

Gunmen kill policemen in Aba

• Man allegedly commits suicide

From Sunny Nwankwo, Aba

TWO policemen attached to the Azuka Police Division in Aba, Abia State, have been killed by suspected armed robbers.

Reports said other members of the team who sustained injuries have been taken to an undisclosed hospital for treatment.

The incident happened near Opobo junction, on the Aba-Ikot Ekpene Expressway.

Sources said the gunmen, who operated on a motorcycle robbed a supermarket near Ukaegbu before the incident. They were returning to a nearby village when they engaged the police in a gun battle.

Police spokesman Ezekiel Onyeke Udeviotu confirmed the incident.

His words: "Azuka police division got a distress call from a resident that armed robbers were operating. The team was dispatched but unfortunately, the robbers had finished operation and were retuning when they met the team and opened fire on

them. "Two of our men were killed while those who sustained injuries were rushed to the hospital."

He said the command is trying to track the gunmen, urging the public with useful information on the robbers to share same.

In another development, the body of a yet-to-be-identified man, believed to be in his late twenties, was yesterday found in one of the shops behind Ndoki Primary School on Ngwa Road. He was said to have committed suicide.

A visit to the area showed that most shops were closed as traders expressed fear of mass arrest, even after policemen and morticians removed the body.

A trader, who pleaded for anonymity, debunked insinuations that the

young man committed suicide in the area. "This is a military barrack sharing the same fence with the market. Do you want to tell me this man committed suicide here without being spotted by the soldiers?"

"Look at this shop and tell me if the planks were strong enough to carry his weight. I think the boy was strangled elsewhere and his body hung here to make it look like he committed suicide."

"From his look, you will notice he is either a truck pusher or homeless. I am saying this because nobody has been able to identify him."

"I urge the police to do a proper investigation to ascertain whether he committed suicide or not and to fish out the culprits."

The body has since been removed and deposited in the mortuary.

Udeviotu said he had not been briefed.

Bank relocates corporate headquarters

By Adedeji Ademigbuji

Unity Bank Plc has concluded plans to relocate its corporate headquarters from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja to Lagos. This it said was aimed towards harnessing opportunities which the country's commercial hub holds.

The relocation, which has been approved by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), is in line with the bank's strategic business focus to deepen its clientele base in SME Financing, Agriculture, and Retail Banking.

The bank's new corporate headquarters in Lagos is at Plot 42, Ahmed Onibudo Street Central Business District (CBD), Victoria Island.

Alake of Egbaland is FUNAI's first Chancellor

From Ogochukwu Anioke, Abakaliki

Alake of Egbaland, Anioke, Abakaliki

Centre calls for capacity building on climate change