

News

Man runs amok, kills his five brothers

BY PETER DURU

MAKURDI — FIVE young men were, yesterday, allegedly murdered in a bizarre manner by their brother who was recently discharged from hospital after being treated for insanity in Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State.

The suspect later escaped but was fished out and lynched.

Vanguard gathered from sources in Naka, the local government headquarters, that the suspect, popularly known as Torjor, murdered his victims at the Naka Earth Dam, just few metres from their home.

It was learnt that the suspect had over a long period of time suffered "from insanity but was taken to the Makurdi Federal Medical Centre where he was treated and discharged but unknown to his people the condition of the young man deteriorated, leading to his killing of his five brothers."

Vanguard gathered that he had "invited his victims to the earth dam on the pretence that he wanted them to assist him fetch water from the dam, only for him to pull out a knife and killed them in cold blood before escaping.

"When the news of his deeds got into town, youths in the village mobilised themselves and searched the entire village until they caught him where he was hiding in a nearby bush.

"His captors had contemplated taking him to the police but they finally resolved to mete out jungle justice on him by beating him to death," the source further stated.

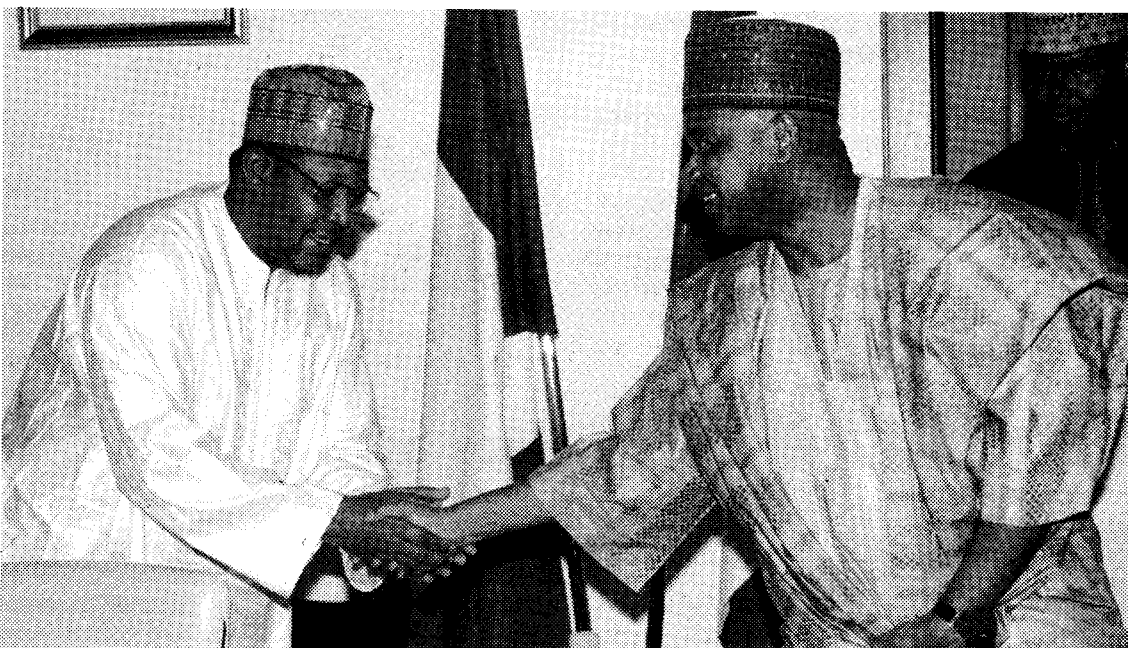
When contacted, the Secretary to the local government, Mr. Mike Torkuma, who confirmed the incident, said the culprit was caught by the people and beaten

to death.

Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Deputy Superintendent Daniel Ezeala confirmed the incident, blaming the villagers for

resorting to jungle justice.

Ezeala, however, added that the command was investigating the matter to ascertain if the suspect was actually insane.



Vice President Namadi Sambo (right) and Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Yerima Ngama during a meeting on National Council on Privatization at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday.

Nigerian crude may not find market in US in 2013 ...to face stiff competition in Europe

BY OMOH GABRIEL
WITH AGENCY REPORT

LAGOS — THE United States, the highest importer of Nigeria crude, now gets so much crude from its own shale deposits that Canadian exporters to US are selling as far afield as Europe, showing how deeply the US

energy revolution is transforming global oil flows according to international oil market report by Reuters.

According to the report as recently as 2011, close to 100 per cent of Canada's crude exports went to its neighbour the United States, according to the US government's Energy

Information Administration (EIA).

But trade and shipping sources said more than two million barrels of light crude from Canadian offshore oilfields have gone to Europe in the last month, in a test of what is to come. The change is due to technological advances the US expects will bring 900,000 barrels per day (bpd) record jump in its oil output to 7.3 million bpd in 2013, from places like the Bakken shale deposit in North Dakota that now feeds U.S. East Coast refineries served by Canada.

