

DAILY TRUST

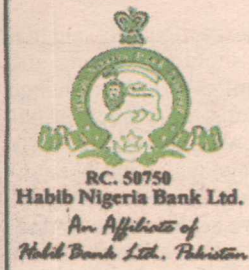
Trust Is A Burden

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MONDAY COLUMN

Sidi H. Ali on:

Re: Is Ironsi blameless?

Page 5

STAR INTERVIEW

NITEL's
privatisation may
yield \$2 billion

— el-Rufai

Page 16

NIGERIANS SPEAK ON THE FUTURE CONSTITUTION

Join **NJA** FOR
NETWORK SERVICE PROGRAMME

**FACT
FILE**

Every Tuesday
8:30PM



President Olusegun Obasanjo (r) and his Vice, Atiku Abubakar (l) putting heads together at the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting in Abuja... recently.
Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

50,000 displaced in Nasarawa

No fewer than 50,000 persons have been displaced from their homes in Nasarawa State following communal clashes between Hausa and Tiv communities in the state, the Nigerian Red Cross Society and International Committee of the Red Cross have announced.

They said in a statement at the weekend in Lagos that of the figure, 9,000 persons are now located in three camps at Daudu, Ukpam and Lafia while others had found refuge with friends and relatives.

They said that they carried out an assessment of the situation in the affected ar-

By Ahmed Shekarau, with
Agency Reports
eas to determine the immediate needs of the most "vulnerable of the displaced persons."

The state branches of the Nigerian Red Cross Society in Nasarawa and Benue have taken prompt care of the in-

jured by evacuating them to treatment centres and giving them water, food and dressing materials, they said.

The statement stated that materials like blankets, mats, buckets and soap would be made available to those in the camps.

contd. on pg 2

FG urged to conduct census

• New population policy underway

There has been an urgent call for Nigeria to conduct the next census without further delay.

The last census which put Nigeria's population at 88.9 million was conducted in 1991, while according to the UN, nations should conduct such exercise every 10 years to give a consistent update of

socio-economic data for planning and development.

The present population is about 110 million.

Rising from a two-day national workshop on sectoral strategies in Abuja, participants noted that since census is crucial to national development, its conduct was more imperative now and given the conducive political environment. "They said that although there had been noticeable economic growth measured by inment

contd. on pg 2

2002 WORLD CUP

Nigeria thrashes Sudan 4-0

By Isma'ila Lere and
Patrick Andrew

The Super Eagles yesterday brightened their chances of qualifying for next year's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

The Eagles crushed a hard-fighting Sudanese side by four unreplied goals with Maccabi Haifa striker Yakubu Aiyegbeni notching a couple.

Austin Jay Jay Okocha raised the curtain in the 40th minute after Joseph Yobo brilliantly laid a pass to the

PSG midfielder, who blasted home from 20 yards.

Before this goal, Nigeria had created several chances with Victor Agali and Aiyegbeni missing begging opportunities. Outstanding Julius Aghahowa was also denied by the woodwork in the 35th minutes.

Immediately after resumption for the second half, Aiyegbeni collected a pass from Ifeanyi Udenze and dusted two defenders in a solo run before tucking the ball behind the helpless Ahmed el-Nour in goal for

Sudan.

Thereafter, the Eagles completely took over proceedings with the trio of Okocha, Aiyegbeni and Finidi George making rings round the Sudanese defence. But Agali's poor marksman-

Lecturers' sack stalls FG, ASUU pact

The Federal Government Negotiation Team's failure to order the reinstatement of 75 lecturers sacked by their various universities for joining the strike embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) stalled the formal signing of the agreement between government and ASUU last Friday.

ASUU executives, who met with the government team, led by Professor Ayo Banjo, had insisted that government should order the University of Ilorin and University of Nigeria, Nsukka that sacked their lecturers to have them reinstated. The

ship could not convert the many chances that were created.

The Sudanese led by Joseph James, Mustapha el-Khaled, Mohammed Bastawi and Richard Johnson re

contd. on pg 2

By Patrick Andrew

lecturers lost their jobs because they refused to call off the strike and resume work as ordered by the university authorities.

Instead of issuing clear-cut directives, *Daily Trust* learnt that Professor Banjo simply wrote "I am directed to write to you to review the cases of those lecturers whose services were terminated during the ASUU strike," a statement said to be vague and bereft of the fact necessary to compel compliance.

ASUU, which met with the Senate President Anyim

contd. on pg 2

REJOINER

RE:CAVEAT EMPTOR ON PROPERTY COVERED BY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY NO. LKN/RES/95/2422 SITUATE ALONG DAN BAKATSINE ROAD NASSARAWA GRA, KANO.

My attention has been drawn to a recent publication dated 21/6/2001 in the *New Nigerian* Newspaper in respect of the above subject matter. This publication so far is the fourth (4th) since the beginning of this matter which is now pending before Honourable Court No. 2 Suit No. K/430/2000 Holden at Kano. It was my humble opinion to ignore them (in the light of the English proverb relating to silence and fools) the first and even the subsequent publications made by the Untactful, and "illiterate" defence lawyer Bala Na'Allah and his client Lt. Colonel Dan Asabe (DISMISSED) especially as the matter was subjudice.

But it appears out of their arrogance and serious disregard for Court procedures they opted for these publications. My opinion was that if the so called "illiterate" lawyer was good enough he should have retrieve back his client's property through a legitimate way i.e. (the court), unless perhaps if he is not confident of himself or the court itself. Good lawyers are known for "fight" in court rooms not in pages of newspapers. Cheap blackmail will NEVER EVER intimidate or scare I, Barrister Ibrahim Ahmed Badamsi Babangida Babale. For the avoidance of any doubt; buying, selling and developing properties is my BUSINESS and I reserve the right to either buy from and or sell to anybody I feel like. And if I have sold the property in question to anybody while this case is pending before the Honourable Court, I feel if Bala Na'Allah (the illiterate lawyer) is good enough, all he needs to do is to call the attention of the Honourable Court and then commit me for contempt of court but not publish it in the pages of newspapers.

My candid and honest advise for Bala Na'Allah the "illiterate" lawyer is to please DUST his books and meet me in the court room. Cheap blackmail is not likely to help him.

SIGNED
IBRAHIM AHMED BABALE
IBRAHIM BABALE & CO.
(SOLICITORS & ADVOCATES)
99, ZOO ROAD, KANO.

Israel raids Syrian positions

Israeli warplanes struck a Syrian anti-aircraft position in eastern Lebanon yesterday, two days after Hizbollah guerrillas wounded at least one Israeli soldier in a rocket attack in a disputed border area.

One Lebanese and two Syrian soldiers were reported wounded in yesterday's air raid, Lebanese military officials said the Syrian backed Hizbollah swiftly responded by firing at Israeli positions in the disputed Shebaa Farms, witnesses said, while Israeli artillery in turn shelled the Lebanese border town of Kfar Shouba, wounding at least one person, hundreds of other people fled their homes.

The shelling, which also hit the nearby town of Shebaa,

contd. on pg 2

NEWS

50,000 displaced *contd. from pg. 1*

"This operation is in complement to the crucial role of the authorities to provide them with security, food, health and medical assistance," the statement said.

It called for support from individuals, organisations

and corporate bodies to assist the needy.

The recurring communal clashes followed the assassination of the Special Adviser to the Nasarawa State Governor on Special Duties, Alhaji Musa Ibrahim along-

side six others three weeks ago.

Late Musa Ibrahim, a Kambari man, who until his death doubles as the Chief of Azara, in Awe Local Government Area in the Southern Senatorial District of the

Israel *contd. from pg. 1*

ended after about an hour, but Israeli warplanes continued to circle low over the area and over other towns in south Lebanon, and broke the sound barrier as far north as Beirut.

Witnesses and Hizbollah said its fighters had hit an Israeli radar installation in Shebaa Farms, setting it on fire.

Earlier, other witnesses said Israeli aircraft had targeted a Syrian radar site and anti-aircraft guns near Serain, south of the ancient Roman town of Baalbek in the strategic Bekaa Valley, where Syria has a large concentration of the more than

20,000 troops it deploys in Lebanon.

A Reuters correspondent said two radar antennae had been destroyed and the hills on which they sat were scorched black, sending acrid plumes of smoke into the sky. Blackened pieces of a truck and electrical equipment were scattered about.

"I heard three explosions, then I saw a ball of fire and black smoke," said a woman living near the site, pointing at windows shattered by the explosions.

Syrian and Lebanese troops were seen digging into bunkers near the anti-aircraft guns, which were

undamaged.

It was the most serious Israeli strike on Syrian force: in Lebanon since April, when Israel killed at least three Syrian soldiers in a strike on another radar position after a Hizbollah attack in Shebaa that killed one Israeli soldier.

"The Bekaa is a broad and fertile valley which, from a Syrian viewpoint, is a natural invasion route to Damascus.

In Jerusalem, Israel confirmed the attack and described it as part of its policy of making Syria pay for the actions of the Hizbollah fighters it backs.

Eagles *contd. from pg. 1*

sions stood against them and a possible goal.

Midway into the second half, Arsenal lanky forward Nwankwo Kanu, came in to replace in-effective Agali. His presence added bite to the Eagles attack, as he was instrumental to Eagles third goal in the 80th minute through brilliant Julius Aghabowa.

Not done yet, the Eagles added the fourth goal through Aiyegbeni barely two minutes away from termination of proceedings.

And they were at the verge of adding a fifth goal, after Kanu made a mince-meat of the Sudanese defence and was brought down on the process by el-Nour, but the centre referee turned a blind eye.

Meanwhile, Nigeria's hope for qualification was further boosted with the defeat of the Lone Stars of Liberia in Monrovia by the Black Stars of Ghana.

The Ghanaians overwhelmed their hosts by 2-1 to pave the way for the

Eagles to top group B with 13 points, one point ahead of Liberia, whose chances of qualifying seem unlikely.

The signs look ominous for the home side early on when after a period of pressure Sturm Graz striker Charles Amoah opened the scoring for Ghana after 23rd minute.

Kelvin Sebwe dragged back the deficit a minute before the break and before Isaac Boakye shattered the hopes of the 36,000-strong home crowd with his 60th minute strike.

state, was allegedly slain by Tiv assassins at about 8:30 a.m. on June 12, 2001, while on his way to Lafia, the state capital for official duties.

Though the assassins and reasons for the act still remain uncertain, *Daily Trust* learnt that the late Chief's assassination followed over one year of shrewd scheming by the murderers.

Daily Trust also learnt that the impending clashes resulting from the murder incident have been generated by the decapitation of the late paramount ruler which is said to have irked the Chief's subjects.

Meanwhile, the Nasarawa State Governor, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu has held series of meetings with his Benue State counterpart, Mr. George Akume and the respective executive and security councils of the two states, trying to find lasting solution to the crises.

At an early meeting held at Kadarko, a town along the border between the two states, the two governors resolved to embark on a joint visitation and patrols of the affected areas.

About two weeks after the consultative meeting however, neither the governors nor a delegation from any of executive and security councils of the two states visited the areas, even as the clashes deepened within the last two weeks.

Moreso, the police have not been detailed to rove around the affected areas. The Public Relations Officer of the Nasarawa State Command, Mr. Sunday Audu Peter told journalists in Lafia that the situation is too dicey for police to handle.

FG *contd. from pg. 1*

growth measured by increases in Gross National Product (GNP), the growth had not translated into socio-economic development.

"The various programmes on poverty eradication should be implemented and sustained to bring about improved quality of life to Nigerians," they said.

They noted that the implementation of some of the targets set in the National policy on population programme, formulated 13 years ago, had not been effective because they were over-ambitious.

The lack of effective co-operation and collaboration among stakeholders have apparently resulted in waste of resources and duplication of efforts, they said.

Consequently, government should hasten the current review of the policy and come up with a realistic and effective institutional ar-

rangment for the implementation of the population policy and programmes, they said.

The participants said that there should be strong and determined efforts to change the status of women in Nigeria, while the issue of early marriage which has been infringing on women's reproductive health and reproductive rights, should be addressed more vigorously.

Application of population programmes should also be designed and implemented to meet the peculiar needs of the various communities in the country, they said.

Meanwhile, as Nigeria awaits a newly 're-invigorated' national policy on population, the body reviewing the 13-year old document is to go round the country to obtain final inputs from stakeholders.

ASUU *contd. from pg. 1*

Pius Anyim last Tuesday declined to sign the agreement insisting that unless their colleagues were reinstated the industrial action would not be suspended.

At the Tuesday meeting, Senate President Anyim had sympathised with ASUU practically on all demands.

Anyim, *Daily Trust* learnt, lamented the paltry remuneration of lecturers and consequently prevailed on the government to review upward the 22 per cent salary increment to 30 per cent.

The Senate President convinced ASUU of the sincerity of government to oblige to their demands by

publicly announcing the resolve of the Appropriation Committee to approve without deduction the N5 billion requested by government specifically for ASUU.

Armed with these and the appeals of the public, ASUU had met with the government team bent on sealing the deal but the case of the sacked 75 lecturers became the cog in the wheel.

However, both parties met yesterday in Abuja where a positive decision was expected to have been taken for a possible resolution of the problem and eventual suspension of the three-month old strike.

The Debate Continues

Daily Trust will on Thursday, July 5, 2001, publish the first of the three debates which is 2003: Should IBB stand?

The other two topics:

2. STRIKES: Who is to blame, Government or Labour?

3. NAIRA OR LIRA: Should our national currency be allowed to find its level?

will be published on a later date. Your contributions to these national debates are still being awaited. Write today and let others know your point of view.

Only in your *Daily Trust*.

NEWS

Kaduna state to recruit more lawyers

Kaduna State is to recruit more lawyers as part of its efforts to ensure the quick dispensation of justice and protect the dignity and freedom of man in the state.

The Acting Governor of the state, Mr. Stephen Shekari made the disclosure at the weekend while declaring open a two-day conference of the national executive of Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Zaria.

He also said that the state's Ministry of Justice had completed arrangements for the establishment of a special unit to cater for the legal needs of the weak and the poor in the society.

Shekari commended the NBA executives for embarking on a house cleaning aimed at fishing out bad eggs in the association. He, however, charged members of NBA to support the ongoing fight against corrupt-practices in public and private organizations in

the world.

Speaking earlier, the National President of NBA, Mr. C.J. Okocha commended the Kaduna state government for restoring peace and tranquility to the state. He urged individuals and groups irrespective of their religious or geographical backgrounds

to maintain the tempo of the current peaceful coexistence in the state, saying that the protection of the country's democracy should be a collective effort of all Nigerians.

Okocha, however, reminded the government that the only way the people

could feel the dividends of democracy was through the provision of water, electricity, good roads, security and other essential services.

The Zaria chairman of NBA, Alhaji Idris Ibrahim had earlier stated that the Zaria branch of the association had since its inception remained alive to the responsibilities in protecting people's rights.

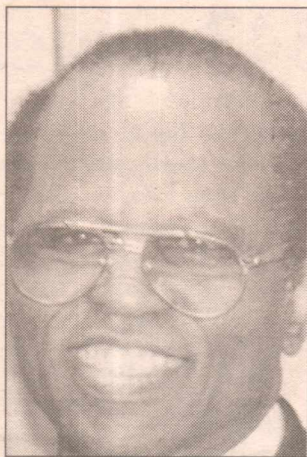
CBN approves two licences for Islamic banking – Usman

The Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman announced in Abuja at the weekend that the Federal Government had approved two licences for the establishment of Islamic banking in the country.

Usman who spoke on the "legal and regulatory issues of Islamic banking in Nigeria," at the international seminar on Islamic financial system, said that although the licences were issued in 1992, "none has been able to

start operations."

He argued that the



Mr. Joseph Sanusi

introduction of the Islamic monetary policy could affect the existing structures and activities of conventional commercial banks, "the most important being the prohibition of the payment and receipt a fixed rate of interest, which is replaced by profit and loss sharing arrangements."

He noted that effective supervision of banks was as necessary and desirable in Islamic banking as it was in conventional banking in many ways, including the requirement that banking operations should be carried out according to laid down procedures.

He listed the inadequate supply of trained manpower, absence of Islamic accounting and auditing standards, the lack of analysis on profit and loss schemes, and the difficulties in cash management, as some of the challenges facing the establishment of Islamic banking in the country.

The CBN boss further contended that Islamic banking in a mixed economy like Nigeria faced the problem of forfeiting interests on its deposits in the apex bank, while the commercial institutions would receive such interests. He said that some of the inhibitions had been removed by other countries that introduced Islamic banking through the introduction of new accounting standards, creation of a unit in the CBN to cater for the specific needs of the Islamic financial institutions.

N29m bank fraud: Manager arrested

The police in Adamawa State have arrested a branch manager and an accountant (names withheld) of one of the leading banks in the country in connection with a N29 million fraud.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Samuel Adewuyi, who confirmed this to *Daily Trust* in Yola, said that a crack team of police detectives are conducting a thorough investigation over the case.

Daily Trust gathered that the two bankers were arrested when an officer of the affected bank alerted the police on the alleged fraud. The officer, *Daily Trust* learnt, raised the alarm when he discovered that the N29 million was missing in the overall accounts of the bank's branches in his area of jurisdiction.

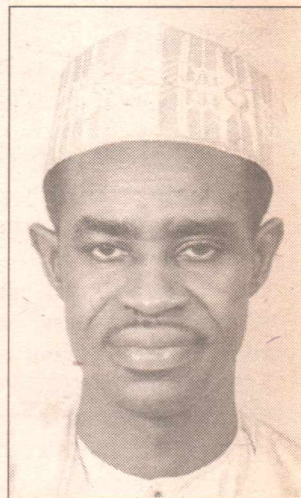
He reported the people he was suspecting to the state police command, giving detailed information on his allegations.

When they were arrested, the two bankers told the police that they gave the money as loans facilities to some influential customers of the bank.

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, in Yola

However, when the said influential customers were contacted, they denied ever receiving such loans from the bank. *Daily Trust* further learnt that so far, the police have been unable to trace the money.

But the deput



Gov Boni Haruna

commissioner of police said that the police would not relent on their efforts until they unravel the whole mystery surrounding the alleged fraud. When *Daily Trust* correspondent visited the bank where the alleged fraud allegedly occurred, the staff remained tight-lipped over the matter.

The Benue State government has designated the refugee camp for displaced Tiv people which is situated at Torkula, in Guma Local Government Area, as a transit point from where the refugees were being evacuated daily.

The Chairman of the Refugee Relief Task-Force set up by the Benue government, Mr. Bartholomew Oche, disclosed this to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Mairi last Friday.

Oche who is also the Secretary to the Benue State government, said that Torkula town was chosen because of its nearness to the flash points. According to him, more than 58,000 Tiv people displaced from the neighbouring Nasarawa

Communal clashes: BNSG establishes refugee transit point

State, had so far been registered in two other refugee camps at Daudu and Uikpam camps.

The camps are in St. Francis Primary School,



Gov Akume

Daudu and the Local Education Authority Primary School, Uikpam, about 20 kilometres from Makurdi. Already, pupils of the two primary schools have been sent on compulsory holiday to make way for the refugees. NAN correspondent who visited the refugees at Daudu and Uikpam on Friday reports that the camps were in deplorable conditions.

The leader of the medical team in Uikpam camp, Dr. Alex Aida, said that top on the list of the refugees' complaints were malaria, diarrhoea, skin infection and some cases of malnutrition.

Sokoto, Kebbi governors assure Shagari of cooperation

The new Minister of Water Resources, Alhaji Mukhtari Shagari, has been assured of full cooperation by the governors of Sokoto and Kebbi States, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa and Alhaji Adamu Aliero respectively.

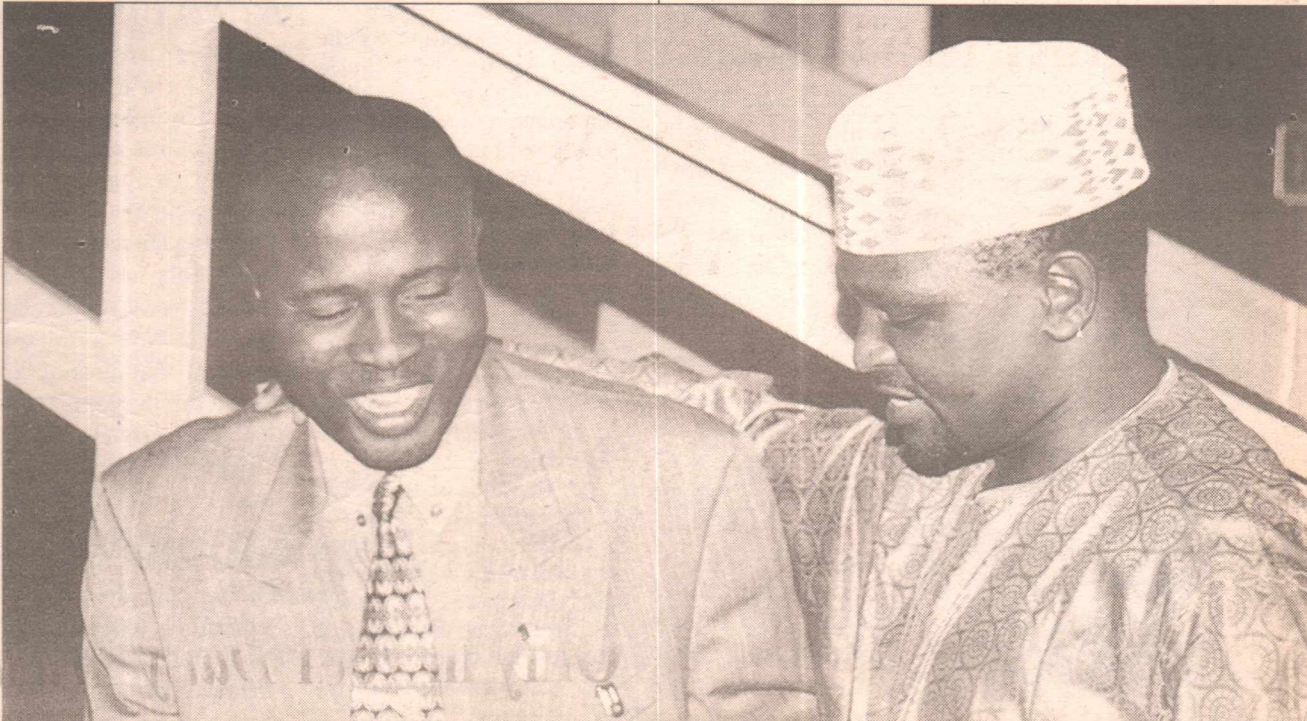
The assurance came when the two governors came together as the first official visitors to congratulate the new minister and to pledge their full support to him in his new national assignment.

Casting aside political differences, the governors eulogised the humility, honesty and industry of Alhaji Mukhtari.

They said the minister has

been their dependable associate on various fronts over the years and emphasised that what is uppermost in their minds is that they should all work together for the betterment of their people.

Responding, the minister thanked the governors for their support and stressed the need to play constructive politics devoid of bitterness. He stated that "people are bound to belong to different political parties but since all political parties are centred around the improvement of the welfare of the people, this common goal should submerge other differences which may deter progress and including the welfare of the people they are meant to serve.



Major Hamza Al-Mustapha embracing his counsel, Ishaya Adebawale for a job well-done at the Oputa Panel recently.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde

NEWS

Obasanjo's election not a mistake - Ciroma

Finance Minister, Malam Adamu Ciroma, during the weekend declared that there was no mistake, whatsoever by the north, for electing a southerner, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, as the nation's president.

Malam Adamu Ciroma who also canvassed for a second term for President Obasanjo, said the 1999 presidential election which saw the emergence of Chief Obasanjo was never a mistake but a deliberate action taken to foster unity and sustenance of Nigeria as a united nation.

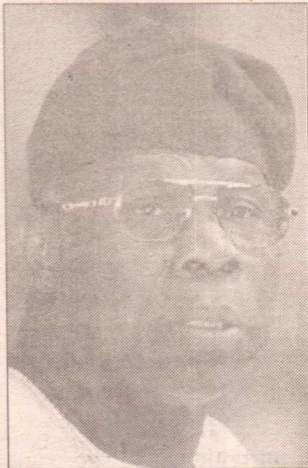
Speaking at the flagging-off of the North-East zone rally of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at Damaturu, Yobe State capital, the Finance Minister argued that the emergence of Obasanjo was a result of the rotational arrangement endorsed by the PDP, in fulfilment of the decision reached at the 1994/95 constitutional conference.

According to him, the North has held power for a long time, from the reign of Alhaji Shehu Shagari to General Abdusalam

From Suleiman Mohammed, in Damaturu

Abubakar, a situation, which he said, made it mandatory for the North to allow the South to also produce a president.

"Therefore, we felt it's mandatory on us (the North) to honour such arrangement for the unity of this country, for justice and fairness," he declared, stressing that President Obasanjo should be allowed a second term, after which power would



President Obasanjo

The Federal Ministry of Water Resources has not met the expectations of President Obasanjo and Nigerians in the provision of potable water and sanitation, the Minister of State for Water Resources, Chief Precious Ngelale, has said.

In his address at the second meeting with chairmen of boards and heads of paratats under his ministry at the Sheraton Hotels and Towers, Abuja recently the minister said the ministry could not "translate the huge investments in

We have not done well - Minister of state

financial terms in the sector into concrete results measured in terms of percentage coverage in water supply and sanitation."

Making reference to what is believed to be recent ministerial change that also affected his ministry, and meetings held with President Obasanjo, Chief Ngelale noted that the events by sheer nature have tended to put the ministry in bad light and "we see these events as major challenges of our time and a clarion call to

action."

The ministry, he said, received a total appropriation of N2.5 billion in the 2001 supplementary budget which the budget office of the federation shared at variance with the priorities of the ministry. Therefore, in their subsequent meeting with the Senate, Chief Ngelale said, priorities had to be redrawn to fully support and implement rural water supply programmes.

NGO recovers 1,543 stolen vehicles

About 1,543 stolen vehicles have been recovered through the collaborative effort of the Nigerian Insurers Association (NIA), the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) and Rotary International in the last 12 months. The NIA/NPF/Rotary International initiative, which has resulted in the non-governmental body known as Vehicle Recovery Organisation (VRO) has also made it possible for some insurance companies to retrieve recovered vehicles insured with them under motor

vehicle insurance policy.

Speaking on the activities of the VRO on Thursday in Lagos, the Executive Secretary of NIA, Rev. Funmi Adeyemi, said that over 7,600 recovered vehicles were being processed by the NIA for release to their owners or insurers, while efforts were on to recover another 17,000 vehicles.

Adeyemi, who told the NIA governing council at the association's annual general meeting, disclosed that the Nigeria police authorities had given the VRO access to all the 100 police stations and other formations in Lagos State. He remarked that this was to enable the VRO record the registration, chassis and engine numbers of vehicles in its custody with the identities of the owners of the recovered vehicles.

On the upsurge in motor theft in the country, the insurer said the rate of theft had risen from 19 insured vehicles per month in 1998



Mr. Smith, Police IG

to 44 insured vehicles per month last year. Adeyemi, recalled that the attention of the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) had been drawn to the unhealthy development at a meeting

between him and a delegation of NIA at Abuja on March 20, this year.

"We also drew the attention of the IGP to the delay being experienced at police stations in the release of recovered stolen vehicles," he said.

The NIA executive secretary said the police boss

had assured the association that the force would evolve a fool-proof procedure for the release of recovered vehicles in the near future.

Adeyemi, however, urged all insurance companies to impress it upon their motor insurance policy holders to install security devices in order to facilitate the recovery of such vehicles in the event of theft.

Northerners have offended God - Islamic scholar

Kaduna-based Islamic preacher, Sheikh Tureta, at the weekend said northerners had offended God by conceding the country's presidency to the south.

Tureta made the remarks, while delivering a lecture on "Politics, politicians and Islam," in Matazu, Katsina State, during the launching of a book: "Yabon Gwani," written by Alhaji Lawal Mamman.

He said politicians in the

north had committed a serious mistake by giving the presidential ticket to the southerners. "We should, therefore, have a rethink, repent, and ask for forgiveness from the Almighty Allah," he said.

Also speaking, the Senate Leader, Alhaji Mohammed Liman, urged both the electorate and elected officials in the country to "fear God and always remember the day of judgement."

In his address, a former Environment Minister, Alhaji

Sani Zango Daura, said all worldly materials would be left behind, while everybody shall be made to account for his deeds on earth before God.

The state Governor, Alhaji Musa Yar'Adua, and the state PDP Chairman, Alhaji Kabir Daudawa, pledged to continue more development projects, in line with the manifesto of the party.

Importers smuggle goods through bush paths at Seme

Importers have taken advantage of the strict enforcement of laws at the ports and the attendant congestion at the nation's ports to bring in goods into the country through the Seme border near Badagry in Lagos State.

An investigation by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) revealed that importers now prefer to pay security officials and bring in their cargoes through the bush paths in Seme. A senior staff in one of the law enforcement agencies at the border, who preferred anonymity told NAN that "attention has shifted to the bush paths near the Customs baggage, due to the inability of the importers to pay the high duties."

A member of the Seme chapter of the Association of Nigerian Licensed Customs Agents (ANLCA) told NAN that "the importers now make use of the bush paths to beat the high duties demanded by the Customs operatives at the baggage," adding, "a

truck load of goods which attracts N4 million duty at the baggage only costs N700,000 through the bush."

The clearing agent disclosed that he had earlier been contracted by the

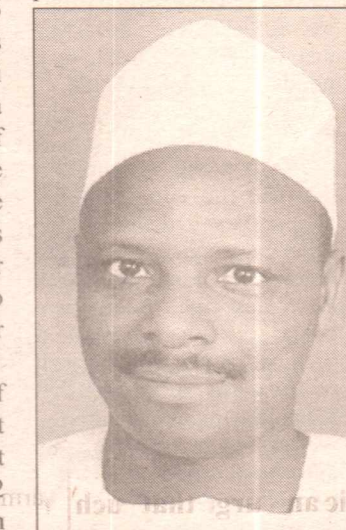
importers to clear a total of 25 trucks but was surprised to hear that 22 out of the number (25) were cleared through the bush paths, thereby robbing the Federal Government of a sizeable percentage of its revenue.

Kano Line requires N20m to reactivate vehicles

The Kano State Transport Company, Kano Line requires about N20 million to reactivate 16 vehicles in its fleet, its Managing Director, Alhaji Aminu Tofa, has said. Tofa told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) during the weekend, that most of the vehicles in the company's fleet had overstayed their lifespan and could no longer be used for transport business.

He said that in spite of the fact that the defunct Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund (PTF) spent N12 million on the reactivation of 10 broken-down buses

and the purchase of 12 new ones between 1998 and 1999, they were missed by his predecessors. He said that



Gov Kwankwaso

when he took over the company in April last year, it was discovered that the firm was initially set up as an adhoc company, which led to its collapse.

The managing director said that he inherited an empty treasury, with only six serviceable buses in the company's fleet, adding that all the firm's facilities, including telephone, electricity, water, and others were non-functional, while the staff were not paid for over three months. He said that a few weeks after he assumed office, all staff claims were settled, while the number of buses in the fleet rose from the initial six to 21.



Gov Makarfi

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Stop this intolerable refugee crisis

As the world marked the United Nations-declared Refugee Day on the 18th of June, news filtered in that a Swedish registered cargo ship the *MV Alnar* had been stranded off the West African coast with about 250 Liberian refugees: The result of another flare up in the Liberian civil war.

Some enterprising Liberian middlemen who had received 75 US dollars from each of the passengers commandeered the cargo ship which had been ironically working for the World Food Programme in Liberia. The Swedish captain of the ship, Henning Kielberg claimed that the Liberian businessmen threatened him with detention if he refused their bidding. After negotiating for six days, the ship then set sail on June 1 for Tema in Ghana. And that was the beginning of the refugees' nightmare.

The four-week ordeal on the high seas took the ship to Benin and Togo after it was turned away from Ghana. At each stop, the ship was not allowed to berth, or its hapless occupants to disembark. The ship went through rough weather and at a point it ran out of fuel, water and food. "For one week there was no food, no water or medical care. Some of us even had to drink salt water from the sea to survive. People were falling sick and the situation was deteriorating as the days passed by", one of the refugees told newsmen after they disembarked at the Apapa port last Tuesday.

The 156 refugees were taken to the refugee camp in Oru near Ijebu-Igbo in Ogun State. The camp itself was a disused refugee camp for Liberian refugees and was closed about four years ago after elections in that war-ravaged country, brought the former warlord Charles Gyanke Taylor to power. Now the camp has come alive, thanks to the fresh outbreak of fighting between Liberian government forces and a new set of rebels opposed to Taylor's rule in Lofa county.

According to the refugees, some of them are being hounded down, accused of collaborating with the rebels. Some said they were escaping prosecution and conscription into the Liberian army. "The Liberian government is hunting students. The government has accused us of collaborating with dissidents and we are being persecuted", one of the seven students among the refugees told the press.

As tragic as the conditions of the refugees appear, the phenomenon is becoming a permanent feature. A catalogue of immense human suffering occasioned by man-made strife in the West African sub-region. The civil strife in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau and Senegal have combined with the abysmal poverty in the region to create one of the worst human tragedies in the world.

