



•From left: Mr. Sunday Babarinde, Mrs. Tejumola Babarinde, Bishop, Methodist Church, Nigeria, Lagos West Diocese, Rt. Revd. Ayo Olawuyi and Mrs. Iyabo Babarinde at the conferment of the award of Susannah Wesley on Mrs. Tejumola Babarinde by the Women Fellowship of the church.

Son held over mum's death

THE Adamawa State Police Command has arrested a 33-year-old man for allegedly beating his mother, Hajiya Hauwa Maituwo, to death.

Police spokesman Altine Daniel told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Yola that Alhaji Hus-saini Gambo, a youth leader in Wuro-Jabbe ward, Yola South local government, where the incident occurred, said the suspect had a quarrel with his mother on Saturday.

He said the suspect beat her to a state of coma before neighbours rescued her.

The woman was rushed to Yola Specialist Hospital where she died on Monday, Daniel said.

I won't interfere with council poll

KWARA State Governor Bukola Saraki yesterday said he would not interfere in the October 30 local government election.

Speaking at the inauguration of members of the State Independent Electoral Commission (KWSIEC), Saraki urged the commission to conduct a violent-free poll.

He said: "The assignment before you is challenging. It will, among others, test your patience, endurance and perseverance."

The governor said he would not tamper with the commission's activities.

He urged the people to co-operate with the commission.

Kwara opposition urged to unite

A GROUP, the Kwara G3, has urged members of the opposition parties to close ranks for the 2011 election.

A statement issued yesterday in Abuja by the group's publicity secretary, Mallam Sheriff Ibrahim, urged politicians to shun personal aggrandizement for collective interest.

Ibrahim described the emergence of many parties and pressure groups in the state as healthy.

He urged them to abide by the law.

Ibrahim said: "The aspiration of our people cannot be realised in an atmosphere of bickering."

"Efforts to tackle exploitation, oppression and deception will be difficult to accomplish, if members of the opposition are not united."

"What Kwara State is in dire need of people integrity who have genuine intention to stem its slide into political irrelevance and oblivion."

He assured the people of the group's commitment to ensuring a positive change that will develop the state next year.

Cholera: death toll hits 67 in Bauchi

THE death toll in the cholera outbreak in Bauchi State has risen from 47 to 67, Chairman of the Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. Musa Dambam, said yesterday.

Dambam told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Bauchi that 1,742 cases were recorded in five of the 20 local government areas following the outbreak of the epidemic in June.

The affected local govern-

ment areas are Bauchi, Shira, Tafawa Balewa, Toro and Katagum.

Bauchi Local Government recorded 1,368 cases with 31 deaths.

Ganjuwa recorded 284 cases with 20 deaths.

But Tafawa Balewa, Shira and Toro recorded about 30 cases with no death.

Dambam claimed that the epidemic spread from Adamawa, Gombe and Borno states to Bauchi.

"There were earlier outbreaks of the disease in these states before Bauchi," he said.

He explained that overcrowding and the unhygienic nature of some residents contributed to the outbreak.

The agency has embarked on enlightenment campaigns to sensitise the public on some hygienic rules and regulations, he said.

Dambam urged clerics to

educate Muslims on the need to imbibe hygienic ideals, especially during Ramadan.

He said the government had directed the agency to embark on clearance of sewage and water drains to enhance environmental sanitation.

The chairman urged the public to ensure that fruits and vegetables were properly washed before consumption.

Para-military pensioners take over Oyo governor's office

From Bisi Oladele, Ibadan

PARA-military pen-

sioners yesterday converted the front of the Governor's Office in Ibadan, Oyo State, to their temporary home.

With mats spread on the floor, they sat down in the scorching sun, protesting the non-harmonisation of their pensions.

Operating under the aegis of the Association of Customs, Immigration and Prisons Retirees in the South-West, they condemned what they described as selective payment of certain allowances to some of them in spite of the alleged provision for such in the 2009 supplementary and the 2010 budgets.

They alleged that some members who retired about five years ago were yet to receive their gratuity.

Besides, they complained of being denied payment of six per cent and 15 per cent increments.

They accused the management of Customs, Immigration and Prisons Pension Office (CIPPO) of deliberately refusing to pay their entitlements which had reportedly been released to it by the Federal Government.

The retirees called for the removal of the CIPPO Act-

ing Director, Alhaji Abdulrasheed Maina.

Their placards read: "CIPPO, pay us our entitlements," "Mr. President, save our soul."

The association's chairman, Mr. Adekunle Adesanya, explained that pleas to CIPPO management have yielded no result.

The association, he said, had written President Goodluck Jonathan, Senate Committee on Pensions and the Accountant-General of the Federation without any positive response.

Adesanya alleged that some individuals in the pension's office have con-

stituted themselves into a cartel to block the payment of the entitlements.

He said: "It is pertinent to state that since year 2000, our pensions have not been harmonised till date, whereas money is always appropriated for this purpose."

"A circular with reference number SWC/S/04/S.164 from the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Amb. Baba Gana Kingibe, dated 21st November, 2007 confirmed this."

"The cartel at the CIPPO has constituted themselves to a stumbling block. They have turned CIPPO into a conduit-pipe to siphon money."

He said: "The suspect has been declared wanted and anybody who has any useful information that can lead to his arrest should come to us. The suspect fled after seeing the gravity and consequence of his offence."

Mba added that the case is being investigated by the homicide section of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti, Yaba.

Man declared wanted for allegedly killing wife

By Jude Isiguzo

THE Lagos State Police Command has declared a commercial motorcyclist, Mr. Ibrahim Mohammed, wanted for allegedly killing his wife.

The incident occurred last Saturday.

According to the police, the suspect allegedly beat his wife, Aishat, to death over her refusal to serve him pap which he was to take before the commencement of his

Ramadan fast.

It was learnt that the suspect woke up at 4am and demanded that his wife serve him the meal.

Trouble began when the deceased served her husband's elder brother who was living with them.

This action angered the suspect who reportedly pounced on his wife and beat her to a state of coma.

She was rushed to the Military Hospital in Yaba where she died.

The incident occurred at 5, Ogundiro Street, Bariga, at about 5am.

The case was reported to the police at about 7:30am.

The suspect fled immediately after committing the crime.

Police spokesman Frank Mba said the body had been deposited at the mortuary for autopsy.