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Dalhatu indicted, not banned - Oseni

By Suleiman Mohammed

The Federal Government has only indicted and not banned any official from holding public office.

This followed the partial endorsement of the report of the General Oluwole Rotimi (rtd) panel of inquiry on government landed property which recommended the banning of former Power and Steel Minister, Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu, from holding any public office.

Rather, the Federal Government has endorsed the indictment of the former minister and five other top management officials of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) for undervalue and sale of the corporation's landed property in Lagos.

Briefing State House correspondents shortly after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting last week, Transport Minister, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, said the indicted officials allocated to themselves and their cronies, land and buildings without regard to the due process, thus the panel of inquiry recommended that they should be banned from holding public office in the future.

Though Chief Maduekwe said, the FEC meeting could not approve the banning since "we are not

contd. on pg 2

Ex-Minister loses N5m to house boy

By Uwem Umo

The former Minister of Police Affairs, Major-General David Medaiyese Jimbewon, has reportedly lost cash and valuable property worth about N5 million to one of the house boys.

The incident took place last far 11, this year, at the Tratch mas private residence Co Mgboluanges Street, Mar decision strict, Abuja.

advent to com. informed the p tion of t matter was compe-d that the the po-sure proper m inci-

Oputa drags Buhari, IBB, Abubakar to Obasanjo

By Suleiman Mohammed and Uwem Umo

demands by petitioners for huge monetary compensations.

The source said that the commission also filed a re-

quest for extension of time before President Olusegun Obasanjo.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), a member of the commission, Reverend

Father Matthew Hassan Kukah, said though the onus is on the former leaders to prove their innocence, the commission cannot be stampeded into inviting them to

testify.

"Let me tell you the truth, Nigerians are over-reacting to the issues of Generals Babangida, Buhari and Abdulsalami Abubakar. In fairness to them, it is not as if they have shown that they have defied the commission. I know that General Abdulsalami is talking to his lawyers, so also General Babangida. These people have their rights, and everybody is presumed innocent

contd. on pg 2



Brigadier-General Ibrahim Sabo at the Oputa panel... Friday.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

Kwara will remain part of North - Saraki

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

Former Presidential candidate of the All People's Party (APP), Dr. Olusola Saraki, has said Kwara will remain part of the north despite threats by the O'odua Peoples Congress (OPC) to install an Oba in Ilorin.

He told journalists in Kano at the weekend that the people of Kwara, though Yoruba speaking, will never be part of the O'odua axis.

"Kwara is part and parcel of Northern Nigeria and as long as we live, it will continue to remain so," he assured, adding that "no one can re-write history because Ilorin has been with an Emir for centuries."

Dr. Saraki said any attempt to change the status-

contd. on pg 2

10 PDP govts meet in Benin

From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin City

No fewer than ten PDP governors held a meeting on Saturday night in Benin City, the Edo State capital, at the official residence of the Executive Governor of the state, Chief Lucky

Igbinedion.

The meeting was held under tight security, with the press barred from the venue and its environs. The meeting is rumoured to have been convened to find a more acceptable running mate to President Obasanjo as Atiku Abubakar is becoming increasingly unsellable.

All the governors, with the exception of Governor Ahmed Makarfi of Kaduna State arrived Benin City by chartered flights on Saturday and left yesterday morning.

The meeting, which was coordinated by the Hon. Minister of Works and Housing, Chief Tony Anenih, was attended by the Governors of Adamawa, Bauchi, Delta, Imo, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Niger, Plateau, Rivers and their host, Edo

When contacted over the incident, the Police Area Commander in-Charge of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mr. Moses Saba, an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), said he was aware of the incident and that the police in Maitama division were investigating the case.

However, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in-Charge of Maitama Division, Mr. Wale Davies, a Superintendent of Police (SP),

contd. on pg 2



Dr. Olusola Saraki

NEWS

Balarabe Musa warns on party registration

Former Governor of Kaduna State in the defunct PRP, Alhaji Balarabe Musa, has warned that any attempt by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to deny new parties registration will be detrimental to the relative peace enjoyed in the country as the attempt would be met with stout resistance.

He said moves by the electoral body not to register new political parties "is to reduce opposition to the incumbent government come 2003."

Alhaji Musa who spoke to newsmen in Katsina shortly after the party's national rally at the weekend explained that he was reliably informed that the plans of INEC is geared towards enthroning a one-party state in the country.

He accused INEC of being a figurehead that is serving the interest of the PDP-led federal government, but

From Hassan A. Karofi,
in Katsina

warned that such plans will fail woefully.

Said he: "The plan by government and INEC to force PDP on the people in the 2003 elections will definitely invite a coup in the country.

"I believe there will be no peace unless people are allowed to establish parties of their choice," he added.

The former governor further informed the gathering that "whether or not INEC registers PRP, the party would go to the polls.

"To register PRP is a



Alhaji Balarabe Musa

Kwara contd. from pg 1

quo will be resisted by all means, saying "those who are trying to cause the present confusion in the emirate system in Kwara are doing so for their own selfish interests and not for the collective interest of the people."

The chieftain of Kwara politics was speaking at a dinner organised in his honour by Kwara residents in Kano.

On the ongoing political

crisis in Kwara State, the APP Chieftain blamed whom he described as "a total failure," for fuelling the crisis.

He stated that he has distanced himself from Kwara Government House to erase any notion that he was interfering in the activities of the government.

Dr. Olusola Saraki said he made governor Lawal what he is today but regretted that he "has turned to bite

must for INEC, whether they like it or not."

Alhaji Musa explained that the 1999 constitutional provisions did not prevent provisionally registered parties to contest any election.

On the Federal Government's romance with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, Alhaji Balarabe described it as "a threat to Nigeria's security, peace and economic development."

Nigeria, he said, is richer than most developed economies in natural resources which could be utilised to transform the country into an industrial giant.

He, therefore, urged Nigerians to shun money politics and choose socio-economic transformation by voting Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) in the next elections.

"A PRP Federal Government will salvage Nigeria from hunger, misery and poverty. It will also redeem Nigerians from the slavery which this present leadership is subjecting them to," he added.

the hand that fed him." He, however, advised Kwarans to be patient, saying that things will soon settle for the better.

On the crisis bedevilling APP, Dr. Saraki accused the national chairman of the party, Alhaji Yusuf Ali, of being an amateur in politics and also an agent of destabilisation in the party. "Yusuf Ali may have been a good Managing Director, but he is surely not a good politician," he stated.

Dalhatu contd. from pg 1

a military regime," adding that, though the report is sickening, capable of making one to weep for the nation. The Special Assistant to the President (Media and Publicity), Mr. Tunji Oseni said, the meeting felt that the committee's recommendation cannot be endorsed in totality.

Consequently, he said the meeting has decided that the land of Osborne road should revert to NEPA, and Lagos State government should refund N71 million paid by NEPA and former Minister of Power and Steel; and all NEPA officials who participated in the scam should be considered condemned.

Those indicted are, Alhaji Kabiru Mohammed (former NEPA MD), Muftau Baba Ahmed, Engineer Aisheku, Engineer Ben

Yahaya all top former Executive Directors of the corporation.

The land handed over to NEPA also include those located at Adetokunbo Ademola road, 17 MacDonald Road, Ikoyi and others in various parts of Lagos.

Because of the good job the commission did, the minister said FEC approved that a letter of recommendation be sent to every individual member of the panel. "Unless the society is cleansed out, the civil society will be in danger, so it is now even possible to say even ministers in the present regime with shady deals will go to jail because we are waging ethical war," he declared.

Giving details of the FEC meeting, the Special Assistant (Media and Publicity) to

Oseni, explained further that the meeting did not approve the banning because it was not the responsibility of the panel to make such suggestion.

According to him, the area where the panel recommended that the NEPA officials be condemned was, however, endorsed by the meeting, adding that not hundred per cent of the report was approved by the Federal Government.

The panel was set up in 1999 by President Olusegun Obasanjo to, among others identify and collate all federal government landed property nationwide and overseas between January 1, 1964 and May 29, 1999; and determine their state of phase structure and ascertain the person, authority or organisation responsible for

Jobs, stable currency top FG priority in next two years

By Osborne Adi Jnr.

Job creation, increased food production, a stabilised national currency and a strong private sector will form the focal point of the economic policy of the Obasanjo administration in the next two years.

Besides, the government is poised to introduce measures that would strengthen and reinvigorate the economy with market forces, the major determinant of the economic scale.

Newly appointed Chief Economic Adviser to the President, Dr. Magnus Kpakor, who dropped the hint while taking over affairs of the National Planning Commission, said the new vision of the administration was to employ market incentives to create sustainable jobs as well as increased

food production to stabilise food prices.

"Please be assured that I am here to help the President achieve his vision of providing jobs, food, shelter and prosperity for all Nigerians," he said.

He said the government was evolving market incentives for expanding the range of production of exportables, which would enable the country import even more of the goods and services that are really needed, without putting stress on the exchange rate.

According to him, these plans would go along with the development and maintenance of our infrastructure and also provide the enabling environment for the growth of our private sector.

"Obviously, we will continue to develop and maintain our infrastructure and provide the enabling environment for the growth of our private sector, wherever what we need to achieve higher levels of income and overall economic development," he said.



President Obasanjo

Oputa contd. from pg 1

until proven guilty," Reverend Kukah declared.

According to him, there were mistakes in the summons served on General Buhari and as such the commission could not establish whether it was properly served on him or not.

He expressed concern that the media was trying to raise an issue where there was none, stressing that because people have mind set, "justice to them means reinforcing their prejudice which is contrary to the spirit and objective of this commission."

Reverend Kukah said their meeting with President Obasanjo was to brief him on progress report of the activities of the commission and others that are not within the confines of the panel. Such

things he said include, petitions that deal with routine administrative matters and "incredible demands about compensation."

"This commission was set up by the president, and it has the duty and responsibility to occasionally brief the president on how far it has gone. It got nothing to do with our anxiety about whether X, Y, Z is appearing or not appearing. That is not the issue," he declared.

He pointed out that there was nothing, as far as the working of the commission was concerned, that "is making me or any member anxious about anything, because there is nothing to be anxious about," and pleaded with Nigerians to allow the commission perform its duty without prejudice.

The three former military rulers have severally failed to honour summons served them to appear before the commission.

General Buhari, was summoned to respond to a petition against him by former Transport Minister, Dr. Umaru Dikko over his abduction attempt in London.

Former military ruler, General Ibrahim Babangida (rtd) is also wanted in connection with his alleged complicity in the murder of pioneer Editor-in-Chief of the *Newswatch* magazine, Mr. Dele Giwa in 1986.

Similarly, Nigeria's last military ruler, General Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd) is wanted by the commission to shed light on the death in 1998 of Chief MKO Abiola while in detention.

Ex-Ministers contd. from pg 1

could not be reached as he was said to have led a delegation to Lagos for the burial of former Personal Assistant (PA) to the Inspector-General of Police who died last week in London.

Also, the FCT police image maker, Mr. Ofem Arikpo, and Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP),

declined comments claiming to have been fully briefed about the incident.

Meanwhile, in a telephone chat with Mrs. Dupe Jemibowon yesterday afternoon, she confirmed the incident but declined to give an elaborate comment on the matter.

It is not yet clear whether

PDP contd. from pg 1

Plateau and Rivers departed Benin in chartered flights with Governor Makarfi of Kaduna leaving by mid-day.

Though there was no official communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, *Daily Trust* was, however, reliably informed that the meeting was aimed at finding a more acceptable candidate as President Obasanjo's run-

Daily Trust gathered that Governor Makarfi might be the likely candidate to be sponsored by the Group of 10, with the likely exception of Governor Boni Haruna who may not want to betray Vice-President Atiku Abubakar.

It would be recalled that, a few months ago, Governor Makarfi had, during a two-

any arrest have been made but the police are said to have quickly swung into action while frantic efforts are being put in place by they Nigeria Police through the International Police (INTERPOL) branch of the Force Criminal Investigation (FCID), Alagbon, Lagos, to liaise with their Benin counterparts to track Peter.

ited most of the governors that converged in Benin for the secret meeting.

All the governors, with the exception of Alhaji Makarfi and Alhaji Mu'azu of Kaduna and Bauchi respectively were at the residence of Chief Tony Anenih, off Boundary Road, GRA Benin City, hours before the

NEWS

Oputa panel: Will Gen. Abdulsalami reply Sabo?

By Henry Omonu

On May 29, 1999, the world applauded as Nigeria, the most populous black nation on earth once again embraced democracy after an unbroken 16 years under military rule.

The man who made this possible was Gen. Abubakar Abdulsalami, when on that fateful date, he handed over power to a newly elected President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo after presiding over a transition programme that lasted just nine months. It was the shortest military transition ever, in the 41-year chequered history of the country since gaining independence in 1960, from its colonial master, Britain.

But, this historic achievement of the Minna general, who now sports grey beards on retirement is being rubbished by revelations of

notes in the printing of the nation's currency;

* \$444.27 million approved for the maintenance of the Nigeria Air Force (NAF) Alfa jets, as against DM66 million approved by late Gen. Abacha;

* the feeding of ECOMOG soldiers allegedly handled by a relation, including the increase of daily allowance of the soldiers from \$45, to an un-named amount which was not remitted to the soldiers;

* pronouncement by Gen. Abubakar on Nigeria's foreign reserve as amounting to \$7 billion as against \$9.7 billion allegedly left by late Gen. Abacha;

* purchase of 15 patrol boats (\$45 million), 30 protective suits (\$6.9 million), three amphibious planes

Akambi Anti-Corruption Commission.

Despite the revelations of Sabo, the big question agitating the minds of Nigerians, is whether these allegations are true. If so, why did Gen. Sabo wait until now to speak out; is he (Sabo) aggrieved because of his untimely retirement or is it a case of "dog eat dog."

Moreover, many are those Nigerians, who expectedly view Gen. Abdulsalami as a hero, a man not capable of the wrongs as reeled out by Sabo and finally as a soldier of honour. A soldier who keeps his word and a complete gentleman. Such group of people may be correct in their assessment of the retired general.

For, here was a man known not to have held any political position throughout his career in the army. He was truly, a professional soldier. Perceived as weak and too innocent by many, he proved his skeptics wrong when he kept his promise of not staying in office, a day longer than necessary.

With the earth-shaking allegations of Gen. Sabo however, a big question mark now hangs on the character and personality of the former head of state, and many are those who are confused as to whether to believe Sabo's sing-song or not.

This question can however, only be answered by Gen. Abubakar himself. It is only he who can tell the nation, and indeed the world what actually transpired during his 11-month regime. He alone, can give a lie to all that has been alleged by Sabo.

Silence in this matter, will not help the image and integrity of the retired

general. He owes it to his family, his numerous admirers, the nation and most importantly, himself to clear his name of any wrong-doing. This way, he will remain the international statesman that he's become, instead of being clad in the garb of African leaders who while in office, have an insatiable appetite for public funds and made corruption their pass-time.

Nigerians, must however not be in a hurry to judge against Gen. Abubakar, as it would be morally wrong to presume the former head of state guilty without giving him the chance of defending himself. After all, the onus of proving the allegations made at the Oputa Panel lies on Gen. Sabo.

This country and its citizens deserve to know what actually happened in the corridors of power; who is right or who is wrong and who and who did what, including the beneficiaries. Nigeria needs to clean its dirty past, take stock of the present for it to move into the future. But, it is only when all the sordid details of the long years of military rule are cleaned up and those found guilty punished, that people presently in government would know that it doesn't pay to be corrupt.

And only then, can we hope to have a corruption-free society in future. Therefore, we hope Gen. Abubakar will reply to all the allegations made by Sabo before the Oputa Panel, for to keep quiet will mean the acceptance of guilt.

Though an age-old proverb says silence is golden, I dare say in this case that, silence on the part of Abubakar in the face of Sabo's grave allegations, will connote "assent". Will Gen. Abubakar speak-out or maintain his "silence". The entire



President Olusegun Obasanjo

For, here was a man known not to have held any political position throughout his career in the army. He was truly, a professional soldier. Perceived as weak and too innocent by many, he proved his skeptics wrong when he kept his promise of not staying in office, a day longer than necessary.

country awaits how this episode will play itself out.

However, while we wait to see what line of action the former head of state will embark upon, the revelations by Sabo should be instructive to those in public offices. The lesson here, is that whatever is hidden must become known and what they do in secret will one day, become public knowledge.

For example, Nigerians now know that the major motive for any military coup is the thirst for public funds. Said Sabo in his testimony, "General Abdulsalami Abubakar's administration came as I said with an accentuated hunger and the thirst for money." Based on this common knowledge, of why ambitious and sometimes incompetent military men take over government, the citizens of this great country are now better placed to resist any future take-over and attempt to thwart our hard-earned democracy by the military.

In as much as we say enough is enough, the

Obasanjo administration must not gloss over the numerous allegations of graft, conspiracies and out-right looting of the nation's funds by government officials. The government must use machineries at its disposal to sift the grain from the chaff, in respect of the sundry allegations emanating from the Oputa Panel.

At the end of the day, those found culpable especially in connection with the Sabo testimonies, must be made to face the music. For once as a nation, we must sound it loud and clear, that the public till is not private property.

The whole world is watching the Oputa "drama" we must remember, and they are looking to see how we will handle the various cases. Nothing should be pushed under the carpet, in respect of Sabo's allegations. After all, the dirty financial details of the Abacha administration are now public knowledge.

Equally, it will be a pointer to the government of Obasanjo, that whatever his administration does now, will one day be revealed in for public scrutiny. Only time will tell.



General Abdulsalami Abubakar

monumental fraud and graft made by erstwhile Director of Military Intelligence under late dictator, Gen. Sani Abacha's government, Brig.-Gen. Ibrahim Sabo (rtd) at the Oputa Panel.

Among the allegations made against the former head of state by Sabo, include;

* the sharing of \$40 million allegedly donated by unnamed multi-national companies for the self-succession bid of late Gen. Abacha;

* that he bought a 2.5 million pounds sterling mansion in Ashworth district of London, which he later renovated with a million pounds;

* short-changing of PRC members by \$450,000 out of a \$500,000 parting gift;

* the release of N5 billion from NMA coffers to one Chief Hope Uzodinma;

* the increase in the contract sum from \$10 to \$45 per 1,000

(\$21.7 million) and \$14.5 million spent in buying 5,000 rain coats;

* \$80 million for water reticulation of Bakassi as against the initial \$20 million proposal;

* N2.3 billion expended on renovation of Eagle Square as against N230 million quoted by consultants;

* N21.27 million disbursed to the armed forces and police for unspecified projects and lastly;

* that Gen. Abubakar knew more about the death of MKO Abiola than he let on. Apart from these damning disclosures by Gen. Sabo at the Human Rights Violations and Investigation Commission (HRVIC) sitting in Abuja last Thursday, the former intelligence chief claims he has other incriminating documents in his possession that he intends to submit to the Justice



Justice Chukwudifu Oputa

NEWS

ACF asked to re-direct energies

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has been asked to re-direct its energies towards the socio-economic emancipation of North instead of the selfish struggle for relevance at the national

level.
From Hassan A. Karofi,
in Katsina

A PDP stalwart in Katsina State, Alhaji Haruna Ja Abdullahi, gave this advice in an exclusive interview with *Daily Trust* at the weekend.

He said "the Forum needs to be sincere about what it wants to achieve. Instead of pursuing a serious agenda that will uplift the north in areas like education, industrial growth and agricultural transformation, the forum has centred its energies in fighting a government they sold to Northerners.

Said he: "Was it not the same ACF that cajoled us into voting for the same man? Why then are they fighting him?" he asked.

Alhaji Abdullahi said although he agrees that Obasanjo has not provided the needed democratic dividends as expected, it should concern itself more with the plight of northerners "instead of political trivialities that will not improve in the well being of the down trodden."

He, therefore, urged ACF to change tactics and focus in poverty alleviation and the educational upliftment of the north.

On the 2003 election, Alhaji Ja said although he believes that former President Ibrahim Babangida is qualified for the job, northern politicians should rally behind Alhaji Abubakar Rimi whose antecedents in politics are well known to lead the country come 2003.

Obasanjo re-states commitment to university education

President Olusegun Obasanjo on Saturday at the joint convocation ceremonies of University of Agriculture, Abeokuta re-stated his administration's commitment to restoration of glory and dignity of the Nigerian university system.

The president, who spoke through the permanent secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, Abuja, Mr. Geoffrey Eukora, said his administration will not abandon its basic responsibilities in the provision of adequate funding for education.

His words: "While we believe that more active involvement of all stakeholders will enhance the quality of life in our campuses, we will do what we must to give back to our universities international recognition and respectability.

"I want to assure you that this government will not abandon its basic responsibilities in the provision of adequate funding for education, including the rehabilitation of infrastructure and the building of hostels in our various universities.

The visitor to the university disclosed that the Federal Government has revitalised the federal scholarship scheme, adding that it will now cover students in all tertiary institutions within and outside the country.

According to Obasanjo, the primary objectives of the scheme, "is to ensure that all bright and hardworking students have adequate funds to complete their education at the tertiary levels."

The president, reiterated a new lease of life saying, "we will continue to give all necessary support within our limited resources to the development of this university as well as to the two other universities of Agriculture.

"We look forward to seeing, in the very near future, highly nurtured and developed universities of Agriculture that will be a propelling force in the

From Olumide Bamilaiye,
in Abeokuta
realisation of the much-desired agricultural revolution in the country.

"I am happy to note that in spite of the limitations and problems facing the nation in general and the academic institutions in particular, the university of Agriculture, Abeokuta, has performed fairly well in justifying the expectations of its founding fathers."



President Obasanjo

Nigeria needs 4 years to standardise military -Danjuma

The Minister of Defence Lt.-Gen. Theophilus Danjuma has said that given the present level of resources and the enormity of the task, it would take another four years for Nigeria to bring its nearly grounded military to the desired standard.

He told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in New York over the weekend that years of neglect and international isolation of Nigeria had inflicted serious damage on military equipment and institutions of learning.

For instance, he said, even though every corps of the army, such as infantry, artillery, armoury and signals, has a training school, "training aids that we had in these schools have fallen into disuse."

"Our first task is to re-equip these schools and bring them up to date, he said.

He added that officers are also sent abroad for training, but inadequate funds limit how much could be done.

The minister also noted

that military equipment, such as aircraft for the air force, ships for the navy and tanks for the army were all completely grounded.

"Our entire fleet of aircraft was grounded because of lack of maintenance. The Navy was the same, as all the boats are not seaworthy. The army is the worst. The tanks, because of lack of maintenance, were also grounded."

To tackle the problem, he said, government has decided from the beginning to determine which equipment need be refurbished, upgraded or replaced.



Lt.-Gen. T.Y. Danjuma (rtd),
Minister of Defence

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On the other hand, the Sokoto State Correspondent of *Daily/Weekly Trust* is **Malam Abdulfatah Abdulsalami**. Any person who transacts any business with the said **Suleiman Mohammed** in Sokoto State does so at his/her own risk. All business transactions in Sokoto should be made through **Malam Abdulfatah Abdulsalami**. The public is advised to contact the police where any suspicion arises.

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EDITORIAL

Small arms, big conflicts

The paradox of life in Africa will not cease to astound even the most casual observers. Or else how does one rationalize the fact that though Africa has the least capacity to manufacture light arms and small weapons, it is the highest recipient of large quantities of such weapons with the West African sub-region receiving the highest proportion.

In more sober continents, the mineral wealth embedded in their soil provides economic relief and prosperity for their people. But in Africa such minerals especially diamonds, are exchanged for small arms which the various warlords or dissidents and even governments proceed to use to inflict more misery on their own people.

All these are the grim revelations at the United Nations sponsored conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons two weeks ago in New York where it was also disclosed that in the past ten years, conflicts involving such weapons have claimed more than four million lives worldwide but with the bulk coming from Africa.

In Somalia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Sudan, Algeria and all the other flashpoints, light arms are the weapons of choice because of their convenience and the fact that they are handy and could be manipulated by child soldiers.

The conference which was attended by the Minister of Defence, Lt. Gen. T. Y. Danjuma, established a strong correlation between the spread of light arms and poverty. Poverty provides the fertile ground for conflict situations. Usually, conflicts flare up when communities in a country could not agree on how to share scarce resources. Rather than create more wealth with their mineral resources, leaders with their inordinate ambition to massage, barter these resources for weapons to play politics by other means.

The result as experience has shown, is the creation of more poverty as the economic and social lives of those affected are destroyed. The manifestation of this has been the incident of the worst humanitarian crisis created by refugees from such conflicts.

In Nigeria, the proliferation of small arms has led to escalation in communal and sectarian violence. In Kaduna in February and May last year, in the Niger Delta, Lagos and now Nasarawa, such arms (AK 47, sub-machine guns, pistols, revolvers and grenades) were freely used in spite of the repeated calls by the authorities that owners of such unregistered arms should surrender them.

More disturbing is the fact that such arms have led to violent crimes such as armed robberies and contract killings. Here we call on the National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons not to relent in its efforts to rid our society of such weapons.

Daily Trust believes an improvement in the standard of living through coordinated economic policies that guarantee gainful and lawful employment is a more potent weapon in creating a stable polity that would render the possession of such weapons needless.

This is true of the warlords in Somalia and Sierra Leone as it is of the frightful armed robber or the hired assassin on the streets of Lagos.

MONDAY COLUMN

Alternatives to Obasanjo

By Abubakar Jika

Alhaji Kashim Ibrahim Imam was a classmate. We did our masters degrees in international relations together at the University of Maiduguri in the mid-1980s. He is now President Olusegun Obasanjo's Presidential Liaison Officer (PLO) to the Senate. He is a politician. Had always been one. I am not. Of course you do not require any educational qualification to be a politician. I chose not to be one. At least for now.

Recently he flew a kite, which surprised me and negated all we were taught in our class. He wore a Yoruba cap, which is now a symbol of the final political marginalisation of the Hausa-Fulani, and addressed National Assembly journalists. He claimed he was reviewing democracy mid-term. He declared that, Nigeria of about 120 million people has no credible alternative to President Olusegun Obasanjo.

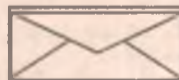
We were taught political power intoxicates. My friend Kashim Ibrahim-Imam has proven this "theory". How could he in all honesty declare that Nigeria has no credible alternatives to President Olusegun Obasanjo? Nobody believes him, except of course the gentleman whose ego he had massaged. In our own masters degree class I can count 10 credible alternatives to Obasanjo who Kashim himself knows. Unless of course he has changed, which is apparently the case. His declaration would not go unchallenged.

First, on theological grounds, it is absolutely ungodly and un-Islamic for Kashim to have authoritatively claimed that among Allah's 120 million creatures, there is no alternative to a single one of them. Allah's beneficence on his individual creatures is infinite. The secrets of his gifts to any single creature is known to him alone. He declared repeatedly in the Holy Qur'an that He elevates whoever He wishes and brings down whoever He wishes.