More revolting is the attitude of the leaders in these countries who rather than reverse the trend, tend to compound it through their inordinate desire to cling to power by using all means, mostly foul, to eliminate any form of dissent and opposition.

Daily Trust believes the newly formed African Union should champion the policy of eliminating such civil strife. In this respect, we commend the recent efforts made by Libya and some African countries to foil the attempted coup in the Central African Republic and urge that such an intervention force be made a permanent feature to stem the intolerable tide of refugees.

MONDAY COLUMN

Re: Is Ironsi blameless?

By Sidi H. Ali

The *Daily Trust* issue Vol. 1 No. 76 of May 28, 2001 carried a very interesting article by one Aisha Umar-Yusuf titled, "Is Ironsi blameless". Her write up is excellent and a great source of historical values. I have no doubt this lady is up to date. I salute her. But since she made an interesting request, I would like to expatiate on her question.

I am already making a historical presentation to Arewa Consultative Forum to allow me be part of the team that may make a presentation if the Oputa Committee agrees to its request to reply some of the accusations made against the North by the Chukwumerijes and Nwodos.

For Hajiya Aisha Umar-Yusuf, I would expatiate on her question this way, to begin with. Historians will for a long time continue to debate whether what happened in Nigeria on 15th January, 1966 was a rebellion, a coup or a mutiny. One thing is certain and indisputable, it was a change of government and the civilian administration was removed from office.

The change of government was generally welcomed by the Nigerian public. The country sighed a breath of relief from months of tension and crisis. The change was welcomed in the hope that the country could expect a better administration from whichever government emerged on 16th January, 1966.

In the operations of 15th January, 1966, two separate strands emerged. There were, among the leaders of the coup, those who appeared to be genuinely concerned for the welfare of the country. There were others who saw in the desire for change, an opportunity to pursue tribal rivalries. The two lines crossed each other in the events of 15th January, 1966. The army itself was divided.

Yet there was an atmosphere of general relief immediately after the coup of 15th January, until the pattern of killings which emerged, when the dust cleared, created the impression that these were the civilian leaders and senior military officers from areas and ethnic groups other than the Ibo. All non-Ibo senior military officers above the rank of major who were accessible were killed in the January 15 coup. There was only one exception to this, when an Ibo officer was killed in Apapa for refusing to hand over the keys to the armoury.

Major-General J. T. U. Aguiyi-Ironsi established a federal military government

after January 15. He promised to restore law and order, to put down what he described as a mutiny, to deal with corruption and to restore civilian rule 'as soon as practicable'.

The opportunities of January 15 were misused by the Ironsi government in the months that followed. For a while every Nigerian hoped that the country would go on to achieve greater progress in its development generally. Unfortunately, Ironsi allowed matters to be taken out of his hands by prominent Ibo leaders in the army, the public service and public life. Affairs in the public service and the armed forces appeared to lend credence to the impression that the coup of January 15 was designed to install Ibos in positions of power. Out of twenty-one promotions in the army on April 12, 1966, for example, eighteen were officers of Ibo ethnic group. General Ironsi also drew his principal advisers from the same ethnic group.

Although public inquiries were instituted into the conduct of certain public officers, some of these men remained in positions of power. The public was disenchanted. In the army itself, there was resentment about officers killed in the January 15 coup. Non-Ibo officers and other ranks felt displeased at the killing of officers from their own ethnic groups, while those from the Ibo ethnic group were spared.

Major-General Ironsi did little or nothing to answer this resentment which was widespread in the army. In the North, in particular, incautious statements and public attitudes by Ibo leaders heightened tension between native communities and Ibo settlers.

There were continued reports that January 15, 1966 was inconclusive and that plans were afoot to 'complete them' by the removal of more non-Ibo officers.

Chief Awolowo, Tony Enahoro and many leaders

of the opposition remained in prison whereas it was freely said that some Yoruba officers joined in the coup for the purpose of securing their release.

The Ironsi government turned down advice designed to reduce tension and consistently relied on advice of highly placed Ibo officers to help his administration, but only to promote the interests of the Ibo ethnic group.

In the North, after January 15, the people adopted an attitude of 'wait and see'. In several parts, especially Kano, Katsina and Zaria, some of the ex-ministers of the government of the former Northern Region had been molested and jeered at on their return to their provinces.

A particular minister from Kano rose one day and saw a heap of rubbish in front of his house because of his perceived anti-Kano posture. Things soon changed when people felt Ironsi could do nothing or did not intend to do anything. The attitude of Ibo tailors seemed hostile and provocative.

An article and pictures appeared in the Nelson Otta-edited *Drum Magazine* which portrayed the late Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello being questioned and whipped in his grave.

Ibos bought copies of that magazine and delighted in showing it to Northerners, telling them 'this is your god'. This created resentment and fear in the minds of ordinary people.

There was a feeling that as far as the North was concerned, the situation was 'hopeless'. All advice to the Ironsi government to rectify the situation was ignored.

There were related issues in which university students of Northern origin in the United Kingdom, Ibadan, Lagos, Zaria and Kano, ex-politicians and civil servants were involved. In February 1966, the students in the newspapers wrote in the federal, and not a unitary, form of government was suitable for Nigeria. This was carried on to the civil

servants, particularly in the North, who became apprehensive and convinced that there was a preconceived plan to force through the unification of the civil service, come what may.

This was the state of affairs in the country generally, and in the North in particular, when the unification decree was announced by Major-General Ironsi on 24th May, 1966. The decree (Decree No. 34), a major constitutional and political step which, contrary to traditional practice, had not been widely discussed, announced the dissolution of political and tribal parties and other measures. But the fateful words in the announcement were: 'the regions are abolished'. This caused great disquiet in all parts of the country and the May 29 disturbances in the North in which a number of Ibos were killed was one of the results.

There was an uneasy calm after the May disturbances. The governor of the then Northern Region in co-operation with the Native Authority administration did all that was possible to put down more disturbances and hostilities against both the Ironsi government and people of Ibo origin who were resident in the North. But there was political uncertainty as to the future of Decree No. 34 and widespread tension and mutual suspicion in the army. Regular channels of communication were being deliberately by-passed by the Ironsi government in the transmission of instructions. Military officers of Ibo ethnic group had advance information about vital matters of state while superior officers (from other ethnic groups) were kept in the dark. Then there was the sudden decision by Ironsi that he would rotate the military governors and appoint military prefects, even after this had been discussed and rejected as inopportune by the Supreme Military Council.

Amid all these, the economic situation rapidly deteriorated. The country, which had welcomed the change of January 15, soon realised that the events which followed January 15 had not justified the hopes and aspirations of that change. It became clear, after a few months, that no section of the country really had full satisfaction from the events of January 15, 1966.

In a nutshell, the Ironsi administration failed to carry people along and had poor public relations in dealing with people.

Ali is of Ogbomoso Road, Area 8, Garki, Abuja.

LETTER OF THE DAY

NNPC neglecting the North?

The usual NNPC announcement of fuel distribution to major Nigerian towns on NTA Network always shows more priority to major towns of the South-West like Lagos, Ibadan and Abeokuta, while neglecting others especially major towns from core North like Maiduguri, Sokoto, Kano, Adamawa, Gombe and the rest. The finger for this discrimination points to the government of President Obasanjo. Is president Obasanjo paying back what Northerners granted him in 1999 or is he punishing Northerners for being kinsmen of Abacha? Let the two Obas (Obasanjo and Obaseki) allow the distribution go round in equal stride without leaving others behind.

*Auwalu Bala Indabo,
Wudil L.G.A.,
Kano State.*

Opinion

Trial and conviction of six tankers

By Idang Alibi

It was the late Dele Giwa (or is it somebody else?) who made the observation that as a people, we Nigerians are so used to wrong that we appear unshakable by anything no matter how unreasonable, scandalous, outrageous, bizarre or revolting against civilized standards.

I got a sad confirmation of this uncanny observation by an innocuous but very significant incident that took place some two weeks ago and our collective reaction to it.

On one of NTA's news slots, there was this story that somewhere in the Niger Delta area, the vigilant men of the Nigerian Navy arrested a criminal and a sabotage gang, which specialises in bursting pipelines, and siphoning refined petroleum products.

The evil men were caught in the act with six tankers, which as we will soon see, were regarded by the authorities as "accomplices" and not as the tool or facilitator of their trade.

While the men were herded into detention cells, the six tankers faced an unusual trial. They were "accused" of being "accessory to the crime of illegal siphoning of petroleum products and sabotage", or so it seems to me.

The authorities "convicted" the tankers of that offence and decreed that they be set ablaze in full view of the Nigerian public. And so it was that right there on our TV screens, Nigerians, who watched that news package, saw six long tankers filled with petroleum products, set ablaze.

When journalists who were

present asked the navy commander whether the decision to burn the tankers was legal and reasonable, he said that he got the powers to carry out that destruction from higher authorities.

When I saw "live" this unreasonable destruction of national wealth and the rationalisation of it, I could not eat my dinner. I was filled with disgust and contempt for the "higher authorities" who passed that scandalous judgment on the six tankers.

I expected that the following day and next few days, the media would be awash with news of this bizarre act. That our media, thinkers and human rights activists did not see that event as a big deal, tells a lot about us.

It is because we have become so used to mind-boggling tales of looting, waste of national resources, poor thinking, etc., that this news of great proportion was so casually passed off as just another of these odd things that happen in Nigeria.

There are certain things that define a people and the quality of mind of those who rule them. The "conviction" and "execution" of the six tankers for aiding and abetting stealing, is one of those small things that tell others the kind of people we are.

It says that we are a wasteful people. That we are so confused that we treat the symptom of an illness and not the real cause. From that "small" event, it is clear that we are still victims of

the hangover of military rule when brashness or arbitrariness was a substitute for cold-blooded reasoning.

Who are "the powers from above" that gave the order for the destruction of those poor tankers who could not defend themselves? Was it the President, the Inspector-General of Police or the Chief of Naval Staff? Whoever is that power, he certainly needs some lessons on elementary economics and the management of national wealth.

One of those tankers cost anything between five and 10 million naira. Six of them can fetch nothing below 30 million naira. Their destruction is the wastage of millions in national treasure. The wealth of a country's individuals adds up to the wealth of the nation.

Whoever ordered the burning of the tankers must have reasoned that he was hurting the individuals behind petroleum products siphoning, but also directly diminishing the wealth of Nigeria.

Why were the tankers not forfeited, sold and the proceeds spent on the provision of social infrastructures for a typical Nigerian village such as Gakem in Bekwarra Local Government of Cross River State? This is the village where the Nigerian civil war started and which suffered so much destruction of lives and property and never benefited from the post-war programme of rehabilitation, reconstruction and repair. Thirty million naira can change the face of that village or any other Nigerian village. The destruction of property worth that amount is

pointless, unreasonable and indefensible.

As far as I am concerned, the wasting of the tankers is a good example of misplaced aggression against harmless and inanimate objects. Can tankers steal? They certainly cannot. It is humans who do. If you do not deal with the human thief, he will go again and buy many more tankers and continue with the lucrative but illegal business of siphoning precious fuel from oil pipelines.

Our anger against economic saboteurs should not lead us to actions that will make us the laughing stock in the eyes of the civilised world.

Beyond this, we should not offend God, who has very kindly endowed our country with stupendous wealth, by wasting some of those resources.

Those six tankers that were dispatched to the great beyond were not given a fair hearing. Human rights activists should take up their case. Their case is an example of the extra-judicial trials and killings, which have polluted our land with innocent blood that are daily shed. The tankers were used against their will to carry out an illegal act. They were not willing accomplices in the crime. Their lives ought to have been spared!

The case of the six tankers is one of which great satire can be made. I wish I had the gift of a great satirist to portray the foolishness of the decision taken against the tankers.

Mr. Alibi, a former member of the Daily Times editorial board, lives in Abuja.

The messiah has failed

By Mahmood Ibrahim Magashi

When Olusegun Aremu Obasanjo won the election as the president of the most populous nation in Africa, Nigeria, a majority of Nigerians were happy that a Messiah had arrived. A Messiah who will in a short period, solve the already deteriorated political, social and economic conditions of the country. The expectations of Nigerians on Obasanjo to deliver the goods for the country were very high. Many Nigerians respect Obasanjo for his courage in voluntarily handing over power to the civilian administration of Alhaji Shehu Shagari. Many also regarded him as a disciplined, detribalised, dedicated man who abhorred corruption in any form, but many have now reversed their assessment of his personal and political character.

This is a man who tasted power, and enjoyed the privileges attached to the office of president. He descended to a common prisoner, he ate and dined with the least privileged of the society. He was released from prison and contested election and won.

Hence, our expectation that his heart might have been touched with God's mercy because, he had seen and shared the agony of the down-trodden.

Our belief when Obasanjo assumed office was that, the perennial fuel scarcity would come to an end, but the non-availability of the petroleum product is unabating. Many Nigerians wrongly accused Abacha of destroying our refineries so as to corruptly enrich himself and his family through importation of the fuel. When Abdulsalami handed power over to Obasanjo the exchange rate was one dollar to N98, but now the exchange, rate has risen to N140 to the dollar. Corruption and mismanagement of public funds is increasing in spite of the anti-corruption crusade mounted by Obasanjo.

The most annoying thing about the Obasanjo administration is his inability to tackle the problem of unemployment. His poverty alleviation programme is a fake, and has failed woefully. The government of Obasanjo lacks commitment and vision in creating jobs for the masses. He earmarked N10 billion to alleviate poverty and shamelessly voted N38 billion to build a stadium for the impoverished and hungry people of Nigeria, majority of who may not be able to afford the gate fee to watch sporting events in the stadium. The ramshackle policies of Obasanjo are satanic - insistence on buying aircraft for N86 billion, while majority of Nigerians cannot afford one meal a day is a testimony that his claim of being born again is a ruse.

Five to six years before Obasanjo became president, when Abacha was in control, Nigeria was selling crude oil at \$9 per barrel, but Abacha was able to put eight billion dollars in our foreign reserve. He refused to take foreign loan in spite of pressures mounted on him by Masonic agents of the World Bank. Abacha established the Petroleum (Special) Task Force, (PTF) and funded it with excess of fuel pump price. PTF executed tremendous and beneficial projects for the people of Nigeria.

During Obasanjo's administration, the price of crude oil has increased in the international market. Nigeria is now selling her crude oil at \$27 to \$35 per barrel, an increase of more than 390% compared to what it used to fetch during Abacha's regime. Despite the increase in the price of crude oil, Obasanjo's administration negotiated and obtained another one billion-dollar loan from his foreign Godfathers. The messiah has now made his mind up to add to the burden on the masses by increasing fuel pump price. Obasanjo's economic policies lack a human face. He takes orders from the IMF and the World Bank on what to do about the nation's ailing economy.

In conclusion, I would like to tell President Obasanjo that the agonies and tyrannies imposed on the innocent citizens of this nation during this militarised political dispensation can only be compared to the terrorist ideal of the neo-colonialist and imperialist period. In the name of messiah, Nigeria has more than ever before turned into a state of insecurity, political instability, democratic injustice and economic squander mania - the extent of which was not experienced even during the much-criticised undemocratic and illegal military dictatorship.

Note Mr. President that a lot of questions are yet to be answered after two years of your maladministration. This implies as to the causes of increased internal oil doom, high cost of essential food products, the tribal and ethnic tussles, the incessant power failure which poses a threat to the speedy development of productive technology, the increasing crisis in employment and the foreign exchange markets, the deregulation and privatisation bias, the insecurity imposed by area boys and Yandaba thugs, and the list goes on and on, leads to an unending psychological tension in the minds of the general populace.

Magashi is of 138 Magashi Quarters, Kano

Who wants Abuja Stock Exchange dead?

By Adeniyi Joseph

The recent clandestine write up in the *National Interest* and other dailies that is geared towards sabotaging the corporate existence of the Abuja Stock Exchange as well as the indirect questioning of the powers of the nations apex regulatory body in the capital market, the Securities and Exchange Commission through a call for the review of the Investment and Securities Act of 1999 should be ignored by all and sundry.

According to the *National Interest* of 26th June, 2001, the Minister of Defence, Lt. Gen. T. Y. Danjuma has submitted a memo to the President which the newspaper claimed is highly critical of the existence of the ASE as well as the powers bestowed on the Securities and Exchange Commission through the ISA, especially the section that provides for the setting up of the Investment and Securities Tribunal.

The insinuations in this newspaper also disclosed that the existence of the ASE which began operations on 2nd May, 2001 is inimical to the trend of globalisation which is leading to the merger of Stock Exchanges in different economies of the world.

The newspaper hinted that this purported memo cited examples of Germany, UK, USA and Egypt where their stock exchanges merged into one exchange, as shown below.

n The sixteen stock exchanges in Germany were merged into one exchange called the Federation of Germany Stock Exchanges in Frankfurt.

n The six stock exchanges in London were merged into the International Stock Exchange of London.

n The seventeen stock exchanges in the USA were merged into five, which now operate under the name Inter Market Trading System.

n The two exchanges in Egypt located in Alexandria and Cairo have merged into one exchange called Egyptian Stock Exchanges.

n The merger of South African stock exchanges into one exchange called JSE Stock Exchange of South Africa.

The paper also reported that the Danjuma report traced the reason behind the setting up of the ASE to a misunderstanding between the authorities of the NSE and the late son of General Abacha who was denied the bid to acquire majority shareholding in some critical companies.

In addition, the story revealed that based on the issues raised, the President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo has directed the Minister of Finance to refund the N500 million allegedly deducted forcefully from the accounts of the CBN, NICON, NIDB, NBCI and Nigeria-Re, which is being used as capital in running the ASE.

All these allegations amongst others were mentioned in the *National Interest* as it was said to be contained in the yet to be confirmed Danjuma report.

Considering all these sensitive issues and the decision that is yet to be taken on it by the Federal Executive Council which will surely affect the focus and progress of not only our capital market but also our financial and economic direction, should be handled with caution. General T. Y. Danjuma being a highly respected statesman, a Doyen in our nations corporate administration, business man of repute would surely not make this kind of submission which to me is

not only a fallacy but something that is detrimental to the development of our capital market. It is my sincere submission that this memo which is being claimed to emanate from one of the most respected generals the Nigerian Army has ever produced is not true unless proved otherwise by General Danjuma, rather it is just another ploy by the management and council of the NSE to scuttle the full take off of the ASE and weaken the regulatory powers of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Notwithstanding the viability of this memo, the issues mentioned in it need to be properly addressed so as to guide the public that is generally not well informed on capital market operations, its history and what is obtainable in other economies of the world. The Federal Executive Council could also draw from the facts that are highlighted in this write-up in taking its decision on this very important issue that would affect the attitude of investors, especially the foreign ones, towards Nigeria.

The assertion that stock exchanges are merging in the countries mentioned earlier and other economies in the world in line with globalisation is certainly not only a misguided information, but a lie. It is a fact that presently the stock exchanges in these countries mentioned are still standing on their own.

To buttress this fact, I would enjoin the President and the Federal Executive Council to summon the management of Securities and Exchange Commission to state their position on this very important national issue. This summons is imperative considering the fact that the Securities and Exchange Commission as the nations apex regulatory body is the government agency with the required expertise and information on capital market operations. Moreover, the Securities and Exchange Commission as an active member of the International Organisation of Securities and Exchange Commissions (IOSCO) is armed with enough information and details on the position of stock exchanges in other countries of the world.

Hence, if the NSE could direct companies to change their names to avoid confusion in the market, why is the same organisation refusing to comply with the directives of our nation's apex regulatory body? Government should therefore study this scene in taking its decision on this issue.

To the president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo who is today a born again Christian, an apostle of the war on corruption and a statesman who solidly believes in the corporate existence of our dear country, I would like him to note that the idea of linking the setting-up of the Abuja Stock Exchange with the late General Sani Abacha is a grand design to whip up sentiments. It is the belief of those trying to nail the coffin of the ASE that by linking its coming into being with the late head of state, you will surely go against it. Mr. President, you have come a long way, I am sure you will not allow sentiments to stop you from taking the right decision in this very important issue that will surely refocus the activities in our nations capital market.

Joseph writes from Ikoyi, Lagos.

HOUSE DENIES OBASANJO PRESIDENTIAL JET
— NEWS



YOUR LETTERS

Zamfara governor made the right choice

I am writing a rejoinder to the effect of the above article published in the *Daily Trust* of 14th June, 2001 on page 6.

The article written by one Buhari from Katsina State concerning Sharia, VAT and Zamfara State governor is rather unpleasant to digest.

From the onset, it seems this writer is either playing double standards or fears the skeleton in his cupboard will be exposed somehow and someday. You see, those who usually use the term 'Sharia zealots', are either Christians or minimal Muslims.

As a Muslim, you are not allowed to copy anything or borrow any leave of either words or virtues from a non-Muslim, for Islam has provided it all for all mankind. Rightfully, alcohol should be given every priority since it is the only thing that consumes almost all souls that imbibe it. When alcohol is consumed it can lead to other sinful and life-threatening activities. Because alcohol when consumed will lead one to fornicate, steal, lie, rob, become useless and kill others. But not the other way round, being a fornicator does not lead one to being a drunkard.

It is true that in adopting Sharia, things should be implemented gradually yet carefully, but in our present society, where a governor's tenure is fixed, he needs to act fast to save lives. Our noble prophet Muhammad (S.A.W.) did not wait for five to ten years or three hundred and sixty years before destroying all idols in the Ka'aba, it was done almost

immediately. So, what 'Sharia states' governors are doing is to quickly, through Allah's help, remove these ungodly acts from our path of righteousness.

The sooner you understand that adoption of Sharia is not politically motivated but spiritual the better for you. You should also know that it is not a sin to refuse to collect VAT from sales of alcohol, rather it is a step closer to honesty, justice and fairness.

If, as you have alleged, Zamfara State governor has done nothing in development terms with all the billions, he is collecting from federal allocation, how much difference is VAT money from sales of alcohol going to make. It is better for you to advise your Muslim brothers, than join forces with non-Muslims to share their views, ideas and lack of vision. May Allah save your soul and the souls of others that share your opinion.

Isiaku Usman,
Kundila Housing Estate,
Kano.

I would like to use your medium to reply to a letter written by one Mallam Abdullahi Ayuba Runka on 28/4/2001 who claimed to be a secretary, Community Action for Popular Participation, Sabon Gari Local Government, Kaduna State.

In his letter he highlighted the issue of non-performance of the present leadership in Safana Local Government area. To be specific he mentioned neglect of Runka and Gora towns, and Tsaskiya by Safana Local Government Council.

However, it is interesting to note that we the people of Gora II town are very grateful to the present administration of Alhaji Ahmed Dayyabu and his council, contrary to what Abdullahi claimed, because the present leadership of Safana Local Government has fulfilled all the promise they made during their electioneering tour to Gora II town. Presently Gora II town enjoys drinking water with the provision of a borehole equipped with solar energy and the erection of 55,000litre overhead tank, with one kilometre of distribution pipes, 10 public standing pipes erected at strategic locations in Gora II town. As such, we now enjoy

Re: Tazarce is not the issue in Safana

24-hour uninterrupted water supply.

Secondly, the local government has repaired the only bridge connecting us to the outside world. All these are only a few of so many project executed by the present administration at Gora II and environ.

Concerning Runka town, Abdullahi should have been good enough to comment on the progress and achievement of the present administration, but unfortunately, he is busy at Sabon Gari Local Government of Kaduna State canvassing for popular participation for the community at Sabon Gari, without coming back or at least visiting his native town, Runka to see things for himself, assess and make objective criticism. The local government has sent to the state government an estimate for connecting Runka town with the national grid which is a distance of almost 40 kilometres. As soon as approval is given, the project will start. These are beside the drainages and culverts Abdullahi claims the local government is constructing.

Finally, I wish to appeal to Abdullahi my dear compatriot in the struggle for

the emancipation of our downtrodden masses to kindly launch a chapter for community popular participation in Safana, his native local government. Let him dialogue with the masses the electorate on how far the present local government council has performed, move from ward to ward, analyse the data and come out with very objective criticism that will help strengthen the dividends of democracy for the betterment of our downtrodden masses, rather than relying on software information. Unless my dear Abdullahi does these, I am afraid he will not see light through the tunnel with regard to the achievement or otherwise of the present leadership at Safana Local Government, under the leadership of Alhaji Ahmed Dayyabu.

Lawal Mamman Gora II,
'Organising Secretary,
Gora Youth Development
Association,
Safana Local Government,
Katsina State.

A lethal game

The recent face-off between the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and the federal government is a source of concern to all and sundry especially when viewed against the backdrop of the innocent lives that will bear the brunt of this ugly development.

The genesis of the present strike actually dates back to the Abdulsalami era, when an across the board increase in wages of civil servants left out the professional allowances of doctors. This led to total withdrawal of services for upward of four months with subsequent stoppage of salaries of the striking resident doctors. The strike was suspended after a gentleman's agreement, but the truce unfortunately was short-lived as the agreement was not honoured by the government. On return to civil rule, the issue was revisited; deadlocked and culminated in another strike that lasted for thirteen weeks. This was again suspended after a gentleman's agreement. Five months later, the government remained mute on the agreement reached and only feigned concern when the NMA began to beat the drums of war. There is therefore, no gainsaying the fact that it will be foolhardy for the NMA to enter into another gentleman's agreement with a party who's favourite game is deception.

Come to think of it, during the last but one of the strikes embarked upon by the resident doctors, the minister of information Prof. Jerry Gana, after a Federal Executive Council meeting brandished a paper and successfully misinformed the public that the least paid doctor will henceforth receive N70,000 per month. Five months after, nothing is heard of this fairy tale. And now it is another propaganda season. One can imagine the cooks busy in their propaganda mill mixing all sorts of ingredients to produce the usual fallacy that does not stand the test of time.

Now that the government has successfully paralysed services in the hospitals by its inaction, the alternative is perhaps to open up more cemeteries to contain the rising number of democracy dividends that will accrue to it. After all, the government is fully aware that neither the leaders nor the lead will be spared from this lethal game.

Dr. M. B. Bukar,
Federal Medical Centre
P. M. B. 0037, Gombe,
Gombe State.

Bola Ige should resign

Please may I comment on the allegations against the Attorney General of the Federation, Chief Bola Ige, of keeping NEPA funds in a deposit account to generate interest at the expense of the good people of Nigeria, when he was Minister of Power and Steel, which appeared in the May 16, 2001 edition of *Daily Trust*.

If the allegation is true, Bola Ige has really disappointed not only his profession, but Nigerians in general. Personally, Chief Ige has finesse to head only the "Thief and tribalism" ministry to be introduced in the last phase of this administration by his mentor, Chief Obasanjo (there is a need for that), but certainly not the justice ministry which is a

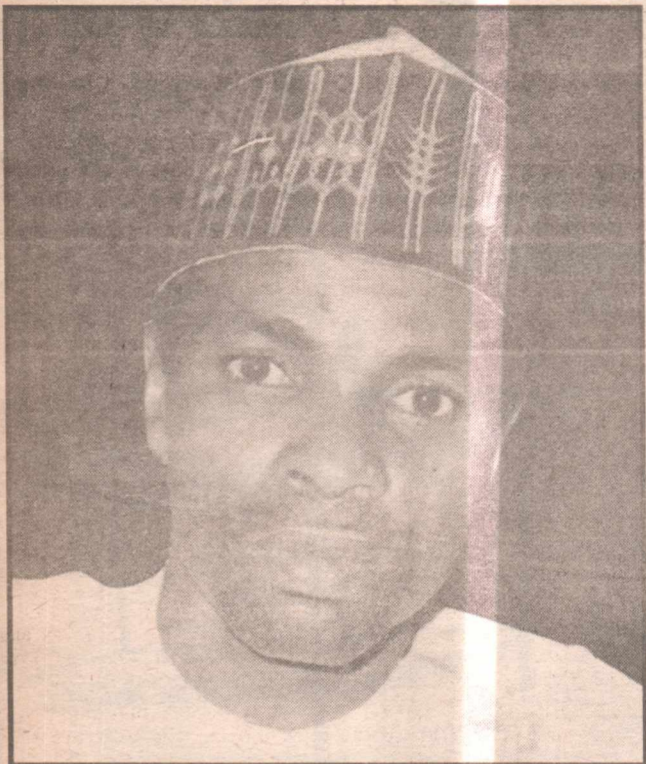
place for honest and trustworthy people.

I want to believe that if President Obasanjo is not encouraging corruption, he should terminate Bola Ige's appointment and bring him to book immediately.

Lastly, Chief Bola Ige should save Obasanjo the trouble and just resign.

Idris Alhaji Sallau,
115, Zajeri Ward,
Maiduguri, Borno State.

SHAGARI LOCAL GOVERNMENT SOKOTO STATE



Barrister Alhaji Mukhtari Shagari, Minister of Water Resources



Alhaji Muhammadu Galadima Horo, Shagari LG Chairman



President Olusegun Obasanjo

APPRECIATION

The Honourable Chairman, Shagari Local Government Council, Alhaji Muhammadu Galadima Horo, on behalf of himself, his family, entire people of Shagari Local Government, Councillors, Staff of the Council, District and village heads, use this unique and very important occasion to register our profound gratitude and appreciation to His Excellency the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **CHIEF OLUSEGUN OBASANJO (G.C.F.R.)** on the appointment of our beloved son, Barrister (Alhaji) Mukhtari Shagari as Minister of Water Resources in the newly re-constituted Federal Executive Council.

The entire people of Shagari Local Government Area highly commend your foresight which has resulted in the nomination of their son and his successful outing in the screening process by the National Assembly.

Your Excellency, while thanking you for the honour bestowed on us by appointing Barrister Alhaji Mukhtari Shagari as minister of water resources. We are also assuring you and your administration of our total support and loyalty at the local, state and national levels so that in togetherness we can all reap the dividends of democracy.

We also use this opportunity to pray to Almighty Allah to bless you and provide you and your newly appointed executive members with necessary wisdom, strength and foresight to govern this country.

Your Excellency, once more, we thank you for this great honour done to us.

This gesture has re-kindled our hope and inspired us to work assiduously for the success of this administration.

*Long live Shagari Local Government,
Long live Sokoto State,
Long Live Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

SIGNED

ALHAJI MUHAMMADU GALADIMA HORO

*Chairman, Shagari Local Government,
Sokoto State.*

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

Foreign & Diplomatic



Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir gestures during his speech at a rally organised by the Sudan Workers Trade Unions Federation June 7 in Khartoum to mobilise workers for the war efforts. (AFP)

Why I won't go to Sudan

—US envoy

Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Chester A. Crocker, during the administration of President Ronald Reagan, held the post for eight years, turned down the Bush administration offer as a Special Envoy to Sudan for the U.S. government. In this interview with allAfrica's Charles Cobb Jr, he explains why and expresses scepticism about the peace process in Sudan. He also spoke on the conflicts in Congo and Sierra Leone. Excerpts:

Why didn't you take the position of special envoy to Sudan?

A mix of factors was in my decision - mostly personal factors. I have full time employment and a lot of commitments as it is and this might have been a situation where I might have had to drop certain things to do this and I didn't see this as a long-term assignment so that raised some questions for me in personal terms.

A second factor is that I am not personally persuaded that the situation in Sudan proper and around Sudan is all that prospective for a substantive peace process. There's been a lot of play-acting, a lot of pretence, a lot of posturing about peace and a lot of meetings and there are several peace processes already out there but they don't have traction; they are not serious and I'm not personally persuaded that the situation is all that ripe for getting such a peace process going at this moment. That's my analysis of the parties and that's where I come out.

And a third factor is that I think that the situation inside the beltway here in Washington is not a strong basis for the conduct of a serious engagement in a peace process. It's a rather strange alliance - let's put it that way - and I'm not sure it's a very solid basis for an American lead role. So I had some misgivings about that and that's the mix of factors that were in my mind.

There was specific opposition to you coming from the left and the right. The evangelical right, an important part of the Bush administration constituency, feeling that you weren't "right" enough and the left still feeling hostile because of "constructive engagement" when you were Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs and your association with that policy toward South Africa.

I really can't speak to what the opposition might have been. If it was stronger it might have persuaded me to take the job. I'm a stubborn sort of person and there were times during the 1980s when I was assistant secretary where people would say, "Why do you stay there; it's not exactly an easy road you're on?" and I would say to myself if there weren't so many people pushing me to leave, I might have. No, this wasn't a factor in my thinking because I was asked to do this. I don't work for 500 people. I would be working for the Secretary of State and the President if I had said yes.

Some would say that the kind of bi-partisan coalition we have "inside the beltway" as you described it earlier is so unusual when it comes to African issues in particular that it would be a good sign as to the prospects of an effective American role and working toward some kind of peace settlement.

History will decide of course. My own reading is that this bi-partisan coalition that you refer to is on one side of the issue and implies that we already know who the good guys and who the bad guys are and it's just a question of finding a way to impose our view of their situation on them. Well, that's not the way the world is organised; we don't have that capacity. There are certain realities and I think that we have to recognise that there is more than one voice for the south; there's more than one voice for the north in Sudan.

Do you think the administration itself has made up its mind about where it wants to go in Sudan? My sense is that there are two conflicting directions, one lodged in the White House and the other in the Department of State when it comes to Sudan.

