



News as it breaks

# Daybreak

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# News

## Problem in North perpetrated by Northern elites - Mailafia

A former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Dr. Obadiah Mailafia, says that the problems in northern Nigeria are perpetrated by those who hate Nigeria.



Mailafia

He said that there is a peculiar 'disease' in northern Nigeria perpetrated by the elites who hate the country.

He stated that, despite the widely-held belief about western education, Islam is not opposed to it.

He added that the elites are the problem of Nigeria and that their activities prove it.

Speaking in a Zoom conference Mailafia stated that the elites want nothing but the worst for the country.

This is even as he decried the campaign against Western education being championed by Boko Haram terrorist group.

According to him, "Those who say Western education is Haram don't know the history of Islam." He mentioned citadels of learning which existed in the Middle East in the past.

"Algebra was invented by a Muslim scholar. Even when the Muslims settled in Spain, they brought back the knowledge of philosophy to the Europeans who were in the dark ages.

"So, how can you say Western education is Haram? Do you even know what you are talking about? The Quran says 'Go far beyond China to seek knowledge.'

"If it is true that Western education is bad, how come the UAE is trying to go to the moon? They are moving on," Mailafia enthused.

Lamenting the killings in the north, he said, "We have a peculiar disease in northern Nigeria perpetrated by elites who hate Nigeria and want nothing but the worst for our country.

"That is what I'm beginning to see with all these killings."



## CAN condemns Plateau killings, urges arrest of perpetrators

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Plateau chapter, has condemned the killing of commuters at Rukuba road, Jos North Local Government Area of the state.

In a statement on Sunday in Jos, CAN chairman in the state, Polycarp Lubo, urged security agencies to fish out the perpetrators.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) recalls that criminals on Saturday attacked a convoy of buses conveying commuters, killed 22 persons and injured scores.

Mr Lubo also condemned ongoing killings in Bassa, Riyom, Jos South and Barkin Ladi local government areas.

"We wish to express deep pain over the recent attacks in Riyom, Jos North, Barakin Ladi and Bassa, leading to loss of lives and property.

"The leadership of CAN totally condemns these attacks and pleads with security agents to ensure normalcy is restored.

"Every human life is precious and the unlawful killing of any human being, regardless of their identity and affiliation, is unacceptable.

"We mourn with the families of those who lost their loved ones, as well as those who have been displaced or suffered harm of any kind.

"We urge security agencies to swiftly arrest all those involved, to bring an end to the needless killings," he said.

Mr Lubo said the association would continue to work toward ensuring peaceful coexistence in the state.

Also, Shehu Usman, the chairman, Jos North Local Government Area, has warned residents against revenge, over the

killing of commuters in the area.

Mr Usman gave the warning in a statement by the Senior Information Officer of the local government, Philip Eplong, in Jos on Sunday.

The chairman said the council would not tolerate attempts from any individual or group, to disrupt the already established peace and peaceful coexistence of residents in the area.

He described the recent acts of violence on innocent commuters as unacceptable, cautioning residents against the temptations of taking revenge, as security agents were handling the matter.

Mr Usman stated that any person or group of persons caught in connection with such attacks would be arrested and prosecuted.

The chairman commended the relentless efforts of Governor Simon Lalong in putting mechanisms in place to ensure prompt attention and response to security breaches in the state.

He also commended law enforcement agencies for their prompt response, in averting an escalation of the violence, urging them to put in every effort to apprehend perpetrators of the heinous act and bring them to justice.

"This high level of savagery, inhumanity and reckless disregard for sanctity of life cannot go unpunished," he said.

He sued for calm and urged residents to go about their normal businesses.

Mr Usman, however, assured the people that the council would continue to work closely with security agencies, to ensure the protection of lives and property.

## Five killed, houses burnt in fresh Kaduna attack

Five persons have been confirmed killed and nine houses burnt in a fresh attack on Madamai village of Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State by yet to be identified assailants.

One vehicle was also vandalised by the assailants.

Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Mr. Samuel Aruwan, made this known in a statement on Sunday evening.

Aruwan however said the Acting Governor Dr. Hadiza Balarabe has condemned the attack and appealed for calm.

According to the Commissioner: "The Acting

Governor Dr Hadiza Balarabe has condemned as shocking and inhuman, an attack which left five residents dead in Kaura LGA.

"This came after troops of Operation Safe Haven reported to the Kaduna State Government that Madamai village in Kagoro Chiefdom, Kaura LGA, was attacked by unidentified assailants. Five people were killed, and nine houses as well as three vehicles were burnt, while one vehicle was vandalised.

"The deceased have been identified as follows: Janet Yakubu, Gambo Yakubu, Jonathan Adamu, Mrs.

Monday and Humphrey Barnabas

"The Acting Governor received the report with sadness and condemned the resurgence of gruesome violence in the area.

"She prayed for the repose of the victims' souls and sent heartfelt condolences to their families.

"The Acting Governor also appealed to residents to remain calm, and directed security agencies to conduct thorough investigations into the incident. Security personnel are conducting patrols and investigations in the area."

## 21 die in Jigawa road mishap

The Police Command in Jigawa has confirmed the death of 21 people in Sunday's road mishap that occurred in Gwaram Local Government Area of the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the command, ASP Lawan Shiisu, confirmed the incident to newsmen in Dutse.

Shiisu said the incident occurred after a Hummer Bus, conveying 18 passengers from Kano to Adamawa, and an

unregistered lorry with three passengers fell into a broken culvert covered with flood water.

He said: "Today, at about 6 a.m., we received a distress call from Radabi Village that an accident occurred on the Gwaram-Basirka Road.

"The accident occurred after one Hummer bus with Reg. No. FYK 406 ZA, and a Canter lorry fell into broken culvert full of water.

"Victims were evacuated to Basirka Hospital, where 21 of the passengers were confirmed dead by a medical doctor."

He said that one of the passengers, 26-year-old Simon Chinapi from Mubi in Adamawa, survived.

According to Shiisu, the Commissioner of Police, Mr Aliyu Tafida, has visited the scene and directed prompt and discrete investigation into the incident.

# EDITORIAL

## Insecurity: The ticking time bomb

The government can bury its head in the sand if it so wishes. The fact however remains that with the state of insecurity in the country Nigeria is a ticking time bomb!

The state of insecurity is now pervasive and has spread all over the country.

It is dangerous that herdsmen's killing, raping, and kidnapping of people in different parts of Nigeria has been politicised.

It is unfortunate that when the government should be firm and decisive it has chosen more often than not to politicize issues.

Some state governments and politicians may, for political calculation and the votes they expect to win elections, have decided to keep mute over the alarming development.

But the people who receive the swords and the bullets are crying out. They are not only crying out, they are also moving to defend themselves if the police, army and other security agencies appointed by the Constitution to protect them fail to do so.

At this juncture, it has become important that all Nigerians understand that the real intentions of those fuelling

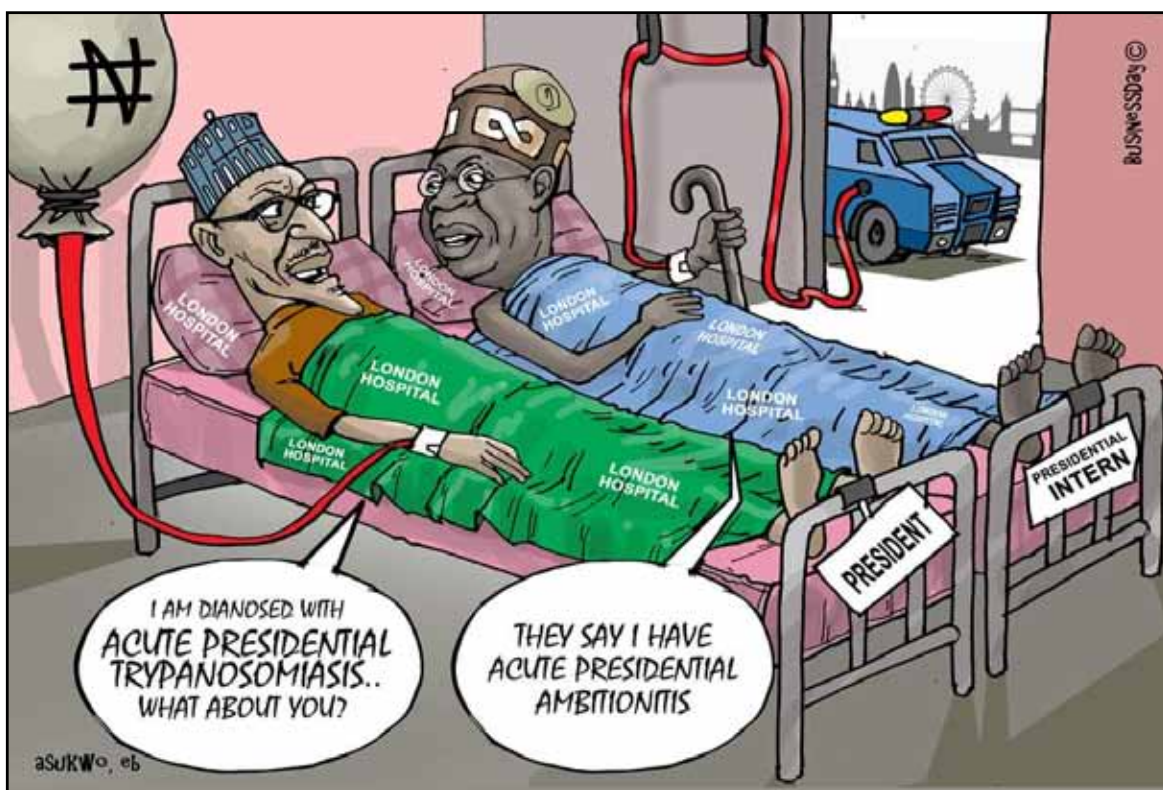
these mayhems are no longer hidden from Nigerians. We believe the sooner we came to a round table and honestly discuss the future of Nigeria, the better it will be for everyone.

For the security agencies to fail to stop criminal herdsmen from raping, killing and kidnapping people wherever they are raises a red flag of suspicion. Also disturbing is the assertion by some people that the criminal herdsmen have the constitutional rights to live wherever they choose, thus stoking and escalating the crisis.

Nigeria must not be dragged into another civil war. Injustice and oppression breed rebellion and war.

Those who rule over the affairs of Nigeria must work to enthrone justice and equity and nurture it to make for peaceful co-existence of people from different ethnic origins. One sure way of doing this is to create the enabling environment for us to talk to ourselves, and truthfully too.

With the ferocity of the herdsmen attacks spreading all over the country, even the blind can see that time is fast running out for Nigerians to come to grips with evil and danger that insecurity has become.



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### Mission Statement

To tell the truth at all times and hold government accountable to the governed and to give the citizens the information they need to be active participants in the democratic process. In this light Daybreak newspaper refuses to be an ally of any special interest but to maintain objectivity, fairness and balance as its core principle especially in an age of misinformation and fake news.

# Interview

## Cholera outbreak the result of dirt and poverty - NMA President

*\*Says poorer countries must help themselves in the face of vaccine inequality*

As part from the global pandemic of Covid-19, Nigeria is currently facing a Cholera epidemic which is currently spreading uncontrollably to several states in the country. In the last six months the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) said the epidemic has claimed over 400 lives with more than 15000 suspected cases reported in 23 states of the federation. States most affected according to the NCDC as at the beginning of August 2021 are: Sokoto, Bauchi, Kebbi, Zamfara, Gombe, Kano, Kaduna, in the far north; Benue, Kogi, Plateau, Nasarawa, Niger, in the middle belt; Delta, Bayelsa, Cross River, in the south and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The spread of the disease is worrisome and deaths from the cholera outbreak is on the upswing and spreading to more states of the Federation.

According to the NCDC, cholera is an acute diarrhoea disease caused by a bacteria called vibrio cholera. It is a potentially life-threatening, and primarily a water-borne disease. The bacteria is transmitted mainly through the faeco-oral, that is by the ingestion of contaminated food or water and its transmission is closely linked to inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Symptoms of cholera include nausea and vomiting, dehydration which can lead to shock, kidney injury and sudden death, the passage of profuse pale and milky, watery stool and body weakness. It could also come with intense thirst and decrease in urine quantity, with or without abdominal pain, and with or without fever. According to the NCDC many affected persons may not manifest symptoms or may develop a milder form of the disease but will still remain carriers spreading the disease.

Speaking exclusively to Daybreak newspaper on the outbreak, the National President of the Nigeria Medical Association, (NMA) and a former Director General of the Nigeria Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), Professor Innocent Ujah said that cholera is a disease of poverty both material and mental. He blames material poverty and lack of education for the spread of the disease in the country. "Cholera is a disease of poverty, financial poverty and poverty of knowledge. In a nutshell it is a disease of underdevelopment.

Anywhere there is cholera its caused by underdevelopment. Cholera is caused by a bacteria called Vibrio cholera and it's associated with dirt, bad water, filthy disposition of waste products, faeces and the rest. So wherever there is cholera you know that the place is dirty.

In Nigeria, water is a major problem, clean portable water is not available to all. If you map the country, you will find out that the places where there are outbreaks of cholera are underdeveloped areas, where

people don't have water to drink and people fetch water from dirty places to drink.

Also because of open defecation during raining seasons all those faeces will then be washed down into the stream and people drink from some of these streams. It's largely as a result of dirt and it's very sad. Clean running water is a big problem in almost all parts of the country. I say so because when I was the Director General of the Nigeria Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), I tried to do a study of the state capitals of the country that have running water supply for 24 hours and there is none including the FCT. If we look at all the indices it point to the fact that we create the environment for such disease. Cholera is an infectious disease".

He also spoke on measures to control the outbreak calling on government at all levels to work together to check the outbreak before it gets out of hand.

"The federal government has a role to play but other levels of government have a role to play also, we have state and local government and each one has a part to play. The part the federal government should do is creating an enabling environment, creating awareness, educating people and then as a pilot for the states and local governments dig boreholes and wells that are protected for the Nigerian people, because Nigeria people don't have good water to drink, the state government and the local government should provide clean drinking water".

He bemoaned the fact that the local government system in Nigeria was not functioning as required by law. "As we know local government is dead as far as we are concerned in terms of providing healthcare for the people. We think that if we are able make the local government work and then early intervention then we can begin to address the problem.

Poverty is not just financial poverty but poverty of knowledge. Let's look at those people who are dead, we have what we call epidemiological characterization, we disaggregate the type of people that die, majority of them are women and they are largely illiterates.

The men that die are illiterates. Not you and I because we will not die of cholera because I don't take water from the streams and I am sure you don't because you are enlightened. So we need to educate our people, formal education not just health education. And that gives empowerment because I know many people don't depend on public water.

They sink their boreholes, sink their wells so they are not waiting for public water. Let me quickly say this Government alone cannot do it we need partnerships with the private sector. They should look at the needs of a community and one of the greatest needs is water. In my own local area if you just give them water they will be satisfied



Professor Innocent Ujah

because water is their major problem and the absence of clean water can lead to the outbreak of a lot of diseases"

To curtail the outbreak he advised Nigerians to maintain good hygiene through frequent hand washing with soap or sanitizers especially after using the toilet.

"We should not be defecating in open places anymore. That is primitive and that is chaotic and with that development we should be able to overcome cholera". Ujah said

On the frequent outbreak of cholera in Nigeria he said that it is a seasonal disease and the outbreak usually comes during the raining season".

Giving more insights into what the country needs to do to curtail frequent cholera outbreaks in the country, Professor Ujah said there was need for Nigeria to do more research about cholera, but decried the nation's attitude towards research.

"Nigeria don't do research; are we even doing research on the Covid vaccine that we received, are we documenting them? Federal ministry of health don't even know anything about research. I was DG of NIMR and when you talk about research people think that it's just nothing yet they will come to ask for the breakthrough. I will always ask them, what is your investment. In Nigeria nobody gives funds for research and we have very intelligent people who can help us do research"

Giving insights on the outbreak of the third wave of Covid-19 with the presence of the Delta variant in Nigeria, the NMA president advised the government of Nigeria to be more stringent especially at ports of entries and the application of non pharmaceutical intervention in checking the spread of the disease "The issue of third wave we must be prepared for everything because we don't even know the epidemiological characteristics of COVID.

Now what Nigeria did and I hope it is properly implemented is the banning of air flight from Turkey, Brazil and India because those are the areas we should watch out for, the ports. They must ensure they check everybody that comes in because the commitment of Nigerians does not measure to the Government policy. Everybody must comply to the policy either big man or small man, if they don't comply they should be detained.

That's the one way to curtail the spread of the disease. When Covid-19 started they ask the borders to be closed to limit the number of people coming in. That policy wasn't handled well and now you know what happened".

