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Trust Is A Burden

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HEAD OFFICE
General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua House,
7/9 Bank Road, PMB 2180, Kaduna.
Tel: 062-243140-9
Website: <http://www.habibnigeria.com>
E-mail: info@habib-bank.com
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TUESDAY COLUMN

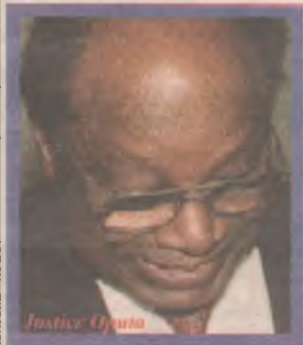
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Oputa panel: Saro-Wiwa's son demands N10b from Abacha, others

The son of late Ken Saro-Wiwa, the pioneer leader of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), Mr. Ken Saro-Wiwa Jr., is demanding N10 billion com-

By Uwem Umo
pensation from the estate of late Head of State, General Sani Abacha, for the killing of his father and eight other Ogonis in November, 1995. Ken Wiwa Junior, whose petition was read on his be-

half by one Mrs. Yime Joi Yowika, a lawyer and family friend, is also demanding the amount from all the former 28 members of the Provisional Ruling Council (PRC), former military administrator of Rivers State,

former boss of the Rivers State Internal Security Force, Col. Okuntimo and the Federal Government.
The compensation, according to the petitioner who was not present at the commission's sitting, is for

dependants of the deceased Ogoni nine.

The amended and further petition signed on behalf of Ken Wiwa Junior, by Mr. Anthony Idigbe (SAN), wants the commission to establish it as a fact that the torture, trial and execution of the Ogoni nine amounted to

contd. on pg 2

Diya, Akhigbe, Bamaiyi, 17 others lose property to FG

Former Chief of General Staff, Oladipo Diya, his immediate successor, Vice-Admiral Mike Akhigbe (rtd) and the embattled former Chief of Army Staff, Lt-General Ishaya Bamaiyi (rtd) are among 20 personalities whose landed property were seized yesterday by the Federal Government.

By Sulaiman Mohammed
Others to forfeit their landed property located in various parts of the country include former Minister of Works and Housing, Major-General Abdulkareem Adisa (rtd), Alhaji Lateef Jakande, Chief Alex Akinyele, Navy Commodore Rasheed Raji (rtd), former FCT Minister, Lt-General Jeremiah Useni (rtd), Major-General Felix Mujapero (rtd) and former military governors, Col. D.J Dungs (rtd), Col. Lawal Ja'afau Isa (rtd) and Air Vice-Marshal Nsikak Edouk (rtd), former Chief of Air Staff.

The seizure, according to a statement issued at the State House, Abuja, yesterday followed the adoption, by government of a white paper on the report of the

Brigadier-General Oluwole Rotimi-led commission of inquiry on Federal Government's landed property which was presented to government last week.

Also to forfeit their land include, former Minister of Power and Steel, Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu, former Minister of Information, Dr. Walter Ofanagoro; former Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Okete; former Director of Public Buildings, Dr. G. Odumah; Alhaji Hamzat Ibrahim, former NEPA MD and one Ms Adenrele Ogunsanya, among others.

Properties listed for recovery from Diya, Akhigbe, Ishaya Bamaiyi, Navy Commodore Rasheed Raji, Ofanagoro, Col. Lawal Ja'afaru Isa and AVM

contd. on pg 2



The Chief of Staff to the President, Major-General Abdullahi Mohammed (middle) being decorated with an Award, 'Order of the Commander of the Legionnaire' from President Jacques Chirac of France by the French Ambassador in Nigeria, Mr. Philippe Peltier (r) at the State House, Abuja...yesterday. Pix Kennedy Egbonodje.

Tension as Indonesia changes leadership

Tension is building up in Indonesia after lawmakers yesterday dismissed President Abdurrahman Wahid, paving way for the swearing-in

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu, with Agency Reports
of his Vice-President, Megawati Sukarnoputri as the country's new president. The top assembly voted

overwhelmingly to sack Wahid but it was unclear if he would go quickly. The former President who was holed up in the presidential palace had earlier said he would not budge.

contd. on pg 2

Rainstorm kills one, renders 3,000 homeless in Jigawa, Zamfara

One person died, four others injured, while over 3,000 were rendered homeless in Talata Mafara, the headquarters of Talata Mafara Local Government, Zamfara State and Karkarna village in Yankwashi Local Government of Jigawa State following a four-hour heavy down pour.

Also killed in Talata were dozens of sheep, goats and fowls while a large num-

From Salisu Zakari Maradun, in Gusau, with Agency Reports
ber of shops, and some installations were destroyed and drainages blocked by the rainfall.

Investigations by the *Daily Trust* in Talata Mafara, few hours after the heavy rainfall revealed that the poor drainage system in the town was responsible for the flood which devastated the town.

Daily Trust also learnt

that the large number of lakes in the town also contributed in compounding the flood disaster in the town.

According to one resident, Malam Isah Kabiru of Danrimi area in Mafara, several appeals have been made in vain to the local and state governments to look into the possibility of resettling people who reside near the lakes.

According to him, "if

contd. on pg 2



Former President, Abdurrahman Wahid (center) waves to supporters from the front steps of the Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia... yesterday.

...Burundi army foils another coup attempt

Loyal troops foiled an attempt by a group of army mutineers to take over the government in Burundi overnight, the military in Burundi said yesterday.

Speaking on state-run radio Bujumbura, Major-General Cyrille Ndayirukiye said those who were behind the coup wanted to "stop by force the peace process

contd. on pg 2

NEWS

Northerners in Rivers rate Odili high

Northern community in Rivers State, under the umbrella of Northerners' Forum yesterday in Port Harcourt lauded Dr. Peter Odili-led government describing it as the best and most sensitive since the creation of the state over three decades ago.

The forum also pledged their unflinching support to the state government and urged the indigenes of the state to support him for a second term in office, so that he would be able to complete the good work he has started in the state.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in an exclusive interview, the pa-

From Wisdom Patrick,
in Port Harcourt

tron of the forum in the eastern zone, Alhaji Uba Sule, stated that no government has touched non-indigenes' lives in the state as that of Dr. Peter Odili's administration.

Alhaji Sule, who was a special guest of honour at the foundation laying and fund raising ceremony of the Trans-Amadi Ultra-Modern Mosque, located in the high-brow Trans-Amadi Industrial Estate in Port Harcourt, stated that the state governor has displayed signs of a God-fearing man.

He told *Daily Trust* that it

was due to the governor's kind gesture that over 12 Muslim faithfuls of northern extraction were able to perform last year's Hajj in Mecca.

Sule added that Odili's door was always open for them at anytime they needed to see him and that he always does things within his reach to solve whatever problem might be disturbing them.

The former national vice-chairman of the Butchers' union in the eastern part of the country also stated that the northern community in Rivers State would do everything within their power to ensure the suc-

cess of Dr. Peter Odili's second term bid come 2003.

The Ultra-Modern Mosque which is expected to be completed before the end of this year is billed to gulp N5 million and through the singular effort of the Northerners resident in Rivers

State.

The chief launcher at the occasion, Alhaji Idi Rumomasi, who made an undisclosed donation promised to see to the completion of the prayer house.

Dignitaries at the occasion included the Sarkin Hausawa

Port Harcourt, Alhaji Isa Madaki who was the Special Guest of Honour, Alhaji Ibrahim Mesundu, Chairman Rivers State Butchers Association, Alhaji Bala Mohammed Mantu, Chairman Northerners' Forum, among others.

Burundi contd. from pg 1

which is at an advance stage."

It was reported that heavy gunfire rocked the capital Bujumbura from 11 p.m. on Sunday to 3 a.m. yesterday, but loyalist forces brought the situation under control.

No details were immediately available about the identity of the coup plotters. Bujumbura's telephone lines to the outside world have been cut off.

This is the second at-

tempt against the regime of President Pierre Buyoya, who has been leading the country since 1996 after toppling President Sylvester Ntibantuganya.

The coup attempt comes at a time when regional leaders are expected to attend a summit on the Burundi crisis in Arusha, in northwest Tanzania, aimed at approving the putting in place in Burundi of a transitional government led by Buyoya, a Tutsi, as president, and

Domitien Ndayizeye, a Hutu, as vice-president.

This interim leadership proposed by the mediator in the Burundi conflict, former South African President, Nelson Mandela, will last 18 months, and will be replaced by another one led by a Hutu president and a Tutsi vice-president.

The Tutsi opposition parties as well as Hutu rebel factions opposed the arrangement claiming it was imposed by Mandela.

Diya contd. from pg 1

Nsirik Eduok, are to be returned to the National Commission for Museum and Monuments, Jos, Plateau State.

Similarly, allottees of 52 plots carved out of the land allocated to NEPA facilities within Dolphin Estate, Lagos, are to be forfeited while others located at Lagos, Kaduna, Abuja and London are seized and returned to their rightful owners.

The properties include: NEPA land at Victoria Island, Lagos; NITEL property at Osborne, Lagos; the Garki II Model Market land, Abuja being property of the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) as well as land belonging to the

Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), located at Tafawa Balewa Road, Dala Road and other parts of Kaduna.

Government also revoked the sale of houses at Ikoyi, Lagos under the luxury houses (special design) scheme of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, and directed that the original allottees who paid prices ranging from N9 million to N17.5 million, be given a chance to pay the difference and retain the houses or vacate then and get refund.

Similarly, government endorsed the panel's recommendation that all structures at variance with designs approved for its estates should

be demolished, while structures built on access roads are to be destroyed to give way for constructions.

Meanwhile, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) has been directed to set up a committee to address complaints and accusations of fraud levelled against officials of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing in-charge of Federal Low Cost Housing Schemes in Gborokiri, Rumueme and Woji while the Head of Service would take disciplinary action against the culprits.

Also, the management problems of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing would be examined by the Head of Service, to address problems of administrative lapses.

Oputa contd. from pg 1

wrongful killing by the Federal Government and a gross violation of the human rights of those so killed, having been done in breach of due process, fair hearing and the minimum requirements of justice.

Ken Saro-Wiwa, Jr., whose address was given as 63 Melbourne Avenue, Toronto, Canada, also wants the commission to recommend state pardon for the deceased Ogoni nine while all those responsible for the killing, particularly former members of the PRC, should be recommended for some form of discipline or held in

The 28 former PRC members whom the petitioner wants summoned over the killing include: Oladipo Diya, former Chief of General Staff under late General Sani Abacha; General Abdulsalam Abubakar, who was then Chief of Defence Staff and General Ishaya Bamaayi (td).

Others include: Rear Admiral Mike Akhigbe (td), AVM Nsike Uduok (td), Alhaji Ibrahim Comomasse, General Patrick Aziza (td), Lt-Gen. J.T. Odeni (td) and Maj-Gen. Sarki Mukhtar among others.

However, the commis-

about the possibility of summoning all the former PRC members.

Counsel to the petitioner said the commission should compel the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to produce the minutes of the PRC meeting that contained the death sentences passed on the Ogoni nine while the Attorney-General should also be compelled to produce the text of the military tribunal headed by Justice Ibrahim Awa.

Meanwhile, the petition has been merged with that of MOSOP while hearing in the case has been adjourned.

Kebbi by-election: Augie's brother wins

From Kabir Dogon Daji,
in Birnin Kebbi

The late Senator Adamu Augie, who until last March represented Kebbi-North Senatorial District in the Senate, is to be succeeded by his brother.

Alhaji Sumaila Adamu of the All People's Party (APP) defeated his closest rival with over 24,000 votes.

The by-election was held on Saturday to fill the vacuum created by the death of Senator Augie in an auto-accident on March 27 this year.

Announcing the results amidst tight security in Kamba, headquarters of Daudi Local Government, which served as the collation centre, the Chief Returning Officer, Alhaji Muhammadu Kabiru Nabade, disclosed that Alhaji Adamu of the All People's Party (APP) emerged winner with 74,827

votes, Alhaji Bello Alkali of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) came second with 50,510 votes while Alhaji Abdullahi Tatu of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) came third with 2,395 votes.

The by-election was overseen by INEC's Zonal Commissioner in-charge of Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States, Alhaji Ladan Baki, the Resident Electoral Commissioner in the State, Alhaji Namadina Abdulrahman and representatives of the three political parties. Explaining the delay in announcing the results, the state Resident Electoral Commissioner attributed it to the difficult terrain in some areas which hindered the early arrival of results in Kamba for collation.

In a related development, the All People's Party (APP) has also won the Danko/Wusagu-West seat in the State Assembly. The by-election was also held on Saturday.

Announcing the result in Ribah, the Returning Officer, Malam Suleiman Sahabi Sami, said Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Shindi of the APP polled 18,764 votes, Mr. Adinga Mai Dawa of the PDP polled 9,937 votes and Malam Garba Tuji Danko of AD received 410 votes.

Confirming the results on Sunday night, the State Electoral Commissioner said elections were conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner.

He advised the losers to take heart, as "in very electoral contest, there will always be only one winner."

Indonesia contd. from pg 1

Wahid leaves office after two of the most tumultuous years in Indonesian history marked by separatist battles, internal strife within his government and constant exchanges with his rivals, who accused him of corruption and erratic leadership.

His opponents accused him of arrogance and corruption scandals but he had dismissed them as opportunist out to topple him.

Wahid who was summoned to appear before the upper house of parliament yesterday, refused to do so but declared a state of emergency.

Megawati becomes the fifth Indonesian president and will rule until 2004 when the next general election is

due to be held.

Another of three, Megawati, takes power after playing a low-key role during her nearly two-year stint as Indonesian vice-president.

She seemed content to remain in the shadows during the troubled administration of Abdurrahman Wahid, bidding her time after she was out-manoeuvred by him on October 21, 1999 for the presidency of the world's fourth most populous nation.

Following her swearing-in, the daughter of the country's legendary first president, Sukarno, is poised to make her own mark as bearer of her father's revolutionary legacy.

The 65-year-old former housewife, who often ap-

pears shy, seems an unlikely revolutionary leader.

Her father's name helped her win the hearts of many of Indonesia's 210 million people.

Leftist Sukarno and pro-poor founding President of Indonesia was overthrown by President Suharto who held power for 32 years.

Another plus enjoyed by Megawati is her criticisms of Suharto's regime, a development which improved her status before her followers.

After a decade of quietly serving him one of the few political groupings tolerated by Suharto, she was suddenly deposed as party leader in June 1996 by the dictator who had grown sacred of her name and popularity.

Rainstorm contd. from pg 1

care is not taken, the town would one day be completely washed away by this kind of disaster since we have been experiencing the same problem over the years.

The emir of Malawi, Alhaji Muhammadu Bello Barmo, while conducting *Daily Trust* round the affected areas, expressed concern over the preventable situation.

Alhaji Barmo said "to save the town from future occurrences of the disaster, there is need for the state government to intervene by constructing large and wide drainage, i.e. larger and wider than the ones we have presently," he said, adding that "time has now come for

the town to be modernised like any other urban town in the state."

Though the state government promised to assist the victims with N20 million, the Emir also appealed to the Federal Government to give more assistance like food, clothing and other necessary materials to the victims.

An eyewitness told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) of the Karkarna tragedy, the windstorm which was accompanied by heavy rain, started at 1:00 p.m. and lasted for about four hours. Several houses and property worth millions of Naira, the eyewitness said, were destroyed by the storm.

A NAN correspondent who visited the scene, re-

ports that the buildings of Junior Secondary School, JASCO office and the central Mosque of Karkarna were also ravaged by the storm. Following the storm, it was observed that many of the affected families in the village now live with friends and relations whose houses were not affected by the disaster.

The Emir of Kazaure, Alhaji Najih Adamu, and the chairman of Yankwashi Local Government Council, Alhaji Isah Alkasin, have visited the scene to condole and sympathise with the victims of the disaster.

The Emir, who described the incident as the work of Allah, called on the Jigawa government to provide assistance to the victims.

NEWS

French firm gets N275b ID card contract

Indications have emerged that a French firm, Sagem S.A., allegedly involved in the failed N25 billion national identity card project has again been awarded a fresh contract worth N275 billion for the same project.

This is said to be at variance with the recommendations of the Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Sunday Afolabi, that the company's quotation was too high.

The contract was said to have been approved by President Olusegun Obasanjo, despite complaints by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), which described the company as a "non-performer" based on previous experience.

Sources at the presidency hinted that even though the Federal Executive Council (FEC) was yet to deliberate over the contract, the president used anticipatory

By Suleiman Mohammed
approval. Sources added that the company has not



President Olusegun Obasanjo

delivered the required equipment for the exercise six months after the receipt of between 25 to 50 percent mobilization fee.

Internal Affairs Minister, Chief Sunday Afolabi, had in a memo stated that apart from the exorbitant price quoted by the French company, "the equipment would be made available only after nine months after down payment; the time frame of which could not fit into the implementation time-table as registration is expected to take place around October or November 2001."

Oputa revelations, a disgrace to military - Nyako

The revelations going on at the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa panel on Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission (HRVIC), where past military top brass are being indicted, have been

From Olumide Bajulaiye, in Abeokuta

described as a disgrace to the military in particular and the nation in general.

A former Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Muritala Nyako (rtd), made this known last Saturday in an exclusive chat with *Daily Trust* shortly after receiving an honorary Doctor of Agriculture degree from the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

His words: "So far, all we hear are allegations, but if they are true, it is a disgrace. This is not what we expect from our military leaders both past and present.

"Some of the utterances are unguarded, we have a question of national security at hand, national image and the image of the military and those speaking. We hope they will be more guarded as the panel hearing progresses."

Speaking against the backdrop of the persistent call for the convocation of a Sovereign National Conference (SNC) and Arewa Consultative Forum's apparent opposition to it, Admiral Nyako disclosed that the ACF is not against it, "what we are saying is that it has to have a clear definition. People come with certain terms without proper definitions. When you say national conference, people confused it with sovereign national conference. There is a lot of confusion," he explained.



Justice Oputa

It was said that the type down AFIS architecture proposed by the company whereby information strides from a central location to zonal and then states centres were faulty.

"A conventional pyramidal bottom up AFIS architecture with information moving from the local government areas to the state, to the zones, and then

NITEL embarks on debt recovery exercise

Many telephone owners in Kano woke up yesterday morning without access to telephone services as NITEL embarks on its debt recovery exercise to retrieve over N1.9 billion owed it by customers in the seven North-West zones of Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi States.

The recording on the tossed lines advise customers to go and reconcile their accounts at NITEL office along Post Office Road, Kano. When *Daily Trust* called at the office, it was packed full with anxious and desperate NITEL customers eager to settle or reconcile their bills.

The latest exercise was in response to an order from the presidency that NITEL should recover all debts before its final privatization later this year.

A statement from NITEL management said the bulk of the

to the center should be preferred," Afolabi said.

It would be recalled that during the recent Senate hearing on the identity card project, the Senate Committee members described the project as a "fat cow that is there to be milked and in fact every minister that comes to the ministry, his first job is to bring out the ID card file project and agree on the amount to be skimmed from this card."

From Musa Umar Kazaure, in Kano

N1.9 billion is owed by federal parastatal, state security agencies and the armed forces in the seven zones.

The statement also advised prospective customers wishing to have telephone lines to desist from dealing with touts and assured that telephone lines will be provided with minimum delay in areas where lines are available.

Some customers at the NITEL office in Kano, however, complained of over-billing, arguing that despite up-to-date payments, their lines were tossed. They called for proper account-keeping on the part of NITEL to forestall the inconveniences caused their valued customers who are up-to-date in payment.

Emir calls for urgent measures to save HYPPADEC

The Emir of Minna, Alhaji Umar Bahago, has appealed to members of the National Assembly to take urgent measures toward addressing the problem of the communities affected by flood in the four states under the proposed Hydro-Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPPADEC) bill. The bill is being considered by the National Assembly for passage into law.

Umar made the appeal when members of the House of Representatives Joint Committee on Power and Steel, Water Resources, Environment, Justice and Human Rights visited him in his palace last weekend.

He said while the local communities affected by the devastating impact of flood from the hydro-power dams were anxiously awaiting the passage of the bill, efforts should be geared towards



Gov Abdulkadir Kure

addressing their problem.

He expressed regrets that most of the communities hosting the dams that provided more than 60 percent of the country's electricity generation requirement had never enjoyed electricity supply.

"These communities are a peace-loving and patient people, who have long resigned to their fate," he said, adding that their hopes were rekindled by the National Assembly's unanimous support for the HYPPADEC bill.

The Emir said many lives and "property of unquantifiable estimate" were yearly being lost by the communities living close to Kainji, Jebba, and Shiroro dams, while their economic lives were completely taken over by the flood, "living the surviving ones only at the mercy of their creator."

He said his emirate council had lent its full support to the demand by the Niger, Kebbi, Kogi and Kwara governments for the release of N25 billion, as a short-term measure to assist the states to resettle the affected communities and stem further destruction.

Albarka procures another aircraft for Yola-Abuja route

As part of its drive to make quality services available to its passengers on the Yola-Abuja route, Albarka Air has procured a 44 seater HS-748 aircraft to enable them travel more regularly and more comfortably.

According to a release signed by the Manager, Public Affairs, Durosinni Meseko, beginning from Thursday, July 26, 2001, Albarka Air will depart Yola airport daily at 8.00 a.m. for Abuja and return same day to

Yola in the evening at 4.30 p.m.

The release further stated that these flights cover all days of the week except Saturday, adding that the 44 seater aircraft is also available for charter.

"We seize this opportunity to thank our passengers on the Yola-Abuja route for keeping faith with us. We shall not relent in providing quality and impeccable services always," the release assured.

Kure's wife wants bank loans for graduates

The wife of Niger State governor, Hajiya Zainab Kure, has urged banks in the state to set aside special funds for the granting of loans to graduates of her brain child, "Youth Employment Scheme (YES)," to enable them establish private businesses.

Kure, who made the request while receiving the management of Nigeria Agricultural Co-operative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) on a courtesy call, noted that the YES objective of empowering youths could only be achieved when the graduates were guaranteed access to capital that could

give them a chance for self-reliance.

