

# DAILY TRUST

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**Shagari:  
A Quiet  
Man  
opens  
up  
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## Danjuma, Abubakar Delay Cabinet Reshuffle

By Jibril Daudu

The much-awaited cabinet reshuffle by President Olusegun Obasanjo is now being delayed by the decision of two prospective nominees to accept or reject the offer.

Top is the decision of Minister of Defence, Lieutenant General Theophilus Danjuma (rtd) to stay on as member of the cabinet or retire.

The other is whether or not the former Deputy Senate President, Alhaji Haruna Abubakar will accept the ministerial appointment or stay on as Senator.

While Danjuma has consistently asked to be allowed to retire due to failing health, President Obasanjo has been pleading with him to stay on, at least to the end of the year.

On his part, Haruna Abubakar who lost the post of Deputy Senate President last September is undecided on the president's offer of a ministerial appointment.

Presidency sources hinted *Daily Trust* that the president is eagerly awaiting the decision of the duo to draw up the final list of the new ministers to be announced

soon.

Although, Danjuma has hinged his desire to retire on ill health, other sources claim that he has become uncomfortable with the policies of the administration which have incurred the displeasure of northerners of among whom he is an important figure.

Sources close to him explained that he has only refrained from joining public criticism of the administration because of his personal relationship with President Obasanjo and because he is one of the persons who convinced Obasanjo to stand election and had spent his personal fortune to ensure his victory.

The source said that rather than disagree with his boss and friend of many years he preferred to leave the cabinet quietly.

The source cited President Obasanjo's inability to act promptly in the first three days of the recent OPC riots in Lagos, an action that caused the death of many people of northern origin.

Obasanjo's inaction in the first three days of the riots was also said to have

Contd. on Pg 2

## Diya, others to appear at Oputa Panel

From Aliu Akoshile, in Lagos

As the Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (Oputa Panel) sits today in Port Harcourt, former Chief of General Staff, Lt. General Oladipo Diya (rtd) has been summoned to testify over the 1995 executions of seven Saro Wiwa and eight other chieftains of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP).

Also to appear before the panel headed by Justice Chukwudifu Oputa are former military administrator of Rivers State, Colonel Dauda Musa Komo (rtd) and Colonel Paul Okuntimo.

Diya who was second in command to the late Chief of State, General Sani Abacha, *Daily Trust* learnt was invited to explain why the MOSOP leaders were primarily executed without being allowed the le-

gal right of appeal.

The eight MOSOP leaders were convicted and sentenced to death by a special tribunal for alleged murder of some Ogoni chiefs in Gokana on May 21, 1995. They were executed on November 10, 1995.

The MOSOP case was based on a petition by Saro Wiwa Jnr son of the late MOSOP leader is one of the

35 cases the Oputa Panel will entertain in the next two weeks of its sitting in Port Harcourt.

Other cases to be heard include the petition of *Newswatch* editors Ray Ekpu, Yakubu Mohammed and Dan Agbese over the unlawful arrest over the interview granted them by Brigadier-General David Mark in 1994.

## Overzealous security men caused Airport mishap

By Suleiman Mohammed

Investigations have pinned the fault that led to the black out at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja that nearly cost President Olusegun Obasanjo's life to overzealous security personnel.

Facts emerging from the investigation ordered by

the National Security Adviser, (NSA) to the president, Lt. Gen. Aliyu Gusau (rtd) revealed that when the outage occurred two minutes to the touch down of the presidential aircraft, the control tower duty officer ordered the generating set operator not to start the set which was to facilitate the plane landing using the

Contd. on Pg 2



Alhaji Hassan Danbaba, Magajin Garin Sokoto Sardauna's Grandson and look-a-like.

## Create Ahmadu Bello Foundation

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Sokoto

Grandson of late Premier of the North, Alhaji Hassan Danbaba, Magajin Garin Sokoto has called on the northern elite to set up a foundation to honour the late Sir Ahmadu Bello, Sardauna

He told the *Daily Trust* in Sokoto that that was the best way to address the educational and social problems of the North in line with his policy of "one north, one destiny."

Alhaji Hassan who lamented how the late Sardauna's protégé abandoned his legacies, observed that, "from the day he was killed you cannot find many new structures put in

Contd. on Pg 2

## NEWS

## Useni Extols Sardauna's Virtues

By Sani Babadoko

Former minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Lt. General Jeremiah T. Useni, has said the fact that none of the over 100 ethnic groups in the former Northern Region has castigated the former premier of the North, Sir Ahmadu Bello, *Sardauna Sokoto* was a measure of his visionary attributes.

Useni said 35 years after his assassination, the more the years that passed brighter "the late Premier's star shines, brightly, pointing out that not too many leaders commanded such a large following long after their demise.

Speaking on The North and Nigerian Unity at the launching of a documentary film and audio tapes on the speeches of the slain premier, General

Useni who was guest speaker at the occasion himself the *Sardauna* Plateau and Nasarawa said the North was rubbed of its leader at a time it needed him most.

He said at the Arewa House, Kaduna, that if the late Sardauna was alive the numerous religious crises that has become the lot of the North could not have been contemplated pointing out that "Sir Ahmadu Bello told his Christian and Muslim lieutenants that there were more than enough pagans from whom to convert into Islam and Christianity so why fight among the two."

He added "when the United Middle Belt Congress (UMBC) was complaining of northern domination of the Middle Belt areas, Sardauna quietly (without publicity as it is common these days) set up

a small committee to go into the archives and search for the history and tradition of various tribes in the north and bring to him."

"This exercise gave birth to the creation of the following chiefdoms at time:- Plateau province: Sum Femi-Runkelere, Pengama Rukuba and Iregwe; Bauchi province: Kaltungo, Tangale, Waja and Dadin chiefdoms; Niger province: Kuta, Tegena and Kuseriki, Kabba province: Kupa and Eggon," Gen. Useni added.

He maintained that the unity of the north in particular and Nigeria in general was the main concern of the late premier of the northern region. Consequently, he said, the premier was very fair and careful on matters relating to religion.

At the occasion organised by Gamji Forum and New Era Newspapers,

General Useni recalled that the commitment to duty by the late Sardauna knew no bounds as he did considered it his duty to visit northern military officers in training around whenever he was there on visit.

He said the lasting legacy the North can bestow on the late Sardauna was to unite and do away with any form of discrimination. He said the late premier would have been pleased with the creation of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) which is the new umbrella organisations in the North.

Reading a citation on the late Premier, Alhaji Magaji Dambatta said no leader did more than Sir Ahmadu Bello to bring education to the North where he met only two secondary schools but by the time he was murdered has established one in each province as well as the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria.

Special guest of honour

and former Head of State, General Muhammadu Buhari recalled when as military governor of defunct North-East he visited all the states and found that the late Sardauna had visited all often at least once a year as premier. He said considering the size of the area and the means of communication, it was a no mean feat.

Speaking at the occasion, a former aide to the late premier, Chief Sunday #oniye, the *Aro* of Mopa tribute to the ability of the late premier to assemble high calibre technocrats to allow them to work was equalled in the country's history. He said today whoever assembled such a crop of people will not allow them to work.

He said one good thing that happened to the north since the late Sardauna's death was the establishment of the Arewa Consultative Forum and urged all northerners irrespective of religion or creed to give it

maximum cooperation.

Chairman of the occasion, Malam Liman Ciroma, said attempts at balkanising the North through the creation of Middle Belt Forum was not in the interest of its perpetrators. He called for the setting up of more

of organs in the North to counter the propaganda war by others.

Over one million naira was realised at the launching which was attended by leader of the South-South Forum, Senator David Dafinone, grandson of the late Sardauna, Alhaji Hassan Danbaba, *Magajin Garin Sokoto* who represented Sultan Muhammadu Maccido, Alhaji Yusuf Maitama Sule who was master of ceremony and representatives of the federal government.

With additional reports from Ibrahim Kalamasik

## Danjuma, Abubakar

Contd. from Pg.1

irked Vice President Atiku Abubakar and the Chief of Army Staff, Major General Victor Malu who almost staged a walk-out on his Commander-in-Chief before Obasanjo allowed him to use soldiers to quell the riots. President Obasanjo's approval came three days after many lives had been lost.

The North rose in condemnation of the administration to the embarrassment of T.Y. Danjuma who rather than join in the criticisms, intensified his resolve to leave the administration.

Obasanjo has not accepted Danjuma's request to leave thereby delaying the announcement of the new cabinet. Rather he is said to have solicited the assistance of their mutual friends to plead with Danjuma to stay on.

According to the source, Obasanjo drew attention to the agreement between him, Danjuma and Aliyu Gusau as condition for his acceptance to run for president. The condition, according to the source, was that Danjuma should agree to be Defence Minister and Gusau, National Security Adviser.

He has, therefore, maintained that Danjuma cannot now abandon him midstream.

The delay by Haruna Abubakar to communicate his decision to President Obasanjo accepting or rejecting the offer has also stalled the announcement.

A meeting he held with his close aides last Friday

to advise him on the issue ended inconclusively. He is said to be making wider consultations, with his constituency, before making up his mind.

*Daily Trust* reliably gathered that Obasanjo "desperately" wants Abubakar out of the Senate to diffuse tension and secure Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, whose position as Senate President is being threatened.

Senator Chuba Okadigbo leading 47 senators have concluded plans to oust Anyim but 57 others under the leadership of Haruna Abubakar are insisting that Okadigbo can never return to his seat with Ibrahim Mantu as his deputy because they belong in the same group.

Rather, they will agree to support the return of Okadigbo only if Haruna Abubakar also returns as Deputy Senate President. It is in this scenario that President Obasanjo wants to remove Haruna Abubakar from the Senate and make him a minister.

Meanwhile, the people

of Imo East Senatorial District are putting finishing touches to preparations for a bye-election as news has reached them that President Obasanjo has made up his mind to appoint Evan Enwerem a minister.

According to sources, the president's offer to Enwerem stemmed from the belief that his humiliations in the Senate are due to his staunch support of the President.

*Daily Trust* gathered that he has accepted the president's offer.

## Overzealous security

Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS).

Investigation further revealed that when the incident occurred, some security personnel waiting to receive the president at the presidential lounge drove to the generating room and forced the operator to start the set contrary to the instruction from the control tower.

This act, it was learnt created a confusion which led to the trip-off of the UPS, thus sending the entire runway into darkness for

place apart from the ones he built. Even the ones he built are not being sustained or maintained.

"His dream of unifying the North has been abandoned and that is the genesis of our problems in the North," he declared.

The 35-year-old grandson of the late Sardauna described January 15, 1966 as "pathetic" adding that he felt sad on each anniversary

of the day adding that, "though I was not born when the tragedy occurred, my grandmother, an eye witness narrated the gory details to me and it was pathetic that a man was met in his house, in the presence of his family and killed in cold blood.

"You can imagine the horror, the confusion, his family went through on that day. Whenever the anniversary comes I see it as a pathetic date," he added.

Contd. from Pg.1

headquarters but released later after making statement.

Presidential spokesman, Dr. Doyin Oluke who expressed shock over the incident stressed that such situation is not acceptable at an airport that was to operate for 24 hours. Meanwhile, management of the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) has exonerated the corporation from the outage and blamed the airport authority for negligence.

The *Magajin Garin Sokoto* who is a graduate of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria and Greenwich College, London said his grandfather was a selfless leader whose concern was for "the progress of everybody in the north."

He was not concerned about you being a Hausa, Fulani, Kanuri, Tiv, Muslim or Christian."

He said a foundation in honour of his grandfather was overdue to streamline the avalanche of associations, books, video and audio materials being dished out, some of which did not justify his legacy.

He said the present Sultan Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido Abubakar II had shown interest in setting up a foundation, "but his efforts were frustrated by some forces."

Alhaji Hassan said now was the time for serious-minded northerners to start such a foundation adding that any such effort would receive Sultan Maccido's blessing.

## Ahmadu Bello

Contd. from Pg.1

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"You can imagine the horror, the confusion, his family went through on that day. Whenever the anniversary comes I see it as a pathetic date," he added.

## The Great Debate

Every other Thursday, *Daily Trust* will choose a topical subject for debate by readers who feel strongly about it. Members of the editorial board of the newspaper, will in addition to their other duties also contribute to the debate. Most members of the board need little introduction, but we will introduce them at the end of their regular columns. The members are Mohammed Haruna, Dr. Richard Umaru, Professor Attahiru Jega, Dr. Aliyu Tilde, Mr. Nick Dazang, Dr. Bello Gusau and others we will announce in due course. They have already selected four topics for the great debate. They are:

1. Obasanjo and 2003 election.
2. The Generational Shift: The promise of Under-50 politicians
3. Women under the Sharia.
4. Street begging.

If you feel strongly about any of these topics, please put pen to paper and send it to the:

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The first debate will be presented on  
Thursday, January 18, 2001.

NEWS

# 5 Taraba legislators die in 2 months

By Ibrahim Modibbo

Fear of the unknown now grip members of the Taraba state House of Assembly following the death of five of their colleagues within two months in mysterious circumstances.

Daily Trust learnt in Jalingo that the remaining members of the Assembly have now resorted to consulting their Mallams, while the Christians amongst them are attending special prayer services in search of protection against the catastrophe which seems to target members of the assembly.

The apprehension of the lawmakers is sequel to the reported death of two members in a road accident on January 9, 2001 exactly two months after the death of two others in a similar circumstance in November 9, 2000.

Daily Trust learnt that Abdulrahman Tafida a mem-

ber representing Jalingo along with his friend Danjuma Lema representing Bali constituency died in a road accident January 9, when the car they were travelling in, a Peugeot 504 salon

lost control and plunged into a moving trailer.

The members were said to be returning from Abuja after a reconciliatory meeting over the impeachment saga with the Governor, Reverend Jolly Nyame.

Two other members, Tijjani Lawal from Gassol and

Ibrahim Sakaka from Sardauna constituency had earlier died on November 9, 2000 while travelling to Kaduna to attend "Reception 2000" organised for vice-

president Atiku Abubakar, when the duo who occupied a Peugeot salon car swerved off the road and somersaulted near Makurdi.

The fifth member, honourable Titong also from Sardauna local government died in December 2000, after a brief illness at Jalingo General Hospital.

The death of the two

members lately, has sent jitters through many people in Jalingo as Governor Nyame who was on annual leave preparatory to a planned trip overseas returned to Jalingo.

The Governor who had since visited and condoled the families of the deceased legislators was said to be very shocked over the development.

While making a state-wide broadcast over the sad event, Governor Nyame expressed deep regrets, sorrow and grief over the calamity that befell the state since the fourth quarter of last year.

He assured the families of the deceased that government would support them in their period of grief and thereafter. The state legislature has been engulfed by political and administrative impasse following violent disputes over the seat of the speaker.

Meanwhile, the suspended speaker of the House, honourable Habu Ajiya who recently recorded victory in his legal tussle at the state high court has not yet been reinstated as directed by the court.

Daily Trust learnt that the pro-tempo speaker, Mr. Jolly Yerima while planning to appeal against the verdict of the court at the Court of Appeal, Jos, has refused to vacate office. Sources said that Yerima who has the backing of some powerful politicians in the state has filed a case at the high court seeking for relief to appeal at the upper court.



Gov. Nyame

## NITEL/M-TEL merger:

# Contractors rush for payments ... As lobby for top jobs intensify

Osborne Adi Jnr

As contractors besieged the Abuja headquarters of scrapped NITEL and M-Tel at the weekend, high-level lobby also intensified for the executive positions expected to emerge from the new conglomerate that would manage government's interest in the telecommunication industry.

Consequently, the merger of the two parastatals by the Federal Government has already sent jitters down the spine of their staffers who fear that their jobs may be lost with the new development.

At the headquarters of the organisations on Friday, scores of contractors were seen pushing through the account departments in a last minute bid to get their payments before the likely freezing their accounts.

Although government has not made any pronouncement in respect of the status of accounts of both the NITEL and M-Tel, speculations are rife that following their merger, their accounts may be closed.

Those angling to position themselves for the juicy vacancies in the new arrangement are top officials of the two parastatals, Ministry of Communications and some operators in the private sector who are interested in joining the public sector.

Under the impending arrangement, the new organisation to manage public interest in the sector would have on board a Group Managing Director (GMD)

and Executive Directors in the holding company while Managing Directors would head the three companies that would be created in the group.

Daily Trust gathered from sources at the Ministry of Communications at the weekend that though the tripartite committee consisting the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), the two ministers in the Ministry of Communications and managing directors of M-Tel and NITEL and mandated by the President to incorporate the holding company could not come out with an acceptable name as at press time, the new company may be announced today.

The announcement of the new names, sources said was to enable the holding pick the global system for Mobile Telephone (GSM) ticket reserved for the government amongst the four licences set for auction Wednesday.

Competent sources said M-Tel has already been renamed Cell Com Limited to operate GSM, while NITEL would be broken down into two companies yet to be named to manage Long Distance Operation and the Domestic Land Lines.

It was also learnt that the tripartite committee which started its search for a new name at the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on Wednesday last week could not come up with a name as the one they agreed on was found to have been registered by other interest groups.

Some of the workers who spoke on condition of anonymity told our correspondent

that their positions were yet not clear in the impending scenario, as there were already rumours of retrenchment in the air.

## Zakzaky calls for global action against Israel

-Protest in Maiduguri

From Waziri Gwantu, Zaria & Abdullahi Bego, Maiduguri

Zaria based leader of Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), Sheik Ibrahim El-Zakzaky has called for global action in support of Palestinian claims to east Jerusalem.

The Islamic cleric told Daily Trust in Zaria that the Palestinians were involved in the *Aqsa Intifada* as a matter of self determination and their just struggle should be supported by Muslims around the world.

Said he, "The Aqsa Mosque does not belong to only Palestinians, it belongs to all Muslims" describing Israeli military action against Palestinians as barbaric.

He said the Jews were not only interested in controlling the Aqsa Mosque which is the third holiest mosque but have been planning to annex the mosque of the Holy Prophet of Islam in Medina with the hope of making it "Greater Israel with the support of America."

The Sheik who, though described the Jewish plan as

a nightmare, said unless Muslims all over the world rise up to stop them, they would inflict serious injury on them and weaken their unity and whatever effort they would want to make to avenge for all the atrocity committed against them (Muslim).

Meanwhile, members of the IMN in Maiduguri last Friday staged a "Crude day" peaceful protest.

Chanting slogans that condemn the United States and Israel for its continued occupation of Palestinian land the Brotherhood members passed through major streets carrying the pictures of their leaders El-Zakzaky and Sama Bin Laden.

Although no incident was recorded, Maiduguri town centre experienced momentary traffic jam when the protesters passed through the area.

Daily Trust checks show that the Islamic Brotherhood in Nigeria observe the "Quads Day" annually in keeping with the teachings of the late Ayatollah Khomeini that Islam's third holiest Mosque, the Masjidil Aqsa, must be liberated from the hands of Israel by the entire Muslim Ummah.

## Thank you for your support

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We will accept such adverts up to Feb 15, 2001. Once again thank you for support and generosity.

Management

## Briefly

### Fuel hawkers, Police face off in Zaria

Police in Zaria have vowed to declare an all out war against fuel hawkers in ancient city of Zaria and it environs in compliance with the federal government's directive to help bring an end to the protracted scarcity of the commodity all over the country.

Disclosing this in an interview with Daily Trust, Assistant Police Commissioner and Area Commander, Zaria Police Command, Alhaji Suleiman O. Lawal said his command has resolved to make the year 2001 fuel-hawkers free.

### Contractors fume at exco

Some concerned members of Indigenous Contractors Association in Plateau State have demanded for a probe of the activities of the association's leadership.

In a six page petition to the state governor, chief Joshua Chibi Dariye a copy of which was made available to Daily Trust, the concerned members alleged that the executive council has refused to call for a congress meeting to brief members.

### Kure commissions rural electricity

Governor Abdulkadir Kure of Niger State has at the weekend commissioned rural electrification projects in Mariga/ Kwana AC/ Tegina and Tatiko in Mariga and Paikoro local government areas respectively.

At one of the commissioning ceremonies in Mariga, the people were particularly excited at seeing their 10-year old electrification project come into fruition. The project which was started in 1991 was completed at a cost of N68 million to serve the people of Mariga.

### BUK re-opens Jan 22

Bayero University Kano, BUK re-opens for the 2000/2001 academic session on January 22, a statement by BUK register indicated that registration will commence that day, for returning students.

Registration for second semester and final year resit students will be conducted between 22 and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2001 while registration for new students is fixed for 5<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February

## NEWS

## Kwankwaso calls for Fasheun's prosecution

By Ibrahim Modibbo,  
Political Editor

Governor Rabiu Kwankwaso of Kano State has joined the league of prominent Northern politicians calling for the prosecution of Dr. Frederick Faseun, leader of the Odua People's Congress (OPC), saying that enough evidence abound to convict the ethnic leader of genocide.

Speaking to *Daily Trust*, Governor Kwankwaso said there was enough evidence to convict the OPC leader pointing out that, "If they don't have it in Lagos we have enough evidence here to send Faseun to the gallows".

The Governor who insisted that Faseun should be held responsible for the actions of his bandits against humanity said, Faseun is the leader of OPC and OPC killed our people en mass in Lagos and if the

case is given a fair prosecution with an independent minded judge, there is no way he would go scot free".

"In a situation where you take Faseun to his Odua people to prosecute him, you cannot expect justice knowing full well the position of Lagos and its people on the matter", he said.

Governor Kwankwaso described as desperate the defence put forward recently step by the Lagos State Governor on the matter saying that Kano State government is not happy with its fraudulent justification of the unjustifiable.

He added "we are not happy not are we impressed with the way they (Lagos) handled the matter and as such we shall reply them at an appropriate time on the matter in the near future".

The Governor who thanked the 19 northern state governors for contributing one million naira each



Governor Kwankwaso

along with Kano's N2 million donations to the victims of the mayhem in Lagos said, "we met the federal government and Lagos State governments to tell them point blank that our government will never support anybody that is against our people".

Also commenting on the incessant removal of Kano indigenes from top government positions by the Obasanjo administration, Governor Kwankwaso warned that no matter what anybody feels, it is unacceptable and in bad faith for anybody to target the people of Kano for persecution".

## Plateau screens pilgrims - prostitutes, defectors barred

From Buhari Bello in Jos

Plateau State Muslim Pilgrims Board has lamented the screening of intending pilgrims in the state with a view to weeding out prostitutes defectors.

