

NEWS

Man held for allegedly killing father

From Adekunle Jimoh, Ilorin

THE Police Command in Kwara State yesterday paraded a 30-year-old man for allegedly killing his father.

The suspect, Yele Deno, is from Kaiama Local Government Area.

Deno, a Fulani herdsman, was said to have hacked his 50-year-old father, Amadu Deno, to death with a cutlass.

Police Commissioner Mukthari Ibrahim said the deceased accused his son of squandering his property and the suspect got angry.

Ibrahim said the suspect killed his father with a cutlass and buried him in the bush.

The suspect admitted the crime.

He said he attacked the deceased when he beat him with a stick during a disagreement.

The police commissioner said the body has been exhumed for medical examination and the murder weapon recovered.

He said the case would soon be charged to court.

Ibrahim said three members of a five-man gang, suspected to have stolen a Toyota Camry in Ogbomoso, Oyo State, have been arrested.

FCDA Secretary suspended

From Bukola Amusan, Abuja

THE Executive Secretary of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), Muhammad Sani Alhassan, has been suspended.

Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister Bala Mohammed made this known after the Board's emergency meeting yesterday.

Mohammed said Kabiru Husaini has been appointed in an acting capacity.

The Director of FCDA Engineering Services Department, Sylvester Ugonabo, is to proceed on a compulsory leave and Deputy Director M.A. Soso has been appointed to act.

Advocacy group holds award

By Wale Adepoju

AN advocacy group for healthy living, Indulge, will, on Saturday, hold a 'Wellness Award Dinner'.

Its Chief Executive Officer, Dr Bisi Abiola, said the event is to celebrate the accomplishments of government and non-governmental institutions in promoting healthy lifestyles in Africa.

She said the group is partnering MTN, PZ Cussons, GSK, Unilever and Nestle.

Abiola said: "The achievement of awardees cuts across various areas of wellness initiatives, which embrace promoting health among employees, encouraging fitness and sports in workplaces, awareness campaign on breast cancer, heart wellness and healthy lifestyle, healthy eating, welfare and wellness of mothers, babies, children and the older citizens."

She said 10 deserving firms and individuals would be honoured.

Naval Ratings torture businessman in Makurdi

From Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi

FIFTEEN Naval Ratings, on Friday night, man-handled a 33-year-old businessman, Anthony Okoh Ogbe, in Makurdi, the Benue State capital.

They also destroyed a high brow restaurant at HUDCO quarters.

Ogbe said he went to eat at a restaurant in HUDCO quarters at about 9pm, when the incident occurred.

He said: "When I got to the restaurant, I saw an old friend by the name Segun, whom I haven't seen in a long time."

"I greeted him, but he did not respond. He was sitting

with two other persons. I asked what the matter was, but he did not respond.

"At that point, one of those sitting with him said I should leave him alone. I told the man to mind his business that Segun is my friend."

"Then the third person stood up and said, 'Do you know who you are talking to? I will teach you the lesson of your life today.'"

"He made a phone call and Naval officers arrived in five taxis, armed with rifles, knives

and iron belts.

"They started beating up people in the restaurant. They destroyed drinks, food, plastic chairs and anything they could lay their hands on."

"Some customers escaped without paying and a pregnant woman was kicked in the stomach. She slumped and was later taken to a nearby hospital."

"After identifying me, they tore my body with sharp knives, dragged me into the boot of my car and drove to their yard on Makurdi-Enugu road, opposite Power Holding Company of Nigeria

(PHCN) office.

"They dragged me out and continued to torture me. I fainted several times and they poured water on me to revive, only to continue."

"One of them tore my leg with a knife. He said he wanted me to bleed to death, but an officer came in and pleaded on my behalf. My friends came then and took me to the hospital."

Ogbe is recuperating in a private hospital.

The owner of the restaurant, Steven Kahemba Iorember, said the Naval Ratings were led by one Medola, whom he said was his regular customer.

Iorember said the violence has driven away his customers.

The victim's father, Adoku Ogbe, a retired State Security Service (SSS) officer, said: "I will do everything possible to bring those who attempted to kill my son to book."

The Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), Makurdi branch, has taken up the matter.

It urged Governor Gabriel Suswam to expel the Navy from Security Council meetings and stop supporting it.

The matter has been reported at the B Division Police Station.

Fidelity spends N37m on UNIJOS

From Yusuf Aminun Idegbo, Jos

FIDELITY Bank Nigeria PLC has spent N37 million to renovate a students' hostel at the University of Jos, Plateau State, as part of its social responsibility to the host community.

The bank's North Regional Manager, Idris Yakubu, announced this yesterday, while handing over the hostel to the school's authority.

Yakubu said: "The renovated hostel and the students' solidarity centre cost the bank a total of N37 million."

