

Gunmen kill policeman in Yobe

Hamisu Kabir Matazu, Damaturu

GUNMEN yesterday killed a police officer in his compound at Gwange ward in Damaturu, Yobe State.

The deceased, identified as Adamu Ali, was said to have been called out of his house by the gunmen who pretended to be having a discussion with him before he was shot at close range.

Witnesses said that the cop was shot around 1pm by his assailants after engaging him in a talk.

"He was killed at about 1.00pm. The gunmen quickly zoomed off on their motorcycle after killing him", said a witness.

The state's Commissioner of Police, Sulaimon O. Lawal confirmed the killing, describing it as unfortunate.

He said his command was working to substantiate the various speculations trailing the killing and vowed to bring the perpetrators to book.

He said the information received so far by his command showed that the killers trailed the deceased to his house; adding that the way Ali was killed looked like a case of assassination "because there were eight police officers at the compound where the late Ali was residing".

The police chief said few days ago, his command embarked on a raid on some criminals

during which 120 male and 5 female suspects were arrested with 39 fake US dollars, five wraps of Indian hemp, swords, knives, among other dangerous weapons.

According to him, the raid followed the intelligence reports on certain groups whose activities were suspicious.

He added that the suspects were already being screened, noting that 13 of them that were caught with Indian hemp had been handed over to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

He explained that the deceased did not participate in the raid, saying "he was just a driver-cum mechanic with the command."

...Kill corporal, one other in Kaduna

From Isa Sa'idu, Kaduna

A police corporal and a trader were Sunday night killed by gunmen at Katari in Kagarko Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* last night, the district head of Katari, Mr. Zamani Dogon-Yaro said the attackers stormed the town at about 7pm.

"Our suspicion is that the attackers were armed robbers because when they came into the town, they first attacked a bakery. They wounded the owner of the bakery, Malam Haruna, and carted away his N42, 000. Thereafter, they moved to the town

and killed one Ifeanyi Okafor who was a recharge card seller. It was at that point that one police corporal, David Adah, who heard the sound of gunshot, tried to rescue our residents. Unfortunately, he didn't know that the gunmen were just nearby and they shot him to death. This happened on Sunday night", he said.

Spokesman of the state police command Aminu Lawal, who confirmed the incident, said, "our man was killed while trying to rescue the residents that were attacked. Whenever there is such an attack, our men put in their best to rescue the situation. But I would like to assure you that we would fish out the

attackers and they would face justice," Lawal said. The state's Commissioner of Police, Bal-lah Nasarawa said his command would continue to protect the lives and property of the citizens, assuring that the assailants would be fished out and dealt with accordingly.

In the early hours of Sunday, gunmen bombed a police station and a first generation bank in Saminaka, Lere Local Government of the state.

Daily Trust observed that the police have beefed up security in various parts of the state. There were unusual police check points in Kaduna, Zaria, Saminaka, Kafanchan and other major towns in the state.

20 killed in Benin-Shagamu road accident

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

ABOUT 20 people, including a baby, were killed yesterday morning in an accident along the Benin-Shagamu expressway.

The incident, which occurred around 10am, involved a luxurious bus belonging to Young Shall Grow Transport Limited with the registration number XU824BDG and an 18-seater Hilux commercial bus with regis-

tration number XZ17JJJ belonging to Eddyson Transport Limited

Witnesses said the incident occurred when the luxurious bus overtook other vehicles and had a head-on collision with the 18-seater bus which was coming from an eastern state.

The luxurious bus, according to a passenger, Felix Nwado, took off from Maza-Maza, Lagos State and was heading for Onitsha and

Enugu.

On the scene of the incident, news-men counted more than three dead bodies, including those of a woman and his baby; while operatives of the Federal Roads Safety Corps were seen trying to assist other victims.

One of the FRSC officers simply said, "we can't tell you anything now, can't you see what we are doing?"