The executive secretary of the Board, Alhaji Danlami Mohammed Bello made this known while addressing reporters on the preparation so far made said in Jos that the exercise would help to fish out such

people as well as pregnant women who are not allowed to perform the exercise..

Said he, "it will also enable us to ascertain Islamic teachings, prayers and other conditions of the Hajj operation".

According to the executive secretary, the Board has taken all necessary precaution and steps to ensure that prostitutes and other women of easy virtue were not given the chance to go to the Holy land saying, "We shall not allow

unmarried women to go to Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj operation"

The Board according to him, has made necessary arrangement regarding the accommodation and transportation for the intending pilgrims in Mecca and that a house that would accommodate about 1,000 pilgrims has been secured.

He also disclosed that an additional 300 seats has been requested from the office of the Pilgrims Affairs Abuja "because of high demand of those intending to perform the Hajj.

According to him, the request for additional number of seats became necessary following the exhaustion of the 923 seats already allocated to Plateau State for the exercise.

## Albarka lifts 160,000 passengers in 9 months

Albarka Air has airlifted over 160,000 passengers on its domestic routes in its nine months of operation, Public Affairs Manager of the company, Mr. Durosini Meseko has disclosed.

He said in Abuja at the weekend that in addition the airline lifted over 2000 pilgrims to the Umra (lesser hajj) in the holy land during the last exercise while it repatriated over 5,000 Nigerians from Libya.

He said the airline wanted to bring air travel to the doorsteps of average Nigerians to make Albarka the peoples Airline. He said that was why it charged uneconomic fares to provide "service to the fatherland.

Mr. Meseko said low income has forced travel-

lers to commute by road with all the attendant hazards adding that it was to reduce these avoidable risks that the airline charged 5,000 naira on routes other airlines charged 7,500 naira.

He said the airline has acquired more aircraft to enable it expand its domestic and international operations. He said, the airline also bided for the Lagos - New York route.

The Enugu and Ilorin routes would soon be added that the Sokoto, Kano, Port Harcourt routes in view of the anticipated increase in passenger floor as a result of downsizing by other airlines.

Meseko thanked Albarka's numerous passengers for their patronage and promised them a new year of effective and satisfactory service.

## Extend Sharia to the South

Southern governors with large Muslim population have been enjoined to do so in accordance with the provision of the constitution.

In a chat with *Daily Trust*, recently a Jos based businessman and indigene of Oyo State, Alhaji Kassim Balogun said apart from frustrating the effort of Muslims in actualising Sharia, "there are some people who seem to be employing all kinds of factors to make Sharia - Islamic law look like a Northern affair".

## Atomic agency donates research equipment to ABU

From Waziri Isa Gwantu  
in Zaria

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Vienna, Austria, has donated Research and Science equipment worth 2.5 million naira to the centre for Energy Research and Training (CERT), Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria.

Presenting the equipment to CERT during a two week workshop jointly organised by both CERT and IAEA recently in Zaria, a nuclear expert with the

Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa Mr. Dries Hills said the equipment were donated to encourage CERT in its drive to make a headway in the world of Atomic Energy.

Mr. Hills who listed the equipment as, a set of gamma scanning equipment and software with portable neutron backscatter level measurement, said Nigeria, being a member of the Board of IAEA will continue to benefit from such gestures.

Mr. Hills commended

efforts of management of CERT for initiating organisation of the workshop. He therefore urged the centre to make judicious use of the donated equipment.

He called on the Nigerian government to support CERT by providing enough funds and required infrastructure to enable it function as a true Centre for Energy Research and Training.

## No Hiding place for rogues

-Ogoja LG Chairman

Fraudsters in the Ogoja Local Government council of Cross River State will be brought to book, the chairman, Chief Christopher I. Monkomb, has promised.

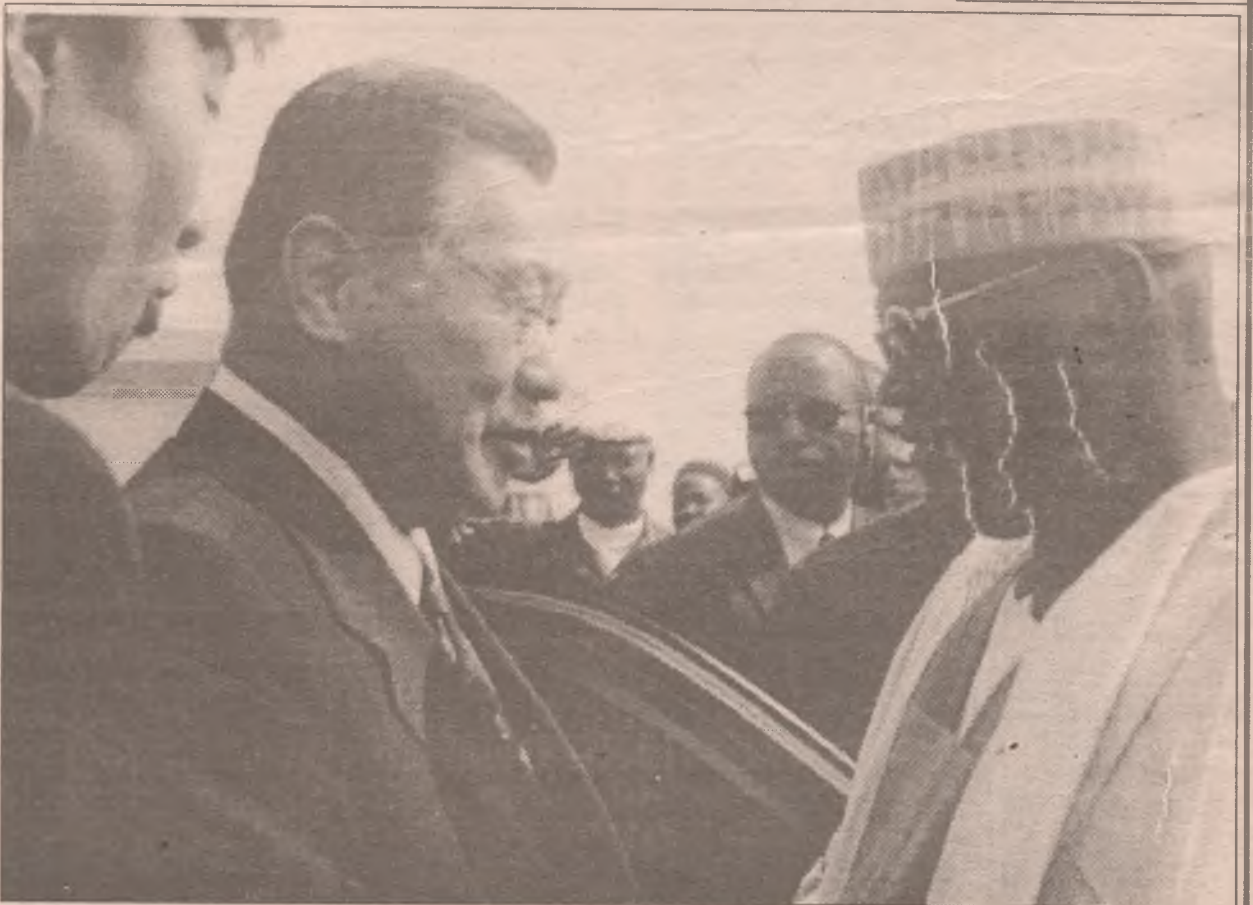
Addressing Senior Staff of the Council recently in Ogoja, the Chairman directed all those who've embezzled the council fund to refund them to the treasury of the council or face severe punishment according to law.

Chief Monkomb however warned civil servants in the council to shun acts of truancy, indolence ab-

senteism and the use of official house for private business.

The council boss who was also appraising the activities of his administration in the last year said he is poised to raise the stand of his performance in the new year.

Chief Monkomb reminded that last year was colourful with cases of cheats and frauds in the councils finances perpetrated by unscrupulous treasury staff and maintained that the auditors report recently submitted to the council will be implemented to the fullest.



The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori who visited Nigeria at the weekend (middle) in a handshake with Vice-President Atiku Abubakar.

Pix: Kennedy Egbonadje

## Ruminations

## On Trust

By Richard Umaru

TRUST is a simple word - a simple, five-letter English word. Yet, simple as it may be this little English word lies at the heart of all rational human relationships. It represents that 'something' in us which makes sense out of the bewildering torrent of experiences and influences which perpetually try to compound and confuse our daily lives.

Trust is, indeed, the irreducible minimum basis for any enduring organisation of human community. Without trust no human group would cohere for any appreciable length of time.

Take society's most basic unit, i.e. the family group, for an example. Can you possibly imagine a smooth and harmonious matrimonial union without mutual trust? Without trust the matrimonial contract between husband and wife would founder on the rock of mutual suspicions. Both parties, the man as well as the woman, have to have sufficient trust in the faithfulness of the other party to make a successful, stable and sustainable union.

Or, to take another example, imagine a business firm with a culture of mutual suspicions and distrust amongst its staff! Such firm would be a workplace where everyone - employer and employee alike - constantly looks back over his shoulders to ensure that he is not being back - stabbed.

A firm like this would lack the internal cohesiveness or the synergy to compete effectively in the market or to evolve a strategic plan for its future.

But, there is, perhaps, nowhere else where trust is more critical than in the public domain. Indeed, the very idea of the state presupposes the existence of some kind of an understanding between the rulers and the ruled whereby the latter, willingly or forcefully, entrusts state power on a few.

Where this understanding or, to use a more appropriate term, trust is lacking

then the stability of the polity is shaky and the hegemony of the ruling group is incomplete.

Yet, simple as it may be trust is in reality a very complex social phenomenon. For one thing, it is something that takes a very long time to develop, but which is at the same time very easily lost. For another, trust is more often than not a product of social perception (true or false) of the intentions and conduct of a person rather than actual behaviour which builds or erodes trust.

Then there is also the fact that trust is a very sensitive social attribute. It is sensitive to social stress and would normally be lost most readily during periods of anxieties and distress.

In the context of the Nigerian state system, both historically and contemporaneously, the confidence and trust of the people in the hosty, responsibility and accountability of those entrusted with the responsibility to manage the ma-

*Another three decades of almost uninterrupted military leadership characterized by unmitigated arbitrariness, unrestrained human rights abuses and wholesale pilfering of the public till have finally denuded and rubished whatever little trust remained in politicians and public office holders.*

chinery of government, whether as politicians or public servants, has over the past forty years worn very thin. And for very good reasons too!

The so-called First Republic, unshered in with very high hopes and great expectations on the part of the mass of the people, had by 1966 foundered on the bog of regionalist intolerance, avaricious corruption and disorderly and chaotic squabbles for hegemony on the part of the political elite.

On these shattered dreams rose the demonic face and debacle of the

thirty-month old civil war, at the end of which all of us, save the military bosses and their favoured contractor friends, were the vanquished.

Another three decades of almost uninterrupted military leadership characterized by unmitigated arbitrariness, unrestrained human rights abuses and wholesale pilfering of the public till have finally denuded and rubished whatever little trust remained in politicians and public office holders.

It is, thus, little wonder that when General Obasanjo emerged as the new helmsman of the current civilian political order almost two years ago, he made a spirited attempt, even as President - elect, to breath fresh life into public trust in public office holders. His administration, Obasanjo promised in March 1999, would be a "pact with Nigerians" for the institutionalization of an accountable, open and inclusive public governance - a public governance that delivers on its promises!

Today, almost two years on, how has this "pact" fared? About a week ago, in the rural serenity of his country home in Ogun state, President Obasanjo himself assessed his almost two-year tenure and concluded, rather soberly, that it had not lived up to the expectations of Nigerians. The "democracy dividend", that Obasanjo himself had routed so much, was yet to reach the homes and cooking pots of most Nigerians. Two years on the re-kindled hopes and trust of Nigerians has once more dimmed.

President Obasanjo has

not proffered reasons for his candid admission of failure. It does not, however, require the skills of a seer to fathom out some of these. The political elite at both the federal, state and local government as well as at the executive and legislative levels, for one, have woefully failed to carry the people along with them.

The un-ending, ding-dong, feuds between the executive and legislative arms, the insentive preoccupation with self-enrichment and the appropriation of unspeakably high perks and perquisites, the slavish pursuit of ill-digested and inappropriate monetarist economic and fiscal policies, and the ineffective handling of serious public issues and other crises is to strengthen the popular view that this administration is no different from the ones that have gone before it - and that, in some respects, it is even worse. President Obasanjo may continue to assert that in this administration it is not business as usual. The popular perception, however, is that nothing has changed.

And since trust (that word again!) is in the last resort based more on perceptions, right or wrong, than on anything else it can only be that popular distrust in this administration is deepening rather than waning.

True, President Obasanjo may still have very noble intentions for this country. But then the scrap heap of history is littered with noble intentions.

Richard Umaru, a former Permanent Secretary in Kaduna state, is now an Editorial Board member of Daily Trust.

## EDITORIAL

## Our mission is possible

Three years ago when we started the *Weekly Trust*, neither we nor our readers had much optimism that it would escape the fate of most new newspapers, especially in the northern part of this country. Like many such start-ups, the venture was grossly undercapitalized, with severe consequences on all aspects of operation, including staffing. The economy, then as now, was in the doldrums. To make it worse, the polity was balanced on a knife-edge, so to speak. It was March 1998, and all five political parties, in total disregard of the mood in the country, were falling over one another to adopt General Sani Abacha as their presidential candidate.

But perhaps it takes bad times to make a good newspaper. From day one we decided to keep a safe distance from not only the government of the day, but power groups in the country. Ours would be the newspaper of the small people, and we were confident that despite the deep cynicism in our society the people would soon come to recognize that. We were not disappointed. The circulation of the *Weekly Trust* has grown 20 times from our initial, modest print run, placing us in the rank of a few Nigerian newspapers whose circulation numbers run into five digits.

We know that the market is merciless, hard to win and even harder to keep. Ironically even our catchment area, the North, where there are so few newspapers, readers are very particular about what is on offer. To achieve mass circulation, you have to maintain a certain level of consistent quality. We know from the response to the *Weekly Trust* that the market is well-pleased with us and we too are well pleased with it.

Can we carry this goodwill into the *Daily Trust*? Without boring you with too many platitudes, let us just say we will give it our best shot (and in our team there are very many sharp shooters!). We are expanding into daily production because we think there is market for a good daily newspaper that covers events in the northern part of our country. There is at the moment, not a single private daily newspaper north of the River Niger; and the people of this vast area are not only forced to read about themselves as they are seen by others, but to do so a day or too late.

We think a newspaper that covers events in their lives well and reaches them early, will have a head-start over others. We also believe that even outside this catchment area readers in other parts of Nigeria will welcome a newspaper that gives a true picture of how the other half lives and thinks.

The second strategic advantage of the *Daily Trust* is that it is providing Abuja, our federal capital, with its first daily newspaper. Our base places us at the heart of national affairs and the growing diplomatic activity in our nation's capital. We intend to cover all the three arms of national government well. The executive, by the nature of its functions receives most of the attention of the media; on our part, we shall give extensive coverage to the National Assembly which is the hob of democracy. The judiciary will also get our attention, for which we are devoting a particular page each day on *Crime and Punishment*.

A newspaper based in the capital city of the largest black nation on earth, must have a special interest in diplomacy and foreign relations for better or for worse. Obasanjo is a foreign affairs president, so we will be right there with him chronicling the gains and losses of his activist foreign policy. We shall also monitor the comings and goings of resident diplomats and special envoys, Non-governmental organizations and Multi-lateral bodies.

In short, the *Daily Trust*, will strive to be a national newspaper with strong international flavour. It will strive to be the best in order to attract the most. In the best tradition of all good, liberal newspapers, it will not mix-up facts with opinions or news with views. Our objective is to produce a fair, honest and balanced presentation of events from wherever they occur.

A daily newspaper is a major step. But it can survive only with the whole-hearted support of the community it serves. We on our part promise not to disappoint our teeming readers. We will keep the flag flying for as long as the wind is blowing. May God bless us all.

## LETTER OF THE DAY

## "Baby" of the millennium

I read with great delight of the conception (about a year ago) of the idea of giving birth to another "Baby of the Millennium" - the *Daily Trust* which I am made to believe is in the last stage of its gestation period and labour.

January 15th is a date which every Nigerian es-

pecially a northerner, would love to hate for obvious reasons suffice to say that it is however a day and date that ushered in a new consciousness to the heart, soul and social fabric of every northerner worth his or her salt in this country.

"The *Weekly Trust*" in a relatively short life span

of 3 years in hitting the news-stand had made a great impact as the only northern paper that stood the test of time and weathered stormy weathers. We are proud of you and your team. We only advice that you maintain the quality and standard of both your social and investigative reporting with the profes-

sional touch and ethics it deserves without sentiments.

To be able to survive despite all odds yet to conceive the idea of taking another giant stride and leap forward is another course for you to give glory to Almighty Allah.

You have proved to your competitors not to

under-estimate the strength of a "Teabag" for not until when you put it in hot water, that they know how powerful it is.

Once more accept my hearty congratulations and keep that resolve of being objective, steadfast and consistent in all you do with the fear of God and the promotion of peace in

our dear nation.

May Allah Always be our strength in the pursuit of both our educational and leadership services for the improvement of our people and nation at large Amen.

Hajiya Maimuna Lata  
Tombai, Jakadiyar Gamji,  
Garkuwar Gabasawa.

## Opinion

## Reminiscences of January 15

By Buhari Bello

Coups become a common phenomenon in sub-sahara African Countries since January 13, 1963 when the then president of Togo Republic, Sylvanus Olympio was brutally killed by a group of army officers.

Coup was later staged in the Republic of Benin on December 22, 1965 in which the country's soldiers, led by General Christopher Soglo overthrew Monsieur Alomadgbe's government. Burkina Faso took a similar dimension when young Colonel Lanizuna at gun point forcefully took over from President Maurice Yaméogo on January 3, 1966 before Ghanaian Soldiers equally seized political power from Kwame Nkrumah in February of the same year.

Here in Nigeria, brutal and unwanted in the struggle for power first occurred in January 1966 which was the most devastating in the world's largest Black nation. Since then this trend persistently continued to claim lives of many which has greatly affected the pace of development since independence. This year it is exactly thirty-six years since the ill-fated coup terminated the life of late the Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto and the premier of Northern Nigeria who is also the nation's acclaimed political and regional leader no parallel today. It is therefore penitent to remember this nation's hero and all those leaders who were killed in that bloody coup. Although Sir Ahmadu Bello and his mates are dead, their image today is very large in the Northern Region.

In fact their portraits today not only adorn the houses or offices of prominent Nigeria Soldiers, emirs palaces and pirate homes, they are also hung on the walls of major politicians resident in the SouthSouth as a matter of respect for their leadership.

The personality of Sir Ahmadu Bello clearly overshadows everything in the North with his unseen foot quite visible in Lagos, the then seat of the Federal Government headed by Sir Tafawa Balewa, the Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Those who supported the killing of these statesmen had come to the conclusion that their deaths signified the eclipse of their moon really got it wrong. Perhaps such reading of Northerners is largely influenced by sectional thinking which failed to appreciate the foot prints and legacies of one after death.

The same treatment was meted out to General Sani Abacha despite his positive achievements in the field of economic development. Happily the late Sardauna of Sokoto still determines greatly the nation's political pulse as if he was still alive. Other regional leaders of his time could not enjoy such benefit today for some obvious reasons.

Today, the simple fact is that he was a good leader, consummate strategist, a visionary leader who understood the Nation's political landscape as a marksman who understood when to hit the desired target. It is on record today that before 1960, the late Premier started extending his strategy by consolidating on his foreign relations. He moved to the Republic of Cameroon and successfully convinced the people living there to become part of it what is now known as Nigeria's Sardauna Province into the country. Places like the present Gembu in Taraba State and Mubi in Adamawa State are all part of Southern Cameroon Province they democratically voted to be part of Nigeria.

His role in Nigeria's foreign policy and African unity, among others, placed him on a pedestal above his colleagues.

In fact, there were all sorts of efforts to disunite the Sardauna empire and his ever-surviving legacies without success. No wonder therefore, 36 years after the death of the death of Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna still remain a rallying point, melting pot and centre for people of different ideologies and social or religious affinities.

Perhaps it was in recognition of

the role of the late Sardauna and the need to revive his political dynasty that some groups of Northerners have been remembering him in the nation's political history.

It is therefore worthy of note that despite the designed attempts by the "Mgbatis" to destroy such logic, their desire for political upliftment of the peoples of the North will continue to linger in the minds of the many people in the country.

He had in fact, meticulously worked out a common and acceptable unity among the people of the Northern Region which made other regions to miscontinue such unity and hence campaigned against the North.

Today being the anniversary of the guru and if it signified anything to the nation with its people then, our generation (the elderly ones in particular) must reflect and rethink on their history to make an easy and understandable evaluation.

Perhaps it was in recognition of the role of the late Sardauna and the need to revive his political dynasty that some groups of northerners have been remembering him in the nation's political history.

The late Sardauna of Sokoto and his colleagues were brutally killed several years ago but the good legacies they built today lives after them. Such spirit in today's Nigeria manifests even the more in the wave of serious threats and intimidation of what they stood for.

It is therefore worthy of note that despite the designed attempts by the "Mgbatis" to destroy such legacies, their desire for political upliftment of the people of the North will continue to linger in the minds of many people in the country.

Apart from the festivities annually hosted by "Gamji" groups, it would be an important alternative for individuals, especially the people of the region, to use the day not in remembering the blood letting but thinking on the relationship between the different regions that make up the nation.

I also call on you to pause for a while and note. Why were they killed? What have coups brought to the nation? What is the strategic nature of leadership of a Southerner after "Power Shift. I remember it as William Shakespeare in one of his fantastic ways of describing things while categorizing greatness said "some achieve greatness and others have it thrust upon them" by the Almighty God. The Sardauna of Sokoto and his mates, no doubt occupied a place in history, if the history of the entire world is to be put into perspectives.

Today, one cannot, no matter his hatred for their ethnic group, but appreciate what they have done for Nigeria. That is why many politicians today rally round the foundations laid by Sardauna and his colleagues in their ideological thinking for better Nigeria.

Today, many politicians, including those from other regions see the Sardauna's North as a house to visit when the patronage and sympathy of the people are needed for recognition. What a pity. Thank God for the worthy initiatives of the late visionary.

The foundation after thirty-six years, remains unshakable like the famous Wase Rock in Plateau State. Today, Nigeria as a nation does not stand the way these leaders have conceived it. The relationship and understanding between the regions that make up the nation is derailing every day.

