



• L-R: Senator Iyiola Omisore; Minister of Aviation, Mr. Babatunde Omotoba; Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola; and Contractor, P.W. Nigeria, Mr. Trevor Lyttle, during the inspection tour of Osun State Airport site in Ofatedo, Osogbo, by the Minister ... on Saturday.

Robbers kill army lieutenant after writing promotion exam

• As Alaafin, Rep, Akala react to PDP chairman's murder

Akin Oyedele, Ibadan

A gang of armed robbers shot dead an unidentified Lieutenant while riding in his car around Letnauk Barracks, Mokola, Ibadan, Oyo State capital, few hours after writing a promotion examination, on Friday.

The Army officer, who is attached to 19 Battalion, Okitipupa, Ondo State, was said to be in mufti when he was attacked by the suspected armed robbers while trying to escape after a robbery operation.

N4.7bn entitlements: Ex-Customs men petition Jonathan

Akin Oyedele, Ibadan

SIXTY-four customs officers who were retired in 2007 had died while waiting for the payment of their entitlements.

Oyo State chapter of the National Association of Retired Customs officers 2007, said this in a petition to the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, asking for his intervention in the payment of a whopping N4.7bn being owed them as entitlement.

In a save-our-soul by the Chairman and Secretary of the association, Messrs Rotimi Ayorinde and Gbadegesin Alawode, respectively, to Jonathan, the ex-Customs men begged the VP to come to their rescue to forestall further deaths of their members.

The group said more pathetic was the case of a retired Assistant Superintendent of Customs, Mr. Sunday Adepoju, who reportedly died during an illness on February 28 due to lack of money to seek proper medical care.

The retired customs men said that they resorted to the

Though the officer was said to be oblivious of their identity, the gang was said to have hit his car in their desperate bid to flee from the scene after which he was shot dead on the suspicion that he was trying to block them.

Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, 2 Division of the Nigerian Army, Lt. Col. Andrew Idachaba, confirmed the incident in a telephone interview with our correspondent, on Sunday.

He said, "He was among those that wrote promotion examination to the rank of a

Captain on Friday. He was billed to return to his base in Okitipupa by the weekend. Maybe, the armed robbers thought he was trying to block them. It is unfortunate."

In a related development, a gang of four men lured an Action Congress member in Ibadan South-East local government, Mr. Taiwo Falade, out of his house in Odo Oba area of Ibadan and shot him dead, also on Friday.

Meanwhile, apprehension has gripped politicians in Oyo town following Wednesday's murder of the Peoples

their unceremonious retirement by the Board of Nigeria Customs Service during a re-organisation exercise on May 21, 2007.

In December, 2009, the association said that they held another meeting with the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Pension, Mr. Rasak Adewusi.

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Fayose accuses Ekiti govt of burning LP's Secretariat

Femi Makinde, Ado-Ekiti

FORMER Governor of Ekiti State, Ayo Fayose on Sunday accused the state government of being behind the burning of the Labour Party Secretariat in Ado-Ekiti by suspected political thugs.

The LP's Secretariat, a one-storey building along Iworoko Road in Ado-Ekiti and a water-tanker belonging to Fayose were set on fire on Saturday by yet-to-be-identified persons.

While the state police command said its men were already investigating the incident, Fayose said the

investigators should not look far for the culprits, saying Governor Segun Oni, who said he would have shot down his helicopter, was behind the burning.

But the government, in a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to Oni, Mr. Wale Ojo-Lanre, on Sunday, said that it was not known for criminal activities unlike the Fayose-era as governor of the state.

Ojo-Lanre said, "On his return from exile Fayose set a water tanker on fire just to get attention. We are therefore not bothered by the latest antics of

Democratic Party Chairman for Atiba Local Government, Mr. Azeez Adegbile, in the ancient town.

The timing of his killing, which was on the eve of the planned declaration by a PDP House of Representatives aspirant, Chief Kemi Jayeoba-Olorunsogo, scheduled for Durbar Stadium, Oyo, had fuelled speculations that it might be politically-motivated.

Our correspondent gathered that the circumstances surrounding the murder of the politician had sent jitters down the spine of key leaders of the PDP in the town.

Three gunmen allegedly cut down Adegbile in a hail of bullets around midnight in the presence of his wife and children at Odunerin compound, Isale-Oyo, on Wednesday.

To ensure that he did not survive the attack, it was gathered that the assailants doused his room with petrol and set it ablaze, which burnt the dying man slightly before neighbours put out the fire.

For more, visit www.punchng.com

AC, PDP disagree over assassination plot

Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

THE Osun Action Congress has debunked an assassination attempt claim by the Peoples Democratic Party, saying the ruling party was being mischievous.

Director of Publicity, Osun PDP, Mr Adeolu Adeyemo, on Friday, said that a member of the party, Olusegun Adegbite, who testified in favour of Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola at the governorship Election Petition Tribunal, escaped assassination in Igbajo town.

An email by Adeyemo alleged that Adegbite was 'nearly assassinated' by some AC members in the town, on Wednesday, when Adegbite and some others were on a vigilance exercise.

Reacting, AC's Director of Research and Strategy, Mr Sunday Akere, described the allegation by PDP as laughable and false.

Akere said, "It was the PDP that planned to kidnap our agent, Goke Esan, for stating in an interview with Sunday PUNCH that he was beside our slain party agent, Ayo Kemba Oni, when he was shot dead in Igbajo on April 14, 2007.

"Since he granted the interview, Esan has been intimidated and hunted in Igbajo. We have reported the case to the traditional ruler of the town, Oba Olufemi Fasade. There was a grand plan by the PDP to kidnap Esan. Some people have been brought from Lagos by the PDP to do the job.

"The question to ask is - what was Adegbite and the other two PDP members masking as vigilance group members doing in the house of Esan at that time of the night? They wanted to kidnap Esan and he resisted them. That was what happened."

Adeyemo said, "Before Olusegun Adegbite who was in company of two other vigilante members could know what was happening, his assailants had stripped him naked, beating him black and blue, while making frantic effort to set him ablaze."

He said, "Tell them that they cannot stop me no matter the intimidation, and I will not run away from this state. I know that some people are jealous of my popularity but it is too late to stop me."

"Politics of burning opponents' property and killing is old fashion. They are doing all these to stop me but it's rather too late."

The Police Public Relations Officer for Ekiti State, Mr. Jimoh Mohammed, who confirmed the incident in a telephone interview with our correspondent said that investigation was ongoing.

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