

DAILY TRUST

Trust Is A Burden

VOL. 1 NO. 56

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2001

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'The darkest year'

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FG moves to verify foreign debts

Worried by the huge amount of debts claimed by creditor countries against Nigeria, the Federal Government has taken steps to authenticate the claims.

The government began the verification with Japan, and has sent a team to the Asian country to reconcile its debt with that country.

The Nigerian Ambassador to Japan, Amb. Oseimiegba Otiotio, said in an interview with newsmen in Abuja at the weekend that the debts issue had been a major reason for Japanese businessmen's unwillingness to invest in Nigeria.

He said that since he took up his post as ambassador, his major concern had been how to get Japanese businessmen to come and invest directly in Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

"They complained about our debts, the long distance between the two countries and of the activities of 419," he said.

Otiotio also said that Japanese businessmen feared to invest in Nigeria without export guarantees by their government.

"The Japanese government has refused to provide guarantees to Japanese companies that want to do business with Nigeria because of our inability to settle our debts and without these guarantees they will not invest in Nigeria," he added.

Otiotio explained that Japanese companies wanted their country's government to give them guarantees against business failure, so that they could regain whatever investments they made in case their business failed.

"The distance between the two countries is no problem because money has no colour. If there is money to be made they will come, but the major problem is Nigeria's indebtedness to Japan," he
contd. on pg 2

AIDS

25 world leaders gather in Abuja

Former American president, Bill Clinton, the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan and the Libyan leader, Col. Muammar Ghaddafi are among the 25 world leaders expected at the African Heads of State summit on HIV/AIDS which opens Wednesday in Abuja.

The summit which is sponsored by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the joint

By Suleiman Mohammed

United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) is to afford the leaders the opportunity to respond positively to the threat posed by the dreaded disease currently ravaging the continent.

Speaking on preparations for the three-day summit, Health Minister, Professor A.B.C Nwosu, confirmed that the former American leader,

Bill Clinton is expected to arrive the country tomorrow while the Libyan leader, Col. Ghaddafi who would chair a session has confirmed his

interest to be at the summit. Also expected are the Tanzanian President, Benjamin Mkapa; Ghanaian leader, John Kuffour and Nigerian President, Tanja

Mamoudou, among others. Already, as part of its commitment to fight the disease, the federal government has
contd. on pg 2



Collapsed mosque: 12 confirmed dead

From Wisdom Patrick, in Lagos

Police authorities yesterday in Lagos confirmed that 12 people died in the Alhaji Danmola Karounwi Central Mosque which collapsed last week following a heavy downpour.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) in charge of operations in the state, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, who confirmed the figure to *Daily Trust*, added that an unspecified number of muslim faithfuls were still trapped in the debris.

When *Daily Trust* visited the scene of the incident yesterday, offensive odour enveloped the area giving indication that more trapped bodies were decomposing under the rubble.

A three-storey building housing a mosque located at No. 41, Buhari Street in Mushin, a Lagos suburb, came down at about 2 pm Wednesday last week when muslim brethren around the area were inside getting set for their afternoon prayers.
contd. on pg 2

PDP calls panic meeting

Piqued by the polarisation of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), President Olusegun Obasanjo is expected to preside over an extraordinary meeting of the party today ahead of the 2002 local government and presidential elections in 2003.

The party, which

By Suleiman Mohammed

President Obasanjo recently accused of indiscipline and lack of cohesion, harmony and leadership qualities is being polarised by different factions, leading to decamping of members to newly formed political associations.

The meeting, the first to be convened by President Obasanjo, is to be attended by PDP stalwarts, the Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, PDP state governors, cabinet ministers, special advisers/assistants to the president and vice president, principal officers of the

National Assembly, Speakers of PDP controlled state Houses of Assembly, and selected local government chairmen, among others.

Sources hinted that the meeting became necessary in view of the wranglings within the ruling political party as well as the emergence of political associations likely to rival the PDP in the forthcoming local government and presidential elections.

Last Thursday, a meeting summoned by the PDP national chairman, Engineer Barnabas Gemade, was boycotted, a situation which
contd. on pg 2

Works ministry probes employment scam

The Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, which has more than 28,000 workers on its pay roll, has instituted a probe into what it termed 'employment scam' involving possibly thousands of workers.

The Minister of State for Works and Housing, Mr. Garba Ali, dropped the hint while addressing the Plateau State field staff of the ministry at the weekend in Jos.

He noted that "a large number" of the workers were fraudulently absorbed into government service.

He said the aim of the investigations was to detect the workers who were illegally employed as well as fish out the unauthorised officials of the ministry who issued them with
contd. on pg 2



L-R: Mr. Peter Eioka Okocha, Ambassador Segun Olusola, Chief (Mrs.) Titi Abubakar and the Vice President, Atiku Abubakar at the Gala Night/Fund-Raising function organised by the WOTCLEF centre at NICON-Hilton in Abuja... Saturday
Pix Kennedy Egbonodje

NEWS

FG contd. from pg. 1

said.

Otiotio said that Japanese businessmen were also worried about the activities of '419' people which he described as "humiliating to the Japanese, who are so honest that when they get 419 letters, they can't understand that human beings can do such things".

Answering a question, the ambassador said that since the Japanese premier,

Yoshiro Mori, visited Nigeria last year, business contacts between the two countries had increased tremendously.

"After the visit, Japan started work on rural electrification projects in some states of the federation, while some civil servants from Nigeria have attended courses on democracy and good governance in Japan," he said.

World leaders contd. from pg. 1

announced 95% subsidy on AIDS drugs in addition to plans to unveil the HIV Energy Action Plan (HEAP).

Health Minister, Professor Nwosu, said at the weekend that the subsidy was on the therapeutic drugs used by local AIDS patients, pointing out that the drugs would be obtained in genetic forms from CIPLA Pharmaceuticals Limited of India at \$350 per year dose

tackle HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases now ravaging the world and Africa in particular.

Meanwhile, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) has urged African leaders to accelerate the development of vaccines for the disease, stressing that this was necessary to ensure that "all who are sick with AIDS receive the best treatment available and we must redouble our commitment to education and other existing preventive programmes."

The organisation noted that though there was no preventive vaccine for AIDS, scientists believe one is possible, pointing out that it was through preventive vaccines that the world eradicated smallpox and other diseases.

The incident which jolted police chiefs in Lagos, including the Commissioner, Mr. Mike Okiro and deputy, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, saw them running from pillar to post in the heavy rain, seeking help for the victims.

The two police chiefs were not able to give exact casualty figures as at the time *Daily Trust* spoke with them last week, but yesterday, DCP Adebayo confirmed that at least 12 people died in the incident.

Also confirming the number was an official of the collapsed mosque, Alhaji Raufu Tijani, who said "even that number is still highly contestable, because many people were in that mosque for prayers and some were taking shelter there because of the rain," he stated.

Meanwhile, the Lagos State Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, according to Governor Ahmed Bola Tinubu, has concluded arrangements to prosecute both the owner of the collapsed structure and the contractor in charge of the uncompleted building.

Also, a source at the state Ministry of Housing told *Daily Trust* that the owner of the building would surely be prosecuted for flouting the state's building edict. "That house was a bungalow and he converted it to a three-storey building. That is greed. He would be

12 contd. from pg. 1

prosecuted," the official said.

But the position of the housing ministry was challenged by one Alhaji R. A. Badmus who said the ministry was duly notified about the intention to upgrade the building to a three-storey structure being the original plan.

He maintained that he could substantiate his claims and challenged the state government to go to court.

appointment letters.

Ali said those behind the scam would be severely punished when investigations were completed, adding that the discovery was a source of deep concern to officials of the ministry.

"We are aware that there are many workers who were employed in circumstances that breached the regulations governing the absorption of people into the civil service and we will soon fish them out," he stated.

Ali said he felt sad that because of the sins of those people, many innocent workers of the ministry, who were employed were made to remain in service for over 10 years without having their appointments gazetted.

He promised to raise the issue with seasoned civil servants at the ministry's headquarters in Abuja. "I will take firm steps to correct the anomaly," he said.

The angry man who would not state categorically if he was the owner of the mosque said, "nobody owns the mosque but Allah."

Over 70 people were said to be still trapped under the collapsed building. DCP Adebayo, however, said this was not official as rescue workers were still searching.

The Lagos state governor, Bola Tinubu, has pledged compensation to the

victims' families. He stated this when he visited the site of the incident last Friday.



Gov. Tinubu

Works ministry contd. from pg. 1

The minister said that workers who were employed in line with the provisions of the civil service rules should not be made to suffer by being denied their gratuities.

"If those who came in through the backdoor are subjected to that kind of treatment, nobody will raise any eyebrows," he stated, adding: "but it will be wrong to allow innocent people to suffer."

The minister's promise to

assist them drew a long applause from the staff, who said they had spent between 10 and 15 years in government service without having their appointments gazetted.

Ali said when he intervened to ensure that they were paid, he found out that there were problems such as the non-gazetting of their appointments, which needed to be addressed before they could be cleared to collect their gratuities.

PDP contd. from pg. 1

gave a bad signal on the state of the party.

Daily Trust learnt that President Obasanjo was uncomfortable with the current happenings in the party leadership, particularly that state chapters of PDP have been factionalised as manifested during his recent visit to Imo State when two factions of the party organised separate

receptions for him.

Similarly, another meeting is expected to come on the heels of the second anniversary of the PDP government come May 29, and would afford the rulership the opportunity to take stock of achievements and failures within the period and proffer solutions to identifiable problems on the way forward.

The Debate Continues

Thursday, May 3, 2001 we continue with another topic in the publication of debates on topical issues.

The next topic is:

2003: Are more political parties needed?

We eagerly await your valuable contributions on this worrisome and important national issue on or before Monday, April 30, 2001.

Remember the publication date is
Thursday, May 3, 2001

NEWS

Ogunkelu dismisses fear about 2003 presidential election

The minister of co-operation and integration in Africa, Chief Bimbola Ogunkelu, has dismissed fears that the outcome of the 2003 presidential election might lead to the break up of the country.

As members of the ruling PDP from the six geo-political zones jostle for the party's 2003 presidential ticket, some of them have threatened that it is either they are allowed to take their turn or the country goes to pieces.

"I don't know what they are afraid of. But they must be afraid of their shadows and if people are afraid of their shadows you cannot do much to help them," Ogunkelu said in Abuja at the weekend.

He recalled that before May 29, 1999 when the military was in power, Nigerians were not sure if they would ever see democracy.

He said that judging from

the progress made in the last two years, if the military had not intervened in the nation's polity, politicians would have been able to correct their mistakes on their own and the nation would have made greater progress.

"So I don't see why people should be afraid of democracy. Come 2003, there will be democracy in place not military government. So why should Nigerians be afraid," he asked.

The minister called on community and opinion leaders, to sensitise their followers on the need for everybody to work hard to ensure good governance in the country.

He also said that there was no need for anybody to be afraid of where the next president would come from as long as he was a Nigerian.

"If the president is a Nigerian and does not come from Cameroun, why should

people be afraid of which part of Nigeria he comes from, why," he further asked.

Ogunkelu also dismissed reports that President Olusegun Obasanjo was planning to perpetrate himself in office.

"Obasanjo is not a tight president. As military head of state, he had the chance to do so in 1979 with all the guns at his disposal, but he voluntarily handed over power to a democratically elected government," he said.

"This fear is unfounded and I think this is probably being fanned by people who are enemies of democracy and progress," he added.

Directors and Permanent Secretaries rose from a two-day retreat yesterday re-affirming that the country could now expect "a transparent and more result-oriented civil service."

The resolution was one of the highlights of the retreat, which was directed by President Olusegun Obasanjo as part of his effort to re-orientate the civil service and restore it as a veritable tool for the actualisation of government policies and programmes.

The retreat, afforded participant the opportunity to re-examine the civil service and identify areas that had

Perm Secs assure Nigerians of transparent civil service

tended to slow it down.

In this regard, the participants identified lack of harmony between permanent secretaries, directors other support staff as a major obstacle in the service.

According to a participant at the retreat, "greed and the urge to take care of the future by amassing wealth," was a major problem of the service, a problem which he said, emerged from the "seeming insecurity that be-devilled the service, following its invasion by military rule."

He said that with the ongoing re-organisation by the new civilian administration, aimed at restoring sanity and confidence in the service, "there is now a lot of optimism among civil servants that they could do their best and rest assured that they will not be victimised."

The participant said that regular retreats by top government officials, including ministries, chairmen of boards of parastatals and agencies, permanent secretaries and directors, would go a long way in instilling confidence and restoring the "good old glories of the service."

The retreat is now a regular feature in the Obasanjo administration which had twice organised it for its ministers, one each for its chairmen and members of the board of parastatals and agencies, and the latest for its permanent secretaries and directors.

In an address, President Olusegun Obasanjo urged them to be servants of the people and to work harmoniously in order to improve communication and enhance greater productivity in the service.

He said as public servants "you must deliver your service as and when due without expectations of financial favour; you will be breaking that law and behaving criminally if your actions are not transparent or corrupt in any way."



President Obasanjo

... urges Nigerian entrepreneurs to invest in Eco-Air and Eco-marine

As the ECOWAS gears up plans to float Eco-air and Eco-Marine in the sub-region, the minister of co-operation and integration in Africa, Chief Bimbola Ogunkelu, has urged Nigerian entrepreneurs to get ready to take up the challenges.

Ogunkelu said in Abuja at the weekend, that government would not be involved in running the planned eco-air and eco-marine.

"We are trying to promote these bodies but they are not going to be run by government," he said.

Ogunkelu said government would only facilitate the process of establishing the organisations, which he said were private sector initiatives.

"The arohead that we are promoting is to get the private sector to take their responsibility in their hands but government will facilitate and make it easy for them,"

he said, adding that although government could do a lot, people could do much more than what government could do for them.

The minister said that part of the philosophy of his ministry was to get the private sector to take up their responsibilities, pointing out that their fate was in their hands.

He said that ECOWAS decided to set up Eco-air because it was now difficult to travel by air to anywhere in West Africa or Africa since the Air Afrique folded up a few years ago.

The minister thanked the president for setting up the ministry of co-operation and integration in Africa, saying that the mandate of the ministry was to engineer, propel and push forward the growth and development of the Africa continent.

Answering a question, Ogunkelu said, "the Nigeria-Ghana fast tract," was aimed at encouraging and propel-

ling other ECOWAS members countries to try to "catch up with the development train of the two countries as it leaves the situation."

"The Nigeria-Ghana fast tract is aimed at making ECOWAS develop fast; the

two countries are developing faster than the other members. It is left for the other members to catch up because when a train is leaving a station you either catch up with it or it leaves you behind," he said.

States and local government to serve as engines of agric development

States and local governments will be the engines of agricultural development under the revised agriculture policy, being formulated by the National Council on Agriculture (NCA).

Authoritative sources close to the council told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja at the weekend that the proposed policy would prioritise agriculture and rural transformation programmes to raise the qual-

ity of the rural environment where majority of Nigerians live.

The council said that to cope with economic trends globally and nationally, there was need for increased participation of states and local governments in agriculture.

It spoke of enhanced private sector investment, strengthening of research and extension delivery systems, while providing adequate incentives for profitable agriculture.

The NCA described as "low," the quantum of credit to the rural economy.

The council said the revised agricultural policy must address that past government's effort in channelling credit to agriculture and the rural economy through institutional rural finance market, portfolio targeting and allocation mechanism which were largely inadequate.

The agricultural sector apex policy body welcomed the new Nigerian Agricultural Credit and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) which had been recapitalised with N4.5 billion.

It said that the NACRDB initiative and the approved National Agricultural Development Fund primarily designed to fund agricultural research and extension in the country, were steps in the right direction.

UNICEF report calls for investment in earliest years of childhood

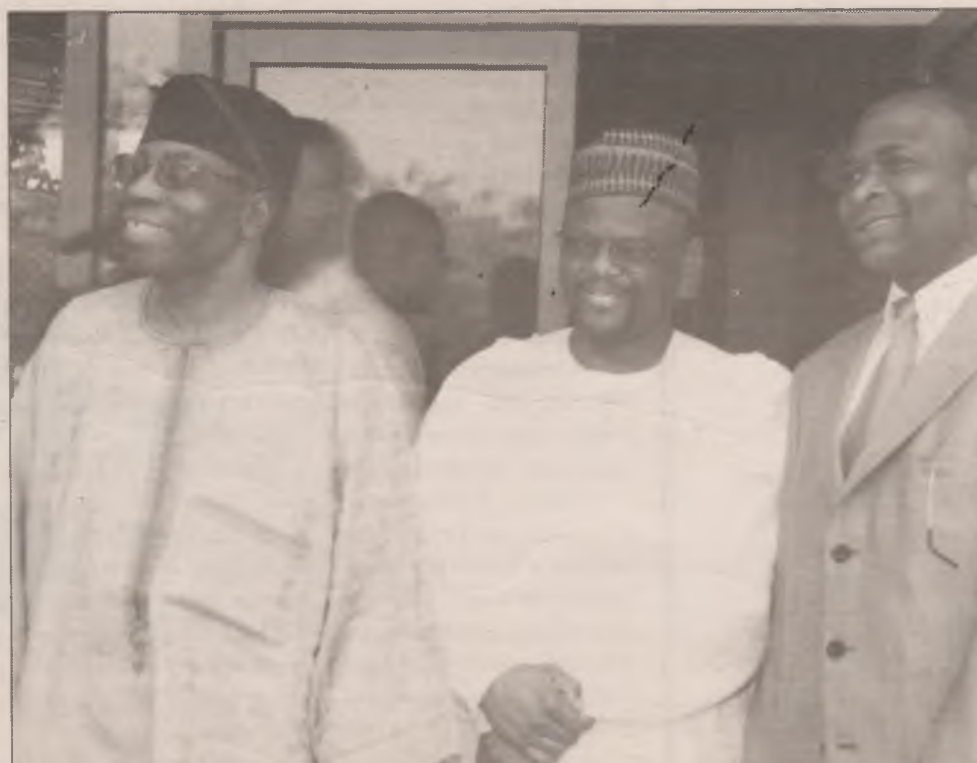
The state of the world's children 2001 report has called for investment in the earliest years of childhood before age three "when brain development is most malleable and rights are most vulnerable."

The report, published by UNICEF, the UN agency responsible for children's affairs and obtained by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja, noted that this period of a child's life was usually neglected in the policies, programmes and budgets of countries.

It stated that attention to the youngest children was most needed in countries gripped by poverty, violence and devastating epidemics, which seriously challenge parents' hopes and dreams for their children.

Early childcare, it argued, could act as an effective anti-dote to "cycles of violence, conflict, poverty and HIV/AIDS."

It stressed the importance of early childhood development programmes, not only for the children, their parents and caregivers, but also for the progress of nations as a whole.



Min of Justice, Chief Bola Ige (left), Senior Special Assistant to the President on Drugs and Financial Crimes, Dr. Yakubu Lame (centre) and minister of state for justice, Alhaji Musa Elayo during the 1st Interactive Forum for major stakeholders in the fight against drugs and financial crimes in Abuja... recently.

Pix Felix Onigbinde

NEWS

FG moves to halt plunge of naira

Apparently jolted by the declining exchange rate of the naira against international currencies, the Federal Government has moved to halt the plunge.

To this end, the government is to mount a campaign for greater purchase and consumption of local products as opposed to imported ones.

This indication was given over the weekend by the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana, in his office. The minister, who condemned Nigerians for their wholesome desires for foreign goods, said it was the importation of these goods that was leading to the naira's daily depreciation.

"From our investigations, even toothpastes are being imported while we have the local substitutes," the minister said.

He condemned the act of buying made-in-Italy shoes when those same leather shoes were being made in Kano.

"Government is to mount a systematic campaign to

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

encourage our people to look inwards if our naira is to rise again," he said.

Prof. Gana advised our women, who go to Dubai and other places to buy textiles, to discontinue the practice and begin to patronise our textile industry, so Nigeria can move forward.

The governor of Benue state, Mr. George Akume, while commenting, attributed the high cost of foodstuffs to the massive importation of Euro-American foods. He said Benue state alone had enough food to feed Abuja and adjoining states, saying "we are not called 'the food basket of the nation' for nothing".

Support government – Yar'Adua tells the rich

Governor Umar Yar'Adua of Katsina state has called on wealthy individuals to meaningfully contribute their quota to the development of the state, so that government could draw inspiration from such supportive gestures for a better governance.

He was speaking at Katsina during the presentation of a pay-loader estimated at N12 million donated to the state by Alhaji Abdullahi Yusuf.

Governor Yar'Adua described the donation as a kind gesture that could go a long way in stimulating the government to serve its

people better.

He then directed the state Ministry of Works and Housing to mobilize the pay-loader to the construction sites and promised to utilize the machine for the purpose it was donated for.

He stressed the commitment of his government to revitalising the state's rural road.

He described Abdullahi Yusuf as a worthy son whose contributions to

From Hassan A. Karofi, in Katsina

President Olusegun Obasanjo may have ruled out the presentation of the amended 1999 constitution to the Senate till next year as he had directed that general debates be held on the amendment between June and December this year.

The general debates are to serve as follow-up to the zonal consultation in all the six geo-political zones of

New constitution to wait till 2002

By Ikenna Emeka Okpani

federation between 30 April and democracy day 29 May.

To facilitate cross-fertilisation of ideas, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Prof. Jerry Gana announced over the weekend that a collection center has been established in the presidency for that purpose.

The Information Minister, who was speaking when the Governor of Benue state, Mr. George Akume, paid him a courtesy visit in his office, solicited the help of state governors and National Assembly members in mobilising their zones for the programme.

"I wish to use this opportunity to call on governors to be present at such occasions and to mobilize their people so as to give it the required relevance," the minister said.

Prof. Gana praised the governor for what he called his people-oriented programmes, saying he was translating "the PDP manifesto into action".

Seeking for inputs from the states, the minister promised the governor that the administration was ready to

listen to advice that will bring more development to the people of the country.

Earlier, in his speech, the Benue state governor, who described Prof. Jerry Gana as a 'son of Benue state', extolled his patriotism and unshakeable belief in the unity of the country.

The minister's tenure as director of Mass Mobilization, Social and Economic Recovery (MAMSER), according to Mr. Akume, witnessed great political mobilization of the Nigerian people.

He bemoaned the thankless nature of information jobs and lambasted the press, for being over-critical of the government.

On the Middle Belt Forum, the governor said the Forum has always been there and is not aimed at antagonising the North as is generally believed.

According to him, "the Forum is just seeking its place in the nation like every other group," he said.

He blamed those seeking resource control, calling them "people who do not want the unity of the nation".



Gov. Yar'Adua

chosen profession have endeared you to serve your people better. This contribution cannot be quantified in terms of the inspiration it will give us and other indigenes.

"You have shown your gesture to your people and I want our people to know that nations are built by individuals' will to serve."

"Such gestures," he continued, "will provide inspirational resources that could ginger our people to attain greatness through willingness to serve".

Earlier, the donor, Alhaji Abdullahi Yusuf expressed his pleasure for his ability to donate to the development of the state.

He called on people to emulate such gesture and asked wealthy individuals to help government in its resolve to turn the state around in terms of physical development.

"If outsiders will come to Nigeria and assist our people, I see no reason why we cannot," he admonished.

Alhaji Yusuf also promised to repair the machine whenever it failed. It would be recalled that the philanthropist, sometime ago, donated a well-equipped hospital ambulance worth N4 million to the state government as part of his contribution to the state's campaign to resuscitate its hospitals.

Adamawa state university takes off this year

The proposed Adamawa state university will take off in October this year, if the state government adopts the recommendations of its steering committee.

Submitting the interim report of the committee to Governor Boni Haruna in Yola on Friday, its chairman, Prof. Salihu Mustapha, said the committee recommended that the university begin and with the school of remedial studies and a small number of faculties in October this year.

