

DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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TUESDAY COLUMN
Aminu Iyawa on:
**Oputa Panel:
What next after
the truth?**
Page 5

STAR INTERVIEW
**The ancient
buildings of
Wusasa**
Page 12

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Fire razes N250m Yobe printing press

The N250 million ultra-modern Yobe printing press was, Sunday, razed by fire which also destroyed the newly installed sophisticated printing equipment.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the inferno, which started at about 10 p.m., lasted for several hours before it was brought under control by men of the fire service.

Although the actual cause of the fire could not be ascertained, the chairperson, Board of Directors of Yobe Printing Corporation, Mrs. Martha Bawa, told our correspondent that an electrical fault was suspected.

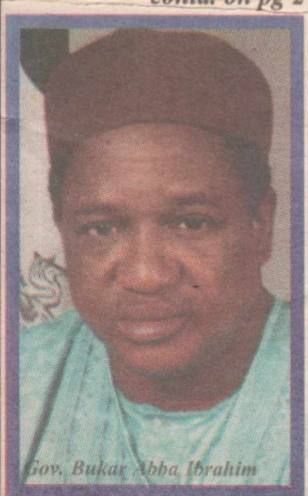
Also speaking to NAN, the General Manager of the corporation, Alhaji Mustapha Ba'aba, said that over 90 per cent of the equipment was destroyed in the inferno.

Meanwhile, Gov. Abba Ibrahim said a panel would be set up to investigate the cause of the incident with a view to averting future occurrence.

Speaking after inspecting the destroyed building, the governor thanked God that no lives were lost, promising that reconstruction work would commence immediately.

Some of the equipment installed in the press, inaugurated by Vice-President Atiku Abubakar on May 14,

contd. on pg 2



Gov. Bukar Abba Ibrahim

Kaduna refinery reopens

The Kaduna and Warri refineries may reopen this week after they were shut for about two weeks following an explosion in the pipeline which supplies crude to the two refineries from the crude oil tank at Escravos Island in Delta State.

Officials of the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) who expressed hope for the resumption of production by the two refineries at the scene of the explosion, said the incident "is the first wilful damage of such magnitude on the crude oil pipeline."

The 24-metre concrete reinforced crude oil pipeline, which was blown on June 21, this year, had forced the shutdown of the two refineries at different times after they ran out of crude oil. Warri was closed down on June 25, followed by the Kaduna refinery on July 10.

When *Daily Trust* visited the site of the blown pipeline at the weekend, however, repair work was almost completed. After replacing the affected pipeline, workmen were seen preparing the con-

crete cast to encase the pipeline.

Speaking to journalists who visited the site of the blast at the weekend, the PPMC manager supervising the repair work, Engineer Nwafor Obira Udeze, said an estimated 10,000 barrels of crude oil may have been spilled. This, he said, is as a result of the delay in locating the ruptured pipeline and the hostility of the community which prevented access to the site.

The scene is located in the Ikpopo creek off the River Escravos in the Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State.

At one point, angry villagers seized the boat conveying repairmen until they were promised some relief materials. The area manager of the PPMC office in Warri, Mr. Martins Obiora Oti, said they spent over N10 million to purchase rice, garri, cooking oil and cows to pacify the aggrieved communities.

It was, therefore, about one week after the blast that

contd. on pg 2



NNPC engineers on top of the damaged pipeline.

ACF not opposed to conference - M.D. Yusufu

As calls for the convocation of a National Conference get louder, especially from the southern part of the country, the chairman, Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), Alhaji M.D. Yusufu, has stated that the Forum is not against the SNC or its agitators.

According to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa Service report, monitored in Abuja, M.D. Yusufu said a national conference was not a threat to ACF but the issues to be discussed at the conference should be clear to everybody before it takes place.

His words: "They are calling for Sovereign Na-

tional Conference but we don't know what they actually want to discuss at the conference. They have to tell us the aim of the conference and how it would be conducted."

The chairman further stated that the days of military rule when people were led by force are over. He said: "Every part of the country has elected representatives at the state and national levels. I think it is better for them to forward their demands through their leaders, who are in a better position to serve as the representatives of each region while conducting the conference. But it is unconstitutional to

Saudi relaxes Umrah rules

The Saudi Arabian authorities have introduced new guidelines for this year's lesser hajj (Umrah) pilgrims can move about freely in all parts of the kingdom during the period stipulated in their visas.

elect other people to be representatives at the conference beside the elected officials in the State and National Assemblies.

M.D. Yusufu agreed that

contd. on pg 2

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

The Consul-General at the Saudi Arabian Consulate in Kano, Sheikh Muhammad Abdul Da'im, announced this while receiving officials of Kano State Pilgrims Welfare Board in his office. He explained that under the new regulations which have already been approved by Saudi Arabian authorities, licensed Saudi companies

have been given the duties of conducting pilgrims round the kingdom during the lesser hajj.

Sheikh Muhammad said, however, that even the Saudi companies must contract one or more agents from the pilgrims' home-countries to facilitate proper coordination. In Kano, he said, about 15 groups or agencies have reg

contd. on pg 2

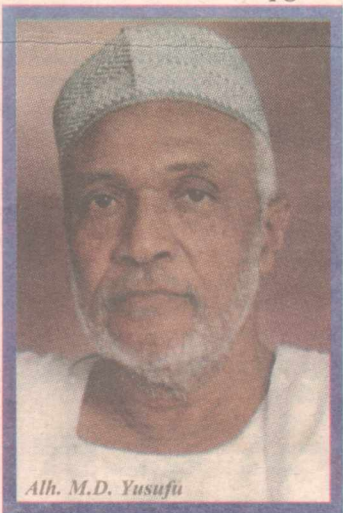
MURDER Oputa orders Col's arrest

The Human Rights Violations and Investigation Commission, (HRVIC) yesterday in Abuja ordered the arrest of one Lieutenant Colonel and three other ranks for the murder of a customs officer in Maiduguri on August 15, 1989.

Justice Chukwudifu Oputa, chairman of the commission investigating human rights abuses in Nigeria between August 1967 and May 28, 1999 ordered that a bench warrant be issued for the arrest of one Lieutenant Colonel E.E. Igama said to be serving in Abeokuta, Ogun State for his lead role in the murder of Adamu M. Ibrahim, a Senior Inspector of Customs along Biu-Garkida-Mubi road in 1989.

Lieutenant Colonel Igama, who was said to be a captain at the time of the incident, allegedly ordered an attack on

contd. on pg 2



Alh. M.D. Yusufu

NEWS

Mantu condemns First Ladies

The Deputy Senate President, Senator Ibrahim Nasiru Mantu, has described all the pet projects introduced by the nation's first ladies as extravagant jamborees used in draining public treasury.

He said such projects like the Better Life for Rural Women, the Family Economic Advancement Programme and the Child Care Trust Fund were never designed to outlast their initiators in office.

His words: "Worst of all these extravagant jamborees is that they are being fi-

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

nanced with money from public treasuries. And these monies are withdrawn through unorthodox methods and without being subjected to government auditing process.

"As unaccountable budgetary expenditures, they become veritable drain pipes on public treasuries, thus further eroding public confidence in the conduct of government business."

Senator Mantu was speaking as a guest of honour at the opening ceremony of a three-day work-

shop on: "Gender violence and Family Poverty" for the North-Central zone in Jos, organised by the office of the Special Adviser to the President on Women Affairs.

Continuing, Mantu said: "Not surprising, these programmes come and go with each administration at both the national and state levels. This way they only succeed in eroding public confidence in otherwise noble programmes."

Senator Mantu also expressed disappointment with the prevalence of gender violence in the country, adding

that "the development is contributing greatly to family poverty."

He called on women groups in the country to rise

up to the challenge by sponsoring a gender advocacy programme so as to reduce causes of violence against women. While commending

the office of the Special Adviser for the workshop, he assured of the cooperation of the Senate in eradicating gender violence in the country.

FG embarks on N190bn road projects

The Federal Government is embarking on 80 road projects across the country that would cost N190 billion, the Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garuba Ali, announced at the weekend.

Ali said in Abaloma, Rivers States at the reception organised by the people of Kalabari in honour of the Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, that the Federal Government has lined up more programmes for the upliftment of the status of Nigerians and called for sup-

port for President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration.

The Minister of State, who represented his boss, Chief Tony Anenih, as Special Guest of Honour at the occasion, described the people of Rivers State as "lucky," saying: "God has given them a governor who is caring, hard-working, performing and adequately representing his people."

The Minister said it was because of Odili's "level of performance" that President Obasanjo appointed him as chairman of the Presidential

Committee on National Housing and Urban Renewal.

Ali called on the people to rally round the government at both the state and national levels so that the gains of democracy could adequately manifest on them.

The Rivers State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Emi Membere-Otaji, pledged the continued support and loyalty of the Kalabari people for Dr. Odili and his administration.



The Minister of Women Affairs, Hajiya Aisha Ismail (r) and the Minister of State for Water Resources, Chief Precious Ngalale at a press briefing after the Federal Executive Council meeting, held at the State House, Abuja... recently. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

Kaduna contd. from pg 1

the scene of the burst pipeline was discovered.

Daily Trust learnt that one of the repairmen lost his life in the creek.

But while PPMC officials insist that only an explosive could rupture the crude oil pipeline, members of the oil producing community of Gbaramutu Kingdom where it occurred claimed otherwise.

Mr. Oti of the PPMC affirmed that "it must be heavy explosives used because the

pipeline is a very strong pipe."

A community leader at Oprozo, a town close to the blasted pipeline, Mr. Piniki Sylvester however, told Daily Trust that "the pipeline may have blasted on its own because it is old."

Whatever may be the cause of the rupture, the community seemed to have benefited from it, as representatives of the community said NNPC officials have been trooping to see them so

as to ensure that the vital pipeline gets repaired without disruption from the restive community.

While the communities are demanding for compensation over the spill and more government attention to the area, the main concern of the PPMC for now is to get the pipeline back on stream to pump enough crude oil for the two refineries to resume work before the closure affects the supply of refined petroleum products to the areas serviced by the refineries.

FG told to review decision on Hajj operation

The Federal Government has been told to revisit its decision to keep its hands off the annual Hajj operation.

The Executive Secretary of the Plateau State Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Danlami Mohammed who made the plea in an interview in Jos said it would amount to suicide if the Federal Government surrenders the Hajj operation to Agents."

He said, "I don't think there is anything Muslims all over this country want to enjoy from the Federal Government more than the Hajj operation assistance."

He explained that when the Hajj operation was being handled by agents, the nation's pilgrims experienced difficulties, stressing that "such agents would just collect your money and if you reach the holy land there

will be nobody to cater for you."

According to the Executive Secretary, as a result of such development, many pilgrims became destitutes in the holy land and that the Saudi government had to evacuate them, sending signal to the Nigerian government that it either takes over the exercise or its citizens be prevented from performing the hajj.

He said, "this was why the Gowon regime had to take over and in those days, there were no problems of 419, but today the 419 is all over, so there is no reason to allow the exercise in the hands of the agents."

Speaking on the activities of the Board and the 2002 Hajj operation, Alhaji Danlami Mohammed, disclosed that the Board had introduced a saving scheme for the intending pilgrims in

the state as part of measures to encourage to save the money for the fare.

According to him, the Board had already completed arrangement to tour all the 17 local governments of the state with a view to educating (pilgrims) on the advantages of the saving scheme.

Said he: "The new scheme will give all intending pilgrim the opportunity to make up the amount without too much difficulties," adding that "we shall soon go on air to inform the intending pilgrims on the plan."

He disclosed that the board would soon give consideration to whoever comes first or responds to the scheme pointing out that nobody should hold his money and think that he can come and pay at once and become behind those who have been saving under the scheme.

Oputa contd. from pg 1

customs officials on duty at a checkpoint on the fateful day.

The issue of bench warrant followed an application by counsel to the brother of late Inspector Adamu, Mr. Femi Falana that Lt. Colonel Igama has been traced to Abeokuta.

Falana who was about to lead Chief Ibrahim Buraima Mohammed, brother of the deceased and petitioner, asked the commission to compel the witness to appear so that the commission can enforce its integrity.

The HRVIC learnt that trouble started on the fateful day at about 11:30 p.m. when Lt. Col. Igama then stationed in Biu went late at

night into the town to buy more drinks for his promotion party only to encounter the customs men at the checkpoint on his way back to the cantonment.

However, Lt. Col Igama was said to have raised six armed men and gone back to the checkpoint to attack the three customs officers who were manning that road junction.

Counsel to the petitioner tendered a police report number SR 0810/BRS/Vol IV/147 dated February 22, 1990 and signed by the then Borno State Police Commissioner, Mr. A.M. Abubakar indicting Igama and three other ranks.

However, the police

were said to have charged the suspects to court on September 27, 1989 under section 224 of the penal code while the case diary was duplicated and forwarded to the Borno State Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for advice.

The Borno State DPP, Mr. Buka U. Yerima also testified before the commission and tendered their report dated December 5, 1995, indicting Lt. Col Igama, Sambo Yawo, Yahi Disi and Bawa Katuka, all privates as at the time of the incident but they were never re-arrested.

The case has been adjourned to August 2, 2001 for hearing.

Saudi contd. from pg 1

istered with the Saudi companies and this year's Umrah will be conducted under the new guidelines.

The Executive Secretary of Kano State Pilgrims Welfare Board, Alhaji Laminu Rabi, had earlier thanked

the Consul-General for the prompt issuance of visas to intending pilgrims to the holy land, especially during the last hajj. He called for more cooperation and support for Kano pilgrims during the lesser and future hajj

operations.

Alhaji Laminu also requested the Consul-General to grant Umrah visas to people certified to be of good behaviour by the board.

ACF contd. from pg 1

even if the conference takes place, the region with a big population must be given

priority "the north triples those backing the calls for a conference as such we are

not opposed to it. But people should be enlightened on the aims and objectives and gains of it," he concluded.

Fire contd. from pg 1

included two printing machines, 74 Print Master with a speed of 12,000 impres-

sions per hour, a GTO 52 Print Master with a production capacity of 10,000 im-

pressions per hour, a vertical camera, a plate maker and computers.

NEWS

Bishop proffers solution to national problems

The Anglican Bishop of Nsukka Diocese, Dr. Jonah Ilanuba, has said that the solution to Nigeria's problem is not the convening of a sovereign national conference, but for Nigerians to seek God's divine intervention.

In his homily during the ordination of seven priests and seven deacons at St. Paul's Cathedral, Nsukka, at the weekend, the clergy noted that although priests of today faced a lot of challenges, "they should always strive to make the faithfuls to seek the kingdom of God."

He said the proliferation of churches in the country was not in the best interest of the nation and Christianity as the situation had given rise to false prophecies and false hopes in the people.

Ilonuba enjoined the newly ordained priests and deacons to work against undue quest for materialism and other ungodly acts. He called on them to see themselves as being privileged to work in God's vineyard, pointing out that

such a privilege had a corresponding responsibility.

The ordained priests are: Revs Aloysius Agbo, Joseph Agbo, Stanley Eze, Samuel Ezema, Fidelis Obeta, Paul Odo, and Kenneth Ogudu, while messrs Okechukwu Ayogu, Joseph Chukwuma, Chinedu Okpunobi, Christian Nnadi, Christopher Okwor, and Clifford Ugwuanyi were ordained deacons.

A member of the House of Representatives, Alhaji Sani Anka (PDP), has criticized the Zamfara State government for its inability to provide social amenities for the people in spite of the introduction of the Sharia legal system in the state.

"I am sorry to say that although the implementation of the legal system in the state is something that every muslim is happy with, the governor has politicized it,

Lawmaker criticizes Zamfara governor over Sharia

making it difficult for ordinary people to reap its dividends," Anka said in an interview.

"Some Islamic scholars have since stopped advising the governor because of the way it (Sharia) is being executed," he said, and added, "he is not sincere, and he is not treating people fairly." Anka, the only PDP member in the National

Assembly from Zamfara State, said the State Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) was not being executed "faithfully".

"The state PAP is not being implemented according to the principles of Sharia because loans given out under the programme are distributed only to selected people and APP members," he alleged.



Gov Sani Ahmed

He further alleged that of the 300 buses and about the same number of motorcycles and bicycles distributed under the programme, only APP supporters benefited from the gesture.

The Sharia legal system was introduced last year by Governor Ahmed Sani, amidst public criticism over its constitutionality. The governor and other Islamic scholars, however, urged that the introduction of the system would promote accountability and prudence in the administration of public funds, and control corruption, bribery and other vices.

They also argued that the system was capable of enhancing rural development through the provision of necessary facilities to the people.

Katsina restates commitment to Sharia

The Katsina State government has reiterated its commitment towards the preservation of the Sharia legal system with a view to enhancing socio-spiritual well-being of its citizens.

The Special Adviser to the governor on Media Matters, Alhaji Ibrahim Abdullahi, disclosed this to Daily Trust in an exclusive interview.

He said the state government has laid down concrete foundation in its resolve to comprehensively

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

implement the provisions of the Sharia legal system, which, he added include provision of potable drinking water, electricity, employment, enhanced health facilities and a host of others.

Alhaji Ibrahim called on individuals and organizations to come to the state and see for themselves the sudden transformation being experienced in the state.

On the re-emergence of musical concerts in the state, the special adviser informed Daily Trust that it was not democratic for government to make anything illegal without constitutional provisions.

"The musical concert is something the Sharia legal system in the state does not prohibit. How could government stop something the law did not stop?" he queried.

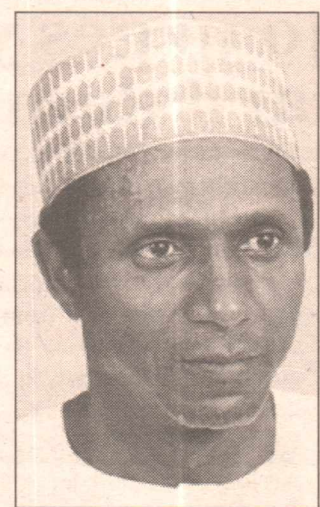
He stressed the commitment of the government to implement all the provisions in the state's Sharia legal laws.

He challenged critics, who accuse government of non-challant attitude to pin-point anywhere that government did not make concrete provisions to enhance the establishment of the law.

"Government," he argued, "is committed to improve provisions of social

infrastructure in the state, both in rural and urban areas to uplift the standard of living of its people," he added.

He, therefore, urged citizens of the state to pray for the success of the state government so that it would provide more social amenities to its citizens.



Gov Yar'Adua

David-West berates Obasanjo over sanitation exercise

President Olusegun Obasanjo has been condemned for being insensitive to the hygienic condition of Nigerians, following the cancellation of the monthly environmental cleaning exercise, popularly called "Environmental Sanitation Day."

Speaking while delivering the sixth late Engr. Chief Sauza-Okpotabiri memorial lecture at the weekend in Port Harcourt, Prof. Tam David-West stated that the promulgation of the sanitation decree was as a result of the dirty condition of Nigeria.

"The 'upstream' pollution was so bad that the Buhari-Idiagbon government had to make regulation for the monthly cleaning of our

environment. The crusade was popularly called environmental. It is, therefore, shameful that the crusade had to be discontinued as part of the so-called dividend for a so-called democracy," he said.

David-West who said there was upstream pollution stated that this was pollution of our cities, towns and villages as a result of our irresponsible and dirty habits. While the second one, he called "down-stream" pollution, dealt with activities of oil companies.

Work has resumed at the mausoleum of the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, the first President of Nigeria and Owelle of Onitsha, at Inosi Onira Retreat, Onitsha in Anambra State.

Prince Lammy Akakem, the Managing Director of Lammy Akakem Construction Co. (Nig.) Ltd., the contractor handling the project, told newsmen in Onitsha at the weekend that the project, abandoned shortly after the burial of Dr. Azikiwe in 1996, would be completed and

Work resumes on Zik's mausoleum in Onitsha

handed over to the Federal Ministry of Works in May, next year.

He said the project was initially supposed to contain the mausoleum and a conference center as well as an administrative building, but that the Federal Government decided to take the first phase which is the mausoleum proper where the late Zik of Africa was buried.

Akakem explained that the project was not delayed by his company but by the Federal Government, stating that he was still waiting to formalize arrangements when Gen. Abacha died.

"It was the present administration which commissioned the Federal Ministry of Works to take over the project and, on take-over, the ministry now realized that we were not paid a kobo yet for the project and requested that we should move back to site."

He said that the company has now been mobilized for the job, adding that it was also getting every cooperation from the government and family of the late elder statesman. The managing director said the job was progressing satisfactorily, stressing that it had reached the dpc level in virtually all sections. "It is a contract that is supposed to terminate in 50 weeks," he said, adding, "we are in about the sixth week."

Kebbi electoral commission slates Saturday for by-election

The Kebbi State Electoral Commission (KIEC) has slated Saturday, July 21 to conduct the by-elections into the vacant seats of Kebbi-North Senatorial District and Danko/Wasagu State House of Assembly seat.

This was contained in a letter sent to all media houses in the state, seeking for a press coverage of the by-election by the state Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Bukar Dikwa and made available to Daily Trust.

The letter, which was duly signed by the command's

Public Relations Officer, also slated that the AIG Zone 10 will also visit Kebbi State for the by-elections to oversee security arrangements.

However, all efforts to seek clearance from the State Resident Electoral Commissioner proved abortive as he was said to be away at the time of filing in this report.

It will be recalled that the by-election is to fill in the vacant seats of Kebbi State Senator Adamu Augie and that of late Hassan Mohammed Danko, a former member of the state assembly,



Gov Adamu Aliero

Most of the politicians in the state were caught unaware as the date has left them with only five days to plan.



President Olusegun Obasanjo

UNTH records another successful heart surgery

The Cardiothoracic Open Heart Surgery Unit, University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH), Enugu, has recorded another successful heart operation on a 30-year-old Lagos-based pharmacist.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the surgery was successfully carried out on Saturday by experts led by Prof. Martin Aghaji, a Consultant Heart Surgeon and Chairman of the UNTH Cardiathoracic Unit. Aghaji told NAN that the operation, which led to the

removal of "mitral valve," that was totally destroyed by "rheumatic valve disease," took three hours.

He said the diseased mitral valve was replaced with 'Saint Judges Artificial Heart Valve', which, according to him, is the latest in the medical field in the country.

CHANGE OF NAME
I formerly known as MISS EJEZIE IJEOMA CHINASA now wish to be called MRS OBASI IJEOMA CHINASA. Former documents remain valid in university of Abuja to note.

NEWS

Kebbi awards N2.3bn road contract

The Kebbi State government had awarded a contract worth N2.3 billion for the construction of Kawoje Illo-Lolo road, Alhaji Salisu Attahiru Aliero, the Kebbi State Commissioner for Works and Housing has disclosed.

According to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa service broadcast monitored in Abuja, Alhaji Aliero was reported as saying the government decided to award the contract in order to solve the problem of increasing accidents which have claimed many lives.

He added: "The road which links Niger and Benin Republics will also boost commercial activities between

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

Nigeria and both countries."

The commissioner further stated that already, 20 percent of the amount has been paid to the Swiss contracting firm for the commencement of



Gov Adamu Aliero

work on the project while the remaining amount would be paid gradually.

He also stated that a Swiss insurance company has promised to give five years insurance cover for the road when completed. It would also establish a computer training institute in the state for the development of indigenous computer manpower.

The Kwara State police command has arrested four men suspected to be involved in the assassination attempt on the state former Commissioner for Education, Hajia Nimota Ibrahim.

Quoting the command's spokesman, Mr. Kayode Olorunmaiye, NAN reports that the men were arrested at a location in the outskirts of the state capital.

Hajia Ibrahim was said to have identified one of the

Police arrest four over assassination attempt

suspects as the person who inflicted injury on her with an axe during the assassination attempt.

