



Dead baby found inside river at Mararaba

By Abubakar Yakubu & Catherine Chinenye Korie

TWO under-aged children who set out for a fishing expedition in a river at Mararaba on Saturday, got more than what they bargained for, as they ended up pulling up a black polythene bag that had a month old dead baby boy in it.

The corpse which was tied inside the polythene bag, had no dress on apart from a soiled pampers.

The sight of the corpse drew a large crowd, consisting mostly of children and women that placed curses intermittently on the dead child's mother.

Prayers led by the Mai-Angwa of the area were offered for the corpse as it was laid to rest beside the river.

Ms Patience Benjamin, a resident, said she was washing clothes at a section of the river when the two boys that discovered the corpse rushed towards her direction to intimate her of their find.

"I instantly told them that they were lying and later followed them to where they dropped the polythene bag that was torn and on seeing a dead baby, I screamed so that other residents around could come to the spot," she stated.

Patience suspected a prostitute as the child's mother and called on

the police to do something about prostitution in the area.

Clement Ochibo, another resident cursed the person that put the baby through the ordeal and ended up by saying the baby's spirit will forever hunts its mother as she did a very terrible thing.

Yakubu, a resident declared that he knows of three women without husbands that gave birth recently and the children are no longer with them.

"I am not saying they are the ones because this case looks like if the dead child's mother threw him into the river far away and the corpse flowed here," he noted.

Usman Abubakar, a 13-year-old, blamed unwanted pregnancies as the cause for the tragic incident and he called on the police to do more in arresting and dislodging prostitutes in the area.

Thompson Osgu wondered how a woman will carry a pregnancy for nine months, deliver it and later throw the baby into a river without pity, while Dorcas reasoned that if the baby was placed in a basket, rather than been tied in a polythene bag, it would have been better as the child could have been saved.

Our reporter overheard women of the area vowing to resist the dumping of refuse inside

the river around their vicinity.

Commenting on the issue, the Mai-Angwa of the area, said he was doing his business when someone rushed to tell him of the sad incident.

He said people around the area could not say whether the baby was strangled to death or died a natural death, adding that he immediately informed the police, who came to photograph the crime scene and informed them to bury the corpse.

At the Mararaba Police Station, a police officer confirmed the incident and said investigations have begun to trace the dead baby's mother.

PHCN technician electrocuted on electricity pole

By Hussein Yahaya

A technician with the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) Bwari Distribution Office, over the weekend narrowly escaped death while trying to fix a fault on an electricity pole at Bwari town.

An eye witness, who put the time at 11.10 am, disclosed that the technician was fixing a problem on an electric pole at 16-16 junction, when PHCN restored power to the area that led to his electrocution.

"On lookers rescued him and

rushed him in an unconscious state to a hospital," the witness added.

When our reporter visited the scene, people were discussing the incident in groups.

They described the injured technician as a good man that is ready to work anytime he is called upon.

At PHCN Bwari Distribution office, an official confirmed the incident and referred the reporter to Kubwa PHCN office for further explanations.

Police kill suspected robber at Dutsen-Alhaji

By Usman A. Bello & Romoke W. Ahmad

THE police last Thursday responded on time to a distress call and shot dead a suspected robber called Chukwudi after a gun battle at Dutsen-Alhaji, in the Federal Capital Territory.

An eyewitness, James, who put the incident time at 8 pm, said five robbers including a female stormed Zone 5 area of Dutse Alhaji and disposed residents of their belongings.

The witness said one of the residents put out a distress call to the police, who arrived promptly and spread themselves round the crime scene.