Professor Ujah also used the opportunity to talk about vaccine inequality between rich nation and poor nation and the rejection by the US of a WHO proposal to halt its planned booster dose for its citizen until poorer nations are substantially vaccinated.

He noted that the proposal by the WHO was laudable as it was designed to curb vaccine inequality and protect poorer nations from richer nations who are hoarding vaccines "some western nations now have the capacity to vaccinate their citizens three times over while others don't even have a single dose, however poor nations should find a way to help themselves rather than waiting for freebies from developed nations".

While reacting to the recent donation of 4million doses of Moderna vaccines to Nigeria by the US instead of the promised 100 million doses he stated that the US do not owe Nigeria any obligation. "They don't owe us anything, they are a country and we are a country so they are not owing Nigeria anything.

The truth is that they are supporting us and they don't owe Nigeria any obligation. They don't owe Nigeria any obligation whatsoever, if they said they are giving 100 million and they gave 4 million we should be grateful. The reason is that by now we should not be talking about US giving us vaccine we should be developing capacity to produce our own vaccines, why don't we invest in research, in trials, in vaccine productions. We keep on saying US will give us, why should they, actually If I were president of the US I will not give.

It is better to give someone hook to fish than to be given the fish. Therefore my own view about this is that we should not be waiting for handouts, it means we can't develop, we should be able to take the hook, we start small and then we grow. You know Rome was not built in a day, but we are not doing anything but just stay and be waiting for America to give us, and then when they gave us 4 million you say just 4 million they don't owe us anything"



## Unlawful Detention: Nigerian Army disobeys court, refuses to release Enugu gov's aide

The detainee has been held by the Army for one month and 10 days as of Sunday.

Nearly a week after a Federal High Court in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, ordered the Nigerian Army to release unconditionally, the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) on Security matters to the Enugu State Governor, Tochukwu Okeke, the military authorities have yet to obey.

Mr Okeke's lawyer, Chinedum Agwaramgbo, had filed a fundamental rights enforcement suit for the release of his client imprisoned by the 82 Division, Nigerian Army, Enugu.

The Nigerian Army, the Chief of Army Staff, Farouk Yahaya, and the General Officer Commanding (GOC) 82 Mechanised Division Enugu, Taoreek Lagbaja, are the 1st and the 3rd respondents in the suit.

The court had on July 29, 2021, ordered the Army to produce Mr Okeke and show cause why the detainee should not be released on bail.

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However, the respondents ignored the court's order as they neither filed any response nor put up a legal representation, necessitating the judge, Stephen

Pam, to make an interlocutory order for the unconditional release of Mr Okeke.

"It is hereby ordered as follows: That the 1st to 3rd respondents is ordered to unconditionally release the applicant Mr Tochukwu Cornelius Okeke from the cell of the 1st to the 3rd respondents," Mr Pam said in a ruling on an ex-parte application filed by the applicant's counsel on August 10, 2021.

In a certified true copy of the order, seen by our correspondent, the judge adjourned the suit marked, FHC/PH/FHR/203/2021, till August 17, 2021, for hearing.

Mr Okeke has been detained without charge since July 5 making Sunday his 41st day of his incarceration.

According to the supporting affidavit attached to the motion, Mr Okeke was arrested by officers of the respondents for allegedly belonging to the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its Eastern Security Network (ESN).

Anih Nkem, a family lawyer, who deposed to the affidavit, stated that he made frantic but futile efforts to secure the release of Mr Okeke.

Mr Nkem told the court that the last time he set his eyes on him was on July 22, 2021 and he was looking "disheveled, disoriented, emaciated and

sickly."

He noted that the detainee was having difficulty recognising his loved ones, while complaining of lack of good food, water, adding that the military authorities had refused him access to his personal physician.

According to the court document seen by our correspondent, Mr Okeke, who had been in the military's custody since July 5, has been reportedly denied access to his phone, despite his failing health.

Mr Okeke, who was whisked away from the Akanu Ibiam International Airport by military men on his way home, in his testimony before the court, informed that the military interrogated him and tortured him despite not having any evidence against him, even after conducting numerous searches in his apartment.

The court documents further noted that the applicant, despite referral from the Military hospital, has been refused a CT brain scan.

Our correspondent put several calls to the mobile phones of the spokesperson of the Nigerian Army, Onyema Nwachukwu, and the GOC of the 18 Mechanised Division of the Nigerian Army in Enugu, Mr Lagbaja, to ascertain the rationale for keeping Mr Okeke in custody.

## Poorer nations must help themselves in the face of vaccine inequality

The President of the Nigeria Medical Association, Professor Innocent Ujah has called on poor African countries like Nigeria to look inward in the face of the global vaccine inequalities between rich Western countries and poor Third world countries.

It would be recalled that the US only recently rejected a WHO proposal to halt its planned booster dose for its citizen until poorer nations are substantially vaccinated.

Speaking on the subject professor Ujah noted that the proposal by the WHO was laudable as it was designed to curb vaccine inequality and protect poorer nations from richer nations who are hoarding vaccines. "some Western nations now have the capacity to vaccinate their citizens three times over while others don't even have a single dose, however poor nations should find a way to help themselves rather than waiting for freebies from developed nations".

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The reason is that by now we should not be talking about US giving us vaccine we should be working with other like minded nations to developing capacity to produce our own vaccines, why don't we invest in research, in trials, in vaccine productions.

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"The issue of third wave we must be prepared for everything because we don't even know the epidemiological characteristics of COVID. Now what Nigeria did and I hope it is properly implemented is the banning of air flight from Turkey, Brazil and India because those are the areas we should watch out for, the ports. They must ensure they check everybody that comes in because the commitment of Nigerians does not measure to the Government policy. Everybody must comply to the policy either big man or small man, if they don't comply they should be detained. That's the one way to curtail the spread of the disease. When Covid-19 started they ask the borders to be closed to limit the number of people coming in. That policy wasn't handled well and now you know what happened".

## Police, family argue as man dies seven days after release by kidnappers in Kwara

A man has died in hospital in Kwara State, a week after he was released by kidnappers who collected four million naira from his family as ransom.

But the family has a different account of the incident from the state government and the police, with the family saying it was abandoned by the authorities to deal alone with the criminals.

Ayodele Alabi, an engineer in his early 60s, was kidnapped with his elder brother and five others on Saturday August 7 between Oke Onigbin and Omu-Aran, an area that falls between Isin and Irepodun local government areas of Kwara State.

That day, six armed men had emerged from the bush and ambushed the Siena bus in which they were travelling from Ekiti State to Ilorin.

The hoodlums marched the seven occupants of the vehicle into the bush.

But in the course of the grueling trek in the bush, Mr Alabi's family members said the elder brother fell out of exhaustion and was left behind by the party. They said he later recovered and took the news of the incident to town.

The day after, they said the kidnappers called the family and asked for a ransom of N30 million, according to Olabode

Olabiya, a school mate of Mr Alabi at Titcombe College, Egbe, Kogi State. Mr Olabiya shared the account on the WhatsApp platform of Igbomina Professional Association, a socio-political group in the southern senatorial district of Kwara State.

He said he had first received the information on the WhatsApp platform of the old students association of their alma mater.

According to the account, the family said they informed the police and the political authorities in the state about the kidnap of Mr Alabi and subsequent demand for ransom but received no support.

"After back and forth negotiations, a figure of #4 million was agreed upon. The money was delivered and the kidnapped victims were released."

The family said it raised the sum with support from some friends of Mr Alabi while other victims arranged and paid their own ransoms too.

On Tuesday, the ransom was delivered for Mr Alabi's release. However, what they found was a man who had been battered from beating by the kidnappers.

"When my friend was picked up by the rescue party, he was in such bad shape that he could not walk or stand," Mr Olabiya narrated.

# News

## Strike: FG Drags Resident Doctors To Court

The federal government has formally handed over the trade dispute between it and the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) to the National Industrial Court of Nigeria for adjudication.

The Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, who did the transmission on Thursday, had earlier told the aggrieved medical workers to convene a virtual meeting of its National Executive Committee, brief its members on the efforts of government with a view to calling off its strike.

He also threatened that the government would enforce “no-work, no-pay” if the strike continues.

The minister, on Thursday, sent a formal notification showing the court received his move, to

NARD and the Federal Ministry of Health representing the Federal Government.

Part of the notification signed by the Minister read, “Whereas trade dispute has arisen and now exists between the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) and the Federal Ministry of health/Federal Government and whereas efforts to promote settlement through conciliation were ongoing but had now failed.

“And considering the facts that members of NARD who are classified as Essential Services workers/employees had embarked on strike on Monday, August 2, 2021, over the issues under conciliation, contrary to the provisions of Section 18 of the Trade Disputes Act CAP T8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) 2004, after

attending a Conciliation and Agreement Review meeting on July 22, 2021, and further considering that the Federal Ministry of Health claim to have and produced evidence to having met most of their demands based on the various Memorandum of Action reached during past conciliations especially that of July 22, 2021.

“Now, therefore, I, Senator Dr Chris Nwabueze Ngige OON, MD the Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment in the exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 17 of the Trades Disputes Act, CAP T8 laws of the Federation of Nigeria, hereby refer the matter for consideration, and the issues in dispute to the National Industrial Court of Nigeria for adjudication.”

## 5 Children Killed In Fresh Borno Explosion

Five children were killed when a disused grenade they were playing with exploded outside the northeast Nigerian town of Ngala, near the border with Cameroon.

“The five children picked up the explosive while herding in a field outside the town and it exploded in their hands as they were playing with it,” anti-jihadist militiaman Umar Kachalla said.

“Two of them died on the spot while the other three died

in hospital in Mada, inside Cameroon,” he said.

Another militiaman, Umar Ari, gave a similar account of the incident, which happened on Thursday.

In August 2014, the Boko Haram jihadist group seized Ngala along with the nearby trading hub of Gamboru.

The two towns were recaptured in September 2015 by Nigerian troops with the help of Chadian forces following a months-long offensive.

Ari said unexploded mines and grenades from the conflict still litter the surrounding countryside and many children had been killed or injured.

In December 2019, nine people were killed and 26 injured when an explosive device went off on a crowded bridge linking Gamboru and Fotokol.

Residents blamed the explosion on a grenade disguised as a toy that, they said, had been given to some children as a gift by a Boko Haram insurgent.

## AEDC Staff Bags 6 Months Behind The bar For Illegal Power Disconnection In Kogi

By Noah Ocheni, Lokoja

A Magistrate Court sitting in Lokoja, on Thursday sentenced one James Olayemi, a Staff of Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), to six months imprisonment for unlawful disconnection of electricity supply to a customer’s house in Lokoja, Kogi state capital.

The Chief Magistrate, Tanko Muhammed sentenced the first defendant, James Olayemi to six months imprisonment and ordered for the reconnection of electricity supply to the compound of Mr. Dennis Osanwuta with immediate effect.

Earlier, the Complainant, Mr. Osanwuta who is now a retired top Management staff of National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) had dragged the duo of James Olayemi the Marketing officer and the Regional Manager, Lameed Obadaki to court over the damages of his property and unlawful disconnection of electricity supply to his house even after payment of N370,000 for February bill.

The prosecution counsel, O.C. King Esq. who was represented by Emeje Aruwa Esq, the private prosecution was brought pursuant to sections 86, 87, 88, 107 (a), (c), 108(1) (c), 111, 112 and 113 of the Kogi State Administration of Criminal Justice

Law 2017, by Surveyor Dennis Osanwuta.

According to the prosecution, the defendants, on March 10, 2020 along with others still at large, “maliciously and unlawfully disconnected electricity supply to electricity metre with Account number 715718350 supplying electricity to the building being occupied by the complainant No 1, NIWA Quarters, Lokoja, Kogi State.

Aruwa also submitted that the duo did conspire to carry out a disconnection of electricity supply to the premises of the complainant in spite of the fact that he did not default in payment of his bills and described the act as unlawful.

He urged the court to take cognizance of Regulation 10(8) of the Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission, Connection and Disconnection Procedures of Electricity Services, 2007.

However, the Counsel to the defendants, C.P. Ocheja Esq. urged the court to determine whether they prosecution had made out a prima facie case against the defendants to warrant the court compelling them to enter their defence.

Ocheja urged the court to strike out the case over presumed inability of the prosecution to establish a prima facie case against the defendants to link them with the alleged offences.

In his judgement, the Chief Magistrate, Muhammed Tanko

absolved the Regional Manager AEDC, Mr.Lameed Obadaki who is the second defendant in this case of any complicity on two counts charges of criminal conspiracy and unlawful disconnection of power supply.

He therefore discharged and acquitted Lameed Obadaki, stressing that from evidence before him there was no link between him and the criminal activities of the first defendant.

Tanko however sentenced the first defendant, James Olayemi for running contrary to Sections 5 and 11 Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission Connection and Disconnection Procedures for Electricity Services 2007 which he said is punishable under Section 94 of electric power sector reform (EPSR) Act 2005.

According to him, “the provision of Section 5 stated that the electricity consumers are given maximum of 10 days for payment of electricity bill and 3 months before disconnection could be made after AEDC must have formally written to inform the customers of the impending disconnection.”

“In view of evidence before me, the complainant has not be given such opportunity, therefore the first defendant is guilty as charged. I hereby sentence him to six months imprisonment with an option fifty thousand naira (N50,000) as fine”, he stressed.

## Flooding: Relocate to Higher Ground, Kogi Warns Residents Against Impending Flood

By Noah Ocheni, Lokoja

In its bid to prevent casualties in some flood prone Communities across the 21 Local Government areas of the state, the Kogi State Government has warned residents to relocate to higher ground before the flood sets in.

The Commissioner for Environmental, Victor Adewale Omofaiye warned against indiscriminate dumping of refuse in drainages and urged those in flood prone areas to relocate, stressing that there is highly level of destruction caused by indiscriminate dumping of wastes.

He noted that in as much as the people would not desist from dumping refuse on water ways the possibility of mitigating the effect of flooding will be reduced stressing that government agency is out to sensitize the people and create awareness for them to get themselves prepared for the upcoming flood.

According to him, going by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) and the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) prediction, Kogi will be experiencing high flooding this year.

He however restated the Governor Yahaya Bello of Kogi State commitment to tackling environmental issues in the State.

Earlier, the leader of Sarki Noma

community expressed dissatisfaction over the position of the river in sarki Noma which according to him always over flow during the flood and consequently destroying houses and other valuable properties.

The general manager, Kogi state Sanitation and Waste Management Board, Mallam Abdulganiu Sanni had advice that every household should have waste bin stressing that this would go a long way to reduce the menace of dumping of refuse indiscriminately.

In his remarks, the Executive Director Kogi Atate Emergency Management Agency, (KOSEMA) commended Sarki Noma community for their collective effort in tackling flood issue, urging them not to relent in their efforts and that government is prepared to play its own part.

Also speaking, Mrs Dorcas Enehe the Director Climate change who declared the 2021 NIMET prediction about the flood confirmed that sensitization of the flood prone areas is ongoing in the State.

It would be recalled that the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) in May warned that 27 states including Kogi together with 121 local government areas will experience high risk flooding during this year’s rainy season.

## With God’s spirit, Nigeria will surmount its challenges – Osinbajo

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo says Nigeria will eventually overcome its security and socio-economic challenges as the Spirit of God is in the land.

Mr Osinbajo’s spokesman, Laolu Akande, in a statement in Abuja, said the vice president spoke at the send off service for Israel Akanji on Sunday.

Mr Akanji served as Senior Pastor and Minister in Charge of the First Baptist Church, Garki, Abuja, for 22 years. He is now the new President of the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

The President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Olasupo Ayokunle, and the Minister of State for Health, Olorunimbe Mamora, among other dignitaries and Christian leaders also attended the service.

Citing the first chapter in the Biblical Book of Genesis, Mr Osinbajo related events surrounding the creation of heaven and earth to the nation’s present challenges and the lives of great individuals.

“Indeed, the lives of great men and women, even as the lives of nations teach important lessons.

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. The beginning was bleak, confused, without form, empty.

READ ALSO: Jonathan administration embezzled N100 billion, \$289 million few weeks to

2015 elections - Osinbajo

“This is the way of the lives of some of the greatest men and women and also nations.

“There might be confusion, grief, trouble, darkness and fear. But even in that confusion, the Bible tells us that the Spirit of the Lord was hovering over the face of the deep. God was in the darkness, He did not run away, He was not asleep.

“So, it is with our nation; today, some things may seem bleak and grave, with insecurity, economic difficulties, but even in the midst of these problems, the Spirit of God is in this land, it is here, hovering over this nation.

“So, what happens next in verse three? We are told that suddenly God spoke, ‘let there be light...and there was light.’ The darkness came to an end, the fear, insecurity came to an end. So, it shall be for you and our nation.