"We are partnering UNIJOS to develop the educational sector. We shall meet with the university administration to agree on other areas that will foster a mutually beneficial relationship between the university and our bank."

Protest over removal of posters in Nasarawa

From Johnny Danjuma, Lafia

SUPPORTERS of a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship aspirant in Nasarawa State, Alhaji Tanko Al-Makura, yesterday protested at the Government House in Lafia, the state capital, over the planned removal of their candidate's campaign posters.

The protesters, who gathered at the campaign office in Almakura at 7am, also went to the palace of the Emir of Lafia, Alhaji Isa Agwai, whom they accused of collaborating with Governor Aliyu Doma to remove Al-Makura's billboards.

The State Urban Development Board (NUDB) had in a letter on Monday ordered the removal of Almakura's billboards.

The letter reads in part: "The NUDB is concerned about the way and manner your campaign organisation places billboards within the metropolis without seeking the board's approval."

"This is evident in the following locations: Opposite the Government House at Shendam road junction, Doma road roundabout, Investment House, and Jos road."

"You are required to remove all the billboards immediately and apply for approval from the board before further placements."

"Failure to comply with the above will leave the board with no option but to remove them accordingly."



•PDP presidential aspirant Dr Bukola Saraki (left) with former Minister of Police Affairs Dr Yakubu Lame, during Saraki's visit to his campaign office in Bauchi. PHOTO: NAN

Enugu monarchs lash Nwodo over Chime

By Our Reporter

TRADITIONAL rulers in Enugu State, yesterday, condemned the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo, over the crisis rocking the state chapter of the party.

Over 300 monarchs stormed the Governor's Lodge in Enugu to pledge their support for Governor Sullivan Chime.

They lamented attempts by some people to cause distraction for the state and the PDP chapter, led by Vita Abba.

A statement signed by the monarchs read: "The traditional rulers in the 17 local government areas in Enugu State had, prior to this meeting, given Your Excellency our support for your re-election."

"Being aware of the recent developments in the polity, this visit is to demonstrate our support to this administration."

Former Chief Judge of the state and ex-President of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, Igwe Ezebuilo Ozobu, said Nwodo did not reciprocate the governor's gesture over his emergence.

Igwe Ozobu said: "We are all aware of the struggle you put up for Nwodo's emergence as the PDP national chairman. It is quite regrettable that you're being paid back in this way. We urge you to be strong because we're behind you."

Chime said: "I'm thankful to you for acknowledging

our modest accomplishments. On assumption, one of our priorities was to enthrone peace and open our arms to our brothers and sisters."

"It's in this spirit that we welcomed back our brother and played our little role to support him, but the events of the past few weeks have been regrettable. 'I've tried to refrain from commenting, but Nwodo's press interview on Monday is quite unfortunate."

"If his argument is that he acted because of the report from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), why was it only in Enugu State that he purportedly unilaterally dissolved the executive through a press statement

issued by his personal aide?"

"There were eight states involved in the INEC report, but only Enugu was said to be dissolved without consulting the National Working Committee. That decision remains ineffective because it was one man's decision."

"This is the same exco that gave him the waiver which qualified him to be picked as the national chairman."

"The turn of events is lamentable because people expressed fears prior to his emergence that he would behave this way and I guaranteed them that it would not happen."

"But here we are, dissipating energy unnecessarily. Well, be assured that we won't be distracted."

Police nab man over missing body parts

From Jide Orlintunsin, Minna

A 27-YEAR-OLD man, Jamilu Mohammed, has been arrested by the police in Minna, Niger State, for allegedly causing the disappearance of the private organs of his friend and two other boys.

Police Commissioner Mike Zuokumor paraded the suspect yesterday.

Zuokumor said Mohammed mysteriously caused the manhood of his victims to disappear.

He said the incident oc-

curred on Thursday evening at Bosso, a suburb of Minna, when 15-year-old Idris Gurumana, a member of a youth football club, raised the alarm that his private part was missing, shortly after the suspect had contact with him.

Another club mate, Abdullahi Umar, also 15, became the second victim, as his manhood also disappeared mysteriously after

he accused the suspect, it was learnt.

The police chief said a friend of the suspect, Abubakar Shehu, who went to report the matter to the police, also detected that his private part was missing.

He said the suspect admitted responsibility and restored the organs of his victims.

Zuokumor said Mohammed would be charged to court.

Shehu said: "I rushed to

his rescue, because since he came to our area, we have never found him to be involved in any wicked act, but I was wrong."

"I became his victim too. Thank God he was forced to restore my manhood. I never knew that his gentle look was evil."

Mohammed, who hails from Kano, said: "I meant no harm. I am doing this for no other motive, but for the fun of it and to show that I am very powerful," he said.