

## Trailer Crushes Five To Death In Kaduna

By Sukuji Bakoji  
BUREAU CHIEF, Kaduna

No fewer than five people lost their lives in Kaduna on Sunday, when a trailer crushed a commercial bus.

Scores of others suffered various degrees of injuries, while three people, including the bus driver said to be in critical condition.

According to eyewitnesses, the accident took place at about 8 a.m., at Rabah Road junction.

Daily Independent learnt that the trailer, which was coming from Kano, was on high speed, when it was stopped at the Rabah road junction by a traffic warden, who then passed the bus coming from Rabah road.

But the trailer driver was unable to stop and rammed into the bus, killing two people instantly.

When contacted, the State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Aminu Lawan, confirmed the incident.

He, however, said it was the bus driver not the trailer driver, who ran away, adding that the bus owner has been located, while investigation continues.

## Okoroji, Family In Shock Over Oliver De Coque's Demise

By Darlington Abuda (Lagos)  
and Chukwujekwe Ilozue (Onitsha)

Former President of Performing Musicians Employers' Association of Nigeria (PMAN), Tony Okoroji, has described the death of Highlife music legend, Oliver De Coque, as a great loss to the entertainment industry.

"The music profession has just lost one of its finest. The entertainment industry in the country has lost one of its great ambassadors. The Igbo nation has lost one of its greatest sons and I have lost a dear friend," he lamented.

Similarly, the family of the legendary musician is still in shock, over the death, last Friday, of their sibling, who was crowned King of Highlife Music by the *Alaafin of Oyo* in 1994.

Activities at the Gbagada residence of the late musician were at low ebb, as members of the family sat in various groups to discuss the tragedy.

Similarly, at Umudiani Village, Ezinifite, the country home of the musician, his kinsmen disclosed that an emissary has been sent to Lagos to confirm the incident, before a formal announcement can be made in line with Igbo tradition.

## Delta Airline Passengers Finally Depart Lagos Sunday

By Sade Ayodele  
AVIATION CORRESPONDENT, Lagos

Reprieve came the way of the 250

# Power Sector: Yar'Adua, NASS May Over \$5b Budget

Otei Oham  
CORRESPONDENT, Abuja

Last week's approval of over \$5 billion by President Umaru Yar'Adua, for the funding of power projects in the country, without requisite supplementary budget proposal, may lead to show down between the Presidency and the National Assembly.

Yar'Adua was said to have

## Lawmaker Urges Research Into Cure Of HIV/AIDS

By Oladele Ogunsola  
CORRESPONDENT, Ibadan

It has advocated that concerted efforts at finding a cure for the Human Immune Virus (HIV) and Acquire Immune Deficiency Syndrome

(AIDS) pandemic, is the only viable way of ending stigmatisation and discrimination faced by people living with the disease.

This was the opinion of a member of Oyo State House of Assembly, Hammed Abiodun, at the advocacy meeting of Oyo State Action Committee on HIV/AIDS (OYSACA), with members of the members of the House, over the weekend.

The lawmaker, representing Akinyele State Constituency, explained that the disease affects the socio-economic lives of the people.

The lawmaker acknowledged the efforts of the state government in the areas of enlightenment about the disease, while urging it to devise means of encouraging the people to go for tests on their HIV/AIDS status.

In his remarks, Abdul Ganiyu, of the Ministry of Justice, called on the lawmakers to enact law for save guarding the rights of the people living with HIV/AIDS, just as he called on the government to ensure that private clinics and hospitals in the state, ensure safe blood transfusion at all times.

Chinwendu Nnadozie  
CORRESPONDENT, Minna

A man simply identified as Ibrahim Mohammed Tenimu was on Saturday evening crushed to death by a mass transit train coming to Minna from Akere village, Niger State.

The train was returning from Akere where the State Governor, Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu and other officials, had gone to visit communities

secured the support of the 36 State Governors to channel some percentage of their excess crude earnings into the funding of the projects.