She said the scheme had graduated more than 500 people in various skills, but was constrained to grant start-off capital to the beneficiaries because "it is purely an NGO initiative."

"Granting of loans by banks to the graduands would go a long way in complementing our efforts in redirecting the focus of the youths toward self-reliance and productive engagements," she said.

While blaming the growing insecurity and violence in the country on the neglect of youths by successive administrations, the governor's wife said that engaging the restive youths in productive activities and fusing them into the mainstream of the society was the panacea to such negative trend.

JNI scribe dares OPC

Secretary-General of Jama'atul Nasril Islam (JNI), Justice Abdulkadir Orire, has dared the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) over its threat to invade Ilorin and install an Oba.

"It baffles the people of Ilorin that someone would come all the way from Ibadan or Lagos to remove their beloved emir. They would rather shed their blood than allow such thing to happen to their emir," he told *Daily Trust* in Kano.

Justice Orire said 99 percent of the people are behind the emir, describing the OPC threat as another "press exaggeration and hullabaloo." He also stated that the people of Ilorin see the emir as their religious leader and not as an alien, adding that there is only one OPC member in the entire Ilorin.

"I called him when I was the Grand Khadi, he use to call me Firioun (Pharaoh) and I call him Olalade Kasheun. I don't know why the press in

the south patronises him so much to forment trouble in Ilorin. I gave a press conference the other day, but before they published it, they went to Olalade to counter what I said and the next day, my press statement and that of Olalade were published side by side," the JNI scribe said.

He also described the purported OPC invasion of Ilorin as a media creation to cause unnecessary tension in Ilorin and the entire state.

On the recent federal government move to introduce a uniform codified Sharia legal system for the Sharia compliant states, Justice Orire said JNI is not in support of such uniform codification, arguing that under a federal system of government, each state has the power to amend its laws to suit the peculiarities of its people.

NEWS

Makarfi explains pardon of LG chairmen

In an apparent reaction to his critics over the pardon he granted the 10 suspended local government chairmen indicted by the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Governor Ahmed Makarfi of Kaduna State said his action was informed largely by political expediency.

Speaking at a reception organised last Friday at Katari town in Kachia Local Government Area to receive 26,500 APP decampers to PDP in the area, Governor Makarfi confirmed the guilt of the indicted local government chairmen but explained that the offences were as pardonable as they were correctable.

He reiterated that it was politically expedient that the local government chairmen be pardoned even though

From Ibrahim Ka-Ahmasih, in Kaduna

they were not innocent of the allegations. He said the entire polity would be thrown into confusion as, according to him, other states would capitalize on that to victimize innocent people on religious, tribal or political grounds.

"Why do we ask God for forgiveness if man is to be



Gov Ahmed Makarfi

punished even for his first offence?" the governor queried, adding that if God were to punish man for his first offence, there would have been no human beings on earth by now.

Nevertheless, the governor disclosed that if all the local governments in the state were so probed, hardly would anybody escape as "from the ordinary staff to the councillor and to the vice-chairman etc, you would find that they are involved in one illegality or the other."

Judge identifies hindrance against anti-corruption

A justice of the Court of Appeal, Mr. Justice Omotayo Onalaja, has said that the anti-corruption law put in place by the present administration may not

Following last week's suspension of the three-week long local strike embarked upon by members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria chapter, authorities of the institution have announced the re-opening of the university on Thursday 26th July to commence the second semester of the 2000/2001 academic session.

The resumption date, which was announced in a statement signed by the institution's Registrar, Malam Mairiga Mani, and

From Yinka Oladoyinbo, in Ibadan

succeed because of social attitudes and the perceived insecurity of tenure of civil servants.

Justice Onalaja, who made the statement in

ABU reopens Thursday

From Waziri Isa Gwantu, in Zaria

made available to Daily Trust's correspondent in Zaria, said the resumption date was considered and approved by the university's senate as proposed by the management.

"Also considered and approved by the senate," the statement said, "was the session's new academic calendar."

According to the statement, all categories of students of the university are expected to return to their various campuses by Thursday

26th July, 2001 to start their registration which closes on 4th August, 2001.

"The authorities have also set aside one extra week (6th - 12th August, 2001) for late registration," the statement further stated.

Lectures will commence for the period of eight weeks (6th August - 29th September) after which the students will proceed for one week mid-semester break (1st October - 7th October, 2001).

The students will receive another round of lectures for seven weeks (between 8th October - 24th November) after which examinations will commence for the period of two weeks (26th November - 8th December).

Meanwhile, the university authorities have notified all candidates who applied for admission into Master of Business Administration (MBA) and post-graduate diploma in public administration that qualifying examination which were earlier postponed, will now hold on the 4th and 11th of August, 2001 respectively.

Immigration service may have two comptrollers-general

Two new comptrollers-general may emerge in the Immigration Service, if the Federal Government accepts the recommendations of the Prof. Ango Abdullahi Committee on the restructuring of the produce inspection department and the quarantine services.

The committee's report made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recommended that the comptrollers-general would

head the proposed unified and upgraded Produce Inspection and Quarantine Services. The report also urged the Federal Government to take immediate steps to provide the appropriate legislations to back the establishment of the two key posts and their operational modalities.

It said the legislations should take into account, relevant international protocols, to which Nigeria was a signatory, as well as a



Chief Sunday Afolabi

harmonious working relation with the states, particularly on produce inspection matters.

The report called for the improvement and upgrading of the physical infrastructure, especially at the nation's entry points, noting that the facilities were grossly inadequate. It stressed the urgent need to improve the quality of the organization's manpower, to enable it to discharge its duties effectively.

Criticisms of Sharia in Jigawa are unjustifiable - Commissioner

The Jigawa State Commissioner for Religious Affairs, Alhaji Babannan Aujara, has described people's criticisms of the state government's alleged slow pace in the implementation of Sharia as "unjustifiable."

Speaking in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Dutsé, Aujara argued that the implementation of Sharia would not be left to the government alone, as the people too had to contribute towards the effective implementation of the legal system. The government, he said, had set in motion, all necessary machineries for the implementation of the Islamic legal system.

The commissioner said N17 million had been spent by the government on the

establishment of Area Courts, adding that 10 Sharia courts were now functioning state-wide.

He explained that the Sharia courts have been trying Islamic cases, adding

that some of the courts had recently convicted and caned some women for their confessions in cases involving sex scandals. Aujara said that Sharia courts would be established

willing to meet them accordingly." Jirnuya, who took his text from the third chapter of Daniel, explained that it was the faith of the trio of Meshack, Shedrack and Abednego, that freed them from the fiery furnace into which King Nebuchadnezzar had put them, as punishment for refusing to worship his golden idol.

in each of the 27 local government areas, to ensure the implementation of the legal system.

"What remains now is for the people of the state to assist in the implementation of Sharia, as government is doing its best in that direction," he added.

Cleric cautions Nigerians against lust

Pastor Joseph Jirnuya of the "Tree of Life Gospel Ministry," Sunday warned Nigerians against "excessive lust" for worldly materials, saying "the desire to meet the needs of the flesh is responsible for all vices destroying the country."

In a sermon he delivered to the congregation at Mararraba, on the outskirts of Abuja, he urged Nigerians to place their faith in God, who, he said "knows our needs and is

clothes, position, power, men or women, which our eyes will desire and I am saying today that we must not allow our lust for these things to deter us from serving and trusting God," he said.

He said the only way out for Nigeria today was for its people to trust and obey God, adding that it was only then that the Lord would bring down his miracles to deliver the people against poverty, want, disease, and violence.

Boy killed over sharing of money

A fight over the sharing of a large sum of money allegedly released by a top government official in Ilorin, Kwara State to a gang of party boys has sent one of them to his early grave.

Dependable sources told NAN that in the ensuing fight over the sharing formula, one of them drew a knife and

stabbed his colleague in the stomach, which led to his death. He was pronounced dead a few minutes later at the Unity Hospital, along Sobi Road, in Ilorin, where he was rushed to for medical attention.

Confirming the report, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Kayode Olorunmaiye, told NAN that homicide detectives were investigating the case. He said the deceased, whose name was given as Wahab Isa, had attended a wedding ceremony along with his assailant, in company of other members of their group.

The police spokesman said two members of the group had been arrested and were helping the police in their investigation, while one Umoru Sokoti had been declared wanted in connection with the case.



Prof. Borisade



Mr. Smith, IGP

DAILY TRUST
EDITORIAL

Truth and national security

One time Minister of Special Duties, Alhaji Wada Nas, recently alerted the nation on the security implications inherent in the series of revelations pouring out from various sittings of the Justice Chukwudifu Oputa panel investigating human rights violations in the country.

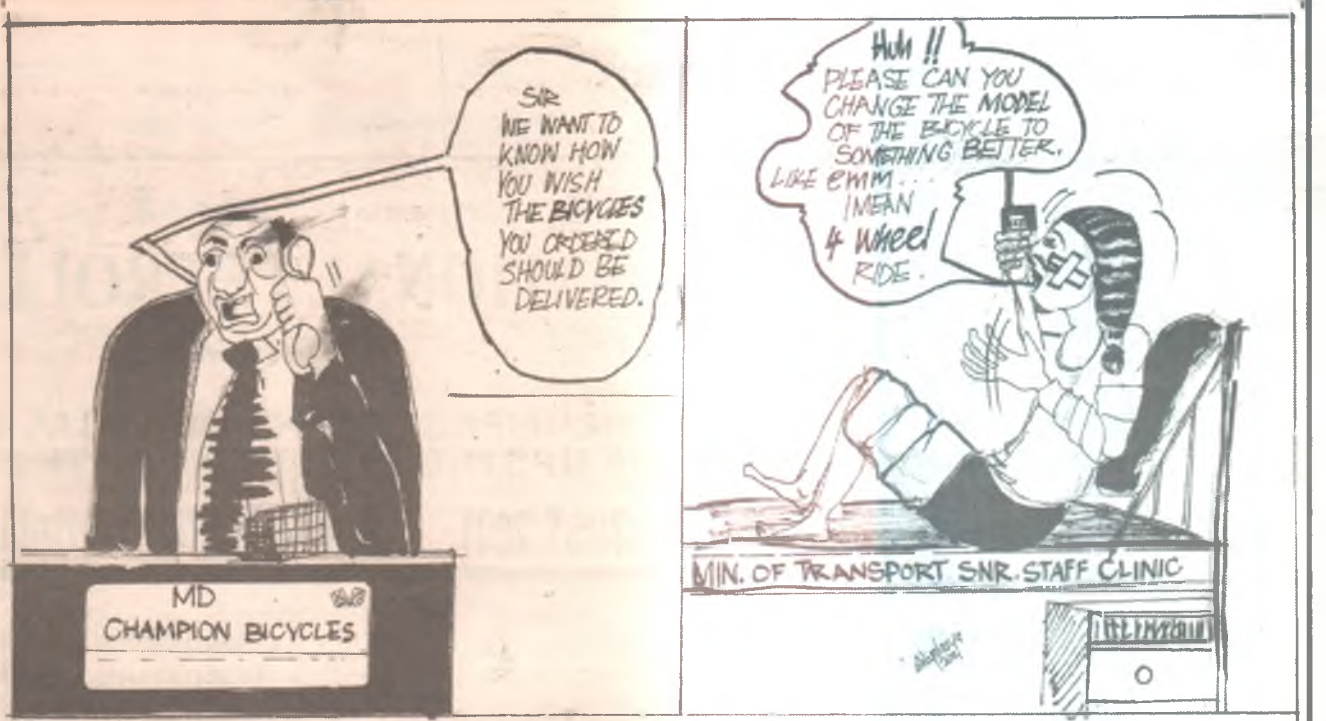
In Alhaji Wada's opinion, the revelations concerning high-level intrigues, power play, sycophancy and blatant abuse of office that characterized the regimes of Generals Sani Abacha and Abdulsalami Abubakar which some principal officers in those governments are bringing to the knowledge of Nigerians are capable of sending wrong signals to the outside world thereby exposing certain intricacies in our mechanism of governance. As such, according to the ex-minister, government should put an end to the panel's proceedings.

It is true that through the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to late General Sani Abacha, Major Hamza Al-Mustapha and former Director of Military Intelligence (DMI), Brig-Gen Ibrahim Sabo (rtd), Nigerians have come to know more about the goings-on behind the scenes during the past regimes, especially those in which they played active roles. Several truths have been brought to light through the arguments following the accusations and counter-accusations that ensued at the panel's sittings in the various cities it has visited. Petitioners and those petitioned have argued their cases, in some instances, leaving Nigerians to draw their conclusions based on the facts as presented.

From these revelations, Nigerians have come to know that some of our past leaders and public office holders are after all, opportunists who undeservedly found their way into positions of authority and while there, betrayed the trust reposed in them. Instead of serving the nation, they chose to serve themselves and their associates. Indeed from the sordid and, at times, embarrassing revelations, Nigerians are now more convinced than ever that some of our past leaders alive today have cases to answer before the law courts. And until that is done, justice and the rule of law cannot be seen to have been upheld.

In any case, the former minister is not in a position to tell Nigerians which pronouncements constitute threats to national security and which do not, considering the fact that he is no longer in government. Only the government of the day has the prerogative to determine the confines of national security and what constitutes a threat to it. And when it comes to interpreting the constitution, the esteemed Justice Oputa, a retired judge of the Supreme Court is far better at it than many a politician in the country. If the Obasanjo government that set up the panel does not see any security implications in the revelations so far made, certainly any other person's observations in that regard ought not be taken seriously.

It is our opinion that in the present democratic dispensation, only constructive criticism aimed at helping our leaders become more alive to the enormous responsibilities placed on them should be encouraged. *Daily Trust* hopes that these revelations will help the present and future governments in guarding against the excesses of past regimes.



TUESDAY COLUMN

Re: Adamu Bello: The new PDP whiz kid

By Bulama Kurma

Our attention has been drawn to an article published by the *Daily Trust* of July 3, 2001 on page 5 (Tuesday Column) with the above title and written by one Malam Aminu Iyawa. The article, like almost all write-ups by Malam Iyawa, which I was privileged to read, was well written and informative. The only problem with Malam Iyawa, as in this case, is that whenever he comments on local issues, he is at his best reeling out facts and, in some instances, figures, to back him up but the moment he forays outside Adamawa State he gets stuck and mixes things up, but still trudges on to dish out wrong and therefore misleading information. However, I do not believe he does these things out of mischief.

Malam Iyawa, from all indications, was not at the PDP meeting/rally held on the 30th June, 2001, at Damaturu, the Yobe State capital and he was not opportuned to know what actually happened from any impeccable source. Therefore, the corrections I want to make here are for the benefit of Malam Iyawa and the reading public who must have read him.

Malam Iyawa wrote: "Last month, Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim of Yobe State hosted the maiden meeting (PDP meeting/rally) in Damaturu, with a communiqué that proffered total support for the Vice-President in his bid to return with President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2003, and as a presidential candidate in 2007... For now, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar has proven his worth as an incumbent, by cornering the All Peoples Party (APP) governors, who pledged their unflinching support, as long as the PDP continues to give them a breathing space and Federal Government patronage."

Now, here is where Malam Iyawa's *Iyawa* flew off tangent. Governor Bukar Abba was in Sudan, to watch the Super Eagles World Cup qualifying match against the host country's national team, the day the meeting/rally was held. Therefore the issue of hosting should not even arise. I urge Malam Iyawa to go through the communiqué, if he has a copy, and again re-read article 7. Incidentally, the communiqué was on page 4 of the *Daily Trust* edition we are talking of. Secondly, Bukar is of the APP while the meeting was for PDP. Look at the introduction of the communiqué and you will see what I mean. It was not an official meeting but a PDP affair. The PDP, being a party committed to the enthronement and sustenance of democracy and which is not only desirous, but eager, to bring the dividends of democracy to Nigerians, cannot dine with Bukar, given a long spoon, for the PDP is quite aware that he is autocratic and in love with rulership of absolutism. The PDP cannot hobnob with a man it is aware has massively mismanaged the N13 billion so far received by the state since June, 1999, from the Federation Account. And surely the PDP cannot romance with a man who has shown undisguised intolerance to the opposition to the extent that he has turned the state AD into his mere appendage and is now trying hard to decimate the PDP.

How then can the Vice President seek Bukar's "support"? Is Bukar the sort of person Atiku needs for support or is the Vice-President cross-carpeting to the APP just for Bukar's support? If Malam Iyawa was at the rally, he would have realised, from the gathering that Atiku has the support of those whom Bukar fear and therefore hate. And also check from those present at the rally how the VeePee decried Bukar's "dictatorship and mismanagement of state resources" thereby charging the PDP faithful to save the state by wresting power from Bukar in 2003. Also check and decipher article 2 of the communiqué.

Thirdly, Malam Iyawa, I know, knew the Vice-President ever before Allah, in His Supreme Wisdom, exalted him to his current position. Does Malam Iyawa think, based on his past and present knowledge of Atiku, that he would seek the support of any executive who has woefully failed to deliver? Somebody whose popularity is waning by the hour? Does Malam Iyawa believe the Vice-President is such an uncommitted and unprincipled democrat, politician and party member that he would jettison "the whiz kids" of the party, who toiled, night and day, through thick and thin, built the party and are sustaining it with him (a result of which Atiku saw in Damaturu) for a man who, after the rally, returned to boast that he would "chase PDP out of the state" and promising that they would not win a single councillorship seat? These are questions for Malam Iyawa.

Another issue which I believe does not portray the Vice-President as a fair leader and was, therefore, insulting was were Malam Iyawa said the APP governors have been "cornered" to support the VeePee in return for federal projects and breathing space. Where Malam Iyawa got this information from, I am at a loss. Surely not in the communiqué he talked of except if there is one in his imagination. I do not know what he meant by "breathing space". What they will grab as "breathing space", more especially the Yobe governor, is for the state not to feel any federal presence. If the federal government does not do anything to impact positively on the living standards of the people of the state, Bukar would use that against the PDP. Therefore, breathing space for him is synonymous with the failure of PDP programmes. What Malam Iyawa implied was that, that was what was promised them by Atiku for their support. *Haba Malam!*

But, come. Malam Iyawa, you should know the Vice-President swore an oath to be fair and just to all, without fear or favour, irrespective of party leanings. Now, do you mean the Vice-President is trading off federal government patronage for the APP governors' support? This is a man you know as fair and just. This is a man who, together with the president, have members of all the political parties in the federal cabinet. *Haba, Malam Iyawa*, you want us to believe that the VeePee can be so desperate and callous?

Even though we have never met, I like Malam Iyawa who is a good writer any day he has facts at his disposal. I am sincerely offering him an invitation, at my own expense, to come to Yobe State. I would take him round the state to assess what the local governments have done. He would have access to what they have received since June 1999 as grants so that he can weigh that against projects for the same period on ground. After this exercise, Malam Iyawa can tell the world the gap between the PDP councils and their counterparts in the APP.

On the same invitation ticket, I would take Malam Iyawa round the state to see for himself what Bukar claimed to have executed and balance that against N13 billion. From there I promise, Malam Iyawa to jump, with you, into Bauchi State, our next door neighbours, a state controlled by the PDP and again for you to see for yourself what the PDP under an achiever has done. Then, and only then can you write with authority. We shall then hear from you if the VeePee can neglect what he is known for, for failures. Which means sacrificing those of us who are yet to know the difference between the jackboots of yesterday and the *babbanrigas* of today. But please Malam Iyawa get in touch with me and after the exercise I talked about you would know that the VeePee can never do that and he cannot forget those he knows and believe are achievers who would save Yobe State from darkness.

Alhaji Bulama is the Financial Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party in Yobe State.



NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

organises

A NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL CONTENT AND INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION IN THE UPSTREAM SECTOR OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

Date: 2ND AND 3RD OF AUGUST, 2001 Venue: CONGRESS HALL, NICON-HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA

INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), through its Strategic Business unit, the National Petroleum Investment and Management Services (NAPIMS), is organising a National Workshop on Local Content in the Upstream Sector of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry.

THEME

Improvement of Local Content and Indigenous Participation in the Upstream Sector of the Oil and Gas Industry.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES :

- To define the scope of local content, what corporate entity should be classified as an indigenous company and assess the present level of indigenous participation.
- To explore opportunities for expanding indigenous participation.
- To examine the role of financial institutions in promoting local content development and indigenous participation.
- To share in the experience of OPEC/non-OPEC members in developing local content and indigenous participation in their home petroleum industry.
- To examine current fiscal policy and make proposal for enhancing local content development and indigenous participation.
- To propose to Government, strategies for promoting the development of local content development and indigenous participation in the Nigerian oil industry.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Relevant Federal Government Agencies (Ministries of Petroleum Resources, Industry, Environment, Finance/CBN, Planning, internal Affairs, Niger Delta Development Commission, Nigerian Raw Material Research Council, Nigerian Investment Promotion Council, National Assembly (House of Reps and Senate), State Governments in the Oil Producing Areas, Chambers of Commerce, Financial Institutions (Banks and Finance Houses), Joint Ventures/PSC Companies, NAIPEC, PETAN, Oil Industry Contractors, Manufacturers Association of Nigerian (MAN), Professional Associations (NAPE, SPE, NMGS, NSE etc), Universities/Research Institutes and Embassies (Countries with relevant experience on the issue-Brazil, Venezuela, Indonesia, Norway, Iran, Mexico and Malaysia).

RESOURCE PERSONS

Speakers are drawn from the public and private sectors, locally and internationally.

DAY ONE: Thursday, 2nd August, 2001

OPENING CEREMONY

SPEAKERS:

Opening Remarks: Dr. Andrew C. Uzoigwe GED, E & P, NNPC
 Welcome Address: Mr. Jackson Gaius-Obaseki GMD, NNPC
 Keynote Address: Alhaji. Dr. Rilwanu Lukman Presidential Adviser on Petroleum and Energy, Federal Republic of Nigeria

1ST PRESENTATION

- TOPICS: A) *Definition of the scope of Local Content and Indigenous Company.* Mr. G.E Omene, MD, Niger Delta Development Commission.
 B) *Calculation of Local Content Value (LCV).* The President, PETAN

Engr. S.A. Adetunji (FNSE),
 Group General Manager NAPIMS

Mr. Ndu Ughamadu,
 General Manager, Group Public
 Affairs Division, Abuja.

