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Policeman kills colleague over Nigeria / Ghana match

A mobile policeman on special duties in Abuja over the weekend killed his team leader for disturbing him from watching the Ghana / Nigeria match.

The police constable, Udem of Mopol Sokoto was on duty at Gwarimpa Estate with his team leader a Mopol sergeant (names withheld) when he disappeared to watch the match at a viewing centre in the area.

"The team leader after searching round for the constable traced him to the viewing centre and ordered him to leave the place," a police source said.

The source said the sergeant sought to know from the constable whether he knows the implication of leaving his duty post and this question angered the junior policeman, who cocked his gun.

"The next thing was that the constable fired his gun at the sergeant and the entire crowd at the viewing centre fled the area," the source added.

He said some brave people in the area attempted to disarm the cop but he shot sporadically into the air before escaping.

The sergeant was said to have died on his way to the hospital and his corpse de-

By Abubakar Yakubu

posited at the mortuary in National Hospital.

City News learnt that policemen from Gwarimpa police station began a full scale manhunt for the fleeing policeman on Sunday and when it was not possible to get him, they tried his phone line and informed him that his team leader was slightly injured and that he should come out from hiding as policemen in

Gwarimpa station have decided to cover up the incident from the police high command.

"This assurance made the cop appear on Monday morning with his arm and he was asked to drop his gun before being apprehended and handcuffed," a policeman at Gwarimpa said.

He said the suspect was immediately taken to the FCT police command where the police commissioner ordered

a proper investigation.

At the FCT police command, the reporter sighted the suspect weeping and saying that he has killed somebody mistakenly. The suspect who was taken to an isolated place in the command is being guarded by four armed mobile policemen.

When our reporter contacted the FCT police commissioner on phone yesterday to react to the issue, his line broke off and after numerous attempts to redial the number an aide of the police commissioner answered the phone and said his boss is in a meeting.

Christians celebrate Ash Wednesday

By Diana O. Nwachukwu

Christians in large numbers yesterday attended mass at the Saint Luke Catholic Church Kubwa to celebrate Ash Wednesday.

The day begins the beginning of the season of lent, which is supposed to last for 40 days.

In his sermon at the event, Rev Father Bede K. Okoli said the ash is a symbol of repentant which can be trace back to the Old Testament.

He said the church set aside this period for Christians to turn

to God and reflect on there spiritual lives.

"It is an urgent call because most of the time we forget that we are dust and dust we shall return," he said.

The cleric noted that the ash reminds Christians of whom they are, adding that people should live righteous lives because they do not know when death will come.

The assistant parish priest, Rev Father Anthony Oshonguyo said lent is a religious practice that last for 40 days as well as 'a period of preparation toward the death and resurrection of our lord Jesus'.

He disclosed further that the period is a time to assist the needy and said the lent should be done discreetly in order to attract God's blessing.



The Minister of State for FCT, Senator John James Akpanudoedehe (left) and the Chairman of AMAC, Zaphaniah Jisalo at the commissioning of the Utako Ultra Model Market in Abuja recently.

FCTA bans sale of alcohol in hotels

By Nasir Imam

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) yesterday banned the sale of alcohol by Hotels situated near residential areas in Abuja.

The administration also banned the activities of commercial sex workers that parade the vicinities of hotels in search of male customers.

He said such ladies turn out to be informants to armed robbers and must be sent off Abuja streets.

While announcing the administration's decision, the Minister of State for FCT, Senator John James Akpanudoedehe said everything possible will be done to sanitize the capital city.

The minister, who was speaking at a meeting with owners of hotels in FCT, directed all hotel operators to always send proper records of their guests to security agencies.

Akpanudoedehe informed the hoteliers to ensure that intending lodgers produce for scrutiny their international passports, national identity cards and other means of identification before they are lodged in the hotel premises.

The measures according to the minister are aimed at curbing the rising wave of crime in the FCT as well as to ensure that the tourism potentials of Abuja are fully explored.

Police parades suspected NFL accountant's killers

By Ahmed Mohammed

The police in Abuja yesterday paraded the suspected killers of the accountant of the Nigeria Football League (NFL) and another cashier.

Parading the seven suspects at the FCT police command, the police commissioner in charge of the command, Mr Haruna John said the suspects took part in two violent robberies that led to the killing of two accountants in Abuja.

"If you will recall, a gang of armed robbers attacked a cashier from a government agency on his way back from Equatorial Trust Bank (ETB) where he

collected N12 million without an escort and they seriously wounded him before taking the money," he said.

He said an accountant of the NFL was also shot and killed and the sum of N5.2 million stolen.

Mr Haruna said the key members of this gang came into the capital city from a neighbouring state and stayed in hotels or loiter around parks and garden before striking.

He said the armed robbers conspired with some bank

security guards, who supplied information to them about possible victims who have withdrawn large amount of money from the bank.

Those paraded were gang leader Edet Edward alias 'Stainer', Taye Iyango, ex-driver with a bank, Andrew Otagy and Alfred Ejiel, both bank security guards.

Other s paraded were Moses Mamman, who financed the purchase of arms and ammunitions, Victor Sam Edet and Barry Atam.

Speaking to newsmen after the parade, the gang leader said they were stationed behind Iluobe

(close to ETB) where they monitored the movement of the late NFL accountant before trailing him.

The gang leader accused one Seyi as the person that shot the accountant in his anus and killed him.

"Seyi is still at large and I got the share of N2.9 million from the robbery," he said.

He further confessed that his gang members normally stay in a garden behind Diamond Bank in Wuse 2 and said when they get information about somebody with money, they follow and strike.

Another suspect Moses

Mamman told newsmen that he is the house-keeping manager of a hotel that gave a \$100 to his friend to buy a pistol, adding that he did not know what the gun was to be used for.

Andrew Otagy described himself as a dismissed army officer, who informed the armed robbers about the movement of the accountant who withdrew N5.2 million.

He said his share of the stolen money was N600,000.

The police commissioner called on the general public to continue to provide useful information to the police that will help in catching criminals.