



•Faroukas: The new currency on Facebook.

Guard Hacks Boss Over Food

CYRIACUS IZUEKWE

A guard from Niger Republic, Abdulazeez Haruna, has hacked his employer, Engr. Mrs. Mary Akioye, with a machete, inflicting injuries on her because he claimed his boss failed to serve him his breakfast at about 8 a.m. on the day of the incident.

The 35-year old security guard reportedly

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•Haruna, the guard. Inset: Mary.



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Robbers Kill Army General

•On Dangerous Ogun-Lagos Border Long Bridge

8-Man Robbery Gang Smashed

EMMA UNA/Calabar

A robbery gang, which has been allegedly terrorising residents of Calabar, Cross River State, Southsouth Nigeria, has been smashed by the police.

Members of the 8-man gang were arrested by men of the Atakpa Police Division located close to the popular Watt Market in Calabar and have been transferred to Diamond Hill, the Cross River State Police Command headquarters for

Continued on pg.2

OKAFOR OFIEBOR
Brig. General Sylvester K. Iruh (retd) has been killed by armed robbers suspected to be Fulani hardmen as he attempted to fix his car tyre on the long bridge on Lagos-

Ibadan Expressway.

General Iruh was on his way back from Ilorin, Kwara State, where he had attended a Christian ceremony when the incident happened.

A source said as he approached Lagos, he had a flat

tyre on the long Berger Bridge near the cattle market.

The late general attempted to fix the tyre with the help of three members of his church who were in his car.

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'Sen. Gyang Died In A Stampede'

•Death Toll Now Over 200

FEMI ADI/Kaduna with Agency Report

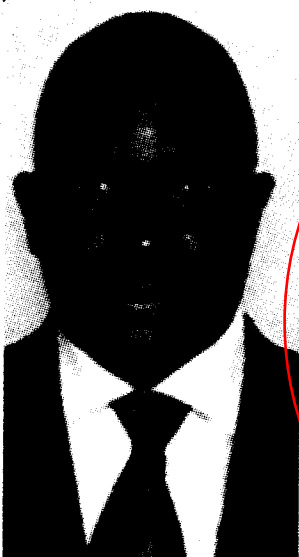
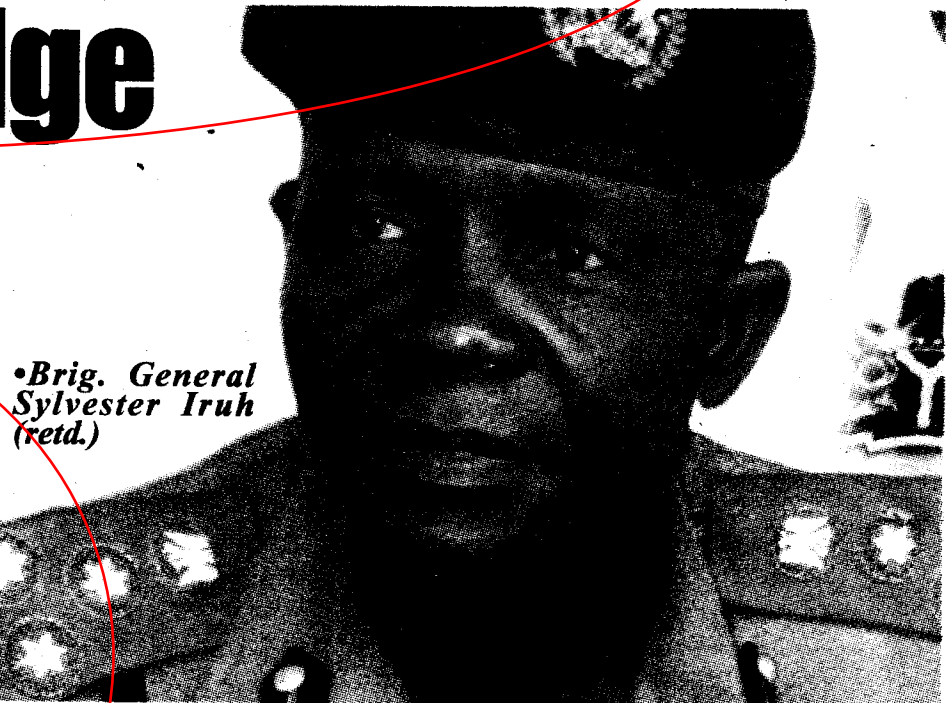
Maj.-Gen. Henry Ayoola, the Special Task Force (STF) Commander in Jos, has confirmed that Senator Gyang Dantong died in a stampede

in Barkin Ladi on Sunday. Also killed in the stampede was Gyang Filani, Majority Leader in the Plateau State House of Assembly.

