

Bauchi: Gunmen attack police station, LG secretariat

Ahmed Mohammed, Bauchi

UNKNOWN gunmen Thursday night attacked Kadin Madaki Police Station and Ganjuwa Local Government Secretariat in Bauchi State in an effort to snatch the salaries of local government workers. The attack is coming

six days after unknown gunmen attacked and bombed Azare township police station, the area commander's office and two banks, carting away millions of naira (see cover story).

Bauchi State Police Commissioner Mr. Ikechukwu Aduba confirmed the incident to

Weekly Trust, saying they foiled the attempt. "They were repelled by our men in conjunction with the military. There was exchange of fire but the hoodlums fled." Aduba also said: "We also recovered two vehicles, N600, 000 and others whose details I'll give later."

Weekly Trust gathered from residents of the area that the gunmen stormed the council secretariat, heading straight to the finance department where the workers' salaries were kept, around midnight, attacking the police station simultaneously.



PIC: Associated Press

AN unidentified member of Oodua People's Congress militia walks with a gun on a major street, during a protest against Boko Haram in Lagos, Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011. The militia group from Nigeria's southwest walked through the streets of the commercial capital firing rifles as police and security forces reportedly fled. The group said they were protesting the rise of Boko Haram, a violent sect in the country's northeast which they claim are responsible for bombings and assassinations.

Goje, 4 others want EFCC charges quashed

Lawal Ibrahim, Gombe

FORMER governor of Gombe State, Danjuma Goje asked the Federal High Court sitting in Gombe to quash all the eighteen (18) charges preferred against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) because the charges lack foundation. Speaking through his counsel, Mr. Adeniyi Akintola (SAN) the former governor said the

commission cannot provide essential ingredients that will link the accused with money laundering charges.

Akintola said most of the documents before the court shows inconclusive investigation whereas no valuation has been conducted in any of the alleged projects ascertains a commission of an offence or not, more so as the alleged petitioners remain faceless whom are either listed in the witnesses nor made any

statements.

In his response, counsel to the EFCC, Mr. Wahab Shitu objected to the application of the defence to strike the case and insisted the former governor and the remaining accused has case to answer based on investigations conducted by the commission. The prosecution, who relied on sections 14 and 17 of the Money Laundering Act (2004 and 2011) as amended said, the

subsisting law has allowed for all the charges to be laid not as indication of guilt or innocence which can only be determined through the trial process.

The presiding Justice Babatunde Olayode Quadri after listening to the argument of the two counsels adjourned the case to the 13th of March 2012 to ruled on whether to quash the charges against the former governor and four other accused persons or otherwise.

Rivers: Bandits kill cashier, injure policemen

Bashiru Abdullahi, Port Harcourt

A cashier with Khana local government council of Rivers State and one other person have been shot dead by a gang of suspected armed bandits yesterday while two police officers and three civilians sustained fatal injuries in an exchange of gunfire with the bandits in Nonwa axis of

the state, the police has confirmed. The state police command said that the gunmen, who drove in a black Toyota Corolla car, are believed to have trailed the local council cashier, Mr. Lekia Nwiku from an old generation bank situated along Garrison in Port Harcourt where he had withdrawn an undisclosed amount of money up to Nonwa in

Tai local government, where they exchanged gunfire.

According to the police spokesman in the state, Ben Ugwuegbulam, the robbers engaged the cashier and others were driving in a Hilux van in a shootout, forcing the occupants of the Hilux to send a distress call to the police, who responded swiftly and foiled the robbery attempt.

Ugwuegbulam explained that no amount of money was taken away by the hoodlums and no firearms were lost to the bandits, assuring out that investigation on the attack is continuing. The latest attack brings the number of people killed in robbery related incident to about ten within five days in different parts of Rivers State.

2 killed in herdsmen-farmers clash in Zamfara

Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Gusau

TWO persons were killed during a fight between herdsmen and farmers in Gidan Mai'aiki village in Wonako West District of Gusau Local Government of Zamfara State. A violent clash broke out after the cattle-rearers herded their flock and destroyed many farmlands in the area last Tuesday, Weekly Trust gathered. The development reportedly angered the members of the community, who were said to have endured similar intrusion from the herdsmen in the past, to engage them in a deadly fight that claimed of two and left many others injured.

It was also gathered that the cattle-rearers, who were armed with sophisticated weapons, are foreigners from a neighbouring country, while their herd numbered hundreds. The incident has since been reported to authorities for necessary action, says the district head of Wonaka, Alhaj Hamza Sambo Wonaka, who appealed to the state government and police authorities to put in place adequate security measures with a view to averting similar clash in the future.

Confirming the clash, Deputy Commissioner of Police Sa'idu Madawaki said one AK-47 rifle, seven rounds of live ammunition and bows and arrows have been recovered. The senior police officer also said the command has not made any arrest in connection to the killing, while noting that investigation was still in progress.

'Create emirates for Hausa/Fulani in Plateau'

Isa Sa'idu, Kaduna

A Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Barrister Yahaya Mahmud said the northern governors should call Governor David Jonah Jang of Plateau State to order by compelling him to create chiefdoms for the Hausa/Fulani and recognise them as indigenes of the state. Mahmud made this call during the just-concluded Arewa Conference for Peace and Unity organised by the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), the region's largest socio-cultural organisation.

Mahmud said part of the problems of the north is a situation where some northerners in some northern states are regarded as settlers after being in their places of residence for over 200 years. "Yorubas, Igbos and other tribes are not called settlers in Plateau but Hausa/Fulani have no right to become indigene of Plateau after being there for over 200 years and some of them cannot trace any other place in their history than Plateau," he said.

CORRIGENDUM

Re: Katsina renovates Abuja governor's lodge at N493m

IN a November 19th news story in the Weekly Trust and with the caption above, it was erroneously reported that the Katsina State Government renovated its Governor's Lodge in Abuja at N493m. Our attention was drawn to the fact that it was actually outright construction that took place after an old structure was pulled down, not a renovation. The error is regretted.

'Balanced political postings keep Taraba stable'

Solomon Chung

TARABA State has remained a symbol of peace, unity, and religious harmony in Nigeria, even if it is one that has diverse ethnic groups, said Mr. Emmanuel Bello, the state's Commissioner of Information. In an e-mail sent to Weekly Trust, he also said: "We have learnt to embrace our common humanity and see the various

things that make us part of each other rather than the differences that may tear us apart."

Bello's statement added that Taraba Governor, Danbaba Suntai, is an impartial arbiter who continues to champion unity. "He has ensured that even in his political postings, both the religious and ethnic components are balanced. It is his regime that has

ushered in the current peace, security and cohesion in Taraba." He also said that in order to consolidate on religious harmony, Suntai built both Christian and Muslim centers in Jalingo, and mentioned that the state also sponsors pilgrims of both faiths each year. "He has appointed special advisers for both faiths, among other such postings to further strengthen the existing harmony."