

NEWS

60 held in Kano over murder of traffic warden

SOME unidentified assailants yesterday in Kano stabbed to death a traffic warden, Halilu Saleh, while on duty.

The Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Muhammadu Tambari Yabo, told *The Nation* that the deceased was on duty on the fateful day, when he was killed. He was killed when he halted his assailant.

Yabo said the incident happened on France Road at about 6.30pm, while the hooligans were returning from Kano Pillars Stadium after an amateur match between One Touch Football Club, Kano and visiting Bida Lions from Niger State.

He explained that the 2-2 result of the match seemed not to have gone down well with the home supporters, who were moving on a break-neck

From Kolade Adeyemi, Kano

speed towards France Road by Court Road junction, where they were stopped, alongside other motorists.

He further explained that unknown to the traffic warden, the hoodlums were angry over the abrupt stoppage, as they made a U-turn, advanced to the direction of the Traffic Warden, who was backing them, while directing traffic and stabbed him twice on his back, with a sharp object before escaping.

The traffic warden, a grade three officer, whom he disclosed has put in more than 25 years in service slumped on the spot, with blood gushing out of his body, and no one came to his rescue, as everyone within the vicinity took to their heels for fear of arrest.

Tenure: Governors know fate today

From Kamarudeen Ogundele, Abuja

A FEDERAL High Court, Abuja, will today deliver judgment in a consolidated suit filed by five governors to have their tenure extended beyond 2011 by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The governors are contesting that Section 180 (2) of the 1999 Constitution, provides for a four-year tenure of office for a governor from the day he took the Oath of office and Oath of Allegiance.

They are Ibrahim Idris (Kogi), Muritala Nyako (Adamawa), Timipre Sylva (Bayelsa), Aliyu Wamako (Sokoto) and Liyel Imoke (Cross River).

They are arguing that the provision of the law on this is sacrosanct and cannot be abridged or ignored, having won re-run elections and taking fresh oaths of office.

But the government through the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mohammed Adoke (SAN) believes fresh elections must take place in their states.

Senator rallies support for Jonathan in Northeast

From Sanni Ologun, Abuja

THE Chairman Senate Committee on Environment and Ecology, Senator Grace Folasade Bent has kicked off series of activities aimed at mobilizing the people of the entire North East Zone for vote for president Goodluck Jonathan in 2011.

Senator Bent who disclosed this during an interview in Abuja vowed to ensure that all the votes in the area are delivered to the President.

"Following my appointment as one of the campaign coordinators of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) in charge of the North East Zone, I have begun work in earnest to ensure that we deliver all votes in the area to Jonathan.

"My grassroots political mobilization work in the North East did not start today. Before coming to the Senate I was the Special Assistant (Political) to the former National Chairman of the PDP, Dr Audu Ogbe. Again I am representing nine local government in Adamawa South. And I am married to them.

"Again I would say that Jonathan as a person is wonderful. At this point in Nigeria's history he is God sent. Goodluck would definitely do away with corruption, he would do away with inept people in certain positions. He will go in and pick the people that would represent the people directly.

PDP, APGA supporters clash

From Ogonnaya Obinna, Abakaliki

THE Peoples Democratic Party and All Progressives Grand Alliance supporters, yesterday, clashed in Ebonyi State.

Mr. Douglas Edeh, an aide to the deposed senator representing Ebonyi Central Emmanuel Onwe and three others were shot by thugs suspected to be members of the PDP.

The victims are receiving treatment at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Abakaliki.

Trouble started when the PDP supporters accused them of removing posters of their candidate, Governor Martin Elechi.

The victims were attacked at Ezza Local Government while pasting posters of the governorship candidate of APGA Franklin Ogbuewu and that of Senator Emmanuel Onwe.

One of the victims, Edeh, confirmed that they were attacked while pasting posters of their party candidate.

Chairman of Ezza South Local Government Lazarus Ogbue described the allegation as baseless.

NSE trade alert: Court resumes hearing on alleged debt of N210m

By Tonia Osundolire

the NSE on the trade alert and some issues were raised.

She said, for example, stock brokers have put their own numbers as the alert numbers. So, instead of client getting the alert, it is brokers that do.

"It is a real issue that needs to be managed. We have asked the exchange to give us more information and an update," she added.

