

# 2 policemen, 5 others killed as robbers raid 4 banks in Edo

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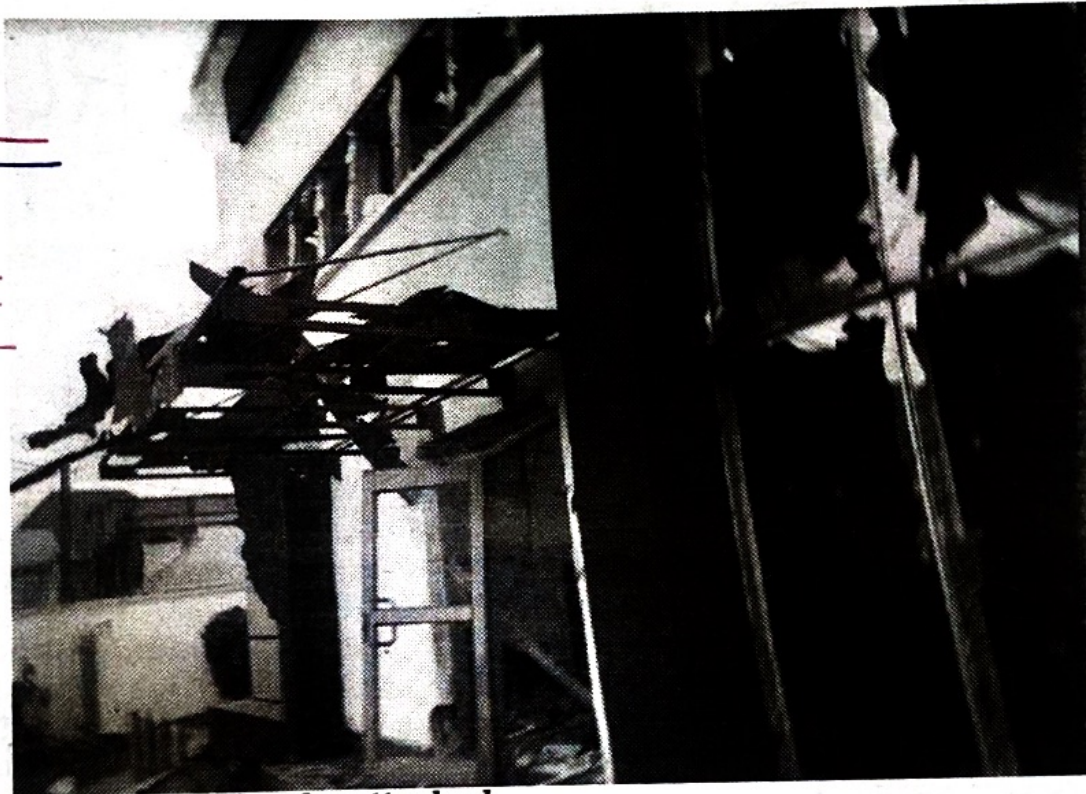
**BENIN CITY** — There was pandemonium in Uromi, headquarters of Esan North-East Local Government Area of Edo State yesterday, as armed men invaded about four commercial banks in the town simultaneously for over three hours.

At the end of the operations that lasted over three hours, seven persons, including two policemen, were confirmed killed.

An eyewitness said the attacks were "coordinated in commando-style as the armed robbers launched the attacks simultaneously. This is novel in this town."

A staff of one of the affected banks said the robbers came prepared, adding: "The robbers came over-prepared. We had the full complement of staff when they stormed our bank and forced their way into the banking hall using dynamites. They were shooting everywhere, destroyed vehicles in the compound and succeeded in getting into our strongroom and went away with the cash available there. Thank God no life was lost in our bank."

A resident, who witnessed the incident, said: "The armed robbers laid siege right from Angle 90 Junction in Uromi, through Tazona Junction, with heavy gunfire and explosives,



*One of the banks attacked.*

simultaneously attacked.

"Some people thought Boko Haram terrorists had invaded the town and started running towards their farms."

Another eyewitness said while the shooting lasted, there was no confrontation from any security agency or vigilantes.

"Can you imagine that the Police Area Command and military formation are close to one of the banks robbed," the source said.

He added that a Lexus-350 SUV, fully

loaded with what was suspected to be cash, was sighted heading towards Ubiaja old road in the town after the coordinated attacks.

The Edo State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Kontongs Bello, who confirmed the attacks, said: "That's true sir," and did not provide further details.

He said: "Four banks and the Police Division were confirmed attacked while two police personnel and five civilians lost their lives. For now."