

# Two killed in attempt on Atiku's aide's life

■ Assailants bolt away with body of their killed accomplice

**U**MAR Pariya, remember him? He is the Vice President's personal assistant who has been at the centre of the tell-it-all between the President and his boss.

Mr Pariya survived an assassination attempt yesterday in Abuja, the Atiku Campaign Organisation said. A security aide to Pariya killed one of the suspected assassins, it was learnt.

Pariya was not at home when the suspected assassins called because he stayed in Abuja after returning from the airport at 2am, following the presidential order that denied the Vice President access to his official plane for a scheduled trip at about mid-night. This is the second attempt at "armed robbery" within the last 12 months, the organisation said.

'...the two other assassins attempting to gain entrance to the main house fired two shots at Ibrahim; one grazed a finger on his left hand and the second penetrated his thigh.'

It recounted the incident, saying: "A team of armed men estimated at about five arrived at Pariya's Gwarimpa residence at 7am and gained entry into the

compound when they put a gun to the head of a household staff member named Ibrahim. He was abducted on his way back to the house after purchasing a

GSM recharge card in the neighborhood. Each armed with a pistol, four of the assassins broke into two groups upon entry into the compound. At gunpoint two of them attempted to force Ibrahim to lead them into the main house through the side/kitchen entrance. When they became convinced that he had none of the keys, they allowed him to proceed to the boys' quarters to make

a phone call to the main house for the door to be opened.

"While this drama unfolded, the mobile policeman (MOPOL) on duty who had changed into mufti and was preparing to go off-duty encountered one of the armed men who had hidden his gun as he walked aimlessly in the compound. The hoodlum pretended to be a casual

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## 10 policemen killed in Ibadan, Port Harcourt

**S**EVEN policemen were killed yesterday in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, where robbers launched an all-night raid on two banks.

It was a bad day for the force: masked and armed militants stormed a Total Oil facility in Obagi, near Omoku, Rivers State, and shot to death three mobile policemen.

The militants lost two men.

The deteriorating security situation in the Niger Delta has compelled oil giant Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to, yesterday, begin relocating about 400 family members of its foreign employees from Port Harcourt, Warri and Bonny.

Police authorities confirmed three dead in the

From Oseheye Okwuofu, Ibadan and Clarice Azuatalam, Port Harcourt

Oyo incident.

Residents of the University of Ibadan (UI), where the two banks raided are located, woke up to behold the gory scenes of blood splashed on the grounds near the banks.

Many held their heads in their hands as they saw several pellets of spent bullets that littered the scenes.

Eyewitnesses said the armed robbers, numbering about 30, drove into the area in a convoy of cars.

A source said: "They alighted from the vehicles and started shooting indiscriminately into the air. The sound of their guns was as if a war was going on. We didn't sleep till morning.

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• Culture and Tourism Minister Professor Babalola Borishade and his wife Ireti at his conferment with a National Honour, Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR), in Abuja ... yesterday. More photographs on page 9.

PHOTO: STATE HOUSE

## NEITI indicts CBN, NNPC in alleged oil industry's fraud

From Vincent Ikuomola, Abuja

**T**HE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and other federal agencies were last night knocked by the final audit report of the Nigerian Extractive Transparency Initiative (NEITI) for alleged fraud in oil and gas sectors.

The report claimed that by December 2006, there were differences in the figures paid by companies as Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT), royalty and gas flaring penalty and what was captured by the CBN and the firms.

The report stated that "CBN reported \$0.9 million as PPT while the companies reported \$1.4. Companies

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# Two killed in assassination bid

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worker as he mumbled a greeting and exited the compound when challenged. After bolting the small door at the gate, the MOPOL was immediately confronted by a second gunman who demanded his surrender by pointing a cocked pistol at his face. But the brave police officer, with lightning reflexes dived into the security post to retrieve his gun. In that split second, he was shot twice by the assassin - once in his left arm and once in his right thigh. Once he grabbed his gun, the MOPOL turned and opened fire on the hoodlum, killing him instantly. He then took cover and called for back-up from the Gwarimpa police station.

The Atiku Campaign Organisation went on:

"In the minutes it took to make the call, the two other assassins attempting to gain entrance to the main house fired two shots at Ibrahim; one grazed a finger on his left hand and the second penetrated his thigh. They then retreated towards the gate, taking the body of their fallen colleague but leaving the pistol, tenta-

tively identified as belonging to a class normally issued to the Nigerian armed forces. They were heard driving away with a roar immediately afterwards - a pointer to a fifth hoodlum who must have kept the engine of the run-away car running.

"The two casualties of the attack are now in a private hospital and are said to be responding to treatment, according to Mr Pariya, who was seen anxiously pacing the hospital corridor."

