

# DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

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## WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Kabiru Jimjiri on:

### Bank without interest

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## STAR FEATURE

### Exploring the tradition of horse breeding

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# NEPA threatens to blackout Aso Villa

## •NASS, others too

Hit by "a disturbing financial crisis," NEPA yesterday said it would soon start the massive disconnection of defaulting "big and sensitive consumers," including the Aso Villa and the National Assembly unless they paid up.

NEPA spokesman, Mohammed Mousa-Booth, said the decision was part of

a "desperate attempt to stay afloat."

"The times are critical. For long they have not been paying and we have decided to give these so-called sensitive customers one month within which to settle their bills or be disconnected," Mousa-Booth said in Abuja.

Among other sensitive customers listed by the NEPA spokesman as having been served with disconnection notices are airports, water boards, military formations, hospitals, government houses, federal and state secretariats, NITEL, the ministry of defence and the residences of top government officials.

"Nobody, none whosoever, shall be allowed to hide under security cover to deny the authority it dues," he declared. Mousa-Booth ad-

vised those who normally relied on their connections to have electricity restored to their houses "to look elsewhere" as the authority would no longer accept such directive that would deplete its revenues.

He described the authority's "sensitive customers" as its greatest head-

ache, and warned military men who had been taking the law into their hands by harassing NEPA field officers to desist forthwith as the authority would no longer be intimidated.

The spokesman, who disclosed that NEPA was owed over N27 billion nationwide, lamented that government

agencies were the worst culprits, saying that the authority needed the funds to sustain its services and improve power supply in the country.

He disclosed that the policy of deduction at source had not worked, saying that NEPA might be compelled to publish the names of debtors if the bad situation persisted.

The NEPA spokesman reminded its consumers that

NEPA's social utility status did not mean it should not be paid its dues, saying that even government in rendering social service was being paid tax and VAT.

"Government's argument that it usually ploughed its monies back into the economy is also true of NEPA as we have always put back whatever revenue we generate into ensuring better service," he stressed.

The NEPA spokesman advised government officials to take a cue from other countries, essentially the US and the United Kingdom, where prominent people promptly paid their bills.

contd. on pg 2



Dr. Olusegun Obasanjo  
Minister of Steel

## ...Board denies

### mismangement accusation

A member of the technical board of NEPA, Alhaji Ahmed Zanna, yesterday denied allegations of unwholesome practices levelled against the board by the workers' union.

Zanna, who is responsible for distribution and marketing, said that the unionists were only angry that the technical board had plugged loopholes which the workers hitherto exploited to defraud the authority.

"With a presidential mandate to generate 4,000mw and end power outage by December 2001, management told workers from the onset that it was not going to be business as usual and they have since been uncomfortable with our steps," Ahmed said in Abuja.

The National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE), at a press conference in Lagos a fortnight

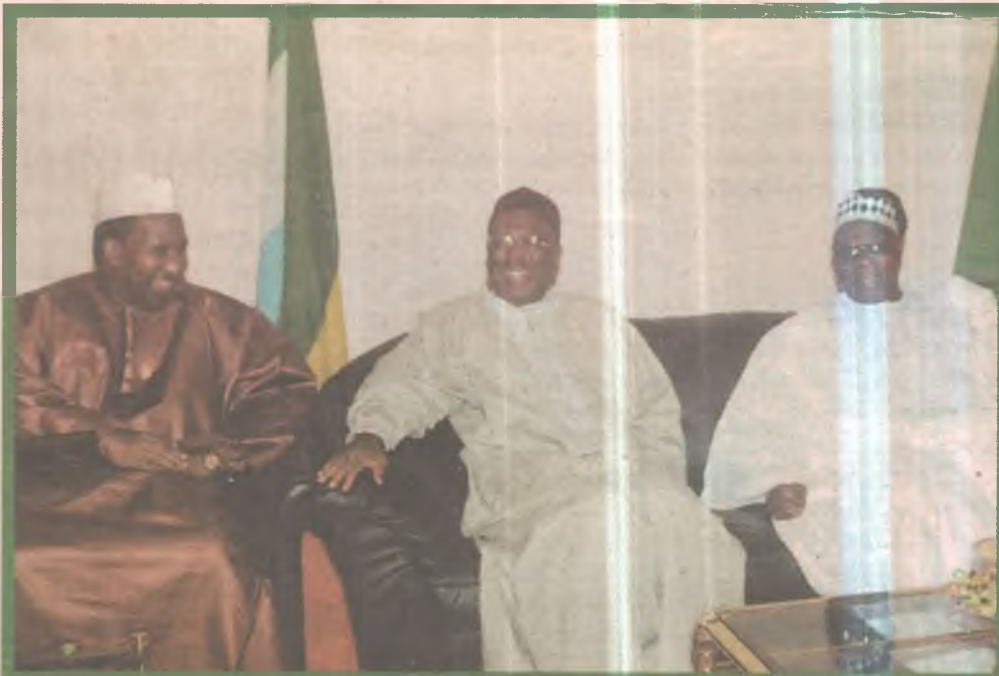
ago, accused the board of "serving as a conduit pipe to drain NEPA's meagre resources," and called for a presidential probe to unearth the alleged shady deals.

Speaking through the Secretary-General of their union, Mr. Precious Kirikalio, the workers accused the board members of awarding to themselves, contracts which could be handled by NEPA engineers.

They also dismissed assurances that the presidential mandate would be met, saying the board members "are novices in the energy section."

According to Zanna, "contracts for transmission lines, usually N27 million per km have been awarded for N11 million per Km, while a 533 KV transformer usually installed at N1.82 million is now N700,000 to N800,000."

contd. on pg 2



L-R: President Alpha Oumar Konare of the Republic of Mali and Chairman of ECOWAS, President Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone and President Olusegun Obasanjo at the Presidential Lounge of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja during the one-day visit to Nigeria... yesterday. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje.

## FG votes N20m to combat quelea birds

Disturbed by the increasing destruction of farm produce in some northern states by quelea birds, the Federal Government has voted the sum of N20 million to combat the menace.

The Sokoto State Commissioner for Agriculture, Alhaji Isah Sadiq, disclosed this in a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Hausa Service programme monitored in Abuja, yesterday.

He stated that the Federal Government took the decision in order to prevent the shortage of agricultural products at the end of this year's farming season.

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru, with Agency Reports

that the affected states will also contribute the sum of N5 million each which would be used with that of the Federal

Government for the purchase of insecticides to fight the menace.

A farmer in Sokoto State, Malam Shehu Umar on be

contd. on pg 2

## FEDERATION ACCOUNT

### ...States, LGs share N98.071b in July

The federal, state and local governments shared N98.017 billion as allocation from the federation account for the month of July.

In a statement issued in Abuja, yesterday, Minister of State, Ministry of Finance, Senator Jubril Martins-Kuye said the initial amount stood at N97.846 billion.

ing short of the monthly budgetary distributable sum of N97.125 million.

However, the balance of N10.225 million was transferred from the excess on Crude Oil Sales Account to make up for the shortfall.

Accordingly, the federal government got N45.500 billion, states and FCT,

councils were given N18.766 billion.

Martins-Kuye said the sum of N2.250 billion was paid to the National Judicial Council for the funding of the judiciary, while Special Funds were allocated N2.857 billion, with N1.875 going into the Ecological Fund and the balance of

## Kaduna fertilizer plant requires N4b

By Osborne Adl Jar.

About N4 billion is required for a complete Turn Around Maintenance (TAM) of the Federal Superphosphate Fertiliser Company (FSFC), Kaduna.

Chairman of the company, Mr. John Iriata Abulime, dropped this hint yesterday in Abuja.

Abulime said thorough repairs on the plant was needed in view of the fact that it has been out of production for a long time following breakdown of some

contd. on pg 2

## NEWS

## Snake charmer captures mysterious Cobra at last

A snake charmer from Daura in Katsina State, Malam Umar, has captured the mysterious snake that has been terrorising four villages in Ungogo Local Government Area of Kano State.

Displaying the snake before the Deputy Governor of Kano State, Dr. Umar Ganduje, the snake charmer said he had a search team that swept the entire area for three days and finally caught the snake under a fallen tree in Rimin Gata village.

The snake, a black Cobra, he said, was highly poisonous and dangerously mysterious in its attacks.

Malam Umaru said he has been trapping dangerous snakes for the past 30 years and was invited to Rimin Gata by some concerned residents of the area who knew his feat in the past.

On the speculation that the snake that has been terrorising the four villages was a *Jinn* in snake form, the snake charmer said he could

From Musa Umar Kazaure,  
in Kano

not dispute that *Jinn* (spirits) sometimes take the form of snakes but stressed that no

snake has ever eluded him whether spirit or real snake, unless it becomes invincible to the eyes.

The Deputy Governor, Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, praised the snake charmer for his courage and

assistance to the people of the four villages.

He directed that the sum of N100,000.00 be given to the snake charmer while the

snake was to be taken to the Kano Zoo.

The snake has claimed over seven lives with over 80 people bitten in the four villages in the last three weeks.

## IMF indicts Nigeria over reckless spending

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has accused the local, state and federal governments over reckless spending of public funds in carrying out various developmental projects in the country.

According to a British



Malam Adamu Ciroma,  
Minister of Finance

By Mustapha Isah Kwaru,  
with Agency Reports

Broadcasting corporation (BBC) Hausa Service report monitored in Abuja, The IMF expressed this in a report made available to news-

men yesterday after its representatives' recent visit to the country.

The report noted that the overspending of funds by the three tiers of government would result in inflation and create problems in foreign

exchange.

The IMF further expressed its concern over the delay in the privatisation of FG's companies, adding that the country should fulfil the agreements signed between them on privatisation.

IMF finally advised FG to take proper steps that would reduce the huge amount of funds being spent on any project and warned Nigeria to quickly privatise its companies.

## Robbers send medical team back to US

An American medical team beat a hasty retreat back to the United States after armed robbers shot their driver as they left Lagos Airport, police disclosed.

Lagos State police deputy commissioner, Emmanuel Adebayo, said armed robbers attacked the car carrying two government officials and the two American experts who were to pro-

vide medical care for the poor in Oyo State.

The gunmen surrounded the car three miles (five km) from Nigeria's main Murtala Mohammed International Airport on Sunday night, police said.

"When they left the airport on their way out, the car was attacked. The driver was shot and died," Adebayo said.

The Americans and their two companions were not hurt and the robbers left

without taking anything from the car, he added.

"The team went straight back to the US on the same plane they came on."

Police did not know the home towns of the Americans or which medical organisation they were due to work with in Oyo.

US embassy officials were not immediately available for comment.

Newspapers reported yesterday that officials in Oyo State did not know the

team had returned to the US and thought the Americans had been abducted and were still in Nigeria.

Crime in Nigeria and Lagos in particular, has been rising along with economic hardship since military rule ended in 1999.

In Lagos alone, 238 people, including bandits, were killed in robberies in the first half of this year, according to police figures.

## Kaduna contd. from pg 1

of the components.

According to him, since the establishment of the company in 1976, several machinery in the plant have not been replaced and are now obsolete.

Details of the planned overhaul strategies include the setting up of a sulphuric acid plant to produce raw acid for fertiliser production in order to avoid interruption in its operations once it is back in shape.

He said sulphuric acid which is the major raw ma-

terial for the plant's production was too expensive, thus making it necessary for the company to produce its own as a long term plan.

He identified the purchase of acid in the open market and supplies from contractors as one of the logistical problems that led to the closure of the plant.

The chairman was optimistic that with adequate funding, his board was poised to put the company in a position to produce to its installed capacity of 100,000

metric tonnes of Single Super-Phosphate (SSP) brand of fertiliser.

"Plans are also afoot to set up a blending plant (diversification) to facilitate the production of other brands of fertiliser apart from SSP," he disclosed.

"The diversification would not only meet the requirement of farmers in the North who rely on this brand of fertiliser but would also produce Urea, NPK brands which are suitable for southern farmers."

## Board contd. from pg 1

"They want us to fulfil our part of the bargain, even when they have not met their part of the deal," Zanna remarked.

He described as untrue, the workers' allegation that NEPA lacked adequate and qualified staff, saying that the Board had only observed a "misplacement" of staff and taken steps to correct the situation.

According to him, "a lot of qualified engineers found to be idling away as instructors at the NEPA training school in Kainji, where no training was being done, were posted into fields where they have been contributing to the authority's quest to regain its glory."

He further said that too many staff were found to be idle in offices, with a particular case of over 10 staff in a district manager's office.

Such staff were being

deployed to the market section, where they were helping to rake in more funds, he explained.

Zanna said that it was to the Board's credit that NEPA staff had been enjoying in-house training since last year, adding that the records showed that the last time staff had any such training was 15 years ago.

"In fact, the decision to train the staff was at our instance, because the union members have never approached us for any training of members. All they talk about is welfare, welfare," he asserted.

Zanna expressed the board's commitment to meeting the presidential mandate of generating 4,000mw by December, saying that all hands were on deck to ensure that Nigerians enjoyed stable power supply.

## Senator warns states against LG elections

The chairman, Senate Committee on Information, Senator Jonathan Zwingina, has warned state governments in the country against organising local government elections next year.

Speaking to journalists and politicians in Numan, Adamawa State, yesterday, Senator Zwingina said the National Assembly may approve a four-year tenure for local government chairmen, contrary to the expectations of the state governments.

"Many states have proceeded to fix the first quarter of 2002 for elections into local government councils and indeed, so many candidates for chairmanship and

From Abdullahi Tasiu  
Abubakar, in Yola

councillorship are already campaigning for those positions," he noted.

However, he said, the National Assembly would use the powers given by items 12 and 13 of the concurrent list of the 1999 constitution to determine the tenure of the local government chairmen and councillors.

"Indeed, the likelihood is very high that both the Senate and the House of Representatives will give chairmen and councillors a four-year tenure, contrary to the expectations of the states," he said.

"It will be wise for state governments as well as pro-

spective candidates to await the final outcome of the National Assembly's position on the INEC Bill relating to the tenure of the local government chairmen and councillors," he added.



Senator Zwingina

## NEPA contd. from pg 1

the devil deserves its dues."

The NEPA spokesman commended President Olusegun Obasanjo for his commitment to a better

NEPA and promised that the authority would meet the presidential mandate of 4,000mw and end power outage by December.

## FG contd. from pg 1

solve their problems.

It would be recalled that recently six northern states which include Sokoto,

Keppi, Jigawa among others witnessed a destruction of their farm lands by the quelea birds.

## States contd. from pg 1

N0.982 billion deposited into the Stabilisation and Residual Accounts.

The N29.698 billion allocated to states included N6.241 billion derivation fund to the Oil Producing States of Abia, N87.438 mil-

lion; Akwa-Ibom, N1.376 billion; Bayelsa N1.135 million; Cross River, N0.144 million and Delta, N.873 billion.

Others were Edo, N36.204 million; Imo, N157.306 million; Ondo

N440.315 million and Rivers, N1.136 million.

From the N6.788 billion realised from Value Added Tax (VAT) the Federal Government had N1.018 billion; states and FCT and local councils got N3.394 billion and N2.376 billion respec-

# NEWS

## Drumming, singing not completely illegal - Sharia commission

The seeming clashes that have bedevilled Katsina between performing artists and the state Sharia law vanguard on the lawfulness or otherwise of drumming and music has been put to rest by the state Sharia commission yesterday.

The commission in a news briefing told the contending Sharia vanguard that Islamic legal system did not completely prohibit

From Hassan A. Karofi and Labaran Abdu, in Katsina

drumming and singing. Quoting extensively from Islamic law books, the Grand Khadi of the state and Chairman, State Sharia Commission, Khadi Ibrahim Aminu, said Islam did not prohibit singing as long as it was done under the prescribed conditions.

The conditions according to Khadi Aminu are, during marriage, naming ceremonies to welcome guests, during Sallah celebrations and at war time. He added that the commission explained these so that the skirmishes that occurred sometime ago would not occur again.

He called on all the antagonists to realize that Islam did not leave anything undisclosed, therefore both parties should abide by the rules of the law.

The Grand Kahadi then called on the people of the

state to give peace a chance so that meaningful development could be achieved.

He said the state Sharia Commission would carry out campaigns at intimating the public about the state's codified Sharia law. He added

that a charity programme would be developed to cater for the less-privileged in the state.

However, in a response to the commission's stand on drumming and singing in the state, a leader of the Izala group, Sheikh Aminu Keranu, described the position of the commission as a pointer to moral degeneration.

## US-based Tiv hail Nasarawa govt

Tiv people living in the US and Canada have commended the Nasarawa State government for putting down the recent strife involving the Tiv and an indigenous ethnic group in the state, and offered to assist in rehabilitating those displaced.

In a communiqué at the end of their 2001 convention in

Atlanta, Georgia, last weekend, the Tiv indigenes, who met under the aegis of their association (MUTA), also commented on national issues, including the control of resources by the states and called for a sovereign national conference. On the conflict in Nasarawa State, the group condemned it as a "senseless" act of violence and called on the Federal and State governments to take measures to protect all citizens, including the Tiv.

In the communiqué made available to the North America correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), MUTA said the Tiv, as peace-loving and law-abiding people, desired to live peacefully with their neighbours.

The association took exception to the reference to the Tiv living in some states as settlers and aggressors, and said Tiv people should be treated as bona fide citizens of any state in the country as provided in the constitution.

On agitations for resource control by some states, MUTA said it preferred national dialogue on how to ensure equitable revenue sharing in the country.

