

Levi Nda Animoku said the offence of culpable homicide is a grave offence in the country's laws and therefore ordered that the accused persons should be remanded at the Federal Prisons, Koton-Karfe.

He said granting bail to the accused is beyond the capacity of his court and adjourned the case to July 1.

Customs to check importers excesses

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

The Controller General of Customs, Alhaji Dikko Inde Abdulahi, said plans have been concluded to check the excesses of importers. To do that, he said a Customs consultative committee has been set up to sensitize importers and traders on the need to adhere strictly to government's policies. The committee, which is also charged with the responsibility of monitoring activities of traders and importers recently kick-started its work in Lagos.

The aim of setting up the committee is to ensure strict adherence to government's policies by importers and to also facilitate trade and monitor the level of compliance by Customs personnel, importers and agents.

Man to hang for killing step daughter in Zamfara

From Shehu Umar, Gusau

A High Court presided over by Justice Bello Tukur Gummi in Gusau, Zamfara State, has sentenced one Abdullahi Abubakar to death by hanging for killing his step daughter.

The judge, in his ruling said the court relied on the confessional statement made by the accused during an investigation carried out by the police.

According to the prosecuting officer, the accused in August 2008 allegedly put poisonous substance (Gamaline A) in the food of Suwaiba Abubakar at Tungar Miya village of Talata Mafara.

During the trial, counsel to the accused, Barrister Ben Azza, raised an objection to the admissibility of the

confessional statement of the accused on the ground that the defendant was tortured by the police to confess.

It was gathered that though, the judge ordered for trial within trial, all the testimonies of the witnesses summoned by the accused failed to convince the court or establish that the accused made the statement under duress.

"You are hereby sentenced to death. You will be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and this judgment is subject to the confirmation of the state governor," the judge ruled.

Reacting, counsel to the accused, Barrister Ben Azza said the judgement came to them as a surprise, adding that they would study it and decide the next line of action.