Discussions - Chairman - Mr. C.O. Oyibo, Former GMD, NNPC.
 Discussants - Mr. B. Omomokuyo - GED C & I - NNPC,
 Mr. Jim Orife - CEO - Versa-Tech Nig. Ltd, PETAN and SPE.

2ND PRESENTATION

Engr. A.O. R. Oladele, FNSChE, Chief Executive Director,
 Capital Alliance Nig. Ltd.

TOPIC: *Opportunities for Indigenous Participation.*

Discussions - Chairman - Engr. B.A. Soyode, President, B.A. Soyode & Company Ltd.

Discussants - Alhaji Mansur Ahmed - GED R & P - NNPC, NAIPEC, NSE and NAPE

3RD PRESENTATION

Chief M.A. Olorunfemi, Chairman/CEO, Mak Mera Nigeria Limited

TOPIC: *Role of Financial Institutions in promoting Local Content Development and Indigenous Participation.*

Discussions - Chairman - Dr. Pascal Dozie, Chairman/CEO, Diamond Bank.

Discussants - Mr. O.C. Harry, GED - F & A - NNPC, UBA (Executive Director, Corporate Banking), Nigerian Stock Exchange and Hamilton Hammer Nigeria Limited.

4TH PRESENTATION

Mr. Erik Syrstad, Managing Director, Statoil Nig. Limited

TOPIC: *Norwegian Experience on Local Content Development and Indigenous Participation.*

Discussions - Chairman - Mr. R. I. Wilcox, MD, Chevron Nigeria Limited.

Discussants - OPTS, Petronas of Malaysia and Petrobras.

DAY TWO: Friday, 3rd August, 2001

5TH PRESENTATION

President, Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria

TOPIC: *Fiscal Policies of Support Local Content Development and Indigenous Participation.*

Discussions - Chairman - Mr. F.M. Kupolokun, Special Assistant to the President on Petroleum and Energy.

Discussants - Engr. A.O. Ogedegbe - GED E & T - NNPC, Director of DPR, Ministry of Finance, Nigeria Economic Summit and Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

6TH PRESENTATION

- TOPICS: A) *Strategies for Enhancing Local Content Development in the Upstream Sector of Oil and Gas Industry.*
 The Managing Director, Shell Petroleum Development Company.
 B) *Strategies for Enhancing Indigenous Participation in the Upstream Sector of Oil and Gas Industry.*

Dr. M. Ebi-Omatola, Managing Director, Consolidated Oil Limited

Discussions - Chairman - Dr. Uduimo Itsuelli, Chairman/CEO, Dubri Oil Nigeria Limited.

Discussants - Mr. Henry MacPepple - Chairman/CEO - Adamac Group, Mr. Osuno - Former Director, Department Of Petroleum Resources, Venezuela National Oil Company (PDVSA) and Dr. A.O. Ayoola - MD - NPDC

PLENARY SESSION

Chairman - Chief Aret Adams, Chairman, Multinational Expertise.
 Discussants - Dr. A.C. Uzoigwe - GED E & P - NNPC,
 Engr. A.O.R. Oladele, Engr. B.A. Soyode,
 Engr. F.M. Kupolokun and all Chairmen of Sessions.

For further enquiries, please contact: (1) Segun Ogunjimi on Tel: 01-2670697 or Tel/Fax.: 01-2670696 or E-mail: segunogun@cyberspace.net.ng or (2) Mrs. Unoma Adeniji on Tel: 01-2694296, or (3) Gabriel Obando on Tel: 09-20081143 or Tel/Fax: 09-5239513/2340094

Opinion

Much ado about OBJ's second term

By Joseph Aiyejoto

Recently, the Presidential Liaison Officer (PLO) to the Senate, Alhaji Ibrahim Kashim Imam, categorically declared that President Olusegun Obasanjo would be re-presented to the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to enable him contest for the 2003 presidential election. The furore that this has generated left no one in doubt about the sincerity of the leadership of this country over their purported concern for the peace and progress of the nation and especially the welfare of the masses. After all, they are more concerned with being in power even without any positive impact.

At the heels of the declaration by Alhaji Imam, the PDP national chairman, Chief Barnabas Gemade, debunked the claim and hinted that the PLO spoke for himself and not on behalf of the party. Again, just some few days back, the Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Chief Tunji Oseni, told Nigerians and indeed the world that President Olusegun Obasanjo is yet to decide on whether to contest for the 2003 presidential election or not. Yet, Obasanjo himself has kept mute over the matter, leaving everybody, especially the masses to grope in the dark as to the decision, which he and his caucus have already concluded.

Who is deceiving whom? There is a popular adage that two people cannot fall to the same deception. If the person that is deceiving the other does not know what he is doing, the person that is being deceived would know that he is. If the PLO does not know the mind of his boss, then, why must he publicly declare what he does not know? Why did he make such proclamation without confirming the stand of his boss? The different stance of every individual in connection with the matter at stake only points to one thing; that the house is not in order. But, I see that as a ploy to deceive the people into believing that nothing is in the offing. However, the eyes of the masses are no longer closed. The leadership and their cohorts know where they meet and how they usually come to an agreement on how to milk the country sore.

Going by what the PLO said, the agenda has already been set for the presidency from now up to 2007 and even the four years after. So, why are they still hiding their already exposed agenda? They should know that the masses of this great country would no longer be deceived. They should continue to rule on till they breathe their last and if possible still rule after they are no more. The whole attempt, we know, is to perpetuate themselves in office, majority of them have remained in government since independence, even some shortly before then and now having been recycled several times and waned, they have started to replace themselves with their sons and daughters and their stooges. Their strategy we all know. Attempt to argue things will bring us to the class structure and class factor in the Nigerian socio-political and economic system, which in essence is another sore that needs to be nursed.

Nevertheless, I believe that if President Olusegun Obasanjo has any genuine concern for the welfare of the masses, he should come out boldly and tell us his intentions over the 2003 presidential bid. So as to cool off the tension that has already been generated. The problem in the country should be considered as more enormous than that of who is there and at what time. Whether an easterner, a westerner, a middle belter, or a northerner, if all these really exist, anyone who is able to put food on the table of the masses, provide them a place where they can lay their head, cloth to cover their body, good road, hospital and electricity that will make life worth living for them, should be elected to rule the country. Then, has the Obasanjo-led government been able to do this? If yes, let him be, if not his office let another take.

However, the masses should not stop at anything in ensuring that the next dispensation will bring respite for their common good. They must not be silent over whatever decision of government that portend doom for them. We have seen clearly that the re-cycled politicians and retired generals were relevant in the last century. Now that the era of dictatorship, tyranny and war has been buried with the dead 20th century, Nigerians should be allowed to experience a new lease of life through the installation of men and women who are living in the vision of the 21st century.

If only Obasanjo and his men would learn the great lessons of history, they will not deliberately stain their hands with the blood of antecedent phenomenon in the geo-political continent called Africa. What benefit has the first, second or third term tenure of most African leaders brought to their country? In a bid to perpetuate themselves in office, some African leaders even changed the constitution of their countries to achieve their selfish aim. There are many of them in Africa. But their case may soon end like that of the man whose head nine caps fit.

Aiyejoto is of the Daily Trust, Abuja.

Re: Bala Usman: History will absolve us

By J. A. Ohiare

The article by G. G. Darah was serialised in *The Guardian* from Monday, May 14 to 16, 2001. It was a reply to Dr. Bala Usman's public lecture delivered at this year's remembrance of late Mallam Aminu Kano organised by the Mambayya House of Bayero University, Kano. Earlier on, Peter Ekeh, Edwin Madunagu and others had attempted to react to the same article in their various ways. So far none of the responses including that of Darah has addressed the very salient issues raised by Bala and these are: (1) What constitute the building blocks of the Nigerian nation and federation? (2) Is it true that Nigerians relate on the basis of tribe as being claimed by those demanding a Sovereign National Conference (SNC), Resource control, etc? (3) Can we sustain the current Nigerian democracy on the sentiments being expressed by the proponents of the claims being disputed? (4) And specific to Darah's claim, what constitutes Urhoboland, its origin and the correctness of this claim?

To me, these are the questions Dr. G. G. Darah and the rest are expected to address. But unfortunately they have not been addressed. Those who have attempted to rebut Bala's salient points become rather evasive, diversionary, insolent and sometimes, hysterical in innuendoes. Darah's first article to which Bala reacted is centred on his demand for resource control by the Urhobo who had been the owners of the land and the resources therein from the very earliest time. Bala argues that contrary to the claim of Urhobo ownership of the land and its resources it is all the people therein whatever their origins that own and should benefit from its resources. From Darah's perspective, if you were not Urhobo and lived in the area for whatever period of time you have no

business with the land and its resources. Bala's position acknowledges all occupants of the so-called Urhoboland as stakeholders in the well being of the area. In this perspective the Urhobo, Isoko, Itsekiri, Ijaw, etc. who are there presently deserve consideration in whatever happens in the land. From this perspective, the Urhobo, Itsekiri and the Ijaw should be seen as equal stakeholders in the affairs of Warri. But Bala's critics are saying no there is no way this can be so. This justifies their support and encouragement of murderous wars of attrition in Warri and other areas of the Niger-Delta Region. It is this reactionary position that has brought the so many mini-wars fought between the Urhobo and Itsekiri, the Ijaw and Itsekiri in Warri, and between one sub-clan of Urhobo and another sub-clan, etc. The question here is: Who is right? Bala's position promotes peaceful co-existence and integration.

On the Nigerian federation and its building blocks, the Darahs have consistently argued that the federation is constituted by its ethnic groups and that future relationship should be determined on that basis - the justification for an SNC, Resource Control, fiscal federalism, true federalism, etc. Bala's position is that before colonial imposition, Nigerian ethnic groups were not organised on that basis but on the economic and social realities of the time. Thus there were no Urhobo state or nation, Yoruba 'race', nation or state. What we have now resulted from the consciousness generated by colonial experience. For instance, among the Yoruba-related groups that consciousness came about as a result of Christian Missionary activity, the political wrangling of the colonial period and the

conscious effort of politicians who needed to mobilise ethnic support. Is this true or not? This is the question the Darahs including Prof. Peter Ekeh are called to address.

The second issue deriving from the above fact is, when did either the Urhobo or the Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, etc. respectively become a self-conscious group that can refer to themselves as a nation, a "race", etc.? How did each of the groups come about their origin? Bala's answer is straight to the point and in line with the people's realities. According to him, the formation of a people is an on-going affair. Those who call themselves Urhobo today have their diverse origins in the main stream Urhobo clans, and their neighbours including the Benin, Isoko, Itsekiri, Ukwani, Igbo, Ijaw, etc. through the process of inter-marriage, inter-mingling, inter-meshing, migrations and other factors and so it is with the others. For instance, the boundaries of such peoples as Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, etc. are ever expanding, bringing in new elements. The Urhobo are no exception to this rule. Is it therefore not a negation of reality to insist on the erroneous claim of the Darahs that Urhoboland is constant and never changing? The questions that the Darahs are being asked to answer is, if indeed the ethnic group had remained constant in their land and consciousness include: (1) Why was it that the Urhobo did not produce an Urhobo army to fight the colonial forces? As far as the present writer is aware the various Urhobo clans under their various identities fought for their various sovereignties and not for Urhobo sovereignty so also goes with the Yoruba politics, the Igbo politics, etc. Each polity related to the British conquering army not in defence of any ethnic national sovereignty but of its own. Thus, it is the merger of the conquered polities scattered all

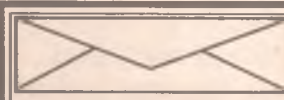
over the area drained by the Niger and its various tributaries that produced the Nigerian nation-state different from what it was before in some respects. It was not the amalgamation of ethnic polities as the Darahs, *Afenifere*, *Ohaneze Ndigbo* and the like would want us to believe.

It is the merger of these, at various times, that brought about the Oil Rivers, Lagos Colony, the Protectorates, Eastern Nigeria, Western Nigeria, Northern Nigeria with their provinces and divisions/districts, the regions and now the states. These territorial divisions brought about by the fiat of the central government, whether colonial or independent, form the building blocks of the present Nigerian nation-state. The question being asked is whether this is true or false? These and many other questions should be the focus of any comment on the lecture by Bala.

Their position seems to be saying "if we cannot controvert the points raised by Bala the next thing is to evade, divert and engage in innuendoes to run the person of Bala Usman down". In all the arguments presented by him in his paper, he did not denigrate the personality or the good name of any group or persons. Why are the Darahs accusing him of anti-Urhobo, anti-Yoruba and anti-Igbo sentiment? Only somebody with a hidden agenda that can make such charge.

Bala has spoken; you either take it or reject it but at whose expense? He did not quarrel with anybody fighting/struggling to save his environment and its riches for himself and his progeny. All he is saying is that such a struggle should not be used to destroy the very fabric of our existence as a nation, period.

Dr. Ohiare is of the Department of History, University of Abuja.



YOUR LETTERS

Re: ACF meets over Obasanjo's second term

After a long and careful consideration, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), has decided to issue this rejoinder to the front-page lead story of Monday, 9th July, 2001 edition of *Daily Trust*, titled "ACF meets over Obasanjo's Second term".

The story has been a source of considerable embarrassment and it is intended, by this rejoinder, to put the record straight and dispel any unfavourable impression, which might have arisen on account of the story, particularly from among members of the various organs of ACF.

It has been an established tradition of ACF to involve its members in the discussion of issues upon which the Forum wishes to take a stand. At such meetings, communiqués are drawn up and read to members for further discussion, amendments and eventual adoption. The aim always, is to ensure that members are not only informed of any stand taken by Forum, but are actively involved in the discussions which form the basis of such a stand.

The story carried by *Daily Trust* on Obasanjo's second term presidential aspirations clearly indicated that Forum had decided to discuss and adopt a position on whether or not to support Obasanjo's second term aspirations within a week of that publication. I wish to state that Forum had never taken any such decision on the

candidature of Obasanjo or any candidate for that matter. Indeed if a decision on an issue of such great importance to the North and the Nigerian nation is ever to be taken by the ACF, all its organs have to discuss and arrive at an understanding on the issue. It is noted that since within the one week when *Daily Trust* story claimed that the issue was to be discussed, none of the Forum's organs was slated to meet and discuss this issue or any matter at all, the unfortunate and false impression was bound to be created that a discussion and decision on this vital subject was to be undertaken by an executive council clique that has no constitutional relevance and authority.

This was something that could adversely affect the integrity of the executive council and the confidence the council needs to carry out its day-to-day operations. It needs to be stated also, that such a situation can create a feeling of alienation among Forum's members and undermine thereby, cohesion and solidarity within the organisation.

It is in order to dispel any misconception that I wish to reiterate that the story carried by *Daily Trust* does not reflect the position of Forum.

Alhaji Aliyu Hayatu,
Publicity Secretary,
Arewa Consultative Forum.

Congrats Gov Mu'azu

I write to felicitate with Alhaji (Dr.) Ahmad Adamu Mu'azu (Mutawallen Bauchi) the governor of Bauchi State, as he celebrates his second year in office.

There is no doubt that since he assumed the mantle of leadership as the governor, he has taken the state to an enviable height through the excellent things he has done in the last two years. I restate my confidence in the ability of *Gwamnan Gwamnoni* to take Bauchi State to greater heights.

On the other hand, I want to congratulate him on his well-deserved award of an honorary doctorate degree by the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Sulaiman Musa Barambu,
Remedial Programme,
F.C.E. (Tech) Gombe,
Gombe State.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

Ivory Coast PM heads ruling party

The Prime Minister of Ivory Coast, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, has been elected to replace President Gbagbo as head of the ruling Ivorian Popular Front.

The Interior Minister, Emile Boga Dodou, said the intention was to rejuvenate the leadership of the party.

President Gbagbo won controversial presidential election in October last year, when the leader of the main opposition party, Alassane Ouattara, was barred from taking part following a court ruling casting doubts on his nationality.

Egypt welcomes G8's stance on Mid-East

Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ahmed Maher has welcomed the Group of Eight (G8) countries' support for dispatching international observers to monitor a U.S.-brokered truce between the Palestinians and Israel.

"It is important not to let Israel alone in the field to decide the nationality of observers, to be sent to the Palestinian territories and the application of the Mitchell Commission's recommendations," Maher told reporters.

"The international community has not been satisfied with the Israeli government's stance on the ceasefire plan," said Maher, adding that Israeli brutalities in the occupied Palestinian territories have raised "worldwide concerns."

Maher made the remarks after the leaders of seven most industrialised countries and Russia issued a statement on Saturday during their meeting in the Italian city of Genoa, monitoring of the truce and the implementation of the Mitchell report.

Zimbabwe honours virgins

Reports from Zimbabwe said virgins from the Makoni district, which has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in the country, have been enlisted in the fight against the disease.

The state-owned *Sunday Mail* newspaper revealed that some 2,000 certified virgins from Makoni, 170km east of the capital, Harare, were invited to a banquet by the traditional chief, Norbert Makoni, to emphasise the value of abstinence.

The women were awarded virginity certificates at the banquet, which the chief is hoping to make an annual event.



Bon Anniversaire: Governor of Central Bank, Chief Joseph Sanusi (right), Ambassador of France, Mr. Phillip Peltier (middle) and Minister of Aviation, Dr. (Mrs.) Kema Chikwe, during the French Day celebration in Abuja... recently.

UN probes kidnap of Israeli soldiers

The United Nations has opened an investigation into the handling of a videotape which may provide clues about the abduction of Israeli soldiers by Lebanese militants.

The head of the inquiry, Under-Secretary-General, Joseph Connor, met officials from the UN's Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in the southern town of Naqoura, close to the border with Israel, said a spokesman.

Mr Connor has been asked to compile a report into the affair, which has caused controversy in Israel and Lebanon, by UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

The video, made by UN peacekeepers about 18 hours after three Israeli soldiers were abducted in October, shows vehicles allegedly used by Hezbollah guerrillas.

The tape is also reported to show the faces of guerrillas who prevented the UN peacekeepers from salvaging the vehicles as

evidence.

After months of denying the existence of the footage, last week the UN offered to give Israel a censored copy, with faces blurred, in response to demands from the Israeli Government.

Correspondents said the video has placed the UN in a tricky position, with Israel demanding the unedited footage, and Hezbollah saying that handing it over would effectively make the UN spies for Israel.

Israel has demanded for "the entire videotape and any other information concerning the capture of the soldiers."

There has been outrage in Israel that the UN at first denied the existence of the 30-minute video film, which may provide clues as to the fate of its soldiers.

UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, reportedly apologised to Ariel Sharon for the UN's initial denial that the tape existed after a "harsh" exchange of words with the Israeli prime minister last week.

Ordinary Israelis are deeply suspicious of the UN, which

they say is dominated by countries hostile to the Jewish state.

Many Palestinians, on the other hand, feel that UN is an appendage of the US - and therefore a pro-Israeli - lap-dog.

Hezbollah is still keeping the soldiers in a secret location and has refused to provide any information about them or a fourth Israeli captive until Israel agrees to release Lebanese prisoners it is holding as "bargaining chips" for missing Israeli servicemen in Lebanon.

Although nine months have passed since the soldiers were abducted, Israel believes the video-tape may provide new clues for its analysts.

East African leaders meet on Burundi

East African heads of state met in Arusha yesterday to sign the latest peace plan for Burundi.

There was initial optimism when Nelson Mandela announced the deal just before the OAU summit in Lusaka two weeks ago.

But now at least 10 of the 19 signatories now say they are opposed to its provisions.

Under the terms of the Mandela plan, current President Pierre Buyoya, an ethnic Tutsi, would remain in power, as the head of a transitional government for 18 months with a Hutu vice-president.

They would then switch roles before elections in 2004.

But many parties, including several ethnic Tutsi groups, don't want Mr Buyoya to stay in power.

After a meeting with Burundi's leader, Matthias Hitimana, chairman of the Tutsi PRP party told the BBC's Focus on Africa: "We never agreed that Buyoya would lead the first transition."

In the meantime, there has been no let up in the civil war, which has killed 200,000 people since 1983.

Iranian minister condemns floggings

Iran's pro-reform Interior Minister, Abdulvahed Moussavi Lari, has condemned the increasing number of public floggings of young people drinking alcohol.

In an interview with a government newspaper Mr Lari said public whippings in this day and age had serious political and social consequences.

In the latest incident, 25 men were whipped in public in the capital, Tehran, on Friday for consuming and selling alcohol, which is forbidden in the Islamic Republic.

Mr Lari, who is a close ally of President Mohammad Khatami, complained that as the main official responsible for security in the country, he was not kept informed about such harsh decisions.

He also criticised judges for ordering the punishments without considering their implications.

Apart from public floggings, the stoning of women for adultery and public hangings for various crimes have been on the increase since Mr Khatami's second landslide election victory last month.

Public floggings have rarely been carried out in Iran in recent years, but in the past few weeks alone, at least 50

young men have been whipped in three separate incidents.

In the latest case, the 25 men beaten in Tehran on Friday each received between 70 and 80 lashes.

The Iranian judiciary is seen as a bastion of hardline conservatives, and it appears that Mr Khatami and his reformist allies are powerless to stop its controversial decisions.

It appears that the judiciary is resorting to such severe punishments in an attempt to undermine President Khatami's popularity among the young.

President Khatami has promised respect for human rights and the rule of law.

But hardliners in the Iranian leadership blame Mr Khatami's reforms for what they see as the increased flouting of religious rules.

Uganda parades bomb suspects

Security officials in Uganda have paraded 28 people whom they said have been involved in a series of bomb attacks over the past four years.

More than 40 bomb attacks, which the government blamed on a rebel group, Allied Democratic Forces, have killed more than 60 people since 1997.

The Ugandan head of military intelligence, Colonel Nobel Mayombo, told journalists that the rebel group had changed its tactics from rural to urban warfare.

He said the rebels had also carried out armed robberies, drug trafficking and counterfeiting.

