

Curfew imposed on Plateau town

• 3 killed, police station burnt

Jude Owuamanam, Jos

A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed on Pankshin in Pankshin Local Government area by the Plateau State Government following a violent clash between some youths and police in the area.

Secretary to the State Government, Mr. John Gobak, who announced this in a press statement in Jos on Tuesday, said that the curfew would last from 7 pm to 6 am and said that the measure was to check the rising tension in the town.

Three people were killed while a police station was razed in the clash.

Our correspondent gathered that trouble started in the early hours of Monday when some hoodlums attempted to raid a hotel located in the city centre.

It was gathered that the Chairman of the Local Government, Mr. Anthony Goyol, whose attention was drawn to the incident as it was taking place, alerted the police.

The police were said to have cordoned off the area in a bid to apprehend the hoodlums, said to be over 20.

However, the hoodlums reportedly relocated their operation to another hotel in the same neighbourhood when they were dislodged from the first.

They were chased to the second place and in their attempt to escape two of them were killed while the rest escaped.

But an eyewitness told our

correspondent that the youths were not actually hoodlums, but were only holding a party in the hotel before the police stormed the area and shot two of them dead.

The eyewitness said that armed robbers had laid siege to the town for more than four days and the police had failed to respond to distress calls, claiming that traders in the town had not been cooperating with them.

The eyewitness said that the third person was an official of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria, who was shot dead while repairing a fault on an electric pole.

Police kill three robbers

John Ameh, Onitsha

The Anambra State Police Command said on Tuesday that three robbery suspects had been shot dead in Onitsha, the state's commercial centre.

The suspects, who operated on an unmarked motorcycle, had reportedly attacked residents and traders at Iweka Road, the centre of a thriving electronics market.

It added that a number of residents were dispossessed of their valuables at the popular Modebe Avenue Junction before a police team was alerted to the scene.

The suspects, in their bid to escape, reportedly engaged the team in a shootout, resulting in the deaths of three of them.

One rifle, with registration number SH. 1968. TH 2497

It was this that angered the youths who mobilized and burnt down the police station. They also marched to the residence of the local government chairman to set it on fire before a reinforcement of riot policemen stopped them.

The youths marched into the town, looting and destroying shops and property.

Gobak told our correspondent on Tuesday, that according to the report he received from the local government chairman, the youths were actually carrying out a robbery operation at the hotel before the police were called in.

and 13 rounds of live ammunition, were said to have been recovered from the suspects.

The command's spokesman, Mr. Fidelis Agbo, who confirmed the incident, said that the corpses of the suspects had been deposited in a hospital morgue, while investigations into the matter continued.

In a separate incident, the police invaded the residence of one lady, Adaobi, who kept arms for robbers and recovered a Scorpion pistol.

The gun, with registration number P4316 was recovered with 21 live ammunition from the lady's house in Iyowa, Ogbaru Local Government Area of the state.

The suspected amourer, however, escaped and the police said that they were still on her trail.