Would this provide us the opportunity to assess this power shift properly? We wait to see. But while we wait, let us reflect back so that we can do justice to our assessment.

Those who hate the ideas of the late Premier and his guts no doubt thought that, with a favourable North, it is the nearest thing to a northernisation of the entire country.

*Haba, Hukmah.*  
If the late Ahmadu Bello and his contemporaries were alive, their role in today's Nigeria can best be imagined.

Even in death, their initiatives continue to dominate the nation's political scene and dictate the pace of the present democratic dispensation.

*Buhari Bukar Bello is our correspondent in Jos.*

## Reparation, the forgotten issue

By Mohammed Adamu

The issue of reparation has come and gone with the demise of the late M.K.O. Abiola. It is very sad that this worthy venture is abandoned just like that even with its lofty ideas on us the young ones particularly the demands for the restoration of the lost values of the black race.

It also gives the impression that all along, M.K.O. was pursuing this important issue alone. This is an issue that concerns all the black race and for somebody, a prominent son of Africa to have raised the issue, it should have prompted all black men and women to rally round and make sure that this noble course did not die with its initiator. It is important to note that after the death of the late patriot of African continent, our leaders and those in position of authority have failed to show patriotism by continuing from where he stopped.

This is a cause that requires the efforts of all Africans because there is no country in Africa, that has not lost

innumerable number of able men and women as a result of slavery and slave trade. It deprived us of valuable human resources as well as erode our self esteem and dignity. For this, we hold the Europeans responsible. Sadly enough, after the damages inflicted on us during those nightmarish period, these people are still not done with us yet. They lost several sleepless nights just to devise means by which to keep us perpetually subdued.

It is certainly painful to recall the indignity, philandering and disgrace suffered by the black race during those horrible years. Certainly, this cannot be quantified and no amount of reparation can compensate us, but the issue must be given attention now. This is necessary, since others who did not suffer as much as we did are now receiving reparation till date. We also, deserve such treatment.

With the burden of debt that makes our economy to be in the grip of the western economy, now is the time for our leaders to strongly press for total debt cancellation. This must be done without fear. The fight for reparation should be seen as a fight for our lives. Our

survival as humans and that of our values and morality depended on it. This is because, that is what will restore our lost dignity.

The call for reparation had started gathering momentum when M.K.O. decided to join politics. Except for that decision, I believed the efforts would have started bearing fruits by now.

Therefore, it is high time we realised that the same Europeans who destroyed us in the past are still determined to have us in their grip. This, we should resist with all our strength. They see nothing good in us, other than to be their slaves and our environment to be used as a recreational facility. This makes it imperative for our leaders to stop being docile and begin to act with purposefulness in order to emancipate ourselves from the shackles of their hold.

The black race should take its destiny in its own hand and stop hinging its development on the approval of the western countries. The reason is because, they have concrete reasoning that a black man cannot do anything remarkable. Their mind set is such that they con-

signed us to life of perpetual unsuccessfulness. We should stop condoning indignity, resist exploitation and other subversive inclinations. Our women and girls should be encouraged to strive to preserve our total virtue and dignity, otherwise we will remain forever a subdued people, without values and dignity.

The black race should assert that it wants to progress at its own pace. It should find a way even outside convention to achieve its own objectives. It is my opinion that, if we have not been interrupted in our early lives, our developmental process would not have been what is obtainable today.

To this end, I implore those in position of authority not to allow the initiative of the late M.K.O. (may his gentle soul rest in peace), to die with him. He initiated campaign because of his love for black race and zeal to see that the culprits who committed monumental sin against us did not go unpunished. It is no gain saying that this is a noble course, worth total commitment by everybody that is proud to be called black.

*Muhammad Adamu, writes from Zoo Road, Kano.*

## INEC and the Public National Forum, PNF

By Haliru M. S. Kende

Who has carved a niche for himself on the eve of the new millennium revitalised his nation and asserted her credibility in Africa and the Comity of Nations?

This is General Abdulsalami Alhaji Abubakar (rtd.) who by a strange chance, became the architect of Democracy in Nigeria, through the shortest political time-frame employing the INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION, INEC to achieve this. On the heels of anticipatory success in the second quarter of 1998, the newly reconstituted Commission organised a Public National Forum (PNF) in the Country. It was a maiden gathering of over forty Political Associations that cut across the Nation then. They brainstormed over ways of moving the most populous black nation forward.

In other words, the inputs generated from that forum, have smoothened over some rough political terrain. The Commission was encouraged to tread on for viable policy formulations and implementations. The electoral seams of the first, second and the politically problematic third Republics were put behind us. The Commissions' first touch, the 1999 Elections were generally, accepted in the Country and the global community.

Reminiscent of the Au-

gust, 1998 forum, the Dr. Guobadia Commission has pulled Nigerians like "speculum" to reflect and critically gauge, the DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW AND REGISTRATION OF VOTERS. The Zonal National Commissioners led, two weeks exercise was jointly concluded with International Foundation for Election System, IFES. The INEC Chairman who spoke through Dr. Usman Ladan Baki OFR, told the Kebbi people that it was the avowed policy of the National Electoral Body to promote fundamental political values, human rights and opportunities for all citizens and, where, appropriate, meaningful consultations with interested parties (Nigerians) are done on essential matters.

By and large, INEC has lived up to its billing on an open door policy as highlighted by the Resident Commissioner Mallam Muhammad Namadina Abdulrahman excerpts; I am grateful to the members of the press for turning up in large number to participate in the Forum that was meant to give our Country political stability which is believed to be achievable only through fair, free and credible elections. The time for criticisms on the law and electoral process in now not later, he added. The State acting Governor Alh. Abdullahi Abubakar Argungu in company of the State Executive Council members, said it was perti-

nent for members of the public to avail themselves of the opportunity to critically study the draft electoral law and proffer suggestions. This is indeed necessary if we are to ensure the emergence of electoral law that will stand the test of time and facilitated consistent conduct of free and fair elections in the country.

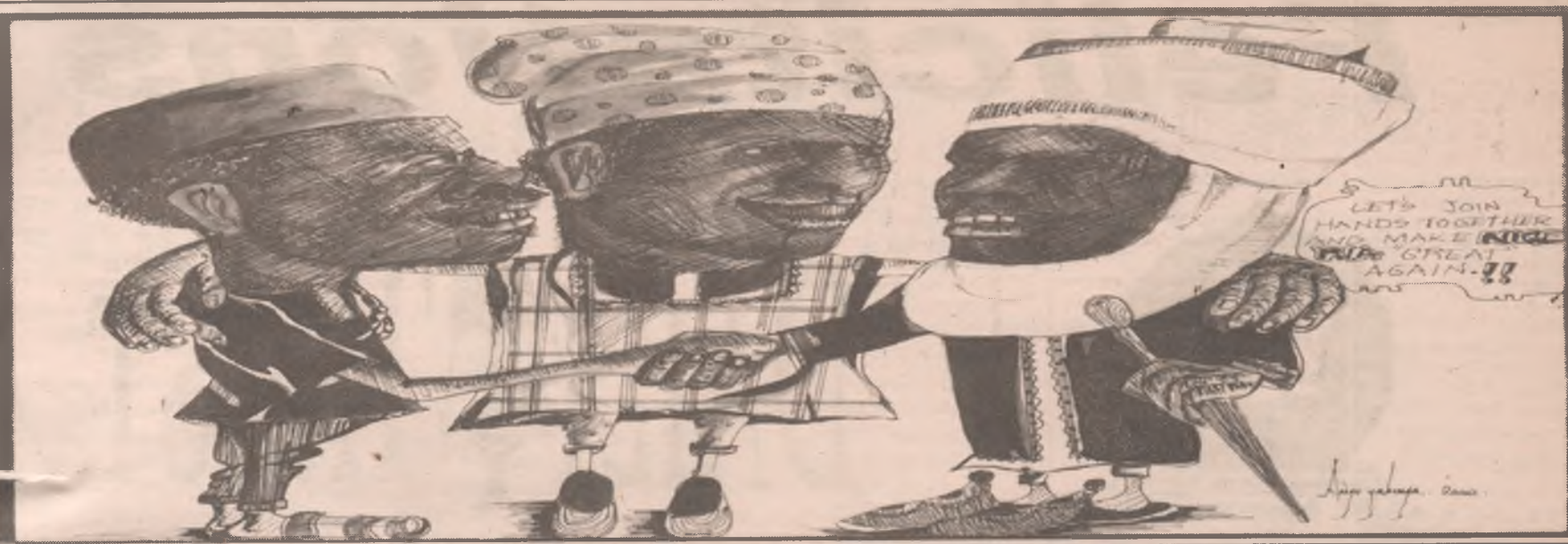
The Director National Orientation Agency (NOA) Alhaji Muhammad Musa Argungu, who fired he first shot, faulted the Display of Preliminary Register of Voters... He observed that this particular section must be preceded with an intensive public enlightenment on when the exercise starts and ends across the nation. A veteran Journalist, the State NOA boss said inadequate enlightenment in similar exercises in the past had brought uproar and violent protests in the event a voter goes to the polling station to discover his or her name omitted in the register. INEC was also told to device some protective shells for teachers and school principals in particular who fall prey to political victimisation. A representative of the Nigeria Union of Teachers, NUT, Mallam Usman Admau Isgogo, alleged that his members are wooed by politicians to vote for them. In the event such politicians won but realised an inadequacy of votes from the school(s), they resolved to victimise principal(s) through unwarranted transfers. He also

told the Commission to improve allowances to all cadre of ad hoc staff. He said temptations to corrupt such staffers by politicians could not be dismissed with a wave of hand, when INEC's stipend could be tripled by politicians to interfere with authentic results. Mallam Isgogo also called on the Commission for severe penalties against persons caught in election malpractices in the country.

Scores of observations and suggestions bordering on irregularities in the use of ballot papers, late delivery of election materials, and on the dispensation of petitions were respectively proffered by the Commissioner for Information, Barrister Ibrahim Abubakar, Alhaji Ahmed Sani Kalgo, Alhaji Sani Illo and Alhaji Sa'idu Kamba. The Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Alhaji Ibrahim Mai-Afu, had a field day, when he rose with a barrage of technical amendments and recommendations of the draft electoral law, 2000 as contained under section 179, shall be cited as the Electoral Bill, 2000 because it has not yet been passed by the National Assembly and Assented to by the President. The Attorney General, therefore suggested that in all places where an Act appears in the draft, it should be substituted with the Word Bill.

*Haliru M. S. Kende is a Press Officer, Cabinet Office, Birnin Kebbi.*

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YOUR LETTERS

Short 'n' Sharp

Ex-rulers' call for clemency for Mohammed

The recent call by the country's ex-heads of state for the Obasanjo administration to wave the olive branch and grant clemency to Mohammed Abacha and company is a welcome development which should be given a serious thought.

As human beings, we have our strengths and weaknesses. No person can boast of infallibility and if there is no offence, there would be no forgiveness.

After all, Gen. Abubakar granted amnesty to Obasanjo and co who were serving several jail sentences.

Pastor Philip Nduka, Restoration Ministries Wuse, Abuja.

My stand on Sharia

Allow me a space in your popular newspaper to air my view on the on-going debate over Sharia implementation.

For me, Sharia issue is now a national question. It is a question that need to be squarely addressed. We should drop sentiment and face reality so that the unity of our beloved country can prevail.

Abubakar Sa'ad Malam Sidi, A corper, Kano State House of Assembly, Kano.

Youth shout out

I wonder why our youths will not live up to their time. Because it's high time to shout out to our so-called leaders to stop parading our dear faith as Joker in exchange for Dollars, women privileges and political recognitions.

We (youth) are told we are half baked graduates due to fallen standard of education. But we did not fail to put our dull memories (as they put it). Dull as we are, we are part of their well-articulated, trained projects, so to say. Because they thought and trained us. So who is half-baked anyway?

Come on youth, lets shout out and tell them that we are tired of all their unlimited additional committees, and assemblies, multiplication of meetings, conferences and seminars, and at the end subtractions of tangible results.

Ahmad R. Y. Baffate, Eselco Water Engineering Ltd., 28/30 Niger street, Kano.

"There will be no sacred cows"

How true is your statement Mr. President?

Abubakar Saiq Dabo Gwarzo.

Democracy, not Nepotism

I am disenchanted about the nineteen months of Obasoncrasy, that succeeded in frustrating our northern political juggernauts. The deterioration of the socio-economic conditions, and encroachment of individual civil liberties.

The present administration has so far deviated from the ethics of democracy, for instance political *afeniferisation*, the release of Faseun, marginalisation of northerners, detention of Muhammed Abacha, Al-Mustapha, Bamaiyi without trial, all these discriminatory practices have become the norm of the day.

Muttaqa Yusha'u Abdulra'uf

Daily Trust, a welcome development

I was highly excited when I saw the advertisement signed by Kabir A. Yusuf (Editor-in-Chief) in the last week's (December 8-14, 2000) edition of *Weekly Trust* announcing that, "Here comes: DAILY TRUST".

The coming of *Daily Trust* is not only a right decision at the right time but also a great achievement to the management and staff of Media Trust in particular, and the North in general. Over the years, I have been wondering why the entire North, despite its numerous intellectual and wealthy people, can not have at least, one independent and qualitative print media that will get Northerners politically, socially and politically informed. What we have all been relying on since, was the bias minded southern papers and to a large extent, electronics media (Mainly radio) whose information can not be stored for a long period of time and perhaps subsequently referred to (I beg your pardon, except if you will be recording all the news you are to listen to, what a capital intensive task).

However, the advent of first, *Weekly Trust* and now, the *Daily Trust* have been a sight of relief to most of us in the North who had been anxiously anticipating this kind of development. With this development, my message to all Northerners is now direct and clear, "Love and patronize your own, else, you make multiple lost", I had been in the South for well over five years (till last September) and have seen for myself how bias minded are Southerners in relation to the Northerners in all respects. *Wallahi!* Even if you are to advertise a notice of admission list for those to enter you are to advertise a notice of admission list for those to enter paradise (*Aljanna*), consisting of Southern names in the *New Nigerian* Newspaper (NNN) only, they will never enter the paradise because they will never buy *New Nigerian* and hence they will never see their names except perhaps those that have completely associated themselves with the North or maybe they saw it through the hand of a Northerner who have bought one. This is to tell you that the extent to which Southern and North-

ern dichotomy have reached in Nigerian. But ironically however, this attitude is only exhibited by the Southerners while the Northerner patronized every Dick and Harry paper from the South. Abi, is it because the Northerners have no choice? Just

imagine the quality and quantity of *Crystal* magazine.

Apart from patronage, other areas that Northerners can help to sustain our emerging print medias is to be giving advertisement and contributing articles so as to enable them continue to survive.

As for me, I have since registered my name among the first list of the annual subscribers to the *Daily Trust* Northern! Word is enough for a wise"

Lawal Yakubu Gada, Bureau of Public Enterprises, I, Osun Crescent, Off. IBB, Way, Maitama, Abuja.

"We missed you badly, Aminu Kano"

For the beauty of unity and its un-quantifiable advantages, I received the news of the recently concluded two days marathon meeting of northern opinion moulders, with some relief and reservation. That was indeed a necessary action that may end the frustration of our dear old North, if allowed to mature and flourish.

Equally, the merger of the Northern Elders Forum, the estimable Turaki Committee and the Unity and Development Foundation is a welcome development. It is good signal that the northern leaders are beginning to understand their selfish divide along narrow minded parochialism as responsible for the region's sidetracking by hired undertakers, while their personal interest jeopardized progress of the region and all it stand to gain from its vantage numerical strength. Their lack of patriotism made her impossible to prosper, and thus remained backward in almost every sphere of progress, development and economic growth, despite all the God-given advantages at our disposal, we remained last in everything.

Unity of the North is a good thing for the development of democracy in Nigeria as a whole, while disunity beckon disintegration. Unity of the north will bring respect and mutual coherence in our polity. Only when we are united, we can effectively bargain for a fair share of what is our right. What is expected to be ours is only naturally realizable when we collectively demand, with one voice in the interest of all. If the intention is in this line of thought, then kudos must be given to the organizers of this unity. Consequently, where it ends with the phrase that I suspect it to be, then we are in for another dull moment. The role-

call of attendants gave me cause for worry. One can say without any reservation that there is sufficient indication to doubt realizability of the anticipated goals, at least from the point of view of the gullible northern *talakawas*, the very majority that are always inadvertently cut out for the obvious reasons that they are poor. Along with the *talakawas*, are the youth and the proletariat class. If one may ask, why were they not taken along? Or is the exercise anti-democracy? Like I always mentioned in several other write ups, like many other northern writers too, where for God's sake is the justification for a few groups of people to continuously segregate and arrogate to themselves the preserve of knowledge and refuse to come to terms with the reality of the times. This is an ever-changing world; archaic notions can no longer germinate.

When you are talking about a polity, you must open up and reach out. You have to take a random sample, to have a reasonable representation, such that the result arrived at, can be conceptual and binding. One is not saying all the elders are make-shift. On the contrary, there are very good people, with very good intention, but honest people are not given the chance to serve, for obvious reasons, "they are not part of the bargain." Nigeria is rich in everything, including human resources. What then is the justification of the continuous recycling of old X'es? These are those we already know as miscreants with dogmatic apprehension of democracy and the rule of justice.

I am honestly un-comfortable with the incursion into our politics and democracy by the military X'es, particularly by their sudden interest justified by their massive attendance at a fora they were never known to

be part of. This signifies a hidden agenda. More so, a good number of them are known to represent a particular interest, that of the calamitous X8y. The very architect of our nations endless conflicts, that no one in his rightful senses would ask for a repeat of his mission. Our political leadership in the North is simply being naive. I wonder why they continue to hibernate, and give room to the military X'es to takeover their rightful place, are they no longer interested? Or are they simply incapable of articulating their thoughts and actions as they have been known to do before? All is certainly not well with the North. One of our elders said the north was used but not dumped, because the North cannot be dumped. That is simply an understatement. The North was not only used but also murdered by one of her own.

Our political class and elite must wake up from their slumbers in the interest of the North and survival of our democracy. I am convinced and expect every genuine democrat too, that our democracy has no future under the leadership of military convertees, from wherever they come, jackboot is the same jackboot regardless of its manufacturer.

Under the present circumstances, I remember the Late Malam Aminu Kano of beloved memory. The North certainly missed him now than ever before. When come such another? Never, never, never. Malam is no more. I challenge the Nepuists to raise up with the spirit they are known to fight for the emancipation of the *talakawas*. The North and Nigeria is under the threat of military adventurists, coming under the guise of democracy. We must stop them, else our democracy will elude us. Aliyu A. Sidi, Na'ibawa Qtrs. Kano.

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# TRUST



# INTERNATIONAL

## FOREIGN & DIPLOMACY

### Musharaf's coup not America's desire

Stories by Abdullahi Doki

Daily Trust spoke to Mr. Zafar A. Hilaly, Pakistani High Commissioner in Nigeria. He talked about the coup in Pakistan, Pakistan-Indian disagreements over Kashmir, Afganistan, Palestinian-Israeli conflict, etc.

Sir, Pakistan now can be said to be somewhat different from what it was during the administration of ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. There is less news of internal political strife and sectarian violence. What do you think is responsible for this relative stability in Pakistan?

Yes, political strife and sectarian violence has indeed diminished since the ouster of Nawaz Sheriff. That's not surprising. Things had to get better. They could not get worse. His Government had brought the country to the very abyss of destruction. What is responsible for the improved situation? Well, in two words better governance, and honest, purposeful leadership.

Pakistan-India disagreements over Kashmir still go on in spite of several bilateral talks. What is responsible for this stalemate particularly now that India appears to be blaming Pakistan for continued violence in Kashmir?

I don't know what bilateral talks you are referring to because there are no such talks going on. The reason is India's refusal to engage in a serious purposeful dialogue. We, of course, are ready to begin such talks at any level, anywhere. But we can't talk to empty chairs or a wall. The other side needs to be there.

The problem of Kashmir is in essence a simple one. India has annexed a territory and colonized a people who never were, are not and will never want to be a part of India. India must disgorge occupied Kashmir. We all hope India will do so sooner rather than later and peacefully and through negotiations. In this connection it is encouraging to note that the Indian Prime Minister has spoken about India offering "a bold innovative design of a future (peace) architecture" rather than "travelling down the same beaten path". That is heartening news. We await eagerly the first drawings of this peace edifice. We'll know then whether it is a sincere effort or merely once again so much Indian grammar. India blames Pakistan or China, or Afghanistan, or the Mujahideen, or the Chechens, or whoever as takes the fancy of her propagandists, for India's predicament in Kashmir won't solve the problem. Nor will it end the violence. For India and indeed Pakistan there is only one exit strategy that is to let the Kashmiris determine their own future and to accept that decision.

Observers of international politics believe that General Pervez Musharaf's coup was instigated and supported by America because America is not happy with the relation of Pakistan with Afghanistan. Is that view correct?

This is the first time I have heard of such a theory. It seems that the further you are from the scene, the more your imagination runs riot. The army action of 12 October 1999 had nothing to do with American desires. It had everything to do with the alarming state the Pakistani nation was made to confront by the weird antics and the unstable bent and mien of one individual -the erstwhile Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Whether or not America is happy or not about Pakistan's relationship with Afghanistan or for that matter any other country has never been a major preoccupation for us. At the height of the cold war, when China and the US were threatening fire and brimstone on each other Pakistan had the friendliest of relations with both and eventually was instrumental in getting them together. Our relations with the fraternal nation of Afghanistan predate our own independence as a State and, for that matter, the existence of



Hilaly

the United States. The involvement of our people and those of Afghanistan are frankly beyond the reach of any other State to harm or hurt. They are and will remain unique and uniquely friendly and close.

Pakistan does not recognize Israel although countries like Egypt, Morocco, etc do. This is surprising because many do not see Pakistan as a radical Islamic country like Iran. Has the Pakistani position anything to do with Iranian influence?

Pakistan does not recognize Israel; that is true. But why is that surprising. Many other states also do not. Does Saudi Arabia or Yemen or Kuwait or Iraq or Syria etc, etc recognize Israel? Are all these States radical Islamic countries? And what has Iran got to do with Pakistan's relations with another State.

Iran is a brotherly country. We have a special nexus with Iran. We hold Iran in the highest regard. We have a claim to Iran's affection and friendship just as they do over ours. But we call the shots as far as our policies are concerned, just like they do with theirs. That's how it is and that's how it should be.