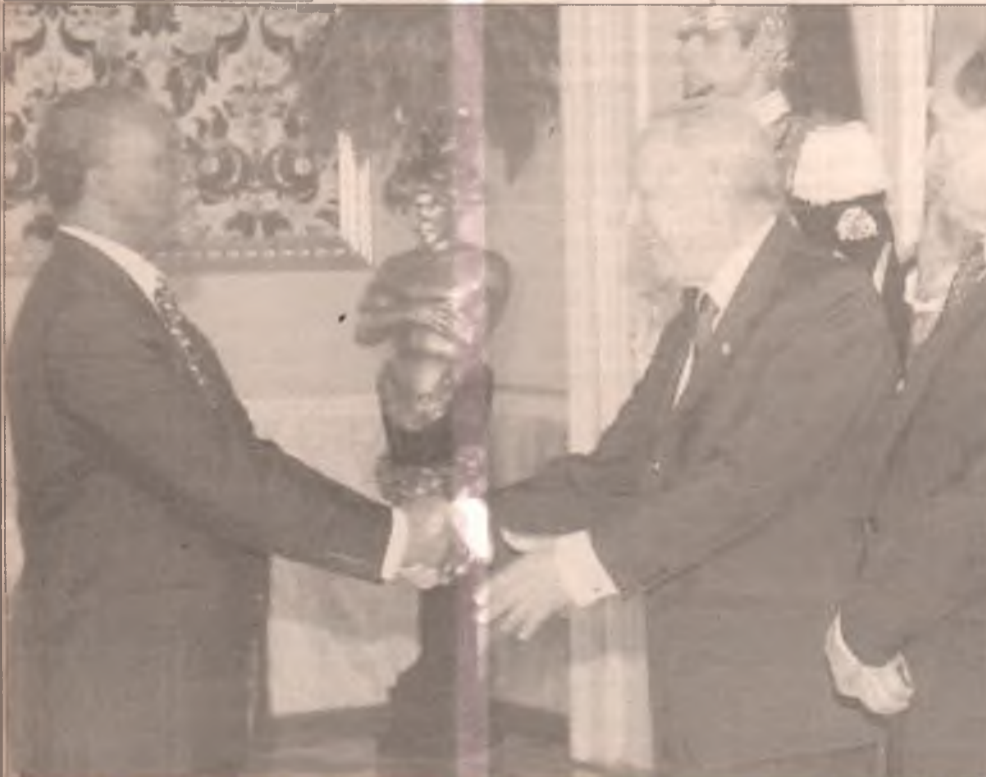
Yemen jails four for embassy attack

A court in the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, has convicted four Yemeni men of a bomb attack last October on the British embassy and sentenced them to between four and 15 years in prison.

The attack on the British embassy destroyed a generator and blew out windows, but caused no injuries.

It came a day after 17 US sailors were killed in an apparent suicide bomb attack on the American warship, the USS Cole, in the port of Aden.

Two of the defendants, who pleaded guilty, said they attacked the embassy in a show of solidarity with the Palestinians.



Italy's President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi (centre) shakes hands with South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki, as Italy's Premier Silvio Berlusconi, looks on at the end of the first day of the G-8 summit in Genoa, Italy, last Friday.

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

World Report



Broken glass and shattered windows can be seen as security forces survey the damage at Roman Catholic Santa Ana Church after an explosion in Jakarta, Indonesia, last Sunday. Two churches were hit by blasts in the east of the capital on Sunday, the latest in a series of explosions to rock Jakarta at a time of heightened political tension over President Abdurrahman Wahid's impeachment proceedings.

15 Hindus killed in Kashmir

Police in Indian-administered Kashmir say that at least 15 Hindus have been killed by suspected Islamic activists in the remote district of Doda.

The massacre on Sunday came a day after at least 13 people were killed when activists attacked Hindu pilgrims in Kashmir.

The pilgrimage which sees up to 100,000 Hindus trekking to the Amarnath shrine 14,000 feet up in the Himalayan mountains was immediately suspended but has since been allowed to resume.

In a separate statement on Sunday, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee blamed Pakistan for the breakdown of a summit between the two rivals a week ago.

In his first public comments since the collapse of the Agra summit, Mr Vajpayee said the Pakistani leader, General Pervez

Musharraf, refused to allow a joint statement to refer to alleged Pakistani support for Kashmiri militants.

"On some points there was agreement, but talks broke down because Pakistan was stressing the point that there should be no reference to cross border terrorism," he said.

India accuses Pakistan of sponsoring the Islamic activists in Kashmir, but Pakistan says it provides only moral support to the guerrillas.

Details about Sunday's attack in Doda are still sketchy as the area can only be reached after a 15-hour trek through the mountains.

According to the French news agency AFP, the victims were dragged out of their homes and shot dead at point blank range on Sunday.

The dominant Hizbul Mujahedeen group has denied responsibility for the attack.

"The Mujahedeen (freedom fighters) have nothing to do with this tragic incident because we do not believe in killing innocent civilians," said Hizbul chief Syed Salahuddin.

"We condemn it outright," he said.

A team of senior police officials has gone to Doda to investigate the attack.

US, Russia to hold talks on missile defence

US President George W Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed to hold talks about linking American plans for building a missile defence shield to reducing both nations' nuclear stockpiles.

The breakthrough was announced following a meeting between the two leaders at the G8 summit in Genoa.

BBC reports that Mr Putin had previously flatly refused to discuss the American anti-missile shield plans, known as "son of star wars".

At a news conference following their meeting, the leaders said they wanted to hold

Archer faces another probe

Police are to be asked to investigate claims that millions of pounds are missing from an aid fund for Kurdish refugees run by disgraced peer, Lord Archer.

Former Conservative Party vice chairman Lady Nicholson has said she will lodge an official complaint with Scotland Yard and the Serious Fraud Squad.

Baroness Nicholson, who left the Tory party to join the Liberal Democrats in 1995, says "practically nothing" of the £57m Archer said he collected had reached the Kurdish people.

Archer was jailed for four years last week for perjury and perverting the course of justice during his successful 1987 libel action against the Daily Star over its story that he slept with a prostitute.

Baroness Nicholson said: "I am going to write to the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and also to (the police).

"This is a matter that has been long-running for me and I am delighted that it is possible to get the spotlight on it, because I think the Kurds have been treated very badly."

A Scotland Yard spokesman said that if a complaint of alleged criminal activity was received, it would "of course" be considered and appropriate action taken "in due course".

The allegation centres on money raised by the Simple Truth campaign set up by Lord Archer in 1991 to help Kurdish victims of Iraqi aggression during the Gulf War.

The centrepiece of the fundraising effort was a concert at London's Wembley Arena, which

included stars such as Paul Simon and Sting. The concert drew a worldwide audience of 50m.

Then-Prime Minister John Major pledged £10m for the Kurds from the Government.

Baroness Nicholson said: "The Public Accounts Committee will invite investigation on funding that went to Jeffrey Archer from the government of the day.

On Sunday, the leader of the Commons, Robin Cook, confirmed that the government is planning a change in the law which could lead to Lord Archer losing his peerage.

He said he wants to end the anomaly whereby convicted criminals are barred from the Commons, but not the Lords.

Over 100 feared dead in Chinese mine blast

An explosion at an illegally-operated coal mine in the Chinese province of Jiangsu has left 15 dead, with many more missing.

More than 100 miners were underground at the privately-run pit in Xuzhou city when a build-up of gas triggered the blast on Sunday morning.

So far 13 people have been rescued and 15 bodies recovered, but it is feared another 93 miners so far unaccounted for are dead.

Almost 600 miners died in accidents in a six-week period in May and June this year alone in China.

Chinese media reports

said that the blast happened 260 metres below ground.

The mine had been closed on 15 June because it did not meet safety standards, but it reopened this month.

The coal contractor, who ignored the closure order, has now been detained.

The government had ordered all state-owned small mines to close for safety checks last month, and had cracked down on tens of thousands of illegal, privately run mines.

Most miners come from poor rural areas with high unemployment, and are willing to jeopardise their lives to earn a living.

Nepal names new prime minister

The ruling Nepali Congress has chosen former Prime Minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba as the new

leader of the Himalayan kingdom.

Mr Deuba has said his top priority will be to end a six-

year-old insurrection by Maoist

He was elected on Sunday with 72 votes to the 40 of his only rival, party general-secretary, Sushil Koirala.

The vote came two days after the resignation of Girija Prasad Koirala, an uncle of the candidate, Mr Deuba defeated.

Mr Deuba, 55, was prime minister once before, in a shaky coalition government that ruled from 1995 to 1997.

A flexible leader who had built an unwieldy coalition, he was brought down in 1997 by a no-confidence vote in which two members of his own coalition failed to show up to support him.

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



Sher Baadur Deuba.

Odd World

Cat forces airline to cancel flight

A wayward cat forced a U.S. airline to cancel a flight last week by clambering up into the wheel well of an aircraft and refused to budge even when offered a tasty slice of fresh salmon.

The gray and white cat named Muffy broke out of her cage in another airline's baggage room and darted down the tarmac and clawed her way up into a Continental Airlines MD-80 jet, forcing 82 passengers off the plane from Providence to Newark, New Jersey.

After eight hours of trying to coax and tempt the would-be stowaway down, maintenance crew finally had to remove panels on the bottom of the wing, near its seam with the body, to pull Muffy out. She was returned to the other airline and reunited with her family, a Continental official said.

BUSINESS DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Price List as at 23/07/2001

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE
7UP	6.00	6.10	0.01	13	16,776	102,521.01
ACCESSBANK	1.25	1.25	0.00	7	43,800	54,750.00
AFPRINT	1.02	0.97	0.05	15	330,736	320,813.92
AFRIBANK	6.71	8.80	0.09	39	168,338	1,522,628.56
AFRPAINTS	0.60	0.60	0.00	1	5,000	3,000.00
AGIP	30.30	31.50	1.20	50	-87,197	2,656,878.05
AGLEVENT	1.18	1.18	0.00	1	675	696.50
AIICO	3.16	3.16	0.00	18	174,899	535,361.95
ALUMACO	0.90	0.69	0.01	2	1,000	690.00
AP	19.34	19.34	0.00	25	18,151	351,040.34
ARBICO	1.33	1.39	0.05	1	6,000	8,280.00
ASABATEX	3.84	3.84	0.00	1	200	768.00
ASHAKACEM	17.00	17.20	0.20	29	115,048	1,950,536.39
AVONCROWN	1.54	1.54	0.00	2	1,780	2,741.20
BATA	0.31	0.30	0.01	1	20,000	6,000.00
BCC	4.79	4.79	0.00	1	1,781	8,530.99
BERGER	2.90	2.80	0.10	18	99,194	278,629.08
C&ILEASING	1.30	1.36	0.06	2	2,000	2,720.00
CADBURY	24.33	24.41	0.08	89	179,542	4,357,073.95
CAPALBETO	7.60	7.60	0.00	1	1,593	12,106.80
CCNN	3.07	3.07	0.00	3	1,100	3,377.00
CFAO	2.65	2.78	0.13	4	5,904	16,413.12
CHARTERED	7.71	8.09	0.39	46	1,253,392	9,693,255.16
COOPBANK	2.14	2.14	0.00	10	371,500	795,010.00
CORNERST	1.55	1.55	0.00	10	49,481	76,695.55
COSTAIN	1.21	1.26	0.05	7	131,000	162,510.00
CRUSADER	2.24	2.15	0.09	5	10,200	21,930.00
DELTGLAS	6.34	6.34	0.00	1	1,000	6,340.00
DNMEYER	7.30	7.30	0.00	3	4,000	29,200.00
DUMEZ	2.43	2.43	0.00	1	1,500	3,645.00
DUNLOP	3.28	3.28	0.00	24	130,601	428,750.44
EKOBANK	1.46	1.53	0.07	20	215,930	323,312.96
EKOCORP	3.41	3.41	0.00	1	400	1,364.00
ETERNAOIL	1.46	1.46	0.00	10	317,470	484,156.20
EVANSMED	1.40	1.34	0.06	4	12,138	16,264.92
FIRSTALUM	1.82	1.79	0.03	7	12,030	21,734.30
FIRSTBANK	25.00	25.75	0.75	213	721,624	18,465,150.80
FLOURMILL	15.71	14.93	0.78	50	422,994	6,315,696.98
FSB	6.50	6.54	0.04	32	555,200	3,453,441.60
GOLDBREW	0.60	0.58	0.02	13	103,979	61,027.88
GROMMAC	0.74	0.71	0.03	1	5,000	3,550.00
GUARANTY	5.70	5.70	0.00	45	642,826	3,664,108.20
GUINNESS	39.00	39.40	0.60	33	101,584	3,951,268.00
HALBANK	4.75	4.60	0.15	12	13,700	83,650.00
IGL	6.10	6.35	0.25	9	21,696	135,722.56
IMB	1.80	1.72	0.08	7	216,750	383,060.00
INCAR	0.97	0.97	0.00	1	200	194.00
JBERGER	64.84	45.00	1.84	18	11,999	552,533.83
JOHNHOLT	2.28	2.18	0.10	11	46,523	103,778.24
LAWUNION	1.62	1.64	0.02	11	329,500	527,606.20
LENNARDS	0.27	0.27	0.00	1	3,000	810.00
LEVBROS	24.99	25.00	0.01	64	173,622	4,276,792.49
LIBERTY	2.21	2.30	0.09	10	189,900	419,549.00
LIONBANK	1.73	1.81	0.08	6	53,413	92,178.09
LONGMAN	4.52	4.52	0.00	4	5,379	24,313.08
MANNYBANK	1.80	1.80	0.00	17	140,205	256,359.20
MAY&BAKER	2.80	2.80	0.00	2	8,000	22,400.00
MOBIL	63.00	65.00	2.00	12	12,558	803,964.14
NAL	5.10	5.10	0.00	84	1,801,002	9,195,042.10
NASCON	0.69	0.69	0.00	4	3,658	2,524.02
NB	27.00	27.25	0.25	60	201,514	5,461,373.46
NBC	20.05	20.18	0.13	30	70,92	1,410,929.36
NCR	2.00	1.91	0.09	6	52,000	99,320.00
NEM	0.86	0.90	0.04	8	237,100	209,060.00
NESTLE	64.00	65.00	1.00	38	496,279	31,509,592.35
NIG-GERMAN	2.60	2.70	0.10	7	74,500	197,000.00
NIGERINS	4.75	4.75	0.00	10	64,713	296,668.55
NIGWIRE	2.55	2.55	0.00	1	10,860	27,693.00
NIWICABLE	2.17	2.17	0.00	6	28,150	61,085.50
NOLCHEM	30.00	30.00	0.00	57	166,936	4,892,714.87
OKOMUOIL	9.45	9.45	0.00	2	10,000	94,500.00
OWENABANK	2.95	2.81	0.14	3	1,452	4,080.12
PFIZER	5.44	5.44	0.00	1	300	1,632.00
POLYPROD	0.50	0.50	0.00	4	23,075	11,737.50
PZ	13.53	13.85	0.32	21	37,877	521,148.48
RIETZCOT	0.68	0.68	0.00	1	500	340.00
ROYALEX	5.10	5.35	0.25	10	78,665	420,857.75
RTBRISCOE	1.23	1.17	0.06	2	916	1,071.72
SAVANNA	1.20	1.15	0.05	17	319,900	372,024.00
SCOA	1.74	1.82	0.09	10	34,629	62,948.55
SECASSURE	0.64	0.64	0.00	1	2,000	1,280.00
SKBEECHAM	2.25	2.36	0.11	9	46,112	107,990.21
SUNINS	0.65	0.65	0.00	1	740	481.00
TEXACO	63.99	63.99	0.00	15	8,100	518,430.00
TIB	2.63	2.63	0.00	7	204,576	538,002.90
TOTAL	67.10	67.10	0.00	14	11,173	747,316.30
TRADEBANK	1.04	1.04	0.00	1	100	104.00
TRIPPLEG	1.30	1.30	0.00	1	118,766	154,192.50
TROPICPET	0.29	0.28	0.01	2	1,000	280.00
UAC-PROP	2.88	3.00	0.12	43	1,420,410	4,216,327.00
UACN	3.50	3.55	0.05	80	236,801	846,309.08
UBA	14.94	14.99	0.05	110	1,162,079	17,366,826.92
UBN	29.60	29.60	0.00	121	2,171,328	64,269,641.67
UNIONDICON	16.86	16.50	0.36	7	30,600	508,536.00
UNIONVENT	0.50	0.50	0.00	1	550	275.00
UNIPETROL	43.80	41.65	2.15	23	33,337	1,394,694.40
UNTL	3.57	3.74	0.17	11	61,364	229,501.36
UTB	4.90	5.00	0.10	34	829,774	4,100,649.30
UTC	1.30	1.30	0.00	8	25,500	33,150.00
VITAFOAM	4.45	4.40	0.05	33	192,101	852,059.95
VONO	1.67	1.68	0.01	1	200	336.00
WAPCO	22.50	21.38	1.12	70	480,573	10,548,968.15
WAPIC	1.70	1.78	0.08	3	3,668	6,529.04
WEMABANK	2.88	2.99	0.11	39	512,064	1,447,941.04
TOTAL				2,051	18,838,139	230,779,380.63

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE) Gainers/Losers as at 23/07/2001

Gainers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
MOBIL	63.00	65.00	2.00
AGIP	30.30	31.50	1.20
NESTLE	64.00	65.00	1.00
FIRSTBANK	25.00	25.75	0.75
CHARTERED	7.71	8.09	0.38
PZ	13.53	13.85	0.32
ROYALEX	5.10	5.35	0.25
IGL	5.10	6.35	0.25
UNTL	3.57	3.74	0.17
CFAO	2.65	2.78	0.13
UNA-PROP	2.88	3.00	0.12
SKBEECHAM	2.25	2.36	0.11
WEMABANK	2.88	2.99	0.11
NIG-GERMAN	2.60	2.70	0.10
UTB	4.90	5.00	0.10
LIBERTY	2.21	2.30	0.09
LIONBANK	1.73	1.81	0.08
WAPIC	1.70	1.78	0.08
SCOA	1.74	1.82	0.08
EKOBANK	1.46	1.53	0.07
C&ILEASING	1.30	1.36	0.06
UACN	3.50	3.55	0.05
ARBICO	1.33	1.38	0.05
COSTAIN	1.21	1.26	0.05
NEM	0.86	0.90	0.04

Losers			
COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
UNIPETROL	43.80	41.65	2.15
JBERGER	46.84	45.00	1.84
WAPCO	22.50	21.38	1.12
FLOURMILL	15.71	14.93	0.78
GUINNESS	39.00	38.40	0.60
UNIONDICON	16.86	16.50	0.36
HALLBANK	4.75	4.60	0.15
OWENABANK	2.95	2.81	0.14
BERGER	2.90	2.80	0.10
JOHNHOLT	2.28	2.18	0.10
NCR	2.00	1.91	0.09
CRUSADER	2.24	2.15	0.09
IMB	1.80	1.72	0.08
EVANSMED	1.40	1.34	0.06
RTBRISCOE	1.23	1.17	0.06
AFPRINT	1.02	0.97	0.05
SAVANNA	1.20	1.15	0.05
VITAFOAM	4.45	4.40	0.05
FIRSTALUM	1.82	1.79	0.03
GROMMAC	0.74	0.71	0.03
GOLDBREW	0.60	0.58	0.02
TROPICPET	0.29	0.28	0.01
ALUMACO	0.90	0.89	0.01
BATA	0.31	0.30	0.01

Summary of Transactions			
DEALS	VOLUME	VOLUME	No. OF COMPANIES
2,051	18,838,139	230,779,380.63	104

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office

The bulls maintain lead at NSE yesterday

Trading reports collected from Abuja Area Office of the Nigerian Stock Exchange indicated that a total of 18.84 million shares valued at N230.78 million in 2,051 deals were traded on the floors of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

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

Price Movement:
The bears lost to the bulls on the floor, with a total of 25 companies gaining and 24 losing in their share prices.
Gains were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Banking, Conglomerates, Insurance, Industrial & Domestic Products, Textile, Real Estate, Healthcare, Chemicals and Paints, Managed Fund and the Construction sub sector.
Mobil Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 200 kobo to close the day at N65.00 per share, followed by Agip Plc, which appreciated by 120 kobo to close at N31.50 per share.
Other price gainers include Nestle (100 kobo); Firstbank (75 kobo); Chartered (38 kobo); PZ (32 kobo); Royalex and IGL (25 kobo apiece); UNTL (17 kobo); CFAO (13 kobo); UAC-Prop (12 kobo); SKBeecham and Wemabank (11 kobo apiece) and Nig-German and UTB (10 kobo apiece).
Losses were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Construction, Building Materials, Food/Beverages & tobacco, Breweries, Banking, Chemicals and Paints, Conglomerates, Computer and Office Equipment, Insurance, Healthcare, Automobile and Tyre, Textile Industrial & Domestic products and the Footwear sub sectors.
Unipetrol Plc led the price losers, dropping by 215 kobo to close at and N41.65 per share, followed by JBerger Plc, which lost 184 kobo to close at N45.00 per share.
Other price losers include WAPCO (112 kobo); Flourmill (78 kobo); Guinness (60 kobo); Uniondicon (36 kobo); Hallbank (15 kobo); Owenabank (14 kobo); Berger and Johnoholt (10 kobo apiece); NCR and Crusader (9 kobo apiece); IMB (8 kobo) and Evansmed and Ribriscoe (13 kobo apiece).

BUSINESS DAY

CBN treasury bill drops by N26b

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) treasury bill sales fell by about N26 billion when compared to its N35.6 billion performance in the previous week as only a paltry N9.6 billion bills were sold.

Perhaps, the CBN officials anticipated this would be the case as securities worth only N25.3 billion were on offer at the primary market as against the N100 billion that was

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos
offered in the preceding week.

The investors, however, shunned the securities in the main as only N10.5 billion of the bills were subscribed by the public; and out of this, the sum of N9.5 billion were actually allotted.

In the secondary market the case was more drastic as the market experienced an all time low since the year

began as only N100 million worth of bids was received.

