

# Cable vandal electrocuted

**A** MEMBER of a gang vandalising Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) cables in Minna was electrocuted to death in the early hours of yesterday.

He died while attempting to cut an up-raiser cable from a feeder pillar transformer valued at about N.3 million.

The corpse of the unidentified vandal was found by early passers-by who alerted residents around the transformer along Niteco Road, Tunga, Minna.

The location is a stone thrown from the residence of the Niger State Governor, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu.

A metal saw and an insulated plyer used for cut-

By Jide Orintunsin, Minna

ting the cables were found on the lacerated and partly burnt body of the vandal at the base of the fenced transformer.

The vandal, who was in his mid-20, had cashed on power outage in the area to invade the transformer.

He successfully cut the cables from the base and was about cutting the positive line from the pole when electricity was restored, a development that led to his electrocution.

Mallam Mohammed Shaffi, whose house is directly opposite the transformer, said, "we were woken by a big bang from the transformer at about 3:30 am.

"We were unable to rush out because of the thick white smoke that was released as a result of the bang. The smoke came from the transformer and spread to our house."

A team of policemen led by the Divisional Crime Officer of Tundun Wada Police station, Mr. Martins Njoku, took the corpse vandal to Minna General Hospital mortuary.

Njoku said the body was taken to mortuary for identification ahead of investigations.

No fewer than six transformers have been vandalised in the town in the last month.

Efforts to get the Minna Business Manager of PHCN were futile.