Nobody knows the next second let alone 2003. We can do our sycophancy, but when it comes to matters that concern fate and future, Muslims are taught to leave things to God. It was this lesson that Abacha, who disgraced Obasanjo, failed to heed. Pushed by UNCP among other parties, of which my good friend Kashim was administrative secretary, Abacha was made to believe there was no alternative to him. At that time, when Daniel Kanu was organising a one million-man march, perhaps supported by Kashim and others, Obasanjo was a convict in Yola prison.

Human memory is so short. The last time I ran into Kashim at a London airport when Obasanjo was sweating it out at Yola prison, the impression I got was that the Abacha transition, which was conceived to return Abacha as the only alternative, was the best ever in our history. It was obvious that in the wishes of God, there was an alternative to Abacha and that alternative was not Abiola but his kinsman: Olusegun Obasanjo. So it came to pass that today Obasanjo is an alternative to Abacha.

Many would however swear that Abacha was a better economic manager than Obasanjo. I will come to that. It is necessary for those surrounding Obasanjo, especially Northern politicians, to remember that if they cannot make Mr. President assuage the feelings of marginalisation we are going through they should avoid playing on our intelligence.



LETTER OF THE DAY

Start Trust Radio, TV

Weekly Trust and Daily Trust newspapers are doing a great pioneering job in Nigeria by reawakening the appetite to read newspapers that has lain dormant for so many years in majority of Nigerians due to unethical and biased journalistic publishing of other papers in the country. The Weekly and Daily Trust, by their excellent journalistic ethics, have achieved national prominence within so short a space of time as can be attested to by your success story. It would be a clincher if Media Trust advances a step further to open an independent television

station and a radio station that would broadcast to the good people of this country. It is a known fact that NTA has failed us in many aspects not to talk of other independent TV and radio stations that insult the psyche of majority of Nigerians by their broadcasts.

Please, Media Trust oblige the good people of this country these requests so that the standard and morale of news reporting in this country would be raised. May Allah sustain your daily growth and achievement.

Nuruddeen Idris Ingawa
Bloc 125, Close C,
301 Raod, Phase II,
FHE, Kubwa, Abuja.

Politics of brinkmanship and intimidation are signs of weakness and not strength. They are mistaken to go about trampling on our pride, wearing Yoruba caps and making vacuous declarations.

The other day my zone, the North East hosted our illustrious son Vice-President Atiku Abubakar. It was a great occasion. But in my view he should have worn a Hausa-Fulani cap and not a Yoruba cap. It was our show and to flaunt a Yoruba cap is to remind us that we are playing second fiddle for now. I told one of the prime movers of the programme, a Senator, that it was tactless to have done this because many of those who watched the event on television with me, my Fulani compatriots, were aghast.

The Senator was taken aback and declared they did not think along that line. That shows the depth of sensitivity of the Hausa-Fulani on the political goings-on. President Obasanjo's Northern backers are not helping him by these declarations and claims of no alternative. We know there are alternatives. There were alternatives and there are alternatives and there will always be alternatives to President Olusegun Obasanjo. Unless of course the world ends this very second, when the argument would have been concluded.

Secondly, on realistic grounds, President Olusegun Obasanjo, except in his eyes and the eyes of those who are working for and with him, has so far performed below our expectations. This is not an elite or media assessment. In fact out of every 100 people I have spoken to, over 90 are disappointed with the performance of this regime. It is this poor performance that is giving the emergent associations the courage to come out. I do not believe that Babangida was single-handedly sponsoring these political groups to upset this regime.

By the way, before anyone gets worried about my political allegiance, I declare I have none. I have not set my eyes on former President Babangida for over seven years. I have also not seen or heard from anyone who heard or saw him. I do not know what he is up to. Nobody ever discussed him with me or anyone who knows me or knows anyone who knows me. I am strictly on my own, as I believe most other people are.

Thirdly, by his performance, President Obasanjo, contrary to the declarations of Kashim and many leaders of PDP in my zone, has alternatives. These I believe would be unfolded with time. Already the very attempt to reduce Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, from leader of the three zones in the North to only North-East is an indication of a political problem. One can understand the gradual build-up of Muhammadu Buhari as a potential credible alternative to Obasanjo by the North-West and the repositioning of IBB by the North-Central. This may of course pose serious political upsets for Obasanjo and Atiku. Unless of course the well-known deep-rooted animosity between Buhari and IBB plays the spoiler.

Both Buhari and IBB, in the eyes of millions of Nigerians, are credible alternatives to Obasanjo. If the two generals can sink their differences and one lines up behind the other, Obasanjo, in my view, does not stand a dog's chance. This may look Herculean, but these declarations, brinkmanship and intimidations may bring the duo together. The Arewa Consultative Forum, which, as declared by Dr. Usman Bugaje has an "Atiku initiative" has brought the two feared generals together. There could still be more political surprises.

IBB for one is a crafty politician. He is also far-sighted. If he feels sufficiently marginalised or upset and believes he could not make it in a race against Obasanjo/Atiku, and feels strongly about the combination, he can politically shock many by lining up behind Buhari. Buhari too, if he feels strongly about the team Kashim is parroting as a "winning team", and if he feels sufficiently marginalised or harassed, he may back IBB to politically teach the Kashims an unforgettable "Fulani Political Lesson". The jury is out there. No one should start counting his chickens before they hatch.

Lastly, President Obasanjo, if he reads this article and decides others too "know something" and he is not the only intelligent fellow around, should call his boys to order. First it was Anenih who declared "no vacancy" in Aso Rock. Now my friend Kashim, wearing a Yoruba cap, is singing that there is no alternative to Obasanjo. He should not allow these to deceive him. Even in Yoruba land, except *Afenifere* can settle the Ige/Falae rift he can hardly get 40 percent. This is irrespective of Ige's boasts. The other five zones cannot be counted as solidly behind him.

It is too premature to celebrate.

Abubakar Jika is of the Writers' Collective, Department of Mass Communications, Bayero University, Kano.

Opinion

Oputa: The burden of justice and reconciliation

By Moses Oyelade

It is abstractly exciting whenever a substantive authority dreams of reconciling peoples together. Both the bruised and the culprits. Really, it is something of joy to find out that peoples can be reconciled, irrespective of what. To live in peace is to live in wealth! And Africans believe this. Thus, twice in Africa, in this recent history of hers, two nations have attempted to reconcile their citizens, deeply and long divided by evils that men do. South Africa has obviously concluded hers, Nigeria's is in progress.

In the south of Africa, gory tales were told of man's inhumanity towards his fellow man. It was actually horrifying to learn, from those who went through it, that man's capacity for evil, the degree to which even sinners in hell would not expect from the tormenting demons. But it has happened here by mere fellow mortals. And that nation down there had tried to reconcile her peoples against such tales!

The circumstances in the two countries actually differ, but the stories remain the same. In one, it was a problem of the skin differences and by the skin differences. One group thought, because they had light and fair skin, it did not matter whether or not it was their nativity, only they can and should live by the rain. The other group, though natural owners (natives), should only be permitted to live by the scorching sun, for purification, since they have dark skin. We know, that rain brings comfort, while the sun gives pain. And based on that divide, that nation was ruled, with all horrors possible, for more than 300 years on earth.

The other nation, our dear Nigeria, has no difference in skin colour. The difference is the man himself. Here, we still live by the theory of the social contract foundation i.e. "life is short and brutish" . . . and "survival is for the fittest", that is "might is right". In Nigeria, a fellow countryman, over time has repeatedly proved to the rest that "he who has no might has no right, and

he who has no right has no life to live. He is dead among the living! This only could explain the extra-judicial killings vide accidental discharge etc. by several public security agents. And this, more than patriotism, has largely been the inspiration that motivates young men to enlist or seek to enlist in the nation's military and paramilitary.

And that was why (and still is why) our country has not known peace. There have been constant struggles for survival between and among the powers and forces of predation. Coups and counter-coups! Even in political climate scene. And come to believe this!

All the evils of our society today, being shipped to the Oputa panel for redress or reconciliation, were evils, mostly done or perpetrated by and during military domination of this country. In that, the truth is, during military rule, there was literally nothing, to cheer about. Any news from their stable was usually and characteristically catastrophic because, the tragedy of any military domination is that they do not have authority to rule. Therefore, the power (of gun) they possess they use as nakedly as only people without authority could, as illegal and absurd as the devil living in paradise. And these are what Oputa panel is to reconcile!

So much has been revealed about the Nazi-like regime of late Sani Abacha, who was bent on terminating the norms, values and conventions of our society with eager readiness to cancel the existence of any "obstruction" with no recourse, no consideration nor reverence for the root of such existence. And so far, what Oputa panel has achieved for us is elastic pain.

At the beginning, the panel did enable Mustapha to insult our sense of self-dignity and respect with his declared faith in his master and lies about what we already

know and lies against other people.

At the beginning, it was awful, the about to end exercise of fact-finding and reconciliation! The theatrical celebration of sins, of offences, of crimes and of horrors threw dust in the divine face, since as much as we know, justice is what delights God. Then reconciliation is its fringe benefit. Has He not said, "I am the God of Justice"! And so we know Him. And anything short of this is a mockery of the name of God. It is clearer now, than before, that that which God ordained is different from what man can do!

Really, the unforgiving spirit is termed demon. Yes! It is, therefore, enjoined on the inhabitants of our earth that forgiveness is essential to daily living. That is truth. But how, when and from where does forgiveness begin? From a vacuum? Lies? Or displayed arrogance and un-repentance? But a circumstance wherewith Zakari Biu would apologise to Chris Anyawu comically with mouth curved in smile makes a mockery of the words, concept of forgiveness, reconciliation. Circumstances that elevate evil, that permit the harbingers of horrors to state faith in evil. A situation where we have Al-Mustapha declaring a no-regret feeling in the service that permits such as Okutimo to revere himself as the god of the Ogonis, is nothing but a waste of everything.

From the Oputa panel, Al-Mustapha declared his preparedness to repeat his feats! "I would serve Abacha again," so he said! "If I am asked to protect President Obasanjo, I will do the same thing" he told us - such scent of the sepulchre oozing out of the expectedly glorious place as the panel makes the angels wail in heaven. It seeks to dim our hope and to erase our faith in a collective destiny and all the dream of a better tomorrow.

Finally, as the panel is about to conclude its exercise, it is not a waste to advise that, the only truth is what a victim, Mrs. Doris Rewane, demanded. She said "My lord, we do not want reconciliation, we want justice".

Oyelade, a journalist studied Classics at the University of Ibadan.

At times like these

By Abdulazeez Abdullahi

Two weeks ago, the issue that dominated proceedings at the National Assembly was President Olusegun Obasanjo's Supplementary Appropriation Bill sent to the lawmakers for approval. Ideally, it ought not have aroused the interest of Nigerians. After all, sending bills of whatever sort is to be expected in democratic governance, but for that infamous request by the president to have for himself a new presidential jet. Someone wants to know why a new plane for the president and commander-in-chief should raise eyebrows? Well, the answer is not far-fetched; the cost - a staggering N5.4 billion.

The Presidency and the National Assembly are willing to give away that much at a time like this for a plane for the nation's number one citizen! At a time like this those we entrusted with the task of steering the ship of state so that ours and that of generations to come is a future devoid of turbulence could resort to such recklessness and in the process, endangering our lives. Naively, I have wondered whether the president's unrivalled journeys abroad since he assumed office were made on commercial flights. I certainly haven't heard that any of the jets on the presidential fleet has broken down during the countless trips the way our cars do at times like these.

Of course I've heard the blah blah about the need to get for the president of the most populous black nation on earth, the giant of Africa - I'm tempted to qualify that with 'sleeping', gives a more vivid picture - a befitting aircraft that compares with that used by his counterparts elsewhere. Good point. But that whole lot at a time like this. One would have thought simple logic and good sense of reasoning would have prevailed on the president to at least suspend the jet thing to a more 'appropriate time'. And when that 'appropriate time' comes, Nigerians need not be told, by the signs we shall know. When our neighbours go to the market and come back with a smile, we know the time has come, when the civil servant's take home pay 'takes him home' we know that time has come. Then, of course, who cares? The president may even ask for an 'Air force One' if he so desires and joyously we'll say 'sir, you deserve it'. It is the fervent wish of Nigerians that that time is now but clearly it isn't and annoyingly the president and his lieutenants in the National Assembly don't seem to agree with the rest of us.

If reports making the rounds are anything to go by, our despair is a never-ending one. More jets are on the way! The senate president desires one, the speaker of the House needs one as well. The cost? not made public yet, but one can safely bet on a few billions. Yes billions! Haven't we come to dream in billions nowadays? The way it is at times like this, millions is just chicken feed probably because the naira is so enjoying a free fall that it doesn't want to touch dawn.

When the president suggested the jet proposal to the Assembly, the members were quick to denounce the idea and Nigerians - with our short memories - heaved a sigh and showered praises on the lawmakers. Here, are leaders who are sensitive to our plight, who are willing to fight our cause - forgetting the furniture allowance sell out and its attendant embarrassment - but alas! after initial resistance, they've now agreed that the president should have a new aircraft and most likely, two more for its leaders. Every now and then I call out the figure just to be sure. A whopping N5.4 billion. To think that some villages in the country have never seen 'the light' and a good number of towns and cities spend more days without it than with it. Buying water from hawkers is now a part of the lives of many Nigerians. In our hospitals, at times like these, drugs are either out of stock or too costly. At times like these, the common man is well and fully on his own.

To think of all the difference a slice of that sum could make to the lives of so many of us I'm at a loss about what to make of it all, is it insensitivity on the part of our leaders or is

The inimitable Jibril Bala Mohammed

By AbdulGaniyu Aminu

So, death the silent thief in the midnight has at last surprised the irrepressible Jibril Bala Mohammed. However, his was a welcome death for death did not catch him napping ensconced in narcissistic self-indulgence. Yes Jibril Bala died in the cause of service to humanity as reflected in his numerous intellectual pursuits. Bala was said to have passed away on a return journey to Maiduguri from Lafia where he had gone to do what he knows best - to deliver a paper to an informed audience.

My first encounter with Jibril Bala Mohammed dates back to 1982 at the University of Lagos where Bala had been admitted to study Mass Communication. He had come to the University of Lagos armed with all the accoutrements of an intellectual par excellence. Jibril Bala belonged to the best tradition of Zaria epistemological school of thought where he had had his nascent intellectual baptism in the crucible of such giants like Bala Usman, Dr. Mike Kwanashie, Yusuf Bangura etc.

Bala, together with such starry-eyed radicals like AbdulRahman Black, Comrade Isa Aremu (of NLC fame) were rusticated in their final year, from ABU in the wake of students' unrest in the inglorious days of Ango Abdullahi. These are youths who refused to be cowed by ruthless dictatorship of the establishment and who paid the price for daring to be on the side of truth, justice, human dignity and honour.

To be expelled from the university in your final year is too much pain for fickle minds to bear. Not one to be deterred by this temporary setback, Bala, against all odds valiantly picked

University of Lagos to explore a different field alto-gether - mass communication - from his familiar terrain of political science.

Initially, mass communication study, a relatively new American paradigm in social sciences with its narrow horizon, did not appeal to Jibril Bala. But bye and bye, his rich political science background coupled with his polyvalent bent appeared to have encouraged him to continue in a department suffused with eggheads who extolled anything American to the skies. It is a measure of his supreme patience and resilience that he ended up garnering a Ph.D. in such a rarefied field as mass communication.

Here then was a "Hausa" boy from radical ABU Zaria who had come to prey in the conservative territory that was the University of Lagos. His sheer brilliance, and academic rigour did not go unnoticed by the broad spectrum of intellectuals and students thirsty for fresh insights in the realm of knowledge. At seminars and symposia which were a regular feature of university life, Bala was the toast of everybody. Ever ready to deploy his oratorical prowess to debunk reactionary views, Bala became a regular speaker at such fora where he was always invited to give a talk. Unknown to Bala, by dint of his sheer academic brilliance, he had succeeded in dispelling the popular myth that an average northerner was an intellectual Lilliputian.

Notwithstanding his sad experience at ABU, Jibril Bala participated actively in student politics at the University of Lagos. He hobnobbed with such

Sola Sofunke and Wole Elegbede in such associations like the Movement for National Awareness, Youth Solidarity Against Apartheid and the Marxist League.

He brought to bear his knack for rigorous analysis, hard work, Spartan discipline and dedication to the activities of the associations to such an extent that many otherwise footloose youths sought refuge under the umbrella of these movements, which says much about growing incidence of cultism in our various campuses today. In those days, through the activities of the likes of Bala, many youths would rather be identified with anti-apartheid activism, socialism, humanism, peace etc. than be associated with backward phenomena as cultism.

In the realm of communication studies, Jibril Bala was a strong advocate of "Development Journalism" which posits that mass media must be a necessary accomplice in achieving the goal of development and national unity.

To Jibril Bala Mohammed therefore, academics was not just a platform to eke out daily bread but nay, a vocation. He is not your run-of-the-mill pseudo-intellectual who relish verbal diarrhoea on the pages of newspapers to gain cheap publicity and undesired relevance.

After a long spell of separation, destiny was to once more join me with this rare breed when he was appointed Deputy Director of Information at the Federal Ministry of Federal Capital Territory. He had confided in me that the civil service with all its bureaucracy was not his forte; that his heart would always be in the ivory tower. If Bala had wanted to

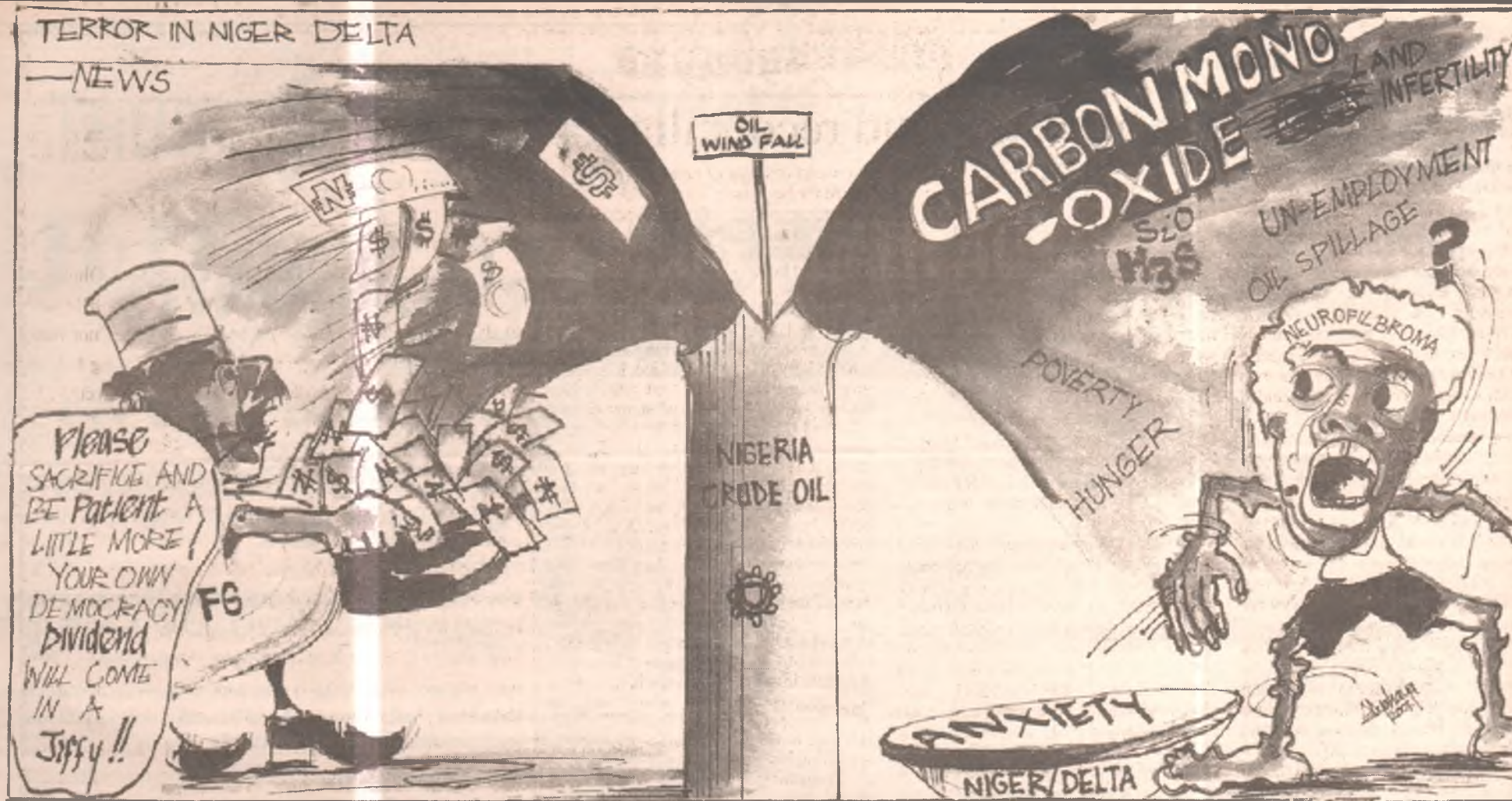
in the FCDA to enjoy the trappings of a decidedly corrupt set-up. To the ivory tower therefore, with all its financial frustrations did Bala return to seek self-fulfilment.

It is spiritually refreshing that at my last meeting with Jibril Bala Mohammed, both of us along with others, prayed and fervently recited verses of the holy Qur'an for peace, prosperity and general well being of the country. I was to tease him later that I was indeed impressed by his new found religious fervour which he laughed off.

As if he knew he would die so soon, Jibril Bala packed so much in such a short but eventful life. In Bala's death, we take consolation in the immortal paraphrased words of late Cuban revolutionary, Ernesto Che Guevara, that wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome by the staccato of our life's struggle for human dignity and progress. Bala's life was but a canvas of service to humanity.

In Bala's life also rang the priceless exhortation of Frantz Fanon viz: "The future will have no pity for those young men and women, who possessing the privilege of saying words of truth to their oppressors, have taken refuge in an attitude of passivity, of cold complicity and sometimes of mute indifference". In a society where the youths are constantly searching for heroes, Bala was a beacon of hope to restless young ones seeking for role models.

May Bala's soul rest in perfect peace and may the Almighty reward him with *aljanat firdaus*. Oh Lord, I beg your pardon, he deserves it.



YOUR LETTERS

Tribute to the late Alhaji Muhammadu Tahir

I want to write a tribute to my superior officer whose death took place on Friday 20th April, 2001. The date was not only an ill-fated one to the famous Alkali Tahir family of Hadejia but also to the staff of Sharia Court of Appeal, Jigawa State, and indeed to the Muslim Ummah.

The sad news of his death came to many as a shock as it is now that we need him most due to the moral deterioration of our society; but death is inevitable. The Qur'an says: *Every living thing must taste death.* Qur'an 2:185. Also, the tradition of our prophet (SAW) as reported by Ibn Umar, said, "You should consider yourself a stranger in this world or rather a traveller who has a specified destination which is hereafter."

In view of these narrations, death is necessary and will definitely come when it is time. Therefore, the death of late Grand Khadi was not something unusual, as rightly stated by Sanusi M. Salihu in his poem published in one of the newspapers:

Death
Your power as strong as life
Off you wind the crowns
Picking the veil sadly up you go
So you rob the body of that sweet life
For that journey to commence
To our final resting home.

Alhaji Muhammadu Tahir was born in 1937 at Hadejia town of Jigawa State. He attended Birriwa elementary school between 1945 and 1948, School of Arabic Studies, Kano between 1956 and 1959 and Islamic University, Omdurman, Sudan between 1963 and 1968 where he obtained LLB (Sharia Law).

Alhaji Tahir started his civil service career as a Grade II teacher with Hadejia Native Authority. In 1963 he transferred his service to Kano State government where he served in various capacities and rose to become the Director, Islamic Education Centre, Kano in 1988.

Upon creation of Jigawa State in August 1991, Alhaji M. Tahir was deployed to Jigawa State as Director, Islamic Education Centre from 1991 to 1992. He was appointed Honourable Khadi, Sharia Court of Appeal, Jigawa State in 1992 and finally appointed an Honourable Acting Grand Khadi in 2000.

Alhaji Muhammadu Tahir was a renowned Islamic scholar, a genius and a philanthropist. He was a man of good legacies. A man of truth and fidelity, true in what he did. He was quixotic when there was nothing to be said, but pertinent, wise and sincere when he spoke. He was a man with certain spiritual qualities which made him calm in adversity, just in his dealings, rationale and sane in all affairs of life. Though he is dead, the flame of his good legacies will forever remain.

I pray that Allah, our glorious God in His infinite mercy to forgive Alhaji Muhammadu Tahir for his shortcomings and may his soul rest in perfect peace; may he be admitted into *Jannatul-Fridausi*, ameen.

Magaji Mai Ulu Gumel,
Sharia Court of Appeal,
Jigawa State.

The people of Jigawa State seem to have realised the wisdom of Governor Saminu Turaki's initiatives in introducing some projects which were seen as alien to our environment. The projects that were hitherto criticised and condemned as mere drain pipes of public funds have now started yielding positive results.

The sugarcane project introduced by the governor has now become a sustained source of income for peasants. Under this programme, farmers receive farm inputs such as seedlings, fertilisers, irrigation machines etc. from government with subsidy on loans payable after the harvest, but if the harvest is poor the loan is written off by the state government.

The record so far has been impressive with a hectare of farm producing as much as 88.2 tonnes of sugarcane. Farmers have no problem of market for their produce because the government pays as much as 500,000 naira per hectare.

Oputa, all eyes on you

The noticeable dividends of democracy so far recorded by Aremu's administration is the formation of Oputa Rights Violation Investigation Panel with the aim of exposing Abacha, but with Fela's case before this honourable panel, the course takes a new dimension. We hope the judge will avoid saying 'the king can do no wrong' as it is now a democratic era and all eyes are on you (Oputa).

Yunusa Hamza F/Dutse,
P. O. Box 185, Gwaram,
Jigawa State.

Re: Path to a second term

Dr. Tilde's "Path to a second term" proved to be an interesting reading. I will advise any intending politician or a "potential Tazarcé" to go through it thoroughly and give it a trial.

If all our leaders will have the heart, will and courage to follow that simple and thorn less path, I think they will reach their desired destination safely with abundant *guzuri*, both here and hereafter.

May Allah help and guide His devoted servants.

Mohammed Ahmed-Alkali
Mubarak Pharmacy Ltd,
FHA Maitama, Abuja.

