

P.M. NEWS

W-E-E-K-E-N-D

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Buhari, Tinubu In Merger Talks

FEMI ADI/Kaduna

The entente cordiale between the leaders of the Action Congress of Nigeria and the Congress for Progressive Change continued this morning, with General Muhammadu Buhari and Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu arriving Kano together in the same jet.

Both leaders flew into Kano from Kaduna to attend the turbaning of the Central Bank Governor, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi as the Dan Majen Kano.

General Buhari, presidential candidate of the CPC in the last election had hosted Tinubu and two governors of the ACN - Kayode Fayemi of Ekiti and Ibikunle Amosun of Ogun, Chief Audu Ogbeh, a

prominent leader of the party and Lai Mohammed, publicity secretary, when they visited him in Kaduna.

General Buhari had visited Tinubu in Lagos last month.

The public outings and the reciprocal visits have been generating excitement among supporters of the two opposition parties, with hope that their merger would unseat the Peoples Democratic Party PDP in the 2015 elections.

Both parties had explored alliance and merger talks in the run up to the 2011 elections, with both blaming each other for scuppering talks.

Now, sources said, the two groupings have seen the need to bridge differences and make the merger work this time around.



•Former Governor of Lagos State and ACN leader Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (r) fielding question from journalists and former military Head of State, General Muhammadu Buhari, CPC Presidential candidate in April 2011 election, at a meeting in Buhari's residence in Kaduna, yesterday.

Teenager Rape To Death

CYRIACUS IZUEKWE

A 29-year old man, Ime Friday, has been arraigned before Yaba Magistrate's court for allegedly raping a 15-year old girl, Blessing Monday to death.

Friday, who hails from Akwa Ibom State, Southsouth Nigeria, was alleged to have attacked the victim and raped her severally and she died in the process.

The incident happened at Ilamije village farm at Epe Lagos State, Southwest Nigeria.

P.M.NEWS gathered from a police source at State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, Pantli, Yaba, Lagos that

Continued on pg.6

Blind But Hot In Bed

Nigerian Planes Flying Coffins —Ex-Pilot

SIMON ATEBA

In brawny language, a veteran Nigerian ex-pilot, Captain Hosa Okunbor, has branded some planes operated by Nigerian airlines as flying coffins that could drop from the skies anytime and anywhere.

Okunbor was a guest yesterday at Africa Independent Television, AIT, and was commenting on the Nigerian

Continued on pg.6

Bomb Kills Man In Maiduguri

A bomb killed one person early Friday in the northern city of Maiduguri where Islamist sect Boko Haram has carried out series of deadly attacks, the army and residents said.

The improvised explosive device (IED), concealed in a bag kept under a public shed,

Continued on pg.6



Cobbler Speaks About Marriage To Deaf & Dumb Wife

JAMIU YISA

A 42-year old blind shoe-maker, Sunday Owoyemi, who is happily married to a deaf, dumb and autistic wife, Tawa, has confessed that though they maybe physically impaired, their sex life is absolutely great, adding that they are not lacking in that area of their life.

"Our sex life is great. She usually gives it to me real good. We do everything that couples do (laughs) Our challenges do not affect our feelings. We've never had any problem in that area of our lives," he said happily.

The couple, a resident of 22, Olabode Street, Oworo, Lagos, Southwest Nigeria, who has been married for over two years was recently blessed with a baby boy christened Michael Morenikeji Olorunjuelo Olu-

wadarasimi.

The baby born without defect is considered by their neighbours as a miracle child, considering the circumstances surrounding his birth.

P.M.NEWS reliably gathered that the mother was rejected at various hospitals she visited while trying to put to bed, in-

cluding Ifako General Hospital.

Narrating the circumstances that led to their marriage, Owoyemi said: "I believe God destined us to become husband and wife. I knew her many years ago and we were very close then. At a point we lost contact but as God would have it, we

Continued on pg.6

4 Killed As Cult Groups Clash

EMMA UNA/Calabar

As students of the Cross River University of Technology, CRUTECH, begin to round off the first semester examination, misunderstanding between two cult groups, The Black Axe and KKK has

led to the shooting to death on Thursday afternoon of one student, Herbert Akpo and three others in the University of Calabar, the state capital, southsouth Nigeria.