Is Pakistan also imposing sanctions on Afghanistan as demanded by the United States and the United Nations?

No people have suffered more than the Afghans over the past two decades as a result of foreign interference and internecine strife. Millions have perished, millions have emigrated and millions languish in refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran. And now it is proposed to impose sanctions on the wretched millions who remain in Afghanistan to compound their misery. It beggars the imagination.

Of course, Pakistan will abide by the sanctions. We are obliged by the UN Charter to comply with Security Council resolutions. We have, however, made our reservations clear about the glaring contradictions that exist in the sanction document. How, for instance, are we supposed to impose sanctions and yet not aggravate the suffering of the Afghan people, as desired by the Security Council. These contradictions have to be resolved.

### Clinton passes Middle East problem to Bush

Outgoing United States President, Mr. Bill Clinton who leaves office this Saturday has given up the hope of achieving a peace plan between Israel and Palestine during his tenure. Rather he has passed the buck to his successor, Mr. George Bush.

Clinton said during the week that although progress had been made between Israelis and Palestinians, he was not sure if a deal could be reached before he leaves office on Jan. 20.

"You have to hope that this process keeps going," he said.

"Whatever happens will be the responsibility of the next administration and the winner of the Israeli election, whoever that may be," said Clinton, who has intensified his efforts for peace in the Middle East by drawing up a peace blueprint spelling out the basic outlines of a deal.

Clinton said although both sides had some concerns, it was important that they had agreed in principle to ideas.

"I think it was quite significant, actually, even though it came six days later than I wanted it to, that the Palestinians have now agreed in principle with the parameters," he said. "So at least this Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority have agreed to the parameters."

"Both sides have some concerns and some questions...I think we have narrowed the debates and moved it forward," he said.

It was unclear whether the talks would be followed, as previously planned, by a meeting between top Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Clinton also emphasized that neither President-elect George W. Bush's administration nor the next Israeli government was bound by the peace proposals he had presented to the Israelis and Palestinians--unless an agreement is clinched.

"President-elect Bush is in no way, shape or form bound by the positions I've taken on this Middle East agreement unless there is some agreement," he said.

Clinton said the odds were against any real agreement between Israelis and Palestinians in the next eight days.



Clinton

### China adopts Internet University

Millions of people in the Peoples Republic of China who cannot afford University education can now do so. The country's ministry of education has approved 25 major Universities to admit students, teach them, grant diplomas and degrees through cyber education or education through the Internet. The 25 Universities, known as Cyber Universities, include Peoples University of China, Beijing Normal University and Beijing Foreign. They are to conduct trials on cyber education or education via the Internet.

Zheng Haihua of the Beijing Review, reported that the num-

ber of cyber Universities has now increased from six last year to 31. All have the right to enrol students and grant diplomas and degrees.

The number of cyber University students is also expanding, according to Haihua. He reported that last August, the cyber education department of Fudan University, Shanghai Jiaotong University and Tongji University took in 500 students. Tsingua University, which was among the first Universities starting Internet University education, has established a Cyber education network consisting of 76 teaching spots and enrolled 2000 new Internet

University students.

Students in the Internet Universities takes classes from a big screen which displays whatever the teachers write down on the 'black board', an electronic writing pad on their desks. Their writings can also simultaneously appear on computer screens outside the campuses. There are also cameras working at different angles in the room. In a normal day at an English classroom for instance, 50 students of varying ages from their early 20s to 40s will usually be listening carefully and watching English words continuously appear on the screen. They can occasionally raise their

hands to ask questions and when the 50-minute class is near the end, another screen at the rear wall of the class-room displays "Class Over" signs, reminding the teacher to dismiss the class.

The Beijing University recently opened its ISDN special line to put into operation the online conference system which makes it possible for real-time viewing of the lectures at teaching spots outside Beijing and real time communication between the teacher and students in other parts of the country.

The Internet University is a product of satellite communication and computer networks.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

## AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

### Briefly

#### Lebanon

The Lebanese government predicted on Friday an onimous future for the Middle East if Ariel Sharon won Israel's general elections next month.

The latest Palestinian uprising erupted in September following a visit by Sharon to a shrine in Jerusalem's walled Old City that is holy to Muslims and Jews.

"Israel will pay the price (of a Sharon victory)," Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri told a ceremony a ceremony to re-open al-Jamhour, a power station on the outskirts of Beirut which was destroyed three times by Israeli bombardment and rebuilt each time.

Sharon, who opposes making concessions to the Palestinians, is one of the most despised Israeli figures in the Arab Middle East, and especially in Lebanon. He led the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982 which killed an estimated 30,000 civilians.

During the occupation of Beirut, Israeli-backed Christian militias entered the Sabra and Shatila camps and slaughtered hundreds of unarmed Palestinian refugees. An Israeli inquiry found Sharon indirectly responsible for the massacres.

#### Bujumbura

The Burindi Peace Accords signed in Arusha Tanzania in August 28, 2000 is yielded results with the voluntary return from Tanzania to the country of 2,700 Burundian refugees. Most of the returnees are women and children from mainly the Nyanza-Lac and Kayogoro communities. Nyanza-Lac received 2,161 of the returnees while 3141 went to Kayogoro, 68 to Vugizo, 43 to Kibago, 42 to Mabanda and 24 to Makamba.

#### Asmara

Ethiopia and Eritria are still at logger heads over remnants of Ethiopian troops in Eritrian territories. Asmara acceded to the troops redeployment deal after the cessation of hostilities and a lease fire agreements signed in June 18 by both countries that calls for the establishment of 25 kilometre wide temporary security zone inside Eritrea to enable UN peace keepers monitor the agreements.

#### Senegal

About 20 parties from the Front for Alternation (FAL), the coalition that brought president Abdulaye Wade to power, called for an overwhelming "yes" vote and popular support for adopt a new constitution for the country. But three other major, parties, including two that backed Wade in March, called for a boycott, saying the new constitution would concentrate power in Wade's hands.

#### Cape Town

Reconciliation efforts in South Africa gain more supporters with more whites formally declaring collective guilt for apartheid after a group launched a fund at Cape Town's St. George Cathedral's Church to help poor blacks in December.

## Sudanese envoy dismisses opposition's claims

Stories by Kevin Ebele Adinnu

The Sudanese envoy in Nigeria, Salaheldin Alh. Elfadil, has dismissed the rejection of the just concluded election in the country by a former Speaker of the Sudanese House of Assembly, Dr. Hassan Turabi as unfounded.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Abuja, Mr. Elfadil said that Dr. Turabi once served the government of Oumar Al-Bashir which he described as illegal and not fit to conduct the election.

"Dr. Turabi was a political ally of the present government. He has been part of the ruling party itself. When he now pulled out, the government (to him) suddenly became illegal," he said.

Dr. Hassan Turabi, boycotted the election.

Dr. Elfadil said that other parties that boycotted the elections did so because of either lack of preparation or internal division, though they were allowed to participate.

He however, stated that election did not take place in rebel held areas in the southern part of the country.

President Oumar Hassan Al-Bashir polled about 80 percent of the votes in the December 2000 presidential elections to defeat the other five candidates.

Former military president, Gen.



President Oumar Hassan Al-Bashir

Jaafar Mohammed Nemeiri, who returned from exile to contest, came second with nine percent of the votes.

Others who contested are Dr. Alsamawal Hussein, Dr. Malik Hussain and Mr. Mahmoud Ahmed Jiha.

The ruling party, the National Congress, also won majority of the seats in the Sudanese National Assembly.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak has congratu-

lated Gen. Al-Bashir on his re-election for a second term, to the office of President.

The Egyptian foreign minister, Amr. Moussa, who delivered this message expressed desire to confirm efforts towards the joint Egyptian-Libyan initiative for peace in Sudan.

The intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) made up of Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sumalia, Sudan and Uganda

had, after its 8th summit in Sudan late last year, called on the government of Sudan and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement/Army to be flexible in their position to achieve peace in Sudan.

IGAD had observed that the slow pace in the peace negotiation and the continuation of the conflict on Southern Sudan had resulted in "incalculable loss of lives and destruction of property."

## Arabs doubt Bush over Middle East

Mideast countries have doubts over whether the new administration of George Bush to be inaugurated late this week will make the problems of Middle East its priority.

The Senior Political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak gave the indication at the weekend when he doubted whether the new US administration would make Middle East peace efforts a top priority.

Osama Al-Baz--a political veteran and long-time adviser on international affairs including the Middle East -- told MENA that decreased involvement by the United States under George W. Bush could open the door for greater participation by others, primarily Egypt.

"Baz stated his belief that

the Middle East problem will not be a big priority for the US political vision in the Bush era because the new administration has several important regions to deal with before shifting to the Middle East," MENA said.

"Baz pointed out that the US role would naturally be marginal and that the importance of other parties could increase, primarily the role of Egypt, as well as the role of Europe, Russia and other Arab, Islamic, Asian or African countries," it said.

Many Arab countries have accused the United States of maintaining a pro-Israel bias in its Middle East peace efforts, and have called for greater involvement by Europe and Russia.

## NGO studies Benin elections for awareness campaign

The Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) is mobilising civil society organisations in West Africa to monitor the March 4, presidential elections in the Republic of Benin.

The Executive Director of OSIWA, Prof. Nii Akuetteh, told *Daily Trust* that this new initiative was to increase the participation of Africans in monitoring their own elections rather than always depending on observers outside the sub-region.

OSIWA, he said, would also monitor presidential and parliamentary elections in Chad (2001), Gabon (2001), and the Gambia (November 2001).

Others are Sierra Leone (June and February 2000), Cape Verde (January and February 2001).

Prof. Akuetteh observed that some foreign observers, though well intentioned, had cultural biases which affected their judgements when monitoring elections in Africa.

OSIWA is a member of the world wide foundations created by the American philanthropist George Soros and is the third to be established in Africa.

According to Prof. Akuetteh, the organisation is a grant-making foundation devoted to building and strengthening democracies in 16 countries in ECOWAS as well as Chad and Cameroun.

"OSIWA's goal is to assist each West African country to make significant, measurable and lasting improvements in its democratic institutions, practices and values," he stated.

The foundation, he said, would give grants, loans and technical assistance to credible local West African Non-governmental Organisations that work in the OSIWA areas of focus.

OSIWA, according to him, would support projects in the area of media, judicial and law enforcement systems; the internet; management of economic reform; human rights and elections monitoring; and micro enterprises.

At the inauguration of the foundation last December in Abuja, George Soros, the sponsor of OSIWA pledged to commit about one billion naira to the project.

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# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

## WORLD REPORT



President Obasanjo recently paid a three-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran during which oil prices and other bilateral issues topped their discussions. Above is President and his Iranian counterparts, Mohammed Khatami. Pix AFP.

## UNESCO takes Rights promotion to UBE

By Onyechi Ochojiha

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation [UNESCO] have re-stated its stand to promote human rights through variety of educational programmes in both formal and informal settings. UNESCO's national professional officer, [Communication] Mr. Olufemi Ajayi explained this to Trust International in his office in Abuja.

He identified the Universal Basic Education [UBE] programme of the federal government as one of the educational programmes the organisation is supporting, saying supporting UBE is one of UNESCO's ways of promoting the right to education.

"Human Rights are not as abstract as people think they

are. Making our every day needs accessible to us is a way of promoting human rights," he stated.

According to him, UNESCO's human right focus in Nigeria is strengthening democracy,

good governance and development of the media.

UNESCO, he said, has been holding workshops on promoting human rights and supporting democratic institutions. It was gathered that the organisation's specific task for the media in this regard is enlightening Journalists about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and those international covenants on civil and political rights, socio-economic and cultural rights, etc, so that the journalists can be in a better position to report and analyse them.

"The idea is, if journalists

are properly enlightened about all these conventions and are aware whether some of the conventions are ratified by their country or not, they would be able to hold their governments accountable to them," he said.

If therefore, according to him, UNESCO is promoting human rights, it is not by accident. Quoting the organisation's document, he said, "UNESCO from its inception is a human rights organisation because article one of its constitution gives it the mandate to promote human rights."

He added that Article One adopted in November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1945 has defined the purpose of the organisation towards contributing to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture to further universal respect for justice, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction of sex, race, language or religion.

The International Human Rights Day celebrated December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2000, was therefore, according to the organisation's mandate, to promote Human Rights in the area of education, science, culture, information and communication.

UNESCO had conveyed this position at a workshop in Paris where its director general, Mr Koichiro Matsuura stressed the importance of education to universal rights

## China sets up test-tube sheep centre

The People's Republic of China has established a centre for sheep embryo transplants in Xilingol League of northern China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The 100 million yuan project, which is expected to

## White House mobilises offensive against blood diamonds

For the first time ever, United States and international policymakers, industry, NGOs and the scientific communities met in Washington to examine ways to stop the trade in "conflict diamonds" that help fuel wars in Africa and threaten its regional stability as well as US security. Held on January 10, the White House meeting becomes the first major important step to that struggle.

For three years now the United States has pushed for a number of initiatives to curb the illegal trade, including joining with other United Nations Security Council members to pass resolutions prohibiting trade in diamonds from Angola and Sierra Leone unless they have government certification. A report requested by the Security Council that was released in December on the illicit diamond trade in Liberia suggests that a complete embargo on diamonds should also be imposed on that West African nation.

"We take the issue of conflict diamonds deadly serious" because "these precious gems, when illicitly traded, quite literally can become the instruments of death," said Samuel Berger, President Clinton's national security advisor, addressing the gathering of officials, scientists, and organization and diamond industry representatives.

Although diamonds are inherently beautiful, Berger said, today their illegal trade "by insurgent groups in Africa presents an ugly threat to that

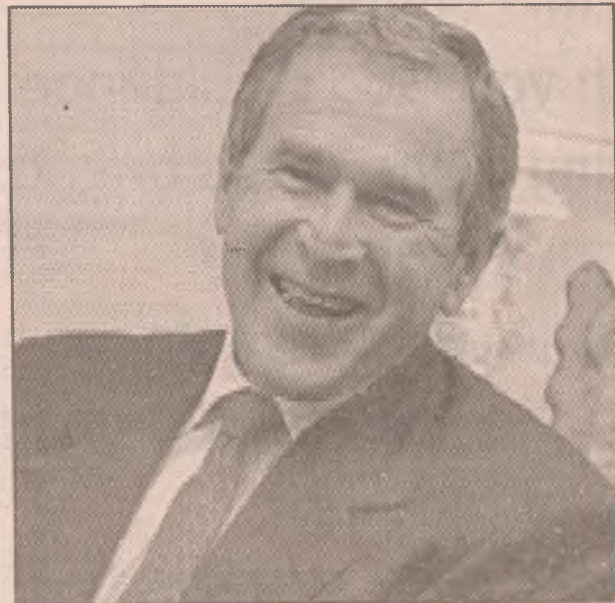
continent's security and is forcing us all to rethink" the economics underlying conflict. He explained that illegally traded gems are "fueling instability in Angola (and) Sierra Leone and escalating the fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa)."

Illegal diamonds, Berger said, "paid for the weapons that mutilated the children of Sierra Leone. They are fueling the refugee crises in these countries - over three and a half million people have been displaced in Angola alone, and another 300,000 have fled to neighboring countries."

For these reasons, he said, "the United States sees the trade in conflict diamonds as a genuine and important national security problem—one that we are determined to fight."

National Security Council Senior Director for African Affairs Gayle Smith was especially critical of Liberia's President Charles Taylor, who she said exemplifies a "dangerous trend": unscrupulous African leaders who use illegal diamonds to perpetuate themselves in power and "keep the rest of the citizenry down. It is an emphasis on individual wealth over the fight against poverty, and it is an expansion of the trade network that links diamonds with arms."

Neal Lane, assistant to the president of science and technology, who also addressed the conference, said the meeting's goal was "to harness the power of science and technology and help eliminate the trade in conflict diamonds and the human rights violations that it funds."



Bush

create a stronger breed of local sheep, was jointly funded by the Uichang Technology Group and American CCI Group. The centre includes an embryo transplant area with advanced equipment and 100-square-km of virgin grassland

for the breeding farm.

Soon dozens of Chinese experts and their Australian counterparts will transplant test-tube embryos of top breeds into local sheep. The embryos were all developed in an Australian laboratory with Chinese test-tube technology.

## ODD WORLD

### Macedonia executes 15,000 dogs, cats

Macedonian authorities fearing a rabies epidemic ordered the killing of thousands of stray dogs and cats, triggering fierce protests from animal right groups.

Hunters hired by specially formed government commission tracked down the stray animals, estimated to number 15,000 in Skopje, to kill them outside the capital. Animals were to be shot on sight if they exhibit abnormal behaviour.

### Crocodile kills woman in romantic swim

A crocodile has killed a South African woman taking a romantic mid night swim in lake St. Lucia. The Star newspaper said wildlife officials and police recovered the dismembered remains of 22-year-old Tracy Hunt on Sunday in the lake, 36 hours after her boyfriend reported the attack.

The pair were having a romantic dip shortly before midnight last Friday when Hunt screamed out in pain. Her boyfriend, Claudio Celestino, turned and saw Hunt disappear beneath the water. He also reported seeing a crocodile.

### Man dies for failing to get married

A lovesick middle-aged man took his own life in Kenya's Mau summit location of Molo division after he failed to find a suitable woman to marry. The East African Standard Daily reported

on Sunday. The paper quoted the police as saying neighbours found 38-year-old James Omondi dead in his house. He had left a suicide note in which he blamed women for persistently turning down his marriage offers.

### Condom crisis deepens in Zambia

Zambia's education minister Godfrey Miyanda has advised Zambians who have contracted the HIV Virus while using condoms to sue companies manufacturing and promoting their use in the country.

Miyanda, who spoke at an international workshop for Youth Alive Zambia, charged that Zambians were not being given an opportunity to make informed choices about condoms and their failure rate was not communicated to them.

Miyanda, who is also patron of the Youth Alive, said the high volume of sales for condoms did not translate into lower rates of HIV infection.

He said the messages in condom advertising should be moderate and carry a health warning sign.

Miyanda had called for a policy that tones down on sensual and pornographic adverts.



Mr. Federico Mayor, UNESCO Director General.

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Long live the Federal Republic  
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**Engr. ABDULKADIR A. KURE,**  
*Executive Governor, Niger State*

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The Present administration has reiterated its determination to improve the nation's industrial climate and stimulate higher capacity utilization in the country.

The nation's aggregate capacity utilisation as at end of December 2000 was estimated at 34.8 percent, compared with 34.6 per cent at the end of December, 1999.

The government however wants to increase it further to enhance productivity and attract foreign exchange for the nation.

The Minister of Finance, Mallam Adamu Ciroma, gave this indication recently in Abuja. He said at a press briefing on Year 2001 Fiscal Policy Measures, that the government would in the next 12 months intensify efforts to aid the growth of the industrial sector of the economy through such measures it had been pursuing like tariff amendments and tax reviews, among others.

The administration's vision of ensuring a stable power supply, which is a veritable component of enhancing capacity utilization, is however yet to manifest as electricity supply nationwide is still epileptic.

According to Mallam Ciroma, the present administration has since its inception been making efforts to revamp the nation's economy to enhance the quality of life of its citizens "through appreciable adjustments and selective application of fiscal incentives."

Some of these measures,



Malam Adamu Ciroma, Minister of Finance (right) briefing the press on Year 2001 Fiscal Policy Measures, Tariff Changes and Amendments to Nigerian Tax Laws, recently in Abuja. To his left is Mr. Sam Nwokedi, Perm. Sec. Ministry of Finance. pix by Kennedy Egbonodje

**Industry**

**Govt to boost capacity utilization**

according to the Minister, include:

- Improvement of the industrial climate and stimulation of higher capacity utilization,
- Provision of adequate protection to domestic industries against unfair competition from imports and dumping of manufactured goods;
- encouragement of diversification of foreign exchange earnings through increased export activities especially in the non-oil sector; and

By Ahmed Shekarau

- Reduction of operating costs and inflationary pressures, among others.
- In this vein, the Finance Minister disclosed further that the government has once more adjusted import duty rates by reducing customs duty rates on major raw materials imports for manufacturing, agricultural production and animal husbandry, soap and detergents, iron and steel, textiles, engineering (that is, motor vehicle plants), paints and chemicals.

The government also imposed higher customs duty rates on some imported finished products such as iron rods, while it retained zero duty on books and teaching aids, as well as essential machinery and spare parts for the productive sectors of the economy.

The average adjustment on customs duty rates for raw imports for agricultural production ranging from Rice H.S. codes 1006.1000-40000 to Rape, Coza or mustard oil and fractions thereof H.S codes 1514.1000-9000 are between 50% to 75% and 35% to 60%.

**ALSCON, NIOMP, others restructured for privatisation**

By Ahmed Shekarau & Onyeché Ochojila

As apart of ongoing efforts to curb the incessant corruption, mismanagement and waste that bedevil most of Nigeria's public corporations, the Federal Government has said it is focusing its attention on resuscitating the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON), the national Iron Ore Mining Project (NIOMP) and other ailing steel plants and companies in preparation for their partial or full privatisation.

The minister of power and steel, Dr. S. Olusegun Agagu disclosed this at the inauguration of the Boards of eight of the 10 parastatals under his ministry recently in Abuja.

The parastatals whose Board members were inaugurated at the occasion are those of ALSCON, the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL); National Iron Ore Mining Project (NIOMP); Delta Steel Company (DSC), and the Inland Steel Rolling Mills at Katsina, Oghogbo and Jos.

As for the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA), the Minister said its Technical Board under Senator Liyel Eموke, which was inaugurated in July, 1999, by President Obasanjo, would double as NEPA's interim Board of Directors.

Dr. Agagu regretted that the parastatals under the Power and Steel Ministry are "virtually comatose," noting however that the present administration has in the last one year tried to re-engineer the companies.

He said as part of the federal government's determination to provide a solid base for the industrial and technological development of the nation, it is putting in place the machinery towards divesting from certain sectors where private involvement guarantees greater efficiency.

Meanwhile, the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) has slated all the parastatals under the Power and Steel Ministry for privatisation in the third phase of the programme which ends by January, 2003.

It is in line with this objective, according to the Minister, that the government "has now refocused attention towards timely completion and resuscitation of the dormant and ailing steel plants and companies" to prepare them for partial or full privatisation.

