

Cultists' clash claims 10 in Benin

VINCENT ADEKOYE, Benin

NO fewer than 10 persons believed to be students of various institutions of higher learning in Edo State were feared dead while scores of others were injured in alleged cult war in the state.

The injured were said to be receiving treatment at separate hospitals in Benin City, the state capital.

Daily Champion gathered that the war was between rival Ewe and Black Axe confraternity over purported supremacy in the state.

Spokesman of Edo State police command, Mr Peter Ogboi who confirmed the incident described

Continues on page 6

Crisis: One killed, 100 houses razed in Ebonyi

KENNETH OFOMA, Abakaliki

ONE person was confirmed dead and over 100 houses razed weekend, during a communal conflict that engulfed Ezillo community in Ishielu local government area of Ebonyi state.

A combined military and police personnel has been deployed to the area by the state government to maintain peace and stop further spread of the bloody conflict in which property worth several millions of naira

Continues on page 6

•Inside•

Finance Today	4-5
Features	14
Orient Express	21
Sports	43

Cowards!

Reps back down on quizzing OBJ, Atiku

•Rimi insists on appearance

ABIODUN ADELAJA, Abuja and LEONARD OKACHIE

AGAINST expectation, former president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and his erstwhile deputy Atiku Abubakar will not appear today (Monda) before the House of Representatives panel probing the \$16 billion expenditure in the power sector.

This, Daily Champion learnt followed the decision of the Hon. Ndudi Elumelu committee to back down on its earlier summons of the former leaders.

Indication emerged last night that members of the House Committee on Power and Steel may have bowed to pressure from forces opposed to Obasanjo and Atiku's appearance

Continues on page 6

FG returns NICON to Jimoh Ibrahim

KELVIN EGERUE, (Insurance Editor)

THE seven-month-old tussle for the ownership of NICON Insurance Plc and Nigeria Reinsurance Corporation ended weekend with the Federal Government decision to return

the two companies to the core investor, Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim.

But new management and boards are to be constituted for the companies in line with an 11-point out of court settlement reached between the government and Ibrahim.

However, the Federal High

Court Abuja will today (Monday) deliver ruling on the suit between the federal government and the core investor in NICON and Nigeria Re.

Meanwhile the agreement also stipulates that the government would partner Barr. Ibrahim to inject fresh funds to the tune

of N23 billion into NICON and Nigeria Re within 60 days.

The investment is to meet a N17.3 billion financing gap and recapitalization plan.

While Ibrahim will raise N9 billion since he holds 70 per cent equity in NICON and 51 per

Continues on page 6

Gunmen kill 12 in Rivers

TONY ITA ETIM, Port Harcourt

ABOUT 12 persons were reported to have been killed by either sea pirates or unidentified gunmen in Rivers State last Friday.

A source in Port Harcourt told

Daily Champion that the attack took place on the Bonny River which has witnessed increased pirates activities.

According to the source, all the 12 passengers in the boat that was heading to Port Harcourt were killed except the boat driver

who was asked by the gunmen to take the corpses back to Bonny for burial.

Our source said when the gunmen ambushed the boat they opened fire at a close range on the passengers making sure

Continues on page 6

Olubadan bars chiefs from meeting P.41

•Bankole

COUNTRYMAN

I WENT INTO ROBBERY TO MARRY A GRADUATE - SUSPECT



GOOD, SO YOU CAN NOW MARRY A PROFESSOR



•Jimoh Ibrahim

involvement in the committee.
In similar vein, media assistant to the former vice president, Mallam Garba Shehu has said that his boss has not return home from abroad to honour the invitation.

Reacting to our correspondent's inquiry on the issue, Shehu said we were told to advise the former vice

•Continued from Page 1

Uwazuruike, their leader, for what he described as covetousness for material things, pointing out that Captain Igbonma was never their member in the struggle, as they did not know him.

She maintained that the protest would be peaceful and devoid of rioting or anti people but warned that they would not tolerate any insult or clamp down by the Nigerian security operatives during the peaceful march.

Contributing, the Regional Director Women Affairs, Mrs Patricia Okparaekwe challenged

•Continued from Page 1

it as unfortunate, explaining that the command is worried over the incident. He however confirmed that only four people have so far been killed.

Report said that the cult war came into limelight few days ago when a leader of one of the rival cult members was murdered around Ekenwa road in the state capital. Few days later, another member of same cult group was also shot dead along Ihama road, GRA by some unidentified cult members.

The development led to what is now regarded as full blown cult war and the death toll has continued to increase. Last Tuesday, report said some persons suspected to be members of rival cult groups engaged themselves in a shoot out in Ekosodin village, near the

state members of the panel should not bow to any pressure for the duo to testify in secret.

"Chief Obasanjo must have known what happened in the power sector and he should explain to Nigerians why the country is in darkness after spending about \$16 billion in the past eight years.

MASSOB

women in Biafran land not to be deterred by the threat of the Nigerian Government to clamp down on them but to troop out for the march since jail threat is no longer news, restating that women were ready for the march, it is not only MASSOB members that go to prison, it is meant for everybody including those who are oppressing us now...", she said.

Answering questions on the risk involved by embarking on the protest, the group's Director, Ministry of Education, Mr Lawrence Ajannu said, "it is

Cultists' Clash

University Of Benin (UNIBEN). It was learnt that three persons were shot dead in the fracas while a 200 level Engineering student of undisclosed school was seriously wounded and he is presently receiving treatment at the intensive care of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH).