Some sources said the clash continued this morning in

Continued on pg.6

Nigerian Planes

Continued From Pg. 1

aviation industry following the crash on Sunday of a Dana Air plane that claimed more than 150 lives.

Speaking on Matters Arising programme, the veteran pilot said the industry is in tatters and has been neglected by the Federal Government for years.

The proof of the neglect, he argued, is the setting up of a controversial committee to audit airlines and the industry in general, after a plane had crashed and many lives lost.

He said the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria, FAAN, whose Managing Director, Mr. George Uriesi, has been embroiled in many controversies in recent times, is only interested in making money through imposition of arbitrary taxes.

He called on the Federal Government to support airlines by bringing down the ex-

Teenager Raped

Continued From Pg. 1

Friday had demanded sex from the victim and she refused.

He reportedly took a short wood and hit her on her head and after she slumped, he raped her.

After he was through with the act, he abandoned her and fled.

However, luck ran out on him as someone who saw him when he was running away reported to the police in the area.

He was later arrested by the police and he reportedly confessed. The matter was transferred to the SCID.

He was charged to court for rape and murder.

When the matter came up at the court, the presiding Magistrate, Mr. O. A. Ogala ordered that he should be remanded in prison custody at Ikoyi, Lagos.

The court also referred the matter to DPP for advice.

Lady Attempts Suicide

AYODEJI DEDEIGBO

A 24-year-old lady, Mary Odo, from Igede Local Government Area of Benue State, North-central Nigeria, who resides at 24, Adebambo Street, Iyana Ipaja, Lagos State, Southwest Nigeria, was on Monday rescued from the Lagos lagoon, as she attempted to commit suicide.

Speaking after she was rescued, Mary told P.M. NEWS that she has been in Lagos since 2009 and worked as a maid in Ajao Estate.

"I have been in Lagos since four years ago and I was a housemaid in Ajao Estate.

"I am a primary school dropout," she said. Commenting on what led her to jump into the lagoon, Mary said she was disappointed and tired of being a maid.

She added that she wanted to go back to school which she could not achieve.

"I decided to jump into the lagoon because my lover Thomas Ogah broke up with me after I have done all that I could for him. He promised to marry me but later backed out."

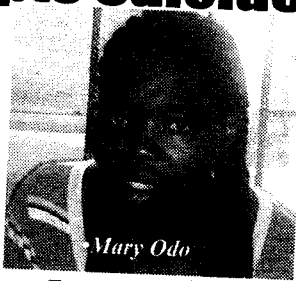
Odo stated that because she cannot efficiently express herself in English language, her lover, Ogah, started treating her with disdain and eventually impregnated another girl to despise and make mockery of her.

"Thomas Ogah is also from Benue State. He runs a restaurant and bar outfit at Iyana Ipaja, a suburb of Lagos State.

"For the over one year the friendship lasted, we had every thing in common and I was extremely convinced that he would stick to his promise of marrying me. I kept other men at a distance and reserved myself for him alone. Rather than keep to his promise, he started calling me an illiterate and a village girl who cannot express herself in English.

"I couldn't withstand the disappointment and disgrace meted out to me by him. I decided to commit suicide to save myself the shame," she explained.

On the day of the incident, she left her brother's house, who is currently at Abuja, lied to his



Mary Odo

son, Emmanuel Ogbaji, 22, that she was travelling to London.

She also told him that nobody should look for her. Odo headed straight to the lagoon around Third Mainland bridge and jumped into it at about 7 p.m.

But she was rescued by fishermen who sighted her and handed her over to policemen from Bariga Divisional Headquarters.

"I became depressed as a result of the painful break-up and as a result of my illiteracy.

"I was fed-up with life because I can't speak good English, can't write and other issues. I could not withstand it. I am just ashamed of myself. I took the decision out of frustration," she told P.M. NEWS.