I think that there's a fair degree of coherence at the top levels on this. Naturally it is the State Department's job to try and make the foreign policy work and it's the White House staffs' job to try and make the domestic policy work. So you're bound to have that tension; that's built into the situation on most any issue, not just on Sudan. But I think, insofar as I've been able to figure out, that secretary Powell and the President are on the same page when it comes to trying to find a way to get peace. Without peace you don't get anything. We can give all the sermons we like standing back here about the need to stop this and that, wind up all these hideous abuses that are going on in Sudan, but sermons are not going to bring about peace. And without peace you don't get to a different future with a different constitution and respect for human rights and the rights of everybody - a different Sudan. You can't get there without peace.

Another huge area of administration interest is the Congo - the Democratic Republic of the Congo. What is your reading of that situation? From here it looks as if they are inching up to this inter-congolese dialogue although there are lots of question marks that still hover over it.

I think we have begun to get a little bit of traction in that situation because we have in a fairly balanced way - which is essential - gone after the various parties which are intervening as well as the government and said that look everybody has to do certain things if the other side is to be asked to do certain things. In other words it's got to be a package deal. So I think that we have some credibility at this early stage of a new administration to try and push this thing forward. We're not the

ones who are alone driving it. There are a lot of other players. It's a very complicated situation with a lot of different parties - a lot of different outside parties too, with interests. My own judgment is that the only way this can work is if you - by you I mean in general the third parties who are involved - create a unified game. In other words, you don't give the directly warring parties an out. You force them to respond to a unified set of suggestions, proposals, initiatives, pressures, incentives and so on. And you don't encourage this forum shopping which is so typical in these lower profile international conflicts where parties will say they'll meet and talk to anybody who comes to town but they're not serious because they're not facing a unified game. You have to create a unified game. What that means is that we, the secretary-general of the United Nations, the British, the Tanzanians, the South Africans, the French - we've all got to be on the same page. Ultimately, if that's the way you approach it you might be able to get somewhere.

Is everybody on the same page?

I don't think so yet.

And would that include the Kabila government, the central government?

It would certainly include the Kabila government. It would include other Congolese parties - armed and not armed. We can't only have a peace process dominated by armed entities and neighbouring armies. It's got to be a peace process that includes voices of broader Congolese society. But it certainly includes all the intervening neighbours as well.

That brings immediately to mind another arena of African conflict: West Africa. In my mind I almost mark the beginning of this unravelling in West Africa with the Doe take-over in 1980 or whenever he took over. Liberia's collapse seems to have led to a decade and a half of conflict. There was extreme reluctance on the part of the United States - The Reagan White House - to intervene in Liberia, which really secured the power of Doe and everyone else who came after him.

History would indicate that Doe came in during the Carter administration. And one of the first decisions that my predecessor made was to provide some support for Doe and for elements of his military as a gesture that although we didn't like military coups we understood that this was the indigenous population speaking. And that was the first government that Liberia ever had - warts and all - and it wasn't much of a government - that was led by an indigenous Liberian as opposed to an Americo-Liberian. And that distinction at the time was seen as significant. We looked very carefully in the Reagan administration at what our options were. We could have walked, I suppose, although it would have been an invitation to hostile forces to come in and replace us. This was the cold war era that we're talking about. And it would have been either an opening to the Libyans or to the Soviets or to the worst kind of French manoeuvring to replace the American position in Liberia - we had a very substantial position there and there would have been empty seats to fill. Somebody would have filled them; they don't just stay empty. So we did what we could, working with a very limited man - Sam Doe - and with his colleagues, some of whom were much more capable and worthwhile to keep them from self-destruction. By the end of the 1980s - and this history I'm talking up to the point when the White House actually did make a decision not to act - it became clear that there was something going on. And that something was led by an escaped convict from a Massachusetts jail who went to Libya and then went to Burkina and then got in touch with French interests in Côte d'Ivoire and marched into Liberia with the knowledge of all those elements including the Ivorian security services, the French security services, French commercial interests, Libyan backing and training - a whole network. So what we saw in late 89, 90, and 91 was, in fact, a very substantial change in the situation. Charles Taylor came in. We didn't act. We decided that we would not act on that occasion. I was not in government at that time; I left office in early 89. I was appalled frankly, that we didn't act. I thought we should have.

But why do you think the administration didn't act?

I think because there was so much else going on in the world. Because it was post cold war or it was becoming the post cold war era, the cold war mentality we had to do something because Liberia was our ally - I think that had somewhat dissipated. I know my successor - Hank Cohen - was very, very unhappy with the outcome of repeated efforts that he made to try and get Liberia on the agenda and to do something before the entire society was traumatized as it was. So now if you fast-forward ten years later we're sitting here with a traumatized Liberia, a traumatized Sierra Leone and a regional cancer in West Africa which is centred in Liberia with its leadership. And the connections - the nexus between that leadership and other neighbouring elites in other countries - I've touched on some of them. There are some in my view in the Ivorian government. There are without any question some in the Burkina government. And there's obviously the Libyan factor. This is not something that can just be settled at the Sierra Leone level. It's a broader problem.

At what level then? Are you positing a pan-African approach, some kind of multi-lateral approach that is even larger than the continent itself?

Of course you have UNAMSIL moving up to 17,500 troops. That's a big effort. You have the Brits in there with whatever it is, 600 to

1000 of their best saving the UN's bacon initially and now doing a lot of training of the Sierra Leone forces. You have a lot of Africans in that force. You have some Pakistanis coming to beef up that force. So it is already not just a West African ECOMOG situation, it's a UN situation. It's multilateral led and its got the U.S. supporting what I would describe as a British lead on the ground in Sierra Leone.

But when I say "a broader level" I think we have to think of the analogy of a serpent. When you want to get rid of a serpent you have to smash the head of the serpent. And the head of the serpent is not inside of Sierra Leone. So we've seen the effort to go after Taylor and his allies and his assets through a sanctions program. That's probably not a bad start but if I were doing it I would like to see us go beyond that.

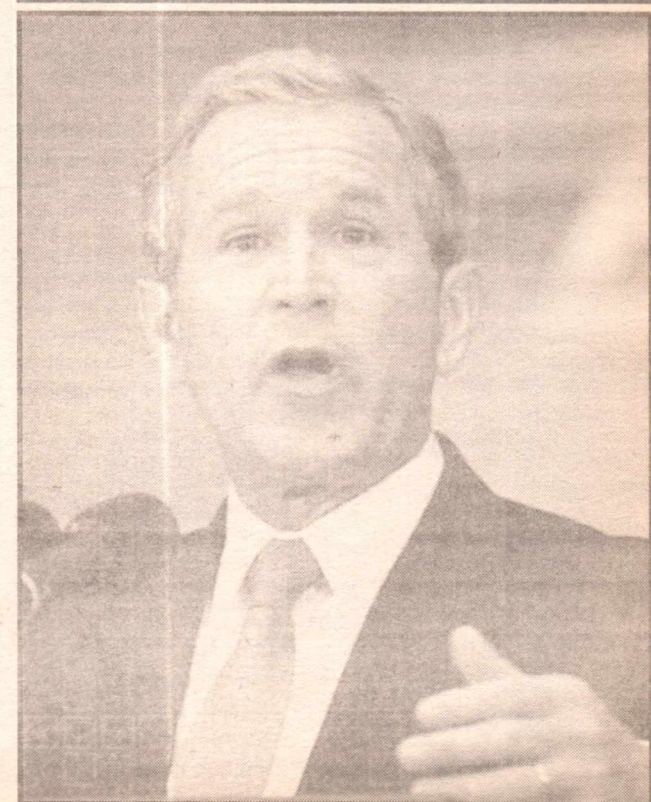
Well how much further can you go beyond that short of a direct military intervention and plotting the overthrow of Charles Taylor?

Well there are some things that people don't talk about a whole lot. We do have ways of finding out about his international connections. Who he talks to. Who he relies on. Who he's fencing the stuff that he captures to. Who he's using as his export conduits. Where his banks are. How he provides over-flight and clearance rights for illegal flights into rebel held areas in Sierra Leone. Who are the pilots for those planes? Where do they come from? Where do they refuel? I think you get my drift. We are in a position if we want to shut that sort of thing down, if we are prepared to make the effort and really engage. That's what I call "engagement." It would mean also I think working to decide if it's possible to get some French cooperation on this. The French are still going through a transition in their own African policies. This West African morass of issues that we're talking about has to be an embarrassment for them. And if they won't work with us on it I would not hesitate to make them a little bit more uncomfortable. But I think we could get some cooperation there if together with the Brits and the Secretary General we take the right approach.

Do you know if this is a discussion in the current Bush administration?

I can't speak for what they're doing on it. I know they're very focused on it. They see the risk of what could go further wrong in terms of this thing spreading to not just Sierra Leone but we've spillage across the border into Guinea. It could go further a field. It could in fact play a role in destabilizing the politics of Côte d'Ivoire, which is already in a fairly dicey situation.

There's been a lot of play-acting, a lot of pretence, a lot of posturing about peace and a lot of meetings and there are several peace processes already out there but they don't have traction; they are not serious



U.S. President, George W. Bush.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Tunisian leader urges closer ties

By Musa Aliyu

Tunisian Secretary of State for Africa and Maghreb Affairs, Mr. Sadok Fayala, has advocated for a greater working relationship between Nigeria and Tunisia.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to the Cooperation and Integration Ministry in Abuja last week, Mr. Fayala added that both countries have a greater future through cooperation.

According to him, there are many potentialities for the two countries to look successfully together.

He also posited that the Nigeria/Tunisia joint commission second session for which he was in the country was a success as the two important agreements on trade and transportation have been signed to enhance bilateral cooperation.

He further described the African Union as a special challenge on which Africa's future rests even as he saluted Nigeria's leadership role in the formation of the Union.

The Minister of Cooperation and Integration, Chief Abimbola Ogunkelu responding thanked the delegation for the courtesy call while in the same vein he acknowledged Tunisia's efforts in the whole of Africa towards cooperation, integration and development.

The minister also reassured the mission of Nigeria's continued devotion to the growth of Africa, from the West Africa

sub-region to what has become African Union.

In the last two years, according to him, substantial work has been done to ensure the realization of these efforts.

Africa, he maintained, could only attain its dream of clinching the 21st century if Africans work to eradicate poverty, avoid wars and invest immensely on education.

With cooperation, at all levels, and integration of all structures being the watchword, there would be peace and development and as such less spending on weapons and armament, he submitted.

In another development, the Resource Allocation and Fiscal

Commission has honoured Ogunkelu who served the body as a Commissioner, Resource Allocation and Fiscal commission between August 20, 1999 and February 8, 2001.

The Inouwon-boru (Epe Local Government, Lagos State) physician-cardiologist who spoke on behalf of the three recipients of the honour, Alhaji Abba Gana (FCT Minister), Alhaji Bello H. Mohammed (Communication Minister) and himself, thanked the Commission for the honour.

He also reiterated his wish to serve the nation diligently at all times, calling the Commission job one of such.

Earlier on, colleagues and friends at the Commission had described the minister as a hard working and detribalised leader whose appointment as Cooperation and Integration Minister tallies with his qualities.



President George W. Bush meets with Malian President Alpha Konare (L), Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade (C) and President of Ghana, John Kufuor at the White House on June 28, 2001. Bush sat down for about an hour with the three leaders to discuss regional security, economic development and poverty alleviation.

Hamas leader returns from exile

Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Ghosheh has returned to Jordan after 19 months in exile.

Jordan's King Abdullah allowed him to return to the country after the exile pledged to "freeze his political activity in Hamas".

There have been disputes about whether the promise means Mr Ghosheh will cut all ties with the Islamic mili-

tant group or merely stop political activity on its behalf.

Mr Ghosheh was expelled along with three other senior figures in November 1999 during a Jordanian clampdown on Islamic militants.

Jordanian Information Minister Saleh Qallab said Mr Ghosheh pledged in a letter to renounce all links with the militant Palestinian

group.

He denied that the kingdom had negotiated with the militants.

"There was no deal between us and we have no dialogue with Hamas," Mr Qallab told *The Associated Press*.

But Hamas spokesman Khaled Mashal - another deportee - gave a different version.

He said in Qatar on Friday that an agreement with the government required Mr Ghosheh to "halt all activity within Jordan in the name of Hamas, and not that he renounces his role and position within the movement".

On 14 June, Mr Ghosheh, 65, was denied entry into Jordan when he tried to return from Qatar.

After two weeks stranded at the international airport in Amman, Mr Ghosheh was flown out to Bangkok on Wednesday.

Mr Ghosheh's expulsion in 1999 was part of the Jordanian Government's crackdown on the radical group, which it accused of inciting hardline Islamist sentiments in Jordan.

At the time, Jordan was also under pressure from the United States and Israel to ban the group's activities, after it claimed responsibility for attacks on Israelis.

Hamas rejects peace with Israel. Jordan is one of only two Arab countries - along with Egypt - to have signed a peace agreement with the Jewish state.

Peres meets Arafat

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has met in Portugal to discuss the Middle East peace process.

Israeli Knesset member Colette Avital told *The Associated Press* news agency that the talks were friendly and that there would be a follow-up meeting.

Before the meeting, at a conference of Socialist leaders in Lisbon, Mr Peres said it was vital that the seven-day period without violence agreed by US Secretary of State Colin Powell was adhered to.

"We think the next seven days will be important, provided there is no killing or bombing," he said.

But on the ground, fighting on the Israel-Lebanon border and violence at West Bank and Gaza flashpoints echoed into Saturday.

The tensions cast a shadow over the end of a three-day peace mission by the American Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who set out a timetable for strengthening the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

This includes a weeklong test period leading to six weeks of cooling off period, followed by confidence-building measures.

The Israelis and the Americans insist there must be total quiet for the seven days before moving on to the next phase.

During his talks in Lisbon, Mr Arafat told Mr Peres the Palestinians were trying to halt the violence.

But he said their task would be made easier if Israel improved the living conditions of Palestinians, by such measures as lifting blockades on towns and villages.

But farmers' union official Colin Cloete said he thought the government actually intended to seize every white-owned farm.

"It's all part of politics," he said.

He said that 4,500 white

farmers own about 70% of the country's best farmland, and that the nationalised properties would be turned over to black Zimbabweans.

President Mugabe announced last year that the government would seize about half of the country's commercial farms.

He said that 4,500 white

1965 disappearance of Moroccan journalist explained

Fresh revelations have emerged in France and Morocco about the unexplained disappearance in Paris in 1965 of the exiled leftist Moroccan opposition leader, Mehdi Ben Barka.

Mr Ben Barka was abducted in broad daylight from a Paris cafe and never seen again.

The French newspaper *Le Monde* and the Moroccan weekly *Le Journal* now say they have uncovered compelling evidence implicating the two countries' intelligence services in the case.

They say Mr Ben Barka was tortured to death by Moroccan security agents, and his body was then flown to Rabat and disposed of in a bath of acid.

The BBC correspondent in Rabat says Mr Ben Barka was a thorn in the flesh of the Moroccan Government at a time of political repression.

His fate since his disappearance has been the subject of much speculation.



Hamas members pose as suicide bombers as they carry the coffin of Ismail Maoussabie, 27, who killed himself and two Israeli soldiers in an explosion in Gaza on Friday, during his funeral in Gaza Strip June 23, 2001.

Belgium pledges \$16.5m to DR Congo

Belgium is to resume aid donations to its former colony, the Democratic Republic of Congo, after a gap of more than 10 years.

The Belgian Prime Minister, Guy Verhofstadt, made the announcement in the Congolese capital Kinshasa, as the country marked its 41st independence anniversary.

Mr Verhofstadt said the aid for health care and infrastructure projects marked a new era of cooperation between the two countries.

He said DR Congo would have to improve its human rights record, and that only democracy would end the country's three-year-old civil war.

Warring factions have carved up DR Congo, with the government controlling barely half of Africa's third largest

state.

The Congolese President, Joseph Kabila, said he hoped the Belgian delegation's visit would bring about an end to Congo's international isolation.

Mr Verhofstadt said Belgium would use its presidency of the European Union, which starts on Sunday, to help find a

lasting end to the war in Congo.

His government agreed to provide some \$16.5m of aid, he said, and it would lobby for relief on Congo's \$13bn debt.

Mr Verhofstadt's trip is the first by a Belgian leader to Kinshasa since Belgium slashed most of its economic support for Congo in 1990, following alle-

gations of a state-sponsored massacre of students in the southern city of Lubumbashi.

Congolese opposition parties stayed away from the celebrations, saying the Belgian delegation's visit was premature and gave credibility to the unelected Kabila government.

Zimbabwe targets 1,000 new farms

The government of Zimbabwe has released a new list of farms to be nationalised under its resettlement programme.

With about 1,000 new white-owned farms targeted, more than 4,000 of the country's roughly 5,500 farms have been marked for redistribution.

The government says it is trying to redress inequalities in

land ownership that resulted from colonialism.

But the vice-president of the predominantly white Commercial Farmers' Union, Colin Cloete, said the policy "makes a mockery of the entire resettlement scheme".

Last December, the Supreme Court sharply criticised the government's resettlement scheme as illegal under Zimbabwean law.

It gave the government until 1 July of this year to restore law and order on the farms occupied since February 2000 by militants who support President Robert Mugabe.

President Mugabe announced last year that the government would seize about half of the country's commercial farms.

He said that 4,500 white

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report

Bush apologises to Muslims over gaffe

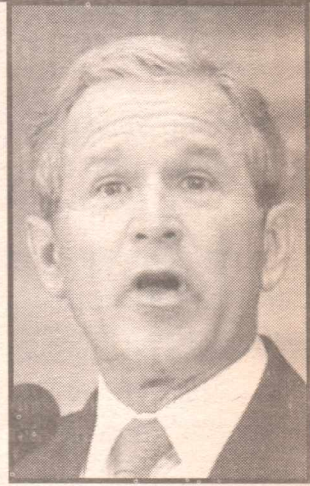
US President George Bush has apologised over an incident at the White House, when a visiting Muslim community leader was mistakenly ordered out of the building. A uniformed Secret Service officer approached 20-year-old Abdallah al-Arian, a member of a Muslim delegation, and asked him to leave immediately. No

reason was given. The whole group of visiting Muslim leaders then left in protest. When the Secret Service realised that it had made a mistake, the Muslims were invited back, but they declined. "The president is very concerned that an action was taken that was wrong and inappropriate, and the president apologises for it on

behalf of the White House," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. The Muslim leaders were at the Old Executive Office Building for a meeting to discuss President Bush's faith-based initiative, that calls for providing federal funds to religious organisations involved in charity and community work. Ibrahim Hooper of the

Council on American Islamic Relations welcomed Mr Bush's apology. But he called for the White House to appoint a full-time liaison officer to the Muslim community, to "dispel impressions within the Muslim community that there's some kind of exclusion from his policy-making circles". The BBC correspondent

says that there has still been no explanation as to why Mr al-Arian, a student doing volunteer work in Washington, should have been ejected. But his uncle, a Palestinian academic, was imprisoned for three years without trial by the US authorities after being accused of links with Islamic militants. Mazen al-Najjar was released six months ago.



President George W. Bush.

David Trimble has resigned as Northern Ireland First Minister because he does not believe the IRA is making progress in weapons decommissioning. The Ulster Unionist Party leader's resignation came into effect at midnight on Saturday as his deadline for decommissioning by the IRA on 30 June elapsed. His move means that the future of the Northern Ireland's peace process has been thrown into uncertainty.

Mr Trimble announced his decision to resign at the Northern Ireland Assembly on 8 May, when he told assembly colleagues that he would not continue in office if the IRA failed to deliver on decommissioning their illegally held weapons.

On Saturday, Mr Trimble nominated party colleague and trade minister Sir Reg Empey to fulfil the administrative functions of the office of first minister.

The assembly now has six weeks to re-install Mr Trimble or replace him before the devolved institutions collapse under legislation brought in

Trimble resigns as first minister



Northern Ireland's First Minister, David Trimble is seen on a visit to Araqs, northern France on June 30, 2001. Protestant leader Trimble formally resigned yesterday as First Minister over what he said was the Irish Republican Army's refusal to disarm as part of a peace deal for the British Province.

under the Good Friday Agreement. Sir Reg said his party leader had no choice but to resign as

others failed to live up to their commitments and that he would not be leading his party into further talks with Sinn Fein, until the IRA began to disarm.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said he was sorry to hear of Mr Trimble's resignation but hoped he would soon be reinstated as First Minister.

Further talks aimed at finding a way through the current impasse in the peace process are due to be held next week.

Similar talks held in recent weeks have failed to move the stalled process forward.

Speaking ahead of the next stage of negotiations, Sir Reg

said his party would not be re-entering government with Sinn Fein "without IRA arms up front".

He said: "As far as I am concerned we have been down that road, we have tried our best, and it is perfectly clear that unless people are prepared to honour their commitments we are certainly not going into the breach a third time."

Jeffrey Donaldson, a member of the UUP talks team,

said he believed Mr Trimble's resignation was "essential to bring the decommissioning issue to a head".

"The peace process will now be tested as never before in terms of establishing whether the IRA are committed to peace or whether they want to hold on to the weapons of war," he said.

Mr Trimble will lose the trappings of office - power, chauffeur-driven car, attendants and title.

US-Japan talks bear little fruit

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and US President George W Bush have made a show of unity during informal talks at Camp David, but there is little sign of progress on key issues.

"There were hardly any discussions on specific issues... What we wanted to do first was for the leaders to establish a strong relationship," a senior Japanese official said after the talks on Saturday.

Mr Bush and Mr Koizumi failed to make substantive

progress on security issues and the environment.

But the summit in Maryland - the leaders' first meeting - did establish "a strong relationship of trust," said Mr Koizumi. The occasion did not appear to be marred by the recent alleged rape of a Japanese woman by US servicemen on the island of Okinawa.

There are deep differences between Japan and the US over defence and the environment.

But as President Bush backed Japan's tough economic reform programme, Mr Koizumi stepped back from tough criticism of the US president's stance on the Kyoto treaty on climate change.

Speaking after the talks, Mr Koizumi said he still hoped for discussion of the issue despite the US refusal to push for ratification of Kyoto, which Japan supports.

"I am not disappointed at the president's position," he said. "There is still time to discuss the issue."

Just a week ago, Mr Koizumi described Mr Bush's position - that the treaty is flawed and unfair to US companies - as "deplorable".

The two leaders also agreed to "consult closely" on another contentious issue - missile defence.

Milosevic remains defiant

Slobodan Milosevic has spoken defiantly from his prison cell in The Hague amid continuing tension in Belgrade since his extradition.

According to a member of his defence team, the former Yugoslav president told his wife Mira Markovic that he rejected the trial as "politically motivated".

The president of the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Claude Jorda, has said the trial will not begin for another eight to 12 months, and is likely to last for over a year.

Mr Milosevic, who is due to make his first court appearance tomorrow, said he would deny all the war crimes charges against him.

In Belgrade, police fired shots into the air on Saturday to quell an outbreak of violence in the city

centre. A group of skinheads and chanting Serbian nationalists attacked a peaceful march by gay and lesbian rights activists, kicking and beating them. At least five people were injured, some of them seriously.

Mr Milosevic's departure has triggered political turmoil in Yugoslavia.

His supporters, who demonstrated in Belgrade on Friday, said they would intensify their protests next week.

His extradition has jeopardised the fragile cohabitation of reformists and old-school politicians within the Yugoslav federation.

And it has pitched the two leaders of the democratic movement - the Yugoslav President, Vojislav Kostunica, and

the Serbian Prime Minister, Zoran Djindjic - against each other.

All the Montenegrin members of the coalition have resigned, including the Yugoslav Prime Minister, Zoran Zizic.

But Mr Zizic's Montenegrin People's Party said it would join talks on Monday aimed at forming a new government.

The UN tribunal is keeping Mr Milosevic in isolation, away from the 38 other war crimes suspects from the former Yugoslavia.

Mr Milosevic is accused of having ultimate responsibility for the mass deportation of 740,000 Kosovo Albanians and for the murder of hundreds of individually named Albanians, said to have been committed by Serb soldiers and militias.

Further charges are also being

drawn up against him relating to the wars in Croatia and Bosnia.

One of his Belgrade lawyers said Mr Milosevic had asked for money, clothes and some books.

Speaking by phone from his cell to his wife, Mr Milosevic proclaimed his innocence, saying he had worked as president in the interests of the Serbian people.

If he had the job again, he is reported as saying, he would act in the same way.

According to Mrs Markovic, the former president is in "fantastic" psychological condition.

New details have emerged about his last moments in Serbia.

The Belgrade weekly newspaper Nedeljni Telegraf said his last words before leaving Serbia were: "Brother Serbs, now farewell!"

ODD WORLD

Scientists search for end of the world

To answer such cosmic questions, MAP's observations of the Big Bang's afterglow - the so-called Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation - will be compared to the patterns predicted by various models of the Universe's evolution, in an attempt to find the right match.

"We are tremendously excited about this mission because it will help answer basic questions that

people have been asking for ages," says Dr Charles Bennett, Principal Investigator for the MAP mission at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Maryland, US.

"MAP's unprecedented accuracy and precision will allow us to determine the nature and destiny of the Universe."

According to the Big Bang theory, currently the only one seriously considered by

astronomers, the Universe began about 14 billion years ago as an unimaginably hot and dense fog of light and exotic particles.

Since then the Universe has expanded and cooled. Today, the entire Universe is bathed in the afterglow light from the Big Bang. The light has been travelling for about 14 billion years, thus allowing MAP a look back through time to see the early Universe.

"The cosmic microwave light is a fossil," says Professor David Wilkinson, Princeton University, Princeton, US. "Just as we can study dinosaur bones and reconstruct their lives of millions of years ago, we can probe this ancient light and

reconstruct the Universe as it was about 14 billion years ago."

MAP has a range of sensors that will collect radiation and measure the tiny temperature variations in different parts of the sky.

The MAP mission will build on the 1992 Cosmic Background Explorer (Cobe) satellite that discovered a faint tiny pattern, or "anisotropy", in the CMB.

"Nothing has ever been built like it before," says NASA's Dr Edward Wollack. "To measure the cosmic glow reliably to a part in a million, to millionths of a degree, has been the grand challenge. It's like measuring the weight of a single grain."

An unmanned spacecraft blasted off on Saturday on a mission to look for clues about how the Universe will end.

Lift-off went smoothly and on time at 1946 GMT from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

The Microwave Anisotropy Probe (MAP) will journey into deep space on a voyage to explore some of the mysteries of the Cosmos.

With it astronomers hope to determine the content, shape, history, and the ultimate fate of the Universe.

The American space agency NASA's \$145m space probe will construct a full-sky picture of the oldest light in the Universe.

**KANO STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING &
PROTECTION AGENCY (KASEPPA)
No. 2, Durbin Katsina Road, Bompai, P.M.B. 3046, Kano**

INVITATION TO BID

The Kano State Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, in its continued effort to provide meaningful development projects to its teeming populace, intends to carry out works under the Contracts for which this invitation for Prequalification is issued.

The Kano State Environmental Planning & Protection Agency (KASEPPA), hereinafter referred to as "the Employer," calls for Bidding from reputable Contractors for continuation of Urban Road Project under the Phase V of the year 2001 Budget. The Projects are as follows:-

<u>CONTRACT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
KUR16	Construction of KERD/Rail Line-Sharada Road
KUR 18	Dualisation of Airport Road
KUR19	Dualisation of Ashton Road
KUR20	Construction of Abdu Sambo Road
KUR21	Rehabilitation of Sabon-Titi Road
KUR22	Rehabilitation of Bello Road
KUR23	Rehabilitation of Civic Centre Road
KUR24	Const. of Na'ibawa-Eastern Bypass Road
KUR25	Construction of Gwangwazo Roads & Drainages

i) Gwangwazo Road (ii) Dan' Agundi Road-Emirs Palace Road
iii) Wajila - G/Doki - S/Kofa Road (iv) Kwalli - Dan' Agundi Link Road
The works will include the construction of Culverts; the scarification and reconstruction of failed pavement sections, the provision of double coat surfaced dressed Roads and Asphaltic carriageway, the repair of existing drainage structures and the provision of new drainage facilities.

Bidding is open to firms and voluntary formed joint ventures. Applications may be made for the bidding for one or more of the above Contracts, eligible applications may obtain, between 2nd July - 12th July 2001, the Bid documents from:-

**The Director,
Engineering Department,
Kano State Environmental Planning & Protection Agency
(KASEPPA), No. 2, Durbin Katsina Bompai Road, Tel: 064-630338
Kano.**

The request must clearly state in "request for Bid Document for the

The documents are available for a non-refundable cash payment of **N50,000.00** only per Contract Document. One of the minimum requirements for qualification will be to have successfully carried, out, as Prime Contractor, at least two works of a nature and complexity equivalent to the proposed works during the last five years. Submissions of Application for Bidding must be received in sealed envelopes, which must be either delivered by hand or by registered mail to:-

**The Director,
Engineering Department,
Kano State Environmental Planning & Protection Agency
(KASEPPA), No. 2, Durbin Katsina Road, Bompai, Kano. Tel:-
064-630338**

Not later than 12th July 2001 and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for _____ Contract No. _____ The Kano State Environmental Planning and Protection Agency (KASEPPA) reserves the right to accept or rejects late applications. Applicants will be advised, in due course of the results of their bids. AND ITS NOT BIDDING on the Employer to accept the lowest Bid.

Signed

MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Kano State Environmental Planning & Protection Agency (KASEPPA)
Kano State**



NIGERIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR BUSINESS
AND ON-LINE BILLING SYSTEM AT TELEPHONE
EXCHANGES IN ABUJA**

Nigerian Telecommunications Limited, in its on-going efforts to modernize services, has planned to improve customers care in Abuja with the provision of adequate Customer's Service Buildings for business and on-line billing system at Telephone Exchanges in the Federal Capital Territory.

NITEL hereby invites Tenders from companies in the building construction industry to submit proposals for the project.

Interested Bidders are advised to:

- (I) Collect a slip from Tenders Secretariat, NITEL Corporate Headquarters, 2 Bissau Street, Off Herbert Macaulay Way, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja on presentation of Certificate of Incorporation and Current Tax Clearance Certificate.
- (II) Pay a non-refundable Tender Fee of N25,000.00 to the Cashier at NITEL Corporate Headquarters, 2 Bissau Street, Off Herbert Macaulay Way, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja, and
- (III) Collect Tender Documents from the Tenders Secretariat on production of the receipt for non-refundable Tender fee.

Completed Tender Documents are to be submitted along with photocopies of the following documents:

- Current Tax Clearance Certificate
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Receipt for the payment of Tender fee

The Envelope should be sealed, waxed and marked at the top left hand corner "TENDER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR BUSINESS AND ON-LINE BILLING SYSTEM AT TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN ABUJA" and addressed to:

**The Secretary
Management Tenders Board
Nigerian Telecommunications Limited
Corporate Headquarters
2, Bissau Street, Wuse Zone 6,
ABUJA**

To reach him not later than 12,00 noon on **Friday, July 27, 2001.**

Please note that NITEL is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender and tender sent by Courier or post will not be accepted.

NITEL MANAGEMENT

BUSINESS DAY

Let's develop our own software, Sanusi challenges banks

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Chief Joseph Sanusi, has challenged bank directors to sponsor the development of a local software for general applications by banks in the country.

The governor, who was speaking at a seminar for bank directors in Abuja, said with the level of adoption of Information Technology (IT)

By Osborne Adi JNR.

in banking services in the country, it is now time to have local software that would apply in the peculiar operational environment of the sector.

He decried the situation where each and every individual bank go to Europe or the Americas to acquire its own different technology without recourse to a

collective usage.

According to him, the time has come for everybody in the sector to sit down and brainstorm on the desirability of a software that could inter-link them to make both intra and inter-bank transactions easier and even cheaper.

"Let's try to see if it is possible to develop local software for general application in this sector that

is leading in the application of IT in the country."

He suggested that this could be achieved through the assemblage of the auction's best brains in software development, that are currently making gradual breakthrough in the field.

He said it was even possible that if these softwares were developed, the products could even be exported for foreign exchange earning.

Insurance is a misunderstood profession

The Managing Director of NICON Insurance Cooperation, Ms P. M. G. Soares, has called on Nigerians to patronise insurance companies for the betterment of the country.

Soares, who said that the sub-sector is a misunderstood profession,



Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

called on the media to help in the needed enlightenment of the mass of Nigerians as far as insurance is concerned.

The Managing Director, who gave this view in a welcome address during the opening ceremony of a training programme organised by NICON in Lagos, urged all stakeholders in the sector to contribute in creating awareness in their various environments.

She said it has "been established that the level of awareness of Insurance is very low. This being the case, it is the responsibility of insurance practitioners to ensure that the practice of

-NICON MD

insurance becomes understood.

"May I appeal to all insurance companies to make concerted efforts towards insurance education in Nigeria."

The Commissioner of Insurance, Chief Oladipo Bailey, who was the guest of honour at the occasion stated the readiness of the Lagos State government to continue to support insurance business in Nigeria.

Bailey thanked NICON for organising such a programme, saying it's in the overall interest of the national economy.