The identification, NAN learnt, was during an identification parade of a number of suspects at the police headquarters. Already, the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Musiliu Smith, has sent a high-powered team, led by a Deputy Commissioner of Police to Ilorin to carry out detailed investigation

into the various violent crimes associated with the political crisis in the state.

The team, NAN gathered, had made a number of arrests in connection with the assassination attempt on the former Education Commissioner, Olorunmaiye said the Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Ghazali Lawal, would soon address the press on the issue.

Kano, Jigawa resolve civil servants ejection

The controversy over the ejection order Kano State government served the Jigawa civil servants living in GPs in the Kano has now been resolved by the two state governments.

The Deputy Governor of

From Bala Mohammed Nasir, in Dutse

Jigawa State, Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu Kwatalo said this in a chat with newsmen in his office. Alhaji Kwatalo said that they have now resolved the issue with Kano State government that Jigawa civil servants can continue to live in those houses, pending the time the assets sharing issue is finalized between the two states.

However, the deputy governor warned that this is not a license for them to remain oblivious of the reality. "It is advisable for them to come to Jigawa and find a place to live with their families even for their

convenience," the deputy governor added.

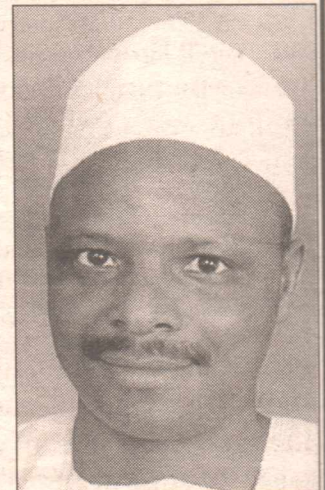
Alhaji Kwatalo averred that people should not misconstrue the assets sharing as a misunderstanding between the two states. According to Alhaji Kwatalo, Jigawa State was created initially for development purposes.

"We are still together and we intermingle with each other and we still remain the same. There is no need for anyone to sense any scuffle between the two states," the deputy governor added.

The issue of assets sharing is a long standing one in this country according to Kwatalo, because there are states in this country that have been created after the civil war, but assets

sharing between them is still not over.

"Assets sharing between Jigawa and Kano States should not be different or new," he said.



Gov Kwankwaso

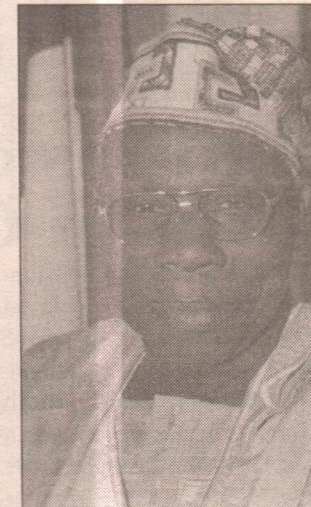
Obasanjo urges youths to safeguard democracy

President Olusegun Obasanjo, at the weekend in Warri, Delta State, reminded Nigerian youths that they had a great role to play in safeguarding the country's nascent democracy.

Represented by the Minister of Works and Housing, Chief Tony Anenih, at a peace summit organised by the Niger Delta youths, Obasanjo said for democracy to succeed in Nigeria, the youths should see themselves as one entity, in spite of their ethnic inclinations.

"A situation where most of the youths see themselves as Yorubas, Igbos, Hausas/Fulanis, Urhobos, Ijaws, Itsekiris, and so on, will not take us anywhere," he noted. The president urged the

youths to see themselves as "motivators, mobilizers, and vanguards of social change." He said in changing the society, they should form genuine organizations capable of pressurizing the government of the day, in a democratic manner to redress



President Olusegun Obasanjo

any anomaly.

President Obasanjo said no nation aspiring to greatness could afford to ignore the youths, adding that the present administration believed in empowering the youths and other segments of the populace to move the country to greater height.

He told the Niger Delta youths that government was sensitive to their peculiar problems, noting that this was why the NDDC was set-up to address the long neglect of the region by past administrations. He commended them for organizing the summit as well as for denouncing violence, and urged them to keep to their pledge, while government would expedite actions to better their lot.

He commended them for organizing the summit as well as for denouncing violence, and urged them to keep to their pledge, while government would expedite actions to better their lot.

Gov Nnamani flays Enugu prison conditions

Governor Chimaroke Nnamani of Enugu State at the weekend decried what he called the deteriorating condition of the Enugu prisons.

Nnamani made the observation when he paid a visit to the prison, where he later worshipped with the inmates. The governor called on the local, state and federal governments to take steps to improve the condition of prisons in the country, particularly the Enugu prison.

He announced a donation of a 500 KVA transformer, stand-by generator and a vehicle for the effective operations of

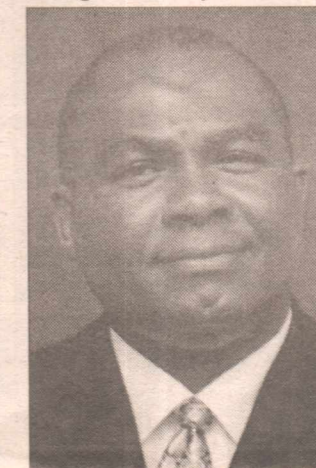
prison services in the state. He also donated three bags of beans, 10 bags of rice, two cartons of bar soap and cow.

In a sermon at the church service, the officiating minister, Monsignor Obiora Ike of the Catholic church, expressed regret that the federal and state governments have not paid adequate attention to Nigerian prisons.

He noted that about 50 percent of prisoners, on their release, "always end up returning to the prisons as they are not properly reformed before being freed."

In their remarks, the prisoners appealed to the

governor to pardon them as some of them have spent more than 10 years in the prison. They said they have learnt their lessons from their prison experience, and pledged that they would change their ways.



Gov Chimaroke Nnamani

Gov Akume charges state electoral commission

The Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume, has again charged members of the state Independent Electoral Commission to live above board by exhibiting total commitment and impartiality in the conduct of elections.

The governor, who gave the charge when members of the commission led by its chairman, Mr. James Audu Ikye, called on him at Government House, Makurdi, noted that only the exhibition of such virtues would make the commission to succeed.

Governor Akume further reaffirmed the resolve of his administration to adequately fund the commission to guarantee its independence to enable it fully discharge its onerous task.

He directed the Secretary to the State Government, Engr. Bartholomew Oche, to handle their request for office accommodation with dispatch adding that, "government expects the contractor handling the permanent office to complete the job before the

end of October to provide decent accommodation for the commission."

The governor also directed the SSG to liaise with the commission members for subsequent deployment of serving staff to the commission to beef up its staff strength.

From Terna Doki, in Makurdi

The Rotary International, District 9120 is to help globalise the project of Mrs. Amina Titi Abubakar Atiku, the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF).

This indication was given by the District Governor of Rotary District 9120, Dr. Kola A. Owoka, at a press conference in Kano.

The district governor commended the wife of the vice-president for initiating the programme, stating that it would go a long way in uplifting the image of women and children.

"This is the reason why Rotary International is going to do its best to globalise it. Already, Rotary International has been in touch with district governors around the world. Additionally, female district governors have also been

Mr. Akume commended the initiative of the chairman for attending the National Forum of State Electoral Commission chairmen and for placing members as observers in the three states where bye-elections would be conducted by state electoral commission. He also disclosed that the secretary to the commission would be announced this week.

Rotary club to globalise WOTCLEF

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

The Rotary International, District 9120 is to help globalise the project of Mrs. Amina Titi Abubakar Atiku, the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF).

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Mrs. Titi Abubakar

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Let our coaches be

The Super Eagles may well be on course of securing their third consecutive World Cup finals but it remains uncertain if the indigenous technical crew led by Shuaibu Amodu, which rekindled the country's World Cup hopes would remain in charge for the Japan/Korea Mundial next year. Thanks to high-wire intrigues in the house of football.

Sources in Nigerian football circles indicate that some powerful individuals are regrettably mounting a campaign for the recruitment of a "world class" foreign technical adviser. This is in spite of assurances given by the Sports Minister, Mr. Ishaya Mark Aku and some lawmakers of the continued reign of the local coaches.

Anti-indigenous coach campaigners argue that Nigerian coaches could never earn the respect of Europe-based players who earn far more than them. The other argument is no less potent, which is that the local coaches lacked the experience and the technical know-how, to carry the Eagles to the height Nigerians crave. Both of these arguments may be sound, but they are not empirical.

First, it is the NFA that decides how much a coach gets, foreign or local, it can decide to hand Amodu and his assistants the respect they deserve, by generously boosting their income. Secondly, of all the foreign coaches we have employed to date, only a couple were taken strictly on the strength of their past records. In some cases, the foreign coaches were like soldiers of fortune and do not have any patriotic motivation.

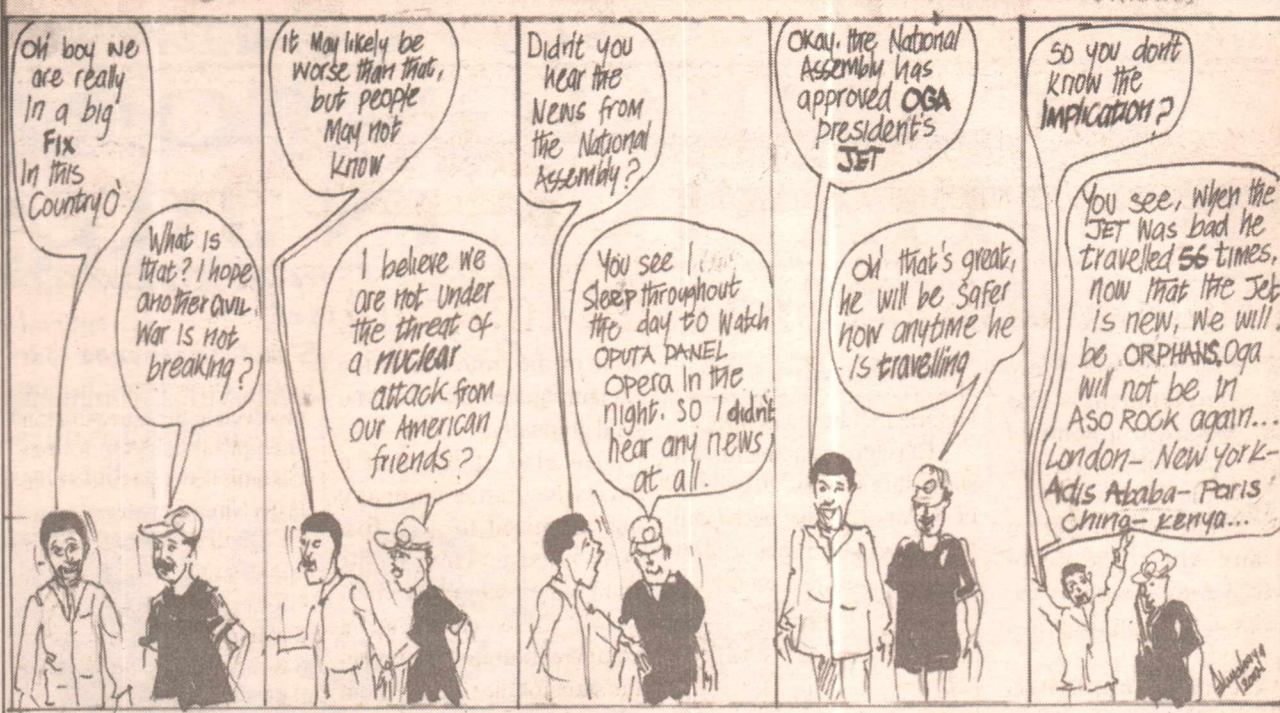
Since Amodu took charge of the Eagles, he has taken all the points at stake. Before then, he did not lose a game in the six matches he tutored while Johannes Bonfrere was globetrotting. It is now on record that Amodu has succeeded where a foreign technical adviser crashed out.

Daily Trust condemns the plot to deny the troika of Amodu, Stephen Keshi and Joe Erico the opportunity to reap the fruit of their hard work. The spirit of the technical crew that made a World Cup ticket possible must not be broken.

We, therefore posit that the football authorities should allow continuity to prevail by appointing the indigenous coaches who have tinkered the Eagles through the crucible of Omdurman to take the national team to next year's Mundial. What the combination of Amodu, Keshi and Erico need now in the run-up to the Nigeria/Ghana duel in a fortnight is maximum encouragement.

Daily Trust believes that only when the NFA gives Amodu and his crew a respectable contract and extend to them the courtesy usually reserved for foreign coaches, will the players fall in.

For the coaches, the immediate challenge is simple: beat Ghana, then start the real work.



TUESDAY COLUMN

Oputa Panel: What next after the truths?

By Aminu Iyawa

Hearing, at the Oputa panel investigating human rights violations inaugurated by President Olusegun Obasanjo two years ago with the aim of among other things, reconcile, heal, and restore harmony in the country, following the thearchy years of the military godfathers, reached climax in recent weeks. That was when the beat turned from soft instrumental to hard rock 'n' roll. On stage, entertaining Nigerians with Grammy winning performance, were no less superstars than superior vocalists: Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, Chief Security Officer (CSO) to late Head of State, Gen. Sani Abacha; former Director of Military Intelligence (DMI), Brig-Gen. Ibrahim Sabo and Major Seun Fadipe, CSO to former Chief of General Staff, (CGS), Oladipo Diya.

The Abuja concert, which is being beamed live, by the Nigerian Television Authority, (NTA), has become an instant hit, with an audience that cut across the usual demographic barriers. Between the trio, Nigerians were able to grasp, first hand, what only a few years ago was anybody's guess, is as good as the others' on the power intrigues, the bootlegging, the sycophancy, the murders, the thefts, the betrayals and the plots and counter plots that characterised the Abacha/Abdulsalami imperious regimes, which details we otherwise may never have known. The songs sung by the trio at the Abuja sitting, were sometimes so supercilious, you begin to wonder if there is no deal, struck by the parties and the authorities to re-write the script, for possible mitigation should they be convicted in the other charges they are facing in Lagos.

However, when you listen to the way the testimonies flow, with well-articulated facts, figures and dates, you become convinced that what you heard will be too good to pass for a pack of lies. No Nigerian can lie this good.

First, Brig-Gen. Ibrahim Sabo, former Director of Military Intelligence, the man who should know everything that went on, in and outside the barracks; around the cosy officers' mess and mammy markets; as well as who said what to whom

from officers down to men, testified that as far as he was concerned, President Olusegun Obasanjo and the late Shehu Musa Yar'adua were both framed up in the 1995 phantom coup by the state security service (SSS). He said that the security outfit could not authenticate the report that was "full of loopholes". He also alleged that former Chief of Army Staff, (COAS), Lt-Gen. Ishaya Bamaayi pocketed \$2.9 million meant for the treatment of wounded ECOMOG soldiers abroad, and that he (Bamaayi) retired all those who knew about it.

As serious and as revealing as the above allegations are, they fade into become nothingness when compared to what Major Al-Mustapha said on Gen. Abdulsalam Abubakar, the man who ushered in democracy in Nigeria after fifteen years of uninterrupted military rule. Al-Mustapha stunned the world, when he indicted the immediate past head of state, for keeping mum on the sum of N500m. which he claimed he personally handed over to the then number one citizen, in addition to 23 assorted vehicles and 45 houses in Gwarimpa which, according to him, "was later distributed to some ladies".

Is someone out there making sense on all these? I hope the allegations cannot be dismissed as just another malicious tale by a desperate man who for some reasons, is trying to get back at his former commander-in-chief, whom he had claimed in earlier testimonies and interviews, he helped install. A fact, that, no credible person or even the subject himself has so far disputed. Al-Mustapha, also, while testifying before the panel during its sitting in Lagos, insinuated that Chief M.K.O Abiola may have been murdered allegedly in the same way Gen. Sani Abacha was, because of the similarity in their last moments on earth, which included jerking, shivering and continued foaming in the mouth. On his part, Major Seun Fadipe, Oladipo Diya's aide confirmed the involvement of his master in the coup plot, confessing that he was recruited by Diya himself on December 9, 1997 and delivered several messages from the former CGS to Bamaayi, Adisa and Magashi.

He also confirmed that the coup plot was on, before the alleged December 13, bomb attack on Diya at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja. I believe that the former CGS would have endeared himself to Nigerians, had he taken the responsibility of his actions, rather than attributing it to a frame up by Bamaayi. Abdulkarim Adisa can now walk tall with his head high, for having the courage to tell the panel that he was involved in the plot and even expressed regrets that the coup did not succeed. That is a living soldier. Not that I care for or sympathise with him. At least, he told the truth, which earns him my respect and that of Nigerians.

For all it is worth, we know that the mandate of the Oputa panel does not extend to prosecution. That is why I believe that it will remain injustice, if, with all the information available to us, the Federal Government cannot take some of these hard cases with damning evidences, further. It should. It ought to set an example. After all, the president himself went to jail after the phantom coup conviction in which the junta used his case as an example that no Nigerian was above the law. Even if he was an ex-head of state.

Sadly however, while the panel gave signal that it may be winding up by the end of August, we are yet to see real reconciliation. Especially when some ethnic vanguards, take seriously, the legitimacy accorded them by some states' chief executives whose aims are glaringly to intimidate non-indigenes and opposition politicians. I do not foresee the Odua Peoples Congress (OPC) in Lagos or the Bakassi Boys in Abia allowing free and fair elections in those states, unless something drastic was put in place by the federal government.

The Ogonis may have shaken hands, but the Ikulu and the Bajju still live under suspicion of each other; the Kuteb and the Jukun and the Chambas are yet to reconcile, while there is still a major conflict going on between the Azara and the Tiv, in Nasarawa State. A clear indication that the Oputa panel needs more time, if it were to successfully meet its desired objective. Another 12 months may not be too much.

SUPPLEMENT

CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE INITIATIVE IN JIGAWA STATE

By: Musa Umar Kazaure and Aliyu M. Suleiman

Disputes, are a fact of life in all societies. The challenge is to design institutions that provide opportunities for airing differences and devising and implementing responses in ways that the disputing parties find legitimate. Indeed well designed political institutions are able to increase well being by transforming disputes into creative decision-making that serves the common good.

During its 15 year rule the military systematically undermined Nigeria's ability to respond creatively to internal disputes. They also used a combination of neglect and manipulation to dissipate the capacity and legitimacy of political institutions at the Federal State and local levels.

The resumption of Civilian rule in May 1999 brought with it an opening of political space that in turn gave room for forcibly repressed disputes to burst into the open. Unfortunately even under democratic rule, Nigeria's fragile political institutions have had difficulty serving as fora airing disputes and responding to them in ways that are generally considered unbiased.

The result has been that Nigeria's democratic transition is marked by numerous conflicts that turned violent as disputing parties shunned political solutions in favour of force. These violent conflicts, pose a real threat to the survival of Nigeria's democracy.

The failure of political processes to respond to disputes further undermines faith in the rule of law and the institutions on which democracy depends. Office of Transition Initiative's Support for conflict mitigation activities in Nigeria has steadily increased as the threat posed by violent conflicts to its democratic transition became increasingly apparent. Initially, part of a broader strategy intended to reduce the capacity of potentially destabilizing forces, mitigating destabilizing conflicts has now become OTI/Nigeria's Principal goal.

In thinking about how best to actualize this goal, OTI has chosen to focus on civil society and non-governmental organisations as the most effective vehicle to initiate conflict management activities.

In Jigawa State, OTI through a non-governmental Public Relations Consultants, MEDIA CONSULTANTS, has

began a campaign for Peace initiative using billboards strategically located across the states. This bold move was further complemented by United States Agency

against tribal, community and religious intolerance so that, we can move in conformity to the dictates of the post modern, post economic and post industrial



The District Head of Birnin Kudu Alhaji Hassan Jibrin and the Chairman Birnin Kudu Local Government Discussing a point of interest during the ceremony.

for International Developments and the Office of Transition Initiative which supported the projects with funding.

Although, media consultants' efforts and society. 8 Billboards have so far been erected at different local governments in Jigawa State.



The MD/Consultant, Media Consultant Ltd. Malam Maigari Garba Indabawa with the Representative of Jigawa State Govt. Hajiya Rabi Umar, Perm Sec Ministry of Social Dev. at the ceremony.

that of the USAID/OTI are aimed to reverse this ugly phenomom, the success of this noble objective depend on how much Nigerians, and Jigawa in particular, wake up to reverse this tempo-

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony the Jigawa State Commissioner for women Affairs who was represented by her Permanent Secretary Hajia Rabi Umar stated that the programme was a



One of the 8 Peace Billboard erected at Birnin Kudu by Media Consultant Ltd.

rary alliance. The commissioning of the Billboards in Birnin Kudu is yet another bold step

welcome development aimed at Uniting Nigerians to leave in peace with another. She said that peace starts at home. "If

there is no peace at home, it will be difficult to have peace outside". She therefore advised men to preach peace at home, so that it will be extended to the outside world.

The Igbo Community Leader Eze Jesi Ademoso said there was cordial relationship among various ethnic groups that are leaving in Birnin Kudu adding that both tribes cooperate with one another.

He described the programme as a good initiative, nothing that without enlightenment people will not understand each other.

Alhaji Hassan Jibrin the District Head of Birnin Kudu stated that the importance of the programme can not be overemphasize, adding that preaching peace has been in their tradition, that is why there was never a time Birnin Kudu witnessed a break down of law and order. "Even during Civil War the non indigenes were protected, the present Igbo Leader was born at the resident of District Head of Birnin Kudu" he said.

The Regional Coordinator USAID Office of Transition Initiatives, Cury Cobham said the choice of Birnin Kudu for the first launching is strategic because is a way to reach a large number of people adding that many people travelled the road to other part of the country.

She said USAID/OTI supported the programme because is a way to reach a large number of people through Billboard without having to do with workshop or seminar. And similar programme was done in Kano State, Yobe and Borno State.

The Executive Director/Consultant of Media Consultants, coordinators of the Billboard concept in Jigawa State Mallam Maigari Garba Indabawa noted that democracy cannot succeed without peace, adding that the concept for peace in Jigawa initiated by his organisation is among the targets for capacity building.

The Billboard Commissioning ceremony which was held at a strategic location opposite the Birnin Kudu Main Market, was attended by government officials, various tribal leaders, community leaders, religious leaders as well as a cross-section of the business community.

Produced by MEDIA CONSULTANTS

UNITY IN DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH Embrace Peace



Funded by USAID OFFICE OF TRANSITION INITIATIVES

Opinion

Re: Sharia is for the Muslims

By Peter Nyam Kokwain

Mr. Lecturer Abdul Ganiyu Abdulsalam's article, *The Punch* (15/6/2001) on the above topic made interesting reading; with four areas of disagreement on facts. These are:

That common law stems from Christian doctrine. This is not true, because common law as its name connotes, is neither Christian, Islamic nor pagan; but constitutional that is neutral to all religions and common to all individuals, notwithstanding, their religious inclinations – e.g. Romans 13:1–3 says: "Let every soul be subjected unto the HIGHER POWERS (Not only Christian powers – emphasis mine). For there's no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God, whosoever therefore resists the power, resists the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation", while Qur'an 4:59 says: "O ye who believe, obey God and obey the Apostle; and THOSE CHARGED WITH AUTHORITY (Not only Islamic authority – emphasis mine) Among you..." as also found in Qur'an 2:136 and Joshua 1:8 respectively.

Sharia law *per se* is not only for Muslims alone, but also for Jews, Christians and Muslims i.e. Sharia for the Jews was brought through Prophet Moses as found in the Old Testament (Genesis to Deuteronomy). Sharia Law for the Christians was brought by our Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles as found in the New Testament (Matthew to Revelation); and John 3:16; 13:34 and 15:12; are specified on Love e.g. Matt. 22:37-40; and I Corinthians 13:13 etc., confirm this. Sharia Law for the Muslims brought by Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is found in the Qur'an, Hadith and Sunna.