He said it is the government's plan that the inland rolling mills resume production "within the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of this year," stressing that with improved financial provision made to these agencies in the 2001 budget, "programmes for enhancing their services would be vigorously pursued."

**Company reports**

Last year's audited results of transactions of First Aluminium Nigeria Plc for nine months which

ended September 30, 2000, show a turnover of N2.3 billion, compared with N1.9 billion in the corresponding period in

1999. The company's profit after tax for 2000 stood at N42.1 million, as against N81.5 million in 1999.

The third quarter unaudited results of Law Union & Rock Insurance Plc which ended September 30, 2000 show gross earnings of N225.9 million, against N291.7 million for the corresponding period in the year 1999. Profit after tax for the year 2000 stood at N19.1 million compared with N22.4 million in 1999.

As for Prestige Assurance Plc, its unaudited results for the nine months ended September 30, 2000 also show gross earnings of N300.0 million, compared with N297.0 million in the corresponding period of 1999. Its profit after tax stood at N44.9 million as against N46.4 million in 1999.

**Govt exempts export-oriented companies from tax**

By Onyeché Ochojila

The Minister of Finance, Mallam Adamu Ciroma has assured that the Federal Government is evolving a new tax system that would stimulate the economy and lay a solid foundation for private sector driven economy.

Briefing the press in Abuja recently, the Minister stated that the amendment in the taxation system will seek to raise the ceiling of N150,000.00 for foreign loans while N5 million would be used to qualify the tax.

The Minister stressed that mandate will be given to Nigeria Export Promotion Council (NEPC) to certify a

company worthy before it can be classified as a company that manufactures for export. This, he said, will exempt such companies from income tax or loans granted by banks to such companies.

In justifying this, Mallam Adamu Ciroma noted that 50% of such manufactured goods should be exported, while 75% of the export proceeds must be repatriated to Nigeria through government approved channels.

The Minister urged all companies to file self-assessment by existing provisions of some sections of the law either to contradict the requirements or render it impotent.

**Profile of banks' earnings (1998-1999)**

Parameter	Merchant Banks		Commercial Banks		Industry	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Net Interest margin (%)	10.63	11.35	11.28	16.93	11.16	14.88
Yield on Earning Assets (%)	20.36	6.50	16.93	4.36	17.55	6.64
Funding Cost (%)	15.17	22.67	6.87	8.03	8.09	9.42
Return on Equity (%)	56.88	40.99	103.26	102.88	86.08	80.59
Return on Assets (%)	7.05	6.50	4.04	3.82	4.52	4.13

# BUSINESS DAY

## Finance

### Inland Bank's earnings hit N1.7b

By Aliyu Ma'aji, Business Editor

Inland Bank Nigeria plc has reported a gross earning of N1,748,922,000.00 within the 12-month period of the year 2000. This translates into a 7 per cent increase from the sum of N1,632,633,000.00 in the 15-month financial period of 1999.

According to the bank's financial statement which was presented at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Abuja Sheraton Hotel, January 11, 2001, Loans and advances rose by 18.5 per cent from N2.881 billion as at March 1999, to N3.414 billion in 2000. Interest income for the period increased by 12 per cent.

Profit before tax how-

ever nose-dived from a 1999 high of N264,750,000.00 to N127,786,000.00 in 2000. Profit after taxation in 1999 stood at N237,614,000.00. It plummeted to N118,456,000.00. The bank's chairman, Alhaji Muhammadu Danmadami admitted that the banking sector accounted for over 87 per cent of the volume of Nigeria's financial system, which translates into 51 and 45 per cent increment in deposits. He however countered that in spite of these developments, "the ratios of total banks' deposits and total

banks' assets to GDP remained low. This, he said, reflects low mobilisation of funds by banks to finance economic growth. The asset quality of banks also "deteriorated during the year, as the proportion of banks' non-performing loans and advances to total loans and advances (sic) increased from 19.35 per cent in 1998 to 25.61 in 1999".

Alhaji Danmadami further explained that ever increasing operating costs resulting from pervasive shortage of petroleum products, epileptic power supply by "the national monopoly, NEPA" hit the industry below the belt. According to him, the profitability level of banks worsened occasioning a fall in yield on asset from 17.55 per cent in 1988 to 4.64 per cent in 1999; Return on Assets of 4.53 per cent to 4.13 per cent. He conceded that, "the industry witnessed a high recapitalisation level, as substantial injection of fresh capi-

tal was made."

It may be recalled that Chartered Bank and some others recorded similar discouraging trend in profitability in the previous year; during which Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) fell below the 4 per cent target, and population growth of 2.8 per cent outpaced a GDP of 2.7 per cent. The manufacturing capacity utilisation also stood at just 24 per cent.



Alhaji Muhammadu Danmadami, Chairman, Inland Bank

## Stock Market report for January 10

A total of 19.55 million shares worth N183.02 million were exchanged in 1,458 deals on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange with 93 companies participating, according to information from the Abuja Trading Floor of the Nigeria Stock Exchange.

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

### Price Movement:

The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-share Index closed at 8,573, an increase of 2.35%. The index opened at 8,377.18. While the market capitalisation closed at N492.65 billion, a climb of 2.35%, it opened at N481.35 billion.

The market was bullish, with a total of 25 companies

making gains in their share prices while 12 made losses.

Gains were recorded in the Banking, Breweries, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Conglomerates, Petroleum Marketing, Packaging, Automobile & Tyre, Textiles, Health Care, Footwear and the Chemicals & Paints sub sectors.

Nigerian Breweries Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 131 kobo to close the day at N27.81 per share, followed by First Bank of Nigeria Plc; it appreciated by 126 kobo to close at N26.56 per share.

Other price gainers in the top-ten bracket are: UBN (105 kobo); Lever Brothers (89 kobo); UBA and Agip (70 kobo apiece); Union Dicon (60 kobo); PZ Industries Plc (54 kobo); Afribank (45 kobo); Flour Mills (40 kobo); BETA Glass (31 kobo); and North-

ern Nigerian Flour Mills Plc (30 kobo).

Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Agricultural, Industrial/Domestic Products, Insurance, Chemical & Paints, Engineering Technology, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Banking and the Breweries sub sectors.

Total Nigeria Plc led the price losers, crashing by 100 kobo to close at N65.00 per share, followed by Okomu Oil Palm Plc, which depreciated by 55 kobo, to close at N11.45 per share.

Other price losers in the top-ten bracket include: IGL (40 kobo); Niger Insurance (35 kobo); AIICO (17 kobo); Berger (16 kobo); Nigerian Wire & Cable (5 kobo); Seven Up (5 kobo); Coop Bank (4 kobo); Lion Bank and Gold Breweries (3 kobo) and Omega Bank (2 kobo).



## NIGERIAN EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL 18<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FAIR OF KHARTOUM

The Nigerian Export Promotion Council invites interested Nigerian exporters to the selection and briefing exercise for the 18<sup>th</sup> International Fair of Khartoum. Please find below the details of fair:

**Type :** General  
**Time :** 1<sup>st</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> February 2001  
**Venue :** International Trade Fair Ground, Khartoum, Sudan

The selection and briefing exercise by NEPC has been scheduled as follows:

**Venue :** NEPC Lagos Zonal Office  
**Date :** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2001  
**Time :** 11.00am

Also note that successful company/Organisation would enjoy the under-listed incentives:

- (i) Provision of free display stand for each company
- (ii) Air-freighting of exhibits to a maximum of 100kg per company
- (iii) Provision of interpreters if need be
- (iv) Provision of transportation for your participants from the hotel to and from the exhibition ground everyday
- (v) Publicity in the host country and
- (vi) Other participation logistics.

Interested companies should obtain their application forms and any other enquiries from any of the NEPC offices nearest to them nation wide.

**NEPC Headquarters**  
Export House  
312 Kumba Street  
Zone 2, Wuse, Abuja  
Tel: 09-5230937, 5233381,  
5233387  
Fax: 09-5230931

**Lagos Zonal Office**  
13/15 Ladipo Oluwole  
Off Marine Road, Apapa  
Lagos  
Tel: 01-5872335

**Enugu Zonal Office:**  
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S/14 Cathedral Drive  
P.M.B. 2729  
Independent Layout  
P.M.B. 1611, Enugu  
Tel: 042-457857

**Jos Zonal Office:**  
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P.M.B. 3498  
Jos  
Tel: 073-457093

**Kano Zonal Office**  
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Kano  
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**ALHAJI SHEIKH UMAR ABUBAKAR**  
Director, Market Development  
NEPC, Headquarters, Abuja.

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## BUSINESS DAY

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Energy

# Oil firms to meet 2008 flare-out target

By Aliyu Ma'aji, Business Editor

Pressure from federal authorities and environmental groups may have compelled oil firms to start considering the possibility of meeting the 2008 flare-out deadline set by government. An indication to this effect emerged recently at the 18<sup>th</sup> international conference of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum explorationists (NAPE) held in Lagos. The managing director of Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) Mr. C. Descalzi estimated that an investment inflow estimated at about US \$ 15 billion (N1.59 trillion) will be required to curb associated gas flaring in oil production operations in Nigeria.

Mr. Descalzi who was represented at the occasion by Agip's explorations manager, Mr. Femi Akinmade confirmed that about 62 per cent of the 3.5 billion standard cubic feet of associated gas produced daily is flared due to the unavailability of appropriate technology to tap such wasting national resource of immense monetary value. The Agip boss also stated that for the Nigerian oil industry to maintain a steady growth rate in an increasingly competitive global economy there is need for:

- A clear gas policy framework;
- Incentives for local industries to convert to gas usage
- Guarantees for in-

vestments in the sector

- Development or energy intensive industries
- Adequate funding; and
- Standardisation of templates for alternative funding.

Mr. Descalzi pointed out that the volume of associated gas production will rise to five billion standard cubic feet a day (BSCFD) by the year 2010 when the nations production capacity is projected to rise to 4.0 million barrels per day (bpd).

Daily Trust gathered that at present Nigeria's gas discoveries stand at 182 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of recoverable reserves. This is expected to last 450 years. The nation's estimated additional undiscovered gas potential, according to sources at the federal ministry of environment, stand at 100 TCF, thus placing Nigeria in the ninth position among world's producers. \*

Currently, however, only 23, TCF, about 12 percent of the nation's gas endowment has been produced. About 159 TCF is

still unutilized. The reasons for this underutilization, according to industry watchers, is believed to be due to the limited local gas market in the country and the controlled price regime currently in place.

In this connection Mr. Descalzi explained that about \$2 billion is needed to be invested in the provision of gas gathering infrastructure for Nigeria's domestic market. And \$4.5 billion will be expended to put in place facilities to gather feed stock for projects like the Natural Gas Liquified (NGL) and gas-to-liquid (GTL).

It could be recalled that

last November Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) reported that eight prefabricated gas processing modules have been installed at its Odidi Associated Gas Gathering (AGG) project near Escravos in Delta state in order to address routine gas flaring ahead of government's 2008 deadline. The \$300 million AGG project is designed to gather associated gas from shell's Odidi-1, Odidi-2, Egwa-1, Egwa 2 and Batan flow stations.

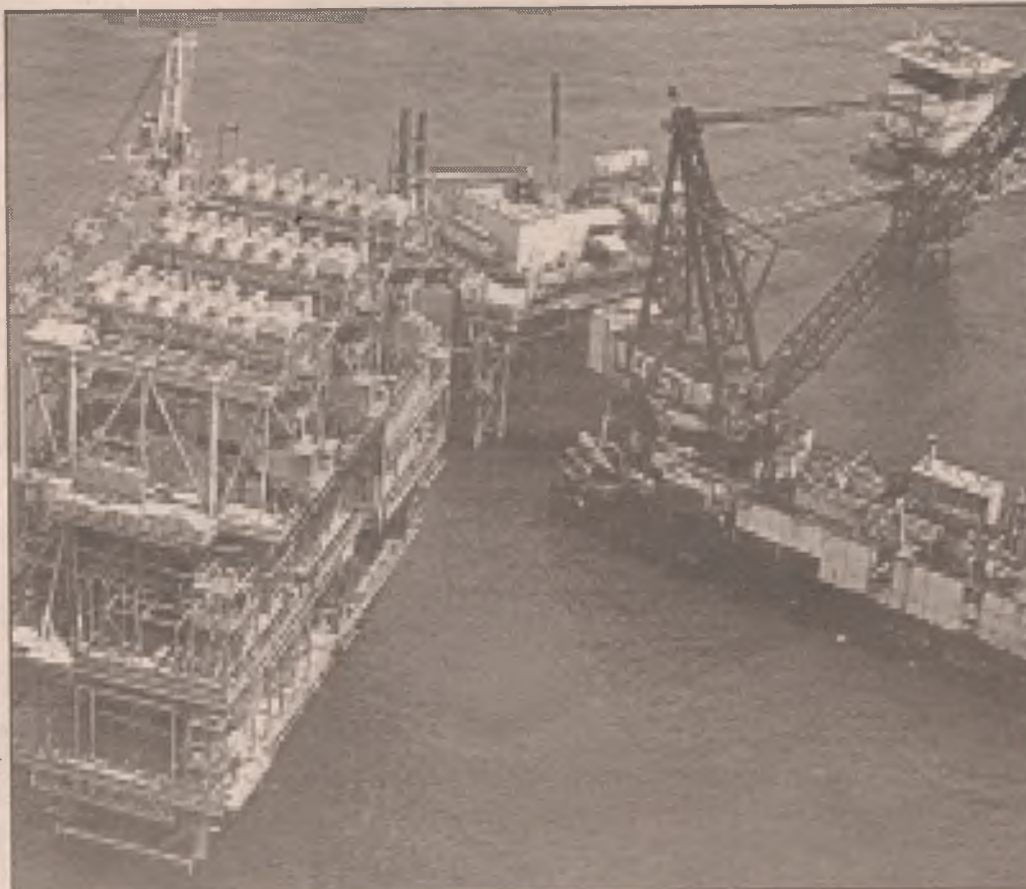
At present, Nigeria's first commercial associated utilization scheme, Chevron's US\$ 550 million

gas Escravos Gas project (EGP) supplies 100 – 120 MMSCFD to the domestic market and LPG to international commodity exchanges. And the US\$85 million phase 2 expansion is targeting 100 – 1200 mmscfd of regional sales to Ghana, Togo, Benin and Cote d'Ivoire through the West African Gas Pipeline Project (WAGP) sources at Chevron confirmed to *Daily Trust* that the domestic and regional gas sales from EGP Phase 1 and 2 are important elements in the company's overall gas strategy, these are relatively small markets. In order to monetize a sig-

nificant volume of gas, a major export market is required and the NNPC/CNL joint venture is pursuing development of the EGP3 and Escravos Gas-to Liquids Project (EGTL).

The EGTL Project will employ a combination of proven technology developed by Sasol of South Africa and by Chevron. Sasol is an acknowledged leader in Fischer – Tropsch technology and operations, based on its many years of research and development and its record and of operating large coal-fed synthetic fuels plants at its facilities in Sasolburg and Secunda, South Africa. Sasol has been developing, building and operating Fischer-Tropsch plants since 1955 and operating commercial scale Slurry Phase Distillate reactors since 1993 Sasol's extensive experience and expertise gives the EGTL Project a major competitive advantage. Chevron gas has been a leader in the hydro processing field for many years, and Chevron's hydro processing technology will be used for the final treatment step in the process.

The EGP3 Plant will process about 4000 mmscfd of gas for LPG and condensate and provide about 300 mmscfd of residual gas as feedstock to the EGTL plant. The project will produce approximately 34 mbpd of liquid products that will be sold into the global commodity petroleum market. The primary product will be 23 mbpd of premium synthetic fuel.



Gas gathering and compression platform located 12 kilometre offshore Escravos

## NEPA begins staff audit

NEPA has begun a nationwide staff audit to determine the actual number of its workforce and their area of responsibility.

Managing Director Joseph Makoju told workers in Kaduna that the audit was aimed at producing a database of those working and also to determine the idle ones in the organization.

Makoju said that already the corporate headquarters had instructed all the power generating and transmissions, zonal, district and undertaking offices, to compile a comprehensive list of their staff.

He said the "staff survey" would enable the authority to properly manage its resources better and effectively.

"The main aim of the new management is to make NEPA perform better and also enhance its service delivery, so we are committed and determined to carry out a survey of our workforce and responsibilities to both the organization and the nation in general."

The NEPA chief who expressed delight with the federal government's accelerated interest in the power sector after the "monumental neglect" by the previous administrations, however, urged the workers to redouble their efforts at improving NEPA's performance.

Makoju also warned "bad eggs" in the organization to turn a new leaf or face punitive measures, adding that "the days of such type

of workers are over, they should change or get flushed out of the system."

He further urged the workers to maintain discipline in all they were doing, saying "we need all the discipline and commitment of the workers to achieve our resolve to ensure uninterrupted power supply by the end of this year."

NEPA has a workforce of more than 30,000.

Makoju had earlier visited the 33-year old Mando Power Transmission Station, which supplies power to 10 states and to Niger Republic.

Other places visited were the Meter Testing Centre, the old Kaduna Power Station, Kaduna District Office and Training Centre, among others.

## Bill on HYPPADEC underway

Kwara, Kogi, and Niger states from where NEPA generates electricity, would present a bill to the National Assembly next month for the establishment of a Hydro-Power Producing Areas Development Commission, Alhaji Abubakar Bwari (PDP-Niger), said in Abuja recently. Alhaji Bwari who is the Chief whip of the house of Representatives, told the News Agency of Nigeria that the bill would seek for special allocation of money from NEPA's revenue for the development of the states.

He said: "We are entitled to a certain percentage as derivation because water is a natural resource and God has given these

states the potentials to produce electricity for the country.

The chief whip, who argued that it was spelt out in the constitution that 13 per cent of revenue accruing from natural resources from any part of the country be ploughed back to the affected areas, noted that the Hydro-electric power producing states were yet to receive anything.

Alhaji Bwari added that the Governors of Kwara, Kebbi Kogi and Niger states and representatives of the states at the National Assembly met in Minna over the bill and "resolved to go ahead to fight for the establishment of the commission."

The lawmaker further said that committees on

publicity, mobilisation and logistics had been established to lobby and sensitise members of the National Assembly and other Nigerians on the need to establish the commission.

He added that the affected states had suffered from the process of electricity generation for a long time and "are demanding for compensation and provision of infrastructure."

The Chief Whip added that those resettled as a result of the construction of dams for hydro-electric Power Generation had suffered from frequent flooding occasioned by the release of water from the dams, pointing out that settlements and farmlands were regularly washed away by floods.

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## *Arc. Ibrahim Bunu*

as he receives an honorary Doctorate degree in Technology Management from the  
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# Star Interviews

## Sardauna treated us with fairness—Widow

**H**ajiya Amina, known in the late Sardauna's household as Gwaggon Kano was the second wife of the Late Sardauna of Sokoto, the only Premier of Northern Nigeria, Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, before he was murdered on January 15th, 1966.

*She spoke to Daily Trust in Sokoto on the event of that tragic night and life after the Sardauna. Excerpts.*

**DT:** How old were you when you got married to the Late Sardauna.

**Gwaggon KANO:** I was about 13 or 14 years old and was a student at the Teacher's College in Gusau. My parents arranged the marriage.

I was only told when I went home on holidays in Kano. You know that was our tradition then.

**DT:** Were you his first wife?

**G/KANO:** No, Hafsatu, the one that was killed along with him, was the first wife. I was second and Jabbo was the third. We were three in the house.

**DT:** Can you recall the events of 15th January, 1966?

**G/KANO:** What happened is now history.

**DT:** What were you doing when the soldiers struck?

**G/KANO:** We had just finished our usual family chat with the other women and had gone to bed. Then there were noises everywhere. We came out of our rooms inquiring what was happening and the soldiers came and shot the premier. That was what happened.

**DT:** Is it true that the Late Premier hid in your midst to avoid detection?

**G/KANO:** No, No, he was outside with us trying to calm us because we were panicking. We stood outside by the gate.

**DT:** Did the Premier or his household staff try to make phone calls to the police or any minister?

**G/KANO:** No, the electricity and the phones were cut off.

**DT:** When the soldiers came in, what happened?

**G/KANO:** Their leader (Nzeogwu) first approached me and asked my name. I could not answer because we were not used to talking to strangers, then he went to our eldest (Hafsatu) and enquired.

She shouted at him that he was not going to take away the premier, and he first shot her right there and she fell down.

He started shouting "Where is Sardauna, where is Sardauna?"

It was very dark and he could not see the Sardauna who was standing a few meters from me. Then Sardauna came forward and said "here I am," then he (Nzeogwu) shot him three times, and we all started crying.

**WT:** May Allah grant him eternal peace. Looking back at your days with Sardauna, especially his goodwill to people and magnanimity to his lieutenants, do you feel betrayed by his protégées and former aides?

**G/KANO:** No, we don't feel abandoned because there are still many of them who still care for us. Some send messages, some even come to see us, but majority of those who reaped Sardauna's seed have abandoned us. I cannot tell you their names but there are many who abandoned his legacies. But I am not complaining because those who are

helping us are doing more than enough to make our lives comfortable.

**WT:** Some close associates of the Late Premier say he was sometimes temperamental. How do you, his wives, deal with him in such instances?

**G/KANO:** His tempers were mostly outbursts and they only last a few minutes, and he forgot and forgave easily.

He did not hold grudges, that was one of his striking attributes that we cherished.

**WT:** Did he sometimes discuss issues with you, like politics, government etc?

**G/KANO:** No, he did not, he did not bring office matters home.

When he was with us we discussed family matters only, but sometimes when the other house staff are complaining that opposition (NEPU) members were harassing them, he will caution them against retaliating against any wrong done to them especially when the provocation was the act of raining abuses on him (the Premier).



Contd. on P. 18 Hajiya Amina, 'Gwaggon' Kano, Sardauna's widow



Hajiya Aisha Danbaba, the Late Premier's daughter

## They informed me five days after his death —Daughter

**H**AJIYA Aishatu is one of Sir Ahmadu Bello's three daughters. She is the mother of the present Magajin Garin Sokoto Alh. Hassan Danbaba. She spoke to Daily Trust on the events of January 15th, 1966 and the Late Sardauna's attitude towards his children.

