

Police discover arms fabrication outfit in Jos

Mahmud Lalo, Jos

AS the nation is yet to recover from the discovery of arms at various locations across the country, the Plateau state police command has uncovered an arm fabrication outfit at Kuru in Jos South local government area of Plateau state. Plateau State Commissioner of police, Mr. Ikechukwu Aduba disclosed this yesterday in a phone interview saying the place was discovered when the officers of the command were combing the area following the killing of a veterinary doctor recently. According to him live bullets were fabricated in the armory.

"We are really disturbed with this discovery", he said. According to him, four people have been arrested in connection with the discovery while the "main man" is still at large.

He added that there was a time the police command called on people to surrender their arms, "but no one came forward" lamenting that people are now producing live bullets in their domains.

Aduba also said it was disturbing that people living in the area have not reported the matter saying that residents in the area should have informed the police about the existence of the armory. The commissioner further expressed concern over the discovery, stressing that only recently another one was discovered at Barkin Ladi. Aduba who declined to make available further details on the issue said investigation is still on and information will be made available as soon as investigation is completed.

Violence against journalists crime against humanity – Sambo

Mohammed S. Shehu

VICE President Mohammed Namadi Sambo has described any form of aggression against newsmen as crime against humanity which he said, often leads to death hence, the need for high premium insurance policy for practitioners.

Sambo, who unveiled the Nigeria Union of Journalist Insurance Scheme at the Ladi Kwali Hall of Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Abuja, yesterday, said journalism is one of the most hazardous professions.

He charged employers in the media to support the scheme to ensure all journalists benefit from the packages the scheme offers.

Meanwhile, the event that has been described as unprecedented and a watershed in the practice of journalism in the country, witnessed a very low turnout as the two ministers in charge of the Ministry of Information and Communication, Professor Dora Akunyili and Labaran Maku as well as the Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT) were all absent.

Had the Vice President and the Ondo State Governor, Olusegun Mimiko not made it, the event would have been a flop as media chief executives in both the public and private sector were also conspicuously absent.

17 die in Kano auto crash

Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

...21 injured

SEVENTEEN people were burnt to death when two vehicles collided and went up in flame at Dawanau village along Kano-Katsina road yesterday. More than 20 other passengers sustained various degrees of injuries. Weekly Trust reports that the accident occurred when an approaching Peugeot J5 had a head-on collision with a Toyota Liteace mini-bus around 8:30 am.

Other road users were forced to park their vehicles, as the

flaming buses blocked both lanes of the road.

Villagers said they were unable to do anything because of the roaring fire. "Once we attempted to go closer for rescue, the heat of the flames would scare us away," said a witness.

Confirming the incident, the Officer-in-Charge of Operations of Kano Fire Service, Kassim Musa, said they received a distress call around 8:47 am

and the Dawanau office of the brigade arrived at the scene five minutes after.

He said they successfully rescued some of the victims alive and took them alongside the charred remains of other victims to Murtala Mohammed General Hospital in the city.

Kano Sector Commander of Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Ahmed Hassan said the accident was caused by

overtaking.

Another eyewitness, Malam Idi, revealed that it could be impossible for the victims of the accident to survive, saying they sustained high degrees of injuries and burns.

One of the survivors, Malam Auwalu, said what he could only remember was that he boarded a Peugeot J5 from Katsina and then found himself regaining consciousness at the hospital.

Our correspondent gathered 21 critically injured survivors were receiving medical attention at the hospital.



FROM left: Dr. Ngeri Benebo, Director General, NESREA, Professor Oladele Osibanjo, Director Federal Ministry of Environment, University of Ibadan Linkage Center, Dr. Nathaniel Biodun Olorunfemi, Permanent Secretary, FCT representing the Minister and Hajia Rekiya Momoh, Director, Information, National Productivity Centre, Abuja, during 4th National Stakeholders' Forum held in Abuja yesterday.

Nigerian woman dies in Mecca after jumping off building

Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Mecca

DAYS before the commencement of the 2010 Hajj exercise, a Nigerian woman pilgrim, Aisha Usman jumped from a five storey residential building where she was staying in Mecca and died.

The Media head of the Nigerian Hajj Commission (NAHCO), Alhaji Uba Mana, who confirmed the incident to *Weekly Trust* said, the Aisha Usman was from Bauchi state.

Alhaji Mana explained that, Aisha missed her way on an elevator while trying to locate the floor she was residing at her resident in Kudai area of Mecca.

Mana explained that, the deceased hit a window slab and subsequently fell, hence broke her head and died on the spot.

"She was confused because she has never been a place like Mecca throughout her life and you know by virtue of her level of civilization such could happen to her", he noted.

Mana however, said, contrary to speculations, the deceased did not commit suicide. Adding, "She died natural death. Her death has nothing to do with suicide."

But according to Saudi Police authority in Mecca, the woman was suffering from mental diseases and that she committed suicide.

The spokesman of Mecca Police, Major Abdul Mohsen Al-Maiman, confirmed the woman's death, adding that, "she was suffering from mental problems. She died after jumping from a toilet window".

Jonathan to Kwande: I won't withdraw from presidential race

Mohammed S. Shehu & Muideen Olaniyi

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday said that he is still in the 2011 presidential race on the platform of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Jonathan was reacting against the backdrop of a statement credited to Alhaji Yahaya Kwande stating that "Jonathan would withdraw from the presidential race."

The President, who spoke through the Director, Media and Publicity Committee of Goodluck/Sambo Presidential Campaign Organisation Sully Abu, described the remark as a figment of his imagination.

Abu called on Alhaji Kwande to concentrate his energy on promoting the cause of his principal rather than embarking on a wild-goose chase.

He said, "President Jonathan has never

contemplated and is not contemplating withdrawing from the race for the presidency in 2011. On the contrary, he is very enthusiastic about the prospects of his offering himself for service and helping to transform Nigeria.

"He (Kwande) is neither a spokesman for Jonathan nor a supporter of his cause. He, therefore, lacks, absolutely, the credentials to speak for the President."

Shell to pay \$48m Nigerian bribe fine

THE US Department of Justice hit the London-listed oil super-major with the penalty, after Panalpina, which was employed by Shell, agreed to plead guilty to taking bribes on behalf of its clients.

Panalpina, a major Swiss freight and logistics company, according to the Telegraph, must pay \$82m in fines after admitting to paying bribes to customs officials in at least seven countries including Nigeria, Brazil and Russia between 2002 and 2007.

Four of Panalpina's other clients in addition to Shell were also fined, including Transocean, Tidewater, Pride International

and Noble Corp.

"These companies resorted to lucrative arrangements behind the scenes to obtain phony paperwork and special favours, and they landed themselves squarely in investigators' crosshairs," said Robert Khuzami, the director of enforcement at the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

In total, the six companies must pay \$236m in criminal and civil penalties.

These companies, including Shell, admitted they "approved or condoned the payment of bribes on their behalf in Nigeria and falsely recorded the bribe payments made on their behalf as legitimate

business expenses in their corporate books, records and accounts".

A spokesman for Shell said: "Shell fully co-operated with the US Department of Justice and the SEC throughout this investigation."

"Shell has enhanced its compliance programme and internal controls. Staff found to have been in violation of policy were either disciplined or dismissed from Shell."

The settlement brings a long-running investigation into Panalpina and its clients to an end.