Continuing, Mary said she had earlier told her Madam that she wanted to go back to school which she agreed but later changed her mind and instructed her to remain as a housemaid.

"While I was in her employ, she paid me N15,000 monthly. I saved the money and from it, I rented an apartment. When I told her that I would go back to school, she initially agreed, but later changed her mind and instructed me to remain as her housemaid.

"I did not want anybody to see my corpse or cause my landlord and co-tenants any problem. That was what necessitated my going to the lagoon to end my life," she explained in tears.

The Bariga Divisional Police Officer, DPO, a Superintendent of Police, Mr. Tarzan Tsav said a pastor in company of some fishermen brought the lady to the station. She was counselled by the police and advised to go back home. She had promised not to make any more attempt in taking her life.

"I told her that I will present her to her people and she will be supported," the DPO stated.

orbitant price of jetA1 as aviation fuel is known.

On the Obakpolor committee set up by the government, Okunbor said, experienced people, including ex-pilots and veteran aviators should have been called upon to help.

He argued that because of all the taxes, airlines cut corners and put the safety of their passengers and crew at risk.

Okunbor was not specifically talking about Dana Airline, but at press conference in Lagos yesterday, the management of the airline dismissed allegations that it cut corners and endangered the lives of those who perished in the ill-fated flight 992 that crashed in Lagos State, southwest Nigeria.

Mr. Oscar Wason, Dana Air's director of operations, dismissed reports that the airline that crashed was the same one that had developed technical fault earlier.

He said: "This aircraft was neither the one that had any technical malfunction in Uyo nor was it grounded. Two days prior, the aircraft was on a scheduled maintenance for one of its A check and thereafter the aircraft was released for flight."

"The aircraft that crashed was 5N RAM. The previous aircraft that everybody is referring to that had declared an emergency is a different aircraft which is 5N SRI and that aircraft is momentarily in Istanbul for its heavy annual compulsory C check."

Dana Managing Director, Mr. Jacky Hathiramani, broke down in tears and explained that its airline abides by all the safety requirements in the country.

He said: "NCAA do perform audit on the airlines unannounced. They can do an audit every week, every month, it all depends. It's independently done and we are not advised when they are coming. Also

they perform round checks and they have been doing this very often. So as far as the authorities are concerned, they are doing their job and we are on the scrutiny always of the NCAA, only here in Lagos but across the network that we fly, in Kano, Abuja, anywhere we fly."

"This aircraft came out of an A-check two days before and on Saturday, it flew its normal scheduled flights. On Sunday morning it flew two normal flights, 999 and 998 and it went back to Abuja on a 993 and it was returning to Lagos on a 992 which was involved in a crash."

"On the question of delay prior to landing, it is known here in Nigeria that they do close the airport for VIP movements and this could be for high officials, government officials, but anytime an aircraft declares an emergency, they have priority for landing and on that particular day there was no VIP movement, the airport was open. I must say that after the crash, the Airforce closed down the airport which is normal."

"The day before, Saturday, they did have VIP movement and the airspace was closed for close to 30 or 40 minutes."

"On the manifest mix up, anybody that is on the manifest or has been identified would be compensated by our insurance."

"So if the name on board is not according to the actual person on board, once you've been identified as a body or a victim of the aircraft, there would be compensation by our insurance. The manifest mix up might just be names but we are focused on the actual victims that died on this particular crash."

On the report that the air-

4 Killed

Continued From Pg. 1

Calabar.

While Herbert was shot right in the school compound while he was eating in a buka, the shooting in the University of Calabar took place behind the New Library edifice where cult groups regularly converge to take illicit drugs.

"He got a call to join them in the bukateria and was shot on the forehead while he was eating in the restaurant close to Hall One," a source in the school told P.M. NEWS.

The source said the victim was a third year student of Visual Art and the Director of Socials in the Students' Union Government of the school.

"He was from Obudu and I don't know what he did to them but he was shot while he was eating," the source said.

The shooting in the University of Calabar which took place in the night was to avenge the shooting in the Cross River University of Technology.

"There was hooting in the night at the CRUTECH Pavilion and the University of Calabar Library and some lives were lost there," our source said.