NAICOM reviews trustees investment act

The National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) has set up a committee which is currently reviewing the Trustees Investment Act of 1962.

NAICOM's Director (Technical), Dr. (Prince) Mike Ikupolati, who disclosed this at a workshop in Lagos stated that the ongoing review was to update the contents of the act.

According to him, the need for the reform of the act is overdue as some of its stipulations are inconsistent with current developments worldwide.

As he put it: "The investment act of 1962 is currently being reviewed. There is a committee working on it. And I believe very soon we will have a change in that law."

Ikupolati, who delivered a lecture titled: "Basic Principles and Practice of Insurance for Media Practitioners," stressed the need to update all archaic practices in the financial sector.

On the universal banking phenomenon, the director stressed the need to ensure that NAICOM

remains the only regulatory body in the insurance industry, saying that "there is no way Central Bank of Nigeria or Security and Exchange Commission can adequately regulate the sub-sector.

Said he: "There is no way you can define banking business to include insurance. They are two distinct businesses."

He averred that the insurance industry, banking and capital market are three distinct businesses and that universal banking is simply a collaboration of these three sections of the financial sector.

The chartered insurer argued that our bank can operate insured business as a result of universal banking but that it should be on agency basis, maintaining that none can operate in the industry without licence from NAICOM.

According to him, if this is done the nation's financial sector would be boosted for the benefit of all and sundry.

Meanwhile, the Nigeria Insurance Association (NIA) is currently campaigning to have a representative on the board of National Insurance Commission (NAICOM).

The secretary of NIA, Funmi Adeyemi, who stated this in a lecture in Lagos said the association has made representations to government and NAICOM to no avail.

According to him, it is funny that the genuine practitioners in the industry could be excluded from the board of a regulatory body in charge of its affairs.

Said he: "Insurance companies contribute over 80 percent of the income of NAICOM more than 95 percent of the provisions of insurance and NAICOM decrees relate solely to them."



Jubril Martins-Kuye, Minister of State for Finance

Borno State command of the Nigeria Customs Service has reiterated its resolve to stamp out smuggling activities in the state, saying no amount of intimidation or threat will torpedo this determination.

In its first public statement following an attack on its office in Gamboru-Ngala (on the border with Cameroon) earlier this month by a gang suspected to be petroleum products smugglers and their supporters, the customs command said it has stepped up its anti-smuggling operations and will go on undeterred.

In a chat with journalists in Maiduguri, the command's area comptroller, Alhaji Umar Musa Daura, said the customs service in the state has this year made 27 seizures, 22 of which were of petroleum products

Customs poised to stamp out smuggling in Borno

From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri

while the remaining five were of general goods, including grains and vehicles. The petroleum products, according to him, totalled 20,728 litres.

The customs men seized these products while their owners tried to smuggle them to the neighbouring Chad and Cameroon republics.

It will be recalled that the Borno State government has set up a panel of inquiry into the mob attack on the customs office in Gamboru while four suspects have been arrested by the police and charged to court.

Kenyan banks suffer from bad loans

The situation of Kenya's banking industry is getting worse as bad loans have increased by three percent to 122.4 billion shillings (more than N156 billion), according to the People

Daily in Nairobi.

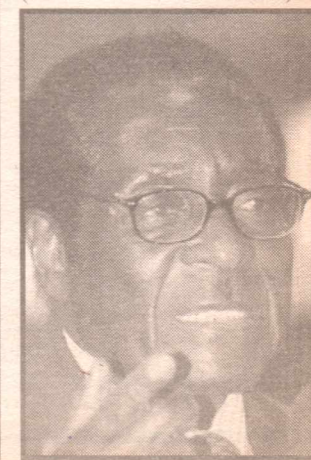
The latest monthly economic review issued by the Central Bank of Kenya indicated that the non-performing loans accounted for 40.8 percent of total loans and overdrafts.

At the end of April this year, the bad loans reached 101.5 billion shillings (more than 129 billion), the paper quoted the review as saying.

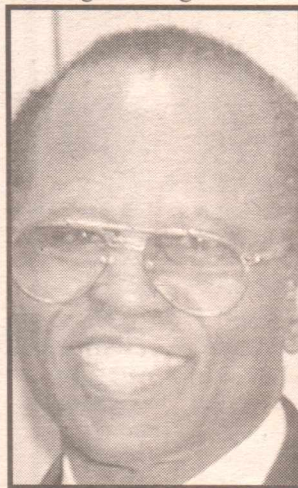
The high level of non-performance loans is threatening to bring a number of small banks to their knees, the paper said, adding that the Delphis Bank, which was closed following excessive withdrawals by depositors last week, is now put under statutory management of the Central Bank of Kenya.

The paper said that another three banks are now in trouble too, and the steep rise in the level of non-performing loans gives an indication of a deteriorating economic performance.

According to Kenya's Finance Minister, Chris Okemo, the government has given banks a reprieve in the next two years by allowing them to maintain 300 million shillings (more than N381 million) as capitalisation instead of the earlier figure of 500 million shillings (more than N635 million).



Robert Mugabe, Kenyan President



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

Ugochukwu charges Niger Delta youths

The Chairman, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Chief Onyema Ugochukwu, has appealed to youths in the region to ensure peace in their respective states, as no meaningful development can be achieved in an atmosphere of rancor.

He stated this at the Edo State Stakeholders' Consultative Forum, held in Benin City to make members of the NDDC board work hand-in-hand with the relevant concerns in all its programmes.

Ugochukwu, who said he was encouraged by the level of relative calmness so far experienced in the area, urged the youths to keep it so and allow the commission the opportunity to empower them through programmes designed for them.

The chairman's address, which was delivered on his behalf by the Managing Director of NDDC, Engr. Godwin Owsene, said projects in the region would be measured for each of the nine states through the level of their respective oil production.

He, however, assured the Edo State stakeholders that every oil producing state in the country including the local governments would get

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

something, "no matter how small," he vowed.

Ugochukwu said the reason for the stakeholders' forum was to allow for full participation of indigenes of the various communities in the Niger Delta in the identification, selection, design and execution of projects to be sited in their localities.

He further stressed that NDDC was not created to take over other tiers of government's constitutional responsibilities, but to work together with the Niger Delta people for "people-oriented programmes."

The NDDC chairman also used the occasion to remind the stakeholders that the commission would not claim having solutions to the development of the areas, but implored the indigenes, who are better placed to tell, about their needs.

He stated further that the commission in the last six months has been involved in drawing up a working formula which include; the NDDC guidelines, master plan etc. According to him, "the major advantage of the master plan is that there would be a time frame for the beginning and completion of each projects," he stressed.

BUSINESS \$ DAY ¥

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at 29/06/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	5.90	5.90	0.00	18	48,388	285,851.38
ACCESSBANK	1.15	1.20	0.05	6	53,100	61,315.00
AFRPRINT	1.05	1.00	0.05	10	69,575	70,200.00
AFRIBANK	9.34	6.99	0.35	21	140,734	1,265,774.30
AGIP	32.00	31.99	0.01	37	73,823	2,373,211.45
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	2	4,000	4,720.00
AIICO	3.83	3.70	0.13	5	28,100	103,970.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	16	18,377	355,411.18
ASHAKACEM	15.94	16.73	0.79	15	166,162	2,779,890.26
BATA	0.35	0.34	0.01	1	30,000	10,200.00
BCC	4.40	4.40	0.00	3	2,000	8,800.00
BERGER	2.78	2.85	0.13	16	86,108	229,720.20
C&ILEASING	1.37	1.37	0.00	4	145,000	196,650.00
CADBURY	26.00	25.50	0.50	70	241,702	5,964,122.80
CAP	3.30	3.30	0.00	6	21,300	70,290.00
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	1	250	767.50
CFAO	2.25	2.25	0.00	11	2,116	4,761.00
CHARTERED	7.83	8.24	0.41	15	268,680	2,324,082.00
CMB	0.72	0.72	0.00	3	8,960	6,451.20
COOPBANK	2.14	2.14	0.00	4	459,000	982,260.00
CORNERST	1.80	1.80	0.00	1	2630	4,759.62
COSTAIN	1.49	1.42	0.07	1	5,000	7,100.00
CRUSADER	2.19	2.29	0.10	1	288,978	661,759.62
CUTIX	3.40	3.40	0.00	3	3,000	10,200.00
DELTGLAS	6.40	5.40	0.00	1	1,000	6,400.00
DNMEYER	15.40	16.10	0.70	9	103,322	1,642,821.20
DUNLOP	3.45	3.43	0.02	17	161,627	553,903.48
EKOBANK	1.71	1.79	0.03	4	74,800	132,276.00
EPICDYNAM	0.60	0.60	0.00	1	4,666	2,799.60
ETERNAOIL	1.07	1.12	0.05	3	82,000	91,640.00
EVANSMED	1.42	1.42	0.00	4	7,502	10,652.84
FIRSTALUM	2.75	2.62	0.13	39	1,596,796	4,248,166.50
FIRSTBANK	32.51	32.35	0.16	265	725,362	23,421,656.24
FLOURMIL	17.49	18.00	0.51	48	399,103	8,977,508.60
FSB	7.28	6.92	0.36	48	527,370	3,649,400.40
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	21	331,995	1,892,371.50
GUINNESS	37.50	37.85	0.35	17	58,107	2,179,516.50
IGL	6.55	6.25	0.30	7	120,806	766,137.50
IMB	1.83	1.75	0.08	35	495,058	878,100.99
INLANDBANK	1.48	1.48	0.00	4	3,835	5,675.80
INTBREW	1.32	1.26	0.06	1	51,000	64,260.00
JBERGER	52.05	49.46	2.60	2	9,000	445,140.00
JOHNHOLT	2.76	2.63	0.13	5	61,932	162,899.57
JOSBREW	0.60	0.62	0.02	5	4,200	2,480.00
LAWUNION	1.53	1.57	0.04	13	1,038,064	1,549,696.00
LEVIBROS	26.86	25.01	0.85	84	268,052	8,748,731.54
LIBERTY	2.22	2.22	0.00	1	3,000	6,660.00
LIONBANK	1.30	1.24	0.06	1	5,000	6,200.00
LONGMAN	6.00	5.80	0.20	4	5,200	30,200.00
MAY&BAKER	3.60	3.80	0.00	2	37,000	133,200.00
MOBIL	64.00	64.00	0.00	11	14,629	949,056.00
MORISON	4.29	4.29	0.00	1	1,000	4,290.00
NAL	5.17	5.42	0.25	44	1,684,656	9,130,646.36
NB	26.55	27.85	1.30	55	494,129	13,449,379.76
NBC	22.96	21.90	1.06	87	329,800	7,696,738.60
NCR	2.24	2.13	0.11	1	9,000	19,170.00
NEM	0.59	0.61	0.02	4	39,830	24,296.30
NESTLE	84.90	64.90	0.00	2	350	22,750.00
NIG-GERMAM	2.53	2.53	0.00	6	11,000	27,630.00
NIGERCHEM	0.54	0.54	0.00	1	500	270.00
NIWICABLE	2.17	2.17	0.00	1	200	434.00
NNFM	12.00	12.00	0.00	1	240	2,880.00
NOLCHEM	49.17	46.72	2.45	9	1,889	88,254.08
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	1	572	5,405.40
OWENABANK	3.77	3.77	0.00	13	42,501	160,228.77
PRESTIGE	2.55	2.55	0.00	3	3,220	8,211.00
PZ	14.80	14.12	0.68	33	202,908	2,933,092.49
ROYALEX	5.35	5.35	0.00	16	73,072	391,606.00
RTBRISCOE	1.35	1.35	0.00	1	200	270.00
SAVANNA	1.20	1.22	0.02	15	285,571	343,738.92
SCOA	2.01	1.91	0.10	5	11,600	22,156.00
SECASSURE	0.64	0.64	0.00	3	1,020,000	652,800.00
SKBEECHAM	2.65	2.62	0.13	10	47,900	121,872.00
TEXACO	85.00	64.00	1.00	11	10,290	662,471.00
TIB	2.80	2.66	0.14	7	129,861	345,430.26
TOTAL	65.00	65.00	0.00	12	19,252	1,226,784.50
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	1	5,445	5,662.80
TRIPLEG	1.29	1.29	0.00	3	4,000	5,160.00
UAC-PROP	2.70	2.70	0.00	27	694,000	1,885,020.00
UACN	3.75	3.61	0.14	62	393,083	1,414,721.05
UBA	12.62	12.75	0.23	148	1,574,013	19,846,453.02
UBN	39.00	39.00	0.00	121	305,913	11,888,858.88
UNIC	2.45	2.35	0.10	8	12,832	30,155.20
UNIDONDCON	15.97	15.80	0.17	6	20,700	326,980.00
UNIPETROL	52.25	49.64	2.61	7	7,598	379,421.52
UNTL	3.30	3.15	0.15	8	108,582	342,438.30
UPL	4.05	4.00	0.05	1	5,000	20,000.00
UTB	4.67	4.70	0.03	40	1,309,522	5,955,621.87
UTC	1.50	1.44	0.06	11	165,100	245,400.00
VANLEER	3.27	3.11	0.16	4	5,800	18,166.00
VITAFOAM	4.20	4.16	0.05	28	227,815	932,185.40
WAPCO	44.51	42.38	2.23	25	271,669	11,513,332.22
WAPIC	1.30	1.36	0.06	2	5,357	7,235.52
WEMABANK	2.89	2.85	0.04	43	737,673	2,097,308.12
WTN	2.14	2.14	0.00	1	1,000	2,190.00

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at 29/06/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
NB	28.55	27.65	1.30
ASHAKACEM	15.94	16.73	0.79
DNMEYER	15.40	16.10	0.70
FLOURMILL	17.49	18.00	0.51
CHARTERED	7.83	8.24	0.41
GUINNESS	37.50	37.85	0.35
NAL	5.17	5.42	0.26
UBA	12.52	12.75	0.23
CRUSADER	2.19	2.29	0.10
EKOBANK	1.71	1.79	0.09
WAPIC	1.30	1.36	0.06
ETERNAOIL	1.07	1.12	0.05
ACCESSBANK	1.15	1.20	0.05
LAWUNION	1.53	1.67	0.04
UTB	4.67	4.70	0.03
NEM	0.59	0.61	0.02
SAVANNA	1.20	1.22	0.02
JOSBREW	0.60	0.62	0.02

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UNIPETROL	52.25	49.54	2.51
JBERGER	52.06	49.46	2.60
NOLCHEM	49.17	46.72	2.45
WAPCO	44.61	42.38	2.23
NBC	22.96	21.90	1.06
PZ	14.80	14.12	0.69
FSB	7.28	6.92	0.36
AFRIBANK	9.34	9.99	0.35
IGL	6.55	6.25	0.30
VANLEER	3.27	3.11	0.16
UNTL	3.30	3.15	0.15
TIB	2.90	2.66	0.14
SKBEECHAM	2.65	2.52	0.13
BERGER	2.78	2.65	0.13
FIRSTALUM	2.75	2.62	0.13
JOHNHOLT	2.78	2.83	0.13
NCR	2.24	2.13	0.11
SCOA	2.01	1.91	0.10
NIC	2.45	2.35	0.10
IMB	1.93	1.75	0.08
COSTAIN	1.49	1.42	0.07
LIONBANK	1.30	1.24	0.06
UTC	1.50	1.44	0.06
INTBREW	1.32	1.26	0.06
AFRINT	1.05	1.00	0.05

Summary of Transactions

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,796	19,622,361	168,800,507.49	85

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

The bulls lost to the bears on Friday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 18.62 million shares valued at N168.60 million in 1,796 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

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

Price Movement:

The bears won the bulls on the floor, with a total of 18 companies gaining and 25 losing in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Breweries, Building Materials, Chemical and Paint, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Banking, insurance and the Petroleum Marketing sub sector.

NB Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 130 kobo to close the day at N27.85 per share, followed by Ashakacem Plc. which appreciated by 79 kobo to close at N16.73 per share.

Other price gainers include DN Meyer (70 kobo); Flourmill (51 kobo); Chartered (41 kobo); Guinness (35 kobo); NAL (25 kobo); UBA (23 kobo); Crusader (10 kobo); Ekobank (8 kobo); WAPIC (6 kobo) and Eternaoil and Accessbank (5 kobo apiece).

Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Construction, Building Materials, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Conglomerates, Banking, Industrial and Domestic Product, Packaging, Textile, Healthcare, Chemical and Paint, Computer and Office Equipment and the Breweries sub sectors.

Unipetrol Plc led the price losers, crashing by 261 kobo to close at and N49.64 per share, followed by JBerer Plc, which lost 260 kobo, to close at N49.46 per share.

Other price losers include Nolchem (245 kobo); WAPCO (223 kobo); NBC (106 kobo); PZ (68 kobo); FSB (36 kobo); Afribank (35 kobo); IGL (30 kobo); Vanleer (16 kobo); UNTL (15 kobo) and TIB (14 kobo).

Privatisation UPDATE

Eight firms jostle over Nigerdock

Eight foreign companies in the shipping industry have indicated their interests to buy over Nigerdock Plc as Core Group/Strategic Investors.

The companies include Spring Fountain West African Shipyard Limited, Global Integrated Constructors Nigeria Limited, Hecrema and Kraerner A. S. A.

These companies have joined four other companies, which had earlier sent in their Expression of Interests (EOIs). They are Global Energy Company Limited, Navimor Consortium, Stolt Offshore S. A. and Coflexip Stena Offshore International.

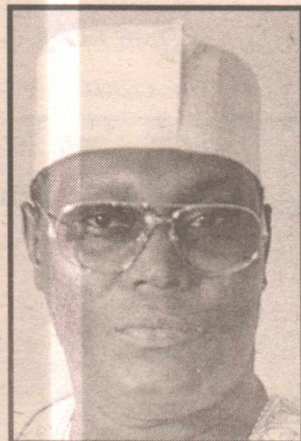
A statement from BPE said the applications were received after the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) had approved the re-advertisement for EOIs by prospective Core Group/Strategic Investors for the ship building company.

According to the bureau, the re-advertisement was necessitated by an increase in the preferential allotment to core investors of up to 51 percent equity interest in enterprises slated for privatisation.

The plan, the statement also said, was to divert 51 percent of the equity in Nigerdock to a core group/strategic investor with the rest shares going to the Nigerian public over a period of time.

BPE further said that the re-advertisement for EOIs also became necessary considering the need to make adequate information available to prospective investors, especially on other investments of the enterprise, which were not made available earlier.

The BPE has given an insight into how the management of National Oil and Chemical Company (NOLCHEM), before its privatisation, perpetrated fraudulent practices in the operation of the accounts of the company.



Vice President Atiku Abubakar, NCP Chairman

According to the bureau in a statement issued in Abuja last week, Messrs Suleiman & Co., a firm of auditors, discovered during its investigations of the books of the company that there was poor management of accounts, unreliable ledger and credit, under-provision for bad and doubtful debt and massive abuse of credit facilities.

The summary of the report also indicated that there was defective procurement procedure and high incidence of leaking of chemical products; lack of board authority over accounts being operated, excessive contracting of credit facilities from banks beyond board and possibility of fraud due to non-reconciliation of bank statements.

The auditors also found that the management could not reconcile its NNPC accounts and there was lack of provision of contingent liability for pending court cases. The management was

BPE unfolds details of NOLCHEM fraud

Stories by Osborne Adi JNR, Business Editor

also said to have committed questionable expenses on "privatisation" and advertisement.

The fixed assets management review showed that there was lack of board sanction for capital expenditure; non-competitive bidding for assets of unrequired assets and poor fixed assets register.

A review of the general performance of both the board and management found the board wanting in the performance of its duties of passing budgets and ensuring that tender boards function, while encouraging profit reporting at all costs and displaying little consciousness for cost saving.

Management on its part capitalised on board deposition by sidetracking procedures to achieve its wishes.

Following these findings and allegations of insider abuse by Coupetrol

the core group in NOLCHEM now, the bureau said it will ask the auditors to make a formal presentation in the presence of the affected parties.

Besides, copies of the report will be sent to the current Chairman and

Managing Director of NOLCHEM, issuing house, external auditors, former company/board secretary of the company and possibly some members of the last board of directors.

All the parties mentioned, including

investigating auditors will be invited to a joint meeting for the formal presentation and consideration of the report after they might have studied it and prepared their responses, before submission to the National Council on Privatisation (NCP).

FESTAC '77, NPM workers to get N325m salary arrears

The Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), is set to pay the sum of N325 million salary arrears of staffers of the Nigeria Paper Mills, Jebba and those of FESTAC '77 Hotel, Lagos.

BPE spokesman, Joseph Anichebe, said in Abuja that the proposed payment was a product of an agreement reached between the bureau and officials of the National Union of Hotel and Personal Services Employees (NUHPSE), to off-set the one year salary areas of FESTAC '77 workers which stood at N25 million.

The payment is,

however, hinged on the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reached by both parties on June 19th 2001 and subject to verification and proper identification of all affected staff.

The workers of Nigeria Paper Mills, who are owed over N300 million in salary arrears and benefits are also to be paid after an accounting firm assigned by the Federal Ministry of Industries completes a manpower audit of the company.

At the end of the audit exercise, the Minister of Industry, Chief Kola

Jamodu, is expected to personally supervise payments.



Kola Jamodu, Minister of Industry

BPE takes over 520 NITEL properties

The Federal Ministry of Works and Housing has handed over 520 Certificates of Occupancy (C of O) in respect of NITEL's landed properties across the country to the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE).

The certificates were prepared by the ministry in response to a directive from President Obasanjo to raise the title documents before the privatisation of the national carrier.

The presidential directive came on the heels of discovery that about 90 percent of NITEL properties were without certificates of

occupancy, even after the Federal Government had given the end of September, 2001 as deadline for its sale.

In carrying out the presidential order, the ministry raised a task force comprising of its officials, those of BPE and NITEL with a three, week period to complete the assignment.

The 11-man task force led by Mr. M. M. U. Okolo-Ebube and coordinated by Mr. A. A. Badamasi, completed the assignment and handed over the documents to BPE last week two weeks ahead of schedule.

Prior to the procurement of the 520 title documents last week, NITEL had only 36 titles out of its 573 properties scattered nationwide. Arraignments are, however, on to complete the titles on the remaining 17 properties.

At a brief handing-over ceremony, Minister of State, Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Ali Madaki, said despite all the odds and difficulties of preparing such a large number of documents, the exercise was successfully completed.

Body wants IT agency for Nigeria

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

International Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN) has canvassed for the setting up of an information technology (IT) agency for Nigeria while urging President Olusegun Obasanjo to put in place such an agency.

ITAN which declared this in a communique signed by its president, Chris Uwaje at the end of its seminar tagged "National Policy for Information Technology - Challenges and Opportunities for the Private Sector" believes that the above will help advance the growth of the IT industry.

According to the association, there is apparent need for the creation of an enabling environment and national IT infrastructure such as state information infrastructure (SII) to link with the global information infrastructure (GII).

It urged that this should be done immediately to enable the country leap-frog the digital divide between us and the developed nations of the world.

Therefore, it campaigns that an IT bill should be sent to the National Assembly and necessary acts enacted in order to achieve the above

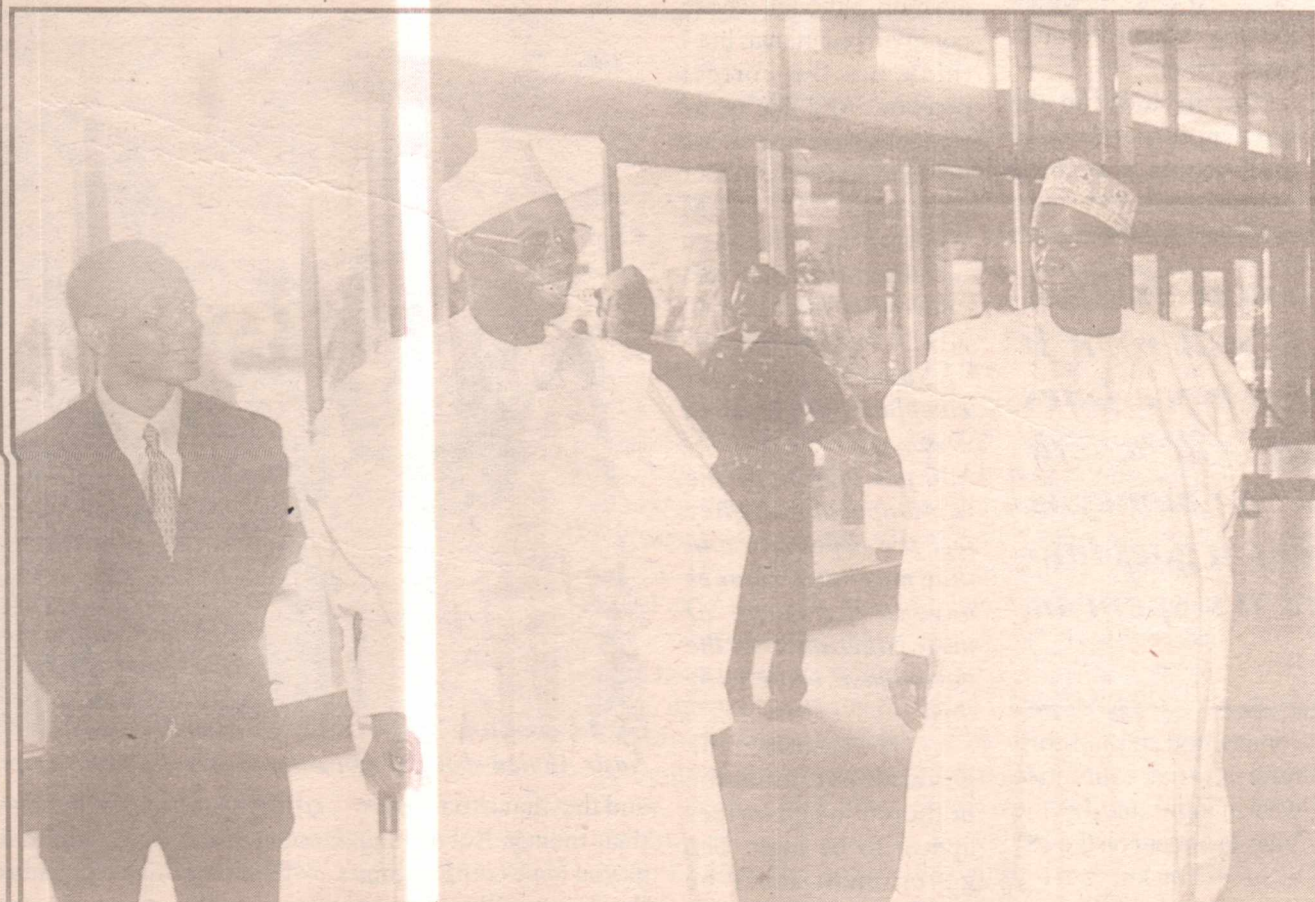
mentioned issues as well as establish IT parks and software corridors to top the ingenuity of our resourceful IT professionals.

Among other things, ITAN asked that government should ensure that most Nigerians become computer literate and that the products of our indigenous software manufacturers are patronised by the three tiers of government at the local, state and federal levels.

ITAN also declared that "Government should establish IT departments in all government domains and its agencies and make IT literacy compulsory at all school levels."

The body stated its support for the achievements so far recorded by the Obasanjo-led federal government, saying that government should pursue it through to bring to reality its projections as encapsulated in its IT policy.

It also stated that the policy should not be derailed for any reason as its capacity of transforming Nigeria is obvious, the seminar called on governments to live up to its promises.



L-R: Malam Nasir el-Rufai, D/G, BPE, Malam Adamu Ciroma, Minister of Finance and Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Head of Civil Service of the Federation at a seminar on privatisation organised by BPE for top government functionaries at NICON Hilton Hotel, Abuja... recently. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

How would you like to be remembered? Does it bother you that you could be remembered as the man who sold off Nigeria?

Well, yes. But I also know that what we are doing is right. Look at Tony Blair who just won another tenure in Britain, what he's doing is just following in the footsteps of former British Prime

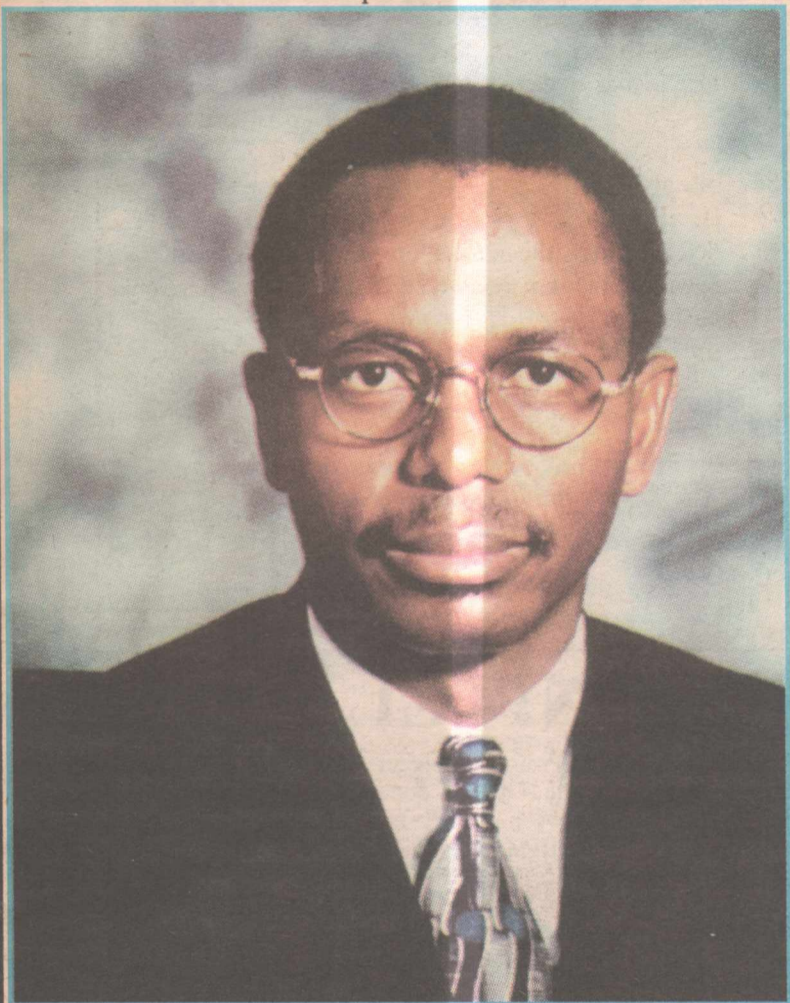
given to a limited number because you have a limited frequency spectrum. So, it's not like you can license 20 GSM operators, you don't have so many megabits of spectrum. For each operator to provide good service requires a maximum of five megabits of spectrum. For each operator to provide good service requires a minimum of

environment changes the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) can license more as long as opportunities are there. I don't think it's a problem if we start with the four.

Another factor that needs to be taken into account in licensing the operators is that, if you license too many, you make the sector also be unattractive to investors.

You know, investors need a minimum level of protection. So, you have to strike a balance you know.

But on the whole, I think the government is also looking very closely at competition and anti-monopoly issues. We have tried in each sector that we have privatised to ensure that there is competition. That's why as we are privatising NITEL, we



Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai Director-General, Bureau of Public Enterprises

Minister, Margaret Thatcher. Now Britain is enjoying it but when Thatcher started the changes in the 80s, a lot of them called her names.

Yes, that's life. So, people may not support privatisation initially because they believe it is just a game to transfer government assets to rich people. But five to 10 years from now, I think people of Nigeria will thank President Olusegun Obasanjo and Vice-President Atiku Abubakar for insisting that this programme should be done. And maybe, then, they will look at me with kinder eyes instead of saying that I am the man that sold the family's silverspoon.

But some people have pointed out that that would amount to giving things to a few people, like having private monopolies?

Well, you see, the GSM operation must be

five to 10 megabits that's all. So, the number was determined after taking this into consideration. The number ideally should have been 20 or 30, but you have a frequency spectrum limitation.

Well, I think, four is okay, most countries in the world have between two and five or six you

are pushing forward with the licensing of operators. The government is also going to license a second Network of Carriers sometime this year or early next year. So, we are looking at competition in every sector.

But in addition the government is also establishing a steering committee on

What is important is that whoever buys it will turn it round and invest more lines and that Nigerians will benefit in the long run. The money is a once off payment, it goes into the treasury and it's spent in one year.

know, that have a national coverage. I think four is okay for us, maybe we should have done more but it's a fast changing technology. As the

competition and anti-trust reform. That committee was inaugurated by the Vice-President on the 18th of June. You know every stakeholder is represented

NITEL's privatisation

The Director-General of Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) and Secretary (NCP), Mallam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai is the man on whose shoulder the entire nation's attention is focused. In an exclusive interview with our Senior Business and Economy Reporter, Bright Ewulu, el-Rufai's disposition bares his mind on a wide-range of issues including the on-going privatisation of NITEL, the Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM) operators, the future Telephone charges and the controversies being generated by the privatisation process.

to look at the general competition issues and prevent monopolies from coming up. I think every effort is being made to anticipate these problems and tackle them. And of course, it is a human system, you can't be perfect, you can't win all the time. So there will be problems here and there, but as they arise, I think if there is the will, they will be addressed.

