



BRIEFLY

Woman Kills Son in Kebbi

A 20-year-old lady, Rabiatsu Umaru from Jega Local Government area of Kebbi State has killed her own baby following the rejection of the infant by her boyfriend, Abubakar Danmalele who denied being responsible for the pregnancy. The lady was among suspects paraded by the state Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Murtari Ibrahim, and allegedly took her newborn baby boy to a nearby bush and placed a block of cement on him. The commissioner said Rabiatsu left the scene when she was sure that the infant was dead. According to him, "the suspect was arrested on a tip-off and she has made statements to the police. The suspect is still with the state CID and would be charged to court." Rabiatsu, in a subsequent interview with newsmen, actually admitted committing the offence, saying "I took the baby to the bush and killed him because my boyfriend said he was not responsible."

C'River Eye Institute

About N365 million has been earmarked by the Cross River State government in its 2009 budget towards the establishment of a state eye institute in Calabar. The state governor, Liyel Imoke disclosed this in a keynote address to commemorate the completion of 12,000 free eye surgeries at the General Hospital, Calabar by Tulsu Chanrai Foundation (TCF). He said the priority attached to the realisation of the proposed institute is hinged on the importance that government places on the health of its citizenry. According to him, government has earmarked N2.4 billion for its Primary Health Care Programme which it wishes donor agencies could also participate in, because as an administration, the state has passion for the health care of its people.

Sokoto State Government

The Sokoto State government has entered into an agreement with Vulcan Elvaton Limited over the installation of an Independent power station in the state. The contract, awarded at a cost of N3.8 billion, is to be completed in six months' time. Speaking in Sokoto yesterday, Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Sahabi Isa Gada said the project is expected to generate 30 mega watts of electricity when completed, and that the plants will be powered by gas. "We believe adequate electricity supply will no doubt stimulate business activities in the state, thereby reducing the scourge of poverty in the polity," he said.

A'Ibom Assembly

A lack of consciousness and willpower by those charged with the responsibility of steering the wheel of growth in socio-economic and political environments is responsible for the problems of Nigeria. This assertion was made by members of the Akwa Ibom State House of Assembly and participants at a three-day capacity-building workshop organised by the Joint House Committee of Economic Planning, Development/Finance and Appropriation of the state Assembly. In a communiqué issued at the end of the workshop, the lawmakers stressed that sustainable fiscal management requires prudence, accountability and transparency and cooperation among the arms of government. The communiqué was signed by the Assembly chairmen of the committees, Hon. Uwem Udoma and Hon. (Elder) Sam Ikon.

Robbers Kill Immigration Officer

Mallam Saulawa Ahmed, a Deputy Superintendent of Immigration, serving at the Bankin/Cameroon border post in Borno State has been killed by armed robbers. Ahmed, who reportedly visited his family in Maiduguri on Tuesday, was allegedly attacked along Bama-Banki road, while returning to his station. The Deputy Comptroller of Immigration in charge of the state Command, Mr. Mamza confirmed the incident in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN). He said Ahmed was killed after the robbers had dispossessed him of his money and belongings. The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Bilyaminu Bello, however said the police had not received any information on the robbery attack. He said the report would be investigated. NAN reported that there has been an upsurge in robbery cases in recent times in the area.