

News

Gunmen kill Adamawa monarch in Borno

By UMAR YUSUF

YOLA — DISTRICT head of Madagali, in Adamawa State, Dr. Sa'ad Danburam, has been shot dead in Maiduguri, Borno State by gunmen.

The news of the death of Danburam filtered into Adamawa State, Saturday night, as he was said to have been shot after the evening Muslim prayers.

Detail of his killing was still sketchy, though Adamawa State Police Command had confirmed the killing.

The Command's Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr Mohammed Ibrahim, who confirmed to Vanguard on telephone, said the traditional ruler was killed in Maiduguri while on a visit to Borno State.

Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa State shares common border with Borno State.

Police seize inter-state kidnap kingpin

By EMMA AMAIZE

WARRI — POLICE in Delta State, weekend, arrested a suspected kidnap kingpin, identified as Aaron, at Agbor area of the state.

The kingpin, who hails from Otta-Igbanke in Edo State, is the leader of an alleged inter-state kidnap gang that abducted one Monday Osage on February 11, in Anambra State.

Delta State Police Commissioner, Mr. Ikechukwu Aduba, who confirmed the arrest of the suspect, said he was rounded up following a tip-off.

Investigation by Vanguard showed that the kingpin, whose gang abducted Osage, went into hiding after a joint team of the Department of State Security, DSS, and 322 Battalion in Anambra State arrested some members of his gang and rescued the victim on February 20.

He evaded arrest until February 23, when the police traced him to his residence at Uromi Junction, Agbor.

Aduba told Vanguard, weekend: "There is no hiding place for kidnappers in the state, we will hunt them down one after the other."

Woman stabs daughter-in-law to death in Nasarawa

By SONI DANIEL

ABUJA — A HOUSEWIFE, Mrs Kareen Opara, has gone underground after allegedly stabbing her son's wife, Esther Oluchi, to death in Anguwa Baba area of Nasarawa State. But the police have launched a hot chase to fish out the suspect.

The suspect, who was living in the same neighbourhood with his son, Chinedu and the deceased wife, hailed from Umueze Ihitte/Uboma Local Government Area of Imo State. She was alleged to have been at loggerheads for sometime over a picture taken by the deceased at the wedding of Kareen's daughter, last December.

Trouble was said to have broken out between the late Oluchi and her mother-in-law when it was reported to her that Kareen was caught at a herbalist's home with one of the photographs she took at her son's wedding.

In a bid to retrieve the picture, Oluchi approached Kareen and pleaded with her to return the said picture to her but she ignored all pleas and rather took offence for the effrontery of her daughter-in-law.

Angered by what she saw as "confrontation" by her son's wife, she immediately confronted Chinedu and warned him to call his wife to order or risk being punished along his spouse.

Unknown to the son that the mother had not forgiven his wife for daring to ask her to return her picture, Chinedu tried to mediate

in the spat to appease his mother and the wife.

Family sources said a peace meeting summoned by Chinedu to reconcile his mother with the

late wife turned violent, as the mother who was armed with a sharp machete, went for her daughter-in-law, who was carrying one of her two daughters

on her back and stabbed her in the tummy. The machete pierced through her abdomen and she bled to death. Sources said she was five-month pregnant.



Members of Boko Haram splinter group during a news conference in Maiduguri, Saturday where they insisted on a cease-fire. Photo: NAN.

15-year-old kills boy, 12, with dane gun in Osun

By GBENGA OLARINJOYE

OSOGBO — A 15-year-old boy has allegedly shot to dead a 12-year-old boy, Timilehin Oguntoye, while playing with a loaded dane gun at Akiriboto village in Ife North Local Government Area of Osun State.

The incident, according to sources, has thrown the village

into confusion while the family of the deceased boy had threatened to retaliate the death but for the intervention of the Police in the area.

It was gathered that the boy who was playing with his father's gun at his family compound alongside some of his friends, shot the deceased boy unknowingly and ran away

when it was discovered that the boy was dead.

The case was immediately reported to the Police and efforts by the Police to arrest the suspected killer proved abortive as he fled from the village to an unknown destination.

It was also gathered that the deceased was rushed to the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital, OAUTH, Ile-Ife shortly after he was shot but died before he got to the hospital. Our correspondent was informed that the bullet hit the deceased on the head.

Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, of the state Police Command, Mrs Folashade Odoro, who confirmed the incident, said the Police were on the trail of the suspected killer and vowed that he would not go unpunished.

Suspected Fulani herdsmen kill 52-yr-old man in Delta

By FESTUS AHON

UGHELLI — THE onslaught launched against the people of Uwheru, Ughelli North Local Government Area, Delta State by suspected Fulani herdsmen continued, weekend, with the killing of a 52-year-old man in Agadama-Uwheru.

The man, identified as Zilly Joseph, Vanguard gathered, was found dead in his farmland. A source, who pleaded anonymity, said the lifeless body of the deceased, which was riddled with bullets, was discovered after a thorough search carried out by the community.

According to the source, "the deceased, who left for his farm in the early hours of Saturday, did not return at the expected time, which prompted the community to set up a search party, after his immediate family members have raised alarm."

"The search party went into the bush, Saturday night, and returned Sunday morning, with a report that he had been found dead. His motorcycle was carefully parked."

"On confirming the death, our youths took to the streets in

protest, blocking the Bomadi/Ohoro Road."

At press time, men of Joint Military Taskforce, JTF, in the area, which took over the Ohoro community in the wake of the renewed attack last Wednesday, had put the situation under

control.

Speaking to Vanguard, JTF commander in the area, Lt Col Attahiru Rasheed, frowned at the killings, saying: "We had intensified patrol in the area and our men are fully on ground to respond in the event of any emergency call."

Soldiers raze boat's conveying suspected illegally refined diesel

By EMMA AMAIZE

WARRI — SOLDIERS, weekend, launched a fresh offensive against oil thieves in Delta State, setting ablaze a number of locally made Cotonou boats conveying alleged illegally refined diesel on Warri waterways.

Our source said the operations of soldiers, believed to be Joint Task Force, JTF, operatives on the Niger Delta, codenamed Operation Pulo Shield, paralyzed commercial activities on the waterways for hours, as boat passengers jumped into the river, when soldiers fired gunshots sporadically.

However, a boat belonging to a woman, who denied she was engaged in illegal refining and transportation of petroleum products, was allegedly burnt by the soldiers.

Efforts to get confirmation from JTF was unsuccessful, as spokesperson, Lt. Col Onyema Nwachukwu, neither answered his call nor replied the text message by this reporter on the incident.

A source told Vanguard, yesterday, that the woman was carrying six gallons of kerosene in a local transport boat bought the previous day in Warri, which the soldiers assumed to be illegally refined.

National Coordinator of Ijaw People's Development Initiative, IPDI, Mr Austin Ozobo, who witnessed the incident, condemned the incessant burning of boats on waterways by the task force, saying: "They should arrest offenders and ensure they are prosecuted, rather than polluting the river by burning petroleum products on the waterways."

"She (the woman) explained that she did not use her boat for illegal activity. The military personnel, I assume, knew that the particular boat was not being used for illegal activity because they later dismantled the engine and handed it to her."