What about the CIL, GSM License issue, will some other companies replace them?

I think the position of the government is that the CIL License was recovered because they didn't comply with the rules that will be bundled along with the Second Network Carriers License. Because for the Second Network Carriers to compete in the same footing with NITEL, it should have a mobile License like NITEL, in addition to broad fixed wired lines and the wireless license. So, it ought to have every License that NITEL has.

So, it was providence that actually led to the availability of that License. I think that is the position, although we are not involved in that, but I think it's the correct position. And that is the right position. So, we are going to end up with four operators (GSM Operators) although initially we will only start with two or three, that is, NITEL and two others.

Some experts are complaining against the proposed charges of N30 per minute by the GSM operators. They feel it's expensive and that may keep phones beyond the reach of most Nigerians? Is the government bothered by this?

Of course, the government must be bothered when prices appear to be high. The government must be bothered and I think NCC



The Director-General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Mallam Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, with (L-R) Mr. Joe Anichebe, Director General, (BPE) and Member/Secretary National Co-ordinating Communications Consultants and Members

as a regulator has a responsibility to regulate that and I'm sure they will do it at the appropriate time. But having said, that, let me state that those that are saying N30 is beyond the reach of Nigerians are not being honest because GSM is not for every Nigerian, it is digital technology, we got \$285 million from those people

come down, it will come down. Maybe the two operators are proposing that target because they think NITEL will not come on stream, but they will come on stream. We just opened the bid for their roll out two days ago. So, competition will bring the price down.

Secondly, Nigerians have other alternatives and GSM is not the only alternative. Fixed lines from NITEL is an alternative, other operators are there and they are



Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai (Director-General), BPE (R) and Tijan and they have to recover offering cheaper services. As their money. But as long as competition comes, these services will become more efficient and their prices will go down. So, there will

Interview

May yield \$2 billion – el-Rufai

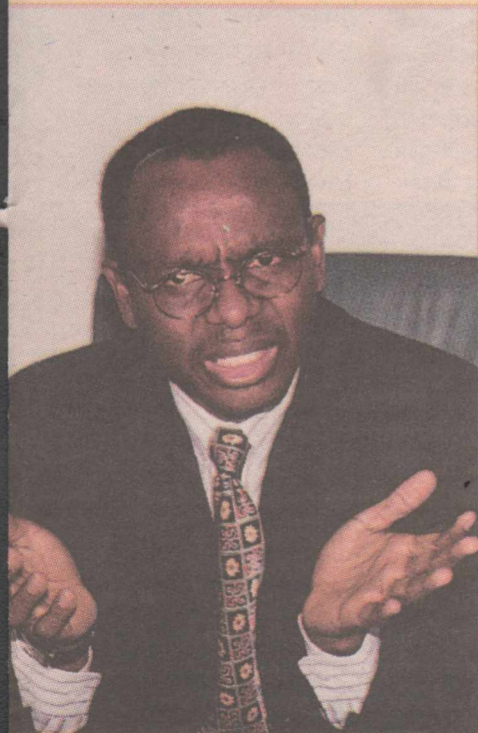
Member of National Council on Privatisation... the privatisation programme falls. In this interview... in his usual humble, articulate and intellectual... g privatisation of Nigeria Telecommunications... tors, the withdrawn license from C.I.L. Limited, ... isation programme, and lots more. Excerpts:



and Member/ Secretary, National Council on Privitisation, y Director; Public Affairs, (BPE), Mallam Nasir Ahmad el-ouncil on Privitisation (NCP), Mr Nn'emeke Maduegbuna, de Ogundele of the Comet Newspaper.

choices, and as long as you have alternatives for people to choose from "water will find its own level" they say. The NITEL analog network is not being shut down, it will be there. It will be cheaper than GSM phones. In the U.K. today there is analog and as well as GSM. And some people choose analog. GSM really offers you very little advantage over the analog or GSM, as long as it works. The issue is to make it work. I think NITEL's plan to continue to expand their analog

unnecessarily worried. I believe by the time all the systems are in place, various customers will select what suits them. Somebody that never leaves Lagos, for instance, and needs a mobile phone within Lagos can go and get a multi-Link phone. But if he travels, outside Lagos State he may need the services of another



Abdullahi, BPE Director of Operations

network and target the low-income group and it's the right strategy. There is nothing wrong with that. I think people are getting

the same basis. Hopefully, we will have the result of that evaluation and then,

the best three bidders that have proposed financing it will be invited for further negotiation of the prices, omissions and financing terms. And then, we will take our recommendation straight to the president for a decision. So, it will be decided quickly. The president is waiting and the team is working round the clock to finish its work.

How soon with NITEL be privatised?

I think we will meet the deadline of privatising NITEL pretty soon and providing the GSM service. We are doing our best. At the end of the day everything is in the hands of God but we are doing our best to ensure its realization. So far, I will

criticized and that I would be abused. But I also knew that I would take it and I will move on. Because what is in the interest of Nigerians will prevail. And as I said before, five to 10 years from now when the result of what we are doing now manifests, I think Nigerians will thank the leadership and some of us for what we are doing now. The critics can continue, I can take the heat! Once in a while, when they abuse me two or three times, I will abuse them once and life will continue. Those that are calling for my removal should call for my removal more often, that's part of the dividends of democracy. And I can also call for their deportation

anticipated these delays would happen. In fact, if we had a timetable, which was aggressive in the first place, the delays may even be worse.

We keep trying, we try to accelerate the programme as fast as possible but we are not going to do so in contempt of court orders or directives from our superiors to explain this story or that story.

How much does BPE hope to get from the privatisation of NITEL?

Well, we have our eyes on close to \$2 billion. Ah, of course, the final figure will be determined by the market because you may want to sell your car for N1 million but unless you find a person that is ready to pay N1 million, you cannot get the money. You see we are hopeful that in spite of the

the bids put forward by the contending core investors but on their capacities?

Yes, the technical capacity, the commitment to invest several million lines over the next four years is more important to us than the money. Because it is lines that Nigerians need. The lines that will energise the economy and make it productive and efficient. It's more important than the money. It will just go into the treasury as I said and be spent in one year. And you won't even remember what you did with it. But if NITEL works very well and people can get telephones within 24 hours at affordable cost, then, we would have made life more comfortable for our people.

There were talks that your organisation was



From (R-L) Nasir Ahmad el-Rufai, BPE Director -General, Tijani M. Abdullahi, BPE Director of Operations and I.S. Nijiddah BPE Director, Council Affairs.

say, so good. What do you want to tell your critics?

My critics? I have nothing to tell them. My job is a difficult one and I must have critics. Because we are doing something that many people don't agree with. We are doing something that removes opportunity for theft and rent seeking for many people. So, they will attack us using many guises. They will accuse us of one thing or the other to hide the fact that they have been stealing from these companies, and we are taking these companies away from them. And soon the stealing will be over. Before I took the Job I knew I would be

from Nigeria because that is also part of my own dividends of democracy (laughter).

But when one looks at the entire privatisation programme it seems you are behind schedule?

You see, we are doing our best to catch up, but when you have opposition at every corner, when people take you to court to stop you. When people go to the leadership to tell one rumour or the other that you have to explain, there are bound to be delays. And these are some of the reasons why we have had delays and slippages. But we are doing our best to catch up. We were under no illusions that this was going to be easy, so we

weaknesses in the international telecommunications market, we will get a good price for NITEL. But you see the money that we are going to raise from NITEL is not important. What is important is that whoever buys it will turn it round and invest more lines and that Nigerians will benefit in the long run. The money is a once off payment, it goes into the treasury and it's spent in one year.

But the long-term benefits Nigerians will realize from NITEL's privatisation is what we think people should focus on.

Which means your agency is not looking at

having problems with the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) over certain issues in the privatisation programme. Are you still having these problems?

No, no, no I don't think we are having any problems with SEC. There had been delays in getting approval to lift technical suspension of shares that have been privatised or one thing or another. But I think those issues have been sorted out as far as I know, I am not aware of any serious problem. We have had delays in the past, but most of them have been cleared out.



He makes coffins for a living

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

To some extent, we know what happens while we live, but nobody has ever died and return to share his or her experience of death with the living. Hence, when people are in a vehicle, they caution the drivers, they pray and sing praises to the Almighty, so that an accident would not occur. In various other ways, people confront nature to avoid death. Yet this phenomenon abounds. Death is living, and its life is longer than that of man, and when man is confronted with this reality, there is no turning back.

Today, many people are engaged in the business of producing coffins, which are used to convey the body of the deceased to the cemetery.

For those who are into the business, what are the implications of producing coffins to service the dead? Could death be the constant wish of some people who find economic value in it? Behind every business venture, there is a motivation. It may be profit or ease of proprietorship or even a certain factor located in previous life or business experiences or any other thing. But what are the motivations in the business of producing coffins to service the dead, humanitarian, interest, profit or what?

Mr. Alex Okpebileye is a carpenter who specialises in the production of coffins. He hails from Nnokwa village in Idemili Local Government Area of Anambra State. He lives in Karmo, satellite town of the FCT where his workshop is located. Mr Okpebileye is of average height and fair in complexion.

37-year-old Alex is married with four children, two boys and two girls. He couldn't go beyond secondary education. For obvious reason of lack of finance. He shared his history and experiences with *Daily Trust*.

"I have suffered a lot. In fact, I was just nine months old when I lost my father and mother. We are five altogether in my family, four boys and one girl. But the girl is dead now. So, only four of us are left. One is in Abuja here with me, two are at home in Idemili, Anambra State. I am the last born of my family.

Alex told *Daily Trust* that he could not be regarded as only a carpenter. He had knowledge of furniture production. He can produce chairs, beds and a host of other household furniture, but he chose to produce only coffins and he found strong justification for it.

He said: "I don't see anything bad in producing coffins. Some people say they fear the sight of coffins

and some say it causes nightmares. I believe that only the sinner would fear a coffin. Death is a must. I personally am not afraid of

course she was courageous enough to remain with me. (Paused and asked *Daily Trust* "Is it necessary to tell you everything?" "Go ahead please," *Daily Trust* replied.)

He continued: "There

back into glass business again because I was afraid that if I buy them, they might get broken again."

Alex stated that he couldn't know what exactly informed his decision to pro-

do not sell coffin.

"There was even one day when my colleague here sold seven coffins, just in a day! The only problem is that many people do not like buying coffin on Sundays,

ture. But I cannot leave the business of producing coffins. The business is good and I am making money from it."

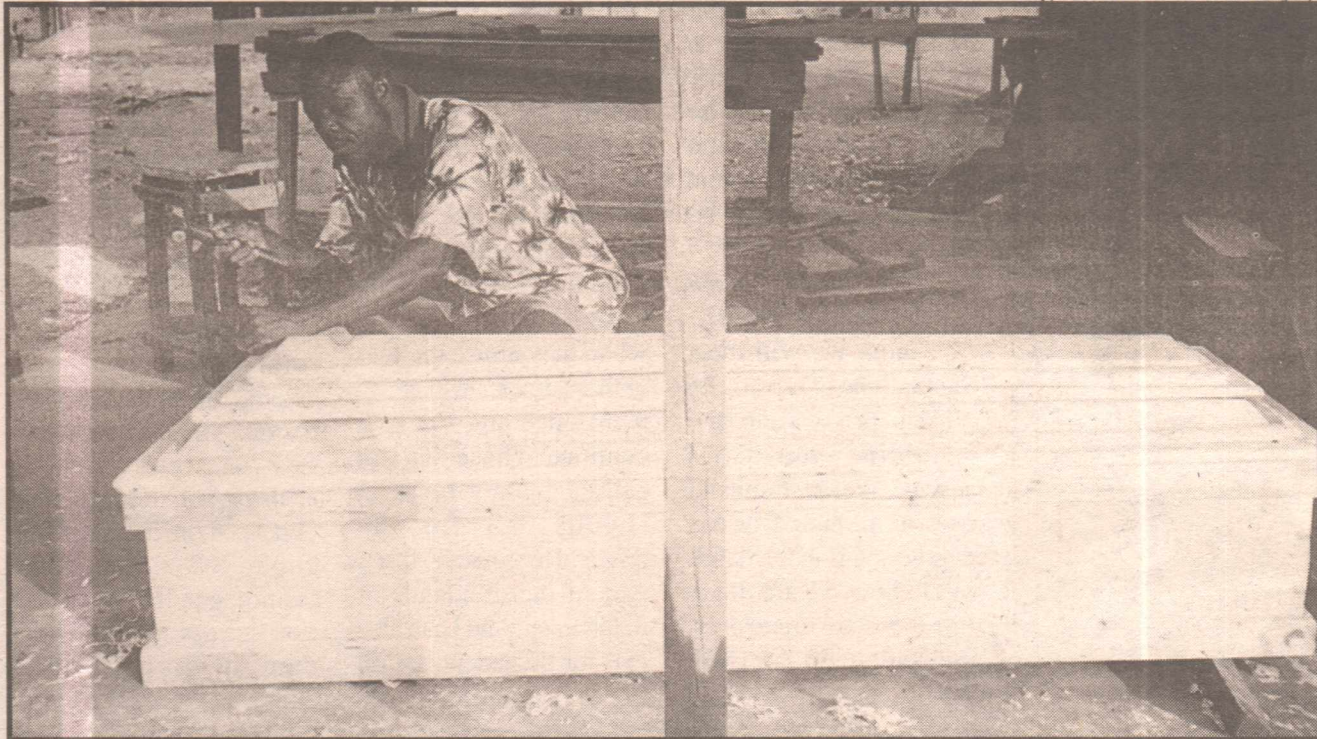
It is certain that every businessman wants to prosper. Prosperity in business comes either in the form of how many paid contracts one is able to win within a relatively short time or how much volume of sales are made, if producing items. Alex, as a business man is not an exception. How does he ensure high turnover in his sale of coffins?

Alex told *Daily Trust* that he actually wanted plenty sales, since that was his source of livelihood, but that he never prayed many people would die so that his business would flourish. He added that he does not go around to source for customers but had earlier introduced his business to hospitals. His display also helps in attracting customers.

A highly profitable business, Alex informed *Daily Trust* that the prices of coffins range between N8,000.00 to N25,000.00 and more, depending on the quality. In one week, he said he could sell about three or four coffins.

If within one week, a dealer sells four coffins at not less than N8,000.00, he would certainly make a gross income of N32,000.00 for that week. If this were estimated for one month period, it would translate to N128,000.00 in a month!

Who then says there is something wrong with the business of coffin making? Today, Alex is quite happy with his circumstances. He has vowed never to leave the business of coffin making. In his words: "When I die, I have my coffin on stand-by."



Mr. Alex Okpebileye in his workshop

death because I know I do not have any skeleton in my cupboard."

Many people fear death, and as such, anything associated with it tends to generate nightmares. If this is true, then what was it that motivated Alex into the business of producing coffins and even specializing in it?

"It is a long story," he said. "But I will tell you. You see, I used to sell glasses such as mirror, window louvers etc, but I had a very bad experience then. One day, I went to the market to purchase my items i.e. glasses. After returning from the market, I kept my items in the store. The following day I came back to the store and found some of the glasses broken. Ah! I couldn't see any reason why they were broken. No thief, nothing. Then I packed the remaining ones and kept them outside the store. Suddenly I saw them breaking just like that again. What was it? I didn't know (Went inside his workshop and brought some pieces of broken glasses to show *Daily Trust*). Three days later, my wife, who was pregnant became sick. I quickly took her to the hospital, that is, Garki hospital. I spent money. In short, that was where my money got finished. All my business money. My wife was operated on. Although both my child and my wife survived the operation, I lost the whole of my money to that sickness to the extent that I was begging on the streets before I could eat. In short, my wife knew about it, but of

was a time when my wife was sick and somebody gave me N5,000 to give to her. Instead I used it to buy planks and constructed a coffin. And you know what? The following day somebody came and bought the coffin at N10,000.00. That was where I started from."

Alex told *Daily Trust* that he did not learn carpentry or furniture works, but he just made a bold attempt at it and succeeded. In his words: "It was simply a miracle from the Almighty. But why would Alex abandon his initial glass trade, and why couldn't he have chosen another line of business instead of coffin production?"

He told *Daily Trust* that he was frightened by the manner in which his glasses got broken despite his safe arrival from the market. He said: "I didn't want to go

duce coffin with the money he was supposed to have given his wife. All he knew was that the horrific experience at that time guided his thoughts to things that arouse emotions. He noted that even his wife objected to his decision to take on the business of producing coffins.

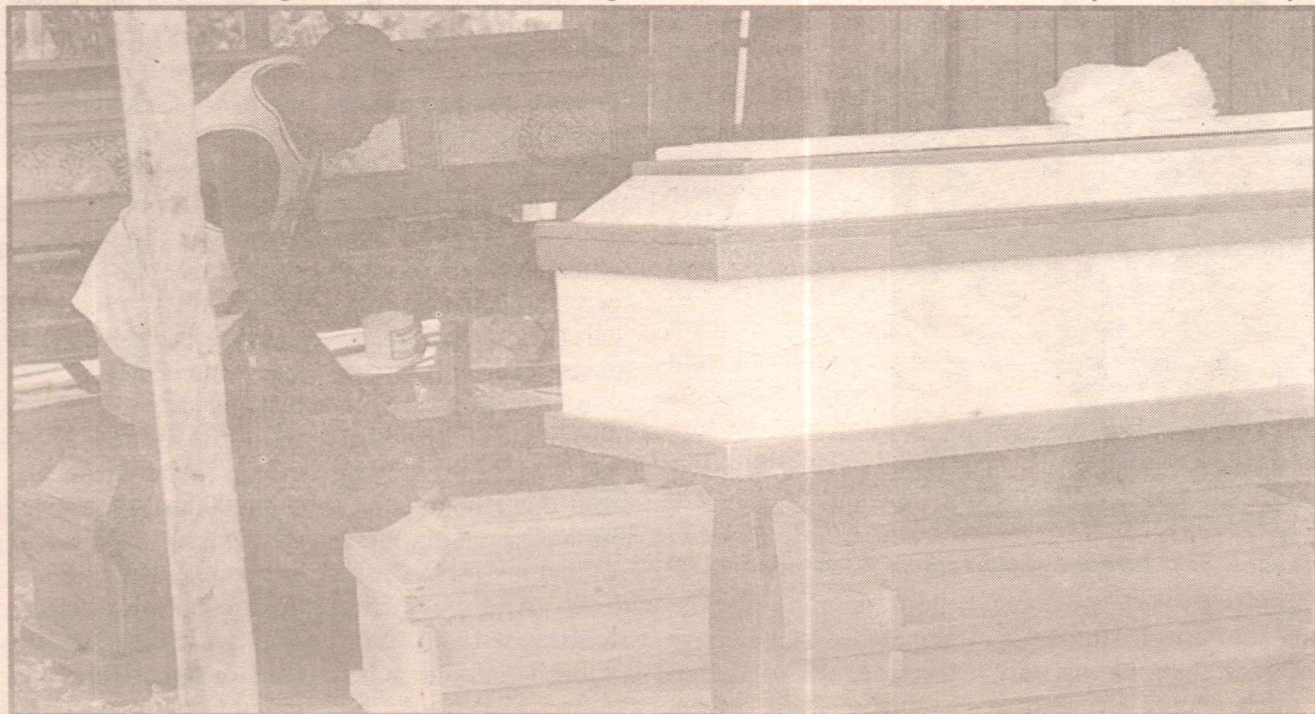
"And right now, I derive my livelihood from death." Alex said amidst laughter. "But you know I am not the one who created death. It is the Almighty and it must happen. Although I don't pray for it, but when it happens, we get customers." He added.

This brings us to the issue of patronage. It is indeed a clear fact that people die every second, every hour and every day. Alex noted that there was no day when either himself or his colleague

Mondays and Tuesday. Sales normally begin from Wednesday. The reason is that some people said that they don't like to begin their week with problem."

But what happens when someone dies on Sunday, Monday or Tuesday? Alex replied that there are many mortuaries in Abuja where bodies can be kept till time so desired by their owners.

In terms of public perception, Alex informed *Daily Trust* that many people had expressed disapproval of his business, with majority suggesting some other businesses. But Alex bared his mind: "It is a money matter. You know the production of coffin cannot be awarded as contract to me, but I can get contract for other furniture. So, if I have money, I can start producing other furni-



Polishing a finished coffin

NEWS

Wayas makes case for legislators

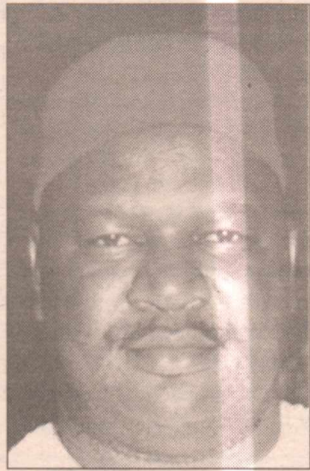
Second Republic Senate President, Dr. Joseph Wayas, has advocated for the professionalising of the country's legislative arm of government even as he urged Nigerians to be patient with the present democratic experiment, especially the legislative arm which has been comatose for the past 15 years.

Delivering a paper at a national conference on "Constituency relations" in Kaduna, last Thursday, said most stable democracies across the world had made their legislation a professional career.

In the paper entitled: "Legislator, public policy and constituency relations," Dr. Wayas stated that the

From Dare Oyewole, in Kaduna

benefits accruing as a result of this measure cannot all be enumerated.



Chief Pius Anyim

According to him, the duties of the legislators are such that affect every facet of the lives of the citizenry.

He said of all the three arms of government, the duties of the legislature are more critical to the operation and survival of democracy than the other two arms.

"The executive and judiciary can subsist under the most brutal of dictatorships but this is not so with the legislature," he

pointed out.

Highlighting the roles of the legislature in preserving and sustaining the present democracy, he maintained that without this arm of government, democracy can hardly be said to exist.

He, however, urged the present corp of legislators to avoid acts which tend to bring this time-tested bastion of democracy into disrepute.

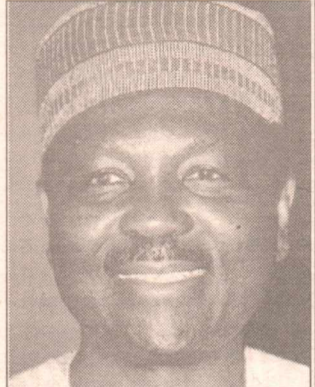
Gowon urges Nigerians to repent

Former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon (rtd), last week took a philosophical look at the numerous problems confronting the country and declared that Nigerians should turn to God for her past glory to be restored.

Gen. Gowon attributed problems bedeviling the nation to sins committed by Nigerians in high and low places.

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

The ex-head of state was delivering a lecture at the Rev. (Dr.) Samuel Olusegun Odunaike Memorial Lecture 2001, organised by the Four



Gen. Yakubu Gowon

Square Gospel Church in Nigeria, at the church headquarters, Onikan, Lagos.

Gowon described the topic of the lecture, "Nigeria: Restoring the glory," as timely and apt. He added that "Looking back at Nigeria's history, it looks as though the sun is setting on Nigeria's past glory and image. Something has to be done about it."

The General Overseer of the Four Square Gospel Church, Rev. (Dr.) Wilson Badejo, in his welcome address, said that Nigeria is not just a greedy economic giant, but made up of a progressive and God-fearing people, who are always ready to give their government one of its essential vitality.

Kwara students berate assembly over scholarship

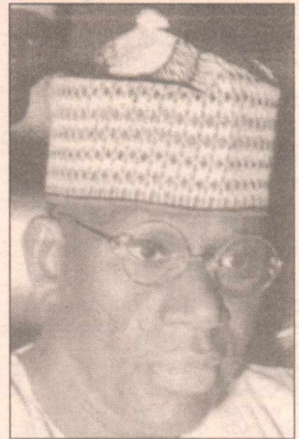
National Association of Kwara State Students (NAKSS) (Northern Zone), has frowned at the state House of Assembly for neglecting its principal assignment just as it called on the state government to release money to the scholarship board for disbursement to students in the zone.

At a press conference in Ilorin, on Thursday, NAKSS leader in the zone, Mr. Mustapha Kabir, said the "forum has no confidence in the Kwara State House of Assembly because the principle of checks and balances which is the bedrock of presidential system, has no place in the state."

Kabir, who is the northern

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

zonal coordinator of the students also said that the zone was not happy about their bursary policy, explaining that while N26 million is claimed by government to have been released to students for the



Gov Lawal

year 1999/2000 award, "the bursary has not been paid while N37 million was reported to have been released for the year 2000/2001 award.

"To our utmost surprise neither the bursary for the year 2000 nor that of 2001 has been paid in the northern zone," Kabir stated.

The students, therefore, appealed to the state government to expedite action on the issue of bursary award with a view to minimizing the suffering of students from the zone and ensure a general positive change of students' welfare with regards to scholarship, transportation and even the recent increment of school fees at the Kwara State Polytechnic.

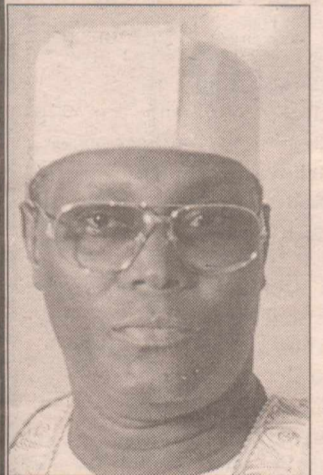
FG establishes three agricultural companies in Bauchi

In its bid to eliminate the increasing prices of foodstuff, the Federal Government will soon establish three agricultural companies in Bauchi State. The companies will be

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

Assembly Committee on Agriculture, Alhaji Adamu Abdu Toro, disclosed that the three companies were given different areas of concentration. He said that the first company will be responsible for selling grains such as rice and beans among others. The second company, he added is responsible for selling tree crops such as mangoes, guava and other fruits, while the third company has the responsibility of improving the activities of fish farmers and rearing of domestic animals.

The lawmaker also said that these companies will provide loans to small-scale farmers in order to improve their production, saying that the project will not only decrease prices of foodstuff but will also solve the farmers' problem of how to sell their products.



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar

responsible for collecting the agricultural produce from farmers for sale to the public at a cheap price.

According to the Voice of America (VOA) Hausa service broadcast monitored in Abuja, the chairman, Bauchi State House of

Gana launches operation made in Nigeria

Information and National Orientation Minister, Prof. Jerry Gana, last week launched the campaign on "Operation produce more" and "Buy made-in-Nigeria goods" with an assurance that government is putting in place some strategies to turn-around the nation's economy.

These strategies include exchange rate policy, interest rate, import restriction and boosting domestic food production.

At a well-attended launch campaign at Akenzua

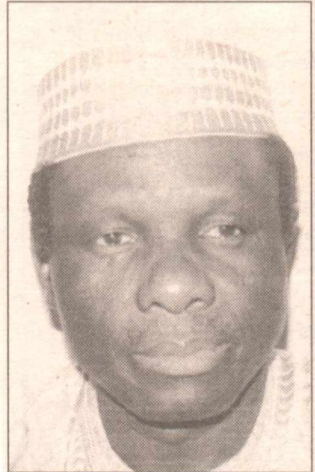
From Garba Deen Mohammed, in Benin City

Cultural Centre, Benin City, Edo State, Prof. Gana who was leading a team of newsmen on a national media tour, said: "With the vast resources in the country, Nigeria has no business with poverty."

He added that government's strategies and policies for turning the economy around revolve round revamping the productive sector, but that this could be done only if

the high exchange rate was stemmed.

According to Prof. Gana, the exchange rate is impacting negatively on the productive sector which prompted the government to design new measures to raise the naira exchange rate which include eliminating the multiple exchange rate, control speculative capital flight and raising productivity.



Prof. Jerry Gana

Shagari pledges improved water supply

The newly appointed Minister of Water Resources, Alhaji Mukhtar Shehu Shagari, has said that the provision of water for Nigerians is a great burden which demanded dedication, hard-work and commitment on the part of his ministry.

The minister, who said this while resuming work in his office after being sworn-in, pledged to produce immediate results.

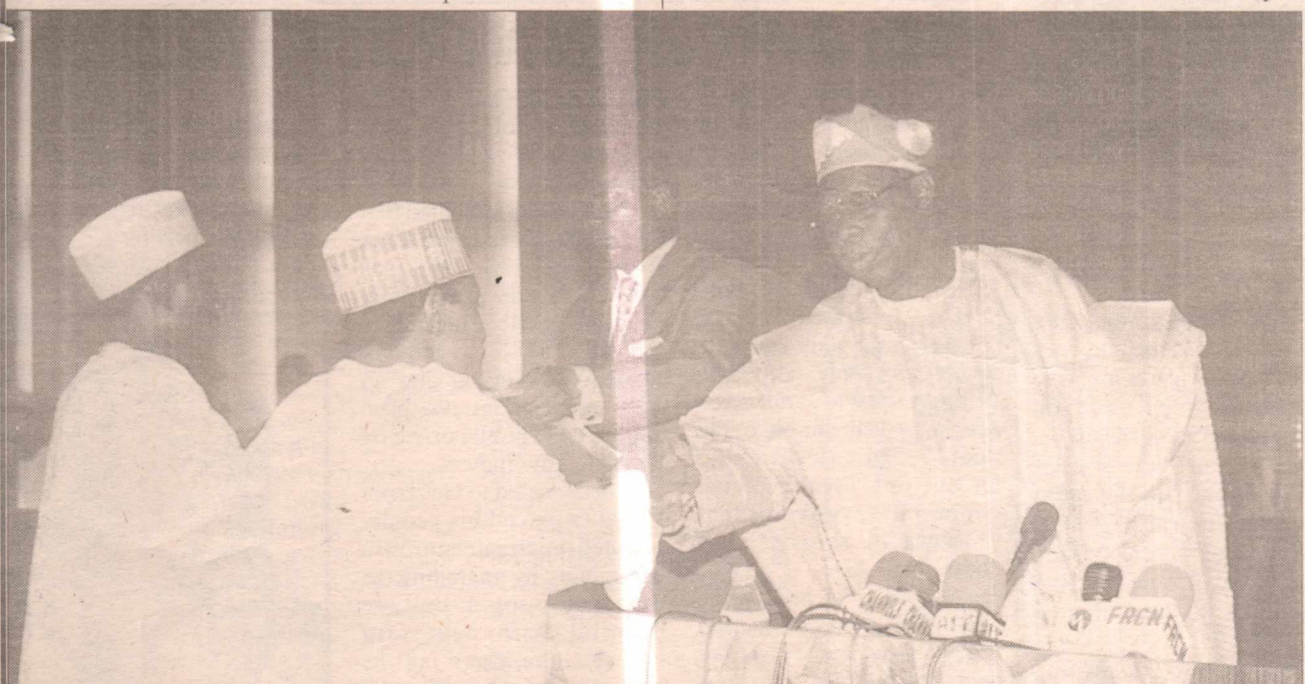
Alhaji Shagari, who met with directors and heads of unit of the ministry on his arrival, solicited for their cooperation to enable him move the ministry forward. The president, he said,

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

appointed him because he wanted concrete results and therefore, would not want the trust reposed in him to be betrayed.

Alhaji Shagari assured the directors that he would be receptive to genuine advice from various quarters, adding that, that was the only way to better the lot of Nigerians.

Responding on behalf of the other staff, the Acting Secretary, Mr. Jibril Adisa Hamidu, assured the minister of the cooperation of all the staff in order to realize his targets.



Alhaji Mukhtari Shehu Shagari, new Minister of Water Resources (left) in a presidential handshake with President Olusegun Obasanjo (right) after being sworn-in by the president at the State House ... recently. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

NEWS

Power tussle creates fracas in Anambra ALGON

Crisis of confidence is rocking the leadership of the Anambra State chapter of Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON) over the purported removal of Chief Okey Mou Aroh as the State Chairman by Chief Ralph Okeke.

A meeting of the state chapter of ALGON to mark the enthronement of Chief Ralph Okeke, the Anambra East Local Government Chairman as the new ALGON boss in the state ended in a fiasco with two opposing groups at each other's throat.

The Marble Arch Hotel, venue of the monthly meeting of the chairmen last Tuesday (June 26) was greeted with infighting by the two camps and left in its wake Orumba North Local Government Area Chairman Chief Hyacith Onwuchekwa badly injured.

Chief Ralph Okeke, who spoke to newsmen shortly after the meeting, denied being sponsored by the state government of Dr. Chinwoke Mbadinuju.

His reaction in stout defence of the government came on the heels of the radio announcement by the Chief



Gov Mbadinuju

Press Secretary to the governor Mr. Ody Chukwube.

Chief Okeke had replaced Chief Okey Muo Aroh as the state ALGON chairman, even as Chief Sywa Abasilim countered that Ody is incompetent to speak for ALGON because he is not a member of ALGON.

According to Chief Okeke, "Chief Okey Muo Aroh was removed because of the way he piloted the affairs of the association. The chairman, therefore, decided to effect a change in the leadership of ALGON in the

interest of Anambra State. Problems and disagreements have been rocking Anambra State. The chairman should remain neutral. If there is peace in the state, the government can propel the state forward."