“In the next verse, scripture says, God saw the light that it was good... so it shall be for you and our nation; the light will come and it shall be good, very good.”





Muhammad Dingyadi

## FG Approves Over N4bn For Fuelling Of Police Vehicles

The Federal government has approved over N4 billion for the fuelling of police vehicles across the Police Commands in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Minister of Police Affairs, Muhammad Dingyadi, revealed this at the presentation of a paper titled "Strategic Leadership Development: The Role of the Ministry of Police Affairs."

"The ministry is deeply grateful to Mr President and the National Assembly for approving funds for the supply of fuel to the 36 states Police Commands across the country and FCT to increase their efficiency," he was quoted as saying in a statement by the spokesperson for the ministry, Bolaji Kazeem.

"As we speak, the Police Trust Fund has awarded contracts for the supply of more operational vehicles, body protection vest and helmet, arms and ammunition, drugs and medical equipment, and other critical security hardware."

Dingyadi made the presentation on Tuesday to course participants of the Strategic Leadership and Command Course 3/2021 at the National Institute of Police Studies in Abuja.

He stated that the approval captured in the 2021 budget is the first in the history of the Nigeria Police as the ministry intends to sustain the gesture that will be carried out on a quarterly basis.

In its resolve to ensure quality service delivery, the minister said the government would continue to make training and development of police officers a top priority.

He hinted that the Director in charge of Training and Development, among other vital units, was directed to ensure that the skills and competencies of police personnel and civilian staff of the ministry were developed for improved service delivery.

Dingyadi disclosed that the Federal Executive Council recently approved the Automation

of Police Specialised Services to promote transparency and accountability, as well as serve as an additional source of funding to enhance police operations.

He described the ministry as the vanguard for the positive reforms in the Nigeria Police to enable the Force keep up with the ever-changing society and advancement in technology.

"Specifically, we focus on reforms that will translate to improve skills and competencies," the minister said. "However, it should be noted that some of these reforms take time to implement.

"But we shall continue to push and collaborate with relevant partners like the British Council, Department for International Development, the United Kingdom, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) CLEEN Foundation, and other NGOs who have been working closely with us."

## Taraba FRSC Sector Commander reads riot act against extortion of motorists by Marshals

By Danzumi Ishaku, Jalingo

Corps Commander Selina William, Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Taraba command has warned personnel against extorting money from motorists.

William issued the warning on Wednesday while speaking to newsmen in Jalingo.

She described the organization as Noble and reputation in all its dealings.

Selina said that the command had deployed its sectorial intelligent to fish out corrupt marshal, assuring that any culprit would be dismissed from the service.

She said that two teams had been dismissed in the past for

bribery related offences, adding that discipline and integrity were the Hallmark of the organization.

The sector commander said that the ban on markets along high ways was sacrosanct to the safety of drivers and citizens.

She insisted that holding markets along highways posed serious danger to both commuters and the people.

According to her, government can not allocate markets along highways.

Selina said that he tenure as the sector commander has reduced accidents drastically.

She expressed the determination of the Corp to save lives rather than rescue.

She noted that the Marshalls who indulged into bribery were taking blood money.

She however, advised motorists to desist from giving bribe to Marshalls, urging them to report to the command any marshal who unduly demand for bribe.



BO Oyeyemi

## FG to Reintroduce Toll Gates On Highways

The Federal Government on Wednesday announced the readiness to reintroduce toll collections on some selected "motorable" dual carriageways across the country.

The Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola disclosed this while briefing State House reporters after the weekly Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting presided over by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

He said the tolling to be reintroduced on dual carriageways would cover only 5,050 kilometres (14.3 percent) out of the total 35,000 kilometres federal roads.

It would be recalled that President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration dismantled all toll on federal roads across the country in 2003.

The minister said the modalities are now being worked out to determine how soon the tolling system will take off.

He said: "The Ministry of Works and Housing presented a policy memorandum for the approval

of federal roads, bridges, tolling policy, and also a regulation that will provide a legal framework for the tolling policy. So, we have taken another step. So, let me be clear, tolls are not going to start tomorrow. So, let us be clear about that.

"But the big step to actual tolling was taken today by presenting for approval the broad policy that will guide the tolling so that local people, states, local governments, all those who manage roads, investors who want to come in, will know what our tolling policy is. And that will form the basis of their financial modelling, their investment decision."

The minister also said the toll collected apart from being used to maintain the roads would also be used to construct new ones while the toll system will be electronically driven for transparency.

"We will also be going through a process of largely electronic toll collection and management system for audit and transparency. We'll still have some cash at the very many more and hopefully phased that out as we go ahead," he said.

## NMA threatens to join Resident Doctors' Strike

The Nigeria Medical Association NMA has chided both Federal and State Governments for the lingering strike action of the National Association of Resident Doctors which had paralyzed hospitals across the country to the detriment of the Nigerian people.

It warned that it would join forces if resident doctors were not paid all their due wages and the strike lingers.

NMA in a statement issued on Friday, signed by its Chairman on Inter Affiliate Affairs, Dr Rosemary Uzowulu, titled, "High cost of governance maintained yet payment of doctors to avert health sector destruction a failure from government", described the ongoing strike as uncalled for if those in corridors of power were sincere.

The body of doctors accused the political leaders of playing a game with the health of Nigerians because they could afford overseas medical treatment.

The statement partly read: "it is most unfortunate that budget allocation for newspapers for assembly members, state governors,

the presidency is approved and implemented within days of signing by Mr President, and yet the residency training allocation budgeted and endorsed cannot be implemented.

"The country in face of the high cost of governance has decided to use the health of her subject to play chess game where king and queens display the power of crown by killing their guards.

"I call on well-meaning Nigerians across the country to quickly put a stop to the strike by mandating those concerned including the state governors for state hospitals to pay the resident doctors all their due wages or stand the chance of black cloud collapse from NMA if the battle lingers."



Prof. I. Ujah, NMA President

By Zhong Sheng, People's Daily



# Perspective

## U.S. the biggest threat to peace, stability in South China Sea

The U.S. is the biggest threat to peace and stability in the South China Sea, and it is not qualified to make irresponsible remarks on the issue of the South China Sea, said Charge d'Affaires of Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations. He made the remarks immediately after a U.S. representative groundlessly accused China of coercion and bullying other countries in the South China Sea and made hypes about the so-called South China Sea Arbitration at a Security Council meeting on maritime security held on Aug. 9. It was not the first time for the U.S. to make a conflict on the issue of the South China Sea to undermine regional peace and stability. The so-called South China Sea Arbitration was nothing but a political farce directed by Washington, and valuing it so much, the U.S. would only once again prove such fact. China's sovereignty, rights and interests in the South China Sea have been formed in the course of a long history. They are supported by abundant historical and legal basis, and conform to relevant international law and practices. The South China Sea Arbitration violated the principle of state consent and the arbitral tribunal exercised its jurisdiction ultra vires and rendered an award in disregard of law. The arbitration has major fallacies in fact-finding and application of law and violates the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and international law. The award of the Arbitration is illegal and null. China does not accept or participate in the Arbitration, nor does it accept or recognize the award. China's sovereignty and rights and interests over the South China Sea are not affected at all by the arbitration and China does not accept any claim or act based on it. The so-called coercion and bullying practices by China on the South China Sea are sheer nonsense. In recent years, China and countries concerned have effectively managed differences through dialogue and consultation and continuously promoted practical cooperation. China and ASEAN countries fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and actively promote consultations on the "Code of Conduct in the South China Sea" with major progress. The South China Sea is one of the busiest sea lanes in the world and the lifeline of China's maritime trade. Some 30 percent of global trade in goods and each year about

100,000 merchant vessels transit through the South China Sea. With the joint efforts of countries in the region including China, passage through the South China Sea has always been smooth and safe, and not a single vessel has ever reported that its navigation is hindered or safety threatened in the South China Sea. Facts have repeatedly proved that China and relevant countries are totally capable of properly managing differences, building the South China Sea into a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation, and safeguarding peace, stability, and long-term security of the region. The U.S. is indeed the one that is resorting to coercion and bullying practices in the South China Sea. As a non-contracting party of the UNCLOS, it is even pointing fingers at

other countries and interfering in their domestic affairs with the law. The U.S. is not a party concerned to the South China Sea issue, and should keep its commitment of not taking a position on the South China Sea sovereignty issue. However, the U.S. has done everything to muddy the waters in the South China Sea. It willfully sends large-scale advanced vessels and aircraft to the South China Sea for military reconnaissance and drills and illegally intruded into China's territorial waters and space and water and air space adjacent to islands and reefs. The spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in July that the U.S. side has conducted close-in reconnaissance for nearly 2,000 times and over 20 large-scale military drills on the sea targeting

China since the beginning of this year. What's more, the U.S. abuses bilateral military agreements that smack of the Cold War to threaten to use force on China. This exposes its power politics logic and hegemonic practices. It is self-evident who is seeking coercion and intimidation and threatening freedom and security of navigation. The so-called "not making a distinction between countries in and outside the region" recently raised by the U.S. disregards the justified and legitimate rights and interests of coastal states of the South China Sea. Former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad once said that it is believed that China would exercise restraint on the issue of the South China Sea, but some unfriendly countries outside the region would try to provoke conflicts. Peace and stability is the common strategic objective of China and ASEAN countries. China has the resolve and capability to uphold national sovereignty and territorial security, and will continue working with regional countries to safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea. We sternly urge the U.S. to stop its sinister ploy in the South China Sea, as any attempt to muddy the waters in the region is doomed to fail.



China's deputy permanent representative Dai Bing





## FG Receives 177,600 Doses Of J&J Covid-19 Vaccine

The Federal Government on Thursday took delivery of 177,600 doses of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

The single-shot J&J vaccine was acquired through the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT), with support from Afrexim bank.

According to the Africa Centre for Disease Control, the vaccines were partly manufactured in Africa.

The vaccines are expected to be deployed in hard-to-reach areas, to eliminate the need for travel for a second dose.

More of the J&J vaccines are expected in the country. Health Minister Osagie Ehanire said on Thursday Nigeria has procured nearly 40 million doses of the vaccine through AVAT.

Nigeria is expected to step up its Covid vaccination program after receiving over four million doses of the Moderna vaccine from the US government last week.

Only about one percent of the population has been vaccinated, so far.

The second phase of the national vaccination programme is expected to kick-off next Monday.

## Buhari government executing 800 contracts, 13,000 km roads – Fashola

By Danzumi Ishaku, Jalingo

The Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola on Friday said that the current administration was executing 800 contracts and 13,000 Klm roads and Bridges across Nigeria.

Fashola made the declaration while inspecting work on the Chanchanji bridge in Takum local government area of Taraba.

He gave assurance that in no distance time most of the jobs under construction would be completed to enhance security, economy and entrepreneurship for Nigerians.

He also expressed the determination of the present administration to link Nigerians from all parts of the country through roads and bridges.

Fashola, however, appealed to Nigerians to be patient as all hands were on deck to complete most projects located in each of the 36 states.

The minister also announced that the Federal government would consider the taking over of

the execution of the 30 klm Takum Chanchangi road rehabilitation from the Taraba government.

Daybreak reports that the Taraba government had awarded the said contract to the SCC Nigeria Ltd but the outbreak of Covid 19 pandemic had affected the funding of the project.

Fashola said that the enormous importance of the road that linked Taraba and many other parts of the country necessitated the consideration by the Federal government to take over the project.

He said that the ministry was in the process of designing and costing the project before it's award, adding that he would sought for funding of the project from Mr President.

The minister expressed satisfaction with the work done on the bridge by the SCC Nigeria Ltd, the contractor handling the Chanchangi bridge project.

He assured residents that the work would be completed in the next three months.

He also directed the ministry officials to redesign the ancient Chanchanji bridge constructed by the military as an alternative

bridge to be used by motorcyclists and pedestrians.

Earlier, Mr Abubakar Yakubu, Controller of Works, Taraba Field Headquarters, Federal ministry of Works and Housing Jalingo commended the contractor for the good Job.

Yakubu said that the contract execution has reached 80 per cent completion, maintaining that its execution was in line with the original design.

Also speaking, Shiban Tikari, Chairman of Takum Local government council commended the Federal government for the gigantic project under construction.

Tikari also thanked the federal government for the planned take over of the Takum Chanchangi road project which was highly deplorable.

He said that the two projects, when completed, would boost socio economic activities in Takum and it's environs.

He assured the contractors of maximum cooperation of the residents and security in the area.

## Kaduna Assembly lifts suspension on ex-deputy speaker

The Kaduna State House of Assembly has lifted the suspension of its former deputy speaker, Alhaji Muktar Isa-Hazo, member representing Basawa constituency.

Isa-Hazo and three other members have been on suspension for over a year.

The decision followed a motion moved by Alhaji Ahmad Muhammad, member

representing Zaria Kewaye constituency during plenary, on Wednesday in Kaduna,

Muhammad said, "I stand before you to refresh your memory that sometime in April last year, I raised a motion on the suspension of four members of the assembly.

"Namely, Alhaji Mukhtar Isa Hazo, former deputy speaker, Salisu Isa, member

representing Magajin Gari constituency, Alhaji Yusuf Liman of Makera/Kakuri and Mr Nuhu Goroh Shadalafiya, representing Kagarko constituency.

"I am here today, to plead with the honourable speaker and the honourable members of the house on behalf of one of them, Alhaj Mukhtar Isa-Hazo of Basawa constituency, who has been pleading publicly more than once and on several occasions.

"Because of the remorse he showed, I am pleading with the speaker to look into his matter to recall him back to the chamber so as to continue with his legislative duty."

He said that this would serve as an example to the other three members, to publicly ask for forgiveness so they could be recalled.

"It is our prayer that they will hopefully be back with us by next plenary sitting," he pleaded.

In response, the Speaker, Alhaji Yusuf Zailani said he would never reject the request as he awaits the other three members to do same.

He directed the Clerk of the House to communicate the decision to Isa-Hazo, so that he will return and continue his legislative work.

"The God we all serve is a forgiving one, and if someone hurts you and you forgive, then the Almighty will forgive your own sin too.

"It is a very wonderful day for me today as one of my friends moved a motion to recall my other friends back to the house, and no matter what happen, Hazo is my friend and will continue to be," he said.

Isa-Hazo and the three other members were on August 11, 2020, suspended for causing fracas during plenary.

Their nine months suspension, which ended in April 2021, was also extended by the assembly because of their failure to apologise to the House.

One of those involved in the alleged fracas was the former speaker of the assembly, Aminu Abdullahi-Shagali, whose seat was declared vacant and by-election conducted by INEC for Sabongari constituency, which he represented.

## Buhari Returns From UK Trip

President Muhammadu Buhari has returned to Abuja after spending 18 days in London, the United Kingdom.

Buhari's plane, Nigeria Air Force 1, touched down at the Presidential wing of the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja, at about 6pm on Friday.

The President was received at the airport by his Chief of Staff, Professor Ibrahim Gambari; National Security Adviser, Major-General Babagana Monguno (rtd); Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Lucky Irabor; Chief of Army Staff; Lieutenant-General Farouk Yahaya; Chief of Naval Staff; Vice Admiral Awwal Zubairu; Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Isiaka Amoo; the Inspector General of Police, Usman Alkali Baba and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Mohammed Musa Bello.

On arrival, Buhari inspected a guard of honour mounted by officers and men of the Guards Brigade of the Nigerian Army before watching displays by cultural troops representing different cultures.

Thereafter, the President hopped into an helicopter which took him to the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

The Nigeria Police Force had on Thursday night hinted that Buhari will return to Abuja on Friday.

He spent two weeks in the United Kingdom during which he attended an international summit on education as well as visited his private doctors for



Buhari Returning from UK trip

routine medical check-up.

On Thursday, President Buhari met National Leader of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu, said to be recuperating in London.

As president, Buhari has spent a total of 201 days in the UK for summits and medical check-up.

Buhari just returned from his second medical visit to the UK in 2021. On

March 30, he travelled on a medical trip to London and returned to the country after two weeks.

Protesters had marched to the Nigerian Diplomatic Mission in London during the president's visit in March. They had asked him to return to the country and fix the system.

The president did not travel abroad all through 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

By Adefolarin A. Olamilekan

Conversely, half of the world's population is under 25 years old; as 40 per cent of it under 19. Equally this has shown that we have younger generation than the older generations out there. To this end this is a cause for worry but it also a ray of hope for the future. However, it has been said that young people are always at the centre of public advancement once the opportunity is avail them.

This now bring us to core of this piece, charging the Nasarawa state government under the leadership of our amiable Governor AA Sule administration closing the gap between his administration and youths in the state.

It is reassuring in any case that the Governor AA Sule administration has committed to youth programmes model to treat young people as an assets and resource.