He listed the faculties as those of Arts, Science, Education and Social/Management Sciences and the College of Medicine.

The committee, estimated a recurrent and overhead cost of about N1.23 billion as annual running cost of the university when fully developed.

Additionally, the chairman said, "the committee is still working out the total estimated capital cost for developing the permanent site of the university and procurement of laboratory equipment, library facilities and teaching aids."

Prof. Mustapha said the funds could be sourced from government subvention, education tax fund,

From Abdullahi Abubakar, in Yola

endowments, levies on contracts, education taxes on hotel charges, contributions, tuition and other charges.

A draft bill for establishing the university, he said, had already been prepared by the government to be sent to the state House of Assembly for enactment.

The university, proposed to be located at Kwanar Waya, about 18 kilometres away from the state capital, would be a conventional type, the committee added.

Receiving the report, Governor Haruna said that the government's decision to establish the university was irreversible.



Gov. Boni Haruna

Job Announcement
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A well established International Health Organization based in Lagos with field offices located in Kano and Aba, and affiliated with Local NGOs across the country is recruiting for the position of Operations Manager.

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Falomo, Ikoyi, Lagos

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and invited for an interview. Envelope should be marked - 'OPM-BA' on top of the left hand corner.



DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

Much ado about a 'slave' ship

It may be some time before the whole story of the mysterious slave ship is told but the saga of the Nigerian registered *MV Etireno* has raised more questions than provide answers. While it lasted, INTERPOL arrest warrants were issued, UNICEF have set shop to welcome the morooned child-slaves and governments along the West African coast have pat their Navies on alert and the US State Department has joined the chorus expressing concern over the mystery ship. So by the time the ship arrived Cotonou port last Tuesday morning with a cargo of scores of migrant workers and their children it created such an anti-climax so unbelievable that many would rather set sail in search of the mysterious slave ship than accept the reality.

MV Etireno reportedly set off from Cotonou in Benin Republic on March 27 and arrived Libreville, Gabon on April 2. The ship was apparently detained for lack of documentation. It eventually left for Douala, Cameroun on April 6 arriving there on April 12. Here too, the ship was not allowed to dock for inadequate documentation. From April 12 to 16 its whereabouts became a subject of intense speculation until it arrived Cotonou on April 17.

It is not clear if the ship actually set sail with child-slaves from Benin on March 27 or indeed at what point it took its alleged cargo of about 180 or 250 child-slaves which several accounts claimed were Nigerians. Those who could not believe the account of the ship's captain, one Lawrence Onome, a 40 year old Nigerian, that there were no slaves on his ship and that he was never in that business chose to believe that for the one week between April 12 and 17 a lot of unfathomable things could have happened to the cargo of child-slaves. The worst scenario was that the crew could have thrown its hapless cargo overboard.

A UNICEF coordinator in Benin said "when we heard that the captain has a criminal past, we imagined the worst, and the worst is that they could have been thrown overboard". Others speculated that the crew could have delivered its illegal cargo into the waiting hands of accomplices in any of the numerous creeks and estuaries in the Niger Delta.

Officials in Benin however believe that the whole affair was blown out of proportion. But that leaves us with a picture with missing links. What, for instance, has happened to the Beninise national, Mr. Stanislas Abadan, a businessman and two others on whom arrest warrants were issued through the INTERPOL? Where is the whereabouts of the other slave ship which was allegedly turned away from Libreville in Gabon at about the same time with *MV Etireno*? Indeed what cargo was the *MV Etireno* carrying when it set sail from Cotonou on March 27? Or, How in fact did the media get the sensational story?

Daily Trust believes that even if the *MV Etireno* was not bearing a cargo of child-slaves when it arrived in Cotonou last Tuesday, it reportedly has a history of ferrying illegal migrant workers along the West African coast. And that, we believe is the substance of the whole odyssey of the child slaveship. The captain should therefore be able to throw more light on the sordid child slave trade on the West African sub-region even if he did not have that cargo when he arrived last Tuesday.

For sometime since early 1980s, there have been stories that modern day slavery persists. These are mainly in children aged between 10 and 15 working in cocoa plantations in West Africa. The trade is perpetrated mainly by businessmen from especially Nigeria, Mali, Benin and Ghana who connived with merchant vessel owners. Their mode of operation is not different from that of those who perpetrate the trade in female children sold into prostitution in Europe.

Usually an auntie or a distant relative comes to the dis-paraged family with the promise of a lucrative job or schooling in the city only to end up in the hands of prostitution or slave syndicates. In some cases, poverty stricken parents willingly sold their children without any persuasion to these individuals to be able to survive the harsh economic conditions in their countries.

The running cases of modern day child slavery and prostitution call to question the effectiveness of such projects as the Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP). It is also an indictment of the efficiency of the immigration and other security agencies at our sea and land ports.

This modern trade in human cargo has thrived around the Akwa-Ibom and Cross-River estuaries and some arrests have been made in the past but the punishments metted out to offenders have been so light that it never deterred others. Nigeria as a signatory to the United Nations convention against the mistreatment of children should be at the forefront of efforts toward eradicating this shameful practices. We also urge multi-national companies in Europe and America to boycott commodities produced through child labour.

MONDAY COLUMN

Blackmail from the Villa

By Aminu Iyawa

Last week's disclosure by *Daily Trust* (2/4/01 edition) that, President Olusegun Obasanjo may have concluded contact with prominent national figures such as Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, Chief Odumegwu Ojukwu, Chief Abraham Adesanya and a host of others, for possibly, convening of a national conference does not come as a surprise.

Indeed, with his back to the wall on the road to 2003, any student of third world politics, would have since, come to the conclusion that the president has no alternative, but to play the last ace in his hand.

With two years already gone (with the wind), in the life of a four-year administration that has little to show to its credit, except of course, for the privatisation exercise, nothing short of such an articulated executive blackmail to force Nigerians into joining the Tony/Jerry Chorus of "No vacancy in Aso Rock" can be expected.

This latest script, by its nature, is designed to intimidate already economically encumbered citizens and the opposition, who have the common goal of making sure that the Otta chicken farmer sticks to just rearing birds, come 2003.

Not so long ago, the president was all over town, averring that: "with full democracy in place, there was no room for any national conference by whatever name". Nigerians still believe that that, should be the position. Because, convening one, will be illegal. Worst still, it will undermine our democratic setting that already has, two sets of the peoples representatives at the lower and the upper house levels and whose job it is, to amend the constitution, if need be, to conform with the wishes of the majority.

Nigerians would therefore, not just sit and watch the executive create chaos to cover its political ineptitude. Not being able to return in 2003 will not be the end of the world for Chief Obasanjo. If God wanted to destroy Nigeria, He could have given the Ikemba of Nnewi and his warriors the upper hand during the civil war. Or had Sani Abacha succeed himself in 1998.

In any case, if the authors plotting this political Mind-game think that upon queue, the "extras" that are Nigeria, will run helter-skelter to join the *VILLA EXPRESS* in order to avert the convening of a national conference, they are making a mistake. Nigerians are too advanced for such cat-alley theater.

And if the plot is designed to intimidate northerners, simply because they seem to have withdrawn their support for the current leadership, calling for National Conference will not cow them into submission. Besides, even if the country were to break-up today, the region has enough natural resources to sustain itself, including oil.

Yes, oil, as in PETROL. It is a proven fact that there is oil reserve in sufficient commercial quantity on our side of the lake Chad basin, where just across, Chad republic is already laying pipe through Cameroon to the sea for export, from its one billion barrel reserve discovery.

For all the years that the NNPC had been prospecting in the area, all tests result and data collected, showed that there was indeed oil. But unfortunately, it was alleged that for political reasons, the Geologists who were supposed to give the precise depth of every well to be dug, gave out wrong reading, so that if the data shows there is oil at the depth of 10,000ft, he will ask the engineers to dig at 6000ft.

It is also proven fact that (check details with NNPC) there is oil in the Benue/Gongola trough. Specifically: Gurin, Fufore, Dasin, Yola, Jimeta, Numan and Guyuk areas in Adamawa State; Lau and Karim Lamido in Taraba State; Bojude in Gombe State and Futuk and Koimawa in Bauchi State.

It is already public knowledge that as part of efforts to start harnessing these resources, the Federal Government had in 1995 allocated some blocks to Shell; ELF and Chevron at Koimawa, Bojude and Futuk respectively, under the production sharing contact (PSC). What this means is that NNPC has 60% share and each of the com-

panies 40%. But the NNPC would not start benefiting until the companies have recovered their investments in full.

It is also public knowledge that about two years ago, these companies after paying courtesy-calls on the Governor and Emir of Bauchi, declared that there was oil in their assigned blocks, but to the amazement of everyone, they disappeared with their equipment, after digging just one well each which was found to be dry (?).

The question raised then and even now is that why did these companies leave? Because in comparison, they were working on other blocks allocated to them in Imo State and *Chineke*, they dug about eleven wells before success was struck. They could have done the same thing in Bauchi and Gombe which experts believe would have resulted in success as well. In fact, the well dug by Shell at Koimawa produced wet gas. In layman's term, a certain depth or a little shift could have given them oil.

From the points above, one could easily conclude that there was pressure on the oil companies, from certain quarters, not to have dug more than one well each, even though they could have and had done it somewhere else, anyway. It is also worthy of note that as they left, none of the three companies declared that there was no oil in the Benue/Gongola trough.

In addition to the untapped oil reserves, the north also has Coal deposit in commercial quantity at Obi/Lafiya, Nassarawa State; Iron-ore in Kogi; Gold and hydropower in Niger State; and with serious dedication and commitment, we could also be exporting wheat and rice. Large-scale farmers like the Sarkin Yamman Adamawa, Admiral Murtala Nyako is already exporting fruits, vegetables and livestock, while cotton, hide and skin and Gum Arabic had been the preoccupation of may entrepreneurs since the days of the Sardauna.

Therefore, if anyone thinks that the mere mention of the word "National Conference" would rattle northerners, simply because they stand by democracy, he is wrong. All we are saying is that; if our elected representatives cannot be allowed to take care of the national question, then let us dissolve the entire democratic structure and allow a caretaker government to convene the national conference.

My believe is that, it will be a good omen for the north. And should the country break-up, you will be surprised with the speed at which these oil conglomerates will return to Futuk and Bojude.

LETTER OF THE DAY

Don't overdo it

Since the assumption of Professor Jerry Gana as Minister of Information the man has engaged in continuous praise-singing for the administration.

The minister should note that the tenure of any government comes and goes while Nigeria remains, therefore, he should not be doing as if he is taking his last cake in the political scene.

The professor-minister who deceives himself assuming that he knows best

how to convince people should bear in mind that his words do not change the conviction of Nigerians for standing against the deregulation policy.

The minister is becoming too worried about the issue of deregulation as if he was promised a big share of the expected profit.

Haba Jerry, be upright and moderate in whatever task you are given.

Umar Muhammed Shira, State low-cast Housing Estate, Bauchi.

Opinion

Re: Sharia: A-G of the federation has locus standi to sue

By Adamu Mohammed

The need to send this reply and rejoinder came out of the legal opinions of my colleagues, Sebastine Hon from Port Harcourt and Stephen Kola -Balogun from Lagos, which were published on the 27th of March 2001 and April 3, 2001 respectively on your law column.

Mr. Hon erroneously submitted that Governor Ahmed Sani Yerima of Zamfara State introduced Sharia as the State official religion. It is very important to know the meanings and distinctions between religions and sharia. Religion is not synonymous with sharia. Sharia is not strange to Nigerian Constitution. A Lawyer of his standing ought to know this. The quarrel of the two writers is with Sections 144 and 145 of Zamfara State Sharia Penal Code Law No. 10 of 2000 which introduced amputation of the hand of a convicted thief.

We must bear in mind that sentencing of a convict is the legal consequence of conviction. The essence of sentencing or punishment from time immemorial has been to protect society, lives and properties. Objectives of sentencing are identifiable broadly speaking as follows: retribution, protection of lives and properties, rehabilitation and deterrence.

The theory of deterrence is that the fear of punishment is the beginning of wisdom for those with criminal intent. Punishment according to this theory of deterrence, instills terror in the mind of the would be criminals. It is to deter members of the society from committing crime.

I wish to invite the Public to look at Sections 144 and 145 of Sharia Penal Code Law No. 10, 2000 of Zamfara State in this light. The moral question is: what is the effect of this law on the people of Zamfara State? Has it succeeded in reducing the rate of theft in that State? Even at that, my learned friends would agree with me that the Government of Zamfara State has power and authority to implement sharia by amending the existing penal code laws of Zamfara State. Penal Code Law is a State Law which can be amended at any time so far as due process of amending such laws are followed as was done by the Zamfara State House of Assembly which passed the law and the State Governor who assented the law.

It means, therefore, that Sharia Penal Code Law No. 10 of 2000 is not in any way inconsistent with Section 10 of 1999 Constitution because from a global reading of the law, no Religion is adopted as a State Religion in Zamfara State. Secondly, since the State has power to amend their penal code law, the resolution to amend it in the form of penal code law No. 10 of 2000 of Zamfara can never be said to be inconsistent with the 1999 Constitution.

Dr. Tunde Ogowewo's tests on unconstitutionality also helped Zamfara State Law No. 10 stand out as a valid law. It cannot be right to state as Kola-Balogun did that since "Section 144 & 145 of the Zamfara state Sharia Penal Code Law No. 10 of 2000 which enabled the state authority to amputate a convicted cow thief runs contrary to chapter IV of 1999 Constitution". The issue of right to dignity of human person does not arise where the person in question is a convict as in the case of Alhaji Buba Garke Jangebe. Whatever indignity is suffered, is the consequence of the sentence or order of a Court of law.

The attention of Mr. Kola - Balogun should also be drawn to Section 33(1) of 1999 Constitution which reads: "Every person has a right to life, and no one shall be deprived of his life, SAVE in execution of the sentence of a Court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty in Nigeria" Emphasis Mine!

Ordinarily, taking a person's life is inconsistent with Chapter IV of 1999 Constitution but so long as a person is killed in execution of a sentence of a Court, it is no longer inconsistent with Chapter IV of 1999 Constitution. Section 33(1) of 1999 Constitution therefore, recognises the death penalty as a form of punishment of a Court order.

It, therefore, follows that the opinion that amputation of hand as punishment provided by Section 144 and 145 of Penal Code Law No. 10, 2000 of Zamfara State amounts to torture and inhuman and degrading treatment is never the true position of our law.

It has been shown from the plethora of judicial authorities cited by Hon and Kola - Balogun that the A.G of the Federation has the locus standi to go to Court to settle this issue of sharia once and for all. I agree with them. However, I have to go further to advise the writers to go to Court for the solution of this conundrum if the AGF delays or refuses to exercise his discretion. President Obasanjo's declaration in USA that Sharia is unconstitutional must be disregarded because: (i) he is not a Lawyer and could not have been in a position to appreciate perfectly what is constitutional or not (ii) Even if he is a Lawyer he is not a Judge (iii) Even if he is a Judge, he could not have decided the constitutionality of Sharia in far away USA (iv) He seem to have abandoned that position.

Kola - Balogun and Hon would at best be described as busybody or meddlesome interlopers in the face of this authority. I wish them good luck.

Barrister Adamu Mohammad is of Suite A24, Abuja Shopping Mall, Wuse Zone 3, Abuja.

Deregulation, need for caution

By Okechukwu Emeh, Jr.

Against the background of challenges thrown by Professor Gana over the polemical policy of deregulation, which, possibly, would come with divestment of public equity holding in the oil industry and increases in the prices of petroleum products, many Nigerians have taken up the gauntlets by voicing out their opinions on this sensitive issue. For proponents of deregulation, as represented by the government and its sympathisers, who are spurred by the profiteering spirit of privatisation, commercialisation and liberalisation, the planned policy is necessary and inevitable in the light of endless crises in our oil industry. These include the abysmal conditions of our refineries, frequent scarcity of petroleum products, smuggling and diversion of fuel to neighbouring countries, breakage/vandalisation of oil pipelines, sabotage of petroleum products distribution through hoarding and adulteration, on and off industrial actions by oil workers, restiveness of youths in the Niger Delta and its distracting effects on crude oil production.

Besides, the proponents of deregulation question the economic wisdom of sustaining the charging of uniform amount for a litre of fuel at different parts of the country, marked by long distance, which, they argue, have occasioned unjustifiable tax in the name of National Transportation Average (NTA) and the bridging cost that covers the road haulage. Thus, they attribute the erratic supply of petroleum products, which have constantly paralysed our

socio-economic activities over the years, to the policy of government regulation of the oil industry by way of the uniform pricing system of the Petroleum Equalisation Fund (PEF).

For the opponents or antagonists of deregulation -i.e. those who prefer government regulation of oil industry or uniform pricing of petroleum products -they argue that this planned policy of the government would not engender accelerated growth and development in the country. This, they say, is in view of the official essence of the uniform pricing system, which, amongst others, include reduction of the burden of fuel costs on the motoring public, prevention of price differentials of petroleum products in different areas and assisting governments and industrialists to execute their development projects at reduced costs. Given this, advocates of regulation of our oil industry are anxious and apprehensive that deregulation would instigate instability and chaos in the pricing of our petroleum products, as different prices would be obtained in different parts of the country.

However, in spite of the two sides of the coin in the debates on the way forward for our downstream oil industry, it would be important, without taking a blinkered attitude, to shed light on the two concepts of deregulation and uniform pricing and their implications. As regards the deregulation of our oil sector, as is now being canvassed by the Obasanjo administration, it could be argued that this indicates the willingness of the administration to withdraw its legal power to direct the conduct of pricing, entry and

exit and social conduct of non-governmental bodies in the sector.

With regard to uniform pricing of petroleum products, which is seen in some quarters as being cumbersome and expensive, it does not necessarily purport low pricing of the products. Instead, it connotes that whether the prices are low or high, a particular quantity of any of the products under equalisation has to command equal price, irrespective of the location within the country so as to enhance equitable development. In view of this, it would be totally illogical to attribute shortages of petroleum products in the country to uniform pricing system. Although this system may be reconsidered with time by the government on the grounds of the claims in some quarters that it is cumbersome and expensive, the policy of regulation can still be pursued with a view to regulating price ranges, regulating operational standards in the oil industry and safeguarding our national interest.

At this juncture, it is significant to state that the kind of deregulation being pursued by Western countries, which are said to be the architects of the current moves towards deregulation in Nigeria, is not synonymous with the transfer of their state enterprises to the advantage of foreign firms. It is also not synonymous with price hike and higher profits to the detriment of their citizens. Admittedly, the lesson from this policy of deregulation in the Western world is that our government needs well-grounded information and cognitive ability required in the present world economic order so as to protect our na-

tional interest.

In the light of all this, expected that our present government, being the one put in place by the Nigerian electorate, would give a listening ear to public opinion and, accordingly, take a circumspect look at its planned policy of deregulation in our downstream petroleum industry. This is essential, particularly now that the masses are bearing the brunt of the prevailing fuel scarcity, which has had a baleful influence on transportation, industrial productivity, incomes and prices of goods and services in the country. This is not to mention our economy that is wracked with galloping inflation, mass poverty, erosion of incomes, rampant unemployment and collapse of infrastructure and social services. At difficult times like this that portend threats of social disruption, chaos and instability, what the government needs to do is to resolve the factors that underlie the problems in our oil sector with all sincerity and sense of urgency. These, amongst others, include condition of disrepair of our refineries, bottlenecks in NNPC and its subsidiaries, smuggling and diversion of fuel to neighbouring countries, unfair practices of some oil marketers, breakage/vandalisation of oil pipelines by hoodlums, sabotage of petroleum products distribution through hoarding and adulteration, frequent strikes by oil workers and the Niger Delta crisis. This is the only way out of the present impasse between forces for and against deregulation in our oil sector.

Okechukwu Emeh Jr, a Public Affairs Analyst, lives in Abuja.

Adamawa: Making a headway

By Emmanuel Y. Kwache

Democratic dividends can have many meanings. There is the peace that goes along with it. There are also the rural infrastructures that are established here and there. Other issues that are beneficial at this point of development in governance are what the electorate get in terms of accessibility to power, provision of health care facilities, education, potable water and rural electrification.

Therefore, in the last few months, many things have happened, that we consider desirable. The visit of Mr. President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo alone to this State; and his acknowledgment as he commissioned many projects is a testimony to the improvements on the ground. For one, Adamawa State has been relatively peaceful, minus armed banditry incidents, religious and ethnic clashes, the state has been peaceful.

Besides, the Deputy President of South Africa, Dr. Jacob Zuma also paid the state a two day visit where investment opportunities were explored. Adamawa State is indeed making a headway under the leadership of Governor Boni Haruna. Administration has given education a wholistic

approach. From the complete renovation of 14 boarding Secondary Schools to the payment of NECO, WASC and SSCE examination fees. Others are the provision of JAMB forms, provision of loans to teachers, rent subsidy and quarters, provision of instructional materials and attempt to sanitise school's administration. In the area of health, more than 13 general and cottage hospitals are about to be renovated. The government is embarking on the construction of three cottage hospitals. Already two are at the verge of completion in Dumne and Maiha while more are ongoing in Shelleng, Toungo and Mubi South Local Government Areas. Another cottage is hospital, almost the size of a general hospital is being proposed for Jada local government area. But the utmost priority of the Boni Haruna Administration is effective primary Health Care delivery.

Fundamentally, it is in the provision of this year's budget that more than 666.6 kilometres of roads scattered all over the State in 64 different places have been prioritised. These roads are from Michika to Garta, Michika to Boka, Mubi town

through Bazza by the bypass. Others are from Gombi to Fotta, Gombi to Garkida, Song to Dumne, Song to Shelleng; Guyuk to Shelleng and a bridge to be built across river Gongola. Others are; Fufore to Malabu, Maiha to Belel, Mubi to Maiha to mention a few. Amongst the rural electrification projects are those from Michika - Bazza - to Kuburshosho that doubles with the N59.6 million road that comes from Watu to Kuburshosho to link Lassa.

Many other headways have been made by the Boni Haruna Administration in Adamawa State in the field of Housing. Just last month, an 8-man committee to study the desirability of implementation of owners-occupier housing scheme to lessen the burden of civil servants. There are also Housing projects billed to be executed by the administration in the State capital and other urban towns like Mubi, Numan, Ganye, Michika and Fufore.

The democratic set-up has been benevolent to the civil servants in terms of consistent salary payments, the N24 million bonus that came on the heels of President Obasanjo's visit is the latest incentive. The State Secretariat which has been com-

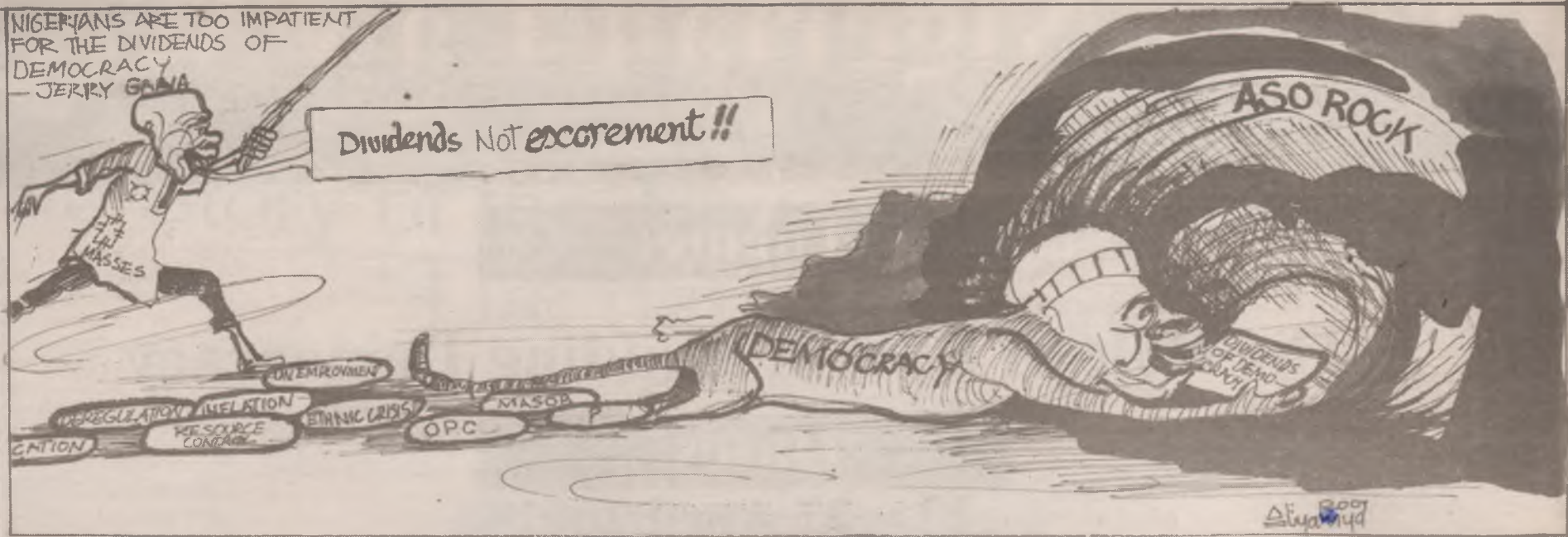
missioned and occupied by the 24000 workforce in the State has been air conditioned and a 100KVA generator is to be installed to forestall light fluctuation.

