

Lagos Flood Sweeps Away Man, Daughter, 3 Others

JAMIU YISA

A 63-year old retired soldier, Akpata Daniel and his 16-year old daughter, Seun are among the five residents that were swept away by flood at Aboru, Iyana Ipaja, Lagos, Southwest Nigeria.

The tragedy was caused by the heavy rain that fell in some parts of the state on Wednesday.

Many other residents of the area were also displaced by the flood with no hope of where

to lay their heads.

The victims were reported to have been swept into a canal from three adjoining streets — Alabede, Akinola and Raji Rasaki in Oke-Odo area of Agbado Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area, at about 6.20 p.m. The other three victims are yet to be identified.

The late Akpata and his daughter were said to have slipped into the canal while trying to navigate their way through the heavy flood

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Yabatech Student Drugged, Raped On Campus

CYRIACUS IZUEKWE

A student of Yaba College of Technology, Akoka, Yaba, Lagos State, Southwest Nigeria, Adegoke Kehinde, has been arrested by the police

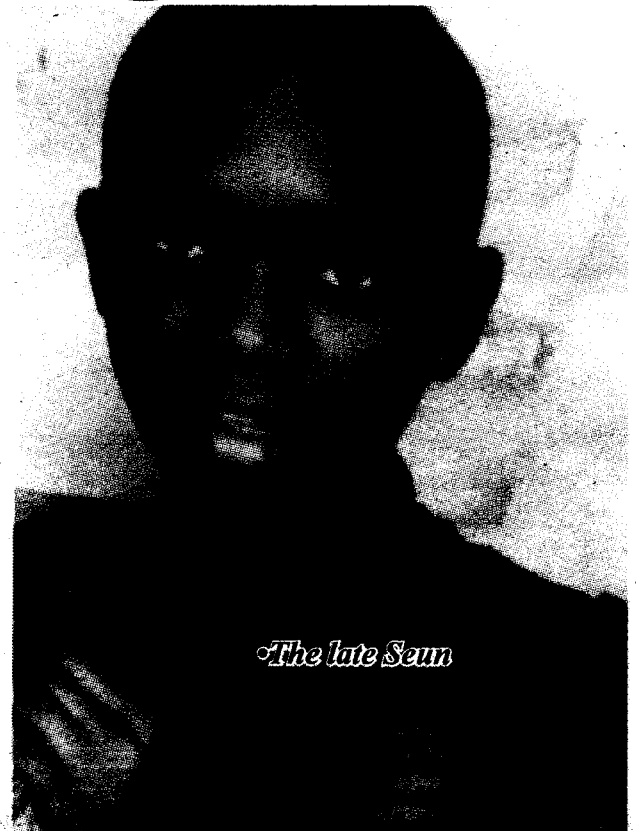
for allegedly drugging and raping a female student (name withheld) on campus.

The 24-year old Kehinde has been charged before the Yaba Magistrate's court on a

two-count charge of rape and assault.

P.M. NEWS gathered that Kehinde reportedly lured the teenager to a spot within the school dormitory at about 10

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Pastor Arrested

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the substance, she slumped and died.

The parents of the victim insisted that their daughter was killed by the pastor due to the poisonous substance she drank.

They argued that it was not the popular anointing oil often used for deliverance as claimed by the pastor, otherwise their daughter would not have died.

The matter was reported at the Oke-Ira Police Station and the pastor was arrested while the matter was transferred State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba, Lagos where he was interrogated before being charged to court.

The police alleged that the offence he committed was contrary to Section 221 of the Criminal Code Law of Lagos State of Nigeria 2011.

He pleaded not guilty and the presiding magistrate granted him bail in the sum of N1 million with two sureties who must own a landed property in Lagos State.

The matter was adjourned till 12 July, 2012 while he was remanded in prison custody at Ikoyi pending when he would meet the bail conditions.

Yabatech

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p.m. on the day he allegedly committed the act and offered her drugged soft drink.

She was said to have slept off immediately she drank it. This allegedly enabled Kehinde to rape her.

The defendant reportedly confessed to the police that he had tried to have sex with her to no avail prior to that day.

He said he administered the drug on her drink so that she would get intoxicated and allow him have sex with her.

P.M.NEWS gathered that the victim became conscious the next day when she woke up naked on a bed with sperm dripping from her private part.

