

BRIEFLY

Amosun Appoints Chief of Staff, Aide

Ogun State Governor, Senator Ibikunle Amosun, yesterday announced the appointment of former Nigerian envoy to the United States, Ambassador Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike, as his Chief of Staff with immediate effect. In a statement signed by his Special Assistant on Media and Communications, Mrs. Akinola Akana, Amosun described Ogunnaike as "an accomplished administrator who has distinguished himself in the service of his fatherland." Also, Amosun appointed Mrs. Tinuola Shopeju, as his Special Adviser on Agriculture.

Police Shoot 3 Persons

A yet-to-be-identified operative of Kick Against Indiscipline (KAI), attached to the law enforcement unit of the Lagos State Ministry of the Environment yesterday, allegedly pushed a street hawkker to death in Lagos. Following the death of the hawkker, policemen attached to the unit allegedly shot three men in the legs in a bid to disperse the mob. THISDAY gathered that the task force was led by one Inspector Bernard Ojie, with three patrol vehicles carrying registration numbers Lagos RP 239 KRD, Lagos NE 09 KJA and Lagos CQ 648 MUS. The incident, which occurred at Osborne Road, Ikoyi, was said to have caused a traffic snarl that lasted for hours.

Ajimobi Signs 2012 Budget

Governor Abiola Ajimobi of Oyo State yesterday, signed the state's 2012 Appropriation Bill into law, with a promise that his administration would aggressively pursue tax administration and management in order to ensure effectively service delivery. The signing ceremony was witnessed by the Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Mrs. Monsurat Sunmonu, alongside members of the Assembly, and state executive council. Speaking at the occasion, Ajimobi promised to effectively monitor and evaluate all ongoing projects through effective cost control and value addition.

Akingbola's Suit

An investigative officer attached to the Economic and Financial Crimes Operative (EFCC), Nkechi Ibekaku, yesterday told an Ikeja High Court, how the former Managing Director of Intercontinental Bank Plc (now Access Bank) Dr. Erastus Akingbola, transferred billions of Naira out of the bank's Nostro accounts without corresponding credit in his personal accounts. Ibekaku who is also the second prosecution witness in the on-going trial of Akingbola and his former aid, Bayo Dada told the court presided over by Justice Habeeb Abirum, that there was no evidence or documents authorising all the transactions and that Akingbola only gave verbal instructions for the transactions which were traced into bank accounts of companies belonging to Akingbola, his wife, Victoria and the duo and Dada are signatories.

Lemo for IoD Forum

Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr. Tunde Lemo, will be the guest speaker at the Institute of Director (IoD) Nigeria first Advocacy Round Table Forum on cashless policy, which was introduced by CBN recently. A statement issued yesterday, by IoD's President, Mr. Thomas Awagu, said the event which would take place today at Protea Hotel, Ikoyi, Lagos, would be based on 'Cashless Economic Policy; Consequences on Inflation, Law and Consumerism'.

PHCN Debt Crisis

Worried by the huge debt owed the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) and the company's inability to meet its basic obligations to key suppliers, the Minister of Power, Prof. Bart Nnaji, has ordered an emergency retreat for the 11 distribution companies created out of the state-owned power utility. The meeting, according to sources in the Ministry, "is to help create a paradigm shift because Nnaji believes we cannot continue with a system which has failed over the decades and still expect a different result."

Egbe, Okoloke Communities

There was a blood bath in Egbe and Okoloke communities in Yagba West Local Government Area of Kogi State, where the two communities attacked each other, using dangerous weapons in the process. Reports said several people sustained varying degrees of gunshot wounds, arising from a dispute over land. A monarch was allegedly abducted, while several houses were torched. THISDAY gathered that an age-long dispute between the communities resurfaced on Tuesday when about 21 chiefs of Egbe allegedly visited the land in dispute, about 40 kilometres from Egbe. Meanwhile, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Ajayi Akasanmi, confirmed the incident, and said the command had already send detachment of mobile police men to the area to maintain peace.

Babangida Lauds FRCN

Former military President, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, yesterday applauded the contributions of the Kaduna Station of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), in keeping the north as one united geographical area. Speaking during activities marking the Golden Anniversary of the station in Kaduna, Babangida said the radio station played an important role during the Nigerian civil war by dwarfing the voice of Biafra. "48 years ago, there was somebody called Lt Babangida. I got posted to this very town and I was living just next door, not very far away from FRCN in a place called Kanta road. I must say that that was the beginning of the turning point to my life and in my career because during the cause of my stay there, I interacted with some of the best species of human talent that we have in this country," he said.

PDP Rejects Elechi's Request

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has rejected the request of the Ebonyi State governor, Mr. Martin Elechi, for the substitution of Chief Obinna Ogba, who beat the deadline for the submission of his nomination as a deputy national secretary with Onwe Solomon Onwe. Elechi had on Tuesday in a meeting at the national secretariat with the Acting National Chairman of PDP, Alhaji Abubakar Baraje, requested that the name of Ogba be substituted with Onwe. Consequently, he was advised that the time for the submission of nominations has elapsed. The governor wanted the party to accept the nomination of Onwe as the deputy national secretary candidate of the party. He was unable to submit his nomination form as at March 10, but Ogba was able to beat the deadline, making him the 'unopposed deputy national secretary'. Elechi arrived the national secretariat of PDP at about 3.30pm and went into the meeting with Baraje, that Ogba be replaced with Onwe, but the acting national chairman informed the governor that there was nothing the party could do as the deadline for the submission of the nomination forms had elapsed.