Addressing a news conference

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•Brig. General Sylvester Iruh (retd.)



•Gyang

Traffic Woes On 3rd Mainland Bridge

—Photos & Story On p.2

Traffic Woes On 3rd Mainland Bridge

YISA JAMIU

It was a bumper to bumper situation on the 3rd Mainland Bridge which links the Lagos Island with the Island. The traffic chaos witnessed today by motorists and commuters was caused by the ongoing repairs of eight expansion joints on the bridge.

Movement from the Lagos Mainland to the Island was diverted at Iyana Oworonsoki to the Anthony interchange into Ikorodu Road and onward to Eko Bridge.

The situation was the same this morning on Ikorodu Road where motorists also experienced traffic jam. The traffic snarl delayed workers on the Island as they could not get to their offices on time.

The situation led to high increase in transport fare as commuter bus drivers capitalised on it.

Commuters on the route are faced with lots of inconveniences. Some of them told *P.M. NEWS* that the repair work on the bridge was coming rather too late.

The repair of the bridge, which started on Sunday, left many workers in areas like Egbeda, Ayobo, Iyana Ipaja and its environs stranded.

could not wait endlessly at the bus stop resorted to taking *okada* to their various destinations.

Some motorists decided to ply alternative roads while others who could not find any alternative route joined the queue.

According to a commuter, Idris Oseni who said he was going for an appointment on Lagos Island, the situation is worrisome, adding: "Our leaders are fond of not doing the right thing at the right time; which led us to the situation we found ourselves now."

Another commuter, Chukwuka Uju, a trader on Lagos Island, said the increase in transport fares will adversely affect her business.

She said the repair was long overdue since it was a long time repair was carried out on the bridge.

She urged the state and federal governments to ensure that the repair is enduring.

Lukmon Ajidagba said that the repair will cause a lot of traffic chaos, adding that the excesses of commuter vehicle drivers shuttling between the Island and Mainland are the big problem for other motorists.

"I think it is for the government to liaise with the leader-

ship of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, and taxi drivers to caution them against exploiting commuters unnecessarily."

Meanwhile, at least, 500 officers of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, have been drafted to assist in the management of traffic during the five months the repair work on the third would last.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the officers would be complementing the efforts of 700 men of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA).

Mr. Nseobong Akpabio, Lagos Sector Commander of the FRSC told NAN in a telephone interview that the officers and men were on ground for effective traffic management.

Akpabio said that he had appointed an assistant corps commander as coordinator of traffic management throughout the duration of the repairs.

"The Lagos State Sector Commander has named one Assistant Corps Commander as the coordinator of traffic management exercise to supervise FRSC operations throughout the period of the repair work on the Third Mainland Bridge," Akpabio

said. He said that the men would be at the diversion, repair site and alternative roads to ensure smooth traffic operations. Akpabio reassured Lagos residents maximum security and urged people to bear

with the situation.

NAN recalls that the Lagos State Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Kayode Opeifa, had on July 6, ordered the deployment of 700 LASTMA men to manage the traffic situ-

Fashola Harps On Ability To Enforce Laws

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN) has stated that the biggest protection for any society is the ability to enforce its laws because such laws would make no meaning, if they are not enforced.

The Governor who spoke in an interview with State House Correspondents after the Executive and Legislative Parley at the Golden Tulip Hotel, Festac Town added: "We are seeing a situation where clearly everybody knows the problem and often times we make very good laws but beyond making laws, what do we do? Not a lot has been done in my own view."

"You will see that most of the values we are complaining about are encapsulated in our laws. How we live, how we drive, how we build, how we dispose of our waste, how we work, how we respond to temptation and so many other things. If the Attorney General becomes the defender of the law rather than just the defender of the government and begin to prosecute cases, we will begin to see changes. If he takes an offensive position rather than a defensive position to see that every law that we make are complied with", Governor Fashola stated at the

weekend.

While identifying law and order as a major issue, the Governor said because the people's lives are changing radically and many people are doing things in many ways that are not consistent with law, it is inflicting a lot of pains, adding that when law and order are complied with many more

people gain, but when law and order suffers, only a few people benefit.

"Everybody is pointing at government, but we are all leaders in our own little ways, in our homes, schools, churches, mosques, social clubs and units where there are tiers of leadership, everybody has a role to play," he said.

Killer Guard

Continued From Pg. 1

attacked his boss at Plot 3176, Elizabeth Olubunmi Street, Prayer Estate, Amuwo Odofin, Lagos, residence of his employer.

Mrs. Akioye, 61, collapsed and bled profusely after the attack.

She was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was revived by doctors.

Haruna was later arrested by the police and charged with attempted murder before an Apapa Magistrate's Court.