She felt humiliated and reported the matter to the police at Sabo, Yaba Division.

The police later arrested and charged to Kehinde to court under Sections 237 and 266 of the Criminal Code, Laws of Lagos State of Nigeria 2011.

He pleaded not guilty and the presiding Magistrate, Mrs S. K. Matepo, granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sum.

The defendant was remanded in prison custody at Ikoyi as he could not meet the bail condition.

Fleeing Driver Crushes Pregnant Woman

LUCKY LAWAL

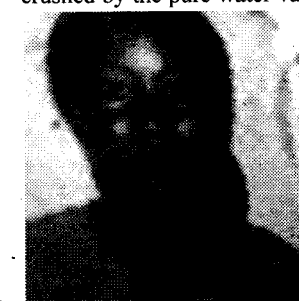
A fleeing driver of a van has crushed a pregnant woman at Adekunle junction on the foot of Third Mainland Bridge, Lagos southwest Nigeria.

The 35-year-old woman, Fatima Usman, from Offa, Kwara State, who lived in a shop at 27 Wright Street Temidire, Lagos was crushed by the driver who was fleeing from the officials of the Road Safety Corps.

According to her step-sister, Mrs. Amina Akinpelu, the accident occurred when pregnant Fatima, who was expecting a set of twins, was coming back from her traditional herbal doctor where she went to receive treatment.

On her way home, she sat down at the foot of the bridge to rest.

Akinpelu said while she was waiting for the traffic to be light before crossing, Fatima was crushed by the pure water van



•The late Fatima

Olusola

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said Ambassador Olusola was connoisseur of the art.

"From the performing art, from the literary art and to the visual art, he was a worthy ambassador. It is regrettable that it happened at a time when he was about the only one in the country at that age to give direction to the young ones," he said.

Udoka thanked God for giving Nigeria such a man, adding that he would be missed.

Journalist and poet, Bethy Abah, expressed shock at the demise of Olusola describing it as a big boss to the country.

She said: "He was a foremost icon and one who really developed himself. There was so much finesse in his diction, excellence and carriage. It is really a big loss to Nigeria especially where the people in the country's leadership lack intellectual depth."

Abah said although the ambassador died at 77, he could be said to have died young because of the enormous contribution he was making to the country.

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN) joined other eminent Nigerians to mourn the passing of one of the country's literary giants and cultural ambassadors, Chief Olusegun Olusola who had his final bow yesterday.

In a condolence message to the family of the deceased, Fashola regretted that the death of the founder of the epic national television series, Village Headmaster has robbed the country

Lagos Orders

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would be fined N250, 000 while commercial bus drivers without certification would be fined N50,000.

According to Opeifa, the state government had been sensitising commuter bus drivers and others on the need to get certified by LASDRI for the past two years, saying that government was now ready to enforce the no certification, no driving law in Lagos State.

The commissioner stated that professional drivers must be certified by the institute on yearly basis, saying that the drivers would be trained and tested for a day and that if they passed, they would be issued certificate of competency.

Opeifa said because of the urgency of the matter, he had invited the executives of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW to the drivers' institute to be trained and recertified so that they would compel their members to urgently get

Lagos Vows To Stop Illegal Mast Installation

KAZEEM UGBODAGA

The Lagos State Government has vowed to enforce the law prohibiting illegal installation of masts, base stations and towers by telecom operators in Lagos, Southwest Nigeria.

The General Manager, Lagos State Urban Furniture Regulatory Unit, UFRU, Mr. Joe Igboke said henceforth, it would be illegal to install masts, base stations and towers in Lagos without permission from the agency.

Igboke said the state took the decision in order to forestall death of persons and loss of property to collapsed masts and towers, which he said had become a re-curring issue in the state.

He gave instances of recorded deaths and loss of property, resulting from collapsed masts and towers in the state, especially the most recent one that happened at Idumagbo area of Lagos, where two people sustained injuries from a collapsed tower belonging to a bank in the area.

"With the advent of Urban Furniture Regulatory Unit, it is now illegal to build masts, towers, base stations and other related structures without permit in Lagos State. It is therefore mandatory for all telecom operators or intending developers of telecommunications structure to apply to UFRU and obtain permit prior to carrying out any construction work on site," Igboke said.