## Provost wants ASUU, SSANU to stop strikes

The Provost of the Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi, Dr. Umaru Idris Jahun, has called on members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) to evolve amicable means of putting an end to the strikes often embarked upon by them as a means of pressing home their demands.

"Strikes often embarked upon by these stakeholders of the nation's educational sector had always created more disadvantages than

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, in Zaria

advantages at the end in the sector," he said.

Dr. Jahun, who was speaking at the speech and prize giving day of Ahmadu Bello University Demonstrations Secondary School (ABUDSS), Zaria, last weekend, urged the ASUU and SSANU members to avoid taking any measure capable of retarding the nation's educational advancement.

"They should, instead

of embarking on strikes that may lead to closure of our universities, set up committees to dialogue with the authorities of their various institutions on any matter or issue they considered worth fighting for," Dr. Jahun noted.

The provost described ABU SSANU's recent demand for examination supervision allowance and field trip allowance, as an impossibility because, according to him, money for such allowances were only approved by the Federal Government in principle.



Gov Musa Yar'Adua

## NTA stations will boost UBE programme - Mrs. Obasanjo

The Federal Government intends to use the 67 newly established NTA stations to realize the objectives of the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme, according

to the First Lady, Mrs. Stella Obasanjo.

Mrs. Obasanjo, who was speaking on Monday at Ile-Ife, envisioned that television had a significant role to play, stressing that "the Federal

Government, having recognized this, is determined to open up the entire nation no matter the location, to education and public enlightenment."

She said the government believed that the impact of television as a vehicle for development, particularly in the area of education and public enlightenment, could never be over-emphasised.

The First Lady said the government discovered that over 60 percent of Nigerians were still devoid of television signals and had decided to create more TV stations and strengthen existing ones, through the replacement of outdated transmitters and other equipment. Mrs. Obasanjo assured the people of Ile-Ife that the new NTA station, apart from educating, informing and entertaining, would also help to promote grassroots' participation in governance.

## NEPA to generate 4,000 megawatts by December

The Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Murtala M. Aliyu, has restated that the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) would generate 4,000 megawatts of electricity yearly from 2002 and hit 10,000 megawatts by 2007.

governing council in his honour.

He reiterated Federal Government's effort to ensure uninterrupted power supply by the end of the year, adding that "rehabilitation work is going on in all NEPA installations nationwide."

He revealed that government was not only ensuring uninterrupted power supply in the country, but also committed to providing the West African sub-region with electricity.

Alhaji Aliyu was speaking on the occasion of a reception party organised by the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi,

## PDP vows to reinstate deposed LG chairman

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has condemned in strong terms the Zamfara State government's removal of the chairman of Tsafe Local Government Area, Alhaji Ikira, saying it was politically motivated and vowed to reinstate him.

In a communiqué issued after a meeting of the North-West executive committee, signed by Barrister Mohammed Kabiru Jibril, the zone commended the Kebbi State executive committee for its efforts in the recently concluded senatorial and state House of Assembly by-elections.

The zone also expressed its support for the national executive committee of the party in the provision of identity cards nationwide but expressed reservation in its use for conducting

From Jamilah Nuhu Musa, in Kano

subsequent party primaries.

The Senator Gada committee report on intra-party misunderstandings in Jigawa State, according to the communiqué was received, debated and accepted with the zone resolving that another high powered committee would be needed to reconcile the different groups.

In order to entrench party supremacy, the zonal meeting has amongst other decisions, endorsed the constitution of a disciplinary committee to ensure discipline of party members and also to deal with perennial issue of poor attendance of zonal meetings.



Gov Abdullahi Adams

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as Miss Christie Akut, now wish to be called Mrs Christie A. Abubakar. All former documents remain valid, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) to note.

### PUBLIC NOTICE REDEMPTION MINISTRIES WORLD OUTREACH

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above-named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 of 1990. The Trustees are:

1. Pastor John Alfa	- President
2. Pastor Gabriel Ejeh	- Asst. Gen. Co-ordinator
3. Elder John Ejiga	- Secretary
4. Evangelist Emmanuel Attah	- Prayer Secretary
5. Deacon Samuel Unubi	- Treasurer

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198, Area 11, Garki Abuja within 28 days of this notice or publication.

Signed:  
SECRETARY

### PUBLIC NOTICE REOMEK ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above-named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 of 1990. The Trustees are:

1. Mr. R.E. Onyebuanyi	- President/CEO
2. Chief (Mrs.) F.N. Okocha	- Vice President
3. Mr. P. Obih	- Member
4. Mr. C. Obiejesie	- Member
5. Mrs. I.J. Ngarine	- Legal Adviser
6. Mrs. G. Onyebuanyi	- Member

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198, Area 11, Garki Abuja within 28 days of this notice or publication.

Signed:



President Tejan Kabbah of Sierra Leone (in native dress), inspecting a guard of honour mounted by a detachment of the Nigerian Army on his arrival at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja for a one-day visit to Nigeria ... yesterday.



Gov Ahmed Sani

# NEWS

## Students disrupt activities at FUT Minna

The peaceful atmosphere at the Federal University of Technology (FUT), Minna, was severely threatened over the weekend, as activities were disrupted by students barely three weeks after resumption.

The reasons this time is not due to Academic Staff Union of University, but student unionism, which was outlawed two years ago.

Trouble began on Friday when a student union official who was involved in a crises that rocked the university two years ago was suspended for one year.

However, he went to the national level and contested for an office and won the post of social director, the same office he held at the university.

Before he came to the campus with the news of his success, information had reached the university

From Kashim Sule, in Minna authorities that a banned student union official had won an election at the federal level.

This news however, did not appeal to the university authorities, despite the fact that the ban on the said student had expired.

The institution, in addition to refusing to recognise him in his new capacity, declared him



Prof. Borisade

persona non-grata on the campus. The student, however, took his case to all higher institutions in the state and they in turn, showed solidarity by supporting his plight.

Before Friday morning last week, students from the Advanced Teachers College, Minna; Zungeru Polytechnic and Bida Federal Polytechnic had already converged on the University of Minna campus in order to urge the authority to revert its decision.

As part of its efforts to check population explosion in the country, the Federal Executive Council (FEC), has approved a bill prohibiting marriage for anybody under 18 years which it has sent to the National Assembly for passage into law.

The Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, who made this known yesterday while addressing the national stakeholder's workshop on the review of the National Population Policy in Abuja, said the bill would address issues like child rights, VVF and national mortality in the country.

## FG moves to ban adolescent marriages

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

Expatriating on the content of the bill, the minister said, "for anybody to have canal knowledge of somebody who is under 18 years with or without his or her consent, such a person has already committed an offence under the new bill punishable by life imprisonment."

Prof. Nwosu enjoined the workshop participants to contact their representatives at the National Assembly to support the bill as law-making is the sole function of the legislature.

Women, according to the minister, "are central to population and any population policy not anchored on them would fail." He said with government's improved child survival strategies, the population of the country, if not controlled, might run to unmanageable proportions.

Prof. Nwosu told the stakeholders that it was in response to Nigeria's demographic and socio-economic situation that the national policy on population was adopted in 1988.

## NCWC calls for responsive leadership

By Habiba Adamu

The National Council of Women Societies (NCWS), has called for the enthronement of a responsive and dynamic leadership that would successfully tackle the nation's problems.

The women's body made the call in a communiqué presented at the end of its

national convention held in Port Harcourt.

The council noted that "despite the efforts of various governments to alleviate poverty, the situation is getting worse. The council, therefore, called on government,

agencies and all concerned to take more positive steps to lift Nigerians, especially women and children out of poverty."

On education, the council advocated for the implementation of free education for science and technology students as well as free adult and vocational education for women at all levels.

"Education is critical to women development. Therefore, to attain parity in women's education between the North and the South, something definite has to be done. A 10-year target period in the first phase to accelerate the bridging of the gap should be implemented," the council advocated.

The council also called on government to ensure access to healthcare services as well as free medical care for children and

pregnant women. On the HIV/AIDS pandemic now ravaging the country, the council urged parents, religious bodies, community leaders and non-



Hajiya Aisha Ismail governmental organizations to show greater concern in the awareness and sensitization efforts to minimize the scourge's spread.

## New national housing policy ready next year - Obasanjo

By Suleiman Mohammed

President Olusegun Obasanjo has said that the Federal Government will publish and begin the implementation of a new national housing policy next year.

The president indicated that the new policy would be based on the recommendations of the

committee set up by the Federal Government in April this year to study the problems of urban development and housing in Nigeria.

Speaking at a meeting with the members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from the Ijebu-North

Local Government Area, President Obasanjo said the committee, which is headed by Governor Peter Odili of Rivers State, is expected to submit its report before the end of September.

Responding to the various requests made by the delegation, led by Chief Murtala Igbalye, the

president said for his administration, the primary purpose of government was the development, welfare and well-being of the generality of the populace. "There is no other reason why we should be in government if we cannot bring this about," he said.



### NSL N1,000,000.00 LOTTO JACKPOT DRAW

#### WEEK 1 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

8 17 33 41 46 50

#### WEEK 2 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

9 14 18 33 35 43

#### WEEK 3 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

3 7 11 20 33 36

#### WEEK 4 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

4 19 20 29 44 50

#### WEEK 5 GAME 1 WINNING NUMBERS:

8 12 14 24 41 45

PLAY THE NATIONAL SPORTS LOTTERY, YOU too COULD BECOME A MILLIONAIRE

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

# Politicising the ID card project

Against all odds and in spite of the lingering controversy and the pending Senate investigations, President Olusegun Obasanjo has said in his monthly media chat that the contract for the forlorn National Identity Card project has not only been awarded but that it will replace the voters' card for federal and state elections.

The contract was finally awarded to the French firm SAGEM thereby overruling objections from both the Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Sunday Afolabi and chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Dr. Abel Guobadia who, in fact, put his job on the line over this matter. Whether he will be as good as his promise is a matter for conjecture at this point in time.

After some 34 years in the pipeline, most Nigerians have lost track of how much successive governments since General Yakubu Gowon's have spent on that bottomless pit with only sample ID cards to show for it. Conservative estimates put the amount expended at over N46 billion, including a \$40.37 million which a London out-of-court settlement has imposed on Nigeria in favour of Nessim Gaon of Afro-Continental Group for alleged breach over a job not done.

In spite of all apprehensions, the federal government has squeezed out another N28.3 billion to complete the project. Ironically, it is Gaon who was indicted by the Senate Committee on Public Accounts that captured the shady deal that the project now represents when he told the committee that "the national identity card project is a fat cow that is there to be milked and in fact, for every minister that comes to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, his first job is to bring out the file of the national identity card project and agree on the amount of milk to be skimmed from the cow."

We feel that rather than continue with the ID card project as if it is business as usual, we believe the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission have a duty to bring all those ministers, directors general or permanent secretaries indicted by the Senate to book. This is notwithstanding whatever the commitment the federal government has made to SAGEM S.A.

Another concern is the politicising of the ID card project as it is now tied to future elections. Certainly, for the purposes of census and proper socio-economic planning and development, Nigeria needs a reliable identification scheme for its citizens. However linking it to elections introduces the likelihood of its being manipulated for political gains.

Already, the *Afenifere* leader, Senator Abraham Adesanya, has threatened that the Yorubas will not vote in future elections without the ID card. On their own, elections have remained controversial in Nigeria and to tie them to this rather derelict project will be like adding fuel to an inferno.

There is also the lingering fear that it is too late to tie the project to the local government polls which, hopefully, kick off in May next year. If after 34 years of the project nothing could be achieved, what guarantee is there that such a feat could be achieved in less than one year? Added to this is the lack of infrastructures such as electricity, roads and communications in the rural areas to facilitate the implementation of the project.

Daily Trust believes the next general elections are a major test of how much the nascent democracy in Nigeria has taken roots. To introduce into it the sordid past of the ID card project would be to provide a surefooted guarantee for INEC failure that could be a cover for sharp practices. The consequences of this would be too hard to contemplate.



## WEDNESDAY COLUMN

# Banks without interest

By Kabiru Jinjiri

Is there an alternative to interest? A number of people, including some Muslims, may answer in negative. They do not find it possible to eliminate interest from any economy. The rationale is that the rate of interest is a price and, like all other prices, it plays a crucial role in the supply of and demands for financial resources in any economy. If interest is abolished, how will financial resources get mobilized and allocated?

Islam prohibits interest like other major religions, and organises financial inter-mediation on the basis of profit-and-loss sharing. The financier is not assured of a positive rate of return. His return is linked to the ultimate outcome of the business financed. Financing may not then become available for any purpose just because the borrower has acceptable collateral to offer and sufficient cash flow to service the debt. It may rather become available primarily if the financier feels confident that the project is worthwhile and the entrepreneur has the necessary ability to manage it efficiently. In this case, financial resources may not be available for unproductive uses and may not necessarily flow to the rich. Even poor entrepreneurs may be able to qualify if they have worthwhile projects and the necessary integrity and entrepreneurial ability to manage them. This can help in the realisation of society's humanitarian goals.

The most desirable form of Islamic financing are *Mudarabah* (Commenda) and *Musharakah* (Partnership). In both of these forms, the financier makes the fund available - not as a lender, but rather as an investor. He shares in the profit or loss and is not assured, in advance, of a positive rate of return irrespective of the ultimate outcome of business. Losses must be shared by him in proportion to his share in the total financing while profits may be shared in any mutually agreed ratio. The financier's liability remains limited to the extent of the financing provided by him and no more.

Since the shares of joint stock companies embody the principle of profit-and-loss sharing, they are also acceptable. The presence of a well-organised and properly regulated stock market may enable investors to dispose of such stocks whenever they desire - an advantage which *Mudarabah* and *Musharakah* financing may not be able to offer. The shares of joint stock companies may also serve as an alternative interest-bearing government and corporate bonds.

The first Islamic bank was established in 1971, and in the three decades since then more than 100 banks and financial institutions have been established around the world. This does not include the profit-and-loss sharing counters that conventional banks have opened in Muslim as well as non-Muslim countries for their customers who wish to avoid interest. The rapid progress shows that Islamic banking is not only conceivable but also feasible and viable. A report prepared by Dr Traute Wohlders-Scharf for the Development Centre of the OECD confirms that Islamic banks have attracted hitherto untouched segments of the Muslim population which, for religious reasons, had stayed outside financial circuits. They have also generated sizeable profit for their shareholders and investment-account clients within a short time and none has so far closed down. This seems to indicate that concept of interest-free finance can work in a modern context.

What is equally admirable is the rapid expansion in the volume of literature available on the subject, theoretical as well as empirical. Involved in this exercise are not only individuals and Muslim institutions like the IDB, the International Association of Islamic Banks and the *fiqh* boards of various Islamic banks, but also International organizations like the IMF and the OECD. Even a number of Western Universities have accepted Ph.D. dissertations on Islamic banking and finance. The various concepts related to the Islamic

modes of financing have also become more clarified than they were, say, in 1970. The desire to tackle a number of issues faced by Islamic banks has led to the writing of a number of juristic papers and monographs of excellent quality and to the formulation of juristic decisions involving *ijtihad*. Thus on the whole there has been great progress in every direction.

The movement has, however, lost some of its earlier momentum. The primary cause of this is the difficulties that the Islamic banks are facing. These are not unforeseen. Some of these difficulties are of a teething nature - difficulties that were bound to be encountered during the initial phase of an entirely new experiment. These difficulties would undoubtedly be overcome gradually as the banks become richer in experience and larger in size, and have access to the economies of scale that large conventional banks are able to have. Some of their difficulties are due to the lack of a proper understanding of the true nature of Islamic banking among their depositors as well as their clients and lack of proper training among their employees, most of whom come from conventional banks.

The absence of an Islam financial market makes it difficult for these banks to employ their surplus funds, or to have access to liquidity, in an Islamic manner. They are, therefore, forced to revert to the conventional money market, most of the banks do not even have access to a lender of last resort. They are thus forced to keep a larger liquidity than conventional banks would normally keep. This adversely affects their profitability. The auxiliary institutions do not exist either; thus forcing the banks to perform all the different tasks themselves. This raises their costs. These difficulties have tended to further slow down their progress towards the classical Islamic financing techniques of *Mudarabah* and *Musharakah*. This has naturally exposed them to reproach from their critics as well as their admirers.

It may have been possible to remove some of these difficulties faster if the monetary authorities had played a more positive and helpful role in the evolution of an enabling environment by providing a proper legal framework, facilitating the creation of auxiliary institutions and Islamic financial market, and acting as lenders of last resort. The Islamic banks would not have thus been like an embryo struggling to survive in an inhospitable environment without support systems.

What is needed is a change of attitude on the part of monetary authorities. They need to take a keen interest in the rapid and healthy development of these institutions. They need to regulate them adequately to ensure that they have sound management, adequate capital and reserves, and do not indulge in practices that would tend to sap their strength.

The central bank should not, however, confine their role merely to regulation and control. They should also help them overcome the difficulties that prevent them from adopting the classical techniques. This is not an option which the central bank may not exercise. They owe this to Islam and to the Muslim Ummah. Islamic banking is undoubtedly more difficult than conventional banking, and one would expect that central banks would render to Islamic banks at least as much assistance as the conventional central banks provide to their commercial banks for their healthy and sound development.

These problems should not lead one to feel that the movement for Islamisation of banking is on shaky ground. The progress made over the past three decades is itself reassuring. A number of the people involved in the movement are extremely dedicated and utmost to overcome the difficulties that the Islamic banks are facing. There is no reason to doubt that the movement will be able to overcome these difficulties and to ensure for itself a bright future.

Jinjiri is of Gwarinpa Estate, Abuja.