The impressive outputs of this dynamic young Governor has been acknowledged by no less a person than Chief Olusegun Obasanjo -when he commissioned projects like the multi-million Naira Investment House along Galadima Aminu Road, the House of Assembly Complex. All the tribes and ethnic groups in the state are fully represented in appointments to board of parastatals, commissioners Permanent Secretaries. etc.

Governor Boni Haruna has gained the confidence of many important and influential persons that have openly supported his administration which to me is a great achievement. If Vice-Admiral Murtala Nyako (rtd) from the State can openly and privately on the pages of newspapers, Radio and Television give his support to the administration, then it is a headway. So are others in the same class like Ambassador Wilberforce Jura and Professor Jubril Aminu.

Emmanuel Y. Kwache, wrote in from Jimeta, Yola.

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YOUR LETTERS

Regular power supply: Myth or reality

On assuming office as Minister for Mines and Power Chief Bola Ige raised the hope of Nigerians on electricity supply when he promised that within three months of his assumption of office he would make sure that there is regular and uninterrupted power supply throughout the length and breath of this country. This he could not keep in more than one and half years of his tenure. Unfortunately, he was given another ministry; Justice despite his failure at the ministry of mines and powers with billions of Naira pumped into the electricity sector at the expense of other sectors of the economy.

When Chief Bola Ige's promise of an un-interrupted power supply could not be fulfilled President Obasanjo came to his rescue by saying that the problem of electricity in the country was not surveyed critically before that promise was made and that by the end of the year 2001, there would be an un-interrupted power supply in

this country. Since this statement is coming from His Excellency; the Number one citizen of this country many Nigerians hoped that the dividends of democracy if only in the area of power supply is sure. As a signal towards the fulfilment of his promise there was improved supply of electricity towards the end of December, 2000 and early January, 2001.

Unfortunately, by the middle of January 2001 the Black out returned. This development has therefore made some Nigerians doubt the possibility of the Obasanjo administration to provide regular and uninterrupted power supply in this country by the end of 2001 as promised. In addition, some statements credited to top government functionaries increased Nigerian's doubt of the fulfilment of president Obasanjo's promise. One, on NEPA day during the 22nd Kaduna International Trade Fair it was announced by the Chief Executive of NEPA that there is irregular supply of electricity because of the

activities of vandals of electricity equipment, low level of water at the three hydro electricity stations and obsolete equipment. All these problems are not new they are old ones, which have defied solutions and could still defy solution under the present dispensation.

Furthermore, another statement credited to the Minister of Information that billions of Naira have been earmarked for the over haul of NEPA installations throughout the country and that the rehabilitation would take three years. That shows that regular supply of electricity by December, 2001 is a myth.

Therefore, I am calling on President Obasanjo to realise that a regular supply of electricity in this country will go a long way in alleviating and even eradicating poverty in this land. It would also help in president Obasanjo bid for a second term in office.

Kamar' Bello, Federal College of Education Technical Bichi, PMB 3473, Kano.

Calling on A.B.U authorities

I want to use this medium to appeal to Ahmadu Bello University Zaria authorities especially the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abdullahi Mahdi a respected scholar, to reconsider its stand on later registration with a view to allowing students who fail to register early at the commencement of an academic session to do so even midway into the session.

This stringent policy of making students who could not meet the registration deadline to repeat a session

is inimical to the aspirations of the students.

It is also important for A.B.U authorities to note that most indigent students cannot afford to source for registration fees within two weeks as stipulated.

I want to suggest that such students should be given the opportunity to pay registration fees throughout the semester at least in three (3) instalments, so as to give poor parents/Guardians time to source for the registration fees. I believe the university authorities are aware that the

major problem bedevilling the North is the threat to the education in the area, as such we cannot afford to put in place policies that will jeopardise the future of our youths.

On a final note, I want to call on the authorities of A.B.U to scrap this policy and came up with policies that will be tenable, considering the fact that some parents are poor.

Mohammed Bamanga, Kano Foundation Building, B.U.K. Road, Kano.

Dr. Gambo Laraba, northern Icon.

Dr. Gambo Laraba is well known in academic circles as an eminent bio-chemist. I must say that this eminent bio-chemist is also a seasoned administrator and has brought justice, freedom, equity, and dignity to bear on the Abuja university as its Vice chancellor. Both staff and students of the university can bear witness to the tremendous achievements recorded by Dr. Gambo some of which include the building of medical centres for both staff and students,

fencing of staff quarters and main entrance of the university, and has rid the institution of cultism, violence, and strikes.

What you have achieved in these few years shows your ability to lead people to realise their aims and aspirations.

Dr. Gambo is a strong believer in Allah and the Islamic principles of faith, hope, charity, and respect for the right of people regardless of religions, tribal or sectional differences. Dr. Gambo Laraba was picked as a

minister for Women affairs during the General Abdulsalami Abubakar's regime because of her distinguishing features and qualities as a virtuous woman with clear vision and the love of people at heart. Dr. Gambo Laraba have great assets to be proud of as she is the first female Vice-Chancellor from the North and the second in the country. I wish you Allah guidance and protection.

Tukur Bello Ahmed, No. 12, ADP Quarters, Bauchi.

Attention, N.U.R.T.W. national chairman

I wish to draw the attention of your Excellency to the unethical conduct of officials of the Daura branch of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (N.U.R.T.W).

The current officials have been in office for more than twelve years yet there is nothing on ground to show in terms of staff welfare or that of the drivers for which this union was constituted.

The union has been politicised and only officials benefit from the union's huge revenue

through embezzlement of the union's fund. The officials are also more engaged in the politics of the area and hardly pay attention to their legitimate duties of championing the cause of the union.

I am, therefore, calling on you and your officials to institute a panel to investigate the issue with a view to sanitising it by conducting fresh election to elect capable hands to take charge of the union's affairs.

Dan Ashabe Sale, Daura, Katsina state.

Re: Calling on IBB

I read with utter dismay your "letter of the Day" on 11 April, 2001, in which one Mohammed Lawal B. Yashe called on IBB to contest the 2003 election. In that letter, he describe IBB as an epitome of dedication, etc. even though everybody is entitled to his own opinion, the truth must be told. IBB had only succeeded in destroying this country economically and politically. Virtually every sector of the Nigerian economy collapsed. Inflation rate

reached up to 100%, interest rate rose to more than 100%, corruption was institutionalised, there is widespread armed robbery soon and so forth.

I am calling on IBB to please in the name of Allah forget about Aso-Rock forever. Nigerians don't NEED you anymore. You have done more harm than good. You have only succeeded in destroying the nation. Please allow patriotic people like Buhari to contest the election if they want to.

Mohammed Ali, P.O. Box 04, Birnin-Kudu, Jigawa state.

Justice Umaru Eri should be emulated

Please permit me space in your widely read newspaper to call on all judges in the country to emulate Justice Umaru Eri, the Chief Judge of Kogi state who tried and sentenced to death three mobile policemen for robbery and killing of five innocent traders.

Justice Eri's action did not only ensure that Justice was carried out but has also earned him a lot

of respect particularly among the masses whose last hope is the judiciary.

How I wish the Judges currently trying Al-Mustapha, Mohammed Abacha and co. could emulate the Chief Judge of the year 2001 or in simple term borrow a leaf from the Chief Judge of the millennium.

Tukur Muntari Masanawa, News Agency of Nigeria, P.O. Box 1013, Jos.

British-Nigerian Law Week

- bringing together the best of British and Nigerian expertise in law and governance -

Theme:

The Role of Law in Building Democracy

Dates:

23 – 27 April 2001

Venue:

Abuja Sheraton Hotel and Towers

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for educational and cultural relations. Our aim is to create enduring partnerships between British and other cultures and we do this by creating opportunities to connect with the latest skills, ideas and experience from the UK.

In the areas of governance, human rights and social inclusion the British Council works in partnership with both government and civil society to advance debate, knowledge and skills. Our aim is to enhance the reputation of the UK as a valued partner in tackling key reform agendas. We promote initiatives that combine inclusiveness and accountability. Our work contributes to the UK Government's foreign policy objectives of spreading the value of human rights, civil liberties, democracy and the rule of law.

British-Nigerian Law Week aims to encourage the exchange of British and Nigerian expertise and experience in law, particularly in the context of recent political changes.

Key Speakers:

Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, Senate President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Baroness Helena Kennedy QC, Chair of the British Council Chief Justice Uwais, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Clive Bruton, Regional Director of the British Council in West Africa Michael Franks, Council Member, Law Society of England and Wales Roy Amlot QC, Chair of the Bar Council of England and Wales Chief Bola Ige SAN, Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Onueze Okocha SAN, President of the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA Philip Thomas, CMG, The British High Commissioner to Nigeria.

Registration for the Law Week has closed and participation is strictly by invitation.

Education Fair

All your questions about studying in the UK answered

There will be an education fair during the duration of the Law Week where the British Council will answer questions on the opportunities that abound in the UK for: legal education, undergraduate and postgraduate study, professional courses, distance learning, short courses, scholarships and British qualifications through examinations at the British Council. Enquiry services, Internet, CD-Roms and UK educational videos will be available for answers to your questions.

The education fair is open to all.

Time: 0900 – 1700, from Monday 23 April – Friday 27 April 2001

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Queen Elizabeth

One may not know the story behind the requirement of native dress or lounge suit at diplomatic functions in Nigeria, but it is enough to say that it was one that evoked memories of a parade of some sort at the 75th birthday of "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith".

The British High Commission chose the lush greenery of the garden of the High Commissioner's residence for the event and invitees also chose more flowery apparel to complement the greenery.

Diplomats paraded suits that traversed one-colour complete sets and multi-coloured blazers in different combinations. The rare sight of the Foreign Affairs Minister, Alhaji Sule Lamido in suit is better witnessed than imagined.

Nigerian power brokers showcased our traditional dresses including gowns that sweep the ground. The Minister of Defence, rtd. Gen Theophilus Danjuma, the Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe, the FCT Minister, Alhaji Mohammed Abba-Gana, Senator Ike Nwachukwu, The Minister of State for Defence (Navy) Chief (Mrs.) Dupe Adelaja, the Secretary-General of the ruling party, PDP, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo and their retinue of aides stamped their feet strongly on the lawn.

Drinks of different blend

All for the queen

By Kevin Ebele Adinnu, Foreign Desk Editor

April 21 is the birthday of Elizabeth the Second. In Britain it is officially celebrated on the third Saturday of June each year. The British High Commission, Abuja marked this event on April 19 and Daily Trust captured the event.

combined with the lights in the night to create a profound ambience that kept chat groups going.

The British High Commissioner, Mr. Philip Thomas, and the Foreign Affairs Minister, Alhaji Sule Lamido, however, interrupted the event with speeches, nay tales that reminded one that the gathering was official.

Mr. Philip Thomas: "The interests of British government in Nigeria are many. They range from our interest in the region, our interest around Africa where

Nigeria and South Africa are superpowers . . . The fact is that there are probably between 500,000 and a million Nigerians in Britain . . . They are a major component in a new multi-ethnic Britain which is no longer a white nation. It is a very mixed, diverse and on the whole a successful multi-ethnic British community.

"Nigerians play a huge part in it. I want to say that Nigerians are famous in that respect. It is probably an insult to the members of the Nigerian officials here tonight

to say that the most popular Nigerian in Britain is a footballer . . ."

Sule Lamido: "Today I am grown, Britain has grown, Nigeria has grown. We are now wonderful partners, wonderful collaborators. And I must say that Britain has been so supportive of our democracy that at every forum they have been advocating for Nigeria's interest.

"And therefore for me, it is my sincere pleasure and honour to propose to the good health and long life of Her Majesty, The Queen of England". Cheers!

Tit bits on the Queen

The official title of Queen Elizabeth II is "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith."

In Canada, where the Queen is the Head of State, her official title is "Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom, Canada and Her other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith."

Queen Elizabeth II is referred to simply as "The Queen," to differentiate her from her mother, who is called "Queen Elizabeth."

She was born on April 21, 1926 to King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother who is still alive. Her real name is Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor.

She was crowned in Westminster Abbey in London, England on June 2, 1953.

She was married to Prince Phillip, the son of Prince and Princess Andrew of Greece on November 20, 1947 in Westminster Abbey. They have three sons, one daughter and six grandchildren.

Source: The Royal Archive



The British High Commissioner in Nigeria, Mr. Philip Thomas welcomes Minister of Defence (Navy) Mrs. Dupe Adelaja during the birthday of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II in Abuja. Pix: Felix Onighinde



British High Commissioner in Nigeria, Mr. Philip Thomas welcoming Minister of Defence, Lt. Gen (rtd.) T. Y. Danjuma to the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Abuja. Pix: Felix Onighinde



Minister of Transport, Mr. Ojo Maduekwe (right) and Minister of FCT, Engr. Mohammed Abba-Gana during the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Abuja. Pix: Felix Onighinde

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST



Two children among the 147 passengers of 'MV Etireno' suspected of transporting child slaves

30 children in 'slave ship' abandoned

Dozens of children who disembarked from a ship allegedly carrying child slaves have yet to be claimed by relatives, bolstering the possibility they were victims of child-slavers.

Only one child taken from the Nigerian-registered MV Etireno has been collected after it docked in the West African state of Benin earlier this week.

Thirty of the minors are still being cared for by relief agencies, while 12 others were released because they were found to be 18 or older.

The Etireno has been at the centre of an international search effort amid suspicions it was carrying more than 200 children destined for slavery.

The vessel had 43 children on board, but there was no sign that the minors were on board against their will.

Benin has asked United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) to take part in the criminal investigation into the MV Etireno.

Police in the port of Cotonou began questioning

the ship's passengers on Wednesday.

Benin officials said they still needed to speak to all the passengers and crew before they could explain the confusion about the suspected slaves' whereabouts.

International arrest warrants had been issued for the crew of the Etireno on suspicion that they were smuggling children to work as slave labourers.

The UN agency says at least 200,000 children annually fall victims to traffickers in the west and central African slave trade.

Human-rights activists say the selling of children into slavery is still quite common in impoverished Benin, although it is officially banned.

They say parents are often tempted to sell their children for as little as \$15 in the hope that they may find work in richer West African states, usually on cocoa or coffee plantations.

Thousands of children between the ages of nine and 12 are thought to work on plantations in Ivory Coast, the world's top cocoa producer.

Blast kills two in Israel

At least two people have been killed by an explosion in the Israeli town of Kfar Saba, north of Tel Aviv.

Israeli police believe that at least one of the dead may have been a suicide bomber, our correspondent in Jerusalem says.

The blast happened near a bus stop at about 9:00 am local time (0700GMT), during the morning rush hour.

Reports from the region say about 20 people were injured in the explosion.

Police have cordoned off the area around the attack.

Kfar Saba, near the West Bank, has been the site of several recent bombings.

A suicide bombing in the town on 28 March left three people - the bomber and two teenagers - dead and a number of schoolchildren in-

jured.

One person was injured when two explosions struck the town eight days ago.

No group has yet said it carried out Sunday's attack, but the militant group Hamas said it had carried out the late-March bombing.

Israeli company loses diamond licence in DRC

The Democratic Republic of Congo has opened up the country's vital diamond trade by suspending an exclusive trading licence issued to an Israeli company last year.

The deal was estimated to have been worth \$600m but has, in the words of a recent UN report, been a nightmare for the Kinshasa government.

When the late Congolese President, Laurent Kabila, signed the monopoly deal with International Diamond Industries (IDI) in July last year, he hoped he would provide his cash-strapped coun-

try with an assured and regular income.

The Israeli firm, headed by 29-year-old Dan Goetler, promised to maximise profits from the trade and provide expertise to stamp out smuggling.

But the monopoly has been a disaster for the local diamonds trade, according to the recent UN report into the exploitation of Congo's natural resources.

When the monopoly was granted to IDI, the report said Kinshasa's diamond dealers simply crossed the river to Brazzaville - capital of the neighbouring Republic of Congo - to sell their gems.

In the first three months of the monopoly alone, this smuggled trade is reported to have been worth \$60m.

British-Nigerian law week begins today

By Musa Aliyu

The first ever British-Nigerian law week organized by the British Council begins today in Abuja.

In a pre-event briefing at the weekend in Abuja, the governance team leader of the council, David Roberts said the week was aimed at encouraging the exchange of British and Nigerian expertise in law.

Participants, he said, would rub minds on various issues which would cover good governance, the rule of law, freedom of association and expression and recent legal reforms in the United Kingdom in the administration of justice.

According to him, papers would also be presented on law procedure, constitutional review, business law,

investment and corporate law as well as corruption and democracy.

The weeklong event would also delve into UK legal qualification and distance learning courses and feature an exhibition of legal materials and educational information in hard copy and on-line, Roberts said.

On-line training for law librarians would also be organized. "We hope that this law week will challenge outmoded concepts, provide a forum for dialogue on these issues and act as a catalyst for further action", he added.

Those expected to speak during the forum include the Senate President, Chief Anyim Pius Anyim, chairman of the British Council, Baroness Helena Kennedy, QC and Michael Francis, member, Law Society of England and Wales.



Left-right: Governance and Gender Officer, Tolulope Lewis-Tamoka; Governance Team Leader, David Roberts and Simon Kay, also of the British Council at the briefing.

Pix: Kevin Ebele Adinnu

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

WORLD REPORT

Mexican army leaves Chiapas

The Mexican army has withdrawn from its remaining bases in the southern state of Chiapas - one of the key conditions the Zapatista rebels had set for their return to peace talks, which were suspended five years ago.

The last contingent of troops left the installation of Guadalupe Tepeyac, just outside the town La Realidad - the Zapatistas' headquarters since the start of their rebellion for greater indigenous rights in 1994.

Speaking at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec, Mexican President Vicente Fox said it was now time for face-to-face peace talks with the rebels.

But the withdrawal has raised fears of a security vacuum.

The government plans to turn the bases into development centres for the local indigenous communities. But the departure does not guarantee that peace talks will start.

The rebels had issued two other conditions. They wanted all Zapatista prisoners released and a package of laws guaranteeing Indian rights written into the constitution.



Anti-globalisation demonstrators being arrested in Canada.

(AFP)

Police battle anti-globalisation activists in Canada

Riot police in Quebec City have fired water cannon and tear gas at anti-globalisation demonstrators outside a summit discussing plans for the world's largest free trade area.

The protesters were trying to breach the security barrier surrounding a conference centre, where leaders of 34 countries are attending the Summit of the Americas.

Trouble flared when chanting protesters tried to tear down the 10ft high fence and hurling stones, sand-

filled bottles and concrete blocks.

In another part of the city, thousands of campaigners marched through the streets in a peaceful protest.

The latest disturbances took place in exactly the same place as where demonstrators briefly broke through the 3.8 km (2.3 mile) chain-link and concrete wall on Friday.

A group of 60 riot police drove the protesters back with water cannon and tear gas as helicopters hovered overhead.

At least two protesters were arrested and security forces brought in earth moving equipment to help fortify the perimeter.

Many demonstrators wore protective gear, ranging from handkerchiefs worn as masks to balaclavas to military-style gas masks.

The BBC's Rob Watson says the use of water cannon would seem to indicate that police are adopting a far harder stance against the demonstrators.

Authorities blame the violence on what they call a small group of anarchist infiltrators.

On Friday night, five police officers were injured and dozens of people arrested after demonstrators tore down a section of the concrete blocks and chain-link fence barricading off the heart of the city.

Just before noon on Saturday, crowds began to build again and taunt police.

Colombia arrests drug baron

Colombian armed forces have captured Brazil's alleged top drugs trafficker, after a manhunt in a jungle region close to the Brazilian border.

Luis Fernando da Costa is accused of supplying arms to left-wing rebels in Colombia in return for cocaine.

He was captured on Saturday, two days after the plane in which he was travelling was forced to make an emergency landing by the Colombian air force.

The drug trafficker allegedly once controlled much of the narcotics trade in Rio de Janeiro, but moved his operations to Colombia after he escaped from a Brazilian prison in 1996.

The Colombian security forces knew it was only a matter of time before they caught him.

They had been searching for him since February when an army operation codenamed "black cat" uncovered a massive drugs complex in the Colombian jungle near the Brazilian

border.

Here the military found, according to army chief, General Jorge Enrique Mora, incontrovertible proof that da Costa was supplying

Colombia's largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), with weapons in exchange for cocaine.

Several Brazilians were arrested at the site, but da Costa managed to get away and has been on the run ever since.

But the Colombian airforce on Thursday forced down a Cessna plane.

Da Costa, who was on board, was arrested after running off into the jungle.

US ship cancels Cuban visit

The first trip by a United States cargo ship to Cuba in more than 40 years has been cancelled.

The MV Orso was due to arrive in Havana on Saturday, but a spokesman for owners Crowley Liner Service said senior managers had ordered the ship to bypass Cuba and proceed to Mexico.

He said no further details would be available until Monday. The company had planned weekly trips to

Havana.

Correspondents say President Fidel Castro may have refused entry to the ship, which is believed to have been carrying humanitarian as well as commercial goods.

The US Congress passed a bill last year allowing food and medical exports to Cuba under special licence, but Havana has insisted it will not allow American goods into the country.

There have also been suggestions that Havana

may be seeking to avoid an impression that US ships are now in a position to serve Cuba normally.

Unaware of the change of plan, foreign media had camped out from around 0300 local time (0700 GMT) at Havana harbour awaiting the ship's arrival.

Washington imposed economic sanctions on Cuba soon after Castro's 1959 Communist revolution, but there is growing pressure from abroad and from an American farm and business lobby to lift them.

ODD WORLD

Elephants do not forget

The saying that elephants never forget has been backed by science.

And it seems that the old adage may be particularly true in the case of matriarchs, who lead the herd.

A study of wild African elephants has revealed that dominant females build-up a social memory as they get older, enabling them to recognise "friendly" faces.

They signal whether an outsider is a friend or foe to the rest of the herd, allowing family members to focus on feeding and breeding when there is no danger.

The older and more experienced the matriarch, the better she is at recognising old friends, and the more calves the family is likely to produce.

The findings have important implications for conservation - poachers tend to kill the bigger, older elephants, thereby decreasing the survival chances of the whole group.

"Elephants can certainly build up a memory over the years and hold on to it," said study team leader Dr Karen McComb of Sussex University, Brighton, UK.

"The matriarch plays a key role," she told *BBC News Online*. "Because she has time to build up a social knowledge, the others depend on her."