He accused his predecessor of forming an association to fight the governor, a position he said the council chairman frowned at.

Chief Okeke stated that the local government chairmen were an integral part of the state government as the third tier of government adding "it is not right for the state government to remove any local government chairman."

NJI to retain judges

The National Judicial Institute (NJI) will soon embark on the retraining of judges nationwide to deepen their knowledge of Nigerian law and practice.

The chairman of the institute and Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Mohammed L. Uwais, who stated this during the public presentation of books by Professor J. O. Irukwu, said this was to put the judges in shape to effectively play their roles.

Uwais, who was represented at the occasion by Justice E. O. Ayoola of the

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

Supreme Court, stated that "this will also include deepening of their (judges) knowledge beyond the law."

He called on the government to transform the judiciary positively as a social development will succeed without corresponding improvement of the legal system.

He decried the deficiency of legal books in our libraries and schools and prayed for government's intervention to correct this anomaly, adding that the private sector could also help to alleviate the situation.

Mr. Demola Akinrele, Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) and Chief Justice Nwodo Jnr, while reviewing each of the books entitled "Corporate Responsibility: A World of Risks and Uncertainty" and "The Company, the Shareholder, the Director and the Law" both praised the author for his style and eloquence, adding that the books were apt for these times of privatisation.

In his contribution, Mr. Goodie Ibru, former president of the Nigerian Stock Exchange, (NSE) advised established entrepreneurs and upcoming ones to acquire the publications as they addressed the issues of risk management, which is at the heart of every business.

He said that: "As an entrepreneur, risk taking is crucial to success. The book suggests how to minimise risks."

Nevertheless, he congratulated the writer, Justice Irukwu for his industry and commitment to intellectualism.

The helmsman of the Igbo socio-cultural group Ohaneze, Prof. Benjamin Nwabueze, described the decline of reading culture in Nigeria and urged Nigerians to embrace intellectualism in order to better our situation.



Sultan Maccido

the banned associations like Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) and Bakassi Boys, carried out several crimes including murder of suspected criminals, which shows that they take law into their hands "this has become necessary for the Federal Government to cancel their activities, but our own group doesn't commit such offence. They wouldn't agree with this measure," he concluded.

It would be recalled that late last month, the Federal Government met with the Sharia-controlled state governors on some issues relating to Sharia which include, the replacement of Sharia implementers with the police and ways to ensure that non-Muslims are not affected by the legal code.

Sharia implementation body accuses FG

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru

Council for Sharia implementation in Nigeria, has accused the Federal Government's directive of banning the activities of Sharia implementers, stressing that the idea will create problems for the smooth implementation of the legal code.

According to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa Service report monitored in Abuja, the

council's national Secretary-General, Malam Nasiru Ahmed, disclosed this in Kaduna last week after an emergency meeting.

He stated that the Sharia implementers such as Hisba, Yan-Agaji, were set-up by the Sharia-controlled state governors to enlighten people on the true scope of Sharia, and report or arrest any body who violates the legal code before handing him

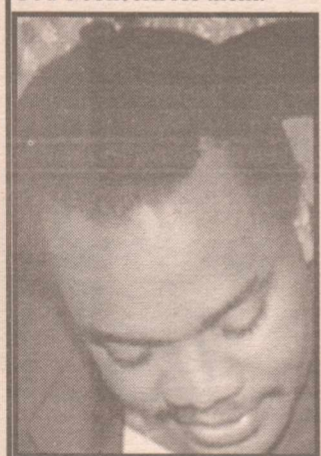
over to the police.

When asked to comment on the announcement made by the Federal Government that to police would replace the Sharia implementers' activities, Malam Nasiru Sa'id said "police belongs to the Federal Government, not for the Sharia states and at the same time, they are opposed to Sharia, how do you think they will ensure its implementation."

He also maintained that

Former scribe urges Nigerians to turn to God

Nigerians have been urged to always defy all odds hitherto put in their way in appreciating God's concern for them.



Gov Duke

One time secretary to the military government in Cross River State, Mr. Gabriel Ogar, said man's inability to say thank you unless for personal aggrandisement has been the bane of his progress.

Mr. Ogar who made the assertion in Calabar during a thanksgiving reception for Mrs. Regina Agbu Igwe, the Director of Personnel at the Department of Labour, Employment and Productivity, Mr. Ogar observed that gratitude from man should be an everyday affair.

He pointed out that faith in God was most tested when one was in serious predicament, commending Mrs. Igwe for finding it pertinent to give gratitude to God at her trying moment.

Mrs. Igwe had two strokes in 1991 and 1995, which left

her partially paralysed beside a near fatal motor accident early this year.

Speaking in the same vein, Mr. Michael Moun, former Permanent Secretary in the Federal Ministry of

Industries opined that man should be privileged to suffer so as to go close to God.

Describing Mrs. Igwe as prodigiously courageous in handling her situation, he urged her to regard her survival as a chance to

reassert her position with her creator for before eventual call to Abraham's bosom.

Earlier, Mrs. Igwe attributed her survival to God pointing out that her greatest problem was loneliness and not her illness.

FG asked to keep promise on electricity

The Federal Government has been asked to strictly keep to the December deadline for stable electricity and regular fuel supplies throughout the country in view of the importance of the energy sector.

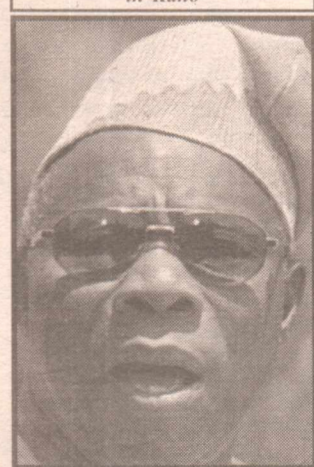
The standing committee of the Nigeria Guild of Editors, expressed concern over the energy crisis in the country in a communiqué they issued after a two-day meeting in Kano.

The communiqué signed by the President of the Guild and its Assistant General-Secretary, Mrs. Remi Oyo and Mr. Gbemiga Ogunleye respectively also urged government to urgently address the problem of rising cost of food items which has made life unbearable for the people.

Expressing concern over the state of security throughout the country, the Guild of Editors also called on the Federal Government to overhaul all security agencies and as a matter of priority, provide them with adequate resources.

The communiqué urged the Federal Government and ASUU to resolve their

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano



President Obasanjo

differences in the interest of students and the overall integrity of the educational system.

Other resolutions taken after the meeting include a call on all tiers of government to remain focussed on redeeming electoral promises rather than sacrificing performance in the next general election in 2003.

Nigerians were also asked to engage in constructive criticisms of their elected representatives.

Worried over the growing allegations of unprofessional conduct against journalists, the Guild enjoined media

practitioners to remain thorough and uphold the ethics of their profession in the discharge of their duties.

Meanwhile, the Guild cautioned against arbitrary arrests and detentions without trial as stipulated by law, adding that the reform of the legal system is a sine qua non to the quick dispensation of justice.

Community decries neglect by Gov Lawal

Yaru community in the Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State has decried its neglect by the state government despite its support for Governor Muhammed Lawal.

Dr. Abdulrazaq Amuda, consultant surgeon and sole representative of the community who addressed newsmen on the plight of the people, said despite the unflinching loyalty of the community, government presence in Yaru was not noticeable.

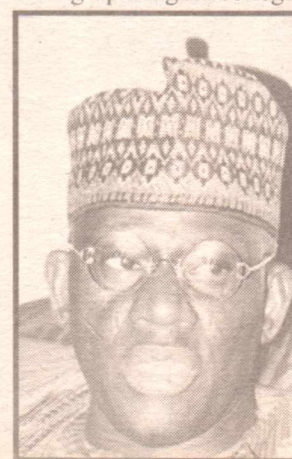
According to him, while health facilities are centred around a dispensary staffed by a nurse, educational representation is in the form of a primary and a secondary schools both built through

communal efforts with structures completely dilapidated.

Dr. Amuda lamented that the people sourced their water from River Ere, which has water only during the rainy season, while electricity supply was grossly inadequate, adding that no Yaru indigene has ever been appointed to public office by the state government.

He appealed to Governor Lawal to extend his people-oriented programmes to Yaru community by upgrading the dispensary to a coltage hospital with necessary infrastructure, carve out the area as a local government from the current Ifelodun local council, provide electricity and portable water in form of

six motorised bore-holes and uplifting the educational standard of the community by improving and increasing the infrastructure in the existing primary and secondary schools and setting-up a higher college



Gov Lawal

INSIDE POLITICS

Ogun Assembly suspends decampee lawmaker

The Ogun State House of Assembly has suspended an Alliance for Democracy lawmaker, Mr. Dapo Adeyemi for defecting to the rival Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The lawmaker representing Ifo II constituency was suspended following a motion brought under matter of public importance by Hon. Mudasiru Lawal, following Adeyemi's resignation letter from the party which was read on the floor of the House by the speaker, Mr. Muyiwa Oladipo.

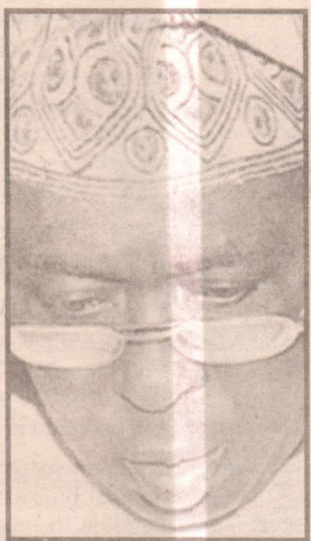
In the same vein the chief whip of the House, Sikirulai Olawale Ogundele has voluntarily resigned his position following his suspension by the party for anti-party activities while another lawmaker Wale Habeeb Ajayi has been elected as the new chief whip.

Trouble started for Adeyemi when his resigna-

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

tion letter was read on the floor of the House by the speaker in which Adeyemi said he had resigned his membership of the AD and had joined PDP.

Adeyemi who sought solace under section 109 (G) of



Gov Osoba

the 1999 constitution attributed his action to the division in the national leadership of the AD.

Part of his letter reads, "In view of the division in the national leadership of the party, I have no alternative than to seek protection under section 109 (G) of the 1999

constitution by resigning my membership of the Alliance for Democracy and declaring for the PDP.

Immediately, the speaker finished reading the letter, Mudasiru Lawal from Odogbolu under motion of public emergency discussion moved a motion for the suspension of Adeyemi, saying that "it is morally wrong for him to retain his seat after he has defected from the party that brought him to the house."

Group supports ex-military officers in politics

The Youths for Political Dialogue, (YPD) has condemned the clamour from certain quarters for the exemption of ex-military officers from active politics in the country.

A statement by its national president, Mr. Olugbenga Adebajo said, by all available political data, the

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

civilians in governance have not done better than their military counterparts.

"It is indeed very unreasonable, illogical, unpatriotic, vindictive, and unconstitutional for any group to canvass for the exclusion of any set of Nigerians from future political governance of this country without any lawful backing," he stated.

Mr. Adebajo said ex-military governors including Buba Marwa, Mohammed Lawal, Abubakar Umar and the last military head of state, General Abdulsalam Abubakar who made the on-going democracy possible, all performed creditably well.

He reminded Nigerians that unabated corruption, ethnic and religious intolerance, political instability as well as gross mismanagement of the economy were some of the reasons which brought the military to political governance, citing the Shagari administration as a reference point.

The national president then urged all retired military personnel to rise up to the challenge and assert their constitutional rights on the political terrain of the country.

Democracy flourishes only in stable polity - Yobe Gov

Yobe State governor, Alhaji Bukar Abba has said that democracy can only flourish in an atmosphere of stability, stressing that for the nation's nascent democracy to thrive the enabling environment for its survival has to be created.

The governor stated this during the first consultative inter-party meeting with leaders of the three political parties held in the state at government house, Damaturu.

From Hadiza Abba Musa, in Damaturu

He drew the attention of the political leaders to the fact that the second republic failed because of political intolerance and pointed out that dirty politics in previous dispensations had polarised political parties thereby exacerbating factional conflict, violence and instability.

The governor expressed joy that under the current democratic dispensation these situations have changed for the better.

He said, "our experiences in the last two years is a good omen, because the future has brighter prospects for democracy in Nigeria."

According to him, politicians have now learnt to honour peace and sanity in the process of our democratisation.

He called on security agencies to cooperate more with one another, including political party leaders and entire people of the state if the happenings of the past are to

AD chieftain condemns attack on Ige

As comments of justice minister and attorney general of the federation, Chief Bola Ige over the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) continue to attract criticism, a chieftain of the Alliance for Democracy (AD), Prince Debo Gbadebo has hinted that the attack was a ploy by PDP to gain in-road into Yorubaland.

Prince Gbadebo, who was reacting to the call by PDP through its national secretary, Dr. Okwezaliese Nwodo that Chief Ige should resign from the federal cabinet, said the move was part of the ruling party's master-plan to gain grip of the South-West during the 2003 general elections.

According to the AD chieftain, the PDP was using the smear-campaign to weaken the strength of the AD in the area, adding that the PDP planned to tarnish the image of the former Oyo State governor in order to

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

facilitate its diabolical plans.

Chief Gbadebo also expressed surprise that Chief Ige has been the subject of series of attacks from frontline members of the PDP, since the beginning of the year.

"The game plan of the PDP is to sufficiently smear the image of Chief Ige so that when it comes to election proper, he would not be able to command the followership necessary to defeat the AD."

He, however, boasted that the game plan would fail, "let it be known that they will fail. In fact, they have failed already. Chief Ige is not a baby politician, he is a thorough-bred Awoist, who can withstand the missiles being hurled at him and will emerge stronger and better," he added.

Prince Gbadebo added that

the on-going probe by the Senate into the N2.3 billion NEPA fund was part of the master-plan of the PDP to tarnish the justice minister's image, saying that Chief Ige would come out of the probe victorious.

"Ige will come out of the scam supremely vindicated because Awoist are known for their toughness and forthrightness," he said.

He however, called on politicians (especially PDP members) to stop the unholy practice stressing that a situation whereby an individual was being made subject to attack by members of the ruling party could spell doom for our nascent democracy.

Prince Gbadebo however, said despite the manoeuvring of the PDP, the AD would not lose any of the state it currently controls, "rather the party will extend its control to Edo and Delta States as well as the East and some Northern states," he stressed.



Gov Abba

Groups score Dariye govt low

Two Jos-based groups have accused the administration of Plateau State Governor, Chief Joshua Dariye of under-performance and failing to fulfil the expectations of majority of people resident in the state.

The two groups in press statements made available to Daily Trust in Abuja, passed a below average performance verdict on the two-year administration of Governor Dariye.

According to them, the governor apart from dashing the hopes and expectations of the people of the state, who looked forward to enjoying the benefits of democracy, had equally failed to record any achievement in any sector.

"That the current administration has performed below average is an understatement. Whether it is in the area of providing basic infrastructure, rural transformation, education, health care delivery and welfare of the masses, the report card is below average," the groups said.

Rather, than address the various problems plaguing Plateau State, the Dariye administration was also accused of been fixated about tackling perceived opponents thereby neglecting the obligations government owes the electorate.

Moreover, the groups expressed surprise that after three budgets, most projects for which funds were allocated by the House of Assembly have remained largely uncompleted or abandoned.

Gov Aleiro warns INEC over integrity

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has been warned not to compromise its integrity at the expense of our growing democratic experiment.

Alhaji Adamu Aleiro, the Kebbi State governor gave this warning in an exclusive interview with Daily Trust over the weekend in Abuja, saying that the recent postponed senatorial by-election in his state has created doubt about the sincerity of INEC.

He said, "there was no reason whatsoever that warranted calling-off the election which people were well prepared for based on the earlier directive from INEC."

According to him, there was no breach of orderliness or disturbance by any group or individual contrary to the spurious reason given by INEC for the cancellation of the by-election.

"I was amazed to hear INEC chairman Mr. Guobadia on Radio Nigeria alleging that I was using state government vehicles for party activities; because as the chief executive of the state I don't think that I have done anything wrong in that respect," he said.

Governor Aleiro said "I hope the INEC chairman would have the courage to stop Mr.

By Musa Badamosi

President and Vice-President from using the nation's aircrafts when ever they are attending party activities which they undertake regularly."

He disclosed that the reason for calling-off the senatorial by-election in Kebbi is because, the PDP candidate was sure of losing the election.

He warned that such development is going to create credibility crisis for INEC, because "people are watching to see how truly independent the commission is."

However, Governor Aleiro noted that the people on INEC board are tested individual who have performed honourably in their respective callings in the past as well as during the last election which brought about the present political arrangement.

"I would not want to believe that simply because of the change in the chairmanship position of the commission by the death of late Justice Akpata; the members attitude too would change," he observed.



Accountant-General of the Federation, Mr. Kayode Nayeju (middle) chatting with the chairman, Senate Committee on Public Accounts, Senator Idris Abubakar (left) and Senator Silas Janfa (right) during the public hearing on the N2.3 billion NEPA fund lodged in a private call deposit account.

Pix by Felix Onigbinde.



I.T. WORLD



Report arbitrary increase of NITEL tariffs - UCC boss

The out-going Executive Secretary of the Utilities Charges Commission, Mr. Namite Egbedi has called on consumers of NITEL and other public utilities to report cases of arbitrary increases of tariffs to the commission.

He made the call in a farewell speech during his retirement reception, in Abuja, recently.

According to a statement issued by the commission, Mr. Egbedi has overseen the regulation of utility charges since 1996, and was said to

Stories by Hassan Idris

be successful with all public utilities providers, including NITEL, NIPOST, NEPA and the rest.

The commission under him, the statement said, related congenially with all other utility providers like the State Water Board, and Transport Corporations.

Earlier, the Assistant Director, Mr. S.A. Ayo described the out-going executive secretary of the commission as a good leader, who treated his staff as colleagues

and operated an open door policy throughout the five years he had served.

In his response, Mr. Agbedi used the occasion to thank the staff and called on them to continue to be productive and to give equal support to the in-coming executive secretary.

Surich Technologies launches internet credit card

Surich Technologies Ltd., has launched a new Internet credit card payment system that enables one to make safe and secure purchase over the internet through the use of American Express.

The President of the com-

pany, Mr. Nathan Osume, announced the product, Bizpurse.com, while presenting a paper on e-business strategies at an international information technologies and communication conference organised by the company in collaboration with Ministry of Science and Technology, last week, in Abuja.

Earlier, the Director of the National Information Technology Development Unit,



Mr. Nathan Osume

Professor Gabriel Ajayi, who represented the Minister of Science and Technology, Professor Turner Isoun, said that the development of information technology, especially the internet, had witnessed one of the major revolutionary changes from the last century and had heralded the new millennium with globalisation of technology, goods, services, and human capital into the knowledge-driven digital economy.

Professor Ajayi, added that international trade and commerce had changed from the traditional practices to the present trends, dominated by digital electronics computers for unprecedented flows of global information.

E-business and e-commerce have therefore become a global driven engine which now dominate most of the global trade and commerce, he said.

Mr. Osume, explaining how the BizPurse.Com works said that one had to register online at www.bizpurse.com to obtain an online credit account.

According to him, one could credit his account by sending money in local currency to their bank account and once they received the money they made the conversion to US dollars and reflect the amount in one's online account balance becoming the credit limit of one's new American Express Internet Card.

Experts canvass e-business revolution

Members of the Computer Association of Nigeria (COAN), Professor Olaide Abbas and Dr. Oliver Osuagwu have said that any profitable organisation willing to survive and maintain its market share had better begin a strategy of launching the firm into e-business revolution.

In a joint paper entitled "Developing a web business strategy for e-commerce revolution," Penultimate week, at the 17th National Conference of the Computer Association of Nigeria, the experts said that e-business would knock out the firms that did not utilise the internet as a tool because success in e-business was hinged on the intelligence of your web infrastructure.

The paper discussed the strategies to attain the corporate web objectives, which included "Whole Experience Roadmap (WER)" as the systematic methodology for assessing potential opportunities.

The paper dealt with comprehensive web plan, identification of technical requirements, prototyping and procedures for ongoing site refinement, as well as strategies for closing common security loopholes on a firm's data bases including tips for 24 x 365-day storage availability



Alh. Ladi Ogunneye, President COAN

for internet commerce.

The paper established a link between the virtual market place and electronic commerce as well as rapidly destroying and managing commerce applications, that is, business-to-consumer and business-to-business.

The experts also analysed order processing pipelines and its broad Application Programming Interface (API), next generation payment protocols such as Secure Electronic Transaction (SET), and solutions with commerce partners.

The conference with the

theme: "Impact of e-commerce on National Economic and Development" (e-commerce .ned) had as sub themes understanding e-commerce technology; e-commerce implementation: the challenges for IT professional; e-commerce: procurement and purchasing in practice; wireless application protocol and e-commerce; trends and emerging technology for e-commerce; trends in website design; and security legislation/regulation issues in e-commerce.

23 papers were presented at the conference attended by COAN members nationwide.

Minister welcomes Israeli IT companies

The Minister of States for Science and Technology, Mrs. Pauline Tallen has acknowledged the potency of Degem multi-centre technology and NESS both Israeli companies to provide e-commerce services to the Nigerian environment.

Mrs. Tallen made the declaration when she received the delegation of IT experts from Israel, last week, in Abuja.

She declared support for any technology that would lead to the implementation of the national IT policy.

She pointed out that the ministry officials had been holding meetings with the Decibel consortium on ways to apply IT technologies.

The President of Multi-Centre, Israel, Mr. Ami Tzirman, presented the multi-centre technologies which revealed that IT education could be provided even in rural areas using mobile units with all the necessary infrastructure for teaching of people at all levels.

Again, a special feature of the NESS technology presentation was the technology which uses finger prints to provide security for all sorts

of transactions, rather than Personal Identification Number (PIN) codes, a technology which could be used for National Identity Card scheme, according to a ministry source.

In another development, Mrs. Tallen has appealed for strong support from Nigerians towards checking corruption in national life, the ministry source said.

She made the statement at the annual Goemai Day and launching of an education endowment fund by the Goemai Youth Movement (GYM), last week, in Shendam Local Government Area of Plateau State, the source said.

The minister commended the (GYM) for the brilliant initiative to uplift education in the area, pointing out that education is the greatest weapon any community can give its people, the source said.

She decried the educational backwardness of the Goemai people and urged them to contribute to the upliftment of the fallen standards of education, especially the local government council, towards promoting primary education, the source said.

You and your computer

By Sagir Abubakar

The Internet

The Internet is a global network of computer networks. Defence Advance Research Projects Agency (DARPA) sponsored the invention of *Internet* after the Second World War. The Internet (then called ARPAnet) use the (TCP/IP) as a standard protocol for transferring data. The ARPAnet was developed as a means of transmitting data among military bases. This provided means for the locations connected to send electronic messages to one another.

In the year 1986 NSFNET was set up linking the computer sites of the National Science Foundation (NSF), gradually other research institution joined up, after the relaxation of the rules that governed the joining Internet train (as it was restricted to research institution only). By the start of 1990s, the Internet was well established in US, but others who wished to connect had link to some other networks like Joint Academic Network (JANet). In the early 80's the Internet was solely means of exchanging text data.

In the late 80's joining the internet was very costly. However, the internet received a boost in less than a decade when *Freeserve* (a commercial Internet Service Provider) launched the first business model that charged users based on calls, unlike *Demon* that had to be paid a year's subscription and monthly subsequently before you were linked to the Internet. In the year, 2000 AltaVista announced a flat-free deal providing unmetered phone access to the internet.

With the development of the world wide web, then better and larger-graphical browsers made it much richer experience. You can listen to music online, thanks to streaming media system for the Real Audio player. The development of Secure Sockets layer (SSL) software ensures that information can be encrypted as it travels over the Internet, making e-commerce possible.

Activities you can do while browsing the net are many. Let us some of the activities that are currently running in the net.

Electronic Mail (email)

Using email you can exchange messages with other people around the world almost instantly. Using email you don't need to snail-mail your article to your favourite newspaper or miss that competition dead line. With your email address you can also subscribe to electronic discussion lists and journals. And your local shop or some other organisations can keep in touch when they have something new and want you to be aware of it.

Usenet Newsgroups

Usenet is an informal network of computers that allows you to post and read messages in newsgroups that focus on specific topics. This group is a live contact between the people using it.

TELNET

Telnet allows you to log on to and use other computers that are connected to the Internet no matter where they are located. Telnet is commonly used to connect to library catalogues, community information systems, and fee-based database services.

FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL (FTP)

FTP allows you to transfer files to and from computers that are connected to the Internet. Files that are transferred using FTP can contain text, images, sounds, software, etc. but it has other capabilities for it is a mirror, which makes a copy of one machine's directories on another. With it, you can access Comprehensive Perl Archive Network (CPAN); a global set of archives that lets you search, download and install packages and automatically capture anything else that is needed.

WORLD WIDE WEB (WWW)

The World Wide Web allows you to access information on any computer, worldwide, that makes files publicly available using hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP). This protocol allows hypertext links between files on the same computer, or on other computers on the Internet. These files can include text, software, graphics, and other multimedia which can be viewed or downloaded using software called a browser.

GOPHER

Gopher also allows you to access files on the Internet. Because gopher sites do not allow graphical displays or hypertext linking, they are rapidly being replaced by World Wide Web sites.

TPC Remote Printing

You don't need a fax machine before you get your message faxed. TCP-network is there to do it for you and the charge is surprisingly free.

Instant Messaging

This also is electronic message you can send and can even let you know when someone is on his desk *Internet Relay Chat (IRC)*

This is a global chat room where you can send and receive realtime message (including *Virus* so beware).



I.T. WORLD



Hard drives to top 137GB this year

Major PC technology companies, including Compaq, Microsoft, and hard drive maker Maxtor, last week announced support for a new technology standard that breaks the 137GB barrier for ATA hard drives, at PC Expo.

With capacities that double roughly every 12 months, hard drives have a long history of outgrowing other technologies around them. Many of the roadblocks in capacity have had to do with limitations in the operating system or the PC's low-level basic input/output system (BIOS) software, which prevented the systems from recognizing drives larger than a certain size. But the latest capacity snag results from the ATA standard for locating information on a hard drive. Using a 28-bit addressing system, today's ATA interface can track up to 137.4GB.

Stories by Umar Mu'azu
With Agency Reports

Drafts for the latest ATA standard, version 6, include a proposal to increase the addressing system from 28 bits to 48 bits. That will increase the maximum possible hard drive capacity more than a millionfold from 137.4GB to 144 petabytes (a petabyte equals 1 million gigabytes).

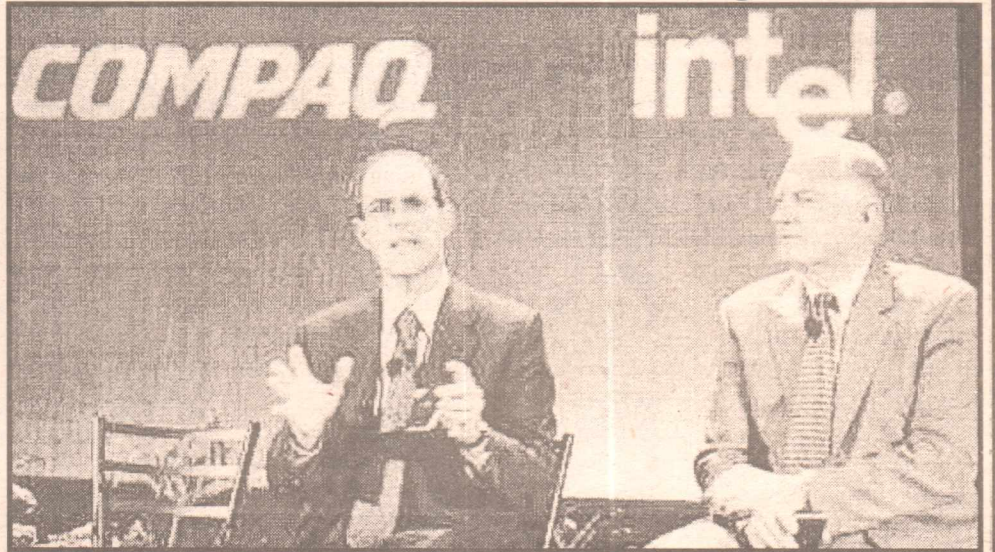
It may be some time before hard drive manufacturers produce a drive with petabytes of space, but Maxtor officials say they expect to offer drives with capacities in excess of 137GB this year.

Another interface standard, the Small Computer System Interface (SCSI), uses 32-bit addressing that can handle drives of up to 2.1 terabytes (or 2100 gigabytes) and can transfer data at high speeds. But SCSI has traditionally been limited to high-end, high-cost PC workstations and superfast servers,

while ATA is used for internal desktop and notebook PC drives.

Although a 137GB drive may sound gargantuan, it is well below the maximum capacity already possible. In June, hard drive makers Seagate and Maxtor both announced a new generation of drives that squeeze 40GB onto a single, two-sided hard drive platter. With some desktop drives containing as many as four platters, 160GB capacities are now within reach. Under the current standard, however, a PC can read only the first 137GB on that drive.

For the moment, vendors are holding the line on capacity. Seagate's new U Series drive and Maxtor's DiamondMax D540X can contain up to two full platters for capacities of 80GB. Maxtor has also produced a 100GB drive, the DiamondMax 536DX, which



Michael Capellas, chairman and CEO of Compaq Computer Corp., speaks at a New York news conference Monday, June 25, 2001, as Craig Barrett, President and CEO of Intel Corp., looks on.

contains three platters that average 33.3GB each. Meanwhile rival manufacturer Western Digital is expected

to release its own 100GB drive later this summer, and IBM will probably not be far behind.

Maxtor is planning even bigger drives for release later this year.

Compaq unveils PCs that accept credit cards

Your local supermarket probably lets you pay for purchases by swiping your credit card through a reader. Why not give home PCs the same capability? That's the idea behind Compaq's new Smart Credit Card Internet Keyboard, announced last week at PC Expo in New York.

Available as an option on the company's Presario 5000 and 7000 series home PCs, the keyboard has a smart card reader that works with smart credit cards to make online shopping safer, simpler, and (via promotional offers available only to smart-card users) cheaper.

The keyboard looks much like other Presario keyboards, except for a reader mounted on its right side. Systems equipped with the keyboard start at \$799.

Compaq is partnering with financial services firm Fleet, which issues the Fusion smart Visa. The "smart" in this card—which can also be used as a standard credit card—is its built-in microprocessor and memory.

Make a purchase at a participating online retailer, and you can swipe your card through the keyboard to complete the transaction without transmitting your credit card number over the Internet. This is an option that some web shoppers will find comforting given the ongoing reports of credit-card data thefts at well-known web sites.

The Fusion card's memory can store personal

information such as your billing and shipping addresses and upload them to a Web store at checkout, saving you some typing time. The memory can also be used to store electronic coupons, tickets, and other virtual items that can be redeemed in the offline world.

These applications, of

customers download electronic coupons over the Web and onto the Fusion card, then cash them in at a local Target store.

The new Presarios aren't the first PCs with built-in smart card readers. American Express's Blue card, which debuted in 1999, offers features similar to Fleet's Fusion, as does a disposable



Palm Inc. the dominant player in the handheld computer sector, looks set to lose its market share lead in the current quarter - measured in revenues - to Compaq Computer's pricier line of iPAQ handhelds, a survey due out June 18, 2001 will show.

course, all depend on online merchants giving their Web stores smart-card savvy. Some major sites are on board, including Yahoo, Buy.com, and 1800Flowers.com. In the bricks-and-mortar arena, discount retailer Target plans to let

card designed for online shopping by MDNA. Still, smart cards have yet to catch on big time. Compaq says it hopes to promote wider consumer acceptance for them by offering Presarios equipped with the new keyboard for about the same price as models without it.

AOL, AT&T to offer mobile internet services

America Online (AOL) and AT&T Wireless are making it easier to access the Internet while you are on the go. The two companies plan to offer cobranded mobile phone services for wireless data, e-mail, and instant messaging, they announced last Wednesday.

The deal, which expands the year-old partnership between AOL and AT&T, calls for the two companies to offer cell phones customized for AOL services, building in access to e-mail, instant messaging, and content. The new

service and PocketNet handsets with AOL Instant Messenger capabilities built in are expected to be available in the first half of 2002.

The service will use AT&T's expected Global System for Mobile Communications/General Packet Radio Service network.

"AOL needs to try to get their name out there without investing a lot in infrastructure," says Gene Signorini, a wireless industry analyst for market research firm Yankee Group in Boston. "And obviously, AT&T is looking to capitalize on the value of the

millions of subscribers of AOL."

Third-generation wireless services for AOL and AT&T appear timed more to AT&T Wireless' upcoming stock spin-off than it does to existing technological capability, another analyst says.

"Where are the handsets? Some of these (services) can be done on existing phones, but they are still building the network," says Shiv Bakhshi, research manager for wireless infrastructure at International Data Corp.

"It's good timing for them to make the announcement. If I'm AT&T and I'm spinning off, it makes sense to make alliances, to stay in people's minds. The good thing is that they're saying they have the applications in order."

New wristwatch receives e-mail

Internet Messenger from Timex receives pages and short e-mail messages.

