

Pupils kill female teacher in Gombe

MUSLIM pupils at a secondary school in Gandu, Gombe State, beat a teacher to death after accusing her of desecrating the Koran.

According to agency reports, the teacher, Oluwatoyin Olusesan, a Christian, was investigating an Islamic Religious Knowledge exam at the Government Day Secondary School, Gandu when the incident occurred.

The students attacked her outside the school compound after the exam and killed her.

They also burnt some of the school blocks in the process.

The Vice-Principal, Hajiya Hadiza Ali Gombe, said the teacher, who was employed on contract, was assigned to

invigilate the SS1 pupils who were writing their Islamic Religious Knowledge exams.

She added that the teacher suspected that a foul play was about to take place when one of the students wanted to come in with his books to the exam hall.

Gombe said when the teacher collected the books and threw them outside, unknown to her, there was a copy of the Holy Quran among the books.

The principal said before they knew what was happening, the students had started chanting *Allahu Akbar* (God is great).

All efforts to control the rampaging students proved abortive even when the

school principal, Mohammed Sadiq, tried to protect the teacher in his office.

The principal was also terribly beaten and injured while they set the teacher's car, three classes, the school's clinic, administrative block and library on fire.

The commissioner, state police command, Mr. Joseph Ahmed Ibi, confirmed the incident.

He said 12 people had been arrested in connection with the gruesome killing of the teacher.

Ibi added that the police were still investigating the incident.

Meanwhile, schools in Gombe metropolis have been closed down.

But the Plateau State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Edward Pwajok, said the state government was waiting for the supporters of Dariye, who had threatened to take over the Government House.

Dariye: Security beefed up at Govt House

Jude Owuamanam, Jos

THE Plateau State Police Command has beefed up security at the Government House, following threats by the loyalists of the reinstated Governor, Chief Joshua Dariye, to take over the seat of government

that the loyalists of the embattled governor would be forced to match to Rayfield Government House to restore him to his seat.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Godwin Iornumbe, confirmed that security had been beefed up in

Robbers attack seven banks, kill four policemen

John Ameh, Onitsha

FOUR policemen were on Wednesday killed in Anambra State by suspected armed robbers in Obosi, near Onitsha.

Investigations by our correspondent showed that among the dead was one Patrick, an assistant superintendent of police, who was posted to the state police command last week.

The three others were an inspector, a sergeant and a corporal.

The four policemen were said to be returning from a patrol duty to the Obosi Divisional Police headquarters in the early hours of Wednesday when they were shot by the robbers.

It was learnt that the robbers drove behind their vehicle, a Toyota van, in a Mitsubishi L-300 buses and shot the policemen at close range.

Incidentally, the killings re-

portedly took place about three hours before armed robbers attacked seven banks in Nnewi, the second largest commercial town in the state.

Detectives investigating the bank robbery suspected that the robbers who shot the policemen might be members of the gang, which attacked the banks.

They were shot on a road linking Obosi with Nnewi.

Although the robbers, numbering about 40, reportedly gained entrance into some of the banking halls, they were unable to open their vaults.

One of banks (names withheld) was, however, unlucky as an undisclosed sum of money was carted away from its vault.

Heavy equipment, including sledge hammers and gas cylinders were used in the operation, which reportedly started at about 3am and ended at 5.15am.

Securitymen on guard at the banks were said to have

taken cover on discovering that they could not withstand the firepower of the hoodlums.

The police said they recovered 887 expended bullets and three live ammunition from the scene.

Also recovered were seven gas cylinders, three chisels and four sledge hammers.

The Commissioner in charge of the state police command, Mr. Haruna John, confirmed the incidents to our correspondent. He said the robbers did not enter some of the banks "because our men were able to repel them."

John also said that only six banks were affected.

He added, "The State Criminal Investigation Department has taken over the investigation into the two incidents.

"The robbers cannot get away; we shall trail them.

"We have put all our stations on the alert and we have blocked their likely exit routes."