

CITY NEWS



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Fake estate agent jailed for cheating army officer

By Hussein Yahaya, Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja Magistrate Court yesterday sentenced a 28-year-old fake estate agent to eight months imprisonment for collecting N300,000 from an army officer without providing an apartment for him.

Peter Zattoo of Maitama Abuja was reported to have connived with one Simon Igwema of Asokoro Abuja, now at large, to commit the offence on October 28.

Police prosecutor, Mohammed Ahmed, a corporal, had

earlier told the court that on November 2, one A.U. El-Kanti of Manbila Baracks, Asokoro, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused cheated him.

He said the complainant gave N300,000 to the accused and his accomplice as a rent for an apartment located at No 21, Rhine Street, Maitama, Abuja.

"The accused and his accomplice introduced themselves as estate agent in charge of a house located at No 21 Rhine Street, Maitama, Abuja, and collected N300,000 rent from the complainant," the prosecutor said.

Stating further, the prosecu-

tor said the accused converted the money to his personal use, adding that the offences he committed are punishable under Sections 79 and 322 of the Penal Code.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency.

Following his guilty plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Magistrate Hadiza Shagari convicted and sentenced the accused to eight weeks imprisonment without a fine option.

She also ordered the convict to pay N300,000 as compensation to the complainant after serving the jail term.

She said in case the convict fails to pay the compensation, he should be brought back to court, after completing his jail term, to stand another trial for failing to pay the N300,000 compensation.

The convict promised to pay the said N300,000 to the complainant, promising that his family would sell a plot of land in his village and use the money that accrued from the sales to pay the said compensation.

Eight die in Kwali auto crashes

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

EIGHTS persons including three children lost their lives on Sunday evening in a multiple accidents that occurred at Piri village, along Kwali-Lokoja highway.

Twelve others who sustained various degrees of injuries were rushed to Kwali General Hospital for treatment.

A witness said the accident occurred at about 8:35 pm when a Daf truck with XC 182 GME loaded with cows dangerously overtook another vehicle at a sharp bend and in the process rammed into an 18 seater hiace bus with registration number XC 514 LRN and another Peugeot J5 bus with registration number XC 384 MNY, killing 8 people including 3 children on the spot.

The Yangoji Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Abdullahi Umar, attributed the accident to dangerous overtaking, adding that the corpses of the dead persons have been deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital Morgue.

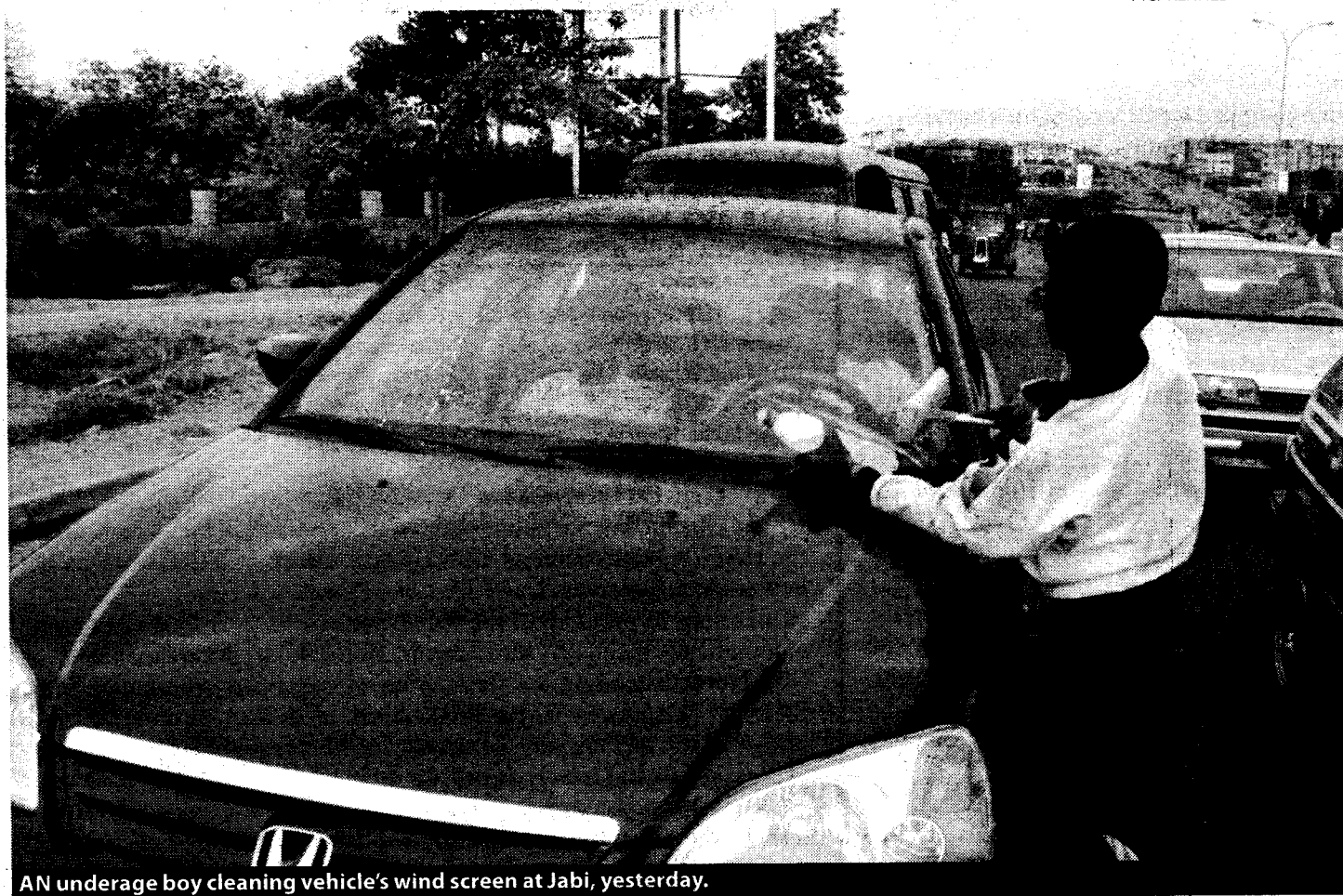
The Unit Commander said the 12 injured victims were taken to Kwali General Hospital for treatment.