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Opinion

# 2003: Beware of lust for power

By Abu Ja'far

The struggle for power is one that has been bitterly fought throughout history. Power is desired for both noble and ignoble intentions. As 2003 approaches, the politicians are perfecting their art of electioneering. They are criss-crossing the land seeking for 'investments' and dreaming of brighter days ahead. Promises are flying in the air and brown envelopes are changing hands. Beleaguered masses are pulled in tow for a few handouts to quell their rumbling tummies. They are not at all convinced that their representatives have their interests at heart, having seen enough of the misuse of power to know that a 'businessman' who is only interested in reaping the fruits of his investments will not better their lot.

The masses are at odds with their leaders and there is no love lost across the leadership divide. This is an ominous sign because prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has said that 'your best rulers will be those whom you love and who love you, and for whom you pray and who pray for you, and your worst rulers will be those whom you hate, and who hate you, and whom you curse and who curse you'.

The power-seekers are not bothered by what the masses think about them. They are convinced that power is derived from money

and contacts even though Allah has said that it is He who gives power to whom He wills, and it is He who strips it off from whom He wills (Qur'an 3:26). They believe they can plan and rig their way to power when Allah has said 'if any do seek for glory and power, to Allah belong all glory and power' (Qur'an 35:10). They desire power so desperately because of the fruits to be reaped by holding elective office while in fact, the responsibilities of leadership are so tremendous as to make the wise and knowledgeable abstain from seeking for it. Oblivious of these, the deceptive power-seekers promise heaven on earth, knowing fully well however that they only intend to better their own lot. Prophet Muhammad emphasised the danger in this when he said that 'if any ruler having the authority to rule Muslim subjects dies while he is deceiving them, Allah will forbid Paradise for him'.

Umar, the second Caliph of Islam typifies the concern a ruler should have for his people. The seekers of office today should reflect on how he used to go round incognito in order to detect those in hardship. They should ponder on how he exerted himself in striving to improve their lot, conscious of the prophets saying that 'if a person is in charge of the affairs of Muslims and does

not strive diligently to promote their welfare, he will not enter paradise with them'.

It is important to note however that not all power seekers are ill intentioned. The trappings of power however make them isolated from the people they lead. They develop selective amnesia for the promises they made on the campaign trail. The successful power-seeker ends up shut behind steel gates, protected by gun-wielding goons. He wheezes past 'his people' in fancy rides with tinted glasses, sirens blaring. He becomes intoxicated with power and increasingly isolated from reality such that he forgets that *garri* has a price tag and that malaria is killing millions daily. About such a person, the Prophet has said: 'if Allah places someone in authority over Muslims and he puts up a barrier between himself and their needs and objects and poverty, Allah will put up a barrier between Himself and his needs and objects and poverty on the day of judgement'.

To seek power therefore is a foolhardy venture and this is why it is discouraged by the prophet who has said that anyone who attains power by seeking for it will be abandoned to his own wisdom in discharging it. On the other hand, he said that Allah will guide him who gets power without soliciting for it. To avoid this pitfall, political parties have been

evolved to put candidates forward for elective offices. They have however turned out to be mere pawns in the hands of manipulative power lords in a game of dazzling wealth, beautiful speeches and elaborate campaigns. Moral qualities like piety (as exemplified by prophet Sulaiman who had prayed for the ability to work righteousness with power (Qur'an 27:19) and humility (as typified by Abu Bakr who on accepting office called for support when he does right, and censure when he goes wrong) have been discarded as criteria for leadership. In their place, the virtue of the ability to 'settle' is the new criterion; the threat of impeachment ensures strict compliance with this virtue. As 2003 approaches, it is necessary to reflect over what becomes of those who misuse power. Our recent history is enough for a sermon but for our very short memories. Arrogant and insolent discharge of power was responsible for the ignominious end of Pharaoh and his forces in the sea (Qur'an 28:39-40). The corrupt use of State power has been responsible for the destruction of countless nations, and Allah has said of such nations that 'for their sins We destroyed them' (Qur'an 6:6). With the various threats to the nation today, our power seekers need to pause and ponder before 2003.

Abu Ja'far,  
<abujafar@hotmail.com>

# Quit that violence

By Mhii Samuel Selumun

A baby, 27-week-old premature infant, was born in Denver, Colorado, in the United States of America. He survived and after three months in the hospital, he came home to his parents. Three weeks later, the boy was back in the hospital. What must have been the cause?

He had suffered massive brain injury from a violent shaking by his father. The father could not stand the baby's continuous crying.

This little boy was left blind and disabled. Essentially, otherwise, modern medicine had saved him from the trauma of his birth but could not save him from his father's violence.

A number of children get abused, battered, or killed in one of the most violent places on earth - the home! Most estimations put that, as many as 5,000 children die yearly at the hands of their parents in the USA alone! And Lord, children are not the only victims.

According to World Health magazine, "wife abuse is the leading cause of injury among women of reproductive age" what about other lands?

"One-third to over half of women surveyed in developing countries report being beaten by their partner." Truly, violence is taking its toll, especially in the home.

Many husbands and wives try to settle their disagreements with violence. In some countries, parents and teacher use violence to take their anger out on children. What of parents on teachers? Obviously yes.

A Croatian father threatened to kill a Zagreb high school teacher for giving his daughter a failing grade in biology, according to a Vecernji list daily report.

Said the parent: "because of you, the pupils shoot and kill teachers, you also ought to be killed."

This man was apparently heard shouting and referring to recent school violence in Croatia. Thus his threats were pointers to the fact that he was not against the use of violence in solving problems.

This is how bullies pick on weaker ones, subjecting them to violence. Why do humans get so violent? Is one of man's achievements on the earth surface not to marry and have children? Why should man destroy what he has built with his own hands knowing that it is a legacy of a lifetime? Not Human beings have rather become beasts. Justified by this statement is the incident of violence of May 24, 2001, issue of *Daily Trust* newspaper where a woman bathed her husband with acid. God! Not only men are unleashing such heinous cruelty.

The First Lady, Mrs. Stella Obasanjo of the Child Care trust must not only concern herself with the children she has housed, but extend a sweeping campaign aimed at eliminating man-made injuries against women, children and those unborn. It is easy to miss the point. Because in an attempt to concentrate focus or thought on women and forget children, it like saying the yolk and albumen have different origin other than the egg.

A physical, psychological, emotional and whatever torture against a pregnant woman is essentially a violence against the unborn child. So this subject matter is not interested in divorcing women and children from each other.

Whatever starts in the home is capable of constituting a whole national or global nuisance because the behaviour goes to the streets, recruits its disciples and spills over to communities if not arrested in good time.

Today, it is not easy to keep anger under control. "Being mean is popular", according to Deborah Stith, assistant dean at Harvard School of Public Health.

In fact, the skills of getting along - negotiation, compromise, empathy, forgiveness - are usually ascribed to whimps. Yet, those are mainly qualities, and they are key to controlling violent tendencies that may well up inside us.

Such factors as "the collapse of family structure, the surge in single parenting, persistent poverty, and chronic drug abuse can actually tip brain chemistry into an aggressive mode - an effect that was once thought impossible", says the book *Inside the Brain*.

It becomes important to keep praying for divine intervention. One man in Japan needed such strong motivation. His father, who was a soldier with a quick temper, dominated his family with violence and seeing his mother suffer similarly, the man developed a violent disposition. He carried two Samurai swords of different lengths that he wielded to solve problems as well as threaten people.

He may not have been a violent person in every aspect of his life. Yet, he was willing to accept violence as a way of solving problems.

Other than the environment factor, is there then some other ways people adopt to smoothen their ability to execute violence? Yes please!

The changes in the brain, it is claimed, include the lowering of the level of serotonin, a brain chemical that is thought to keep aggression at bay.

Studies reveal that alcohol can lower the level of serotonin in the brain, thereby giving some scientific basis for the long-known link between violence and the abuse of alcohol.

A look at your waist round (assess yourself) and you will certainly know if you are an agent of that malignant spirit of violence.

Emancipate yourself from such cowardice, stop associating with former buddies. Say no to those weeds - Indian hemp. Bid goodbye to alcohol. Think straight and quit that violence.

Selumun is a staff of *Daily Trust*.



## YOUR LETTERS

### Re: Union Bank sacks manager

We write in respect of the above-mentioned story filed by your Abeokuta correspondent and published twice in the Monday, July 30, 2001 edition of your paper on pages 13 and 27. In the story,

it was reported that "the bank sacked its Abeokuta branch manager, Mr. F. S. Ogundiran, for allegedly uncovering a certificate forgery."

We wish to state categorically that this is not true. The truth is that the bank

terminated Mr. Ogundiran's appointment on the ground that his services were no longer required.

Putting the records straight, no bank, certainly not Union Bank, would terminate the appointment of its staffer for uncovering a certificate forgery. Rather, the effort would attract a commendation, if not an outright promotion.

Even before the termination of his appointment, Mr. Ogundiran had frantically tried to sell the same story to some media houses in Lagos but to no avail as the media houses found the actual and true story. We are surprised that he succeeded with your Abeokuta correspondent. Even at that, had your reporter contacted us before filing his report as others did, we would have made available to him the true position of the matter. This letter, too, would have been unnecessary.

We hope you will publish the letter so your readers will know the truth.

Kabir Dangogo,  
Assistant General Manager,  
Corporate Affairs,  
UBA, Marina, Lagos.

### Is Ganiyu Adams a sacred cow

According to the *Daily Trust* of 30/7/2001, OPC Leader Ganiyu Adams, a man on the police wanted list, held a rally in Lagos. He vowed to shed blood in Ilorin in order to dethrone the present emir and enthroned a Yoruba oba. He is invisible and yet to be arrested by the police.

On the other hand, Sheikh Yakubu Musa, leader of the Izala movement in Katsina, was whisked away to Abuja by the SSS operatives after everything in his house including the toilet, was turned upside down. The offence of the Sheikh was apparently hosting his in-laws from the neighbouring Niger Republic. Perhaps their visas had expired. He is yet to return to his family two weeks after his arrest and detention. Even the dreaded Decree 2 only allows for detention for 48 hours without trial. Where are the human rights organisations? Who says there are no sacred cows in Nigeria?

I look forward to 2003 for my democracy dividend. I am warned there is no vacancy, but only God (Allah) knows tomorrow, talk less of 2003.

Magaji Ya'u,  
42, Sultan Dasuki Way,  
Kubwa,  
Abuja.

### On councillors' salaries

I write to call on Mr. President and his cabinet not to cut councillors' salaries. There is no justice in this matter since there has never been any negotiation between the federal government and councillors in that respect.

The federal government increased the salaries of civil servants and also decided to increase those of politicians from the grassroots, that is from councillors up to the president. But all of a sudden, because of ASUU strike and doctors' strike, the FG decided to change gear and reduce the councillors' salaries. In fact this is not justice.

The councillors have no pension and no gratuity after their service.

By the way, why are only local government councils affected? The cutting should start from the top to bottom if there is justice.

Local government councils are closer to the people, they have many domestic problems between them and the masses. And also, if any university lecturer or doctor is jealous of councillors' salary, nobody stops them from contesting to be councillors.

Yusufu Sani, Yassanta,  
P. O. Box 249, Funtua,  
Katsina State.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

## AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

### Iran's constitutional crisis to end soon

A deal appears to have been reached in Iran that could pave the way for President Mohammad Khatami's inauguration ceremony - and his naming of a new government - to finally go ahead.

The ceremony was postponed on Sunday after a row between the reformist parliament and the conservative judiciary.

The two factions had failed to agree on who should be named to the Council of Guardians - a powerful body which vets all legislation and ensures that they are in line with Islam.

After an emergency meeting on Monday, the Expediency Council, the body charged with resolving constitutional issues, suggested that those who obtained the most support - but not necessarily majority support - from parliamentarians would be elected to the Council of Guardians.

This has been accepted by supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but there has been no word as yet from President Khatami's camp.

It is not clear whether the judiciary will re-nominate those who have already been rejected by parliament or if they will have to put forward new candidates.

Correspondents say that the hardliners are fighting to retain control of the Council of Guardians, which in recent months has blocked pro-reform legislation passed by parliament.

Ayatollah Khamenei said: "I hope after the nominations of the lawyers by the judiciary, the Majlis (parliament) will hold a session and elect two lawyers and then at the earliest the swearing-in (of President Khatami) can take place."

The Expediency Council meeting was chaired by former President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is seen as a hardline sympathiser.

President Khatami also took part, along with the reformist parliamentary speaker Mahdi Karrubi and the conservative chief judge, Ayatollah Hashemi Shahroudi.

No date was given for the next parliamentary session, which will decide on the final members of the Council of Guardians, or for Mr Khatami's swearing-in.

### ... as Khatami's ally sustains injuries in an attack

Mr Khatami's second term of office began on 2 August after the June election in which he won 77% of the vote.

Meanwhile Mr Khatami's close ally has been reported stabbed and seriously injured.

Reformist parliamentarian Ali Reza Nouri said that Deputy Co-operation Minister Mohammad Salamati was being treated at Shohad hospital in north Teheran.

Mr Nouri said the attackers



This is an undated family photo showing Shimon and Tehiya Bloomberg and their children. Tehiya Bloomberg, 40, and pregnant, second right, was killed when unidentified Palestinian assailants opened fire from a car parked roadside near the Jewish settlement of Alfei Menashe in the West Bank late Sunday evening, August 5, 2001.

## Opposition captures key Somali port

Opposition forces in Somalia are reported to have taken control of a major port in the south of the country after two weeks of fighting.

Independent sources say Kismayo fell on Monday to the Somali Reconciliation and Restoration Council, a faction led by General Mohamed Saeed Hirsi Morgan and believed to be backed by neighbouring Ethiopia.

Eyewitnesses reported that more than 600 heavily armed fighters from the faction, equipped with about a dozen battlewagons, attacked the town from the south side.

The opposition forces took fighters from the pro-

transitional government Jubba Valley Alliance, which held the port, by complete surprise.

The SRRC is said to have taken control of the airport and then crossed through large areas of the town before encountering any serious resistance.

In the ensuing gun battle in the streets, eyewitnesses estimate that at least 18 people were killed and dozens of others, mainly civilians, were wounded.

A businessman in Kismayo told the BBC that the situation was now calm, and that looting and clan score-settling - hallmarks of previous fighting - have not been repeated.

Officials from the Jubba Valley Alliance are yet to

comment on the loss of such an important town, but it is understood they may be preparing for a counter offensive.

Kismayo is now cut off from the outside world as the SRRC fighters seem to be consolidating their power in the port.

The third largest town in Somalia, it is significant because of its agriculture, livestock and marine resources.

Whoever controls it will have a major power base and be a great influence in how the country as a whole is governed.

Somalia has been ruled by various factions and warlords since civil war broke out 11 years ago.

## US threat: ANC advises against dictation at conference on racism

The African National Congress (ANC) has advised that no country should be allowed to dictate to the world what may or may not be discussed at the upcoming World Conference Against Racism.

ANC spokesman Smuts Ngonyama, speaking after the party's national executive committee (NEC) meeting said a democratic process had to be followed in concluding the agenda.

This followed threats by the US to pull out of the Durban conference if the agenda includes talk of reparations for slavery and colonialism, or a measure, which equates Zionism with racism.

Ngonyama said a country should be encouraged to express opinions, but could not dictate to other nations. "We are hoping that they will see the need to participate that it is their responsibility to participate because racism knows no boundary."

The party's spokeswoman, Nomfanelo Kota, said it mandated the country's foreign affairs department to pursue dialogue with the US on the

"They have been told to do everything in their power to try to change their minds. But if that fails, the conference will go on. They are just one of many other countries in the world," she said.

On the realignment of party structures in line with new municipal boundaries, Kota said only nine of 30 regions in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Western Cape had been audited so far.

She said in some regions, especially in KwaZulu-Natal, the auditing team found that proper procedures were not followed.

In some instances it was found that one person had signed membership forms on behalf of hundreds of people.

Party rules say new members are supposed to sign forms for themselves and must take an oath of allegiance.

"Although such people advanced good reasons for their actions, the NEC felt that it was an improper thing to do and thus the applications had to be redone," she said. In areas where cases of irregularity were found, regional structures would not be launched until all

requirements had been met.

The NEC has set up a 22-person "political committee" in Parliament to co-ordinate the work of the party.

Ngonyama said the committee would be responsible for the day-to-day co-ordination of the work of ANC members in Parliament.

It would be accountable to the ANC and would reflect the strategies of the party on parliamentary issues.

The committee would be chaired by Deputy President Jacob Zuma and Parliament's intelligence standing committee chairwoman, Nosiviwe Maphisa Nqakula, would be his deputy.



Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, South African Foreign Minister

## Humanitarian consequences in DRC are grave, says report

A group of aid agencies working in the Democratic Republic of Congo have issued a report, saying the humanitarian consequences of the war in that country are horrendous.

It also says that the assistance provided by the international community so far has been completely inadequate.

The report, issued by Save the Children, Oxfam and Christian Aid, paints a bleak picture.

It says that 16 million Congolese are going hungry, more than two million have been displaced by the war and in some parts of the country, two out of five children are die in infancy.

Despite the scale of the suffering, Oxfam's Vincent Lalai says the response from the international community has been totally inadequate.

"What is being done right now is so minuscule that it's not even a drop in the ocean - that would be exaggerating even more. It has to be much, much, much more," he said.

The scale of the humanitarian crisis has only become apparent since the warring parties agreed to observe a ceasefire earlier this year.

Once the fighting stopped, aid agencies were able to get to parts of the country which had previously been inaccessible.

