

NEWS

Robbers Kill One In Lagos, Three Die In Rivers

BY ISAAC TAIWO
(LAGOS)
AND ROSE ANN CHIK-
EREUBA (PORT HAR-
COURT)

ONE person was killed and three others injured yesterday as robbers raided Alaba Rago Market in Iba Local Council Development Area, Lagos.

At least two other per-

**Ijebus
Celebrate**

sons are feared dead at Ogbo village in Ahoada East Local council Area of Rivers State while digging a trench belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

In Lagos, the armed robbers who came with motorcycles and vehicles capitalised on the Sallah that prevented the traders from going to bank and made away with millions of naira.

They stormed the rice section with dangerous

weapons and raided about 40 shops.

The robbers whose target was money did not tamper with rice.

The name of the deceased was given as Balarabe Abubakar, while those wounded included Musa Abdulahi, Garba Tuko and Ismaila Ibrahim.

According to the Sarki (Alabo Rago Market), Alhaji Umar Sokoto, it was a shock as the armed robbers only took

advantage of the Sallah that made the traders not to deposit their money in banks.

"We have two banks in the market and were it not for the Sallah, this would have been averted.

"Though they did not steal rice, they made away with about 20 rams," he said.

The Sarkin of the market said as soon as he learnt of the robbery, he contacted the two police

stations in the area but before they came around, probably due to bad roads, the armed robbers had finished their operations and fled.

Also confirming the theft, the chairman of the rice section of the market, Isaac Nwoke, and vice chairman, Alhaji Shaibu Gezawa said they were caught unawares. "A similar incident happened about 10 years ago and

so no one expected such a recurrence," he explained. "No doubt, insiders must have been among the armed robbers because no one would have known the shops where money was kept.

In Rivers State, *The Guardian* learnt that the victims were buried alive by heaps of sand from the trench they were digging around the NNPC pipeline in Ogbo.

Three persons who are currently receiving

treatment in an undisclosed hospital in the area were injured during the incident.

The Rivers State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mrs Ireju Baresua who confirmed the incident to *The Guardian* said the police were carrying out investigations to find out if the victims were members of NNPC or pipeline vandals.

**U.S Raises
Visa Fees**

BY FRANCIS OBINOR