Our reporter who visited the hospital observed the victims receiving treatment while a woman who lost two of her children in the crash was still unconscious.

In a related development, an unidentified cyclist was crushed to death by a motorist at Kwali Secretariat junction along the same road.

A witness said the accident happened around 7:15 am when the cyclist entered the road without due care and was crushed to death by a Toyota Corolla with registration number XG690 A42 that was on top speed.

Yangoji FRSC unit commander, who confirmed the accident, said the corpse of the cyclist was given to his relatives for burial while the driver reported himself at the Kwali police station.



AN underage boy cleaning vehicle's wind screen at Jabi, yesterday.

Abuja UTC shopping complex re-opens

By Nasir Imam

AFTER four days of closure, a section of the Area 7 UTC shopping Complex, has been re-opened for businesses.

Traders in the UTC Building were checked into their shops on Friday by the market managers who also provided them with copies of market rules and regulations that would guide their operations in the market.

Reacting to the development, a cross-section of the traders who spoke with our reporter, said the

cleaning of the complex was a welcome development and charged the Abuja Markets Management Limited on the need to sustain it.

When contacted, the Market Manager, Mrs. Jamima Abulele, said AMML has to re-open the section where the exercise has been completed so that business activity could go on.

She assured the traders and other market users of her organization's preparedness to sustain the current sanitary condition through partnership with other relevant agencies.

Meanwhile, the Abuja Markets Management Limited has debunked claims by one Lanre Ajayi, a trader in the Complex contained in *Daily Trust* of Friday November 5, 2010, alleging that the complex was closed without notice by Abuja Markets Management Limited in collaboration with Abuja Environmental Protection Board.

In a statement signed by its Corporate Affairs Manager, Innocent Amaechina, AMML said it did not need to liaise with AEPB before carrying out functions legally assigned to it.

Bizman bags 1 month for stealing diesel

By Hussein Yahaya & Oyekumi Kolawole

AN Abuja Magistrate Court yesterday sentenced a 22-year-old business man to a one-month jail term without a fine option for trespassing into a house and stealing 150 litres of diesel.

Salisu Mohammed of Banex junction, Wuse II, Abuja, was said to have connived with one Abdullah and Abdulrahman, both now at large, to steal the product from No 154, Ademola Adetokunbo Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja.

Police prosecutor, Emmanuel Adikwu, a corporal, had earlier told the court that on November 2,

one Ishaya Ahmed, a security guard attached to the said house, reported to the police that the accused and his accomplices trespassed into the house and stole 150 litres of diesel.

"The accused stole 150 litres of diesel from the tank of a generating set belonging to the owner of the house, offences punishable under Sections 79, 342 and 287 of the Penal Code," the prosecutor said.

He said during police investigations, the said diesel was recovered from the possession of the accused.

When the charges were read to him, he pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one month imprisonment without a fine option.