

Mad man killed as 60-man robbery gang attacks bureaux de change

By Kenneth Ehigiator

LAGOS — AT least one mentally deranged person was killed and a policeman wounded when a gang of about 60 heavily armed robbers attacked bureaux de change located around the domestic wing of the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Ikeja, Lagos.

While the body of the slain mad man had been deposited in a mortuary, the shot cop is said to be

Lagos LG funds: Monarch commends Yar'Adua

LAGOS—THE Oba-elect of Lasheri Oshun, Omo Oba Ramon Inufelè Musendiku, has commended the gesture of President Umaru Yar'Adua for releasing the seized Lagos State local government funds.

In a statement at a public function over the weekend, he thanked the former governor of Lagos State, Senator Bola Tinubu for a job well-done in Lagos State and commended him for having the foresight of handing over to a reliable choice of Babatunde Raji Fashola.

receiving treatment in an unnamed hospital.

The robbers, who reportedly stormed the bureaux de change opposite Arik Air's official head office around 3:00 a.m. in about eight vehicles, opened fire, shooting sporadically, as soon as they arrived.

Vanguard gathered that the robbers came with a welding machine with which they cut open safes after breaking down doors leading to no fewer than 30 bureaux de change offices.

It was learnt that they found no money in all the safes broken open, as the operators of the foreign exchange centres often take their money elsewhere for safe keeping at the close of the day's business.

Obviously frustrated by non-discovery of money in the safes, the robbers opened fire on the two policemen on guard at the new terminal 2 building of the local airport who fired at them while the operation was on.

Both the terminal building and Arik Air's fence were riddled with bullets following the indiscriminate shooting embarked upon by the robbers.

Commissioner of the Lagos Airport Police Command, Ibrahim Baba Ahmed, who confirmed the robbery, said the robbers concentrated their attack on the terminal building because two cops attached to the facility dared to challenge them.

LAGOS—LAGOS State Government has placed a ban on the cutting of trees in any part of the state, without a formal approval from the Ministry of the Environment.

The Commissioner for the Environment, Dr. Muiz Banire, stated this during the weekly inspection and monitoring of the state of Lagos environment.

Dr. Banire expressed shock at the level and rate at which Lagosians now cut trees, without re-

course towards replacement.

He was particularly disturbed about the rate at which trees are being felled around Ikoyi, Ikeja, Victoria Island, and many government reservation areas, a trend which he described as portraying grave danger not only to Lagosians, but as well a great destruction of the eco-system.

Banire said that trees felling causes deforestation in the state, while it also increases the carbon dioxide level of the atmosphere.

Unilag student drowns

By Femi Adisa

LAGOS—BARELY one week after two secondary school students drowned in a river in Owode-Onirin area of Lagos State, another student of the University of Lagos, Sunday, got drowned at Turkwa bay beach in Victoria Island area of the state.

The 200 level student identified as Oyeboode Oyesina was said to have gone to the beach in the

company of other students from different tertiary institutions to celebrate one of their friends birthday.

While some of the students were catching fun, others including the celebrant was said to have gone to swim. But their fun was short-lived when one of them reportedly alerted others of Oyeboode's plight as he was seen battling to stay afloat in the water at a distance.

Arik Air trains pilots

ARIK Air's two New Generation Boeing 737-700 aircraft will this week begin training flights with Boeing pilots to complete the final line checks with Arik pilots before the commencement of commercial flights on August 8, 2007.

Michael McTighe, Managing Director of Arik Air, commenting on the expected impact of the airline's introduction of New Generation's planes said, "on 7th August a VIP inaugural flight and

press conference will take place following which everyone in Nigeria will have the opportunity to experience our new state-of-the-art 737-700NG aircraft.

In addition passengers taking the first commercial flight on Wednesday 8th August will receive a commemorative gold coin and unique first flight-boarding pass that will remind them that they were part of a very special day in the development of Nigerian aviation."