Turaki has done well

In addition, Jigawa State government is also taking the issue of indigenous technology transfer very seriously. Right now, the state government is building a Broad Band Access Network (BAN) that will connect the state to the global Internet backbone. The network is intended to provide services such as e-mail, voice over, wave browsing, video and audio streaming, enhancing distance learning, tele-medicine and educational television. Under this new initiative, Jigawa State will be the service provider to all the states in Nigeria.

The revolution in the educational sector is nothing but a miracle to many educationists. From a woeful performance of less than one percent in 1999, Jigawa State now ranks among the best three states in examination performance in the country. This credit is due to the governor's initiative to

improve the welfare of teachers, and makes the learning atmosphere conducive for both the students and the teachers. Jigawa has the highest salary scale for teachers in the whole country and even non-indigenes are given permanent and pensionable appointment to attract the best hands into the teaching profession.

In view of the erratic nature of communication in the country, the state government is putting in

place a wireless communication network that would link all the local government headquarters and, therefore, ease communication problems presently facing the young state.

We hope the governor will continue with these good works to lift Jigawa State out of her present state of backwardness.

Ahmad Mahmud
Bureau for Public Affairs
Network,
Dutse, Jigawa State.

IBB should stand if...

The man IBB needs no introduction to Nigerians. However, an examination of history, albeit briefly will suffice. First, we need to remember the agony of SAP that SAPPED Nigerian masses. We also need to remember how Nigeria was "re-engineered" through various programmes during his tenure.

It is said that, the worth of a man is not determined by where he stands at moments of comfort and convenience, but where stands at times of challenges and controversy. IBB has a proven record on this. During the June 12 saga, he seems to be the only bird left when other birds were flying after seeing a deadly stone coming towards them because of his courage and resistance.

Hypocrites the father of medicine also wrote 23 centuries ago that: "the source of our pleasures, merriment, laughter, amusement, grief, pain, anxiety and fears is none other than brain which enables us to think, see and hear, to distinguish the ugly and the beautiful, the bad and the good, the pleasant and the unpleasant. The brain is the seat of madness and delirium, of the fears and frights which assail us often by night and sometimes day: it is where lies the cause of insomnia and sleep-walking, of thoughts that will not come, of forgotten duties and of eccentricities."

It is my considered view therefore, since IBB is constitutionally qualified to contest for president, he should stand for it come 2003 if Nigerians still need his services and should be willing to accept the mandate, but should not use "money politics" and impose himself on us.

And those who say it is difficult for someone to throw stones from a glass house, have not met IBB. He has done creditably all his life. Therefore, the choice is for the electorate and not for those who resort to media blackmail and bashing. No one except ethnic or regional jingoist will dispute the fact that IBB is a better option come 2003.

Umar Kafin-Dangi,
Ranadu Local Government,
Katsina State.



NEPA

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

NEPA Weekly Situation Report (16)

OUR BULLETIN FOR WEEK NO.16:

(08/07/2001 TO 14/07/2001)

1. PEAK DAILY GENERATION FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

PREVIOUS WEEK (01/07/2001 TO 07/07/2001)			CURRENT WEEK (08/07/2001 TO 14/07/2001)	
DAY	DATE	GEN(MW)	DATE	GEN(MW)
Sunday	01/07/2001	1913	08/07/2001	2038
Monday	02/07/2001	1818	09/07/2001	1964
Tuesday	03/07/2001	1863	10/07/2001	1950
Wednesday	04/07/2001	1816	11/07/2001	1947
Thursday	05/07/2001	2029	12/07/2001	1971
Friday	06/07/2001	2047	13/07/2001	1914
Saturday	07/07/2001	2048	14/07/2001	1959

2. PROJECTED AVERAGE PEAK GENERATION FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (08/07/2001 TO 14/07/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (15/07/2001 TO 21/07/2001)
1963.3MW	2128MW

3. PEAK WEEKLY GENERATION FROM EACH POWER STATION IN THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (08/07/2001 TO 14/07/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (15/07/2001 TO 21/07/2001)
KAINJI	128MW	130MW
JEBBA	190MW	200MW
SHIRORO	260MW	260MW
EGBIN	866MW	870MW
SAPELE	249MW	165MW
AFAM	93MW	95MW
DELTA	294MW	300MW
IJORA	20MW	20MW
CALABAR	1MW	1MW
ENRON	62.2MW	62MW
TOTAL	2140.2MW	2103MW

(Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro)

4. PROJECTED AVERAGE DAILY GENERATION FROM EACH POWER STATION IN THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (ACTUAL) (08/07/2001 TO 14/07/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (FORECAST) (15/07/2001 TO 21/07/2001)
KAINJI	117MW	130MW
JEBBA	182MW	200MW
SHIRORO	257MW	260MW
EGBIN	863MW	870MW
SAPELE	171MW	165MW
AFAM	58MW	95MW
DELTA	283MW	300MW
IJORA	NIL	20MW
CALABAR	1MW	1MW
ENRON	62MW	62MW
AVERAGE TOTAL	1932MW	2103MW

(Low water level at Kainji, Jebba & Shiroro)

5. AVERAGE ESTIMATED DAILY NATIONAL DEMAND FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2001 = 3500MW

6. HYDROLOGY

Water level at Kainji, Jebba and Shiroro is low at this period of the year, hence reduction of generation output from the hydro based Power Stations

ENERGY SAVING

BELOW ARE SOME USEFUL TIPS ON HOW YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY, BY:

- Ensuring, for example, that when they are in use, your refrigerator or freezer is not overfilled. They operate more efficiently and economically only when filled to capacity.
- Making sure that your refrigerator or freezer is not set to run colder than necessary. We recommend that you always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

- Ensuring that when using the oven for meal cooking, try to use it for a full meal rather than using both oven and surface units. If you have three dishes to be cooked at slightly different temperatures, pick the mean temperature to cook all three. (For example, the mean of 325, 350 and 375 degrees temperature is 350 degrees)
- Making sure you do not use oversized water heaters. The oversized water heater wastes energy heating unneeded water. It should in fact be avoided to reduce your initial cost.
- Switching off all appliances not in use. Especially, when you are not home remember to switch off your water heater, air-conditioners, television sets or indeed all lights you do not need before dark.
- Switching off security lights.
- Switching off street lights during the day.
- Ensuring that when cooking with the electric cooker you use pots or pans that match the ring sizes.
- Using energy-saving bulbs.
- Ensuring that you do not fill the electric kettle just to make a cup of tea. Use just enough water to cover the ring. Hot water kettles come in different sizes, you may choose the one to meet your needs.

Next, we serve you the power demand and energy consumption of some domestic appliances:

APPLIANCE	TYPE	RATING	POWER DEMAND IN KILOWATT (KW)	RATED CURRENT IN AMPERES (AMPS)	NO. OF HRS. TO CONSUME ONE UNIT OF ELECTRICITY (i.e. 1 KWH)
Water-heater	50 litre	1200watt	1.2	5.2	0.8
	100litre	2500watt	2.5	11	0.4
Cooker (4-plate With oven)	Small	6000watt	6.0	26	0.2
	Regular	8000watt	8.0	34	1.2
	Large	10500watt	10.5	45	0.1
Single-plate Cooker	Portable	1800watt	1.8	7.7	0.6
Fan	Table	0.08HHP	0.06	0.25	1.7
	Standing	0.1HHP	0.7	0.3	1.4
	Ceiling	0.3HHP	0.2	0.9	4.5
Air-Conditioner	Small	1.5HHP	1.1	4.7	1
	Medium	2HHP	1.5	6.5	0.7
Refrigerator	Small	0.2HHP	0.15	0.6	7
	Medium	0.25HHP	0.19	0.8	5
	Large	0.3HHP	0.22	0.9	4.5
Television-(Black & White)		200watt	0.2	0.9	5
Television (Colour)		300 watt	0.3	1.3	3

- 1000watt = 1Kilowatt (1KW)
- 1 HHP = 0.746 Kilowatt
- 1KWH = One unit of electricity = 1KW x 1 HR. i.e. 1 Kilowatt used for 1 hour.

Finally, we appeal to all our esteemed customers and all good Nigerians to endeavour to report faults promptly wherever and whenever they occur. There are faults sections and complaints centres in all our 56 district offices spread across the country. Only such prompt reports can enable us attend to faults promptly to make life a lot easier for you.

We thank you for your understanding and patience.

LET US CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GREATER GOOD OF OUR COUNTRY.

Management

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Foreign & Diplomatic

Jeffrey Archer's road to jail

Lord Jeffrey Archer, British politician and novelist, was last Thursday sentenced to four years in jail for lying in court in 1987. Kevin Ebele Adinnu of our Foreign Desk, in this piece, unravels the latest plot of the great storyteller.

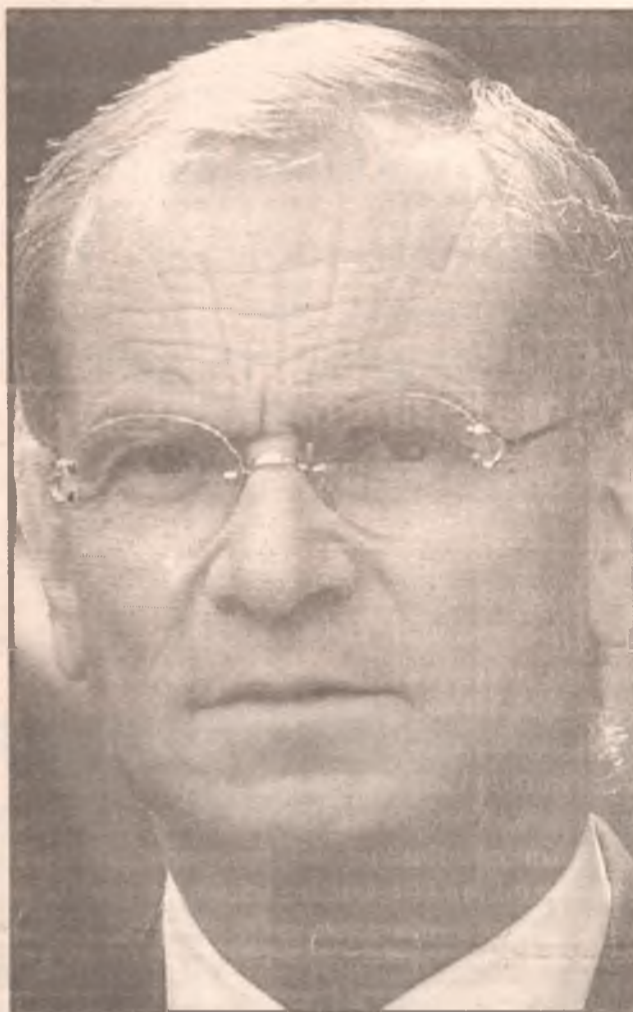
Probably tired of weaving great fictional tales around characters in his novels, popular storyteller, Lord Jeffrey Archer decided to weave one around himself. In 1987, he gave life to a lie he invented about himself. The lie lived for 12 years and collapsed last week. And suddenly, Archer, author of *Kane and Abel* finds himself in jail for mixing facts with fiction. Last Thursday, a jury jailed him for four years for perjury and perverting the course of justice.

In 1986, the *News of the World* broke a story accusing Archer, then Deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, of paying money to a prostitute, Monica Coghlan. The paper also published the photograph of Archer's aide, Michael Stacpoole, giving an envelope containing money to Monica.

However, when another tabloid, *Daily Star*, reported that Jeffrey Archer slept with Miss Coghlan, he sued for libel. He was able to convince the judge that he was elsewhere the night the paper alleged he slept with the prostitute.

Like a fine archer, drawing from his *Quiver Full of Arrows*, he struck the judge's mind with a fake 1986 diary which he instructed his personal assistant, Angela Peppiatt, to prepare. A blend of this diary and a letter by his friend, Ted Francis, saying that Archer dined with him at an Italian restaurant on the night of the alleged liaison, convinced the judge who awarded him damages of £500,000 for defamation of his character.

Archer's Achilles heel was his ambition to become the Mayor of London in 1999. In a twist



Jeffrey Archer.

of fate, his old friend Ted Francis, envious of Jeffrey's ambition, squealed. He revealed that he told a lie in 1987 when he claimed that he had been having dinner with Archer the night *Daily Star* claimed he slept with Miss Coghlan.

Lord Archer pulled out of the mayoral race and was stripped of his membership of the Conservative Party.

His refusal to pay back damages to *Daily Star* prompted a perjury investigation which ended in his conviction, bringing him down from his cosy penthouse to cold jail.

Like Abel Rosnovski, one of his enduring characters in *Kane and Abel*, Jeffrey Archer stoked his career with a mélange of lies and hardwork, stumbling and getting up each time culminating into his admission as a peer in the House of Lords, the upper house of the British Parliament in 1992. Only time will tell whether Archer will be able to wriggle out of his latest 'creative' plot.

Born in 1940, Archer claimed he attended the distinguished Wellington College in Berkshire when in fact he attended Wellington School in

The controversy in London presently is whether Lord Archer would return to the House of Lords as a peer after serving his sentence. There are calls to strip him of his lifetime peerage but there is no legal precedent.

Perhaps Archer has woven a plot in aid of the development of Britain's unwritten constitution. And perhaps, only the master storyteller himself can unravel his plot.

Somerset. There are still doubts about his academic qualifications which gained him admission at an Oxford College.

In 1969, the author of *The Prodigal Daughter* won a by-election and became the youngest Member of Parliament in the House of Commons at the age of 29.

His fortunes nose-dived in 1974 when he lost £500,000 in a fraudulent Canadian company making him near bankrupt and forcing him to resign his seat.

A little later he leapt back to glory and to power. In 1975, he wrote the novel, *Not a Penny More, Not a Penny Less*, a successful work that brought him wealth, selling 25,000 copies a month at a point.

Sources claim that he earned as much as £60m from his next 14 novels and three plays. His other works include *Kane and Abel*, *The Prodigal Daughter*, *Shall We Tell the President*, *A Quiver Full of Arrows*, *First Among Equals*, *Honour Among Thieves*, and *A Matter of Honour*.

His tall mansion overlooking a river with a penthouse where he fetes the *crème-de-la-crème* of the British society evokes the memory of Abel, one of his characters who crowned his success by living in the penthouse atop his hotel. But Archer's ambition towered far above that of his character.

Wealth made, Jeffrey Archer, *As a Matter of Honour* returned to politics becoming the Deputy chairman of the Conservative Party in 1985.

In 1986 the revelation that he had slept with a prostitute and paid her off started off another spiral of events that put him in public glare. He won back his reputation when *Daily Star* was ordered to pay him £500,000 as damages.

In 1992, he became a peer, a member of the House of Lords. In 1994 he was involved in another controversy over shares of Anglia Television he bought and sold reaping £70,000 as profit.

In his latest ordeal, Lord Archer had been ordered to pay £175,000 costs within 12 months and he would have to serve at least half of his four-year sentence.

The controversy in London presently is whether Lord Archer would return to the House of Lords as a peer after serving his sentence. There are calls to strip him of his lifetime peerage but there is no legal precedent.

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Jeffrey Archer and his wife, Mary.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

US alleges missile attack from Iraq

US officials have said that Iraq fired a surface-to-air missile at a US surveillance plane in Kuwaiti airspace.

The crew of a Navy E2-C surveillance aircraft flying in Kuwaiti airspace last Thursday



George W. Bush, American President.

reported seeing the plume of a surface-to-air missile apparently fired from inside Iraqi territory, according to a senior defence official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said that the plane was not hit and that the sighting could not be immediately confirmed through other means.

He said it was possible the missile was fired ballistically,

meaning it was not guided by radar and in which case it could not be tracked by its electronic emissions.

"There were no electronic fingerprints. Visibility was poor. But our best guess was that it was a surface-to-air missile fired ballistically in the vicinity of the E2. The missile burst about a mile away from the aircraft," the official said.

The United States did not

immediately retaliate because of poor visibility and the lack of an electronic signal indicating the origin of the missile, he said.

If early reports of the incident were correct, it would be the first known instance of Iraq firing a missile into Kuwaiti airspace since the 1991 Gulf War.

US and British jets have been patrolling no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq in an operation designed to protect Kurdish and Shiite groups against government forces.

Africa presents its big idea

South African President Thabo Mbeki and other African leaders at the G8 summit in Genoa have presented a recovery plan for the continent - A New African Initiative.

It is a wide-ranging programme, designed to reduce

poverty and place Africa on a path of sustainable growth and development.

The 60-page document is the result of a merger of two separate plans drawn up in recent months.

President Mbeki, together with Nigerian leader, Olusegun Obasanjo and Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, had devised the so-called Millennium Africa Recovery Programme (MARP), while Senegal President Abdoulaye Wade had put forward the Omega Plan.

The new merged plan points out that in Africa, 340 million people, or half the population, live on less than \$1 (N140.00) a day.

"The poverty and backwardness of Africa stand in stark contrast to the prosperity of the developed world," it says.

Five years ago, there were 27 African nations in the list of the world's least developed countries.

Today, that number has risen to 34.

For much of this year, President Mbeki has been trying to gather international support for Africa's recovery.

The South African leader raised the issue at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January.

More recently, he visited the United States, Britain and Germany.

Now the African leaders directly involved in A New African Initiative, are appealing to all the members of the G8 to back the plan.

They are keen to stress that while foreign support is needed, Africa is not asking for more aid.

"In proposing the partnership, Africa recognises that it holds the key to its own development," states the document.

The African Initiative calls for a new relationship between Africa and the international community.

"In the past, European countries and the G8 focused on global financial structures and global economics", said Abdul Minty, South Africa's Foreign Affairs Deputy Director-General.

"The decisions they were taking, affected the South very severely, and the South had no voice. Now there is a very important dialogue between developed and developing countries," he said.

The launch of the recovery plan coincided with the emergence of the new African Union, replacing the 38-year-old Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Speaking in a recent BBC interview, President Mbeki said that for African countries which were poorer and less able to stand on their own than developed nations, the drive towards integration was far

Poor nations warn WTO

Delegates from the world's 49 poorest countries began a summit in Zanzibar yesterday to try to halt further liberalisation in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

They are concerned that they are being forced to open up their markets while they are not strong enough yet to trade with

the West.

This conference has more potential to derail globalisation than anything happening on the streets of Genoa.

The least developed countries have come together at the invitation of Tanzania. Trade Minister, Iddi Simba, is trying to get agreement on a declaration blocking any further

trade liberalisation.

After talks stalled in Seattle two years ago, the WTO is meeting again in November.

But the least developed countries are angry that their agriculture, which they depend on, is being opened up to competition while the agriculture of Europe and North America continues to receive

subsidies.

They may not have much money but they do have votes and Mr Simba said that they will block another trade round in the WTO unless earlier promises made to them are kept.

The least developed countries are defined by the UN as countries with an average income of less than \$900 a year.

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TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

Explosions rock Indonesian churches

Explosions have gone off in two churches in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, as people were attending Sunday morning services.

More than 40 people are reported injured. Two are said to have lost limbs, and some were crushed when a church roof fell on top of them.

One eyewitness said that shortly before one blast he saw a man carrying a bag approach a vehicle parked outside a church, and then hurry away.

Police said there was a direct link between the explosions and the political crisis following President Abdurrahman Wahid's renewed threat to impose a state of emergency.

He has been summoned to appear before the upper house of parliament today, for an impeachment hearing which

could result in his removal as head of state.

Mr Wahid has declared that he will not resign, and that he will not appear before the assembly.

The first explosion went off inside the Santa Ana Catholic church, in the east of the city, shortly after 0700 (0000GMT), as about 700 people were attending mass.

Part of the ceiling fell in, and windows were shattered.

"There was a loud explosion. People ran out in panic. There were clouds of thick smoke and things fell down from the roof," said the parish priest, Father Suryanto.

Among the injured were children and pregnant women.

The second explosion, minutes later at the Huriyah Kristen Batak Protestant Church, caused no injuries, as the morning service had already

finished.

Part of the church roof caved in and two cars parked outside were damaged.

On Saturday, Mr Wahid appealed to his followers not to

turn to violence - but warned that the popular mood might be hard to control.

"If they go ahead with impeachment, don't blame me if the crowd takes care of everything by themselves," he said.

Nepal awaits new prime minister

The ruling Nepali Congress (NC) is about to choose a new prime minister, two days after the resignation of Girija Prasad Koirala.

In what is being seen as a goodwill gesture, Maoist rebels on Saturday released 15 of the policemen they have been holding hostage.

Another 59 policemen remain in captivity more than a week after being seized.

Mr Koirala was subjected

to intense pressure to step down for failing to prevent the royal massacre of June 1, as well as failing to end the five-year long Maoist insurrection.

He was responsible for royal palace affairs when King Birendra and nine of his family member were shot dead in their palace, sparking a new period of instability in the Himalayan mountain kingdom.

More than 1,500 people

Police raid protesters' office in Genoa

A police raid on the headquarters of a group co-ordinating protest action at the G8 summit in Genoa has left at least 40 protesters injured.

The anti-globalisation

movement, the Genoa Social Forum, said the police burst into its offices shortly after midnight (2200 GMT Saturday) and attacked the people inside.

A BBC correspondent who entered the building immediately after the raid said he saw a number of badly injured people, and pools of blood in the rooms.

The summit ended yesterday.

More than 200 people, including 73 police, were wounded in clashes on Saturday, and more than 120 people have been arrested since Friday, some on charges as serious as attempted murder.

The turmoil has prompted Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, the host of next year's summit, to propose rethinking the next G8 gathering.

Mr Chretien said that changes would be needed before next year's summit.

"We have to reduce the size of the delegation to have a more informal type of meeting. There are too many people. Some have huge delegations - that is not needed," he said, adding that each country should be limited to 400 delegates and staff.

He is also reportedly considering holding the 2002 summit in a remote Rocky Mountain town that will be more difficult for protesters to reach.

The police were apparently searching for computer disks and videos of earlier clashes when they raided a school which the Genoa Social Forum was using as a co-ordinating centre.

Windows were broken, furniture smashed and there were pools of blood left on the floor.

"They came in, blocked the door and kept beating us with sticks and kicking us, one after the other," said Michael Gieser, a Belgian journalist who was staying in the school.

Police department spokesman Roberto Sgalla said the police were acting on a tip-off, and that iron bars, knives, blunt objects and black T-shirts had been seized.

He said "about 10" had been hurt in the raid, and that other people taken to hospital had been injured earlier in the weekend.

Odd World American caught with 49 snakes, lizards

Forty-nine pythons and monitor lizards were discovered in the suitcase of an American tourist travelling on board a French train heading for Germany, French customs officials have said.

The reptiles, all of which came from Indonesia and were protected species, were tied up in sacks inside the suitcase and were described by a vet as being seriously stressed.

They were taken to a zoo in Amneville near the German border. This latest seizure brings the total number of reptiles intercepted by French customs this year to 150.

Customs did not name the American or say if any charges

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NATIONAL COUNCIL ON PRIVATISATION

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FESTAC '77 HOTELS PLC

BY

CORE GROUP/STRATEGIC INVESTORS

1. In line with the on-going Privatisation Programme, the Federal Government of Nigeria hereby invites prospective Core Group/Strategic Investors to express their interest in Festac '77 Hotels PLC. The re-advertisement is intended to give opportunity to both hotel operators as well as property development companies interested in operating the assets of Festac '77 as a hotel or a condominium.
2. Festac '77 Hotels PLC Operates the Festac '77 Hotel located along Lagos/Badagry Expressway which is a major gateway into Nigeria. The Hotel that is sited on a land area of 7.748 hectares is designed to American standard. Facilities available in the Hotel include 528 room suites comprising of mainly luxury/diplomatic suites and a presidential suite. It has office plaza and complex that could be used by individuals, families and other corporate organizations or even serve as a condominium. Other facilities include lawn tennis courts, international standard swimming pool, a garden, a night club, and more space for further development.
3. Interested Core Group/Strategic Investors must be hospitality or estate investors with a record of successful investment and preferably a long standing relationship with one or more estate management business, in order to be successful in the pre-qualification exercise which will short-list candidates.
4. To qualify, interested Core Group/Strategic Investors must provide information on their Technical, Managerial and Financial capability and verifiable evidence, including, but not limited to the following:-
 - < Record of successful investment in hotels or estate management business.
 - < Ample financial resources to groom the hotel to a more viable enterprise and thus enhance the shareholders' value.
5. Only qualified bidders will be contacted and given a period of between four and six weeks within which to carry out due diligence on the hotel before submitting technical and financial proposals. Upon receipt of the bids from qualified bidders, the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) shall invite one or more of the top bidders for negotiations, which might include a final opportunity to revise their bids.
6. Interested Core Group/Strategic Investors should indicate their interest by providing the following documentation and information:-
 - < Full name of the company and the contact person, postal address, telephone and fax number and e-mail address;
 - < Ownership Structure
 - Name(s) of major shareholders and
 - Percentage shareholding;
 - * Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years and most recent Management Accounts.
 - * Technical and Operational Capabilities
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 - Years of operating outside Nigeria
 - Network in Nigeria
 - International Experience
 - * Management Team
 - Number of years at Management level of Chief Executive
 - Percentage with 20 years experience in the industry
 - Percentage of Management Team, with relevant Post Graduate of Professional Qualifications
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7. Enquiries should be directed to:

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P.M.B. 442 Garki, Abuja, Nigeria
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All expressions of interest must be received not later than 5:00p.m. on the 27th August, 2001.

Those who applied in response to the first advert need not re-apply except if they have additional information which could enhance their chances.

BUSINESS DAY

CBN sells \$4.1b foreign exchange

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) foreign exchange sales from January to May, 2001 stands at a sum total of \$4.1 billion or about N532 billion.

According to a report released by the CBN out of the above amount, the private sector had a large share of \$3.7 billion whereas the public sector bought \$366 million.

This scenario, perhaps, proved wrong the contention by some economic experts that the overt pressure on the Foreign Exchange Market (Forex) earlier in the year was occasioned by excess foreign inputs involved in government contracts.

From the above, it may therefore be seen that Federal Government's contention as stated sometime ago by the Vice President Atiku Abubakar that unwholesome practices of some banks or the private

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

sector may be responsible.

This argument may be tenable even though CBN's disbursement to public sector upped by 271 percent because the foreign exchange sales to authorised dealers by CBN in May, which amounted to \$674.4 million, was a decrease of 30.8 percent below the \$975.4 million sold in the

preceding month.

It would be recalled that it was in the month of May that President Olusegun Obasanjo declared the readiness of his government to checkmate the continuous fall of naira in the foreign exchange market.

CBN disbursements to the public sector in the

month under review amounted to \$7.4 million, showing decreases of \$1.06 million (12.6 percent) and US \$19.8 million (80.2 percent) when compared with the preceding month and corresponding period of 2000 respectively.

Further analysis is of the report revealed that the

industrial sector obtained \$2.5 million or 33.1 percent while finished goods got \$2.4 million or 32.2 percent. The invisible trade sector accounted for \$2.52 million or 34 percent.