Bomb Kills Man

Continued From Pg. 1

exploded around 6:00 am (0500 GMT) in the Gidan Dambe district of the volatile city, they said.

The army said victim was a suspected Boko Haram member trying to plant an explosive device. Residents however said they thought he was a drug addict who had been trying to find out what was in the bag.

"There was an explosion in an area of Maiduguri this morning and our men immediately deployed to the area," Colonel Victor Ebhaleme, commander of the Joint Task Force (JTF) operating in the city, told AFP.

"They found a man we believe to be a member of Boko Haram, dismembered by the explosion. Preliminary investigation has shown that he was killed when he was trying to plant the device," he stated.

A resident said: "a resident known to be a drug addict, named Dalwa, went into the shed and tried to open the bag to see what was inside it. The device exploded and killed him on the spot. His body was blown into pieces."

line operated a ferry plane and should never have carried passengers, Dana boss said: "It's against the law to carry anything passenger on a ferry flight. You cannot even carry a cabin crew on that ferry flight. This flight was not on a ferry flight and before we could have a ferry flight we have to have the approval of the NCAA allowing us to ferry the aircraft back to Lagos and the name of the pilot has to be given to the NCAA. This is absolutely incorrect. The aircraft was not on a ferry flight."

He added that their major checks are conducted in My-Technic in Istanbul, Turkey.

20 Nigerians Deported From UK

SIMON ATEBA

At least 20 Nigerians were this morning deported from the United Kingdom and were dropped off at the Murtala Muhammed international airport in Lagos, southwest Nigeria.

They left the United Kingdom at about 2 a.m. today on a chartered flight along with Africans from other countries, Mr. Morrison Robinson, one of the deportees, said.

He said almost all the deportees had overstayed in the United Kingdom beyond the time permitted by their entry visas and were detained before being deported onboard a chartered Italian plane.

"We were many. They are still going to Congo and other African countries," Robinson said, looking at his two bags and expecting a relative to take him home.

When P.M. NEWS visited the schools this morning, everywhere looked calm but there was ostensible suspicion as each student spoken to was apprehensive of what may happen next.

The trouble, said a source in the University of Technology, started on Wednesday evening at a drinking spot close to the school gate "where both members of the Black Axe and KKK were drinking and a misunderstanding erupted which may have led to the shootings on Thursday."

Some sources said the Vikings Confraternity and the Black Axe may have been involved in the bloody clashes as they are usually rekindling their bitter rivalry and intense hatred for each other.

The post-UME Aptitude test for those seeking admission into the school is scheduled for Saturday, and it is not certain if this will still take place as the situation in the school is now very tense.

The Police Public Relations Officer for the Cross River State Command, ASP Hogan Bassey says the police have been deployed there to ensure that the situation remains calm but when P.M. NEWS visited the two schools this morning there was no presence of policemen anywhere.

Police Inspector Disappears In Transit

PAUL IYOGHOJIE

The police at Maroko Division, Lekki, Eti-Osa, Lagos, Southwest Nigeria, are still making frantic efforts to unravel the circumstances behind the mysterious disappearance of an Inspector of Police, Christopher Okwubor, attached to the division while on his way home after work on 25 April, 2012.

Since then, the man has not been seen by his colleagues and relatives.

Though details of the incident were still sketchy at press time, a police source attached to the division who spoke with P.M. NEWS on condition of anonymity confirmed the development.

He said that the cop who resided at Gowon Estate Police Barracks in Egbeda, Akowonjo area of the state and usually rode on a motorcycle to and from work on daily basis closed from work on the fateful day and

Lagos Taskforce Arrests 10 Land Grabbers

KAZEEM UGBODAGA

The Lagos State Task Force on Environmental and Special Offences (Enforcement) Unit has arrested 10 land grabbers, popularly known as Omoniles for allegedly defrauding a land owner of millions of naira at Ogba area of Lagos, Southwest Nigeria.

Those arrested are Jamiu Adeyinka, Shola Elegbede, Jimoh Azeze, Kolapo Benson, Abass Lawal, Rasak Olu-kolu, Shakiru Alonge, Idowu Ishelonne, Dele Daniyan and Oluwaseun Adesina.

