

Delta police kill 4 suspected robbers

THE Police in Delta State have killed four suspected armed robbers said to have been terrorizing motorists on Asaba-Benin highway.

The police spokesman in Delta, Mr. Charles Muka told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Asaba on Tuesday that two suspects were also arrested.

Muka said that the police received information on December 14 that robbers were operating at Alifekede-Agbor junction on Asaba-Benin highway.

He said that a patrol team

rushed to the scene where the suspects had already killed a passenger and the driver of a luxury bus with registration number XX 216 JJJ.

The police spokesman said that four of the suspects were killed in a shoot out while others escaped into the bush.

He said that a locally-made single barrel gun, two expended cartridges and a wooden gun were recovered from the scene.

Muka also said two robbery suspects, who specialised in bag-snatching, were arrested at Okwe junction, Asaba on the same day.

He said that three suspects on a motorcycle snatched a bag from a woman.

The alarm raised by the victim, he said, attracted passersby with one of them pursuing the suspects in a car.

He said policemen on patrol raced to the scene and arrested two of the suspects in a bush while trying to escape.

Muka said that two locally-made guns and undisclosed amount of money were recovered from the suspects.

He said that efforts were on to arrest the third member of the gang.

Pepple commissions buses for civil servants

From JOSHUA I.
EGBODO, Abuja

HEAD of Civil Service of the Federation, Ms. Amal Pepple has commissioned four staff buses donated to workers by the Rivers State government.

While commissioning the buses, Pepple thanked the Rivers State Governor, Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi for bringing succor, happiness, and directly touching the lives of civil servants in the state.

She, however, urged the civil servants in the state to reciprocate the gesture by being honest, disciplined, hardworking and transparent in rendering their service. This she said would lift the government to a greater height.

Ms. Pepple called on Permanent Secretaries to adequately utilize funds

allocated to their Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in catering for promotion, arrears and training needs, advising them to always ensure prompt payment of salaries and other entitlements of officers.

The Head of Service promised to look into the problems of officers who took promotion interview and were successful, but were not promoted due to inadequate vacancies, thereby being called to attend another interview. She described the action as unfair, not only to the officers but the public service in general.

On the issue of non-payment of gratuities and pensions, the Head of

Service disclosed that her office is not responsible for the delays, but that the delay is associated with banks who also complain of pensioners not doing the right things like proper documentation of their individual accounts.

According to her, most of the banks keep the money sent to them for a long time before payment, or returned the money to her office due to change in bank account of the pensioner without notifying them.

Ms. Pepple noted that in order to improve on the capacity building of civil servants, training and re-training of officers will begin after the commissioning in January 2009, the Civil Service College now Public

NAFDAC SENSITISES KEBBI PEOPLE ON NON-VITAMIN FOOD

From KABIR WURMA,
Birnin Kebbi

THE National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) office in Kebbi Tuesday embarked on sensitisation campaign on rejection of food not fortified with Vitamin A, 25Kg of iodized salt, retailing of 50kg of iodized salt by consumers and promotion of breast feeding.

The campaign also draw the attention of importers,

distributors, wholesalers, retailers and users to accept only Vitamin A fortified edible vegetable oil, flour.

This warning was given by Head of NAFDAC in the State, Mr. Bitrus D. Fraden while briefing newsmen shortly after he declared opened the sensitisation campaign at Birnin Kebbi central market.

Mr. Bitrus D. Fraden also warned that people should reject a salt which was rebagged by any importer, distributor, wholesaler and retailers.

On the achievements so far recorded by NAFDAC, he said nearly 100 per cent of household in Nigeria have access to iodized salt and is no longer considered as a critical public health problem in Nigeria, saying that Nigeria was certified as USI compliant in November 2005 by a team of international assessors while efforts were on top gear to sustain the USI successors.

According to him, prevalence of goita is now below 10 per cent average compared to 20 per cent average in 1993 while 100 per cent of flour, 80 per cent of sugar and a significance percentage of vegetable oil consumed in the country are now fortified with vitamin A.

The NAFDAC head in the state also advised consumers of the state to

reject fake and expired products and to report any to NAFDAC.

Auto crash claims 11 lives

From ABUBAKAR IMAM,
Sokoto

THREE vehicles involved in ghastly accident along Sokoto-Shagari road yesterday killed no less than 11 persons among them two baby girls.

New Nigerian learnt that the accident occurred at around 12.15 p.m. at around 500 meters to Lambar-Mazuru village in Yabo Local Government of Sokoto State.

While confirming the accident, the Sector Commander of the Federal Roads Safety Commission, Mr. Christopher Ademoluti told our reporter that the accident might have occurred as a result of either dangerous over speeding or over taking.

Ademoluti gave the registration numbers of the vehicles involved in the accident as followed: AA 357 LLA, AE 101 BGD and AA 681 GRY. "Two of the vehicles are Toyota Corolla brands popularly called first lady while the third one is Sony Nissan," he added.

He said that, the victims were rescued by a patrol team of the Commission at around 12.30 p.m.

He stated that four other injured persons are now receiving treatment at the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto Teaching where the corpses were also deposited at the mortuary.

He added that some of the deceased persons could not be identified and they were marked as "unidentified."