There is no teaching or doctrinal demarcation between Christian and mundane affairs, because Proverbs 3:6 says "In ALL thy ways acknowledge Him (God) and He shall direct thy paths". Also in Colossians 3:17 it says "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him (Jesus)". So if there's any Christian who thinks or says there's a demarcation is doing so only by his/her interpretation or perception.

The pollution of the society with prostitution, armed robbery, murder, etc. is not because of absence of Islamic Sharia law, or the current practice of the common law; because anybody guilty of any negative act, cannot claim to be ignorant of the consequences of breaking the divine or common law.

Therefore, the idea of cleansing the society through the enforcement of the penal facet of the Islamic Sharia Law on every perceived offender is unrealistic; because the Holy Qur'an says in 2:110 that: "Be steadfast in prayer and in charity..." while in 2:256 it says: "There's no compulsion in religion..." then in chapter 50:45 it says: "We know best what they say – and thou are not one to overawe them by force...". Sharia law will not, because half obedience is the same as, if not worse than, disobedience.

The book of Micah 6:8 says: "He (God) hath shewed thee, O man that which is good – and what does the Lord require of thee; but to do justly and to love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God? While Jesus says in John 13:34 and 15:12 that "A new commandment I give unto you that you Love one another as I have loved you". These laws have no room for arrogance that leads to vices which are bugging our society.

Qur'an 49:13 says: "O mankind, we created you from a single pair of male and a female; and made you into nations and tribes – that ye may know one another and not that ye may despise each other".

From the foregoing, anything short of leadership by personal example with the fear of God in our hearts (be it home or work place); and whether Sharia Law or Common Law, the wish of our society would be a far cry from cleansing the society; because the pot should not accuse the kettle for being black.

And so, may the almighty God help each one of us to apply His Law of Love into our individual lives – Amen.

Kokwain, wrote in from No. 8d Kwato Road, Box 7556, Unguwan Rimi, Kaduna.

Re: My visit to Oputa Amusement Centre

By James Anunyaka

I read with dismay and with a feeling of insecurity, the above titled article in *Daily Trust* (Tuesday July 3, 2001) written by one Balarabe Abubakar.

All I deduced from the whole write-up is that it is an empty enterprise, and the level of emptiness showcased translates into shallow mindedness on the part of the writer, including his apostles with same mind.

First, whatever the writer thinks he knows about the people of Middle Belt, he is far from adequate because the "confused" Middle Belters as he alleged, had

(and would continue to give) given to all regimes in this country since independence both civilian and military legitimacy – in their voting and support pattern respectively.

Second, in a show of intellectual shallowness, the writer grossly contradicted himself by admitting that there is stagnation (politically and economically) in the country. The question would then be asked, are not the so-called highly placed and powerful of the North responsible for the stagnation?

Third, it is even most

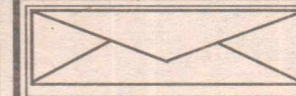
unfortunate to have reduced the Oputa Panel to an amusement centre. The writer should know that truth cannot be suppressed no matter the means used. Equally, he should know that no one is above the law of the land, no matter how powerful and highly placed. The Babangidas, Abubakars and Co, should in their "bigness" come to face the people they have made so happy!

With all honesty and belief in God, does the writer want all the alleged evils perpetrated by the evil Northerners and their accomplices swept under the carpet so that they would

have the chance to contest "future elections" to perfect their wrath on innocent masses? Patriotic Nigerians demand an explanation.

As a patriotic Nigerian and strong believer in strength in unity, I think it is high time we eschew the deep-rooted dichotomy and think more like "the rainbow unified in their colours" to build a virile nation with fear of God first and our collective overall national interest.

Anunyaka wrote in from Mararaba Shopping Centre, Mararaba, Nasarawa State.



YOUR LETTERS

The article written by Amina Gamawa which appeared on page 13, vol. 4 No. 20 of *Weekly Trust* of June 15, 2001 certainly proved an interesting reading that cannot simply be ignored. The lucidity of the grammar employed by the writer and the way and manner the ideas were argued and presented is to say the least brilliant.

That notwithstanding, the opinion of this writer on "New breed" and "old breed" politicians in Nigeria differs from Gamawa's views. Chastising the new breed in favour of the old guards,

Re: Wrestling power from the old breed

Gamawa stressed: "Their blind ambition know no bounds, trying to fix into shoes much bigger than their feet" I am indeed the least credulous person to believe that the new breed are incapable of giving Nigeria the desired leadership.

For the greater part of the nation's history, we have seen how the old brigades fared. The resultant effects of their misrule are inflation, depreciation of the naira, low capacity utilisation, political gerrymandering and

mudslinging, corruption, indiscipline, misappropriation of public funds, deep-seated intrigue, political chicanery and directionlessness. In Nigeria, things have been moving from bad to worse as if we are a multitude of sinners bound together in a cursed nation by our sins. Nigeria has not been able to realise its dreams because the leadership has recklessly mismanaged the economy.

According to Gamawa, Nigeria is in a "state of

emergency" and therefore needs the old not blinking youngsters who are just out for adventure. On this note, one may wish to say that what we need as a nation at this point is a change of baton of leadership. Because the old has been circled and recycled (apology to Obasanjo) for over three decades, what we in fact need now is new blood to chart a new course for us.

If one should assess the backwardness of Nigeria, its retrogression and underdevelopment vis-à-vis some emerging developing nations in Asia, then you may well agree with me that there is an urgent need for a change of baton of leadership from the old to the new breed.

Saleh Ibrahim Bature, National Gallery of Art Plot 6A/796, Garki II, Ahmadu Bello Way, Abuja.

NITEL: Why the haste?

The rush to privatise NITEL in such a short period leaves one to wonder, what is amiss? Is it in good faith or somebody or a group is bent on pulling this government parastatal down? "For it is better to know some of the questions than all of the answers." NITEL is not like UTC, Kingsway or Leventis, the enormous investments put there were so huge that it needs stability to put the place in a state of soundness before selling it. We would therefore call on the federal government to think before it leaps. For it is not just privatisation that is involved but a grand plan by the so-called BPE to see to its downfall. "We seek to discover the best in others, we somehow discover the best in ourselves".

If it is allowed to go unchecked some section of the country shall no longer have anyone in NITEL, for we know who will eventually take over everything. All resolutions as regards the advertorial is only pointing to one issue, no more no less. We in Kano and other well-meaning Nigerians would not allow it. To this end we would like the structure of NITEL to give equal opportunities to all sections of the country and see

whether it will work or not. We also like to call on subscribers in all the states of the federation to form a NITEL subscribers' association.

We believe if this is done sanity will come back to NITEL and its staff. Alhaji Garba Tijjani, No 333 Aminu Kano Way, Kano.

Guri Local Govt: Fact and fiction

From the time the present elected leaders in Guri Local government, Jigawa State assumed office to now, huge sums of money have been allocated to it, but today there is nothing on the ground in terms of any development to justify that such amount was used either in Guri town or other villages.

Incredibly, the present local government leaders and their political stalwarts continue to delude themselves as being the best government so far in the state.

But to all concerned citizens such as I, whenever you talk of any development, we quickly cast our minds back on physical development such as road rehabilitation, construction of feeder roads, culverts, bridges, provision of water and medical facilities to mention but a few. Regarding these, there is little to write home about. Taking Guri LG headquarters as our case

study, within the two years they spent in office, you can hardly sight a meaningful project costing two million naira.

Other problems include shortage of office accommodation as well as houses for its staff who travel from their respective towns to the local government headquarters for work. This is why lateness to the office has become the order of the day

in the local government.

But on the other hand, the council leadership deserve praise in the educational sector, as they pay allowances to their students monthly, and buy materials for newly admitted students in the area, female students in particular.

Abubakar A. Guri, Tukur Housing Estate, Dutse, Jigawa State.

I commend Titi Abubakar

I write to commend the efforts of Mrs. Titi Abubakar in her campaign against women trafficking and child labour in this country.

In fact, we all know that in the previous years, the image of this country was tarnished in the international community because of the high rate of women trafficking and child labour. But as a result of Mrs. Titi Abubakar's indefatigable efforts and campaign against women trafficking and child labour, the country has started to regain its lost glory and good image both locally and globally.

Please Mrs. Titi Abubakar, do not relent in your efforts. Keep it up. And may Allah reward you abundantly.

Isyaku A. Jibrin, S. W. 168, Ibo Road, Minna, Niger State.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Rwandan army captures Hutu rebel leader

Rwanda's army has said it captured the leader of one of the country's main ethnic Hutu rebel groups, dealing a blow to a two-month insurgency that has triggered some of the country's bloodiest fighting in years.

A senior Rwandan officer said the army had hunted down Colonel Peter Habimana, chief of staff of the ALIR I rebel movement, who attacked northeast Rwanda in mid-May from bases in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

"The capture of Colonel Habimana marks a deadly blow to the insurgency," Rwandan Deputy Army Chief of Staff, Brigadier General James Kabarebe, told *Reuters*.

"We do not expect any other significant offensive because we have cut the head off the rebellion," he said.

The Rwandan army says it has killed more than 1,000 rebels and captured hundreds more since ALIR I rebels based in hideouts in the vast wilderness of the Congo launched their first major offensive on tiny Rwanda in years.

The army said it had picked up the trail that led them to Habimana on Thursday when

Syrian dissident advises Assad to drop advisers

A prominent Syrian dissident, Nizar Nayyuf has said President Bashar al-Assad needed to break free of old guard powerbrokers loyal to his late father and give rein to his reformist beliefs.

Nayyuf, a journalist released in May after nine years in jail in Syria, said the 35-year-old leader remained under the influence of hardliners loyal to Hafez al-Assad.

"Assad can be considered as weaker and more susceptible to pressure," Nayyuf said through a translator at a news conference in Paris, where he arrived on Sunday for medical treatment.

"I still maintain there is a chance to get out of this situation if he appeals to Syrian public opinion and if he rids himself of the old guard, which restricts his movements."

Nayyuf, 39, was freed in May, one year before the end of a 10-year sentence for accusing Syrian authorities of "irregularities" in 1991 general elections and for belonging to a banned human rights group.

He said Assad had issued orders to give him a visa to travel to France to see doctors.

Nayyuf cannot walk without crutches because of back injuries he says are the result of beatings and torture in prison. He also said he suffered from Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer that affects the lymphatic glands.

"I don't see why I should thank him (Assad) for a passport that was my rights," Nayyuf said at the offices of the Paris-based media rights group Reporters sans Frontiers.

they said they killed 16 Hutu rebels in fierce fighting in the hills of northwest Rwanda.

"Our forces had been trailing him since Thursday after we captured the head of his military intelligence and other senior officers in clashes with our forces," said army spokesman Colonel Jean Bosco Kazura.

Rwanda's government says ALIR is led by former officers of the mainly Hutu government army which led the 1994 genocide of minority Tutsis before they were defeated and fled to the Congo.

Rwanda's Tutsi-dominated government says tens of

thousands of Hutu militiamen are still hiding in the Congo, accusing the government in the Congolese capital Kinshasa of backing rebel attacks on its territory. Congo denies the allegations.

Rwanda invaded Congo in 1998 along with Uganda and Burundi to back rebels fighting former President Laurent Kabila, aiming to neutralize the security threat posed by the militia.

Peace hopes have risen since the implementation of a cease-fire agreement and the deployment of U.N. peace monitors since Kabila was murdered in January and his son Joseph Kabila took over as president.

Ugandan child king honours Gaddafi

Libyan leader, Muammar Gaddafi, was granted the highest honour of the Toro tribe of western Uganda when he attended the anniversary of the coronation of their child monarch.

Mr Gaddafi was made defender of the Toro kingdom during celebrations to mark the sixth anniversary of nine-year-old King Oyo Nyimba's

coronation.

The ceremony was held in King Oyo's Karuziika Palace in the town of Fort Portal, about 400 km west of Kampala.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and other dignitaries also attended the function.

King Oyo appointed Mr Gaddafi as his special adviser in May when the Libyan leader visited Uganda to attend the inauguration of Mr

Museveni following his re-election as president in March.

Last month, King Oyo and his entourage travelled to Tripoli in a special plane provided by Mr Gaddafi - a visit that led to the king inviting the Libyan leader to the anniversary celebrations.

Colonel Gaddafi flew in from Zimbabwe with three planes and a 250-strong entourage.

President Museveni received him at Entebbe airport, where a phalanx of the Libyan leader's female bodyguards jostled reporters and Ugandan security forces.

Mr Gaddafi was later driven to western Uganda to attend the celebrations. The convoy of presidential vehicles stretched for more than a mile.

Dozens of cars with Libyan number plates were ferried into Uganda ahead of the three-day visit.

Thousands of Muslims were at the airport to welcome Mr Gaddafi, creating chaos outside the airport. Thousands more lined the roads waving Libyan flags.

The king of the Toro is the cultural figurehead of about one million predominantly Christian subjects.

King Oyo, like dozens of other traditional leaders in Uganda, has no political power.

But Mr Museveni revived the roles of traditional leaders in the early 1990s to perform cultural functions.

... parents beat son to death

Police in Busia, Uganda, have arrested a couple for allegedly beating their 12-year-old son to death.

Ismail Bizibye, a primary four pupil of Madibira Primary School in Busia town council is alleged to have been beaten to death by his parents, Juma Bizibye, 55, a butcher in Busia market, with his wife, Kasifa Bizibye, the deceased's mother.

The parents accused their son of refusing to attend school and being a thief.



President Olusegun Obasanjo (R) being received by the Belgian Prime Minister, Mr. Guy Verhofstadt, in his office during the president's visit to Belgium last week.

Israeli tanks move into Hebron

Israeli tanks have moved into the flashpoint West Bank town of Hebron, the second such incursion in three days.

As the tanks rolled into the Palestinian-controlled area of the city, they destroyed five police posts.

Meanwhile, the bodies of two Palestinians who were apparently trying to plant a bomb have been found near the stadium where Israel's Maccabiah Games - or Jewish Olympics - were due to begin yesterday evening.

The military said the soldiers who moved into Hebron returned Palestinian fire from several locations in the town, the only one in the West Bank, which is divided into Israeli and Palestinian zones.

The incidents followed attempts on Sunday by Israeli Foreign Minister, Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, to end the violence in talks in Cairo.

Force 17, a Palestinian unit which Israel has accused of repeated shooting and bomb attacks, ran the posts that the Israeli troops destroyed.

Palestinian officials said nine people were wounded.

On Thursday, Israeli tanks moved briefly into the Palestinian part of Hebron after

two Jewish settlers were shot and killed.

Witnesses said yesterday's operation was much larger. It followed repeated exchanges of fire between Palestinian neighbourhoods and Israeli army positions.

Incursions by Israeli forces into Palestinian-controlled areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were frequent before a US-sponsored ceasefire came into effect last month.

However, the truce has never fully taken hold, and the violence has been escalating steadily again.

The two Palestinians who died were killed in an explosion about one kilometre from Jewish West Jerusalem's Teddy Stadium, where the 16th Maccabiah Games are to open in a nighttime ceremony attended by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"The bodies of two Palestinians were found in a field, and it appears they were killed during a 'work accident' while preparing a bomb," police said.

Israel has mounted a heavy security operation for the games, which were almost cancelled after numerous Jewish foreign delegations said the Palestinian uprising, now in its

tenth month, had frightened away many athletes.

The Maccabiah Games are held in Israel every four years. Israeli Government officials had said their cancellation would be a victory for "terrorism".

Mr Peres and Mr Arafat met in Cairo on Sunday in the latest attempt to end the deadlock over the ceasefire.

Mr Peres was quoted as saying after the 90-minute meeting that there was still hope of finding a solution based on the recommendations of an international panel led by former US Senator George Mitchell.

But he said that Israel would

not "negotiate under fire", and that first hostilities and what he described as incitement had to cease.

Mr Peres also denied media reports that Israel was planning a large-scale military offensive in the Palestinian areas.

But his perceived reconciliatory stance was met with criticism from a right-wing cabinet colleague.

"What new things did Peres sell this time? We don't know. We have suffered enough from Perez's attitude," Tourism Minister Rehavam Ze'evi was quoted as saying.

Zimbabwean white farmer in court over squatter's death

A white farmer is due to appear in court today on allegations of murdering a squatter on his farm during a confrontation with a gang of invaders, lawyers said yesterday.

Phillip Bezuidenhout was arrested on Saturday at his farm, Tara, in the Odzi district near the city of Mutare about 265 km east of Harare, after he was alleged to have deliberately run over a squatter, Phibian Mapenzautswa, 51.

It is the first report of a landowner killing a squatter in the country since 1980.

President Robert Mugabe launched his bid to seize white-owned land.

Police said that Bezuidenhout and about 20 youths, including one of Bezuidenhout's sons, drove off squatters who were being "allocated" plots by ruling ZANU (PF) party supporters.

Some squatters told the police that the farmer had driven his pickup truck directly at Mapenzautswa and then dragged his body along for about 20 metres.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

Japanese diplomats in G8 taxi scam

Japanese police were poised to arrest senior diplomats yesterday for allegedly swindling some 12 million yen (\$96,110) in a taxi scam during the Group of Eight summit on southern Okinawa island last year, domestic media said.

In what could be another embarrassment for the scandal-ridden foreign ministry, police were expected to arrest two officials, including a 45-year-old bureaucrat in charge of summit logistics, for allegedly having a taxi company paid a bill for charter contracts, the *Yomiuri Shimbun* newspaper said. Four officials of the taxi company were also likely to be arrested on suspicion of conspiring with the two diplomats, the daily said.

While declining to comment on the report, ministry officials said they would not hesitate to fully cooperate with investigators in uncovering the truth. "We will fully cooperate with police authorities whenever necessary," one official said.

The ministry has been under fire since early this year when a former senior diplomat, Katsutoshi Matsuo, was arrested for allegedly embezzling millions of dollars in public funds to finance luxuries such as race horses and golf memberships.

Since her appointment in late April, Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka has been trying to shake up the stodgy, scandal-tainted ministry but has faced strong criticism and resistance from ministry bureaucrats.



Cuban President, Fidel Castro, watches as young shipwreck survivor Elian Gonzalez (front right) plays with his baby brother Hianny at the ceremony to inaugurate a museum in the provincial town of Cardenas dedicated to the custody battle over Elian.

Castro opens Elian Museum

As Elian Gonzalez played nearby, President Fidel Castro inaugurated a museum about the young shipwreck survivor and the massive political campaign Cuba has kept up since his custody saga.

Castro gave a two-hour speech to thousands of children, including Elian, at an inauguration ceremony over the weekend in a square opposite the new "Museum To The Battle Of Ideas" in the boy's provincial hometown, Cardenas, a two-hour drive from Havana.

A lively looking Elian, now 7, took a place of honour in the front row, but often jumped up to play with his baby brother Hianny, and even wandered off in the middle of Castro's speech.

It was the second time in less than a week the veteran Cuban leader and Elian had appeared together after both attended a children's rally at the "anti-imperialist" square opposite the U.S. diplomatic mission in Havana.

The new museum contains Elian memorabilia, photos and documents, and statues extolling Cuban children and their perceived rejection of

materialism and capitalism. "The battle of ideas cannot be lost, nor will it be lost. Mankind depends on it," Castro wrote in the museum visitor's book, before explaining in his speech Cuba's fight "between capitalism and socialism, imperialism and anti-imperialism."

Castro said that battle began with Havana's seven-month campaign, in support of Elian's father Juan Miguel Gonzalez, to bring the boy back from Florida, after he was taken in by U.S. relatives following a shipwreck that killed his mother. Elian's Miami family, backed by anti-communist Cuban American groups, said he should not return because his mother had died trying to save him from tyranny, and that Castro would use the boy as a political trophy on the Caribbean island.

But the U.S. legal system eventually upheld Cuba's case, first sanctioning the dramatic April 22, 2000, snatching of Elian from his Miami relatives in a pre-dawn raid, then his freedom to return home with his father on June 28, 2000.

"Many memories come to mind today," Castro said, as he recalled the "Free Elian" campaign, which was the biggest political campaign of his 42-year-old rule.

The mechanisms of that campaign — open-air rallies and marches, blanket state media coverage, issuing of banners and T-shirts — have continued since, as part of Castro's "Battle of Ideas" to protest U.S. policy on Cuba.

Referring to Elian's announcement that Vajpayee would visit Islamabad — proof that the two men intended to carry on with their search for peace.

catching up on schoolwork, and reinsertion into Cuban society, Castro praised his teachers and family. "Our priority was the health, the well-being and the future of our little friend. ... It has been a total success."

Castro said the Elian saga, and Cuba's ensuing ideological campaign, could "fill a cathedral," not just the century-old fire station that houses the new museum, which Elian and Castro toured before the ceremony.

Inside, there was a statue — entitled "Dignity" — of a symbolic Cuban boy, dressed in the uniform of the state-affiliated children's Pioneers movement, tossing away a Superman toy as he is held aloft by hands representing the Cuban people.

Memorabilia on display included a sign declaring "You Will Return," which stood outside his Cuban house while Elian was in the United States; a crucifix given to his family by U.S. campaigner Rev. Joan Campbell; a medal Castro awarded Juan Miguel Gonzalez when he returned; and maracas played by Elian's schoolmate who joined him in the United States.

Museum official Elena Acosta said Elian had enjoyed the museum just like the other children who streamed through — and had been amused at seeing so many pictures of himself.

"He's a normal boy, just like any other now. ... It made him laugh. There's nothing in the museum to overwhelm him," she said, referring to the absence of items relating to the most traumatic aspects of Elian's saga like the capsizing, the April 22 raid, or his daily appearances in front of media.

While Castro's child-audience, some as young as five, frequently chanted "Fidel! Fidel!" and waved Cuban flags, many were slumped asleep in their seats by the end of the act.

Russia, China sign new pact

The presidents of Russia and China have signed a new pact establishing the principles of a partnership to defend mutual interests and boost trade between the giant neighbours.

Russia's Vladimir Putin hosts China's Jiang Zemin, who arrived on Sunday, days before flying to Italy for the G8 summit of industrialized nations and a meeting with President Bush soured by U.S. missile defence tests.

China and Russia — both with problems with the United States — say they are not planning any kind of military or political bloc and that their friendship treaty, intended to replace a 1949 Communist-era pact, does not threaten anyone.

But Russian officials have made clear Moscow sees the treaty as part of a "multi-polar world" to offset the influence of the United States as the only post-Cold World superpower. Russia and China resent what they see as the arrogant and



President Vladimir Putin.

unilateral exercise of U.S. authority.

Relations between Beijing and Washington were overshadowed by the forced landing in April of a U.S. spy plane on the Chinese island of Hainan.

Russia's ties with Bush's administration got off to a bumpy start, mainly over Washington's plan to install an anti-missile shield against

Kashmir erupted ahead of a final day of summit talks between Indian and Pakistan leaders yesterday, threatening to derail their efforts to end more than 50 years of animosity.

Earlier on Sunday, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf held what both sides described as frank and positive talks held in the northern Indian city of Agra.

But in the middle of the night the Pakistani delegation issued a statement criticizing the comments of Indian Information Minister, Sushma Swaraj; who had earlier said that Sunday's talks touched on four subjects of interest to India — but omitted mention of the dispute over Kashmir.

Pakistan has insisted that the Muslim-majority, Himalayan territory of Kashmir was the core of the problem between the countries.

"President Pervez Musharraf had made it plain to his host that no progress could be made toward normalisation of

"rogue states." Moscow and Beijing both oppose the U.S. plan.

Matters have improved as Washington has agreed to discuss the scheme.

