

# ① Four 'kidnappers' killed in shootout

From Osagie Otabor, Bénin

**F**OUR suspected kidnappers have been gunned down by men of the Edo State police command during a shootout.

The police operatives were said to have run into an ambush by the kidnappers while two suspects in their custody were taking them to their armoury in a bush after Ogba River in Oredo Local Government Area of the state.

Police sources said members of the gang attacked the policemen who returned fire leading to the killing of the four suspects. Other kidnappers fled on a standby boat stationed on the river.

The source said the suspected kidnappers were preparing to kidnap a wealthy individual when the police encountered them on Tuesday morning.

Edo police commissioner, Danmallam Muhammed, who confirmed the incident, said it would have been a tragedy if his men were not alert when they ran into the ambush.

He said, "It is not a case of gunning down the kidnappers. The police officers were ambushed but our men were at alert and responded quickly and swiftly."

"Four of the kidnappers were killed in the course of the attack while others escaped with gunshot injuries."

"Our men were at alert otherwise it would have been a different story on our part".

Meanwhile, two commercial motorcycle riders have been robbed and killed in different parts of Etsako West Local Government Area.

General Secretary, Etsako West Chapter Automated Amalgamated Commercial Tricycle and Motorcycle Owners, Repairs and Riders Association of Nigeria (ACOMORAN) Mr. Momodu Kassim, said one of the victims recently bought his motorcycle.

"They killed another one today (yesterday) that we have just gone to bury. He is an Hausa boy and he just bought the new okada about two weeks ago," Kassim said.

"He was attacked near old Prison Quarters near NYSC secretariat area that is where they killed the boy, we have just gone to bury him. They killed him and went away with his bike."