Nevertheless, it would be noted that in the last five months as the report suggests no disbursements were made

available to the Federal Government or agricultural sector in spite of the threatening food crisis nationwide.

However, in the table of direct disbursements, estacode took as much as \$2.5 million in the month of May (34 percent) and \$15.9 million since January.

Customs reaps N446b revenue

The much criticised policy of hundred percent inspection of cargo by the Customs at the ports and border stations may have started yielding positive results, as the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has raked in over N446 billion within the last six months of the year 2001.

Of this amount which accrued courtesy of the 100 percent inspection policy, Alhaji Ibrahim Gwangwazo, the N.C.S. Public Relations Office told reporters in

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

Lagos that over half a billion naira of the generated revenue resulted from the 100 percent inspection embarked upon by the service.

The amount, Alhaji Gwangwazo said, represented 36 percent of the projected revenue of N120 billion from customs and excise duties for the year.

Gwangwazo disclosed that five vessels of bulk rice and a vessel of base oil with wrong rate for duty assessment were caught within three weeks of the exercise, leading to the recovery of N547,093,603 more revenue to the Federal Government.

Asked to comment on the criticism by many port users that the 100 percent port inspection of cargo have been responsible for the congestion of goods at the ports.

The N.C.S. Public Relations Officer answer, on the affirmative. But he stated that the 100 percent inspection would positively affect the year 2001 budget with 36 percent of the projected revenue already collected during the period

under review.

According to him, a total of 11 containers (three by 40 feet and eight by 20 feet) have been discovered to be involved in cases of false declaration of goods and have been seized.

He also disclosed that seventy-one containers have been involved in under declaration of the quantity assessed for customs duties.

Alhaji Gwangwazo, stated that of the 71 containers, 12 were by 40 feet while 59 by 20 feet.

He said further that the goods were released after the correct duties and penalty imposed by government were paid.

The Customs Public Relations Officers however stated that genuine importers have been coming forward to clear their goods while some

importers have continued to stay away.

Alhaji Gwangwazo revealed that 834 and 500 containers have been cleared at Apapa and Tin Can Island ports respectively while



Ahmed Mustapha, Customs C-G 2929 vehicles were cleared out of Tin Can ports between June 11 and 29, 2001.

Crisis looms in port over demurrage

Crisis is looming again at the ports over the refusal of Roro Oceanic Shipping Company, the private joint venture with the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to grant importers the statutory five-day grace before charging demurrage on imported vehicles.

Already, NPA workers are alleging that Roro Oceanic was able to realise N40 million on demurrage last week as against N22 million realised by the NPA during the same period owing to this sharp practice.

Business Day investigation however revealed that the NPA is adhering to the five days of grace rule despite its joint

From Tokunbo Oloke, in Lagos

venture partner's circumvention of the rule. "It is true we are charging three days instead of five days as stipulated by the government, I do not know why our management is operating it that way," said the Traffic Manager Roll-on-Roll-off (Roro), Alhaji Bala Ahmed. He however confirmed the situation adding that "when we discovered they were charging below the normal days, we wrote to them to adjust to the normal days in order not to incur the wrath of the port users and also to know that we are one family doing the same business in the port."

Fear grips Airways staff over retrenchment

Fear has gripped workers of Nigeria Airways following the Federal Government's decision to prune down the workforce of the ailing national carrier as a prelude to the forthcoming privatisation exercise.

It is speculated that about 1,500 of Nigeria Airways workers across all categories will be affected in the exercise.

When Business Day visited the Airways premises, some of the workers were seen in groups discussing the effects of such

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

action.

Apparently disturbed by the development, some of the union leaders declined to comment on the issue pleading with our correspondent to exercise patience.

However, a press conference has been slated by the union alliance of Nigeria Airways rationalisation exercise.

Some of the union leaders who spoke to Business Day on condition of anonymity, hinted that

their next line of action would be unfolded at the press conference slated for last week at the Airways Training School in Lagos.

Before now, workers of Nigeria Airways have kicked against the privatisation of the airline, saying it will not be in the interest of Nigerians.

They argued then that before the privatisation exercise the federal Government should resuscitate the airline, so that its value will be appreciated as against selling it as scrap.

Elewi leads FG delegation to AFCOM 2001

The Minister of State for Communications, Alhaji Adekunle Haruna-Elewi is leading a four-man delegation to this year's African Telecommunications and Information Technology Conference, AFCOM 2001, holding in Virginia, United States of America.

Alhaji Haruna-Elewi will present a paper on the current and future outlook of the communications industry in Nigeria; with emphasis on network infrastructure, sector policy and investment opportunities.

The theme of the tenth edition of the global telecommunications forum is *Bridging the Digital Divide*. It will run from July 18 to 20, 2001.

Dr. Raymond Akwule, Chairman, Executive Committee AFCOM 2001, said the Minister's participation will enable him showcase Nigeria's huge potentials and efforts at improving its teledensity.

Specifically, the Minister will deliver a paper on the status of telecom sector policy with regards to liberalisation and privatisation; the types of investment opportunities that exist in the telecom sector; the current situation and prospects for cellular telecom and the policy toward licensing; and the available data networks and operation of VSAT data network service.

Alhaji Haruna-Elewi will also participate in a special ministerial oversight committee meeting to be chaired by Dr. Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri, the South African

Communications Minister.

The yearly telecom parley is designed to bring together African Ministers of Communications and other top industry leaders to discuss initiatives in the continent and share information with the global community on the status of Africa's telecommunications

and information infrastructure.

AFCOM 2001 is co-sponsored by several international organisations, including the Regional African Satellite Communications Organisation and the African Telecommunications Union.



Haruna Elewi, Communications Minister of State



Chartered Bank Plc. recently donated a set of computers to the Nigerian Association of Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (NASME). Picture shows Mr. Joseph Ode, Manager, External Relations of Chartered Bank (standing with mic) making his presentation at the occasion while Mr. Ubadigbo Okonkwo, Vice-President NASME; Fred Udechukwu, Executive Secretary, NASME and other officials of the Bank and the Association listen.

BUSINESS DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Price List as at 20/07/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	6.00	6.00	0.00	10	8,925	53,550.00
ABATEX	1.07	1.05	0.02	1	1,200	1,260.00
ABPLAST	1.10	1.10	0.00	1	500,000	580,000.00
ACADEMY	0.90	0.90	0.00	3	1,000	900.00
ACCESSBANK	1.20	1.25	0.05	9	285,500	356,875.00
AFPRINT	1.02	1.02	0.00	7	13,239	13,503.78
AFRIBANK	8.85	8.71	0.14	19	76,215	674,378.58
APRIPAINTS	0.63	0.60	0.03	1	10,000	6,000.00
AGIP	30.30	30.30	0.00	39	80,304	2,415,510.45
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	1	7,040	8,307.20
AIICO	3.16	3.16	0.00	11	88,363	276,169.45
ALEX	2.80	2.80	0.00	1	4,000	11,200.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	30	8,719	362,025.46
ARBICO	1.27	1.33	0.06	1	6,000	7,980.00
ASHAKACEM	16.20	17.00	0.80	31	448,527	7,561,588.70
AVONCROWN	1.54	1.54	0.00	1	1,500	2,310.00
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	5	103,293	494,773.47
BERGER	2.90	2.90	0.00	10	9,41	27,087.93
C&ILEASING	1.30	1.30	0.00	1	20,000	26,000.00
CADBURY	24.21	24.33	0.12	44	79,154	1,924,557.06
CAP	2.71	2.69	0.02	2	2,176	5,856.96
CAPALBETO	7.60	7.60	0.00	2	843	6,406.80
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	1	187	574.09
CFAO	2.53	2.65	0.12	1	50,000	132,500.00
CHARTERED	7.35	7.71	0.36	8	222,200	1,713,162.00
CMB	0.66	0.68	0.02	5	24,704	16,798.72
CONFIDINS	0.60	0.60	0.00	1	20,000	12,000.00
COOPBANK	2.14	2.14	0.00	1	800	1,712.00
CORNERST	1.55	1.55	0.00	5	49,100	76,105.00
COSTAIN	1.18	1.21	0.03	8	91,840	107,879.53
CRUSADER	2.15	2.24	0.09	7	46,588	100,861.20
CUTIX	3.26	3.26	0.00	1	500	1,630.00
DELGLAS	6.35	6.34	0.01	4	8,100	51,369.00
DNMEYER	15.00	15.00	0.00	18	152,520	2,401,140.00
DUNLOP	3.60	3.43	0.17	28	246,613	879,867.39
EKOBANK	1.46	1.46	0.00	13	110,205	160,589.76
ETERNAOIL	1.41	1.46	0.05	8	205,011	299,916.06
EVANSMED	1.42	1.40	0.02	4	23,618	33,097.20
FIRSTALUM	1.79	1.82	0.03	8	43,680	79,197.60
FIRSTBANK	25.97	25.00	0.97	241	899,166	22,925,684.46
FLOURMILL	16.53	15.71	0.82	65	895,859	14,213,764.39
FSB	6.61	6.50	0.11	26	265,800	1,684,467.40
GOLDEREW	0.63	0.60	0.03	4	134,000	80,400.00
GROMMAC	0.77	0.74	0.03	4	10,303	7,624.22
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	12	234,574	1,337,071.80
GUINNESS	38.50	39.00	0.50	40	67,065	2,597,975.21
IGL	6.10	6.10	0.00	3	29,187	178,040.70
IMB	1.80	1.80	0.00	12	51,470	88,928.40
INLANDBANK	1.53	1.50	0.03	1	5,822	8,733.00
IPWA	1.20	1.20	0.00	1	1,093	1,311.60
JBERGER	46.84	46.84	0.00	10	6,160	288,534.40
JOHNHOLT	2.18	2.28	0.10	10	29,536	66,212.28
LEVBROS	24.80	24.99	0.19	68	261,750	6,481,139.63
LIONBANK	1.65	1.73	0.08	19	205,751	353,715.90
LONGMAN	4.53	4.52	0.00	10	57,640	260,532.80
MANNYBANK	1.81	1.80	0.01	13	2,526,500	4,610,890.68
MAY&BAKER	2.80	2.80	0.00	4	7,234	20,255.20
MNS	93.47	93.47	0.00	1	200	18,694.00
MOBIL	64.00	63.00	1.00	35	41,354	2,629,587.70
MORISON	3.28	3.28	0.00	2	1,300	4,264.00
NAL	5.10	5.10	0.00	86	1,983,834	9,861,574.72
NB	26.30	27.00	0.70	65	237,545	6,376,966.86
NBC	20.00	20.05	0.05	34	99,923	2,009,189.18
NCR	2.00	2.00	0.00	3	4,000	8,000.00
NESTLE	64.00	64.00	0.00	55	543,711	34,351,871.22
NIG-GERMAN	2.73	2.60	0.13	12	61,600	164,618.00
NIGERINS	5.00	4.75	0.25	10	216,336	1,032,596.00
NOLCHEM	30.88	30.00	0.88	69	174,097	5,135,680.00
OKITIPUPA	0.70	0.70	0.00	1	6,000	4,200.00
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	10	42,736	403,855.20
OWENABANK	2.95	2.95	0.00	6	29,118	85,898.10
PFIZER	5.44	5.44	0.00	1	1	5.44
POLYPROD	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	2,720	1,360.00
PRESTIGE	2.30	2.30	0.00	11	94,876	216,050.75
PZ	13.87	13.53	0.34	37	61,562	849,666.66
ROADS	1.22	1.22	0.00	1	200	244.00
ROYALEX	5.10	5.10	0.00	5	51,137	260,798.70
RTBRISCOE	1.23	1.23	0.00	4	8,360	10,282.80
SAVANNA	1.15	1.20	0.05	17	783,340	933,439.00
SCOA	1.74	1.74	0.00	3	1,648	2,867.52
SECASSURE	0.64	0.64	0.00	1	1,000	640.00
SKBEECHAM	2.20	2.25	0.05	18	147,181	325,646.65
SUNNINS	0.65	0.65	0.00	1	1,512	982.80
TEXACO	64.00	63.99	0.01	36	17,994	1,151,371.20
TIB	2.63	2.63	0.00	13	205,824	538,150.24
TOTAL	67.10	67.10	0.00	14	13,781	914,769.30
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	2	900	936.00
TRIPPLEG	1.30	1.30	0.00	5	39,343	51,145.90
UAC-PROP	3.03	2.88	0.15	51	1,773,625	5,168,937.00
UACN	3.50	3.50	0.00	52	154,413	543,011.23
UBA	14.23	14.94	0.71	100	997,086	14,816,806.48
UBN	39.70	40.96	1.26	511	3,280,387	132,017,370.56
UNIONDICON	16.85	16.86	0.01	9	73,726	1,251,554.76
UNIPETROL	46.00	43.80	2.20	41	52,986	2,354,187.39
UNTL	3.40	3.57	0.17	11	5,874	20,8660.36
UPL	3.65	3.50	0.15	7	50,000	175,000.00
UTB	4.69	4.90	0.21	13	287,404	1,367,563.76
VINLEER	2.96	2.96	0.00	1	500	1,480.00
VITAFOAM	4.37	4.45	0.08	19	60,626	266,500.06
WAPCO	21.98	22.50	0.52	137	1,280,587	29,281,470.20
WEMABANK	2.88	2.88	0.00	28	171,710	494,691.00
TOTAL				2,435	21,812,043	331,175,706.83

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Gainers/Losers as at 20/07/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UBN	39.70	40.96	1.26
ASHAKACEM	16.20	17.00	0.80
UBA	14.23	14.94	0.71
NB	26.30	27.00	0.70
WAPCO	21.98	22.50	0.52
GUINNESS	38.50	39.00	0.50
CHARTERED	7.35	7.71	0.36
UTB	4.69	4.90	0.21
LEVBROS	24.80	24.99	0.19
UNTL	3.40	3.57	0.17
CADBURY	24.21	24.33	0.12
CFAO	2.53	2.65	0.12
JOHNHOLT	2.18	2.28	0.10
CRUSADER	2.15	2.24	0.09
VITAFOAM	4.37	4.45	0.08
LIONBANK	1.65	1.73	0.08
ARBICO	1.27	1.33	0.06
SKBEECHAM	2.20	2.25	0.05
SVANNA	1.15	1.20	0.05
ACCESSBANK	1.20	1.25	0.05
NBC	20.00	20.05	0.05
ETERNAOIL	1.41	1.46	0.05
COSTAIN	1.18	1.21	0.03
FIRSTALUM	1.79	1.82	0.03
CMB	0.66	0.68	0.02

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UNIPETROL	46.00	43.80	2.20
MOBIL	64.00	63.00	1.00
FIRSTBANK	25.97	25.00	0.97
NOLCHEM	30.88	30.00	0.88
FLOURMILL	16.53	15.71	0.82
PZ	13.87	13.53	0.34
NIGERINS	5.00	4.75	0.25
DUNLOP	3.60	3.43	0.17
UPL	3.65	3.50	0.15
UAC-PROP	3.03	2.88	0.15
AFRIBANK	8.85	8.71	0.14
NIG-GERMAN	2.73	2.60	0.13
FSB	6.61	6.50	0.11
AFRPAINTS	0.63	0.60	0.03
GOLDBREW	0.63	0.60	0.03
GROMMAC	0.77	0.74	0.03
INLANDBANK	1.53	1.50	0.03
EVANSMED	1.42	1.40	0.02
CAP	2.71	2.69	0.02
ABATEX	1.07	1.05	0.02
DELTGLAS	6.35	6.34	0.01
TEXACO	64.00	63.99	0.01
MANNYBANK	1.81	1.80	0.01

Summary of Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	% AGE CHANGE
MKT.	631,874,313,304.04	634,578,163,300.15	0.43
INDEX	10,687.68	10,733.41	0.43
DEALS	VOLUME	VOLUME	No. OF COMPANIES
2,435	21,812,043	331,175,706.83	101

Summary of Transactions

The bears lost to the bulls on the floor at NSE last Friday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 27.40 million shares valued at N331.18 million in 2,435 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

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

Price Movement

The Nigeria Stock Exchange All-Share Index closed at 10,687.68, a decrease of 0.43 percent. While the market capitalisation closed at N631.87 billion, an increase of 0.43 percent, it opened at N631.87 billion.

The bears lost to the bulls on the floor, with a total of 25 companies gaining and 21 losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Banking, Building Materials, Breweries, Conglomerates, Textile, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Insurance, Industrial & Domestic Products, Construction, Healthcare, Petroleum Marketing and the Packaging sub sector.

Union Bank Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 126 kobo to close the day at N49.96 per share, followed by Ashakacem Plc. which appreciated by 80 kobo to close at N17.00 per share.

Other price gainers include UBA (71 kobo); NB (70 kobo); WAPCO (52 kobo); Guinness (50 kobo); Chartered (36 kobo); UTB (21 kobo); Levbros (19 kobo); UNTL (17 kobo); Cadbury and CFAO (12 kobo apiece) and Johnholt (13 kobo).

Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Banking, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Conglomerates, Insurance, Automobile and Tyre, Printing and Publishing, Real Estate, Chemicals and Paints, Breweries, Construction, Healthcare, Textile and the Packaging sub sectors.

Unipetrol Plc led the price losers, dropping by 220 kobo to close at N43.80 per share, followed by Mobil Plc, which lost 100 kobo, to close at N63.00 per share.

Other price losers include First Bank (97 kobo); Nolchem (88 kobo); Flourmill (82 kobo); PZ (34 kobo); Nigerins (25 kobo); Dunlop (17 kobo); UPL and UAC-Prop (15 kobo apiece); Afribank (14 kobo); Nig-German (13 kobo) and FSB 11 kobo).

Privatisation UPDATE

BPE unfolds details of draft electricity reform bill

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), has unfolded details of the draft electricity power reform bill which has already been presented to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) for ratification for onward passage to the National Assembly.

According to the Deputy Director, Public Affairs of the bureau, Mr. Joseph Anichebe at a news briefing in Abuja, the draft bill consists of 14 sections and provides for the formation of various components out of NEPA.

The new companies to emerge from NEPA after its privatisation will take over its functions, assets, liabilities and staff. They are also expected to develop competitive electricity markets.

The bill when passed into law will give rise to the establishment of the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) which will provide licencing and regulation of the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity and enforcement of performance standards, consumer rights and obligations.

NERC will also determine electricity tariff

By Osborne Adi JNR, Business Editor
regime and act on other matters connected or incidental to the foregoing after privatisation.



Nasir el-Rufai, D-G, BPE

Details of the draft bill also include;

- * Establishment of relevant legislative basis for transfer of assets and liabilities by an executive action from NEPA to successor companies and, if required, divestment of, or private sector participation in, successor companies;
- * Powers and general duties of the Federal Ministry of Power & Steel

(FMPS) bearing in mind the proposed organisational changes to be made including the power to issue general directions to the regulator in relation to policy;

- * Powers and general duties of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), such as powers to make rules regulating its practice and produce, and procedures designed to ensure its independence;
- * Powers of the NERC in relation to anti-competitive behaviour, including mergers and

acquisitions involving licensed electricity companies;

- * Institutional and enforcement requirements of the regulatory regime;
- * Requirement for licensing by the NERC of the following business activities (beyond a specified threshold): Generation; System Operation; Transmission Services; Distribution; and Trading;
- * Legislative authority to include special conditions in licenses relating to: Recovery of any stranded costs, which may be generated as a result of market operation;
- * Protection of bondholders, lenders, subsidies for various classes of customers; among others.

NCP approves delisting of Royal Swaziland Sugar Coy

The National Council on Privatisation, NCP has approved the delisting of Royal Swaziland Sugar Corporation Limited (RSSC) from enterprises slated for privatisation.

The decision was sequel to the report of the fact-finding visitation team which established the viability of the Federal Government's investment in the RSSC which currently stands at 10.21 percent equity shares of the company.

The RSSC was established in 1977 with an equity capital of E40.1

million and loan funds/supplier totalling about E94 million. the Federal Government of Nigeria contributed 10 percent of the equity capital. The investment by the Nigerian Government was in response to the request for assistance from the Swazi Monarch in the face of lack of local capital to set up the sugar plant. The then Head of State, Olusegun Obasanjo at the time in 1977 and in the spirit of Pan Africanism responded positively to the cry for help.

The foreign loans component of the investment capital had been rapid but the local loans from Swaziland Government and Tibiyo Taka Ngwame (the investing arm of His Majesty for and on behalf of Swaziland) were capitalised in 1985 by the creation of E118,47 million non-cumulative redeemable preference shares. By 1992, about E70 million of these shares had been redeemed and the remaining shares were converted to ordinary shares.



Vice President Atiku Abubakar

ASE opposes merger with NSE

The Abuja Stock Exchange (ASE), which has been slated for privatisation has said that the current agitation for its merger with the Lagos-based Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE) was against government's liberalisation policy.

The Minister of Defence, Lt.-Gen. Theophilus Danjuma, had recently called for the merger of the two stock exchanges.

In a statement issued last week in Abuja, ASE

noted that the Federal Government was currently liberalising the economy to attract more investors.

It said that since the government had commenced the deregulation of various sectors of the economy, including banking, insurance, telecommunications and transportation, there was also the need to deregulate the capital market.

It said that the merger of the two stock exchanges would lead to the existence of only one exchange, thereby creating a monopoly of stock market operations in the country.

"It is clear from economic studies that monopoly breeds incompetence, inefficiency and even corruption," it said, arguing that the country's economy would suffer from stunted growth and inefficiency if the monopoly in the capital market was restored to the NSE.

"Nigeria at its present

state of development, similar to that of developing countries like India, Indonesia and Brazil, stand to benefit immensely from the deregulation of the capital market," it added.

The exchange also argued that developed countries like France, Germany, Canada and Belgium were able to open up their economies and create vast investment opportunities because they operated multiple and independent exchanges.

"Most African countries except South Africa and Egypt operate one stock exchange and this situation is also reflective of their level of economic development," it said.

"Nigeria will benefit more from operating a multiple stock exchange network as it is not only capable of bringing development closer to the people, but will assist government in its poverty alleviation programme.

...as FG dumps plans to scrap it

The Federal Government may have dumped plans to scrap Abuja Stock Exchange (ASE) inspite of the recent pressures to that effect from certain quarters.

According to informed sources at that exchange, government soft pedalled owing to the superior argument that the nation's capital market presently attracts investments from only one percent of the entire population and that competition is needed to boost investment in this regards.

Hence the need for a dual stock exchange in the country which would erode the present monopoly situation.

The source pointed out that since the position was at tandem with the policy of the

By Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

President Olusegun Obasanjo led government the push to scrap the exchange has since died down.

Moreover, the source stated that even the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE) which has been operating for about 40-years can not be said to be realising the full potentials of Lagos State investor made the pressure to scrap the ASE fail.

Said he: "The potentials of investors in Lagos is much more than what we see in the Nigeria Stock Exchange. So much more work is needed to attract funds into the capital market."

ASE has been generating alot of controversy since its inception and official opening which was held in Lagos. Infact, the Lagos opening ceremony led to wild speculations that its promoters are not serious and aims' to take advantage of Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) approved "dual listing" provision to "Poarch" investors listed on the NSE.

The fact that most quoted compnaies on its floor at inception happened to be companies listed on the NSE even seemed to cement this views among dealers.

However, the Managing Director of ASE, Malam Y. Abdurrahim in an interview

with the Business Day on the day of its official opening maintained that the focus of the exchange is to reach out nation-wide to potential investors.

According to him, the whole idea was to ensure that genuine investors were encouraged to invest in the capital market as its potentials in the realms of economic development can not be over-emphasised.

Abdurrahim disclose, at the time, that the exchange would open trading points in Onitsha, Port-Harcourt, Kano and other cities.

Table showing the share structure.

S/N	SHAREHOLDER	'A' SHARES	'B' SHARES	TOTAL	%	DIRE-CTORS
1	Tibiyo (the Investment Outfit for Swazil People.	18,368,774	14,949,233	23,311,000	49.41	3
2	CDC (Commonwealth Dev. Corporation)	3,868,745	1,081,627	4,950,372	10.49	1
3	Swaziland Government	6,262,511	0	6,262,511	13.27	2
4	Tate&Lyle Holdings	2,000,000	0	3,500,000	7.42	1
5	Tate&Lyle Investments	2,000,000	44,800	2,044,800	4.33	1
6	Nigerian Government	4,000,000	817,400	4,817,400	10.21	1
7	Coca Cola Export Corporation	1,700,000	0	1,700,000	3.60	1
8	International Finance Corporation	400,000	0	0	0.85	0

FG to NITEL: Recover all debts before privatisation

The Federal Government has ordered the management of the Nigeria Telecommunications

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

Limited (NITEL) to recover all its outstanding debts before its full privatisation

later this year.

The Territorial Manager of the company in Adamawa State, Alhaji Hussaini Malik, who disclosed this to journalists in Yola, said Yola NITEL Territorial office alone was battling to recover a debt of N64.58 million from its customers.

He said the debt - recovery exercise would enable the Federal Government to carryout the privatization exercise smoothly.

The manager disclosed that within the last one month alone his office had been able to recover over N10 million debts from their customers, thereby reducing the initial debt of N75 million to its current level of N64.58 million.

He expressed hope that the territory would recover the rest of the debt before the privatisation exercise, pointing out that the Adamawa State Government which is indebted to the tune of N16 million has been settling the debt at the rate of N3.7 million per month.



Sulayman Ndanusa, SEC, D-G.

Change or be left behind.



Star Feature

Durumi: The village in three parts

Durumi is a small settlement within Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory. Interestingly, there are three Durumis which are designated as Durumi I, II and III. Senior Features writer, Danlami Baban Takko visited Durumi recently and wrote this account.

Situated in the western part of Abuja, Durumi is the initial settlement of the Gwaris in the city, and they are believed to have come from Zaria (in present day Kaduna State) way back in 1914. The settlement is divided into Durumi I, II and III and contrary to claims that the Gwaris, were forced to divide themselves as a result of developmental activities, authoritative sources say the Gwaris, took the decision on their own immediately they arrived. What prompted the Gwaris to leave Zaria and settle in far away Abuja? That was the fundamental question to which even the Chief of the Gwaris, in Durumi I, Mr. Yohanna Ishiaku could not

give a satisfactory answer. He quickly admitted that the Gwaris, being hunters might have been forced to look elsewhere for animals and a fertile land. The wandering took them to present day Abuja where they settled at Durumi.

1914, the year of settlement is a distant period and today, Durumi is wearing a new look, which depicts a mixture of modern complexities and few traditional huts. The Gwaris are not the kind of people ready to do away with tradition so easily. Mr. Yohanna Ishiaku elaborates further on the complexities of present day Durumi: "Many tribes live here today. But the ones I know are the Ibos, Igalas,

Kalabari, Tivs and others while the dominant tribes seem to be the Ibos and Yorubas."