The situation was more appealing in that 50 of the bills amounting N50 million was the actual bill sold.

Furthermore, the range of bid rates was between 17.5 percent and 18 percent, while the stop rate and the true yield of the bills stood at 17 percent and 17.5 percent respectively.

On the primary market, the range of bid rates were higher at between 17 percent and 19 percent while the stop rate and true yield were pegged at 18 and 18.8 percent respectively.

Investors reaction to the bills, according to commentators, appeared to be going through some transformations in recent months as the investors were more attracted by the primary market bills.

This was not the case in the first quarter when

investors went for the bills with 28 days maturity date instead of the primary market bills that has 90 days maturity date.

Obviously, the attraction to the primary market is the better interest rate, but then the secondary market rate seems to be getting better by the day. The minimum discount rate remains at 18.5 percent.



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor

...pegs broad money supply at 14.8% above target

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has while explaining its recent monetary measures disclosed that the Broad Money Supply (M2) increased overly in the first five months of this year to stand at 27 percent.

This, according to it, was 14.8 percent above the 12.2 percent target increase

expected for the whole of year 2001.

The CBN's Monetary Policy Committee Secretary, Ben C. Onyido, who explained this in a statement stated that it was because of the M2 situation and the rise of inflation from 6.9 percent to 13.9 by April that led to the increases in cash reserve requirement (CRR) and Minimum Rediscount Rate (MRR).

The statement reads thus: "The emergence of inflationary pressures and the need to sustain macro-economic and price stability in fiscal 2001, have necessitated a review of the bank's policy stance. In this regard, the MRR was raised by 250 basis points to 16.5 percent, while the CRR and Liquidity Ratio (LR) were raised to 12.5 percent and 40 percent respectively, between January and April."

It pointed out that these negative indices continued to besiege the system as liquidity pressures mounted in the Inter-Bank Foreign Exchange Market (IFEM), adding that "aggregate demand rose from US \$733.06 million in March to US \$962.56 million in April, equivalent to an average daily demand of US \$3.8 million in March, vis-a-vis US \$53.8 million in April."

The excessive demand led to the fall in naira value in all segments of the forex market, "with the spread between the IFEM and parallel market rates hovering at 20.8 percent as at the end of June."

The monetary policy committees' decided last month to further raise the MRR to 18.5 percent in order to checkmate inflationary pressures, exchange rate spiral and macro-economic instability.

Onyido revealed plans by his committee to keep the nation, on a monthly basis, abreast of its monetary and exchange rate measures to keep the national economy in good health.

According to him "it is expected that this initiative will minimise the problem of information asymmetry and thus foster market confidence, which is essential for microeconomic stability."

Banks to commit 10% profit to SMEs from August

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) brokered arrangement with banks to support Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SMEs) nationwide with their ten percent profit before tax will soon kick-off as disbursement begins August.

Business Day was reliably informed by close sources to the authorities in charge that efforts are being made to hasten the disbursement as it is believed in top circles that the arrangement may after all be the filip the economy needs to become active.

When our reporter took the matter up with the Executive Secretary of Nigeria Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME), Fred N. Udechukwu, he confirmed that information reaching his organisation suggests that the disbursement of the funds will commence late August or early September.

Udechukwu, however, complained that the facility is unduly being delayed as the nation's productive sectors are dying, while the nation knowingly prolongs its days of suffering by delaying the empowerment of the very sectors that could provide the needed solutions to its predicament.

He advised that

ITB hosts MoneyMart

International Trust Bank (ITB) is hosting the July meeting of the Money Market Association of Nigeria (MoneyMart), the umbrella of treasurers in the banking subsector, scheduled for Thursday, July 26.

A statement signed by ITB's Head of Corporate Affairs, Andrew Odioko, said highlights of the occasion will be a keynote address by ITB's Managing Director, Alhaji Abdulkadir Idris, who is the host chief executive.

The presentation, according to the statement, will examine the dynamics of interest-free banking with reference to the Nigerian market.

The luncheon is scheduled to hold at the Lagoon Restaurant, Victoria Island, Lagos, at 2:00p.m.

"whatever facility they are giving to the SMEs and whatever asset that facility will create should be a sufficient collateral for it. They should not go outside that to ask for additional security."

Some analysts are however doubtful on whether the bankers committee and the CBN will ensure that the August date for the above funds would be kept without further postponement.



Adamu Ciroma, Finance Minister

Minister charges PAN

The Minister of Industry, Chief Kola Jamodu has tasked Peugeot Automobile Nigeria Limited (PAN) to strike and make Nigeria a centre of CKD (Completely Knocked-Down) manufacturing in Africa in order to serve other auto assemblers worldwide.

Speaking at the commissioning of PAN training college in Kaduna, he said necessary machinery has been put in place for the review of the long-expired technical agreement entered

into with various foreign technical partners.

He stated that the government is doing this as part of its efforts towards ensuring sustainable growth and development of the Nigerian automotive industry.

He expressed confidence that there would be increased demand for locally made vehicles with the going on campaign on patronage of made-in-Nigeria products.

Jamodu also said that a "Bank of Industry" would soon be established as part of the efforts towards making the industrial sector the engine of growth of the economy.

This, he said, would enable manufacturing industries have easy access to loanable funds at affordable rates, stressing that it would also help to improve the capacity of small industries to give support for the sub-contracting arrangement between the small and large industries.

On the 100 percent inspection of goods at the ports, he said it became necessary in order to address the prevailing problems of smuggling and other related trade malpractices which had hitherto militated against domestic production in Nigeria.

Speaking earlier, the Managing Director of PAN, Mr. Philippe Beudet, said the training college is geared towards contributing to the country's quest for industrial development.

The company, he said, has made some progress in terms of investments in plant, saying that it had embarked on new projects over the past few months.

ALSCON now well-positioned to resume production -MD

The Managing Director of Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria (ALSCON), Mr. Dieter Matron has stated that the conclusion of negotiations for the supply of 102 million standard cubic feet per day (scfd) of gas between his company and the Nigerian Gas Company (NGC), places ALSCON in a good position to resume and increase its production.

ALSCON, which commenced production in October 1997 had to suspend it in May 1999 due to some logistics problems and has since been on preservation mode.

Speaking at an elaborate signing ceremony of the gas supply to his company by NGC, however, Matron stated that his company is now "better positioned to resume and increase its production."

The delay in signing an agreement on pricing and supply of gas in sufficient quantity between the two companies had been one of the knotty issues holding up ALSCON's reactivation plans.

The other issues of

working capital for the company and the dredging of Imo River, according to a statement issued by the Deputy General Manager, Public Relations of ALSCON, Malam Garba Shehu, "have since been resolved while all hands are on deck to complete construction of facilities" necessary for an increase in the company's level of production as soon as it resumes production.

ALSCON's Managing Director had at the signing ceremony expressed the hope that the needed cooperation from all, especially the shareholders, community and staff will be extended to the company to enable it achieve its set goals.

Meanwhile, the statement issued by the DGM had noted that the restriction of initial gas supply to ALSCON to only 20 million scfd, as opposed to the 100 million scfd required for full capacity utilisation had the effect of holding down ALSCON's production to about 20 percent installed capacity.

Yusuf replaces Auyo as NAMA MD

From Shakirat Abdulmajeed, in Lagos

The Managing Director of Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Alhaji Ibrahim Auyo has been removed from office while the former Director of Air Services of the agency, Alhaji Yusuf Muhammad has been appointed to replace him as the new NAMA Managing Director.

The NAMA boss along with two others, Tobak Okunoren, a Director in the Agency and Engineer (Mrs.) Shade Odutola, Director Air Worthiness, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) were also sacked.

In the sack letter handed to Alhaji Auyo late last week, no reason was given by the minister who claimed that she got approval to sack Auyo from the Vice-President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar since last year.

Auyo, who barely 24 hours before his sack was in the minister's entourage to the commissioning of a sculptural piece erected by two female corps members at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, got his sack letter signed by the minister.

Engineer Odutola, who also received her sack letter the same day was allegedly removed for demanding for high estacode from an airline to enable her carryout an inspection on its aircraft outside Nigeria.

Tobak Okunoren was however, removed based on insubordination to superior officers. Sources in the aviation industry linked Auyo's removal to the radar scam that led to the removal of the Chairman, Board of Directors of the NAMA, Chief Rochas Okorocho, who has recently been cleared of the allegations by the National Assembly.

Business Day learnt that Auyo's problem started when he gave a contradictory evidence against Dr. Chikwe during the radar project probe by Senate Committee on Aviation.

When Business Day visited NAMA's office in Lagos, most of the workers there wore gloomy faces, depicting their unhappiness at the turn of events.

Though the workers refused to comment on the matter, some of them who prefer anonymity described Auyo as "a very humble, diligent and honest man."



Kema Chikwe, Aviation Minister

Star Interview

Nigeria's prisons require N50 billion -- Comptroller-General

Sir, when did you join the Nigeria Prisons Service?

I joined the Nigeria Prisons Service on transfer of service on 3rd January, 1972. Before I joined the prisons service I was with the Nigeria Police Force.

What was the state of the Nigeria Prisons Service in those days? And how is it today?

Yes, honestly the condition of the prisons service was better at the time I joined the service in 1972. There was no prison congestion as it is now. Things started to worsen when the facilities at the prisons were not upgraded to meet the daily increase of inmates. In fact, the past governments did not pay much attention to the problems that were threatening the existence of the Nigeria Prisons Service. It was only in 1999, when the former Head of State, Gen Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd) took over the government that he started upgrading the dead

Ibrahim Mohammed Jarma is the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Prisons Service. In this interview with our reporter, Emmanuel Ande, he comments on developments in the Nigerian Prisons Service, congestion in prisons, funding of the establishment, promotions, corruption in the Prisons Service and much more. Excerpts:

facilities and he also opened the gates of the prisons, which helped to reduce the congestion. I also made a submission to the then Minister of Internal Affairs, Alhaji Isa Yakubu, who in turn submitted a memo to the Head of State, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd).

At that time we presented an estimate of about N18 billion in order to reform our prisons and the government at that time accepted the proposal in principle and government directed us to break it into phases and we did that and about N2.4 billion was approved for us, but unfortunately, the Ministry of Finance turned round and said the money was our usual allocation for the year 1999. So, actually there was no special allocation for the reform

of prisons but our yearly allocation was only increased. We used that money to renovate hospitals, workshops and bought mattresses for the inmates because they were sleeping on the bare floor. We also used the money to purchase drugs, provide portable water and sewage facilities also. We also changed the prisoners' uniform from knickers to trousers. The staff uniform was also changed. Now all the staff use the same uniform with the senior officers.

We also embarked on the construction of the prison village along airport road. The prison village is going to accommodate our national headquarters, accommodation for staff from the warders to the Comptroller-General and it is also going to contain a nursery school,

primary and secondary school, a shopping complex and a sporting complex. We also used the money to acquire ammunitions and train our staff to meet the task ahead of them since our role is to rehabilitate, reform and reintegrate the inmates. Thus, our training pattern too should be in line with the nature of our job.

Another area that government's attention is drawn to is the completion of the uncompleted prisons. We have already commissioned one or two at Gumel and the other one at Kontagora. We now have four completed and we are only waiting for the commissioning. They are located at: Minna, Markudi, Funtua and Ilesha. We have also completed four hospitals. The one in Kaduna has been commissioned and

put to use, and the one in Lagos is also in use. It is the Bauchi and Ilesha hospitals that are still waiting for commissioning.

But we still need to do more if our funding is increased to a better level so that we can meet our target of reforming the prisons. If this government really wants to match

words with action, more funds should be released to the prisons service.

What are the major problems facing the Nigeria Prisons Service staff for now? And what are the likely solutions to solving some of these problems?

The most important thing is to have the facilities to work. The government has tried by improving the condition of service of the staff. We are doing something to improve the welfare of the staff but we still have to

"In 1999, I requested for N18 billion but because of inflation and other things we may now need about N40-50 billion to carry out the assignment of reforming the Nigeria Prisons Service. You see, it is not just a matter of putting somebody in the prison. There is a purpose and that purpose is to reform that person so that he doesn't commit that offence again."



Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed Jarma, Comptroller-General of Nigeria Prisons Service

do more. It is good to give wardens what they need to work because they are looking after dangerous criminals. Some are sentenced to death, some are drug barons, and if the conditions of service are not properly addressed there is a temptation that wardens can go out of their way to collect money from these incarcerated people and let them off the hook, so if that happens it will be a very serious breach of security.

If you are taking care of the inmates you must also take care of the staff and if you are taking care of the staff you must also take care of prisoners. It is a double role. So whatever you are doing to the staff you must do it to the prisoners, because if one of the parties is not happy it will be dangerous to the nation and that is the reality.

Contd. on pg 14

Change or be left behind.



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Star Interview



Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed Jarma
Contd. from pg 12

What do you think is responsible for the congestion of prisons and what do you think government can do to alleviate this problem?

The problem of congestion of prisons has a lot to do with the police. This is because suspects who are supposed to be tried are not tried and nobody can even locate their case files, although I am not holding brief for the police because I know police too have their own problems. But despite these shortcomings, the police are still responsible for prisons' congestion.

How long have you been in service?

I have served for 34 years now. For a while when I was in the police force I transferred my service as I said earlier on the 3rd of January, 1972 to the Nigeria Prisons Service. Actually I started working on 1st August, 1967.

Are you okay with the allocation given to your establishment? Can it cater for the problems confronting

it? It is not okay, I don't

know what people think about us. They underestimate our problems. You see, we are dealing with incarcerated human beings who have lost their liberty, and so everything has to be done for them. If you think of this alone I think we should be realistic in terms of the way we treat the service. We have been making representations to the government. Just of recent I have submitted a blue print on the prisons service to the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, Mr. Sunday Afolabi, for onward transmission to Mr. President. The recommendation I made in the blue print I think if it is approved and funds released, the prisons service will change for the better. The living conditions of the inmates have to be improved and the staff welfare also desires serious attention. The rehabilitation of discharged inmates and other issues desire serious attention from government. We are now waiting for government's response.

Sir, can you comment on problems of financial

embezzlement in the Nigeria Prisons Service during your tenure as Comptroller-General?

There is no organisation that is corruption-free but in the past five years I have tried to fight it in order to make sure that corruption has been reduced because I believe in accountability and transparency. If you combine these two things together with discipline you can fight corruption. There were

some staff that were involved in cases of corruption. We dismissed some of them. Some of them were demoted and we terminated the appointment of some. Although I cannot give you the correct statistics for now.

Yet, we still have a lot to do. We shall continue to fight corruption until it is completely eradicated. I cannot say that the prisons service is corruption-free but any case that

comes to our knowledge we will investigate it and if the officer involved is found guilty we show him his way out.

Why is it that your men secure promotions faster than other paramilitary structures like the Immigration and the Customs?

Well, we are under the same board and we recommend promotions for both the prisons and immigration. Although I do not know whether actually what you are saying is true, but I am also not in the position to know about other paramilitary establishments, but for the prisons service we believe in hard work and we reciprocate our staff for their hard work.

So whenever we see that somebody qualifies for promotion we send his name to the board with all the recommendations. It is not fair if somebody is due for promotion and you refuse to take action if you do that you discourage people from working hard, so you cannot get the best you are expecting from them. Promotion is part of the reward for hard work. Not only promotion but we also give awards to hardworking staff to show that government has recognised what they are doing for their country and that government is happy.

That is why we have the Nigeria Prisons Service award. Even this month we are forwarding names of some officers for promotions because they are overdue for it. But if you are not doing well we demote you. We have been doing that to the lazy officers in order to ginger them to work hard.

When would your establishment begin its next recruitment exercise?

We are going to start recruitment very soon. You see, with the new development of police handing over the responsibility of taking prisoners to court to Warders we need more personnel to strengthen the service. The police have handed over the Black Marias to us, so we need to also retrain our staff to meet the challenge ahead of them. We need more staff for the hospitals, we need drivers, mechanics and other staff for special duties. We also need medical doctors, pharmacists, nurses and laboratory technicians to properly handle these hospitals. So very soon we are going to embark on a recruitment exercise.

How much do you think government can allocate to you to cater for the numerous problems facing your estab-

lishment?

In 1999, I requested for N18 billion but because of inflation and other things we may now need about N40-50 billion to carry out the assignment of reforming the Nigeria Prisons Service.

You see, it is not just a matter of putting somebody in the prison. There is a purpose and that purpose is to reform that person so that he doesn't commit that offence again. But for now we are not doing much on that because we don't have many facilities and we cannot go beyond where we are now unless we are properly funded. You see, these inmates have to be trained so that by the time you are discharging them you can give them some assistance to go and start something to earn a living.

Those who specialise in tailoring you buy tailoring machines for them and those that specialise in woodwork you also buy working tools for them, if not the aim of incarcerating them is defeated, because they will go back to the society as worse and more dangerous people because of the hardship they underwent in the prison. Therefore, there is every reason to take good care of these people while releasing them to go back to a free world.



NEWS

Kebbi distributes fertiliser to farmers

The Kebbi State government has so far distributed 10,000 metric tonnes of assorted fertiliser to farmers for this year's cropping season.

Disclosing this to newsmen in his office in Kebbi the General Manager, Agricultural Supply Company, Alhaji Isah Rabiu Aliero, explained that the commodity was procured before the onset of rains.

According to him, the gesture was also extended to the dry season farmers in an effort to boost agricultural production across the state, adding that "the state government is determined to make the commodity available next cropping season also Alhaji Aliero used the occasion to deny allegations by the opposition party that the fertiliser were distributed based on political affiliations.

From Kabir Dogon Daji, in Birnin Kebbi

"The allegations are malicious and unfounded, because as far as I am concerned, the distribution was not only free and fair, it was devoid of partisan bias," he said.

He further said the distribution was overseen by a constituted committee that

included all the three political parties, security personnel and officials of the state ministry of agriculture.

He also revealed that the Federal Government has allocated 480,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer to the state of which over 300,000 metric tonnes have arrived and are being distributed to farmers accordingly.



Gov. Aliero

Akume orders up-grading of facilities at refugee camps

Benue State Governor, Mr. George Akume, recently visited displaced people's camps at Dauda and Ufipiam in Guma local government area of Benue state and ordered the upgrading of facilities there.

The governor, who was accompanied by members of the State Executive Council, the Head of Service, Chief Theophilus A'zaagee as well as other top government functionaries, was conducted round all the blocks containing the displaced people by the chairman and secretary of the committee on displaced people, Engr. Bartholomew Oche SSG and Agriculture Commissioner, Mrs. Elizabeth Shuluwa.

Addressing the displaced people, the governor expressed sympathy over the crisis but assured that they would soon return to their respective domains as the Nasarawa, Benue and Federal Governments are working relentlessly to ensure that peace reigns in the area.

Governor Akume expressed appreciation over efforts made so far by his Nasarawa State counterpart, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, towards bringing the protracted communal crisis to an end. The governor particularly expressed joy that Alhaji Adamu had noted the fact that the displaced Tiv people from Nasarawa State are bonafied indigenes of Nasarawa State and not settlers as wrongly claimed in some quarters.

Mr. Akume enjoined the

By Terna Doki

refugees to properly conduct themselves in the camps,

shunning and not selling relief materials given them. he also urged them to cooperate with government officials taking care of them in their camps.

While appealing to them

to remain steadfast and avoid taking vengeance in spite of the damage caused them, Akume called on the host community to offer assistance to the displaced people living in their domains.

Jigawa improves infrastructure, woos investors

The Jigawa State Government, in collaboration with the US Army Corps of Engineers, is working out modalities to improve infrastructure in the State to woo local and foreign investors to the state.

Revealing this to newsmen in his office in Dutse, the state capital, recently the chairman, Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee of the State, Alhaji Bashir Hussain Adamu, said already, a team of engineers from the US Army Corps of Engineers has arrived the state capital

for talks on the issue.

Alhaji Adamu further revealed that, the engineers are originally in the state as part of US government's policy of rendering assistance to nations, organisations and groups in the middle-east, Russia and Africa to help improve the well-being of people in terms of providing infrastructural, food and economic empowerment.

He also stated that engineers are currently holding consultations with the Federal Government on how to

improve the Kainji and Jebba Hydro-power generation plants.

He, however, advised that people should not mistake the corps of Engineers with the defence agreement between Nigeria and the US, which they are aware of His words: this has nothing to do with the defence arrangement as ours is purely a development affair which is directed towards the provision of both urban and feeder roads, electricity rural hospitals, housing, agriculture and environmental protection."



Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Registrar/Chief Executive, Prof. Bello A. Salim (middle) exchanging views with Director of Test Administration, Prof. Tunde Adeniran (lft) while Director Computer Services, Prof. Raheem A. Adeniran looks on during the Press briefing on Release of Results for the 2001 Universities Matriculation Examination at JAMB headquarters, Abuja. Pix: Felix Onigbinde

Fresh crisis looms in Offa

From Abdul-Laro, in Ilorin

government following the clash in May last year.

The students, who protested last Friday sang solidarity soups round the ancient town before proceeding to Ilorin, the state capital, to register their grievances to the state government.

All primary and secondary schools were closed down in what appeared a resolve by the students to checkmate the relaunch of the vigilante outfit as they

vowed not to be enslaved again.

After the street protest on Friday, the students stormed Ilorin in three buses under the watchful eyes of policemen and lodged their complaint at both the Government House and the State House of Assembly complex.

No member of the House was found as legislators are on a four week recess, though a director addressed the students.

Residents of Offa expressed optimism over the quick resolution of the issue at stake just as the state government warned through its Commissioner for Local Government Affairs, Alhaji Abdulrahman Iliyas, that government would not fold its arms and allow any threat to life and property.

If further warned the community to stop the proposed vigilante outfit.



Gov. Lawal

PAN-IGBO group pledges support for Obasanjo

By Simon Imobo-Tswam

Open-igbo Forum, a pan-igbo cultural Association, has pledged its unalloyed support and loyalty to President Olusegun Obasanjo for laying a solid foundation for improving the lives of Nigerians especially rural dwellers.

