

• **SCENE OF HORROR:** The burnt livestock market ... yesterday

Gunmen kill 60 in attack on livestock market

■ Police: 34 dead, 29 hospitalised ■ 40 cows, 17 vehicles burnt

RAZED homes, burnt cows, scorched trees and vast grounds covered with black ashes. That was all that was left yesterday of the once throbbing Potiskum livestock market.

Some unknown gunmen, in commando style, stormed the market late Wednesday, shooting indiscriminately and throwing explosives.

From Duku Joel, Damaturu

The traders said they lost 60 people. The police said 34 died. Potiskum is the major commercial city in Yobe State. Damaturu is the state capital.

The livestock market, West Africa's largest, was filled to the brim on Wednesday.

It is located between two security

check points manned by the military and the police - less than one kilometre of each other.

It was gathered that there was an early morning attack at about 11.00 am when a suspected armed robber was allegedly killed by some traders.

Ardo Abdullahi, one of the traders relived the horror. He said: "While we were in the market, a

group of armed robbers came in a Volkswagen Golf car, opened fire and started extorting money from us (traders). Our people resisted and caught one of them. The suspect was beaten and burnt to death by angry traders.

"I suspect that the remaining robbers escaped and came back around

Continued on page 4

• Gaidam

• CITYBEATS P8 • SPORTS P23 • SOCIETY P25 • BRAND P29 • SHOPPING P31

NEWS

Gunmen kill 60 in attack on market

Continued from page 1

6:00pm with explosive materials, burnt down all the buildings, cars and structures in the cattle market and shot at random on everyone in the market."

The Secretary of the Cattle Traders Union, Alhaji Maigari Lamido, put the death toll at 60 when Yobe State Governor Ibrahim Gaidam visited the market to sympathise with the traders.

But Police Commissioner Moses Onariti said 34 people were killed; 29 hospitalised.

He said no arrest was made relating to the attack.

The Secretary of Nigerian Red Cross in the state, Zabu Buba, said his men took about 30 people to the hospital.

There were indications that the death toll may have exceeded the official figure as some of the dead were already being identified and buried by their relatives. Such bodies were neither taken to the hospital nor were they recorded.

Lamido told the governor that 40 cows and 17 vehicles were burnt down by the assailants in the gun raid.

The governor also visited the Potiskum General Hospi-



• Governor Gaidam (right) commiserating with one of the victims during a visit to Potiskum General Hospital ... yesterday

tal where he directed that a special committee be set up to ascertain the extent of damage, adding that the government would take over the payment of hospital bills of the victims. He said families of the victims will be assisted based on the recommendation of the committee.

Potiskum, a usually boisterous town was thrown into mourning, following the attack.

A resident, Adamu Sambo, said all the entry and exit points in the town were blocked by security operatives and people sent home early before the 10pm curfew dateline.

Crowds of sympathisers trooped to the hospital in search of their loved ones.

The Emir of Fika and Chairman of the Yobe State Council of Chiefs, Dr. Muhammadu

Abali Ibn Muhammadu Idrissa, was at the hospital to sympathise with the relations of the victims. The royal father was deeply moved when he saw the bodies in the mortuary. He said he was sad over the "unfortunate" incident.

The Emir of Potiskum, Alhaji Umaru Bubaram Ibn Wuriwa Bauya, also visited the market and condemned the attack.

N32.8b pension fund: Court grants EFCC leave to seize 108 assets

AN Abuja High Court yesterday granted leave to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to seize 108 assets belonging to the six accused persons standing trial over alleged diversion of N32.8 billion Police Pension Fund.

The order followed an application by the EFCC counsel, Mr Rotimi Jacobs, seeking leave to seize the assets allegedly belonging to the accused persons.

Acting under Section 28 of the EFCC Act 2004, the commission attached the list of the assets belonging to the accused persons.

The accused persons are a Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Atiku Abubakar Kigo; a director, Esai Dangabar, Ahmed Inuwa Wada, John Yakubu Yusufu, Mrs. Veronica Ulonma Onyegbula and Sani Habila Zira.

They are facing a 16-count charge of criminal breach of trust slammed against them by the EFCC.

The alleged offence is punishable under Sections 97, 115 (ii), 119, 309 and 315 of the Penal Code Act Cap. 532 Laws of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Nigeria 2007.

From Kamarudeen Ogundele, Abuja

Ruling on the motion, Justice Lawal Gummi granted the interim order for the seizure of the assets, alleged to be scattered all over Nigeria.

The case has been adjourned till May 28, for continuation of hearing.

The accused allegedly between January 2009 and June 2011 in Abuja diverted a sum of N14,518,567,724 being part of police pension cash from an account domiciled at First Bank Plc.

Between January and December 2009 in Abuja, they also allegedly breached the public trust with N8,920,371,822 police pension fund kept at First Bank Plc.

The charge sheet also indicated that between January 2010 and February 2011 also in Abuja, they diverted another sum of N4,739,894,896 police fund and another N858,301,006 between February and June 2011 diverted from the same source.

They were also accused of stealing N656,559,289 in January 2011 while in March 2009 another N462,963,012 was allegedly diverted from the same source while working at the police pension office among others.

No hasty implementation of subsidy probe report, says Fed govt

Tambuwal: we 'll implement report

NIGERIANS expecting a swift implementation of the House of Representatives fuel subsidy probe report should forget it.

The Federal Government

THE House of Representatives is determined to ensure implementation of the report of its fuel

From Victor Oluwasegun and Dele Anofi, Abuja

the Constitution. We would rather do these things that will strengthen our

tion," he said.

NLC President Omar said labour was in support of the House on the fuel subsidy probe

government is committed to transparency in the oil sector.

He said: "The foregoing notwithstanding, we must accept that the allegations contained in the Subsidy