In the same vein our correspondent learnt that two students from yet to be identified school in the state, were shot dead along Mission Road Thursday night, while two others were also found dead in different parts of the state. The police image maker mobilised enough undercover policemen to penetrate schools that have records of cult activities in the state adding that they are on top

As for Atiku Abubakar, nobody indicted him. But if there is anything he should answer, he should also come out and answer it. The chairman of the Probe Panel, Ndudi Elumelu should not for any party pressure shield whoever that is indicted from coming out to tell Nigerians his or involvements.

better we die in the struggle than as slaves in our land. God will not allow that. Again don't mind those people saying Chief Uwazuruike is no longer our leader because he remains our leader in this struggle and we believe it is our inalienable right to agitate for our freedom through non violent means and we believe that no amount of hardship or danger will deny us this right. We therefore plead with the international community and men of goodwill to dissuade Nigeria from its continued genocide against us and release our members detained in Nigeria.

of the matter.

"The situation is very worrisome and we want to use this opportunity to beg parents to talk to their children. One of the problems we are having is that people are shielding these cultists and it is not good for us. Look at how they are killing themselves; is that what they sent them to do in school?

"However, we are up to the task. We are working in ensuring that we bring to book all of these boys causing this trouble. We have not been able to identify a particularly school that is involved in this but we will soon find out and we shall make it public. We must all join hands to eradicate this menace in our society. So far, we have confirmed four dead but we are aware that several others were injured.

•Continued from Page 1

that they were all dead before leaving the scene.

The source could not confirm whether the passengers were robbed or their belongings taken by their attackers after the killing.

The source alleged that the attackers were angry that the passengers and boat operators were cooperating with the Joint Task Force (Operation Flush Three) by listening to the soldiers' advice to ply certain routes on the Bonny waterway and avoid others to avoid attacks by pirates.

When contacted, spokesman

•Continued from Page 1

naira have been destroyed.

Eye witness said trouble started when the people of Ezillo (indigenous land owners) wanted to build a separate market but were prevented by Ezzas (settlers), with whom they had been living together in Ezillo pointing out that the deceased woman was caught up in the inferno as she was attempting to rescue some of her household properties.

The villagers told our reporter that the two rival town unions had been contesting the right to solely collect tolls in the popular Ezillo foodstuff market adding that the Ezzas wanted to block the idea of the Ezillos owing a separate market.

They said: "The altercation over the contemplated building continued, but when a motorcycle belonging to an Ezillo man was set ablaze by an Ezza Youngman, the Ezillo decided to retaliate by burning down stores owned by the Ezzas and the burning spree escalated"

The chaos held up traffic for three hours such that commuters travelling between Enugu and Abakaliki, could not get through and owners of houses which were set on fire by the marauders battled to salvage some of their household goods.

When contacted on the telephone, the Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO)Ebony

Gunmen

for JTF, Colonel Sagor Musa said he was not aware of the incident.

Musa told *Daily Champion* that the heavy presence of soldiers in Bonny Island and the waterways have reduce incidents of pirates attacks in the area.

He said the soldiers have been able to contain the activities of pirates and other bandits along the waterways adding that in few days to come there would be no such incidents in the area.

In a related development, gunmen who kidnapped the

Communal clash

State Police Command, Frederick N-Nuudam, said the command received the report of the outbreak of violence in the area in the early hours of Saturday, adding that immediately some regular policemen and anti-riot mobile police were dispatched to Ezillo to contain the crisis.

"There is no report of any casualty that I can tell you for now. Some people sustained matchete cuts but the police have put the place under control and the people can go about their normal business," N-Nuudam stated.

Chairman of Ishielu local government council, barrister Onwa Ali Onwa, told newsmen that he invited the police when the violence broke out saying that the most important thing was to

mother of the leader of Rivers State House of Assembly, Mr. Golden Chioma are demanding for his resignation as a house leader.

Chioma told newsmen in Port Harcourt that the kidnappers were not asking for any monetary ransom but for his resignation as leader of the house.

It would be recalled that the victim, Mrs. Chioma, a school teacher, was kidnapped last Friday at the Orominike UBE Primary School, D-Line, Port Harcourt.

ensure that there was no loss of lives.

He added: "Please let us finish with the preliminary effort to contain this crisis before we delve into the causes. As you can see the whole atmosphere is charged and not conducive for press interview".

The Secretary to the state Government (SSG), Chief Fidelis Mbam and the Commissioner for Conflict and Boarder Security, Mr. Vincent Okpani were said to have invited the military in the absence of the state Governor Chief Martin Elechi who was said to be away.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as MISS ONYEACHOLAM OLUCHI ANGELA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ALAKWE-EKWURIBE OLUCHI ANGELA. All former documents remain valid: NYSC, and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

RESURRECTION FLAMING FIRE MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Pastor Francis Elijah Nduagum
2. Pastor (Mrs.) Victoria Nduagum
3. Pastor Nnamdi Ibe
4. Pastor (Mrs.) Amarachukwu Ibe
5. Rev. Emmanuel Christopher

The aims and objectives are:

1. Topreach and spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ through out the world.
2. Convert and win souls to Jesus Christ and carry out works of charity within and outside Nigeria.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission within 28 days of this publication

Signed: Pastor Nnamdi Ibe