Under Governor AA Sule administration more youths are now assuming leadership roles, especially in their LGAs and communities level. The recent APC LGAs and Ward Councillorship attest to this, as well as appointments.

It is on records that Nasarawa



## Opinion

### Case of Governor A. A. Sule closing the space between Govt and Youths

state can boost of shining youths with great skills and intellects. Nonetheless, the developmental challenges in Nasarawa state today are particularly intricate and interconnected one such is given greater space for youth development and aspiration.

Interestingly, we have listen to Governor in the person of Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule that will not allow a developmental thrust driven by competing political, social and economic, religious and cultural

even party affiliation forces. Convincingly, he in his capacity should be able to establish a system that works to a considerable degree in bringing Nasarawa state young people into a new reality of governance.

Simply put, the phenomenon of governance in today Nasarawa state cannot avoid its teeming young people helping to solve and contributing in our challenges in the state.

One of slang of youth I comes to

appreciate “there is no time for no time” Thus, it is never late; we must bring to the fore our hands in collaboration with Governor AA Sule administration leading in our state developmental strides Nevertheless, envisioning and working toward a state of affairs where young people of Nasarawa state male and female alike take action and make an impact on vital state as we

ll as there community issues. Meanwhile, we believe Governor AA Sule administration is so concerned about the development of Nasarawa state our case is to factor at the centre young people.

And this we accept as true to Governor AA Sule in his administration blue print of development. Poignantly, “Engagement” is the key, this in our “Modest” submission.



Gov Sule

General Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida (GCFR) will be eighty on Wednesday August 17. He is the second longest Military ruler in Nigeria, the first being General Yakubu Gowon, GCFR, who ruled Nigeria from August 1, 1966 to July 29, 1975. General Babangida ruled Nigeria from August 27, 1985 to August 26, 1993. His classmates at Government College Bida were General Abdusalam Abubakar, GCFR, General Mohammed Mamman Magoro, Major General Mamman Jiya Vatsa, Major General Muhammed Gado Nasko, Major General Garba Duba, Mr. Paul Babale, Aliyu Makama, Ibrahim Sanda, Abulmaliki Ndayako, Mohammed Bello Ndayako, Abdulrahim Dangana and Alhaji Alhassan Bisallat.

Till today historians are still debating his role in the project called Nigeria. One cannot be neutral when discussing General Babangida, you either like him passionately or dislike him passionately. At the time General Babangida took over power, one fifth, if not one-third of Nigerians of today were not born. Maybe a chronology of what he did may help define the man to the present generation of Nigerians.

He made major decisions that he will carry to his grave. In July 1986, he introduced the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) and on September 29, 1986, the second-tier foreign

## The cross IBB still carries at 80

*On June 23, 1993, General Babangida annulled the Presidential election held on June 12, 1993. It was the last act that turned out to be tragic both for General Babangida and the country. The annulment is a cross he still carries today. He paid for that act by “stepping aside” on August 26, 1993. Too many scholars, writers and commentators have implied that many of Nigeria’s problems worsened by the annulment.*

exchange market took off. He moved the seat of government from Lagos to Abuja on December 12, 1991. He completed and commissioned the third Mainland Bridge in Lagos on August 17, 1991 which was by then the longest bridge in Africa. On March 15, 1988, he launched the new population policy of one woman four children to check the problem of over population in the country. On September 9, 1987, he created Akwa-Ibom and Katsina states. On August 27, 1991, he created Abia, Anambra, Delta, Jigawa, Kebbi, Kogi, Osun, Yobe and Taraba states. He then created forty-seven new local governments on that day. On September 23, 1991, he created additional eighty-nine local governments. On December 14, 1991, governorship elections were held, the

National Republican Convention won 16 while SDP won 14. On January 2, 1992, the democratically elected governors were sworn-in and their deputies.

They were Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu and Clement Nwankwo (Abia), Alhaji Sale Michika and Mr. Lynn Nathan (Adamawa), Obong Akpan Semin and Etim Okpoyo (Akwa Ibom), Dr. Chukwuemeka Ezeife and Dr. Chidi Mwike (Anambra), Alhaji Dahiru Mohammed and Alhaji Umaru Ahmed (Bauchi), Reverend Father Moses Adasu and Yakubu Agda (Benue), Alhaji Maiji Lawan and Alhaji Hassan (Borno), Clement Ebri and Cecilia Ekpeyong (Cross River), Felix Ibru and Samson Ebonka (Delta), John Odiegun and Reverend Peter Obada (Edo), Okwesilieze Nwodo and Dr. Icha Ituma

(Enugu), Evans Enwerem and Dr. Douglas Acholonu (Imo), Alhaji A.S. Biminkudi and Alhaji Shehu Kwafalo (Jigawa), Alhaji Muhammed Lere and James Mugaji (Kaduna), Alhaji Kabiru Gaya and Alhaji Ahmed Usman (Kano), Alhaji Saidu Barda and Alhaji Abdullahi Amidu (Katsina), Alhaji Shaaba Lafajaji and Prince Ojo Fadumila (Kwara), Alhaji Abubakar Musa and Alhaji Aliyu Mohammed (Kebbi), Alhaji Abubakar Audu and S. Ola Akande (Kogi), Chief Michael Otedola and Alhaji Sinatu Ojikutu (Lagos), Dr. Musa Inuwa and Alhaji Jibo Garba (Niger), Chief Olusegun Osoba, the Aremo, and Alhaji Rafiu Ogunleye (Ogun), Chief Bamidele Olumilua and Dr Olusegun Agagu (Ondo), Alhaji Isiaka Adeleke and Clement Adesuyi Haastrup (Osun), Kolapo Ishola and Alhaji Ahmed Gbadamosi (Oyo), Fidelis Tapgun and Alhaji Bala Usman (Plateau), Rufus Ada-George and Dr. Peter Odili (Rivers), Alhaji Yahaya Abdulkarim and Alhaji Ahmed Gusau (Sokoto), Reverend Jolly Nyame and Alhaji S.D. Gani (Taraba) and Alhaji Abba Ibrahim and Alhaji Goni Bura (Yobe).

On July 4, 1992, elections were held into the two houses of the National Assembly, NRC won thirty-seven senate seats and two hundred and seventy five seats in the House of Representatives while SDP won 52 senate seats and 314 seats in the House of Representatives.

# Business & Economy

## World Bank Names Nigeria Among Nations With High Debt Risk

The World Bank has listed Nigeria and nine other countries as nations with high-debt risk exposure.

In a financial statement for the International Development Association (IDA) released on Monday, the World Bank pegged Nigeria at number five with a \$11.7b IDA debt stock.

“As of June 30, 2021, the ten countries with the highest exposures accounted for 66% of IDA’s total exposure,” it explained in the document.

“IDA’s largest exposure to a single borrowing country, India, was \$22 billion as of June 30, 2021. Monitoring these exposures relative to the SBL, requires consideration of the repayment profiles of existing loans, as well as disbursement profiles and projected new loans and guarantees.”

India tops the list with an IDA debt stock of \$22b. Bangladesh – with \$18.1b – is second and followed by Pakistan (\$16.4b), and Vietnam with \$14.1b.

Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana and Uganda complete the top 10 list in that order.

“IDA faces two types of credit risk: country credit risk and counterparty credit risk,” the World Bank further explained.

“Country credit risk is the risk of loss due to a country not meeting its contractual obligations, and counterparty credit risk is the risk of loss attributable to a counterparty not honoring its contractual obligations. IDA is exposed to commercial as well as noncommercial counterparty credit risk.”

As of September 2020, Nigeria had taken a \$31.98b worth of loans from the World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund (IMF), African Development Bank (AfDB), according to the Debt Management Office (DMO).



Mrs Patience Oniha

## GTBank operations grounded in Kaduna

By Gabriel Udeh, Kaduna

Guaranty Trust Bank (Gtbank), Kaduna main branch, located at the popular Murtala square, has been shutdown.

The bank computers, Generator systems and other valuables have also reportedly been confiscated.

The incident occurred Wednesday evening

when some people allegedly implementing a court judgement with some police escorts stormed the premises of the bank.

Eyewitness said the people, suspected to be acting on the order of court invaded the bank around 4:00pm and shutdown it dow Wednesday evening taking away the valuables in a van.

Simultaneously, the bank branch, also at Kaduna Central market area was also completely shut down with customers left stranded.

A private security guard (name withheld) however confirmed to our correspondent that the bank was out of cash at that particular time, when asked.

Contacted for clarification, the Kaduna police command spokesman Muhammed Jalige could not respond.

Our reporter who went round on Thursday afternoon confirmed from some of the bank staffs that all Kaduna branch, with issues have been temporarily shutdown.

## Green Africa’s inaugural flight arrives Abuja Airport amid low fare

Green Africa, Nigeria’s Lagos-based value airline, officially commenced commercial flights as inaugural flight arrived at the Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja amid low fare of N16,500.

The airline’s Brand Marketing Specialist, Mrs Oyindamola Fashogbon, made this known in a statement in Lagos on Friday.

Fashogbon said the airline commenced

its first flight operations following the announcement of the receipt of Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA).

She said that operations started officially on Thursday with an inaugural flight from Lagos to Abuja on one of the airline’s ATR 72-600s.

She added that the first flights into other destinations from Lagos are scheduled between

Aug. 14 and 2, adding that customers who want to book a flight should visit greenafrica.com and enjoy low fares from N16,500.

Fashogbon said the airline’s officials received passengers and several stakeholders from Lagos checked-in at the airline’s counters situated in the Alpha Terminal of the Murtala Muhammed Airport 1 (GAT).

She said: “The aircraft was given a special welcome to Abuja with a water canon salute as the aircraft touched down on the ramp.

“As part of the inaugural flight ceremony, customers were engaged inflight in an interactive ‘knowledge test’ session.

“Hence, three customers each won a voucher with 10kg baggage allowance for their next flight with the airline.”

Fashogbon said the inaugural flight ceremony also featured cake cutting and photo sessions with celebrities and guests.

On arrival in Abuja, Babawande Afolabi, Founder and CEO, Green Africa while addressing customers, aviation dignitaries and newmen said the airline was on a mission to connect more people in the country and Africa.

Afolabi said the airline was ready to connect them to their dreams and opportunities, adding that it was what kept them going in spite of the odds over the last several years.

Our correspondent reports that customers from Abuja are to check-in at Green Africa counters situated at Terminal D, Domestic wing, Nnamdi Azikwe International Airport, Abuja.

## Nigeria Generates N472bn as Company Income Tax in Q2 2021

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has said N472.07 billion was generated as Company Income Tax (CIT) in Quarter Two (Q2, 2021) as against N392.64 billion generated in Q1, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) has reported.

The NBS said this on Wednesday in Abuja in its “Company Income Tax By Sectors Q2, 2021” data published on its website.

The sum, which reflected an increase of N79.43 billion over Q1, also reflected an increase of N70.04 billion over N402.03 billion that was generated in Q2, 2020.

The NBS said that the figure represents 20.23 per cent increase Quarter-on-Quarter and 17.42 per cent increase Year-on-Year.

“Professional services generated the highest amount of CIT with N130.09 billion generated, closely followed by other manufacturing which generated

N87.27 billion, while banks and financial institutions generated N60.01 billion.

“Textile and garment industry generated the least with N27.23 million, closely followed by automobiles and assemblies with N62.15 million and pioneering with N64.30 million generated,” it said.

The bureau said that out of the total amount generated in the period under review, N412.74 billion was generated as CIT locally, while N51.61 billion was generated as foreign CIT payment.

It added that the balance of N2.72 billion was generated as CIT from other payments.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported that in arriving at the report, data was provided by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), verified and validated by the NBS. (NAN)

## Fly Our New Airport, IYC Urges Oil Companies

By Amgbare Ekaunkumo, Yenagoa

The Ijaw Youths Council (IYC) Worldwide has appealed to oil companies operating in the Niger Delta region to patronise the new aviation route to the Bayelsa International Cargo Airport.

The IYC President, Peter Timothy Igbifa, in a statement in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on Friday described as historic and commendable the Wednesday’s inaugural commercial flight at the airport.

Igbifa, who was one of the passengers that witnessed the flight, said oil companies should assist in the development and growth of the new airport by encouraging their employees to fly the route.

He said the new feat accomplished by the Bayelsa State Governor, Douye Diri, “would open Bayelsa to the world and bring the world to Bayelsa”.

He said the governor had further engraved Bayelsa and the Ijaw nation in the world map and commended the past administration of Governor Seriake Dickson for initiating and completing the airport project.

Igbifa prayed for Bayelsa Government to seek funds and invest further in the aviation industry by floating an airline that would help tap the tourism potential of the state.

He said: “History was made in Bayelsa State, the Jerusalem of the Ijaw nation, on Wednesday following the landing of a commercial flight, owned and operated by the United Nigerian Airline at the International Cargo Airport located in

Amassoma, Southern Ijaw.

“By this singular act, our state has expressed its commitment to creating enabling and easy environment for businesses and other commercial undertakings to thrive in Bayelsa.

“The council(IYC) congratulate our Governor, Senator Douye Diri, for achieving this feat and thanked the Special Adviser on Investment, Jonathan Obuebite, the Director of Protocol, Mr. Goodluck, the entire government team and the good people of Bayelsa State for their commitment in actualising this feat.

“We also call on oil companies operating in the Niger Delta region especially Bayelsa oil field operators to support the efforts of the state governor by creating a Logistics Base in Bayelsa Airport.



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# Politics

## No More Cold War Among PDP Members

... Gov Ortom, says Party is Prepared for Victory in future elections

By Isaac Kertyo, Makurdi

Governor Samuel Ortom of Benue State says the cold war which brewed within the People's Democratic party, PDP, recently has been amicably resolved.

Briefing Journalists at the Makurdi Airport shortly after returning from Abuja where he attended an expanded Stakeholders meeting of the party, Ortom assured of the PDP's preparedness to win future elections.

The Governor noted that the party has vowed to remain resolute despite being intimidated and blackmailed by the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, adding that PDP is fully prepared to wrestle power from the former in 2023 general elections.

He pointed out that the party has learned from its past mistakes and will serve as a beacon of hope for the country's democracy, stressing that PDP has the capacity to provide a better alternative.

Ortom said the Governors elected on the platform of the party have remained united in promoting the interest of PDP above personal issues.

## INEC Raises the Alarm over Fake CVR Online Portal

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has raised the alarm over a fake Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) registration portal in circulation.

The National Commissioner and Chairman, Information and Voter Education Committee, Mr. Festus Okoye, in a statement yesterday said the attention of the Commission was drawn to a post, which is currently being circulated on social media, about a website for INEC voter registration which is different from the INEC CVR Portal.

Mr. Okoye revealed the fake portal as <https://register.inec-pvc.online/> with shortened URL as <https://bit.ly/INEC-PvcReg2021>.

"INEC wishes to totally disassociate itself from this website and any activity carried out on it.

"The Commission states that it has not accredited any agency or organisation to capture details of intending voters on its behalf.

"The general public is hereby informed that the INEC Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) online portal remains <https://cvr.inecnigeria.org>," Okoye said.



Yakubu

## Gov Ortom Promises to Uplifts Benue Youths, as World Marks International Youths Day

By Isaac Kertyo, Makurdi

Benue State Governor, Samuel Ortom has restated his administration's commitment to accord top priority programs that seek to empower youths of the state.

Ortom in a message of solidarity to the Youths through his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Terver Akase on the occasion of the World International Youths Day, contended that last year's End SARS protest calls for Governments at all levels to address the plight of youths in the country.

The Governor posited that it was in the bid to find solutions to the yearnings of the Youths in the state that his administration organized the 2020 Benue Youths Summit which came up with laudable recommendations.

He assured that the recommendations of the summit would be implemented, assuring that more plans are underway to engage the youths positively in the state.

The Governor who described the theme of this year's International Youths Day which is "Training food systems, Youths Innovation as timely, restated his Government's commitment towards encouraging the youths to take advantage of the numerous activities of government in agric and entrepreneurship to become self employed.

Ortom stressed that the present administration under his watch would sustain partnership with the private sector to create jobs for the youths of the state, even as he enjoined them to eschew acts that could destroy their future.

## Northern Governors Mourn Wife Of Late President Hadiza Shagari



The Northern Governors Forum has sympathised with the family of former President Shehu Shagari over the death of his Widow, Hajiya Hadiza Shehu Shagari who died in Abuja on Thursday 12th August 2021.

In a statement, Chairman of the Forum and Governor of Plateau State Simon Bako Lalong expressed deep sadness over the demise of the former First Lady who played a great role in the successes of her late husband and advanced the cause of women and children.

According to Governor Lalong,

late Hajiya Hadiza Shagari was a humble woman who devoted significant attention to moral upbringing of not only her biological children and others she mentored, but also supported and promoted activities aimed at improving the nutrition, health and rights of women at all levels.