A group of British MPs has just finished a fact-finding mission in Congo on behalf of the three charities which launched the report.

One said he was shocked to see a country going backwards so quickly.

He said he kept meeting Congolese children who wanted to go to school, but there were no schools to go to.

## Syrian opposition leader calls for political reform

One of Syria's most famous opposition figures, Riad al-Turk, has made his first public appearance since being released from jail in 1998.

At a meeting at a private home in Damascus, the former communist leader called for a transition from, as he put it, despotism to democracy.

Hundreds of people turned out to hear Syria's best-known former political prisoner speak. Some were crammed onto the stairs of the building, others struggled to listen from outside.

Mr Turk, who is now more than 70, spent more than 17 years in jail for his opposition to the late president Hafez al-Assad.

He spoke of the change of atmosphere that new President Bashar al-Assad had brought to Syria.

But he warned that there were still people within the regime who wanted to preserve their own interests by blocking reform, and called on reformers to stand together against them.

When President Assad succeeded his father last July, a series of unprecedented political gatherings were organised in private homes by intellectuals pressing for democratic change.

Although technically illegal under Syria's emergency law, the authorities tolerated the new forums until February, when most were effectively suspended.

Mr Turk was speaking at one of the few forums that are still operating.

The most famous of the

outspoken MP, Riad Seif, who says he is planning to resume its activities next month - with or without permission.

### Israeli military team to view UN videotape

A small Israeli military team has arrived in New York to view a videotape which has been the source of much embarrassment to the United Nations.

It was recorded last October by UN peacekeepers working in southern Lebanon, and is said to show two bloodstained vehicles which may have been used by Hezbollah guerrillas during the abduction of three Israeli soldiers.

Israel has been demanding access to the tape for months, but UN officials at first denied it existed - leading to accusations from Israel that they were concealing vital information about the welfare and whereabouts of the abducted soldiers. A UN report published last week acknowledged failings on the part of the organisation, but denied any conspiracy to withhold information from the Israeli Government.

This appears to have placated the Israelis, who have taken up an offer from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to view an edited version of the tape, which has the faces of all non-UN personnel obscured.

The team will also be shown a second videotape recorded on the day of the abduction, and seven bloodstained items found at the scene that may have been used by the Hezbollah guerrillas in the course of their attack.

The UN has also offered to help provide blood tests, which could be used to establish the identity of the individuals who sustained wounds during the abduction.

# TRUST INTERNATIONAL

# World Report

## Suharto's son indicted over judge's murder

Indonesian police have accused the fugitive son of former dictator, President Suharto, of assassinating the judge who sentenced him to a term in jail for fraud.

Police publicly linked Tommy Suharto, whose real name is Hutomo Mandala Putera, to the killing of supreme court judge Syaifiuddin Kartasasmita, following a raid on a home belonging to Tommy.

Jakarta police chief Sofyan Yacob gave the Suharto family

three days to surrender the millionaire playboy to authorities.

Tommy, the youngest of the former president's sons, has not been seen since he failed to turn himself in to begin serving an 18-month sentence on November 3, last year.

Kartasasmita was shot dead by four assassins on motorbikes as he drove to work on 26 July, 2000.

Police said Tommy was also suspected of involvement in a series of bomb attacks in

the capital, and of forging links with rebels in the troubled province of Aceh.

Mr Yacob said police arrested 11 people and seized a large amount of weapons and ammunition in two raids in the capital on Saturday night and Monday.

He said officials also uncovered evidence suggesting two more supreme court judges were at risk.

"All this... proves Tommy Suharto's involvement," Mr Yacob told a press conference.

"We call on his family to surrender him within three days. It is our conclusion that Tommy Suharto was behind the killing of the judge," he added.

Police say they also discovered a number of fake identity cards, including one in the name of Ibrahim that shows Tommy sporting a beard.

Mr. Yacob said police found several home-made bombs, five handguns, grenades, two M-16 rifles and 74 sticks of dynamite in the raids, which the police chief said linked Tommy to violence perpetrated by rebels from the Free Aceh Movement.

Muslim guerrillas have been blamed for a series of bombings in Jakarta, including an attack on the Stock Exchange last year in which 15 people died - and which coincided with Tommy's sentencing.



Former Indonesian President Suharto's fugitive youngest son, Hutomo Mandala Putra, who has been linked to a spate of bombings and the murder of a senior judge, must give himself up, his lawyer said yesterday.

## Cambodia set for Khmer Rouge tribunal

Cambodia's constitutional council is expected to approve legislation for a special tribunal to prosecute members of the Khmer Rouge, responsible for the deaths of almost two million people in the mid 1970s.

It is unclear when the trials will begin, but Prime Minister Hun Sen said he would like to see prosecutions by the end of the year.

However, there are some who believe the trials will be a whitewash, because many of the most notorious Khmer Rouge leaders have already been given amnesty under a deal in the 1990s to end the country's long-running civil war.

The Khmer Rouge leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998.

Since the mid-1990s there has been much talk about punishing those responsible for the so-called Killing Fields, during which 1.7 million people died at the hands of the Khmer Rouge between 1975 and 1978.

Four years ago, Cambodia asked the United Nations for help in establishing a special tribunal to judge the architects of genocide, but agreement on how it should be set up and run has been illusive.

The UN wanted a panel of international judges, sitting outside Cambodia to run the tribunal; the Cambodians wanted only local judges on the panel.

In the end, a compromise was reached.

Under the agreement, trials will be held on Cambodian soil, with both local and foreign judges, but the UN is insisting that international standards of justice must be met when trials begin.

Both Cambodia's houses of parliament have already approved the legislation.

The issue of whether or not there should be prosecutions is a divisive one for Cambodia.

While some want all the top Khmer Rouge leaders still alive in the dock, there are others being more cautious.

Prime Minister Hun Sen told the BBC that if handled incorrectly, the trials might re-ignite civil war, especially if Khmer Rouge leaders who gave themselves up under the amnesty deal are prosecuted.

But in the eyes of his critics, the prime minister is simply trying to keep out of jail those who can help him politically.

Nevertheless, no matter how many former Khmer Rouge leaders eventually appear in the dock, any trial would allow some ordinary Cambodians their day in court, something many thought would never happen.



Visiting Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo walks past a long row of honour guards during her welcoming ceremony at the Parliament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Arroyo is in the Malaysian capital for a three-day state visit.

## Philippines rebels accept peace deal

Philippines Government negotiators and Muslim separatists said they have agreed a ceasefire deal at talks in Malaysia.

The news came as Philippines President Gloria Arroyo flew to the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, for her first foreign visit as head of state.

Talks between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) had failed to reach an agreement on Monday.

The deal followed an accord last week between the MILF and a larger separatist group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which struck a peace deal with the government in

1996. The 12,500-strong MILF has been fighting for a separate Muslim state in the southern third of the mainly Roman Catholic Philippines for three decades.

A Malaysian official said a signing ceremony would be held in the presence of Mrs. Arroyo and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad at 1700 (0900GMT), in Putrajaya, Malaysia's new administrative capital.

Officials said that the ceasefire would allow substantive peace talks to continue.

"The objective is to silence the guns and stop fighting so that we have a good atmosphere

for the resumption of peace talks," retired General Eduardo Ermita said.

Malaysia has acted as a peace broker since the two sides reached a broad agreement in June. The MILF agreed to implement a ceasefire in return for economic aid to the southern Philippines.

Talks between Manila and the separatists collapsed last year, after the then President, Joseph Estrada, ordered an all-out offensive against them. When Mrs Arroyo became president in January she ordered her government to resume negotiations.

The deal leaves just one Muslim group still fighting for a separate state - the Abu Sayyaf.

## Romania pit blast 'kills 14'

Fourteen miners have been killed in an explosion at a coal mine in south-west Romania.

Two others were seriously injured in the overnight blast at a pit near the town of Vulcan and have been taken to hospital in

nearby Timisoara, Romanian radio said.

The cause of the explosion has yet to be established.

So far, the charred remains of only three miners had been recovered, it added.

Dozens of other miners at the mine are refusing to go underground in case there are further explosions.

## Odd World Bride ties knot with pellets in stomach

A Turkish bride tied the knot with eight air rifle pellets lodged in her stomach after boisterous pre-wedding celebrations almost went tragically wrong, a newspaper said on Monday.

Aynur Tayoglu, 22, was accidentally shot by a relative at a party on Friday ahead of her wedding on Saturday near the Black Sea city of Zonguldak, the mass-circulation Milliyet newspaper said.

She was taken to hospital, but doctors agreed to postpone surgery to remove the pellets after her fiancé, De's father refused to set another date for the wedding, saying people had travelled a long way for the festivities, the paper said.

The newspaper said Tayoglu returned to complete the wedding and danced with her new husband Mutlu Yalcinkaya despite her wounds.

Five other family members were also injured at the party.

Turkish weddings are often rowdy gatherings, in which air rifles and other guns are fired to celebrate the event.

## Fresh efforts to break Macedonia deadlock

Stalled peace talks in Macedonia are due to resume after government leaders presented new demands, requiring a timetable for the NATO-led disarmament by ethnic Albanian rebels.

Macedonian Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski said on Monday that there would be no deal unless there is a clear timescale for the NATO-led disarmament.

Although 3,500 NATO troops are ready to deploy in the country, the organisation said it cannot give an exact timetable for disarmament.

BBC correspondent said that Western mediators were frustrated, saying they were very close to agreement and now fear that the whole peace process is in jeopardy.

Representatives of the Macedonian Government and the country's ethnic Albanian minority had been expected to reach agreement on Monday after the two main points of contention - the status of the Albanian language and representation in the police force - were resolved.

US envoy James Pardew told the BBC that he was very disappointed by the Macedonian demands.

"They need to think seriously about what they did this morning," he said.

He added that he hoped that no-one was trying to undermine the whole process, saying that the deadlock could be partly due to "signing jitters".

Neither the rebels nor the international community could accept the government demands for a ceasefire timetable, he said, because they were an attempt to link a political deal to a military one, for which international mediators have no mandate.

The rebels said they will only disarm after a peace deal has been implemented.

Last Thursday, Mr Georgievski said it would be shameful and insulting to sign a deal while rebels were still on the territory of Macedonia.

Mr Pardew said that a political agreement should be implemented before military demands were discussed.

NATO is expected to oversee rebel disarmament in the event of such a deal, and said its troops could be deployed within just 48 hours of such an agreement.

A BBC correspondent, however, said there was no guarantee a deal will be ratified by parliament within the allotted 45 days, because many Macedonians oppose what they see as rewarding the rebels.

Macedonian state television reported late on Monday a brief skirmish between the rebels and Macedonian police near the unstable city of Tetovo in the northwest.

The rebels allegedly shot at a police checkpoint and the officers returned fire. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

# BUSINESS DAY

## NACRDB to disburse N300m

The Pioneer Managing Director of Nigeria Agricultural Co-operatives and Rural Development Bank, (NACRDB), Alhaji Falalu Bello, has disclosed that the new bank will disburse about N300 million credit facilities within the next two weeks in its concerted efforts to boost agricultural production in the country.

Alhaji Falalu Bello disclosed this in an exclusive chat with *Business Day* in Abuja during a dinner party organised by Crittal Hope Nigeria Limited, Lagos, in honour of its two directors who were recently appointed into different positions by the Federal Government. They are; the Honourable Minister of State for Power and Steel, Alhaji Mohammed Murtala Aliyu and the Managing Director, NACRDB, Alhaji Falalu Bello.

He said the main thrust of the bank is to promote and finance the agricultural sector of the economy in order to bring about corresponding development in the rural areas.

Falalu Bello, who was the Managing Director of Intercity Bank Plc before his recent appointment, noted that the NACRDB's mandate include provision of basic working capital requirement for small and large scale farming as loans to Nigerians, especially the rural dwellers as well as

encouraging design, manufacturing and procurement of plants, machinery and equipment for cottage industry and small scale enterprises.



Falalu Bello, NACRDB M-D

As part of its roles also, the Managing Director pointed out that NACRDB will provide loans for the petty traders, roadside mechanics and artisans as well as underprivileged Nigerians in both urban and rural areas who cannot provide collateral security in the formal banking.

To recover the loans, Alhaji Falalu said that the bank will put in place a structure that will ensure an effective supervision on the maximum utilisation of the loans by the beneficiaries. He observed that NACRDB management is quite aware of the shortcomings of the former Nigeria Agricultural and Co-operatives Bank,

(NACB) which made it difficult for the bank to recover most of the loans and credit facilities disbursed.

NACRDB which is an amalgam of Nigeria Agricultural and Co-operatives Bank, Peoples Bank of Nigeria and Family Economic Advancement Programme is to streamline the activities of these moribund banks in order to meet the expectation of agricultural sector of the economy, Alhaji Falalu Bello pointed out.

He said that incidentally, one of the merged banks was doing quite well but it became imperative that the Federal Government has to refocus, redirect and reposition agricultural sector in order to meet the needs and aspirations of the nation.

On agriculture being the mainstay of the economy but which has remained the most neglected by successive regimes due to instability in policy formulation, the managing director stated that: "Agriculture in terms of figure is still the mainstay of the economy, it accounts for about 46 percent of Nigeria Gross Domestic Products and agriculture employs about 70 percent of our population better than any other sector including the manufacturing industries."

The managing director observed further that certain things ought to be done to

make agriculture viable. He stated that most people who are in the agricultural sector took solace because white collar jobs are just not there for them to engage in.

He therefore suggested that there should be consistent finance for agriculture to attract people and improve the general output. Valid policies are another solution to the moribund agricultural sector through which there will be under-dependence on the petrol chemical sector and a gradual revamping of agriculture.

Centre-Point Marchant Bank Plc will soon join the bandwagon of Universal Banking.

This information was revealed over the weekend by the Bank's Head Corporate Affairs, Obinna F. Nwachukwu in Onitsha, Anambra State.

According to him, the bank had not joined Universal Banking in a haste as some banks have done as a result of its own banking strategies.

Nwachukwu said Centre-Point Merchant bank Plc will soon show Nigerians that it has all it takes to participate effectively in universal banking.

According to him Centre-Point Merchant Bank Plc is capitalised as the

## Centre-Point joins Universal Banking soon

best in the industrial sector and has the wherewithal to dictate the direction of the sector.

He disclosed that the bank has since its inception in 1992 set the pace in the realm of investments in the money and capital market and has always aiding genuine businessmen and women with needed credit to succeed.

He gave indication that Centre-Point will not deviate from these viable policies as it is vital for the survival of the nation's economy in these times of globalisation.

## Union Bank's assets hit N214b

The asset base of Union Bank of Nigeria Plc (UBN) increased by 70.2 percent to hit N214.8 billion last March.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the bank, Mr. Godwin Ahabue Oboh who harped on this on the occasion of UBN's "facts behind the figures" at the Nigerian

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

Stock Exchange (NSE) stated that this was a giant leap from the 1999 figure of N126.2 billion.

According to him "this asset base is even more attractive given its balanced portfolio spread across cash and short terms funds, balances with other banks and financial institutions,

investment in subsidiaries and associated companies."

He put the bank's total deposit at N170.9 billion, saying that this amounts to 83.7 percent increase over the N93 billion recorded in the previous year. He added that the group also posted an impressive figure of N189.6 billion during the same period.

Given the sound position of the bank, Oboh said it enabled them to enlarge "our lending portfolio to N36.9 billion which was 32.4 percent increase over the N27.8 billion of 1999.

Maintaining that a good chunk of the loans granted by the bank went to the real and productive sectors, Oboh said this underscores its determination to help revamp the nations economy in order to enhance its ability to compete in the global market place.

Earlier, the Director-General of the Exchange, Dr. Ndi Okereke-Onyike thanked UBN for its elegant contribution to the nation's financial sector.

He hailed the support the bank has been giving the exchange and urged the management of the bank to continue the good relationship.

The Managing Director of UBN revealed at the occasion that his bank's contribution to the federal government's new priority sector of the small and medium scale industries (SMI's) was the highest in the banking industry.

According to him, the bank have set aside the sum of N706 million, being 10 percent of our profit before tax and if the contribution of Union Merchant Bank Limited is added, the group's total figure goes to an unassailable figure of N741 million."

## Inland Bank launches new products

Inland Bank Nigeria Plc has launched four new products into the market.

The products which include Ovation, a multi-value public sector account, a multi-value business account called Flourish, a multi-value personal account referred to as Achiever and an Inland cash card (East Flier) were all launched in the bid to alleviate poverty in the country.

According to the General Manager, Corporate Services of the Bank, Dr. John Ayuba, the Ovation is targeted to help the government and indeed the public sector in assuring that promises made to the people are implemented. It is also geared towards ensuring that government projects are properly conceived from inception by helping out with their feasibility studies and get abandoned projects completed.

These the bank intends to achieve by providing funds which the government always claim is inadequate for projects.

The card which could load as much as N16 million

From Bose Musari, in Lagos

at a time ensures that only the owner has access to the cash therein and if lost, the owner could report to any branch of Inland bank where it is not listed and no other person can withdraw from it.

According to the General Manager, Corporate Services, Inland Cash Card has come advantages over the Value Card for the access of the owner to all banks in the country. Money could be loaded in it in any branch of Inland Bank and the owner doesn't have to queue for ticket at the Airport for every 10 flights, the owner gets an additional free ticket.

The EASY flier is also in alliance with major hotels in the country which gives the card owner free transportation from airports to the hotels on arrival with discount on the hotel rates. However, it's usable only in Inland Bank.

Also, the Flourish multi-valued business account which is designed to help small and medium scale businesses to grow rapidly offers credit facilities to account holders with a

minimum opening amount of N500,000. The account holder however, must maintain a minimum balance of N250,000 in the account to enjoy all the facilities attached to the account.