But a U.S. missile defense test in the Pacific Ocean on Saturday rang alarm bells in Moscow, where the foreign ministry denounced it as a threat to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Kashmir dispute erupts at Indian-Pakistani Summit

relations between the two countries unless the issue of Kashmir was resolved in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kashmir," the Pakistani statement said.

Pakistan said Kashmir, which both countries have contested for 54 years, had been the main subject discussed in the one-to-one discussions between Vajpayee and Musharraf earlier in the day.

It acknowledged Vajpayee had raised subjects other than Kashmir in his opening remarks but said Pakistan had replied forcefully.

"Musharraf had responded that Pakistan was willing to discuss those issues as well but no other issue could be addressed unless the core issue was discussed and resolved," Pakistan's statement said. "Progress on Kashmir had to be in tandem with progress on other issues."

The argument that broke into the open with the Pakistani statement issued just after midnight introduced the first sour note in a summit that had been marked by upbeat statements and the

Odd World Duck calls police for offsprings

When a family of ducklings fell down a Vancouver sewer grate, their mother did what any parent would do. She got help from a passing police officer.

Vancouver police officer Ray Peterson admitted he was not sure what to make of the duck that grabbed him by the pant leg while he was on foot patrol on Wednesday evening in a neighborhood near the city's downtown.

"I thought it was a bit goofy, so I shoved it away," Peterson told the Vancouver *Sun* newspaper.

The mother duck persisted, grabbing Peterson's leg again when he tried to leave, and then waddling to a nearby sewer grate where she sat down and waited for him to follow and investigate.

"I went up to where the duck was lying and saw eight little babies in the water below," he said.

Police said they removed the heavy metal grate with the help of a tow truck and used a vegetable strainer to lift the ducklings to safety.

Mother and offspring then departed for a nearby pond.

BUSINESS DAY

GSM to fetch N500b in five years - Don

Professor Mike Ehimare has asserted that in the next five years, a gross income of N500 billion would accrue to operators of the Global System for Mobile Telecommunications (GSM) in Nigeria and that subscribers would reach over four million by then.

Speaking at a one-day workshop on GSM phones regulatory framework, corporations, financing and accessories market organised by Property World Communications at the Hamdala Hotel, Kaduna, Professor Ehimare said that his forecast was informed by research studies on the

From Ibrahim Ka-Almasih, in Kaduna

medium-term benefits and gross productivity in terms of naira income and news from three companies who have already been given GSM licences and allocated radio regencies.

He observed that MTN would put in place 300,000 lines in the next one year, ECONET, 400,000 before the end of 2001 and NITEL would award a contract for 118,000 lines to be delivered in six months. He therefore, noted that Nigerian businessmen and women would be exposed to various business opportunities at different levels of the GSM

market which, he said, include assisting customers to get mobile lines; selling mobile phone handsets; selling pre-paid cards, and provision of pay-phone services.

Other business opportunities to be offered by the GSM marketers, according to Professor Ehimare, include selling of accessories; installation of handsfree car kits including aerials/antennas and repairs of mobile phone handsets and accessories.

Professor Ehimare noted that Nigeria, which is over 120 million in population had the potentials of being the longest GSM

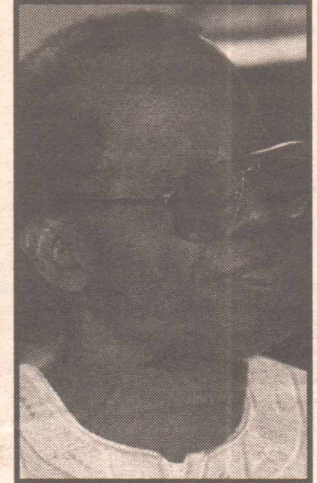
market in Africa even though it (Nigeria) is a late-comer into the GSM standard. According to him, since 1994 when South Africa became the first African country to go online, many other fellow African countries followed suite thereby bearing Nigeria behind, adding that today there are 11.23 million lines in Africa.

He said the GSM is the world most widely-used digital network operating in 133 countries which now account for 63 percent of the world total cellular market. He said GSM 900 is the network to be used in Nigeria and that some parts of Europe, Asia-Pacific and Australia use the GSM 1800 while the USA, Canada and some parts of Latin America and Africa use GSM 1900.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) mopped a total sum of N35.6 billion liquidity from the nation's financial system last week.

This is about N15 billion more than its achievement the previous week when about N20 billion was recorded.

Apparently, the above figures seem to suggest that the apex bank has finally got to a handle on the excess liquidity situation as current economic indices seem to



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

CBN mops N 35.6 b liquidity

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

depict.

However, of the amount mopped up the primary market had the large chunk totalling N34.5 billion while the secondary market aided in the mopping up of a paltry N1 billion.

It should be noted that in the Emo Auction, the bids received amounted to just about N1 billion as the total amount sold.

The private market auction however witnessed a different scenario as the amount on offer was N100 billion of this sum the public subscribed N42.2 billion while the total allotted came to a mere N34.5 billion.

Perhaps, CBN's reengineering which kicked off last month could be said to be paying off as its operation changes, as some experts concern may be the reason why the money markets are producing better result.

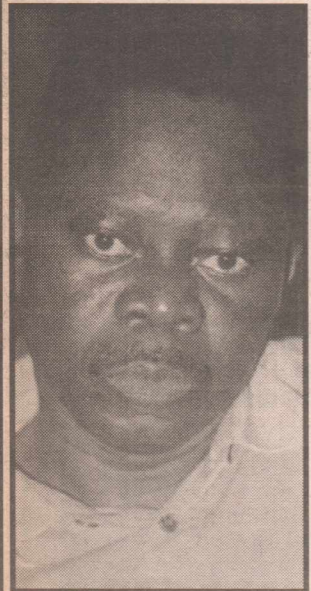
It would be recalled that he discomfort rate still stands at 18.5 percent.

The marginal rate and true yield of the Omo Auction or secondary market, however, stand at 17.5 percent and 17.8 percent respectively.

NUBIFIE combs banks to flushout casual workers

Smarting from its recent debacle with First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) Plc., the National Union of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions Employees (NUBIFIE) is currently investigating banks in its bid to erase casualisation policy from the financial sector.

The General Secretary of NUBIFIE, Abdullahi Shehu who disclosed this exclusively to *Business Day* said his union is presently investigating United Banks for Africa Plc. (UBA) to verify an information the union got that the bank has casual workers in its fold.



Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, NLC President

Shehu said if it happened that the information is true that NUBIFIE, which is currently in court with Savannah bank over the use of casual workers will ensure that justice is done.

The secretary general stated that the use of casual workers beyond three months in the financial and petroleum sector is an anathema since these are the

most profitable departments of the nation's economy.

However, he posited that the inhuman treatment of Nigerians in the above sectors owes to the failure of government to live up to its responsibilities, saying that the issue of casualisation is against the laws of the land, he wondered why the government fail to ensure that employers live up to stipulations of the law.

Shehu stated that NUBIFIE is restricting itself to the top banks in the country because of the economic situation and the fact that most Nigerians are unemployed, adding that the new generation bank's are worse culprits than the old generation banks in their inhuman.

According to him, "in most of these banks workers have financial targets which

they must meet. And the ladies can not marry until they reach a certain age. And they have dress codes from the banks management.

"That is why when you see them they wear things that revealed almost everything, in fact they are dressed to kill. And yet government has failed to intervene," he said.

He contended that the need is apparent for the government to intervene and ensure that its rules and regulation is adhered to, adding that the activity of the new generation banks must be curtailed for the benefit of all and sundry.

He said NUBIFIE has found it hard to unionise workers of new generation banks because the workers are afraid to lose their jobs, not that they do not know that they need to unionise

DPR seals 41 fuel stations

In a continuous effort aimed at curbing petroleum products profiteering and diversion, the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) units recent surveillance activity has sealed no fewer than 41 filling stations in parts of the country.

Edo and Delta States jointly recorded 10 sealed stations, nine were Sheik for under-delivery while one station received the same fate for selling PMS above official pump price.

In Imo State alone, nine stations were shut for selling PMS between N30.00 and N40.00 per litre as against the official price of N22.00 per litre, hoarding and refusing DPR to dip their tanks.

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

Eight other stations were sealed in for product diversions various locations in Gombe, Kano and Katsina States.

Reports from Makurdi Zone, Benue State five were closed down for profiteering, while four stations in Kaduna and Plateau States also suffered the same fate for profiteering and abandonment.

The DPR Monitoring team sealed three stations in Kwara and Ogun States, one for diversion, two others for profiteering and with dilapidated outlet.

Lastly, in Cross River State, two stations were sealed for salling in jerry cans and profiteering.

Airlines to obtain PACC for Hajj operations

Nigerian airlines wishing to participate in the airlifting of pilgrims to holy land must obtain a Pilgrims Airlifting Clearance Certificate (PACC) in addition to the existing rules.

The introduction of PACC is part of the hurdle set by aviation experts to curb what they termed as "incessant problems often encountered by pilgrims during the hajj operations."

Although the experts unanimously agreed that the aviation authorities have little or no input to determining the airline to be chosen for the hajj operations, they mourned the frequent hitches that occasioned hajj operations in Nigeria, saying it has dented the image of the country as well as the aviation industry.

To avert the constant hitches they said the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) should put in place entry requirement to be fulfilled by airlines or holders of Air Travel Organiser's Licence (ATOL) wishing to engage in hajj operations or airlift of pilgrims.

As explained by Mr. Kayode Odukoya, Managing Director of Bellview Airlines and Engineer Zakariah Haruna, Director General, NCAA, the PACC, in addition to the granting of Air Transport Licence (ATL), Airline Operating Permits (AOP) and Air Operator's Certificate (AOC), will checkmate "brief case" airlines.

According to Haruna, some of the airlines contracted for the hajj operations before does not have any base but their proximity to those in government.

By Tashikmah Hallah

However, with the recommendation of obtaining PACC would checkmate the "brief case" airlines to hijack hajj operations and subject Nigerians to untold hardships.

NATA introduces new tariff

The Nigeria Automobile Technicians Association of Nigeria (NATA) has concluded arrangements to introduce new tariff to the Nigerian public.

Disclosing this to newsmen in Kaduna at the weekend, the co-ordinator of NATA north-west Zone, Comrade Shehu U. Tanko Adamu remarked that the new tariff will take effect after the Gombe meeting of 19th July 2001 of the association.

According to Comrade Adamu who is also the chairman of Kaduna NATA, the tariff when implemented will differ from state to state.

His words: "Lagos tariff will differ from that of Sokoto, Port-Harcourt tariff will differ from that of Benin, this is because the socio-economic activity of each state of the federation differs from state to state."

Comrade Adamu said the decision to introduce tariff for mechanics and other related artisans who one members of the association was muted at the Ilorin NEC meeting which took place on the

26th of April 2001.

The Kaduna NATA chairman warned that after eh Gombe meeting of the 19th July 2001, any erring mechanic who do not adhere strictly to the price list of that state shall be disciplined by a national task force committee that will be set up to monitor the strict adherence to the new tariff.

He reiterated that states should endeavour to send in their proposals to this crucial meeting in Gombe.

The five man committee that will carryout the their assignments are as follows: Rivers State representative who is the Secretary of the Terrify Committee, Mr. Vincent will take care of Rivers, Akwa-Ibom, Abia and Imo. Delta Stat representative will take care of Edo and Delta States, while Oyo State representative will take care of Ogun, Lagos, Oyo, Ondo and Ekiti.

Others are Bauchi representative to take care of Bauchi, Gombe, Borno, Yobe Adamawa and Taraba.

BUSINESS DAY

Ports congestion: Forwarders want Obasanjo to visit ports

Freight forwarders operating at the seaports have called on President Olusegun Obasanjo to make a personal visit to the ports to enable him see the situation therein.

They posited that the problem of congestion persist at the port simply because some goods that supposed to be exempted from 100 percent examination are still undergoing the same process, which are usually carried out manually.

The freight forwarders who were making the call in a phone-in programme noted that though the president has

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

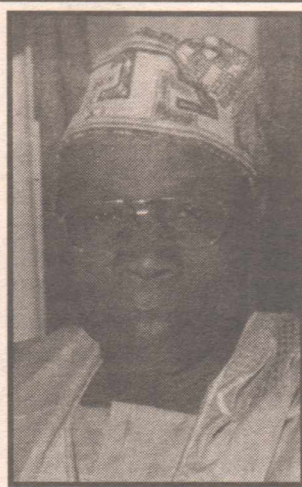
a qualified minister to superintending the maritime sector but "we still believe that Mr. President is still not properly briefed about the current development at the sector.

However, since the commencement of 100 percent examination, they stressed, the prices of goods have skyrocketed thereby making the masses to bear the brunt of such price increases.

"We are not opposing the 100 percent examination but we believe that there are some goods that require just

10 percent, 20 percent, 30 percent and even 5 percent examination; the 100 percent should not be made a blanket measure," they argued.

They equally urged the federal government to do something urgently to salvage the dwindling rate of the naira.



President Obasanjo

Expert predicts N1 trillion investments in oil

The Federal Government has urged to pursue policies that will promote investment in the oil and gas industry even as investment requirement in the industry is projected to rise to over US \$12 billion (about N1.3 trillion) per annum over the next 20 years.

Chairman, International Energy Services Limited, Dr. Oladiran Fawibe who made the call in Lagos while speaking on financing oil and gas business in Nigeria said: "While financial experts can tell us where to look for funds, only government can stabilise and maintain attractive fiscal terms and stable regulations."

While he noted that an investment of about US \$2 billion (N262 billion) per annum is needed over the next 20 years to meet up with government's plans and projections in the industry, Dr. Fawibe said investment requirement in the upstreams may also rise to over US \$10 billion (N1 trillion) per annum by the same period.

According to him, since this enormity of funds required cannot be provided by government, it should start by creating an enabling environment necessary for investment mobilisation.

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, in Lagos

He maintained that government should give investors the security they require, while stressing the need for clear monetary signals.

Dr. Fawibe also made case for a free market economy, saying that it is "absolutely essential to retain and mobilise investable funds."

FBN posts N5b profit, pays N2b dividend

First Bank of Nigeria (FBN) financial performance for 2000/2001 reveals a profit after tax (PAT) of N5 billion.

However, what will cheer-up its shareholders is the recommendation of the directors that the bank should pay the sum total of N2.1 billion as dividend, which is an increase from its N1.63 billion in 1999.

This puts the bank's dividend per share at 130 kobo, which is about four times the banking sectorial average of 28 kobo, earnings yield stands at 10.76 percent.

The bank's annual report made available to Business Day also reveals its plans to raise the issued and paid up capital from 1,626,000,000 (N1.6 billion) shares of 50 kobo each to 2,032 (2.3 billion) shares.

Container terminal yet to recover missing bikes - Manager

The Port Manager of Container Terminal where 56 motorcycles were allegedly missing said he was yet to receive any information as to whether the container and the consignment have been recovered or not.

The Port Manager, Engineer Edward Makanjola blamed the affected shipping company, Neddloyd for the whole development.

According to him, he

Cargo firm seeks technical assistance

The Management of National Cargo Handling Company (NCHC) has concluded plans to enter into a technical partnership with foreign experts.

The chairman of the company, Dr. Jimmy Kassa disclosed in a chat with newsmen that apart from the fact that this arrangement would boost the operation of the NCHC, it would equally create employment opportunities enhance transfer of marine technology into the country.

National Cargo Handling Company (NCHC) came into full clearing business in 1977 and was sold off by the government to few workers of the company who have since been managing its affairs.

On the performance of the company, the chairman said the turnover of the company has improved

tremendously adding that they have just employed another 300 workers to beef-up their operation.

He pointed out that having realised that Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) can not provide all infrastructures required for port operations, NCHC was allowed to procure more handling equipment to enable them compete favourably with their counterparts in the clearing business.

Kassa however implored the workers to show more dedication to duty and to face the future challenges with collectivity.

British Airways appoints new commercial manager

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

British Airways has announced the appointment of Shafiu (Shaf) Syed as its new country commercial manager Nigeria.

Shaf, 31 succeeds Peter Dunkin who has moved on to take up the position of country commercial manager Uganda.

Shaf joined British Airways in 1988 as an undergraduate engineer and has held a number of posts throughout various departments of the company. As part of the British Airways marketing product development team, he was involved in the development of the new flat beds in club world, leather seats of Europe and telephones onboard British airways aircraft.

Most recently, he managed some of the airline's key UK and Ireland sales account relationships (both travel agents and corporate clients).

His major achievements included developing and implementing in innovative approach to agency remuneration and improving the sales performance of the region dramatically.

His new role includes responsibility for all British Airways commercial interests in Nigeria. He will report to Regional General Manger for Africa Alan Burnett, who said "the British Airways Africa team would like to extend a very warm welcome to Shaf, his contribution to the British Airways business in UK and Ireland sales has been outstanding and I look forward to sharing in his future success in Nigeria."



Kema Chikwe, Aviation Minister

Zamfara leads in privatisation

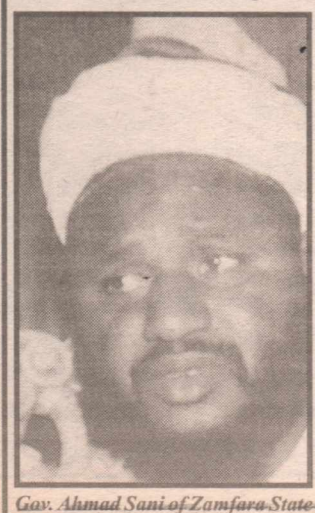
Zamfara State is leading other states in the country in the privatisation programme of the Federal Government, the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) has said.

The state emerged as the leading participating state following the massive shares both the government and the business community purchased during the first phase of the privatisation exercise.

BPE's spokesman, Joseph Anichebe who announced this in Gusau said the bureau and in fact, the federal government was impressed with the vision of the state government by not only buying shares alone, but also the mobilisation of its citizen to actively participate in the process.

According to him, the action of the state government was really encouraging that needed to be emulated by other states, adding that Nigerians seemed prepared to take-over the companies slated for privatisation this time around, unlike during the indegenisation programme, where only few Nigerians benefited.

He said the NCP was committed to ensuring that all segments of the country benefit from the exercise, which was why there was a deliberately and carefully planned media campaign aimed at sensitising the



Gov. Ahmad Sani of Zamfara State

populace on the importance and viability of investing in the programme.

He specifically, commended the Zamfara State Investment and Properties Development Company for providing the lee-way for the state's indigenes to follow.

Anichebe said it was the conviction of BPE that, the government will not relent in its effort as the next phase of the programme will commence immediately core investors emerged for companies whose majority shares were to be sold to firms that would have management control.

He therefore, appealed to other states of the federation, particularly those that were far behind in the exercise to take advantage of the remaining phases to invest in the companies slated for sale to avoid a situation why only few individuals or group would take control of the entire programme.

...as Deputy Gov explains participation

The Zamfara State Government has given reasons why it embraced the privatisation programme. According to the state deputy governor, Alhaji Muhammad Ali Shinkafi the government is attracted by the transparent manner the programme was being implemented.

Shinkafi, who disclosed this at the opening of a two day workshop for financial journalists in Gusau, the state capital last week, said the commitment and dedication by the management of BPE in the success of the exercise can not be overemphasised.

The deputy governor also said that the support and cooperation the bureau has given to the state was another major reason why it embarked the exercise with all the seriousness it deserved, assuring that as long as the exercise continued the entire people of the state would be

mobilised to participate.

He, however commended the press for the massive publicity it gave to the programme, which he said was responsible for the positive response from the state.

The deputy governor, contended that for any well meaning programme to succeed, it requires the support and understanding of the press whose role in public mobilisation was unequalled.

The introduction and implementation of the sharia legal system, according to him, was this construed by people because, the press misrepresented the true situation on ground as well as the state's government well intention.

He said the doors of his government was wide open to those who many wish to clarify and report the true situation of things in the state.

Wusasa can easily woo a visitor on account of its old buildings and their excellent architecture. The character of a civilisation can be seen in its architecture, and this is true of the great buildings at Wusasa, just as it is true of ancient Egypt with its towering pyramids and fine houses. At Wusasa, buildings take on noble forms and provide a matchless perspective on beauty. The splendour of traditional Hausa architecture speaks quite eloquently down the ages.

The European missionaries

The coming of European missionaries was fundamental to the establishment of the community, which came to be known as Wusasa. According to Rt. Reverend Ali Buba Lamido, the Bishop of Wusasa, the origins of Wusasa can be traced to the coming of the missionaries particularly the Church Missionary Society (CMS).

A young missionary group from Cambridge formed themselves with



A part of St. Bartholomew's church Wusasa

According to Reverend Ali Lamido, Dr. Walter Miller concentrated on health, education, as well as the church and he also started a school, which trained among others, Mallam Audu, the father of Professor Ishaya Audu, a former Vice-Chancellor of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. Reverend Lamido also added that because of lack of space it was decided that the Christians who were rapidly increasing

Wusasa has a cosmopolitan composition. Chadians, Cameroonians, Sierra Leonians, Kanuris, Hausas and Fulanis played a significant role in the initial hours of the composition of this community.

The architectural masterpieces of Wusasa

Significant features of the Wusasa landscape are the numerous buildings, which manifest a pristine beauty. Here is Hausa traditional architecture at its best. What the early Christian missionaries did here was to employ the local architectural patterns in the course of their activities. Thus, buildings such as churches and residences began to adopt a specifically Hausa complexion and this has provided the community with a form of beauty that is matchless and unique.

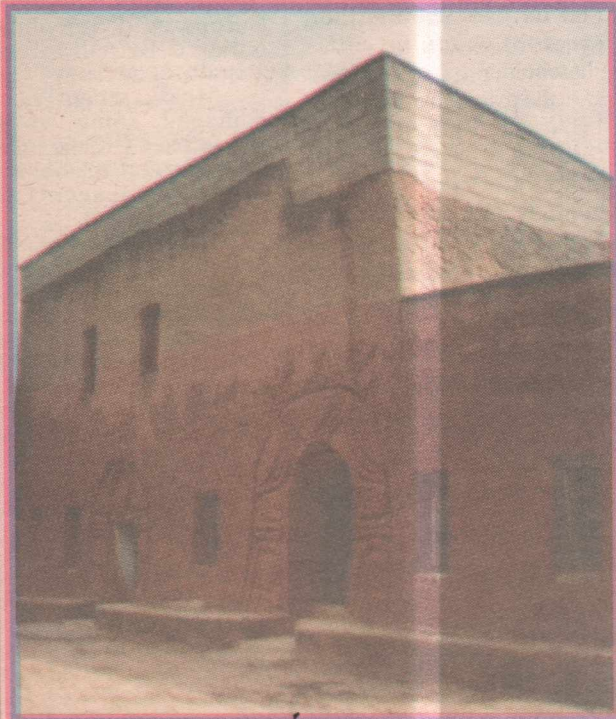
The buildings are made of mud, clay, stones, date palms and wood in several instances, and one striking feature of the buildings is the fact that during the hot season the buildings are usually cool within, while, during the intense harmattan period, the buildings are warm. This was apparent in the early 20th century when

The ancient b

the buildings constructed after this fashion were being put up, and circumstances are hardly different today.

