

Gunmen kill three cops, one civilian in Kano

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

Gunmen yesterday afternoon attacked a police checkpoint at Kawo-Tinshama area of Kano killing three policemen and one civilian, residents said.

The attackers stormed the security post, said to be manned by about half dozen policemen, on tricycles and shot dead the officers around 4pm, according to eyewitnesses.

A firewood seller was also shot dead, while another person was

fatally injured, it was gathered.

Daily Trust learnt that the attackers who arrived in the area in large numbers on tricycles and motorcycles fired indiscriminately for minutes, after killing their victims, before fleeing the scene.

"They stormed the area in large numbers and started shooting. We saw about three policemen and one civilian lying dead after they left," said an eyewitness.

However, while confirming the attack, Kano police command

spokesperson ASP Musa Magaji Majia, said only two policemen were killed, adding that the command and the Joint Task Force (JTF) personnel were searching for the gunmen, some of whom "escaped with gunshot wounds."



A commercial government bus attacked in Mararaba, yesterday during riot by motorcycle riders.

PIC: IBRAHIM BABA

Five militiamen killed in gun duel with soldiers in Lafia

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

Not less than five persons suspected to be members of a militia group were shot dead yesterday after they engaged a patrol team of soldiers in a gun fight at Tudun Wada, an outskirt of Lafia, capital of Nasarawa State, Daily Trust learnt.

Eyewitness said the militiamen opened fire on a patrol vehicle of the soldiers during the latter's patrol of the areas hit by last week's gun violence between Eggon and Fulani in the neighbouring areas of Doma local government area.

"What we know is that the militiamen shot at the soldiers who were patrolling the area. There was an exchange of gun fire for some minutes. We were scared for our lives," the eyewitness who fled the area with his family, told newsmen in Lafia.

The incident was said to have sent dozens fleeing in different directions, even after soldiers were said to have taken over the village to restore normalcy there.

State police spokesman, Cornelius Ocholi, declined comments when Daily Trust spoke to him on phone.

'Babalakin was not arrested'

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

Officials of Bicourtney Nigeria Limited said in Lagos yesterday that the company's chairman, Wale Babalakin, was not arrested by the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), rather he only visited the agency's Ikoyi office in Lagos yesterday as part of conditions given to him when he was granted bail in December last year.

It was claimed that Babalakin was arrested yesterday when he was seen in the premises of the commission along with his lawyer.

But his spokesman, Dipo Kehinde, told Daily Trust yesterday that Babalakin was not arrested but he went to the crimes commission in fulfilment of his bail condition.

Northwest accounts for 70% of Almajiris – Don

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Minna

Statistics indicated that 70 percent of the Almajiris in Nigeria come from the North West geo-political zone of the country, the Dean Post Graduate School Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna, Professor Ahmed Adam Okene, has said.

Professor Okene made the statement during a one day workshop on street begging in Niger State that was organized by the Niger State Law Reform Commission in Minna yesterday. He said the result of the statistics was a product of a research conducted

recently which also indicated that about 30 percent of children from the northern part are on the streets begging.

According to him, street begging is one of the problems accounting for the series of security breaches in this part of the country, saying Malaysia and Thailand had at one time experienced what the north was going through now but with diligence and political will the duo were able to surmount the problem.

The scholar opined that it is only when education is provided the myriads of security challenges the country is going through would be addressed.

Similarly, in a paper delivered by Head of Department of Languages NDA, Kaduna, Dr. Ibrahim Husam Imam titled 'Street Begging, Causes and Remedies: An Islamic Perspective', said the problems of street begging cannot be resolved without the involvement of Quranic teachers who needed assistance from government and Non-governmental Organizations to keep their Almajiris off the streets. He also advocated for the setting up of a committee to train Islamic teachers on the management of Almajiris while in the other hand, government should pursue the integration of the Arabic and western education policy with all zeal.

'Obasanjo's lust for farmlands informed Land Use Act'

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

Ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo's "greed for farmlands" propelled him to introduce the Land Use Decree (1978), now an Act of Parliament, the Convener, Save Nigeria Group (SNG), Pastor Tunde Bakare, has said.

He made the remark in Lagos yesterday at the Save Nigeria Group

(SNG) round table to mark 1st anniversary of "Occupy Nigeria" movement, saying the Land Use Act is an evil act that must be repealed without delay if Nigeria's economy must grow.

Pastor Bakare also at the event questioned President Goodluck Jonathan's sincerity in institutionalising the rule of law in

Nigeria. He said Jonathan benefited from the SNG protests which compelled the National Assembly to pass a resolution that made him acting president when the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua was ill and bedridden in Saudi Arabia. But President Jonathan failed to build on the same tradition to insist on same treatment in Taraba, Enugu and Cross

River states where their governors have vacated officers for months on health ground.

He said SNG is demanding that the deputy governors in the three states be allowed to act as governors pending when the governors would return from their medical vacation or else the SNG would publicly protest the illegality.

Hard time awaits pipeline vandals –NNPC

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

The Federal Government says it will no longer be business as usual for pipeline vandals in the country because tougher action which will be operational and security oriented awaits those caught in the act.

Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Corporation (NNPC) Andy Yakubu, who spoke yesterday

while on a visit to the site of Arepo pipeline fire in Ogun State, advised vandals to surrender from their acts and join the NNPC in its campaign to use the pipeline to add value to the lives of Nigerians.

The NNPC's boss however assured that the pipeline burst will not cause fuel scarcity in parts of the country, saying the corporation has sufficient products in its Mosinmi depot which can feed its environs.

Fire razes Kaduna destitute home

From Christiana T. Alabi, Kaduna

The building housing over 1,000 physically challenged persons at Kano/Ilorin road in Kaduna has been gutted by fire.

Our correspondent, who visited the scene of the fire yesterday, gathered that the incident occurred some few minutes to 12 midnight on Friday, a situation which brought about panic and confusion in the destitute camp.

Daily Trust also gathered that the houses gutted by fire were made of zinc and wood. It was also gathered that no life was lost to the fire but two people

sustained fracture in the process of running away from the fire.

Narrating how the incident occurred, the chief of the blind, Mohammad Tukur, said "We were all in our rooms on Friday night when there was a sudden electrical spark after which fire took over the place".

He said items including mattresses, chairs, wheel chairs, money and clothes among others were lost to the fire.

District head of Gabasawa Alhaji Jibrin Mohammed who was also seen at the scene of the fire, recalled that in 2008 a similar incident happened