The President-General of the association, Chief Martin Okeke, who led his seven-man executive members on a courtesy visit to the Minister for Water Resources, Alhaji Mukhtari Shagari, described the latter's appointment as a dream come to true for the Igbo Community because "over campaign for a generational shift in the governance of the country has come to pass."

Praising President Obasanjo for the appointment of Alhaji Shagari, Chief Okeke appealed to the minister to ensure that he champions the cause of the down-trodden masses and the youths.

Responding, the Minister thanked the forum for its loyalty, and told them that the President is quite aware of the great importance which water plays in the life of everybody and is determined to make water available to all. He promised that all the River Basin Development Authorities in the country will be fully reactivated so that they can perform their role of providing water both for irrigation.

that as soon as the bill, which seeks to enact a National Agency for Trafficking in Persons Law Enforcement and Administration Act is passed into law, Nigeria would become uncondusive for the barons.

The Initiator of the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), spoke at the weekend when she received a delegation from the Protection Project Foreign Policy Institute of John Hopkins University, Washington DC who called on her.

According to her, members of the National Assembly have shown a lot of sympathy to the plight of victims of human trafficking and are, therefore, willing to take necessary actions to save Nigerians from the claws of traffickers.

She, however, lamented that most of the Nigerian girls repatriated have always given wrong information about themselves thereby making it difficult to reach out to them.

"Most of these girls hardly give their correct names and addresses. So it is difficult to even contact them after counselling. When they are written with the addresses they gave, they hardly get the letters," she said.

She explained that those that respond get micro credits to start some business while those that still have the love for education are helped to go further.

Also speaking, the Executive Secretary of WOTCLEF, Barrister Tunde Fagbohungebe, stressed that the establishment of the Human Trafficking Law Enforcement Agency would provide a better way of fighting the scourge.

In her earlier remarks, leader of the delegation, Jennifer Goodson, commended Mrs. Atiku Abubakar for her initiatives. She explained that their mission to Nigeria was to learn from the Chairperson of WOTCLEF how she was coping with the job of fighting trafficked victims.

Titi Abubakar expresses confidence in NASS

By Hameed Bello

Wife of the Vice-president, Chief (Mrs.) Amina Titi Abubakar has expressed confidence in the ability of the National Assembly to urgently pass into law, her Private Bill on Human Trafficking as a sign of its resolve to make Nigeria a safe haven for the citizenry.

According to a press release signed by her Chief Press Secretary, Mr. Josiah Emerole, Mrs. Atiku explained that the lack of an enabling law had over the years made it possible for traffickers in human beings to carry on with their trade without being challenged.

She, therefore, stressed

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

ALMAJALISUL ISLAMI HOTORO

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above named association has applied for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree 1990.

The Trustees of the association are:

1. Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Umar
2. Mallam Abdullahi Muhammad Getso
3. Mallam Muhammad Kabir Umar
4. Alhaji Ilu Mai - Kasuwa
5. Alhaji Musa Abdullahi Maigatari
6. Alhaji Bashir Umar Dambatta
7. Alhaji Muhammad Sani Gwarzo
8. Alhaji Mukhtari Muhammad Gumel

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

Signed:

MALLAM MUHAMMAD KABIR UMAR
Secretary

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as MISS PATIENCE A. AJI ADI now wish to be called MRS FRANCIS R. NATHAN. All former documents remain valid. Taraba State Polytechnic Jalingo, Federal Polytechnic Nassarawa, Nassarawa State and general public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS AISHATU ADAMU now wish to be addressed as MRS MAIRO ABUBAKAR. Former document remain valid. Borno State Environmental Protection Agency and the Public to note.

I, formerly known as GODBLESS THEOPLELUS OWUALA, now wish to be called PASTOR CHIKEZIE SOLOMON NWACHUKU. Former document remain valid. Federal Inspectorate of Education and general public should take note.

I, formerly known as FATIMA ABUBAKAR ALI now wish to be called as DANNA ALI. Former documents remain valid MOGOLIS and the general public should take note.

I, formerly MISS OBOMEGHIE KHADIJAT IGIENEKHUME now wish to be known and addressed as MRS SEDENU YAQUB KHADIJAT IGIENEKHUME. All former documents remain valid, general public take note

I formerly known as HALIMA FAROUK now wish to be called MRS HALIMA UMAR FAROUK. All former documents remain valid. Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources Abuja and public to note.

Formerly MRS. SALMA ABDULLAHI ISA BIU now wish to be known and addressed as MRS SALMA JAMIL. NEPA/Public to note.



YOBE STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

KM5 Sir Kashim Ibrahim Road
P.M.B. 1107,
Damaturu

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE PHASE II CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT THE BUKAR ABBA ZOO PARK, DAMATURU

1. The Yobe State Ministry of Environment, Damaturu hereby invites tenders from suitable contractors specialized in Permanent construction Animal Enclosure Structures for Bukar Abba Zoo Park II for various lots as follow:

Lot 1 Zoo Buildings

Entrance Gate/Ticket booths
Education Centre and Museum Complex
General Store

↳ Tender Document Non-refundable fee =N=20,000

Lot 2 Utility Link

Walkways

↳ Tender Document Non-refundable fee =N=10,000

Lot 3 Animal Enclosures

Large Herbivores

- Buffalo
- Roan Antelope
- Western Hatebeast
- Warthog

*Tender Document Non-refundable fee =N=20,000

Lot 4 Small Herbivores

- Red Flanked Duiker
- Oribi
- Dorcas Gazelle
- Kob
- Porcupine

*Tender Document Non-refundable fee =N=20,000

Lot 5 Reptile

Crocodile Pool

*Tender Document Non-refundable fee =N=20,000

2. A complete document on each lots are obtainable from the Ministry on payment of a non-refundable tender fee as per cost appended under each lots, made payable to the Yobe State Ministry of Finance, State Tenders Board Unit, Potiskum Road, P.M.B. 1045, Damaturu.
3. Completed tender documents should be inserted in sealed envelope and clearly marked **Tender For the Construction of Phase II Bukar Abba Zoo Park** including the lot number and must be submitted to:

The Honourable Commissioner
Ministry of Environment
Km5 Sir Kashim Ibrahim Road
P.M.B. 1107
Damaturu

Within 14 days from the date of this advertisement.

4. All tenders submission must be accompanied with copies of the following:

- a) Certificate of incorporation in Nigeria
- b) Tender documents non-refundable fee receipts
- c) Evidence of similar past job performances including equipment, management profile;
- d) A Bank reference
- e) Schedule of work for the lot being quote for.

5. Failure to submit with the above stated documents invalidates the tender.
6. The tenders Board reserves the right to accept or reject any tender wholly or in part and is not bound accept the lowest tender.

Signed:

ALHAJI IBRAHIM K. AMSHI (Dallatun Bade)
PERMANENT SECRETARY

Features

Water shortage in Abuja satellite towns

By Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman

The perennial water shortage in the Satellite towns around Abuja has made life difficult for the inhabitants. In a survey that took *Daily Trust* round 10 of such towns namely: Idu, Karmo, Gwagwa, Jiwa, Saburi, Dei-Dei, Kado, Jabi, Kubwa and Nyanya, it was gathered that because of the shortage of water supply to the areas, majority of inhabitants had since resorted to patronising water vendors, with very risky alternatives from streams and wells.

In Gwagwa for instance, *Daily Trust* gathered that it was well over 15 months since the town was disconnected from the network of water supply by the FCT water board. Since then, residents have been buying water from vendors at an exorbitant price range of N40 and N50 per 20 litres, and N5 per 1 litre Sachet of what is popularly known as "pure water".

Being an area mainly inhabited by low-income earners, majority of the residents cannot afford water from vendors, and as such had chosen the alternative of sourcing water from the nearby Gwagwa river for domestic use including water for drinking purpose.

From some vendors in the area, *Daily Trust* gathered that because of the long distances they always have to trek to get tap water, and the high price it attracts, they are often compelled to go down the Gwagwa river to fetch water and sell to residents at a cheaper price of N10 per 20 litres.

In Saburi town, the situation is even worse as inhabitants complained of lack of electricity, let alone pipe borne water. In this area, the main source of water is a stream, with very insignificant support from tap water vendors, most of whom were said to have lost interest in supplying the community as a result of adequate patronage in the neighbouring Gwagwa town. When supplied by vendors, 20 litres of tap water goes for nothing less than N50 per 20 litres in Saburi town.

In Idu and Karmo Satellite towns, the story is not

different, only about three months ago, the manhole from where domestic subscribers are connected to the main supply pipe, were all locked with no reasons given to the residents. *Daily Trust* gathered that even before the final locking of the manholes, the pressure of water supply to the area had been so low that the impact was not felt by the residents. Rather, they had been exposed to severe exploitation by water vendors, majority of whom source tap water from illegitimate points.

It was then disclosed to *Daily Trust* that the vendors sometimes resort to breaking pipes at certain points from which they divert water into their tanks for onward sale to residents at the exorbitant price of N30 per 20 litres. Some of the illegitimate points are located at old Karmo junction, Karmo Catholic church manhole and the Idu Industrial layout junction.

The block industries located along the major road linking Idu-Karmo town with Wuse have also been turned into business points for water vendors. Majority of the industries use tap water for moulding blocks, and so take advantage of the water shortage in the areas to sell to the vendors at N5 Per 20 litres.

Majority of the domestic subscribers who spoke to *Daily Trust* expressed their disapproval of water hawking which they noted had become a questionable business in the area. A situation that has aroused suspicion of an unholy alliance between the vendors and some staff of the FCT water board.

The vendors are, however, of the position that they do not often source their water from within Idu-Karmo. In most cases, they have to trek a distance of between six-eight kilometres to get tap water from either Kado or life camp or Jabi to sell to consumers in Idu-Karmo. According to them, this was the reason why 20 litres could not be sold for less than N30 in the area.

Just like their counterparts



Some inhabitants of Idu-Karmo fetching stream water for domestic consumption.

in Gwagwa, majority of residents of Idu-Karmo, who cannot afford water from the vendors, have taken to a nearby stream to source water while others still rely on some public wells in the area.

On a visit to the Idu stream, about 2km from the residential area, *Daily Trust* gathered that on a number of occasions young girls have been raped around the stream area by some miscreants. The stream, which is profuse with lethal micro-organisms was said to sometimes serve as the source from which the so-called 'pure water' is obtained by some manufacturers who carve out parts of their residential building for factories in Idu-Karmo.

According to a WHO statistic, 80 of all sicknesses in the world can be attributed to inadequate water and poor sanitation. Thus, apart from the fact that the well water upon which the inhabitants of these satellite towns rely is not available in sufficient quantity, there are also risks of water containing excessive salt, Iron Sulphide and some suspended organic matters which expose consumers to potent water-related diseases.

It is note worthy that majority of the civil servants in Abuja live in the satellite towns. Some of them who

spoke to *Daily Trust* complained bitterly that they were being made to spend three times in one week, what they could have paid as water bills in one month. Combining this with the difficulties they encounter in getting vehicles to and from their offices, the workers could not help questioning the sensitivity of the present administration to the plight of the masses.

In Kubwa town, the water shortage is not very pronounced as the area enjoys a 12000 cubic metre tank close to the Usuma Dam. While the residents of Jabi town also enjoy proximity to Utako and Wuse districts, water supply is alternated between Kado and Life Camp on every other day basis. 20 litres water ranges between N10 and N15 in Kado, Life Camp and Jabi, and then between N10 and N20 in Kubwa. In Nyanya town, it was gathered that water is released only once a week. Some staff of the water board are also said to be engaged in water hawking in the area, a situation which has kept the business flourishing. Water is sold at N40 per 20 litres in the town.

Three reasons have, however, been advanced by the FCT water board for the Shortage of water in the Satellite towns. The first is the rapid depletion of the raw water at the lower Usuma dam which is the only source on

which the entire FCT residents depend. The second reason is the rapid population increase in the satellite towns, which has placed demand in excess of the supply capacity of the available infrastructure. The third is the fear of the proposed demolition of the satellite towns.

Daily Trust gathered that the first treatment plant at the lower Usuma dam which has a production capacity of 5000 cubic metres of water per hour was supposed to have been supported with a minimum of four treatment plants of equal capacity in order for all FCT residents to enjoy water supply.

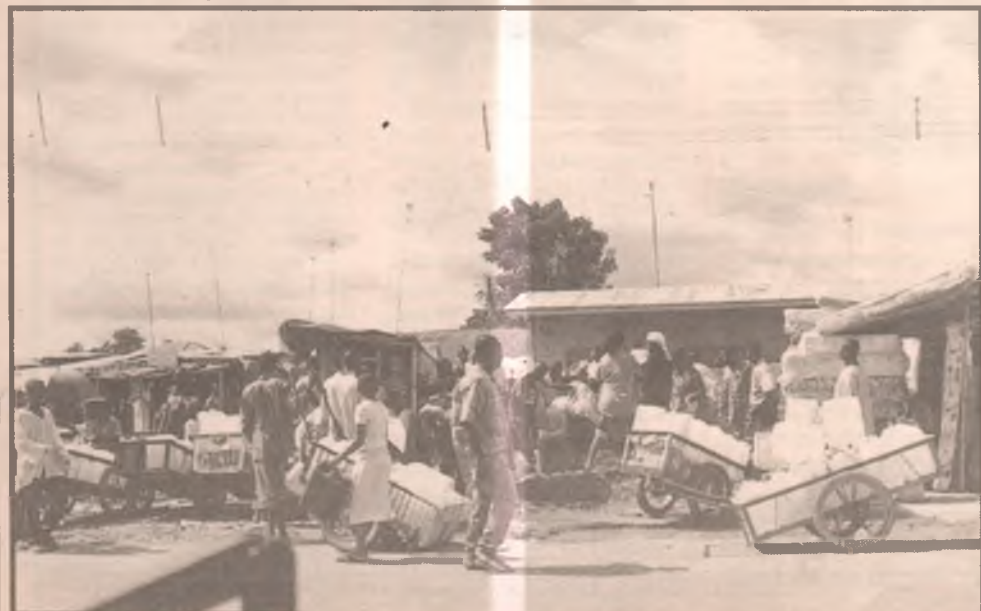
The second treatment plant, which was initiated in 1998 by the Abdulsalami Abubakar administration with a total cost of N3.2 billion and commissioned on May 29, 2000, seems to be suffering from lack of attention from the government at present. On this, *Daily Trust* gathered that the laying of the bulk water conveyance trunk has not been completed. This is the reason for the delay in the activation of the second treatment plant whose capacity is equal to that of the first treatment plant. Given that the second treatment plant is operational, the satellite towns could have been enjoying stable water supply.

It was also gathered that the Federal Government has constructed a \$30 billion dam at the Gurara Falls in Niger State, which the government said would be transferred to Abuja with a 70km conveyance trunk to provide the bulk water requirement of the FCT. The contract which was awarded to an Israeli company known as Messrs SCC is expected to be completed within 36 months from now. There are expectations that the dam would be eight times the present capacity of the Usuma dam which has a reservoir capacity of 100 million cubic metres.

Earlier on, however, *Daily Trust* gathered that the first and the only functional water treatment plant at the lower Usuma dam was designed to cover only phase one of the Abuja master plan which include Maitama, Wuse II and Wuse Zones 1-7. By implication, the Satellite towns of Gwagwa, Idu, Karmo, Dei-Dei, Saburi, Jiwa and Kado, including Life Camp are not covered in the scheme of the first treatment plant. Therefore facilities were simply overstretched whenever water is released to these areas.

It is important to note that the satellite towns of Gwagwa, Idu and Karmo are located on the lower areas of Abuja. Going by the fact that Abuja operates the gravity system of water supply, these areas are not supposed to lack water at any time. This is confirmed in the statement made by the Director of the FCT Water Board, Engr. Nosa Ukponmwan, as reported in the media: "Gwagwa and Karmo are much lower in the city, so if we leave it like that, all the water will just gravitate towards that area, and you wouldn't have water in Wuse side of the city." The formula for water distribution in the FCT therefore is "the consumer, their needs and the water available" the director added.

The question, then goes: Who are the consumers in the satellite towns, and what is their level of need for water? The answer to this is obvious: water supply to the satellite towns was curtailed so that the "more important" areas of the FCT can be adequately served.

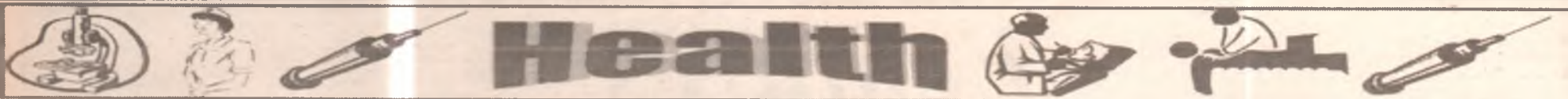


Water vendors gathering to fetch water from a point in Karmo town



Residents of Karmo take on a shallow public well

Pix by Yakubu Ozohu-Suleiman



Health

WHO boss calls for better funding of health systems

No amount of external support can reverse the negative health and economic indicators in Africa if Africans do not take up the task of improving their lot seriously, the WHO regional director for Africa, Dr. Ebrahim Samba, has said.

Speaking on Friday in Harare at a regional consultative meeting on health systems assessment, the WHO boss said that the responsibility for overall development in Africa remained with Africans.

Speaking on Friday in Harare at a regional consultative meeting on health systems assessment, the WHO boss said that the responsibility for overall development in Africa remained with Africans.

Samba also urged African leaders to redeem their pledge of

allocating at least 15 percent of their national budgets to the health sector for adequate funding of health systems on the continent.

The WHO director stressed the need for African countries to ensure that health workers were well motivated, while creating conditions conducive to the strengthening of their health systems by the judicious management of resources.

"Health systems are the vehicles through which health problems such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are resolved, it



Kofi Annan, UN Sec-Gen.

is therefore important for African countries to have strong health systems as this would enable them to handle these and other diseases more effectively," Samba said.

The WHO director expressed optimism that Africa would benefit immensely from the proposed 10 billion-dollar

global health fund and urged African countries to start reflecting on how assistance accruing to them from the fund would be utilised for health development.

Samba also spoke of plans by the WHO to organise another consultative meeting to discuss assistance to countries in improving health sector performance and in preparing plans for the utilisation of funds accessed from the global health fund.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the Harare consultation was attended by 47 participants from 26 African countries.

Condom sales maintain upward trend

Condom sales in Nigeria maintained an upward trend in March and April after a sharp rise in January over last year's figures, peaking at over nine million pieces during the two months, the Society for Family Health (SFH) has said.

In its bi-monthly activity report for the two months, the

society, which distributes the 'Gold Circle' brand, said that it recorded 40 percent increase over last year's sales in January and that the rise had continued.

It said that while it was investigating the reason for the dramatic increase, the increased sales could be partly attributed to its HIV/AIDS radio campaign which ran from December to February before it was suspended by the Advertising Practitioners' Council of Nigeria.

"If this increase continues, we will surpass our target by a wide margin.

"We have therefore ordered additional condoms in anticipation of possible shortfall in our forecast for the year," the society said.

It did not, however, give the figure for the forecast, neither did it indicate if a study is being conducted to determine actual use by what segment of the population.

Mr. Bright Ekweremadu, General Manager in charge of programmes at the society, had earlier told NAN that Gold Circle was just one of 17 brands of condom in the Nigerian market.

Kenya to set up more HIV/AIDS testing centres

The Kenyan government is in the process of establishing 300 HIV/AIDS volunteer counselling and testing centers countrywide, the *East African Standard* newspaper reported today.

Elizabeth Ngugi, national chairperson of the society of Women and AIDS in Kenya, was quoted as saying that the move is part of a strategic plan to contain the disease, which is killing at least 700 Kenyans daily while a similar number gets infected every day.

Speaking at HIV/AIDS seminar, Ngugi made a passionate appeal to men in the country to change their sexual

behaviour and take "NO" for an answer when women say so in matters related to unprotected sex.

There is an urgent need for men to rethink their positions in society, she said.

Institutional campaigns against HIV/AIDS pay off - SFH

The Society for Family Health (SFH) says its campaign against HIV/AIDS in tertiary institutions and the armed forces are paying off, with more and more people participating.

The society said in its activity report for March and April that the 'Play Safe Rave,' a drama it introduced into tertiary institutions had recorded "tremendous

achievements in terms of attendance" ranging from 1500 to 3000 spectators in the schools visited.

The objective of the project to be staged in 12 tertiary institutions across the country, it said, was to provide HIV/AIDS education to participants through variety show, including music, drama, dancing competition and quiz contests.

"We empathize with the public" - Eze

The National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) embarked on a strike action on the 6th of July over the inability of government to meet its demands. In this interview with our health reporter, IKENNAEMEKA OKPANI, the President of the Association, Chief Pat Enobolu Eze discusses various issues relating to the strike and the Profession of Nursing in Nigeria. Excerpts:-

The industrial arbitration panel award of 1981 puts the nursing profession at par with that of pharmacy it is in Britain. Does this really obtain in Nigeria?

Well, I think it obtains probably in principle not in practice because in that 1981 industrial arbitration panel award, there is creation of directorate of nursing services. It was awarded to nursing profession and it might occur to you that for over twenty years after the award nothing has been done. The thing was further bastardised by this circular released by Federal Ministry of Health recently, that gave pharmacists 2% call duty allowance and gave nurses 1.72%. I wonder the parameter with which they worked that out. So is not working. Is all lip service we are paying to all these things and that is one of the problems we are having in this country.

Coming to the main issue of the on-going strike, what are the issues in contention in the face-off between your association and the Ministry of Health and what do you think is the way out?

The major issues in contention are these. First of all I want to debunk the impression that we went on strike because Doctors went on strike or have just gotten jumbo allowances. It is wrong. This is not a fresh strike. This strike was suspended on August 4th, 2000 for us to discuss. And from August to now is just barely one year, almost one year and it has never dawned on these people to call us to

come and collectively bargain and discuss the issues. The impact is that the Federal Government has consistently refused to give Nigerian nurses and midwives working professional scheme of service in line with what is obtainable in other democracies in the world. The demand for an acceptable scheme lasted for more than ten years. Then there is unreasonable refusal of the Federal Government to give effect to the professional autonomy of nursing profession by creating a directorate of nursing and nursing services in the federal, state, local and tertiary health institutions so these are some of the burning issues than cum the professional allowances which are not there.

