

N8bn scam: Counsel asks judge to quit case

Olufemi Atoyebi, Ibadan

A new twist was introduced to the N8bn Central Bank of Nigeria mutilated currency fraud suit on Friday when counsel for two of the accused persons, Olalekan Ojo, asked Justice Olayinka Faaji of the Federal High Court, Ibadan Division, Oyo State, to step down from the case, alleging that the judge had displayed a high level of bias against his clients in his earlier ruling on bail applications.

At the resumed hearing on Friday, Ojo said that with the reasons proffered by the judge on June 19, 2015 while denying the bail applications filed on behalf of his clients, the judge had already presumed the suspects guilty.

He therefore called on Justice Faaji to disqualify himself from the case which was instituted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission for another judge to take over.

A witness invited by the EFCC to testify against the staff of CBN and other banks involved in the case was not allowed to stand in the witness box because of the new development.

On June 19, Justice Faaji granted the bail applications of five accused persons and denied bail to 10 others. Mr. Kolawole Babalola, Muniye

Samuel Awoyinfa,
Abeokuta

Tragedy struck on Friday at Ilishan Junction, along Sagamu/Benin Expressway, Ogun State, when a DAF truck with number plate BDG 779 XE laden with container had a head-on collision with a Mazda commercial bus with number plate XV 311 MUS, killing 12 occupants of the bus instantly.

The victims were five females and seven males.

Some students of the Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, were said to have died in the crash.

Only one passenger survived the accident but sustained serious injury, and was rushed to the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, Sagamu.

The corpses were said to have been deposited in a morgue also in Sagamu.

The driver of the truck was said to have driven against the traffic, and rammed into the bus, which was heading to Lagos.

The state police public relations officer, Muyiwa Adejobi, confirmed the accident.

He said, "We got a report from Sagamu that an accident



•L-R: National Information Officer, United Nations Information Centre, Mr. Oluseyi Soremekun; Director, UNIC Lagos, Mr. Ronald Kayanja; President, Campaign for Democracy and guest of honour, Dr. Joe Okei-Odumakin; and an intern, UNIC, Mr. Jonas Lossan, at the commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking 2015 in Lagos... on Friday. Photo: Women Arise

involving a DAF truck and Mazda commercial bus occurred at Ilishan Junction along Sagamu/Benin Expressway on Friday. The

driver of the truck was said to have driven against the traffic and had a head-on collision with the bus heading to Lagos.

"Twelve people died; five

females and seven males. Some of the victims were said to be students of OOU."

When contacted, the spokesperson, OOU, Niye

Oduwale, said he heard about the accident but added that "the details are still sketchy but some of the members of staff are on their way to the area."

FG to send 700 soldiers to Liberia –GOC

Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna.

Even as the dreaded Boko Haram sect keeps tormenting the North-Eastern part of the

country, no fewer than 700 officers and men of the Nigerian Army would depart the country for a peacekeeping operation in Monrovia, Liberia on Monday.

They were, however,

warned to abide by the rules of engagement and respect the culture and tradition of the Liberian people during their stay in Liberia.

The General Officer Commanding, One

Mechanised Division, Nigerian Army, Kaduna, Maj-Gen. Kenneth

Osuji, stated this at the graduation of troops at a pre-deployment training held at the Nigerian Army Peacekeeping Centre, Jaji, near Kaduna on Friday.