As earlier stated, the Gwaris are not moved by the influx of these "Foreigners" into their midst. They still preserve what remains of their tradition and culture. For example, there is a small traditional hut directly opposite the Chief's house, which is the "Defence headquarters" of the Gwari people in Durumi. According to the Chief, this small hut serves as a shield against any foreign attack on his people. Although he cannot tell exactly what is inside the hut, he, however, acknowledged that whatever is inside is surely a protection against external attack by the enemies. Mr. Ishiaku says of this mysterious hut: "The only person allowed to enter this hut must be someone above the age at ninety. Even I have not yet reached the age by which I would be allowed to see what is inside the hut. Even my late father did not have the opportunity to go inside the hut. There are special times (Once a year) when some elders (above the age of 90) would enter and perform some rituals."

A trek will take one to Durumi II and there resides the Esu of Durumi, the eldest and the most senior of the Gwari Chiefs in Abuja. Age has surely caught up with the Chief and this had made communication with him difficult. However, a tradi-



A source of Gwari strenght at Durumi

tional title holder, Madaki, popularly known as Karo acted as an interpreter. At the Esu's palace this writer witnessed a "Court case" involving a local farmer who had given a beating to a teenage boy whom he accused of stealing from his farm. The significance of this case is the Gwaris' love for tradition even in cases such as this, otherwise the parents of the child could have easily taken up the matter with the police.

As the Esu couldn't handle the case, it was passed on to the Madaki to preside over but the case was eventually adjourned because the father of the child was not around.

Incidentally, however, the Gwari, initial settlers at Durumi, have the "mother of all cases" the next day. They have decided to take the government to court over the latter's decision to displace and demolish all their houses.

In spite of the Gwari's strong resistance to modernity, their way of life has in one way or the other caught up with modern trends. For example, there is the issue of marriage.

Mr. Yohanna noted that in the past, it was the parents of either the boy or girl who discussed among themselves and made formal arrangements on the suitability or otherwise of the marriage. But today things have changed, according to the Chief. Marriage had now become an issue between the prospective partners.

Still proud of their age-long history and tradition, the Gwaris are down-to-earth, brave and hard workers. In the Hausa language there is an old adage, "Ayi ta Gwari-Gwari" which literally translated means, "Let's do it plain and clear." This confirms the Gwaris force of character, sin-

cerity and above all courage.

However, it remains to be seen whether this courage will see them through their court case with the government, in what they perceive to be a fight for recognition, respect and honour.



Esu of Durumi



A view of Durumi

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Feature

Meet the bold new convert to Islam!

Recently, Muhammad Sanni converted to Islam. When he encountered *Daily Trust*, he gushed: "I have converted to Islam. To you it may be funny. Others might have done same, but mine is a unique case. It is the most crucial decision I have taken in my life."

Stocky, fair in complexion and of average height, Muhammad hails from Oguachukwu in Aniocha Local Government Area of Delta State. He was born into a Christian family and grew up as a Christian. The zeal with which Muhammad responded to interrogations was a clear indication of the fact that he would never have been happy if the opportunity to tell the wider society about his new life had not surfaced. He said: "I was born on February 8, 1970 in Lagos where I grew up and had my primary to higher education. Only three months ago, I got converted to Islam. My name was formerly Sunday Awatian, now I am Sanni Muhammad, Al Hamdullillah."

By 1994, Muhammad had bagged a National Diploma in Marketing from the Lagos State Polytechnic. Presently he works as a sales agent for Lordmart Generators in Abuja.

As the first boy and the second born of a polygamous family, Muhammad had experienced what he described as a childhood vision that he was going to convert to Islam. He said: "My mother is a strong Catholic but my father does not believe so much in religion. His belief is simply that God exists and that righteousness is good."

Truly excited by the fervour of the new life in him, Muhammad informed *Daily Trust* that his conversion to Islam was motivated by spiritual and physical factors. "When I was five years old, I used to see Muslims dressed in some attire which I admired so much, especially when they go to pray in the mosque. Of

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman



Muhammad Sanni, the new convert.

Christians and Muslims alike. Again before the Muslims pray, they use water to clean themselves. I came to understand that this is ablution, which is intended for self-purification together with the fact that Muslims pray five times daily. I was made to believe that the Muslims remember God more frequently and are indeed closer to Him."

Muhammad noted that these were just the minor reasons for his decision to convert to Islam. More importantly he said: "The Muslims are not divided, they are not sectionalised. I have had many ordeals in churches. I was born a Catholic, and I have worshipped at the Four Square Gospel Church, Deeper Life, Mountain of Life and Miracle and the Family Worship Centre at Nicon Hilton Hotel. But somehow other things take precedence over God in most of these places. Now I am a Muslim. Besides, when the Muslims finish their prayers in the mosque, they will disperse. No grouping here and there, and you know that is the basis of multiplicity of one religion. In short, I am happy today as a Muslim."

Muhammad told *Daily Trust* that at 31 years old, his parents still seek to influence his choice and de-



mitted and advised me to be careful not to invite God's punishment." As far as Muhammad



Mohammad Sanni

mitted and advised me to be careful not to invite God's punishment."

As far as Muhammad

that one should avoid crimes." However, one thing my father does which I don't like is smoking and



the consumption of alcohol. They are forbidden in Islam."

Muhammad certainly has friends. What do these people feel about him? How about his former church members and pastor?

"I have lost some of my friends on account of my decision. Some of them simply expressed their disapproval and remain as friends. For instance, there was one day when two of my friends saw me coming out of the mosque after prayers and they were shocked. They rushed at me and asked: "what did you go there to do? When I told them I had converted to Islam, they shunned me and left."

"My former pastor and church members believe that I had chosen the wrong way. Some of them are still friendly, especially the pastor who is working hard to get me back. But some of them have kept off."

On his conversion procedure, Muhammad told *Daily Trust* that he personally went to one of his Muslim neighbours on the 5th of June, 2001 and informed him of his decision to convert to

Islam. He was gladly accepted by the man and taken to the national mosque in Abuja the



Pix: Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

following day.

According to Muhammad, he met some other persons who went to the mosque for the same purpose. The Imam of the mosque hosted them and offered prayers. "And on that day, 6th June, 2001, I had my first experience of Jumat prayer."

Today, Muhammad says he knows and believes "Laillaha illallahu, Muhammadu Rasullullah," - meaning there is no God except Allah, and Muhammad is his messenger.

Besides this, Muhammad said that he knows and indeed observes the five daily prayers. He added that a Muslim is expected to perform Hajj if he is financially capable, observes fasting during the month of Ramadan and the giving of alms to the poor.

Concluding his vows to remain in Islam, Muhammad told *Daily Trust* that he was aware that many people convert to Islam for dubious purposes, but that his own is genuinely intended. Thus, he had purchased the Holy Quran and some other Islamic literature necessary for increasing his knowledge of God.

NEWS

NGC, ALSCON sign gas agreement

The Nigerian Gas Company (NGC) Limited has signed a contract for the supply of 102 million standard cubic feet (mmscf) of gas per day to the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON). This quantity of gas will add up to 33.66 billion standard cubic feet (bscf) required annually by ALSCON for its production.

The gas supply agreement was signed late last week at the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) towers, Abuja by representatives of the companies. While the Managing Director of NGC, Mr. Emmanuel Olukoga signed the agreement on behalf of the supplying company, Mr. Dieter Matron, the Managing Director of

By Ahmed Shekarau

ALSCON signed on behalf of his company.

The signing of the agreement, according to Olukoga, results from "several years of careful planning and negotiations" by the two companies.



Chief Gaus Obaseki

NGC commenced negotiations with ALSCON in 1989 with a planned programme for delivering gas to ALSCON's plant by mid-1993. This could not however, be achieved due to what the NGC managing director described as "unavoidable reasons." But the first gas delivery to ALSCON was made by NGC through a 115-kilometre pipeline running from Alakiri in Rivers State through Obigbo North in Abia State to Ikot Abasi, Akwa Ibom State in September, 1996.

The gas is used to fire ALSCON's power plant and the electricity generated is used for the aluminium ore smelting process to produce aluminium for export and local use.

According to Olukoga, the two companies are

working towards adding value to Nigeria's vast gas resources and harnessing these resources to fuel the nation's "much-needed" industrial development. Nigeria is estimated to have twice as much gas as oil, having about 124 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas proven and another 45 TCF which remained undiscovered in recoverable reserves.

FG commissions studies on solar energy

The Federal Government has commissioned four different studies to explore the possibility of deriving energy from solar, mini-hydro and wind to boost its current efforts aimed at meeting the electricity requirements of the nation.

The Minister of Power and

Steel, Dr. Olusegun Agagu disclosed this while responding to participants at the Senior Executive Course 23 of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, near Jos, where he was a guest lecturer last week.

A statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to the Power and Steel Minister, Mr. Clinton Adebolu Oni, said Dr. Agagu disclosed that two of such studies are being carried out in the North, while the other two are done at different

NTI director decries shortage of primary school teachers

From Dare Oyewole, in Kaduna

The Director and Chief Executive of Nigeria Teachers Institute (NTI), Dr. Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed has said that the current shortage of primary school teachers may have adverse effect on the implementation of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme.

Speaking while

receiving the President of Commonwealth of Learning (COL), Prof. Ga'araj Dhanarajan in Kaduna recently, he said the over 400,000 teachers now in the systems fall short of the number required to implement the UBE programme.

According to him, if the standard ratio of 30 pupils to one teacher has to be met, an additional 45,000 teachers would be required for the 21 million children currently enrolled in the nation's primary schools.

Dr. Muhammed said with the take-off of the UBE, an estimated 1.12 million pupils were expected to enroll in primary one in October last year for which an additional 30,000 teachers would be required that year and every year for the next six years.

He also said that the programme is haunted by unqualified teachers, saying 25.5 percent of teachers in primary schools did not possess teachers' grade two certificate while 54.4 percent did not have the prescribed minimum teaching qualification of National Certificate of Education (NCE).



Chief Segun Agagu

locations in the South.

In his presentation titled: "Developments in the power sector in Nigeria, Agagu noted that the nation had paid lip-service in pursuing the benefits of earlier studies in which the country could derive alternative sources of energy where between 500 kilowatts and one megawatt (MW) of energy could be obtained to serve the needs of smaller communities.

He, however, reassured that the 4,000 MW presidential directive to improve electricity supply by the end of this year is attainable considering the "strategies that have been in place."

He disclosed that 1,288 MW additional electricity would be generated from Afam, Delta, Kainji, Egbin and Ijora power stations after their ongoing refurbishment is concluded before the end of the year.

ACF indicts police over Ganiyu Adams

Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has indicted the Nigeria police over what it called continued appearance of the wanted leader of the proscribed Odua People's Congress (OPC), Mr. Ganiyu Adams who had been making provocative statements at such venues.

In a press statement made available to journalists in Kaduna, Wednesday, the ACF wondered why other Nigerians had been seeing Mr. Adams whereas the Nigeria police, who supposedly declared him wanted and was looking for him, could not see him. "Strangely, the police seem to be the only ones who cannot see Ganiyu Adams," the ACF lamented.

It, therefore called on the Federal Government to instruct the Nigeria police to wake up and live to its

From Ibrahim Ka-Almasih, in Kaduna

responsibilities and check the excesses of Adams against constitutional establishment.

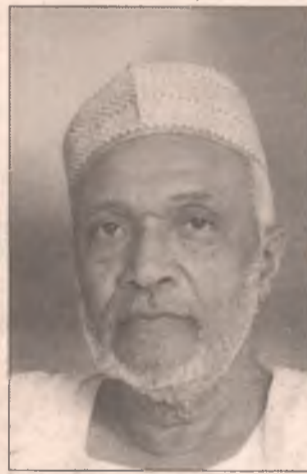
The press statement which was signed by the Secretary-General of the ACF, Col. Hameed Ibrahim Ali (rtd), followed a meeting of the board of trustees of the ACF on Tuesday at the Arewa House, Kaduna, where alleged aggression against the North by the supposed fugitive was discussed.

It said, "the board of trustees of the ACF deliberated on the continued acts of provocation by the proscribed OPC against Ilorin and the people of Kwara State; it considered it a matter of utmost concern that fugitive Ganiyu Adams, leader of the terrorist group, was in Kwara State recently and was mobilizing an uprising against the

constituted authorities.

The ACF also denied claims credited to the Ooni of Ife that the North and the Igbos were stock-piling arms for imminent.

Nevertheless, the ACF



M.D. Yusufu

warned that if the Ooni and his people were actually stockpiling arms and shifted blame to the North and the Igbos as a diversionary tactics, they should know that "the world is watching."

The ACF also denied the Ooni's claims that he single-handedly convened the meeting, adding that the presidency knew something about it and that if the Ooni continued to deny the involvement of the presidency, it (the ACF) would expose the facts. "And should he (the Ooni) persist in his denials, we will have no option but to turnover these evidences to the public," the ACF warned.

Govt officials break into DTN office, threaten NAN too

Officials of the Jigawa chieftaincy department have broken into the *Daily Times* office in Dutse, the state capital, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports.

The officials, led by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Chieftaincy Matters, Alhaji Abdulkadir Adamu, who is also the Sarkin Sanun Kazaure, while ordering labourers to break into the office recently, said the state government had given the block, housing the *Daily Times* and NAN to the department.

They equally threatened to force out NAN while damaging *Daily Times* property, including carpets, tables, drawers and chairs.

NAN further reports that

the officials had capitalized on the absence of the *Daily Times* representative to restructure their apartment, apparently to pave way for their staff, including the special adviser.

The special adviser, however, told NAN that the block was allocated to his



Prof. Jerry Gana

department and that he had to start work with the *Daily Times* section which, according to him, "has been under lock and key for the past one year."

NYSC director commends UNICEF

The Director-General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brig.-Gen. Kolawole Ogunkoya, has commended UNICEF for waging a determined war against the spread of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. Ogunkoya made the commendation in Makurdi recently at a joint seminar organised by UNICEF and NYSC on HIV/AIDS campaign and advocacy.

He described AIDS as the

"most devastating satanic force ravaging the whole world now," pointing out that the success of a nation was a direct function of the health of its people.

The director-general, represented by Mr. Adebajo Akinnigbagbe, an NYSC director said countries all over the world were aware that the more the spread of the killer disease could be curtailed, the greater the potential for growth.

Cross River govt raises stipends of traditional rulers

After nearly 17 months of its presentation, the bill for a law authorizing increased payment of stipends and allowances to traditional rulers in Cross River has been signed into law.

Signing the bill into law recently, the state Governor, Dr. Donald Duke, noted that it had taken the state House of Assembly so long to pass this bill, and stressed the need for the House to hasten the passage of subsequent bills.

The new law provides for a stipend of N30,000 per month for each paramount

ruler in addition of domestic staff on salary grade level one. The law also provides for entertainment allowance of N10,000 per month for each paramount ruler as well as payment of N20,000 monthly for vehicle maintenance while his imprest stands at N10,000 monthly.

Each paramount ruler is also entitled to N60,000 as palace maintenance allowance annually. Until now, the paramount rulers were earning a less than what their domestic servants on government payroll were receiving monthly.

NEWS

3,096 classrooms blocks under construction for UBE

The construction of Universal Basic Education (UBE) classrooms in all the local government areas in Nigeria has been intensified with 3,096 blocks of three classrooms under construction under the Phases I and II of the programme.

The Minister of Education, Prof. Babalola Borisade, who disclosed this while addressing a joint meeting of the UBE coordinating body and the Executive Chairmen of State Primary Education Boards in Abuja, said the construction work has reached advanced stages, adding that "the completion would redress the



Prof. Borisade

Niger liquor board makes progress

From Kashim Sule, in Minna

The Niger State Liquor Licensing Board in Minna, in a bid to justify its existence has shown its progress report to Daily Trust.

The chairman of the board, Alhaji Mohammed Bida, told Daily Trust that the present civilian administration of the state will not tolerate any illegal trafficking of alcohol, as selling and consumption of the item is prohibited, except in the areas that they were allowed.

He disclosed that selling and consuming of alcohol in the state is contrary to section 12 and 19 of liquor law; chapter 71 of laws of Niger State.

On the enforcement of these laws, he said the police at the end of May, arrested a Mercedes lorry-conveying 100 cartons of beer, and in another incidence, two men were nabbed with 700 crates of beer both at Suleja-Minna road. They were all sentenced to two years imprisonment or N150,000 fine each.

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

problems of infrastructural shortfalls in our schools."

The minister expressed optimism that the meeting would raise adequate and reliable data for planning, forecasting and decision-making on the UBE which he said had been hampering planning and management of the programme.

According to Prof. Borisade, far-reaching changes aimed at repositioning the programme to realize its objectives have been taken. These include the appointment of a new

national UBE coordinator, the redeployment of six former directors and retention of three and the merger of departments of primary education to form the new department of Teacher Training and Curriculum Development (ITCD).

Prof. Borisade said the meeting will enable the participants meet with the new national coordinator, familiarise themselves with what he called the new UBE focus and receive progress reports from the states on the implementation of the programme.

Taura LG people protests appointment of vice-chairman

People of Taura Local Government Area in Jigawa State have staged a demonstration, protesting the appointment of a new vice-chairman for the local government.

The people stormed the secretariat of the local council to stop the swearing-in of the vice-chairman, claiming he was not their choice.

Earlier, the name of their choice for the post was submitted by the ruling party in the local government, the PDP but later the name was



Gov Saminu Turaki changed and another person was arranged to be sworn-in.

It was at this note therefore, the people staged the demonstration in order to stop the move.

From Bala Mohammed Nasir, in Dutse

It would be recalled that the former chairman of the local government, Alhaji Sani Kiri was elected under the platform of PDP. When he was appointed commissioner by the state Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, his vice-chairman became the

Gov Akume calls for early implementation of new revenue formula

Governor George Akume of Benue State has called on the Federation Revenue Allocation, Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission to ensure early implementation of the proposed new revenue formula in favour of states and local governments in the country.

The governor made the call in Makurdi recently when the chairman of a sub-committee of the commission touring the North-Central zone, Mr. John Maliki, visited him.

Akume decried the delay in the implementation of the new revenue formula in

Officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) have been advised to always embrace caution and courtesy while performing their duties.

Giving the advise to men of the Cross River State police command at the send-forth ceremony organised by the police public relations committee (PPRC) for the outgoing Commissioner, Mr. Jerome Ele Akinmosin, the state Police Commissioner, Mr. Thomas Shodinu observed that effective policing demands a lot of plainness, commitment and honest overtures.

Mr. Shodimu also stressed that these

Police boss advises on effective polling

From Bassey Ita, in Calabar

attributes were essential guiding principles needed by any policeman to beat down and stay afloat even with all the vigours found in the job in the country.

Extolling the virtues of his successor, the police boss stated that Mr. Akinmosin's 35



Mr. Smith, IGP years of successful policing was a living testimony to his dedication, honesty and good overtures.

He described Akinmosin as a man with plain hands and plain character. He thanked the press for helping assiduously to publicise his successor and sought similar co-operation to his administration.

Speaking earlier, the state Chairman of PCRC, Chief F.B. Ekpeyoung whose text was read by the Secretary of the committee and Police Public

Relations Officer in the command, Mr. Eze Joseph, recalled that Mr. Akinmosin's one year sojourn in the state recorded a number of successes.

According to him, Mr. Akinmosin organised a lot of tutorials and lectures which provided effective orientation for effective policing, adding that during the period too, the police successfully suppressed the disgruntled youths group called, "Agbara boys."

The chairman further highlighted that Mr. Akinmosin antecedents saw the quick resolve of the Akwa Ibom Cross River border clashes, protection of the Hausa from attack courtesy of the Kaduna crisis as well as quelling the several robbery incidents in the state.

Responding, the former commissioner who was also retiring from service, appreciated the gesture of the PPRC and the police.

He described the police job as very delicate and therefore, calls for honesty and commitment, adding that utmost co-operation from the public and the press was most needed to help the police combat crime. He prayed the extension of similar gesture to him to his predecessor.

Gov Lawal, Adisa pals again

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

The enmity between Governor Mohammed Lawal of Kwara State and Maj.-Gen. Abdulkarim Adisa (rtd) seems to be finally over. The two stunned the audience at a dinner party on Sunday when both prominent sons of Ilorin emirate embraced each other, thus putting paid to rumours of the renewed confrontation between them.

The public embrace, which attracted applause from the audience, took place at General Adisa's residence, GRA where a post-wedding dinner was held in honour of the General Manager of the People's Advocate newspaper, Malam Sanda Shuaib, and Hajia Aisha Olatundun, who recently wedded.

Governor Lawal, who came unannounced to the dinner, said in a brief chat with

newsmen that the embrace was not a new development in their new found relationship.

The governor expressed his readiness to co-operate with all Kwarans in order to move the state forward, assuring that the new love with his brother has come to stay.

The embrace, according to political observers, was a timely tonic needed to reduce the political tension in the state between the governor and his political godfather, Dr. Olusola Saraki.



Managing Director of ALSCON, Mr. Deither Matron (left) and Deputy Managing Director, ALSCON Ltd., signing the national gas sale and purchase agreement between Nigerian Gas Company Ltd., and ALSCON Limited in Abuja ... recently.

Dariye constitutes committee on social vices

Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State has constituted a high-powered committee to evolve strategies towards the immediate eradication of social vices in the state.

The committee, headed by his Deputy, Chief Michael Botmang, will work towards the eradication of street begging, hawking, prostitution, child abandonment, destitution and youth unemployment.

The appointment of the committee is contained in a

statement issued by the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Mr. Harris Dawurang. Other members of the committee, are the Special Adviser on Political Affairs, Commissioner for Justice and Women Affairs, representative of Social Works Department of the Jos University as well as the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women Affairs.

The committee, according to Dawurang, will be inaugurated on a later date.



INSIDE POLITICS

Agitation for Igbo president selfish – NOA boss

The election of an Igbo president come 2003 as championed by Governor Orji Uzor Kalu of Abia State has been described as selfish, tribalistic and a complete aberration from the ideals of national co-existence.

Carpeting the move is the Rivers State director, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Professor Fred Alasia in a chat with *Daily Trust*.

Alasia said, what the country needs now, was not an Igbo, Hausa or Yoruba president, but a Nigerian president.

The director pointed out that there were over 200 ethnic groups in Nigeria, and wondered when it would be the turn of all the ethnic groups, adding that "it is not possible, let us face the reality."

Alasia who disclosed that he

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

was not against anybody aspiring to any office as long as the person is a Nigerian, and was qualified, however kicked against any move that would not foster the unity of the country.

He advised governor Kalu to concentrate on the cleaning of Aba, the commercial city of Abia State, which he described as "an eyesore" rather than wasting his youthful energy on irrelevant issues.

Said Alasia: "Come to think of it, is it now that he (Kalu) realised that there should be an Igbo president, was it not this same governor who truncated the very bright chance they had just about three years ago in Jos," he asked.

Furthermore, he added that

anybody from any part of the country was very free to aspire for the office of president of this country, provided that the individual meets the requirement of INEC and, "sees himself as a Nigerian president and not an Igbo president or an Urhobo president."

"That hypothesis was, from my own understanding, an evil intention, carefully crafted toward looting of the nation's treasury or national cake as they would call it. I advice that those thinking like that should forget it," the director said.

Alasia stated that once such a "virus" was allowed to survive at this period of Nigeria's new found democracy, "then we would be setting a very dangerous precedent which would not serve the nation right."

According to him, "by the time the president sees himself as Igbo, then every of his kinsmen in position of authority, would be doing whatever they like because it is their turn."

Gemade's re-election campaign kicks-off

The campaign to ensure the national chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Barnabas Gemade gets re-elected at the November national convention of the party has begun, with Mr. C.I.D. Maduabum, chairman Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), calling on partymen and women to re-elect the incumbent at the convention.

Mr. Maduabum said his call for the re-election of Chief Gemade was predicated on the solid achievements of the national chairman since his election late 1999.

He said in a press statement made available to *Daily Trust* in Abuja, that Gemade's tenure as PDP national chairman has brought greater internal democracy within the party, adding that "the angel we know is better than the angel we don't."

According to the campaigner, examples of Gemade's

By Henry Omu

achievements abound and he cited the National Assembly, where he said "PDP members have greater freedom of action as he has allowed them to even criticise the actions of the PDP-controlled federal government when necessary."

However, the NCC chairman explained that Gemade had always stepped in to restore order and decorum within the party whenever, criticisms got out of hand and tended to encourage indiscipline, including the likely destabilisation of the party.

He argued further that Gemade's re-election will promote continuity in the party, as in his opinion, "it will take a new national chairman two more years to learn the inner workings of the party, and be able to balance all competing interests within the PDP."

While commending the in-

cumbent national chairman for restoring discipline within the party, Mr. Maduabum however, appealed for the re-admission of any of the expelled leaders of the party who shows enough remorse.

In a related development, Mr. Shiekuma Gemade, son of the PDP national chairman has been named an All-American collegiate scholar, by the United States Achievement Academy (USAA).

The 19-year-old Gemade, who is a student of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona beach, Florida clinched the collegiate award for academic excellence in his field of study, aerospace engineering.

According to the letter conveying the award to the younger Gemade, the USAA described the award as among "awards few students can ever hope to attain."

INEC inaugurates forum to curb election irregularities

As the countdown to the 2003 elections begin, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in conjunction with the three political parties has set up a consultative forum to tackle the problem of election malpractices.

According to the electoral body, the forum, made up of three representatives each from Alliance for Democracy (AD), All People's Party (APP), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and four from INEC is to fashion out a code of conduct to govern election campaigns and polling day activities.

The forum is expected to work out a solution for the country's low democratic culture which manifests in the deployment of heavily armed policemen during elections.

Another matter of concern to be tackled by the forum is the use of government resources like personnel, vehicles and the media for electioneering campaigns, as well as the presence of unaccredited and unauthorised persons including high government and party offi-

By Reuben Yunana

cials at polling units.

Inaugurating the forum at the INEC headquarters, the electoral body's chairman, Dr. Abel Guobadia said: "It is expected that the forum will conduct its business on the basis of a consensus on any matter before it. The forum should meet regularly to advise on matters affecting the Nigerian political environment. It should also develop a code of conduct which all the political parties, contesting candidates and their supporters should be expected to abide by."

The code, he said, would lay down broad guidelines as to how the political parties and candidates should conduct themselves during election campaigns, such that the campaigns are free of clashes, violent conflicts between parties or their supporters, ensure peace and order during campaign period and thereafter until the results are released.