There is dilapidated infrastructures in our hospitals. We don't have equipment. We don't have the job aids and tools. You go there, no *Trigonometre* to test patient's blood pressure in most hospitals. Thermometres are not there to check the temperature of clients. No water after carrying out any procedure to wash your hands-gloves are a luxury in this era of HIV/AIDS to the extent that most of our members go to work to protect themselves with their personal gloves - sterile gloves. Our mattresses have been torn and invaded by bedbugs. It is indeed a very sorry sight. We are equally using this medium to fight for the public, I am happy that some of them are equally getting the point - this time around. And not because they feel that we are on strike for financial gains. no. We are

saying that we are exposed to a lot of hazards and our patients too. Somebody who is exposed to this kind of hazards needs to be motivated. At least there is this Abraham Maslow's theory

of physiological needs, the basic things, so that we can have immunity to fight infection when you are infested. Because before any diagnosis is made on any HIV/AIDS patient, we must have been admitted to the hospital bed for weeks or years and it is the nurses that come directly in contact with these people, unknowingly or knowingly, and given every service. We are more exposed to hazards. That is why we are even refusing the ratio of 1.6 to 1.0 with other allowances. That is why we are saying other allowance, hazards downwards should be of stratified parity. If any person in the health care system is on level 16 and earning N20 million for instance for hazards or other allowances, a nurse that is on that level should be given that, a pharmacist that is

on that should be given that, like wise a medical lab. Technologist. You see the CDS report of Birmingham well I think 1990 or so indicate that even the mortuary attendant earns much more

hazardous allowance, the nurses rank second, the medical lab scientist rank third before the doctors, forth. So these are some of the things we are saying that are not applicable here. Everybody is important in the health care delivery system including the gateman. He opens the

gate. Including the ambulance driver, who declares and says this case is an emergency. It is the nurse who will now say go and look for this doctor we have an emergency case for referral. The ambulance driver rushes out with a lot of risk, with this, hoodlum on the roads and stuffs like that, so that's what we are saying, we are not selfish and self centred we want a wholistic approach to the issue. What is good for the goose is good for the gaudar.

But you understand that it

will be difficult for government to provide everything you need at the same time. So what have they offered in you negotiations so far?

Well the negotiations sincerely speaking has not been serious. I think the government has been playing the ostrich. Really, they have invited us on Monday to discuss. So we are human beings we empathize with the public. It is not in our character to be going on strike, if the government says something reasonable we would know they are reasonable and we wouldn't mind and say having requested for this they are given this can we please go back while we negotiate others provided they are serious. Because, government has always tricked us into believing there are serious. Within 48 hours last year, the strike was called off with a gentleman's agreement and from then till now they have not deemed it necessary to call us for pact of why we went on strike. You see it is not fair and that is why my members are now very apprehensive over the government. They say once beaten twice shy. And I am telling you we are ready to go on strike for the next one year, if not for the public, honestly.

The health ministry said you signed an agreement with the ministry not to go on strike until the minister takes up your case to the executive council maybe in the next six months. If this is true why did you renege on the agreement?

Thank you very much. This is why we don't trust some of

these people. They now tell some lies. I have the paper here with me you can read (presents paper to the reporter) good enough you are literate to read. This thing was a watery agreement. You see what happens is that an endorsement is made between this and this based on this and other matters for the members and government brokered by concerned elders of the profession. Now having said this the Minister and the Special Adviser to Mr. President on Women Affairs (Mrs.) Ajanaku - look at their signature here signed. Now there was an improvise:- "This document between the Ministry of Health and NANNM officials shall be sufficient to suspend the contemplated strike action subject to the approval of their National Executive Council." This was subjected to the approval of our National Executive Council of NANNM. And we didn't waste time; we summoned the NEC of NANNM for a meeting. And there they were so angry that all these things that we listed out were just to be discussed on and not the minister saying that, "no I, I have I agreed I will do, No 2 I have approved No 3 let us be negotiating," and stuff like that. There were more angered by the pronouncement on Network news that nurses should wait for the next six months before they can get anything. They said what! Is this guy crazy? And in addition to that they were aware that we left for Lusaka, Zambia for engagement so when somebody's house is on fire, he will be chasing rat. That aggrieved them so they said the thing continuous until they are serious to accept responsibilities. And so we have agreed on this we can't talk on these later. Is not as if we have emerged on agreement reached there was an improviser to it. I want to correct that impression.



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu



Guinea worm cases drop in Nigeria

Guinea worm cases in Nigeria has drastically dropped from its previous record of 650,000 in 1988 to about 8,000 in 2000, said the country representative for global 2000 the cater centre, or Emmanuel Miri.

Dr. Miri who disclosed the figures in Jos yesterday on the occasion of the commission of materials donated by Japan government to Nigeria for the eradication of the disease said there is still the need to double up effort in eradicating the disease in the country to achieve the goal of eradicating it in 2003.

According to him, "so far, between January through June 2001, we have recorded only 3,637 cases as against 5,225 cases same period last year."

He revealed that this account for 30.4 percent reduction in the cases of guinea worm in the country saying that this was made possible by the various aid received from donors agencies.

Said he, "without much support from the government of Japan and the efforts of the various partners, we probably would not have seen guinea

From Buhari Bello, in Jos

worm cases drop from over 650,000 in 1998 to about 8,000 in 2000."

He therefore thanked the Japan government for the assistance given to the centre for the eradication of the disease in Nigeria and called on individuals, institutions and government to join hands with the global 2000 to realize the objective of the programme in the country.

The challenges facing the programme between new and



Gen. Gowon (rtd.)

the target date of 2003, he said are very enormous and daunting adding that it only takes cooperation to achieve it "so as to stop the suffering of thousands of Nigerians from the scourge of guinea worm disease.

He said global 2000 is in partnership with the Nigerian government, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, Yakubu Gowon Centre, the Japan government and other non-governmental bodies to execute the programme in Nigeria.

The Director General of the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Dr. Mrs. Dora Akunyili has alerted members of the public on the existence of fake drugs that have now flooded the market.

While briefing members of the press recently in Lagos on the arrests and seizure of fake and counterfeit drugs and food products at Onitsha, Lagos and Kano, the NAFDAC boss advised members of the public to check for expiry dates of all products to ensure that the dates have not been tampered with before use.

NAFDAC warns public on fake drugs

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

According to her, the Onitsha head Bridge Drug Market executive members have already arrested some of their members who they found dealing in fake drugs, which can kill our people.

She said that the people arrested so far in Onitsha for importing, producing and selling counterfeit and fake drugs are Mr. Nnamdi

Nnakwe, Lambert Ibegbunu and Peter Ezerebo.

Others are Chigozie Douglas, Emmanuel Nwoun, Onyeka Onwuke and Osita Ezeanya.

"These people are merchants of death and can be called murderers. Many children, the youth and the aged are dying from the activities of these men," she said.

According to the NAFDAC boss, Mr. Nnamdi Nnakwe operates with his father Chief Marcel Nnakwe with the name Marcel Pharmaceutical located at 17, Palmer Street, Fegge, Onitsha from where they allegedly imported counterfeit (cloned) Alabukun powder and deraprim tablets from China.

She said that investigation that led to the seizure of two warehouses filled up with assorted fake, counterfeit and expired drugs started following a report by COPAC (Nigeria) Ltd, the local manufacturers of Alabukun powder.

She said that companies should report to NAFDAC any case of faking or counterfeiting of their products that they discovered for investigation.

She added that if COPAC (Nig.) Ltd had not reported the importation of fake Alabukun powder, the agency would not have known and the public would have been exposed to all the fake and expired drugs in Nnakwes warehouse which has been sealed up.

7 out of 100 Nigerian infants die

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in Nigeria has been put at 71 per thousand live births while Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) is put at 704 per 100,000 live births.

It was these scenarios that informed the convocation of a forum for Reduction of Maternal, childhood and Neonatal Mortality in Nigeria by the first lady, Chief Mrs. Stella Obasanjo in Abuja last week.

At the event, Mrs. Obasanjo noted that over 600,000 women all over the world lose their lives annually as a result of pregnancy and childbirth.

"Ninety-nine per cent of these deaths occur in the developing countries. Similarly, over 11 million children fail to reach their 5th birthday, each year, most of these kids die during the first month of life.

Again, a large proportion of these negative events take place in the developing countries, particularly in Africa," she said.

Mrs. Obasanjo pointed out that available data on children under five years of age show that 90% of ill-health and 80% of deaths of children in this age group are caused by the, "big four disease," namely malaria, vaccine-preventable diseases, diarrhoea and pneumonia.

The workshop, according to the first lady, was organised to sensitise Nigerians to the unacceptable rate of maternal and neonatal mortality in Nigeria.

Speaking on the gains of earlier conference she attended in May in Mali, Mrs. Obasanjo said first ladies from different African countries resolved to fulfil vision 2010 which aims to reduce by half, the rate of maternal and neonatal mortality by

the year 2010 and incorporate the reduction of maternal and neonatal mortality in poverty reduction strategies.

In her address at the occasion, the Minister of State for Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Amina Ndalolo observed that under normal circumstance, pregnancy should be an aspect of procreation which every woman should look forward to, adding that the aim of the forum was to actualise this age long dream.

She described as Herculean, the task of reducing maternal, neo-natal and childhood disease. However, she said the health sector has put in place several policies to ensure this.

The policies include national health policy, maternal policy of women, integration of life education in primary and secondary schools, family planning and immunization.

Others, according to her, include intervention to increase skilled attendants at birth and revitalization of the National Primary Healthcare System.

Wives of state governors, state commissioners of health; international agencies and Federal Ministry of Health officials attended the Forum.

Health ministry for self-appraisal, September

In its determination to achieve a rapid turnaround of the health sector in the next 18 months, the Federal Ministry of Health has planned a round table conference for September to discuss the successes and failures in the health sector. This is with a view to repositioning and restructuring the ministry for better services.

This was disclosed by the Minister for Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu while addressing a two-day extraordinary meeting of the National Council on Health in Port-Harcourt last week.

A statement from the Ministry signed by Mr. A.O. Aleke of the Press and Public Relations department said the council approved the take off of the National Health Insurance Scheme.

According to the statement, Prof. Nwosu lamented the inability of the insurance scheme to take off after several years vowing to ensure its take off before the end of the year.

The minister warned participants at the workshop over centralisation of health policies adding that it was important for states to be involved fully in the scheme.

In his keynote address, Prof. Olikoye Ransome Kuti, a former Minister of Health and chairman of National Primary Health Care Agency, observed that government had the responsibility of ensuring universal access to affordable health services with special attention to the



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

poor. In a related development, Prof. Nwosu has called on China to collaborate with the Ministry in setting up a manufacturing firm for the production of insecticide, treated bed-wets for the prevention of malaria.

Speaking when the Chinese Ambassador in Nigeria, Liang Vinzhu paid him a courtesy call in his office, Prof. Nwosu reaffirmed the ministry's determination to

promote insecticide - treated bedwets to children under five years.

Earlier, the Chinese envoy observed that Nigeria and his country have had a long history of fruitful relationship, adding that China plans to set diagnostic facilities in Nigeria.

Birnin Kudu medical centre takes off

The Federal Medical Centre Birnin Kudu in Jigawa State has fully began operation. The Medical Director of the Hospital, Dr. Bashir Umar has said in an interview with Daily Trust in Birnin Kudu.

He said that the hospital was supposed to have began operation in June, 2000 but due to the delay in handing over the hospital to the federal government by the Jigawa State Ministry of Health, it began operation in May, 2001.

Dr. Bashir Umar stated that despite the delay they were able to achieve 75% renovation work of the buildings which include x-ray ward, OPD, generator house, administrative block

From Aliyu M. Sulaiman, in Kano

and general ward.

He also said a building is currently in progress at the emergency department which comprises small x-ray unit, pharmacy, theatre, waiting area and reception.

A Mandibular swelling patient got a donation of thirty thousand naira (N30,000) and Ado Musa from Gezawa Local Government had abdominal abscess. He was assisted with N25,585 to pay for surgery.

Others include Abdu Gajere from Dingere, Ringim local government in Jigawa State. He suffered from paraplegia and was given the sum of

N11,990.00, Late Umar Garba from Gumel local government with Buckitts lymphoma was assisted with N25,500.00 for admission.

The rest are late



Gov. Saminu Turaki

Abdulrazak Dahiru from Bunkure L.G.A. with obstruction of the intestine and abdominal abscess was donated N10,000 to undergo surgery, Aisha Abdullahi from Togo has chronic renal failure was assisted with N10,000 to enable her three sessions of Dialysis and Musa Yakaya from Tarauni local government area with chronic kidney failure was donated N8,000.00.

The chairman thanked members for their tireless assistance and support and urged people from the catchment area that is Katsina and Jigawa to be part of this God rewarding venture.



INSIDE POLITICS

National Assembly not appendage of executive — Sen. Mukhtar

Senator Ahmed Mukhtar Aruwa has dismissed speculations that the National Assembly has become an appendage of the presidency.

Speaking with newsmen in Kaduna at the weekend, Senator Aruwa said, the fact that the Senate has decided to work in harmony with the executive should not be misconstrued to mean that they had become "errand boys."

He said the senate would give President Obasanjo opportunity not to commit any impeachable offence, so that the executive and the legislative arms can work in harmony in order to sustain democracy in the country.

Senator Aruwa, however, disclosed that the National Assembly is compiling all unlawful acts of the executive arm for necessary action, stating that the Senate is

trying hard to check such excesses.

"We are only waiting for an appropriate time to act and when we do so, the entire nation will give us their support," he said.

He stated further that even though they did not want to derail the new found democracy "we may be forced to act if the executive arm fails to reasons with us."

He explained that the Senate decided to approve the purchase of the presidential jet because the jet belonged to the entire nation and not the personal property of President Obasanjo.

According to him, the division between the Senate and the House of Representatives over the purchase of the jet was normal under a democratic sitting.

Gombe Assembly wades into nurses' strike

The Gombe State House of Assembly has appealed to the federal government and the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives to enter into meaningful dialogue and bring an end to the nationwide strike embarked upon by nurses in the country.

In a unanimous resolution, the legislators lamented that the strike embarked upon by nurses and midwives is no doubt causing untold hardship on the poor masses of Nigeria, and advised that full services be restored in the nation's health institutions.

The legislators noted that the nursing profession involves the saving of lives and therefore, appealed to the nurses to always ensure that they act positively especially, as they know the hardship patients go through in the hospitals.

The mover of the motion, Mr. Joseph B. Kwama who brought the issue under matter of urgent public importance said as representatives of the people, "the House should not sit unconcerned while the people

suffer" and appealed to his colleagues to reason with him and impress upon the federal government to intervene and resolve the dispute.

LG creation: Bayelsa Assembly condemns Senate

The Bayelsa House of Assembly has condemned the senate president, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim's declaration that the newly created councils in the state were illegal.

The House also expressed its disappointment at the National Assembly, for failing to approve the 24 new councils submitted for approval since March.

In a motion by Mr. Prosper Nwaguzo, representing Sagbama III constituency, the House described the press statement credited to the senate president, which declared all newly created councils in the country illegal, as "an insult to the sensibility of the people of Bayelsa."

It said the statement was a calculated attempt to thwart the yearnings and aspirations of the people of the state for a better future.

Nwaguzo had, in moving the motion, said the creation of the 24 new councils was in strict compliance with sections 7 and 8 of the 1999 constitution.

He prayed the house to urge the National Assembly to approve the request made to it without further delay, in order to safeguard democracy in Nigeria.



Chief Pius Anyim

Odili condemns politics of violence

Governor Peter Odili of Rivers State, has urged politicians in the state to inculcate the culture of politics without bitterness, describing the use of violence in seeking political power as senseless.

He made the call when members of the Ogoni United Front led by its chairman, Sir Mike Oku paid him a courtesy call at the government house.

According to Odili, the main objective of being in politics, was to better the lives of the people.

He said that instead of resorting to violence in trying to win the people's mandate, dialogue and persuasions should be the best approach

The violent clash between supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and All Peoples' Party (APP) at the weekend in Ogu-Bolu Local Government Areas of Rivers State has claimed three lives.

Although police spokesman in the state, Dr. Uche Mike Chukuwma, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), could not confirm or deny the number of casualties because of the modus operandi of the warring factions, he however, added that efforts were being

Three die in Ogu Bolu LG violence

made to ascertain the figure.

A source told *Daily Trust* that the rampaging party supporters have adopted the tactics of "kill and carry the corpse," a strategy aimed at frustrating police investigations.

The police PRO said the command was not happy with the continued bloodshed in Ogu Bolu local government area and blamed it on the hardline position of party chieftains in the council area, "who are bent on achieving their goals at all cost."

Form Wisdom-Uduak Patrick, Port Harcourt

While he blamed the crisis on two vigilante groups, which owe allegiance to each of the two political parties, the police spokesman confirmed the arrest of 22 persons when a similar incidence occurred in the area recently.

He said that the zonal police command in Calabar, Cross Rivers State has taken over the investigation into the current bloodbath.

The current violence in Ogu town of Rivers State is sequel to the removal from office of former chairman of the local government Mr. Mina Tende of the APP, and his subsequent replacement with a PDP member, Mr. George Sekibo.

The police said it was yet to make any arrest in the fresh crisis but stated that the area was calm and quite.

Meanwhile, a detachment of anti-riot policemen attached to the state special anti-robbery squad has been despatched to Ogun town.

because according to him, "this is what is in vogue as far as politics is concerned."

Odili, however, commended the Ogoni United Front for choosing to propagate the ideals of peace and non-violence, pointing out that, peace was only the known key to unity.

The governor expressed satisfaction with the aspiration of the body toward the upliftment of Ogoniland, irrespective of the fact that they were not politicians and assured them of government support.

Earlier, the chairman of the Ogoni United Front, Sir Mike Oku, had told Governor Odili that, the focal point of the

body's objectives was that of bringing development to Ogoniland as well as identifying with government's programmes and policies.

Oku, who is also the Acting General-Manager of Radio Rivers said, the organisation would neither fight nor confront any political group, but broaden the base of development at the grassroots.

Middle belt congress decries communal crisis

The middle belt congress has called on the federal government to equip the police so as to enable them combat the problem of communal clashes in the country.

In a resolution read by its chairman, Lt. Gen. Jerry Useni, at the end of its eighth general meeting in Abuja, the body pointed out that communal crises would not end in the country as long as the police and other law enforcement agencies lack the manpower, equipment

By Reuben Yunana

and logistics to nip the problem in the bud.

Frowning at the deplorable condition of the Nigeria police personnel Lt. Gen. Useni called for more training for the force especially in the area of intelligence and information gathering.

Commending the efforts of the governors of Nasarawa and Benue States in bringing the Nasarawa crisis under control, Useni called on the federal government to send relief materials urgently to ameliorate the suffering of persons displaced by the crisis.

In order to prevent a reoccurrence, the congress called on the government of the two states, traditional rulers and politicians to always preach peace and tolerance so as to ensure development.

The body also renewed its call for the establishment of the Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYEPADEC) and the Solid Minerals Producing Areas Development Commission (SOMPADEC).

Arguing in favour of the motion, Mr. Duba Crowther, representing Yenagoa 11, condemned the remarks and actions of both the Senate President and the National Assembly.

Another lawmaker, Mr. Charles Emmanuel, advised the state government to drag the National Assembly to court, if it refuses to approve the new councils.

In his contribution, Mr.

Adolphus Ofongo prayed the house to disregard the senate president's utterances, since it had fulfilled all the constitutional requirements for creating new local government areas.

The speaker of the house, Mr. Peremobwei Ebebi, in his comment, gave an assurance that legal redress would be sort by the House, if its resolution failed to achieve the desired result.

Rep condemns rift between Tinubu, deputy

The Acting Chairman, House of Representative Committee women affairs, Mrs. Florence Aya (PDP Kaduna), has described the rift between Lagos State Governor, Bola Tinubu and his deputy, Mrs. Kofoworola Bucknor-Akerele as "petty and time wasting."

Aya, in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the weekend said "governance is a serious business that one should devote a lot of attention to, but for these two highly placed individuals to embark on such petty venture for close to two years, is very disappointing."

"In this business, the electorate expect so much

from any one given the mandate to represent them, no matter which party you come from, so I expect these two grown-ups to put down their differences for the sake of the poor masses of Lagos State," she added. She called on AD, to which the two personalities belong, to put its house together and prevail on them to 'soft-pedal'.

On the agitation by some group of women seeking 40 per cent elective and political offices, Aya said that only the political parties could implement this by enshrining it in their constitutions.

"All the political parties should make it mandatory that their constitutions accommodate the Affirmative Action starting from the ward,

local and state levels, so that more women can participate in the political process without much inhibition," he said.

It would be recalled that female politicians under the National Action Committee for Women in Politics (NCWIP) recently commenced negotiations with the three political parties on the representation of women in political and elective positions in the country.

The chief negotiator of the group, Hajia Lalla Dogoyaro had threatened to deal with any political party which failed to meet its demand of 30 per cent representation of women in the forthcoming local government elections.



Gov. Hashidu

Public Announcement

BOOST FOR YOLA TO ABUJA AND ABUJA TO YOLA PASSENGERS

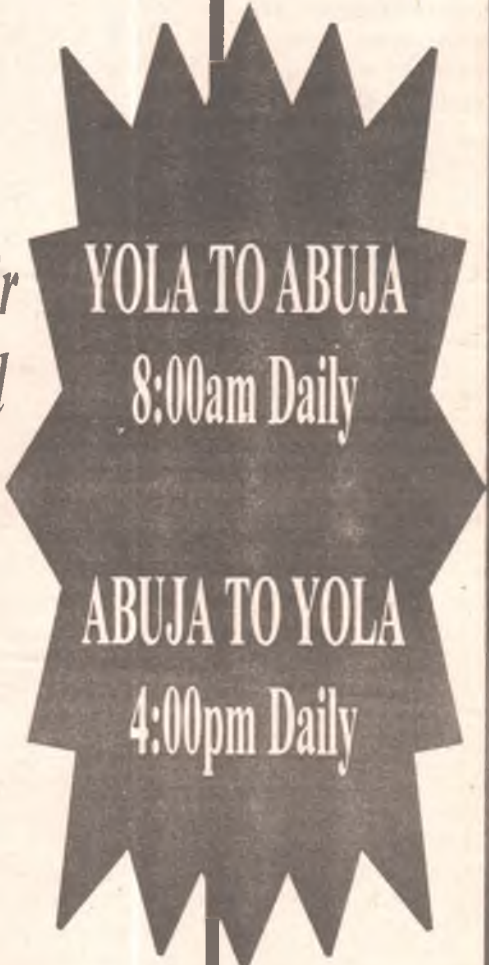
Your favourite Airline, Albarka, has added a 44 seater HS-748 aircraft to its fleet to enable passengers on the Yola to Abuja route travel more regularly and more comfortably.

