

# Gunmen kill 3 people in Nasarawa

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

Unknown gunmen yesterday killed three persons, after they attacked Tiv communities of Rukubi, Akpata and Agima in Ekye Development Area of Nasarawa state.

Leaders of the communities who fled to Lafia, met with Governor Umar Tanko Al-Makura to inform him of the incident which they said, happened during the morning hours when they were on their farms.

George Zauka, who led hundreds of placards carrying persons into Lafia, said Tiv people

in those communities and all over the state have had to live with growing fears of insecurity while government and security agencies look the other way.

He said the latest killings happened barely weeks after the governor made a state wide broadcast assuring of security of lives and property in the state. Zauka said that the continued killing of Tivs is unabated, and has been without any known cause, just as he said assailants usually get away with it without trace.

He appealed to the state government to strengthen security measure by stationing security

personnel at strategic areas to forestall reoccurrence of the killings.

In his response, Al-Makura urged for calm saying "I am really touched by your presence here and even more touched by the presentation of the leader."

He said the issue of restiveness are part of the troubles his administration inherited in 2011, especially in communities at the border with Benue state.

The governor condemned the incident, but called for caution from the affected communities, so that they do not take the laws into their hands by seeking revenge.

## Court decides NPAN, APCON case today

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

A Lagos Federal High Court will today rule on the appropriateness of the suit filed by the Newspaper Proprietors' Association of Nigeria (NPAN), challenging the constitutionality of certain provisions of the Nigerian Code of Advertising Practice and Sales Promotion, as they affect newspaper houses in the country.

The ruling followed a preliminary objection to the suit raised by APCON which the lead counsel to NPAN, Mr Tayo Oyetibo had prayed the court to dismiss for want of substance.

Mr Oyetibo had contended that NPAN had sufficient interest to institute the suit on the strength that APCON's regulation adversely affects owners of

media houses in Nigeria.

He said that the suit was filed to challenge the control of newspaper houses by APCON and not to fight for those in the employ of newspaper houses who had become instruments of harassment and intimidation by the council and police.

He prayed the court to hold that the association had locus standi in instituting the case, and dismiss the objection of APCON.

NPAN had sued APCON, along with the Inspector General of Police.

The newspaper proprietors posit that the council's code infringed on the right of members of NPAN to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinion and to receive and impact ideas and information without interference.



■ Niger State Governor, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, decorates the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Nigeria Mr. Bert J Ronhaar, during his courtesy visit on the governor in Minna yesterday.

PHOTO NIGER STATE GOVT

## Quick Read

### 'FG mobilises 230,000 rice farmers to boost production'

Alhaji Bukar Tijani, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Rural Development, said on Wednesday that the ministry would mobilise 230,000 rice farmers in 10 states for dry season farming. Tijani made this known while inaugurating the 2013 dry season rice farming in company of Gov Babangida Aliyu, at the Badeggi Irrigation Scheme in Lavun Local Government Area of the Niger State. "This dry season, we are working with 230,000 farmers across 10 states of Niger, Gombe, Adamawa, Bauchi, Jigawa, Kano, Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara and Kogi. "It is expected that between now and the wet season, our rice farmers will be able to produce enough rice to assist in the Federal Government's food security programme. (NAN)

### Court dissolves 4-yr-old marriage over absence of children

An Ilorin Area Court on Wednesday dissolved the four-year-old marriage between one Balikis Abdulkareem and her husband, Babatunde, over absence of children in the union. The judge, Mr Ibrahim Abdulquadri, dissolved the marriage and issued a certificate of divorce to the 39-year-old wife who took her case to the court. The complainant, a resident of Air Force area of Ilorin, had said that she intended to remarry to see if she could conceive a child. The petitioner told the court that she had tried her best to conceive a child for Babatunde but did not succeed. "Although, my husband is not complaining, I want to try a new place; maybe, I will be lucky to have a child there," she said. (NAN)

## Police arrest 2 over murder of old woman

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

The Ondo state Police Command yesterday said it has arrested two suspects over the murder of a 50 year old woman who was allegedly beaten to death last Saturday in Idanre area of the state.

Spokesperson of the state police command, Mr Adeniran

Aremu who confirmed the incident named the suspects as Ifedayo Alatise and John Okoro.

The suspects, according to Aremu have been taken to Criminal Investigations Department for further investigation.

Aremu explained that one Jolin Akinbowa, son of the deceased reported the case at the Idanre

police station around 9:30am on the following day that his mother, Dupe Akinbowa was beaten to a state of coma by some people around 11:30pm on Saturday.

Aremu quoted Akinbowa to have explained, "The incident happened at Sabo area, Alade-Idanre when some boys beat up my 50-year-old mother after

which she became unconscious and was rushed to the state hospital Alade Idanre for medical attention."

He said the deceased later died while on admission at the hospital.

The police P R O said three suspects had been arrested in connection with the incident.

## Parent discovers severed head of missing 3-year-old girl

From Abdullateef Aliyu (Ilorin) with agency report

The body of a three-year-old girl of Ile-Goroso, Ita-Ogunbo area of Ilorin was found on Tuesday, with her head severed and body mutilated by suspected ritualists.

The girl identified as Aliyah, was declared missing on Monday and the parents discovered her severed head at a dump site. Other mutilated parts of the body were recovered from an unused soak-away in the neighbourhood.

When NAN visited the victim's house, the father of the girl was said to have relocated from the house to another place due to shock.

However, Alhaji Usman Alabi, 70, the grandfather of the deceased, told NAN that the assailants ripped open the girl's stomach, removed the intestines, and chopped off her private part, hands and legs.

"The girl was noticed missing around 12 pm. on Monday after going out with her mates to play in the neighbourhood. We raised a search party to find her and reported the matter at the Police 'C' Division. On Tuesday, around, 5 am.,

her beheaded corpse was seen in an unused soak-away; while the stomach was ripped off without any intestines and the private part, hands and legs chopped off," he said.

The octogenarian said that the family did not suspect anybody, but were looking up to God to expose the perpetrators. Mr Femi Olubode, the state Police Public Relations Officer, confirmed the incident, but said no arrest had been made.

"We are still investigating the matter, but as at now, we have not made any arrest in connection with the incident," Olubode said. (NAN)