

Quick Read

Four soldiers sanctioned in Adamawa for torture

From Ibrahim Abdul'Aziz, Yola

THE 23rd Armoured Brigade in Yola in Adamawa State has sanctioned four of its officers for high-handedness and ill-treatment meted to a female gunrunner who was caught in the southern senatorial area of the state hiding four guns in a gari sack. Commander of the brigade, Brigadier General John Nwoaga, said based on reported allegations against the four affected soldiers, the brigade had to investigate the conduct of the soldiers and were thereafter indicted for various unprofessional offenses which he said are punishable in line with the military rules. The military, according to him, is committed to safeguarding the rule of law and also upholding its constitutional obligation, saying high-handedness and undue use of force by soldiers will not be tolerated.

Katsina to procure N4bn fertilizer

From Yusha'u A. Ibrahim, Katsina

KATSINA State government has approved N4 billion for the purchase of 40,000 metric tons of assorted fertilizer for sale to farmers this farming season. Briefing newsmen on the outcome of this week's state executive council meeting, state Commissioner of Information, Culture and Home Affairs, Alhaji Gide Sani, said the commodity is meant for this year's farming season. Sani also said the fertilizer is expected to be supplied to the state in six weeks time. He said government had a stock of 17,000 metric tons of the commodity that was kept for the farmers' emergency need. The commissioner also said distribution committees would be set up soon to ensure that the commodity reaches the targeted farmers. He assured that government will continue to accord priority to agriculture, saying "plans are also underway to boost irrigation farming in the state."

Kebbi raises 21-member revenue c'ttee

From Umar Jibrilu Gwandu, Birnin Kebbi

KEBBI State government has raised a 21-member task force to oversee revenue generation activities in the state. In his address at the inauguration of the committee Tuesday, Kebbi State Deputy Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim K. Aliyu, charged the committee to identify all sources of revenue generation to the state. Aliyu said the committee is also saddled with the responsibility "of suggesting strategies for improving the existing sources, and identifying ways of plugging revenue leakages." The deputy governor explained that the committee would also monitor payment of monthly salaries and wages in the state.

Family of slain journalist wants killers fished out

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE family of Chuks Ugu has urged both security agencies in the state and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to fish out the killers of their breadwinner. The family, which spoke through Chuks' elder brother to Gashion Mba, said fishing out the killers of their brother is the only way his death will not be in vain. Mr. Mba relayed the message in Benin yesterday when the Executive Director of Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ), Rev. David Ugolor, paid a condolence visit to Joy Ugu, wife of the deceased. Rev. Ugolor who commiserated with Mrs. Ugu at their GRA residence in Benin, also made a donation of N200,000 for the immediate needs of the family.

Kano MAN: Relocate police stations from densely populated areas

From Halima Musa, Kano

MEMBERS of the Kano business community have called for the relocation of police stations from densely populated areas of the metropolis to the outskirts of the city to allow for businesses to resume fully in the commercial state.

The call was made in Kano yesterday by the national vice president of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and Chief Executive Officer of Dala Foods, Alhaji Ali S. Madugu.

Speaking as a lead discussant at a one-day interactive seminar on security challenges in Kano and the business environment organized by the Centre for Research and Documentation (CRD) with support from

Enhancing Nigerian Advocacy for a Better Business Environment (ENABLE), Madugu said the call was imperative in view of the negative impact the police stations were having on the economic development of the city.

He observed that since the January blast, businesses around police stations have all closed, saying since nobody knows when this problem would be tackled, police stations should be relocated to the outskirts of the city so that those businesses would open again.

"Since we don't know when this security issue will be tackled, let the police stations that are situated in the densely populated areas of the city be relocated to the outskirts so that those doing their businesses near the police stations would resume operations," he said.

He said it was high time for people to learn how to keep moving despite all the security challenges, adding that Kano was not the only place with such problems, urging the security to relax the measures taken to fight the menace.

The manufacturer said closure of shops and other businesses around police stations and the many check points in the city have negatively affected businesses in Kano, saying if this is allowed to continue the way it is, more security problems would emerge.

He also called for the harmonization of the multiple taxes that manufacturers and other business people were made to pay by government so that the negative impact of multiple taxation would be eradicated.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FROM right: Vice President Namadi Sambo, Secretary to the Government of the Federation Sen. Anyim Pius Anyim and Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Alhaji Isa Bello Sali, during the Federal Executive Council meeting, held in Abuja yesterday.

Gunmen kill 92-year-old cleric in Maiduguri

GUNMEN suspected to be Boko Haram militants have shot dead a 92-year-old Islamic cleric, Goni Mustapha at his residence in Gwange, Maiduguri.

Relatives of the victim told newsmen in Maiduguri yesterday that the gunmen invaded the residence of the deceased around 7.30 pm on Tuesday and killed him.

"About four gunmen invaded his residence in the evening shortly after prayers.

"The attackers divided themselves into two groups, the first group went in to kill the cleric while the other group kept vigil at the entrance," said Malam Ibrahim Sulaiman a witness.

Sulaiman explained that the killers met the deceased inside his compound where they shot him

several times before dispersing into different directions.

He said that the remains of the cleric had been buried at the Gwange cemetery.

Mr Samuel Tizhe, the Public Relations Officer of the Borno Police Command, confirmed the killing. "It is true that the incident happened," Tizhe said.

He blamed the continued killing in the city on people's reluctance to give information.

"The killing took place yesterday in the evening but nobody came to inform the police.

"How can the police trace the killers without information? People must learn to supply vital information to the police to enable us carry out our duty of protecting lives and property. (NAN)

Police sergeant shot in Kaduna

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

GUNMEN shot a police sergeant in Rigasa area of Kaduna metropolis last night. The area had in recent times witnessed a series of attacks and killing of policemen by unknown gunmen on motorbikes. The incident was said to have taken place around Naira Road by Zaria Road.

Nobody could explain whether the police sergeant died as the area immediately turned into a ghost town after shooting because resi-

dents locked themselves at home for the fear of being molested by security agents.

Eyewitnesses said the policeman, Sergeant Yakubu Musa, was shot by the gunmen while on his way back to home from duty in his uniform. "The policeman, we were told, was recently transferred from Ungwan Sanusi Division to Rigasa Division," the eyewitness said.

When contacted, spokesperson of Kaduna Police Command, DSP Aminu Lawan, said he has no knowledge of the incident.