Elephants often travel large distances in search of food. A typical group of elephants consists of a matriarch grandmother and a number of her daughters and granddaughters.

Male African elephants leave the family units at an early age and remain single or in small bachelor groups.

When the female elephants encounter other individuals they do not recognise, family members bunch together defensively to protect their young.

The scientists found that older matriarchs were better at picking out genuine strangers by means of the elephants' smell or contact calls, allowing the herd to spend more time relaxing and breeding.

McComb and colleagues studied 21 elephant families in Amboseli National park, Kenya, over the course of seven years.

They believe that anything which removes the grandmother from the family, such as poaching, or a possible lifting of the international ban on the ivory trade, would have a significant effect on reproduction.

The research is published in the journal *Science*.

China and US in visa row

"We consider him to be a private individual. Travel by private persons between Taiwan and the United States is a normal part of our unofficial relationship," State Department spokesman Philip Reeker said.

But the Chinese spokesman denounced the former Taiwanese leader's claim that he simply wishes to see relatives and visit his old university - saying that there was no way Mr Lee could be seen as an ordinary citizen.

A report on the website of the official People's Daily newspaper noted that Mr Lee's last visit to the US, also as a private citizen, in 1995, caused significant upheavals in Sino-US relations.

Beijing's furious response at the time included a series of military exercise off the Taiwan coast.

Beijing has said there could be devastating consequences for bilateral ties if President Bush decides next week to sell advanced missile defence systems to Taiwan.

GREATER KARU URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (GKUPDA) KARU

Sani Abacha Road Off Abuja-Keffi Road Mararaba, Karu Nasarawa State

VACANCIES

The Greater Karu Urban Planning and Development Authority, (GKUPDA) is a parastatal under the supervision of the Nasarawa State Ministry for Housing and Urban Development charged with the responsibility of controlling the use of land and physical development with a view to creating a conducive, attractive environment, well provided with Water, electricity and the basic amenities of modern life, within which Greater Karu Urban Area can continue to develop.

To achieve these objectives, it is imperative that high calibre and dedicated staff are recruited.

Applications are therefore invited from suitably qualified candidates into the following vacant posts in the Administration, Finance/Accounts, Internal Audit, Town Planning, Land and Survey, Environmental Health and Engineering Services departments respectively.

S/No	DEPARTMENT	POST	QUALIFICATION	EXPERIENCE	SALARY
1)	ADMINISTRATION	Principal Admin. Officer	A good honours degree or HND in Business Administration, Marketing, Purchasing and Supply, Mass Communication or any related discipline. A Post Graduate qualification or Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	8 Years	GL 12
2)		Administration Officer	Same as above	2 Years	GL08
3)		Legal Officer	A good honours degree in Law and call to the Nigerian bar.	4 Years	GL09
4)		Confidential Secretary	A good honours degree or HND in Computer Science Secretarial Studies or any related discipline.	2 Years	GL08
5)	FINANCE/ACCOUNTS	Principal Accountant	A good honours degree or HND in Accounting and Finance. A Post Graduate qualification or Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	8 Years	GL12
6)		Accountant	Same as above	4 Years	GL09
7)	INTERNAL AUDIT	Senior Internal Auditor	Same as above	6 Years	GL10
8)	TOWN PLANNING	Principal Town Planning Officer	A good honours degree or HND in Town and Regional Planning. A Post Graduate qualification or Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	8 Years	GL12
9)		Town Planning Officer(2)	Same as above	6 Years	GL10
10)		Higher Technical Officer (Planning)	Same as above	2 Years	GL08
11)		Architect	M.Sc or HND Architecture Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	4 Years	GL09
12)		Quantity Surveyor	A good honours degree or HND in Quantity Surveying. A Post Graduate qualification or Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	4 Years	GL09
13)	LAND AND SURVEY	Principal Land Officer	A good honours degree or HND in Land administration, Geography or any related discipline. A Post Graduate qualification or Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	8 Years	GL12
14)		Land Officer	Same as above	4 Years	GL09
15)		Principal Surveyor	A good honours degree or HND in Land Surveying. A Post Graduate qualification or Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	8 Years	GL12
16)		Surveyor	Same as above	4 Years	GL09
17)	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	ADPHS	A good honours degree or HND in environmental Health. A Post Graduate qualification or Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	6 Years	GL10
18)		Public Health Officers (4)	Same as above	2 Years	GL08
19)	ENGINEERING SERVICES	Civil Engineer	A good honours degree or HND in Civil Engineering. A Post Graduate qualification or Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	8 Years	GL12
20)		Higher Technical Officer (Civil)	Same as above	2 Years	GL08
21)		Technical Officer (Electrical)	A good honours degree or HND in Electrical Engineering. A Post Graduate qualification or Membership of Professional bodies would be added advantages.	2 Years	GL08

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE:

Conditions of Service are Similar to those obtained in the Nasarawa State Public Service.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applications should be in Candidate's own handwriting to be accompanied by relevant academic and Professional Credentials, evidence of Local Government of Origin and detailed curriculum vitae which must be received not later than Monday, 17th May, 2001.

All Applications should be directed to:

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY,
Greater Karu Urban Planning and Development Authority, (GKUPDA) New Karu, Sani Abacha Road,
Off Abuja-Keffi Road, P. M. B. 03, Mararaba Nasarawa State.

NOTE PLEASE!

Only shortlisted candidates would be notified and invited for interview.

Signed:
ABDULLAHI, MUSAYAHAYA,
Senior Administrative Officer
FOR: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

BUSINESS DAY

FG tackles money laundering

The Federal Government has declared that it is evolving modalities to tackle incessant cases of money laundering and other financial crimes that have strangu-

By Ahmed Shekarau

the increasing rate of reports of vices in the financial sector of Nigeria's economy inspite efforts to curb them.

"It is all the more painful to observe that in the face of all efforts on the part of government, allegations of impropriety in foreign exchange transactions, extortion level of interest rates, some cases of money laundering, and other vices, continue to persist," he lamented.

The VP noted that the economic growth of any national largely depends on the integrity of its banking and financial sector, stressing that "government will fight such vices".

He reiterated the federal government's commitment to providing an enabling environment to attract foreign investments and private participation in the banking industry, adding that the government will continue to ap-

praise the banking and monetary polices of the nation in order to make it more attractive for operators.

Vice president Abubakar commended the bank for naming the corporate office as "Bashorun MKO Abiola House," saying that the late

Abiola had dedicated himself to the service of the nation, urging Nigerians to emulate him.

Earlier in his address of welcome, the Managing Director of Habib Bank, Mr. Abdulfatai Akin Kekere-Ekun noted that the Corpo-

rate Office was dedicated to the late MKO Abiola in view of his pioneering contributions towards the establishment of the bank, as well as its growth to its present position.

He said the Bank was established in 1983 through a

joint venture entered into between Habib Bank Limited, Pakistan and the Nigerian Promoters, the pioneering once among whom were the late MKO, late General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua and Mallam Musa Bello.



Vice-President Atiku Abubakar.

lated the economic growth of the nation.

Vice-President Atiku Abubakar who declared this at the official commissioning of Habib Nigeria Bank Limited's Corporate Office in Abuja noted with concern

... as CBN mops up N38bn from circulation

From Bright Ewulu

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) mopped up the sum total of N38 billion from the financial system last week.

Although last week's reduction of the excess liquidity situation in the economy was below its performance in the preceding week when a total sum of N59 billion was mopped up from the system. This was as a result of a short fall in the public subscription of the N100 billion securities on offer in the primary market.

Even the secondary market auction also witnessed a short fall as the N1.3 billion bids received could not be sold off as only N1.050 worth of securities were traded, which left a balance of N300 million.

The above scenario was different from the preceding week when the N35 billion securities on offer in the primary market were over subscribed to the tune of N43.5 billion.

In the secondary market



Joseph Sanusi, CBN Governor.

too, N27.2 bids were received and N24.1 billion

sold hearing a minimal short fall of N3.1 billion.

Besides, the low reception in the period under review is significant when its realised that the tune yield of securities was 17.7 percent as against 17.2 percent in the preceding week at the primary market.

This was the same situation with the secondary market, which goes to show that the high yield noticed this week did not encourage the investors to take advantage.

HAJJA INT'L VENTURES

Bulk Sales & Distribution, Importers/Exporters, Gen Merchants
Block E, Shop 2 SKY Memorial Complex, Wuse Zone 5 Abuja Tel:09-808125,808473

The Management and Staff say *Congratulations* for the well deserved honours!



ALHAJI IBRAHIM MANTU

Deputy Senate President

The recent conferment of fellowship award on you by Federal College of Education, Pankshin and the award to be conferred on you by Federal College of Education (Technical) Umunze, Anambra State on May 27th 2001 did not come just like that, but for your steadfastness, dedication, honesty, sound leadership qualities and services to humanity. We are proud of you, keep it up and *Congratulations.*

Signed:
Management

Minister chides manufacturers over cement price hike

By Ahmed Shekarau

The Minister of Industry, Chief Kolawole Jamodu has blamed cement manufacturers in the country over the sudden increase in price of cement, saying that the poor distribution strategy recently adopted by the manufacturers led to the sudden price increase.

The price of a bag of cement in the market was suddenly jerked-up from N750 to N1,250, about four weeks ago.

A statement signed by Press Secretary to the Minister, Mr. S.O. Babajide disclosed that Jamodu told members of the Association of Cement Manufacturers of Nigeria who paid him a visit in his office in Abuja that

their distribution strategy is "poor" and brought about the sudden increase in cement price.

He advised the manufacturers on the need to urgently put in place "a formidable distribution system" which would ensure that the product gets to the consumer at an affordable price.

Speaking earlier, the leader of the group, Engr. Mohammed Daggash however blamed the current hike in price of cement on the failure of the cement companies in the country to produce it at their respective production capacities.

Daggash, who is the Managing Director of Ashaka Cement Company Plc noted that of all the cement manufacturers in the country, only his company

produces at its full capacity. He cited the case of Shagamu Cement Company, which currently produces at below 50 percent level due to a major breakdown in the plant.

In a related development, the Minister of Industry has wooed Malaysian investors to come and invest in Nigeria, assuring them of a favourable investment climate in the country.

The Minister called on the Malaysian Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. A.B.M. Zain to avail investors from his country of abundant opportunities that abound in Nigeria.

In his remark, Ambassador Zain assured that his country would explore many areas of investment and of co-operation for the development of the two countries.



Kolawole Jamodu, Industry Minister.

ASSET QUALITY OF INSURED BANKS

Banks	Total Loans And Advances (N' Billion)		Classified Loans And Advances (N' Billion)		Proportion Of Classified Assets To Total Assets (%)	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
Merchant	58.8	45.3	8.8	8.9	15.10	19.6
Commercial	269.1	324.8	54.6	85.9	20.27	26.44
Industry	327.2	370.2	63.3	94.8	19.35	25.61

Source: Bank Returns

Source: Bank Returns (NDIC)

BUSINESS DAY

Nigerian Stock Dealings (NSE)

Gainers/Losers as at 20/04/2001

Gainers

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
AGIP	25.50	26.70	1.20
LEVBROS	21.66	22.74	1.08
DNMEYER	15.18	15.93	0.75
NB	29.30	30.05	0.75
UNION DICON	17.51	17.99	0.48
GUINNESS	35.00	35.40	0.40
LONGMAN	7.66	6.04	0.38
FLOURMILL	13.40	13.70	0.30
GUARANTY	5.67	5.94	0.27
SUTB	4.20	4.35	0.15
BERGER	2.30	2.41	0.11
OWENABANK	2.02	2.12	0.10
NCR	1.84	1.93	0.09
LIBERTY	2.05	2.14	0.09
AFRIBANK	8.02	8.10	0.08
AVONCROWN	1.36	1.42	0.06
SAVANNA	1.22	1.28	0.06
EKOBANK	1.37	1.43	0.06
SKBEECHAM	3.00	3.05	0.05
CHELLARAM	0.83	0.87	0.04
DUNLOP	4.11	4.15	0.04
WEMABANK	2.06	2.10	0.04
INTBREW	0.55	0.57	0.02
ACCESBANK	1.09	1.10	0.01
UTC	0.94	0.95	0.01

Losers

COMPANY	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE
WAPCO	24.29	23.15	1.14
MOBIL	63.00	62.00	1.00
NBC	19.00	17.41	0.59
TOTAL	85.99	55.60	0.49
DELTGLAS	6.55	6.25	0.29
CADBURY	31.30	31.05	0.25
UPL	4.22	4.10	0.21
NIG-GERMAN	5.59	5.40	0.19
UBA	14.50	14.31	0.19
PZ	12.58	12.40	0.18
UAC-PROP	2.93	2.79	0.14
UNTL	2.85	2.71	0.14
IGL	7.12	7.00	0.12
UNIC	1.92	1.83	0.09
MANNYBANK	1.88	1.90	0.08
AHICO	2.98	2.90	0.08
TIB	3.25	3.10	0.08
MAY & BAKER	3.15	3.10	0.06
GOLDBREW	1.38	1.35	0.03
C & I LEASING	1.26	1.25	0.01
FIRSTALUM	2.32	2.31	0.01
NESTLE	52.01	52.00	0.01
IPWA	1.20	1.19	0.01

Summary of Transactions

	OPENING	CLOSING	%AGE CHANGE
MKT. CAP	562,554,094,972.39	565,378,817,377.66	0.50
INDEX	9,515.18	9,562.96	0.50

DEALS	VOLUME	VALUE	No. OF COMPANIES
1,940	22,230,520	213,606,076.70	94

Source: NSE, Abuja Area Office.

Abuja Stock Exchange goes "Live" May 2

By Ahmed Shekarau

The Abuja Stock Exchange (ASE) Plc commences "Live" trading on May 2, 2001, the Managing Director, Mallam Yusuf Abdurrahim has stated.

According to the MD, this development followed the successful implementation of the Exchange's technology infrastructure at its Abuja and Lagos offices, including the installation of a VSAT (very small aperture terminal) Communication network to facilitate on-line, real-time operations for dealing with members nationwide.

A statement issued by ASE and made available to *Business Day*, disclosed that the Exchange has so far granted licences to 53 operators in various categories ranging from Trustees and Issuing Houses to Registrars and stock broking firms.

It stressed further that the licences will flag off the business of buying and selling of stocks and other financial instruments on the Exchange.

Some of the securities to be quoted for trading on commencement of activities at the Exchange, according

to the statement, include those of blue chips companies in the Banking, Insur-



Yusuf Abdurrahim, MD ASE.

ance, Manufacturing and Petroleum Marketing sub-sectors of the nation's economy.

"In order to facilitate the operations of the Exchange in both the primary and secondary markets, a well capitalised subsidiary called the Securities Clearing and Depository Limited (SCDL), has been established where the ownership and transfer of securities will take place via electronic book entry," the statement disclosed further.

The Exchange has already organised an intensive training programme for its licensed Dealing Members aimed at acquainting them with ASE's trading system, it noted, stressing that the ASE Automated Trading System (ASEATS), which is an on-line, real-time screen-based trading system, consists of seamlessly integrated trading software modules for multiple market segments for trading in Equity securities and Debt instruments. It explained further that ASEATS also provides the trading engine for Capital Trade Points (CTP) and OTC markets.

Trading will be flagged up remotely from the Exchange's Lagos office via a VSAT link to its Central trading system at Abuja and this will be witnessed by the licensed dealing members of the Exchange, other market operators and the financial press.

The Abuja Stock Exchange Plc is a technology driven exchange established in 1998 and licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in August, 2000 to carry out Stock Exchange activities.

MAN holds AGM April 26, to announce its new president

The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) next Thursday, April 26, 2001.

According to sources at MAN headquarters, the AGM, which would have witnessed the election of a new President to replace outgoing Chief Rufus Giwa, will just be as formally as the association has already chosen its affairs.

One Chukwuemeka was chosen at the association's

From Bright Ewulu, in Lagos

pre-AGM meeting by its 67 council members.

Therefore, barring any unforeseen circumstances, as the sources told us, Chukwuemeka who was until recently the head of MAN's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) Group will be announced officially as the new president.

The new President who hails from Imo State is said to be a long-standing member of MAN and one who has

contributed eloquently in the field of engineering.

Chief Giwa who has steered the affairs of MAN since the late 1990's after his controversial exit from the Lever Brothers Plc could be said to have been in charge in an era of difficulty for manufacturers.

As he bows out come April 26, business commentators, are wont to wonder whether his presidency contributed to the betterment of the lives of the members of the association or not.

NSE All-Share Index closes at 9,562.96

A total of 22.23 million shares worth N213.61 million were exchanged on Friday, April 20 in 1,940 deals on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange with 94 companies participating, according to information from the Abuja Trading Floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

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

Price Movement:

The Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index closed at 9,562.96, an increase of 0.50%. The Index opened at 9,515.18, while the market capitalisation closed at N565.38 billion, an increase of 0.50%, it opened at N562.56 billion.

The bulls maintained their lead on the floor that day, with a total of 23 companies losing and 25 gaining in their share prices.

Gains were recorded in the Petroleum Marketing, Conglomerates, Chemical & Paints, Breweries, Food/Beverages & Tobacco, Printing & Publishing, Banking, Computer & Office Equipment, Packaging, Health Care, Commercial/Services and the Automobile and Tyre sub sectors.

Agip Nigeria Plc led the price gainers, as it appreciated by 120 kobo to close the day at N26.70 per share, followed by Lever Brothers, which appreciated by 108 kobo to close at N22.74 per share.

Other price gainers include DN Meyer and Nigeria Breweries (75 kobo apiece); Union Dicon (48 kobo); Guinness (40 kobo); Longman (38 kobo); Flourmill (30 kobo); Guaranty (27 kobo); UTB (15 kobo); Berger (11 kobo); Owenabank (10 kobo) and NCR (9 kobo).

Losses were recorded in the Building Material, Petroleum Marketing, Food/Beverages & tobacco, Packaging, printing & Publishing, chemicals & Paints, Banking, Conglomerates, Real Estate, Textile, industrial/Domestic Products, Insurance, Health Care, Breweries and the Managed fund sub sectors.

Wapco Nigeria Plc led the price losers, crashing by 114 kobo to close at N23.15 per share, followed closely by Mobil, which lost 100 kobo, to close at N62.00 per share.

Other price losers include NBC (59 kobo); Total (49 kobo); Deltglas (29 kobo); Cadbury (25 kobo); UPL (21 kobo); Nig-German and UBA (19 kobo apiece); PZ (18 kobo); UAC-Prop and UNTL (14 kobo apiece); IGL (12 kobo) and UNIC (9 kobo).



International Energy Services Limited

SEMINAR

**EXPERTS TO DISCUSS
LIBERALISATION
OF SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION
OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS**

Professionals will discuss the subject of Liberalisation of the Downstream Sector of the Petroleum Industry and its implications for the Economy

FOR WHOM

PROFESSIONAL BODIES

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

CHIEF ERNEST SHONEKAN, (GCFR)
(Former Head of State)

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

1. MR ARET ADAMS
(Former Group Managing Director, (NNPC) and Former Special Adviser to the Head of State on Petroleum Resources and CEO of Multinational Expertise Ltd.
2. ENGR. B. A. SOYODE
(Former Managing Director of Kaduna Refinery and Petroleum Consultant).
3. ENGR. FUNSO KUPOLOKUN
(Special Assistant to the President on Petroleum Matters).

DISCUSSION PANEL

There will be a panel of discussants representing the Professional Groups. They include:

1. MR EMMANUEL IJEWERE
(President, Institute of Directors and Former President, ICAN).
2. MR. S. M. ANYAKORA
(Vice President of The Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers).
3. MR. OLUMIDE KUNLE
(Director General, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industries).
4. ALHAJI JAFARU PAKI
(Former Managing Director, Unipetrol Plc).
5. MAZI S. OHUABUNWA
(MD/CEO NIEMETH)
6. MR. C. O. P. NWACHUKWU
(President, Society of Petroleum Engineers - SPE)

DATE

Monday 23rd April, 2001.

VENUE

Lagoon Restaurant, Ozumba Mbadiwe Street,
Victoria Island, Lagos.

TIME

11: 00am Prompt.

This serves as a reminder to all invitees

DR. O. FAWIBE
Chief Executive.

BUSINESS DAY

Small and medium enterprises agency to take-off soon - Industry Minister

By Ahmed Shekarau

Majority of the comatose Small and Medium-Scale Enterprises (SMEs) in the country may soon be revived with the on-going preparations for the take-off of an agency under the Ministry of Industry to develop the enterprises.

The Minister of Industry, Chief Kolawole Jamodu has disclosed recently that the Small and Medium Industries Development Agency (SMIDA) would soon commence operation.

Jamodu said at the end of a recent familiarization visit for an on-the-spot assessment of facilities in companies and parastatals under his ministry's supervision that the agency was created to enhance the growth and development of the SMEs in the country as a major step towards reviving the nation's

industrial sector. The development of the SMEs, according to the government is a pre-requisite to the nation's industrial take-off as they would provide the basic raw materials required by the Large-Scale Industries (LSEs).

Already, the Federal Government had mid-February released N14 billion to the Industry Ministry to enhance the take-off of SMIDA. What the ministry awaits is the passage of the bill on the agency which was submitted to the National Assembly since May last year.

The Federal Government had also taken other measures to enhance the growth of the SMEs. This include the issuance of a directive through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) that all com-

mercial and merchant banks in the country should dedicate 10 percent of their profit after tax to finance SMEs.

Also, the government said it was making efforts to improve electricity generation and distribution across the country to enhance smooth operations of such small and medium-scale enterprises.



Chief Lawrence Nwuruku,
Minister of State for Industry.

IPMAN Election Imbroglio: Appeal court rules against Anekwe, 8 others

By Reuben Yunana

The Federal Court of Appeal has ordered Chief Bestman Anekwe to stop parading himself as the National President, Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), as his election on the 23rd of June last year was "unconstitutional, null and void and of no effect whatsoever".

Eight other members of the national executive of the association, elected on the same date, suffered the same fate as Chief Anekwe.

In a unanimous decision, three judges of the court sitting in Abuja set aside the

ruling of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, delivered by Justice U.M. Kuserki on the matter on 3rd August last year reversed by the honourable chief judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory for hearing and determination by another judge of the same court.

According to Justice Uduyemi, "the validity of the election of the respondents is now the subject of the present suit. It is my view in the present circumstances that the balance of convenience is in the maintenance of the status quo ante. This means that it is more in the interest of preverting the "yes" in this appeal that the pre 23rd June 2000 members of the National Executive Council should get during the time when the validity of the last election is being determined in the substantive suite than that the respondents should get during the period".

The court thus granted the request of Alhaji Ibrahim Mashasha and five others, representing members of the

various zones. The appellants again filed another suit and a motion on the same subject matter.

All the cases were filed in the Abuja High Court, presided over by Justice U.M. Kuserki, all being injunctions seeking to restrain the other side.

It was in this confusing scenario that the appellants filed their motion which was disallowed by the Abuja High Court.

In an affidavit to support the motion, the appellants said were members of IPMAN, that because of the court order, restraining IPMAN from holding the said AGM, they could not come to Abuja but stayed away because they learnt it had been postponed.

However, they said they were surprised that the court later lifted the order allowing the elections to go on, depriving many of their members the opportunity of taking part.

With this ruling by the Court of Appeal, the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, is now to decide on the validity of the election of 23rd of June last year.



Bestman Anekwe,
Embattled IPMAN President.

Transport minister canvasses support for deregulation

By Ahmed Shekarau

As the on-going debate on whether or not to liberalise the downstream sector of the Nigerian oil industry heats up, the Minister of Transport, Chief Ojo Maduekwe has urged Nigerians to throw the weight in support of the deregulation policy, saying that opening up the sector will enhance the efficiency of the transport

sector in the country.

The minister said at a recent press briefing on deregulation in Abuja that fuel is one of two major components required to enhance the performance of the transport sector. The other requirement, he said is the physical engines that are operated on the roads, railways, water ways

and airways.

