

# News

## Unidentified baby reunites with relatives today

The two year-old baby, Faridat Isiaka Yusuf, whose mother was killed by a speeding bus in Abuja last Thursday, will today be reunited with her father and other relatives.

Daily Trust learnt that the management of Wuse General Hospital will formally release the little Faridat to her relations. However, Faridat's mother, Ajimot Akintoye, was

By Idris Ahmed

buried at the Piwoyi village, Abuja on Saturday.

When Daily Trust visited the hospital yesterday, the baby was seen with her father, Isiaka Yusuf Akintoye, who was in company of the brother to late Ajimot and some other family members.

The father who spoke with our reporter in an emo-

tion laden voice, said the death of his wife is devastating.

"It is like my whole life has come to an end. She was very helpful in the management of the home. As a photographer, she was very hardworking and assisted the family greatly. For now, I don't know what to say. However, I'm grateful to God that the life of the baby was spared. I will do all I can to make sure that she is well taken care of."

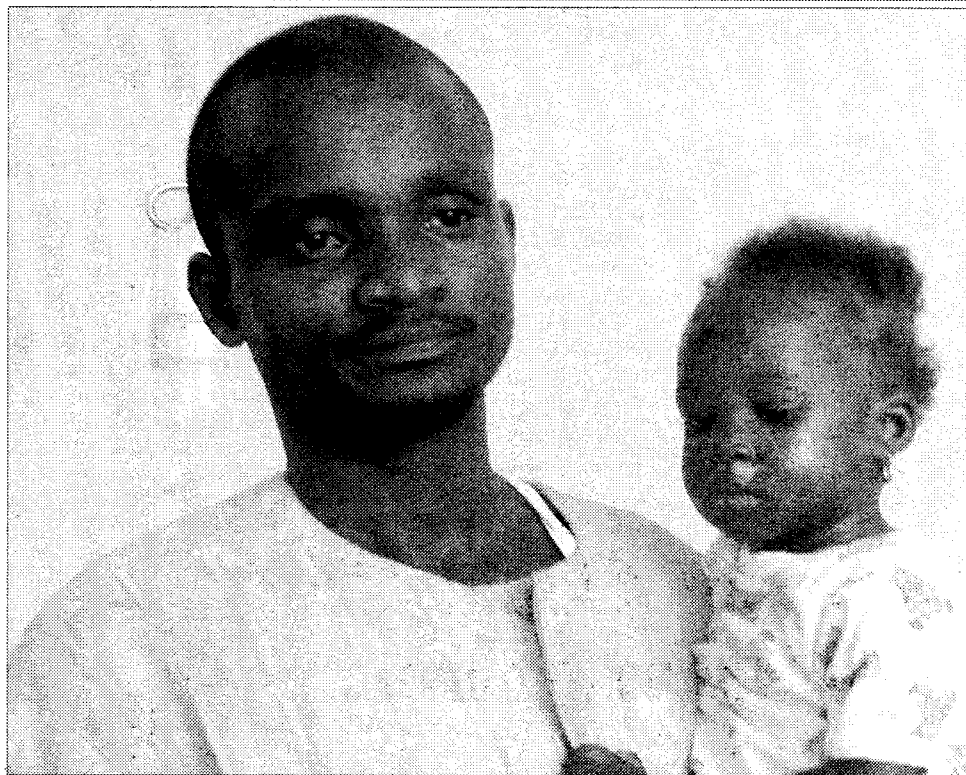
Mr. Akintoye, a carpenter, said that he will cooperate with the family of the late Ajimot to see how they can adequately cater for the baby. "I cannot afford to leave the baby in the care of another woman. I don't know if I will take another wife in the near future. Ajimot was more than a wife.

She was my life and now she has left me", he sobbed.

One of the baby's uncles said the family will make arrangements on how to cater for the baby. "If the father agrees, I will take her to my younger sister in Minna, Niger state, to look after her", he promised.

The management of the hospital told Daily Trust that, "when the chairman comes around, the baby will be given to the father. We would also want the press, police and members of the public who are aware of the incident to be informed that we have released the baby", a senior nurse said.

When contacted, the police said they are aware of the developments and would do everything to make sure that the baby is released to her relation's today.



Isiaka Yusuf Akintoye carrying his daughter yesterday at the Wuse General Hospital, Abuja after the death of his wife in motor accident ...last Thursday. Pic: Felix Onigbinde.

## IPMAN threatens strike over fuel supply

The Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), is threatening to embark on strike over the alleged lopsided distribution of petroleum products to marketers across the country by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

The public relations officer of IPMAN, Alhaji Danladi Fasali, gave the hint in an interview with journalists over the weekend in Abuja.

According to Fasali, the national executive council of IPMAN will meet this week to take a definite stand on the planned strike which is expected to begin next month.

He alleged that while IPMAN members control 80 per cent of the domestic fuel market, the NNPC supplies over 80 per cent of imported and locally refined petroleum products to the major marketers and other middlemen who in turn sell to the independent marketers at very exorbitant prices.

This, he said, is contrary to an agreement reached with the former managing director of NNPC Mr. Gaius Obaseki

By Muh'd Kabir Muh'd

He added that petroleum products imported by NNPC are given to third parties who have no outlets, such as members of Depot and Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (DAPMAN). It is from this body, he said, that members of IPMAN buy products at very exorbitant rates.

Responding to accusations that members of IPMAN divert the products, Fasali said the products are not even available at the depots. According to him, 80 per cent of the products imported by NNPC go to private depots instead of its facilities in Lagos, from where marketers from the north and other parts of the country can buy at NNPC rates.

"They don't even give it to us; now we have to buy it at very high rates from the facilities of Zenon and DAPMAN members", he added.

He further stated that, "if they can even give it to the facility of NIPCO (which is an affiliate of IPMAN), it could have even been better beca-

## No power shift agreement—Obasanjo

From Edet Ekanem, Uyo

President Olusegun Obasanjo says every Nigerian, irrespective of geo-political zone, is qualified to contest the presidency in 2007.

The president who made the remarks Saturday, at an interactive session with a cross section of the people of Akwa Ibom, during his state visit, maintained that no zone should be denied the opportunity to contest the nation's number one political position except the south west zone.

President Obasanjo said what his administration is doing is to provide a level playing field for all contestants to ensure a peaceful and

successful elections in 2007 and urged contestants to observe the rules and eschew violence and killings in the name of politics.

He cautioned those searching for his successor to exhibit a high sense of fairness in the exercise, expressing hope that his successor will continue with his reform programmes.

"South- south is not denied the opportunity to produce the president. Every zone is qualified to contest the seat except the south west," he noted.

He however charged the contestants to compete favo-

urably with their opponents "with the fear of God, because government will not tolerate or condone killings and violence".

Obasanjo who expressed satisfaction with the progress of development recorded by Governor Attah, the successes of his reform programmes currently going on in the country

On corruption, the president said he believes in God's ability to rid the country of the menace, stating that until then, his government, through the EFCC and ICPC, will fight to reduce the rate of corruption to the barest minimum.

On the failure of NAFDAC to provide registration nu-