

EL ZAKZAKY: One dead in Sokoto protest, IMN confirms talks to free leader

ONE person was reportedly killed on Friday in a clash between the police and followers of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, IMN, also known as Shi'ite group in Sokoto.

Residents of the city said the incident occurred at Dambuwa area of the town.

The clash caused pandemonium among residents as many traders fled for safety.

The Shi'ites, who were protesting the continued incarceration of their leader, Ibrahim El-Zakzaky, reportedly chanted derogatory words against President Muhammadu Buhari.

A statement by Sokoto State Police Command said the group protested with the intention of causing unrest.

The statement signed by Muhammed Sadiq did not state if anyone was killed.

The statement reads: "Preliminary investigation revealed that a group of people suspected to be members of the proscribed Shi'ite Group, came out along Old Airport road with the intent of carrying out a procession.

"Upon confirmation of intention by security operatives, the gathering was immediately dispersed using minimal force, while the said suspected mem-

bers got busy pelting stones on operatives and operational vehicles with intent to escalate the situation.

However, the situation was seamlessly brought under control shortly after the situation came to fore by the Joint Operatives.

"The Sokoto State Police

Command calls for calm as normalcy has since been restored and urge members of the public to go about their lawful businesses without any fear as the Command has emplaced adequate security arrangements to forestall any reoccurrence of such."

Shitte.

Meanwhile, IMN leadership in a chat with *Sunday Vanguard* said some diplomats and elder statesmen are in talks with the Federal Government for the release of Zakzaky. It, however, accused the government of frustrating the negotiations. (See interview on page 25).

Gun attack on Jonathan, Dasuki, Sowore's release:

I was misquoted — Gbadamosi, ex-Lagos gov candidate

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

GOVERNORSHIP candidate of the Action Democratic Party, ADP, for Lagos State in the 2019 general elections, Mr. Babatunde Olalere Gbadamosi, says he was quoted out of context in his comment on the gun attack on former President Goodluck Jonathan's Bayelsa residence, as well as the release of Sambo Dasuki and Omoyele Sowore.

Gbadamosi, popularly called BOG, was quoted to have said that the release of Dasuki and Sowore was hurriedly done to divert public focus away from the assassina-

tion attempt by gunmen on Jonathan in Otuoke, which happened same day.

Recall that a security post stationed near the Otuoke residence of former President Jonathan in Bayelsa State was attacked by unknown gunmen early Tuesday.

Gbadamosi spoke during the weekend while briefing the media on the state of the nation in Lagos.

"A couple of days ago I posted a tweet where I thanked President Muhammadu Buhari for the release of Dasuki and Sowore and I said further that the release was timely to divert public attention away from the attack on President Jonathan. This was simply my opinion and observation.

"As far as I could see, I felt

like government might want to douse tension from the tension that might be generated by the attack by focussing attention of the public on the release of the gentlemen, while carrying out investigation at Otuoke which was my personal opinion and not historical fact.

"To my surprise, I saw a post by one senior government official by name, Kikelomo Olowolagba, saying that I stated in my tweet that the release was to divert public attention from assassination attempt on Jonathan, ascribing it to me. He went further to state fact had revealed the reason for the release, insinuating that the attack on Jonathan was the reason Federal Government categorically released Sowore and Dasuki.

"But that's not the truth. What I simply stated was my opinion which I'm entitled to. But if the public space has become where opinion can't be stated freely, then we are really in trouble in this country.

UBEC lauds increased enrollment in Ondo primary schools

By Dayo Johnson, Akure

THE monitoring team of the Universal Basic Education Commis-

sion across the state had significantly increased enrollment in public primary schools.

Osondu thus commend-

Earlier, the SUBEB chairman, Princess Oladunni Odu, expressed appreciation to the monitoring team for their commendation.

NDPC forensic audit not directed