**WT:** Where were you when the incident of January 15th occurred?

**AISHA:** I was here in Sokoto with my husband. On that day, my husband (Late Marafa Danbaba) came in looking worried.

I asked him what was wrong, he answered "Nothing" but that he had to take a trip to Kaduna, and that he was not sure when he will return. I was worried, I asked him again what the matter was and he still answered "Nothing." Then he went outside and his aide, Bandado came in, I also inquired from him, he also expressed concern over my husband's behaviour that day. Later, my husband came back and said the trip had been cancelled. I asked him, whether the Sardauna was sick, he said no.

**WT:** So he was hiding the news of the death from you.

**AISHA:** Yes. Later Bandado

came in again and told me to listen to the BBC Hausa Service. That was where I learnt that there was a coup in Nigeria and that one of the leaders had been killed, but they did not say who was killed. I kept seeing people coming and going but they avoided letting me know what happened until five days later. Then I was finally informed that my father and been killed, perhaps because of my closeness to him, they were afraid I could not withstand the news.

**WT:** What kind of a father was he?

**AISHA:** Sardauna was a caring father, a loving father and a comforter. He loved us very much and talked to us with fatherly affection. Sometimes, when he returned from official work around ten in the evening, he would invite members of his household including myself and we would chat into late hours of the night. On weekends, in the afternoon, when there were less visitors, he sent for us to keep him company.

**WT:** Was he a disciplinarian to his children and members of his household?

**AISHA:** Well, you see when we were in Sokoto, I was only about five years old, that was

when he was always available to us, but by the time we went to Kaduna, he became much busier because of work, so his senior aide (Zagi) took care of most of our needs. He (Sardauna) only came to see us when there was less work at the office.

**WT:** Can you recall an incident between you and him that will always remain memorable to you in your life?

**AISHA:** Ah, they are many, but this one happened during my last visit to Kaduna. The usual practice was whenever I arrived, his chief of protocol (Sallama) will go and inform him of my arrival and the Sardauna will leave whatever he was doing and come to see me. Same with the rest of his children. So on this particular day, I met many vehicles in the house and I knew what they were probably holding a meeting, so I did not expect to see him that day. On the second day, up till afternoon, I did not see him, so I asked Sallama why, and he answered that it was because I was not his (Sallama's) little girl, because he always called my elder sister, Inno, his daughter.

Contd. on P. 18

# Tribute to Sardauna in pictures



From left to right are: Inuwa Wada, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Ahmadu Bello and Aliyu Makaman Bida representing the North at the Lancaster House Conference in May 1956



Also at the Lancaster House Conference were (right to left) Muhammad Ribadu, Ahmadu bello, Aliyu Makaman Bida and Abdulmalik Atta.



Executive council of the defunct Northern Region of Nigeria in 1961. In the centre (sitting) is the late Premier, Sir Ahmadu Bello.

## Sardauna treated us with fairness

Contd. from P. 17

**WT:** What will you remember the Sardauna for?  
**G/KANO:** His love and kindness, his impartially and generosity to his family. Whenever some of his friends brought us gifts, he would wrap

them up into three bundles, and put three before us, so that each of us would pick our luck. And he would never give something to anyone of us without the presence of all of us. He was a man of high virtues and very God fearing. May Allah have mercy on his soul.

## They informed me five days after

Contd. from P. 17

Thereafter he went and informed the Premier of my presence and he came and said "Aisha, so you have been in town since yesterday and I was not informed". I said it was Baba Sallama who said that I was not his daughter so he wouldn't inform you. Sardauna turned to him and said, "So that was what you said, OK, I will give Aisha a handsome gift that your daughter will not get."

We all laughed. That was his nature, he was

very free with us and his aides, they joked and they shared moments of joy and sadness.

**WT:** Some people feel Sardauna has been betrayed by his protégées do you feel the same way?

**AISHA:** Well, I can't say all of them. There are those who are still very concerned about Sardauna's legacy and his family but there are also those who actually gained from him and turned their backs to us. Such is life, people are not the same.



The Sardauna with Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana in Zaria (1959)



Education was the Sardauna's principal policies. Here he takes a look into the microscope while on a visit to a secondary school. Inset is a group of women in the women's course at the Institute of Administration, Zaria. (January 1960).

# INSIDE POLITICS

ANALYSIS

## Crisis in Kano PDP

By Henry Omu

Since the demise of the great Talakawa leader Malam Aminu Kano, Kano state has acquired strategic legacies that must not only be coveted, but emulated by any political party worth its salt in the north. So when in the 1998/99 general elections, the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) won the governorship, national assembly and Presidential elections in the state, observers were not surprised because PDP in the state was made-up-of the most powerful elements in the history of Kano politics.

But the seeming peace in the party was shattered August last year, when the Kano state governor Alh. Rabiu Kwankwaso appointed the former chairman of the party in the state as a commissioner. Attempts to nominate and elect a new replacement is the root of the current crisis.

The groups involved in the face-off include the Alhaji Abubakar Rimi-led Social Progressive Party (SPP), otherwise called Tsantsi group, a faction of the old National Republican Party (NRC) led by President Obasanjo's pointman at the National Assembly, Alhaji Aminu Wali and the Tabo group under the leadership of Alhaji Musa Gwadabe.

During the formative days of the PDP in Kano state, Rimi's group was allotted the chairmanship and five other positions, while the posts of secretary treasurer and five lesser posts went to Alh. Wali and Alh. Gwadabe groups respectively. When Gov. Kwankwaso therefore made the party chairman from Alh. Rimi's group a commissioner the belief was that finding a replacement for him would be an easy task.

Instead, the action apart from polarising the party along personality lines, is threatening to tear the party apart and has resulted in the suspension of Alh. Abubakar Rimi by some elders of the party in Kano state. Why is this so you may ask?

Based on the sharing formula adopted for constituting the party executive, the

Alh. Rimi group was expected to nominate a replacement for the erstwhile chairman, and this the group did by proposing Alhaji Nasir Aliko as the new chairman.

Unfortunately, Gov. Kwankwaso rejected Alh. Aliko as chairman of the PDP. He rather preferred the acting chairman to be made the substantive chairman, thereby denying the Alh. Rimi faction, the nomination rights due it. Party stalwarts afraid however that the "storm in a teacup", could turn into a "hurricane" called a peace meeting, but parties to the dispute failed to resolve their differences.

A new dimension was however, introduced into the crisis, when the party moved its state secretariat from the building provided by Alh. Rimi to another office complex. Gov. Kwankwaso and Alh. Wali were fingered as having instigated and provided funds for the state executive to abandon the former office. Immediately, this happened another peace meeting was called at which the party executive was told to move the party of secretariat to its former abode.

Irrked that the peace agreement, was being breached by the other faction, Rimi said in a press statement that: "On behalf of the SPP group, we wish to dissociate the group from the agreement". Furthermore, the statement accused Gov. Kwankwaso of encouraging the violation of the agreement, especially when viewed against his support for the opening of a new party secretariat, its furnishing and paying of personal visits to the rival secretariat.

Expectedly, both Alh. Rimi and Gov. Kwankwaso turned the political crisis in the Kano PDP into a media "war."

While the governor through his political adviser Dr. Hafizu Abubakar advised Alh. Rimi to "cease from encouraging insubordination or disobedience within the party structure," he stated further in apparent reference to Alh. Rimi's political history, that "one reaps what he sows."

Alh. Rimi fired back, warning Gov

Kwankwaso that, "If you're not careful your gubernational chair might be the victim of your inconsistency, hypocrisy, being clever by half in a crisis which you solely created." In a separate interview, Rimi granted journalists last November, he was quoted as having denied quarrelling with the Kano state governor.

According to him, Kwankwaso "is not my age. When I was governor of Kano state he was still in secondary school. So there's no comparison between me and Rabiu Kwankwaso. And I have nothing to gain by quarrelling with him. And there's nothing I want from him."

But in declaring Rimi "persona non-grata", the Kano PDP elders described him as a liability to the Party. According to them "Rimi's arrogance has remained the most potent factor that led to the ignominious defeat of most of the candidates, who erroneously leaned on him during the last transition."

The Kano PDP crisis when viewed against the background of the personalities involved; Atiku Abubakar, Alh. Ghali Na'abba, Alh. Rabiu Kwankwaso, Alh. Abubakar Rimi and Alh. Aminu Wali looks more than the ordinary.

It may rather be a testimony of things to expect in 2003, a dress rehearsal of the fight for political control of the north and most importantly, Kano state-which is obviously the "political soul" of the entire region.



Chief Barnabas Gemade, PDP national chairman

### Interview With PDP Deputy Publicity Secretary, Mr. Ghenga Olawepo On The Crisis in the Party

**DT:** What would you say is the genesis of the current crisis between the "gang of five" and the remaining National Executive Committee of your party, which led to your suspension?

**Olawepo:** I will not say there is crisis. That would be too alarmist. My understanding of what is happening is that a significant number of the national executive committee members feel strongly about certain issues; the way the party is being run and they happen to be very powerful members of the National working committee (NWC). At the last NEC meeting in September, a motion which summarised all these issues was pre-

## PDP crisis: Let's put our house in order

— Olawepo

sented by about 54 members of the NEC out of 70 who attended the meeting and that was an overwhelming numbers of those who attended that meeting. The NEC agreed that a Committee be set up to discuss these issues with the national Chairman, Chief Barnabas Gemade and some other member of the NEC at its next meeting which we thought would hold in October. So we had the meeting where some agreements were made but the Chairman and the national Secretary, Dr. Okwesileze Nwodo and the deputy Chairman, Alhaji Iro Dan-Musa were not too pleased. So members started agitating that another NEC meeting be convened

**DT:** And the court has stopped the suspension for the mean time.

**Olawepo:** Yes, in an intervention basis the court has said as long as the substantive suit is going on we must continue to enjoy all our rights.

**DT:** What were the specific substances of this agreement?

**Olawepo:** There are problems with the finances and members observed that the bulk of the resources of the party is being spent in Abuja rather than developing the structures of the party in the states and local governments. I do not want to give you the figures involved because it could be scandalous and that is not our aim. Secondly, members are concerned about the appropriation of NEC by the NWC—a 19 member

By Sani Babadoko

working committee to only implement NEC decisions. But unfortunately, what we have is that the NWC has transformed itself into the NEC. Also members were concerned that there were no more open debates within the party. Our constitution did establish that we would have standing orders that will guide the conduct of meetings and debates. The essence of this is to protect members rights to make their contributions as to how the party should be run. But unfortunately, there are no issues raised by the NEC for discussion and that is how you find out that when you register a memo in the office of the Secretary for debate it gets missing in transit. So you

find a situation where the internal debate mechanism is being muzzled.

**DT:** Is this crisis not a carry over of the problems that marked the last party convention at the Eagle Square Abuja, where some party elders registered their protests at the Chairmanship election?

**Olawepo:** I do not think it has to do with that. Most of us (54) in the NEC who signed this recommendation are also products of that election.

The fact is that you cannot have a house with

1,000 people having different views in the same party. In Britain, it is the same in the Labour and Conservative parties. In South Africa even within the ANC, you have divergent views, they hold demonstrations but they get to resolve them through debates. Democracy is the canvassing of different positions the only thing is that it should be done in accordance with the rule of law. Once you follow the rules you will not have any problem. Democracy only gets threatened when people do not want to apply the rule of law.

*"There're problems with the finances....but I don't want to give you the figures involved because it could be scandalous".*

# PARLIAMENT

## AD chairman scores Obasanjo low

By Henry Omu

Alliance for Democracy (AD) national chairman, Alhaji Adamu Abdulkadir has advised the 18 months old Obasanjo administration to either deliver democracy dividends to Nigerians by mid 2001 or accept to be a total failure.

The chairman who spoke to Daily Trust despite scoring the PDP controlled federal government above average in performance in 1999, disclosed that the government performed below expectation last year.

He warned that unless the administration buckles up to deliver on its electoral promises before June this year, the administration should deem itself a failure.

Observed Alh. Abdulkadir: "the Obasanjo administration has performed slightly above average but there's so much room for improvement."

"In the first year, one will have to give them the benefit of doubt, but in the second year they did below what's expected and if by mid-2001, there's no improvement then the whole administration is a total failure", he stated.

Commenting on the per-

formance of AD lawmakers in the National Assembly, the party chairman said they have done fairly well, maintaining that none of their lawmakers were indicted in the numerous financial scandals that rocked the National Assembly.

Alh. Abdulkadir disagreed with insinuations that AD lawmakers have jettisoned their role as opposition parliamentarians to champion the course

## Executive did not torch Borno Assembly

By Sani Babadoko

The Deputy Governor of Borno State, Alhaji Aliyu Abubakar Jatau, has denied any executive involvement in the burning down of the State House of Assembly complex late last year.

Alhaji Jatau told Daily Trust in Maiduguri that relations between the governor and the State assembly has always been cordial. The house and the executive are controlled by the All Peoples Party (APP).

Though he said, he does not think the burning

of the Obasanjo controlled federal government.

"Our lawmakers are not supporting the Obasanjo administration, but have only supported what's the truth and I can assure you that if President Obasanjo does anything wrong, AD lawmakers will be against him", the chairman added.

He explained further that the AD is beginning to lose its

of the assembly complex has nothing to do with the executive, he however said there was the normal check and balance functions that should exist between the executive and legislature.

Alhaji Jatau said since the administration took office about 20 months ago, it has introduced far reaching rural transformation policies pointing out that Borno was an agrarian state.

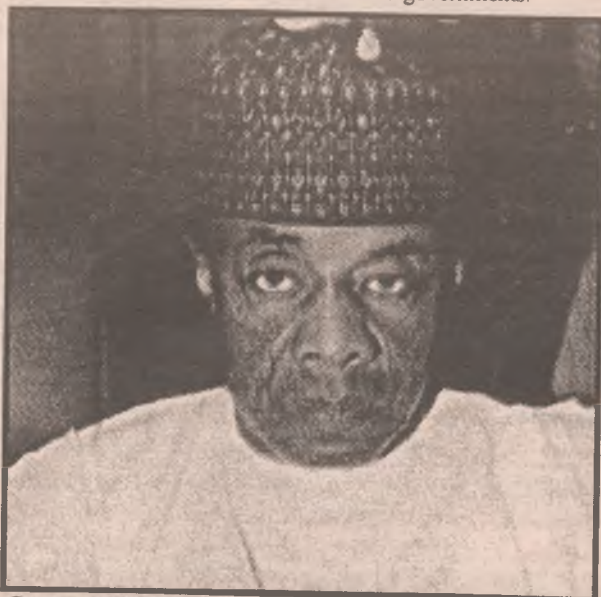
Said he, "when we came into office we had only 13 serviceable tractors. Now as I am speaking with you we have over 105 serviceable tractors on ground".

He disclosed that the state has also started model

perceived Afenifere image in the north, and based on this has started attracting disenchanted politicians from the PDP and APP.

According to him, the AD performed poorly in the past elections because of poor mobilisation. He however said, that at present the party has opened offices in eight northern states, including the FCT.

villages, adding that such model villages were located in



Governor Mala Kachalla, Borno State

Saboteurs of oil pipelines, NEPA, NITEL, M-TEL and water installations in the country may be sentenced to 10 years imprisonment when caught, whenever the bill to this effect is passed by the House of Representatives.

Deputy chairman, House committee on Housing and Urban Development, Representative Jerry

## NNPC, NEPA, NITEL vandals to get 10 yrs

From Henry Omu

Ugokwe, who revealed this said the bill gazetted in May last year, had already had its first reading in the house.

The lawmaker stated that the bill, under two separate titles: "An act to amend the criminal code Act, cap 77" and "An act to amend the penal code (Northern states) federal provisions Act, cap 345" would further provide for offenders to pay an option of N150,000 as fine.

Mr. Ugokwe, sponsor of the bill however observed that the house can amend parts of the bill by proposing stiffer penalties for offenders.

Commenting on the likelihood that the federal government is thinking of sending a similar bill to the National Assembly, the lawmaker said whenever such a bill is presented, it would be harmonised to conform with the one already before the house.

The bill reads in part "whoever attempts to commit, aids or abets the commission of the offence shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to four years or with a fine which may extend to N50,000."

## The MacArthur Foundation, Nigeria

### Fund for Leadership Development

The mission of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation is to foster lasting improvement in the human condition.

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The Fund for Leadership Development offers support to persons generally at mid-point in their careers for a period of one to two years. It awards up to twelve grants a year. Grants are personal awards meant to be administered strictly by the person. They are not institutional grants and they do not require an institutional base. Grant funds support a variety of projects designed to advance professional development in areas such as (but not limited to) new program initiatives, training, research and travel. Grants are open to people of diverse backgrounds including activists, health practitioners, academics, legal practitioners and journalists. Projects must, have a wide social and community impact. Baseline studies may not be required for some projects. Grantees must devote the majority of their time to their projects.

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The Fund for Leadership Development is open to any person residing permanently in Nigeria. Applicants may come from any field -the academic community, action groups, the communications sector, law and other professions -but must be in mid-stage of their career and be interested in population issues. It is highly competitive (less than 3 percent of applicants are awarded funds). A committee of six distinguished Nigerian men and women from different parts of Nigeria, representing diverse cultural and professional backgrounds, assist in the selection process. Selection of grantees will be conducted in two phases. Candidates must apply through an application form which can be obtained from:

### The Program Administrator

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Fund for Leadership Development, Nigeria  
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Maitama A6  
P O Box 4023, Garki  
Abuja  
Nigeria  
Tel: 09- 4132920/4132965  
Fax: 09- 4132919

E-mail: [macarthur.nigeria@skannet.com](mailto:macarthur.nigeria@skannet.com)

You could obtain applications in electronic form through the above e-mail address. Applicants must the Foundation's application form to be considered. The deadline for submission of applications is March 23. Each applicant must submit ten copies of the form.

Note:: The Foundation will not accept completed forms sent by fax or e-mail.

Forms received after the deadline will not be processed.

Only successful applicants will be contacted.

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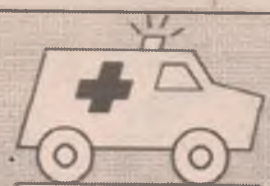
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# HEALTH



## Keffi hospital to the rescue

By Isaac Ayozie

Inadequacy of public health institutions in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, has forced thousands of residents in need of health care to look elsewhere.

Few days after assuming office, the Health Minister, Dr. Tim Menakaya while inspecting the Wuse General Hospital, Ordered the closure of the Hospital which he found in a state of disrepair to make way for its renovation. As would be expected patients had to resort to other Hospitals like Garki General Hospital for their health needs thereby over stretching the facilities available, there.

The delay in reopening the Wuse General Hospital, and the snail speed with which the Asokoro and Maitama prototype 60-Bed rooms hospitals is being carried out does not help matters. As a result, the National Hospital for Women and Children Abuja, meant for reference purposes, now renders the services designated for general hospitals. The Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital is not spared this scenario.

In the same vein, the spill over effect is now taking its toll on the Keffi General hospital, which is currently being transformed into a Federal Medical Centre, i.e. a tertiary hospital.

With the result that the 78-bed hospital with dilapidated and obsolete facilities coupled with grossly inadequate staff receive patients in excess of its capacity. For instance at the maternity ward which has two delivery beds, an average of ten deliveries is recorded in a week. Similarly in the operating theatre, upwards of 17 major cases of surgery are being recorded weekly as against the three to four it used to be.

Keffi, though a Town in Nassarawa State, is one of the satellite towns to Abuja. Due to its proximity — about 50 kilometres to the Federal Capital territory — some constructions workers in Abuja are residents there. Most other people who could not find accommodation in Abuja also reside there.

According to Dr. Danjuma Sulai, the Chief Medical Director (CMD) of the hospital the health institution, due to its strategic location, caters for the health needs of the suburbs in Abuja like, Nyanyan, Karu and satellite neighbourhoods like Mararraba also in Nasarawa State.

Also noted that the hospital which is located on a major high way linking Abuja and some middle belt states, like Plateau, Nasarawa, Benue among others to the Eastern States of the Country makes it indispensable in service to humanity.

On his efforts to transform the hospital to a tertiary one, he pointed out that the two generating sets meant for the hospital have been reactivated and reticulated with galvanised iron pipes is going on. The internal electrical works are being rewired also to bring it up to standard.

The Hospital was commissioned, in 1957, by Sir Ahmadu Bello, the premier of the then Northern region. In times of need Development Forum (KDF) who donated a building to accommodate relations of in-patients, the Keffi Emirate Council, the Nasarawa State and Local Government have always responded promptly.

Dr. Salai, who was the Chief Medical Director of the Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital until his posting to Keffi in the last year, said his task is to see to the development of the hospital in to a tertiary one.

*'The 78-bed hospital — with dilapidated and obsolete facilities, coupled with grossly inadequate staff — receive patients in excess of its capacity'*

## Health: Your wealth in life

By Peace Otelina Abraham

Your health is what makes you. It determines your abilities and capabilities to live an active life. Most people do not realise that what we eat when we are young determines the state of our body when we are older. It's like building a house the house will last long if its foundation is well laid. But with a poorly laid foundation, the house will collapse in no time. Physical and mental health determines our ability to act and think rationally or interact with people and the environment.

Moderation is an important key to achieving good physical well-being. Since what we eat makes us, moderate intake of foods especially those that are high in fats and sugar, indulgences like alcohol and tobacco can help prevent some diseases like cancer of the lungs, liver cirrhosis, obesity, impotence, infertility, high blood pressure, diabetes and birth defects among others. Though alcohol in excess is bad, an occasional glass of liquor is said to help prevent some certain forms of heart diseases. Tobacco products are hard to moderate because they are addictive. It's almost impossible to smoke cigarette in moderation, so it is best avoided because it has proved that most people who try just couldn't achieve it.

Nutritionist says it is best to drink at least eight glasses of water each day because water maintains fluid retention in the body and helps with the metabolic processes of the body. Apart from the fresh fruits and vegetables which must be included in our daily diet there is need for occasional intake of vitamin tablets because, even the most balanced of meals cannot provide all the forty five nutrients needed by our body to maintain good health. A slight deficiency of any of the required nutrients (carbohydrates, vitamins, minerals, protein, fats and water) can impede good health. So, we need multivitamins in small amounts. To retain and repair the body.

The human body needs at least eight hours of sleep everyday. Sleep is reputed to reduce stress. Stress is a chemical, emotional and physical factor that causes the human body mental tension. It is caused by anxiety or tension over a particular matter or worry. It robs people of their ability to think or work rationally. People prone to stress are those that work round the clock with

barely enough time for themselves. The physical effects of long-term stress are cold, heart attack, stomach ulcers, asthma, stroke, and in some cases increased appetite.