Maduekwe who claimed that deregulation is "the only viable alternative" to the incessant problems of the petroleum industry, contended that the nation's transport industry can never be efficient without adequate supply of petroleum products which is only achievable through deregulation.



Recently the Minister of State, Power & Steel, Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje was at the Katsina Steel Rolling Company to flag-off resumption of production. The event, which is historic and a milestone in the economic development of Nigeria was recorded in pictures by E.I. Chikezu (Federal Ministry of Power & Steel)

Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje Minister of State flags-off resumption of production



The Minister of State, Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje flagging off the resumption of production at Katsina Steel Rolling Company.



The General Manager, Katsina Steel Rolling Company, Engineer Sanusi Garba, welcoming the Minister of State, Alhaji Danjuma Goje, the Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua and other dignitaries to the Steel Company.



The Minister of State (Power & Steel), Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje, speaking at the occasion.



The Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua making a speech during a courtesy call on him by the Minister of State Power & Steel, Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje. Listening are, the Minister, Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje and Alhaji Ahmed Jikamshi, Katsina State Deputy Governor.



The Minister and other important dignitaries being taken round the production line of the Steel Rolling Company by the General Manager of the Company, Engineer Sanusi Garba.



Engineer Sanusi Garba reading his address during the occasion.



The Minister of State (Power & Steel), Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje signing the visitors' book at Katsina State Government House. Watching with interest is the State Governor, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua.



The Katsina State Deputy Governor, Alhaji Ahmed Jikamshi, Minister of State (Power & Steel), Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje and the Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua inspecting machines and equipment at Katsina Steel Rolling Company.



The Minister, Alhaji Mohammed Danjuma Goje addressing the group. With him are Engineer Sanusi Garba, General Manager, Katsina Steel Rolling Company, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua, State Governor, Katsina State and Alhaji Ahmed Jikamshi, Deputy Governor, Katsina State.



Minister Danjuma Goje, Ministry of Power & Steel at Katsina Steel Rolling Company



Minister Danjuma Goje reading his address



A cross section of the Company's Board Members and other important dignitaries listening to the Minister's speech.



The Minister in company of the Katsina State governor, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and the Chairman of Katsina Steel Rolling Company inspecting the premises.



Minister Danjuma Goje at the flag-off ceremony.



The General Manager, Engineer Sanusi Garba (middle), Miss Tappun of Steel Dept, Ministry of Power & Steel and the Ministry's Director, Planning, Research & Statistics at the occasion.



A display of the company's finished products (Rods).



Minister Danjuma Goje explaining a point of interest to the Katsina Steel Rolling Company staff members of the company. The Minister of State, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua, the Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.



The Minister of State, Alhaji Danjuma Goje explaining a point of interest to the Katsina Steel Rolling Company staff members of the company. The Minister of State, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua, the Katsina State Governor, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua.



Fresh production of iron rods in process.

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NEWS

Presidential rebuke: Chairman invites Obasanjo to Abi

The chairman of Abi local government council of Cross state, Hon. Enya Effiom Osim, has charged President Olusegun Obasanjo to visit the council area during his proposed trip to the state and see the developmental strides taken by the grassroots administration.

It will be recalled that President Obasanjo, in a stinging rebuke recently condemned council chairmen for non-performance.

But Mr. Enya Osim, who spoke in an exclusive chat with *Daily Trust* in his office recently, wondered why the president would judge all local governments equally, based on his assessment of the performance of a few.

He maintained that, "in Abi, much has been done, with all the ten wards of the council, feeling the presence of the council".

Enya maintained that significant development had taken place within the two year period of his stewardship, asserting that his administration was a divine call to save the people from social neglect.

He listed visible achievements like road and culvert construction, building of residential quarters and accommodation for senior staff, the establishment of the local government market at the council headquarters, Itigidi, the renovation of the council ferry to link the other parts of the council with the headquarters and the joint renovation of the Ediba-Igoni-Igoni road with the state government.

Other achievements, he listed included, renovation of the ring road at Usumutong, a health center at Imabang, chairs and VIP toilets for

schools in Ivaebana, Adadawa and Ecuereere while



President Olusegun Obasanjo

schools without roofs were provided with same.

On education, the chairman hinted that the sum of N800,000 was spent for the award of bursary to students of Abi in institutions of higher learning while Abi students at the Law Schools were given financial grants.

He further stated that 22 students of the council were being trained at the council's computer training institute, Itigidi.

Hon. Osim, therefore, advocated another four-year tenure for council chairmen so that they will complete their laudable programmes.

Benue state releases N110m for fertilizer

The Benue state government has released the sum of N110 million for the procurement of fertilizer for distribution to its farmers in this year's farming season.

The state Commissioner for Agriculture, Mrs. Elizabeth Shuluwa disclosed this while speaking to *Daily Trust* in her office recently.

The commissioner commended the district agricultural officers for even distribution of the commodity last year, but accused some council chairmen in the state of defrauding the ministry of over N1.8 million fertilizer allocated to their councils in 1999.

She warned that henceforth the ministry will deal decisively with any person or group of persons caught defrauding the ministry.

"Any staff of the ministry caught selling fertilizer to middlemen who are not the real farmers or diverting the revenue generated from the sale of fertilizers would be handed

over to security agents for prosecution," she further warned.

Mrs. Shuluwa also disclosed that a surveillance team has been set up to monitor the sale and distribution of the commodity to avert any attempt by politicians to hijack the fertilizer exercise for campaign purposes.

According to her, the state government has also released the sum of N82 million for the purchase of 20 tractors to enhance agricultural production as agriculture is the highest industry in the state.

In a related development, the state government has approved the sum of N20 million as part of its counterpart funding towards the completion of a fertilizer blending plant in Makurdi.

Offa community installs new Asiwaju

All roads lead to Offa, in Offa local government area of Kwara state Saturday April 28, 2001 when the people of the community will play host to eminent personalities across the country for the installation of Chief Emmanuel Olatunji Adesoye as the Asiwaju of Offa.

Addressing a press conference in Ilorin last week, Dr. Kola Olafimihan, chairman of Iwuyi organizing committee, said Chief Adesoye is taking over as Asiwaju from the late Chief

J.S. Olawoyin who died last year.

He said the title of Asiwaju was conferred on Chief Adesoye in recognition of his sterling qualities, and contributions to the development of Offa community in particular and Nigeria in general.

Chief Adesoye, 63, attended St. Mark's Primary School and Offa Grammar School. He later studied at the Yaba Technical College, Nigeria College of Arts, Science and Technology,

Enugu and Essex College of Arts, Science and Technology. He graduated in 1963 as a Quantity Surveyor.

A fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Quantity Surveyors, the Institute of Quantity Surveyor of London and the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, Chief Adesoye's working experience runs across both the public and private sectors, having served Northern Nigeria, Kwara state and Nigeria in several capacities.



L-R: Chief Ayo Opadokun, Secretary-General, Afenifere, Chief Paul Unongo and Col. John Madaki (rtd), all members of the newly formed Association, the National Frontier at Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja ... April 18, 2001. Pix: Kennedy Egbojinodje

FG relaxes relocation conditions for embassies

The hurdles delaying the movement of many embassies to Abuja may be reviewed to make relocation easier, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Engr. Mohammed Abba-Gana has said.

Engr. Gana, said the Federal Government's decision to have a second look at the four-storey building requirement and other conditions for the embassies was born out of a realistic assessment of the issues on the ground.

The minister disclosed this while receiving the continental Deans of diplomatic corps in his office.

The envoys, which comprised members from Palestine, Gambia, the European Union, Cuba, Egypt, Iran and Czech Republics had expressed reservations over the four-storey minimum specification given to them by the Federal Government for the construction of their embassies in the federal capital.

They requested that the

specification be sealed down to enable them build smaller and affordable offices similar to the ones they have in Lagos.

The ambassadors also

complained that the areas allocated to them lacked basic amenities like water and electricity.



Engr. Abba-Gana

Equally, of concern to them was the alleged re-allocation of the plot earlier allocated to the Republic of Gambia. The Palestinian ambassador to Nigeria, Samir Bailler while speaking on behalf of his colleagues said, the problems

most embassies are facing is that of build specifications; that the building has to be four floors. So when the embassies wanted to develop, they were told that they cannot scale down the number of floors".

He added that many of the embassies had small staff and did not need four-storey buildings.

Engr. Abba-Gana, while hinting about the relaxing of the stringent conditions, reminded them that the four-storey condition was a standing policy and promised to take their case to a higher level of authority.

Engr. Abba-Gana also promised to quickly provide infrastructural facilities in the area, designed for the embassies. He advised the envoys to ensure that their buildings meet the high standards expected of embassies world-wide.

The envoys on the visit included: Ambassador Maba Tose of Gambia, Charge de Affairs of the European Union (EU), Bangt Hara Idasson of Cuba, Essan Maamoun of Egypt, Mohsen Moulai of Iran and Teotelory Solavla of Czech Republic.

PRTV not under censorship - GM

The General Manager of Plateau Radio Television Corporation, Mr. Joseph Ari, has denied the allegation of censorship



Gov. Dariye

From the state government.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* in Jos recently, Mr. Ari explained that on the contrary, "PRTVC has a free hand to operate".

He denied reports that the state government was interfering with the station's programming, saying "as a general manager, I know that we are given the free hand to run our services without undue interference from the state".

He described the speculations as unfounded and baseless noting that PRTVC has never had such experience in its operation since he became the general manager.

Reacting to the reports that certainly individual's

interviews or press conferences were not aired by the corporation, the general manager said "I have no knowledge of such. I believed PRTVC is not invited to cover such conferences, otherwise there is no way that we can refuse to carry out duties."

On Senator V.K. Dagin's press conference and the former Minister of Sport's home-coming reception which were paid for but not aired, Mr. Ari stated: "We were not invited to the Dagin press conference. It was later that we got to know that he was at the press center to address a press conference. "He had not made any payment to us, may be he paid to the NUJ but not PRTVC"

NEWS

National food scarcity programme underway

By Emmanuel Ande

Determined to boost the agricultural sector, the Federal Government has concluded plans to launch a national special programme for food security to increase food production in the country.

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mallam Adamu Bello, dropped this hints at the weekend when the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Dr. Jacques Diouf, held policy negotiation meeting with him in Abuja.

He said that the Obasanjo's administration is fully committed to the promo-

tion of agricultural production, food security, rural development and poverty reduction, adding that Mr. President has directed that additional resources be made available to the ministry by way of supplementary budget in order to address issues militating against the agricultural sector now that it is going to replace the oil industry.

Bello stated that the government through the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is working towards the promotion of the production, processing, storage and

marketing of food staples, noting that similar national programmes have also been put in place for the promotion of the production, processing, storage and marketing of export crops like cocoa, oil palm, rubber, gum Arabic and other crops.

The *Dan'Iya* of Adamawa also disclosed that the National Veterinary Research Institute (NVRI) at Vom, Jos has developed a vaccine for the control of the foot and mouth diseases in Nigeria.

"We are currently focusing attention on the control of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP)

through intensification of the mass vaccination of the national stock," he stated.

The minister noted that the FAO should extend more technical assistance to Nigeria, particularly Technical Co-operation Programme (TCP) and also the recruitment of staff and consultants to support areas like Kaduna Dairy Milk Processing Plant, rehabilitation of severely degraded grazing reserves and establishment of farm radio network.

He further urged FAO to assist Nigeria in mobilizing resources from bilateral and

multilateral donors in support of the national special food security programme.

In his remarks, the director-general of FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, said that Nigeria is one country out of five African countries that has central roles in the affairs of the FAO.

He pointed out that the efforts of achieving food sufficient in Africa now depends on the political will of the African continent.

The director-general stressed that there is need for Nigeria and FAO to come together and facilitate the implementation of food security programmes in the African continent.

Paramount rulers to get limousines

From Mamman Akpena, in Lokoja

In a bid to improve the welfare of traditional rulers in Kogi state, six paramount rulers are to be provided with limousines.

The Commissioner of Information and Culture, Hajia Salamatu Atimal, who disclosed in a chat with journalists in Lokoja, said the



Gov. Abubakar Audu six rulers provided with luxury cars are the chairman of Kogi state council of chiefs, Alhaji Aliyu Obaje; the Ohionoyi of Ebira-land, Alhaji Ado Ibrahim, and the Obaro of Kabba, Chief Michael Olahayo. Others, according to her are: the Maigari of Lokoja, the Ohigage of Koton-Karfe and Eje Anka.

Similarly, the royal fathers are to cart home a new salary package, with the Attah Igala, Alhaji Aliyu Obaje taking home N25,000 as against the paltry of N4,166 montly in addition N50,000 allowances. His deputy will go home with N23,000 against N3,833.33 while N30,000 is for his allowances.

Other first class chiefs are now to take home N21,000 monthly as against N3,500. As chairmen of their various local government traditional councils, they are to take home N30,000 as a security votes.

According to the state government, it approved the review of salaries and allowances for traditional rulers' in the state as part of recommendation of the committee put in place by government.

Others to enjoy the new salary package are the second class (chiefs) who are now N16,500 monthly against N2,700, third class chiefs, N10,250 instead of N1,780. Others are district heads N8,500 monthly against N915.16 while village heads will take home N7,500 instead of paltry N500. Ward heads too are to go home with N6,500 per month as against N130.

Minister condemns resident doctors plan to go on strike

The Minister of Health, Prof. Alphonsus Nwosu, has asked the National Association of Resident Doctors to shelve its planned strike slated for April 28, saying that government was prepared to meet their demands. Answering questions from newsmen on Wednesday in Abuja, the minister said "as far as I am concerned, the ultimatum issued by the doctors is "illegal and ill-timed".

Nwosu said it was sad that since the doctors knew that he would be busy monitoring the various committees to ensure that the summit was hitch-free, they ought to have waited until after the summit when he would have time to attend to them.

Nwosu said that he held a meeting recently with officials of the National Association of Resident Doctors, where he pleaded with them to shelve the planned strike but to no avail.

He said he asked them to give him six weeks to contact the relevant government agencies to get the necessary approval to pay them their allowances, adding, "they appear not to be ready for that".



Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu

The minister said representatives of the doctors were under the impression that the Health Ministry was in a position to take a final decision on all their demands and commence payment of call-duty and other payments they were asking for.

He said besides securing the approval of the president, the issue would also be convened to the national salaries, incomes and wages commission for appropriate advice and issuance of the necessary circulars.

Nwosu also said that officials of the Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity would be involved in all negotiations as well as ensure that industrial peace was not breached.

"Realising that all these will take some time, I asked them to give me some weeks to get them what they want," he stated, adding that "they appear to be using blackmail, which is unfortunate."

Makarfi inaugurates commission to investigate Zangon Kataf crisis

The Kaduna State governor, Alhaji Ahmed Makarfi, has inaugurated a five-man commission of inquiry to investigate the causes of the April 7 communal crisis between the Bajju and Ikulu people of Zangon Kataf local government area of the state.

At the inauguration in Kaduna, the governor appealed to all communities to regard the appointment of chiefs and creation of new chiefdoms in the state as government's desire to achieve peace among the diversified people of the state.



L-R: Malam Nasir El-Rufai, D/G, BPE; Malam Adamu Ciroma, Minister of Finance and Alhaji Mahmud Ahmed Yayale, Head of Civil Service of the Federation at inauguration organised by BPE for top government functionaries at NICON Hilton Hotel, Abuja ... recently.

Women Affairs Ministry gets work place nursery

By Halima Yakubu

The Minister for Women Affairs and Youth Development, Hajiya Aisha Ismail has said the Nigerian woman has come of age and must take her rightful place in the scheme of things. This, she said was why an enabling environment was being created to enhance her productivity.

The minister said this at

the occasion of the commissioning of the ministry's work place nursery in Abuja.

Hajiya Ismail said the work place nursery will make it easy for mothers to breast-feed their babies in privacy and ease while removing the discomfort of catering for



Hajiya Aisha Ismail

their children in public glare.

In addition to promoting exclusive breast-feeding among mothers, the minister further informed the public that the centre was fully equipped for early childhood

education and recreational activities which are essential ingredients for proper socialisation and growth of children.

Mrs. Ismail concluded that adequate provisions have also been made in the centre to cater for the breast-feeding group, day care category, play group or pre-nursery as well as nurseries I and II.

Also present at the occasion was the head of civil service of the federation, Alhaji Mahamud Yayale Ahmed, who said the centre was conceptualised with three main advantages, of promoting Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (RFHI) through exclusive breast-feeding, increased filial bonds between mother and child and the enhanced productivity of the working mother through the reduction of man-hours to cater for the babies.

Alhaji Mahamud Yayale further commended the efforts of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development for the innovative and bold steps so far taken to promote the welfare of children, youth and women in the country.



INSIDE POLITICS

Adisa advises Saraki to step aside

Former Works and Housing Minister, Major-Gen. Abdulkarim Adisa (rtd), has advised Dr. Olusola Saraki to step aside.

Fielding questions from newsmen at the launch of Adisa Foundation, in Ilorin, the former Minister said it was not true that he planned to upstage Dr. Olusola Saraki in Kwara politics.

General Adisa, who was reacting to the allegation by Dr. Saraki that he (Gen. Adisa) and governor Muhammed Lawal of Kwara State once planned to upstage him when they were both military governors said, it was time for the pillar of Kwara politics to step

From Abdul Laro, Ilorin

The former Minister also went down memory lane on his traumatic experience during the December 1997 coup and fingered former Chief of General Staff, (CGS) Lt-General Oladipo Diya for his woes.

Although he declined to give details of what General Diya did to him, General Adisa simply said: "I still respect him, but he is the only person I will hold responsible for what happened to some of us."

He said he bears no grudge against the late General Sani Abacha, and his men, saying, "they are my

friends, I cannot deny them, even Abacha, the man did a lot for me. If I hold a grudge against anybody at all, it is



Dr. Saraki
General Diya." He further thanked God for sparing his life.

Disturbed by his political opponents who are bent on scuttling his "2003" pet project of "Tazarce", Governor Boni Haruna of Adamawa State has cleared his table for total confrontation with governorship aspirants in the state.

In a speech at a dinner organized by Adamawa citizens resident in Abuja in honour of Mr. Rickey Tarfa the first Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) to be produced by the state, Governor Boni Haruna warned his real and imaginary opponents to desist from stone throwing or "pull him-down" tactics to gain political sympathy.

Sending a warning signal, the Governor came out point blank to tell his oppo-

Boni tackles opponents

By Ibrahim Modibbo, Political Editor

nents that "your devilish attitude of creating of confusion, mistrust and fear among our people and the attitude of outright contempt for others on false self-perception must stop."

"Adamawa has come of age as Adamawa of today is not synonymous with that of yesterday where things could not work as desired. We cannot fold our arms and see people use this old tactics of divide and rule to stagnate development in the state. We are fully on course and we cannot be distracted," he said.

Carpeting his opponents in every paragraph of the speech, Governor Haruna who disclosed that his ad-

ministration welcomes constructive criticism was however quick to warn that his opponents should stop planting stories about actions and inaction of his government that such stories are not only false but intended to create confusion and disaffection among his people.

"Politics is not played in Abuja here, but in Adamawa. Go to Koma or Kuburshosho and slug it out with us. Do not just sit down here and plant stories to run down our government in Adamawa because you have an inordinate ambition," he warned.

"If you want to earn our respect support us and remain our ambassadors here, but if you want to confront us do not throw stones but only play clean politics, the Governor said.

Also complaining of adverse criticism that trailed his government's decision to establish a state university which many indigenes described as a gigantic blunder, Governor Boni Haruna said that the decision to reactivate the University project is irreversible.

He said that the state has set up a steering committee on its university, an abandoned project that started over 21 years ago by the Abubakar Barde administration in defunct Gongola.

He said, the University must be completed by his administration for take off this year.

The speech which many people that attended the dinner described as combative with contempt for diplomatic finesse said the Governor saying "I am not unaware of the mischievous and uninformed views expressed against our decision to reactivate the university. To our critics, I say this decision is total and irreversible."

The Governor also attacked critics of Vice-President Atiku Abubakar by urging them to repent and justify certain premeditated tendencies such as the culture of cynicism or schism.

"In an ideal situation, after the incumbent President Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, the next most qualified Nigerian for the presidency of this great country today is Atiku Abubakar. This is the ultimate position and it is the aspiration of the people of our area to have access to this position," the Governor said.

Lamenting over those who are joining forces to ensure that the Vice-President does not even succeed in his supportive role to the President which in this case are his own people, Governor Boni Haruna said that "the tragedy is that their actions are not even based on prin-

"North didn't marginalize Middle Belt"

The Speaker of the Kogi State House of Assembly, Alhaji Mohammadu Dangana, has disassociated himself from the call for the independent state of the Middle Belt and debunked the allegation that the far North has been marginalising people of the Middle Belt emphasizing that instead, the people of the Middle Belt are the ones marginalizing themselves.

Speaking exclusively to *Daily Trust* in his office at Lokoja, Alhaji Dangana said "two illustrious sons of the Middle Belt General Ibrahim Babangida and Abdulsalam Abubakar were Heads of State for a total of about ten years in this country and apart from that, in every successive government, there must be prominent people from the Middle Belt holding key positions. How then will you say such people are being marginalized?"

"Therefore, if we want to talk politically then the Northerners have failed the Middle Belt, it is our sons that failed the area and that is why we can not point accusing finger at anybody for now" he added "economically, the Ajaokuta steel company for example is in the Middle Belt and we know that it is a gigantic project that if it comes into full op-

From Shehu Abubakar, in Lokoja

erations, a lot of Nigerians especially those from the Middle Belt will gain employment and the so-call 95 percent of the National income coming from oil will drop to about 30 percent with Ajaokuta now taking the lead. Yet all successive governments including those led by the sons of the Middle Belt abandoned it. Then why should we complain that somebody from either Kano or Katsina or anywhere is the one marginalizing us when we are the architects of our problems?"

Alhaji Dangana said it is too early for anybody without the mandate of the people to come out and start agitating for the independence of the Middle Belt from the North when according to him "we are Northerners. There is no doubt about that. Nobody is rejecting us. If you leave the North today, where are you going to? What do you have in common with those people? How are you sure you will be received over there? We are all together today because the North want us to be together. I will only advise that whenever we feel somebody has offended us, we should sit down and dialogue together. Anybody who comes to tell you leave here and go to the other side, look at him very well and know who he is and the interest he is defending. Find out what he did to the Middle Belt in the first place."

Alhaji Dangana also called on the Federal Government to hasten the payment of compensation to those displaced during the construction of Kainji Dam the Nations' main source of power generation and also consider

the request by Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara and Niger states on the payment of energy derivation fund from the revenue generated by the National Electric Power Authority (NEPA).

"Before the construction of the Kainji Dam in 1964 by the late Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the downstream of

the Kainji which comprises of the four states were enjoying enough water current. Fishing activities, navigation and agricultural activities generally were highly appreciated. We had ports at Baro, Lokoja and many other places at the down stream. But with the advent of the Kainji Dam, all these areas

recorded serious set back."

"If an oil area like Delta can claim a certain percentage of oil revenue because oil is gotten there, there is nothing bad in these four states at the down stream claiming compensation for it's displaced citizens and a certain percentage of NEPA revenue as energy derivation fund as well."



L-R: Second Republic Minister for Steel, Chief Paul Unongo; former Special Duties' Minister, Alh. Wada Nas and Col. John Madaki, former Katsina state military governor, at the launching of National Frontier, a new political association at Sheraton Hotel, in Abuja recently. Pix: Kennedy Egbonodje

Fourth dimension group holds parley

Fourth Dimension Nigeria, a South-South Pressure group will be holding its 9th session in Benin City, with participants drawn from all parts of the country.

This hint was dropped yesterday in Benin City by the former National Chairman of the defunct National Republican Conventions (NRC), Chief Tom Ikimi, during a press conference. "The meeting

From Shehu Abubakar, in Benin City

most expanded participation of distinguished representatives of minority ethnic groups gathered under one roof, in our country," he had said.