Speaking with *P.M. NEWS*, Mrs. Akioye described the attack as a bitter experience, adding that she was shocked because she had always treated Haruna as one of her children.

On the day of the incident, Mrs. Akioye said she woke up in the morning and was feeding her fish in a pond when her security

guard approached her for food. She pleaded that food was not ready and that she would cook immediately after feeding her fish.

"He threatened that he would kill me with the knife he was holding in his hand. I sensed he might kill me since I was the only person in the house. I begged him to allow me to go into the main building to bring money for him to buy food."

"While I was looking for money, the next thing I felt was a machete cut on my leg, neck, head and other parts of my body," she narrated.

She then started running to the gate shouting for help before she collapsed and her neighbours came to her rescue. They contacted the police who arrested Haruna.

He is now facing a charge of attempted murder at Apapa Magistrates court before the presiding Magistrate, Mrs. A. K. Shonubi.

The suspect had earlier pleaded guilty and later changed his plea to not guilty during the fact and sentence.

The prosecutor, Mr. Kalu Uche reminded the court that the offence he committed was serious, adding that the defendant has not fixed address and could jump bail and escape to his country.

The court granted Haruna bail in the sum of N20,000 with one surety who must be a community leader within the court's jurisdiction.

The matter was adjourned till 13 July, 2012 for mention while Haruna was remanded in prison custody pending when he will meet his bail condition.



•Closed 3rd Mainland Bridge this morning. PHOTO: ABEEB OGUNBAJE

50 Movie Pirates In Jail

BAYO ADETU

Fifty suspected movie pirates have been sent to different prisons in Lagos as the Lagos State Films and Video Censors Board (LSFVCB) and Yoruba Video and Films Producers/Marketers Association of Nigeria (YOVIFP-MAN) continues with their efforts to stop the activities of pirates in the state.

A statement issued by YOVIFP-MAN stated that some of the arrested pirates have been sent to Kirikiri, Badagry and Ikoyi prisons, while others are still awaiting trial.

The National President of

the association, Alhaji Toyin Usman of Toymax Films and Holdings, told *P.M. NEWS* that the suspected pirates were arrested in different locations in Lagos such as Mushin, Alaba, Isolo and Shomolu among others.

"We need to specially thank Governor Babatunde Fashola and the Otunba Dapo Awobutolu Lagos State Films and Video Censors Board for their support in fighting those people feasting on our intellectual property," Usman said.

The Chairman, YOVIFP-MAN's Policy and Strategy Committee, Comrade Femi

Jolayemi also said: "We have also looked inwards and have made some new policies that will make it easier for us to combat the activities of movie pirates effectively."

"One of the steps is that unlike before when we release about 80 films every month, it will now be a maximum of 40; and no movie will be released with four-in-one disc any longer. We will also stop the barrage of promos we run in our movies. In every movie henceforth, there should be not more than six minutes promo."

"The Lagos State Film and Video Censors Board and Environmental Sanitation task force have also promised to arrest pirates hawking movies."

Robbery Gang

Continued From Pg. 1

further interrogation.

"The robbers were arrested when two of the suspects operating in a taxi picked a lady who had just withdrawn N2 million and took her to their hideout to dispossess her of the money. But some policemen who have been keeping an eye on the gang trailed them to the hideout and arrested them," a police source told *P.M. NEWS*.

According to our source, those arrested included the producer of a well patronised sachet water whose factory is located at Mbukpa in Calabar South.

"This man also runs a big provision shop at Mbukpa, yet greed would not allow him to leave the robbery gang," the source said.

The source alleged that the robbers are "well known in the police anti-robbery circle and many of their accomplices have long died from police bullets but somehow they managed to live and escape being prosecuted,

courtesy of their lawyers, who free them each time they are taken to the court." The robbery suspects, who all look well fed, are between 40 years and above.

"They have been in this for long but see how God does His thing that all of them have been arrested together," the source said.

ASP John Umoh, who recently assumed duties as the Police Public Relations Officer for the command, said "investigations were still ongoing and the suspects are innocent until proven guilty."

But Umoh confirmed that the suspects would be presented before the press today.



•The robbery suspects being paraded at the police station

Army General

Continued From Pg. 1

But a concerned towing vehicle operator who drove by advised Iruh and others with him to move away from the spot because the area is believed to be a den of armed robbers suspected to be Fulani herdsmen, who usually rob and kill their victims.

The source added that on getting the alert from the concerned motorist, the retired general immediately asked other occupants to hop into the car so he could move away from the danger zone.

Unfortunately, before they could drive off, the hoodlums suspected to be Hausa/Fulani men jumped out of the bush with daggers, bows, arrows and other dangerous weapons demanding for money, which the general gave them. But they still went ahead to kill the general.