Provide guidelines for the ruling party either at the centre or in the states to ensure that a level playing field is maintained and that no cause is given

for any complaint that the ruling party has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign.

promote mutual confidence and trust between the political parties on the one hand and between the parties and the commission on the other,

He disclosed that INEC had jettisoned the planned computerisation of the voters register in conjunction with the directorate of national civic registration because it was no longer feasible due to DNCR's inability to commence the exercise.

According to him, the voter's registration exercise which has been postponed thrice will now take place in November while DNCR may conduct their own exercise in 2002.

He said the commission will soon conduct the audit of the year 2000 account of all the political parties.

The inauguration was witnessed by AD chairman Ahmed Abdulkadir, APP's Yusuf Ali and Barnabas Gemade of the ruling PDP.

STATE HOUSE CLINIC, ABUJA

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Tenders are hereby invited from suitably qualified contractors for the construction of the following:

(i) Two -Bedroom Bungalow (semi-detached)

(ii) Three -Bedroom Duplex

Tenders should be accompanied with the underlisted documents viz;

(a) Certificate of Incorporation or registration

(b) Current tax clearance for the last three years

(c) Current Certificate of Registration with the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing

(d) Tender processing fee receipt

Tenders should show evidence of previous construction works, particularly those similar to the proposed works mentioned above, including construction works currently being handled (names of clients and Architects to be stated)

NOTE:- Bills of quantities are to be priced, extended and totalled in ink and the total cost must correspond with the Tender figure submitted.

Tenders and other documents are to be enclosed and sealed in an envelope and marked "TENDER FOR THE PROPOSED STAFF HOUSING AT ABUJA" and should reach the office of the Secretary Ministerial Tenders Board, State House Clinic, Abuja not later than six weeks from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:

D.M. BAGE

(SECRETARY, M.T. B.)

For Chairman

UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA

P.M.B. 117
ABUJA NIGERIA



ADMISSION INTO 2001/2002 REMEDIAL SCIENCE PROGRAMME

1. GENERAL

Applications are invited from candidates into the one year Remedial Science Programme of the University

2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

To qualify for admission into the Remedial Science

Programme, a candidate MUST have attempted WASC/SSCE or GCE 'O' level and should possess at least 3 (three) or 4 (four) credits, 2 (two) of which MUST be in the core subjects of science i.e. Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

3. DURATION OF PROGRAMME:

The Remedial students will undergo intensive studies for one year. Upon passing the prescribed examinations, students will be enrolled into the four-year degree programme in the College of Science and Agriculture in accordance with the candidate's performance.

4. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Request for Admission Forms should be addressed to: THE REGISTRAR UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA P.M.B. 117, ABUJA.

The request for forms should be accompanied with two self-addressed 223cm x 100cm envelopes affixed with N15.00 stamp and non-refundable fee of One thousand Naira (N1,000.00) in Bank Draft, payable to University of Abuja and drawn on any of the following Banks in Abuja:

i) Union Bank of Nigeria Plc. (ii) First Bank of Nigeria Plc.

(iii) United Bank for Africa Plc and (iv) Bank of the North Limited.

5. RETURN OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS.

All completed forms, accompanied by an acknowledgement card affixed with N15.00 stamp along with photocopy of the receipts, should be returned to the Director, Remedial and General Studies Unit, University of Abuja not later than 31st October, 2001.

SIGNED:

DR. S. Y. INGAWA

Director



I.T. WORLD



FG to enact IT, biotech laws

The Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Turner Isoun, has said that the Federal Government will enact a law to protect the new information technology and biotechnology policies.

Professor Isoun expressed this when he received officials of the United States Commercial Law Development Programme (CLDP), led by its intellectual property administration expert, Mr. Ron Williams, last week in Abuja.

According to the minister: "With the promulgation of the law, the two policies would be adequately protected for effective implementation to catch up with other nations of the world."

He assured the visiting experts that Nigeria was working hard towards strengthening its intellectual property system through the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) and the Nigerian Copyright Commission.

The ministry has also set up a committee on intellectual property development as part of efforts to strengthen the system in Nigeria, he said.

However, the minister said that the United States, experience in intellectual property development would be useful in

Stories by Hassan Idris

Nigeria, especially in the area of protecting its biodiversity.

Professor Isoun was optimistic that the other areas like legislation, sanction, reward and venture capital, which are crucial to the growth of the intellectual property system, would be fully explored.

Earlier in the meeting, Senior Attorney and Programme



Professor Turner Isoun

Manager of CLDP, Nnamdi Kalu Ezera, said the visit was to assist Nigeria build up intellectual property system.

He pointed out that his department had in the past worked with NOTAP to promote the intellectual property regime and would continue to support Nigeria in this task.

He appealed to the government to review upwards the budgetary allocation of these organs to promote the rapid development of the intellectual property regime.

Present at the meeting were the Minister of State, Mrs. Pauline Tallen, the Permanent Secretary, Dr. James Orjioko and Directors of the ministry.

Abuja varsity installs IT equipment

The Centre for Distance Learning and Continuing Education (CDLCE) of the University of Abuja has acquired personal computer systems for long distance education.

A reliable source told *Daily Trust*, last week, in Abuja, that the systems acquisition was part of efforts to modernise and upgrade the computerisation of the long distance education services.

The university's objective of computerising the CDLCE was to keep abreast of the latest technologies for data base creation to process, store and retrieve information, the source said.

This information include students and staff records, and human resources information system management as well as accounting and financial planning, budgeting and managerial control services, the source said.

According to the source, the university has acquired a new automated desk top publishing system including the latest Rank Xerox printing technology equipment and would be installed and commissioned within a fortnight.



Prof. Borisade

Digital divide must end

— University Don

An instructor at George Mason University and Head of the Virginia School's Center, Professor Raymond Akwule, has stated that African Information Technology (IT) digital divide and disparity must end.

Professor Akwule made the statement, last week, at the 10th annual African Telecommunications and Information Technology Conference (AFCOM), in Washington.

He stated that the "disparity in access to information technology" known as the "digital divide" must end if Africa hopes to prosper in the new global market.

He said that digital divide could have "severe consequences" for Africa because "telecommunications (telephone), computers (Internet, e-mail), broadcasting (television and radio), and industrial robotics" which Africa lacks, had become one of the driving forces in the economic and social transformation of many nations.

Professor Akwule said "communities with tools and skills to compete in the digital economy are at a distinct advantage over communities lacking in those tools and skills."

He said the challenge facing Africa was to attract the type of investment that can help build a telecommunications infrastructure that expands information resources

and thus the economic base of nations in the continent.

Earlier, the chairman of the United States Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Michael Powell, in a keynote address at the AFCOM conference, said he was happy that the number of Internet users in Africa had increased from 2.5 million in 2000 to nearly 5 million in 2001.

Mr. Michael Powell, who is the son of the U.S. Secretary of States, Colin Powell, expressed optimism that the focus would change from "digital divide" to "digital development."

He said "Today I ask you to join with me to shift our focus from the reality of "digital divide" to opportunities of digital development."

The components of digital development he said, must include infrastructure, Pro-competitive policies, intellectual capital and individual citizens.

Mr. Powell concluded that "the ability to access, share, and distribute information is vital to every country's social, political, and economic well-being."

"It was clear that the development and use of information improve the lives of people in Africa, in developing countries everywhere, and throughout the world," he said.

NNPC staff acquire personal computers

More members of staff of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) have acquired personal computers in response to the call by the Cooperative Thrift and Credit Society (CTCS) of the NNPC, the president of the society, Mr. Odey Ochicha, has said.

Mr. Ochicha hinted *Daily Trust*, in an interview, last week, in his office, in Abuja, that the response of members of the society has been quite impressive.

He noted that there was increased patronage of the personal computer credit purchase scheme, pointing out that the prices offered by the computer vendors were affordable and encouraging enough.

It was not their policy to stock computers but they enabled their members to benefit from such computer acquisition, he said.

Members are allowed wherever they are, be it Calabar, Port Harcourt or Gombe,

to go into any computer shop and negotiate for whatever type of computer they need and then obtain an invoice which would be brought to the society, he said.

All the members were required to do was to pay half of the cost to the society and then the society would issue a cheque and pay the other half plus 10 percent of the total cost of the computer to enable the member to pick their PCs, he said.

He added that members were required to pay the society in six monthly instalments.

Mr. Ochicha said no complaint was brought to the society on any faulty computer that was returned after sales with the exception of a faulty generator plant and which was returned to the vendor for repairs.

He, therefore, advised any member that found his computer system bought through the society's financial assistance, faulty to sort it out with the original vendors.

You and your computer

By Hassan Idris

Computer components and terms

Central Processing Unit (CPU): It is the chip which executes commands and controls the flow of data within the system.

Random Access Memory (RAM): This consists of a bank of chips that act as the working memory which holds the computer programme instructions and data only while the computer is on.

Hard Drive: It is also known as the hard disk, and its function is to store information semi-permanently on the hard drive. It also consists of several metal disks in an airtight case.

Floppy Disk drive: The drive allows you to store data and programme instructions simultaneously and could be retrieved. The floppy drives store data on portable floppy disks you can slide in and out of the computer slot which is different from the hard drive which is permanently inside the system.

Compact Disk Read-only Memory (CD-Rom) Drive: The drive uses lasers to read CD-Rom disk that has the capacity to store more than 650 million bytes or megabytes (mb) of data. While the 3.25 inch Disket has a capacity of 1.44 million bites or megabytes (mb) of information.

Computer Monitor: The monitor is also called the display unit or the screen which is working as the computer face that shows what is in the central processing unit or the heart of the computer.

Keyboard: This is where all the keys, characters and some symbols are placed. It is the device that you can use to input characters or figures.

Mouse: It is the latest input device that enables you select and execute computer commands in the system unit.

Joystick: Another input device that is used to select and work with computer designs and games.

Expansion slots: These are slots within the system unit that enables you to plug in extra circuit board or cards e.g. sound cards, Scanners and communications modems. All these will add value to your computer resources within the system.

Ports: These are the outlets on the back of the system unit that enables you to plug in equipment like, printers, scanners, and mice etc.

Mother board: It is the biggest circuit board located inside the central processing unit which holds other smaller circuit boards. It also enables data to be transmitted through several chips and devices. The typical data transmission is the Bus type which runs simultaneously.

Printers: These are the equipment connected to the computer to enable you print out information processed hard copy in colour or black and white text on paper.

Sound Card, Speakers and Microphones: The combination of these makes the multimedia system. In other words, the computer, in addition to processing text, will also play and record sound. You can as well speak through the connected microphone and send a voice mail.

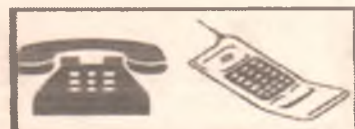
Scanners: These come in different shapes and sizes. They are used to copy black or colour text and images including pictures. The device uses light to convert an optical image to a digital image you can view and save using your computer commands.

Power Surge Suppressor: This can protect your computer from the dangers of power surges as a result of power fluctuation. It is like your normal power extension adapter socket, but it works more to save your equipment.

Uninterruptable Power Supply: It is a device used to store current supply, when there is power failure, it will supply your computer with power supply at the time of power outage.



I.T. WORLD



Gates promises increased productivity via web service

Wrapping up the company's business partner show last week, Microsoft Chair and Chief Software Architect, Bill Gates, said that the productivity that the business world has seen to date is only the beginning, and Web services will deliver new enhancements.

Continuing his theme that the first 10 years of this century will be the Digital Decade, Gates told the audience that to make Web services work, the company's partners, like Microsoft itself, need to bet on the model and stick with it.

"We're just at the beginning of what can be done with digital technology," he said.

He pointed to long-term projects, specifically the TabletPC, which Microsoft will have invested eight years and \$1 billion on by the time it ships next year, as products that will

Stories by Umar Mu'azu with agency reports

increase productivity.

He also said that new versions of current Microsoft prod-



Bill Gates

ucts will be tailored for Web services, namely Office XP, Windows XP, SQL Server, and Visual Studio.Net. Although they

already have support for XML Web services, Gates said Microsoft will continue to evolve that.

"The next round of software is more profound. It's getting XML to the very core of the products," he said.

He said that the advantages of XML Web services in Office XP alone will include business forecast and planning, greater control of documents, and enhanced storing capabilities for documents.

When Windows XP ships in late October, it will include single sign-on functionality to help users more easily get at their individual set of services. Gates called Windows XP the biggest change the company has made since Windows 95.

"In productivity, we have a long way to go," he continued.

He added that Microsoft's research and development budget will increase this year despite the economic downturn.



General Manager of Microsoft, Kevin Browne, introducing a new product

Hotmail gets face-lift

Microsoft is laying the virtual groundwork for its Web-based services in a redesign of MSN Hotmail that more tightly integrates with other Microsoft offerings, notably MSN Messenger and MSN Calendar.

The update, now live, also offers a more aggressive filter, intended to curb your Hotmail spam intake and keep unwanted junk e-mail out of your virtual inbox.

The integration of other Web-based Microsoft products follows the approach Microsoft is taking in the initiative code-named Hailstorm, its suite of integrated consumer services that are part of its ".Net" strategy.

The Hotmail face-lift includes what company officials call a "cleaner design" that also provides more links to Microsoft MSN online destinations—another sign of readiness for tighter integration with upcoming Web-

based services.

In the revamped Hotmail, when you sign on to your account you're automatically logged onto the MSN Messenger service, which means that a huge number of new users could start the service instead of its main competitor, AOL Instant Messenger. At least, that seems to be what Microsoft is hoping.

And there is more: Hotmail displays your MSN Messenger buddy list at your Hotmail start page, and you are notified whether any of your MSN buddies are online. Your MSN Calendar likewise appears on your start page.

"Microsoft is taking steps to include its Hailstorm services into all of its products," says Chris Le Tocq, analyst with Guernsey Research. "Hotmail can be expected to be a key beneficiary of that integration."

Hailstorm services include instant messaging, authentication

through its Passport service, and group calendaring. They are also built into the upcoming Windows XP.

"One of the things that users can expect is that there will be more and more integration between Microsoft's services," Le Tocq said.

The company's plan is to move away from traditional shrink-wrap products to web-based software and services some of which will be fee-based while others will be free. Hotmail e-mail accounts are free.

However, Microsoft still needs to reassure consumers of the reliability of heavily Web-based resources. It recently had a hard time keeping the MSN Messenger service running smoothly. Intermittent outages in July kept millions from chatting for more than a week. Even after service was universally restored some MSN customers lost their buddy list records.

Microsoft drops Java from Windows XP

Windows XP and subsequent Microsoft operating systems will not come with built-in support for Java-based applications.

As part of a phase-out of its JVM (Java Virtual Machine) following a January out-of-court settlement with Sun Microsystems, Microsoft will not include the JVM in new operating systems.

Although consumers who buy Windows XP will not get JVM with the operating system, they will be able to download it free of charge from the company's Web site, Microsoft officials said. They can also choose to download any other JVM, including Sun's, said Balaprakash Kasiviswanathan, a Windows XP product marketing manager, said.

JVM is software that enables Windows to run Java-based programmes, which are often used to create animation and interactive features on Web pages and mobile de-

vices. The first time XP users try to view a Web site or use an application that requires a JVM, they will get a prompt to download Microsoft's JVM from its Web site, Kasiviswanathan said. At that point, they can skip that download and choose another JVM instead.

Current Windows operating systems ship with Microsoft's JVM integrated, and they will continue to include it. Users who upgrade to XP from an earlier version of Windows will be able to keep the Microsoft JVM that came with their old OS, Kasiviswanathan said.

Corporate customers who buy a single image of Windows XP will get the Microsoft JVM on the discs that contain the operating system. They will not have to download a JVM onto each individual machine, but it will not be part of the operating system.

The change is being made as a result of the legal dispute between Microsoft and Sun

Microsystems and its settlement in January this year, he said. Sun had accused Microsoft of distributing a version of Java that was not compatible with Sun's.

Under the settlement, Microsoft stopped development of its JVM, and will gradually phase out the software. Removing it from Windows XP is a step toward discontinuing the product, Kasiviswanathan said. He declined to detail further steps in the phase-out.

Apple launches faster Macs, OS X update

Apple Computer has kicked off this week's Macworld conference and expo here by announcing upgrades to its iMac and Power Mac G4 product lines, and pledging that the Mac OS X version 10.1, the first major upgrade to

its recently released operating system, will ship in September.

Apple Chief Executive Officer Steve Jobs pleased the crowd with a demonstration of some of version 10.1's improvements, including faster application launching, more elegant windows resizing and a moveable dock, improved networking capabilities with Windows PCs, and the capability to burn data CDs from the Finder.

Jobs also introduced new systems, including three Power Macs with processor speeds running at up to 867MHz. The new computers are housed in silver-colored "quicksilver" cases.

Priced at \$3499 (about N419,880.00) and scheduled to ship in August, Apple's new high-end

model will be a Power Mac G4 featuring dual 800MHz processors, 256MB of memory, an 80GB hard drive, and a SuperDrive—a CD-RW/DVD-R combination manufactured by Pioneer and adopted by Apple earlier this year for use in its high-end machines.

Two new Power Mac G4s are available. Apple's \$2499 (about N299,880.00) machine has an 867-MHz processor, 128MB of memory, a 60GB hard drive, and a SuperDrive. For \$1699 (about N203,880.00), the company offers a Power Mac with a 733-MHz processor, 128MB of memory, a 40GB hard drive, and a CD-RW drive.

Apple made less radical updates to its aging iMac product line, trimming

prices and upping iMac processor speeds to 700MHz. Two new iMac configurations are now available: a \$999 (N119,880) iMac with a 500-MHz PowerPC G4 processor, 128MB of memory, and a 20GB hard drive; and a \$1299 (N155,880.00) iMac with a 600-MHz processor, 256MB memory, and a 40GB hard drive. A 700-MHz model with 256MB of memory and a 60GB hard drive, priced at \$1499 (N179,880), is slated for August availability. Each of the new models includes a CD-RW drive.

Apple's last major Macworld New York system debut was short-lived. The Power Mac G4 Cube introduced last July, was recently scrapped because of poor sales.

Microsoft
Windows xp

The logo of Windows Experience

The Media Tour

Bayelsa: Coming on strong

From the outskirts of Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, a visitor entering the state through its Western flank cannot help but notice the array of new buildings in various stages of construction springing up on both sides of the road.

The immediate impression is at once clear: Yenagoa was a small town, until recently little more than a village, rapidly losing its rural flavour as it succumbs to the relentless attack of modernity; an attack that is both physical and social.

The town offers very little, if any resistance from this financial and social invasion; which is not surprising since prior to the creation of Bayelsa State from Rivers in 1996 by the late Abacha regime, Yenagoa was not even a local government headquarters. If there is any

Garba Deen Muhammad
task of clearing the dense thick mangrove forest that occupies the entire land area of the state.

Expectedly, contracts for the construction of large housing estates or roads are quoted not in hundreds of millions but in billions. Nor are such contracts undertaken by feather weight contractors: It's either Julius Berger, Strabarg or the like.

At the moment, one of the biggest construction works in Bayelsa is titled the Yenagoa Primary roads I, II, & III." Started by the State government but mercifully taken over by the Obasanjo regime. This N5.3bn project which is handled by Julius Berger is expected, when

ovation from the journalists after his welcome speech), where his people are fully integrated and their contributions appreciated.

When he came into office, he said, there was no office provision for his deputy, only one filling

Tinubu, about the state independent power project which has so far generated more heat their energy.

Accommodation which is a very serious problem in Yenegoa could drive a visitor with a short expense account out of the state

Besides, the hotel actually personifies the whole of Yenagoa.

One of such completed buildings in fact is the 250 low cost housing units project which represented phase I of a planned 1000 housing units. A second housing project, also completed is the commissioners' quarters which is expected to cater for commissioners, permanent secretaries and other senior civil servants.

Bayelsa, like Edo and Delta is also a civil service town; the bulk of the people are employed by the state. But there is a plan to establish a palm oil mill. The first stage which is a large palm tree plantation is already completed and an

perhaps, the Wilberforce Island site of the Niger Delta University.

As for Crime, Yenagao is no more dangerous than, say, Port Harcourt or Kano. Although the notorious Ijaw youths are yet to recover from the days of violent agitation, their protest for better life is now more controlled. For instance, the youths waited until the final day of the visit at the appropriate place (i.e. the peoples forum) before confronting the visiting journalists with demands for resource control (the only time since the tour started from Edo through Delta that the issue of resource control assumed such prominence). Even then during a farewell dinner, Governor Alamiyeseigha had expressed regret over the conduct of those he described as "a few misguided youths who will

"Accommodation which is a very serious problem in Yenegoa could drive a visitor with a short expense account out of the state capital within a day or two. A single room in a boarding house costs about N2000-N2500 per month. The best hotel so far built in 2001 is the state owned Ultra Modern Creek Modern Motel."

resistance at all, it is that presented by the natural environment.

Of all the states in the Niger Delta, Bayelsa probably has the most difficult terrain for construction. The process is quite daunting. First before embarking on a construction be it a dual carriageway or a small provision shop, first sand-fill the area with fine sand pumped from the sea, and then levelled over the area where building is intended. Next you allow a period of 2-3 weeks for the host soil to absorb the sea-sand (if in that period, there occurs a usually heavy and prolonged downpour the sand could disappear into the host soil altogether and thus have to be replaced.) Of course there is always the exceptionally difficult

completed (sometime in 2002) to transform the young but growing state capital. For now the main road leading into Yenagoa is drab, it is not more than a side street in Garki, in complete contrast to the glittering new structures sprouting on both sides of it. But Berger is fully mobilised and 60% of phase I of the road covering 6.5km has been completed, though not before guzzling over N2.8bn.

In spite of all these difficulties, Governor Alamiyeseigha, a former Airforce Officer who had spent some time in Kaduna seems not only determined but obsessed with the idea of bringing Yenagoa first at par, then above its peers. His speeches portray him as a fervent nationalist, an advocate for one Nigeria (he received the first standing



Information minister, Professor Jerry Gana

station with two pumps was functioning and the capital had been without electricity for four months. But such omissions are no longer evident in Yenagoa. Most remarkable was the way the governor dealt with the electricity problem. Rather than grumble and complain endlessly to NEPA, the state decided to utilise its abundant resources. The result is a gas turbine plant located at Kolo Creek that supplies all of Yenegoa and 40% of the rest of the state with electricity for 94 houses, seven days a week. One cannot help but admire this determined performance especially if viewed against the loud proclamations of Lagos State Governor, chief Bola

capital within a day or two. A single room in a boarding house costs about N2000-N2500 per month. The best hotel so far built in 2001 is the state owned Ultra Modern Creek Modern Motel. With a capacity for only 49 guests, the motel is almost always filled. Which explains why the visiting journalists numbering about 46 had to be quartered in a half-completed hotel - where facilities are only now being put in place.

But this did not in any way draw much consternation from the journalists. The amiability of the governor, the enthusiasm of his people more than made up for what little inconvenience the journalists experienced at the Bay Bridge Hotel.



Governor Alaiyemesighe

"As for Crime, Yenagao is no more dangerous than, say, Port Harcourt or Kano. Although the notorious Ijaw youths are yet to recover from the days of violent agitation, their protest for better life is now more controlled."

access road to the planned factory has already been constructed.

The state governor, who postponed a planned trip to Abuja in order to personally receive the honourable minister of information and his entourage and who personally conducted the visitors round the projects most of which have been completed, had boasted that in the next 3-5 years, Nigerians will no longer travel to Jerusalem for pilgrimage instead they will come to Yenagoa.

That may sound quiet ambitious but certainly if determination, the way and the means are all that are required, Yenagoa promises to be the City of the future. Though one could not say the same of the riverine areas and the Islands such as Nembe. But even at Nembe, there are visible efforts aimed at transferring the lives of the inhabitants. The most promising is

be taught a proper lesson."

Perhaps, what may prevent people from coming to Yenegoa for pilgrimage is inflation. The cost of living is quite high. But then in terms of oil revenue, Bayelsa is second only to Delta State. In addition, landlords have to try and squeeze as much returns from their investment as they can because most of what they get may well be gulped up by maintenance expenses. This is because, according to soil and building experts, most of the roads in Bayelsa, built at colossal amounts will require major rehabilitation within 2-3 years due to erosion and water logging. Ditto with buildings which appear to start sinking from day one. This; perhaps, explains why in spite of all the minorous new structures springing up, skyscrapers are a rarity.

Garba Deen Muhammad is on the staff of Daily Trust

Feature

Sharia in Niger State

Barrister Mohammed Awal Bida, Chairman, Niger State Liquor (Licensing) Board and Chairman, Muslim Lawyers Forum (MLF) no doubt worked very hard preparing for the just-concluded two-day national seminar on Sharia in Minna. However, despite this hard work, not in the wildest imagination of 'this Sharia man' (as he is popularly referred to) and his fellow officials of the MLF, did he anticipate the level of success that attended the seminar.

The attendant success is not in the calibre of erudite Islamic Scholars and jurists that graced the occasion which include the likes of vibrant Auwalu Yadudu, Professor of Law, Bayero university, Kano and one-time Special Adviser to the head of state on legal matters, Honourable Justice Dalhatu Adamu, JCA, Honourable Justice (Dr.) Muri Okunola, JCA, Sheikh Ahmed Lemu among others who were personally present or ably represented. Even the royal fathers were not left out with the presence of the Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Umaru Sanda Ndayako and the Emir of Minna, Alhaji (Dr.) Umaru Faruk Bahago.

Nor could the success of the national seminar be said to be found in the crowd it pulled that made the gigantic U.K. Bello Arts Theatre, Minna look like a classroom turned into an assembly hall.

The success of the seminar could really be found in the opportunities it provided for Christians to shed their garb of misconceptions of what Sharia is all about.

"If the state government had properly educated or sensitised people on this Sharia thing before its introduction and implementation, the uproar it generated would have been avoided", a Christian who had attended the seminar observed. For the Muslims, the seminar was an opportunity for those who know to know more.

But more than anything else, the seminar provided a unique opportunity for Muslims themselves to look each other in the face and tell each other some home truths

By Zubair Abdullahi Esq.

about the implementation of Sharia. Closely following this was the informal attitude of Governor Abdulkadir Abdullahi Kure in his exchange of banter and sometimes throwing fundamental challenges at the audience which included top government officials as well as ordinary citizens in the state.

The Chairman of the Muslim Lawyers Forum and the arrowhead of Sharia implementation in Niger State, Mohammed Awal Bida set the ball rolling by introducing his forum as one aimed at "educating and enlightening the general public on Shari'a, its scopes, application and values" and also one to protect and defend "the rights of individuals whose fundamental Human rights is being or has been infringed unjustly".

He went further to explain the reason behind the choice of the theme of the seminar. According to him, he was always disturbed about the "misconception, misinterpretation and mischievous remark being made regarding Shari'a in Niger State" Barrister Awal Bida identified the media (local and foreign) as part of the groups projecting the erroneous belief that Niger was not doing enough in the implementation of the Islamic legal system.