He added that in line with the law establishing UFRU,

of the ace broadcaster who, he described, as one of the country's finest models in broadcasting, culture, the arts and diplomacy.

Fashola noted among the major contributions of Olusola, his founding of the African Refugees Foundation (AREF) which he said contributed to solving the problems of refugees and internally displaced persons. He added that Chief Olusegun Olusola's constant admonition that situations that creates refugees or internally displaced persons must be avoided should be hearkened to by all at this time in the country.

He noted that the passage of the icon would create a big vacuum in the broadcast and cultural space of the country and challenges the youths of the country to be inspired by his life to always "aspire to be the very best in their chosen callings" the same way Ambassador Olusola and his generation excelled in their chosen professions.

The Governor acknowledged the outstanding contributions of the Village Headmaster series to the drama and cultural development of the country and prayed God to grant the soul of the national icon eternal repose.

Born in Iperu-Remo, Ogun State, southwest Nigeria, on 18 March, 1935, the late Olusola attended the Roman Catholic School, Iperu-Remo between 1941 and 1943 and the Wesley School, Iperu from 1944 to 1947 and the Remo Secondary School, Sagamu from 1948 to 1953.

After one year service as Account Assistant at the ECN

certified at any of the five drivers' institutes in the state.

He stated that the government would soon invite proprietors of schools to the institute and let them see the need why they must send their drivers to get certified.

Opeifa said government was interested in the safety of lives on the road, saying that the drivers who were entrusted with such task must be certified as professionals according to the Lagos State Traffic Law 2008.

"For four years, we have been campaigning and slowly enforcing the rule. We are now ready to enforce it seriously. We have spoken with transport unions, companies and other stakeholders on the need to comply with the new regulation.

"Giving your vehicle to a professional driver that is not certified is an offence by both the owner and the driver. With this new measure, we hope to reduce road accidents in this state by 50 per cent by 2015," he said.

Chief Executive Officer, LASDRI, Ayodeji Oyedokun disclosed that since inception of the institute, at least 18,000

drivers had been trained, despite the fact that many had not turned up to get certified and trained.

According to him, "the institute offers mandatory, rehabilitation and instructors' courses' for new drivers, those who committed offences and those who would train others. Private vehicle owners can also come here to upgrade their driving skill and knowledge of roads by voluntarily enrolling for rehabilitation course."

P.M.NEWS reports that there was a heavy gun battle between the security agents and the group between 18 and 20 June, a situation that forced the state governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Geidam, to declare a 24-hour curfew on

the capital city.

P.M.NEWS further gathered from top security sources that when the situation was brought under control by the security agents, over 200 members of the sect had been killed while eight security agents including soldiers and mobile policemen lost their lives.

The state police Commissioner, Patrick Ogunlewe, confirmed the death of the eight security agents but said the police were yet to ascertain the actual number of the sect members killed in the attack.

He however said normalcy has been restored in the town.

Meanwhile, in order to allow Muslims and Christians to go to Mosque and church for worship, Kaduna State government has relaxed the curfew only on Fridays and Sundays.

On Friday, movement would be allowed from 12pm to 4pm. And on Saturday, movement would be completely restricted as the 24 hours curfew will be enforced again.

While on Sunday, movement will only be allowed between 9am and 1pm.

The decision to allow movement on the two worship days came after an emergency

meeting between government, security agencies, traditional leaders and religious leaders.

However, in a statement issued by the Senior Special Assistant to Kaduna State governor on Media, Reuben Buhari, Governor Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa sued for peace and understanding among Christians and Muslims in the state.

now PHCN, he began his broadcasting career in 1955 at the Ibadan station of the Nigerian Broadcasting Service and in September 1959 became Africa's first television producer with the WNTV now NTA Ibadan in a television career that lasted till 1987 during which he created the longest running TV drama series, the Village Headmaster in 1968.

He served as Chairman of the Broadcasting Organization of Nigeria (BON), 2nd All Africa Games Coverage Committee 1973 and NTA's director of Commercial Operations in 1986.

His broadcasting career included further education at the Syracuse University New York (USA) 1960, BBC Management of Resources Course (UK) 1974, Pittsburg University Management Programme for Executives (USA) 1980, and at the National Institute for Policy & Strategic Studies, Jos, 1982.

