

Journalist killed in Benin

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

JOURNALISTS in Edo State were again thrown into mourning yesterday following the announcement of the gruesome murder of one of their members, Chuks Ogu, by dare-devil gunmen believed to be hired assassins in Benin City.

Ogu, a cameraman with Independent Television, a privately-owned broadcast station, was reportedly shot dead on Saturday night after he had covered a marriage ceremony.

It was gathered that the late cameraman was at the home of the newly wedded couple along Siluko

Road with his reporter when armed men suddenly stormed into the apartment and opened fire, hitting Chucks and killing him on the spot.

It could however not be confirmed if he was the actual target of the attack or a case of mistaken identity. Nothing was stolen from

him nor from the newly wedded couple making the murderers look like assassins.

Edo State Police Commissioner, M. Olayinka Balogun, who confirmed the incident, said the police are still investigating the case.

The body of Chuks Ogu has

been deposited at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH).

The Chairman of the Independent Television, Chief Gabriel Igbinedion and some top management of the television outfit are yet to react to the news of the killing as they are said to be out of the country.



FROM right: Permanent Secretary of Interior Ministry, Mr. Linus Awute; Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Works, Alhaji Bukar Goni; and Engr. Saidu Njidda, founder of the Foundation for Public-Private Partnerships, at the wedding of the daughter of Mrs. Fatima Bamidele, Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja, over the weekend.

Gombe varsity releases admission letters to pioneer students

THE authorities of Federal University, Kashere, Gombe State, have directed the institution's pioneer students to collect their admission letters today, April 16.

A statement issued by the registrar of the university, Dr. Abubakar Aliyu-Bafeto, in Gombe Saturday, said academic activities would commence on April 30.

According to the statement, the institution will begin academic activities in the two pioneer faculties, the Faculty of Humanities, Management and Social Sciences and the Faculty

of Sciences.

The registrar said that each of the students would pay a N5,000 acceptance fee at any Guaranty Trust Bank.

He directed the students to report at the campus at Kashere village in Akko Local Government Area on April 30, adding that registration would start on May 1 and end on May 5.

The registrar also said that late registration would attract a fee of N1,000 per day, and would last for one week only. He advised the students to visit the institution's website at www.fukashere.edu.ng

Gunmen kill poly lecturer in Zaria

From Sunday Isuwa, Kaduna

A senior lecturer with the Department of Estate Management, Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic, Zaria Mr. Basil Makama has been reportedly killed by unknown gunmen in Panladan area of Zaria metropolis in Kaduna State.

The lecture, it was gathered, was found dead with bullet wounds after he was reported missing since Wednesday last week. One of his neighbours, Bala Adamu, said "the deceased's

family has been looking for him since Wednesday last week. We later gathered that he was found dead in Panladan with bullet wounds. He normally went out for business if he had nothing to do inside the school. His corpse has been deposited at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital mortuary in Shika Zaria."

Kaduna police spokesman, Aminu Lawan, confirmed the incident, saying he was killed by yet to be identified gunmen who fled with is car.

Tambuwal condoles with IG, Bakaye families

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Gusau

SPEAKER, House of Representatives, Alhaji Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, has condoled with the family of the Inspector General of Police, Alhaji Mohammed Dahiru Abubakar, over the death of his mother and that of his colleague, Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu, who lost his father, Alhaji Shehu Bakaye Gusau.

Tambuwal, who was accompanied to Gusau for the condolences by Alhaji Bello Matawalle, Alhaji Sani Ibrahim Ruwan Dorowa, Alhaji Datti Garba and Alhaji Yusuf Galadi, described the deaths as a great loss not only to the bereaved families but also to the country at large.

The speaker prayed God to grant the deceased eternal rest and urged the two families to take the loss in good faith.

Responding, the IGP's father, Alhaji Sulaiman Gusau, thanked the speaker for coming to condole with the family.

Police invite 3 Minna prisons officials over robbery suspects' escape

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Minna

THREE prisons officers have been invited by the police for questioning over their alleged negligence that led to the escape of five armed robbers at the premises of a magistrate's court in Minna, Niger State, on Tuesday last week.

Public relations officer of the state police command, ASP Richard Uguche, said the prisons officials were invited to write statements on reason why the fleeing robbers were taken to court even without receiving an order from the court for the suspects to be produced before it.

He said shortly after they had written their statements, the prison officers were allowed by the police to go back to their respective duty posts, saying the tradition is that it is the duty of the prisons service to produce suspects after a production warrant has been signed by a judge.

A source close to the Nigeria Prisons Service, however, told *Daily Trust* that no fewer than 10 prisons officers, among them a deputy controller of prisons, are now undergoing interrogation at the Nigeria Prisons Service headquarters, Abuja, over alleged complicity in the escape of five awaiting trial armed robbery suspects in Minna.

Benue tops HIV/AIDS chart with .6m cases

From Toryila Kajo, Makurdi

BENUE State tops HIV/AIDS chart with 600,000 cases in the country, Executive Secretary, Benue State AIDS Control Agency (BENSACA), Mrs. Ashi Wende, has disclosed.

The executive secretary was speaking at a 3-day workshop on "Stigma Reduction and Discrimination for Producers, Reporters and Duty Continuity Announcers" organized by the state Ministry of Information in conjunction with BENSACA.

She attributed the menace to inability of the people to change their behaviours, saying that a situation in the past where attention was given to treatment and care at the expense of prevention was not giving the desired result.

"Let me appeal to the Benue State government to key properly into its development plans as it is a major underlining factor of the reckless sexual behaviours especially among the youth of the state," she said.

Mrs. Wende, who called for public-private partnership for enhanced funding, also urged civil society involvement especially in the rural areas where, she said, recent studies found higher prevalence rates of the disease than the urban centres.

Election fraud, bad leadership cause of Nigeria's insecurity—Sheikh Jingir

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Katsina

THE National Chairman of the Council of Ulama, Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah wa'ikamatis Sunnah, Sheikh Sani Yahaya Jingir, said in Katsina yesterday that election fraud and bad leadership have been responsible for the insecurity in the country.

"Most of our leaders have secured their seats through

election rigging and that is why they don't have concern for our health, education, agriculture, businesses and other areas of human endeavour," he said.

Jingir also said "their nonchalant attitude to our lives is what has led the country to its present situation of high rate of robbery, thefts, cultism, communal and religious crises, unemployment and

redundancy among other vices."

Jingir, who was attending the JIBWIS' annual national preaching, held in Katsina yesterday, said until Nigerians do away with election fraud and our leaders imbibe the spirit of good governance, the country will continue to face more challenges.

On the Boko Haram insurgency, Sheikh Jingir accused

the Federal Government of insincerity, saying "several people that include both Muslims and Christians have been apprehended in some parts of the country with explosive devices but up till this moment we have not heard about their prosecution." He lamented that the Boko Haram insurgency in the North is also another pointer of insincerity on the side of government.