This account holder gets the benefit of Certificate of Deposit which he could use as collateral to get funds in any bank.

## Cornerstone Insurance posts N630m premium

The Cornerstone Insurance Plc has posted a gross premium amounting to N630.5 million.



Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister

The chairman of the company, Mr. Clam O. Baiye who revealed this during its Annual General Meeting (AGM) stated that its net premium stands at N425.6 million.

According to him, Cornerstone's total asset is up to N829.9 million while its net assets amounts to N532.9 million.

Baiye told shareholders that the group's total and net assets stood at N870.7 and N534.6 million respectively.

On the company which clock ten years this year, the chairman had this to say "it is capitalised at N200 million, with a fully paid capital of N175 million."

The net profit of Cornerstone upped from 1999 positing of N38.7 million to N53.7 million in the period under review, while the profit before tax of N71.7 million recorded in 2000 saw a great heap from the 1999 result of N51 million.

Baiye was optimistic about the future of insurance business, despite the fears over universal banking.

Said he: "The advent of universal banking will enable insurance companies to join hands with banks to provide financial and underwriting services. It is expected that the next decade will be one of diversification and growth."

# BUSINESS DAY

## MMA customs generates N2.9b in six months

Nigeria Customs Service, Murtala Mohammed Airport Cargo Command has generated the sum of N2.9 billion for the first half of 2001. The amount is part of N4.9 billion which it targeted for the whole of this year representing 4% of the N113 billion which was tasked the service throughout the federation.

A breakdown of the N2.9 billion collected shows that the sum of N2.33 billion and N6.2 million was realised from duties charged on cargoes and fees realised from cargo respectively.

The amount also shows a shortfall of over N360 million representing 15.02 percent over the targeted revenue of N4.9 billion.

A statement by Mr. Rhodes N. O'Naps, the command's Public Relations Officer said the command engaged in revenue allocation as well as enforcement activities.

"For the first and second quarters of the year the command made a total of seven seizures. Out of these seven cases, two vehicles and two defendants were involved. One of the seven cases is pending in court.

A breakdown of the collected revenue shows that

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

the month of January generated the highest amount with N7.8 million followed by April with N6.5 million and June with the sum of N5.06 million.

Others are; May, N42 million, March, N3.1 million

and February, N28 million. Mr. O'Naps hinted that the relationship between the Customs airport Command and the Association of Nigerian License Customs Agents (NALCA) that went sour following the death of an agent in July last year has improved.



Mustapha, Customs Boss

## FG to distribute fuel through waterways

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

In its bid to find a permanent solution to the problem of fuel diversion in Nigeria, the Federal Government has perfected plans for the delivery of fuel to the various destinations through the nation's waterways.

This hint was dropped at the weekend by the chairman of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Alhaji Sule Onabiyi who revealed that the plans would be effective by the last quarter of next year.

He stressed that apart from minimising the problem of fuel diversion that in the country, the approach would further strengthen the fuel distribution system of the country.

Alhaji Onabiyi frowned at the nation's over-dependence on road haulage, saying that prior to the oil boom era, commodities like cocoa, palm kernel, groundnut and coal were

transported by waterways which was suddenly abandoned for the trailers.

He further explained that water transportation is a cheaper system that can also reduce the cost of highway maintenance by the government, "but the greatest disadvantage is that, the plan would effectively halt the menace of fuel diversion."

"Already, the authority is planning to ensure a hitch free transportation of diesel, petrol and kerosine to their destinations without any hassle, we have been hearing of destination as the cause of fuel scarcity. Tankers, we are told are being diverted to Cotonou and Niger Republic, but with the use of waterways that cannot be possible," he added.

The NIWA board chairman also said that the first step towards actualising the plan was the recent award

of the dredging of 4,123 kilometres of River Niger at the cost of N8.5 billion.

He said "work will begin on the job in October and within six months it will be completed and the plan will start, we at the Inland Water Authority are set to ensure a hitch-free fuel distribution."

While affirming the commitment of President Olusegun Obasanjo and the Transport Minister, Chief Ojo Madueke to the dredging project, he said "the president at least wants to ensure that a permanent end is put to fuel scarcity in the country."

## Nigeria, Japan sign N600m rural electrification note

From Osborne Adi JNR.

Nigeria and Japan, Monday signed Exchange of Notes of about N600 million as grant aid for phase two of the Japanese government sponsored rural electrification project.

The projects which are to be sited in Bogoro and Kalshingi in Bauchi and Gombe States respectively were a result of a joint survey conducted by the Japanese study team and Nigerian authorities.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Chief Economic Adviser to the President, Dr. Magnus Kpakol, said the Japanese support to our rural electrification programme was complimentary to the on-going efforts of government to emerge

all local government headquarters by connecting them to the national grid.

Presently, there were 1,024 rural electrification projects nationwide with about 200 projects being completed every year since the Obasanjo administration came into office.

Kpakol assured that in spite of the delay the first phase suffered following the nation's inexperience in handling such grant, efforts would be made to avoid such delays in the execution of subsequent phases of the programme.

He said the connection of rural areas to the national grid was a priority programme of the

## BON opens two Maiduguri branches

From Abdullahi Bego, in Maiduguri

through various support commitments.

In his remark before commissioning the BON regional officer Governor Mala Kachallah of Borno State said that the opening of new branches is a clear testimony that the bank is "burgeoning stronger even in difficulties."

Alhaji Mala Kachallah noted that the success of any banking enterprise depends to a large extent on the level of support the community within which it operates.

The government and people of Borno State, said governor Kachallah, said shall continue to support the Bank of the North as the bank's present management continues to push its fortunes to new heights.

It receives from Bank of the North also held its 41st Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Maiduguri yesterday.

administration, having regard for its significance in national development, especially poverty alleviation.

In his address, the out-going Japanese Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Takahisa Sasaki, said with the supply of electricity to the beneficiary communities, it will certainly improve local living conditions, thus contributing to regional development.

He said his government had earlier commissioned the first phase of the project in three local governments in Nasarawa State worth about N1.1 billion but work had to be suspended following the out-break of communal hostilities in the state.

## Rivers Govt orders location of police post in refinery

From Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

To forestall further breakdown of law and order at the Port Harcourt Refinery (PHRC), the State Police Command has been directed to establish a police station at the refinery.

A tripartite meeting between representatives of Petroleum Tankers Drivers Unit of NUPENG and the NNPC to bring to an end the recent crisis which led to the suspension of petroleum products lifting was held last week, where the Secretary to the State Government, Dr. Abiye Sekibo said the location of a police station was inevitable.

The Rivers State government which give the order to appease the striking tankers drivers said that the

measure was part of the security arrangement planned for the crisis prone spot.

Dr. Abiye Sekibo revealed that a dedicated petroleum tanker truck park in liaison with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) would be established.

He also condemned the action of the Alesa Eleme youths, describing it as savage and tantamount to economic sabotage. The government also warned the youths to sheath their swords and allow peace to reign in the area.

The state government also offer to replace all damaged properties of the

union which include mobile radios, accessories and furnitures belonging to the union but destroyed by the warring youths.

It was not clear if the same would be extended to the seven tankers allegedly burnt by the youths during the crisis and a compensation paid to the family of one person who died in the clash.

Among dignitaries at the peace meeting was the Group Executive Director (Commercial and Investment of NNPC), Rev. Ben Omomukuyo, Dr. Abiye Sekibo (Secretary to the State Government) and Mr. Edwin Obielum, Commander Swift Operation. Others are Alhaji Musa Oloji, Pius Ikechi, Chizi Woko for NUPENG.



## TENDER NOTICE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that 91-day Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills amounting to N16,000 million will be issued by an auction-based system on Thursday, 16/08/2001.

Interested Authorized Dealers (Commercial/Merchant Banks, Designated Discount Houses and Brokers) are invited to submit tenders to reach the Public Debt Office, Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos, not later than 1.30 p.m on Tuesday, 14/08/2001.

Each tender must be in multiple of N1,000, subject to a minimum of N10,000 per tender. Authorized Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids and quote multiple rates. A tender may be for own account of Authorised Dealers or made on behalf of interested members of the public, who are advised to apply to their banks or Brokers for the Bills.

Tenders for the Bills should be submitted on the prescribed printed forms in duplicate and in sealed envelopes clearly marked "TENDER FOR BILLS". The result of the tender will be announced before the close of business on Tuesday, 14/08/2001. The Bank reserves the right to reject any tender in part or in full.

Allotment letters will be issued to successful tenderers on Wednesday, 15/08/2001. Payment in full for the amounts of the accepted tenders must be made to the Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 1.30p. m on the issue date 16/08/2001. This will normally be effected by direct debit to the accounts of the affected Authorized Dealers which should ensure that their accounts with the Bank are adequately funded for this purpose.

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LAGOS.

The Horse is one of the most significant animals amongst its pairs in the animal world.

Elegant, smart and powerful, it has the qualities of elegance in nature and behaviour.

The Horse not only beautifies an environment and confirms affluence, it unfolds a majestic and royal aspect in the household where it is found.

Like a prince, the horse is spoiled and guarded jealously. It also provides joy to its owner.

It can be ridden for pleasure, for games and often participated in fierce combat during the older days.

That is why it is described as the most significant of all animals.

Species of Horses

The horse, like many animals, is of different species that are distinct one from another especially by those whose business is horse breeding.

There is the traditional Nigerian horse. It is usually huge, with big legs and it is usually aggressive.

In this species can be found Danda, Jiri, Magu, Birkili, Shedi, Hurdi, Kili, Bikili, and Bakin Bikili etc. All these are different species even amongst the traditional Nigerian horses, and each is distinctive in some ways from the other, yet these are the Nigerian horses.

The Nigerian horse unlike the others is both big and lanky and aggressive, yet it is not as enterprising as the rest.

Before the coming of the

tions. Due to its traditional usage as a means of transportation, the traditional horse has an ability to withstand all weather and longer distance than the rest.

The traditional horse is therefore unique on account of its abilities. It has the ability to perform all sorts of household work effectively.

The Arabian horse Unlike the traditional horse, the Arabian horse has smaller legs, it is strong and does not wane easily. It can travel long distances and has the strength to withstand harsh conditions.

The Sudanese horse Unlike the rest of the horses, the Sudanese horse is rated the best in the world in terms of performance, speed and strength. It is the fastest horse in the world. Like the stallion, the Sudanese horse is huge and can easily adapt to all conditions.

The Algerian/Argentine Horse It has special features. It is beautiful, attractive and elegant. It originated from the stallion. It is big and strong. It is equally charismatic.

The Moroccan horse Like the traditional horses, the Moroccan horse has different types of species such as "Tubuwa" "Bahargazal" etc and it is found especially in Niger and other African countries.

Kenyan Horse It is a cross between the English horse and the South-African species. The combination makes it beautiful and attractive. It can go long distances like the Kenyan tradition.



Some of the 20 bred Stallion

Exploring a tradition of

The Horse is a powerful and noble animal. Countless legends wax eloquent poetry. Horses have played significant roles in stirring and dramatic moments. Legend of Bayajidda who arrived Daura one evening seated upon a Horse, the seven Hausa States. There are numerous species of the Horse, and these pose our reporter in Katsina, has inquired into the habits, functions and qualities

Abba Kalil, the chief historian of the Katsina emirate, is an animal whose usage



The bred Stallion horses, inseminated at the breeding Stables of Wamban Katsina

Europeans, the traditional horses were used for cavalry during wars and this makes it flexible and aggressive. But unlike the rest it is less intelligent in modern techniques and can withstand all harsh condi-

French Horse This type has legs, which enable it to excel in jumping, and racing, it is equally elegant and strong.

Uses of the Horse The horse, according to Wanban Katsina, Alhaji

spans hundred of years. Before the coming of the Europeans, the horse was used as a means of transportation, cavalry in war, games and special purposes in ceremonial activities by the royalists.



One of the healthy horses at the Stable

For instance, after the traditional African wars, the horse was converted to a more dignified role of hosting important dignitaries.

In 1956, according to Wamban Katsina, a special durbar was organised to welcome the Queen of England and later that year to host Emperor Haile Selassie in Kaduna.

The horse is equally used to celebrate marriages. The horse was used as defence against external incursions and were strategically used to fight enemies and conquer nations. It was one of the most sophisticated traditional war machines. Soon, the horse was converted to activities such as polo games and racing.

According to Wamban Katsina, Polo was introduced in Katsina when the Europeans arrived. Apart from Polo special games were introduced using the horse. One of these is the musical chain. The musical chain is a special game co-ordinated by about 20 young men. A bag or sack will be filled and made tight. It will then be placed at the middle of the field. Then competing horsemen will race and compete to grab the

# Feature



The female horse shows its sexual desire monthly. It practically shows its desire by squatting down whenever it sees a male horse.

But the horse will not attempt by itself to have any intercourse. So whenever these signs manifest, the horse will then be joined by its owner with the female horse to have intercourse.

Once this time is missed then it has to wait till the next month, when another sign of desire will develop.

Characteristically, the female horse will never refuse a sexual approach. However it will not allow any intercourse once it is pregnant. And once a female is pregnant then it will never be in a friendly disposition towards any male horse.

The advancement of technology makes it possible for horses to be inseminated. The process of insemination in horses is done exactly as it is done in human beings.

The sperm of the par-

horses and we also have half-caste horses.

In the breeding stables at Katsina, about 20 different horses were inseminated to produce Stallions, Argentine and Sudanese horses.

Several others were impregnated through insemination and will soon bear infants.

### Tropicalisation & Training

The Stallion, Argentine and the rest of the imported horses, have to be tropicalised and trained before they can be efficiently used in Nigeria.

The Wamban Katsina explained that the tropicalisation process is done gradually. First after importation the horses are placed in a barricaded and well tended environment to reflect conditions in the initial country of origin

After sometime, they will be taken from time to time on a ride into the sunlight and subsequently to the harsh Northern weather,

the horses are trained to perfection before they reach the age of maturity.

He said: "If any polo player is interested in a trained horse, all he has to do is to take his bag and come to Katsina. Here we have well trained horses in all games, polo, racing and durbar."

One interesting aspect of the training is that the trained horses respond to verbal commands. They can run, proceed at a slow pace, jump and retreat as directed. The trained horses are like trained humans: Intelligent, smart and skilled.

The horse can endure for a period between 33-36 years and it reaches its maturity from the age of four.

Although the horse serves as an asset, it is described as a socially interactive agent that brings people from different parts of the world together. It is equally a preserver of the culture and traditions of Africa.

## f horse breeding

about the Horse, and it occurs in songs, and also in lofty events of human history. For instance there is the epic and Bayajidda is fundamental in the establishment of the less countless habits and possibilities. **Hassan A. Karofi**, of the Horse. Here is his account.



Another specie of the Argentine horse

ck. Whoever grabs the sack and reaches the end of the field will be announced the winner.

There is equally the "Jimkani" game. This game depicts war situations where horsemen will compete as though in a war scenario. Several other games were introduced to keep the horses busy.

Katsina being the home of polo has usually become the home of horses in

Nigeria. Today the most thrilling teams in the game of Polo are in Katsina.

While racing has gone down a little, the Wamban Katsina assured racing enthusiasts that soon a race course will be built in Abuja to bring the game back to life.

### Breeding/Insemination

The horse is a wonderful specie of the animal. It thinks like the human. Unlike human beings, the horse's sexual urge does not necessarily require a female partner.

Once it desires intercourse, the horse ejaculates even without a female partner.



A Sudanese horse



A Stallion

particular species will be collected. So this ejaculated sperm is taken, reserved and injected into the female horse.

Nowadays, sperms are imported from England, Argentina and elsewhere to be injected into our local

until they became accustomed to it.

In training he particularly said that his stable equally trains horses in different games, which include, polo, racing and durbar.

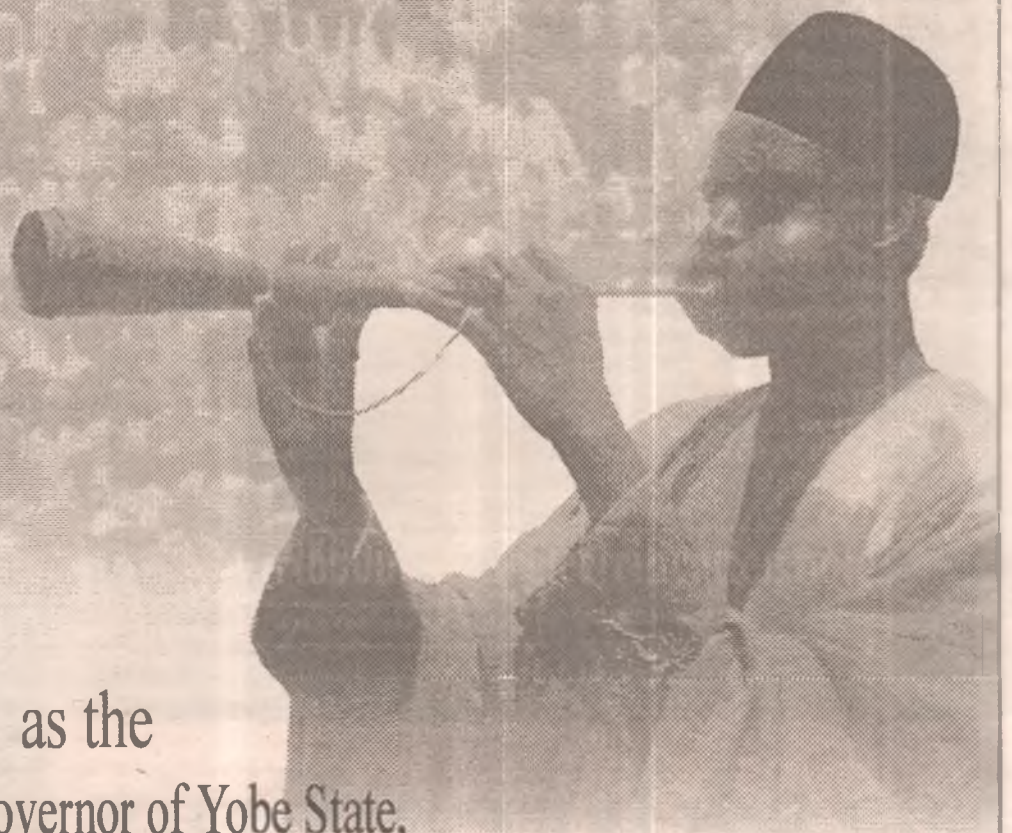
Depending on the need,

So it you need a well-trained and skilful horse, come to Katsina and you will be glad that you did.