On his retirement in 1987 he was appointed Nigeria's Ambassador to Ethiopia & Resident Representative to the Organisation of African Unity and served till 1993 when he returned home to establish the African Refugees Foundation devoted to the management of the root causes of refugees and internal displacement.

As Chairman of the OAU Commission On Refugees (1988-1993), Leader of the OAU Zambia Election Monitoring Team (1992), he has addressed international gathering on Refugees, Election Processes, Media Development, Conflict Resolution, Culture and the Arts.

Soldiers Kill

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An eye-witness told P.M.NEWS that the group held Damaturu town hostage for over six hours before a combined team of soldiers and mobile policemen from neighbouring states were deployed to Damaturu.

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Crashed Plane Well Maintained

—Dana Air MD

YAHAYA FUNMILAYO

The Managing Director of Dana Air, Mr. Jacky Hathi-ramani, Friday told members of the Joint Committee on Aviation probing the crash of Dana Air plane at Iju-Ishaga on Sunday 3 that the crashed plane was well maintained.

More than 160 passengers and residents died in the crash.

He revealed that the last time the plane went for maintenance checks was September 2011.

Hathiramani who expressed sadness over the crash, explained that prior to the crash, the company had operated according to the guidelines of the federal government.

He told the panel that the aircraft was purchased by the organisation in 2008 from Alaska airline and that it went through all the necessary safety checks before it was flown to Nigeria.

He, however, could not provide documentary evidence to show that the aircraft was well maintained as demanded by members of the panel.

He also told the committee that the aircraft was more than 20 years old.

As at the time of this report, the inquiry was still going on and the committee had demanded that the aircraft's history should be produced by the company.

Lagos Flood

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which covered the whole road and adjoining gutters that link to the deadly canal at Oju-Odo.

P.M.NEWS reliably gathered that Daniel and Seun were coming from a naming ceremony when the incident happened.

The children of the deceased ex-soldier have since contacted some youths in the area, namely Gafry Ipadeola, Olofin Azeez and Taoreed Akinjobi, to help retrieve the corpses of their father and Seun which are yet to be found as at the time of filing this report.

Speaking on how the victims were swept away by the flood, Gafry said, "the flood was so massive that you cannot even differentiate between the road, the gutters and the canal as big as it is. So, when the rain didn't stop on time, some people became impatient and starting wading through the flood to get home."

"We were on the other end waving to them to exercise some patience and caution or better still wait for the rain to subside before they start going home but because some people had safely navigated their way through the flood, all other people entered it."

"When Baba and his daughter wanted to cross over to the filling station beside the canal probably to avoid being drenched by the rain, he didn't know that there was no slab where the poor girl put her foot and she slipped. As Baba too struggled to rescue her, the flood swept off his foot and he slipped also."

"Immediately they slipped into the canal, two people dived in to assist them but it was too late. In fact, we are yet to see one of the two guys that dived into the canal to rescue them," he said.

According to Olofin Azeez, "we have combed the entire canal from here down to Ajasa Command and we are yet to locate their corpses. Today again we will commence the search and we won't stop until

we locate their corpses. It is not about the money they want to give us, but we just have to sympathise with them."

"This incident is rather unfortunate and it is becoming a recurring decimal here. Sometimes we would just wake up after rain fall and see corpses in the canal. During rainy season like this, we are always prepared for the unexpected. The task before us now is to assist the children of the deceased locate the corpse of their father," he said.

Speaking with P.M.NEWS at his palace, High Chief Amos Adejare Akinola, Baale of Akinola Kingdom, Aboru, described the incident as unfortunate.

"We saw the family of the deceased waiting after the rain stopped but we couldn't stop them and start asking questions or the names of the victims. We just have to sympathise with them too because they are human beings."

"It is quite unfortunate that flood has destroyed a lot of families and properties. This is not the first time this is happening in this area. The rain that fell on July 14, 2011 claimed the life of almost 14 people. Since then our appeal to both the state and federal government to come to our aid has been fruitless."

"The flood coming from Suberu Oje in Alagbado, Abule Egba and its environs is seriously affecting us here. The flood has always been so much that it defies community efforts. We heard that the contract has been awarded. The contractor handling the job is not forthcoming."

"I want to appeal to our people too that they should stop dumping refuse indiscriminately in the canal. We would even appreciate it if the government can provide us with security agents that will arrest those dumping refuse in the canal so that it would serve as deterrent to others," he said.

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