My flight is leaving on time at 5:16 p.m. from Gate 77. I know because my watch told me. Yes, my watch: the new \$99

Internet Messenger from Timex. This timepiece receives alphanumeric, text, and e-mail messages.

Of course, the messages must be short—no more than 100 characters long—but that is about the maximum you would want to read on the 12-character, single-line, scrolling display on the watch's face, anyway. An earlier, bulkier version handled messaging and stored phone numbers and other data, but this Timex is slimmed down by 28 percent.

A touch of an Indiglo button sharply illuminates the digital watch face. Additional watch features include a 100-hour chronograph, eight-lap memory recall, a countdown

timer, five alarm settings, and dual time zones automatically set by radio communication. The watch can use either vibration or a set of customizable musical chimes to notify you of incoming pages and messages.

The e-mail address of the watch is its toll-free paging number at timex.skytel.com. You can arrange to get free custom message alerts for news, weather, specific sports

scores, and the like from other sites, such as Yahoo Mobile. Skytel charges fees, however, for the various e-mail services it offers—\$5 a month for numeric only, for instance.

You can't use the watch to send messages. But if you need to get messages and alerts throughout the day, this Timex has arrived just in time.



Watches that receive e-mail



Arts & Entertainment



Penni advocates literature policy for Nigeria

The need has been stressed for a dynamic and autonomous literary policy for the country.

Mallam Haruna Penni, the Secretary/Registrar of the Association of Nigerian Authors, Abuja branch, made this declaration during his election as a fellow of the association at the National Press Centre, Radio House, Abuja, recently.

He said the situation where amorphous artistic performances and inventivity were grouped with literature

is not only an abnormally by a travesty of the sanctity of



Boma Bromilow - Jack Culture and Tourism Minister

the book medium and the hard working Authors.

The editor of the *Abuja Acolytes* pointed out that the seeming interrelatedness of creative writing with cultural dance, dramatic performance, quiz debate, fashion parade, should not be a misconception and collapse into a single cultural policy document.

The Registrar lamented that it was their lack of proper articulation of literary direction that discouraged government from harnessing and warding the potentialities and efforts of

authors. He regretted that this create distortions in the various literary works that deconstruct the very indigenous cultural norms and value system that the government was promoting.

Mallam Penni wants government to pay attention to ANA so that it would reduce its dependence on foreign

sponsorship, which does not augur well for our national orientation and sustainable cultural development. He added that rather than take advantage of the wind of globalisation to develop and export our literary products, we only understand importing outdated and imperialist junk novels and obscene

magazines which dots our public highways and building.

He, however, praised the ruling party for appointing Nigeria authors as heads and members of various federal government parastatals and called on the President to do more as an author of many books himself steering the need for ANA.

Youth festival holds October

The Second National Youth Festival of Arts and Culture tagged: NAYOUFEST 2001 will hold in Akwa Ibom State in October.

The festival, which is being organised by the National Youth Festival of Arts and Culture Inc, a non-governmental organisation in collaboration with Ministries of Culture and Tourism, Education, Health, Women Affairs and Youth Development, and Information and National Orientation, has the theme of this year's celebration as "Peace, unity and non-violence through intercultural dialogue among the youths."

Other governmental agencies involved in the festival are the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Arts and Culture; Nigerian Tourism development Corporation; National Council for Arts and Culture, Office of the States and Local Government Affairs, National Youths Service Corps; Federal Road Safety Commission, and National Action Committee on Aids.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja over the weekend, the President of the National Youth Festival of Arts and Culture Inc. and project Director of the festival, Mr. Richard Ekong, said the festival was designed specifically to provide a platform for channelling and positive focusing of the potentials and creativity of Nigerian youths.

The festival will equally serve to mobilize and motivate the Nigerian youths, and also ensure the continuity of the traditional skills. It will also serve to mobilise and motivate the Nigerian youths by disseminating and propagating ideas which promote National Pride, solidarity, consciousness and above all

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

patriotism and Nationalism, a key cardinal objective of



President Olusegun Obasanjo president Olusegun Obasanjo's National rebirth," he said.

Festival

Participation in the festival is open to Nigerian youths between the ages of

15-30 years, non-governmental organisations, private cultural promoters and practitioners in the states and local government areas.

Equally, the festival is open to contingents from abroad, especially our black brothers and sisters in diasporas.

According Mr. Ekong, there will be 10 competitive events in the area of choral music, cultural dances, drama, pottery/ceramic, sculpture, textile designing, and essay contest on the theme of the festival; painting/graphic; story telling and general craft making.

The festival will feature non-scoring events like puppetry show, seminars and workshop and Gala night. Other side attractions include Games like Ayo, catapulting, Miss and Mr. NAYOUFEST 2001 and fashion parade.

Statues worth N500 million stolen from al-Fayed home

Police in the Mediterranean city of Alexandria have recovered two rare bronze statues that had been stolen from a villa belonging to the London-based Egyptian tycoon, Mohammed al-Fayed, the semi-official al-Gomhuriya reported weekend.

The paper stated that at least four people, including two janitors working at the villa, were arrested and detained in connection with the theft of the statues estimated

to be N500 million. It was not immediately

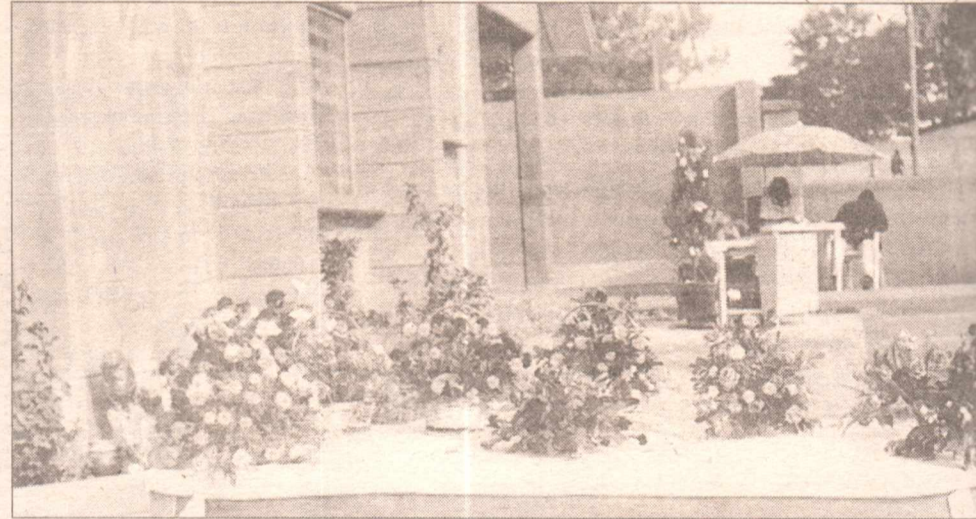


Tony Blair

clear when the theft occurred but reports said al-Fayed's nephew, Salah, reported the incident to police after discovering that statues at the villa were imitations of the originals.

Apparently, after removing the originals, the culprits two of whom had worked for the al-Fayed family for over 20 years replaced them with duplicates before selling the treasures for a mere 150,000 Egyptian pounds.

Both statues were recovered intact. (Xinhua/NAN)



Flower arrangements

Passing Time

3 LETTERS
DUE
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NOW

SPAN
TERM
TIME
WEEK
YEAR

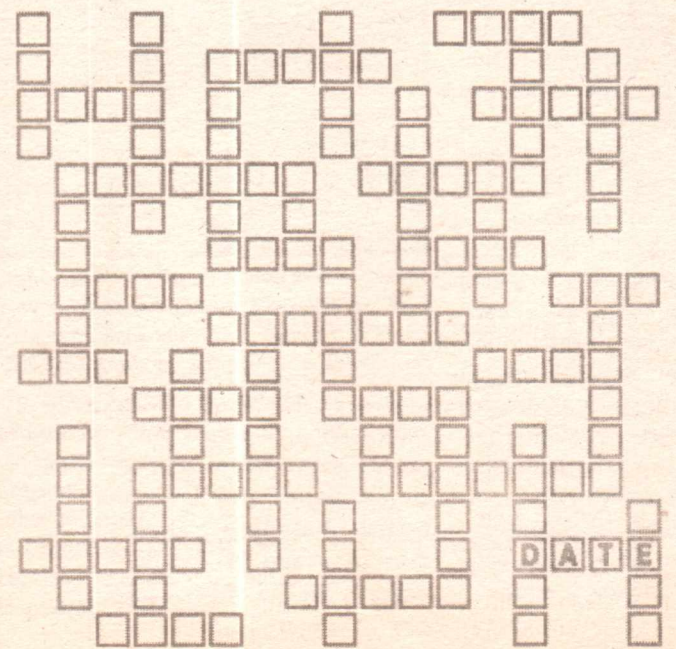
6 LETTERS
EASTER
MAY DAY
MONDAY
ONE DAY
PRESTO
RARELY

4 LETTERS
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FORE
JULY
LONG
NOEL
NOON
OVER
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SOON

5 LETTERS
AGAIN
APRIL
CLOCK
DAILY
DIARY
LATER
NEVER
PRIOR
READY
STILL
UNTIL

7 LETTERS
ALREADY
ELAPSED
ETERNAL
SUNDIAL
USUALLY

PUZZLE 56



Feature

An experience in Benin

The group of journalists of which this writer is a part currently on a maiden national tour organized by the Ministry of Information and National Orientation, arrived Benin the Edo state capital at dusk. So

By Garba Deen Mohammed

adduced me finally that I should forget the idea of going out anytime after 9p.m. Somebody else added that "armed robbery in Benin is as

Anenih, the minister of Works and Housing who is from Edo state, the minister of state in the same ministry Mr. Garba Madaki Ali and led by the governor and his deputy began the historic "come and see and tell the truth" tour.

Our first Port of call was some 20km outside Benin. This was the site of a massive construction work on what is known as the Benin bypass. It is a federal government project. The bypass which is a 45km stretch of road will cost the FG N10bn and is expected to be ready, by December, this year for partial usage.

According to the two ministers of Works

North East to Ikiadolar, and Okada, the home of the "Lion of Okada" Chief Gabriel Igbinedion Father of the

the present regime.

Perhaps, Edo state is probably the only state in the country that can boast of

Another draw back as explained by the deputy governor is that this high level of literacy has made almost every Civil servant over-qualified and so 90 percent of the state revenue is used to service salaries.



The minister of Information and National Orientation Prof. Jerry Gana (m) with the deputy governor (L) and the principal of St. Davids Boys Model School Obvianikha, commissioning the water project in the school

it wasn't the best time of the day to capture the mood of any place. But driving through the city to the motel, Benin plaza, where we were lodged, it was easy to notice that Benin is actually just an ordinary city: a bit ancient, crowded streets and more motorcycles than taxis.

But I did receive one shocker. Among my colleagues I tried to get one who was familiar with the city to come with me into town so that I could get some items. But everyone of the three people I approached demurred, saying that it was

easy as slapping a man on the street."

It was with this somewhat grim impression that I joined my colleagues to start the day which commenced with a visit to the amiable state governor, Chief Lucky Igbinedion. After the courtesy call where the leader of the delegation Professor Jerry Gana intimated the governor with the essence of the visit which is designed to give journalists first hand knowledge of the activities of the federal state and local councils across the country; so that the journalist can then tell the world their

ministry, the bypass will serve as one of the most strategic roads in the country since it connects Lagos with the East, the North through Abuja and some parts of the southern-west like Akure. Indeed according to Mr. Anenih, South Easterners travelling from Lagos through Benin for Christmas often end up spending their christmas in Benin due to traffic hold-ups that sometimes lasts for days. This was where professor Gana, dressed flamboyantly, flagged off his brain child: the national Media Tour.



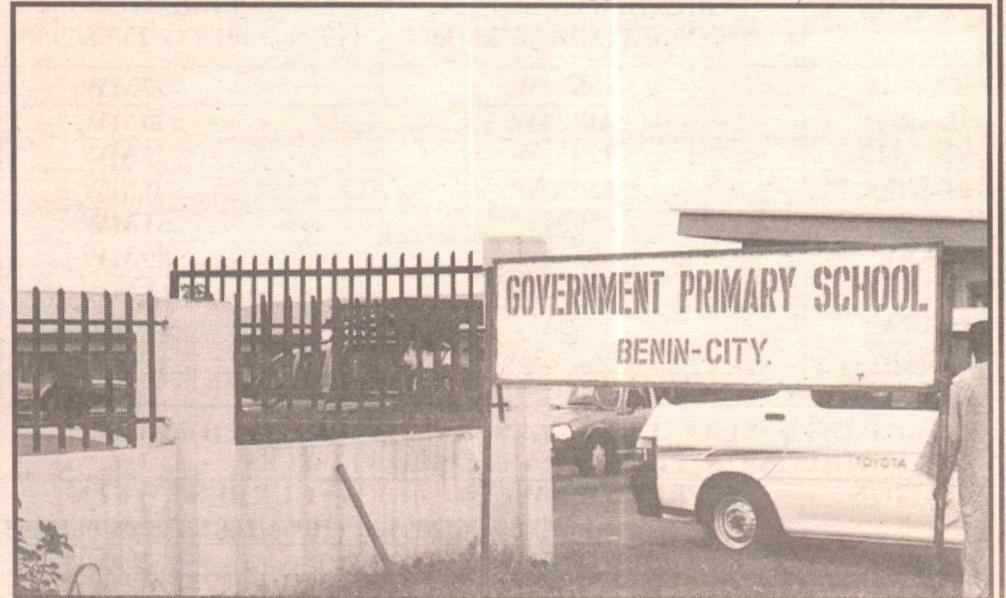
Mr. Jimoh whose property were affected by the Benin bypass said he will not move until he is given N10 million

governor of Edo State. Wherever we visited, the projects were grassroots oriented projects, rural roads, rural electrification, rural water supply. The most impressive thing about those projects was that they had just started. Most of them like the Ovia North East 23KV, 500KV transformer serves six communities and the water

three universities - The University of Benin (UNIBEN), the Ambros Alli University (formally Edo State University) and the Igbinedion University at Okada. Those universities have some unique features not found in other Nigerian universities. One, the Ambros Alli University at Ekpoma has the biggest

wages and pensions. Edo State, according to the state deputy governor, is consequently "a poor state despite its oil revenue".

To correct this, the state is trying hard to re-establish its industrial base. Two industries we visited testified to this. One is the Fertilizer blending plant at Auchi and the limestone plant also in Edo North, near Auchi.



Education is top priority in Edo State treatment plant.

But the most amazing thing in Edo State is that despite its reputation as one of the educationally advanced states in the country (the saying used to be that the entire candidates who are qualified to enter university in the entire North are less than those qualified from one local council in either Edo or Delta States), the state is still investing heavily in Education.

For instance on the first day of the visit, four out of the seven or eight state or local projects we visited were academic institutions some of them according to their administrators, like the College of Education Ikiadolar and the College of Agriculture in Benin were closed for up to 12 months due to lack of adequate funding and were revived by

lecture theatre in the country, a 1,300 seater edifice; an ultra-modern twin hostel of 50 bedroom with each bedroom, equipped with a toilet and a bathroom. UNIBEN has the second largest lecture theatre, while the Igbinedion University is the most functional private university in the country complete with a teaching hospital.

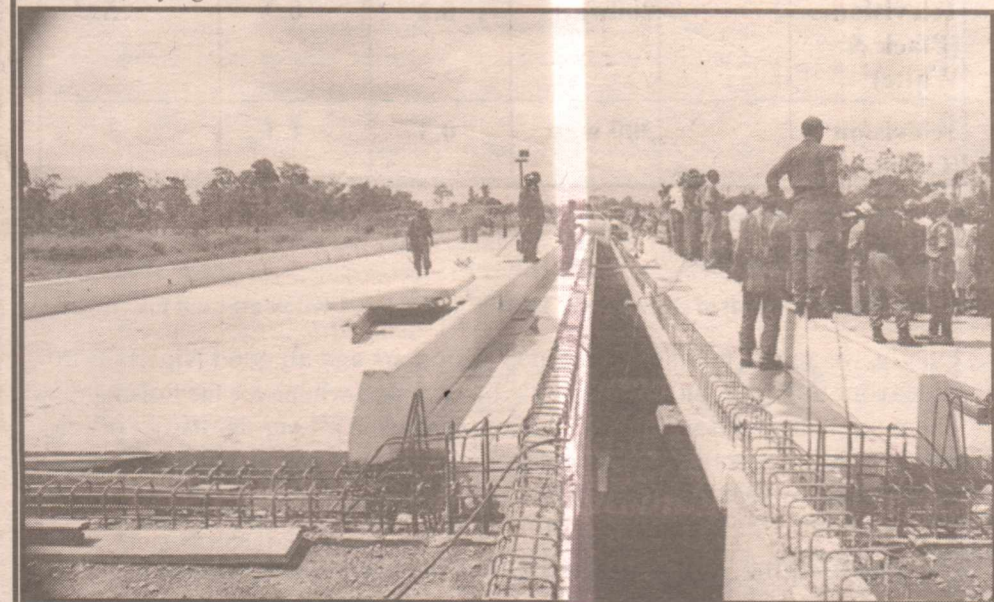
This colossal academic advantage though has its draw backs. One is that it has made people so crazy about obtaining degrees that the Ambrose Alli University had to be closed due to overflowing number of unqualified students who somehow found their way into the school. According to the governor, only about 12,000 out of the 46,000 students in the school will be re-admitted when the school reopens in July.

The visit was concluded with a dinner at the government house where the state governor admitted that water problem in the Essan district is one of their constraints but they are trying hard to overcome it.

I did have a chance to ask the governor too, why I could not go out in Benin after 9p.m. The Governor dismissed my fears as a result of the myth surrounding Benin. After the dinner when he was about to drive off, he called out to a group of journalists, "where is that Zamfara man, now he may follow us if he wants to go out." I had asked him if it were possible to make Benin as safe as say Gusau, the Zamfara State capital.

To say that Edo is lucky to have Lucky as governor is true as far as two-day official visit has proved.

Garba Deen Mohammed is the assistant editor of Daily Trust



Site of the N10bn FG funded Benin bypass

not safe. Having grown up in Gusau, Zaria and Kaduna, I had never known where it was not safe to go out at 9p.m. When I insisted, an elderly colleague from NAN who had spent 6 years covering Benin

own objective assessments of the performance of all three tiers).

So, at around 10.30a.m. the entourage, now graciously enlarged by powerful figures as Mr. Tony

From that point it was a gruelling all day round, the state tour that took the entourage to remote places located far into the forest vegetation, characteristic of southern Nigeria. From Ovie



NEPA

NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

NEPA Weekly Situation Report (13)

OUR BULLETIN FOR WEEK NO.13:

(17/06/2001 TO 23/06/2001)

1. PEAK DAILY GENERATION FOR THE PREVIOUS AND CURRENT WEEKS

PREVIOUS WEEK (10/06/2001 TO 16/06/2001)			CURRENT WEEK (17/06/2001 TO 23/06/2001)	
DAY	DATE	GEN(MW)	DATE	GEN(MW)
Sunday	10/06/2001	1782	17/06/2001	1813
Monday	11/06/2001	1716	18/06/2001	1746
Tuesday	12/06/2001	1849	19/06/2001	1774
Wednesday	13/06/2001	1846	20/06/2001	1749
Thursday	14/06/2001	1876	21/06/2001	1791
Friday	15/06/2001	1799	22/06/2001	1791
Saturday	16/06/2001	1703	23/06/2001	1843

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

PREVIOUS WEEK (10/06/2001 TO 16/06/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (17/06/2001 TO 23/06/2001)
1796MW	1900MW

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

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (10/06/2001 TO 16/06/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (17/06/2001 TO 23/06/2001)
KAINJI	168MW	197MW
JEBBA	349MW	260MW
SHIRORO	128MW	128MW
EGBIN	651MW	646MW
SAPELE	256MW	251MW
AFAM	89MW	80MW
DELTA	216MW	213MW
IJORA	12MW	NIL
ENRON	62MW	60MW
CALABAR	1MW	NIL

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

STATION	PREVIOUS WEEK (03/06/2001 TO 09/06/2001)	CURRENT WEEK (10/06/2001 TO 16/06/2001)
KAINJI	200MW	200MW
JEBBA	349MW	260MW
SHIRORO	381MW	250MW
EGBIN	850MW	860MW
SAPELE	241MW	240MW
AFAM	80MW	80MW
DELTA	219MW	240MW
IJORA	15MW	15MW
CALABAR	1MW	1MW
ENRON	63MW	60MW
AVERAGE TOTAL	2219MW	2206MW

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

ENERGY SAVING

AS USUAL WE BRING YOU SOME USEFUL TIPS ON HOW YOU CAN SAVE ENERGY, BY:

- Ensuring, for example, that when they are in use, your refrigerator or freezer is not overfilled. They operate more efficiently and economically only when filled to capacity.
- Making sure that your refrigerator or freezer is not set to run colder than necessary. We recommend that you always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Ensuring that when using the oven for meal cooking, try to use it for a full meal rather than using both oven and surface units. If you have three dishes to be cooked at slightly different temperatures, pick the mean temperature to cook all three. (For example, the mean of 325, 350 and 375 degrees temperature is 350 degrees).

- Making sure you do not use oversized water heaters. The oversized water heater wastes energy heating unneeded water. It should in fact be avoided to reduce your initial cost.
- Switching off all appliances not in use. Especially, when you are not home, remember to switch off your water heater, air-conditioners, television sets or indeed all lights you do not need before dark.
- Switching off security lights.
- Switching off street lights during the day
- Ensuring that when cooking with the electric cooker you use pots or pans that match the ring sizes.
- Using energy-saving bulbs
- Ensuring that you do not fill the electric kettle just to make a cup of tea. Use just enough water to cover the ring. Hot water kettles come in different sizes, you may choose the one to meet your needs.

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

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

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

Finally, we appeal to all our esteemed customers and all good Nigerians to endeavour to report faults promptly wherever and whenever they occur. There are faults sections and complaints centres in all our 54 district offices spread across the country. Only such prompt reports can enable us attend to faults promptly to make life a lot easier for you.

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Management



Crime & Punishment



Two Corps members forge Obasanjo's signature

Two members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) who allegedly forged the signature of President Olusegun Obasanjo in their attempt to get employment from a bank were over the weekend arraigned before a Lagos Chief Magistrate Court.

The duo ought to have passed out along with other corpers nation-wide who last Thursday joined the unemployment market.

According to Police Inspector Ephraim Oniya a prosecutor from zone II police command, Onikan Lagos, the accused persons on or about May 21, 2001 at Lagos conspired to commit felony.

Daily Trust gathered that the accused corpers did knowingly and fraudulently sent a forged letter with the President's signature to the Chairman Chief Executive of Intercontinental Bank Nigeria Ltd.

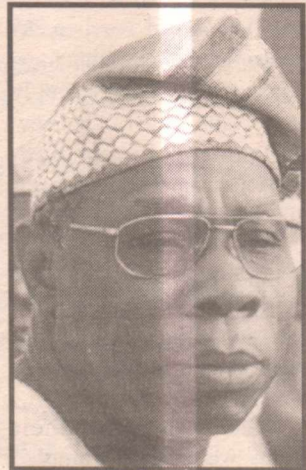
The said letter was reportedly replied by the bank asking the duo to come down for an interview before their formal employment.

On arrival at the bank for the said interviews, the accused corpers were swiftly apprehended and detained by the police before they were arraigned before the court.

Daily Trust gathered that 27 year-old Bakare Abimbola Abiodun and 26 year-old Adebayo Oladepo John were alleged to have in their pos-

From Adelanwa Bamgboye

session presidency personal memo, letter headed papers which they could not give a



President Obasanjo

reasonable account of how they came by them.

The duo were further al-

leged to have forged the signature of the president of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo.

The offences allegedly committed by the corpers are punishable under sections 516, 430 (1), 467 of the criminal code cap 32 vol. 11 laws of Lagos State of Nigeria 1994.

When the four count criminal charged was read out to the accused persons, they pleaded not guilty.

Lawyer to the accused persons, Douglas Adewale asked the court to admit them to bail on liberal terms saying that they are respectable citizens.

Bur prosecuting Inspector Ephraim opposed the bail saying that although the charge is a bilabial offence, the accused may bolt.

Police impound arms in Ogun

Olumide Bajulaiye, Abeokta

Ogun State Police Command last week impounded six Tokumbo vehicles stocked with illegal fire arms smuggled into the country through Benin Republic.

According to the Commands, Assistant Commissioner of Police, (ACP) Bola Bolanta, in a telephone interview with Daily Trust six men were arrested alongside the impounded vehicles stocked with over 2,000 live

cartridges.

Alhaji Bolanta informed our correspondent that the smugglers were arrested by a combined team of men of the Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) Abeokuta and men of the Ododa Police Division.

The smugglers were said to be heading towards Ibadan when they were intercepted by the law enforcement agents. Vehicles impounded include Mercedes Benz, Honda, Peugeot, Opel and BMW.

The six men arrested are said to be assisting the command as to who own the guns and for what purposes it was meant.

When contacted, the State Police Commissioner Prince Udom U. Ekpoudom confirmed the arrest and promised that the men would be paraded soonest, while his men continue with the investigations.

Police arrest 13 robbers in Makurdi

13 armed robbers that have been terrorising the inhabitants of Makurdi metropolis and its environs have been arrested by the state police command.

The arrest of the gang followed a tip off by one of the robbers, Mr. Terseer Atondo (alias school boy) who made confessions to the police on their activities.

The robber while confessing, disclosed that himself, Terhemba, Mbanongo, Adaku Gbajime, Apurugh Nyon, Terfa Adaaku and Tevershima some times in May this year, robbed one Sunday Atama of Wurukum market of provisions and cash valued hundreds of thousands of naira.

Luck however ran against them when a team of detectives led by a senior police officer arrested them at their hide out at Adikpo, Kwande Local Government headquarters, while enjoying with their girl friends after an operation.

The command also made a big breakthrough when one Vincent Okolie alleged to have been supplying guns to armed robbers in the state was arrested in Gboko over the weekend.

From Mike Elaigwu, Makurdi

The State Commissioner of Police Mr. Cyprian Onophrojire while parading the robbers which included a 25 year-old lady, Miss. Scholastica for conniving with the guys to rob people of the textile materials, warned ladies to beware of the people they associate with.



Police Affairs Minister, Chief Steven Akiga (left) being welcomed by the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Musiliu Smith at a recent function in Abuja. Pix: Kennedy Egbonidje

Former Milad loses libel suit

From Mamman Akpena, Lokoja

had awarded N5,000 against Col. Aniebo to be paid to the incumbent Governor of Kogi State.

It further explained that the striking out of the case was as a result of preliminary objection filed by the state Attorney-General challenging the competence of the suit before the court presided over by Justice S.H. Kusheriki.

The government statement added that the action filed against Col. Aniebo by the state government for the recovery of over N100 million being part of the money found to have been misappropriated by him is spend-



Governor Abubakar Audu

The former Military Administrator of Kogi State, Colonel Augustine Aniebo's N500 million libel suit against the incumbent Governor of Kogi State, Prince Abubakar Audu, suffered a set-back when a High Court sitting in Abuja struck it out for lack of merit and competence.

In the suit, Col. Augustine Aniebo rtd. had sought the court to compel Prince Audu Abubakar to pay him N500 million for allegedly speaking to journalists over the manner in which the former Administrator ran the affairs of the state.

A government statement signed by the Kogi State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mallam Abdul Haruna revealed that the court, apart from striking out the case,

4000 drug users jailed

From Jamila Musa Kano

Over 4,000 suspected drug users nationwide have been sent to prisons for various jail terms in the country.

The zonal command of the National Drug Law and Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in Kano, Alhaji Malam Sokoto has said.

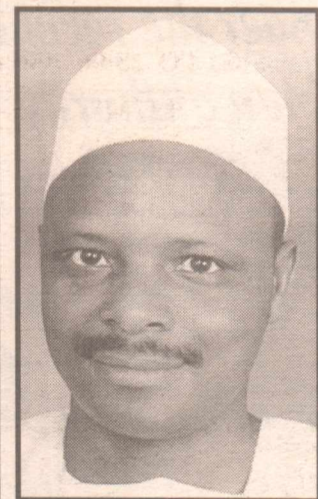
Speaking at a one-day workshop jointly organised by NDLEA and the Patent

figure, 296 of the cases were recorded in Kano.

The NDLEA boss stressed that drugs could be legal and available for purchase or if prescribed by a doctor while others are illicit and forbidden from being manufactured, purchased or used.

Alhaji Malami explained that drugs are substances other than food which could be taken to affect the structure or functions of the body.

According to him, some drugs could be used to achieve certain desired objectives in sports, work or studies.



Gov. Kwankwaso

Medicine Vendors Association held in Kano, Alhaji Malami said the suspects were arrested based on their involvement in drug-trafficking and other related offences before they were prosecuted.

He said that part of this

Sokoto NOA director, accountant remanded

The Sokoto State Director of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Alhaji Muhammad Jabi Shani, and the accountant, Alhaji Isa Sudan may be the first senior officers to be punished in the new sharia court system in the state since it's introduction.

Daily Trust reliably gathered that the two of them are now facing the trial at the upper sharia court II for the embezzlement of N185,555.54k belonging to Umar Aliyu Durbawa as his two years pension entitlement as a former staff.

Speaking at the upper sharia court II recently, the prosecutor, coporal Muhammad Umar stated that the two accused were charged for criminal conspiracy and breach of trust contrary to sections 125,170 and 261 of the Sokoto State Sharia penal code.

Umar explained that the two accused persons conspired to convert the cheque of N185,555.54k meant for Umar Aliyu Durbawa as his pension.

According to Daily Trust investigation, the cheque

The NDLEA zonal commander said that the aim of the workshop was to educate and enlighten patent medicine vendors on the dangers of buying, selling and consumption of hard drugs.

In his own paper titled "legal implications of Drug Abuse and Trafficking," Mr. Moses Ideoho of the prosecution unit of the NDLEA in Kano, highlighted the various legal implications of using some of the drugs.

Malam Abba Abdullahi of the Dawanau Rehabilitation Centre, Kano in his own presentation, cautioned participants against rampant sales of illicit drugs and reiterated that it is difficult to rehabilitate drug illicit.

was issued by the National Orientation Agency (NOA) headquarters in Abuja on December 16, 2000, but the two officers of the agency diverted the said money to their own personal use.

We gathered this was done with the believe that the man concerned would not be opportuned to know that the said money had been approved by the head quarters.

Making his defence at the court, the State Director of NOA claimed that the said money was used for official transaction, adding that it was not given to Umar as directed by the head quarters.

The accountant on the other hand also supported him that the money was meant for Mallam Aliyu Durbawa but in the process of trying to attend to some official assignment, it was tampered with.

Meanwhile, the presiding judge, Alhaji Bawa Shu'aibu Tambuwal ordered the remand of the two accused in prison custody and called on the police to produce their witnesses to testify.

Abuja News

Fresh flood disaster in Nyanya

No fewer than 38 shops were flooded and property worth millions of naira destroyed in Nyanya, a satellite town in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) at the weekend following a heavy rains on Friday night.

The affected shops, Daily Trust learnt, are located in areas A,D,E and F of the Federal Capital Development (FCDA) quarters in Nyanya.

Some of the victims that spoke to *Daily Trust* blamed the incident on the poor drainage system in the area, saying the heaps of refuse dumped on the streets and in the gutters was responsible for the flooding.

Mr. Peter Eze, a victim of the incident told our reporter

By Emmanuel Ande
that the flood occurred as a result of government's neglect of its responsibilities.

"If the town is properly landscaped, the flood will not occur, because the rainwater will find its way to flow into the streams," the visibly angry Eze said.

He said that the incident was a proof that Nigeria's leadership was not committed to the masses.

Mr. Eze further expressed his grievances against the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), saying the board activities were concentrated in highbrow areas where the elite reside.

Hawkers take-over MFCT main gate

Despite concerted efforts by authorities at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to rid the main entrance of the ministry of hawkers and traders along the road, illegal trading still persist at the main gate, as ware still

conspicuously displayed along the entrance preventing staff gaining entry into the premises.

Most of the traders who blocked the entrance have been displaced, pockets of hawkers can still be seen with their wares doing brisk

The Chief Executive of the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC), Mrs. Omotayo Omotosho has indicated the preparedness of the country to develop her tourism potentials.

Speaking at an orientation workshop organised for officials of her corporation/states tourism boards and consultants for the National Hospitality and Tourism Enterprises Registration in Abuja over the weekend, Mrs. Omotosho

Nigeria to pay more attention to tourism

said the creation of the ministry of culture and tourism by this administration was to give the required priority attention to tourism.

"The World Tourism Organisation believes that tourism will play an increasingly important role in the new millennium. Recent forecasts indicate that by the year 2020, tourism traffic will tri-

ple with 1.6 billion tourist visiting countries spending US \$200 billions" she said.

According to her, Nigeria



Ms. Boma Bromillo-Jack, Minister for Tourism

was repositioning the industry in readiness for the expected tourism boom in the 21st century.

It was to ensure standardisation of facilities and services in our hospitality industry that led to the proposed registration of hospitality and tourism establishment in the country.

