

PIX: IBRAHIM ABDULAZEEZ

Bandits kill police sergeant in Jalingo

From Terkula Igidi, Jalingo

TWO unidentified gunmen last Saturday morning killed an armed police sergeant who was returning from official duty at the Taraba State House of Assembly.

Circumstances surrounding the murder of the policeman were yet to be established but security sources revealed that the sergeant, identified as Edison Dauda, was returning from duty on a bike and was shot twice in the head by two gunmen and when he slumped in the gutter, they again shot him in the chest and made away with his rifle.

The incident which occurred at the Angwan Yanmusallah area of Jalingo bore some resemblances to the operations of the Boko Haram sect, which has been terrorizing the north-eastern part of the country including Abuja, in recent times.

According to sources, the police sergeant was waylaid and gunned down in cold blood but nothing was taken from him except his rifle.

Daily Trust gathered the N25,000 the late sergeant had on him and his two mobile phones were all intact.

But the police command said: "We cannot jump to conclusions. We are aware a policeman was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Jalingo but it is only investigation that can reveal if it was armed robbers that attacked him or it was Boko Haram."

The murder of the policeman is coming a few days after about 185 men, described as haggard looking by the police, mainly Muslim and from Kano and Jigawa, were deported from Taraba for having no specific destination.



NEW Speaker, Adamawa State House of Assembly Ahmadu Umaru (second right), taking oath of office in Yola yesterday

Adamawa Speaker, deputy impeached

From: Ibrahim Abdulhadi, Yola

THE Speaker of Adamawa State House of Assembly, Barrister Sadik Ibrahim Dasin and his deputy, Mrs. Wale Fwa have been removed from office following a vote of no confidence passed yesterday on the House leadership by members.

The duo, representing Fufere/Gurin and Demsa constituencies respectively who have served for only five months in office, narrowly escaped a similar impeachment sometime ago.

Reports indicate that they were removed for allegedly being too loyal to the executive while others suggest that it may not be unconnected with being too close to the state governor.

The member representing Gombi Constituency who is also the Minority Leader, Jerry Kundisi who brought the impeachment notice under constitutional matters, said the vote of no confidence was passed by 22 out of 25 members of the assembly.

Following the impeachment,

the former majority leader who had earlier vied for the speakership seat, Ahmadu Umaru, representing Madagali state constituency, was elected as the new speaker while Barr. Kwamoti Lalei, representing Numan, emerged deputy speaker.

In his acceptance speech, Ahmadu Umaru after thanking his colleagues for the confidence reposed in him, said, "it was not our wish to carry out the change of leadership, but reasons best known to us necessitated it."

The new speaker promised

to carry along all members of the House and cooperate with the executive to ensure the progress of the state.

"Our relationship with the governor will remain cordial and I can assure you that the change was not influenced by any external factor," he said.

The former deputy speaker, who presided over the sitting had said they were not rattled with the change and thanked their colleagues for the support they enjoyed.

Mosque attacked, two killed in Borno

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

SOME gunmen brandishing sophisticated weapons on Sunday night attacked a mosque in Maiduguri and killed two people before fleeing away.

Witnesses said the gunmen who stormed the Duriya Tandari mosque in Hasusari ward around 6.45pm, shot sporadically into a congregation of worshippers who were waiting to observe the Isha'i (late evening) prayer. The mosque belongs to members of the Jama'atu Izalatul Bid'a Wa'ikamatis Sunnah.

"The gunmen parked an unmarked salon car close to the mosque and then opened fire in the direction of the worshippers who had finished their sunset (Magrib) prayer and were waiting for

the last prayer of the day", a source who does not want to be named said.

"There was serious panic in the whole area because this is the first time that a mosque was attacked. We were forced to scamper for safety," the source said.

"We were gripped with fear when we later realized that two people have been killed. Their bodies were taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital," Babagana Mustapha, another witness in the area said.

However, Abul-Qaqa, the spokesman of the Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnati Lidda'awati Wal Jihad, also known as Boko Haram who spoke to journalists on phone yesterday exonerated his group from the attack.

He, however claimed responsibility for last Saturday's attack at a wedding venue in Maiduguri where the bridegroom, Muduga Burusknel and a former local government councilor were killed.

Qaqa said the groom was killed because he had spied on the sect and was instrumental in the arrest of some of its members. "We are targeting about nine other people who had worked with Muduga in ensuring that our members were arrested," he said.

Borno State Commissioner of Police, Simeon Midenda told journalists on phone that he was not aware of the killing. "We didn't get such report of killing at Hausari as you said. The people don't report such cases to the police, so how do we know such thing happened?" he said.

Gunmen raid banks, kill policeman, 6 others in Rivers

From Bashiru Abdullahi, Port Harcourt

GUNMEN suspected to be armed robbers attacked two banks and a business centre in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, yesterday killing a policeman and five others at two different areas of the town.

Our correspondent gathered that the armed men, numbering about five, among them ladies, attacked Multi-Net a Port Harcourt-based tele-

communication firm, killed the police sergeant and two staff of the company, fatally wounded a passerby and made away with unspecified amount of money and GSM recharge cards, in Rumuokwuta area of Port Harcourt.

Daily Trust gathered that the armed men also opened fire on three persons, believed to be bank customers, whose identities could not be ascertained immediately, killing them in front of the banks located at Rumoula axis

of Port Harcourt.

The armed robbers are said to have carted away an unspecified amount of money, believed to have been withdrawn from one of the banks in the area.

The Rivers State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ben Ugwuogbulam confirmed only the incident that occurred at Rumuokwuta area where a policeman and two others were wounded.

The PPRO said the police sergeant and the two staff of Multi-Net were rushed to a nearby hospital immediately after the incident where the doctor confirmed them dead while the passer-by who was injured by the robbers' stray bullet was rushed to Terme Clinic, Diobu for treatment.

Ugwuogbulam, however, pointed out that the state police command is unaware of another robbery incident or the killing of other persons in the state capital.