

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

## 45 Chinese arrested over Kano market 'domination'

From Nazifi Dawud Khalid, Kano

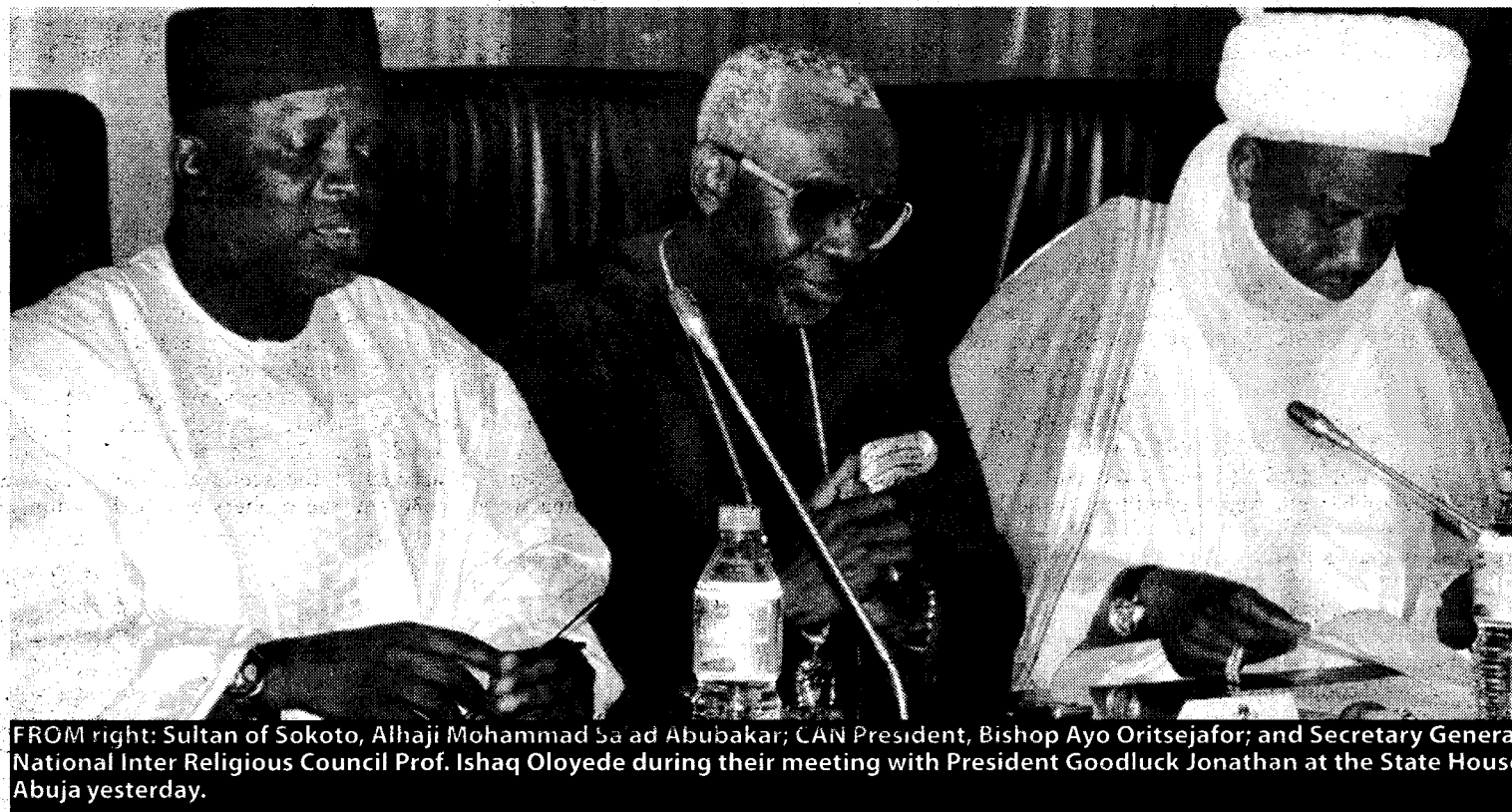
THE Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) yesterday arrested about 45 Chinese nationals at the Kantin Kwari textile market over what it described as an attempt by the foreigners to "take over and dominate business activities from the local people".