St Bartholomew's church was put up in 1929 and it is a massive

Wusasa is a community that lies just State. Here are memorable buildings provide evidence of the multicultural Museum has expressed an interest in the traditional architecture of Wusasa. Tadaferua Ujor has travelled down to Wusasa to examine the



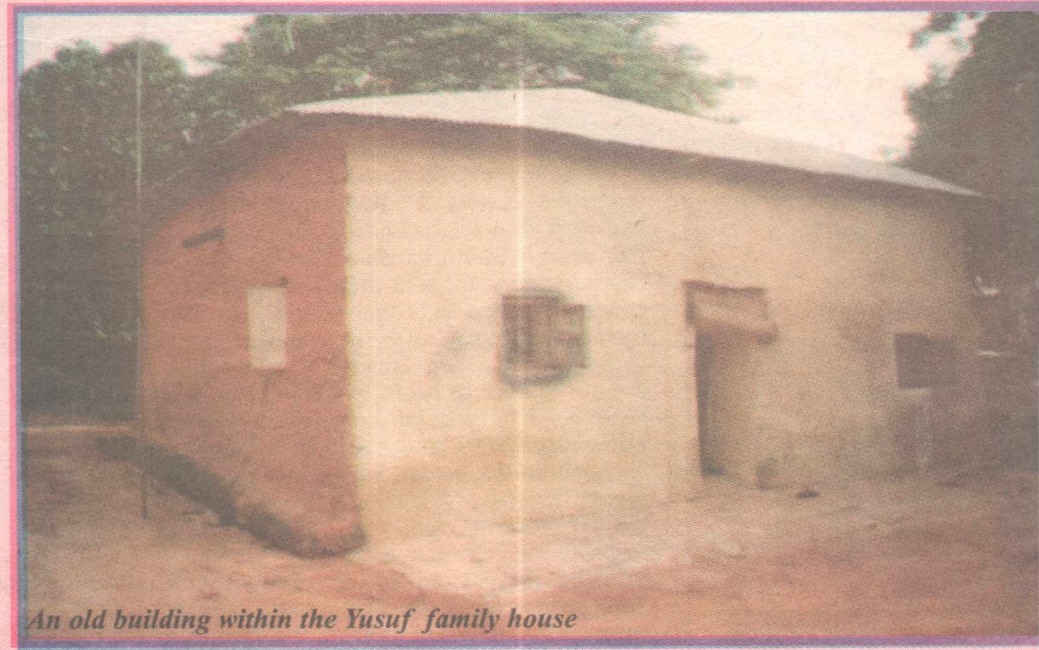
St. Francis of Assisi Theological College. Note the motifs above both doors

the desire to reach Hausaland. They called themselves the Sudan Party and they arrived at Lagos on Christmas Day 1898. Their first station was Bida and the head of the party was Dr. Walter Miller, a medical Doctor.

should be settled just outside Zaria and this was against the plan of Walter Miller who had initially felt that it would be better for the Christian community to live among their Hausa-Muslim neighbours.



Ruins of an old residence at Wusasa



An old building within the Yusuf family house

eature



Bishop's court, Wusasa

Buildings of Wusasa

Outside the Zaria City walls in Kaduna and lofty architectural motifs, which background to the community. The National Museum has applied to have the church building (old St. Bartholomew's church) as a monument." Reverend Lamido agrees that this is a significant step, as it would retain the culture and the beauty of Wusasa as a guide for future generations. He added that Bishop's court where he resides is just a temporary residence for the Bishops, and that a new residence is being constructed which will not be built strictly along the lines of the early houses and buildings in the area, but that it would still have the basic enchanting contours of the former.

and impressive sight with projecting corners and an upper drainage. Little windows are cut into the walls, and these impress with their simplicity, which combines to provide a picture of great beauty. Bishop's court, which is the residence of the Bishop of Wusasa, was built in 1925 and it is an imposing structure made of fine stones and surrounded by a breathtaking garden. The stone house of the Bishop represents just another architectural possibility in the Wusasa area. Though made of stones, it has the basic features of Hausa traditional architecture, which guided the construction of the buildings, referred to earlier.

Next is the St. Francis of Assisi Theological College, Wusasa, which is a physical commentary on architectural change, or experimentation, within the area. The Theological College is a storey building and it is some 50 years old today, having been initiated and built by the colonial administration. The college awards Diploma in Theology and it has provisions for regular and part-time students. A number of motifs grace the two front doors, which lead into the buildings and these motifs play a fine role in

structure, which situates it a bit more within the traditions of the community.

The next building considered here is a structure located within the family house of the late Chief of Wusasa. This building was put up

in 1925 and served as a store for materials that were used for the construction of St. Bartholomew's church just nearby. According to Mrs. Halima Yusuf, a daughter of the late Chief of Wusasa, the building once had a dome and this

has disappeared with the erection of a zinc roof. The old drainage pipes which are still in place used to convey rainwater, which ran off the domed portion of the old roof. The front of the building has been plastered with cement, and this has transformed the original appearance of the building.

Maintaining the rare buildings of Wusasa

Interestingly, most of the buildings in Wusasa still possess the traditional architectural motifs, which graced the buildings from the onset. There are only minor changes here and there which are really insignificant. Wusasa bears evidence of fine architecture, varying cultures and good taste in art. One of such

Significant features of the Wusasa landscape are the numerous buildings, which manifest a pristine beauty. Here is Hausa traditional architecture at its best. What the early Christian missionaries did here was to employ the local architectural patterns in the course of their activities. Thus, buildings such as churches and residences began to adopt a specifically Hausa cultural complexion and this has provided the community with a form of beauty that is matchless and unique.



Reverend Ali Buba Lamido, Bishop of Wusasa



St Francis of Assisi Theological College Wusasa

changes is the summit of the Theological College, which has been done with modern blocks and cement and also the old building in the Yusuf family house that has received a plastering of cement.

According to Reverend Lamido: "Many people have come to us and asked us not to destroy the buildings. The National Museum has applied to have the church building (old St. Bartholomew's church) as a monument." Reverend Lamido agrees that this is a significant step, as it would retain the culture and the beauty of Wusasa as a guide for future generations. He added that Bishop's court where he resides is just a temporary residence for the Bishops, and that a new residence is being constructed which will not be built strictly along the lines of the early houses and buildings in the area, but that it would still have the basic enchanting contours of the former.

At Wusasa, there are ruins of an early residence. Just after the Yusuf family house are ruins of the early residences of the area. Clearly these are circular structures and represent yet another architectural possibility within the area. The effort to restore and maintain the architectural excellence of the community could bear these ruins in mind, a source maintained when contacted by Daily Trust.

Feature

NUJ: Four decades of the watchdog

It is worth mentioning that the return to democracy in 1999 has become a watershed in many sectors of the nation. In the labour-front, there seems to be in place a current challenge, a change of ideology representing a sharp departure from the purposeless, and toothless labour leadership of the recent past when the leadership was concerned with its selfish gains only in its romance with "any government in power" at the expense of the majority working class.

Today, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), has woken from its slumber to begin to think big, starting small by reordering priorities and acting now through its recent positive development programmes to reposition the Congress. It is envisaged that the spirit of the unfolding shared vision and focus, which demands great sacrifice will continue to enhance the Country's growth, and people shall no longer worship mediocrity.

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), being a traditional watchdog and a key member of the Congress has the constitutional duty of monitoring and mirroring the performance of the labour leadership and its affiliates. But for it to preach the essential gospel to others, it may be necessary to clean its own house first and it is in this direction that the Union at 45, has put in place a grand development strategy in the last couple of years.

Six months after the December 1999 delegates conference in Minna, the union effected a major amendment to its constitution at the June 2000 Jigawa constitutional conference to truly make it professional, self-reliant and maintain a clean house by checking all factors that could pose as dangers to the challenges ahead, especially quackery. Presently, the Registrar of Trade Unions is studying the paper for approval.

First, the leadership geared professional journalists towards capacity building, involving grading their educational competence from the diploma to at least a first degree certificate. Also, the union has entered into a working pact with the University of Maiduguri to encourage graduates of the International Institute of Journalism (IIJ) in their course-study of Mass Communication, Public

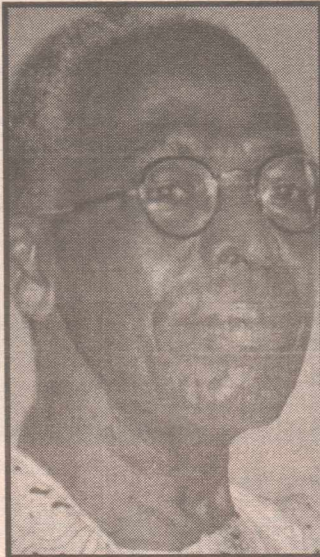
By Olu Akinboyewa

Relations and Advertising. The Institute has been equipped with computers, cameras and above all, studios to enhance learning. In addition, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - sponsored Internet Centre at the National Secretariat of the union at Abuja has continued to provide the much needed communication highway while the British Council Department of Funds and International Development (DFID) and Johns Hopkins University/Centre for Communication Programmes (JHU/CCP) "Nigeria Advances In Family Health Communication Programme provide regular training workshops on media and communication development as well as Reproductive Health especially in the crusade against HIV/AIDs, unwanted pregnancies and abortion.

In the first quarter of the year 2001, and in response to the challenge of capacity - building, the NUJ sponsored a seminar on "Strategic Issues on Media Relations Practice In a democratic setting" in collaboration with 4M Consultants for Press Secretaries, Information, Protocol, Public Relations Personnel and Personal Assistants in the public and private sectors. The three-day programme which was declared open by the Information and National Orientation Minister, Prof. Jerry Gana, delved on practical strategies on enhanced media relations practices, their initiations and implementation.

At the seminar, participants were introduced to such issues like media and communications, effective and presentation skills, collaboration strategies for problem intervention and influence, the impact of technology in media relations practice, managing conferences, courtesy visits and corporate exhibitions, Ethics and Integrity in Media Relations practice as well as objective reporting especially in conflict management. The programme, which has been acclaimed a decision in the right direction by the

Information Minister and all the participants with a call for a repeat at zonal level, was attended by press secretaries to some state



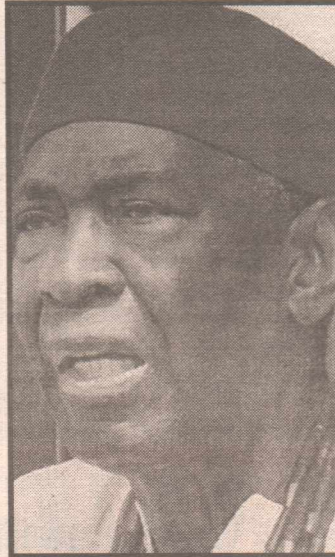
Late Chief Obafemi Awolowo

governors, seasoned and senior Journalists in the Country. For now, a similar programme is being planned for Jos, Plateau State, next month in fulfilment of the NUJ's pledge to retrain its membership nationwide preparatory to the task ahead.

In the area of global affiliation, the union's leadership has recently concluded a return visit to China based on the Sino-Nigerian exchange programme, which began last year with the official visit of a five-member Chinese journalists delegation to Nigeria. Besides, the union has stepped up its bilateral cooperation programme with journalists Associations including the International and West African based Association of Journalists (I.O.J. and W.A.J.A.) respectively to foster current and future cooperation between the NUJ and its foreign counterparts.

It is a truism that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago but the best time to water it is now. The union marked its 45th anniversary in Abuja last September with fanfare and while doing so at a colourful ceremony when veterans in the pen profession including Alhaji

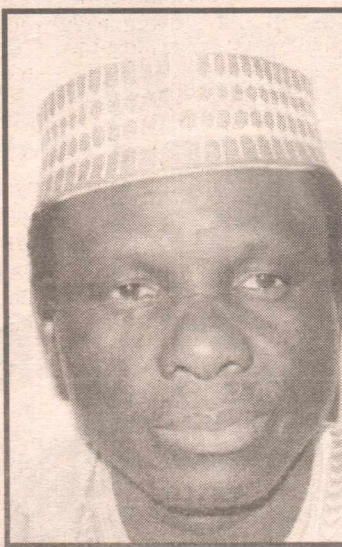
Ismail Babatunde Iose, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, friends and lovers of true freedom in Nigeria were present, experiences were shared to



Late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe

form the foundation of an enduring professionalism and high performance of journalists in the Country. In this regard, the leadership commissioned an in-house committee on a special salary package for journalists in Nigeria with secretary as Mr. Lola Ogunlusi the foundation secretary of the union and for 13 years between 1977 and 1990, he proved his mettle as a committed and experienced scribe. It is expected that the outcome of the exercise, when implemented shall enhance the general growth of the profession and its practitioners.

For time immemorial and like the nation had tried though without success to provide identity cards or do a



Professor Jerry Gana

good census in the Country, the union has recently constituted the Tony Momoh registration board of all journalists in Nigeria with a view to checking the prevalent quackery. In the union's history, the

only known and successful registration done for its membership was the one which accredited 353 names with those of the late Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe and Chief Obafemi Awolowo as well as Alhaji Babatunde Iose, Chief Tony Enahoro, Chief Increase Coker, Dr Abubakar Imam, Alhaji Lateef Jakande, Mr. A.

Y.S. Tinubu, Mr. Gab. Idigo, and Chief Egun Adesioye all were taking the first unit in that order. Thereafter, no national accreditation of journalists in Nigeria has been successful in view of the lopsidedness and non recognition of seniority.

This time round and in the need to ensure fairness, accuracy and firmness, a veteran journalist, teacher and erudite lawyer, Prince Tony Momoh has been saddled with the responsibility of taking up the challenge of a journalist's head-count in Nigeria. For a thorough-bred one-time Reporter, Sub-Editor, Editor, Journalism teacher and General Manager under the Daily Times PLC to have accepted the task of registering his colleagues, past, present, dormant and extinct, the decision must have been severely measured in terms of patriotism and the challenge ahead.

For Tony, he would want the profession he has served all his life to remain a cynosure of all eyes. He would want the names of his seniors, his peers and juniors to be written in gold. He would want an end to a seemingly difficult task and unfulfilled dreams. He would want to do what the average Nigerian and Nigeria cannot do. He would want to combine his tight schedule with that of a yeoman's exercise, not to 'fell' the Senate in a freedom of speech exercise this time but stake his name to do the impossible. May God lead him through in every sphere of life, knowledge grows. The last few years have witnessed an appreciable Knowledge-growth in the world of technology. In ten years, the wireless radiophone and telex world of information dissemination have been overtaken by the facsimile which opened the window for the computer and now the internet and laptops. The union is not unaware of this development and its significance to information dissemination without tears. As the Fourth Estate of the Realm but self-funding, the membership can only perform their assignments fairly and creditably when they do not remain under the apron strings or in the merciful hands of government and

double-speak philanthropist as such situations had in the past ended in information enslavement and the he who pays the piper, dictates the tune syndrome.

In the last quarter, the union distributed electric generators and facsimile machines to 18 of its 37 State councils with the desire of completing the programme in the nearest future. Under this dispensation, correspondents who are not employees of the State governments where they operate would have offices from where they will send their reports as and when due and be free from information distortion, especially now that the race for the 2003 elections have begun. Each council also received 50 anniversary calendars to be launched in their respective states and utilise the proceeds.

As expected, the National Secretariat of the union is being restructured regularly, physically and educationally. Currently, information is now being computerized with the installation of computer units at the secretariat while experienced and committed hands are being engaged to assist form part of the crusade facing the challenges ahead. If therefore, the problems human beings face cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them, a good plan executed now will be far better than a perfect plan executed next week. Goals as dreams should have deadlines. It is imperative that all patriotic Journalists nationwide should think of their individual contribution to the development of the union physically and mentally. We should eschew pettiness and the pull-down syndrome which only retard progress and discourage patriotism. We should learn to be specific in our policies, measurable in our dealings, achievable in our daily goals to develop the enviable union and nation of our dreams. We should inculcate team-work, which demands that together everyone achieves more.

Akinboyewa is the Assistant National Secretary to Nigeria Union of Journalists, National Secretariat, Garki, Area 11 Abuja.

NEWS

NEPA to use traditional rulers in debt recovery

The Kano District of National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) has resolved to use traditional rulers in identifying unregistered consumers and debt recovery.

This is the latest strategy adopted at the Customers Consultative Council (CCC) meeting of Dala District in Kano and is aimed at recovering over N600 million debt owed NEPA by consumers.

The meeting, which discussed several NEPA/customers relationship and problems, resolved that henceforth, NEPA staff will be accompanied by the ward heads to conduct a house-to-house operation Pay Your Bill in Kano City where bill collection has been a headache to NEPA officials. They will also make on-the-spot registration of illegal power consumers and arrange for mode of payments.

The General Manager (D&M) Kano zone of NEPA Alhaji Ishaq Usman while addressing the meeting, said the amount of energy sent to Kano from Oshogbo via Kaduna to Kano is now being monitored and must be accounted for in monetary

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

terms. He announced that new meters are now available for interested customers, adding that "the issue of (crazy bills) is being addressed as victims will be contacted personally by NEPA staff to discuss the problem."

Other problems raised by consumers at the meeting include; the high cost of meters and epileptic power supply.

"How can someone come forward to pay NEPA bills when he only enjoys probably 30 hours of electricity in one month?" Someone queried in one of



Joseph Makaju, NEPA MD

the meetings.

Daily Trust reliably gathered that only 60-70 megawatts of electricity are sent to Kano State as a whole while it requires between 200-250 megawatts for both industrial and residential consumption.

Investigations also revealed that the supply to Kano is constantly being monitored from Kaduna and Oshogbo so that the 70 megawatts are not exceeded.

IIRO to establish orphanage

The International Islamic Relief Organisation (IIRO) of Saudi Arabian Kingdom is to establish an orphanage and an educational institute in Kaduna State.

The chairman, Nigerian committee of the IIRO, Sheikh Abdul-Aziz Muhammad Ibn Saleem, dropped the hint during a discussion between the chairperson of the Millennium Hope Programme, Kaduna State Mrs. Asma'u Ahmed Makarfi, and a visiting delegation of the organisation of Nigeria over the week.

Saleem disclosed that the major vision of the IIRO delegation to Nigeria was

Worried by the hardships encountered by its populace due to the nationwide strike embarked upon by the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), the Kaduna State government has suspended the salaries of the nurses and midwives under its payroll.

According to a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa service broadcast monitored in Abuja, the Kaduna State Commissioner for Health, Mr. Hassan Iyati, was

Kaduna suspends salaries of striking nurses

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

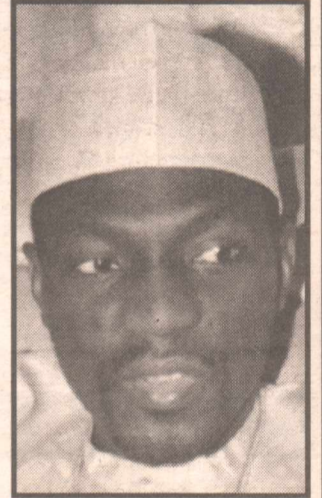
reported as saying nurses in the state have no problem concerning their salaries and allowances and as such their strike was unlawful.

The commissioner added that the government had invited the nurses for a meeting to discuss ways of bringing an end to the strike. "This was moreso as they work under Kaduna State, not federal government, but the meeting was ended on a

sour note," he stated.

Iyati disclosed that nurses who wanted to get their salaries should return to work. His words: "We have opened registers in all our hospitals and health centres. Whoever wants to enjoy his salary for this July should come to work and register his name. In other words, no work, no pay."

In his reaction to this directive, the Kaduna State Chairman of NANNM, Mr. John Kulie, said no amount of threats will force his members to suspend their strike, saying "nurses will continue to obey the directive of our association's national body."



Gov. Makarfi

From Ibrahim Ka-Ahasin, in Kaduna

"to identify a suitable location for establishing an educational institute and an orphanage centre.

Plight of about 2,000 indigenous orphans in Nigeria has informed the decision of the IIRO to establish an orphanage for them," Sheikh Saleem asked.

He, therefore, thanked the founder of the Millennium Hope Programme, who is also the wife of Kaduna State Governor, Mrs. Asma'u Ahmed Makarfi for providing a large piece of land in Kaduna for the establishment of the orphanage and educational institution. He stated that a large number of less-

privileged Nigerians would benefit from the philanthropic collaboration between IIRO and Millennium Hope.

Sheikh Saleem also commended Mrs. Makarfi for rendering many less-privileged children from the streets and giving them a decent life through the Millennium Hope Programme.

Responding, Mrs. Makarfi thanked the IIRO for the visit and its assistance to the Millennium Hope and appealed to it not to relent in its philanthropic gestures all over the world.

The IIRO delegation also visited the Millennium Hope centres for children in need of special protection and special education at Kawo and Rigasa, and its girl-child centre at Kaduna South, where the IIRO donated food items and cash.

Educate young ones about AIDS - Tinubu

Mrs. Oluremi Tinubu, the Lagos State First Lady has identified the best protection against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and Human Immune Virus (HIV) as knowledge about the disease, she therefore, urged parents to learn about the disease and educate their children about its transmission and fatality.

Mrs. Tinubu gave this advice while speaking as the chief host, at the second annual international seminar

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

on HIV/AIDS organised by Africa Alert Foundation recently in Lagos.

She explained that a report from the world body called UNAIDS has confirmed that more than 50 percent of new infections occur among people between the ages of 10-24 years.

According to her, Nigeria ranks second in Africa for the number of HIV/AIDS infected adults, with the prevalence rate in Nigeria at 5.4 percent and in Lagos State

6.7 percent.

Mrs. Tinubu commended the Africa Alert Foundation for organising a seminar on HIV/AIDS with the theme "Gulf", she said, "it is gratifying to note that the seminar aims to narrow the gap between people living with HIV/AIDS, persons affected by the deadly disease and uninfected persons in the society.

Delivering her welcome address at the occasion, Miss Vein Bengoho Tetsola, the Founder/President, Africa Alert Foundation, dis-

closed the aim of the seminar was to educate Nigerians on the need to narrow the growing divide that has created a gulf between PLWHA and uninfected people.

Miss Teyssola, who is also the immediate past Miss Nigeria, called on Nigerians to desist from viewing people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) as social pariahs.

The former beauty queen considered as enormous the attitude of many Nigerians as separated from the "healthy as an affirmative means for protecting the society from the epidemic.

Lab scientists criticise NUPTAM over call to join strike

The Association of Medical Laboratory Scientist of Nigeria (AMLSN) has criticised the National Union of Pharmacist, Medical Laboratory Technologists and Profession Allied to Medicine (NUPTAM) over the call on its members to embark on solidarity strike with nurses and midwives, saying strikes should be handled with care because they could become counterproductive.

"We believe that at the end of the day, after each strike, it is the poor citizens of the country that will suffer the consequences. In as much as we know that a strike action is a vital tool of mass protest, it is also important that such action should be handled with care, lest it becomes counterproductive," a statement from the association said.

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

The statement signed by Obong Etukudoh, the National Public Relations Officer of the association further averred that "a strike could only be inevitable when all doors are closed to communication."

The statement advised members of the association to wait till October when the Health Minister, Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu has promised to settle all lingering problems in the health sector.

The association, however, appealed to the Federal Government to exhibit equity in the fixing of professional allowances, as well as the professionalisation of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Science/Technology of Nigeria as this would check quacking or other vices.

Following the approval of call allowances for medical doctors, some other health workers had felt neglected in the arrangement and had threatened to go on

strike.

The National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives had made good its threat to go on strike on 6th July even as the Minister of Health was out of the country.

In solidarity with the nurses, the National Union of Pharmacists, Medical Laboratory Technologist and Professions Allied to Medicine (NUPTAM) allegedly ordered its members to embark on an indefinite strike last week.

Akume urges individuals to advise striking nurses

Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume, has called on the Benue State people to individually speak to striking nurses in the state to resume work as their strike has brought untold hardships on patients.

Mr. Akume, who was

represented by his Deputy, Chief Ogiri Ajene, made this call recently at the Aminu Isah Kontagora Arts Theatre Complex, Makurdi while declaring open the stakeholders seminar and state launch of the consultation phase of the Benue

strategic health planning process.

Mr. Akume commended efforts of the Department of International Development (DFID) of the British government towards supporting the state government to advance its policy on health care delivery in the state.

