

# NEWS

## Smugglers kill 2 policemen, set petrol station ablaze in Lagos

From Samson Ojo & Bola Ojuola, Lagos

**I**t was a dark Saturday in Badagry as some smugglers in reaction to the killing of one of their members set the Mowo Police Station ablaze and allegedly killed two policemen.

*Daily Trust* reliably gathered that trouble started when a trigger happy policeman allegedly shot dead one of the smugglers at a check point.

Following the development, attempts were made to carry out a mob action on the said policeman who quickly fled for dear life.

The smugglers later went to the police station for the collection of the corpse of one their own, simply identified as Taye, who was allegedly killed by one of the policemen now on the run.

*Daily Trust* further gathered that the smugglers got angry when the police refused to release the corpse to them.

It was further learnt that the refusal of the police to release the corpse resulted in the vandalizing of several cars parked inside the police station while they insisted that the policeman in question be handed over to them.

A source, who was at the scene of the incident, said the smugglers succeeded in taking Taye's corpse half way to his house when policemen came after them.

He said: "The smugglers took the body from them and went back to set the station on fire."

One of the elders in the town, who pleaded anonymity, said: "The car in which Taye was killed did not belong to him but to another smuggler known as Gaingain who was in the Church with Taye's boss for a vigil at the time of the incident.

Contacted, the Lagos State police spokesman, Mr Frank Mba, confirmed that there was crisis in the area. He stated however that the situation had been brought under control by the combined efforts of policemen attached to some stations in the area.

Asked to confirm whether or not there was casualty in the crisis, he replied that he could not confirm as he claimed that he has not got enough facts on the matter.

In a related development, four armed robbery suspects, including members of a notorious gang who stormed Tin Can Ports, Apapa at the weekend to carry out an operation in the early hours of Sunday have been arrested.

Mba told *Daily Trust* that assorted arms and ammunitions were recovered from the robbers.