Confirming the incident to *P.M. NEWS* on phone, wife of the slain general, Mrs Iruh said: "Please help me tell President Goodluck Jonathan, the Federal Government and Governor of Lagos State, Babatunde Fashola, and security agents to clear the place so that more

innocent women would not be made young widows.

"On that same day (last Saturday) an *Okada* man was also stabbed and his ear chopped off. He was rushed to the Emergency and Accident Hospital at 7UP, Lagos where my husband was rushed to."

Recalling the incident further, she said: "After he was alerted about danger posed by cattle rearers at the cattle market, he tried to dash into his car. But before he could do so, his assailants shot him at the back with their bow and arrow. A female dental doctor who was also in the car and who tried to raise alarm was stabbed on her hand. She is so much in shock that she cannot speak."

"They have made me an unexpected young widow. Government should move into the cattle market by the long Berger Bridge and save the lives of innocent Nigerians."

Brig-General Iruh served in his last posting as Commandant, Army Records, Lokoja until he was retired along with 11 other Generals and 94 other officers in 2009.

He hailed from Boji-Boji Owa, near Agbor, in Ika North-East of Delta State, south-south Nigeria.

Sen Gyang

Continued From Pg. 1

ence in Jos on Monday, Ayoola said the duo were at a burial when they were attacked, adding that in the stampede, they slumped and could not be revived.

Ayoola said that they died at General Hospital, Barkin Ladi, debunking claims that they were shot dead.

There were initial reports yesterday that gunmen killed the two politicians aduring the burial.

The burial ground was located in the state's Gashis district, roughly 90 kilometres (56 miles) from the capital Jos.

Another federal lawmaker "escaped death by the whiskers," a source added.

A resident of the area told AFP that Christian youths had set up roadblocks after news of the attacks spread.

"Youth in the area ... have taken over the two major highways, setting up barricades and looking for Muslim motorists to vent their anger on," said Samuel Gambo.

The long-running Fulani conflict in the state has been

fuelled by both religious and land tensions.

The nomadic Fulani complain that they have been marginalised by the Birom, the Christian agriculturalist ethnic group that dominates the state.

The two victims of the Sunday attack were Birom, as were the 23 people killed in the Saturday raid.

Last month in neighbouring Kaduna state, coordinated church bombings by Boko Haram Islamists sparked reprisal violence by Christian youths who raided mosques and killed dozens of their Muslim neighbours, burning some of their bodies.

Meanwhile, reprisal attacks have been reported in the troubled council areas of Plateau State.

According to reports available to *P.M. NEWS* this morning, the counter attacks by Birom youths may have jacked the death toll to over 200. The youths were said to have embarked on their own orgy of violence last night killing all persons identified to be either Hausa or Fulani within Riyom and Barkin Ladi and those in transit through Plateau major highways from Abuja and

Kaduna.

To contain further killings and spread of the violence to parts of the state, Plateau government has further extended the 6pm-6am curfew imposed yesterday, Sunday to 6pm-12noon from today, thus leaving residents only four hours to move around.

Officials estimate the number of persons killed in both Saturday and Sunday's attacks at Riyom and Barkin Ladi local government areas of Plateau State by Fulanis at over 100.

P.M. NEWS learnt that the attacking herdsmen first on Saturday stormed the two local government areas in the early hours of Saturday at Riyom and Barkin Ladi taking time to raid nine villages unimpeded.

They returned yesterday, Sunday where the mass burial for 63 killed on Saturday was being held at Barkin Ladi and opened fire on the mourners.

Among those killed in the renewed hostilities between the native Biroms and Fulani settlers are Senator representing Jos North, Gyang Dantong and the Majority leader of the Plateau House of Assembly, representing Barkinladi constituency, Gyang Fulani who

were later confirmed to have died of shock from the sporadic shooting at the Church of Christ in Nigeria, COCIN, venue of yesterday's mass burial.

According to sources, the violence at the weekend was a culmination of a chain of events that started Tuesday, when the Fulani herdsmen accused the security men of destroying their houses and dispersing them from the area.

More tension brewed after the Birom community last Friday blamed the Fulani of destroying their farms and staged a peaceful demonstration demanding compensation.

The full scale violence erupted on Saturday 7 July, after the Fulani accused the Berom natives of violently assaulting them.

Despite the curfew, tension still envelops the state, with tongues wagging and threats from Berom youths to avenge the death of the two lawmakers and other people killed by attackers they claimed were Fulani herdsmen. A Berom youth vowed, "with or without curfew, we'll not take this nonsense, it's too much to take. No matter how long, we would kill them too."