It is necessary to find ways to combat or relieve stress and some of these ways are relaxing in a natural habitat i.e. in a garden or a beach with a book that is not mentally taxing, listening to soothing music, spending time with your family, working out i.e. aerobics, sleeping, praying, doing some house work that is not strenuous in nature or getting a massage.

The act of massaging has been discovered to be a great stress reliever, apart from its other functions of improving blood circulation in the body aiding the removal of toxins and body waste, speedy recovery from muscle pulls, strains and sprains and giving the skin a healthy look. Massages in massage parlours were

once seen as immoral conduct until its great benefits were discovered. Though it's better for people suffering from health problems like tumours, fractures or dislocations, heart diseases, skin diseases or fever to consult a Doctor before they consider going for a massage treatment. Massages are usually done with warm stones and sweet smelling oils because they relieve body tension faster.

The importance of physical exercise cannot be over emphasised. Though most people do not like to exercise because they see it as exerting and sweaty but it's only too important for good health. Exercises like jogging, running, skipping, and bicycle riding; walking, etc go long way in regulating our body calories. People who are too busy to exercise should start walking short distances instead of riding, climbing up and down the stairs instead of using the elevators, doing housework manually and little acts that can be carried within a short range.



Exercise is recommended for better health

# Arts & Entertainment Books

## Shagari: A Quiet Man Opens Up

By Tadaferua Ujorha

Alhaji Shehu Shagari, the first democratically elected president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, has written an autobiography titled, *Shehu Shagari: Beckoned to Serve*, which would be launched in Abuja on February 25th, this year to commemorate Alhaji Shagari's 76th birthday anniversary. The work is likely to be launched at the International Conference Centre in Abuja on that date. *Beckoned To Serve* has been eagerly expected by both Nigerians and foreigners alike, and Alhaji Shehu Shagari is one of the previous Presidents of Nigeria who has spoken very little or not at all on their periods in government, and this makes the work a very special one. One that has been eagerly anticipated by the public!

The work comes in a healthy sheen of green, and a very colourful picture of Alhaji Shagari, presumably while in office, graces the cover. *Shehu Shagari's Beckoned to Serve* is a work which resonates in splendid tones, yielding an impressive wealth of detail, candour and humour. In sum, the work is characterised by a friendly atmosphere which has a lot to do with our subject's humble upbringing. When a former leader of a nation writes an autobiography, this automatically forms part of the annals of the nation, and such a work should, and must, be taken seriously. This is the converse of the variety of sterile autobiographies which we find all over the country today. These neither inspire one to deeds of heroism nor engender a powerful re-thinking of personal or public codes of behaviour.

Shagari's *Beckoned to Serve* is a work that is laced with a mobile energy. This is clearly seen in the fact that at significant moments of the odyssey of our subject, one has the impression of a valiant rider whose noble Steed goes at a gentle canter, then expands into swift flight, and slowly extends into a very active eagerness.

This gentle canter, for instance is perceptible in the opening movement of the work where in simple and fine prose, the author takes us to his roots, and the vital details that make up this aspect of his life. Here the prose moves slowly. We are being led up a height of sorts, and right now we are hardly at the initial steps. All those who wish to inhale the very dust of Shagari town need to read this chapter. A discussion of our subjects roots is also a discussion of some of the great themes that have prevailed in the Central Sudan, especially in the 19th century.

The next section is appropriately titled Educational's Pursuits. We see the young Shehu Shagari in school going through the ropes, as it were, and passing through experiences which would seem to have prepared him for the high roles that he later came to play in our national life. At this point the Rider is slowly advancing upwards, and the heights he must overcome are very clear.

In Prelude to Independence our subject is working in government, and observing the fine details that accompany the art of governance, and which are only ignored at one's peril. From Yabo to Argungu Shehu Shagari is learning and at the same time

growing in a beautiful way

Independence and After is imbued with the mixed colours of hope and sorrow. It covers the fine moment of independence, and the crisis that emerged shortly after this period. For instance there is the natural rejoicing on account of the attainment of independence. We see him at a moment of political awakening and slowly ascending to the helm of economic development. There is also the sadness that dominates in the next movement called transition and turmoil. Transition and turmoil embodies the dark and upsetting aspects of our national life. Power and partnership relate to Shagari's period in government after this rather turbulent moment, his working relationship with General Gowon and the learning process he went through.

We view him in government, and at the same moment expressing a keen interest in the grassroots. *Against the Grain* is a description of a significant moment of Shagari's life, where, for instance he is encouraged by destiny to play a major role in national life.

Democratic Rebirth is the next chapter, and here Shagari is being sworn in as president, and slowly coming to terms with the reality of governing a rather complex country. Chapter Nine provides illumination on the peculiar qualities of the corridors of power.

Movements twelve to fourteen chronicle the interrupted second term of his administration. It also provides us with his detention diary, and the work closes with an epilogue. This part of the text provides

us with rare insights into our subjects state of mind at this moment of his life.

*Beckoned to Serve* is published by Heinemann Educational Books (Nigeria). It would make interesting reading to students of history, government and culture and politics, while also serving as a rich and fertile ground for all those interested in knowing all those little secrets, and sometimes fantastic and dramatic circumstances, which attend the art of governance in all nations.

*Beckoned to Serve* (2001) belongs to a fine tradition of great literature written by Nigerians. It is a beautiful and uplifting experience to receive information direct from the Horse's mouth. This is an aspect of the peculiar significance of this work. Others belonging to this category of literature include Paden's *Ahmadu Bello*, Trevor Clark's *A Right Honourable Gentleman* and Sharwood Smith's *But Always As Friends*. Shagari town in the early days comes alive in this work, alongside an account of the peopling of the community, the various coups that our subject had to experience, how he always tried to find time for his family despite the pressures of office, and the radiating humility that always issued from him! This is a simple soul, telling a dynamic tale, in simple and compelling prose, running to some 559 pages.

*Beckoned to Serve* (2001) would be serialised in *Daily Trust* very soon.

# Shehu Shagari: Beckoned to Serve



*Beckoned to Serve is a work laced with a mobile energy. This is clearly seen in the fact that at significant moments of the odyssey of our subject, one has the impression of a valiant rider whose noble Steed goes at a gentle canter, then expands into swift flight, and slowly extends into a very active eagerness.*

# Arts & Entertainment

## Art Watch!

\*\*\* **Beatification of Area Boy**, a play by Nobel Laureate, Wole Soyinka, will go on stage at the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, sometime in February. Rehearsals are scheduled to start about the middle of January. Dr. Jenkeri Okwori, of the dept of English and Drama would be directing the Play. Theatre buffs in the Zaria area, can look forward to this humorous, blunt and cynical play. There will be four days of fun, laughter, and much critical commentary at the Drama Village of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

\*\*\* The Creative Writers Club of the Dept of English Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria meets every Thursday by 5.00pm at Room 68, Faculty of Arts.

\*\*\* The schedule of engagements of the National Troupe in 2001 is as follows: In the Play reading session scheduled for January, Obaseki's Pedro Don Pedro would be discussed. In February 2001 Professor Dapo Adelugba will be giving the opening lecture in the Inaugural Lecture Series. His Lecture would be titled *The Artist In the 21st Century*. In March, Erelu, a play by Ahmed Yerimah would be staged in both Lagos and Abuja. April would see a production of Tafida, a play by the same author, with a special focus on the late Shehu Yar'adua.

In May, preparations would commence for a special production of Nigeriana, which was staged by the Troupe at Hanover, Germany last year. In June the Troupe would perform at the Muson Festival, Lagos. From August to September 2001, preparations would commence for the staging of Mbbara, a dance drama that would be directed by Arnold Udoka, Artistic Director (Dance) of the National Troupe

\*\*\* **The Cankerworm**, a magazine programme that focuses on societal ills would soon be on the airwaves as a programme of the Radio Nigeria Network Service.

\*\*\* A post-harvest Festival would hold at Bomo, sometime within the first quarter of 2001. This Festival is over a century old and it attracts Performers from all over Zaria, and beyond. Those who wish to experience drama, dance and song in a small farming community hugged by rolling Cotton fields, should look forward to this..

\*\*\* Signature Art Galleries is located at plot 654 Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II. Here a cosy, almost delicate environment, plays host to a variety of enchanting works of Art drawn from all over the continent. All lovers of Art should visit this Gallery.

## Christmas/Sallah Bash:

# Music and dance all the way

By Tadaferua Ujorha.

**A** Christmas and Sallah show for Children held at the FCT Council For Arts and Culture on Christmas Day. Here we had a stage of very fine architecture that was set within the vast hall of the Council. It was a day of great excitement and happiness for all the Children. Many of them confessed to Daily Trust how happy they were that the show held, and that their parents agreed to take them to the venue.

Jokes were cracked and the children rejoiced, while prizes were awarded at the end of the brief quiz that was conducted by the master of ceremony. The best-dressed children, both male and female, were selected, and prizes were awarded. Abuja Daddy Show key entertained the children.

His dancing boys with their peculiar antics, especially the one with plaited hair, were a sight to behold. Later Abuja Daddy Showkey explained to Daily Trust that he sings about social issues, and the circumstances that affect man in society. With roots in Edo state, he was born in Ajegunle, and the community often occurs in his songs. He explained that Ajegunle also features in the music of the original Daddy Showkey who is based in Lagos. It was an afternoon when *Makosa* music dominated the skies, and the children and teenagers displayed their dancing skills almost to the point of twisting an ankle. You really couldn't blame them when they almost seemed to topple over. But a winner turned up anyway, a boy who danced with so

much passion for the music.

Father Christmas in his regular thick white beard, and red habit, was nearby to hand gifts to the Children. Mickey Mouse who looked very puzzled and, therefore, very comical, was present with a rather purple Barney, and they danced alongside the Children who couldn't believe their eyes, and danced along, sometimes pulling Barney's long tail. The band of the FCT Council For Arts and Culture presented a series of excellent songs. Most of the songs rendered by the band were drawn from the East, South, and Western parts of the continent.

It was a splendid evening for both Children and adults, and one is sure this would become a regular feature of Abuja's cultural landscape.



Father Christmas, Barney and Mickey Mouse dancing with the children. Pix. by Joshua Simon

## Criss-Cross Puzzle Power: "A Touch of Frost"

PUZZLE 1																					
3 LETTERS																					
CAR																					
GUN																					
4 LETTERS	7 LETTERS																				
CASE	MULLET																				
CELL	STATION																				
DEAD	SUSPECT																				
JACK	WITNESS																				
LEAD																					
LIED																					
5 LETTERS	8 LETTERS																				
ALIBI	EVIDENCE																				
BLOOD	FORENSIC																				
CLUES	INNOCENT																				
CRIME																					
FROST																					
NOTES	9 LETTERS																				
SCENE	ASSISTANT																				
SOLVE	INSPECTOR																				
6 LETTERS																					
ARREST																					
BULLET	13 LETTERS																				
DENTON	SEARCH																				
FOLLOW	WARRANT																				
MURDER																					
POLICE																					
PRINTS																					
PROVED																					

It is up to you to fit the words in the list into the right place in the pattern. It is possible that more than one word will fit in the space. So try different combinations. One word has been inserted to give you a start.

## M-Net Next Month

**The Mummy--Imhotep**, a high priest who was buried alive after fooling around with Pharaoh's mistress, returns to life and falls in love with the reincarnation of the woman he died for. Starring Brendan Fraser, Rachel Weisz and South African born Arnold Vosloo.

**Julia, the star--**Only in movie does a movie star venture into the streets of Notting Hill district, North London, sans bodyguards, enter a bookstore and find a man. But this is romantic comedy, a genre the lovely Julia has made her own. Join London and the rest of the world as they swoon over the unlikely couple in Notting Hill.

**At First Sight--**Virgil has been blind since the age of three and has learned to live with his handicap. Then Amy comes along with the promise of love, New York and a doctor who might be able to restore his sight.

**Grammy Awards--**It's that time of the year again, when the recording industry honours its artistes for making great music. Stay glued to M-Net to see what surprises they have in store for you this year.

**Wild Wild West--**With the help of his steam-powered iron tarantulas, a mad inventor plans to take over the US and assassinate the president. It's up to the two special federal agents to stop him.

**Patch Adams--**Patch Adams believes that laughter is the best medicine, but his zany ideas don't work well in the cold and impersonal medical institution where he works.  
Source: dish

## AFAN NEW YEAR FESTIVAL!

On January 1st, the annual Afan New Year Festival held at Kagoro in Kaduna state. Here were colourful bands of happy souls, and groups of uniformly dressed women singers. There were royal musicians in excellent brown, whose musical instruments welled at a perfect pitch as they strode along, like happy heralds. The traditional hunters came with their smart head-dresses of multi-coloured feathers, and pleasant chanting.

Kagoro is richly endowed. See rocks with pyramidal forms, and the radiant waters of the Gagau water source where the rocks hang threateningly. On the rock summit you can buy fresh *Kindirmo* (Yoghurt) from the Fulani dwellers! See the endless Valley, and trees with bright red leaves.

Combine this with good weather and the warmth of a human community!  
--By Tadaferua Ujorha.

**Stirring Lines!**  
"Every musician ought to make a pilgrimage to London and kneel bareheaded at Handel's grave."  
--Beethoven, upon the passing of Handel.



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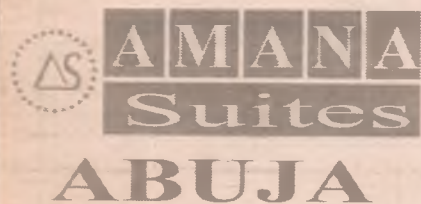
Kitchen

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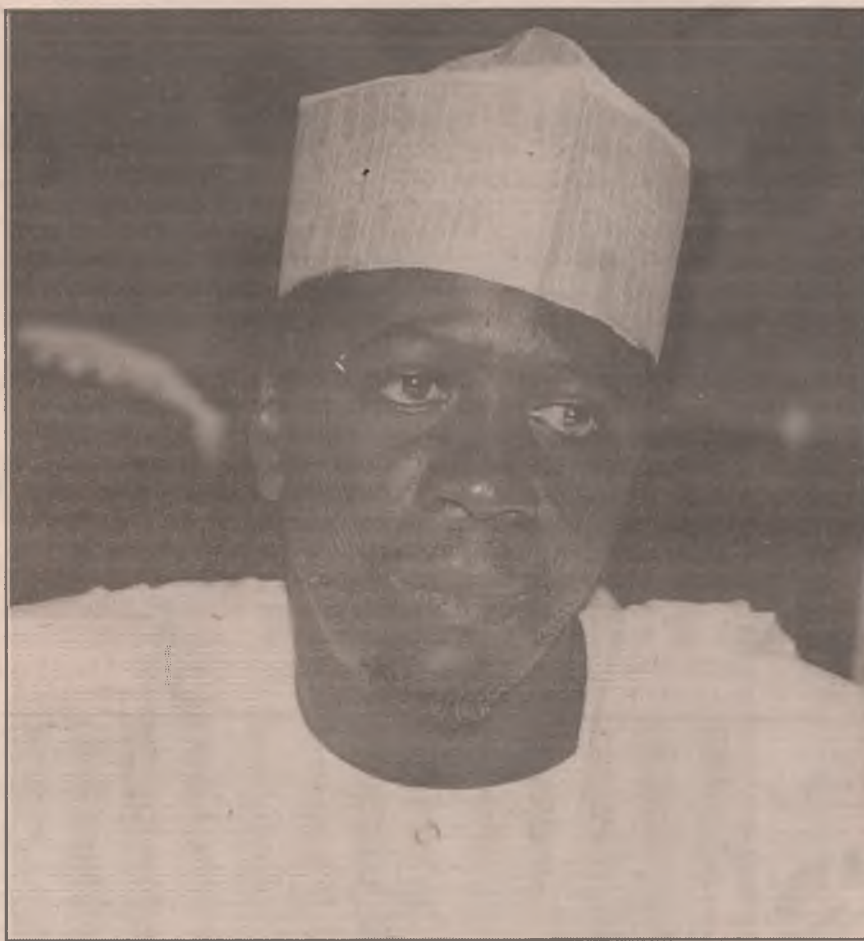
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# Felicitations

**W**hen the *WEEKLY TRUST* hit the newsstands three years ago, we knew it was not the end.

We are therefore happy with the introduction of the *DAILY TRUST*. We are also confident that this daily tabloid will match the standard the *WEEKLY TRUST* has set.

The Government and People of Sokoto State therefore wish to pledge their support for the success of the *DAILY TRUST*.



**Alh. Attahiru Bafarawa**

*Executive Governor, Sokoto State*

Once again, we congratulate you on this great achievement and hope that it will fill the vacuum created by past newspapers in this region.

May the Almighty Allah give you all the strength to sustain this efforts in educating and informing the people of the North in particular and the country in general.

Long live *DAILY TRUST*,

Long live Sokoto State,

Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria.

# Crime & Punishment

## FCT Minister restrained over plot reallocation

Stories by Uwem Umo

**A** Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has restrained the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and three others from re-allocating two plots in the territory until the determination of a suit before the court.

The plots are No. 319 Jabi District and plot 664 Utako District, in Abuja.

Also restrained are the permanent Secretary of the FCT, the Director of Lands, Survey and Planning and the Chairman of FCT land use allocation committee.

The court presided over by Justice O.J. Okeke issued the order of restraint following an application by the counsel to the plaintiffs, Dr. E.O. Ometan.

The plaintiffs, Continental Computer Academy, Hajiya Musa, Alhaji Adejumo Musa and AIECO

Travels Limited sought to restrain the Ministry from reallocating the two plots originally allocated to one Mrs. Jane Ochigbo and Mr. Emmanuel Akor.

According to the nine paragraph affidavit sworn to by the plaintiffs, sixteen million naira has since been

paid to the allottees through an Abuja based estate agent, adding that at a stage it became obvious that the defendants were going to deprive them of these plots.

Counsel representing the Minister and the other three defendants Mr. Aminu A. Basha gave an undertak-

ing before the court that those restrained will obey the court order until the determination of the motion on notice.

The case was adjourned to February 13, 2001 for hearing.

## 9 car snatchers nabbed

**T**he police in Abuja have arrested a nine man armed robbery gang in the federal capital territory who specialized in car snatching.

The gang members who are all under 30 years of age are said to be operating within the FCT but have their base in Kano.

According to an authoritative police source, a Kano state based businessman whom the police refused to name for security reasons is said to be the major financier of the gang.

Meanwhile the gang mem-

bers have all confessed their roles in many of the car snatching incidents in the city.

Meanwhile, the suspects are being detained by the police at the Area Command Office, Maitama, Abuja.

According to the Police Area Commander for the FCT, Mr. Moses Saba, an assistant Commissioner of Police, they have so far recovered over 30 various cars from the showroom of the Kano based auto dealer whom the police say specializes in stolen vehicles.

Meanwhile the police have

also recovered 3 double barrel shot guns, 3 revolvers and several rounds of ammunition from the suspected robbers.

Also recovered from them are several fake motor particulars, drivers licenses, motor vehicle licenses and sundry other vehicle particulars.

The gang, according to the police may have been responsible for the loss of over 50 choice cars within the FCT.

Meanwhile, those arrested are still helping the police in their investigation.



Inspector-General Musliu Smith

## Accused bags 24 months for rape

**T**hirty-two year-old Usman Zakari has been sentenced to 24 months in prison without an option of fine by an Abuja Chief Magistrate Court for raping a seven-year old girl.

According to the Police Force Information Report (FIR) the accused committed the offence on the 12th, 14th and 18th November, last year.

According to the police

prosecutor, Inspector Andrew Zakari, the offence is contrary to section 285 (b) of the penal code.

The presiding Chief Magistrate, Alhaji Mohammed Kolo who took the plea of the accused person said he would not hesitate to punish the suspect so as to keep little children safe in their environment.

The accused person who pleaded guilty bagged 24 months for the offence without option of fine.

## Businessman bags three months for theft

**A**n Abuja Chief Magistrate Court presided over by Malam Bello Kawu has sentenced a 32-year-old businessman, Tanko Abdullahi, to three months imprisonment for stealing the sum of N11,000 and clothes worth N34,000.

The police prosecutor, Mr. Andrew Zakari, told the court that on December 19, last year, the accused and his gang forced open a vehicle belonging to one Malam Abdulrahman Mohammed and took the money and clothing materials.

Zakari also told the court that Mohammed had parked his car outside the fence of the Wuse Market in the FCT, to purchase some items and that when

he came out of the market he saw the accused person and his friends in the act.

The prosecutor added that before Mohammed could call in the police the

## Farmer docked for attacking couple

**A** 21-year-old farmer, Ayuba Sunday, has appeared before an Abuja Chief Magistrate's court for allegedly stabbing a couple with a knife.

The police prosecutor, Mr. Sanni Yakubu, told the court that Sunday of Toge village in Abuja, was arrested on December 17, 2000, for attacking one Mr. Chijioke Christian and his wife also of the same village.

accused persons had taken off.

The accused person pleaded guilty to the charge but asked for leniency, saying that he has a wife and

## Police inspector escapes lynching by NEPA staff

**A** police inspector identified as C. Nimran reportedly escaped being lynched by NEPA officials for attempting to arrest one of them.

According to witnesses,

the inspector had chased a NEPA engineer, Mr. Chima Onyema, to the Abuja District Office of NEPA for allegedly obstructing traffic in the city.

The police inspector had trailed Onyema, who was accused of committing a traffic offence.

The NEPA staff had converged in the premises of the District Office and threatened to beat up three policemen if they insisted on arresting Onyema.

Some of the staff, shouted down the police, saying that they would have "beaten the inspector" had he effected the arrest.

However the quick intervention of a manager in the office saved the police from

four children to take care of in addition to his physical disability. The presiding Magistrate, however, gave him an option of N500.00 fine.

guilty to the charge and was granted bail in the sum of N10,000.00.

The case was adjourned to February 8, 2001 for further hearing.

## Court adjourns Abacha's suit against Oputa Panel

**T**he Federal High Court, Abuja, presided over by Justice Okechukwu Okeke, has adjourned to January 25, the hearing of the case of infringement of fundamental human rights brought by Mohammed Abacha against the federal government.

Also joined in the suit were the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa - led Human Right Violation Investigation Commission (HRVIC) and Prof. Femi Odekunle, former Political Adviser to Gen. Oladipo Diya.

Abacha's counsel, Alhaji Yunus Usman (SAN),

the wrath of the workers. The inspector had earlier said that the NEPA staff had recklessly driven his car on the busy Utako Express-

way and also refused to stop when ordered to do so. "He even abused us and so we followed him to his office," he added.