But here at home, executive arm of government is at war with the legislators on the right budget benchmark for crude oil, but the oil market equation is fast changing against Nigeria. While the executive favour the use of \$75 per barrel, the legislators pegged the budget at \$79.

US refineries' traditional suppliers in West Africa, notably Nigeria, are also having to seek alternative customers and are feeling the pinch of the new Canadian competition in their established European markets.

"Globally, Canada has been trying all the exports routes. US east coast refineries are also taking more from Bakken fields so that should replace the flow from Canada and West Africa," said Olivier Jakob of consultancy Petromatrix.

The drilling technique hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in which water, sand and chemicals are forced deep underground to drive out trapped oil and gas, have allowed access to millions of barrels of U.S. oil that were previously unattainable.

already sent my men to the area. As soon as I get the details, I will inform you appropriately"

5 killed in relaxation spot

The Kano attack came on the day the state government banned commercial motorcycles in all the eight municipal council areas.

Eyewitnesses told *Vanguard* that the gunmen arrived at a relaxation spot on three motorcycles and opened fire on the victims.

The source stated that JTF operatives that were attracted by the sporadic shootings arrived a little bit late as the gunmen had escaped before their arrival.

Vanguard learnt that the security agents on arrival took stock of the casualties and conveyed the corpses and the injured to the Murtala Muhammad Specialist Hospital. The state Police Public Relations Officer, Majia Majia, was not available for comments as calls put through to his GSM telephone line were not going through.

Gunmen kill 23 in Borno, Kano

MAIDUGURI — NO fewer than 23 people were killed by unknown gunmen in Borno and Kano States, yesterday during separate attacks in the areas.

Eighteen people suspected to be vigilantes/local hunters were killed, Monday, by unidentified gunmen suspected to be members of Boko Haram in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State, just as five others were killed in Kano State, with two others seriously injured at Dakata area of the municipality.

Damboia is 88 kilometres south of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, which has witnessed series of attacks and killings in the past.

District Head of Damboa, Alhaji Abba Ahmed, made this known when the state Deputy Governor, Zanna Umar Mustapha, made a stop over in the town on his way to Maiduguri from Biu.

Ahmad said: "Unknown gunmen, suspected to be members of Boko Haram, came to the town's market and

shot dead 13 local hunters on the spot while five others died from the injuries they sustained at the hospital."

It was gathered that the incident was coming barely 24 hours after some gunmen shot dead a vigilante member in the outskirts of Maiduguri metropolis, even as the state government has recently procured patrol vehicles for distribution to local vigilante groups to fight terrorism in the state.

The District Head further said: "The gunmen are not residents of Damboa because they came to the market in a Volkswagen Golf car, carried out the operation and left.

"The 18 victims are local hunters who engage in killing monkeys and pigs or animals forbidden by Islam which they sell at the market."

Confirming the incident in a telephone interview, the Police Commissioner, Mr. Abdullahi Yuguda said; "Yes, I received a distress call from the Divisional Police Officer in Damboa that some gunmen laid ambush in the town on Monday and I have

Young NAF officers design, build drone

BY LUKA BINNIYAT

KADUNA — YOUNG officers from Nigerian Air Force School of Engineers, Aircraft Design Centre, Kaduna, yesterday, dazzled the Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Ita Okon Bassey-Ewa when they displayed to him an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle, UAV, referred to as drone, which could fly non-stop for about four hours at 3000 feet.

The drone was conceptualised, designed and built by them in Kaduna under the direct supervision of the Provost of the Nigerian Air Force, NAF, Institute of Technology, Prof. Emmanuel Ezugwu.

According to officials of the institute, the drone's empenage was about three metres while the wing span was about half a metre.

The four officers, all Flight Lieutenants, said it was a three-year effort in collaboration with Cranfield University of United Kingdom with funds from the Federal Government.

The officers who asked that all the credit for break through be given to the Commandant of the school and Chief of Air Staff pleaded that their names be not mentioned in the press.

The school had earlier displayed a conceptualised model of an ab-initio training fighter aircraft known as *Farawa* (meaning "the beginning" in Hausa) for the Air Force just as it was trying to design a Nigerian-made Air Beattie, AB-18, for the Air Force.

The four officers had bagged Masters degrees in various fields related to avionics from Cranfield University, after their first degrees from the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

They told *Vanguard*: "We designed and built this UAV based on the pressing needs of our country today. The vehicle can be used in pipeline monitoring, border patrol, mapping and disaster monitoring. Other areas of use include maritime patrol, aerial surveillance and pest monitoring.

"The vehicle can fly at 3000 feet, and remain airborne for four hours using petrol for now. The first one we built is called Amebo 1. The second one is Amebo 2 and is an improvement over the first. "If we keep getting the right support as we are getting now, we will accomplish our mission for the country."