

News

Caleb Varsity admits 279

CALEB University, Imota, Lagos State, has administered the matriculation oath on 279 students offered admission for the 2012/2013 academic session.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ayodeji Olukoji said this at the matriculation ceremony held last Friday, adding that the students spread across the 11 departments under the three colleges in the university.

FCT Minister wins award

SENATOR Bala Mohammed, Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, has been honoured with the FCT Man of the Year award, while VIP Express and Tourism Ltd was adjudged the Best Performing Tourism organisation of the Year at the Federal Capital Advancement Award, FCAA, in Abuja.

Police station bombed, 2 killed, Frenchman kidnapped in Katsina

BY EMEKA MAMAH, with agency reports

KATSINA—A French energy worker, Francis Colump, has been kidnapped in Katsina State after 30 gunmen attacked a residence and killed a policeman and a security guard protecting the foreign employee, officials said yesterday.

A nearby police station was also said to have been bombed and some inmates freed from detention. Those killed were identified as Rabe Dan'Unguwa, 45, a security man at the residence of Colump, and Abubakar Sale, 25.

Katsina State Commissioner of Police, Abdullahi Magaji, told newsmen, yesterday, that gunmen attacked the police station to divert attention, as their main target was the abduction of the expatriate supervisor handling a mill project in Rimi.

State police spokesman, Aminu Abubakar also said the attack took place on Wednes-

day in Rimi town, about 20 kilometres north of Katsina and very close to the border with Niger Republic.

The kidnapped worker was employed by French renewable energy firm Vergnet, officials said. A Paris-based Vergnet executive confirmed the kidnapping.

Vergnet is a French firm that specialises in wind power turbines. The company is currently building Nigeria's first wind farm based in Katsina State.

An eyewitness said the attack on the station and the residence of Colump was carried out simultaneously by about 30 gunmen, who divided themselves into two groups.

It was said that the attackers arrived the town in three vehicles and began shooting before setting off the bomb, which badly damaged the station but recorded no casualty.

A mobile policeman was injured in the attack on the Frenchman's residence.

It was gathered that as soon as they shot the trio, the gunmen forced themselves into the residence and abducted the Frenchman.

Caretaker Committee Chairman of the council, Alhaji Nasiru Ala, conducted the burial rites of the two persons killed in the attack. Ala, who described the incident as "tragic," prayed God to expose those involved in the act.

French Foreign Ministry could not confirm the kidnapping, but was making checks.

Ahmed budgets N94.4bn for 2013

BY DEMOLA AKINYEMI

ILORIN—GOVERNOR Abdulfatah Ahmed of Kwara State, yesterday, presented a budget proposal of N94.4 billion for the 2013 fiscal year to the state House of Assembly for consideration and approval. The budget shows a 10 percent

increase over last year's projection of N85.1 billion.

Presenting the budget, tagged *Sustained Prosperity*, Ahmed said it was designed to boost infrastructure, accelerate agro-led wealth creation, create jobs and sustain the state's development.

The budget, he added, was also aimed at reducing the

state's dependence on federal allocations and attract foreign and domestic investments into the state.

The governor explained that N6.3 billion was the total surplus revenue even as capital receipt was estimated at N42 billion with total capital expenditure also pegged at N42.6 billion.

