

(THURSDAY), and PUNCH, VANGUARD newspapers, SANI AMUKA-PEMU, at a press briefing on the association's coming seminar to mark the 65th anniversary of its alma mater in Lagos.

## Five killed in Ibadan as Oyo NURTW factions clash

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THE RECENT proscription order of the Oyo State chapter of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) by the state governor, Adebayo Alao-Akala notwithstanding, the two factions in the union, led by Lateef Akinsola Oloruntimehin (a.k.a. Tokyo) and Lateef Salako (a.k.a. Eleweomo) respectively, threatened the fragile peace of Ibadan, the state capital, as they both struggled to take control of 'New Garage' along the old Lagos Road in Oluyole Local Government Area of the state.

No fewer than five people were feared dead while several others were injured in the resumed hostilities that spread across the capital city.

The NURTW members, struck in areas such as Olomi, Iwo-Road, Ojoo, U.I, Sango and Dugbe, using dangerous weapons like gun, machetes, cut-

lasses, charms and so on.

At the University of Ibadan (UI), a young man and another unidentified person reportedly fell to the bullet of the rampaging hoodlums, who operated on motorcycle and commercial buses.

At at Dugbe-Alawo, several people, including markets women and Igbo traders were matcheted by the hoodlums, who also damaged some shops and vehicles in the area.

It was the same tale of woe in Ojoo area as some hoodlums shot sporadically, making people, including travellers, to run helter-skelter for safety.

A young girl hawking "pure water" was hit by a vehicle coming from Moniya while both the innocent girl and the driver of the bus while trying to escape on sighting some hoodlums carrying guns at the Total filling station located close to the Ojoo interstate motor-park.

At Sango area, some hoodlums riding on motorcycle matcheted a driver.

*Daily Independent* gathered that the crisis might not be unconnected with the alleged decision of the Oyo State government on Tuesday to dispatch members of the union loyal to the sacked chairman, Lateef Salako (a.k.a Elewe Omo) as "Council Managers" from the various Local Government Councils in the state to the motor parks to collect fees and levies from commercial vehicle operators.

As at 8.a.m. on Tuesday, the "Council Managers," dressed in casual wears unlike the official uniforms of the NURTW, had already taken over virtually all the designated motor parks in the state demanding and collecting levies from commercial drivers.

But when Tokyo's men allegedly recognised most of the "Council Managers" to be loyalists of Eleweo-

mo, they could no longer swallow it and they subsequently moved out of the union secretariat en masse to the various motor parks from where they dislodged the alleged Eleweomo boys, particularly at motor parks such as the New Garage along the old Lagos road in Oluyole Local government area.

It would be recalled that since last Saturday when Tokyo was reinstated as the legally recognised chairman of the union in the state, there has been some disquiet within the union.

Tuesday's disturbance, which spread round the major garages in the city like harmattan bushfire, affecting Iwo Road, Challenge, Ojoo among others, witnessed wielding of dangerous weapons like gun, matchets, cutlasses, charms and so on and shooting sporadically by the loyalists, causing panic in the aforementioned areas and within the city.

Tonathan urges deep reflection as Muslims A