While asking God to grant her soul eternal rest, Lalong expressed the condolences of the Northern Governors to the Shagari family as well as Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal and the entire people of Sokoto State.

## I'd Have Resigned If Govt Had Paid Ransom – Kidnapped Niger Commissioner

A Niger state commissioner who regained freedom from bandits on Thursday has said he would have resigned if the government had paid ransom to secure his release.

Muhammad Idris, the State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, revealed this while speaking to journalists at his Minna residence.

He spent about five days with his abductors before he was released.

While narrating his ordeal in the hands of the bandits, he said that he had committed everything to God and resolved that a ransom will not be paid.

He appreciated the Niger State Governor, Abubakar Sani Bello for maintaining the policy of non-ransom

payment to bandits.

According to him, his release was as the result of prayers, adding that he remained resolute and could not be broken down by the bandits and eventually, after a lengthy discussion with the bandits, he was set free.

He said that he was happy to be reunited with his family and that he was happy to be a cabinet member of the state especially with the love he has received

The commissioner was seen with his daughter who he said witnessed the incident and the brutality on him before he was whisked away.

The commissioner's son, Faisal Idris, said the family was happy that their father has been reunited with them and credited God for the release.



Muhammad Idris

# Inside China

## Free training programs launched by NE China's Jilin province help rural women embrace better life

By Liu Yiqing, People's Daily

To help more rural women find jobs or start their own businesses, northeast China's Jilin province has implemented free training programs to train them in handicraft skills and e-commerce skills.

After participating in the training programs, an increasing number of women in rural areas gained practical skills, found jobs, and witnessed steady growth in their income.

Shao Mingshuang, a resident in Nanshandao village, Jilin city, Jilin province, has learned straw plaiting skills at a training session. "I usually use more red threads so that the small basket looks more festive," Shao said, sharing her experience in handicraft making.

"I can earn more than ten yuan (about \$1.54) for each basket I make. Thanks to the training, I'm able to make a living with my skills," Shao added happily.

When she was little, Shao broke her spine and has since been disabled. She often feels pain in the cervical and lumbar vertebrae, and her upper body can't stretch up straight. Because of her physical condition, Shao had difficulty finding a job.

After her husband died, Shao had no source of income and merely lived on subsistence allowance from the government and the money from the transfer of her land-use right to others and sewing clothes for neighbors.

At that time, She only earned about 5,000 yuan a year and was so poor that she couldn't afford to buy new clothes for years.

In August 2016, the women's federation and disabled persons' federation of Jilin National High-tech Industrial Development Zone got in touch with Shao to inform her that she could learn straw plaiting skills at a free training session held in Chaijia

village, a village near Shao's hometown. She was also told that besides training people in handicraft skills, the training session even provided free materials, meals and accommodation for participants.

Shao watched with interest how participants at the training session turned corn leaves into exquisite handicrafts. "The training was perfect for me, as the skills don't require much physical strength and I can finish the work at home," she said.

Based on her sewing experience, Shao soon became skilled at straw plaiting. With the technique, she can now earn about 1,000 yuan more a month than before.

While benefiting from the straw plaiting training session, Shao also consulted workers at the local disabled persons' federation about other kinds of training courses.

Over the past five years, Shao has participated in training courses on paper-cutting, Chinese knot, embroidery, calligraphy and other handicraft skills. "Although I have just learned the basic techniques, my horizons have been broadened because of these incredible crafts," Shao noted.

In recent years, Jilin province has carried out such training courses across the province, asking women's federations at all levels to invite handicraftsmen to teach rural women and unemployed women in urban areas for free.

Taking advantage of local natural resources and folk culture, the province has organized training courses on over 20 kinds of handicrafts, including straw plaiting, matryoshka doll painting and resin craftwork making, benefiting over 60,000 people.

To help sell the handicrafts, Jilin province has adopted an order-based training model, under which enterprises place orders for handicrafts from training bases before training sessions and women make relevant



Photo taken on May 28, 2021, shows a straw plaiting skills training course arranged by the women's federation of Jiaohe city, northeast China's Jilin province. (Photo/Official website of the government of Jiaohe city)

products according to the orders after receiving training.

It is estimated that since it was launched, the handicraft skills training program has enabled over 80,000 women to either start up businesses or work at home, bringing them an average annual income of over 5,000 yuan each. So far, the sales of handicrafts produced under the program have exceeded 400 million yuan.

Together with the commerce bureau of Jilin city, women's federation in Jilin city has also rolled out a training program on online

marketing and other Internet-related skills. Meanwhile, they have also made efforts to help women open online stores and provide e-commerce beginners with places, facilities and warehouses free of charge as well as logistics services at below market price.

So far, Jilin city has trained about 1,200 e-commerce practitioners under the program. Many rural women have combined e-commerce with handicraft making, with more and more rural women leveraging live-streaming to promote their products.

## Migrating elephant herd in SW China's Yunnan heads for home after long trek

On the evening of August 8, 14 wild elephants which had been migrating northward in southwest China's Yunnan province crossed the Yuanjiang River safely and continued to head south, according to a press conference held recently in Kunming city, capital city of Yunnan.

The elephant herd is now in a wood near Honghe subdistrict, Yuanjiang county, Yuxi city of Yunnan, which is 26 kilometers away from Mojiang county, Pu'er city of the province.

This means that all the original 15 Asian elephants heading north, including one male separated from the herd that was returned to their original habitat in a nature reserve in Yunnan's Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture on July 7, have been on their way home.

According to Wan Yong, who heads the headquarters in charge of monitoring the

migrating elephants, these elephants left their original habitat in March 2020. In July 2020, the herd entered Pu'er city. Then on April 16, 2021, they wandered into Yuanjiang county, Yuxi city of Yunnan.

Since then, the herd has trekked more than 1,300 kilometers and over 110 days through eight county-level regions under Yuxi city, Hani and Yi autonomous prefecture and Kunming city of Yunnan.

In response to the migrating elephants, Yunnan has evacuated residents and promoted claims settlement regarding relevant damages while monitoring the elephants, making efforts to ensure the safety of both residents along the route as well as the animals.

As of August 8, Yunnan province had dispatched over 25,000 police officers and relevant staff members, deployed 973 drones and over 15,000 vehicles to monitor and guide the migrating elephants. Meanwhile,

the province had evacuated more than 150,000 residents to avoid conflicts between them and the migrating elephant herd and provided nearly 180 tons of food for the herd, pointed out Wan, who is also head of the forestry and grassland bureau of Yunnan.

Wildlife public liability insurance companies had received 1,501 cases of declaration of losses caused by the migrating elephants, and assessed the losses at about 5.13 million yuan (about \$790,548). They have completed 939 claims and redeemed insurance premiums of over 2.16 million yuan, advancing insurance work in an orderly manner.

In just a few days, staff members of the headquarters in charge of monitoring the migrating elephants walked along the 76-kilometer-riverway of the Yuanjiang River and finally found the best route for the elephant herd to cross the river based on its location and the potential risks and dangers in river-crossing. They decided to guide the elephant herd to an old bridge near the Yuanjiang entrance toll station of Kunming-Mohan Expressway, helping them overcome the biggest obstacle on their way back south, according to Yang Yingyong, who has been in charge of safety precautions and emergency response for the migrating elephants in Yuxi city.

Although the elephant herd has crossed the Yuanjiang River safely, relevant safety precautions and emergency response work will continue until the elephants enter their habitat in Mojiang county, where they will be put under regular management by Pu'er

city and Xishuangbanna Dai autonomous prefecture, Wan noted.

The population of Asian elephants in Yunnan has grown to over 300 from about 150 in 1978. As of the end of 2020, the home ranges of Asian elephants have expanded to 55 townships in 11 county-level regions of three cities and prefectures of Yunnan, many are outside the nature reserve.

"Next, we will gather pace in building a national park for Asian elephants and improving their habitats, striving to enable human beings and elephants to live together in harmony," Wan said.

Since the beginning of the migration, many experts and technicians in wildlife, information communication, and other fields have joined the efforts to protect the herd and local residents and help with the migration. They have conducted research while applying research findings in their work, and preserved massive data from scientific research, monitoring and early warning, and emergency response in the whole process, said Chen Fei, director of the Asian elephant research center under the National Forestry and Grassland Administration of China as well as a member of the expert team established for the migrating elephants.

The headquarters have creatively and gently intervened in the migration by predicting the elephants' migration routes, conducting security control, and attracting them with food, which can be helpful for alleviating "human-elephant conflict" and even "human-animal conflict" in the future, Chen pointed out.



# Inside China

## Pudong New Area in Shanghai makes every effort to boost innovation in various fields

By Ji Juesu, Xie Weiqun, People's Daily

Pudong New Area in east China's Shanghai municipality is ramping up efforts to grow into a more influential and vibrant innovation hub.

At a 1,000-square-meter experience hall of Zhangjiang AI Robot Valley of the area, where robots can perform a lot of tasks, including making coffee, conducting surgery, and solving Rubik's Cube, visitors feel as if they were in the future world.

Although some industrial parks of Zhangjiang township are still under construction, many businesses have raced to set up offices in the place.

In one to two years, a robotics innovation center equipped with incubator, industrial chain, and supporting services will be put into operation in the heartland of Pudong New Area and the center of Zhangjiang Science City of the area. The robotics innovation center is located only eight kilometers of Zhangjiang AI Island in the north and adjacent to advanced manufacturing clusters in Kangqiao township of Pudong New Area. In addition, an industrial park of 5G carrier China Telecom is also situated in the robotics innovation center.

Many multinational sci-tech innovation enterprises have seen opportunities in Zhangjiang AI Robot Valley.

In July, Fourier Intelligence, a Shanghai-based technology company which has established overseas branches in cities including London and Chicago and exports products to more than 20 countries around the world, moved its headquarters to Zhangjiang AI Robot Valley.

In the first quarter of the next year, Swiss tech giant ABB's \$150-million gigafactory is expected to be comprehensively put into operation in Zhangjiang AI Robot Valley. In the future, a manufacturing mode featuring "robots making robots" will be created there.

A relatively complete AI innovation chain covering various links, from technological breakthroughs and R&D to production and market expansion, has taken shape in Pudong New Area.

One third of the AI companies in Shanghai are located in Pudong New Area. Last year, the output value of AI companies in the area

amounted to 91 billion yuan (about \$14.05 billion), accounting for 40 percent of that of AI industry in Shanghai.

Pudong New Area has also realized all-round development of industrial chains in integrated circuits and biomedicine.

After years of development, the area's integrated circuits industry has covered design, manufacturing, package test, equipment material, and other links.

According to reports, two of the global top five silicon wafer foundry companies are headquartered in Zhangjiang township; six of the top ten semiconductor equipment manufacturers in the world have established their headquarters and R&D centers in Zhangjiang; and among the top ten chip design companies in China, seven have established headquarters and R&D centers in the township.

Last year, the output value of Pudong New Area's integrated circuits field rose 20.5 percent from the previous year to

147.1 billion yuan, accounting for 71 percent of the output value of Shanghai's integrated circuits industry and one sixth of that of the country.

Biomedicine is also seeing all-round development in Pudong New Area, where there are almost all the key factors for growth, including talents, R&D institutions, innovation chain, and the industrial system.

In fact, 15 percent of China's innovator drugs and 10 percent of the country's innovative medical devices are created in the area. During the past five years, seven Class I new drugs invented in the area got market approval for public use, which accounted for nearly 15 percent of that approved in the country. During the same period, nearly 40 Class I new drugs, or about 20 percent of the Class I new drugs invented in the country, were put in clinical trials every year by companies in Pudong New area.

Pudong New Area's business environment featuring efficiency, openness, international

competitiveness, and obvious advantage of talents can help Covestro China improve its strength for innovation and competitiveness, said Holly Lei, president of the China division of new materials manufacturer Covestro.

On July 29, the government of Pudong New Area released its Group Open Innovation (GOI) plan, aiming to give play to large enterprises' innovation resources and advantage of global innovation network and gather, cultivate, and incubate small and medium-sized sci-tech firms in the innovation chain for collaborative innovation.

The first 20 projects of the plan are focused on key industries and have been participated by well-known innovative companies including Johnson & Johnson, Microsoft, Baidu, and Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China.

Pudong New Area is now home to 966 R&D organizations set up by key enterprises and foreign-funded R&D centers, and the number is expected to exceed 1,000 this year. These R&D organizations and centers all have the potential to enjoy rapid development within a few years and realize explosive growth in their respective fields.

In addition, planning for 22 open innovation centers of large Chinese and foreign enterprises is underway in the area.

With further efforts to optimize business environment for innovation, Pudong New Area has demonstrated growing awareness of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection.

In 2017, China (Pudong) IPR Protection Center was inaugurated in the area. Over the past four years, the IPR protection center, which specializes in the management and protection of patent, trademark and copyright, has received more than 10,000 visits for consultation and provided services for 977 applicants.

An entrepreneurial team led by Wang Weifeng, a postdoctoral researcher who has returned to China after studying abroad, got approval of medical devices within merely 70 days.



Photo shows Zhangjiang AI Robot Valley Future Experience Hall in Zhangjiang township, Pudong New Area, east China's Shanghai. (Photo/Weibo account of Pudong New Area)

## China makes solid efforts to guarantee food safety

By Du Yifei, People's Daily

Food safety concerns the life and health of every one of us. Building better its food safety system and enhancing food safety regulation, China has constantly improved its capability to ensure the safety of foodstuffs at every link from farmland to the tables of the Chinese people.

As of this July, China had released 1,366 national standards on food safety that cover over 20,000 indexes. These standards set detailed specification on raw materials, supplements, appearance, nutrition, additives

and microorganisms of food, offering fundamental institutional guarantee for food safety.

Last year, 2.31 percent of food products failed to meet safety standards in spot checks, which is basically equal to the figure in 2019. It indicated a stable momentum of growing food safety. Qualification rate of agricultural products have been maintained above 97 percent for six years in a row.

Relevant departments have further enhanced law enforcement in key fields and links concerning food security. In November 2020, the State Administration for Market Regulation, together with the Ministry

of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Public Security jointly launched a special law enforcement campaign to crack down on counterfeit food in rural areas. As of July 15, market regulation departments have dealt with 104,000 relevant illegal cases and seized 2,766 tonnes of illegal products. The law enforcement campaign has forcefully purified the rural food market.

On March 18 this year, the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, as well as the State Administration for Market Regulation and the National Bureau of Statistics unveiled 18 new professions, including food safety manager.

To ensure that food producers and business operators fulfill their responsibilities, local authorities in China are currently working on food traceability mechanisms that make the sources and distribution of food products traceable.

East China's Zhejiang province recently launched a closed-loop management system for food traceability, which monitors the whole industrial chain of food products from farmland to workshops and markets. Customers can learn the processing, quality check result and spot check result of food products by simply scanning the QR codes on product packages. Once problems are found, food regulation departments will locate merchants responsible with the traceability system so as to protect the rights and interests of customers.

Fujian province in southeast China has launched a traceability platform that is connected with traceability systems of agriculture and rural affairs department, ocean and fisheries department, market regulation department, customs, as well as enterprises,

associations and third-party organizations. The platform is joined by 161,200 food producers and business operators.

To prevent possible risks of COVID-19 control brought by imported cold-chain products, China has set up a national traceability and management platform for imported cold-chain food, which is connected to data platforms of the country's 31 provincial level regions. By April this year, 13,896 tonnes of COVID-19 contaminated food had been discovered. It is reported that the State Administration for Market Regulation will guide local authorities to develop their own traceability systems, and weave a network of food traceability that covers the whole country.

New products, businesses and modes of the food industry also pose challenges for food regulation. China is employing big data, AI, Internet + and other information technologies to enhance its food safety regulation. For example, Shenzhen in south China's Guangdong province has largely promoted the construction of a smart monitoring and bulletin system for the catering industry. The city has installed over 60,000 surveillance cameras for more than 10,000 enterprises in the sector, and the cameras are connected to a command center of the market regulation department. Based on AI recognition and big data analysis, the cameras capture and verify common violations during food processing procedures. They also push rectification requirements to enterprises, and the latter would report their rectification results online. Meanwhile, consumers can check the qualifications, supervision, and spot check information about restaurants and review them by scanning QR codes.

A quick check for food products is carried out by technicians of the market regulation department at a promotional activity for food safety held in Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu province, July 3, 2021. (Photo by Wang Qiming/People's Daily Online)

# Politics

## Tributes Pour In For Ahmed Joda



Ahmed Joda

An elder statesman, Alhaji Ahmed Joda, has passed away. He died on Friday at the age of 91.

The retired federal permanent secretary passed on at the Federal Medical Centre, Yola, Adamawa State, where he spent one week on admission.

He was buried at the Yola cemetery in accordance with Islamic tradition.