Pariya, who featured in several instances in the now quashed allegations against the Vice President by the Bayo Ojo Panel, had on September 15 raised the alarm that he was being followed around Abuja by some men in dark suits and dark sunglasses inside an unmarked Peugeot 504 Station Wagon. In many instances he took extraordinary measures to shake off his pursuers, the Atiku Campaign said. The Personal Assistant, in fear of his life, had through an Abuja lawyer detailed the specific threats he has received, in a letter to the

Commissioner of Police, FCT, the Inspector-General of Police and the Director-General, SSS.

Spokesman of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command, Assistant Superintendent (ASP) Elijah Atikinpa, confirmed the attack on Pariya's residence.

But he would not be drawn into saying if it was an assassination bid or a robbery, saying details would be unfolded by ongoing investigation into the incident.

Atikinpa told *The Nation* that the man, who was killed, was shot dead by a policeman on patrol in the area.

The body, he confirmed, was taken away by his colleagues.

## Fed Govt, Microsoft okay

**T**HE Federal Government has signed a three-year strategic partnership agreement worth \$19.1million on Information Technology (IT) with the American software giant, Microsoft Corporation.

The deal will assist the nation develop its human capacity in IT.

Secretary to the Govern-

ment, while the CBN did not record anything. The CBN also reported \$0.5million as gas flaring penalty while the companies was nil."

"Crude loss is not quantifiable with present metering systems of refined product losses.

The PPMC recently produced a mass balance showing 3.65 million tonnes loss.

This was as a result of payments misallocated between companies, omissions from CBN templates and payments misallocated between categories, like PT and royalty," the report said.

There were also trapped funds in some banks, royalties not paid, PPT, education tax, due but not paid and unpaid domestic crude.

Chris Nurse of the Hart Group, who read the report

From Vincent Ikuomola, Abuja

ment of the Federation (SGF), Chief Ufot Ekaette, who signed the pact said "Information Technology provides a veritable means of developing our economy."

This fact, he noted, prompted the government to embark on a deliberate policy to harness its

# 10 policemen killed in Ibadan, Port Harcourt

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"They came with gas (oxy-acetylene) cylinders and welding equipment. They used these equipment to cut down the gates to the banks while some of them cordoned off the area and kept up a steady staccato of gunfire."

*The Nation* gathered that a police patrol vehicle which moved into the area to confront the robbers, ran into the hail of bullets.

A source said one of the bullets pierced the vehicle's tank, which exploded, engulfing its occupants in a fire.

All the occupants were reportedly burnt. The fire spread and burnt down 20 shops in the vicinity.

It was gathered that the explosion did not deter the bandits.

"They were seen raising their guns in the air and backslapping one another," a source recounted.

They entered the banks and looted the vaults. The amount of money carted away could not be ascer-

tained as of press time, but it was gathered that hefty sums may have been taken away.

The Police spokesman in the state, Assistant Superintendent Moore Akinmoladun, confirmed the incident.

He however, added that three cops were killed.

The yet-to-be-identified militant group in the Rivers State incident, came in speed boats and attacked the pumping station about 3.30a.m.

*The Nation* gathered that the five persons were killed in a shoot-out between policemen who were guarding the facility and the militants.

The facility, which produces about 35,000 barrels per day, may have been consequently been shut in by Total.

The shoot-out was said to have occurred when the suspected militants attempted to forcibly enter the facility.

Police sources said two of

three mobile policemen attached to MOPOL 8 in Jos, Plateau State engaged the invaders, but were shot dead. Two militants were also killed in the duel.

The militants went away with the bodies of their fallen colleagues.

"It would have been regarded as a victorious outing this time around because our men were able to stop the militants from achieving their goal, they could have come either to kidnap or destroy an installation, but they were stopped by policemen. But another thing that destroyed the celebration is the fact that three of our men were killed in it," a police source said.

Another police source added that the identities and the mission of the slain policemen were "not really easy to come by" as they did not report their mission to the state command when they arrived the state.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Of-

ficer, Deputy Superintendent Ireju Barasua, confirmed the incident, adding that she was informed of it as early as 4:00am.

Said Barasua: "As I am talking to you now, I have not received any briefing on it and it has been difficult to reach the DPO from here because I am in Bonny right now. But you can be rest assured that investigation into it has begun."

Shell pullout said they will not involve staff as the firm will stay put and oil and gas production will not be affected.

"Dependants of expatriate staff are being relocated as a precautionary measure because of the explosion," said Shell spokesman Bisi Ojedian.

A senior Shell executive added: "We are not sure if this thing is going to deteriorate. If it deteriorates we will have fewer people to contend with."

Militancy and crime have risen dramatically this year in the Niger Delta.