"Our Penal Code has been proved to be substantially in conformity with Shari'a except in hadd punishment of some offences. It is our considered opinion, therefore, that any State Government that amends the penal code to conform with hadd and Qisas punishment and follow it with action as it is the case with Niger State, that state can be said, without hesitation, to be implementing Shari'a in full. The remaining aspects are only complementaries. Even on those complementaries this state (Niger) is not found wanting".

Alhaji Awal made it known that the state government had submitted bills on Zakkat and for the changing of Area Courts to Sharia Courts, going further to commend Engineer A.A. Kure and members of the state assembly for responding decisively to the wishes of the majority of Nigerlites.

"The fact that the law has been amended and passed, the fact also that he has displayed genuine efforts to enforce the Sharia is worthy of commendation", Awal Bida pointed out.

According to the liquor licensing board chairman, two incidents stood out uniquely to convince him that there is no half measure in the implementation of Sharia in Niger State. First, he recalled how he personally handled a



Some of the Muslim Lawyers who served as rapoteurs at the Seminar, from left Isah P. Aliyu, Shehu M. Ameen & Mohammed Abdulrahman

case of debt recovery on behalf of a non-Muslim against a member of the National Assembly, who is a Muslim, in a Sharia court. "To the greatest surprise and admiration of the non-Muslim, the justice he could not get to recover his debt in a conventional court for almost two years, he got it in less than two months in the Sharia court".

Another incident was when he went to Governor Kure to complain about the mishandling of liquor law cases by some Magistrates. Kure was quoted to have said: "Wallahi tallahi, as far as I am the Governor of Niger State, I will never go back on Sharia and Insha Allahu we shall succeed. We shall expect the enemies of Sharia to try their best to stop us". The following day, Governor Kure was said to have gone ahead to provide the board with 10 Mobile Courts whose chairmen were inaugurated on the same day.

Talking of enemies of Shari'a, Governor Kure in his address to the gathering said they came from most unexpected quarters. He was unequivocal in identifying the police, a body charged with the statutory responsibility of ensuring that violators of validly passed laws are brought to book and secondly, some Muslims themselves who take delight in castigating the state government for its unrepresentant pursuit of total obedience of Sharia laws.

Said Kure "Less than ten percent of the Police in the state support Sharia and these are the people expected to enforce the Sharia laws." According to the governor, the police not only refused to support Sharia, they themselves engage in consumption of alcohol in violation of the Sharia laws and in places like the senior police officers mess which is a stone's throw from the residence and office of Governor Kure.

"I have personally visited the place and caught

them drinking alcohol. I only complained to their commissioner, Kure told his audience who responded with the shout of AllahuAkbar."

Kure was so disturbed by the attitude of the police that he became compelled to join the league of governors calling for the establishment of state police to enable him prosecute the Sharia laws in Niger State.

He believes the police as presently constituted, are out to sabotage his administration in the implementation of Sharia.

The other group of saboteurs, according to the governor were some professional petition writers who are Muslims themselves.

"Initially I had doubts that anybody who calls himself a Muslim would chastise the state government for prosecuting the implementation of Sharia laws, so I decided to trace the sources of the letters and discovered they were actually written by Muslims."

Kure said the petitioners had accused him of being responsible for the economic hardship being currently experienced by people in the state in the name of implementing Sharia. The petitioners, he said, complained that the closure of drinking joints and brothels had caused a downturn in the economy of the state.

"If all of us as Muslims, I believe majority of us in this hall are Muslims, if we are genuinely interested in Sharia, then we must play our own part in ensuring its success in this state."

"When the last speaker spoke on the responsibilities of rulers to the people, all of you shouted a big 'Allahu Akbar', in the same vein, I want you, as followers to think over what your responsibilities are and discharge them appropriately".

In the opinion of Justice Adamu, JCA, "the delay in Niger State (for the full implementation of Sharia at that time) may be justified as due

to the reaction or opposition from those who are opposed to the system leading to violence in some areas. This however does not mean that Sharia cannot be implemented in Niger State which has a predominantly Muslim population".

Describing Niger State as "one of the most peaceful in the federation" with the existence of the extended family system in which both Muslims and non-Muslims are found in the same family, it has become imperative, for the sake of existing religious tolerance among Nigerlites, that care must be taken in order not to fragment or destroy the extended family system.

He, however, pointed out that Christians and other non-Muslims have no cause to entertain any fear under the Islamic legal system which protect their rights. For example, he said, Christians living in an Islamic state, have a higher status than other non-Muslims because they are recognised by Shari'a as people of scripture. Their higher status is informed by the fact that they believe in a monotheistic religion which has been mentioned in the Holy Quran with their scripture as the Holy Bible. Muslims are enjoined to believe and recognize both Isah as one of the prophets of Allah and the Bible as the Holy scripture revealed to him.

"As long as they live peacefully in an Islamic state, they are entitled to practice their religion and lead their peaceful lives unmolested provided they pay their taxes to the authorities concerned", Justice Adamu said.

Justice Muri Okunola, Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal, Ilorin, in his paper at the closing ceremony of the seminar emphasised that Sharia which has been in use in the Northern part of Nigeria for some 500 years now, applied to Muslims only, citing several cases decided over the matter in the past.

In the paper titled "Shari'a in Nigeria: To whom

applicable", Justice Okunola appealed to "all Nigerians of all faith to embrace the spirit of tolerance as contained both in the Holy Qu'ran and the Holy Bible, so that we can all live in peace and unity to the betterment of our country and generation yet unborn."

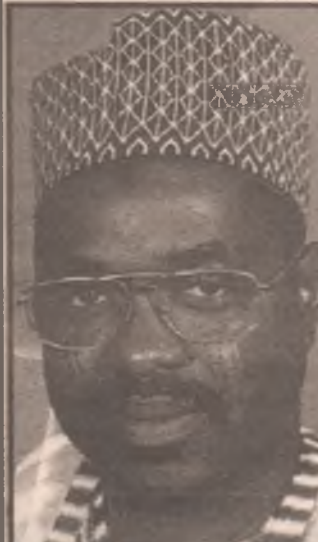
"With this understanding of the position of the law on the non-applicability of the Shari'a to the non-Muslims in Nigeria, it-is hoped that the fear of imposition of Shari'a on non-Muslims in some of us would be allayed for the progress and development of our country"

The papers presented by Barrister Umaru Kawu, Niger State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Honourable Khadi Muhammad Sambo, Barrister Assayomo Emienbo, who represented the Commissioner of Police in Niger State, all provided food for thought.

Discussions and contributions made by the audience revealed that Sharia law is in effect in Niger State and its implementation has since commenced. The statement credited to Governor Kure to the effect that Sharia law was suspended in Niger State should be understood in the light of the circumstances prevailing at the time it was made, particularly the need to prevent chaos in the state while participants were in agreement that the implementation of Sharia is the collective responsibility of both the leaders and the led.

At the end of the two-day national seminar, it was recommended that Muslims should apply Shari'a in their private and public lives and support any step taken to enhance its application. While efforts are being made to remove the constraints in the way of full implementation of Sharia, the current effort to implement it should be sustained.

Zubair Abdullahi, Esq., is with the Muslim Lawyers Forum, Minna.



Governor Abdullahi Kure



NEPA

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY PUBLIC NOTICE RE-EXTORTION OF MONEY FROM THE PUBLIC

It has come to the notice of the Board and Management of the National Electric Power Authority that some unrepentant members of Staff of the Authority who have constituted themselves into 'bad eggs' have continued to engage themselves in the extortion of money from unsuspecting members of the public under various pretexts.

These allegations, some genuine and some spurious and unfunded, have reached the Authority through various sources, namely telephone calls, e-mails, fax messages, personal letters and letters to editors.

These allegations are as disturbing as they are unacceptable especially at this time that the Authority is going through a renewal process.

For the avoidance of any doubt, therefore, the Authority wishes to state categorically that such acts are in serious breach of the new management's avowed commitment to transparency, accountability and anti-corruption stance.

LEGITIMATE TRANSACTIONS

Customers are hereby advised not to deal with our field staff or their fronts (often in collusion with what has come to be known as 'NEPA TWO'), and to insist on obtaining receipts for all legitimate transactions. By legitimate transactions we mean:

- *Payment for energy consumed as indicated in the Authority's official Bills.*
- *Capital Contributions (that is, 10% of total cost in excess of the normal service demand).*
- *Reconnection fees (Residential N500.00; Industrial MD N2000.00; N1000.00 point-load or Residential MD).*
- *Purchase of new Meters (single phase, N17,600; three phase N45,465; MD, N105,000.00)*
- *Replacement of burnt meters (single phase, N6,500.00; three phase, N18,000.00 MD Meter, N105,000.00).*

The general public is to note that all these transactions are often entered into our Books with the appropriate and approved receipt which customers are advised to demand for at all times.

We also wish to state and indeed warn members of the general public to desist henceforth from the so-called financial contributions for the purported purchase of transformers and or associated accessories and for faults clearance or for whatever reasons. The Authority does not, we repeat **DOES NOT** in any way encourage or support such cheap patronages. They are bad tidings to our refreshingly new pedigree.

The general public, in particular our valued customers should note that all these services as aforementioned are at no extra cost to them.

BONAFIDE STAFF

Against this backdrop, therefore, the Authority wishes to advise the public to always deal with bonafide NEPA staff. Customers should in their own interest also be wary of demands of financial gratification made to them by our field staff, touts or any staff of the Authority for that matter. As we continue to strive to put the dark old past behind us we wish to vehemently stress that gratification and unholy service fees will have no place whatsoever in our scheme of things. Staff are paid to carry out legitimate services to customers and must therefore not be induced under whatever guise.

It is necessary at this point to state also that severe sanctions will be applied against erring staff. We are resolved to clean the mess at whatever cost.

APPEAL

Finally, we appeal to Staff and the general public to co-operate and support our new effort to rid our organization of bad eggs and to remove all corrupt tendencies within the system.

We thank you most sincerely for your attention and your understanding.

All contacts through the telephone/fax may also be made through the following numbers: 09-4135606, 09-4135644 (Public Affairs) or 09-4135618 (ED-D&M), or the following E-mail.

Mdnepa@alpha.linkserve.com

All correspondence should be addressed to the Assistant General Manager (Public Affairs), Corporate Headquarters, Plot 441 Zambezi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.

We however wish to advise that where complaints can be easily and quickly addressed or attended to at our Zonal and District offices these should be channeled directly to them without any recourse to the Corporate Headquarters. Please ensure also that all allegations made in the course of any complaint, are clearly substantiated.

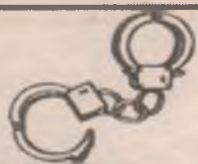
This way we can save time and avoid unnecessary dissipation of energy.

Help us to evolve the clean break we desire to serve you better.

MANAGEMENT

...providing power for national growth

Alternative (WRPA), people and organisations...
 Ministry of Power and Water Resources...
 Officer (CSO)...



Crime & Punishment



Police corporal nabbed for murder

A police corporal with the Barikin-Ladi divisional police unit, is now under detention for killing an occupant of one BMW car, Alhaji Haladu Sa'adu with registration number AE395DNG.

A press statement issued by the Plateau State Command Public Relations Officer (PRO), Mr. Aliyu Yusuf an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), and made available to *Daily Trust* said the command will ensure that internal disciplinary measures was taken against the corporal whose name was not indicated.

According to the statement, "the Plateau Police Command wishes to reiterate its unhappiness over the sad and ugly incident that took place at Barikin-Ladi on 12/7/2001 where a police corporal shot and killed an occupant of a BMW car with registration number

From Buhari Bello, in Jos
AE395DNG."

The command said that it is not its intention to make any statement on the issue "until it has completed the investigations in respect of the case."

However, the State Police Command has assured the general public in the state that the suspect will



IG Musiliu Smith

be charged to court when all necessary formalities are completed.

The police added that "justice will surely prevail in this case and is therefore calling on the members of the public to go about with their normal business activities without any fear of security lapses or danger of such" from the police.

The police in Lagos have started a man hunt for two security guards provided by Halogun Security Company, who are now on the run following the theft of over N.5 million at their duty post.

According to police sources, one Bili Adebakin of No. 3, Shony Highway, Sonibare Estate, Maryland had reported that when he resumed duty, his office had been burgled by unknown thieves.

Burglary and theft: Police hunt for two security guards

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

The thieves had ransacked the entire office rooms and carted away the items including N562,870.00, \$5,000 US, one Sony Cassette player and eight pieces of CD Disc whose values are not yet known.

Following the report, a team of detectives moved

down to the scene of the crime.

However it was discovered that the two security guards; Anthony Egbulefu and Peter Agbakaba had escaped before the police detectives arrived their houses.

Daily Trust gathered that two guarantors have been arrested for interrogation by the police.

Rivers records 1,025 armed robbery cases

The Rivers State Police Command recorded 1,025 armed robbery incidents between the months of May and June respectively and killed eight in a shoutout.

In a crime statistics made available to *Daily Trust* by the state police Public Relations Officer (PRO), Dr. Uche Mike Chukuma an Assistant Superintendent of Police

From Wisom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

(ASP), the command also lost two of its men in the process.

A breakdown of the statistics showed that a total of 53 hoodlums who were allegedly terrorising residents of the state in the month of May are kept in police custody while the command killed four of the gangsters at different encounters.

Similarly, 72 persons suspected to be armed robbers were arrested in the month of June while the state police command reported the death of four persons believed to be men of the underworld upon encounter with the public.

Speaking to *Daily Trust*, the Police spokesman said the state police command successfully smashed a gang

policeman on duty at the bank, and removed his revolver pistol with number 13041 and also made away with six rounds of 38 (special) live ammunition and another 10 rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition.

Chukwuma stated further that the same gang were responsible for the recent attempt at Egbelebe village in Bayelsa State where they took away all teachers and Local Government workers' salary.

In another robbery at Bayelsa, Chukwuma said: "Nnandi Imoh and Gift Mba suspected members of the same gang confessed of being responsible for the recent robbing of a contractor of N3 million cash."

The state police image-maker said one Victor Onyeoje, 32 and Michael Obialor, 37, both of Imo State were arrested in Port Harcourt following a tip-off by a very reliable police informant where the gang robbed a motorbike operator after giving him a drugged drink.

The state police command PRO told *Daily Trust* that a number of strategies has been put in place to check the activities of armed bandits which he described as enemy of progress in the state.



Gov. Odili.

of notorious armed robbers who specialised in robbing banks in the state and environs.

ASP Chukwuma stated that among the robbers in the state command's custody were a three-man gang who recently robbed Union Bank, Emene Branch, in Enugu State and escaped to Rivers State.

He told *Daily Trust* that the robbers during the operations attacked the

Varsity student arrested for armed robbery

A part three Chemical Engineering student, Mr. Innocent Chima Mbata of the Rivers State University of Science and Technology has been arrested by police authorities in Port Harcourt for alleged robbery.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PRO), Dr. Uche Mike Chukwuma, who confirmed the arrest of the 22-year-old man to *Daily Trust* stated that the suspect was picked up at the weekend.

Police detectives had gone to Rumodomaya village in the outskirts of Port Harcourt in pursuit of a robbery suspect.

But the student robbery suspect on sighting the police ran into his house and brought out his pistol and started firing at the police.

But he was overpowered by the superior fire power of the law enforcement agents, which led to his arrest.

From Aisha Momoh, in Port Harcourt

In a related development, a nine-man gang who called themselves "Dey well" led by a 17-year-old boy was at the weekend smashed by the state anti-robbery squad.

The police spokesman in the state, Dr. Uche

Chukwuma, said the gang who operates in conjunction with another notorious gang called 'Dey Dam' used broken bottles and other dangerous weapons as knives and axes to carry out their nefarious activities.

The nine-man gang whose age ranges between 17 and 19 are said to have caused an untold nightmare to the residents of Diobu, Port-Harcourt.

Eight in police net over murder of taxi driver

Apparently driven by the spur of interest shown by the Rivers State House of Assembly over the brutal murder of a taxi driver in Port Harcourt recently, eight persons are in the police net over the matter.

The state police spokesman, Dr. Uche Chukwuma, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), told *Daily Trust* that the act was inhuman and criminal and as such the police authority in the state has decided to leave no stone unturned until justice was done.

Chukwuma said the

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

eight murder suspects were employees of the Port Harcourt City Council.

Sunday Oyewumi, a taxi driver in Port Harcourt city was allegedly bathed with some liquid suspected to be petrol and set ablaze on Afikpo Street by persons suspected to be officials of the Port Harcourt City Council.

The incident which jolted the entire city was also described by the PRO as the most barbaric in the history of crime in Port Harcourt, hence the intervention by the House

of Assembly.

The late Sunday Oyewumi was burnt to death on June 26, by members of the City Council Task Force.

The situation immediately led to the proscription of the task force and other related bodies in the town.

Fresh hearing starts on Aisha's case

The Bauchi High Court presided over by Justice Abdulhamid Adamu has started hearing afresh, the case of a 12-year-old Aisha Maikudi whose four fingers were amputated as a result of severe burns she received from her senior brother-one Dankasim Maikudi of Gumau village in Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

A non-governmental organisation (NGO), the Women Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA),

From Ado Abdullahi Hazzad, in Bauchi

opened up the case after the defendant, Dankasim Maikudi had earlier been convicted by a Toro Local Government Area Court to a three year jail term or a N10,000 fine which the convict paid on the spot and was allowed to go.

The publication of Aisha's case which was carried on the front page of the Weekly Trust of April 6-12, 2001, aroused the sympathy of thousands of people and organisations

who demanded that proper justice must be done and the culprit punished accordingly.

WRAPA took up the matter and re-opened the case and is demanding N1 billion as general damages for infringement of the plaintiff's constitutional right.

Four witnesses testified at last week's sitting-the grand mother, Aisha Malama Zainab, Aisha's mother, Aisha herself and Malam Hamisu Ahmad Muhammad of the Toro magistrate court.



The Dreaded Duo: Brig. Gen. Ibrahim Sabo (rd), left, former boss of the dreaded Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI) under Abacha and Major Hamza Al-Mustapha former Chief Security Officer (CSO) putting heads together at the Oputa Panel..... July 10, 2001. Pix: Felix Onigbinde

Abuja News

Group calls for new capital out of FCT

The Federal Government has been advised to carve out a new Federal Capital City out of the FCT to arrest the looming crisis between the indigenes of Abuja and the Federal Government.

Addressing newsmen at the weekend, the spokesman of a new political group called the Abuja Unity Forum (AUF), Mallam Mamman Nasir, suggested that the new capital which should be called "Federal Capital City, (FCC), be fully independent of the present Federal Capital Territory (FCT), adding that the new FCC should be provided all the political structures and instruments of governance as an entity and where all Nigerians can pursue legitimate economic and political aspirations on the basis of equality, fairness and justice.

Nasir stated that the new capital city should include the entire Abuja and Bwari area councils as well as parts of Kuje Area Council and that in order to allay the fundamental concerns of the indigenes of Federal Capital Territory (FCT) comprising Abaji, Kwali, Gwagwalada and greater part of Kuje Area

By Emmanuel Ande

Councils, the new capital should be created for the benefit of the indigenes who scarified their land for the Federal Capital.

The group also called for the immediate suspension of the planned demolition exercise, including continuing threats of demolition which had perpetually instilled fears and psychological trauma in residents and dwellers.

The spokesman maintained that the inability of successive FCT administrations to carefully and systematically execute a realistic long term housing programme, through the effective mobilisation and partici-

pation of private and public sectors had unfortunately led to the current state of the unpopular demolition exercise which had disorganised communities, dislocated families and brought untold hardships to the people in the territory.

He pointed out that until and unless "adequate steps were taken to provide alternative accommodation and adequate compensation, the demolition exercise is untenable, particularly in a democratic setting.



President Ohasanjo

The Executive Secretary, Federal Capital Development Authority, (FCDA) Sir, Charles Dorgu, has appealed to residents of the FCT to see the impending demolition of illegal structures in Abuja as a well intentioned development function for the growth of Abuja.

Speaking during a courtesy visit by a pressure group in his office last week, Sir, Charles Dorgu said; the demolition exercise is not meant to hurt anybody's feelings but to assist in correcting the distortions in the territory's master plan, adding that the exercise would be carried out with a human face.

He said many city developers in the FCT had over the

Demolition will have a human face-Dorgu

By Austine Odo

years, formed the habit of building illegal architectural outfits on green areas, sewage lines, and other unauthorised areas, including designated roads, in spite of warnings by the FCDA to the contrary.

The FCDA Executive Secretary reiterated the determination of his establishment to articulate an appropriate policy framework that would ensure fairness and

national spread in all dealings.

Sir, Dorgu said the visit of the PDP pressure group reinforced the political vision of credible PDP adherents and challenged "our psyche for enhanced performance within the ambit of the party's creed."

Earlier, the National Coordinator of the group, Barrister Mike Nkwocha, pledged the group's goodwill and support for the Executive Secretary whom he described as a good ambassador of the PDP.

Nasarawa indigenes in FCT flay gov over impasse

By Hameed M. Bello

Indigenes of Nasarawa State residing in the FCT, have expressed displeasure over what they called "subjective manner" in which the state Governor, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, is handling the ethnic crisis in the state.

A cross-section of the indigenes who spoke to *Daily Trust* in Abuja at the weekend complained over the leadership style of the Governor, even though some of them appreciate his approach

in resolving the crisis.

A lawyer who preferred anonymity, told *Daily Trust* that the State Governor heightened tension among his own people by discrediting them to pacify the Tivs and other minority ethnic groups to gain their political support.

He also said the governor, who is in native of Afo town, had not favoured indigenes of his town and other towns in the southern

part of the state including Keana, Doma, Awe, Obi and Lafia.

He added that Governor Abdullahi should not have to announce the arrival of the Tivs when the killers of the paramount ruler of Azara



Gov. Adamu

had not yet been arrested.

Samaila Isah, a Nasarawa State Civil Servant who is holidaying in Abuja gave Governor Abdullahi a pass mark in his approach in tackling the ethnic crisis in the state.

According to Sama'ila, "Abdullahi has done the right thing in announcing the arrival of the Tivs because as long as the crisis last, the state indigenes would suffer and there won't be peace and progress."

Another civil servant who pleaded anonymity told *Daily Trust* that the people of Eggon, one of the largest ethnic groups in the state, have been asked by Governor Abdullahi to go back to their area. According to him, the Eggons are not conformable with the new directive.

Candidates storm JAMB headquarters for results

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

Following the release of the University Matriculation Examination results for the year 2001 last week, thousands of candidates who took the examination stormed the JAMB National Headquarters in Abuja on Wednesday to check their results.

The candidates who were barred from entering the premises by security men because the results were not pasted said they were anxious to know their scores.

"I came to Abuja this week and since my visit has coincided with the release of the results, I want to take the opportunity to see it before I travel back," one of the can-

didates said.

Another told *Daily Trust* that she was not after her score for now but that she wanted to know which centres were cancelled due to examination malpractice. When this reporter gave her a list of all the centres affected, she screamed in apparent joy and ran towards her friends.

Anxious parents were not also left out in the rush as a good number of them were seen angling about to check their wards' performances.

"My son has taken this exam three times, I don't want him to continue staying at home, that is why I want

to know his fate on time," one of the parents told *Daily Trust*.

The Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) had last week released the results of the University matriculation Examination taken on April 28 this year.

In a statement, the Registrar and Chief Executive of JAMB, Prof. Bello Salim said the Board had made adequate arrangements for the checking of the UME results.

"Candidates can check their results at the Board's national headquarters and annexes in Lagos and

Kaduna," he said adding that results could be checked at the zonal and state offices of the Board throughout the federation.

NCWD to support training of women

By Habiba Adamu

The National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) has announced that it would support the enlightenment, training and other programmes on women embarked upon by the United Nation Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in the country.

The Acting Director-General of NCWD, Mrs. Florence Ihene stated this while playing host to the (UNIFEM) regional programme director, Mrs. Florence Butegwa last week in Abuja.

Mrs. Ihene stated that NCWD was established to promote women's advancement through research, training, documentation and proactively work towards empowering Nigerian Women socially, economically and politically for sustainable national development.

Shedding more light on their mission to Nigeria, Mrs.

Butegwa said UNIFEM would embark on enlightenment programmes on women affairs, some of which would include the participation of women in the governance of the country and how they could play vital roles in the system.

She said UNIFEM is interested in the revenue allocation and the percentage of the revenue that goes to women programmes.

"The eastern part of the country has been chosen for research on how to improve food cultivation which involves technology and training programmes," she said.

The UNIFEM director was in Nigeria to educate women on HIV/AIDs and gender inequality and to assist the NCWD in these regards.

Meanwhile, women participation in decision making

has been described as not only a demand for justice, but a prerequisite for peace and development of the country.

The Acting Director-General of the National Centre for Women Development (NCWD), Mrs. Florence Ihene, made this statement in her welcome address at a gender round table entitled; "sustaining democracy: The imperative of women's participation" held last week at the Women Centre, in Abuja.

Mrs. Ihene stressed the need for creating opportunity for women who constituted half of the Nigerian population, to ensure their full participation in the management of the affairs of the state.

Achieving the goal of equal participation of women and men in decision-making she said, would provide a balance that more accurately reflects our federal character.

Public Notice

URHOBOWORLDWIDE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the above named organisation has applied for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Mr. I.U. Ogedegbe
2. Mr. Kehinde Awaritafe
3. Mr. Ochuko Ogedegbe
4. Mr. Aghogho B. Okoro

Any objection to the registration of the organisation should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission Area 11 Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication

Signed:

S. BAWAL'ESQ.

Abuja News

Commonwealth of learning visits Abuja

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) was in Abuja last week to interact with the Nigerian government on evolving a national policy on distance education in Nigeria.

The team which was led by its president and chief executive, Professor, Gajraj Dhanarajan, discussed with the officials of the Nigerian Education Ministry and other stakeholders interested in distance and open learning to explore, identify and carry out activities that would support and add value to Nigeria's efforts in open learning.

The discussions also enabled the review of some of the major recommendations which emerged at the Abuja National Workshop on Distance Education in September last year.

The team visited the University of Abuja and other educational institutions and held round-table discussions with a cross section of Nigerians including those from the media, education, information and other agencies wherein plans for

By Austine Odo

future developments and ideas were exchanged towards the creation of an authority to coordinate, support and encourage the growth of open and distance learning.

The visiting team also had discussions with Education Minister, Professor Babalola Borishade and the Special Adviser on Education to the Presidency, Chief SK



Prof. Borishade, Education Minister

Babalola, besides making a courtesy call on President Obasanjo.

Speaking on the visit Education Minister, Professor Borishade said from the interactions, government had become convinced of the need for a well dignified and articulated policy on distance and open learning in the country as well as mobilising both national and international resources to support the main streaming of open and distance learning in Nigeria.