He is survived by four children, among them a humanitarian, Asma'u Joda, Bilkisu, Aliyu and Abubakar.

During an interview, Asmau told Daily Trust Saturday in an emotion-laden voice that she missed everything about her father because he meant everything to her and the family.

Also, Abubakar Joda described his father as a statesman who sacrificed everything to make Nigeria great.

### Late Ahmed Joda

"He was a father to most Nigerians; therefore, the loss is quite universal. We have received calls from virtually all over the world.

"He loved Nigeria more than anything. He was an astute man, very straightforward and did all his best at any time," he said.

The driver to the deceased in the last 41 years, Ahmed Ja-Allah, described his late boss as calm, caring, straightforward, hard working and honest.

"He hated corruption and bribery. Workers' welfare was always his priority. As soon as it was 30th day of the month, he would not relent until every worker was paid," he said.

A condolence message by the chief press secretary to the Adamawa State governor, Ahmadu Umar Fintiri, Humwashi Wunosikou, eulogised Joda as an epitome of discipline and integrity.

A journalist, Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar said, "Ahmed Joda was a well-respected elder statesman who was greatly admired, not just in his home state of Adamawa but throughout the country. He was simple, straightforward and honest.

"I remembered when I interviewed him in Yola several years ago; he was frank in his discussion. He was a man with great ideas on many issues: education, agriculture, sustainable development and so on. If his ideas had been used, Nigeria would not have been witnessing the herders-farmers clashes that are now bedevilling the country."

Born in 1930, Joda had his early education at Yola Elementary and Middle School before proceeding to the Barewa College to complete his secondary education in 1948. He worked briefly at Moor Plantation in Ibadan.

Having received journalism

training at the Pitsman College, London in the 1950s, he got his first journalism job at Gaskiya Corporation, Zaria, before his subsequent appointment as the editor of the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission (NBC) in Kaduna.

He joined the northern Nigeria civil service as chief information officer and rose to become a permanent secretary before moving to Lagos in 1967 to become a federal permanent secretary.

He was one of the powerful civil servants known as super permanent secretaries in the 1970s, who played an important role during and after the Nigerian civil war.

After the war, Joda was seconded to the Ministry of Education to help undertake the rehabilitation of facilities in the old East-Central region. That was also the time the ministry was in the process of establishing the Nigerian Universities Commission (NBC) and involved in the launch of the Universal Basic Education.

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo appointed Joda on the Presidential Policy Advisory Committee headed by General Theophilus Danjuma (retd).

In 2015, the incoming President Muhammadu Buhari entrusted Joda with the chairmanship of the 18-member transition committee that coordinated the transfer of power from the outgoing President Goodluck Jonathan to Buhari. Earlier in 1979, he chaired the transition committee when General Obasanjo handed over power to the civilian government of President Shehu Shagari. He was also the permanent secretary of the Federal Ministry of Industry.

Joda served as chairman and member of several governments and private bodies, including the National Communications Commission (NCC), the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the Pastoral Resolve, SCOA Nigeria, LNG and the Nigeria Flour Mills.

He served as chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American University of Nigeria (AUN), Yola, and until his death, the principal owner, Benue Valley Farms.

### He was a hero - Buhari

President Muhammadu Buhari has described Joda as a hero. In a tribute to the last surviving member of the cabinet of late Governor Hassan Usman, Buhari said that even in death, Joda "will continue to inspire every generation to move forward with love, brotherhood and harmony."

In a statement issued on Friday by his media aide, Garba Shehu, Buhari highlighted Joda's contributions to Nigeria's unity and progress.

He prayed to Allah to accept his good deeds and grant fortitude to those he left behind in his family, the Adamawa Emirate Council and the entire people of the state to bear the loss.

### Nigerians need Joda's attributes - Obasanjo

Also paying tribute to the late Joda, former President Olusegun Obasanjo described him as a great Nigerian who was committed to unity, development and progress of the country.

In a statement made available to our correspondent in Abeokuta by his special assistant on media, Kehinde Akinyemi, Obasanjo noted, "If every Nigerian had the attributes of Joda, Nigeria would have been better than what it is now."

He noted that Joda and other "super permanent secretaries" preserved the unity of Nigeria shortly after the country's upheaval in 1966.

Joda was the chancellor of Bells University, Otta, and had about 60 years of friendship with Obasanjo.

### An iroko has fallen - Atiku

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar also described Joda as a colossus and an iroko tree in Nigeria and the North.

Atiku said he received the news of his death with shock though he lived to a prime age. He noted that the former permanent secretary was among the first generation of people who put Adamawa State and the North on the map of modern Nigeria.

"Ahmed Joda, with few of his peers, wrote the rule book of Nigeria's civil service. His footprints will remain indelible.

"As we mourn this great Nigerian with immense contribution to the growth of our country, we pray that the Almighty Allah accepts his soul and provides his family with the fortitude to bear the loss," he stated.

### He was a national hero - Yakasai

An elder statesman, Tanko Yakasai, also described the late Joda as a very dedicated Nigerian and a national hero.

Speaking in an interview on Saturday, Yakasai said Joda was one of the most committed to Nigeria's unity and progress.

### Joda's death closes a great era - Gov AbdulRazaq

Governor AbdulRahman

AbdulRazaq of Kwara State has described the death of Joda as the "end of a great era," calling him one of the best public administrators in the post-independent Nigeria.

In a condolence message on Friday, the governor hailed the former NCC chairman as a patriot with sterling records of integrity and service to the nation.

"He belonged to the generation of Nigerians who gave their all to birth a greater country.

"His death is painful. It is a personal loss to me as one of his 'adopted sons' and protégées," Abdulrazaq added.

The governor prayed Allah to grant him paradise and give the family the fortitude to bear "this huge loss."

Also, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Boss Mustapha, expressed sorrow over the death of Joda.

In a statement by his media aid, Willie Bassey, on Friday, Mustapha described the death of Joda as a personal loss as he derived inspiration and guidance from his wise counsel in the execution of government's activities.

He recalled his sterling contribution in 2015 when he was appointed the chairman of the Presidential Transition Committee, which led to a successful transition.

The SGF also mourns the passing away of Hajiya Hadiza Shagari, the widow of the late former president of Nigeria, Alhaji Shehu Shagari. He described the matriarch as a humble and dutiful wife.

He sent his condolence to the government and people of Adamawa and Sokoto states, the Sultan of Sokoto, and their families, praying God to grant the deceased Al-Jannah Firdaus.

Both Joda and Hajiya Hadiza have since been buried according to Islamic rites in Yola and Abuja respectively.

The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) says it has been thrown into deep mourning following the death of Joda, whom the Forum described as a pillar on which the northern region and Nigeria relied in times of turbulence.

The ACF also described the late Joda as a calm, honest, soft-spoken but firm public servant, saying Nigeria has lost a great civil servant and patriot.

In a statement issued by the national publicity secretary of the ACF, Emmanuel Yawe, it was noted that because of the influence they had on General Yakubu Gowon, the then head of state, Joda and others were nicknamed "Super Permanent Secretaries."



# Inside FCT



## As FCT Development Control, links abandoned structure to security threat

By Ephraim Joshua

The creation of the Federal Capital Territory FCT, was to have a model city, which would be patterned after a city like Washington, D.C., that could attract foreigners from over the world to visit, possibly for vacation, as it is been done in Dubai and other developed beautiful cities in the world.

However, with over 40 years of the existence of the FCT, not even half of its vision has been achieved, as most of the master plan designs have been violated by both the rich, poor, and even the government. Things seem never to be working, in terms of developmental structures that would originally beautify the city when completed because the reverse is a case.

Recent findings in Abuja, revealed that there are over 600 uncompleted buildings in different stages of development that had been abandoned by their owners for many years, either as a result of the economic situation, litigation, and inheritance crisis among family members.

A drive around the FCT would reveal that most of the uncompleted buildings which are in various states of deterioration

are located in the highbrow areas like Gwarimpa, Wuse, Garki, Maitama, Asokoro, and other parts of Abuja, and they had become hideouts for criminals and homeless persons, and this has contributed to the failure in achieving the desired beauty and safety of the territory.

It would be recalled that some time ago, the FCT authority tried to address the situation, by proposing a special fund to acquire the buildings from their owners and resell them to workers under its mass housing scheme, and the former Director, FCT Development Control department, Mallam Muktar Galadima, explained that the FCT administration planned to send a memo to the Federal Executive Council on the acquisition of the abandoned buildings across the FCT.

According to Galadima, the federal government may create a special purpose fund through the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria to acquire the buildings, "We went to the sites and issued identity numbers for ease of integrity test. We invited the owners to a meeting where we had some discussions and about 130 owners complied, but we are not comfortable with that number.

"Because we have done what we can do within our capacity, we are sending a memo to the minister to look at options of revocation and acquisition. But our challenge with revocation is that it would lead to litigation."

"So, the best option is through the Federal Executive Council; if some of these abandoned buildings can be acquired by the federal government so that where it is residential houses, workers can be given such houses.

"Where it is an office or commercial buildings, government offices can take over. This is the last point we are; we are trying to see if the Federal Executive Council can come in, maybe, by creating special funds through the Federal Mortgage Bank or other housing facilitators. The acquisition of the buildings by the government would address the housing deficit in the FCT," he said.

However, some residents of the FCT believed that those were mere words without actions because the political will to actualize it was not there, as things remained the way they were, with more abandoned structures continued to come up in the FCT.

Continued >>Pg 18

## Death toll from cholera outbreak hit 3 in FCT

Stories by Kingsley Madaki

Number of lives lost to the recent cholera outbreak in the nation's capital Abuja has risen to three, despite assurances from the FCT Administration of adequate measures to halt cholera cases.

A senior community health officer in Kobi health centre, who preferred anonymity, said the outbreak even affected Madaki of the Community. "The Madaki lost his sister, while himself and his son are also infected"

The health officer explained that while the Centre has Inadequate facilities to care for the patients, it can't admit them, because of unavailability of cholera drugs in the centre.

Kobi community which is in Abuja Municipal Area Council AMAC, is few kilometre away from Asokoro district and had recently being ravaged with cases of cholera outbreak without any proper action by the appropriate authorities.

It was gathered that lack of drugs and other essential medical items have crippled operations at the PHC in the community, making the officials to refer many cases to some private hospitals due to the ongoing industrial action by resident doctors, while some less acute cases are been managed by the affected people at their various homes.

Another resident of the

community who simple identified himself as Joel said, "there is a cholera outbreak here in Kobi. We just referred one case to ECWA clinic Karu, because of the doctors' strike.

"I don't have the accurate record of those that have died, but I know of one death, and in that same compound, about two person, I was able to manage one, but referred one to same ECWA Clinic. "I don't have drugs for cholera here, AMAC people said they are not aware. We have facilities to admit patients here, but we don't have drugs", the officer said.

When contacted, the Acting secretary FCT Primary Healthcare Development Agency, Dr Ndaeyo Iwot said the community mentioned is under Abuja Municipal Area Council AMAC, not under the purview of his agency.

However, Iwot said he had contacted the Director of public health in AMAC to urgently make provision for the supply of drugs to the PHC in Kobi.



Dr Ndaeyo Iwot





## Inside FCT

# As FCT Development Control...

<<< Continued Pg 17

A civil servant and a social analyst Mr. Simon Baba-Yerimah blamed the continued increase of abandoned structures in the FCT on the greed of some politicians and wealthy Nigerians who want to have gigantic structures in the heart of the city without proper plans and preparation on how to complete them when they leave office.

Baba-Yerimah said that the lack of failure to put into consideration the needed amount to complete a particular project can easily lead to abandonment, and the building will then provide cover for criminals activities.

“The FCT is growing in crimes today because the government and wealthy people have originally provided shelters for criminals through the numerous abandoned buildings in the heart of the city. Criminals no longer think of hiding places in the rural communities again, because they have a lot of them in the city.

“This is because our politicians steal government money and invest it on elephant structures that could take years to complete and might not even be completed at all, because the money will stop flowing when they leave office and the building will stand like a symbol of corruption begging them for completion, to be avail.

“The truth is that all the buildings that are uncompleted and abandoned around the city belonged to rich and powerful people, mostly those in government and out of government. That is why you see that the FCT administration has not been bold enough to revoke or demolish any uncompleted structures, since they started boasting to do it years ago. The FCT authority is scared of touching the high and mighty in society.

“They are only bold to make do their threats when it has to do with the common man in the rural communities or the satellite towns, where you see them go into the communities to demolish structure without recourse to humanity. But, the uncompleted buildings that encourage crimes in the city, are a no-go area. This government has to sit up and do what is right for the benefit and safety of its people, no matter who is involved,” he said.

However, not too long ago, the FCTA director of the Department of Monitoring and Inspection, Olawale Labiyi, during a site inspection lamented the number of abandoned buildings in the Abuja city center, that abandoned buildings were a security risk because they could serve as hideouts for hoodlums and criminals.

Libiyi advised residents of the territory to always be vigilant and report any suspicious movements around any abandoned building

in their neighborhood, urging developers to ensure that no site or building was left unoccupied.

He also advised them to make a proper search before developing their plots, to avoid litigation and illegal development that could lead to them being abandoned, urging developers to make proper costing and estimation of buildings before commencement to avoid abandoning the building halfway.

Despite all the admonition to ensure completion structures by the developer, the FCT is still scattered with uncompleted buildings with threat marks of the department of development control. Such markings usually read, ‘Stop Work’, ‘Demolish Within So And So Time Frame’, Or ‘Complete Or Risk Demolition,’ signs which are usually ignored and owners of such buildings carry on as if nothing is at stake.

This, of course, raises the question as to whether the department is just a fancy arm of the federal capital development agency FCDA, or maybe the department’s personnel are so friendly with offenders that they mutually ignore one another’s mistakes until a tragedy is recorded. Also, there are some ‘offenders’ that are not so lucky with the department.

A director at the FCT development control agency, who preferred anonymity, said that they are aware of the increase in numbers of uncompleted structures in the FCT, but admitted that the development has overwhelmed the strength of the agency, because of the owners of the property involved.

“We are very much aware of the situation and we have been doing media campaigns, advising people to complete their structures. But I believe it is just the situation, probably because of the economy. To the extent that the Minister of the FCT even gave an ultimatum sometimes for people to complete their structures or risk demolition, but still, nothing has changed.

“Sometimes when you go deep into the ownership of some property, you will discover that some of them have litigation challenges. Some times late last year, we went around the FCT to eject people from uncompleted buildings, because that criminals usually stay in some of them and it contributes to security threats.

“Besides, apart from the criminal aspect, most of the houses have been abandoned for a very long time and the structures are weak. The buildings can collapse any day and if that happens, the people that stay in them will be affected.

“Example is a gigantic structure close to Legacy House at the central area when we went there, we ejected about 47 illegal



occupants of the building. We also went to Maitama district and we ejected almost the same numbers of illegal occupants with the help of the police from an uncompleted building we feared might collapse any time,” he said.

He said that this year, there are close to 600 uncompleted structures littered within the city, and they serve as a threat to the lives and property of people because most of them are occupied by miscreants and even armed robbers. “Like the house, we ejected 47 occupants, they do not even know anything about themselves and for example, any one of them commits a crime, it will robe on others. The criminal can come in any time and collect his things and run away.

“Most of these houses, even undeveloped plots, we have been hammering on it that they should be renovated, completed, or face removal. But the problem is that when you say a house should be completed, but you did not support the owner with money, what do you expect?

“Some of these houses are owned by people that are already dead, and they have litigation on the property amongst themselves, so you cannot force them to complete the house when they are still in court. That is one of the challenges we are facing.

“The Minister has written to some property owners, given them time to complete their projects or their plots might be revoked. However, for the government to take over abandoned structures, will still require litigation. The owners might not be there, but when he heard that the government has taken over his property, he will return to claim it.

“Moreover, most of the houses have been sold to different people, to the extent that you cannot trace the address of the current

owner. I will tell you that it is difficult for the government to revoke such a plot, because of those connected to it.”

He also said that another challenge that the agency is experiencing is that when most of the uncompleted structures are raided to eject illegal occupants, they returned because their owners are not visible and the houses remained abandoned for years.

“There is another uncompleted building, Chelsea Hotel near Grandsquare, Diepreye Alamiyeseigha, former governor of Bayelsa state, tried to acquire it. He paid some money, but could not complete the payment. To the extent that the Bayelsa government said that they should complete the money for the structure and take over the building because the money used to buy the place was stolen money. But bureaucracy has affected the process. The building is still there, there are bushes everywhere in the compound. That is the kind of place criminals hid to perpetrate evil.

“Whereas money has been sinking into that place, Chelsea has gone to build another hotel somewhere else, but that building remained uncompleted. The truth is that even the government is not helping matters in such a situation. So, like those houses, we go there to eject illegal occupants, but we do not have the power to ensure that they do not return there again.