However, the owners of AdonaiNet, whose operation was approved by SEC six years ago along with the electronic bonus, biometrics and e-IPOs (Initial Public Offerings), are also filing for contempt.

This followed the failure of

the defendants to maintain the status quo as ordered by the court when the case came up last December.

The plaintiff on January 26 wrote to the Managing Director, CSCS Limited requesting him to effect payments for services rendered to enable it meet obligations to consultants and other stakeholders in the trade alert value chain.

AdonaiNet in the letter signed by Dr. Gbolahan Alli-Balogun, its managing director, recalled "that all brokers, by regulation and convention, routinely remit the Trade Alert commission emanating from their transactions to the CSCS, by the 15th of every month for onward transmission to our organisation, after the CSCS

has deducted its agreement charges, Commission on Transaction (COT) and management fees."

Part of the problem between both parties is NSE's plan to acquire 75 per cent stake in AdonaiNet.

"The NSE/CSCS did not conceptualise Trade Alert, nor fund its research; contribute to software acquisition; was not involved financially in the purchase of hardware or the six-month free trial period for investors; do not pay consultants; is not involved in software and hardware upgrade, does not contribute to purchase of consumables for the scheme; does not pay the staff or management and is not involved in funding overheads or operations."



• President Goodluck Jonathan, flanked by Vice-President Namadi Sambo (left) and Governor Bukola Saraki, during the Presidential Campaign Rally in Ilorin, Kwara State...yesterday.

18 killed in Plateau village pre-dawn attack

From Yusufu Aminu Idegu, Jos

EIGHTEEN persons were killed yesterday in another pre-dawn attack in Bere village which borders Barkin Ladi and Mangu local government of Plateau State respectively.

The community was, according to the chairman of the local government, Dr. Pam Dakwak, attacked by suspected Fulani pastoralists at about 1am.

The council boss confirmed that 17 people were killed by attackers; one of the suspected Fulani attackers formerly residing in the locality was said to have been gun down by men of the Special Task Force (STF) on Jos crises, 'Operation Safe Haven'.

According to the commander of the STF: "The attack was very swift, it was well planned by the attackers and so before my men could get there they have done the damage and fled. My men were able to get only one of them, which was my pain, they could have got more than that. But I must confess to you it was a very swift attack."

The Fan district inhabited majorly by the Berom tribe was attacked a few weeks ago. Twelve people were killed in the attack.

Plateau State police Command, through his spokes-

man, ASP Apev Jacob, confirmed the attack, "Eighteen people were killed, no arrest has been made so far. We appeal to the people to assist security agents by given useful information and report suspicious movements on time for prompt action."

There has been widespread rumour of attack within the last few days in Jos, prompting the Police Command to allay the public fear.

However, while securitymen were concentrating on the Jos-Bukuru metropolis, headquarters of Jos North and Jos south local governments in Barkin

Ladi local government.

The military troops who have been in Jos since January last year were changed last month to ensure effectiveness in their operation.

Last week, the commander of the STF Brig. Gen Hassan Umaru held a parley with members of the troops in Jos aimed at ensuring effectiveness in their special duties.

Notwithstanding the change of guard, in January alone not fewer than 30 people have died in Jos as a result of conflict between Muslims and Christians on one side and Fulanis pastoralists and Berom farmers on the other side.

No bomb threat in Abia, says govt

By Uguchukwu Eke, Umuahia

smokescreen designed to attract sympathy."

He said it was meant to discourage President Goodluck Jonathan from visiting the state for the presidential campaign tomorrow.

Agbazuere said the President would inaugurate some projects including the state-of-the-art ultra modern diagnostic centres in Aba and Umuahia and the dualised Aba-Owerri road in Aba.

The commissioner said the

bomb blast story was a fabrication concocted by a former governor of the state to dissuade the President from visiting Abia.

He said if there was a bomb blast, the rally could not have continued. There would have been a police report as well.

"Everybody knows the relationship between the former governor and Governor Theodore Orji, so people will not be surprised at such a blatant mischief."

Onyechere said the alarm

raised by some PPA members is "a hoax geared towards attracting sympathy on one hand and a smokescreen of their intended actions of replicating their handiwork of violence as elections draw near."

This false alarm is coming on the heels of the discovery of plans to destabilise the state by former governor who is unrelenting in bringing about woes and discomfort to the people of Abia, having failed in the act of kidnapping.