

City Briefs

Two killed in police, illegal miners' clash

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MINNA

Police at the weekend shot and killed two miners at Kafin-Koro in Palkoro Local Government Area of Niger State.

The incident occurred when several miners reportedly decided to attack policemen deployed to the mining site after the death of seven illegal miners.

A source at the village said the illegal miners, who had defied warnings from both the state government and security agents to desist from their illegal activities, mobilised themselves and waylaid the policemen.

The source added that the miners, who were armed with dangerous weapons, attacked the policemen, and injured a policeman in the head. This, the source said, forced the policemen

to open fire on the miners.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Bala Elkana, said the police had sealed off the mining site.

He, however, warned all those involved in the illegal mining activities across the state to desist from such act because if caught, they would face the full wrath of the law.

The identities of the miners killed were not known at press time.

Illegal mining activities have become rampant in various parts of the state in recent times and have become a source of concern to government.

Governor Abubakar Bello recently expressed concern over the illegal mining in the state with particular reference to Shikira village in Kagara, Rafi Local Government Area where many lives, mostly minors, were lost to lead poison from illegal mining of gold by the locals.

Man drowns in Ogun River during police raid

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ABEOKUTA

A 31-year-old man, Gafar Ajibola, has drowned in Ogun River in Abeokuta during an alleged police raid.

The incident, which occurred on Saturday, has thrown the Oriyanrin community into mourning and palpable tension.

Ajibola, an artisan, was said to be washing his clothes at the river bank when policemen, allegedly searching for hoodlums, stormed area.

It was learnt that to escape being killed by the policemen reportedly

shooting sporadically, the man jumped into the river.

Family members told our correspondent that after a spirited search, Ajibola's body was found some metres away from the river bank.

At the family house, emotion ran high as sympathisers, who thronged the place, bemoaned Ajibola's untimely death.

Speaking with journalists, an uncle of the deceased expressed shock at Ajibola's demise and blamed the police for the loss.

The uncle, who declined to give his name, threatened that the family

would take legal action against the police in order to ensure justice.

He said: "My brother's son was washing clothes and out of fear, he jumped into the river. We have been searching for him since yesterday."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Abimbola Oyeyemi, however, absolved the police of any wrongdoing in the incident.

He said: "The information I got is to the effect that the police had gone to raid criminal hideouts. There are places around that area known for harbouring criminals."