for six—their bet one-day total against Australia—with Alistair Campbell hitting 124.

### Minardi saved by

### Australian Stoddart

The struggling Minardi formula one team secured their place on the 2001 world championship on Tuesday with the announcement that Australian business man, Paul Stoddart had taken control.

"Minardi team today announces that Paul Stoddart, head of the European Aviation Group of companies, has acquired the Italian formula one organisation." Minardi said in a statement from their Faenza head quarters.

### India board to fight

### Azharuddin's ban appeal

Mohammed Azharuddin's appeal life ban for alleged match-fixing will be contested by the India cricket board, it said on Tuesday.

"He (Azharuddin) is at liberty to say what he wants to say. We will defend match-fixing in court," Board of control for Crickets in India (BCCI) president A.C. Murhiah told reporters in Bangalore.

### Hrbaty to lead Slovakes

### in Davis cup

Inform Dominic Hrbaty will lead Slovakia against Russia in next week's

Davis World Cup group first round tie, setting up a re-match of his recent victory over Marat Safin in the Australian open. Non-playing captain Miloslav Mecir has also named Karol Kucera, Jan Krosiak, Karol Beck and Ladislav Schwarz, against a strong Russian side led by Safin and Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

### Collymore flies to

### compete Oviedo deal

Former England Striker Stan Collymore was set to join Real Oviedo on Tuesday after arriving in Madrid to finalise his move to the Spanish first division club.

Oviedo are a good club, with a new stadium, and young players," the player told reporters. "I can score goals and do very well there"

### Macqueen to stand down

### as Wallabies coach

Australian's world cup-winning coach Rod Macqueen will step down in September after his team defend their Tri-Nations title, the Australian Rugby Union (ARU) said on Tuesday. ARU spokesman Strath Gordon said Macqueen had made no secret of his desires to make this his last charge.



Echo of Bauchi 2000. . . a player leaps high to find the basket in the action soaked encounter between Gombe and Kwara States during the festival. Pix. Joe Oroye

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# Eguavoen may reject Eagles job

By Owoidoho Otong

Newly appointed Super Eagles assistant coach, Austin Eguavoen may turn down the appointment if the contractual terms fail to meet his expectations.

The former Eagles strongman whose recommendation for the job by the technical adviser, Jo Bonfrere and the subsequent appointment generated no little hiccups confided in *Trustsports* in Port Harcourt that he has only accepted to join the Eagles coaching crew in principle.

Eguavoen who saw nothing wrong in his recommendation and subsequent appointment having seen action both in the pitch and on the bench said until the contractual terms are satisfactorily negotiated he could not say whether he would stick to the job or not.

He told *Trustsports*



Bonfrere... Eguavoen may turn back on him

that he only accepted to join the Eagles in service to his fatherland noting though that it does not mean that anything thrust before him would be accepted.

"I only got a letter of appointment without due contractual agreement, in fact we (i.e. myself and Akpokona) have been invited for negotiations next week after today's (Saturday's) match. Until then I cannot say whether I

have or will accept the job," Eguavoen.

Eguavoen infamous for his hard and card attracting tackles stressed that it would be unpalatable and inconsistent for him to sign unfavourable contract.

Perhaps, Eguavoen whose appointment caused Stephen Keshi's exit may have had the controversy that surrounded his predecessor's salary in mind vowed not to budge to any unfavourable contract.

Keshi, *Trustsports* recall was contracted on 1 million naira monthly take home pay. The remuneration was 900 per cent more than the then national coach Amodu Shuaibu's which generated ill feelings. The latter's pay was later increased to 1.2 million naira monthly, only last November.

Bonfrere Jo, with the backing of erstwhile minister Damishi Sango ordered the redeployment of Stephen Keshi and Amodu Shuaibu to the U-21 team and technical department in preference for Lawrance Akpokona and Eguavoen.



Spain's Alfonso goes for the half volley in the last seconds of the fifth minute injury time against Yugoslavia to send his country into the Euro 2000 quarter final.



Robert Pack

Dallas Maverick's basketball star Robert Pack in an NBA action. He isn't too impressive this season.



Babangida Hassan of Kaduna Barbedoes going for near-side shot during their Dickenson Cup contest with Kaduna Liyafa Palace Hotel. Pix Joe Oroye

### Professor Nomau's travails, written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