Islamic sect decries uniform Sharia code

The Jama'atul Nasril Islam, will not support the recent efforts by the Federal Government for uniform codification of Sharia laws among the states that are operating the Islamic Legal Sharia System.

The Secretary-General of the organisation, Justice Abdulkadir Orire, told Daily Trust in Kano that even the laws operated in states cannot be codified by the Federal Government. He pointed out that under the Federal Constitution, each state has the power to amend its laws to suite the

peculiarity of its people.

"The criminal laws in operation in Enugu, for example, may be different from those operative in Oyo because of the amendments done to them.

"State Assemblies are empowered to amend these laws as the Federal Government cannot make laws for all the components in the federation," he said.

Justice Orire said the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) who is aware of this should advise the government against such an attempt.

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THE TRUSTEES ARE:-

1. MUKHTAR ABDURRAZAQ GORA CHAIRMAN.
2. ABDURRA'UF MUKHTAR MEMBER/SECRETARY.
3. MOHAMMED INUWA MEMBER.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Area 11, Garki, Abuja, within 28 days from the date of this Publication.

(Signed)

ABDURRA'UF MUKHTAR.
 SECRETARY

PUBLIC NOTICE

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This is to inform the general public that the following persons have applied to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja, to be registered as the incorporated Trustees of the above mentioned organization under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Acts 1990 The Trustees are:

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|----------------------------|---------------------|
| - Barr. Ugochukwu Agballah | - Mr. Goddy Enekwe |
| - Prince Ikechukwu Oloto | - Mr. Collins Okelu |
| - Hon. Charles Agu | - Mr. Godwin Ojoko |

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INSIDE POLITICS

How Kano ex-speaker was removed

Perhaps the first time Nigerians had an encounter with an elected public officer who carried his make-up box around was during the Second Republic, when the then Anambra State Governor, Jim Nwobodo, was nick-named "The Bleaching Governor" by the ever vibrant Nigerian press.

Even then, no one paid any attention to the governor and his private indolence. He was measured by his performance and became one of the most popular governors in the eastern region.

The case of the former Kano State Speaker, Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim Gwarmai, who was impeached by his colleagues in the House for "bleaching", therefore, calls for closer investigation. The melodrama that took place between the removed speaker and the state chief executive on the day of the impeachment, points glaringly to government's involvement in the scheme.

The night before the impeachment, government house protocol were said to have called the impeached speaker to inform him that, the governor would like to see him at 9a.m. prompt the next day at government house, to discuss the swearing-in of the new chief judge scheduled to take place that morning. The next morning at about 8a.m. the protocol called again to

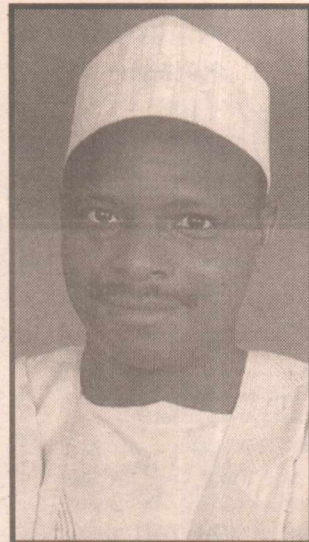
From Musa Kazaure, in Kano

remind the speaker of the 9a.m. appointment. The former Speaker was said to have left home early enough, passed through the House and was said to have invited some key House leaders to accompany him to the government house. Unsuspectingly, he drove straight to the governor's house at exactly 9a.m., only to be told that the governor was having his breakfast and could not be seen. He waited for an hour before the governor emerged and after a brief tête-à-tête, they moved to the Africa House, venue of the swearing-in.

While Gwarmai was waiting for the governor at the government house according to a source, 40 members of the House had converged early enough to form a quorum and 29 members hurriedly voted under matters of urgent importance to impeach him. Gwarmai, who hurriedly returned to the House after a tip, found a new man on his seat and was sarcastically told by a member, "Mun tsige ka," meaning "we have removed you."

It is an open secret in Kano that all was not well between the former speaker

and the state governor after the aborted impeachment of the same speaker in November 1999, when the Rimi faction flexed muscles with the governor's faction of the PDP. Though the speaker survived the first attempt, the governor's camp was said to be uncomfortable with the



Kwankwaso

speaker who suddenly, as a result of his triumph, became acrimonious towards the executive. The governor was equally said to have made several attempts to buy over the speaker from Rimi's camp, but to no avail.

Another contributing factor was the closeness of the former speaker to Rimi, who the Kwankwaso faction accused of manipulating the

speaker to stifle the governor's efforts in the state. The speaker's presence in company of Abubakar Rimi at the wedding of the Emir of Ilorin's daughter recently, was said to have irked the governor, especially the open praises heaped on Rimi by the speaker.



Rimi

He was further accused of being friendly with known Kwankwaso adversaries. The new APP chairman in Kano State, Alhaji Al-Amin Little, is a name Governor Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso is said to abhor hearing in political circles. Basking in his youthfulness and grassroots popularity, Alhaji Little is probably the only major threat to Governor Kwankwaso's re-

election bid. With his ability to mobilise grassroots support, his popularity among the youths, who are the backbone of electioneering campaigns in Kano, the incumbent chief executive would stand no chance of being re-elected if the APP state chairman teams up with the former speaker and by extension the Rimi camp. The former speaker and Alhaji Little are said to be very close allies and his removal from office is interpreted as the governor's attempt to reduce the growing influence of Alhaji Little, who has not hidden his ambition to contest the governorship election come 2003.

However, the last straw that forced the Kwankwaso's camp to act swiftly and decisively in impeaching Gwarmai as the speaker, was his role in the appointment of the new chief judge of the state, whose nomination was twice rejected by the House. Competent sources in the House hinted *Daily Trust* that since the selection of the chief judge by the National Judicial Commission, the governor's camp were not comfortable with his appointment, because the new chief judge was known for his impeccable records as a principled person who would not bend to political

pressure. His clearance was said to have been made difficult by Kwankwaso's loyalists in the state assembly, until the removed speaker prevailed on his colleagues to endorse the new chief judge.

However, the governor's camp were always quick to tell you that the speaker was allowing his position to go into his head, as he had no regards for anybody other than Alhaji Rimi. They also accuse him of whipping up sentiments against the governor in the House, to the extent that the governor had problems getting his bills through. These reasons and others, real and imagined, were responsible for the successful impeachment of speaker Gwarmai.

What, however, is baffling political analysts in Kano State is the apparent silence on the part of the Rimi camp, especially the power-brokers who rallied round the ex-speaker in the first attempt to remove him in November, 1999. Could it be that the Rimi camp is losing the battle for the soul of Kano politics, or has Gwarmai parted ways with the Rimi camp, or is it that the former speaker is being used as a political fall guy for the bigger political war ahead? Only the future will tell.

Damaturu declaration: PDP agenda for 2003

It will be difficult for any political analyst to see it as a coincidence that, 48 hours after finance minister, Mallam Adamu Ciroma, openly canvassed for an eight-year term for President Olusegun Obasanjo, the President's Liaison Officer (PLO) to the Senate, Alhaji Kashim Imam, came out to announce categorically that the incumbent (Obasanjo) will seek for a second term in 2003.

The two personalities who are today considered part of the inner caucus of President Obasanjo's cabinet were at the flag-off of the North-East zone rally of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) held on June 30 at Damaturu, the Yobe State capital, and home state of Mallam Adamu Ciroma.

On several occasions, President Obasanjo had consistently maintained that the issue of 2003 was undecided. But the disclosures by Imam and Ciroma, have now, proved beyond reasonable doubt that the issue of 2003 has already been decided.

The choice of Yobe, one of the APP-controlled states in the North-East was very significant, not just for the Peoples Democratic Party but also for the likes of Ciroma and Alhaji Adamu Waziri, (national co-ordinator of the Poverty Eradication Programme) whose defeat at the last governorship election still remains a bad dream. This was clearly demonstrated by the grand parade by Waziri's

By Suleiman Mohammed

supporters, who were with his posters for the 2003 polls.

The rally took place at the Damaturu township stadium along Maiduguri road amidst tight security, even as Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim was in far away Sudan to watch and cheer the Super Eagles.

He had earlier in Abuja had audience with the vice-president, before the number two citizen, Atiku Abubakar, boarded the presidential plane for the Damaturu rally.

Notwithstanding the fact that Vice-President Atiku Abubakar was in Yobe State for a political meeting, the state government was magnanimous enough to provide accommodation for him, including hosting a reception party to welcome the vice-president to the state.

The PDP national chairman, Engineer Barnabas Gemade, flagged-off the rally, which was tagged "operation totality in 2003." The PDP boss used the forum to unfold the party's agenda to emerge victorious in all elections. "The real situation is that we ought to have six out of the six state in the north-east region, otherwise how can you explain it," he told the gathering, assuring that by 2003, PDP would have regained each ward and local government in the north-east.

However, Gemade submitted that the battle would not be accomplished without total commitment

from members of the ruling party, who he said have currently allowed themselves to be polarised by advocates of new political associations. "Local government elections," he said, "is the foundation of any political endeavour," adding, "if you use local governments, you will know that you have the ground to play on."

But the most striking speech came from Mallam Adamu Ciroma, son of the soil in Yobe State. As he mounted the podium, he became a different character; more like an actor on stage. Using all his body to demonstrate and drive home his points, Ciroma proved that despite his age, he still had what it takes to be a political heavyweight.

He began by attempting to justify the choice and subsequent election of President Obasanjo in 1999, an action which he attributed to the rotational arrangement endorsed by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in its constitution.

Mallam Ciroma, who was a staunch supporter of the Alex Ekwueme presidential bid at the Jos convention, felt it necessary to defend the election of President Obasanjo. "There was no mistake on that," he told the gathering, and further advised the North to wait till 2007, to re-launch itself into the corridors of power.

"The North has ruled this country for a long period. Right from Alhaji Shehu Shagari, Muhammadu Buhari,

Ibrahim Babangida, Sani Abacha and Abdulsalami Abubakar, the North maintained leadership, and therefore, we felt it necessary to allow the South to also test power for eight years, after which the north can again recapture power," he declared amidst thunderous applause by the gathering who, mostly could not really comprehend the message.

Ciroma now descended on the proponents of new political associations, an idea he described as "a complete waste of time. "I was part of the G-17 and G34, that transformed to political parties, and those now forming new political associations, we know their

strength and capability," he said, just as he defended the Obasanjo administration, which according to him has performed well within its two and a half years in power.

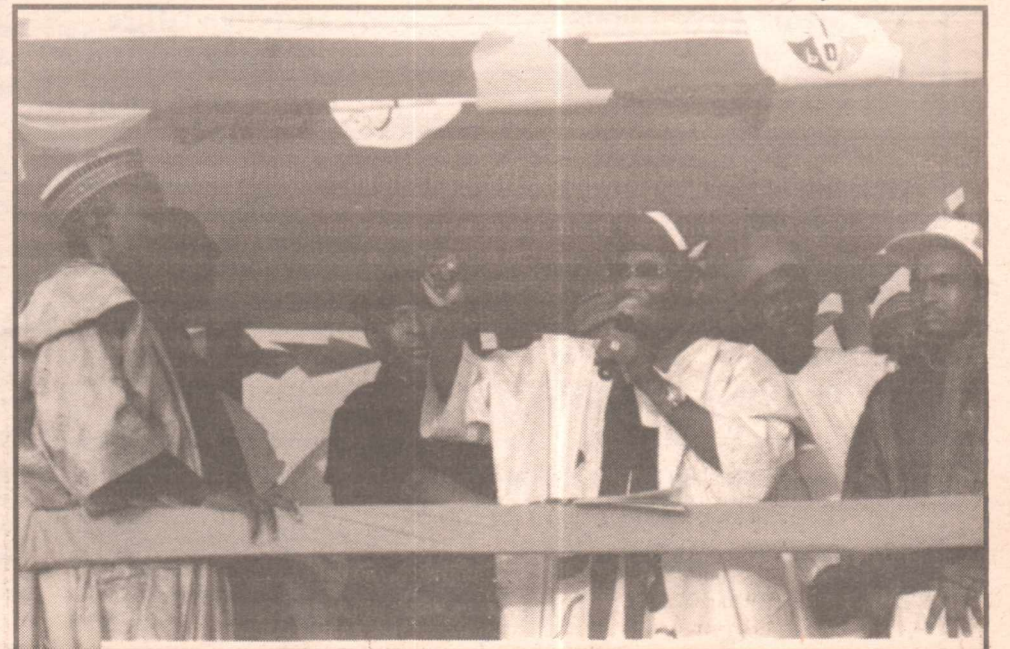
He also reintroduced what political analysts could best described as "local politics" as he descended on Governor Abba Ibrahim, accusing him of bad leadership and mismanagement of the state's resources. The minister got the support of men like Khalifa Hassan Yusuf, who has just decamped from the APP to the PDP and who described Governor Ibrahim as the "Mobutu of Yobe State."

Vice-President Atiku

Abubakar, however, restored sanity to the rally as he spoke mainly on government's commitment to curtail rigging and all sorts of electoral malpractices that bedevilled previous elections.

According to him, the PDP was quite aware of how the APP got the gubernatorial seat in Yobe State, but for the dire need to make it possible for the military to bequeath power "everything was allowed to pass," he said. But he used the forum to alert those that care to listen that, "in 2003, things would be different."

Justice and fairness, he said, would be supreme even as he vowed that the PDP will do everything in its power to ensure victory come 2003.



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar addressing PDP stalwarts in Damaturu during the party's North-East zone rally in Yobe recently.

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2.6 million Nigerians live with HIV

The large pool of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in the country has been put at over 2.6 million people, majority of whom belong to the younger age group which constitute the bulk of the labour force.

This revelation was contained in the opening remarks of Dr. Suleiman Sani, the acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health at the two-day training of clinicians on the use of anti-retroviral drugs.

"In Nigeria, the HIV prevalence is on the increase since the beginning of the epidemic. The national survey shows a prevalence rate of 1.8% in 1991, 3.4% in 1993, 4.5% in 1995 and a critical 5% mark (5.4%) in

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani
1999," he said.

He added that it was due to this, that the Federal Government had renewed its efforts toward HIV control and specifically focus on



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

improving access to affordable care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, adding that the project will improve the quality of life and productivity of the nation.

Furthermore, the permanent secretary said Nigeria cannot ignore the human, material and development cost implications of the epidemic

AIDS infection on the increase in Rivers State

The Programme Manager, HIV/AIDS control, Rivers State Ministry of Health, Dr. Chimezie Oke, has said that over one million people infected by the killer disease in the state.

He said this at the weekend when his committee paid a courtesy visit to the state chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Mr. Ndagene Akwu, at the Press Centre, Port Harcourt.

Oke said since the pronouncement by the western world that HIV/AIDS was an African disease, the continent has almost been split apart by the dreaded disease. He therefore called for special action from African leaders to tackle the HIV/AIDS pandemics in the state.

"Africa must be ready to fight its own problem and carry its own cross, because the UNAIDS only earmarked a paltry N10 million yearly grant to Africa to fight the virus," he said.

He called on the journalists in the state to join forces with the Rivers State government and fight the disease in order to save the continent from extinction,

to the nation.

However, Dr. Sani said the fight against HIV/AIDS has been hampered by general poverty and inaccessibility to anti-retroviral drugs among the vulnerable groups.

Dr. Sani informed the participants that the training was crucial and timely; as it represents the beginning of a new chapter in the collective response to HIV/AIDS epidemic.

From Wisdom Patrick,
in Port Harcourt

"the time has come for us to carry our cross," Oke said.

He added that a three-month mass mobilisation programme plan has been drawn up to take the campaign to labour organisations, NGOs, market women and religious organisations in the state to join the fight.

He said almost all the local councils in the state have reported incidents of HIV/AIDS claiming lives in their communities and are asking for help "before they are wiped out."

Oke said the disease was more common among the young and under-age red-light-corner girls in the city, arguing that abstinence was still the best form of checking the disease from further spread.

Earlier, the state chairman of NUJ, Mr. Ndagene Akwu, pledged journalists' supports toward the fight against the devastating virus. He, however, advised the ministry to try and work out programme and see how the media would assist in the exercise.

Nature's
Pharmacy

With Zainab Ujudud Shariff

Zee's family first aid kit

The kitchen is the most convenient place to discover and demonstrate the medicinal value of herbs. This is because the kitchen spice shelf or rack contain the available spices with the medicinal values. They are often referred to as "Emergency or crises medicines." They are useful for the first stages of disease.

Thus the kitchen spice shelf can be regarded as a safe and natural alternative to the synthetic drugs found in most first aid cabinets. The spices can be used to treat common ailments ranging from wounds, bleeding, diarrhoea, headaches, heart attack, bones, and acute infections.

It has become necessary that a family, or mother to be precise, should ensure that the following herbs which I termed the family first Aid Kit is constantly available. Not only are they available all year, they are also very cheap and very safe when used properly. The family first aid kit include the following herbs - Anise, garlic, lemon, honey, onion, thyme, rosemary, cayenne (red pepper), ginger, cinnamon, basil, cloves, fenugreek, nutmeg, aloe vera gel, Swedish bitters (if affordable). Also in the kitchen most of the preparation is carried out such as boiling water and utensils used (bowls cups and weighing scales).

Aloe Vera: Heals burns and wounds, stimulates cell regeneration, it is astringent, emollient, antifungal properties. When taken internally soothes stomach irritation, good laxative, promotes healing, useful in skin and digestive disorders, delays symptoms of ageing, estrogenic properties i.e. vitalising and tonic for women. A teaspoon of aloe, alone or combined with tumeric root taken daily for 3 months regulates liver function and relief's pre-menstrual syndrome. The powder form is known to be the best laxative and liver stimulant.

Dose: Gel or liquid take 2 tablespoons 3 x daily in juice for powder take 1 to 1 teaspoon 3 x daily. Generally, the gel is used in maintaining training beauty, prevents wrinkles, use in hepatitis, liver problems and constipation. As a remedy for piles take a teaspoonful of powder to a pint water, add 2 tea spoonful of boric acid to prevent - mixture from souring. (Do not take if pregnant or nursing).

Lemons: Antiseptic, blood purifier, excellent liver stimulant, dissolves uric acid and toxins, good remedy in malaria, liquid fies bile, suitable in cases of rheumatism, rickets, and gout - take the lemon juice. Useful in uterine bleeding, in pregnant mothers helps to build strong bones in child. Nourishes the brain and nerve cells due to its potassium content. Its calcium content confirms its use to strengthen bones and teeth, helps in formation of plasma, useful in asthma, gas, fevers. Use in sore throat-dilute 1 cup juice + 1 cup of water and use as gargle. When necessary slice of lemon tied over a cone overnight will greatly relieve pain. For asthma take a table-spoon of Lemon juice one hour before each meal. For liver, take one lemon in a glass of warm water every morning. A teaspoon of Lemon juice in 1 cup of water relieves heartburn. Lemon juice is a refreshing drink. For rheumatism one or two ounces of Lemon juice diluted and taken 3 x a day one hour before meals at bed time. In excessive menstrual bleeding - use about 3-4 lemons daily 1 lemon in a glass of cold water 3-4 times. Excellent remedy for colds, influenza, fever. To make goughort, Lemon juice drops to milk will curdle it. Soya bean milk + lemon juice will make soybean cheese can be used as alternative to vinegar. To remove ink stains, fruit stains, rub lemon juice to the affected area, cover with salt and put in the sun. A quarter teaspoon to a cup of tepid water is good for eye infections. For discharging ears use half teaspoon raw juice to one and half teaspoons of tepid water - Use raw juice externally for aches, sores, toothache, and ring worm.

Honey (Uses of honey has been discussed in the ailments) Assumed to be oldest form of medicine known to me: Used to restore strength, cures wounds, ulcers. Hippocrates: father of modern medicines "it causes heat, cleans sores, ulcers, soften hard ulcers of the lips, heals carbuncles and running nose, improves eye sight. Antibacterial agent, because of its hygroscopic power. Used as surgical dressing - especially by the Egyptians. - A mixture of honey + code - liver oil is used as an ointment for burns and wounds.

When a woman gives birth, diet of honey and water is a preventive measure against infection. Suitable for circumcised children. Mixture of honey + Lemon juice + glycerine suitable for coarse throat especially used by singers. Honey + alum used for ulcerated gums and mouth.

In Bronchitis: Use 1 tablespoon of honey in a glass of warm milk.

In Respiratory conditions: Concoction of anise, pepper, horse radish + ginger + mustard + garlic all mixed with honey. In cases of Insomnia: Two tablespoonful of honey + juices of 1 lemon + 1 orange squeezed into a tumbler, more effective than tranquilizers and more nutritious.

Minor Insomnia: 1 tablespoon of honey each night at bed time. 3 teaspoonful of cider vinegar + 1 cup full of honey, then take 2 teaspoonful at night.

Chinese prescribed for Insomnia: honey mixed with dried orange peel and ginseng. Its energy building properties makes honey suitable in the treatment of weak-hearts and reduces the risk of diabetes. Its an excellent cure for bed-wetting beeswax derived from honey comb is very effective against nose and throat ailments and against allergies like Asthma, and hay fever. The honey comb is a very widespread remedy against sinusitis. It is worth mentioning that family first-aid kit should contain all the above spices/herbs or some of the spices out of the ones with similar actions. This will go a long way in alleviating the common ailments. The woman or mother will learn to cherish and value the kitchen spices. (Family first-aid kit). Herbs medicine in the home, however is more than just first aid for minor ailments but can be truly preventive.

Fall-out of nuclear tests in New Zealand

Eleven New Zealand servicemen who watched nuclear tests in the 1950s were "extremely unlikely" to have suffered from radiation-related health problems, the New Zealand government said on Sunday.

Releasing a report into claims that New Zealand officers were used as guinea pigs in British and American radiation experiments, the government said the specialist technical or weapons officers were briefed before and after the blasts.

They were sent at the request of the then New Zealand government and its defence department, so that they could stay up to date with nuclear technology in the Cold War era.

Of the 11 observers of the nuclear blasts, six are still alive, aged between 71 and 87. The other five men were aged between 54 and 81 at the time of their deaths.

"The Ministry of Health advises that it is extremely unlikely that any of the recorded causes of death could be linked to the observation of nuclear tests," NZ Veterans' Affairs Minister, Mark Burton, said in a statement.

Similarly, there was no suggestion of links with any existing medical conditions, he said.

The probe was launched after Britain's Ministry of Defence said in May that it used New Zealand, Australian and British servicemen in experiments in Maralinga in the South Australia desert, which involved the soldiers entering an area contaminated by British atomic bomb blasts.

Officers had been exposed to low-level radiation to test the effectiveness of protective clothing, British officials said.

Burton had immediately sought assurances that the men had appropriate health checks and that they witnessed the

blasts with their informed consent.

He said on Sunday that the surviving officers had been tracked down and offered aid through his office and in general were satisfied with their current arrangements.

The inquiry was separate to an investigation underway into the health effects on 528 New Zealand Navy personnel who took part in a British nuclear testing programme at Christmas Island in the Pacific in 1957-58.

UK therapists experiment on male sex problem

British psychiatrists have said that a new therapy could offer help for millions of men suffering from premature ejaculation.

A small pilot study of a latex rubber ring has shown that it can relieve the problem that afflicts an estimated 29 percent of sexually active men.

Psychiatrists at London's Hammersmith hospital and the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, who presented the results of the pilot study at a medical conference, said they planned to begin a larger study to confirm their findings.

"The results of the pilot study were very promising. The average improvement (in performance) was 240 percent," Dr. M.E. Jan Wise, an expert in marital and sexual therapy at Hammersmith Hospital, said in a telephone interview.

So far the experimental ring has only been tested on six men, most of whom noticed an improvement within a week. Based

on their results, Wise and his colleagues plan to begin a larger controlled study in the autumn.

