

Police kill 6 robbers in Benin

...after robbing UBA

From RALPH OKIHIRIA,
Benin

SIX dare-devil armed robbers who invaded a branch of the United Bank for Africa (UBA) in Benin City were at the weekend shot dead by the Police in Edo State.

The armed robbers, who had successfully robbed the bank, met their Waterloo when members of the State Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) intercepted them, gunned down six of them and recovered over seven million Naira from

them.

Addressing newsmen in Benin City, the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Bala Hassan disclosed that the Command received a distressed call that seven armed men with sophisticated weapons had attacked the bank, stole huge sum of money and jumped into a waiting boat at a river in Ikpoba-Hill axis of Benin City.

He said the Command

quickly mobilised its men to lay ambush for them, adding that following an exchange of gun fire, six of the robbers were killed and the money stolen recovered with some sophisticated fire arms which include sub-machine guns with chain bullet AK49 rifles, Pump Action Guns, among others.

The state Police boss however lamented that one of the gallant officers, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) who led the police operation was hit in the head by the robbers' bullet while two staff of the UBA were equally injured and are currently receiving medical treatment in some undisclosed hospitals in Benin City.

Mr. Hassan further disclosed that some of the dead armed robbers were wearing army uniform, noting that there was the possibility that the robbers came from a neighbouring state.

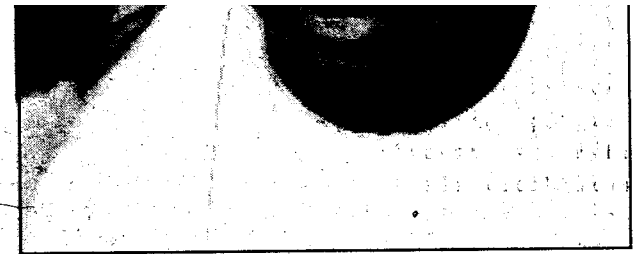
The Police boss, however, appealed to members

of the state, Alhaji Muhtari Ibrahim, said the police was only aware of one robbery case in Illo.

Ibrahim said the police had since arrested two suspects in connection with the incident and that his officers were on the trail of the remaining members of the robbery gang.

From BAYO AKAMO,
Ibadan

NO fewer than 15 persons at the weekend met their death at Ikire, Irewole Local Government Area of Osun State in a fatal road acci-



GOV SAIDU USMAN DAKINGARI ...of Kebbi State

Autocrash claims 15 lives

dent.

New Nigerian gathered from an eyewitness that the auto crash which occurred Saturday morning was as a result of break failure developed by a haulage vehicle

marked OYOXA-934BDJ.

According to the witness, who said he was at the Naira and Kobo area of Ikire when the accident occurred, following the break failure, the vehicle lost control and collided with a bus marked EKITI XA75KLE, heading for Ibadan from Ekiti State.

The witness said 15 of the 18 passengers in the bus died on the spot leaving the remaining three on danger list.

New Nigerian gathered that as at the time of sending this report, the remaining three passengers were still on danger list at the Catholic Hospital, Ikire.

Contacted, Osun State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Joshua Olayemi confirmed the accident but said, "as at now, I don't have the full details about the accident."

VIO removes 8,900 scrap vehicles

THE Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Directorate of Road Traffic Services (VIO), says it has removed 8,900 scrap vehicles from the city centre to the territory's motor pond.

VIO Director Aminu Idris said in Abuja at the weekend that the action was aimed at making the capital city "safer and cleaner".

He also said the directorate had also impounded 3,569 motorcycles between October 1, 2006 and present.

It would be recalled that FCT administration had on October 1, 2006, banned commercial motorcyclists from operating within the city centre follow-

ing the ban. "We try to use minimum force and tactics to apprehend them," he explained.

"The joint task force, which comprises of the VIO, Police, FRSC and the Civil Defence Corps will continue to arrest violators and impound such motorcycles," he said.

He added that since the ban, several accidents related to motorcycles had occurred in the city.

However, he said three of his staff sustained serious injuries while most others had minor injuries trying to enforce the ban on commercial motorcyclists.



Saraki swears in