The prices range from N80, 000.00 to N500.00 depending on the particular species you desire.

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NEWS

**Gov Odili advises magistrates**

From Widom-Uduak Patrick, in Port Harcourt

The Rivers State Governor, Dr. Peter Odili, last weekend in Port Harcourt advised members of the state branch of Magistrates' Association to eschew sharp practices and champion the cause of justice.

He urged them to dispense justice to all without fear or favour and without expecting gratification as by so doing, they would be contributing their quota in the enthronement of justice in the new democratic dispensation.

Addressing members of the state branch of Magistrates Association at the Government House, Port Harcourt, the governor told the magistrates that "there is goodwill which naturally follows selfless service."

Odili pointed out that no society could be healthy if unjust judgements are given by persons who are expected to be honest and impartial arbiters.

Earlier, the chairman of the association, Mr. Adolphus Enebili, lauded Governor Odili for improving the welfare of magistrates and other judicial staff in the state.

He particularly thanked the governor for providing cars for all serving magistrates and requested government to look into the issue of accommodation and housing loans for magistrates in the state.

Meanwhile, the Rivers State government has started the implementation of the employment law. The law, which was signed early this year, makes it mandatory for employers of labour in the state to recruit a certain percentage of its staff from the state.

Briefing journalists at the end of the state Executive Council meeting in Port Harcourt, the commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Mr. Kenneth Kobami, said the measure was taken to tackle unemployment in the state.



Gov. Odili



Hajiya Rabi, Liaison Officer (International Relations) of Bank of the North Ltd, Abuja, presenting a prize to one of the best female pupils during the Speech and Prize Giving Day of Almarkazul Salafiyya Islamic Primary School, Nyanya, Abuja last week.

**Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi commends Governor Bafarawa**

An Islamic scholar, Sheikh Usman Dahiru Bauchi, has commended the Sokoto State Governor, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa, for establishing an Institute of Qur'anic Recitation.

The renowned Islamic scholar, made the commendation when he paid a courtesy call on the state governor at the Government House, Sokoto on Monday.

According to him, the commendation became necessary after a careful observation that such an institute was established in Sokoto and "to a large extent it is the best in the whole of Africa," he said.

Sheikh Dahiru Bauchi further enjoined the other muslim governors to emulate Governor Dalhatu Bafarawa whom he said has done a good job towards the promotion of Islam.

Responding, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa

From Kabir Dogon-daji, in Sokoto

thanked the scholar for the commendation and reiterated his government's commitment to the promotion of Islamic teachings.

He pointed out that the state being a predominantly

Muslim state would not relent in its efforts towards the promotion and propagation of Islam.

Alhaji Bafarawa further disclosed that some Arabian nations have shown their interests in offering assistance to the school both materially and monetarily.

**FG should relax conditions on electricity generation - Gov Dariye**

Governor Joshua Dariye of Plateau State has appealed to the Federal Government to relax the conditions guiding the operation of independent electricity companies to enable the Nigerian Electricity Supply Company (NESCO), Bukuru, provide electricity to the rural people in the state.

He made the appeal recently when the Minister of State for Power and Steel,

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

Alhaji Mohammed Murtala Aliyu, visited him at the Government House, Rayfield, Jos.

The governor also appealed to the traders selling generating plants to stop conniving with some unscrupulous NEPA staff to frustrate the performance of the organisation.

Governor Joshua Dariye also commended the Federal

**NEPA begins customers' registration in Kano**

The National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) has commenced its customers' registration exercise in Kano. This is aimed at legalising the consumption of electricity by unregistered customers as well as improving the revenue generation of the authority as well as providing a good data base for meaningful planning.

The exercise, which commenced in Dala and Nassarawa districts, is being conducted by three task forces, comprising Task Force on Mass Registration of Customers, Task Force on Cash Drive and Task Force on MD Metering Equipment Certification.

Addressing the monitoring teams in Kano, the General Manager (D&M) Kano zone, Alhaji Ishaq Usman said the new engineered NEPA is now becoming more customer-friendly and market-oriented, and now poised to improve tremendously on its present service delivery.

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

This, he explained, would be done by promptly clearing faults, listening and promptly solving of customers' complaints.

He noted that in as much as NEPA was doing everything possible to turn a new leaf, customers must also reciprocate by changing their attitude towards NEPA and its services. "Illegal connections of electricity, non-settlement of bills and



Joseph Makoju, NEPA MD

vandalisation must be discarded and stopped," he pleaded.

Alhaji Usman appealed to NEPA's numerous customers in the zone to cooperate with its officials in the ongoing registration exercise, assuring that the exercise was not meant to victimise debtors nor to disconnect customers' electricity supply.

On the threat by Fagge residents to dismantle NEPA facilities in the area because of perceived marginalisation in electricity rationing, the General Manager said no one was being marginalised in the area of power supply in Kano State. He explained that the entire areas on the feeder for that area are also experiencing the same problem because it is heavily loaded and is also complicated by under-frequency relay.

He stated that Fagge's demand was as high as 12 megawatts compared to the three to four megawatts in other areas of Kano metropolis. He assured that the new 15 KVA transformer installed at Bukabu Barracks would cushion the effect of the over-loading of Fagge feeder and thereby improve their electricity supply.

Alhaji Usman, however, cautioned that any unwarranted attack on NEPA facilities in the area would be detrimental to both residents of the area and NEPA as it would take longer time for NEPA to replace any damaged equipment due to its high cost.

**Onoja makes case for Idoma unity, discipline**

As the National delegates conference of Idoma National Forum opened in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State, Major-General Lawrence Onoja has described the Idoma race as the only ethnic group that has lost focus due to unnecessary bickering, misunderstanding, lack of corporation and unity, even though they are blessed with material and human resources.

General Onoja, while describing the people as peaceful, intelligent, hardworking and accommodating of their neighbour, said "strange birds have flooded the culture, creating division of various shades and dimensions among the people, even in the rural areas."

The PDP chieftain expressed his dismay over politics of gangsterism,

Mike Elaigwu, in Makurdi

armed militiamen and thuggery which he described as alien to Idoma polity, with the respect for elders, especially traditional rulers, who are the custodian of the Idoma culture, fast diminishing.

According to him, no meaningful progress would be achieved under the circumstances where gun-shooting of political opponents and imaginary enemies prevailed. He therefore urged the people to check these threats to the existence of democracy.

The one-time military governor of Plateau and Katsina States, condemned the gruesome murder of innocent people like late Col. Anthony Ochefu and attempted assassination of one-time minister of communications, Chief Audu Ogbe and called on security operatives in the state to expose the culprits. He warned the

promoters of political rivalry for cheap gains that the spirit of their forefathers that lived in peace and harmony and God would not forgive them for destroying the sound cultural foundation laid from time immemorial.

Chief Onoja, who appealed to Idoma people to unite for the purpose of peace and development in the area, called on President Olusegun Obasanjo to consider appointing an Idoma person to a position that is equivalent to the one earlier occupied by Chief Abu Obe, the former Head of Service of the Federation.

While calling for equitable representation and distribution of the scarce resources and amenities that would create room for more sense of belonging and commitment to the development of the state, he commended the state governor, Mr. George Akume, for his developmental efforts, but believed that more can be done for Idoma people.

Government for revitalising the steel sector, saying that this would provide the needed impetus for the industrialisation of the country.

The governor also called on the minister to consider the indigenes of the catchment area of the Jos Steel Rolling Company during employments.

In his speech, the minister, Alhaji Mohammed Murtala Aliyu, explained that the policy thrust of the present government was to revive ailing industries in the country so that economic activities could pick up.

He said that he was going round on an inspection tour of such industries with a view to bringing them back to life, saying that the Jos Steel Rolling Company and Aladja Steel Company would soon start production as that of Katsina has already started production.



Gov. Dariye



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# INSIDE POLITICS

## Nwodo condemns frequent foreign tours by lawmakers

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) is worried about frequent foreign trips by the members of the National Assembly and some state governors.

The party's Secretary-General, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo who stated this at a press conference in London, lamented that usually the purpose of such trips was for the members to engage in shopping sprees and amorous activities.

He further lamented that many legislators were in the National Assembly not to serve the people but to make money because they regard politics as a money-making venture.

He described the situation as a negatives phase in the country's political development, which he said, would soon be over as the electorate ultimately would not vote for politicians with

selfish agenda.

Nwodo, who gave an account of the country's socio-economic situation said essential utilities such as NEPA, as well as petroleum products would soon be functional and available.

He said though the government was yet to get economic policies right, genuine efforts were being made to change the situation



President Obasanjo

for the betterment of all.

He disclosed that the country's foreign reserves, which stood at about \$3 billion at the inception of the present administration, has now grown to more than 12 billion dollars.

On the "windfall" arising from oil prices, Nwodo said the money was being kept intact, but stated that some of it had been shared among the three tiers of government.

On security, he disclosed that Nigeria has the worst police-people ratio in the world, but stated that the government was recruiting about 20,000 police officers annually to reverse the trend.

He said arms and ammunition and other logistics would be provided to make the Nigeria Police the best in the world, and gave an assurance that the bad security situation in the country would soon be over.

## Turaki's deputy denies resigning position

The Jigawa State Deputy-Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu Kwatalo, has denied media reports (not Daily Trust) that he has resigned his position as deputy governor.

Alhaji Kwatalo, told Daily Trust in a telephone interview in Kano that he had not resigned as was being speculated in the press.

He stated that though his

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

relationship with the state governor, Alhaji Saminu Turaki had not been too rosy, he was yet to decide to throw in the towel, adding, however, that he does not know where the story of his resignation emanated from and described the story as "mere speculation."

News reports had

indicated that the deputy governor has resigned his position as a result of a misunderstanding with governor Turaki over matters of state.

The relationship between the governor and his deputy has been frosty for some time now, because of utterances made by the deputy governor which did not go down well with the governor.

## Labour unions proffer solutions to Nigeria's problems

The participation of workers and human rights groups in active politics and governance has been recommended as the only panacea for economic growth and development in Nigeria.

This declaration was made by participants at a three-day international conference of trade unions experience in politics.

The conference was attended by leaders of trade unions from Brazil, Congress of South Africa Trade Unions (COSATU), Zimbabwe trade union congress with the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) as the host.

According to a statement issued by the NLC, and signed by Comrade John E. Odah, the NLC general-secretary, the participants advocated for the rights of Nigerians to form and run political parties without being compelled to seek and obtain

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

official approval and registration.

The participants further resolved that government should regulate campaign financing to ensure that the electoral process is not hijacked or subverted through the indiscriminate use of money.

Other resolutions reached at the end of the conference were the right of Nigerians to stand as independent candidates during elections and recognition of workers rights to stand for elections without being compelled to resign their appointments.

The statement, therefore, called on the National Assembly to reflect the full diversity of the concerns of Nigerians in its consideration of the draft electoral bill.

The NLC posited that this would ensure that the country would have a law that,

"guarantees peaceful, fair and transparent conduct of elections as well as protect the rights of all Nigerians to a level playing political field which will have no room for the hindrances of the past."

Enumerating further on the needs for workers' participating in politics, the participants stated that the existing political parties are now liabilities to voters.

"Elected officials at all levels have shown no willingness to use the instrument of government to improve the lives of the people but remain committed only to their agenda of self-enrichment," the statement added.

The conference also, reaffirmed that Nigeria needs a workers party that will represent the genuine interests of workers and other oppressed people of Nigeria, but agreed that the NLC will not transform into a political party.

## Leave AD alone, party stalwart warns Afenifere

The Chairman of the Abdulkadir-led-faction of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) in Ogun State, Alhaji Tayo Sowunmi, has warned leaders of the pan-Yoruba group, Afenifere to steer clear of AD and concentrate on their socio-cultural organisation by protecting the interest of the Yorubas.

Alhaji Sowunmi who gave the warning in Abeokuta at a press briefing said: "We want Afenifere to stand alone, to be a socio-cultural organisation protecting the interest of the Yorubas."

He accused leaders of Afenifere of name-dropping and warned the group from using the name of AD in

From Olumide Bajulalye in Abeokuta

negotiating merger plans with emerging political associations.

"Afenifere should stop using the name of our party in their inglorious negotiations."

"The Alliance for Democracy in Ogun State supports the registration of more political parties. This, however, is not because of the puerile reason often adduced by the political chameleon clamouring for it now."

"Those hooting for it now are doing so to gang up against some perceived enemy standing between them and the realisation of their selfish ends," he added.

## ALHAMDU LILLAH!! ALHAMDU LILLAH!!! ALHAMDU LILLAH!!!! HAPPY 45<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

The Managing Director, GAYACO LTD, ALHAJI ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM GAYA (TAFIDA) on behalf of himself, Management and Staff of GAYACO LIMITED wish to rejoice with His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi on this momentous occasion of his forty-fifth birthday anniversary. In retrospect, these are 45 years of active community and National Service. The trail of achievements are spread and all spheres of human endeavour.



ALHAJI AHMED MOHAMMED MAKARFI  
Executive Governor of Kaduna State



ALHAJI ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM GAYA (TAFIDA)  
Managing Director GAYACO LIMITED

Many have planned and toiled but only those who receive Allah's injunctions are said to be great. This is wishing you many happy returns and Allah's guidance and mercy as you strive to unite and administer and bring development to the people living in this great society of ours.

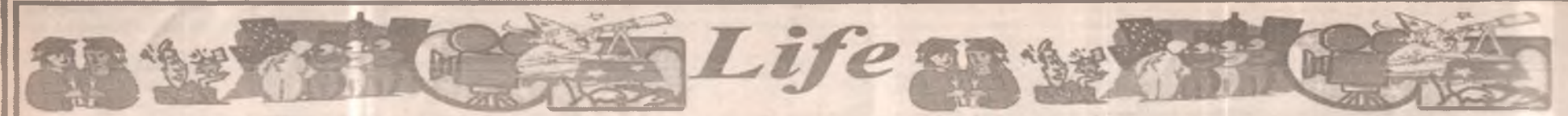
With your record of achievements, sincerity of purpose and openness to issues, we wish to join other well meaning individuals and groups in wishing you Allah's blessings, good health and perseverance as you forge ahead with your plans of making Kaduna State better than it was.

We are happy to be associated with your noble efforts and pledge our unalloyed loyalty to your administration. GAYACO LIMITED Kaduna is involved in Rural Electrification and Mechanical Engineering Services, Consultancy, General Supply and community relations and will continue to contribute its quota in the transformation drive to make life more meaningful to the people of Kaduna State and indeed Nigeria and humanity.

**WE WISH YOU HAPPY FORTY-FIFTH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY  
LONG LIFE, GOOD HEALTH AND  
ALLAH'S BLESSINGS IN YOUR  
SERVICE TO HUMANITY**

Signed:

ALHAJI ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM GAYA (TAFIDA)  
Managing Director GAYACO LIMITED, Kaduna



## Ladies' Line

# The reputable matchmaker

By Jamilah N. Musa

Unlike other marriages, matchmakers who carry photographs of beautiful girls around, showing eligible bachelors and other men who are interested in marriage, Hajiya Sa'adiya Konar Gabari transacts the business of matchmaking in her house located at Konar-Gabari in Kano State.

A reputable matchmaker, Hajiya Sa'adiya has been in the business for the past 40 years. She does not need photographs of beautiful girls, she said, all she does is to merely describe the physical features of the women or girls to the man, introduce them and then a relationship clicks.

The men on their part would have to give her a picture of the type of women of their choice, it ranges from slim, light complexion, tall, dark, plump, single, divorced, widower etc, the choice is endless and she could always produce any type of man. As for the girls who also do not need photographs of the men they can always decide after meeting the men whether they will be compatible or not.

In the case where a lady does not approve of a choice, another man would be introduced to her until she selects a man of her choice. Often times, marriages contracted through Hajiya Sa'adiya are said to be successful as according to her, the marriage institution is a vital organ for societal development as such her Marriage Bureau does not organise marriages between men and women of unquestionable characters. Besides, she also put into consideration the reward she is going to get on earth and the hereafter. She has also made a name for herself and would not want to tarnish her

**Often times, marriages contracted through Hajiya Sa'adiya are said to be successful as according to her, the marriage institution is a vital organ for societal development as such her Marriage Bureau does not organise marriages between men and women of unquestionable characters.**

own image. She has married out her own children to responsible men in the society too.

She has therefore ensured that girls, widows and divorced women get the best husbands through her connection, while the men too would not have any cause for regret. Parents of such girls have often shown appreciation for the role that she has been playing in that she is given important role (such as Umar biki) during the weddings to play. In the case where any problem arises after the wedding, she is called upon to intervene.

