

Robbers chase empty bullion van, kill doctor in Edo

Emmanuel Obe, Benin

THE medical doctor in charge of the health department of Uhumwode Local Government Area of Edo State, Dr. Nelson Idehen, on Tuesday died of bullet injuries he sustained in a robbery operation on the Benin-Auchi road.

The doctor was hit by a stray bullet as he drove into the area where the robbers were robbing a bullion van at the notorious Egba Junction, near Benin city. The van was heading for Benin from Auchi in the northern part of the state.

But as it turned out, the bullion was empty as it was

on its way to load cash in Benin.

The incident came barely two weeks after another medical personnel, Esosa Ogbuide-Ihama, was killed on October 3 by her house boy at their residence in the GRA, Benin. Incidentally, the two doctors were aged 29 years old.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Peter Ogbol, said the policemen accompanying the bullion van resisted the robbers' attack.

He said the robbers were forced to flee into the bush, abandoning a Toyota bus in which they were operating.

Late Idehen was from Iyanomo community of Ikpoba/Okha Local Government area of the state. He read general medicine at the University of Benin.

It was also learnt that as the medical officer in charge in the local government, he routinely visited the health centers in the locality and that he might have been doing that when stray bullets hit him.

Three feared killed in Saki bank robbery

Akin Oyedele, Ibadan

AT least three people, including two armed robbers, were feared killed on Tuesday at Saki, Oyo State, during a robbery incident at the Skye Bank branch in the town.

An unconfirmed source claimed that a renowned Islamic leader was also felled by the robbers' bullets while fleeing through the neighbouring Igbeji town after the incident.

A teenage girl, who was hit by stray bullets at the precinct of the bank, was also killed in the incident.

Witnesses said the police in Saki succeeded in foiling the attempt by the bandits to break into the bank's strong room, but they (robbers) carted away unspecified amount found with the tellers and customers.

It was learnt that a team of soldiers attracted to the scene by the sporadic gunshots fired by the hoodlums assisted the police to engage the nine-member gang in a gun duel.

Insane policewoman arraigned for killing sister's baby

Francis Falola, Minna

AN allegedly insane police corporal, Salamat Alenyika, was on Tuesday arraigned at a Chief Magistrate's Court I, Minna for the killing of a two-year-old boy, Adamu Isah.

Alenyika, who was a sister to the mother of the deceased, our correspondent had earlier reported, was arrested on Monday, for hitting Isah on the ground and violently matching him to death.

The suspect had earlier been dismissed from the police after an orderly room trial and conviction. The trial was ordered by the Commissioner of Police for Niger State Command, Mr. Paul Iseghohi.

Alenyika is standing trial for culpable homicide contrary to Section 221 of the penal code law.

While reading the charges to the accused, the Presiding Chief Magistrate, Alhaji Hamidu Bima, said: On 15/10/07 at about 09:15 hours, one Isah Ibrahim (male) of Tunga area, Minna came to the Tunduwada

It was gathered that the police recovered N1.2m from the robbers after pursuing them to Igbeji, where they abandoned some arms and ammunition and ran into the bush.

Also recovered from the robbers were one Izuzu bus, three AK-47 rifles, 11 empty magazines and several pieces of live ammunition.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer, Miss Olabisi Okuwobi, said the robbers fled through the Kwara boundary with Oyo State.

Uwazurike: Court rejects death certificate

Tobi Soniyi, Abuja

AFederal High Court sitting in Abuja on Tuesday rejected the death certificate of the mother of the leader of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra, Chief Ralph Uwazurike.

The death certificate was one of the requirements needed by the court to admit Uwazurike to bail so that he could go and bury his mother.

Justice Binta Murtala Nyako, while rejecting the death certificate, said that a certificate issued by a private hospital was not acceptable.

She said Uwazurike ought to produce a death certificate issued by a government hospital.

Similarly, the judge refused the evidence given by the Eze Ndigo in Abuja, Eze Nwosu Ibe, who had deposed to an affidavit to the effect that Uwazurike was genuinely needed at his mother's burial.

Justice Murtala-Nyako said the evidence of the Igbo culture which required Uwazurike's presence at the mother's burial ceremony should be given by someone who is based in the east.

Government had filed a counter-affidavit to Uwazurike's application for bail through its lawyer, Chief Adegboyega Awomolo (SAN).

In the counter-affidavit, Awomolo had stated that the address of the private hospital which issued the death certificate could not be traced in Lagos.

The court had earlier showed the willingness to release Uwazurike on bail to attend his mother's burial if he could produce evidence to show that under the Igbo culture, it was mandatory for the MASSOB leader to attend his mother's burial.

Police Station, Minna and reported that on the same date at about 09:00hours, while searching for his son named Adamu Isah aged two years old, he later discovered that you Salamat Alenyika (female) of Chanchanga area, Minna took the child to an uncompleted building behind Tunga Low Cost Area, Minna.

"And without any reasonable cause, marched the child to death. You are hereby suspected to have committed the above mentioned offence as charged."

The 26-year-old suspect while responding to the charges read against her, simply said, "I understand the information. I am not the one that did it. It is in the hands of God."

Police prosecutor, Sergeant Seidu Aliyu, sought more time to conclude investigation.

Accused's lawyers urged the court to send her to the hospital for a check up. The court agreed and referred Alenyika to the Psychiatric Hospital, Minna before adjourning the case till October 22.