The group which is under the chairmanship of Rtd Admiral Augustus has been holding secret meetings until it was put under pressure by some interest group to unveil

itself about two months ago. "Certain misleading press speculations either through genuine ignorance or sheer mischief calculated to distort, our stance compelled us to hold this session he further corroborated.

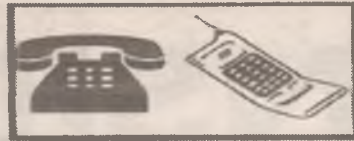
Chief Tom Ikimi could not however confirm speculations that former President Ibrahim Babangida who is believed to be behind the group may



Sir Ahmadu Bello



I.T. WORLD



Arzika commissions Uyo, Eket digital lines

The Minister of Communications, Alhaji Mohammed Arzika has commissioned Uyo and Eket digital telephone exchanges in Akwa Ibom state.

The Minister made the statement at the commissioning ceremony of the digital telephone exchange last week.

Alhaji Arzika said NITEL has installed 5,000 lines for Uyo digital telephone exchange and 2,000-lines for Eket digital exchange.

He said, "these facilities which will digitalise contact between Akwa Ibom State and the rest of the world are significant because they bring with them, more efficient, reliable and versatile telecommunications services which would uplift the living standard of the people."

The Minister added that the exchanges like NITEL's other digital exchanges therefore have all the value-added capacities, such as call waiting, call blocking and international direct dialing and the internet.

The projects are part of NITEL's expansion and modernisation programme aimed at extending the frontiers of telecommunications services to a greater number of Nigerian, he said.

He mentioned NITEL's achievements in the last one

Stories by Hassan Idris



Arzika

year, under the programme of extended modern telecommunications services to several cities and towns across the country.

Among such locations are Ikorodu, Aba, Sokoto, Kaduna, Onne, Bida, Kontagora, Jade and Yenagoa, he said.

Presently, work is going on on similar projects in more locations while others are lined up for future provision of modern telecommunications infrastructure and the objectives of government is to provide efficient and reliable telecommunications services which will be affordable to most Nigerians, the minister said.

He added that, it was also in line with government's policy of making telecommunications services affordable

to most Nigerians that government recently decided to bring down the cost of acquiring telephone services as well as the cost of making phone calls.

NNPC establishes IT services help desk

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has established a help desk to provide systems support, maintenance and network administration, and other information technology



Obaseki, MD/CEO NNPC

related services in its corporate headquarters. An NNPC source in Abuja, told *Daily Trust*, last week that the Corporate Management Information System (CMIS) department had acquired the required IT infrastructure needed by the professional IT services management staff to function to provide these services.

The source said, the pur-

pose of organising the help desk was to be able to receive technical and non-technical hitch complaints from their professional IT staff as well as IT users that needed professional technical support services.

Other reasons for introducing the organised IT services help desk was to receive request for IT changes and IT project management especially, with the NNPC's adoption of the internet to communicate with the outside world, the source said.

The IT services help desk would also provide a systematic request for maintenance by suppliers, customers and continuity management approach, as well as facilities management, the source said.

According to the NNPC source the following are some of the benefits for establishing the help desk: Effective problems management, reduction of risks and losses, IT quality management will be maintained including better communication and best use of skills by IT professions and non professionals in the NNPC.

FG to amend laws on intellectual property

The Federal Government is working out modalities to amend the existing intellectual property laws to comply with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) standard.

Commerce Minister, Engineer Mustapha Bello disclosed this to newsmen at the inauguration ceremony of the committee on the establishment of intellectual property commission, in Abuja, last week.

The Minister explained that the government would streamline the operation of intellectual property system in the country, in the areas of hardware and software copyright protection, industrial property.

Engineer Bello stated that government would bring all its organs under one umbrella to make intellectual property administration more effective.

Members of the 13 man inter-ministerial committee are Professor Egardon Oviogbara at the Nigerian Law Reform Commission (Chairman), Mr. A.K. Adabale of the ministry of Justice, Dr. C.K. Gonyok of Culture, and Tourism, and Mr. K.W. Aniche of the Nigerian copyright Commission.

Others are: Mr. D. Taunu of Federal Ministry of Commerce, Mrs. Marlies Allan of International Association for the Protection of Industrial

Property, Mr. A. Nwokedi of David Garrick & Co., and Mr. S. Aliyu of Federal Ministry of Commerce.

The rest are Alhaji Ahmed A. Gulak of A.A. Gulak & Co., Mr. Y.F. Agah



Bello

of Federal Ministry of Commerce, Mrs. O.A. Araba of National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) and Mr. O. Ajayi of the Federal Ministry of Commerce.

Noting the importance of setting up the intellectual property Commission, the Minister charged the committee members to consider any other issues that were expected to facilitate the establishment and effective functioning of the new commission to meet the international standards of the World Trade Organisation's trade agreements on the intellectual property rights in the information age.

ITCNL2000 best practice for managing IT services (1)

In this age of radical changes, the business environment is highly saturated and dependent on IT systems. Also, most managers in organisation realise that their enterprises, and they themselves can not work effectively and efficiently without IT systems. In fact, IT systems have taken over the work places, hospitals, schools, banks etc. It has now become imperative to explore the benefits of IT services management of multiplex, multitasking IT systems environment of IT service centre, as well as IT user departments.

The most comprehensive, coherent and consistent codes of practice for IT services management is the Information Technology Consulting Network Library (ITCNL 2000), it service management module for systematic and professional approach to the management of IT services.

IT system managers, network managers and IT directors in Nigeria need ITCNL 2000 guidance to be able to

manage modern IT multi-system networks of computer multiplicity and emphasis is needed on providing quality IT service to the customers and to the public at cost effective manner in organisation

Today, in Nigeria, individuals and organisations acquire IT products and services haphazardly without following the guidance of IT project management and IT change management advocated by ITCNL 2000 and other IT management services guidelines etc.

The head of customer services at the computer centre of Monash University, Ron. Sawyer said, "The IT infrastructure library is an excellent resource on best practice in IT management. Its modular and concise nature facilitates immediate access to relevant issues. It addresses a very wide range of traditional and modern IT management areas and it is surprising just how often the ITIL has the answers."

Back here in Nigeria, Dr. Kayode Agabi of Microsystem Technologies pointed out that the hardware

By Hassan Idris

and software configuration management with particular emphasis on core IT service provision and organising help desk with problem management has not been in practice here by most Nigerian organisations, but he agreed that only giant

"ITCNL 2000 will provide total solution to high technology multiplex and multitasking IT system working environment."

organisations like the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) have set up help desks to be able to identify problems and other lasting solutions.

Dr. Agabi stressed that IT service management module of the IT Consulting Network Library ITCNL 2000 will provide total solution to high technology multiplex and multitasking IT system working environment.

Multiplex IT systems means a combination of all IT hardware products, software and networking Peripherals interconnectivity with relevant telecommunications equipment linked together

for acquiring IT infrastructure.

The multi tasking connectivity is the ability to explore the benefits of multimedia facilities.

Today, computer systems are multi-tasking because of the convergence of digital data, sound and motion pictures or video.

In other words, modern IT systems enables you to type your document, print it while you are listening to your favourite music on compact disk (CD). That is the essence of multimedia and multi-tasking.

In the early years of computing that was not possible, computers had to work on one task before the other. In the early 1980s you have to give computing commands serially, unlike what is obtainable in this millennium with regards to IT Services, Local Area Network of computer and the internet are all manifestations of technological advancements that must be managed effectively

We all know there is information revolution taking place worldwide, as cost of computers and telecommunications have fallen as a result of convergence of the two infrastructures and digitalisation has replaced analog technologies in telecommunications.

Again, "the information, communication technologies and the media industries are merging into a "bit industry" that manipulates voice, image, video, and computer data in binary form," the Division Chief, Telecommunications and Information of the World Bank Group, James Bond, said.

Therefore, excellent IT service management is needed to monitor and control IT systems transformation and the effect of information revolution.

Mr. James Bond said that, this convergence has profound implications for the industries involved and communications and information services are being delinked from their underlying delivery infrastructure, that means, telephone services

can be delivered through coaxial cables, data services and the internet access through telephone lines, and cable television through direct broadcast satellite.

Considering the impetus that brought about IT development to where we are now. It is pertinent to manage the multiplex IT systems "accompanying the delinking infrastructure to transmit signals anonymously (telephony) and content-based information sources and technologies (broadcasting)," Mr. Bond said.

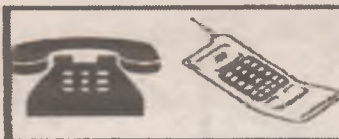
The impending collapse of IT systems can cause serious down-time which will disrupt your work, your business but new possibilities of managing IT systems through ITCNL 2000 guidance is the most ideal thing to do.

Another way forward is to perform IT service management through best practice of IT capacity management, IT Configuration, IT problem, IT project and IT change management by applying the ITCNL 2000 guidelines.

To be cont'd.



I.T. WORLD



New CEO at Yahoo

Internet giant Yahoo has named former Warner Bros chief Terry Semel as its new chairman and chief executive officer.

The appointment ends weeks of uncertainty after longstanding Yahoo chief Tim Koogle said he was stepping down.

As co-chairman and co-chief executive of Warner Bros, now part of media giant AOL/Time Warner, Mr Semel was recognised as one of the most powerful figures in Hollywood.

He takes over at a crucial point in Yahoo's short history as it struggles to cope with a downturn in the US economy and a huge drop in internet advertising.

Earlier this month, Yahoo posted an \$11.5m first quarter net loss, compared with a profit of \$67.6m for the same period last year.

It also said it was cutting 12% of its workforce.

The company has come under increasing pressure to add traditional media expertise to its top management, which has so far been made up mostly of high-tech experts who have had difficulty transforming it from an internet start-up into a global media giant.

The company hopes Mr Semel, who compared Yahoo to Warner Brothers in 1980,

before it expanded into television and other media, will help it to diversify.

Mr Koogle, who will be vice chairman until August and retains a seat on the board, said: "At Warner Bros, Mr Semel proved his ability to nurture a business into a global and diversified

media company.

"He also has a well-deserved reputation for setting and achieving high standards."

But Mr Semel's appointment received a lukewarm reception on Wall Street, where analysts said they would have preferred someone with

expertise in the advertising part of Yahoo's business.

Some also questioned his lack of internet experience.

Together with his partner Robert Daly, Mr Semel acquired a reputation at Warner Bros for making lavish, big-budget movies with major stars.

The pair's film hits include Chariots of Fire, Unforgiven, Police Academy, Lethal Weapon, The Matrix and Stanley Kubrick's final film Eyes Wide Shut.

The duo also gave the green light to a string of expensive flops prior to their 1999 departure, including Wild Wild West, Lethal Weapon 4 and The Avengers.

However, they are widely credited with turning Warner Bros into one of the world's largest media and entertainment enterprises.



Semel

Fujitsu introduces new pen-tablet PC

A new version of Fujitsu PC's pen-tablet PC, which can be converted for desktop use and is aimed at people whose jobs frequently take them away from the office or outdoors, was announced last week.

Available through resellers and system integrators, pricing for the Stylistic 3500 starts at \$3,899. The machine weighs 3.2 pounds (1.46 kilograms), runs on an Intel Corp. Celeron 500-MHz processor with 15 gigabytes of storage and 256 MB RAM.

It also features a new reflective 10.4-inch TFT (thin film transistor) SVGA (Super Video

Graphics Array) outdoor viewable color display, that Fujitsu said combines the outdoor brightness found in passive reflective screens with high-contrast and fast speed of active matrix screens. The Stylistic 3500 also is available with an indoor-only display. Both

screen options use technology that reduces glare and reflection.

A 56K-bps (bits per second) V.90 modem is standard, as is integrated 10/100 Base-TX Ethernet. The computer also has four optional docking alternatives: a mini-dock which allows full desktop functions with ports for USB (Universal Serial Bus), a PC card,

keyboard, mouse, external monitor, floppy drive, serial device and Ethernet; a high-usage

dock; a wall-mount cradle, and a portable port replicator.

The pen-tablet PC uses higher capacity Lithium ion battery technology so that the battery will last up to four hours. Using a lower voltage processor and a higher-capacity battery means a 30 percent boost in battery life over the previous version of the Stylistic, Fujitsu said in a news release.

Matcher virus on the prowl

REMEMBER THE SONG "Looking for love in all the wrong places?" Well, security firm Trend Micro found yet another place where love is promised this past Wednesday, but only trouble is delivered.

The company identified a new Microsoft Visual Basic Script Trojan horse virus called "Matcher" early Wednesday morning in Europe and the U.S., said Susan Orbuch, senior director of communications at Trend Micro.

A Trojan horse appears to be software that does one thing, but in actuality does another when run, often with mischievous results. Matcher comes disguised as a program that promises to find you a love match. The virus, which Trend Micro said is likely to spread fast but is nondestructive, goes by the official name Troj_Matcher.A or the alias Bugger, and it will appear as an e-mail attachment called Matcher.exe.

The text of the e-mail, which comes with the subject line "Matcher," promises that the Matcher.exe program will find you a match in love, but when run, instead makes a few subtle changes to the computer and then resends

itself to other people listed in the e-mail program's address book. After the change is made, the text "From: Bugger" appears on the computer's screen at startup.

Though the virus will not damage an individual user's computer, it may pose problems for large organizations, Orbuch said.

"In an organization, it has the potential to overwhelm an e-mail server," Orbuch said, causing it to crash.

Trend suggests that us-

ers who have PCs infected with the virus either run the company's antivirus program using the latest update available at the company's Web site and then delete any files reported to be infected. Anti-virus vendors Network Associates and Symantec both have updates available for their products on their respective Web sites. Computer Associates International is working on one. Companies should institute content filtering based on either the subject line or attachment name, Orbuch said.

Toshiba prepares pocket PC PDA

The company that brought us the laptop computer is finally ready to make the move to handhelds.

Toshiba is ready to make its long-awaited entry into the personal digital assistant market. The company will launch its handheld computer in July, a company source told IDG News Service.

Toshiba is nearing design completion of its PDA, the first from the notebook market leader, which will be based on Microsoft's Pocket PC platform and Windows CE operating system, the source says.

Further details, such as target price and international

launch details, are still under consideration.

Toshiba introduced the world to the concept of mobile computing in June 1989 when it launched the world's first notebook computer, but since then, although its machines have gotten smaller, it has never deviated from the basic notebook PC form factor. The new PDA will be a test of whether Toshiba can translate its mobile computing leadership into new markets.

It will face stiff competition from a handful of companies, some already established and others that have more recently



Koogle

Ericsson cuts 10,000 jobs

Swedish telecoms equipment maker Ericsson is to cut 10,000 jobs worldwide, from a workforce of 100,000.

More than half of the job losses will come outside Sweden, but the company has not confirmed where they will fall.

Union officials in the UK were due to meet the company on Friday to find out how many British jobs will go. The announcement is the latest in a series of in the telecom industry, and follows figures from Ericsson showing a huge drop in profits.

Ericsson has confirmed it is in talks with Japanese electronics giant Sony over the integration of their mobile handset businesses. It said the job cuts could trigger similar moves by other hard-pressed handset manufacturers.

An Ericsson spokesman told BBC Breakfast the company was adjusting its size to the "new realities in the telecom market worldwide."

"It is clear the impact in the United States is spill-

ing over into Europe," he added.

Ericsson's announcement comes as Nokia, the world's largest mobile phone maker, posted better than expected first-quarter profits, up 6% at 1.41 billion euros (£863m).

Last month, Ericsson announced it was cutting 3,300 jobs worldwide including the of two UK factories, with the loss of 1,200 jobs.

The company said it would not know for another two weeks where the latest job cuts would fall.

Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union national officer Bob Shannon said: "We have made it clear to Ericsson that they cannot keep cutting jobs in this country."

"It is essential that the firm holds its nerve in the face of the current problems." Ericsson said it was planning to cut back on its 15,000 freelance consultants but would not be cutting jobs in Research and Development. The latest round of job cuts comes as Ericsson posts a

first quarter pre-tax loss of 4.9 billion Swedish crowns (£333m) against market expectations of a 5.05 billion crown loss. Economic downturn The company said sales had fallen 5% and it unlikely to improve its performance in thesecond quarter of the year.

Kurt Hellström, president and CEO of Ericsson, said: "A general economic downturn and an abruptly slower telecom sector are affecting our customers as well as us. "Many operators are postponing their investments, which has resulted in an overall reduction in sales."

Ericsson shares plummeted in early trading on Friday, falling 11%. The company said it had increased its mobilesystem sales by 9% and had outpaced the market in other areas, despite difficult trading conditions. Long-term outlook

However, there was no sign of a short term improvement in the market, Mr Hellström said, and the company needed to reduce its costs. "A weaker market has contributed to the further deterioration of our mobile phone business."



Arts & Entertainment



On October 12, 2000 Gao Xingjian became the first writer in Chinese to be awarded the Nobel prize for Literature. A victim of the Cultural Revolution in China, this dissident of the Tian'anmen generation, a political refugee in France since 1988, became a naturalised French citizen in 1998.

Novelist and playwright, he lays claim to writing liberated from all the rules. In *La Montagne de l'dme* [Soul Mountain], his masterpiece, he retraces a ghostly journey through the interior of China in the footsteps of Lao Tseu, far from the "world of dust". His narrators alternate "I", "you" and "it", depending on whether they are talking about everyday life, giving an introspective monologue or engaging in philosophical speculation; the use of "we" is banned, because it stands for the idea of mass thought against which the writer has been vaccinated.

Le Livre d'un homme seul [The Book of a Man Alone] is a cry of protest. It tells the story of the massacre of his family, denounces the methods of the Chinese totalitarian regime and the extortions demanded in the days of the group of four. Rather than solitude, the title of the book stresses the importance of individual testimony, the necessity of increasing the number of confessions on many levels.

How would you describe yourself today -as an exile, as a creative writer?

Gao Xingjian: I think of myself as a citizen of the world. A frail man, who has managed not to be crushed by authority, and who speaks to the world with his own voice.

How did you come to write

'I love Music'

and to settle in Paris?

In high-school, I was just as good at mathematics as I was at art or writing essays. My mother did not want me to go to the School of Fine Art; at the time, painters lived in great poverty, in servants' quarters. Then one day, by chance, I came across an extract from the memoirs of Ilya Ehrenbourg. In them, he described his life in Paris in the early 1920s, and recounted how he had seen a woman enter a cafe, place her baby on the counter and slip away, saying she had an errand to do. She never came back. The woman who owned the cafe demanded an extra tip from all the customers to help raise the child. This story affected me deeply - I wanted to live like that. So I decided to

Paris cafe was by drawing in chalk on the blackboard a series of women's shoes, with high heels, pointed, or with laces...

At the age of fifteen, having read an anthology of Prosper Merimee's work, I had a dream. I was sleeping with a woman of marble, beautiful and cold, a statue fallen to the ground in the grass of an abandoned garden, and I lost myself in an exuberant freedom. It is that freedom, what at home they call "decadent", that brought me to France.

...after a few painful episodes!

First I was a translator of classic French authors... until 1966. During the Cultural Revolution I was a Red Guard, then I was sent to the country for ideological re-education. It was it

was already writing, since adolescence. Poems at first... Then I had to destroy it all. Constantly under surveillance, for fear of being denounced. I started again, hiding my writing under the straw mat I used as a mattress. At the end of the Cultural Revolution, I was able to resume my activities, translating Ionesco and Prevert.

My first published book was an essay on the art of the modern novel. I then became a target. I was labeled a "imodernist", marginalised, in suspected connivance with Western literature. Guilty of "spiritual pollution". I was shaking the bases of revolutionary realism, and they demanded. I make a public self-criticism in the press. I refused. I told myself I had to resist, to

tion of language in which the individual expresses himself with complete freedom. A mixture of fables, travel notes, annals, notes on daily life... The reverse of what was advocated by the authorities! I spent seven years writing it. I finished it in France. As a challenge. I had been invited here, I stayed here. I earned my living through my painting.

You are actually a painter too. What distinction do you make between your literary expression and graphic expression?

A distinction of sound. I listen. In literature, I hunt words as sounds. In painting, movement comes from the body. I paint while listening to music. I love music. Ever since I was very young I have played the violin and the flute.

In your speech before the Swedish Academy, you stress the role of writing as an attempt to decipher Man.

I really wanted to remind them that the writer is an ordinary man, not a spokesman for the people, and that literature can only be the voice of one individual. Writing that becomes an ode to a country, the standard of a nation, the voice of a party... loses its nature - it is no longer literature. Writers do not set out to be published, but to know themselves. Although Kafka or Pessoa resorted to language, it was not in order to change the world.

I, myself, believe in what I call cold literature: a literature of flight for one's life, a literature that is not utilitarian, but a spiritual self-preservation in order to avoid being stifled by society. I believe in a literature of the moment, for the living. You have to know how to use freedom. If you use it in exchange for something else, it vanishes.

Culled from Label France



Gao Xingjian

learn French.

I remember too that my French teacher, in China, was also nostalgic about the Paris cafes in the days of his youth. He explained in class what a

there I became aware that I was a writer. It is when you can no longer write that you realise you must write. Literature enables the human being to preserve his human conscience. I

write for myself, without the slightest aesthetic constraints even if it meant not being published. This is how I wrote *Soul Mountain*, which represents what I believe in - an explora-

MAIK NWOSU: *Suns of Kush*

PUBLISHER: MALTHOUSE PRESS LTD IKEJA, LAGOS. PAGES: 67

REVIEWER: AL-KASIM ABDUKADIRABUGL

The citation for the ANA/Cadbury award 1995 holds that Nwosu represents an important new voice in Nigeria and this undoubtedly is true. It further states that Nwosu's poetry take their origin from his immediate environment, that his poems works in wide lyrical sweeps, often brilliantly dwelling sometimes with humour and eloquence on the black man's plight. In Nwosu one sees a kind of reawakening in African poetry, which for long has eluded the horizon, his kind of style and

lyrical flow takes the reader on a journey into a poetic labyrinth, though simple in its obscurity, his simplicity is unique and touching. Nwosu's ability to attach and withdraw emotions from his verses is also a very commendable ability, his ability to reflect, mediate and sneak into the future subconsciously without necessarily arousing the reader is a tip that he really knows his trade.

Never has a preface been written so eloquently like the one preceding the pages of *Suns of Kush*. He captures the readers' fascination such that he momentarily enslaves the reader. Nwosu shows that he has been a true student of a great mind in the person of Professor Donatus

Nwoga who he said explained to him that poetry extends to all aspects of life being a quality of beauty-of grace and deep feeling rather like the setting sun, the graceful walk of a damsel, a neatly cut lawn.

Nwosu succeeds in fully using this technique and thought in his poems. Nwosu in commenting on what poetry means and how he encounters it, as a hunter he encountered poetry in asymmetrical forest, with this he goes to show us an emotional attachment to poetry.

Nwosu's volume is matured, combining a multiplicity of themes such as love, societal ills. The poems are clothed by a thickness of verse with a deep philo-

sophical sense and rhythmic thought. A unique dialectic of the African environment is elaborately captured in the verses for example, "the raffia barns of ketu where sunset demons holds court". His

Book Review

strength lies in his being a writer of many parts, in one instance he is talking of vain glorious African leaders whose mandate to loot dominated Africa of yester years like Jean Bedel Bokassa ((Did you not witness Bokassa's medals glint in the sun) and also Idi Amin Dada's reign of red is filled with stories that are stranger than fiction (or Dada's guffaws cast commanding rings over our shad-

ows).

In another light Nwosu tells that he is a Pan-African when he talks about Nakamura, he takes a revolutionary stance. The proof readers must be commended for the new absence of typographical errors. In *Suns of Kush* one notices the flow/mastery of the art, and also a gift of language fusions, Yoruba, Ibo, and Edo which makes it lyrical. However the poems should have been more than 10 in the book. In order not to mistake my attempt (ed) treatise as tenors of a praise singer, I wish to say Nwosu has done a good job" and now must move to Algahez.