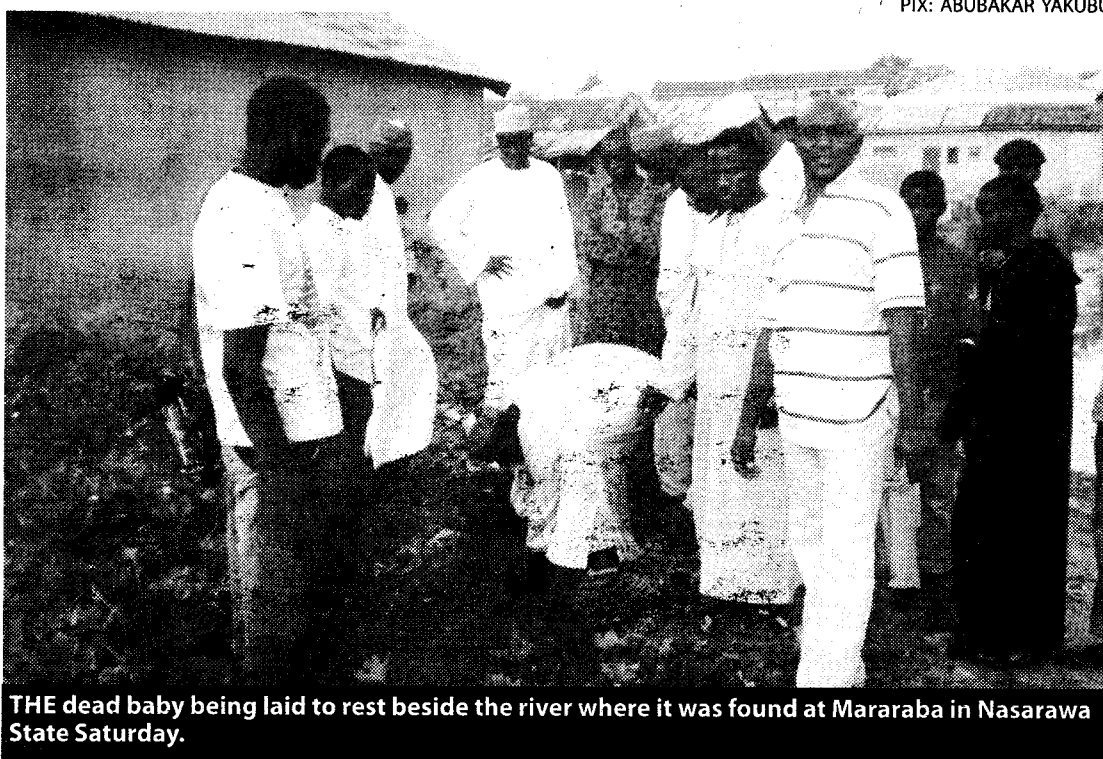
"When the robbers noticed the presence of the police, they opened fire on them and police retaliated and in the process killed one of the robbers, while the others escaped."

Confirming the incident, the Dutsen-Alhaji divisional police officer through the Station Officer, John Ijibla, said the robber died on his way to the hospital as a result of injuries sustained.

He explained that when police got to the area to foil the robbery operation, the robbers engaged them in a gun battle, adding that one of them was gunned down while others escaped after exhausting their ammunitions.

The station officer disclosed that one locally made pistol, seven handsets, two gold wrist watches, one live cartridge as well as one perfume were recovered from the dead robber.

Ijibla called on the residents of the area to quickly inform the police whenever there is a robbery operation, saying the police can effectively combat crime with the cooperation of the residents.



THE dead baby being laid to rest beside the river where it was found at Mararaba in Nasarawa State Saturday.

Woman seeks divorce over husband's continued detention

By Abubakar Yakubu

A man undergoing trial for alleged car theft was recently stunned, when his wife, Hauwa Abubakar Mohammed told a Kuje Area Court that she could no longer wait for her husband, as he has been in detention at Kuje Prisons for the past two years.

Hauwa had instituted the case on August 13, 2009, asking the court to separate her five-year marriage to Ibrahim Vasta Mohammed on the ground that he has been in detention for two years, thereby subjecting her to conjugal deprivation.

"The more I stay without a hus-

band at my tender age, the more evil desire may overcome me from various angles and I want the court to consider my plight and separate us," she pleaded.

Her detained husband, who was allowed to witness the divorce trial, pleaded with the court to be given the opportunity to mobilize his relations, so that they can go and appeal to his wife to allow their marriage continue.

He told his wife to be patient with him as he undergoes his trial for alleged car theft, adding that if she refuses to heed to his plea, then the court should grant him the custody of his two male children.

When the case came up on October 12, Ibrahim's lawyer, Barrister Okakpu Harrison, told the court that his client was indisposed and the case was adjourned to October 30.

On October 30, Hauwa came to court with her father and brother while Ibrahim and his lawyer were absent, which prompted Judge Jamilu Abdulkadir to send a court official to Kuje Prisons to find out why Ibrahim could not attend the trial.

The judge warned that he may be forced to conclude the case in the prevailing circumstances if the other party is not serious in order to let the lady enjoy justice.