The Kano State Immigration Comptroller, Dr. Emmanuel Brasco, who briefed reporters on the arrests in Kano yesterday, said the action followed an order issued by the Comptroller General of the NIS, Mrs. Rose Chinyere Uzoma, to conduct the raid with immediate effect.

According to him, "It has been observed that foreign elements, especially Chinese have been taking advantage of Nigeria's liberal visa and export quota policy to occupy our economic space even if they lack the necessary expertise in what they do".

"Henceforth only those who add value to the economy would be allowed to operate in our economy and not economic scavengers who come here to exploit the system and prevent Nigeria from attaining economic growth", he said.

Brasco said the arrested Chinese nationals would be deported to their country, adding that the exercise would be a continuous one.



FROM right: Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Mohammad Sa'ad Abubakar; CAN President, Bishop Ayo Oritsejafor; and Secretary General National Inter Religious Council Prof. Ishaq Oloyede during their meeting with President Goodluck Jonathan at the State House Abuja yesterday.

## Four killed as bomb explodes in Maiduguri

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

FOUR people were killed yesterday afternoon as a result of pandemonium at Lawan Bukar Ward in Maiduguri metropolis when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) targeted at a military patrol vehicle exploded.

Residents said the bomb was thrown at a moving patrol vehicle and shortly thereafter, vehicles loaded with men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) mobilized to the scene and launched manhunt of the suspects.

An officer of the Nigerian Red Cross

in Maiduguri who does not want to be quoted because he was not authorized to speak told newsmen that four people were killed during a gun duel and their corpses have been taken to a hospital.

"I am not in the position to tell you who and who died or how they died," the officer said, when asked whether the victims were military men or civilians. He did not also say whether they died as a result of the blast or where shot.

Our correspondent reports that hundreds of residents of Lawan Bukar and the adjoining Mafoni and Hausari area, all densely populated settlements fled

from their residents even as some people alleged "brutalization" by the military operatives, who according to them cordoned off the area.

"As I am talking to you now, many houses are on fire and our wives and children are crying," Babagana Ari, a resident said.

But a press statement released by the spokesman of the JTF Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa which confirmed the blast indicated that it was the fire from the explosive device that ignited fire on houses in the area.

According to the statement, "At

about 1330 hrs hours (1.30pm), a failed attempt was made to throw an IED at JTF troops on routine patrol in Maiduguri metropolis by suspected Boko Haram members. The IED missed the patrol team and exploded at Lawan Bukar Junction. "The explosion damaged some houses in the area. No casualty was recorded. The area has been cordoned off and search is going on at the moment with a view to apprehending the culprits. A suspect in a Honda Accord car, 'End of Discussion', navy blue has been arrested," the statement said.

## Gunmen kill police officer in Borno

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

UNKNOWN gunmen yesterday trailed and killed Mr. Manu Birma, a Superintendent of Police with the Borno State police command.

Witnesses said the officer was killed in front of his residence at Abujan Talakawa, a

suburb in Maiduguri, the state capital.

A resident of the area, who preferred not to be named, said Birma was killed shortly after he dropped his children in school and was about entering his house to dress for work.

"The incident took place at about 8:10am when two gunmen appeared from the blouse

and fired at the officer at close range," the witness said.

"Of course, we all fled the area immediately after the attack because we are sure security men will come and cordoned us with a view to fishing out the assailants," another source said.

Borno State police spokesman ASP Sam-

uel Tizhe, who confirmed the killing, said the remains of the deceased have been deposited at a hospital and that investigation has commenced.

Our correspondent reports that Abujan Talakawa, a hitherto relatively secured area, is now a theatre of attacks.