Beginning from Thursday, July 26th, 2001, Albarka Air will depart Yola Airport daily for Abuja at 8:00am and return to Yola in the evening at 4:00pm.

These daily flights cover all days of the week except Saturdays.

The 44-seater aircraft is also available for charter.

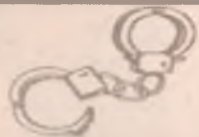
Now, you don't need to rush out of Abuja before concluding your business transaction. Albarka Air now departs Abuja for Yola daily at 4:00pm



YOLA TO ABUJA
8:00am Daily

ABUJA TO YOLA
4:00pm Daily

Fly Albarka... The People's Airline



Crime & Punishment



Suspected thieves subjected to manual labour

Three suspected thieves who could not give any satisfactory account of themselves were over the weekend found guilty and sentenced by a Lagos Chief Magistrate Court to one hour community work within the court premises.

Abass Abiodun, 21, Akeem Badmus, 20 and Biodun Okuola, 18, were June 22 this year at about 4:00 p.m. found under the Adeniji Adele bridge by a team of police patrolmen led by Inspector Elias Omeje.



M. Uwais, CJN

They were found smoking substances suspected to be Indian hemp. When accosted and questioned by the police, they could not give a satisfactory account of themselves.

On the strength of this, they were arrested and taken to the Central Police Station, Adeniji Adele, Road before they were arraigned in court before senior magistrate Mrs. E. Fabanwo.

While pleading for leniency, the accused begged the court to temper justice with mercy.

Especially, the accused persons were alleged to have attempted to steal, an offence punishable under section 509 of the criminal code laws of Lagos State.

The maximum punishment for the offence is a one year jail term.

The Lagos State Police Command is puzzled over the discovery of about 600 live cartridges of ammunition which were dumped by unknown persons at the vicinity of the command headquarters.

A police source told *Daily Trust* that on Monday, both men and officers working at the command headquarters were shocked when a police corporal attached to the General Investigation Department (GID), stumbled on 28 cartons near the Ikeja High Court School, which is just some metres from the command headquarters, where Lagos State Police Commissioner, Mr. Mike

600 live cartridges dumped near Okiro's office

Okiro, has his office.

The corporal was said to have carefully examined the carton only to discover that its contents were live cartridges.

When the report reached the police authorities, fear gripped the command as it could not fathom how the ammunition got to the place without the notice of the eagle-eyed under cover police agents who keep vigil within the area.

Daily Trust gathered that the 28 cartons which contained 20 pieces of cartridges each were later carried away to the command where it was handed over to men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

In a related development, the police have intercepted four suspected armed robbers who were planning to attack

Ikago police post as a reprisal for not allowing the passage of armed robbers to neighbouring countries by the police.

Based on a tip-off, a joint Division, Federal Highway Patrol and zone 2 Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) mounted surveillance led by Inspector Rufus Aiyegbusi at Iwoye/Ilaro blacks spot.

In the process, the joint team intercepted the four

suspects on a motorcycle and after a search on them, some incriminating items were recovered.

The exhibits recovered are one double barrel cut to size, two locally made single barrel guns; 19 live cartridges and other assorted types of charms.

Daily Trust gathered that both the suspects and exhibits are now detained for interrogation.



Mike Okiro, Lagos Police Boss

Reinstatement of LG boss: Ekiti council files appeal

The legislative arm of Ekiti Local Government Council in Kwara State, has filed an appeal contesting the victory of the suspended council chairman, Dr. Olusegun Bamidele at the Ilorin High Court which reinstated him as chairman.

The appeal filed at the Court of Appeal Ilorin is supported by a 26 paragraph affidavit sworn to by the Speaker of the Council, Mr. Yinka Ajayi, asking the court to grant an order allowing the appeal.

Among other reliefs sought are an order to set aside the decision of the trial High Court and an order dismissing the respondent's case.

Last Wednesday, the local government employees vowed to resist the chairman's return to the council by paralysing all activities to express their anger over the chairman's reinstatement.

The lawmakers are aware that the honourable court made an order of perpetual injunction restraining them from performing their duties of checks and balance on the

From Abdul Laro, in Ilorin

chairman which they want the appeal to stay pending the determination of appeal.

They equally argued that while the action was not instituted by due process of law, and contended that the competence of a suit hinges on the validity of writ of summons or originating summons and if originating summons is not properly issued as in this case, then there is no proper action before the court.

The judgement of the High Court on Tuesday, July 10, elicited various reactions in the communities of the local council, with the Ekiti Democratic coalition working through its secretary, Mr. Jacob Oguntifa, that "any attempt to return Bamidele as chairman will set Ekiti ablaze. We will resist with the last drop of blood in our veins."

No date has been fixed for hearing in the appeal, while Dr. Bamidele could not be reached for comment by *Daily Trust*.

Three children die in Shell's uncapped oil wells

Three children have so far died in Akwa Ibom by drowning in uncapped oil wells belonging to Shell Producing Nigeria Ltd, Governor Victor Attah has said.

Addressing the World Conference of Mayors holding in Akwa Ibom on

Monday, Attah said that "Shell callously left uncapped wells in which three young children have so far drowned."

Narrating the "evil side" of oil exploitation in the area by Exxon-Mobil, Addax and Elf oil companies, he said that pollution, environmental degradation, terminal diseases and birth defects had affected many people in oil producing areas.

"This, of course, has consequences on our forests, marine life and the lives of women, children and the future generation of our people," Attah said.

On administration of oil activity and pollution, he noted that it was "clearly sub-optimal" in spite of the fact that Nigeria was a signatory to several international environmental agreements.

Attah noted that equity and fair play were not considered in granting licences to oil prospecting firms, pointing out that priority should be given to states and communities endowed with oil.

"The processes for obtaining a licence is complex and bureaucratic," he said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that some of the sub-themes of the conference include; "environmental justice," "job creation, training and entrepreneurial opportunities for sustainable communities," as well as "public health, education, women and children."



Gov. Victor Attah

Armed robbers abandon stolen vehicles

A seven man armed robbery gang last Wednesday bowed to police superior fire power in Lagos as they abandoned their two vehicles during a shoot out and took to their heels.

The vehicles, a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number XE551MSA and a BMW Saloon car registration number AV160AKD, were abandoned at the Ijora end of the National Arts Theatre and Ijora Olopa respectively by the fleeing robbers.

According to police sources, the robbers had attacked other innocent citizens for some hours before the arrival of policemen from Iponri police station.

Daily Trust gathered that one Inspector Samson Alani and his team who later raced to the scene were equally attacked by the hoodlums.

The police, it was gathered overpowered the bandits who abandoned the said Toyota Hiace and escaped towards the Ijora

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, in Lagos

Olopa area of Lagos

Investigations also revealed that the police had beefed up security in the area following a July 6 daylight robbery by an armed three-man-gang during which the five armed policemen stationed in the area scampered to safety.

The police, it was gathered overpowered the bandits who abandoned the said Toyota Hiace and escaped towards the Ijora Olopa area of Lagos.

Police sources further hinted that when the vehicle was searched, one live cartridge and four expended cartridges were also recovered.

The patrol team who later proceeded to the Ijora Olopa axis also recovered the BMW car and inside was a pistol without magazine and one live ammunition.

All the recovered items according to the police were taken to Iponri police station.

NNPC pipeline vandals in police net

Two suspected vandals caught tampering with the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) oil pipeline at Arepo village-Owode Egba Local Government of Ogun State, have been arrested by the police.

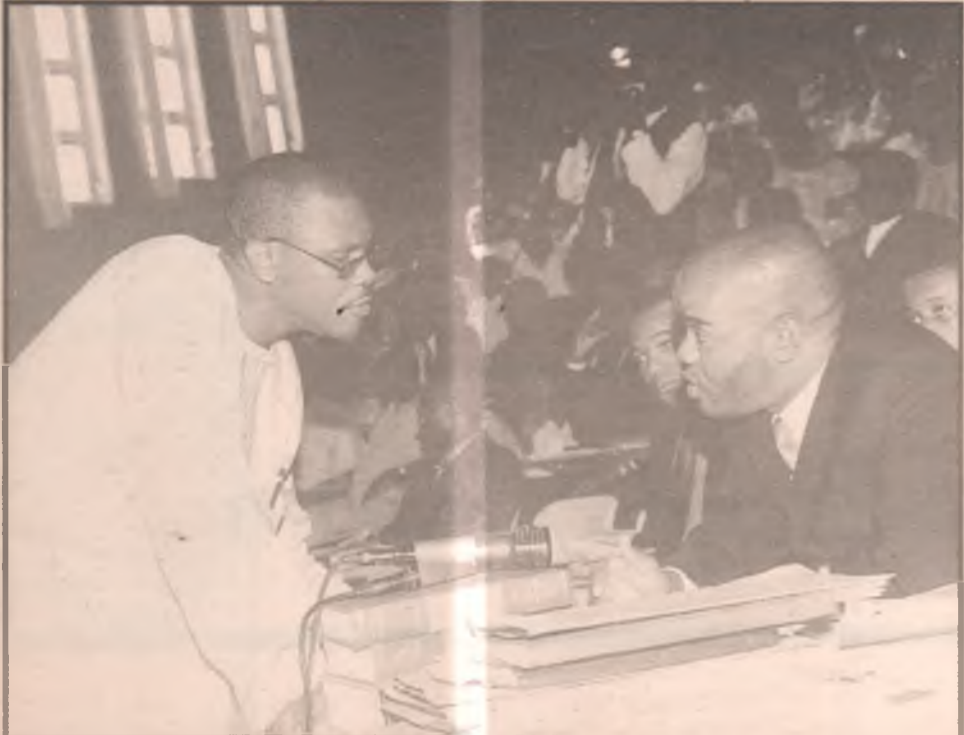
Their arrest came on the heels of information received after which a team of policemen in company of officials of PPMC, a subsidiary of NNPC stormed the site of the vandalised oil pipeline.

The two suspects are: Lucky Joel of 7, Ayinde Street, Sabo Yaba and Mrs.

Tayo Awolasi of Baruwa Ishari Olofin both in Lagos.

Exhibits recovered from the suspects are; one V/W Bus with registration number XD728FST with 28 empty fifty litres jerry can, one Ford Bus with registration number DJ595AAA with 5 big drums filled with petroleum products; three other fifty litres also filled with petroleum products and a Ford Bus with registration number XM413KJA with 23 fifty litres jerrycans filled with petroleum products.

Daily Trust checks revealed that the suspects and exhibits are in police custody.



Major Segun Fadipe (Rtd), former Chief Security Officer (CSO) to former Chief of General Staff (CGS), Lt. Gen. Oladipo Diye holding consultations with Barrister Emmanuel Akaka at the Oputa Panel..... July 2, 2001. Pix: Kenndy Eghonodje



SPORTS



Ekeji unveils plans for sports sponsorship

The sports ministry has reiterated its determination to unchain sports from the civil bureaucracy and make it attractive for private sector participation.

The ministry said institutional hiccups were hindering sound management and private sector participation in the development and sponsorship of sports in the country.

Consequently, the

By Patrick Andrew
ministry's Acting Director of Sports Development, Mr. Patrick Ekeji, said the current drive is to reshape sports in such a way that gives value to investors.

Ekeji observed that sports plays a dual role in enhancing social and economic activities in the society, noting that the latter was capital intensive and crucial for the country.

"We want to give value to sports by attracting money into sports. Government alone cannot shoulder the responsibility of funding sports and without sound base, functional institutional structures to meet investors' yearnings, it would be impossible to attract those with the means to invest in sports," he said.

Ekeji, who spoke at the inauguration of the 12-member main organising committee for the Senate President's Cup, further observed that the institutional framework being reshaped by the ministry would ginger vibrancy in the institutions tasked with organising sports.

The acting director of sports development said efforts are therefore, being made to tune up sports associations and parastatals to the new spirit and focus of the ministry.

He asserted that the ministry's sports development unit was currently working in tandem with states sports councils.

The ministry recently reassigned some officers to the zones. Mallam Ahmed Yahaya moved to Bauchi from Benin, Alex Onyenwenwa replaced him while Abba Yola moved from Bauchi to Kaduna along with Mallam Shuah.



Sweden's Jesper Parnevik plays from the rough on the 17th hole during the 3rd round of the British Open Golf Championship at Royal Lytham and St. Annes golf course in England.

NFA slashes Falcons camping period

Cash strapped NFA has slashed by one week the camping period arranged for the 29 players invited to the Super Falcons camp.

The Super Falcons have an international invitational duel with their Zimbabwean counterparts on August 3 through 13 in Harare.

Trustsports learnt that the NFA, which is facing agonising cash crunch, had pruned down the two weeks originally fixed for the team to train at their Obasanjo Farms, Ota camp to one week because it could not fund the camping of that length of time.

Sequel to this, Trustsports learnt that the camp which was scheduled to begin today might be shifted forward even as it is doubtful if the Falcons would spend 10 days in Zimbabwe as was demanded by the host.

The technical department of the NFA released last week a list of 29 players that excluded many stars of the old flame.

Among those not listed are Mercy Akide, Patience Aure and first choice goalkeeper Agu.

However, Rita Nwadike, Nkechi Egbe, Ifeanyi Chijine, Stella Mbachu, Adaku Okoroafor, Gloria Usieta, Eserahi Opara, Kikelomo Ajayi, Judith Chima, Florence

Iweta, Perpetua Nkwocha, Maureen Nmadu, Martha Techamba, Marvis Ogun and Yinka Kudaisi, who were in Sydney for the Olympics are in the list.

The newly invited players are Effionwan Ekpo, Obby Emmanuel, Juliana Nkwere, Olaitan Yusuf, Chima Nwosu, Safiya Babalola, Olaore Jumoke,

Onome Ebi, Popo Ojo, Celetina Onyeka, Ngozi Anyadiewu, Taiwo Ajobiewe, Christy George and Chinoyem Nkwuoma.

The friendly duel in Harare, Zimbabwe, is intended to mark the independent anniversary of the host as well as tune up the Falcons for a continental fiesta later.

Duval storms to Open glory

David Duval charged to victory in The Open Sunday with a masterful display of links golf at Royal Lytham and St Annes.

The American carded a 67 in the final round to finish on 10 under par - three shots ahead of Sweden's Niclas Fasth - for his first success in a Major championship.

"It's a big relief," said Duval after at last joining the game's elite. "The Majors are so pressure-packed.

"Any minor mistake is magnified and I'm very pleased I didn't let up and kept plugging on."

While Duval produced a supreme example of course management, his rivals for the title all struggled - and the much-hyped final day showdown proved something of an anticlimax.

There were strong hopes of a home triumph at the

Golf

start of the day - but the British and Irish challenge suffered a cruel three-way blow.

First Colin Montgomerie's quest for a maiden Major faltered on the greens and the Scot, who led at halfway, eventually finished way off the pace on four-under after a 72.

Darren Clarke was then within two shots of Duval in the closing stages - only for a double-bogey at 17 to end the Ulsterman's challenge.

A final round 70 left him tied for third spot on six-under.

But the biggest sob story for the British contingent belonged to Ian Woosnam.

After so nearly claiming a hole-in-one at the opening hole, the Welshman was docked two strokes on the second tee when it emerged he had too many clubs in his bag.

A clearly rattled Woosnam then dropped two more shots - and though he battled on gamely the Ryder Cup veteran was never likely to recover from that bizarre early setback.

A level-par 71 meant Woosnam finished in joint third place on six-under, alongside Clarke. Germany's Bernhard Langer, South African Ernie Els, Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain and American Billy Mayfair.

The surprise of the day was Fasth who stormed out of the pack with a four-under 67 to make the runners-up spot his own.

The Swede has suddenly forced his way into contention for the European Ryder Cup team.

Defending champion Tiger Woods finished the week nine shots adrift on one-under after a 71.

"The world number one never produced his best golf at Lytham and was unable to

launch an effective defence of his title.

Where Woods failed, his great rival Duval prospered.

He had made his charge in the third round, when a brilliant 65 gave him a share of the overnight lead.

Wikki will clinch Challenge Cup, says club chief

For the second time in its history, Wikki Tourists Football Club of Bauchi is set to win the national Challenge Cup trophy. The chairman of the Supporters Club, Alhaji Faruk Jahun, in an interview with Trustsports, gave the assurance.

He said Wikki's 1-0 win over Rangers International at Makurdi, which has qualified them for the group matches is strong indication that they are poised to lift the national Challenge Cup.

Alhaji Jahun added that Wikki Tourists players are now motivated than ever before as government is seeing

Ikedia set for Black Stars

Nigerian international winger, Pius Ikedia, has promised to honour the invitation extended

to him for the Super Eagles' last World Cup qualifier against the Black Stars billed for the Liberation Stadium in Port Harcourt next weekend.

The Ajax Amsterdam wing ace, who spoke to a Lagos-based newspaper last weekend, before returning to his base in Holland expressed delight over his invitation and explained why he couldn't honour the last two invitations extended to him by the technical crew for the match against Namibia and Madagascar.

"My absence from the match against Namibia and Madagascar was due to pressing club and family commitments, but this time around I will be in Port Harcourt for the match," assured the former Insurance and AFEC star. Ikedia particularly expressed his appreciation to Super Eagles' Chief Coach, Shuaibu Amuda for his continued trust in him despite not being able to honour the last two invitations.

On the match against Madagascar, he was optimistic that Super Eagles will beat the World Cup and qualify for the World Cup.

Wanchope fails to stop Uruguay

A late free-kick by Pablo Lima put Uruguay through to a Copa America semi-final encounter with Mexico on Sunday.

It was a devastating blow for Costa Rica, who had broken the 0-0 deadlock just after half-time through top scorer Paulo Wanchope.

The Manchester City striker scored his fifth goal of the tournament with a typically opportunistic effort 51 minutes in at the Centenario stadium.

But Rodrigo Lizarazu levelled the score 10 minutes later when Colombian referee Oscar Ruiz awarded the Uruguayans a penalty after foul on Carlos Maria Morales.

Lima matched the win four minutes from time with a snapshot which was Costa Rica's only goal.

Copa America

hand to but could not hold. Wanchope also had a goal disallowed for offside.

A crowd of 29,000 turned up in windy and rainy conditions to watch the South Americans book their return with Mexico, 2-0 winners over Chile.

The Costa Ricans were especially disappointed having held their opponents for times continental champions to a 1-1 draw to the group phase.

They went into the scrappy match with seven bookings as a favourites despite their inexperience.

Uruguay only lost through into the last 16 in one of the best third-round games following another in surprise package Honduras.



David Duval kisses the trophy after winning the British Open Golf Championship at Royal Lytham and St. Annes golf course in England on Sunday.

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Black Stars fine tune for Super Eagles

The Black Stars of Ghana have started camping at the Winneba Sports College yesterday in preparation for their tough World Cup encounter against the Super Eagles on July 29 in Port Harcourt.

Ghana is effectively out of contention for the single slot for Korea/Japan 2002, but has the singular honour of determining who qualifies from group B. Liberia currently leads the table with 15 points after playing eight matches, while Nigeria lies second with 13 points from seven matches. Ghana lies third with 11 points. That leaves the Eagles and Lone Stars in contention for the sole ticket. In the event that Ghana wins, Liberia will qualify ahead of Nigeria.

The Eagles need to beat Ghana to qualify. In the past, matches involving the two, even in Nigeria have favoured Ghana.

On paper, the Eagles start as favourites, considering the cream of foreign players in camp. In the first leg, Ghana held Nigeria to a goalless draw using players of Accra Hearts of Oak. It is against this background that the Super Eagles would try to exorcise the ghost and defeat the Black Stars to salvage what is left of the soccer rivalry between the two sister countries.

Black Stars' coach Fred Osam Doudu, has kept the home based team that beat Sudan 1-0 in Accra for the sake of cohesion. He has also invited Mohammed Gargo of Udinese, Charles Amoah of Sturm Graz, Stephen Appiah of Parma and Emmanuel Duah of Union Leira of Portugal to strengthen the team. Ghana will be playing for pride in this particular game and will take nothing to chance.

The local players in camp are **Goalkeepers:** Osei Boateng (Kotoko), James Nanor (Hearts)

Defenders: Isaac Owusu, Godfred Yeboah (Kotoko), Yaw Owusu, Kofi

By Ismaila Umaru Lere
Amino, Amo Stephen (Goldfields).
Strikers: Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour (Hearts) Isaac Boakye, Nana Arhin Duah (Goldfields) Issah Mohammed (Hassaacas) Charles Amoah (Sturm Graz-Austra).
Midfielders: Godwin Ablordey (Kotoko) Charles Taylor (Hearts) Musah



Colombian players Eulalio Arriaga (C), Victor Aristizaba (L) and Oscar Diaz battle for the ball during a training session in the Campestre Club field of Armenia recently.



Paulo Wanchope of Costa Rica, center, moves past Alejandro Curbelo of Uruguay, left, on his way to score a goal for Costa Rica during their quarterfinal Copa America match at the Centenerio Stadium in Armenia, Colombia on Sunday.



David Duval, of the United States, plays from a bunker near the 4th green during the final round of the British Open Golf Championship at Royal Lytham and St. Annes golf course in England...Sunday.

Strands of Fate: written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha



To be continued (5)