“Unfortunately, most of those structures that we go to eject people, you will discover that even some police personnel are also occupying the buildings. So, even if you eject them today, tomorrow they will return since the place has not been made use of. All these abandoned and uncompleted structures in the FCT are owned by rich people and some of them are owned by those in authority. Because some of the plots cost between N500m to N1bn, even more,” he said.

# Entertainment



**Veteran rapper Mr Raw hospitalised after surviving car accident**



**'If Money Is Your Only Problem, Thank God' – Olamide**

Popular Nigerian rapper, Olamide Adedeji, has said that people who their only problem is money should thank God.

The "Rock" crooner took to his Twitter page on Saturday to state this.

In his words:

"PEOPLE HAVE REAL LIFE ISSUES MONEY CAN'T SOLVE. DO THANK GOD IF NA MONEY BE YOUR PROBLEM, YOU GET HOPE," HE WROTE.

We recalls the YBNL label head cum Empire artist opened up recently about how life in the ghetto made him hustle hard to achieve all that he has now achieved as an artist.

"Surviving was hard. Bariga was not far from the other slums you see across the world, from Mumbai to New York and London – life in the ghetto is almost always the same everywhere," he said.



Nigerian veteran rapper Mr Raw has been hospitalised after surviving a ghastly car accident. The music star took to his Instagram page on Saturday, August 14, 2021, where he shared photos of himself in the hospital as well

as photos and videos of his damaged SUV.

"Thank God for my life o!. It's a blessing being alive in the land of the living. I was involved in a ghastly motor accident early this morning at Abuja (before Bannex junction)...I was unconscious

when I was pulled out of the red car after another driver rammed into our car,

"I passed out twice but I am stable now and responding to treatment. @mickeystainless get well soon my friend. The driver is receiving treatment as well. God be praised."

We wish him a quick recovery.

Okechukwu Edwards Ukeje, better known by his stage name Mr Raw, is a rapper from Abia State in Southeastern Nigeria.

He is one of the pioneers of Afrohighlife and Igbo rap.



## Wizkid, Shatta Wale Nominated For MTV VMAs 2021

The 2021 MTV Video Music Awards nominations (VMA) have been announced with Wizkid and Shatta Wale bagging nominations for their efforts on Beyonce's Black Is King visual album.

Wizkid was nominated alongside Beyonce in the Best Cinematography category while Shatta Wale bagged a nomination in the Best Art Direction category.

Wizkid and Beyonce have been nominated alongside other contenders such as Billie Eilish for 'Therefore I Am' (Cinematography by Rob Witt), Foo Fighters for

'Shame Shame' (Cinematography by Santiago Gonzalez) Justin Bieber ft. Chance The Rapper for 'Holy' (Cinematography by Elias Talbot).

Other contenders in the Art Direction category wherein Shatta Wale has been nominated include:

Ed Sheeran – Bad Habits – Art Direction by: Alison Dominitz

Lady Gaga – 911 – Art Direction by: Tom Foden, Peter Andrus

Lil Nas X – Montero (Call Me By Your Name) – Art Direction by: John Richoux

Saweetie ft. Doja Cat – Best Friend – Art Direction by: Art Haynes

# Entertainment

## #BBNaija: Maria, Peace, Liquorose barred from HoH lounge for two weeks

Big Brother Naija, BBNaija housemates, Maria, Liquorose and Peace have been barred from the Head of House lounge for two weeks.

Biggie issued the punishment on Friday evening after Maria invited Liquorose and Peace into the Head of house lounge.

In page 4 of the rule book, no one except the Head of house, deputy of head of house are allowed to stay

in the room.

However, Maria broke the rules and invited Liquorose and Peace into the HoH lounge.

The three female housemates will have to stay in the common bedrooms for the next two weeks even if they emerge as head of house or deputy.

This is the first punishment Biggie will issue to 'Shine Ya Eye' housemates this season.



## Sound Sultan's widow raises alarm as hackers take over the late singer's social media handles



Farida Fasasi, the widow of the late Nigerian singer, Sound Sultan has raised an alarm as scammers have hacked his social media handles and taken over his pages.

The mother of three took to her Instagram page on Saturday, August 14, 2021, where she raised the alarm.

"Hello everyone, Kindly disregard any communication from all @soundsultan 's social media accounts. The accounts have been hacked by scammers sending messages to innocent people to solicit funds. Please the family has no control over the accounts," she wrote.

"Let's be watchful. Cybercrime is at an all time high. Thank you so much for your support all the way..you would be informed when we have control over the accounts. Farida."

## Erica Reveals Amount Of Money Left In Her Account If N10M Is Removed

Disqualified housemate of Big Brother Naija Season 5 show, Erica Ngozi Nlewedim, reveals the amount of money that will be left on her account if N10M is removed.

In an exchange with fellow ex-housemate, Tochi, on the microblogging platform, Twitter, the 26-year-old entrepreneur and Nollywood actress noted that she would still have enough money in 100 folds of the amount taken.

"IF YOU REMOVE 10MILLION FROM YOUR SAVING SINCE JANUARY, HOW MUCH WILL REMAIN?? TALK TRUE," TOCHI ASKED.

In response, Erica revealed that she will still have nothing less than a

billion naira left.

"TLL STILL HAVE ABOUT A BILLION," THE ACTRESS WROTE.



## "I've Had Two Liposuction Surgeries, About To Get The Third" – Tonto Dikeh

Popular Nollywood actress, Tonto Dikeh has revealed she had undergone two liposuction surgery.

Tonto disclosed this in a post on her Instagram page while advising women who don't gym after undergoing liposuction.

The mother of one added that she will be going for her third liposuction surgery soon.

Her post read: "I have laughed at the subject that if you do you should not use waist trainer.

"Listen up people, you need a trainer and gym to follow up

Liposuction, I'm personally too lazy for that so I opt for non surgical body enhancement.

"I've had two Lipo surgeries and waiting for the third.

"Lipo is simply taking fat from one part of your body to the other, you eat everyday so fat will grow back sister."

## BBNaija 2021: Arin, Princess have been evicted from the game

Six housemates were nominated for possible eviction.

The show has come to an end for some of the nominated housemates this week.

Before the evictions, show host Ebuka Obi-Uchendu touched based with some of the housemates, highlighting issues from the week.

With Pere, Ebuka questioned his eviction of Whitemoney from

kitchen duties especially on why he felt the supposed monopoly was a strategy.

Arin's eviction was the first to be announced on the Sunday live eviction show. Recall the fashion designer and arts collector was nominated alongside Saskay, Tega, Princess, Nini and Emmanuel.

The next housemate and final housemate to exit the show this week was Princess.

Princess surprisingly stopped the housemates from giving her a farewell hug. She also announced her all time crush in the house was Cross not Whitemoney as she had persistently shared.



# Diplomatic Corner

## Afghanistan President flees as Taliban enter Kabul

The Taliban have been capturing more cities in Afghanistan since the U.S. started pulling its troops from the country.

Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani has reportedly fled the country as the Taliban entered the capital Kabul, meeting little resistance.

The embattled president joined thousands of Afghans and foreigners to flee from the advancing Taliban.

Mr Ghani is bound for Tajikistan and his departure signals that the government had collapsed in the war-torn country.

Taliban fighters entered Afghanistan's presidential palace hours after Mr Ghani fled the country, according to several media reports.

The group has been capturing more cities in Afghanistan since the U.S. started pulling its troops from the country.

In less than two weeks, fighters encircled the capital Kabul after capturing 26 of the country's 34 provincial capitals.

American President Joe Biden has said he would not reverse his stance.

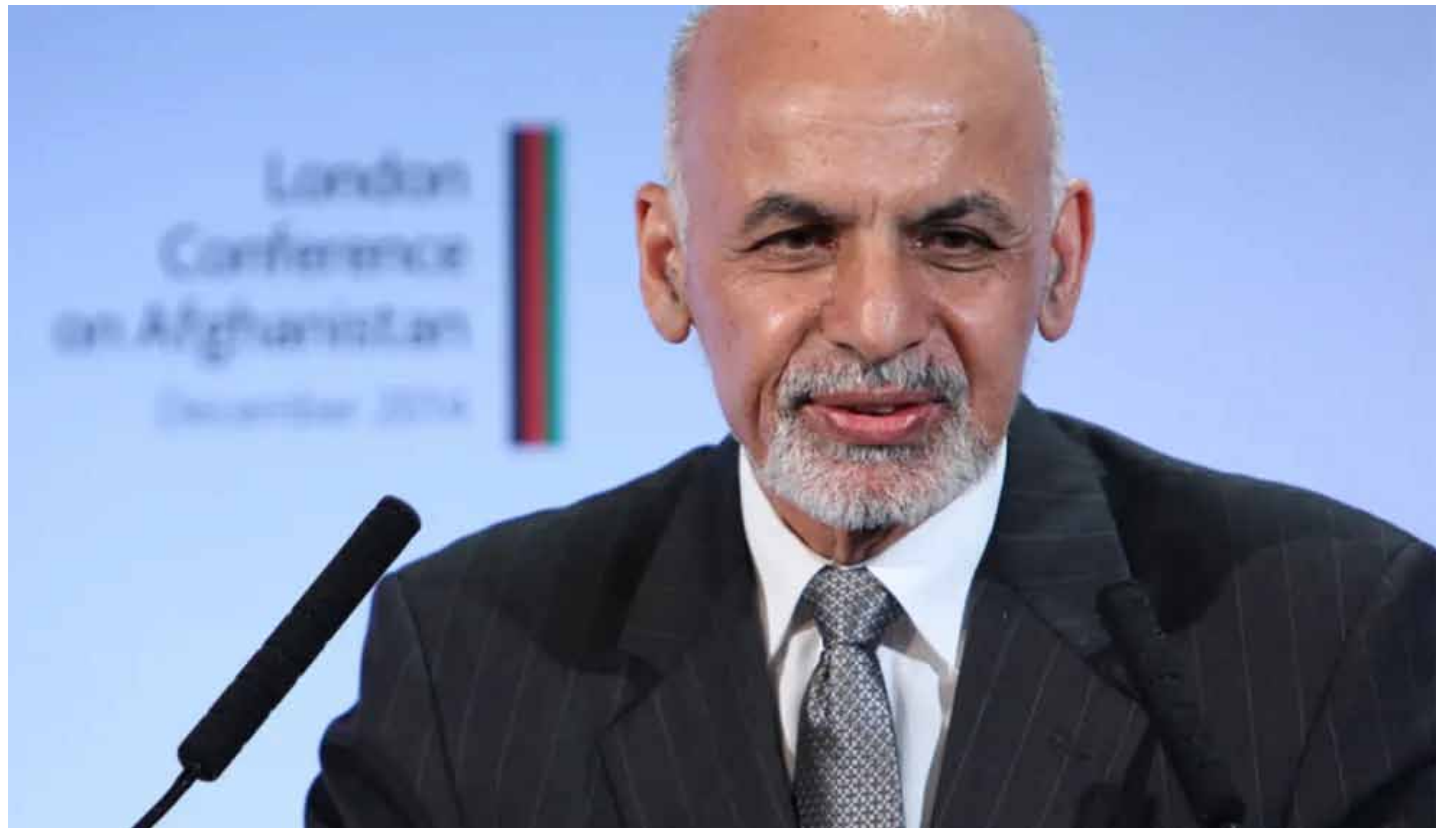
On Saturday, Mr Biden authorised the deployment of 5,000 U.S. troops for an "orderly & safe drawdown" of his country's personnel.

He also warned the Taliban that "any action on their part on the ground in Afghanistan, that puts U.S. personnel at risk there, will be met with a swift and strong U.S. military response."

Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid said their fighters have been ordered to prevent looting in the city and allow safe passage for anyone wanting to leave.

In a statement, he said the group's fighters had been instructed not to push further into the city with force.

"We want to enter Kabul with peace, and talks are underway" with the



government, he said.

Negotiators representing the national government were headed to Doha, Qatar, on Sunday to discuss an agreement with the Taliban's political leadership, a senior official close to Mr Ghani was quoted as saying.

"There is an agreement that there will be a transitional administration for orderly transfer of power," the acting interior minister, Abdul Satar Mirzakwal, told Associated Press (AP).

He added that security forces were being deployed across Kabul to ensure order.

Many experts had predicted that with U.S. forces leaving Afghanistan, the Taliban would retake the country in about six months and form a government there.

The Taliban, who promote strict Islamic Shariah law, governed Afghanistan until the U.S. invasion in 2001 after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack in the U.S.

### Independence Day: Key takeaways from PM Modi's speech

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised healthcare workers and scientists for helping India fight Covid-19 as the country celebrated 75 years of independence.

Mr Modi also paid tributes to those who died of the virus, saying "the pain of losing them will stay with us forever".

He added that the country fought the virus "with extraordinary pace".

But his government faced criticism when India's second Covid wave ravaged many towns and cities in April and May.

The second wave left millions of people infected and overwhelmed the country's fragile healthcare system to the point of collapse.

People died gasping for breath as hospitals ran out of beds and oxygen - leaving distraught family members pleading for help on social media. Even crematoriums in some cities ran out of space.

Daily case counts have since fallen sharply from a high of 400,000 at the peak of the crisis to around 30,000 to 40,000. But there is a looming fear of a third wave as millions of Indians are still vulnerable.

In his speech from Delhi's historic Red Fort complex on Sunday, Mr Modi also praised India's vaccination programme, saying more than 500 million people in India had received at least one dose.

However, only 12% of the population has been fully vaccinated in India, data shows.

### Afghanistan: UK has abandoned Afghan people, says senior MP

The withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan is Britain's biggest foreign policy disaster since the Suez crisis of 1956, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee has said.

Tory MP Tom Tugendhat said the UK had "abandoned the Afghan people".

The Taliban have reached the outskirts of the capital Kabul after taking almost every other major city.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson called a meeting of the emergency Cobra committee on Sunday afternoon.

Parliament will be recalled on Wednesday for one day to discuss the situation in Afghanistan.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said he had shared his "deep concerns about the future for Afghanistan" with Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

He said they agreed "it is critical that the international community is united in telling the Taliban that the violence must end and human rights must be protected".

Asked to confirm if Mr Raab had been

on holiday, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said he was "returning to the UK today, given the situation". They said he was "personally overseeing the FCDO response and engaging with international partners".

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer said: "The government has been silent as Afghanistan collapses, which will have ramifications in the UK."

He said it was a "very sad day" and "our thoughts are with the Afghan people". The government's priority "must be to evacuate British personnel and support staff", he added.

The British ambassador remains in Kabul, the FCDO said, but the UK has reduced its diplomatic presence.

"UK government staff continue to work to provide assistance to British nationals and to our Afghan staff," said a spokesperson.

"We are doing all we can to enable remaining British nationals, who want to leave Afghanistan, to do so."

Malala Yousafzai, the Nobel Peace Prize winner who found refuge in the UK after being shot in the head by Taliban militants in 2012, said global and regional powers must call for an immediate ceasefire, provide humanitarian aid and protect refugees.

"We watch in complete shock as Taliban takes control of Afghanistan. I am deeply worried about women, minorities and human rights advocates," she said.

Mr Tugendhat compared the Afghanistan withdrawal to the UK's failed invasion of Egypt in 1956, intended to regain control of the Suez canal, which is seen by many historians as marking the end of Britain's role as a major world power.

Speaking ahead of Mr Raab's comments on Sunday, he also said: "We haven't heard from the foreign secretary in about a week, despite this being the biggest single foreign policy disaster since Suez, so I don't know what the Foreign Office is thinking."

# Sports



## Afcon 2021: Nigeria, Senegal and Algeria seeded as Caf announces draw procedure

The Super Eagles, Lions of Teranga and the Desert Foxes have been placed in separate groups ahead of Tuesday's Afcon draw

Reigning African champions Algeria, as well as Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, Morocco and hosts Cameroon have been named top seeds for Tuesday's 2021 Africa Cup of Nations draw.

The ceremony billed for Yaounde Conference Centre will see the 24 participating teams zoned into six groups of four teams each as the competition gets underway in January 2022.

In picking the seeded countries, the Confederation of African Football put into consideration the August version of the Fifa rankings –

the last rating released before the date of the draw.

Based on their status as hosts, the Indomitable Lions have been allocated in Pot 1, while the Desert Foxes – who emerged as champions of the 2019 edition – have been placed in Pot 2.

The Lions of Teranga, the Carthage Eagles, Super Eagles and the Atlas Lions were allocated Pot 3, Pot 4, Pot 5 and Pot 6 respectively according to their respective rankings in descending order.

In addition, the six pots representing the groups will be labelled Groups A to F.

