

# Gombe Deputy Gov Dies at 52

**G**ombe State Deputy Governor, Malam David Miyims Albashi is dead. He died yesterday in a German hospital where he was receiving treatment on injuries he sustained in a ghastly motor accident early this year.

Albashi who was involved in a fatal motor accident along Gombe-Yola Road on the 29th of August and was said to have been making progress in his recovery when suddenly gave up the ghost.

Sources said he made several calls to friends and relatives and even had a light moment in the hospital yesterday morning, "but he suddenly developed bleeding complications that eventually led to his death."

In a swift reaction, President Goodluck Jonathan condoled with Governor Ibrahim Dankwabo of Gombe State, while describing the death of Albashir as shocking.

Governor Dankwambo has declared a state-wide mourning for him beginning from today.

A press release from the

*From Segun Awofadeji in Gombe and Ahamefula Ogbu in Abuja*

governor's office said in addition to the state-wide mourning, this year's Eid-el-Kabir celebration will be low-keyed in the state in honour of late Albashir.

"I am deeply and personally touched by the sudden

loss of this vibrant and young politician," said Jonathan in his condolence message.

He prayed that God would grant the state's government and the entire people of the state the fortitude "to bear the loss of such a vibrant politi-

cian."

Late Albashi, was born on January 15, 1959 at Tiksir Village in Kindiyo, Cham to the families of Mr. Miyims and Mrs. Anna Albashi, both of Cham Chiefdom of Balanga Local Government in Gombe South Senatorial Zone.

## Pirates Seize Oil Tanker in N'Delta

*By Yemi Adebowale*

*with agency report*

**P**irates on Thursday seized an European-owned oil tanker, MT Halifax off the coast of Port Harcourt, kidnapping the crew in a bid to steal the ship's cargo in the latest hijacking in the notorious region.

The gunmen boarded MT Halifax as it sat in waters, took over control of the ship and sailed off into the waters of the Gulf of Guinea, and are still holding onto the crew as they offload the crude oil in the ship's hold, officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press as they are not authorised to discuss the seizure with journalists.

It remains unclear how many crew members were taken or if any have been

injured. The Halifax, registered in Malta, is managed by Ancora Investment Trust Inc. of Greece.

An employee, who answered a telephone call to the company's office in Athens declined to comment on Thursday, saying someone would be able to discuss the hijacking yesterday.

A profile of the ship on Ancora's company website identified the nationalities of those onboard as Filipino and Indian, with an Italian ship master.

Commodore Kabir Aliyu, a spokesman for Nigeria's Navy, declined to comment.

The attack is just the latest

to target West Africa's Gulf of Guinea, which follows the continent's southward curve from Liberia to Gabon. Over the last eight months, piracy there has escalated from low-level armed robberies to hijackings and cargo thefts.

In August, London-based Lloyd's Market Association — an umbrella group of insurers — listed Nigeria, neighbouring Benin and nearby waters in the same risk category as Somalia, where two decades of war and anarchy have allowed piracy to flourish.

While pirates in West Africa have been more willing to use violence in their robberies, the latest string of pirate attacks have seen crews typically let go unharmed after the crude oil is stolen from the ships.

Analysts believe many of the pirates come from Nigeria.

However, the recent oil tanker attacks appear to be committed by a single, sophisticated criminal gang, said Graeme Gibbon-Brooks, the managing director of Dryad Maritime Intelligence Service. Finding an oil ship in the ocean, then being able to offload to crude oil into another ship requires technical knowledge and experience," he said.

"Those involved in the hijackings may have gotten that experience in the Niger Delta, where thieves tapping pipelines running through swamps steal hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil a day.

"This is a carbon copy of a crime at sea that we're seeing on shore," Gibbon-Brooks said.

## Police Parade Killers of 88-Year-Old Man

*From Wole Ayodele*

*in Jalingo*

were raised over what could be the motive behind the dastardly act.

Parading the suspects at the Command's headquarters in Jalingo, the state's Commissioner of Police, Chintua Amajor Onu said the suspects have confessed to committing the heinous crime during investigations.

Besides, they were said to have confessed to have carried out several armed robbery operations in Jalingo, Numan and Yola in Adamawa State in conjunction with other members of their gang who were also paraded along with them.

Among the series of armed robbery operations carried out by the gang include the rob-

bery incident at the Federal Character Commission in Jalingo during which a security guard of the Commission, Alphonsus Kwazing was shot.

Other suspects paraded along with the duo are Hikima Waziri, James Kilyobas, Barnabas Babayo, Michael Akpam and Dauda Blanto as well as David Tende, Obadiah Luka, John Bitrus and Umar Isa while Ali Dan-Manchi is said to be at large.

Exhibits recovered from the suspects, according to the Police boss include one locally made revolver pistol; one magazine fully loaded with twenty rounds of 5.5mm live ammunition; two rounds of 7.62mm short ammunition; one round of 7.62mm long ammunition; one live cartridge and two motor cycles as well as motor cycle parts.

**F**our months after the gruesome murder of an 88 years old Evangelist, Phillip Kwakwa in Jalingo, the Taraba State Police Command yesterday paraded two suspects in connection with the killing.

The suspects, Ekele Sunday, an indigene of Imo State and Yohanna Ayuba, a dismissed Soldier from Adamawa State were arrested by men of the State Anti Robbery Squad (SARS) on 22nd of September, 2011 following investigations into the theft of a Jincheng motor cycle.

Evangelist Kwakwa was killed by gunmen at his residence at Mile 6 in Jalingo on 28th of July, 2011 and his killing threw the entire ancient town into serious mourning and confusion as questions