

Pregnant woman, one other killed in Police, robbers' shoot-out

By Evelyn Usman

LAGOS—THERE was bloodbath yesterday at the Badagry central market, Lagos, following a shoot-out between a 40-man robbery gang and the Police, which resulted in the death of a member of the gang and two innocent passers-by. About fifteen persons were reportedly hit by stray bullets and several others injured.

Reports said the bandits who were armed with automatic rifles, stormed two first generation banks inside the Badagry central market, in an unmarked Coastal

bus and an Infinity Jeep at about 10am. Some of the members were said to have made for the banking halls while others positioned themselves outside, in readiness for any intruder. They were said to have fired indiscriminately into the air, thereby jolting confused residents of the area who fled in different directions for safety.

Eye witness said a team of policemen who were later joined by Anti-Robbery teams under area 'E' command, engaged the robbers in a fierce shoot-out said to have lasted over twenty minutes. As the robbers reportedly fled the scene in their operational vehi-

cles, the Police fired at the infinity jeep, killing the driver on the spot. But one of the female gang member was said to have carried the lifeless body of their dead colleague into the bus, before it somersaulted into a ditch.

The robbers were said to have escaped through Mowe to Ogun state, where they reportedly met a fierce encounter with policemen from Ogun state Command. Two persons; a male and a pregnant woman were said to have been killed by stray bullets from the fleeing robbers, while several others among whom were two teenagers sustained bullet wounds.