While Cameroon will be pre-assigned to position A1 as hosts, the remaining five teams in pot 1 will automatically be

drawn into position 1 of each group (B to F). The same procedure will be repeated for the remaining pots.

The 33rd edition of the biennial African football showpiece was due to begin on January 9, 2021, however, it was pushed back to January 2022 due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic that crippled football-related activities.

"After consultation with stakeholders and taking into consideration the current global situation, the tournament has been rescheduled for January 2022," Caf said in a statement.

"The date for the final tournament and the remaining matches of the qualifiers will be communicated in due course."

## Liverpool agree terms for Davies to join Sheffield United on loan

The versatile 26-year-old defender is set to depart Anfield for the Championship outfit for a year

Liverpool have agreed a loan deal with Sheffield United for Ben Davies, with the transfer set to be made official within the next 24 hours, Goal can confirm.

Davies arrived at Anfield in January as emergency defensive cover during an injury crisis, but with Virgil van Dijk now firmly back in the fold, the versatile former Preston star has found himself pushed down the

pecking order.

There has been sustained interest from Sheffield United and they will complete the capture of the 26-year-old imminently.

Liverpool, who rejected a previous offer from the Championship side due to their unwillingness to have a purchase option in the move, are set to benefit financially from the loan deal, which will have an undisclosed fee attached to it.

Furthermore, if the Blades win promotion back to the Premier

League, Davies will earn his parent club a bonus.

It has been a transfer that has been pushed through by United boss Slavisa Jokanovic, who is a big fan of Davies, who has previous experience of loan deals with York, Tranmere, Southport, Newport and Fleetwood.

Previously, it was understood that Celtic and Bournemouth, who both wanted him before he moved to Liverpool, were again interested in the player, while an unnamed Premier League side also made an enquiry.

## 'These killings are barbaric and heinous' – Musa calls Nigeria govt to action after Jos killings

The Super Eagles captain expressed his sadness after the recently attack that led to the death of almost two dozen people

Ahmed Musa has challenged the Nigeria government and security authorities to work to end the "barbaric" killings across the country.

The Fatih Karagumruk star took to his social media account to share his grief on Sunday after 22 people were killed while several others were injured during a road trip on Saturday morning.

Travellers were coming from a religious event in Bauchi - a North Eastern state in Nigeria - in a convoy of buses when they were attacked at Rukuba road, in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Thirty-three victims have been rescued according to a police statement, but Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari condemned the killing as a wickedly motivated attack on innocent people.

Musa, however, could not hide his pain as he shared a picture of the travellers on his page with a prayer for peace

for his home state, Plateau, and the entire country.

"The killings of the innocent travellers that came all the way from Bauchi State after Islamic New year Zikr heading to their various destination and got intercepted at Rukuba Road of Jos North is heinous and barbaric," Musa wrote on Instagram.

"I'm calling on the Government and relevant authorities to take measures in curtailing the future occurrence of such barbaric act. May their souls rest in peace and may peace reign in our dear State and Nigeria as a whole."

Other Super Eagles stars including Kenneth Omeruo and William Troost-Ekong expressed their grief by posting broken heart emojis as comments under Musa's post.

Prior to the update about happenings in his home state, the former Leicester City and Kano Pillars star had a memorable debut outing in the Turkish Super Lig on Saturday.

Musa scored the match-winning goal on the stroke of full-time as newly-promoted Fatih Karagumruk defeated Gaziantep 3-2.



# Sports

## Burnley make £13.5m offer for Cornet

Burnley have submitted a £13.5 million bid for Lyon winger Maxwel Cornet, according to Lincs Live.

The Premier League club are said to have had long-term interest in the Ivory Coast international and they are set to beat Hertha Berlin and Inter Milan to his signing.

Lyon are ready to release Cornet who has been at the club since 2015, as they look to fund their move for Liverpool's Xherdan Shaqiri.

## Barca closely monitoring Aubameyang

Barcelona are closely monitoring Arsenal captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and his attacking partner Alexandre Lacazette.

Sport reports that the Spanish giants will move for the Gabon international if they are able to offload Martin Braithwaite but a deal would include a player-exchange due to their financial challenges.

Aubameyang signed a new contract at the Emirates Stadium last September and he has two years left on the current deal.

## Man Utd willing to loan Diallo

Manchester United are willing to release Amad Diallo on loan this summer following the arrival of Jadon Sancho from Borussia Dortmund.

Manchester Evening News reports that the Ivory Coast international will leave Old Trafford before the transfer deadline day for more playing minutes elsewhere.

Diallo completed a £37 million move to Manchester from Atalanta in January and he played just eight matches across all competitions last season.



## Chelsea striker Abraham to undergo Roma medical ahead of €40m transfer

The England international is on the verge of completing a permanent move to Stadio Olimpico having fallen out of favour at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham will undergo a medical at Roma on Sunday ahead of completing a €40 million (£34m/\$47m) transfer to the Italian club, Goal can confirm.

Abraham will fly to Italy to complete the permanent switch to Stadio Olimpico after being

deemed surplus to requirements at Stamford Bridge by Thomas Tuchel.

Romelu Lukaku's return to Chelsea from Inter would have seen the 23-year-old's playing time significantly reduced, and the club have ultimately decided to cash in on a player who only has two years left to run on his contract.

Abraham will reportedly commit his future to Roma until

2026, and is set to earn around €5m per annum in wages with the Serie A giants.

Goal can confirm that the terms of the deal with the Giallorossi includes an €80m (£68m/\$94m) buy-back clause.

Chelsea would be able to trigger that option once the England international has completed two full seasons at Stadio Olimpico, where he will play under former Blues head coach Jose Mourinho.

## Get Kane done! Man City show why Guardiola desperately needs Tottenham's striker

The reigning champions lost 1-0 at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in their opening game and look short of a goalscoring threat.

Pep Guardiola paced his technical area frantically as his Manchester City side desperately pushed for an equaliser against Tottenham.

But you don't have to be the most innovative coach in world football to see what was wrong with his side.

City need a goalscorer and the answer to his problems was sitting high in the stands of the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, with his future still in London rather than with the champions.

And, while Tottenham showed they can survive without Harry Kane, City could only underline why they really want him and why they need him.

Last season, Guardiola's side claimed the title without a recognised striker, this season it might not be so easy.

Their most likely rivals - Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United - all put big scores on the board 24 hours earlier, on the opening weekend of the season, but City only showed they were fallible.

Admittedly they had a much tougher start than the other contenders, but they drew a big, fat blank and the reasons why were clear for all to see - the lack of a goalscorer.

If City were hoping to haggle over the price for Kane before the transfer window shuts at the start of September, their performance



in the Premier League opener only strengthened the north London club's hand.

City could have been 3-0 up inside the opening 10 minutes but they missed that final touch to make the difference.

Fernandinho made a clever run from a free kick but headed wide with Hugo Lloris flapping, while Joao Cancelo and Riyad Mahrez dragged shots off target.

Jack Grealish on the left wing and Mahrez on the right teased the Tottenham full-backs all afternoon, but every cross sent into the box was comfortably dealt with by Davinson Sanchez and Eric Dier.

Spanish winger Ferran Torres was playing in the number nine role but, while he has a happy knack of finding space, against Tottenham there was none to be had.

"It is the same people as last season and we scored lots of goals," Guardiola said in his postmatch press conference. "It

has happened.

"What is important is we are there, the last cross. We arrived many times there and today. We could not score but it is the same mystery. We are the same, we are good enough to create chances and score goals and we are going to do it."

There was no secret to Tottenham's gameplan - it was similar to the one that Jose Mourinho used to beat City in the same fixture last season and the one that fellow Portuguese Nuno Espirito Santo has used with Wolves too.

Let City dominate possession, crowd the box to make it difficult to score and catch them on the break.

Without Kane it was harder for Spurs but Son Heung-min stepped up in his place. While his first shot was deflected wide, his second in the 55th minute nestled perfectly in the corner.

## 'You expect that from a £100m player' - Pogba's four assists for Man Utd against Leeds still leave Souness unimpressed

The midfielder was integral as his side started the new season with a win against Leeds, but the ex-Liverpool boss kept his praise for Mason Greenwood.

Graeme Souness played down Paul Pogba's impact in Manchester United's 5-1 win against Leeds on Saturday, instead hailing Mason Greenwood as the "star of the show".

The Red Devils opened the new Premier League campaign with an impressive display at Old Trafford.

Bruno Fernandes' hat-trick and Pogba's four assists made the two midfielders standout performers as they rolled over Marcelo Bielsa's team, while Greenwood and midfielder Fred also chipped in with goals.

But ex-Liverpool midfielder and manager Souness, who has been a frequent critic of Pogba's, said the France star's input was to be expected from someone the club paid a then-record transfer fee of €105 million (£89m) to sign in 2016.

"For me, yesterday the star of the show was Greenwood. For a young boy, I thought he was sensational," he said on Sky Sports.

When fellow pundit Micah Richards laughed and pointed out that Pogba had made four assists, Souness replied: "We expect that from a £100 million man."

"I was going to get around to the point. They spent £70-odd million on [Jadon] Sancho and maybe that might be something to look back on and think: 'Do we need to spend that money?' Because that boy is a player, is a finisher and I think he's going to be a top player."

Souness' opinion seemed to irritate former United centre-back Rio Ferdinand, who took to social media to express his disappointment.

Replying to a Twitter post of the Scot's comments, Ferdinand wrote: "Come on Graeme."



Muhammadu Buhari is a magnet for both extravagantly flattering myths and stubborn falsehoods. Here are the top five:

1. Muhammadu Buhari's very name is wrapped in a curious omission. In most parts of the world, people's last names are usually either their family name or their father's first name. Not for Buhari.

Muhammadu (which his teachers spelled as "Mohamed" when he was in secondary school) is his first given name and Buhari is his middle name, not his surname. He was named after prolific ninth-century Persian Hadith compiler by the name of Muhammad al-Bukhari who was born in a city called Bukhara in what is now Uzbekistan.

Bukhari isn't a personal given name; it's a demonym, that is, a name given to people who come from a particular place, such as Nigerian, Briton, American, Lagosian, New Yorker, etc. Bukhari simply means a native of the city of Bukhara in Uzbekistan, a West Asian nation that used to be a part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR).

In Muslim and Middle Eastern linguistic traditions, the letter "i" is usually added to the end of the names of villages, towns, cities, and countries to form demonyms. That's why someone from Pakistan is called a Pakistani, someone from Israel is called an Israeli, someone from the UAE is called an Emirati, and so on. If the demonym of Bukhara were to be given in Hausa, it would be Danbuhara. In Yoruba, it would be Omobuhara. In my native Baatonu, it would be Buharagi. (My last name, Kperogi, is a demonym, and it means someone from Kperu, the short form of my hometown's name, Senru Kperu, but which Yoruba people call Okuta).

So how did Muhammadu Buhari come to be known by his names? Because of the immense reverence that Muhammad al-Bukhari enjoys among Sunni Muslims, Muslims have historically honored him by naming their children after him, so instead of just calling them Bukhari (which they may literally not be since they may not be natives of Bukhara in Uzbekistan), they typically combine the man's first and last names: Muhammad Bukhari.

Most Nigerian languages, including Hausa, don't have the phoneme "kh," which sounds almost exactly like the sound you produce when you are discharging mucus from your throat. The closest phonemic approximation of that sound is "h," which explains why "Bukhari" is rendered as "Buhari" in many African languages.

Our Muhammadu Buhari doesn't bear his father's name even though he is so proud of his paternal ancestry that he gratuitously flaunts it. For instance, in his October 18, 1961 "Application to sit for RNA Qualifying Examination," he called attention to his ethnic identity even when it wasn't warranted. "I have the honour to apply for regular service in the Royal Nigeria Army. My name is Muhammadu Buhari and I am a Fulani. I am eighteen years old and I am in Form Six at the Provincial Secondary School Katsina," he wrote.

Buhari's father who gave him the Fulani bloodline he brandishes (his mother is Kanuri) was called Adamu Bafallaje (or Bafalle in Hausa). In fact, Buhari's older brother who died in a car crash in the

## BACKPAGE COLUMN

BY FAROOQ A. KPEROGI



## Top 5 Lies about Buhari That Won't Go Away

late 1980s and whose Buhari-lookalike son, Fatuhu Muhammad, represents the Daura/Sandamu/MaiAdua federal constituency in the House of Representative was called Mamman Danbafalle. (Danbafalle means son of Bafalle in Hausa, and Mamman is the Hausa domestication of Muhammad. It's common in Muslim families to have many siblings named Muhammad, but they're often differentiated with their middle names).

2. If you ask most Nigerians where Buhari is from, they will most likely say he's from Daura. But he is not. His hometown, by which I mean the town where he was born and where his father lived and died, is called Dumurkul. It's a sleepy roadside village in Katsina's Maiadua Local Government Area, which is about three kilometers from Daura and about five kilometers from the last village in the Niger-Nigeria border.

A March 16, 2019 Daily Trust report on the village said Dumurkul is a Fulfulde word, which means "settlement for herders", especially for those who stay for at least a year." After his father's death when he was little, Buhari lived with his mother's Kanuri relatives in Daura and adopted the town as his hometown.

But he hasn't severed his umbilical cord

from Dumurkul. During this year's Sallah festivities in July, his nephew and PA, Musa Haro, was knighted (or "turbaned") as the Hakimi (or district head) of Dumurkul even though the village wasn't officially a district.

In order to reconcile the contradiction of making someone a district head of a non-existent district, on July 27, 2021, Buhari's village was mysteriously upgraded to a "district" and taken out of Koza District of which it was a village after "an emergency plenary to consider the request from Governor Aminu Bello Masari" was convened!

3. The notion that Buhari is ascetic is another lie that has refused to go away. Ascetics practice such self-denying habits as sartorial modesty, resisting lascivious temptations, shunning epicurean indulgences like drinking and smoking, etc. But Buhari has always been a flamboyant dresser and, until recently, a smoker, drinker, and a philanderer—like most everyday people.

In Dele Sobowale's book titled Letting a Thousand Flowers Bloom (Ibrahim B. Babangida 1985 - 1992), Buhari's past notoriety for unrestrained libidinal impulses was described this way: "He must have been some sort of a sexual athlete. One officer

who served with him in two stations had this to say: 'You can leave your money, bottle of hot drinks or packets of cigarettes with Buhari, go away for several months and return and find nothing would be missing. But leave your girlfriend or sister with him and you might return to find her pregnant.' That might be an exaggeration but he had that reputation."

As the reader can see, even in describing his sexual indiscretions, this quote couldn't help but perpetuate the lie that Buhari didn't smoke or drink. There are public photos of Buhari smoking and people who are close to him said he drank alcohol on the sly.

4. That Buhari is a brutal, uncompromising, ethically untainted truth teller is another enduring lie about him that appears to be nourished by his taciturnity. But he has told many big lies in the open. As a military dictator in the mid-1980s, he said Nigeria was the only country we had and that we should all stay in it to salvage it, but by his own admission he had never trusted the Nigerian healthcare system to take care of his health since 1977. He had always gone to London for his medical needs and is in London as I write this.

In 2014, he lied that he was too poor to afford his own presidential nomination form and had to take a loan from a bank. A few months later, however, in a ridiculously opaque, half-hearted asset declaration, his spokesperson said Buhari had "not less than 30 million naira" in his account (even N100 billion naira is "not less than 30 million naira"! without explaining how someone who couldn't afford a N25 million-naira nomination form in October 2014 suddenly had "not less than 30 million" when he took over power in May 2015.

Also recall that at the time he claimed to be too poor to afford his nomination form, several of his children were studying at UK universities whose tuition costs add up to tens of millions of naira.

Plus, as Petroleum Minister in 1977, he couldn't account for \$2.8 billion, which the legendary Fela sang about. And a probe of PTF, which he headed, showed that he squandered N135 billion. Newswatch's report of the probe revealed that N500 million mysteriously disappeared from the coffers of the agency. It also showed that Buhari used N800 million on his "personal estate" and used N28 billion to buy "expired HIV/AIDS kits."

5. It is now widely believed that Buhari has no school certificate, but he does, and it isn't fake. One of Buhari's surviving classmates in Katsina (who, by the way, doesn't like him) swore that Buhari did take and pass his West African School Certificate. Although I had no reason to question the authenticity of his claim, the late Abba Kyari caused Cambridge Assessment, which administered the WASC exam in Nigeria in 1961, to release Buhari's result.

He had 5 credits in the following subjects: English (C5), History (A3), Geography (C6), Hausa (C5) and Health Science (C6). He also had a P7 in English Literature. His grade in Mathematics didn't show in his certificate because he got an F9 in it. That was a great result for the time—and even now. He could have gone to the university with the result if he wasn't in a hurry to enroll in the military while he was awaiting his WASC exam result.