Arts & Entertainment

The Story of the *New Nigerian* Part XVI ‘The darkest year’

The civil war rages on, and the activities of foreign nations are examined once more. There are developments in Northern Nigeria such as the establishment of the Interim Common Services agency, (ICSA), and the state of the nation's finances during the war

Under the facade of humanitarian activities, the agencies were seen to be aiding the rebels at home and abroad. In the November 28 issue of the *New Nigerian* for instance, it was reported that the Federal Government had accused CARITAS of helping rebels with food, medicine and money for arm purchases despite several warnings. The Catholic relief agency was also accused of sponsoring about 200 mercenaries from Europe.

Their propaganda campaign abroad against the Federal Government had even more negative effects. One of these was the running debate in the British parliament over the Nigerian Civil War. This assumed such ridiculous and presumptuous dimensions that the Federal Government protested to the British Prime Minister to stop the debates. Indeed, the anti-government activities of CARITAS were only mitigated by the presence of four foreign observers in Nigeria - Major General Suliman Hoffman (Algeria), Brigadier-General Negga Teghegn Ethiopia (OAU), Mr. Nils-Goran Gussing (UN) and Col. Karl Areskoo (Sweden). This team consistently observed that there were no plans to wipe out the Ibo or Catholics by the Federal Government. Indeed, even at this point there were conscious efforts by the Federal Government to reintegrate Igbos in liberated areas and instill unity in the nation.

If there were any single words to describe the war aim of Nigeria (and coincidentally, those of the *New Nigerian*) they were “national unity”. With the benefit of hindsight, we can see that this aim was being achieved even as the war raged on. Colonel Adeyinka Adebayo, Military Governor of the Western state was quoted by the *New Nigerian* of November 29 as saying that “The war to crush the rebellion has brought the country closer”. Another Colonel on the war-front, Benjamin Adekunle, “Black Scorpion”, was quoted by the *New Nigerian* of October 11 as saying that “If Nigeria fails (to unite), Africa will be ruined”. Chief Enahoro, the Federal Commissioner for Information quoted in the *New Nigerian* of April 8, put it even more elaborately: “If Nigeria breaks, no-one knows how many African countries will survive.

Every country is an accident of history and it is no excuse to say that the imperialists created Nigeria or any other country.” This objective explains the meticulous manner in which unity was pursued. In a speech on October 1, independence day,

General Gowon stated that his government was ‘fighting against external enemies, “ True to the word, Ibos in liberated areas were immediately reintegrated into the mainstream of Nigerian life. According to the *New Nigerian* of November 28, the Federal Ministry of Education approved educational grants for East Central State students who signed the oath of allegiance to the Federal Military Government. Similarly, government corporations and private sector firms were reported to have resumed business in liberated areas of the East. These included the Nigerian Tobacco Company, the United African Company and Leventis, all in Enugu.

By the year-end, the *New Nigerian* of December 3, quoted the Military Governor of the North West State, Police Superintendent Usman Farouk as saying that “more Ibos are now returning to the state.” In the same edition, the paper also reported that seven Igbo students were admitted into the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

However, nothing exemplified the quest for national unity as much as the “National Reconciliation” speech by Gowon on December 1. In the speech, published in the *New Nigerian* of December 2, he said among other things that “one of the crucial tests by which the leadership

of this country will be judged after the war is the extent we can achieve national reconciliation and reintegration of the Ibos... Outside the, rebel-held areas, Nigerians have never been as united as they are today. This is the real basis for my hope.”

NEW STATES -1968 Urgent as the need was, the take-off of the 12 new states was delayed till April 1, 1968. This was no doubt necessitated by the



Mallam Turi Muhammadu

Books

competing demands of the day. However, in view of the importance of establishing these new states, the issue was taken up with all seriousness. On the appointed day, the following were named Military Governors. Alhaji Audu Bako (Kano), Col. D. L. Bamigboye (Kwara), Major Abba Kyari (North Central State), Col. Musa Usman (North East State), Chief Supt. of Police Usman Farouk (North West State), Asst. Comm. of Police J. D. Gomwalk (Benue-Plateau), Col. Mobolaji Johnson (Lagos) and COL. S. O. Ogbemudia (Mid- West State).

Other steps to consolidate the new states included the subdivision of the states into administrative areas for convenience. Thus, according to the *New Nigerian* of October 17, the North Central State had initial nine administrative areas namely, Katsina, Dutsin ma, Funtua, Daura, Zaria, Kachia, Birnin Gwari, Jema'a and Kaduna. The major reason why the state structure was so important was the fact that it did foreclose the option of secession as preached by the Igbo rebels.

NEW NIGERIAN AND THE CREATION OF STATES

When the Sardauna's government was overthrown the succeeding Military Government for the North under Major Hassan Usman Katsina continued to fund the newspaper. With the creation of states, the North was broken up into six states. For the Northern Nigerian Newspapers Ltd. this meant having six owners.

An Interim Common Services Agency (ICSA) made up of the six Northern Governors was set up to look after institutions that could not be easily broken up. These included the Northern Nigerian Newspapers, the Ahmadu Bello University, the Bank of the North, the Northern Nigerian Development Company and the Kaduna Polytechnic. The ICSA became the owner of the Institutions and was responsible for their finances. A board of directors was appointed for each institution. At the beginning of each financial year the management of each institution prepared a budget which was considered by its board of directors. The budget proposals were then presented to ICSA for approval. The approved budget for each institution was then shared between the appointed members who paid their shares directly to the

follows:
Benue/Plateau M. Bawa Shemu
North-Central Alhaji Abubakar Imam
Kano Alhaji Habibu Abbas
North- West Alhaji Shehu Kakale Shuni
Kwara Mr. J.S. Olawoyin
North- East Alhaji Abba Jiddun Gana
, (The first Chairman of the company).

The first meeting of the new Board took place on 26th September, 1968. Present' M. Bawa Shemu
M. Habibu Abbas
Mr. Josiah Sunday Olawoyin ,
Alhaji Abubakar Imam
Alhaji Abba Jiddun Gana
M. Shehu Kakale Shuni
Mr. Charles Sharp -Managing
In attendance -Adamu Ciroma
Ian Macgregor

AGENDA: TO RECOGNISE TRANSFER OF SHARES

Mr. Macgregor explained that as a result of the division of the share capital between the six Northern states, it was necessary for the shares to be transferred. He held share certificates from the Ministry of Finance Incorporated, Northern Nigeria, for 299,994 shares. Further he also held transfers duly sealed by the various Ministries of Finance Incorporated and therefore it was resolved that the following share certificates be issued and the company's seal be affixed to them in the presence of the required officials.

STATE NO. OF SHARES PERCENTAGE

Benue/Plateau 41999 14%
North Central 41999 14%
Kano 56999 19%
North West 56-99 19%
Kwara 23999 8%
North Eastern 77999 26%
Surprisingly the *New Nigerian* said nothing. Could this be because of the paper's editorial earlier in the year which urged that all probes be suspended to enable the government and the governed to concentrate on the war?

ECONOMY

There was probably no way that a huge exercise such as the Nigerian Civil War would not affect the nation's economy. To start with, the government announced a budget for the 1968/69 year in April. In his budget speech, Gowon acknowledged that “Funds required to crush the rebellion must be raised through contribution of fiscal and monetary policy which would leave

the economy strong enough at the end of the war for the all-important task of reconstruction and development ‘..

The extent of damage to the economy in the previous year was not encouraging. According to a report in the *New Nigerian* of December 12, the nation's deficit spending rose from £9 million in 1966 to £37 million in 1967. The budget for defence and security during the period rose from £17 million to £32 million and shows itself to be the cause of the deficit. Nevertheless the country did not go abroad to borrow money to finance the war

Times were hard. Tax increases in the Western state were to lead to serious riots in Ibadan, Oyo and other Western towns. The Federal Government itself needed foreign assistance and thus negotiated a £50 million economic cooperation pact with the then European union even though Western nations were against the move. Similarly, the European community suspended ratification of the treaty with Nigeria on the basis of “ suppression in Biafra “. In an editorial titled “A ludicrous decision “,

the *New Nigerian* of October 3 said that “the Nigerian Government should better sit up and take note that it has not got a single friend in the whole of Western Europe “.

These then were the major challenges of the nation in 1968. How they were met and the effects of the measures taken are assessed in the following sections.

THE CRITICAL PHASES OF THE WAR, 1969

NIGERIA entered the year 1969 dragging along a 17 month old civil war. It was perhaps the darkest year of the post-independence era. Everywhere, the level of despondency was on the rise as the Ojukwu-led rebels used foreign aid to hold up against the federal forces. In his new year broadcast published by the *New Nigerian* of January 1, General Yakubu Gowon himself sounded pessimistic.



Mr. Josiah S. Olawoyin

NEWS

FG plans short-term train services

By Tashikalmah Hallah

In order to arrest the escalating prices of transportation in the country, the Federal Government is planning to develop a short-term mass transit programme for the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), the Minister of State for Transport, Alhaji Isa Yuguda has said.

Already, the contract for the rehabilitation of the existing rail lines has been signed and work had reached about 86 percent completion.

Alhaji Yuguda, in a chat with *Daily Trust* over the weekend, explained that under the pilot programme, which would come on stream in about 18 to 20 months, train

services would be operated on an hourly basis.

The minister, refused to disclose the contract value but expressed satisfaction with the work so far done by the contractors. He also stated the contractors were conforming to the provisions of the contract, adding that the Federal Government would soon conclude a new agreement with the company.

Said he: "the focus of the contract is on the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure, and the current search for the techno-managerial consultants would not in any way affect the scope of the job done by the Chinese firm".

He said last year's construction of additional rail lines to some cities and state capitals by the Federal Government would form part of the job of the techno-managerial consultants. However, he stressed that the priority at the moment, was to get the trails, the graders, and wagons before any new construction could start.

Speaking further, the minister said the consultants would prepare the NRC for eventual privatisation by managing it for a stipulated period of time, during which they would train an indigenous management personnel who would take over at the end of the contract.

The British government is poised to give equal and fair treatment to all Nigerians seeking entry visas into the United Kingdom. This is part of the new diplomatic initiative by Britain to lessen the pains Nigerians go through before obtaining British visa.

The High Commissioner, Mr. Philip Thomas, who made this known when he called on the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Chief Duben Onyia, added that "henceforth, the issuance of British visas in Nigeria would be timely and in most cases within 24 hours."

He noted however, that hopes of automatic issuance should not be entertained as applicants with no genuine

Britain pledges fairness to visa applicants

By Simon Imobo-Tswan

reasons of travelling to Britain will be screened out.



Chief Duben Onyia

In a press release issued by the Foreign Affairs

Ministry and made available to *Daily Trust*, the High Commissioner disclosed that 86,000 British visas were issued in Nigeria last week.

Mr. Thomas also used the occasion to commend Nigeria's leadership role in Africa, noting "Nigeria is playing a fundamental role in our estimation of West Africa."

Responding, Chief Onyia said it was Nigeria's hope that his arrival in the country would further consolidate the existing friendly relations between both countries.

The minister touched on Nigeria's trouble-shooting roles in Sierra Leone and Liberia and called for the support of the British government.

DH pleads for hemp smoker

An official driver of a district head with Zazzau Emirate Council who was arrested by the police for smoking Indian hemp at the venue of the opening ceremony of the 18th edition of NUGA Games in ABU, Zaria, has been released on "humanitarian grounds."

A News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) correspondent, who witnessed the arrest and the subsequent release of the suspect, reports that the release of the hemp smoker, followed the intervention of the district head who pleaded for the offender.

Police arrest 3 SSANU members

The police in Zaria, Kaduna state, have arrested three members of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) chapter for allegedly distributing inciting materials during the opening ceremony of the NUGA Games on Saturday.

Confirming the arrest in Zaria, the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Zaria area command, Alhaji Suleiman Lawal, said the suspects were being detained for questioning connection with the alleged circulation of inciting materials.

He said that the action of the SSANU members violated an earlier "gentlemen's agreement" reached between the police, ABU management and the SSANU on the need to ensure a successful hosting of the Games.

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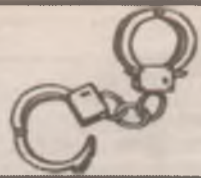


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Crime & Punishment



Pact to ease trans-border arrests underway

A pact that would enable Nigeria police to enter into neighbouring countries and arrest suspects without undergoing the usual cumbersome diplomatic protocol associated with the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL) operations, is on the way.

Daily Trust gathered exclusively from reliable police source in Lagos that the deal was with neighbouring countries of Benin Republic, Niger and Chad.

The source also revealed that the Inspector-General of

From Wisdom Patrick,
in Lagos

Police (IGP), Musiliu Smith, was concerned about increasing cases of crimes across our borders and this was part of the move to stem the ugly trend.

Daily Trust gathered that IGP Smith was going to focus more on the Chad Basin region, Benin Republic and Niger areas, which of recent, have witnessed a very disturbing dimension in various trans-border crimes.

"As a temporary arrangement, police in Nigeria

would step up cross-border patrols. The move is to check the current worrisome upsurge in activities of internationally organised crime," the report added.

It was also learnt that police chiefs in the four countries had earlier met over this issue and were due for another round of meetings early next month to conclude arrangement for the signing of the pact, which sources close to IGP Smith's office, said was called "Cotonou agreement".

Criminals from neighbouring countries have of recent been terrorising Nigerian border towns, the latest being Chadians who attacked Nigerian traders and dispossessed them of their wares and money.

Also, the Lagos State police command was yet to recover one of the Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON) Prado jeeps, which was snatched by criminals from Benin Republic, from a police sergeant in Nigeria.

When Daily Trust called the Force Public Relations Officer (FPPRO), Mr. Haz Iwendi, over the development, he said it was one of the few steps the present police leadership was taking towards protection of life and property.

He would not want to go into the details of the security arrangements put in place by the police but he confirmed the story to Daily Trust, adding that Smith was prepared to give the police its rightful place.

Uneasy calm now pervades Kagara town in Niger State following series of threats by the community to avenge the alleged police killing of a teenager, Danlami Samuel.

The news Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that some groups of restive youths have been patrolling around the police station in the area awaiting orders from their community leaders to attack the station.

The deceased, according to an eyewitness, was arrested along with four other teenagers on April 11, by a police anti-robbery patrol team, at a notorious armed robbery spot on the outskirts of Kagara and taken to the Kagara police station for interrogation.

The eyewitness said that the four other teenagers, Audu Bako, Maidawa Bako, Umaru Bako and Danlami Bako were later released while the deceased was allegedly driven outside the town in the ALGON Toyota patrol jeep and shot.

The source further said that the deceased was then moved to Kagara General

Community restive over alleged police killing of teenager

Hospital by the police and later rushed to Minna General Hospital where he died.

A community leader in Kagara, Alhaji Hassan Usman, who is also a retired Area court Judge told NAN that "the claim by the police that Danlami was a robbery suspect was totally false".

He said that Danlami was on his way to the farm that fateful morning and was brutally killed without any attempt to investigate the alleged crime against him.



Musiliu Smith, IGP.

Danlami's guardian, Mr. Samuel Jatau, who said that he had handed over the police to God, claimed that his child was until his death, well behaved but killed in the climax of police brutality in the area.

A report by the divisional police officer in the area, Salami Abu stated that the Niger State Commissioner of police, Alhaji Tsoho Usaini, said that Danlami was shot when he attempted to escape from police custody.

He also said that the command had commenced investigation into the killing of the boy, and gave the assurance that the command would ensure that justice was done with regard to the incident.

Meanwhile, the district head of Hatunga, Alhaji Tanimu Haruna, has appealed to the restive community to remain calm, saying that since investigations were on, the culprits would be brought to book.

Police impound imported arms

Police in Oyo State have impounded a cache of 2,225 live cartridges allegedly smuggled into the country from Burkina-Faso.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Opeyemi Kujore, an Assistant Superintendent of Police disclosed this recently while speaking to journalists at the state police headquarters, Eleyele, Ibadan.

Kujore said that two men were arrested with the arms in Moniya during a stop-and-search operation by men of the state police command.

According to the PPRO, two Peugeot 504 cars with registration No. OYO AG 845 EGB and AA 67 AKN which ply Shaki - Ibadan route were allegedly used to convey the bullets that were neatly packed in Ghana must go bags.

Kujore further explained that the drivers of the vehi-

From Yinka Oladoyinbo,
in Ibadan

cles were consequently arrested along with the suspected arms dealers.

ASP Kujore who paraded the alleged arms dealers before newsmen, also disclosed that a fifth suspect, Taiwo Akanji, was arrested upon investigations by police which revealed that the ammunition was to be sold to another dealer who is now at large, at Oke Padre, Ibadan.

He further disclosed that during preliminary investigations, the alleged arms dealers confirmed that they wanted to sell the 2,225 cartridges to another firearms dealer in Ibadan.

The police image-maker, however, stressed that the command believed the suspected arms dealers have a base in Ibadan which he promised would soon be detected by the police.

Female student arraigned for murder

A female student of the Kwara State Polytechnic, Bola Babasola, has appeared before a Chief Magistrate in Ilorin, charged with culpable homicide, punishable by death under section 221 of the penal code.

According to the police First Information Report (FIR), one Mr. Taiwo Odebode of Oyun village reported to the police that on March 25, 2001 at about 0945 hrs, one Bola Babasola and Abiola Afolarin, both female adults of the same address, engaged themselves in a fight.

In the process, Bola Babasola stabbed late Miss Abiola Afolarin on the neck with a broken louvre; con-

From Abdul Laro,
in Ilorin

sequently, the injured victim was rushed to Omolola Hospital, Ilorin, where she later died.

Prosecuting police officer, Sgt. Garba Aliyu, further told the court that investigations conducted by Police State C.I.D., Ilorin suggested that Bola Babasola committed the offence together with one Catherine now at large.

Bail was not granted to Babasola who pleaded not guilty to the charge read in court.

Chief magistrate, Hambali Bello, ordered that she be remanded in prison custody and adjourned the case for further mention.

Chief magistrate Bello instructed the investigators to send a copy of the case di-

ary to the Director of Public Prosecutions for advice.

Lawyer, three others in court over forgery

A lawyer, Mohammed Suleiman and three others have appeared before an Abuja Chief Magistrate court to answer charges of conspiracy and forgery contrary to sections 97 and 363 of the penal code.

Mohammed Suleiman who graduated in 1998 was charged along with Momodu Ishaka, Niyi Adeboye and Adeyemi Fagbeyi for forging the official letterhead paper of the Vice-President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

According to the prosecuting police officer, Inspector Patrick Emaikwu, Mohammed Suleiman used the forged letterhead paper to

By Uwem Umo

write a letter of introduction purportedly issued from the office of the Vice-President to the Chief Medical Director of the National Hospital, Abuja, for him to be awarded a contract.

The prosecution, however, told the court that the three other accused persons were found to have procured the forged letterhead through their computer machines.

When the first Information Report (FIR) was read to them, they all denied the charges while counsel to Suleiman, Mr. Friday Obainoke' pleaded for the

bail of his client citing sections 341 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and section 36 (5) of the 1999 constitution.

In his oral application, the counsel pleaded with the court that the accused person will not jump bail nor interfere with police investigations, adding that he will produce a reasonable surety to guarantee that if allowed on bail, Suleiman will attend court regularly.

Meanwhile, counsels to the other accused persons, Mr. Godwin Ogboji, I. Ahmadu, Oba Olayiwola and M.M. Oyeleke, all made submissions pleading for the bail of the other three accused persons.

However, the prosecution made a serious objection to the bail application because, according to him, the offence was not ordinarily bailable and also expressed misgivings that the accused persons could jump bail given the gravity of the offence.

The presiding chief Magistrate, Alhaji Mohammed Kolo in his ruling upheld the objection of the prosecution saying that the issue of bail at this juncture was premature and ordered the accused persons remanded in prison custody while adjourning the matter to June 4, 2001 for further mention.



(From left) Minister of Justice, Chief Bola Ige (SAN); former Minister of Justice, Alh. Abdullahi Ibrahim, SAN, and Braimah Wifa, at the hearing of the suit filed by the Federal Government against the 36 states of the federation at the Supreme Court, Abuja recently. Pix. Kennedy Eghonodje

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OFFSHORE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE 2001 (OTC)

PRESS RELEASE

The annual International Oil Industry event in the City of Houston, Texas, USA, the "**Offshore Technology Conference**", (OTC) comes up between April 30th and May 3rd 2001. This is the third outing for Nigeria as a formidable team under one single Industry umbrella, the Industry-wide Exploration and Production Committee for Conference (IWEPPCC), a radical departure from earlier years when participation was on individual basis without co-ordination and focus rather than as a team. The Nigeria delegation will be led by His Excellency Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The objectives of the Conference among others include: To attract International Investors to explore the wide range of investment opportunities in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Sector.

- Exhibit the technology challenges facing the Industry in Nigeria and consequently arouse the formulation for appropriate strategy to manage the Industry.
- Promote the image of Nigeria as a fertile ground for investment opportunities in terms of human and material resources with a complementary conducive political climate.
- Provide a suitable forum for professional interaction and exposure to latest technology advancement for the actors in the Nigerian Oil Industry.

What it is

OTC remains the world's foremost event for the development of offshore resources in the fields of drilling, exploration production and environmental protection, we sometimes refer to the event as "**One World, One Event**". As the world's Leading Conference on Offshore Upstream Oil and Gas Technology, OTC provides the answers to "how" and "when" as it conveys a clear understanding of what works today and what the possibilities of tomorrow can become. The Conference brings together experts and interested professionals for stimulating presentation and discussions on technological issues related to the Oil Industry. During the period, the 2nd OTC Global Energy Summit will also take place. The occasion brings pre-eminent group and global energy leaders to convene a forum to address issues surrounding the economics and environment of the offshore oil and gas industry. Some of the world's most influential Industry peers, including oil Ministers, Leaders of Transnational Energy Companies and other Captains of the Industry will get together to discuss the theme for this Year: "**Sustainability of the Oil and Gas Industry in the new century**".

An highlight of OTC 2001 will be Dr. Rilwanu Lukman, Former OPEC Secretary General and Current Adviser on Petroleum and Energy to the President who will give a keynote address at the award Luncheon of the event.

BENEFITS

It is not just about the theoretical discussion of possibilities, the 370,000 sq.ft area coverage of the exhibition will give opportunities to showcase new and emerging technology and provides a platform for Companies and Organizations that want to answer the "how" and "when" questions on the activities of the Industry.

It is also an opportunity to showcase Nigeria history, culture, economics, social environment and future prospects as the emerging political climate ushers in a new economic order for Nigeria. Consequently, we anchor the theme of this year's participation on "**Nigeria: Improving Investment Climate**".

In demonstration of our commitment to this noble Conference, the Representatives of Local Suppliers to JV/PSC Companies would present papers on May 2, 2001 at a seminar titled "**Alliancing for Increased Local Content in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry**". Under the auspices of the Industry-wide Exploration and Production Committee for Conferences. The venue of this Seminar is Four Seasons Hotel, Houston Texas. Other information about the Conference are:

Venue:	Reliant Park (formerly Astrodomain) Houston-Texas
Date:	April 30 - May 3rd, 2001
Fees:	1 day attendance US\$65.00
	4-day attendance US\$95.00

CAUTION

This is to urge Nigerian participants and members of the delegation to recognize as a matter of courtesy and decency the need to allow free access to the Nigerian 'stand' and to other international participants by avoiding a situation of Permanent bench warmer in the stand. It should be noted that other exhibitors at the pavilion paid for their allotted spaces. Consequently, Nigerian visitors should be conscious of crowd over flow to other 'booths' to avoid encroachment, which may cause embarrassment and hostile reactions from other international visitors.

