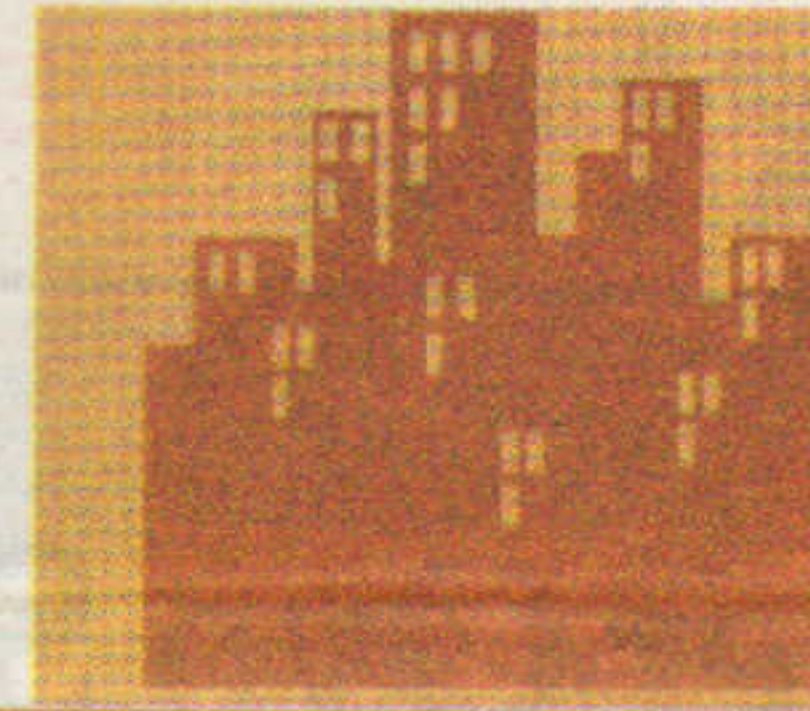


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Pandemonium as mob sets man ablaze in Ibadan, police arrest suspects

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HORRIFIC story unearthed in Ibadan last Saturday continued on Wednesday as restive youths burnt a suspected ritualist to death and mobbed another one before he was rescued by the police.

At Oke Ado area where the man who allegedly appeared as a mad man was caught and set ablaze, ashes littered the floor and it was gathered that Anti-riot police men had dispersed the people before the man, whose corpse was taken away by the police was burnt completely.

The Police also took over the area and arrested a man suspected to be a member of the mob.

Eyewitness accounts dis-

closed that though the man disguised as a madman, but a pistol, some foreign currencies and ATM cards were found on him and when he was accosted by people who suspected him in the busy market area, he could not offer any genuine explanation.

The items found on him were said to have been taken away by some members of the mob and few minutes after his remains was taken away by the police, a new set of policemen stormed the area.

This threw the whole place into confusion and the tension heightened following which market men and women locked up their shops and deserted the area.

The security team, a combination of forces from Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS),

Operation Burst and Mobile Police combed the area and arrested eight people in connection with the mob action.

Another suspected kidnapper was mobbed at Queens Cinema area of the state capital and was almost set ablaze but for the intervention of the police who got to the area and dispersed the mob before the man was also taken away.

Confirming the two incidents, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Olabisi Ilobanafor disclosed that three identity cards of different names and a cash of N11,600.00 were found on the man rescued at Queens Cinema while 42 SIM cards of various networks were also found on him according to Police.

Meanwhile, the state chapter of Accord Party at a press

briefing has pointed accusing finger at the state government over the existence of the evil forest and called on human rights commission and civil rights groups to also investigate how the den came into being.

In the address made by former Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and Commissioner for Special Duties, Ayodele Adigun, the party's publicists, Nureni Adeniran and Dotun Oyelade and Lanre Latinwo, the party said the state government had once used the place as a re-settlement camp for destitute once taken off the streets of Ibadan when government began its urban renewal programmes.

They pointed out that government created enabling environment for kidnappers to

use the den for their nefarious act after government had long abandoned the parcel of land occupied by the criminally-minded people.

They declared that the site was once taken over by the state government after a contracting firm handling the Ogunpa channelization programme could not pay debts owed the state government.

It was revealed that a contractor allegedly employed by the state government to evacuate destitute off the street of Ibadan for a contract sum of N45 million and who was paid N5 million out of the amount, rounded up some destitute/lunatic and abandoned them there after government failed to pay the balance of N40 million.

Four die, 18 injured in