Hajiya Sa'adiya said she has lost count of the number of the marriage contracts that took place through her, but people in the area where she lives said she must have arranged over a thousand marriages.

The matchmaker said that though she also engages in the sale of goods like clothing, plates, utensils and general merchandise, the matchmaking is the main business she does. She went into it shortly after she herself got married.

She also disclosed that girls or women of wealthy background also request her services as well as women from poor homes. Secondary school girls are not left out. She explained that given the deceitful tendencies of both men and women these days, matchmaking is necessary to ensure that marriages are contracted according to the choice of spouses.

For her trouble, Hajiya Sa'adiya does not name a price. The man or woman gives according to the dictate of his or her mind. Meanwhile, she has made a name as the most reputable matchmaker in Kano and she has several houses and other properties to show for it.

# The wonder called Abuja marriage!

By Joseph Aiyejoto

She said it without a hint of seriousness. But I was caught up in the web of it much later as I pondered over what could have brought about such a phenomenon in Abuja, which ought to be a model city. It is the theory and practice of a man (single or unmarried or whose wife is not in Abuja) who proceeds to house a woman in the name of the latter being his personal assistant (PA). Another fellow, the other day, called the system *Abuja marriage*. People who are into it see nothing wrong with it. "After all I am assisting her," enthused one young man who simply told me that I should call him Obi. One may then ask, for the sake of clarity, what is this issue of personal assistance (PA) or *Abuja marriage* all about?

In an attempt to have first hand information on this issue, I took my time to go round some of the suburbs of Abuja. At the end I realised that the practice of having PAs is a general norm in all the satellite towns and villages. "Even the rich people in the main city keep their own society ladies in their houses. So why should we be bothered about what we feel is good for us?" Tolu, a resident of Karimu queried me.

In pursuing the story further, I had no choice than to visit some of the houses in Apo, another suburb of Abuja. There were five men each living with a PA in the house, which happened to be my first port of call in Apo. One of the men, I was told, lives in the only one room and parlour apartment in the house. One of the ladies in the house narrated her ordeal to me. According to her, she was invited to Abuja by one of her relations. Now the relation is married and she could no longer continue to live with her and her husband, since they are also managing a one-room apartment in one of the suburbs. Immediately after her benefactress got married, she moved to her husband's house and left her to her fate in the old house. After sometime, she could not afford to pay the house rent despite her efforts to do so. Though some night-outs fetched her some amount to keep body and soul together,

she became fed up with that and consequently gained employment as a receptionist in a restaurant in the heart of the capital city. However, her take home pay could hardly take her home not to talk of having enough to pay for house rent. Hence, "I mostly end up in passing the night in one man or the other's house from where I go to work the following morning," she said.

After some fairy ordeals and odd experiences, she had to abandon that system. Another alternative that readily came was a man who visited the restaurant where she was working one day, she eventually fell in love with the man. Though married, the man's wife and children were not in Abuja. In spite of this, the man could not bring her into his house, as that would spell doom for him if the family should be in the know of it. He, therefore, got a one-room apartment for her in one of the suburbs that is not too far from the city. The events that followed drove the lady out of the relationship. She could not narrate the entire story but she hinted that the man capitalised on the gesture to use her as a workshop for sexual escapades.

She opted out and finally she met the man with whom she is presently living. They started a relationship, another temporary measure to tide her over the problem of where to stay in Abuja, according to her, because they have never discussed anything beyond the fantasies of the moment. Moreover, the matter of convenience has forced them into the *Abuja marriage* style. But she wished she could get out of it soon as she confessed that the system is not without its problems.

The case of Agatha, as she finally told me her name, is just one among other thousands of silent persons, whose present condition they did not bargain for and neither could they help it. As it is with ladies, so also are men not exempted? Some men enter into marriage of convenience in Abuja with women who readily offer them accommodation and other comforts. The consequences! Damn it! Forget it. The here and now matters. In Abuja you either suffer to survive or you survive to suffer. Nevertheless, you have the option of being a P.A. to a member of the opposite sex or enter into an *Abuja marriage* for the sake of the here and now.

"The man calls me his PA

even in the presence of his friends. For how long I will stay I don't know. But I know I will soon get out of this place as age is no longer on my side," she added amidst despair and frustration. Asked about the remuneration, she said: "You should understand, are you not a man?" The man in the house did not meet me there as the sun was already going down by the time she finished her narration. Moreover, I could not have words with the other ladies who were seen busy going in and coming out of the house in an attempt to prepare their night meal "before oga comes back" according to one of them. The case of the other four ladies was not so different. All of them were living, each with her own man, as a personal assistant.

Even though the men that they are living with are matured enough, they claimed to be praying for the wherewithal with which to settle down as one of the ladies revealed. Besides, the lady with whom I discussed disclosed that except the unexpected happens, they would rather call it quit with their PA job and settle with a man of their choice as soon as practicable. For now, remaining a PA is the beginning of survival in the capital city.



Lively performers at a recent celebration.

# Man forges NYSC posting letter

A 27-year-old man who never attended a university either in Nigeria or anywhere else but desperate to serve in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Scheme has been arrested for allegedly forging a letter of posting purporting it to have been issued by the authority.

Mr. Onochie Obiajulu, an applicant who thought he could beat employment at least temporarily for the next one year, landed at the Abuja Upper Area Court, charged for impersonation and forgery.

Obiajulu, whom the police gave his address as Block 22, Flat 11, Ondo Close, Area 10, Garki, Abuja, is facing a two-count charge contrary to sections 179 and 364.

Mr. Obiajulu was alleged to

have forged the letter dated June 18, 2001 and posted himself to Nigerian Telecommunications Service (NITEL).

Apart from forging the letter of posting, Obiajulu also issued the letter in the name of one Okoye Emeke, but the deal blew open when he was detected by the director in-charge of personnel at NITEL

Two teenage Indonesian girls were crushed to death in a stampede at a Muslim boarding school after hearing what they believed was a ghost, local media reported yesterday.

About 100 girls at the school in the East Java town of Gresik were reciting the holy Koran late on Sunday

who, having chatted with the suspect, smelt something sinister and informed the police.

He, however, pleaded not guilty but the prosecuting police officer, Mr. Osmond Adinna opposed the bail application on grounds that the accused person must have acted in concert with some staff of the NYSC because the letter head paper used by

him is the same one used by the organisation and the police want him to help them in their investigations.

He was overruled by the judge, Alhaji Aliyu Abdulrahman, who granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 while adjourning the case to August 28, 2001 for further mention.

## Jakarta

when a woman's ghostly wail ripped through their second-story classroom, the *detik.com* news portal reported.

"The loud voice was heard from every direction," one girl was quoted saying.

Panicked and scared by what they believed was a

ghost, the girls fled down the stairs and some were trampled. Dozens were seriously hurt, *detik.com* said.

Asked about the ghost, local police chief H. Gufran said: "How can we prove something which we can't see?"

The report did not say if any of the girls actually saw a ghost.

# HAPPY 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi**  
*Executive Governor, Kaduna State*

**T**he Chairman/Chief Executive, Board of Directors, Management and entire Staff of NUB International Bank Ltd., join the People and Government of Kaduna State in rejoicing with the Executive Governor, **Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi** on the occasion of his 45th Birthday.

May the Almighty Allah grant His Excellency more fruitful and productive years ahead.

We all at NUB International Bank wish you many more years of good health, prosperity and happiness.



**NUB International Bank Ltd.**

*... we never stop serving you*

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Katsina: NICON Building, IBB Way, Katsina. Tel: 065-432109

Zaria: 4B, Main Street, Sabon-Gari, Zaria. Tel: 069-332936

Sabon Tasha: 26, Kachia Road, Sabon-Tasha, Kaduna. Tel: 062-242112

Kachia: Beside Kachia Police Station, Kachia.  
Kaduna Central Market

Branches in Victoria Island, Kano, Onitsha, Funtua and Port Harcourt soon.

Arts & Entertainment

# Gold and Tones concert holds in Abuja

Last Saturday, Benson and Hedges arrived Abuja with the Northern regional Finals of it's "Up and Coming" Gold and tones road show.

It was a major musical event. Since 1993 Benson and Hedges have been engaged in the co-ordination of music concerts in Nigeria. The concert, which mainly involves indigenous artistes, is said to be aimed at uplifting the standard of musical concerts in the country by assisting the famous artistes to meet international standards and helping the young talents to grow.

The theme of this years concert "Up and Coming" was specifically designed to discover and develop young talents in band beats and Disk Jockey (DJ) from every part of the country.

In Abuja last Saturday, high powered loud speakers were mounted in an arc shaped mobile theatre assembled in the Garki district. This was where the northern regional finals of the band beat, and DJ competitions took place.

With the advantage of a Cinema within, the large theatre was decorated with a state of the art multi coloured stationary, swing and orbiting spotlights. Against all odds, the theatre was powerfully erected. Not even the heavy down pour was able to interrupt the all-night long show.

The show which attracted over 2000 spectators witnessed performances by P-square band group from Jos, AC Kudos from Maiduguri, Black family from Abuja, Rhythm and Joy from Bauchi who happened to be the only contestant with females in it's team, and Black Reverenz from Yola who emerged winners in the band competition.

In the DJ category, performances were done by DJ KLs from Jos, DJ DIDO from Bauchi, DJ CKC from Yola and DJ Double D from Abuja who emerged winner in this aspect.

There were also side attractions like the mimicking of Oris Wiliki, a Nigerian reggae Star, and Michael Jackson, the American Pop Megaster.

Daily Trust gathered from David Dairo of Quadrant Company, the public relations consultants behind the show, that the essence of spreading the show across the country was to extend such forms of entertainment from Lagos to other parts of the country. He added "the show was segmented into three zones that is the northern, eastern

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

and western regions. We have already taken the show to Yola and Jos in the north, and today we are witnessing the northern regional finals. When we finish from here, we will move on to the east i.e. Owerri and Port Harcourt, and from there we will advance to the West."

"The grand finale of the show will come up sometime in November this year.

Winners of each subject of competition from each region will assemble in Ibadan where the grand finale will take place. Whoever emerged overall

### Concert

winner would be given a handsome prize along with others. Such prizes that would enhance their career in music."

This years Benson and

Hedges Gold and Tones road show "Up and Coming" was organised by a team of consultants which include "Global Activities" Nigeria Limited which was in charge of music equipment. Quadrant Nigeria Limited - Public relations consultants and Cosse Limited who organised and managed talents. Talents are sourced from every part of the country through an open registration procedure.



P-Square performing on stage



Black Reverenz on stage during the Gold and Tones road show

Pix by Felix Onigbinde

## Mrs Obasanjo woos tourists, investors

The first lady, Mrs Stella Obasanjo, recently in London called on the international community to take advantage of investment and tourism potentials in Nigeria to invest in the sectors. Speaking at the opening of the Caribbean Expo 2001 in London, Mrs Obasanjo said with a population of more than 120 million people, Nigeria was the "most lucrative emerging market in the world."

She added that with a large pool of educated and skilled men and women, the country was the biggest investment secret of the new millennium.

She however lamented that inspite of enormous potentials, the tourism industry in Nigeria had remained largely untapped adding that the exhibition presented a unique opportunity for the Caribbean Islands and the world at large to have a taste of the rich culture of Nigeria. She

explained that the situation was happily put behind by the present administration, which she said, was doing "a great job of redefining the way business is done in

### Tourism

Nigeria."

"Inefficient and unprofitable public corporations are being privatised and sold to investors who have the



Mrs. Stella Obasanjo

technical and managerial competence to provide the services for which they were established," said the first lady.

She expressed the hope that the forum would play a major role in strengthening historical ties between Nigeria and the Caribbean, as well as providing a platform for the establishment of a new economic and cultural relationships. NAN reports that the first lady and her entourage, including the minister of culture and tourism, some wives of state governors, ministers and service chiefs, among others, were treated to various dances and performances from the Caribbean and the U.K.

She later went round the Nigerian stand, which was the only one from Africa, inspecting items on display, amidst traditional music and dances by Nigerian cultural troops. (NAN)

**AL-OUM CLASSICS**  
Reproducing the earliest entries in Al-Bint's Diary

## A truly thankless office

A brand new mother several years ago, my friend Larai and I had this debate about which was harder between pregnancy and infant rearing.

I remember arguing that the latter was much, much harder than the former because then you are responsible for an entirely different human being and one who is totally dependent on you too.

But Larai's stand had been that pregnancy was harder because no one can help you with it, you are stuck with it day and night. The discomfort and the pains are yours to bear alone. Whereas you can get someone to help you with minding or carrying a child when you need to rest.

I didn't agree with her then and after three children, I find myself even more convinced about the stand I took. Its not just the fact that in pregnancy once you take good care of yourself your baby's safety and health is simply guaranteed. It is also that being a part of you, the unborn child attracts nobody's fuss or attention, you are completely trusted to do the right things where it is concerned.

But with the living child, the story is entirely different. Not only do you worry yourself sick trying to feed it, clean it, keep it warm, keep it away from harm etcetera, but there's always someone out there to say you haven't done enough.

I honestly can't think of a more, all-consuming, selfless and self-sacrificing work like that of motherhood. But to fathers you never seem to do enough.

Take the day Ruqayya was down with fever and cold. Tahir stood there and read the riot act to me as if it was the first time he had seen her so ill. Hasn't he always reminded me to give them their anti-malarial prevention every weekend and to make sure that they had their sweaters on when going to school and to give them unrefrigerated water etc etc, he grumbled.

It didn't matter to him that his being away for the most part of two weeks means that these things might have been observed unfailingly in his absence or that there are many other ways to catch a cold than by being exposed to low temperature. Whenever it comes to the little ones' discomfort the fault had to be mine. It had to have been negligent in some way or else they wouldn't be suffering so much.

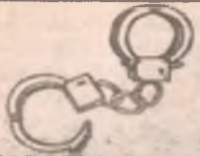
Sometimes I wonder just what he thinks of my motherly instincts. Can't I be trusted to do what is right for my own children? And who is in a position to treat them as the precious things that they are than the person who hosted them in her womb for the best part of a year? Who is better than the woman who spent endless hours in labour and who had to hold the pillow to her mouth, to prevent a soul-piercing scream from coming when the baby finally yanks free and makes its entry into the world?

Can anyone really love and care for a child better than its mother? For all his tantrums when things go wrong, I am sure Tahir doesn't cherish them as much as I do. It's just that being a wife, a mother and pursuing a career, means being dragged in many different ways.

You try to give your best in all directions but it seems even your best isn't good enough sometimes.

So what's there to do? I know for sure that even becoming a full time housewife wouldn't stop Tahir from complaining about my maternal ineptitude nor will it stop things from going wrong with the kids in the first place.

The only option I suppose, is to care for my children to the best of my ability, to do what is right and humanly possible, and to leave the rest to Almighty God. As for Tahir's inevitable rebukes, I suppose, I should take that in my stride and consider it a price I have to pay for occupying a rewarding but truly thankless office; that of motherhood.



# Crime & Punishment



## Robbers kill policeman, eight others

Armed robbers over the weekend jolted residents of both Lagos and Ogun States once again as the dare-devil bandits went berserk killing no fewer than nine persons including a policeman.

According to police sources a shoot out ensued between the heavily armed bandits operating in three vehicles - a black Jeep, a M/Benz and one other vehicle suspected to have been stolen in Lagos.

The robbers who were in a convoy, were intercepted by personnel of 39 Police Mobile Force (PMF) on stop and search at the railway crossing at Ifo along Lagos/Abeokuta expressway.

In the process, there was heavy gun battle which *Daily Trust* gathered resulted in the death of number 120581, CPL Effiong Jimmy who was hit by the robbers' bullet.

He reportedly died on the spot while No. 184475 PC Abdul Rammen sustained bullet wounds on the chest.

It was also gathered that a team of anti-crime patrol in a Prado Jeep attached to Ewekoro Division who were on routine patrol along the Seme route, on hearing the sound of gun shots, parked their vehicle and took cover.

Immediately the robbers

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

emerged and sighted the patrol vehicle, they opened fire on the vehicle. There was also exchange of gun fire between the police and the robbers.

*Daily Trust* gathered that the robbers escaped with the vehicles.

However, they were pursued but could not be caught up with as the robbers were also intercepted by 16 police mobile unit personnel stationed at Papalanto Junction along the same route.

During the exchange of gun fire, No. 188348 PC Abiodun Fatunbi attached to



Gov. Ahmed Tinubu

16 police mobile Force received bullet wounds. He was rushed to Ilaro General Hospital where he was admitted.

In a related development, police sources confirmed that fleeing armed robbery suspects during the week in Lagos took over Ojuelegba in the heart of Surulere and engaged in looting and shooting. At the end about six persons were reportedly killed.

## Niger Dock cashier in court over theft charges

The Police in Lagos have dragged a former cashier of the Nigerdock Plc, Apapa, Lagos before the court to face the criminal justice system over charges of theft.

The accused cashier, Okocha Fidelis was alleged to have conspired with oth-

ers non on the run to commit felony, an offence punishable under section 516 of the criminal code cap 32 laws of Lagos State of Nigeria 1994.

Already, two prosecutors from the Force CID Alagbon Close, Ikoyi, Lagos have started the legal battle to nail the accused cashier. They are

## Notorious robber appears in court

A notorious armed robber Ajanwachukwu Okorie who has been terrorising residents of

Surulere area of Lagos State was at the weekend arraigned before a Lagos magistrate court.

The 27 year-old accused robber and others now on the run on November 11, 1997 at Rex Hotel, Orile, Iganmu, Coker, allegedly conspired to commit felony to wit armed robbery.

