

# Blast hits Mopol armoury in Akwanga

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE armoury of Squadron 38 of the Mobile Police base in Akwanga, Nasarawa State, was yesterday gutted by fire, causing explosions and panic in the state.

The explosions, which lasted for about two hours, came barely two months after the same base was attacked by gunmen, who killed a corporal on duty.

The explosions were first heard at about 6:26am. Residents

of the area, who spoke to newsmen, said they heard explosions from the direction of the MOPOL base.

"We heard explosions, and we started running in different directions. We thought it was a bomb blast", said a witness.

Another witness said, "I didn't know what to do. I started running before I turned back to get my children. My husband was with them, trying to get them out of the compound".

Our correspondent reports that local rescue efforts were organized by residents, who tried unsuccessfully to put out the fire. It was gathered that the fire burned until it went off, and that close to an hour after it died down, men of the fire department arrived with their tanker, blaring siren.

But the police authorities said it was a fire disaster, and that no one was physically affected. The armoury, the house of the com-

mander, and other sections of the base were affected by the incident. Chief Superintendent of Police Abibo Deinma, who is the commander of MOPOL 38, confirmed the explosion in the armoury of the base when he spoke to newsmen, shortly after the incident. He said the armoury housed ammunition and teargas. He blamed the fire on electrical fault, though he insisted that it was not possible to ascertain the actual cause yet.

The state's Police Commissioner, Akyomi Akereem led top officers of the command on an on-the-spot assessment. Speaking to newsmen, spokesman of the command, Cornelius Ochoi said there was a fire outbreak at the base, but added that he couldn't say more about the incident.

"I don't want to jump into making statements while the command is still investigating to ascertain the cause," he said.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU

## General stabbed to death in Lagos

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

FIVE persons have been arrested for allegedly killing a retired Brigadier General at the Berger end of the Lagos Ibadan Expressway on Saturday. It was gathered the deceased, identified as Sylvester Iruh, was stabbed to death by the suspects after an exchange of words with some Fulani herdsmen in the area. Though, the identities of the deceased persons could not be ascertained, the Ogun State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Muiywa Adejobi, told Daily Trust that the deceased died at an undisclosed hospital. "We have raided the place and about five persons have been arrested," he added.

A witness told Daily Trust that the deceased was returning from Ilorin when his car had a flat tyre at the Berger Bridge near the cattle market.

## Police kill one, foil bank robbery in Bayelsa

From Hope Abah, Yenagoo

THE police in Bayelsa State yesterday said a suspected armed robber was killed while two others were arrested in a failed attempt to attack a new generation bank in Yenagoo.

Spokesman of the command, ASP Fidelis Odunna, said the robbers arrived the bank located along the Isaac Boro expressway at 2:00am in a bullet proof Jeep belonging to a construction company.

He said unfortunately for the robbers, some policemen on duty noticed their usual movement, opened fire on them, and alerted a patrol team for reinforcement.

Odunna said a gun battle thereafter ensued between his men and the robbers leading to the killing of one of the suspects and two others who were arrested with severe bullet wounds.

The PPRO added that some of the robbers fled the scene when it became obvious that the police had overpowered them. He said items recovered from the suspects include, one AK 47 rifle, 22 rounds of ammunition, an axe, a cutter, a pincer and a ladder.



MEMBERS of the governing board of the Office for Disability Affairs taking oath of allegiance before the Director, Legislative Drafting, Lagos State Ministry of Justice in Lagos yesterday.

## Lebanese killed by suspected robbers in Kano

From Nazifi Dawud Khalid, Kano

A 28-year-old Lebanese was yesterday killed by six masked gunmen, suspected to be armed robbers at Sharada Industrial area of Kano State. The victim who was identified by one of his friends as Osama Hamdan, was until his

death the storekeeper of a plastic company which deals in mobile phones. The victim's friend, who declined to be named, told Daily Trust that the assailants arrived the company around 10:30am on three motorbikes and demanded money from the deceased. When the attackers could not get any

money, they shot and killed the victim, it was learnt.

"When he told them he did not have money, they became infuriated and fired shots at him, killing him on the spot. They then carted away two bags full of mobile phones from the company before fleeing", the friend

said.

He added that the victim was planning to travel to Lebanon on Tuesday for his wedding before he was killed.

The public relations department of the Kano State Police Command confirmed the incident.

## Adamawa sensitises intending pilgrims

From Ibrahim Abdul'Aziz, Yola

THE Adamawa State Pilgrims Welfare Board has organized a workshop for intending pilgrims from the state with a call on them to seek knowledge on how to perform hajj rites before embarking the exercise. The workshop, which was held across the three senatorial districts for intending pilgrims focused on hajj rites.

Addressing the intending pilgrims, Executive Secretary of the board, Alh. Bashir Aliyu, noted with concern that some pilgrims go to the holy land for the exercise without adequate knowledge on how to go about it. He said adequate arrangements have been

made by the board to sensitize the pilgrims properly, urging them to obtain audio cassettes on how to perform the exercise.

While advocating the setting up of a hajj tribunal that will try cases of hajj misconduct, the executive secretary said the board will not take it kindly with any pilgrim who is found wanting.

On the total seats allocated to Adamawa, Bashir Aliyu, said the board received an initial allocation of 2,401 seats from the National Hajj Commission, and that they have since been distributed to the 21 local government areas of the state.

He said already, the board has rented befitting accommodation in Makkah for the pilgrims.

## Yakowa seeks support of Northern govs

From Abdullahi Anako, Dutse

GOVERNOR of Kaduna State, Patrick Yakowa, has said that he needs the support of all governors in the North to succeed. Yakowa, who is on a 2-day working visit to Jigawa said, "When I was sworn in 2011, I promised to be the governor for all. I have been working to achieve that, but I need the support of all northern governors to succeed."

Kaduna is the capital of Northern Nigeria, and all Northern states have citizens resident in Kaduna or they come for business on a daily basis. We are facing a new challenge of terrorism and ethno-religious crisis that are

unnecessary. We need to come together to deliberate and find ways to solve this problem in order to develop the region and the country."

Yakowa said lack of peace is hampering investment and development in Northern Nigeria.

"We have natural resources that we can harness to develop Northern Nigeria. Sometimes ago, we were in Washington with the vice-president on agricultural summit, and we did our best to present our case for investment in the region, but the question the investors kept asking is about peace. They said peace has to be there before they can invest," he said.