According to Mrs. Omotosho, marketing Nigeria as a tourist destination requires the provision of basic infrastructure, development of the alluring tourist alterations, efficient transportation, suitable accommodation and accessibility of the rich assets to the tourist.

"There is need to convince the potential tourist that these alterations and hospitality establishments conform with international standards and are worth visiting she said, adding that it was for this reason that government decided to embark on registration of tourist establishment.

"The benefits of such a registration include elimination of substandard establishment in the industry and provision of statistical data to serve as a base for planning, marketing and development purposes."

Furthermore, Mrs. Omotosho said the exercise will accord the industry the needed recognition abroad and produce accurate information to protect customers and inform users of the quality of facilities and services available in the establishments.

The chief executive called on stockholders in the hospitality and tourism industry to join forces with the corporation towards realising the objectives of the registration exercise.

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Abuja News

Motorists, traffic wardens on war path

Motorists in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and officers of the traffic wardens may be heading for confrontation as the latter intend to enforce observation of correct parking order by motorists in the capital city.

At the weekend not fewer than 66 motorists were arrested for wrong parking and forced to part paid mandatory money, for a fine.

A driver who spoke with *Daily Trust* complained that the traffic wardens are being vindictive in the discharge of their duties.

He said that instead of the

By Emmanuel Ande

traffic wardens to inform passengers of the wrong place or no parking areas to move to a nearby bus stop to board vehicles they hide behind flowers along the road waiting for passengers to wave down vehicles, "once you stop to carry the passengers, they come out and arrest your vehicle."

"They just want to make illegal money for themselves" a commercial taxi driver said, adding that they collect between N1,000 and N1,500 for defaulting drivers.

Daily Trust gathered that

the new initiative to force commercial drivers to comply is not only being pursued by the traffic wardens alone.

NIPR honours companies, individuals at award night

About 20 organisations and individuals were at the weekend in Abuja by the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), for their outstanding contributions to the development of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

Speaking at a dinner of the NIPR to mark the year 2001 award night, the FCT

Minister, Alhaji Muhammad Abba-Gana, who was represented at the occasion by the Acting Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Alhaji Bahadatu Saleh, commended the institute in maintaining its central objective of excellence and professionalism in the practice of public relations both in the private and public sectors in Nigeria.

He said the practice is indeed a vital professional endeavour through which practitioners contribute to the national development.

"Members of your institute, I gathered, usually after meaningful advice to government functionaries and also to reputable companies on public relations and communications issues," he said

Al-Bayan Academy holds Qur'anic competition

By Habiba Adamu

that the Qur'anic recitation competition is one of the ways in which student's knowledge about Qur'anic is improved.

"The aim of the Qur'anic recitation competition is not to

encourage rivalry among students but to create a healthy competition atmosphere toward the actualisation of our specific goal which is aimed at improving the memorization skills of the participants," she said.

The director added that memorization as a mental process will go along way in encouraging assimilation of knowledge among students most particularly in the sciences.

She pointed out that Al-Bayan is committed to academic training of young people but is more concerned in their spiritual well-being, adding that focusing on pupils at their tender age brings about the best result in character formation.

Hajiya Maryam stressed Al-bayan's commitment in ensuring high moral standards by instilling in the students the academy moral uprightness and the fear of Allah (S.W.T.) in what so ever they do.

Earlier in his lecture at the occasion, the guest lecturer, Engineer Ahmad Sirika has highlighted the various benefits derived from memorization and recitation of the Holy Qur'an.

Saying that a child particularly at his tender age is a good potential, if trained well to memorise the Holy Qur'an.

He further emphasised the importance of memorization of Holy Qur'an by the society collectively and also the necessity attached to memorization of some of its portion by individuals so as to enable them perform five daily prayers and other Islamic injunctions.

Traditional ruler stresses need to develop agriculture in FCT

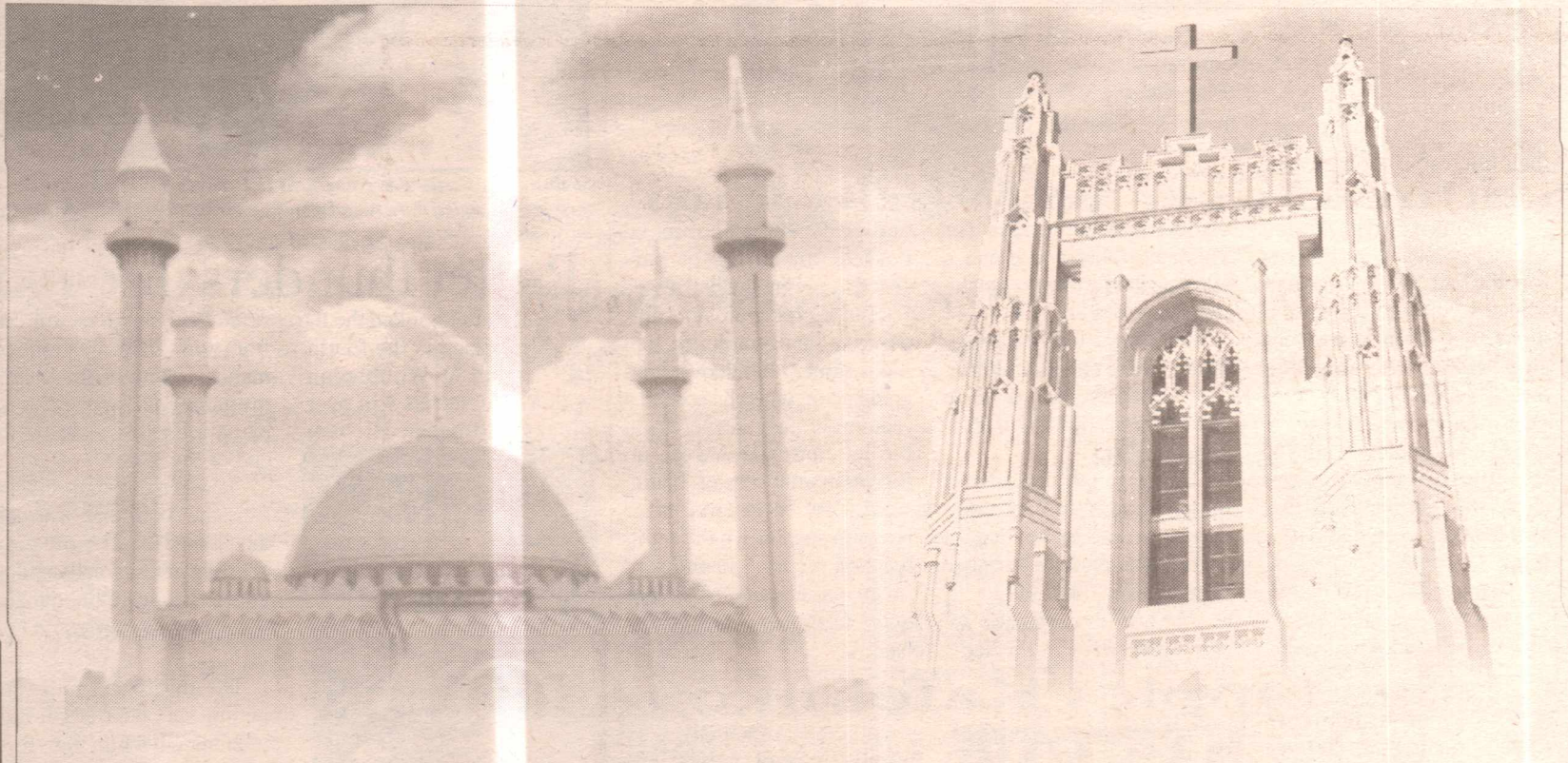
The traditional ruler of Maitama-Kuwa in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Esu Bulus Pada, yesterday in Abuja called on the Federal Government to pay attention to the agricultural development of the territory.

In a chat with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Pada said, "some natives even depend on food brought from nearby states, as they have no place to farm."

"Our people now spend over N150 on transport to go to their farms," he complained, adding that "most natives now resort to illegal sale of land to feed their families."

The traditional ruler urged the government to revisit the promise made to natives during their resettlement, adding that "this would make the people to support the federal government's crusade on revitalising the agricultural sector."

But he frowned at what he regarded as "the careless ways people living in the area dispose refuse."



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CENTREPAGE



SPORTS



Copa America in suspension shock

The Copa America, due to be held in Colombia next month, has been suspended and will not take place until 2002.

South American football officials took the decision after an emergency meeting in Buenos Aires on Saturday, just 11 days before the tournament was due to start.

"We have decided to postpone the tournament and ratify Colombia as its host," said Confederation president Nicolas Leoz.

The Copa America was thrown into doubt when the vice-president of the Colombian Football Federation was kidnapped by left-wing guerrillas.

Hernan Mejia Campuzano was later released but officials had already begun to look for alternative venues, with Brazil, Mexico and Uruguay willing to step in.

And Mejia then flew to the Argentine capital in a desperate attempt to per-

sue South American officials to keep the tournament in Colombia.

"They postponed it on us but they did not take it away," Mejia said after the meeting on Saturday.

The kidnapping appeared to be the last straw after a spate of bombings in major Colombian cities during the previous six weeks.

John Maro Rodriguez, Mayor of the Colombian city of Cali, described the decision as an "insult to Colombians."

And he is considering legal action against the South American Soccer Confederation for the economic damages that will be caused by the suspension.

"It's a punishment, a severe punishment for the kidnapping of Hernan Mejia," said Bogota's mayor Antanas Mockus.

Colombia had laid out \$8m improving stadia and communications in preparation for the tournament.

More than 20,000 police officers, bomb-sniffer dogs and armed guards had been pledged to guarantee security in the seven city sites during the tournament.

The suspension could have severe political repercussions for Colombian president Andres Pastrana.

"If they were to take away the Copa, it would have been a green light to terrorism," said Alvaro Fina, president of Colombia's football association.

Fiorentina duo reject Parma move

Manuel Rui Costa and Francesco Toldo have reacted angrily to Fiorentina's decision to sell them to Parma.

The cash-strapped club have sold the pair to Parma for £39m in a bid to clear their massive debts.

But neither Rui Costa or Toldo want to move to the Serie A side, preferring to go to AC Milan and Barcelona re-

spectively.

"I am not a piece of meat," Rui Costa told the Gazzetta dello Sport. "I decide where I will go. I have the right to choose the right option for me and my family."

"Parma's was the most solid offer but it is by no means the only one."

Italy international Toldo added: "I thank Parma for their interest. But for me and

my career, I think I need to take a different route.

"I had accepted the transfer to Barcelona without any problems because it could have been an important next step in my career."

"In all honesty, I'm very unhappy. My move to Barcelona was finalised, and now I discover that I've been sold twice."

Morocco edge closer to World Cup

A stunning goal from English Premiership star Mustapha Hadji moved Morocco closer to the 2002 World Cup.

The Moroccans now need just a point from their final qualification game against Senegal to reach the finals next year.

The result gives Egypt, who still have a game in hand on Morocco, an awesomely difficult task to qualify.

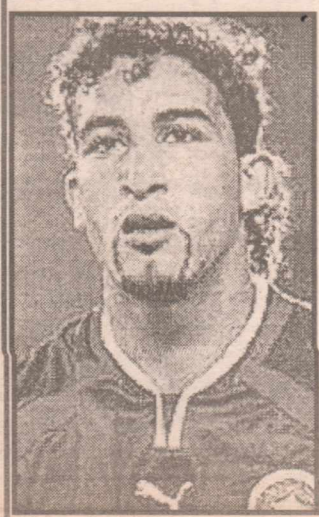
They were left cursing their luck after having dominated the game for long periods and created the better chances.

But they lacked a player with the finishing ability of Hadji, who lashed an imperious 20-yard shot home after 32 minutes.

After a cagey start Egypt had produced the first real threat when Abdel Sattar Sabry slipped past two men on the left and surged into the area.

But he flung himself to the ground in a bid to win a penalty and was booked by the referee.

Morocco looked nervous, and failure to clear out of defence a moment later brought a chance for Ahmed Hossam, who scooped his shot over the bar.



Mustapha Hadji

Dominant Egypt wasted another great chance just before the half hour mark when Mohamed Omara scampered down the left wing and squared to an unmarked Sabry, whose 12-yard shot went way over.

Then completely out of the blue, Morocco went ahead with a brilliant goal that sent the huge crowd into raptures.

Aston Villa's new acquisition, Kachoul, chipped in a clever ball and Abdel Jalil

Hadda headed down for Mustapha Hadji to crash a glorious 20-yard shot past the keeper.

Almost immediately Hadda went close to adding the second, but a fine through-ball found him fractionally offside.

Egypt fought back with some swift attacks and Idris Ben Zikri had to be alert to turn away a free kick by Sabry from wide on the right.

The visitors continued to control the game in the sec-

ond half. They dominated possession as Egypt persisted in giving the ball away.

But Egypt could not capitalise on their superiority. Ben Zekri almost handed them a goal late on when he spilled a seemingly easy corner from the left, but there were no Egyptian attackers on hand.

A few moments later Hossam sped down the right, reached the by-line and sent in an excellent cross, but again Morocco managed to clear.

Canas topples Kafelnikov

Yevgeny Kafelnikov became the latest seed to be dumped out of Wimbledon on the infamous number two court.

The number seven seed was beaten by Argentina's Guillermo Canas 3-6 6-1 6-3 7-6 in the third round in the biggest upset of the men's tournament so far.

In a rain-interrupted match on the court dubbed the 'graveyard of the champions' for the number of high-profile players to lose there, the Russian struggled for much of the clash.

Canas, who had not gone beyond the second round at Wimbledon before, earned a quarter-final against Swedish 10th seed Thomas Enqvist.

Kafelnikov took the first set but his serve then let him down badly.

He was twice broken by Canas - most crucially in the third set after double-faults handed the initiative to the Argentine.

The fourth set was an intriguing battle but after taking a 5-3 lead, Kafelnikov crumbled to be swept away in the tie-break.

Meanwhile, Enqvist progressed after defeating Zimbabwe's Wayne Black in straight sets 7-5 6-4 6-2.

American second seed Andre Agassi cruised past Nicolas Massu of Chile, winning 6-3 6-1 6-1

Tennis

Australia's Lleyton Hewitt, the fifth seed, overcame Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui 7-5 5-7 6-4 7-6 (7/4).

There was no luck for Frenchman Fabrice Santoro.

The 20th seed had to withdraw in the third set against Russia's Mikhail Youzhny, although he was already two sets down.

He lost the first two sets 5-7 0-6 and was 0-2 down in the third.

Imperious Agassi powers on

Andre Agassi swept into the fourth round at Wimbledon with a devastating win over Nicolas Massu on Saturday.

In a match that lasted just 81 minutes, the former champion reached the last 16 after dropping just five games.

The second seed dominated throughout against the unseeded Chilean, who had come through an arduous five-setter in the previous round.

Afterwards Agassi said it was nice to feel he had done everything right.

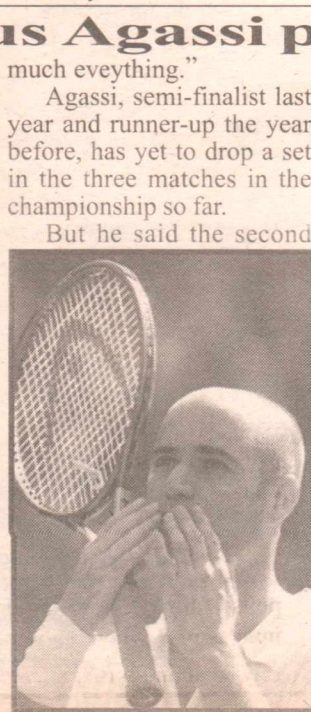
"To go out there and stay in control and not make it any more complicated than it had to be is an indication of how well I am hitting the ball and playing the big points."

"I felt good about pretty

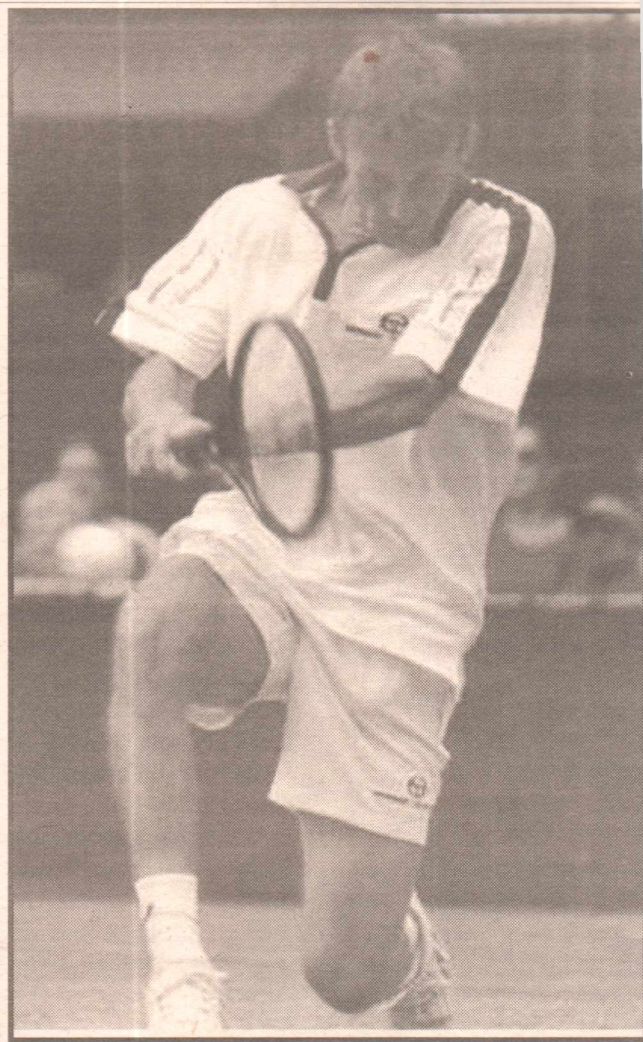
much everything."

Agassi, semi-finalist last year and runner-up the year before, has yet to drop a set in the three matches in the championship so far.

But he said the second



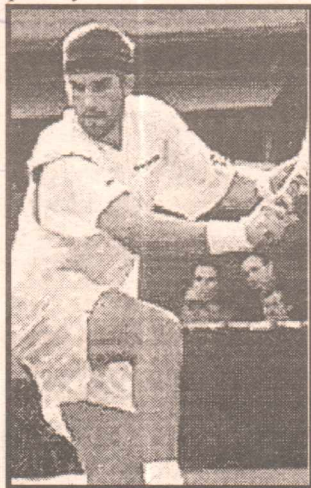
Agassi



Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero returns to Britain's Greg Rusedski during their men's singles, third round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon on Friday.

Rafter thunders through

Pete Rafter booked the final place in the fourth round at Wimbledon with a straight sets win over plucky Moroccan Hicham



Rafter Arazi.

Rafter, beaten by Pete Sampras in the final last year, defeated the Moroccan 7-6 6-4 7-5 to earn a last 16 clash with Russian teenager Mikhail Youzhny.

The number three seed

said: "It just gets tougher from now. There are improvements starting to show up in my game and I was hitting the ball a lot better nearer to the end of the match."

It was a dazzling display from the Australian who sent the Centre Court crowd into delirium after a finally ending the challenge of the dangerous Arazi in just over two hours.

The third seed took the opening set on a tie-break as Arazi matched him big serve for big serve and served only his fifth ace to take the second 6-4.

Arazi had to save three break points in the third game of the third set, enjoying a massive slice of luck when a Rafter forehand appeared to land on the outside of the line but was called out.

Rafter demanded the ball back from the ball boy to examine it for signs of chalk dust but found none and Arazi went on to win the game and keep his nose in front.

But there was no denying the powerful Rafter, who looked unbeatable on his serve in the third set.

He got his break in the 11th game with a brilliant backhand return winner giving him the chance to serve out for the match.

Rafter had allowed Arazi just three points on his serve in the set so far and gave his opponent just one more as he secured victory with his 10th ace.

Rafter is well aware that Youzhny could pose him a tough test.

"If I'm off my game against Youzhny he will beat me and if I'm not then I will be in good stead for the rest of the week."



SPORTS



Regional Athletics Championship

Nigeria flops in sprint

Nigeria seems to be losing grip of her dominance in sprints in the West Africa sub-region, as the Ghanaian athletics clinched all the gold medals in both male and female of the 100 metre events in the just concluded Region II Senior Athletic Championship.

Nigeria's hopeful in the 100m (men) event fizzled out at a crucial moment, paving way for the youthful Ghanaian athlete - Ednest Ossei to win the race.

Speaking with *Trustsports* after the explosive race, Ossei boasted that he had earlier promised to beat the Nigerian athlete in Lagos, having beaten him in Accra early this year in similar competition.

Ossei, however, attributed his outstanding feat in this race to hard work and determination to

From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos

excel.

In the female category too, Ghana's Vida Anim stole the show by beating the duo of Chinedu Odozor and Girty Addy to second and third places respectively.

Elated Anim told *Trustsports* after the race that she is fulfilled having beaten the two Nigerian runners home and away this year.

Meanwhile, it was all Nigerians affairs in other events, as the duo of Onorah Edith and Funmi Ogundana emerged winners in 100m (middle) female.

Edith breasted the tape at 13.83 seconds to win gold medal while Ogundana clocked 14.60 seconds to pick the silver medal, as the third were to Ghana's

Rosina Amenegbede with a time of 15.02 seconds.

In the 400m (H) women final, it was a sweet victory for the two-Nigeria girls who emerged the winners Catherina Obilor won the race with a time of 58.47 seconds as Laraba Nasiru came second with a time

of 59.25 seconds.

Mali's Mari Malikone came third with a time of 65.24 seconds.

In shot put event, it was also all Nigerian affairs as Simor Victor and Uche Amacool emerged first and second respectively.

Re-organisation imminent in NABA

A major reorganisation is imminent in Nigeria Amateur Boxing Association (NABA), *Trustsports* can authoritatively reveal.

Speaking with *Trustsports* yesterday, NABA Secretary-General, Olusola Luke, said the association would have to undergo a reorganisation in a bid to ensure productivity.

Luke hinted that there are six staff on the payroll of the association, who are practically doing nothing.

"Honestly, we have to

sanitise this association if we want to move forward.

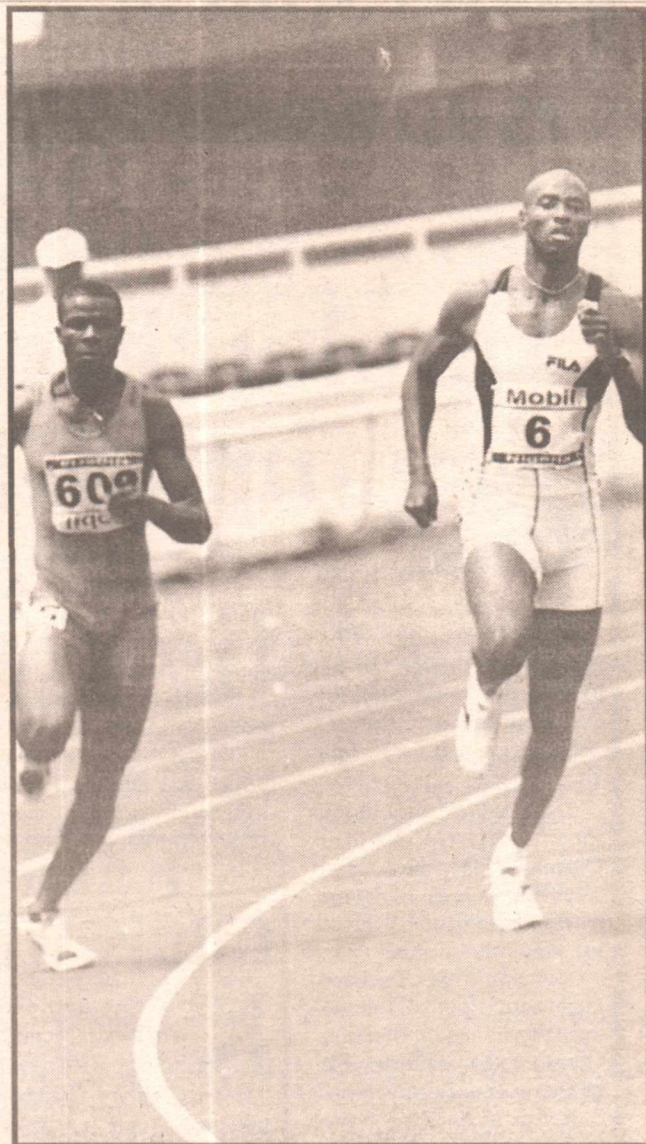
"Personally, I am not ready to condole indiscipline in any way. All hands must be on deck, in a bid to revamp this association," he said.

The former Nigeria Weightlifting Federation Scribe hinted that there are coaches who are not productive, adding that such coaches would either give way or get serious.

"Boxing is popular sports and if these coaches are serious we can jointly bring boxing to its pride of place among other sports in this country," he stressed.

He disclosed that some of the coaches would be reassigned so as to keep them busy and productive too, saying "nobody will idle here again."

It will be recalled that Luke is making his third appearance in NABA, as he was redeployed from NABA to weightlifting in the previous posting before the latest one.



Francis Obikwelu, right, leading the pack in the 100m men event at the Mobil Athletics Championship last year. Nigeria has flopped in the sprint events at the just concluded Region II tournament in Lagos.

Standings:

1. Nigeria	7	4	1	2	12	3	13
2. Liberia	7	4	0	3	9	8	12
3. Sudan	6	3	0	3	5	9	9
4. Ghana	6	2	2	2	9	6	8
5. Sierra Leone	6	1	1	4	2	11	4

Super Four

This is our year - Owunmi

There is a strong indication that the "Flying Antelope" - Enugu Rangers International FC are not leaving anything to chances in their quest to win the Pepsi Super Four slated for National Stadium, Lagos.

Rangers International FC team manager, Davidson Owunmi told *Trustsports* that the players are in high spirit and rearing to go.

"This year Super Four is going to be a different ball game, as we are not going to take chances at all. In fact, this is our year," he boasted.

The former Rangers FC

player explained that the team management has paid all the outstanding sign-on fees stressing that the boys have been properly motivated for the Super Four cracker.

He added that the duo of Emmanuel Agbo and Ndidi Anumunu had been brought in from Inwanyawu Nationale FC to strengthen the team.

He disclosed that the team would arrive Lagos on Sunday and camp at Mainland Hotel, Oyingbo.

Also, coach Godfrey Esututored boys are camping at Snake Island in Lagos where

they are perfecting their strategies for the Pepsi Super Four showdown.

Coach Esu assured that there is no cause for alarm, as the players match bonus have been increased by hundred per cent.

Pepsi shocks NFA, doles out N.4m

By Patrick Andrew

Sponsors of the Super Four play-off Pepsi shocks the NFA when it only doled out a paltry N400,000 for the organisation of the fiesta which begins tomorrow.

Trustsports learnt that the NFA had budgeted N1.5m for the fiesta but the sponsors pruned down the budget, a situation that has greatly tasked the NFA proleague department over how to use the meagre sum to run the 6-day tournament.

Consequent upon the meagre sum, the NFA has resolved not to pay the match commissioners in view of the fact that accommodation for the officials alone will gulp N300,000.

The NFA proleague department was, however contemplating employing the services of match commissioners and other officials resident in Lagos in order to cut down on expenses for accommodating and covering other miscellaneous expenses for the tournament involving Rangers, Gombe, Enyimba and NPA.

Though proleague scribed, Mallam Salihu Abubakar, declined to state specifically how much was approved by Pepsi for the organisation of the play-off, he, however, confirmed that the amount was a far cry from the N1.5m budgeted for it.

Mallam Abubakar also admitted that the lean fund has tasked the organisational ingenuity of his department, noting that it has, however, appealed for upward review of the approved budget.

The Super Four play-off is an innovation which begun three years ago with the intention of producing the best in the proleague to represent the country in the League Champions Cup which has been elusive.

Lions Stars of Makurdi won the maiden edition but flopped in the continental, while Julius Berger, which won the ticket, last year has already qualified for the league series of the money spinning championship.

The winners of the Super Four play-off will cart home

Why schools sports went downhill - lawmaker

Senator Fred Brume has given reason why inter-collegiate sports suddenly went down hill in the country.

The Senator, who is sponsoring an Intercollegiate Soc-

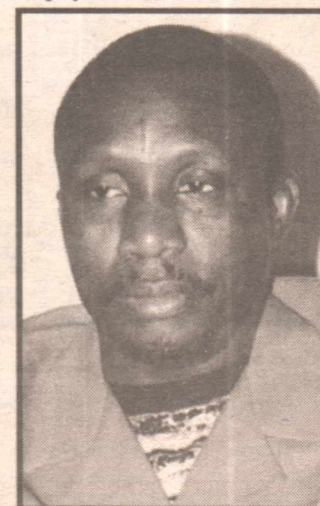
cer Championship among senior secondary schools in Delta State, said government was to blame for the decline in standard of school sports.

"The Federal Government is to blame for taking over some missionary schools without making adequate arrangement to increase facilities in these schools in order to accommodate intercollegiate games. Then the society is also to blame because of the sudden death of values, which were instilled in youth at schools.

"Definitely, schools sports provided avenues for socialising and character building was held in low estimation by the society," he said.

The Senator who related with nostalgia the era of intercollegiate games in the country also attributed the fall of interest in schools games to "lack of discipline supervision by authorities who should have endeavour to mould the character of the youth through vibrant intercollegiate games."

The Senator, who inaugurated the Intercollegiate Games Committee last Saturday in Warri, Delta State, noted that the revival of school sports will douse the ethnic ember rampant in the Niger Delta Region by compelling conviviality among youth in the area and beyond.



Dr. Tijani Yusuf, NFA Scribe

Super-Four fixtures

3rd July, 2001

Enyimba - Gombe
NPA - Rangers

5th July, 2001

Rangers - Gombe
NPA - Enyimba

7th July, 2001

Gombe - NPA
Rangers - Enyimba

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Amokachi returns against Ghana

The former Super Eagles skipper, Dan "the Bull" Amokachi, will definitely wear the national colour against the Black Stars of Ghana in the crucial 2002 World Cup qualifier on July 28.

NFA second vice-chairman, Barrister Nwafor Obienu, dropped the hint last weekend while assessing the performance of the Everton FC supportive striker.

Amokachi, who has been out of active football following a thorny injury, Barrister Obienu said, was remarkable in the Kano camp of the Super Eagles who were preparing for yesterday's Herculean desert war against Sudan in Omdurman.

"Amokachi was 70 per cent fit. He shoots well, marks with the usual grit and boisterity peculiar to him.

We however dropped him to avoid a repeat of what happened to Amuneke some months ago. But I can assure you that the technical crew will invite him for the last match against Ghana," he said.

By Patrick Andrew

According to Obienu, Amokachi's work rate was impressive and above average noting that if he sustains the form he would be sure bet for the Nations Cup in Mali.

The NFA Vice-Chairman further said that the former skipper left none in doubt

about his determination to be back in active football after the forced two years lay-off.

Obienu equally cleared the air on the decision to drop Garba Lawal while Nwankwo Kanu was included since both were nursing injuries, noting that Lawal's injury was more pronounced than that of Kanu.

Kanu pledges future with Arsenal

Kanu has vowed to win his place back in the Arsenal starting line-up - rather than look for another club.

The Nigerian international has been the subject of intense transfer speculation after Arsene Wenger paid £10m for Everton's Francis Jeffers.

But Kanu's agent, Frank Sedoc, has scotched rumours of a move to Glasgow Rangers - the latest club to express an interest in the gangly forward.

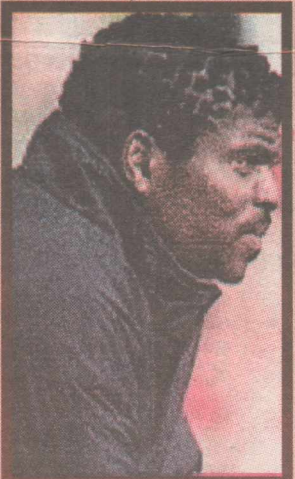
"It is completely untrue," said Sedoc. "With all due respect, he is not a player for the Scottish league.

"There are many clubs interested in him but he wants to prove himself at

Arsenal.

"He came to London to win something and that has not happened yet so he wants to stay there until it does.

"Rangers have not been in touch with us and we have not contacted them either," he said.



Kanu



Jamaican forward Deon Burton, controls the ball during the World Cup qualifier versus Trinidad and Tobago at the Queen's Park Oval, in Port of Spain, Trinidad on Saturday. Jamaica won 1-2.

World Cup Results

Burkina Faso 1	Vs	S. Africa 1
Cameroon 2	Vs	Togo 0
Sudan 0	Vs	Nigeria 4
Liberia 1	Vs	Ghana 2



Miguel Caceres of Paraguay, center, shoots the ball with a free kick during the first half of their game in the three-nation Kirin Cup soccer tournament at the Sapporo Dome in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan, yesterday. At left, Koji Nakata and at right, Kazuyuki Toda, both of Japan. Paraguay lost to Japan, 0-2.



Russia's Marat Safin returns a ball during his second round 4-6, 7-6, 6-2 victory against Germany's Jens Knippschild at the Stella Artois Tennis tournament at Queen's Club in central London ...recently.