An Okada rider who attempted to overtake other vehicles in a long queue at the Berger - Karmo road was on Friday killed by a fast moving truck.

The Okada rider whose mangled remains was later packed into a stationary pick-up van by sympathisers was said to have attempted overtaking the other vehicles at top speed when he ran into the oncoming truck.

Policewomen who came to the scene just seconds after, wept profusely as they tried to control the usually chaotic traffic situation on the road, which was worsened by the accident.

Other Okada riders who came to the scene, searched

Truck crushes Okada rider

frantically for the truck driver, who was said to have disappeared as soon as the accident occurred. His truck was however, impeded up in the deep jam which held other motorists for several hours.

Observers at the scene said the Okada riders have developed the habit of floating traffic rules, despite several measures by the Federal Road Safety Corps and the police to maintain sanity on the roads.

Two brothers were penultimate Sunday, also

crushed to death by a big bus while on a fast motorbike at the Agura junction, also in Karmo.



Ozo Madueke, Transport Minister

Abuja to host Islamic medical conference

More than 400 delegates from all over the country are expected at the third national conference of the Islamic Medical Association of Nigeria (IMAN) slated for Abuja between 27th and 29th of July.

The conference which is expected to hold at the

National Mosque Conference Hall, has the theme "Immunisation and Disease Control, -mother and child survival the Islamic perspective." It is expected to be attended by many eminent Moslems in various departments of healthcare delivery, including doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, laboratory scientists,



ABC Nwosu, Health Minister nutritionist and other professionals.

the Abuja Chapter of IMAN, Mallam Abdulaziz Idris said the conference would be divided into five sections that have been planned to give immense benefit to participants.

The election of new executive officers is also expected to be part of the conference's agenda, inclining a communiqué at the end.

Mallam Idris said the FCT Minister, Engineer Mouhammad Abba-Gana, will declare the conference open.

Residents call for rehabilitation of Karmo police station

Residents of Karmo the FCT have criticised the condition of the police in the

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

area with a call to government to rehabilitate it. Some residents who spoke to *Daily Trust* complained that the citing of the police station inside the market had made the police inactive.

Mr. Halidu Yusuf, a Karmo residents said "the police station is enclosed by the market, because of this, the police cannot know what is happening outside the market. In short, the policemen normally rub shoulders with market women especially on

Tuesdays when the market operates fully." Mr. Halidu added that the number of police at the station is few. "They cannot handle the population of people in the area."

Mr. John Chukwuma, a trader in Karmo market, told *Daily Trust* that the Karmo police post is the only one serving the town and Idu. "The only police station apart from this one is that of life camp, which is too far for emergency cases." He added that it is often difficult for residents to get the services of the police in the area because they are always afraid hence their number.

NTA Abuja gets life line from minister

The Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Abuja will soon have new transmitting equipment for improved broadcasting, if promises by the FCT Minister, Engr. Muhammad Abba-Gana, are anything to go by.



Engr. Abba-Gana, FCT Minister

The minister told the management of the station led by its General Manager, Mrs. Jennifer Ejenbi Emdin who paid him a courtesy call at the weekend, that re-equipping the station was a right step at defending and consolidating the nation's democracy which he described as a collective task.

The General Manager had during the visit,

requested assistance for a new step of Betacam Camcorder, ENG chain, a set of Betacam editing chain, a video mix console with chroma key and effects, among other things.

The minister promised to consider the relocation of the station to its permanent site from Area 10, where the station has been operating for over 15 years as a temporary site.

The General Manager, in her speech, praised the minister for his efforts at beautifying Abuja, and expressed the optimism that the FCT would emerge as one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

The NTA General Manager said her station intended to take information dissemination via television to the people at the grassroots in the FCT.

She was accompanied by five managers of the station. They include Mr. Cletus Abah (Manager Programmes), Alhaji Ramalar Soba (Manager, Engineering), Elizabeth Lawani (Manager Marketing) Janifer Famoshinpe (Chief Accountant) and Mr. Idris Adamu (Manager Administration).



The economic adviser to the President Obasanjo, Dr. Magnus Kpakol (L) signing the official register after being sworn in by the President at the State House in Abuja, recently.

I will not fail Nigerians - Aliyu

By Emmanuel Ande

The Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Murtala Muhammad Aliyu, has promised not to fail in his duties because if he does, he would have failed the youths and the people of Gombe State.

Speaking when a delegation of elders from Akko Local Government in

Gombe State paid him a courtesy call in his office in Abuja last week, said that the task of being a minister is quite enormous and as such, he can not afford to fail.

As a federal minister, he explained that his constituency cuts across the entire country, stressing that he must ensure that the dividends of democracy is equitably shared.

The minister emphasised that apart from representing Gombe State, he was also representing other states of the federation as well as his generation, the youths.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation, Alhaji Ya'u Abdullahi, conveyed the appreciation of the people of Gombe State to president Olusegun Obasanjo for the inclusion of Alhaji Aliyu in his cabinet.

Alhaji Ya'u expressed the belief that the new minister of state for power and steel, Alhaji Muhammad Murtala Aliyu, would use his wealth of experience to perform well in his present capacity.



SPORTS



Senegal celebrates Cup heroics

Senegal's heroics to win a place at the World Cup Finals prompted riotous joy in the streets of the capital Dakar and throughout the country, and left the country's president itching to get back and join in.

On hearing of the Lions' success, President Abdoulaye Wade immediately cut short an official visit to France and called for his hired aircraft to speed him back to Senegal.

He said: "My deepest congratulations go to the courageous Lions who have made history for Senegal."

"At this time, this is the most important thing that could happen to any country and I will join the team and the nation in celebration by reducing the amount of time I was expected to stay in Paris."

Before leaving for France, Wade met the team at an official palace reception last Monday following the 1-0 success over Morocco which set up qualification.

The president donned star striker El-Hadji Diouf's shirt and ordered a special chartered flight to Windhoek for the team, and that plane will now be returning them to Dakar as soon as possible.

Wade added: "I came to Paris with a hired aircraft and I have called for it to come and pick me up fast to head for Dakar. I can't wait to be back."

Celebrations went on without him in Dakar as Independence Square was crammed full of celebrating fans with the colours of the national flag on their shirts, faces and clothing.

Hertha stroll to League Cup joy

New Brazilian signing Marcelinho helped Hertha Berlin to win the first silverware of the German season with a thrashing of Schalke 04.

Hertha went 1-0 after Schalke midfielder Tomasz Waldoch scored an own goal from a Marcelinho cross.

The Brazilian scored Hertha's second in the 29th minute when he ran through the Schalke defence from the halfway line and shot between the legs of goalkeeper Frode Grode.

One Dakar resident told the BBC: "It's complete madness everywhere."

She said that the whole city was watching the match live on TV and loud cheers echoed around the suburbs as each goal went in.

But there was an anxious wait at the final whistle because Egypt didn't finish their match for another 25 minutes, so the celebrations had to be put on hold.

"Then, when our qualification was confirmed, there was a deafening noise and

children ran out onto the streets, while motorists honked their car-horns and waved flags out of the windows", she added.

A number of wealthy individuals have already come forward with promises of cash rewards for the players and their families.

Before this achievement, Senegal's closest connection to the World Cup was having their world-renowned musician, Youssou Ndour helping make the draw for the last tournament in Marseille in 1997.

Joy for first-time Lions

Senegal are through to the World Cup finals for the first time in their history after thrashing Namibia in Windhoek.

But it took a mighty effort from the Lions to ensure they closed out rivals Egypt, as they needed to win by three goals more than the Pharaohs to make sure of qualifying.

Things seemed to be running smoothly when Senegal crashed in three goals in 16 minutes to go in at half-time 3-0 up.

But they lost their way in the second half as Namibia piled on the pressure, and their hopes looked to be failing when Pape Sarr was sent off on 68 minutes.

They somehow found new energy and grabbed two goals late on to leave too much for Egypt to do in Algeria.

Pape Thiaw had put Senegal in the driving seat by

claiming two first-half goals, opening the scoring on 15 minutes when he collected a floated cross and placed the ball into the net.

Thiaw had an easy second just after the half-hour when he slotted home after El-Hadji Diouf had surged into the box to pull back a cross.

In between the two goals, Diouf scored in the 23rd minute by simply rolling the ball over the line into the net - his eighth goal in the last five World Cup qualifiers.

The last two goals came very late in the game after the Namibians had put the Senegalese under immense pressure.

They might not have known Egypt had gone ahead in Annaba, but knew they faced a fight when midfielder Sarr saw red for a late tackle on Henrico Boles.

It took some time before the Lions could recover and find their rhythm.

But when they did, Diouf won a penalty on the left after he was brought down. Khalilou Fadiga made no mistake when he sent the keeper the wrong way in the 77th minute

Three minutes later, the Lions crowned a fine display with the fifth goal by substitute. Moussa Ndiaye from close range.



Peruvian soccer players stretch during a practice session for the Copa America in Cali on Saturday. Peru advanced to the quarterfinals of the tournament and plays Colombia in Armenia today.

Ferguson to rotate Veron, Van Nistelrooy

Fans expecting to see Manchester United's new signings Juan Sebastian Veron and Ruud van Nistelrooy playing week in week out will be disappointed.

United's boss Sir Alex Ferguson has revealed that Veron and Van Nistelrooy will be saved for the bigger matches this season to avoid burn-out.

With a star-studded squad

at his disposal, Ferguson has said he believes that a strategic rotation policy will ensure success at all levels.

Ferguson told the Sunday People: "I will have a team for the Champions League and the big fixtures in the Premiership like Arsenal, Liverpool and Leeds, and at other times I will change things around."

"One thing I do know is that Juan Veron and Ruud van Nistelrooy will certainly be key players for us in Europe and, from time to time, Veron will need to take a breather."

"Maybe I'll also change the formation at certain times for some of our Premiership games."

"I plan to experiment a little before the season starts. I want to see how we'd operate with three in the middle of the park or with Veron or Scholes moved forward into an attacking role."

"At times we will look like a different United but that should not alter what we are as a team or how effective we are."

"I know we will be very powerful in midfield and that's important because in my experience most games are won by the team who has control of the midfield."

"With Veron and Roy Keane in the middle for us, I'm sure we will be awesome."

World record transfer fees after Mendieta move

Following is a list of leading transfers after Gaizka Mendieta's move from Valencia to Lazio, to be completed on Wednesday (estimated fee, prices as reported by Reuters at time of transfer):

Player	Year	From	To	Fee
Zinedine Zidane	2001	Juventus	Real Madrid	\$66.2
Luis Figo	2000	Barcelona	Real Madrid	\$56.1
Hernan Crespo	2000	Parma	Lazio	\$54.1
Christian Vieri	1999	Lazio	Inter Milan	\$50.0
Gianluigi Buffon	2001	Parma	Juventus	\$45.9
*Gaizka Mendieta	2001	Valencia	Lazio	\$41.0
Juan Veron	2001	Lazio	Manchester Utd	\$39.0
Nicolas Anelka	1999	Arsenal	Real Madrid	\$35.7
Marc Overmars	2000	Arsenal	Barcelona	\$35.5
Lilian Thuram	2001	Parma	Juventus	\$35.4
Pavel Nedved	2001	Lazio	Juventus	\$35.2
Denilson	1997	Sao Paulo	Betis	\$35.0
Rui Costa	2001	Fiorentina	AC Milan	\$34.9
Gabriel Batistuta	2000	Fiorentina	AS Roma	\$33.8
Marcio Amoroso	1999	Udinese	Parma	\$33.1
Nicolas Anelka	2000	Real Madrid	PSG	\$31.2
Antonio Cassano	2001	Bari	Roma	\$28.8
Christian Viera	1998	Atletico	Madrid Lazio	\$28.0
Ronaldo	1997	Barcelona	Inter Milan	\$27.9
R. Van Nistelrooy	2001	PSV	Man. Utd	\$27.3
Rivaldo	1997	Deportivo	Barcelona	\$26.7
Claudio Lopez	2000	Valencia	Lazio	\$26.6
David Trezequet	2000	Monaco	Juventus	\$26.5
Filippo Inzaghi	2001	Juventus	AC Milan	\$26.2
Hidetoshi Nakata	2001	AS Roma	Parma	\$26.0

Eto'o rejoins Finidi at Mallorca

Cameroon international striker Samuel Eto'o has moved to Real Mallorca from Spanish giants Real Madrid for a club record fee of \$6.3m (£4.4m).

Eto'o, 21, will remain on familiar territory, having played for the Balearic island side for the last two seasons on loan from Real.

It brings to an end a frustrating battle to break through with Madrid - Eto'o played only three times since joining their nursery team in 1996.

After a spell on loan at second division Leganes in 1997/98, Eto'o found a way out of his frustration with a

good two seasons at Mallorca, breaking into double figures last time.

That was despite being involved in most of Cameroon's World Cup qualifiers and helping them to Olympic gold in Sydney last September, to add to his African Nations Cup success the previous January.

Eto'o has signed a six-year contract which includes a phenomenal \$105.1m (£73.6m) buy-out clause.

Peculiar to the Spanish league, this fee is the amount a club must pay to take Eto'o from Mallorca, unless the club decide to negotiate.

Mallorca president, Mateo Alemany, said that the Cameroon's striker, who was the club's top scorer last season with 11 goals, was a player all the fans wanted to see stay at the club.

"I doubt if there is any other player in the world who would please the fans more at this moment," he said.

Mallorca, who finished third in the Spanish first division last season, open their Champions League qualifying campaign with a match against the winner of the tie between Ferencvaros of Hungary and Croatia's Hajduk Split on August 7.8



Hertha Berlin captain, Alex Alves raises the German League Cup



Ferguson



SPORTS



Kanu Heart Foundation to bankroll Eaglets/Brazil friendly

The spates of failed matches for the Golden Eaglets may have been halted with the acceptance of the Nwankwo Kanu Hearts Foundation to bankroll two-legged match with Brazil in Lagos and Kano. The match comes up on August 5.

The Foundation, we learnt, has accepted to package the friendly with the Brazilian U-17 in a bid to rescue the Eaglets from repeated failed friendly matches.

The Eaglets who returned to world scene after a decade of absence have a herculean task securing cracker friendly matches to tune up for the world fiesta.

Several attempts to arrange quality matches have not yielded any dividend.

Tijani Yusuf, the NFA Scribe, said last week that the friendly will offer the much needed test for the Eaglets and allow soccer fans assess the strength of the team being put

By Patrick Andrew
together by coach Musa Abdullahi.

The match will follow similar friendly with their Malian counterparts on July 22 and 25 in Bamako, Mali.

Already, coach Abdullahi and his lads have departed Nigeria for Bamako for the match.

First choice goalkeeper Agbim Chigozie, Akpan Bassey, Samba Soga, Mohammed Suleiman, Enyinafe Joseph, Musa Suleiman, Hector Obiora and Peter Walter were some of the Eaglets that travelled for the match. To complete the list of 20 players are Ekpe Aniekan,

Kennedy Chiniro, Shuaibu Mato, Abiodun Segun, Ochi Michael, Okpabunmi Femi, Danjuma Boniface, Osuke Ibe, Osunwa Collins, Nnamdi Austin and Omonigho Temile.

NFA technical committee chairman, Christo Daris, led the delegation to Mali.

NFA confirms paying backlog of coaches' salaries

Austin Mgbolu, NFA Head of Protocol and Public Relations, last week confirmed that the association had paid "a substantial part" of the outstanding salaries owed its coaches.

Mgbolu told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) from his Abuja office: "We are still exploring other means of balancing."

Mgbolu refused to disclose how much was paid to the coaches or the arrears. "What is important is that

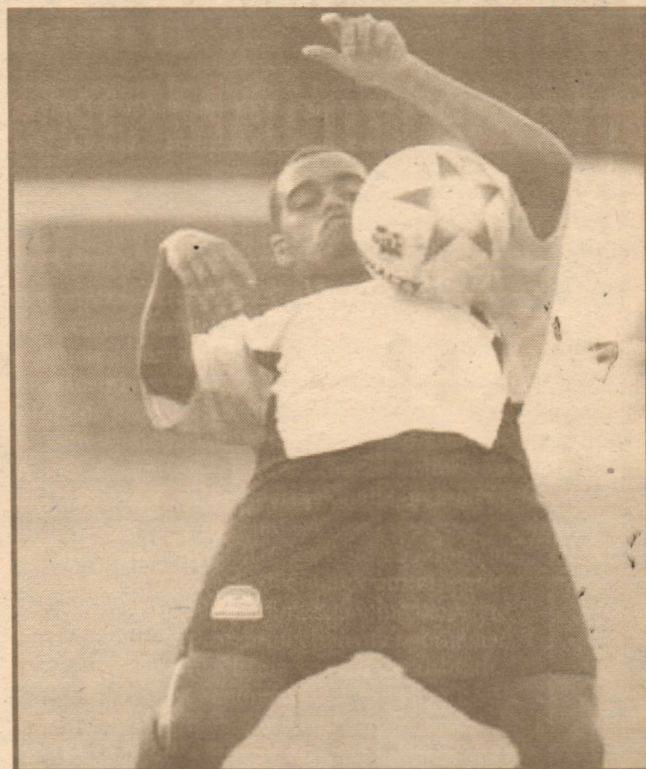
we have made an appreciable payment," adding, "we consider their welfare a priority. We will therefore do all within our power to meet their needs."

"We are urging them to continue in the manner that they have been working so that they once more do the nation proud when they meet Ghana on July 29 in Port Harcourt," he said.

He urged the coaches to "distracting insinuations" that the NFA would dispense with their services after the qualifier.

"This is not true. The association is rather planning to send out four coaches to the Netherlands for courses from August," he added.

Mgbolu appealed to Nigerians to support the national team to ensure that the remaining hurdle was cleared.



Brazilian player Denilson controls the ball during a practice session in Cali, Colombia on Friday.

Drug hawkers storm Kano sports festival

Drug hawkers having a field day at the sixth Kano state's mini-sports festival selling their wares to athletes and spectators at the festival, which kicked off last week, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported.

NAN correspondent who visited all the nine centres of the festival reported that hawkers of both conventional and traditional medicines

who stormed the various venues of the competition were seen making brisk business.

Some of the hawkers who spoke to NAN said that "we believe this is another good season for us, as people including athletes from the rural areas are patronising our goods." A hawker, Ahmadu Usman, said that "we now realise between N2,000 and N3,000 per day as against our normal sales of N200 and

N1,000 since the festival kicked off last Sunday."

When asked if they were not afraid of the members of the National Drugs Laws Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), most of them said that "we know they are even right here now but you see we are legally registered members."

The traditional medicines practitioners were not left out of the business as they are also selling their products using mobile public address systems to draw attention and claiming cures for all manner of ailments including headaches, muscles pull, and AIDS.

Zonal reps endorse Kienka

Several nominees and zonal representatives for the incoming board of the Nigeria Tennis Federation (NTF) have endorsed the candidature of Godwin Kienka as its chairman.

The representatives told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that there was need for a fresh start in the Federation, adding that they were sure that Kienka would be good as the NTF chairman.

The nominees told NAN at the just-concluded second Governor Bola Tinubu International Championships in Lagos that the game in Nigeria had been virtually destroyed, adding that the previous principal characters have no business in an association they had ruined.

"They could not even pay the basic affiliation fees to the International Tennis Federation (ITF)," Barrister Agu Gab Agu, a lawyer and Zonal representative for the South-East said.

Alhaji Hamisa Bala, a manager with Union Bank and Mr. Yemi Owosebi, both Zonal representative for the North-Central and South-West zone respectively said: "We need a new team for the game and the players. The game is almost dead and we need to do something drastic to revive it."

Denen Akaa, a comptroller of immigration and former national player said: "We have absolute confidence in Kienka providing the leadership. We need to turn tennis around and as you can see about seven of us are here on our own, that shows we are highly mobilised and keen to work."

"We have spoken with coaches and top players and all of them agree that Kienka will do a good job. Most of the Davis Cup players came through his academy any-

Tennis

been involved over time in tennis including the promotion of young players. He also runs a viable tennis academy which trains many youngsters."

According to one of the players, "Kienka is a seasoned tennis person who has

New NTF board to pay affiliation fees

The first task of the next board of the Nigeria Tennis Federation (NTF) will be the prompt payment of the outstanding affiliation fees owed the International Tennis Federation (ITF), Sanni Ndanusa, the NTF former first vice-president said in Lagos.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported that the NTF currently owes the ITF more than \$40,000.

Speaking with NAN in Lagos last week, Ndanusa said: "This is very essential, the new board after inauguration will use all the power at its disposal to ensure that the debt was paid by the gov-

ernment.

"Every member will go out to individuals and corporate bodies to solicit support to ensure the debt was paid," he added.

"The non-payment of the debt has led to Nigeria's relegation in the Davis Cup from Euro-African Zone three to the qualifying series,"

he said.

He added that although the NTF was ready to pay the bill of its players and officials to play in the Davis Cup, Nigeria could not participate in the competition as a result of the debt.

Ndanusa warned that the ITF might not sanction any international point-scoring tournament like the ongoing West African men's satellite circuit next year if the fees was not paid.

The former vice-president said Sule Ladipo's victory at the just-concluded Bola Tinubu tournament showed that Nigeria's performance was better than last year when "our players could not go beyond the quarter-finals."

"Ladipo's showing would encourage other Nigerian players," he said.

Sports development hampered by funds, says LG boss

The Chairman of Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State, Alhaji AbdulGafar Magaji, has said that his council will continue to give sports development a priority in spite of receiving no funds from the Federal Government.

He said that since March this year, the council had not received any allocation from the Federal Government, which had affected the payment of staff salaries and execution of projects.

Magaji told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Ilorin last week, that his council had assisted and sponsored various youth teams to tournaments in and outside the state.

"We are happy to note that the various youth teams we sponsored have been doing well and we intend to continue assisting them," he said.

The chairman lauded the performance of the Government Girls' Secondary

School, Ilorin, female handball team which placed second in a national tournament held in Benin last month.

"We are equally impressed with our YSFON football team which won the Emir of Ilorin's Cup and did the state proud in a national competition held at Abuja,"

he added.

On the provision of sporting facilities, Magaji said his local government was lucky to have some of the facilities built by the state government, adding that, if its finances improved, it might assist schools and other institutions in Ilorin to upgrade their facilities.



Tijani Babungida in action for Nigeria against Cameroon. He was loaned to Dutch first division side Vitesse Arnhem on Friday.

Guinness champions, Coker Sec. Sch. set for Manchester

Coker Secondary School, Lagos, Malta Guinness Principals Cup champions left for Manchester, England, last Friday to participate in this year's Manchester Umbro Football Festival holding from July 21 to July 28.

A statement by JSP, consultants to the Guinness Nigeria Plc., said that about 400 teams from various parts of the world would converge in the city for the festival.

The statement said a coaching clinic had been planned to coincide with the youth soccer fiesta.

It said that visiting teams would go on excursions to various places including Alton Towers Theme Park, City of Chester, the Lowry and Arndale centres.

The team would use the opportunity of the tour to visit the Old Trafford, home ground of Manchester United.

"It promises to be an exciting experience for the team," the statement added.

Both the world body FIFA and the European ruling body, UEFA, JSP explained, had sanctioned the tournament.

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All Africa Games to gulp N8 billion

The 8th All Africa Games scheduled to hold in Nigeria in 2003 will cost about N8 bil-

lion. However, the most of the funds needed to bankroll the African Olympic will be sourced from the private sector.

By Patrick Andrew
 which has already committed N38 billion into the construction of the National Stadium in Abuja.

The Executive Director also said that facilities at the ECOWAS secretariat would equally be used to augment the facilities at the new sports complex in Abuja.

Babangida moves to Vitesse

The faltering club career of Nigerian international winger, Tijani Babangida, has been rescued by a season-long loan move from Ajax to Dutch first division rivals, Vitesse Arnhem.

Former Dutch international defender Ronald Koeman, now in charge of Vitesse, urged his club to finalise a deal for Babangida after running into striking problems.

Vitesse have three wide players all nursing long-term injuries, including Burkina Faso's Mamadou Zongo.

Babangida had been dumped in the Ajax reserves last summer after failing to find favour with new coach Co Adriaanse.

He was taken on loan last November by Turkish side Genclerbirligi and did well, but he had to return to Amsterdam at the end of the season.

Babangida said: "Vitesse can measure themselves with Ajax and Feyenoord. They have a great stadium and I know they have great supporters.

"I'm still the old Baba. I just haven't been able to show it in Holland."

Babangida never lived up to standard raised by compatriot Finidi George, in Amsterdam who had helped Ajax lift the Champions League in 1995.

The winger is currently in Nigeria, preparing for a crucial World Cup qualifier against Ghana on July 29.

Vitesse are happy for him to miss part of pre-season training and link up with his new team-mates on August 1.

Executive Director of COJA, Dr. Amos Adamu, disclosed last week when Nobel Laureate Prof. Wole Soyinka, visited the COJA secretariat in Abuja.

Dr. Adamu said efforts are being intensified to secure sponsors for the Games noting that the searchlight was not confined to Nigeria but extended to Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Dr. Adamu said there was a deliberate effort to source for funds outside the corridors of government,

To this end, the Executive Director said COJA management has drawn out its marketing strategies, made several fruitful contacts in Europe and was confident the target will be met.

He informed Prof. Soyinka that the Abuja stadium will have every facility required for the games, noting that a modern hockey pitch, velodrome and other crucial facilities needed in a modern day stadium are included.

Already, six key departments have been created to handle programmes at the COJA secretariat. These are administration, marketing, finance, operations, consultancy and media and communications.

Dr. Adamu observed that the marketing, merchandising, licensing, broadcast rights, and public funding laws have been put in place to facilitate better operations.



Challenger Adrian Stone falls back after receiving the knockout blow from "Sugar" Shane Mosley in the third round on Saturday at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Mosley defended his WBC welterweight title.



Germany's Bernhard Langer plays from the 16th fairway during the third round of the British Open Golf Championship at Royal Lytham and St. Annes golf course in England on Saturday. Langer scored a 67 Saturday to go 6-under for the event.

Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

Panel 1: LIKE MALAM ZAKARI THE TAILOR, ALHAJI MUSA WAS ALSO VERY EXCITED, HE STARTED THINKING OF A NAME TO CALL HIS SON.

Panel 2: I THINK WE SHOULD CALL HIM SAMIR, AFTER HIS GRAND FATHER!

Panel 3: WE WILL GIVE HIM THE BEST IN LIFE, STARTING WITH A GRAND FEAST IN HIS NAME!

Panel 3 (continued): WE WILL TREAT HIM LIKE A PRINCE.

Panel 3 (bottom): HE IS MY PRINCE!

TO BE CONTINUED (A)