"I am hoping that we are going to show that not only does it produce a significant change but that is as good as the current gold standard of treatment - psycho-sexual therapy. Premature ejaculation is one of the most common male sexual prob-



Blair

lems. In most cases, it is due to anxiety.

Psycho-sexual therapy or drugs that work on the nervous system are the main forms of treatment.

In the pilot study, the men had one 45-minute consultation with a therapist and were advised to wear the ring on the base of their penis for no more than 30 minutes a day, but not during sex. They were also told to have sex three times a week.

Wise told Britain's Royal College of Psychiatrists Annual Meeting that the ring was designed to relieve the anxiety associated with the problem and also to help men who may have sensitive glands which can contribute to it.

Wise and his colleagues hope to present the findings of the controlled study, which will compare the efficacy of the ring to an established treatment, sometime next year.



Health

AIDS patients will soon have access to drugs - Dr. Gwarzo

Dr. Sani Gwarzo is the National Coordinator of the Committee on HIV/AIDS control in the Federal Ministry of Health. Recently, the ministry organised a Two-day training of clinicians on the clinical trials of Anti-Retroviral Drugs (ARV). Shortly after the opening ceremony, he had a chat with our health correspondent, IKENNA EMEKA OKPANI on the benefits of the workshop. Excerpts:

You are the National Coordinator of the Federal Ministry of Health's AIDS control committee. How has it been on the job?

It's really a history of rising and falling fortunes. But I must tell you that we are now on a very high and fast rising phase of the fortune in AIDS control. We've never had it so good. At the beginning of AIDS control in Nigeria, the major problem and until recently was funding. Now, funds are available. Now, there is political commitment. Now there is the will to act and everybody is on the move. In the past years, for AIDS patients we only counsel them, we tell them to take it easy. We advice them on what to do so that their quality of life will improve. But deep inwards we know they need something much more. They need drugs, they need medications. Now we are very grateful to God Almighty that AIDS patients will soon have access to drugs and the drugs will be affordable and that is why we are here precisely today to train our physicians on the use of these new drugs, as soon as these drugs arrive we'll just commence treatment all over the nation and bring immediate relief to people that are already infested.

How did you receive the news that the World Health Organisation (WHO) had released some money towards the fight against AIDS in Nigeria.

The World Health Organisation has been assisting for long. It is not just this year that there is additional increase. And that is a very, very positive step. The goodwill is not only from government. We now have international partners that are very supportive of us these days.

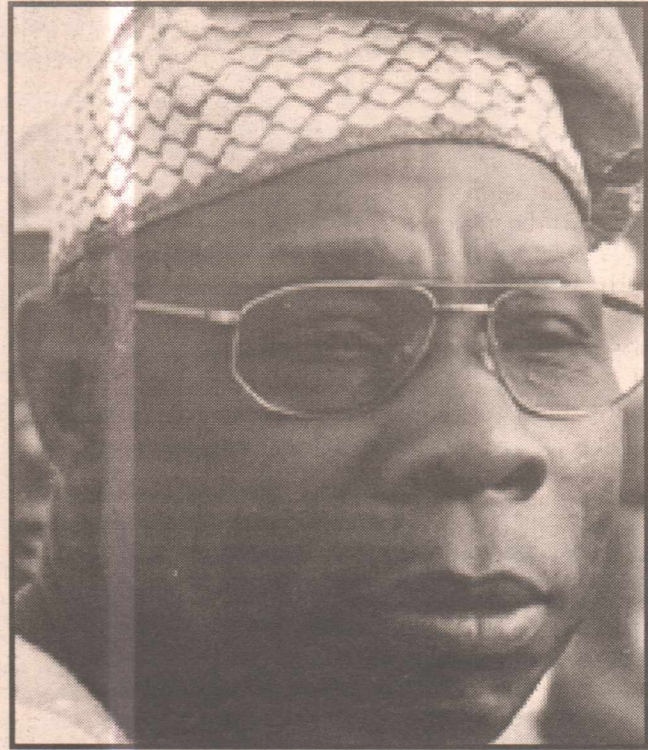
Since the African AIDS conference took place in Nigeria, has there been any change in terms of awareness among people...

(Cuts in) The entire purpose or the major purpose of hosting that last summit in Nigeria is to mobilize the leadership in Africa

and it was not intended as an awareness forum for the common man. It is a leadership mobilization forum and I must say we achieved it very wide and beyond, because since that last

back. What benefit do you think Nigerians are likely to derive from the workshop on Anti-Retroviral Drugs?

Yes, the drugs that we are



President Obasanjo

summit, African leaders were committed and in fact international world leaders have been more committed and you can see the result. The United Nations has hosted another summit because of that and has opened a global fund for AIDS, additional funding is coming from everywhere. So we must say it's been a very big success. Very soon, that will be translated into the benefits that the common man in the streets or in the villages and rural areas will benefit from.

Are there some other areas you will like government to do something more?

Well, government is doing a lot these days. The prayer is that government would sustain this and we are making efforts to see that whatever has been put in place today is sustained and increased and there is no going

bringing in for people living with AIDS are drugs that are very very sensitive. You don't just sell them on the street, you don't even sell them in the hospital. They have to be properly controlled and managed by clinicians, the pharmacists and everybody in the system. They have to be properly monitored by laboratory personnels. So, for them to do this, we are giving them initial training and that is what we are doing today. So, that when these drugs come in we can use them without any fear of them being abused or being displaced.

When are the drugs expected?

Any moment from now. **Moment, no time?**

I don't think we shall pass the next two weeks. I don't think so.

Doctors promised on Saturday to provide a detailed progress report on the health of the world's first recipient of a self-contained mechanical heart on Monday.

The news briefing will be only the second of such briefing since the groundbreaking procedure was performed two weeks ago.

Information about the patient's progress has been closely guarded by the hospital and Abiomed Inc., the Danvers, Massachusetts-based company that created the mechanical heart.

That cloak of secrecy, which Abiomed claims is needed to

Doctors to discuss artificial heart patient

protect the patient's privacy, has drawn the ire of the press and of medical ethicists.

In its only news conference to date, held on July 4, Jewish Hospital officials described the patient as a diabetic man in his fifties.

Abiomed's heart, the AbioCor, weighs about two pounds and is completely contained within the patient's body. The company has said it

hopes to double the life expectancy of the critically ill patients who participate in the study. Patients considered for the device are those who have fewer than 30 days to live.

Abiomed has attempted to impose a 30-day quiet period during the heart recipient's recovery unless there was a significant change in the patient's progress.

However, a Jewish Hospital spokesman told Reuters that policy was difficult to enforce because stories were leaking to the press.

Globalising the fight against HIV/AIDS

Recently, world leaders, under the auspices of the UN, gathered in New York to streamline the essential elements for a global strategy to defeat HIV/AIDS.

Worried by the failure so far of science to produce preventive and curative medicine for the scourge, and the rising trend of its spread, the UN spearheaded the summit of political and business leaders and representatives of civil society organisations to deliberate on international efforts in the fight against the epidemic.

About 3,000 delegates attended the meeting, with 2,000 of them representing civil society organisations.

At least 17 African heads of state and government attended the meeting, underscoring the importance attached to the scourge by African leaders.

Among the strategies issued at the meeting, prevention was stressed as the mainstay of international response to the crisis. But African leaders stood their ground that cure was as important.

Prior to the meeting, UN Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, had set out an agenda of five priorities for action in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

Annan's agenda were predicated on preventing further spread of the epidemic, reducing HIV transmission from mother to child, ensuring that care and treatment is within reach of all, delivering scientific breakthrough and protecting those made most vulnerable by the epidemic, especially the orphans.

The Secretary-General also identified six factors needed to achieve those goals. They include leadership commitment, engagement of local communities, women empowerment, the strengthening of public healthcare systems and financial commitment.

In speeches at Abuja, Geneva and Philadelphia, Annan called for partnerships among governments, non-governmental organisations, the corporate sector, foundations and the UN family to achieve the set goals.

The UN special session aimed to galvanise political commitment and leadership to tackle what nations had agreed constituted a global emergency.

The special session adopted a final document entitled "Global crisis, Global action," the declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS, which contains significant targets and strategies for combating the scourge.

The declaration sets out targets and ways of dealing with the crisis, ranging from leadership

commitment at all levels, prevention, care and treatment and respect for the human rights of patients.

The declaration also calls for support for children orphaned by AIDS, the alleviation of the social and economic impact of the epidemic, the provision of adequate resources for the anti-AIDS war and the conduct of research for a vaccine.

It set up a global fund from which research and other identified projects to lessen the impact of the scourge would be funded. Nigeria has already announced a donation of \$10 million to the fund.

Annan described the meeting, held under the auspices of the General Assembly, as historic by the level of attendance and the strategy contained in the declaration.

The meeting agreed that every country establish by 2003 time-bound prevention targets, including the reduction of HIV prevalence among young people by 25 percent between 2005 and 2010.

Issues to be covered in prevention work include challenging gender stereotypes and inequalities in relation to the disease and encouraging the involvement of men and boys, facilitating access to information on health and social services and implementing universal precautions in health care settings to prevent transmission.

Prevention programmes, which should be ready for implementation by 2005, are to be established in public, private and informal work sectors.

The programmes are to aim at reducing risk behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour and access to male and female condoms, sterile injecting equipment, as well as counselling and testing.

The declaration requires that at least 90 percent of young people have access to HIV education by 2005 while the percentage should increase to 95 percent five years later.

In respect of infants, the document states that efforts be made to reduce infant infection by 20 percent by 2005 and by 50 percent by 2010.

This is to be done by ensuring that 80 percent of pregnant women have information on prevention services and providing treatment for HIV-infected women and babies to reduce mother-to-child transmission.

The declaration also underscored the need for care, support and treatment for AIDS patients.

Central to the effort is the development by 2003 of na-

tional strategies, supported by international strategies, to strengthen health care systems and address issues of pricing and affordability of antiretroviral drugs and the treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Relatedly, improvements are to be made in the capacity and working conditions of health care personnel, in the effectiveness of supply systems and in referral mechanisms for providing access to affordable medicines.

Many activists at the meeting stressed the importance of treatment to prevention strategies, since it services as an incentive for people to get tested and thus begin to have access to care and information to avoid risk behaviour.

Appraising the session shortly after it wound up, the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland, admonished health professionals to do even more to confront the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and respond to its consequences.

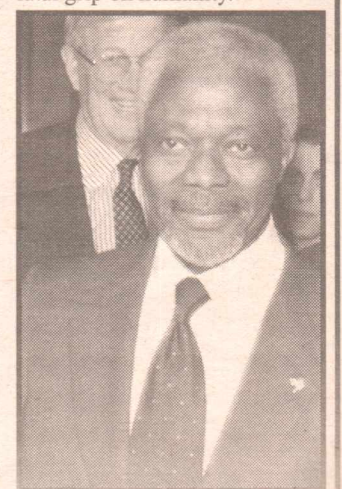
Brundtland said: "The world's nations have overcome deep differences to reach agreement on the critical elements of the response. Yesterday they made a profound political commitment, agreeing on a clear set of targets for action."

Twenty years after the first cases of AIDS were diagnosed, a broad range of organisations are now helping governments and affected societies to intensify their response, said Brundtland.

She pointed out that the new political commitment provides an important platform for scaling up the response - at global and local levels.

An estimated 36.1 million people worldwide are living with HIV/AIDS. Already, 21.8 million people around the world have died of the scourge, 4.3 of them children.

With the renewed global commitment, it is hoped that HIV/AIDS pandemic will loosen its fatal grip on humanity.



Kofi Annan

HEALTH TIPS

Summary of result of HIV prevalence in zones (1999 HIV/SYPHILIS sentinel sero-prevalence survey in Nigeria).

| ZONE A (SOUTH-EAST) | ZONE B (SOUTH-WEST) | ZONE C (NORTH-WEST) |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Abia 3.0 | Ekiti 2.2 | Jigawa 1.7 |
| Anambra 6.1 | Lagos 6.7 | Kaduna 11.6 |
| Ebonyi 9.3 | Ogun 2.5 | Kano 2.3 |
| Enugu 4.7 | Ondo 2.9 | Katsina 3.7 |
| Imo 7.3 | Osun 3.7 | Kebbi 2.7 |
| | Oyo 3.5 | Sokoto 2.7 |
| | | Zamfara 2.7 |
| ZONE D (NORTH-EAST) | ZONE E (NORTH-CENTRAL) | ZONE F (SOUTH-SOUTH) |
| Adamawa 5.0 | Benue 16.8 | Akwa Ibom 12.5 |
| Bauchi 3.0 | FCT 7.2 | Bayelsa 4.3 |
| Borno 4.5 | Kogi 5.2 | Cross River 5.8 |
| Gombe 4.7 | Kwara 3.2 | Delta 4.2 |
| Taraba 5.5 | Nasarawa 10.8 | Edo 5.9 |
| Yobe 1.9 | Niger 6.7 | Rivers 3.3 |
| | Plateau 6.1 | |

Within every zone, HIV hotspots exist where prevalence rates are much higher. The hotspots include Akwa Ibom, Benue, Ebonyi, Kaduna, Lagos, and Taraba.



Crime & Punishment



Divorcee held for murder

A divorcee who gave birth and allegedly killed the child is now being detained by the police in Zaria, Kaduna State, for alleged infanticide.

The suspect, who was arrested at her parent's home in Tudun Wada, Zaria, over the weekend, was detained at the police post in Tudun Wada, Zaria before she was transferred to Zaria police zonal headquarters, Sabon Gari.

A News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) correspondent who visited the police station observed that the suspect had fallen ill, while efforts were being made to take her to Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Zaria for treatment.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), in charge of Zaria, zonal command, Alhaji Suleiman Lawal, confirmed

the arrest, saying that the corpse of the child had since been deposited at ABUTH's mortuary.

He also announced the arrest of a notorious armed robber, simply identified as Bashir, who allegedly participated in many armed robbery operations including the one in which a Zaria-based businessman, one Alhaji Haruna was killed at Gyellesu area a few months ago.

He said that the police

has impounded a Toyota corolla car bought by the suspect in the name of his father, while the old man is also helping the police in their investigations.

The police area commander told (NAN) that the suspect, who was arrested in a prostitute's house at Unguwar Gwado had been on the police wanted list for the past six months, adding that he will soon be arraigned in court.

Six docked for belonging to robbery gang

Six men suspected to be members of a robbery gang have been arraigned before an Abuja Upper Area Court.

The suspects, Peter Awuaga, Musa Dahiru, Momoh Yakubu, Sunday E d o k a , D a n j u m a Muhammad and Ogah Okala, were alleged to

belong to a gang which has been terrorising residents of new Nyanya in the Karu Local Government Area of Nassarawa State.

The prosecuting police Sergeant, Mr. Makama Abdullahi, said that the six accused persons were arrested on June 18, this year based on information

A very senior Kano State Government official and some highly placed persons in the business community were among 60 people arrested by the Kano State Police Command during a raid on prostitutes and criminal hideouts in Kano metropolis recently.

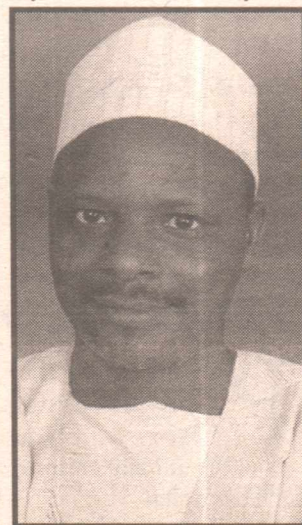
The official was quietly released after identification

He was said to have been arrested at Concord Hotel in Sabon Gari area of Kano Municipality along with women of easy virtues at about 2:30 a.m.

Police raid Kano metropolis

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

Out of the sixty arrested persons aged between 19 and 30 years, 40 were charged to the sharia court at Gyadi-Gyadi because they are



Gov. Kwankwaso,

Muslims while the rest were charged to the magistrate court for prosecution under section four of the Prostitution Acts prohibition law of 2000.

Confirming the raids, Kano State Police Commissioner, Alhaji Uba Yakubu said the operation was part of efforts by the State Police Command to rid

the city of undesirable elements, adding that some of the arrested prostitutes act as agents to car snatchers who use them as baits to unsuspecting motorists.

He explained that while a syndicate that specialises in car snatching was smashed by the command, five stolen vehicles were recovered from them recently.

Alhaji Yakubu said the lull in crime wave in Kano in recent times was as a result of vigorous patrol and raids on "black spots" by the command making it difficult for criminals to operate.

He stated that the ten vehicles recently donated to the Police Command by the State Government has helped tremendously to improve the logistic problems of the command, hence the effectiveness of latest police strategies to reduce crime in the state.

He assured Kano State residents of police resolve to make Kano State crime free, adding that the public must assist the police with information on criminals and their activities so that they can be tracked.

Police recover corpse of missing girl

The police in Zaria, Kaduna State have recovered the corpse of a school drop-out, Miss Rebecca Voh, who was reported missing from home for the past three months.

Confirming the development in Zaria, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) in charge of Zaria zone, Alhaji Suleiman Lawal, said the corpse was discovered at her boyfriend's residence at Dakache village in the Zaria Local Government Area.

He said that the boyfriend, whose identity and whereabouts were still unknown, was believed to be a staff of the Sunseed Company, Dakache before his sudden disappearance.

However, he revealed that the landlord of the "run-away" boyfriend would be invited for questioning over the matter, saying that the

police were yet to ascertain the cause of her death.

Suleiman further said that the police were unable to perform an autopsy on the corpse, following the inability of relations of the deceased to pay the N30,000 needed for the exercise at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital.

"We have no option than to release the corpse to the family as demanded by them, even though

investigations into her death are incomplete," he stated.

The deceased, a Senior Secondary School (SSS) student of Soba Science School, allegedly absconded from the college for unknown reasons and decided to reside with her boyfriend at Dakache village without the knowledge and permission of her guardians who reside at Shika village in Giwa Local Government Area.

received by an Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) that some people suspected to be armed robbers were residing in the area.

He said that on interrogation, the accused persons were unable to give any satisfactory explanation about their means of livelihood.

The suspects pleaded not guilty to the charge. In his ruling, the presiding judge, Malam Aliyu Abdulrahman, granted the suspects bail in the sum of N200,000 each with a reliable surety who must reside within the jurisdiction of the court.

Abdulrahman also warned the suspects to desist from any unlawful act, saying that they should go back to the village to farm.

Further hearing was adjourned to July 31.

Briton arrested over child-sex

Sri Lankan police said on Sunday they had arrested a British tourist over child sex charges.

The 45-year-old man

was taken into custody after he was found in company of a boy during a raid on a hotel in the capital, Colombo. Said an officer of the Police Women and children Bureau, "he has not been produced before a magistrate court and will remain in custody for the

Child trafficker arrested in Warri

The police in Delta State have arrested a man for allegedly attempting to sell an eight-year-old girl in Warri.

A police source said the suspected human trafficker was nabbed last week at Igbudu market following a

tip-off.

According to the source, a resident along Igbudu market road in the oil city last Saturday, tipped off the police that a man who said he was from Ahoada in Rivers State brought a girl to him to assist in "selling."

Based on the information, detectives put the suspect under surveillance and later arrested him with the girl.

The police command spokesman, Mr. Ita Selong, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), confirmed the incident and said the suspect

has made useful statements.

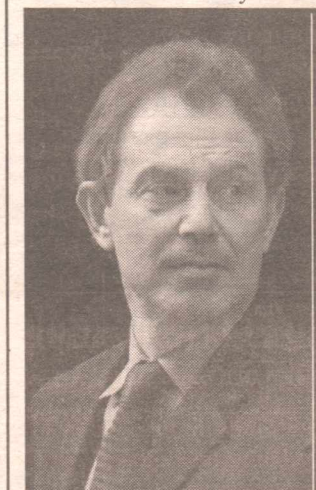
He also said that investigations had commenced on the case to enable the command uncover the brains behind the incident, which he described as "uncommon and disturbing."

Mr. Selong called for the co-operation of the public in the task of checking crime in the state through the supply of useful information.

It will be recalled that the Nigerian government has come out to condemn in strong terms the issue of women and child trafficking which is fast becoming a national embarrassment.

Recently, studies have shown that trafficking is mostly profound in the south-south and south-eastern states of Nigeria particularly states like Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Delta, Asia and Imo State.

While Edo States, according to the statistics provides the larger victims of women trafficking eventhough most of the other states are equally guilty of the practices.



Blair

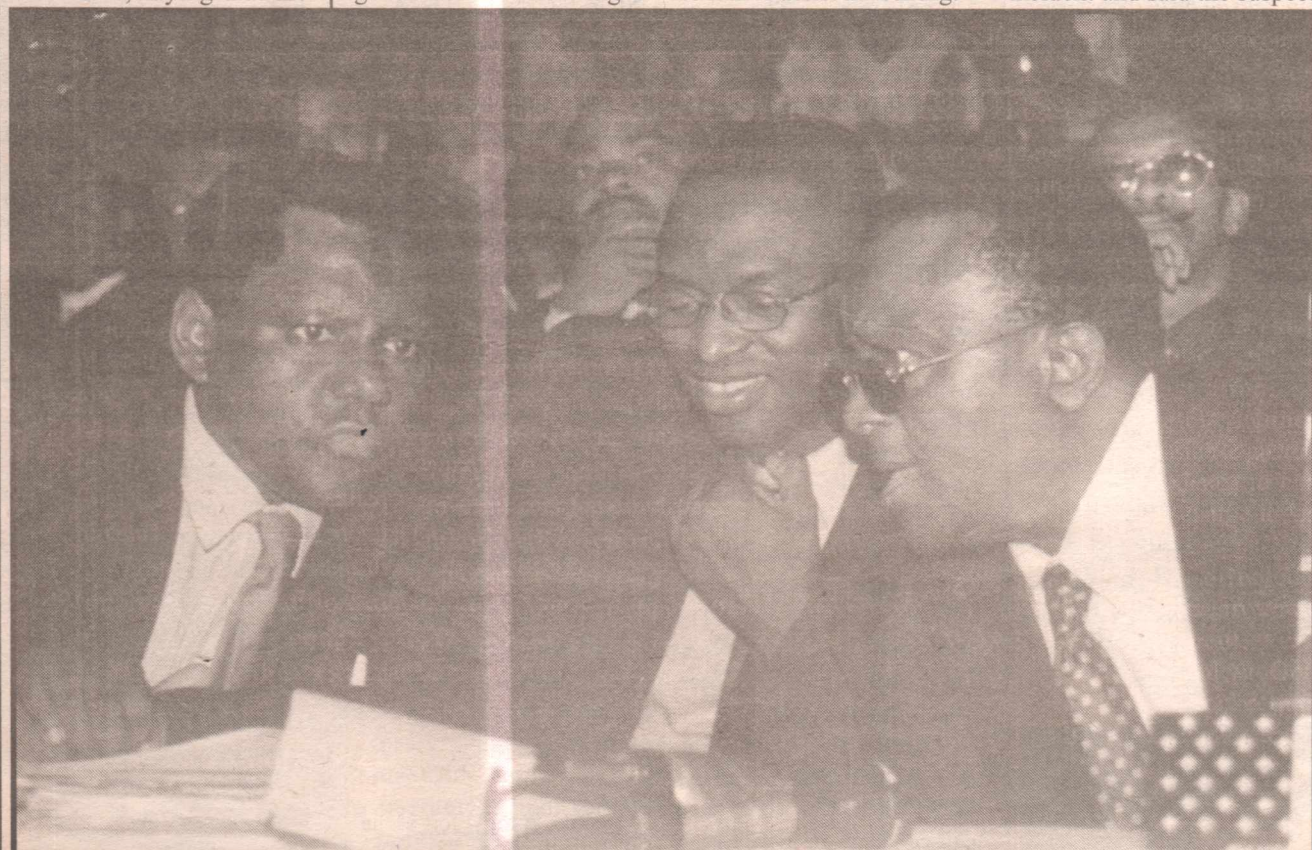
moment," said the officer.