P.M. NEWS gathered that the landowner in Ogba had a few days ago allegedly given the leader of the Omoniles in the area, called Yesufu, alias President, N1 million to allow him build his house.

It was gathered that the omoniles came back yesterday allegedly demanding for additional N3 million from the land owner, saying that he would not be allowed to build his house if he refused to pay.

The land owner was said to have informed the task force team who promptly came to the scene and arrested 10 omoniles while their leader, President was said to have escaped but his Hummer Jeep, with customized number plate was impounded.

The 10 suspects were charged to the Special Court, Alausa

Blind

Continued From Pg. 1

came across each other again in a mysterious way after about six years. It was at that point that we got married. And since then, we have been living happily, and have had no cause to quarrel."

Speaking on how he goes about polishing and mending shoes as a visually-impaired, he said: "It's God. I was partially blind when I started mending shoes, so now that I don't see at all, I still use my experience over the years to at least polish shoes and do some other minor things. It's only God that has made it possible so that I won't end up as a beggar on the streets."

"God can do all things and I believe He will open my eyes one day. He has been helping us; though some times we don't always have food to eat, especially with the arrival of our first child."

During a visit to the couple's residence, a picture of poverty is crystal clear around them but their home is filled with an aura of love. The husband cuddled their new born baby with one hand while holding the love of his life with the second hand.

Though he could not see the handsome baby boy he was carrying, nevertheless, his countenance was that of a man truly grateful to God as he inter-

yesterday for alleged touting, assault and illegal collection of dues, while they pleaded not guilty and were granted bail in the sum of N100,000 each with two sureties each in like sum, while the case has been adjourned till 14 June, 2012.

The suspects have not been able to perfect the bail condition and were remanded at the task force cell and might be transferred to Kirikiri Prison if they could not meet the bail condition today.

Task force Chairman, Bayo Sulaiman told P.M. NEWS that the task force had begun an onslaught against land grabbers who prevent people from building or renovating their houses by extorting money from them.

He said the omoniles had demanded N3 million from the land owner and threatened to kill him if he did not pay the money.

He said they dragged the old man down from his building and beat him mercilessly, saying that the old man quickly alerted the task force officers who moved in and arrested 10 of them.

"We will not allow this to continue again. If somebody buys a land from the government or from an individual, you cannot harass such a person again. This thing is becoming very common in Lagos and we are taking this up," he stated.

Interestingly, the abundance of love radiating between the couple has endeared them to many other couples in the neighbourhood.

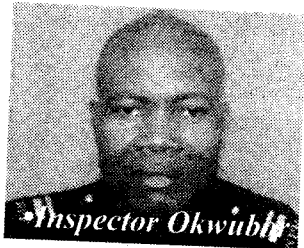
Adebajo Abimbola who lives adjacent to the Owoyemias, says: "The way the couple lives their life is a challenge to other couples in the neighbourhood; though physically challenged and faced with harsh economic condition, they are always seen together and happy with each other. They epitomise my idea of true love and we all are learning how to love our spouses from them."

"The man is blind and the woman is deaf and autistic. We (neighbours) have never seen them quarrel with each other. You need to see how happy they live as if all is well with them," Folake further hinted.

Omotola, a neighbour spoke on how the couple communicate with each other, do the cooking and other household chores. She said, "two of them go to the market together to buy foodstuffs. The wife, in her condition, does the cooking and every other domestic chore with assistance from her husband. Though dumb, she always tries to mutter out some words. Most of the time, no one else understands her except the husband because she does it incoherently."

missing inspector's younger brother, Infanyi Okwubor, for comment over the matter, he confirmed it and stated that they have been searching for their brother since April when he left home for work at Lekki with his motorcycle and that all efforts to find him have so far proved futile.

"Though we have reported the matter to the Lagos State Police Command for help, we are still appealing to kind-hearted members of the public who may have information about his whereabouts to please call 08077329318 or the nearest police station," he said.



Inspector Okwubor