

Man murders girl, 24, after 7 years relationship

A commercial motorcycle operator in Ekpoma has allegedly murdered his lover, after seven years of the relationship, the *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) reports.

It was gathered that the suspect, whose names were being withheld, allegedly murdered Miss Itohan Akhidenor, 24, who was his girl friend on Monday and hid her body in the bush.

The father of the deceased, Mr. Osolase Akhidenor, who spoke with NAN at the family house on Royal Market road, Eguare-Ekpoma, said the suspect was in police custody.

He said the suspect came to the house on that fateful Monday morning as usual at about 10 a.m. and took her away on his motorcycle.

The deceased was said to be learning tailoring.

Mr Akhidenor claimed that the suspect had been a regular visitor to his house for more than seven years.

He said the suspect hailed from Ozalla town in Owan West local government area.

According to him, the suspect took the deceased to a lonely path on Ikhiro road to a spot popularly called 'Fela Square' where he murdered her.

The suspect is currently helping the police to unravel the circumstances surrounding the murder.

Residents, who saw the body of the deceased, said the suspect might have used a knife to cut her throat.

The suspect, NAN learnt, surrendered himself to the police, claiming that he did not know what came upon him when he committed the offence.

When contacted, the Divisional Police Officer for the

area, Mr Mohammed Lawal, confirmed the incident.

Lawal said the suspect, who claimed to be a bricklayer by profession confessed to have committed the offence.

He said the suspect had not named his accomplices.

"It seems the police were not convinced by the confession of the alleged murderer that

he carried out the dastardly act alone", he said.

Lawal said the suspect would soon be transferred to Benin once all preliminary investigations were completed.

Meanwhile, the body of the deceased had been deposited at Oniafo Hospital, Ekpoma, Edo, awaiting autopsy.

Power generation to double March 2009 —Yar'Adua

DANIEL IDONOR, Abuja.

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'Adua yesterday, in far away China, assured potential investors that government is committed to doubling the country's electric power generation by March, 2009.

In a statement issued by the president's special adviser on communications, Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi, the president was quoted as saying that his administration had initiated urgent action to double Nigeria's current generation capacity by March next year and make power outages a thing of the past by the year 2011.

"By the year 2011, we hope to have overcome our power challenges so that we

...Announces new agricultural policy

Council for the Promotion of International Trade.

The president promised the Chinese investors that government will grant concessions to new investors. "The concessions will be on a sectoral basis, especially for pioneer businesses, but we will not grant waivers or concessions to any investor on a preferential basis," he added.

According to the statement, the president also announced that government was "completely redirecting" its policies in the agricultural sector to focus on large-scale commercial agricultural production with the full collaboration of the private sector.

said.

The president therefore called for increased Chinese investment in Nigeria's agricultural sector, saying, "this is one area where we are redirecting completely and you can benefit from our new initiatives."

He also told the gathering that his administration is currently reviewing all relevant legislations to facilitate and fast-track the process of investment in the country, and that the federal government will introduce more investor-friendly monetary policies.

"My administration is irrevocably committed to perpetuating the economic cooperation of Nigeria