Prosecuting police Inspector, Ephriam Oniya, from the Zone II Police Command stated that the accused person on the same date and place while armed with pistols and other dangerous weapons robbed one. Nelson Igboekwe of N155,000, an offence punishable under the fire arms and armed robbery (Special Provision) Decree No. 5 of 1984.

Okorie and other members of his gang now at large were further alleged to have attempted to rob one Eddy Ugochukwu of N120,000 on April 16, 2001 at Green Parot Hotel, Aguda, in Surulere.

When the charge was read out to the accused no plea was taken from him. He was ordered to be remanded at the Ikoyi Prison pending the legal advise from the office of the Lagos State Director of Public Prosecution (DPP.)

## Plateau State police nab fake detective

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

alleged impersonation, Moses Kure of Saminaka in Kaduna State is alleged to have been parading himself as a detective serving with the state CID, Jos, and specialised in duping innocent people who want to enlist in the police force.

According to the deputy commissioner, luck ran out on the suspect when he col-

lected the sum of N2,700 from one Ishaku Bala for the same purpose.

He also disclosed that a detective from the "A" Division, Jos also arrested one Miwanti Tari of Katong village who specialised in the manufacture of locally made guns.

Mr. Ojomo explained that people also arrested impersonating at different locations within the state capital were Ezekeil Solomon of Ufan village and Daniel Ekor of Obubra in Cross River State.

According to the commissioner, Mr. Ezekiel Solomon was arrested in police uniform and confessed to doing so for the past 13 months as a police sergeant and a member of the Plateau State Task Force on Petroleum Distribution and exorted money from illegal petrol sellers in Plateau State.

The command however, advised members of the public to report any suspected person to the police.



Gov. Dariye

## Lagos gov sued over high cost of litigation

Lagos High Court Judge, Justice Inumidun Akande has granted leave to a Lagos lawyer, Mr. Olusegun Raji to join the President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Mr. O.C.J. Okocha (SAN) and officers of the bar association in the law suit instituted against the Lagos State Government over recent increase in the cost of litigation.

Justice Akande, who ruled on a motion ex-parte filed and argued by Mr. Raji, also directed that the Chairman of Lagos and Ikeja branches of the NBA, Mr. Abiodun Dabiru and Olalaken Yusuf respectively be joined along with their officers in the law-suit in which the plaintiff is seeking

From Samson Ojo, in Lagos

an order of the court to set aside the implementation of the increased cost of filing fees.

The Judge further directed the plaintiff who appeared in person along with three other lawyers, Adebinke Olateju, S.O. Omolara and Bola Aruleba, to serve the originating summons, the motion on notice as well as all other relevant court processes on the defendants on or before August 13, when the case ought to be heard.

Justice Akande also granted Raji's prayer to serve the court processes on the NBA President by pasting same on walls or notice board of the national secre-

tariat of the Bar Association at Ozumba Mbadiwe Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Joined as co-defendants in the suit are the Lagos State Governor, Bola Tinubu, the State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Professor Yemi Osibajo, the State Chief Judge, Justice Ibitola Sotiminu, the State House of Assembly, as well as the Speaker of the House.

The plaintiff had deposed to a 27 paragraph affidavit and stated that he was grossly affected by the increased cost of filing litigation in Lagos courts because his client and other aggrieved litigants, particularly the disadvantaged persons, have been deprived of access to justice by the increased cost of filings.

## Three wonder foods coy staff charged to court

Three ex-staff of Wonder Foods Nigeria Limited were Monday charged with criminal conspiracy and stealing before a Lagos chief magistrate court.

The accused persons are Lateef Ajibike 37, Agboebine Donald 27 and Rowland Odolokor 26.

Two of the suspects were sales representatives while the third is a computer operator in the company.

According to an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Uke Obasi-Eluwa from the Force CID, Alagbon, Close, Ikoyi, the three suspects forged Wonder Foods way bills and in-

voices with which they fraudulently collected goods (Cow bell milk) valued at about N2m.

The fifth count read that you Lateef Ajibike, Agboebina Donlad and Rowland Odolokor and others at large sometime in the month of October 1999 at Lagos in the Lagos magisterial district did steal some quantities of Cowbell Milk valued at about N2.2m property of WONDER FOODS NIGERIA LIMITED and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 390 (a) of the criminal code cap 32 vol. II laws of Lagos State of Nigeria 1994.



Governor Jusua Dariye of Plateau State (left) in a warm hand shake with Senator V.K. Dangin when the Governor paid a sympathy visit on him over armed robbery attack at his residence in Jos.

## Girl dumps baby in creek

A 19 year-old girl suspected to have dumped her newborn baby on the shoreline of Amadi-ama creek in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, has been arrested by the police in Port Harcourt.

The girl, (names withheld), who hails from Uyo in Akwa.Ibom, allegedly threw the baby into the creek after a safe delivery but crabs bit the baby to death.

The suspect, who spoke to some newmen in Port Harcourt on Monday, said that she decided to throw her baby into the creek because she was an unemployed school leaver and could not fend for the baby.

She said that her lover who impregnated her wanted her to get rid of the pregnancy because he lost pst his job with Silva Hotel, Port Harcourt.

The suspect who spoke to newmen in the presence of hundreds of sympathisers of the dead baby, said that she disposed of her baby after tying her mouth with a piece of cloth, momens after safe delivery.

Residents of the Amadi-ama creek area who wailed and cried at the sight of the baby whose hands and feet were bitten to pieces by crabs contacted the police.



## **FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT**

### **OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER**

#### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

**T**HE attention of the Honourable Minister of Transport has been drawn to the inundation of the Nigerian Ports Authority's Headquarters (NPA) with requests for contractual patronage from important public figures, to government functionaries and National Assembly members. Quite often, contract requests are faked and conveyed to the NPA on forged letter headed papers. The most worrying and embarrassing aspect is the use of such letters as tools for threats and blackmail to the management of the NPA. These letters pour in at the average of sixty per day.

2. While appreciating the right of private individuals to seek patronage from public institutions, the ministry condemns in its entirety, the practice of channelling contract requests through unorthodox methods which can only constitute distractions to the officials of the Authority. It is observed that NPA officials now spend 80% of their time attending to such letters. In addition, it is a contradiction of the ideals of the present administration particularly as it relates to transparency in the conduct of official business. Needless to remind the general public of the need to avoid actions that can erode the transparency ideals which government seeks to entrench in the conduct of official business in the country, the practice runs counter to the principle of accountability and good governance. Let me stress that the NPA is one of the first major commercial contacts of the nation with the outside world and hence the sensitivity of its image must be protected by all with patriotic zeal.
3. Meanwhile, in the spirit of transparent business and in keeping with the established tenders procedure, the NPA has opened a tenders post at its Headquarters (Annex Office) at No. 1, Joseph Street, Marina, Lagos where tenders can be submitted and given due consideration. Accordingly, all prospective contractors are requested to make use of the channel.
4. Finally, I wish to appeal to those who have at one time or the other used the unorthodox channel to desist from the ignominious practice and embrace the way of decency please.

**J.P. Hirse, mni**  
Permanent Secretary  
For: Honourable Minister



# SPORTS



## Eaglets coach calls for more friendlies

Following the not too impressive outing of the Golden Eaglets against the Brazilians U-17 national team, the handler, Musa Abdullahi, has asked for more friendlies to put his team in shape before the championship proper next month.

**From Babs Oyetoro, in Lagos**  
Speaking with *Trustsports* immediately after the friendly encounter, coach Abdullahi, said the match has helped him to discover some lapses in the team. "Honestly, these Brazilians guys have exposed my

defence. I have also discovered some grey areas in our attack but all these lapses would be corrected in due course," coach Abdullahi assured.

The Kogi-born coach who led the Nigerians lads to win the African championship of the cadets tournament hinged the team's

lose to over anxiety of his attackers, who fretted away many scoring chances.

The coach noted that the boys would need more of these grades A matches to tune up for the big one in Trinidad and Tobago.

He also promised that he would work on the team before the competition proper so as to put it in shape. Nigeria lost 3-4 to the Brazilians youthful side.

Meanwhile, Bolaji Ojoda, the head of International Competitions has said that the football house has arranged some number of friendly matches for the Golden Eaglets, which will tune them up before the U-17 World Championship in Trinidad and Tobago.

"We shall play Ghana junior team in Accra, Togo and Republic of Benin before the team eventually travelled out," he said.

## Adefarati tasks Eagles on World Cup

The Governor of Ondo State, Chief Adebayo Adefarati, has charged the Super Eagles to crown their breathtaking qualification for the World Cup with success.

Adefarati said that the Eagles qualification has buoyed up the ebbing spirit hitherto prevalent among Nigerians because of the downturn in sports fortunes.

The governor who acknowledged sports as a potent unifying factor in Nigeria therefore, urged the

**By Patrick Andrew**  
Eagles to sustain the current mood by ensuring a repeat of the Golden Eaglets Japan '93 conquest.

The Ondo State number one citizen who was at the Glass House, Abuja to offer a cheque for N500,000 to the NFA in support of programmes for the mundial asserted that any mediocre performance would hurt the feelings of Nigerians.

Governor Adefarati, who said the presence of President Olusegun Obasanjo at the

match represented a shift in Obasanjo's past position on sports, also pledged to host some NFA activities in future.

"Since an Olympic standard stadium under construction will soon be ready, we shall in future be in position to host your activities," he said.

The governor called for equitable reward system for sports persons in the country stressing that such incentive would ginger sports person to work for greater success.

## LG Electronics boosts Berger's Champions League campaign

Julius Berger football club of Lagos, the country's representative in the Confederation of African

**From Samson Ojo, in Lagos**  
Cup (CAF) Champions League got a morale boost-

ing sponsorship package from LG Electronics, a Korea-based electronic company in Lagos at the weekend.

Announcing the sponsorship package, the Managing-Director of the company in Nigeria, Mr. T.H. Ryu, said that his company will sponsor, Julius Berger in the CAF Champions League.

He said further, "we are very proud to sponsor this and it might interest you to know that this event is just the beginning of LG's dynamic participation in West Africa, especially for Nigerian public."

Disclosing the LG's incentive for Julius Berger, Mr. Kenneth Lee, the company's Marketing-Director announced that for any of the matches won by Julius Berger, the entire team and its officials would get 25CD cassette players.

He also announced that the club, would get additional 25 video cassettes players for winning two games, and

25CD players to 25VCP and 25,14 television for winning three games.

Both the players and officials of the Julius Berger football club who were in attendance were thrilled by the gesture.

Responding to the gesture, Taiwo Ogunjobi, the team General-Manager told *Trustsports* in an interview, that Julius Berger football club management appreciates the company support. He promises that Julius Berger will do the country proud by winning the elusive cup for the first time.

Meanwhile, Julius Berger who will playing a group A of the lucrative African Champions League alongside with Raja Casablanca of Morocco, Esperance of Tunisia and T.P. Mazembe of Congo Democratic Republic, will this weekend travel to the Congo Democratic Republic to slug it out with T.P. Mazembe on Saturday August 11.

## Agassi suffers more agony

Andre Agassi suffered his second consecutive first round loss with a defeat by 56th-ranked Gaston Gaudio of Argentina 6-4 7-6 (7-3) in the Cincinnati Masters.

The American exited the Montreal Masters at the same stage after losing to qualifier Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia.

"This is my best win," Gaudio said. "It was my best match and it gives me a lot of confidence."

Agassi was gracious in defeat, despite his obvious disappointment.

"He stepped it up and kept me out of my rhythm," Agassi said.

"I build a lot of my game around controlling the ball and the balls were not going where I was hitting them."

"He served well, especially serving big at crucial times."

Gaudio imposed himself from the start of the match and more than matched him with an array of passing shots off forehand and backhand.

As he eluded to later, Agassi failed to respond in a positive manner and a service break in the fifth game was enough to ensure that Gaudio took the first set.

In the second set, Agassi raced to a 4-1 lead, but Gaudio won the next three games to even up the score at 4-4 with both players holding thereafter.

The tiebreaker was always in Gaudio's control from when Agassi sent a backhand chip shot wide on serve to fall behind 3-1.

Elsewhere, top-seeded Gustavo Kuerten avenged last week's loss to American teenager Andy Roddick.

Roddick upset Kuerten in three sets on in Montreal.

The Brazilian, however, eliminated Roddick 7-6 6-1 in sultry conditions on Monday.

Fourth seed Juan Carlos Ferrero was another early winner.

The Spaniard beat big-serving Australian Wayne Arthurs 6-4 6-4.

Later Ivanisevic, in his first match since his Wimbledon triumph, beat Spain's Francisco Clavet 6-3 3-6 7-6.

The Croat is also featuring in the doubles with Boris Becker.

The pair will face Jonas Bjorkman and Todd Woodbridge in the first round.



Jonathan Edwards of Great Britain jumps to victory in the men's triple jump final at the World Championships in Athletics in Edmonton on Monday. Edwards fulfilled a dream of a second world title when he convincingly secured the championship on his third jump, leaping 58.79 feet.

## Edwards grabs gold

Jonathan Edwards gave Britain its first gold of the World Championships with a stunning performance in the triple jump.

The Gateshead athlete produced a jump of 17.92 metres in the third round to put him into a massive lead which was never challenged.

Edwards beat his closest rival Christian Olsson, of Sweden, by 45 centimetres, while Russian Igor Spasovkhodski took the bronze on 17.44m

Now a two-time world champion, the Olympic champion had hinted at what was to come in the second round when he looked to have jumped over 18m in the second round.

But the jump was ruled out because Edwards was ruled to have been 0.6 centimetres over the mark on take-off

Unfortunately, cramp hindered Edwards' later jumps and he collapsed in agony while attempting a final round jump.

In what was a thrilling contest before Edwards' super leap, the early blows were struck by America's Walter Davis and Cuba's

None of the British trio of Edwards, Philips Idowu and Larry Achike could put together a decent jump during the first round, with Edwards looking particularly flat.

The first surprise was the elimination of Paolo Camossi, the highly rated Italian.

While the Brits struggled to get going, the competition was producing some electric jumping, with Olsson making the first impression with a jump which brought him silver.

And then Edwards produced his unbelievable jump, which put him in the outright lead at 17.92, the longest in the world this year.

Idowu failed to get past the third round after clearly suffering from nerves during his three efforts.

There was also disappointment for Achike, who failed to get going during the final rounds and could not get into the medal positions.

## Jones tastes shock defeat

Zhanna Pintusevich-Block recorded the first major upset of the World Championships in Edmonton by beating two-time champion Marion Jones into second place in the women's 100m final on Monday.

The Ukrainian star signalled her intentions to upset the form book by beating Jones in the semi-final.

Pintusevich-Block repeated the trick in the final, clocking a time of 10.82 seconds, to hand Jones her first defeat in 42 finals.

Jones recorded 10.85, with Ekaterini Thanou of Greece third in 10.91.

"This is unbelievable," said Pintusevich-Block after taking 0.3secs off her previous best.

"I have been running well this season, but you never know what is going to happen when you come to a ma-

but I knew that it was still going to be difficult."

Olympic champion Jones said: "I am a bit disappointed but I am not a sore loser and you have to give credit to Zhanna. She was the better performer today."

Jones' semi-final defeat was a surprise setback, but one she was expected to bounce back from with another dominant performance in a major final.

Pintusevich-Block, however, had other ideas, and stormed out of the blocks to pile the pressure on a suddenly vulnerable Jones.

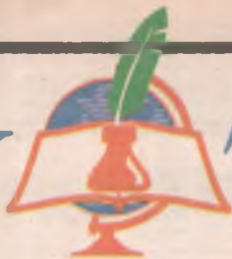
The 29-year-old Ukrainian's victory finally erased the memories of the 1997 World Championships in Athens, where Jones won her first title.

The Ukrainian thought she had won and had begun her celebrations when the scoreboard revealed she had



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Award Moncur of the Bahamas, right, celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the gold medal in the Men's 400 meters ahead of Germany's Ingo Schultz, left, who took the silver, and Jamaica's Gregory Houghton, center, bronze, at the World Track and Field Championships in Edmonton, Alberta, on Monday.



Zhanna Pintusevich-Block of the Ukraine, reacts in the finish area after winning the women's 100-meter final at the World Track and Field Championships in Edmonton on Monday.

## Presidential handshake Olympian takes case to National Assembly

Olympic gold medalist, Monday Emoghavwe, has appealed to the National Assembly to intervene in the on-going presidential handshake controversy.

Monday, a three-time gold medallist in the Paralympic Games sought the assistance of the National Assembly particularly for handicapped sports persons.

The power lifter who won gold in last year's Paralympic Games said most disabled athletes who represented Nigeria were not fairly treated by the state in spite of their efforts to launder Nigeria's battered image through sports.

The Delta State-born power lifter presented his gold medal to Senator Fred Brume for facilitating his pre-Olympic training programmes in the United State decried the handshake policy of the present administration.

"The presidential handshake policy is detrimental, inconsiderate and without pity particularly for the disabled athletes who went through abnormal processes to train for the Games and win medals for the country."

Trustsports recalls that the 31 Paralympians who represented Nigeria won

By Patrick Andrew  
seven gold, four silver and two bronzes in last year's Games.

Sen. Brume who was elated by the presentation

promised to assist the course of disabled sports persons at the National Assembly even as he urged them to seek further ways of self-improvement.

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### Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha



Gaston Gaudio, from Argentina, hits a forehand against second seeded Andre Agassi at the Tennis Masters Series on Monday. Gaudio won 6-4, 7-6 (3).