Sri Lanka has toughened its laws on sex offences against minors and set up a Child Protection Authority in a bid to shed its image as a paedophile's paradise.

However, child prostitution is still widely practised in beach resorts frequented by mostly Western tourists.

A Norwegian national was sentenced to 14 years in jail in 1999 after being arrested on similar charges.

It will be recalled that the problems associated with travels and tourism have in recent times provoked countries through the United Nations (UN) enunciate programmes and laws aimed at protecting children in particular.



Chief Gani Fawehinmi (Dele Giwa's counsel) right, exchanging views with Mustapha Wali (counsel to General Babangida) while Barrister Ibrahim G. Adamu (centre) seems amused...; at the Oputa Panel, July 11, 2001. Pix: Felix Onigbinde

Abuja News

AEPB tear-gas traders at Secretariat

Motor Park

Men from the Abuja Environmental Protection Board last week engaged traders at the Federal Secretariat motor park, Abuja, in a mild stand-off after seizing their wares and setting them ablaze.

The Environmental Task Force team had stormed the motor park, seized some wares displayed for sale and set some alight, including the tables and other furniture used by the traders.

The traders who were mainly women and children, stood helplessly as their belongings burnt. Some who were courageous enough, pleaded unsuccessfully with the task force members for the release of their seized wares which were parked in two Peugeot pick-up vans marked CT 61 AO3 and CT 29 AO4 respectively. A few

Stories by Austine Odo

of the traders however gathered in groups to insult the AEPB men who remained calm.

After ensuring that the wares had burnt beyond retrieval, the team, led by a

police Sergeant who had no nametag on him, started to leave with the seized wares when the traders began to hurl stones at them.

The police responded with teargas, to send the enraged traders away before finally leaving the park with the seized wares.

The traders who spoke to *Daily Trust* after the

departure of the task force team, said they were trying "to make ends meet" by setting up small scale trade

outlets as a way of depending less on government for everything, only to face such a set back. They argued that it would have been better had they received prior notice before the AEPB operation.

FCT seeks more representation in Assembly

The Federal Government has been urged to increase the level of representation of the FCT in the

National Assembly.

Speaking with newsmen in Abuja last week, the Member representing Gwagwalada, Abaji and Kwali area councils in the House of Representatives, Honourable Yusuf Babantakwa said the FCT should have equal representation in the legislature and should be treated like a state.

Hon. Babantakwa pointed out that it would be a question of fair treatment to give the FCT a fair share in governance, adding that an administrative structure was also necessary for the FCT to give people of the Territory the civic right to elect their own leaders.

The member who is also the chairman, Special Projects Management Agency and a member of the Constitution Review Committee, described as a joke, the proposed excision of Kwali and Abaji from the FCT. He noted that the FCT deserved more than just one Ambassadorial post, adding that having given their land to the Federal Government to site a Federal Capital, the people of the FCT deserved to be treated fairly.

Honourable Babantakwa pointed out that contrary to wide spread speculations, only the people resettled in Sabon Wuse, Sabon Karu and Sabon Gwagwalada were compensated.

SGF assures on silos

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Chief Ufot Ekaette has declared that the Silos constructed by the Federal Government would be rehabilitated to meet the needs of the people. He said the Federal government would ensure that the silos would be made to function.

Chief Ekaette made the declaration in Abuja in his office while receiving the Report of the Panel of the National Strategic Grains reserve Silos Contract Evaluation Panel headed by Alhaji Hussaini Adamu Dikko.

The Panel inaugurated on March 2, 2001 also has Professor Ibrahim Ayagi, Professor G. A. Makanjuola, Mr. Charles Nwaonuala and Mr. A. N. Osa-Afiana as members.

Submitting the Report, Alhaji Dikko urged the Federal Government to look into the Report of his Panel and implement relevant recommendations of the Report.

He thanked the Federal Government for giving members of his Panel an opportunity to serve.

Patients decry bad state of Garki Hospital

Patients at the Garki General Hospital have complained about the attitude of doctors in the hospital.

Daily Trust gathered from patients at the hospital that since the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA) called off its strike, the doctors in the hospital had not been very responsive to duty.

Some of the patients who spoke to *Daily Trust* said doctors do not resume duty until 11 o'clock every morning.

"Only few of them come to work by 10 o'clock, and the few who come do not stay for more than two hours, to even collect patients card is a difficult thing in this hospital. Even when you succeed in collecting card, you are either told that the doctor has not come to the office or he has just gone out, and you will wait for the rest of the day without seeing them," said a patient.

"We are being made to suffer severe pains in this

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

hospital," another patient said.

None of the doctors was available for comment when *Daily Trust* called at the hospital, but a reliable source confirmed the allegations, adding that the doctors have a way of protecting one another. The source further stated that the hospital authorities were aware of the issue but seem unable to call the doctors to order.

Investigations by *Daily Trust* revealed that the

hospital is short of sanitary workers which according to sources, was responsible for the very untidy situation at the hospital and the surroundings which were overgrown with grasses and littered with pieces of paper.

Reliable sources also said the hospital does not have any toilet and *Daily Trust* confirmed that the only toilet available in the hospital is in very bad state.

In addition to the many cases of leaking roofs, parts of the hospital surroundings were also seen littered with faeces.

Cats hold couple to ransom

A couple battled in the rain for several hours yesterday morning in Karmo, an Abuja suburb to remove two cats from their cars after discovering that the cats had hidden in their vehicles' engines.

Trouble started when the man, who requested anonymity, decided to use his

wife's Toyota Carrina to work. "After starting the car," the man recounted, "we heard the sound of a cat along with that of the car, I was cold to my spine, it was like a dream."

The couple then disembarked to find out where the cat was. After a frantic search for more than two hours, the couple, helped by neighbours, who held sticks and machetes, fetched out the strange-looking cat which attached itself to the car engine.

They promptly cut it to pieces and decided to drop the Toyota for the man's Peugeot 504 saloon car. The couple said they later heard a similar cat sound in the Peugeot car, and took another two hours to identify the particular place the cat was, and it was instantly killed like the first one.

"The strange thing is, the cats appeared invisible at first. You would hear the sound in front, you open and the sound transfers instantly to the back, in and out, we searched until we got them," he narrated.

Neighbours who helped the couple dislodge the cats from the car engines wondered what the cats were doing by the engines of the two cars, and the difficulty in tracing them. The neighbours were of the view that the cats would have been objects of witchcraft.

"Holy Ghost fire! They have missed road! Whatever brought them here would have realised they came to the wrong place," the man's wife said as the second cat was cut to pieces before being burnt to ashes.



Engr. Abba-Gana, FCT Minister.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY FOR SALE IN KADUNA

There is a Commercial Property situated in Kaduna for sale. The Commercial Property is strategically located and fully developed. The Commercial Property has a very large production hall measuring 23.80 metre x 22.10 metres finished in well troweled concrete floor. There is an administrative section with 11 standard offices with toilets and with Terrazo floor and glass windows fitted on aluminium frames. There is a vehicle/fork-lift drive-in into the production Hall. The main entrance to the administrative section is a large double leaf glass door fitted on Aluminium frames. There is a Generator House, a reception building, security House by the gate, a large over head water tank, an empty or vacant land inside the premises measuring 30.0 metres x 16.50 metres for further development. There is a large car parking space inside the premises. The premises is well fenced with sandcrete blocks up to 1.8m height with a Big Main Gate for entrance. The Property is in good structural condition, not dillapidated and need no repairs and can be used immediately **POSSIBLE USES:-** Manufacturing packaging, Industrial & Mechanical Workshop. Warehouse, Depot/Store, Commercial Printing & Publishing, Cold Store, Corporate/Operational Head-Quarters, Banking Business etc. **TITLE:-** The title is clean and no encumbrance exist5. The property is covered by Kaduna State C of O for 40 years with effect from 25 - 11- 1999

LOCATION:- Kaduna South, Kaduna.

Interested Buyers Should Contact
BARRISTER JOB DANGANA
RC: 323098

M3 Ahmadu Bello Way, Opposite Ikara Motors Central
Market Area, P.O. BOX 2956 Kaduna - Nigeria
TELEPHONE: 062 - 218318 FAX 062: 241048

Minister, Perm Sec absent at population events

Activities marking the World Population Day were rounded off last week in Abuja with neither the Minister of Health, Prof. Alponsus Nwosu, nor the Minister of State for Health, Dr. Amina Ndalolo, featuring in any of the events.

The activities, organised by the Ministry's Population Development Activities department, started on Tuesday with a news conference and ended Wednesday with lectures and drama presentations.

The programme of events, released by the ministry to newsmen last Tuesday in Abuja, had Nwosu listed to address the news conference to commemorate the event.

When the Minister did not show up for the event, which was scheduled for 10 a.m., words went round that Ndalolo would represent him.

At about 12 noon however, the master of ceremonies said that a Director in the ministry, Dr. Suleiman Sani, would stand in for the minister and made

an announcement.

The announcement was that the Director was asked to play that role because the ministry's permanent secretary, Mr. Shehu Suleiman, who was next in hierarchy, was also not available.

When the event marking the day was held at the auditorium of the National Universities Commission (NUC) in Abuja, neither the minister nor the minister of state was present.

The permanent secretary too was not there, leading to complaints by observers that the ministry may not have taken the population day seriously.

Some of them who spoke to newsmen at the venue of the celebration expressed surprise at the absence of the top officials of the ministry at all the activities.

Attendance at the lectures organised to mark the day was poor as only few school children were seen at the NUC auditorium, where the event took place.

The theme of this year's celebration is "Population development and Environment."



SPORTS



Stadia to be commercialised, not privatised -Ekeji

Mr. Patrick Ekeji, the Director of Facilities and Venues, Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Development, yesterday clarified that the Federal Government-owned stadia are to be commercialised rather than privatised as reported by some media outlets.

Ekeji told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja that the ministry had received directives from the presidency on the commercialisation of the five stadia in Lagos, Ibadan Enugu and Abuja.

According to him, the aim of the commercialisation exercise is to derive adequate revenue from each of the stadia, and ensure that they are properly maintained.

The ministry, he said, "can no longer afford what it takes to maintain the facilities," pointing out that it had become imperative that government handed over the marketing and management of its stadia to the private sector for proper accountability and management.

Lamenting on the extent of vandalism of facilities in such stadia, Ekeji called on Nigerians to show interest in the protection of government properties in their areas.

He said that the planned commercialisation exercise would mark a turning-point in sports development in the country.

"We can't privatise the stadia for now. We are rather

commercialising them for proper management and revenue derivation through the agents or companies who will show interest," he said.

He enjoined private companies to invest heavily in management business of such sporting facilities, adding that they could generate adequate funds if properly

...NFA may pay to use stadia

Nigeria Football Association (NFA) may pay some fees to use government owned stadia, following plans by the Federal Ministry of Sports and Social Development to commercialise them.

Making the announcement at the weekend during the bidding process for the the marketing and managing of the new national stadium now under construction in Abuja, the Director of Facilities and Venues in the ministry, Mr. Patrick Ekeji, said that the NFA might pay for their matches and other activities in the stadia.

Ekeji said that the NFA would have to meet the requirements of the marketing managers, who, he noted, would be in-charge of managing government owned stadia, adding: "The ministry will no longer have hundred per cent control over its sporting centres when the

managed.

Ekeji explained that in spite of the commercialisation plans, the ministry still had powers to stop any stadium management from using it for events that were not in the interest of the nation.

He said that the ministry would soon advertise for the commercialisation of Na-

tional Stadium in Lagos. Three private companies had, on Friday, bid for the management and marketing of the N38 billion National Stadium still under construction in Abuja.

The companies are Marketing and Media Ltd, FSB and South Point and Knight Frank APT-Tenus Consortium.

privatisation process is completed."

The director had announced that the Sports Ministry would privatise stadia under its jurisdiction as part of effort to boost revenue and ensure proper management of facilities in the stadia.

"This is another avenue of seeking for fund to maintain our stadia. Money is no longer in abundance. Governments now find it very difficult to maintain it stadia after pumping so much money to provide them, so we want it in the hands of the private people who will be accountable to us," he explained.

"NFA is a corporate body, it has the powers to go into business and I don't see any reason why they should not be willing to pay to use the

stadia for any of their matches or competitions," he stressed.

He stated that the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) could also be expected to pay specified fees to the marketing companies before they would be allowed to cover matches in the government owned stadia, just like any other individual or group, he added.

Reacting to a question on the effect of the marketing managers monopolising the stadia, Ekeji said that the ministry would ensure that the changes would not be unreasonable.

He called on corporate bodies in and outside the country to invest heavily on the speedy development of sports.

AFN defends list of foreign based athletes

Some ageing athletes would be dropped from the list of foreign-based

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos

athletes invited for Mobil Track and Field coming up next week, the Athletic Federation of Nigeria scribe, Calid Gidado said the decision was taken in good faith.

Speaking with *Trustsports* yesterday, Gidado said some of the older athletes were invited so that they would have the opportunity to prove themselves.

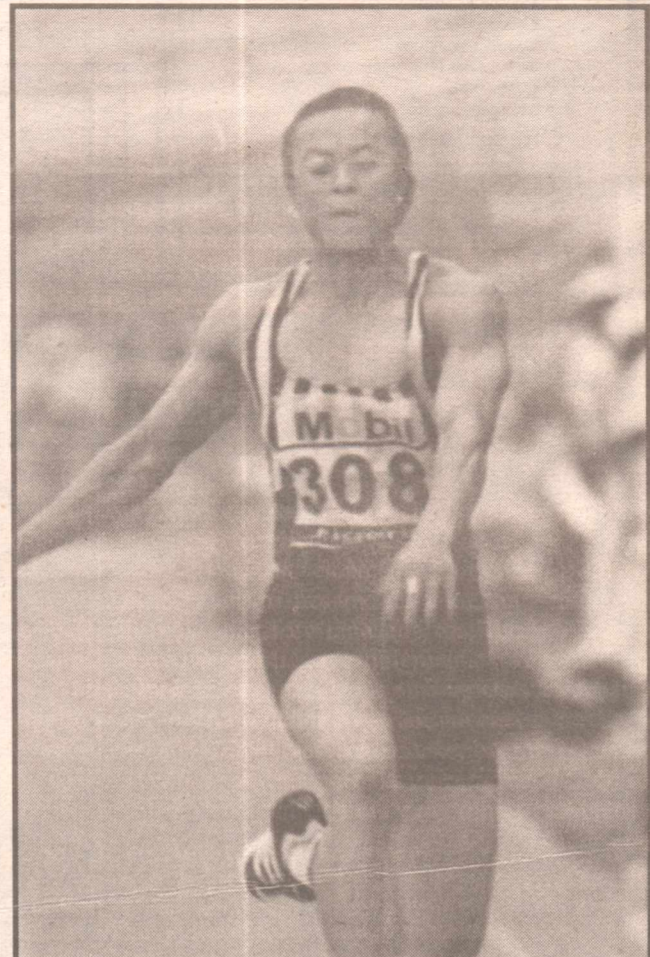
The former Nigeria Cycling Federation stressed that there is no automatic shirts for any athlete in the forthcoming world athletic championship.

He stressed that the federation is expecting a keener competition between the home-based athletes and their foreign-based counterparts in the championship.

He stated further that all the foreign-based athletes have been advised to report to Mainland Hotel at Oyingbo in Lagos as soon as they get to Nigeria.

"Everything has been put in place to ensure a smooth championship," he assured.

Meanwhile, the names of the foreign-based athletes invited are: Francis Obikwelu, Deji Aliu, Enefiok Udo-Obong, Feddis Gadzama, Nduka Awazie (to be put on hold), Sylvester Omodiale, Sunday Bada, Jude Monye, Ajidade Taiwo, Uche Emedole, Falolat Ogunkoya, Mercy Nku, Mary Onyali, Gbolis Alozie, Bisi Afolabi, Kudirat Akhigbe, Joan Uduak Ekah, Endurance Ojokolo, Chioma Ajunwa and Ime Akpan.



Chinedu Odozor in action during the 2000 Mobil Track & Field Championship. This year's events will hold on Saturday at the National Stadium, Lagos.

Rogge possesses qualities to head IOC

Articulate, multi-lingual and a natural diplomat, Jacques Rogge has all the right credentials to guide the International Olympic Committee (IOC) through the early years of the 21st century.

The 59-year-old Belgian surgeon won a landslide victory on Monday to succeed Juan Antonio Samaranch as IOC president.

Rogge, an IOC member for only 10 years, has won a reputation for crisis management.

After representing Belgium as a yachtsman for three successive Olympics, Rogge moved into sports politics and was charged mission at to winter and three summer Games.

He joined the IOC in 1991 and was appointed vice-chairman of the medical commission three years later. He is also a council member of the World Anti-Doping Agency, which is chaired by one of his presidential rivals, Canadian Lawyer Dick Pound.

Rogge was the chief coordinator at last year's successful Sydney Olympics and has been given responsibility for ensuring preparations are on course for the 2004 Athens Games.

His immediate responsibility will be to restore credibility to the IOC, which has been tarnished by the corruption scandal which resulted in 10 members leaving the organising and the underlying problem of doping in sport.

Ten members were either expelled or resigned after accepting bribes in Salt Lake City's successful bid to stage the 2002 winter Games and the IOC has also been criticised for not tackling the problems of drugs.

On Monday Rogge pledged to protect the Olympic movement against "doping, corruption and violence"

"The very first challenge for the International Olympic Committee is to have a very successful Salt Lake City Games and we will untied everyone to help our American friends in this endeavour," he said.

In an interview with Reuters during the final few days of campaigning before Monday's election, Rogge paid tribute to Samaranch's achievement but said it was time for the IOC to move on.

"I have the greatest respect for what Samaranch has done... but Samaranch had his presidency of a period of over 21 years," Rogge said.

"He is a man from a different generation. The next president will have to work more as a team worker, will have to empower as much as possible with his colleagues and try to involve everyone. And his mandate will be a shorter one."

Olympic insiders say Rogge is determined to succeed despite his reputation as a consensus politician.

He has an image as a fixer and often resorts to medial language to describe his tactics in sports administration, stressing that he is not afraid to attack a problem.

"As a surgeon where there is an abscess, you cut, you evacuate the pus and you let the body heal," he said. "If you have a problem you have to address it as soon as possible."

"I think I can be described as being a trouble-shooter. If there is a problem I come and try to solve it."

Rogge takes the helm for an eight-year term, which could be renewed for a maximum of four further years.

Money cannot buy success -Wenger

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger is not intimidated by the 28.1-million-pound (\$39.39-million) record signing of Juan Veron by premier league rivals Manchester United.

Wenger told the *Sunday Peoples* newspaper he was not concerned that the champions had spent twice as much as Arsenal on transfers this summer.

"I'm not intimidated by the signing of Verno," Wenger said.

"You have to say United are lucky to be able to spend so much money. But as far as him being worth that amount, I don't know."

As well as the huge outlay on Argentina midfielder Veron, United have also spend 19 million pounds on Netherlands striker Ruud

Van Nisterloooy.

Wenger has brought in Francis Jeffers, Giovanni Van Bronckhorst, free signing Sol Campbell and goalkeeper Ricahrd Wright for an estimated total of 24.5 million pounds.

"I think Veron is a great player but the price of a player is sometimes dictated by how much a club has to spend," Wenger said. "And United do have money to spend."

"At the moment we don't - but we will have one day."

"Just trying to beat United without spending that sort of money - that's our challenge."

"The only thing that matters is how well you play. Money sometimes helps you to be successful but there are plenty of teams in Europe who have spent fortunes but still don't have a team."

"You can find good players without spending huge sums. Some of the biggest stars today at Arsenal were not very expensive when we bought them."

Wenger also said his side would have to show a big improvement on last season if they were to win the title from United.

"There was a 10-point difference between us last year and I don't think they are any weaker now," he said.

"I hope we are stronger. To win the title we have got to show that. Let's not forget they have spent maybe four times more than us."



Ranchers Bees and Mighty Jets players scramble for the ball in a midfield tussle during last season's league encounter. Pix Joe Oroye

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DAILY TRUST



Sports Illustrated

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Funds may stall Eaglets tour of South America

Golden Eaglets planned tour of South America to fine-tune preparation for the World U-17 championship in Trinidad and Tobago may have hit the rock for want of funds.

The tour, which would have seen the Eaglets trade trinkets with their Samba exponents counterparts-Brazil, may have died a premature death for want of sponsors to bankroll the trip.

The NFA had in concert with the sports ministry's new approach to funding sport embarked on sponsorship drive for the trip but it may have failed to make any head way, a situation that has put on hold further preparation for the trip.

Before now, the Eaglets were arranged to embark on West African tour where they would have clashed with the Black Meteors of Ghana, Junior Stallion of Burkina Faso, play Mali, Togo and Guinea.

But this arrangement failed as both fund and their hosts combined to thwart the plan.

However, the NFA has been undaunted, making frantic efforts to secure responses for cracker friendly matches to raise funds for the team.

An official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, expressed disgust with the repeated failure to track down any team for friendly matches even as the official spurned the ministry's refusals to release funds for such friendlies.

The Eaglets, who are in the same group with France, Japan and the USA, are currently camping in Kaduna under the watchful eyes of coaches Musa Abdullahi, Hassan Abubakar and Emmanuel Osigwe.

The World U-17 Championship is scheduled to hold on September 13 through 30 in Trinidad and Tobago.



Roberto Duran of Panama, right, lands a right to the chest of Hector Camacho of Puerto Rico during the second round of their super middleweight WBA championship fight in Denver on Saturday night.



Colombia's Victor Aristazabal control the ball during their Copa America encounter against Ecuador on Saturday.

Oliseh shuns NFA

By Patrick Andrew

Super Eagles skipper, Sunday Oliseh, has turned his back on the NFA over inquest into his claimed injury problem.

Oliseh who was left out of the desert war in Omdurman in which the Eagles trounced the Falcons of Sudan 4-0 to rekindle hope of qualification for the 2002 World Cup has refused to communicate with the Glass House.

The skipper whose club wrote to inform of his injury was again excluded in the list of 24 players called-up for the crucial cracker against the Black Stars of

Ghana on July 29 in Port Harcourt.

Trustsports learnt that Oliseh, who had temporarily thrown in the towel when the Eagles were humiliated by the Leone Stars of Sierra Leone but rescinded his decision after being persuaded by Finidi George, was unhappy with the NFA over the manner the inquest was made.

Though not admitting any misunderstanding between the player and the NFA, Austin Mgbolu, spokesman for the Glass House, said Oliseh's club

was yet to intimate them to the nature of Oliseh's injury.

He could not say though whether the NFA would undertake to write-off the medical bills of the player "until a picture of the situation emerged."

The skipper was not the only Eagles excluded in the list. Celestine Babayaro, who has had running battle with sports ministry over his unpaid Olympic ticket refunds and allowances, was equally dropped while Julius Aghahowa and Eric Ejiofor fell to FIFA's suspension.

Voting figures in IOC presidential election

Voting figures in the election for president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday:

First round:

- Jacques Rogge (Belgium) 46
- Kim Un-yong (South Korea) 21
- Dick Pound (Canada) 20
- Pal Schmitt (Hungary) 11
- Anita DeFrantz (US) 9
- (DeFrantz eliminated)

Second round:

- Jacques Rogge (Belgium) 59
- Kim Un-yong (South Korea) 23
- Dick Pound (Canada) 22
- Pal Schmitt (Hungary) 6

Rogge elected by absolute majority

Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