For further enquiries and information please contact

SIGNED

ENGR. S.A. ADETUNJI

Chairman Industry-wide E&P Committee for Conference
&

GROUP GENERAL MANAGER
NATIONAL PETROLEUM INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
SERVICES (NAPIMS)

Abuja News

Water hawking becomes goldmine in Abuja

The sale of potable water in plastic containers has taken off the agony of idleness and unemployment from many able-bodied youths in several parts of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The business is common in almost every part of the city, especially those without water supply like Karmo, Mabushi, Nyanya, Karo and Kado.

Daily Trust findings show that the able-bodied male youths appear to have hit a goldmine in the business, which needs little or no take-off capital.

"You only need to be determined, strong and really committed to become

Stories by Austine Odo

independent. Then, maybe, you need about ten 50 litre plastic containers to fill the wheel barrow," revealed Ike who spoke to Daily Trust on the thrilling business.

Ike who holds a diploma in marketing from a polytechnic in one of the South-Eastern states, said he took to the trade instead of remaining idle, stealing or waiting for relatives to feed him, "like a baby".

"Yes, I dropped my diploma and started this thing. I don't want to stay around and get insulted by people every time. You know, it's almost a crime in our society

to be seen to be idle. It's not our fault, one has just got to find a way to get things done for himself," he said.



Engr. Abba-Gana

How much does Ike and his colleagues make and how do they get the water to sell?

"Oh! Quite a sum per day", he said, "if we take the ten containers to a tap, we fill each for N1, then we hawk it where there is perennial water shortage, especially places like Karmo and Mabushi and several other places. Some buy a 50 litre container for N30, while others can pay between N50 and N60. In a day, we make an average of ten trips, multiply that by the cost and number of containers; that's our own minimum wage".

Ike hopes to be in the business for "as long as

necessary" and go back to school for his HND.

Sani is another water vendor. He operates mainly in Karmo, and says he is comfortable with the average of N3,000 he makes everyday from the business. "Man go chop", said Sani, who is completely illiterate and speaks more of Hausa than pidgin English, "Walahi, me I like am for this work, I no go school, but I must to wack".

Sani said he has three wheel barrows, each filled with 50 litre plastic containers which he hires out for fees ranging from N1,000 to N1,200

per day, apart from his own returns.

Nnamdi, another vendor, a secondary school certificate holder, is full of hate for the government for being in the business. "Those people, those governments, have failed us, see me, see how tedious this job is. In short, I don't know what to say, they keep promising us, and keep doing nothing," the light-complexioned Nnamdi who hails from Awka-Etiti in Anambra state, said he has a target of hitting N50,000 to change into another business before June end this year.

Commuters warned on Berger Junction

Commuters who board vehicles outside the parks at Berger Junction in Abuja have been warned on the dangers of

patronising such vehicles.

Giving the warning while speaking with Daily Trust during the weekend, the Abuja unit secretary of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Mr. Mohammed Kudu, said apart from being illegal to pick passengers outside the designated parks at the junction, most of the drivers who indulge in the act are learners or people without valid driving licences who have ulterior motives.

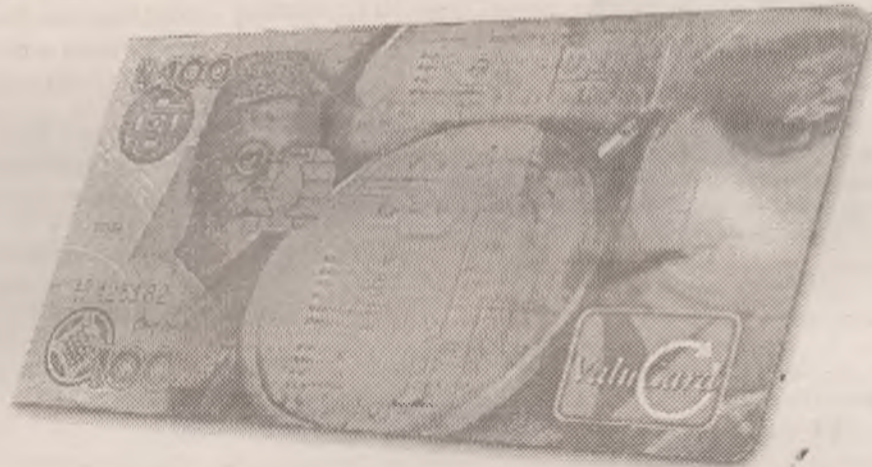
Mr. Kudu advised that in order to minimise the danger of falling into the hands of criminals, commuters should use the authorized motor parks at the junction for intra and inter-city transportation. According to the unit secretary, who spoke alongside NdaKoko Usman, a unit executive, commuters failed to realize that vehicles which operate outside the parks do so illegally, thereby making it difficult for the union to deal with erring drivers and handle reports of missing property or theft of passengers' luggage through proper vehicle identification.

"In my office, there are several recovered items, including N7,000 cash which have not been collected by their owners. We got these items from drivers who use the parks. It couldn't have been the same if such drivers operated from outside the parks," he said.

Mr. Kudu spoke of a fine working relationship between the NURTW and the Federal Road Safety Corps in a joint effort to clear the junction of touts and traffic congestion but expressed serious concern with the location of the AMAC bus stop on the road just a few yards from the junction, saying the location of that bus stop was wrong and of counter effect.

Daily Trust gathered that despite concerted efforts by the union and the FRSC, illegal loading still persists at the Berger Junction.

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SPORTS



Lewis suffers shock defeat

•Sets sight on re-match

Hasim Rahman shocked the boxing world by knocking out world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis in five rounds.

The American floored Lewis with a huge right hand and the Briton never seemed like beating the count.

Rahman, a virtual unknown before this bout, takes Lewis' World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation heavyweight titles.

The result ranks as the biggest upset in the heavyweight division since Buster Douglas knocked out Mike Tyson in 1990.

The world of boxing may have been stunned by the result but Rahman himself was not surprised.

"I told you all I was confident," he said. "I kept my prayers going and did all my training. And I came up with one punch...one punch."

"I felt that the longer the fight went on I would have a chance. There can be no excuses from him."

Lewis had been widely criticised in the build-up to the fight because of his preparations and on the evidence of the fight, he had taken his foe lightly.

From the start of the contest, Rahman seemed to have no fear of his opponent and Lewis always looked threatened by the Rahman right.

The first round was won narrowly by the Englishman's jab, although Rahman did not seem out of his depth.

Lewis looked to land some eye-catching punches in the second, with a big right uppercut seeming to perturb the challenger.

The champion again landed some big punches in the third, but seemed undone by a late Rahman flurry.

He was also, very noticeably, breathing heavily.

The fourth was the moment when the challenger staked his intent, as he initiated an attack at the start of the round and controlled the

action with his left jab.

The fifth followed the same course, with Lewis absorbing a decent right-hand in the middle of the round, before being chased into the corner by the tenacious Rahman.

After avoiding a series of jabs, Lewis was standing side-on when Rahman threw that final devastating right.

It dropped Lewis flat on his back, and the Englishman looked a tired and concussed



Lewis

figure as he lay on the canvas.

Lewis suffered his second loss in 40 fights, which have seen him register 37 wins with a single draw.

Rahman has also suffered two defeats, against 35 wins.

Despite the defeat, Lewis has insisted he will avenge his shock defeat by Hasim Rahman.

The former champion said he is looking towards an immediate rematch.



Rahman

Wenger left to face reality of Arsenal's European exit

One pathetic picture captured the despair of manager Arsene Wenger at his Arsenal team's Champions League exit.

It showed the grim-faced Frenchman struggling to wrest the ball from a ball-boy on the touchline as Arsenal vainly sought an equaliser in the closing minutes at Valencia's Mestalla stadium on Tuesday night.

The financial reality of modern football means that qualifying for next season's Champions League rather than winning this season's tournament is a more realistic priority for almost all Europe's top clubs.

But on a personal level, Wenger wanted to prove he could succeed against the best that Europe has to offer on the continent's biggest stage.

Last season, to Wenger's

dismay, Arsenal failed to progress beyond the group stages.

This season's failure to mount any sort of challenge to Manchester United's domestic dominance meant success this time around in the Champions League was more important than ever.

The pain caused by Tuesday's exit was made all the more acute by the knowledge that Arsenal may never get a better chance to emulate United's 1999 success in Europe's elite tournament.

"All the Italian teams went out by the second phase this time and we know that won't be the case every season," he said afterwards.

"It is so frustrating for the players and for me. I still believed we deserved to qualify for the semifinals. Reality will now hit hard at

Arsenal, who are about to enter a transitional period.

Second in the premier league with five games left, they will, barring disaster, qualify for the Champions League next season. They also have an FA Cup final against Liverpool to come on May 12 in Cardiff. But Europe will have to wait for another season and by then it may be too late for the current squad. Goalkeeper David Seaman is 37, defensive giants Tony Adams and Martin Keown are 34 and right-back Lee Dixon is 37.

It is anybody's guess if they will be around this time next season. Wenger was given a frightening taste of what life without his defensive rocks will be like when Arsenal, without Adams, Keown or Dixon, were thrashed 6-1 by United in February. All three were excellent on Tuesday when the most disappointing aspect was Arsenal's seeming lack of belief in front of goal.

"We just could not come up with the killer strike we needed, the manager admitted. So Wenger needs a new goalkeeper, a new defence, and probably a new striker or two—in short, he has a major rebuilding job on his hands.

The Frenchman has always insisted he will see out the remaining year of his contract at Highbury, despite overt interest from clubs such as Barcelona.

But the look on his face after Tuesday's shattering defeat suggested Arsenal's manager may already believe he has taken the London club as far as he can.



Reggie Miller led Indiana Pacers to victory over Philadelphia

Pacers, Hornets register upsets

Veterans Reggie Miller and Jamal Mashburn led the Indiana Pacers and Charlotte Hornets to shock victories as the Eastern Conference play-off series got underway.

Mashburn burned his former team with 28 points as the Hornets cooled off the Miami Heat 106-80.

The sixth-seeded Hornets never trailed over the last 40 minutes against their third-seeded opponents, who were outscored 27-19 in the second quarter and 31-18 in the third.

Sharp-shooting Charlotte shot 48 percent from the field to take away home court advantage with their surprise victory in the best-of-five series, which resumes in Miami on Monday.

Mashburn hit 9-of-22 from the field and a perfect 9-of-9 from the free throw line. Baron Davis contributed 23 points and David Wesley added 17 for the Hornets. Eddie House led Miami with 16 points.

In Philadelphia, Miller hit a game-winning three-pointer with 2.9 seconds on the clock as Indiana rallied to stun the top-seeded Philadelphia 76ers 79-78.

The eighth-seeded Pacers trailed by as many as 18 points in the third quarter before roaring back. Game two of the best-of-five series is on Tuesday, also in Philadelphia.

The Pacers trailed 52-36

after shooting just 30 percent (15-of-51) in the first half. But with Philadelphia superstar Allen Iverson on the bench with four fouls, Indiana chipped away and pulled ahead by a point with 5:25 left in the fourth quarter.

In San Antonio, the San Antonio Spurs held off the Minnesota Timberwolves 87-82 in the opener of their Western Conference first-round series.

Terry Porter sank a long-range shot and Tim Duncan banked in a fall-away jumper in the last minute to clinch the victory.

The top-seeded Spurs host the T-Wolves in game two of the best-of-five series on Monday night.

In Salt Lake City, 39-year-old John Stockton made the go-ahead free throws with 25 seconds remaining as the experienced Utah Jazz held off the youthful Dallas Mavericks 88-86 in their play-off opener.

Game two of the best-of-five Western Conference series is on Tuesday, again in Salt Lake City.

Stockton, the NBA's all-time assists leader, finished with 18 assists while long-time running partner and fellow future Hall of Famer Karl Malone led the Jazz with 26 points.

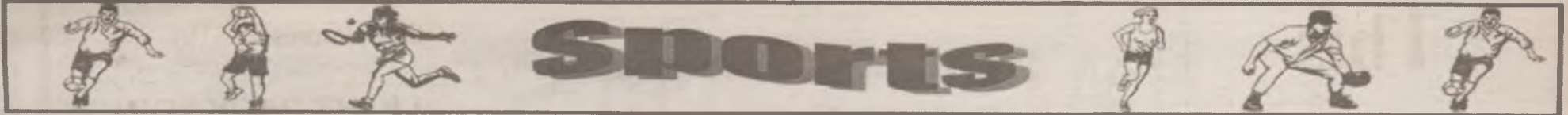
For Dallas, Michael Finley matched Malone with 26 points and Steve Nash and Dirk Nowitzke added 20 apiece.

Eastern Conference

NBA first-round play-off games(home team in CAPS):
 Indiana 79-78 PHILADELPHIA
 (Indiana leads best-of-five series 1-0)
 Charlotte 80-106 MIAMI
 (Miami lead best-of-five series 1-0)
 Western Conference
 UTAH 88-86 Dallas
 (Utah leads best-of-five series 1-0)
 Minnesota 82-87 SAN ANTONIO
 (San Antonio lead best-of-five series 1-0)



Arsenal striker, Thierry Henry vies with Barcelona's Emmanuel Petit in a Champions League tie



Sydney 2000 c'mttee vows to ensure implementation of report

Members of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Review Committee have vowed to ensure the implementation of their report by the government of the day.

Abdulrasak Adeagbo, the chairman of the three-man committee, told a news conference in Lagos that the Executive Members of the NOC had been frustrating the efforts of the committee by "their uncooperative attitudes."

The Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) set up the committee on November 10, 2000 to investigate Nigeria's dismal outing at the Sydney games.

It was to look into the country's preparations and the participation at the games with a view to finding out the lapses that contributed to the woeful outing.

Adeagbo said the committee had completed its assignment on February 18 but could not submit its report to the NOC executives because "they have been playing hide and seek games".

He said the committee had written more than 10 letters to the NOC since February with a view to arranging for the submission of the report but without success.

The chairman said the NOC was angered by the plan to present the report at a ceremony that would be witnessed by the press, pointing out that the committee felt that since journalists were present at the inauguration, they should be present at the presentation of the report.

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Adeagbo said that the NOC president, Major General Adamu Dyeri (rtd), had agreed to accept the report via a confidential seal through a courier service.

He said though the report had been sent to the NOC, the president had yet to call a meeting to deliberate on it, adding, however, that efforts

to suppress it would fail.

The chairman said that a copy of the report had also been sent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) representative in the country, Maj. Gen. Henry Adefope (rtd), to preempt any move by the NOC to sweep it under the carpet.

Adeagbo, the former chairman of the Karate Federation of Nigeria (KFN), said the committee would ensure that the presidency got a copy of the report, adding that "we would strive to ensure that the current anti-corruption law takes its course on any member found

guilty."

He said the NOC should call its executive meeting soon to deliberate on the report, failing which the committee would take other steps. He, however, did not say what step the committee would take next should the NOC fail to call on executive meeting.

National sports associations elections hold May 24

By Patrick Andrew

Elections into the reconstituted boards of the 27 National Sports Associations are to be conducted on May 24 after the zonal elections slated for Thursday, May 9.

The Director of Sports Development in the Sports Ministry, Mallam Ahmed Yahaya confirmed to *Trustsports* that the guidelines for the conduct of the elections into the various boards have been approved.

Yahaya, who confirmed major changes in the guidelines revealed that the zonal elections will be based on the six geopolitical zones rather than the 10 zonal structures

of the Sports Ministry.

The director noted that the new guidelines also provided for only two government nominees as against the previous four per board. He elaborated further that each board will have a representative from each of the six geopolitical structure.

On the zonal elections, Yahaya said that sports ministry has arranged two prominent persons within the zones to supervise the conduct of the elections for the avoidance of election malpractices.

Besides, corporate organs who are associated with

sports in the past would be represented in the board as provided for in the new guidelines. The provision for corporate representatives according to Yahaya is designed to create the necessary corporate leverage for each of the associations.

Though the Armed Forces, the Police, SWAN are still retained in the board, the membership is limited to 15, in spite of the reduction of government four nominees to two.

The director said that the inauguration of the elected board will be performed on May 31 in Abuja by the Sports Minister, Ishaya Mark Aku.

Nigeria'll bounce back-Amun

Former Eagles Coach Fanny Amun has said that the Nigerian Football Association (NFA) is set to return Nigeria back to her leading position in the World Youth Championship with the introduction under fourteen weekend Academy.

Mr Amun said that the word "backward" was not the correct adjective used in describing the decline of youth football in Nigeria.

In an exclusive chat with *Trustsports* in Lafia, Amun maintained that "we are not backward and soon we shall prove to all that we are not backward"

The coach, who is now a member of technical depart-

ment of the NFA, explained that he was in Lafia, the Nasarawa state capital as part of NFA's plan to build a formidable national youth team.

"Two weeks ago he organised a tournament for under 14 teams with centres in Ibadan and Kaduna.

"The Lagos and Ibadan teams emerged for the finals at the Ibadan centre, while the Kaduna and Nasarawa teams emerged for the finals at the Kaduna centre.

"What we are doing now is to bring the four teams to Nasarawa State where they will lay the national finals, between 26th and 29th this

month.

"By the end of the tournament we have yet another camp coming, where we shall bring out the best players among all the thirteen teams, who would form the coops of the national under Fourteen team

Amun disclosed that the development package in the offing was a baby programme of the NFA Secretary General Dr. Ahmed Tijjani Yusuf.

"It is one of the replacement programme and I do foresee that, by September the team might become the foundation for the new national under seventeen team to represent the country in the 2003 World Cup competition "he concluded.



Abdullahi Ibrahim of Nasarawa state attempts to outwit his Kaduna state counterpart Tanko Danjuma during the NFA Weekend Soccer Academy Zonal competition for U-14 boys...in Kaduna.

Pix Joe Orove



Chinedu Odozor of Nigeria Customs in action during the women long-jump event at the Mobil Track & Field Championship...last year

Pro-League Statistics

Clubs	Yellow Card	Red Card
Nationale FC,	23	1
Jigawa Stars	33	2
Rangers Int'l	38	1
Wikki Tourist	25	1
Gabros Int'l FC,	31	1
N.P.A. FC,	32	2
Julius Berger	28	1
Jasper FC,	31	3
Enyimba	33	3
Gombe FC,	33	-
Lobi Stars FC,	31	1
Plateau Utd FC,	24	-
Katsina Utd FC,	34	-
Sharks FC,	36	2
El-Kanemi FC,	34	3
Insurance FC,	30	2
Division 2A		
Zamfara United	15	1
BCC Lions FC,	26	2
Adamawa United	24	2
Mighty Jets FC,	18	-
Yobe Stars	20	3
Niger Tornadoes	24	2
Kano Pillars	22	-
NEPA Abuja	23	1
Kwara United	25	3
Ranch Bees	26	1
JUTH FC,	15	1
Kwara Stars	26	4
(Division 2B)		
Ebonyi Angels	33	2
Okomu Oil FC,	33	1
Dolphin FC,	36	3
Sunshine Stars	27	1
Delta United	23	2
Air Safety	21	2
Udoji United	33	2
NITEL Lagos	32	1
Calabar Rovers	17	1
Bayelsa United	33	1
Bendel United	28	-
Shooting Stars	18	1

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Bonfrere

The Super Eagles' Dutch-born coach Jo Bonfrere, may well have predicted his fate, as he promised to resign if Nigeria lost to Sierra Leone. Bonfrere criticised Yusuf for the poor conditions in which he was expected to prepare a winning team for the Freetown tie.

Bonfrere told reporters last week he did not think it likely he would go to the World Cup finals with Nigeria, even if they qualified for Japan and South Korea.

Dauids

Juventus and Holland midfielder Edgar Davids has failed a dope test. The details of the story are unclear at this early stage but according to the press agency Italtipress and since confirmed by the Gazzetta dello Sport, Davids was one of three players tested after the game between Udinese and Juventus on March 4th - one came back positive. Juventus declined to comment but did not make any denials.



The revelation comes after Lazio defender Fernando Couto's second positive test for the banned anabolic steroids norandrosterone and noreticcolanolone. The Portugal star was found "not negative" in a random test following Lazio's 4-1 win over Fiorentina on January 28. He could be banned for between six months and two years.

Tulu

Twice Olympic 10,000 metres champion Derartu Tulu used her superior track speed on Sunday to win the women's London marathon in two hours, 23 minutes 57 seconds.

The 29-year-old Ethiopian, who has also won the world cross country titles three times, moved from the leading bunch over the final three kilometres to win by seven seconds from Russina Svetlana Zakharova.



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Defeat hits Nigeria's World Cup hopes

By Ismaila Umaru Lere with agency reports

Nigeria suffered another blow to their hopes of qualifying for next year's World Cup finals after a shock 1-0 defeat against Sierra Leone on Saturday.

Sidque Mansaray of local team Eastern Lions scored the only goal after 25 minutes before 40,000 fans in Freetown.

It was Sierra Leone's first win and first points in five African zone group two qualifying games. Nigeria are two points adrift of joint leaders Liberia and Sudan.

Nigeria looked commanding from the kick-off, but after a slow start by the home side their captain Mohammed Kallon, who plays for Italian club Vicenza, dodged past three defenders to set up Mansaray's goal.

'I was sure we were going to win the match because the Nigerian national team has never defeated the Leone Stars on our own ground,' Kallon said after the game.

Nigeria battled hard but failed to turn their possession into goals as the tenacious Sierra Leone defence kept the Super Eagles at bay, albeit at the expense of two yellow cards.

Super Eagles midfielder, Austin 'Jay Jay' Okocha looked the most dangerous, keeping goalkeeper Brima Attouga Sesay busy with a string of shots on target. But Sierra Leone also had their chances.

Nigeria's preparations

for the match were overshadowed by a public row between Dutch coach Jo Bonfrere and the Nigerian FA over what Bonfrere says are inadequate training facilities.

The Eagles had support in Freetown from some of their soldiers on peacekeeping duty with a United Nations force trying to end Sierra Leone's 10-year civil war.

The match, played under heavy U.N. security, was the first for several years to be screened live on Sierra Leone television.

In another development El Hadj Diouf scored a second successive World Cup hat-trick as Senegal ended Algeria's qualifying hopes with a 3-0 victory in Dakar.

It was Senegal's first win against Algeria after 13 previous attempts had brought only five draws and eight defeats.

Senegal continue to head qualifying Group C and their improving goal

difference will be a cause of real concern to group favourites Morocco and Egypt.

Morocco also boosted their hopes of qualification with a 3-nil win against Namibia in Rabat.

Rachid Roukki was the first to score in the opening minutes of the second half.

Abdeljalil Hadda added two more in the 75th and 90th minutes.

Senegal got off to the best possible start, with Diouf slotting home a penalty in the second minute.

The penalty decision and Diouf's strike clearly unsettled the Algerians.

Midfield general Salif

Diao was largely anonymous.

Djamel Belmadi tried to orchestrate attacks from out on the right flank, but Algeria lacked any coordination and fluency.

As against Namibia in March, Diouf and fellow strikers Henri Camara and Khalilou Fadiga, created numerous chances and Algeria were lucky to go in one down at half-time.

But the match had barely resumed before Senegal went further ahead. El Hadji Diouf coolly latched onto a through ball and threaded his way through the Algerian defence, leaving the keeper no

chance.

Beyond winning a handful of corners, Algeria offered little further resistance.

El Hadji Diouf took his third in the 74th minute and Algeria left the field comprehensively beaten.

Senegal still have two tough fixtures against Morocco at home and Egypt away.

But having already got his team through to the African Cup of Nations, coach Bruno Metsu looks to be on a roll.

Algeria will have to take stock and move on. Senegal can't wait for the next match.



Knocked out... former world champion, Lennox Lewis lies prone after being floored by Hasim Rahman in the WBC and IBF heavyweight title fight... yesterday.

Professor Nomau's travails, written & illustrated by Bulama Mustapha