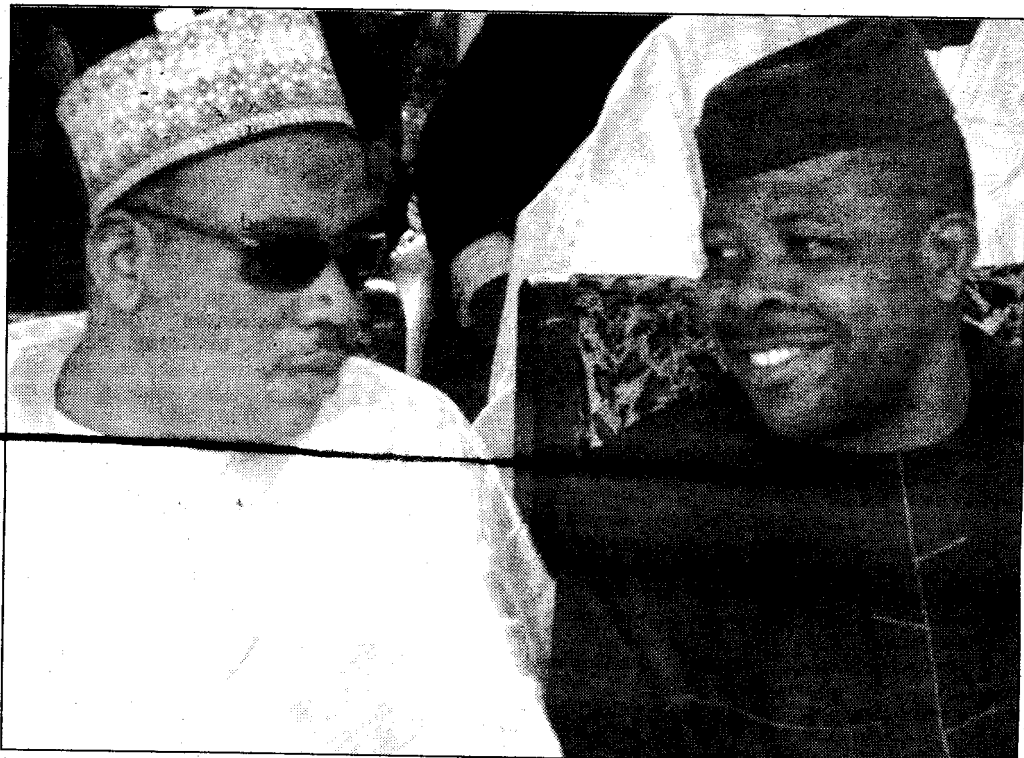
The President was also said to have received the green light from the governors, to declare an emergency in the energy sector next

month.

It was learnt that the amount budgeted for the projects covered money for the rehabilitation and completion of distribution, transmission power plant projects, under the National Integrated Power Projects (NIPP), which is put at \$5.37 billion, while the states' contribution would be 49 per cent.

However, a member of the House of Representatives Committee on Finance, Shuaibu Abdullahi (PDP, Nasarawa), said in an interview with Daily Independent that the request for the expenditure ought to have been forwarded to the National Assembly in a supplementary budget, to avoid controversy over appropriation and spending.

He, however, denied that a



Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Usman Nafada Bayero (left), and House Chief Whip, Emeka Ihedioha, during a programme of the National Assembly in Abuja at the weekend.  
Photo: Jide Oyekunle

## House Crisis Deepens Over Membership Of Committees

By Festus Owete  
ASSISTANT EDITOR, Abuja

House of Representatives may witness a stormy session tomorrow over the reconstitution of the 71 standing committees, which has allegedly pitted the Speaker, Dimeji Bankole, against some members of the lower chamber.

Other issues generating tension are the plan by nine, out of the 10 principal officers, to be automatic members of the proposed National Assembly Constitution Review Committee and Bankole's frequent overseas trips.

The House will reconvene tomorrow, after a three-week

recess.

However, on Sunday, some members close to the leadership were still making spirited efforts to stop the alleged plan to remove the Speaker from office.

Some members had reportedly met in London and Abuja at different times, to plot against Bankole, who returned from overseas trip about a week ago.

For most part of last week, Bankole and his loyalists held meetings with different groups in the House to explain the planned committee membership review, which would be announced this week, three months after the exercise began.

It was reportedly agreed that the issue of leadership of the committees should be left hanging, pending the resumption of the House from recess.

It was further learnt that it was agreed that the issue of membership of the constitution review committee should be thrown open to members, instead of making the principal officers automatic members.

Despite the agreement however, some aggrieved members belonging to the Integrity Group (IG), were still holding consultations as at last night in Abuja, on how to handle the situation when the House reconvenes.

## Train Crushes Lecturer To Death

ravaged by ecological disasters.

The train allegedly dragged the remains of Tenimu and his bike for about 200 metres, before it could stop, while the deceased's motorbike immediately went into flames.

Tenimu had brought his brother, Shaba, to the Kpakungu area of Minna, the state capital, when the incident occurred.

Fortunately for Shaba, he

had just disembarked from the motorcycles, when the train rammed into his brother's bike.

"He is my brother. He is a lecturer at the Niger State College of Education, Minna, in the Department of Education," lamented Shaba, as sympathisers commiserated with him.

Meanwhile the remains of the deceased had been deposited at the mortuary of

Minna General Hospital.

The Senior Special Assistants on Media to the Niger State Governor, Jibrin Suleyman, described the incident as very unfortunate and stated that the government would look into the tragic occurrence with the view to condoling with the family members.

Suleyman, however, warned people against getting close to moving train.