He told the court that the invitation of his client to the commission was null because the commission lacked the authority to intervene in cases between two citizens of Nigeria.

He sought a court declaration that "the HRVIC lacks jurisdiction to inquire into any complaint of breach of fundamental human rights made between two citizens," and that the power to do so was vested in State

NEPA officials later resolved the issue and Onyema was asked to apologise to the police.

High Courts by the constitution.

In a nine-paragraph affidavit in support of his case, Abacha denied ever brutalising or assaulting Odekunle during the reign of his father.

"I did not serve the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in any capacity during the tenure of my late father, and therefore, had no contact with the complainant," he said.

It would be recalled that the Ahmadu Bello University Sociology lecturer had told the Oputa Panel in Lagos that he was assaulted by Mohammed Abacha and others in connection with the 1997 alleged coup plot.

## Police cell overcrowded

**T**he police cell in Wuse, Zone 3, Abuja is reportedly overcrowded following a massive crackdown on criminals in the metropolis during the festive period.

According to Daily Trust investigation, the cell has over 20 detainees already serving various court orders awaiting transportation to Kuje prison in particular.

The detainees constitute those arrested for various criminal offenses during the Christmas, Sallah and New Year festivities.

Daily Trust gathered that the suspects could not be transported to Kuje prisons following the inability of the police authority to procure a driver for the "Black Maria" van needed to transport the suspects.

According to police sources, there are only four drivers within the Wuse Police Station to drive 8 police vehicles.

Meanwhile there are frantic efforts to arrange transportation for the detainees as a way to decongest the cell.

# Abuja News

## Beggars, Prostitutes invade Abuja

Stories by  
Musa Badamasi

Following the introduction of Sharia in some Northern states, Abuja the federal capital city is witnessing an influx of beggars, prostitutes, miscreants and all sorts of dregs.

Daily Trust reliably gathered that the usual brisk business for prostitutes and beggars is no longer tolerated in all the states where Islamic legal code has been introduced.

Already, various committee and enforcement bodies has commence operation in all the affected states to prosecute anybody caught in the practice of such outlawed vices.

It is this development that has made Abuja, the federal capital city the obvious target for all affected groups in view of the declaration that Abuja

is a 'no man's land' and a place where Sharia may never take effect.

In the day times beggars are on the streets and at major traffic junctions while during the nights prostitutes paraded themselves at various locations around the city.

Meanwhile, scores of new arrival beggars including those recently evacuated from the streets had returned to their businesses as they are usually seeing along with their wards begging for alms.

A drive along major roads like the Olusegun Obasanjo, Funmilayo and Yakubu Gowon streets within the metropolis revealed that the beggars usually clustered around vehicles at traffic junctions without minding the risk involved.

A senior official of the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory (MFCT) Department For Women Affairs and Social Develop-

ment, who did not want her name mentioned, said honestly we don't know where these beggars are coming from, adding that authorities

recently evacuated over 100 beggars from the streets. According to her, the beggars are coming to the capi-

tal territory in search of greener pastures and where they would make brisk business.

'You know we have no control over the borders of the FCT and we cannot monitor those coming into the city, as some of them

just board normal commercial vehicles' she said.

The official said that despite the weekly and daily surveillance and evacuation by the FCDA social welfare officials, the beggars still find their way back on the streets.



Beggars on Abuja street

Pix: Kennedy Egbonoje

### 100 years after:

## Fire Service still in doldrums

The absence of relevant training and educational institutions in the area of fire fighting operation has seriously affected positive development of Nigeria Fire Service since its inception 100 years ago.

Nigeria Fire Service Comptroller General Engineer Fidelis Ogbogoh disclosed this in exclusive chart with *Daily Trust*, saying that "the lack of training institution relevant to our operation has greatly affected our productivity."

He said that Fire Service, which started in Nigeria as a unit under Nigeria Police Force in 1901 and was later transferred to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, before it was finally moved in 1987 to Ministry of Works and Housing has suffered great negligence.

According to him, "this unfortunate development has denied Nigeria Fire Service expected capable and creditable manpower in it operation, because there is no concerted effort by the authorities to focus on the fire service system in the country.

He pointed out that the level of manpower presently operating in the Nigeria Fire Service is inadequate compare to the

population of Nigerians for adequate protection against fire outbreaks.

Engineer Ogbogoh postulate that "we need a coordinated policy under the platform of National Housing Policy to ensure that fire prevention mechanics become an inbuilt policy in designing and construction of various building in the country."

He disclosed that plans are underway to ensure that proper attention is given to fire service system in Nigeria whenever the 100 years anniversary of Fire Service

comes up later in the year.

"It is time, that we must transcend from fighting fire defensively to fighting fire offensively through a adequate training and professional education that will equip fire service men to make them effective" he said.



Comptroller General, Eng. Fidelis Ogbogoh

### CITY WATCH

## 'Quick business' in Abuja filling stations

It was 10 pm Tuesday night, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at Total Filling Station, opposite NNPC headquarters in Abuja, *City Watch* saw what could be describe as a brazen manifestation of what may fit into the definition of corruption.

While there appears to be a coherent orderliness on the part of motorists on queue, about three security guards wearing the badge of one security outfit who let in vehicles were audaciously demanding and collecting "toll fares" from motorists who lack the patience to wait on the queue.

When the vehicle *City Watch* was traveling in approached the filling station, it followed a line that at first seemed to be a second line and which was obviously very short. But as the vehicle approaches the barricade of the guards, one of them approached the driver and bluntly said: "Bring N100." *City Watch*, sitting beside the driver then asked: "Is there toll gate here?" As a reply, the security guard rolled a huge boulder across the passage and said to the driver; "Go join line"

But still not satisfied,

*City Watch* asked: "No be vehicles de just enter for this line?" The security guard did not even border to respond. He rolled more boulders and walked away saying; "Make I see how you go enter." In anger, the driver turned and went to the adjacent National Filling Station.

*City Watch* learnt that it is the normal practice in this filling station and some other ones as motorists flood the city from states bordering FCT.

And who says anti-corruption is not working, even in Abuja?

## Abuja varsity gets Medical School soon

University of Abuja has commenced plan to establish its medical school, if the on-going dialogue with Gwagwalada Special Hospital Management sail through.

The Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital Management under the chairmanship of Alhaji Abubakar Magaji had presented a proposal to the University on the joint establishment of a degree awarding school of Radiography.

Alhaji Abubakar disclosed that the Federal Ministry of Health had already given its blessing to the proposal and therefore urged the university to look into the issue.

He said the hospital has facilities for training far better than what obtained in some teaching hospitals in the country.

According to him, the university should start a medical school without delay and avail itself of the hospital's facilities for

the training of students.

The university vice-chancellor Dr. (Mrs.) Gambo Laraba Abdullahi commended the specialist Hospital's interest in the development of the university to enable it expand health services for the benefit of their environment and the society at large.

She said the university was already thinking, along similar lines but due to constraint imposed by the limitation on the mini campus had stalled the plan for now.

According to her, the two institutions can continue exploratory talks on areas that could be readily accommodated within the mandate of each of the parties.

She noted that the university's long term development plan included the establishment of a college of Health Sciences which would cover a much broader sphere of medicine, stressing that the plan could only be feasible when the university starts development on its permanent site.

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# Kucera hopes to rekindle Aussie Open feat

Ismaila Umaru Lere

As the Australian Open commences today in Melbourne, one player would be aiming to repeat the incredible feat that shock tennis world some three years ago.

Karol Kucera caused the biggest upset of 1998 Australian Open when he dismissed world number one and top-seed Pete Sampras 6-4, 6-2, 6-7, 6-3 in the quarter-finals of the tournament. The 26-year-old Slovak seems set to re-live history now that he has been drawn to play the American legend in the first round of the competition.

Sampras, more than anybody else would dread the pairing as he wouldn't have forgotten easily that humiliation.

As top seed and runaway favourite, Sampras was then bidding to add an 11th major to his collection and move within one Grand Slam title of Roy Emerson's record. Instead he was made to look ordinary by the man from Bratislava.

"Maybe we take these matches for granted... But he played as tough as nails and came up with the



Misery: Pete Sampras can't believe it as he sees his hopes nosedive against Karl Kucera at the 1998 Aussie Open. They face each other again today in the opening of Australina Open Grand Slam.

goods. My hat goes off for Kucera. He played a great match and it's not going to be easy to get over this. It's hard to accept right now because these are sort of

matches I've come through in the past," he said after the thrilling four-setter.

Sampras, as if to illustrate his demoralized state, added: It's easy for these



Kucera... savouring his moment of glory over Sampras in the quarter finals of the 1998 Australian Open

guys with nothing to lose to play me. It would be nice to be the underdog now and again."

Although Pistol Pete had appeared his usual self with regards to his recent sparkling form at the Colonial Classics and last year's ATP Championship, a supremely confident Kucera could make the game's best player look average.

Still the legendary American could find himself battling against his compatriot and long time rival Andre Agassi in the quarter-finals. The draw released last week showed that the two beacons are streamed

on the same pool and destined to clash as early as the round of 16. The draw also shows that top seed Gustavo Kuerten will be facing fellow South American Gaustine Gaudio of Argentina, while the number two seed Marat Safin takes on Spaniard Galo Blanco in the first round.

On the women's draw, world number one Martina Hingis bidding for her first Australian Open starts her campaign with the little known Hungarian qualifier Katerine Marosi and second seed Lindsay Davenport will battle against home-girl Jelena Dokic in the opening rounds.

## Dokic to quit Australia

(Continued from Back Page)

"I am scared very much what Australians will do to her. I am afraid there will be an incident if she plays well," he said.

He also suggested that the draw for the Australian Open had been rigged and his daughter was not drawn to play number two Lindsay Davenport in the first round, a claim Jelena also made last year.

"I think the draw is fixed just for her. If it is not, the country should protect its own player," he said.

"Jelena was crying for the first time ever last night. I have never seen her cry about tennis in her life and she was saying that she could not believe that she got that kind of draw in Australia.

"She feels betrayed. She feels that no one here likes her and when you feel like that it means you have no spaces here where you can just go.

"This is not a lightly taken decision. We were forced to do this and now she will always play for Yugoslavia.

"After this draw we don't have anything left here. We will move to Florida straightaway in one or two weeks. Now I must sell everything and leave this country. We are all very sad."

Damir was banned from the women's tour after he was forcibly removed from the U.S. Open in August for verbally abusing staff in the players' lounge.

In announcing the ban, the WTA Tour said his behaviour was detrimental to the game of tennis, its tour staff and events.

The Dokic family moved to Sydney from Belgrade in 1994 and Jelena quickly attracted interest from senior Australian tennis coaches because of her talent.

## Chilavert in conflict with Strasbourg

Controversial Paraguayan goalkeeper, Jose Luis Chilavert, is at loggerheads with French first division strugglers, Strasbourg, after refusing to be a replacement for Saturday's match at Bastia.

to make an impact in a poor side, conceding nine goals in six first-team appearances before the winter break.

Da Fonseca refused to comment on Chilavert's future in France.

"We will take a look at

the start of next week but there are no offers on the table at the moment," he said.

Nicolas Bonis, who plays for the Strasbourg reserve team, was named to replace Chilavert on the bench for the Bastia game.



Chilavert

Strasbourg coach, Yvon Poulinquen, named Christophe Eggmann as his starting goalkeeper with Chilavert on the bench but the Paraguayan said he would rather be fined than be a substitute.

"You can't imagine the impact on his image in South America if photos were published of him sitting on the bench for the bottom club in France," Chilavert's agent, Omar da Fonseca, told local newspaper L'Alsace.

"He doesn't want photos of him on the bench transmitting all over South America - where he is a star."

Goal-scoring goalkeeper Chilavert joined Strasbourg last year from Argentine side Velez Sarsfield but has struggled

### SCOREBOARD

#### English Premiership results

Arsenal 1,	Chelsea 1
Aston Villa 0,	Liverpool 3
Bradford City 0,	Man. United 3
Everton 0,	Tottenham Hot Spur 0
ManCity 0,	Leeds United 4
M'Boro 4,	Derby 0
Newcastle 3,	Coventry City 1
Southernos 0,	Charlton 0
Westham 0,	Sunderland 2

#### Nations Cup results

Nigeria 1,	Zambia 0
Madagascar 2,	Namibia 2
South Africa 1,	Mauritius 1
Tunisia 0,	Morocco 1
Kenya 2,	Gabon 1
Uganda 1,	Senegal 1
Algeria 2,	Burundi 1.

#### Italian Serie 'A' results

Fiorentina 4,	Milan 0
Brescia 1,	Perugia 0

#### Spanish League results

Barcelona 3,	Valladolid 1
Deportivo 2,	Valencia 0

### TOP OF THE WEEK (ENGLAND)





# SPORTS



## Agali 'chops' Chipolopolo

By Ismaila Umaru Lere

**U**ansa Rostock striker, Victor Agali marked his senior debut with a superb goal to help Nigeria beat Zambia 1-0 at Saturday's African Nations Cup qualifier in Lagos.

The 21-year-old forward, who many Nigerians tipped to become the next Rashidi Yekini continued his astronomical rise to international prominence when he scored in the 33th minute after collecting a neat pass from Finidi George. The lanky striker, who had a quiet game before then, unleashed a powerful grounder that beat Zambian keeper Collins Mbolu.

The first half opened in a lively exchange with skipper Sunday Oliseh, Austin Okocha and the outstanding Finidi dictating the pace. The Chipolopolo looked such an ordinary side that the star-studded Super Eagles could afford to do all the running and create the better chances. Ike Shorunmu in goal for Nigeria was virtually on holiday as he was made to only pick lame shots and loose balls. The Eagles squandered an early opportunity to shoot into the lead, when Algerian referee Baber Kamal awarded a spot kick after Zambia's Laughter Chilembi impeded Victor Ikpeba in an aerial contest inside the eighteen yard box. Okocha took the resultant kick and

blew it.

Winger Emmanuel Amunike, returning to the team after a long lay-off, came close to scoring in the 18th minute when his brilliant effort was cleared off the line by a Zambian defender. The game slumped into a lack-lustre fashion with neither side constructing any serious offensive play until Agali break the deadlock to revive spectators interest in the game.

Both sides played a more purposeful game in the second half with the Eagles looking more dangerous as they attack more adroitly. Nigeria could have increased the tally but for some ponderous finishing on several occasions, while the Zambians were limited to sporadic counter-attacks which was effectively curtailed by the trio of Taribo West, Isaac Okoronkwo and Godwin Okpara. Ifeanyi Udenze, the young debutant who plays his professional football in Greece had an impressive outing on the left full-back position. West and Okoronkwo, pairing each other for the first time, worked tirelessly at the rear to keep Denis Lota and Andrew Tembo at bay.

The wasteful Okocha did not only irritate fans with his prima donna attitude and silly shimmies and dummies, he also threw away several opportunities to put the game far beyond the slim margin. Second half substitutes Garba



**Axed... Austin Okocha was criticised by Dutch Coach Johannes Bonfrere for his show-boating.**

Lawal and Julius Aghahowa, who came in for Ikpeba and Agali respectively failed to convert some half chances late in the game.

Towards the end of the game the Zambians were reduced to ten men when Mamnase Mwanza received the marching orders for elbowing Tijjani Babangida to cap the visitors miserable afternoon.

The defeat has, undoubtedly, decimated the Chipolopolo who have now

recorded three defeats on the road in a spade of eight days. It leaves them stumbling towards elimination in the qualifying series. The Eagles, meanwhile, took a giant stride towards Mali 2002 African Nations Cup as the win placed it on top of Group 4 with seven points from three games, two ahead of Madagascar which drew 2-2 against Namibia at Windhoek.

## Bonfrere blames players for lack-lustre performance

By Owoidoho Otong

**T**emper frayed last Saturday between the Super Eagles technical adviser, Johannes Bonfrere and some Super Eagles players over an alleged act of sabotage in the Nations Cup qualifier against Chipolopolo of Zambia.

Bonfrere, who was near tears at the post match conference openly challenged some of the players for their below average performance.

Some of the players, who played a lack-luster match against a fledgling

Zambian side managing a slim 1-0 victory had come under Bonfrere's fire for what he termed deliberate 'selfish display of individual skill instead of teamwork' for better result.

Though Bonfrere praised skipper Sunday Oliseh who many thought was equally guilty of non-performance and Taribo West, the Dutchman was of the view that the players were simply acting out a script aimed at rubbishing his effort.

He was particularly piqued by Austin Okocha

who put every foot wrong through out the encounter including missing a penalty two minutes into the game.

The Dutchman observed that Okocha did not play poorly he even refused to mark as he also described Victor Ikpeba was loquacious.

Though some of these players responded they preferred to do so tacitly perhaps to avoid unnecessary public confrontation with the irate fans who had attempted to beat them up soon after the match but

## Eagles/Chipolopolo match records casualty

**P**olice fired bullets and teargas into the crowd which left one person dead after a rush to collect gift from corporate sponsors on Saturday's lack-luster game between Nigeria's Super Eagles and Chipolopolo of Zambia.

The incident, which occurred outside the main bowl of the National Stadium, Lagos two hours before the commencement of the game, followed a raffle draw organized by the sponsors to promote their product.

The Nigerian Football authorities had tightened security in and around the stadium following rumours that football fans plan to disrupt the match to register their displeasure over the recent rift between Eagles technical adviser Johannes Bonfrere and his assistants Shuaibu Amodu and Steven Keshi.

## Nigeria evens record with Zambia

**W**ith Saturday's victory over Zambia's Chipolopolo, the Super Eagles have now leveled up the scale against the East Africans in their record meetings since 1974 when they face clashed in the Egypt '74 African Nations Cup qualifying series. Then, the Zambians overwhelmed the Eagles 5-1 in Lusaka and lost the return leg in Lagos 3-2 yet qualified to the finals on goals aggregate rule. The records now stands at 5-2-5.

Nigeria was also drawn against Zambia in the opening stages of Ghana '78. The encounter ended goalless. But in 1982 in Libya Nigeria needed a draw to advance to the knock-out stages yet she suffered a humiliating 3-0 defeat. In 1986 the Zambians came to Lagos parading the likes of Effort Chabala, Stone Nyirenda, Wilson Chonsa and Kalusha Bwalya forced Eagles to a 0-0 draw and seal Nigeria's fate in Lusaka with a lone goal victory in the Nations Cup qualifier.

However, if the past belongs to the Mighty Zambians, the present definitely is Nigeria's. At Algiers '90, Nigeria defeated Zambia 2-0 in the semi-finals with goals from Uche

## Bida Lions may abandon league

By Akinade Adeniyi, Minna

**S**trangling cash-crunch may force proleague hopefuls, Bida Lions to abandon their aspirations and even its amateur league campaigns.

The Niger State flag bearers in the national amateur division one league *Trustsports* can authoritatively reveal is in dire financial incapacitation and may not be able to prosecute its league honours to logical conclusion.

Dependable sources hinted that the club might soon abandon the league because its sponsors, the Bida local government council has not been forthcoming with any fund for the running since the beginning of the season.

*Trustsports* scoped that the local council has adduced the payment of the new minimum wage to its staff as the reason for its inability to meet the obligation to the club.

We learnt that the club has survived thus far in the league because of the selfless financial contributions of two management committee members.

Currently, the Bida Lions is indebted to the tune of N100,000 to individuals, and organizations whose contributions augmented that of the committee members.

Confirming the dire financial state of the club, the secretary, Malam Abubakar Bala Mohammed said it was unfortunate but declined to give further details.

*Trustsports* recalled that Governor Abdulkadir Kure had approved N500,000 to the club this season. But whether the amount has been release has not been disclosed.

NIGERIA (4-4-2)	
Shorunmu; Okpara, Udenze, West, Okoronkwo; Oliseh, Finidi, Okocha, Amunike (Babangida 22); Agali (Aghahowa 45), Ikpeba (Lawal 73)	
ZAMBIA (4-4-2)	
Mbolu; Chilembi, Sichone, Mwenwa, Numba (Chipeta 47); Mlenzi, Lungu, Apemba, Mutanza; Tembo (Kiembe 65), Lota	
BOOKINGS: Mwanza (sent off), Chilembi, Mwenwa (Zambia) Okpara (Nigeria), REF: B. Kamal (Algeria)	
NIGERIA	ZAMBIA
52	48
13	5
6	2
18	15
MAN OF THE MATCH TARIBO WEST	

for the swift intervention of the security agents.

In spite of the dismal victory Nigeria maintains a lead in the group with seven points from three matches with Madagascar trailing in second place.

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South Africa's Quinton Fortune (right) in action against Togo. The Bafana Bafana were forced to a 1-1 draw at home by unfaced Mauritius on Saturday.



Lakers superstar, Shaquille O'Neal has been in a war of words recently with his bosom friend and team mate Kobe Bryant (inset) over the team's dwindling form.



Dynamic... Swiss tennis star, Martina Hingis defeated Lindsay Davenport on Saturday to win the Sydney International tournament. The world's number one is slated to play Hungarian Katerina Marosi in the Australian Open first round today.

## Dokic to quit Australia

Jelena Dokic, Australia's highest ranked women's tennis player, plans to play under the Yugoslav flag at the Australian Open before leaving her adopted country for good, a Sydney newspaper reported.

The 17-year-old, whose father, Damir is banned from attending her matches until March after a series of run-ins with women's tennis officials, told the Sun-Herald she and her family would leave Australia to live in Florida as soon as the tournament ended.

"I am playing under the Yugoslavian flag, not for Australia," she was quoted telling the newspaper. The tournament starts on Monday.

"It is a decision we have come up with and we have talked about it.

"If anybody has been attacked the way I am in the media they would feel the same way."

Dokic was born in Yugoslavia but moved to Australia with her family in 1994. She received a Yugoslav passport in Belgrade last November.

Australian Open officials did not return calls from Reuters but Monday's official order of play listed Dokic as representing Australia.

Her father said he had decided to move the family to the United States because of the way they had been treated by the media but was worried about how the crowd would react to the news.

*(Continued on Page 30)*

## Professor Nomau's travails, written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

**AREWA STATES UNIVERSITY LABORATORY**  
 PROFESSOR NOMAU HAS BEEN WORKING ON A FORMULA THAT WILL BOOST AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRY.

AFTER SEVEN YEARS OF RESEARCH HE HAS FINALLY COME UP WITH A DRUG.

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TO BE CONTINUED.