

Unknown gunmen kill 9-yr-old boy in Delta

BARRY AGBANIGBI, *Asaba*

CONFUSION reigned yesterday at Umunede in Ika North-East Local Government of Delta State following the brutal murder of a nine-year old child.

Reports said the victim, a primary four pupil of the Divine Academy, Umunede was shot dead at the front of their residence located on Ogwashiku-Umunede road at about 10.30am.

Information said the yet-to-be identified four heavily armed gang led by a female, was said to have immediately on arrival fired sporadically to scare perceived enemies while one of the suspected killers headed for the private room of the father of the teenage victim.

After a fruitless search for their target, the armed gang reportedly settled for the only

child who lost his mother when he was seven months' old.

The mother was reportedly beaten to death by the father of the teenage victim following a disagreement between both of them.

Opposition parties move to checkmate PDP

MUHAMMAD KABIR, *Kano*

Opposition political parties in the country are working towards creating a common formidable platform to checkmate the excesses of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), even as they are fully prepared to form the next government in 2015.

The National Chairman of the All Nigeria People's Party Chief Ogbonaya Onu dropped the hint in Kano yesterday while speaking to reporters shortly after a sympathy visit to the Chairman of ANPP's Board of Trustees.

Onu said talks towards that effect, which started before the last general elections, would be

MUHAMMAD KABIR, *Kano*

Kano State governor, Engr. Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso has urged the management of the Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi, to give special consideration to Kano State indigenes when it comes to admission into the institution.

The governor who made the appeal while receiving the chairman, Governing Council

revisited, adding that such coalition would strengthen democracy in the country. Dismissing claims that his party, ANPP was created to forever be an opposition party Dr. Onu said, "We are working towards having something like a merger, an alliance or a coalition so that the opposition parties would have a stronger platform to checkmate the PDP."

"We want to have an effective opposition so that democracy can be strengthened in our country."

"I think that in a democracy like ours, opposition is very important, if you want efficiency. If you don't have a formidable opposition in place, those in government can do whatever they like."

"They may decide not to put the

or the institution and its management staff who visited him at the Government House in Kano, said the call was necessary in view of the fact that the State Government lacked adequate teachers particularly in technical education.

"We have problem of teaching staff so by admitting more students we will have enough teachers in our schools", Governor Kwankwaso remarked.

interest of the nation first, and there would be nobody to remove them and they would continue to remain in office.

"That is why for the good of our nation, a very strong opposition is needed so that whoever is in government will sit up and if they don't, they know that in the next election, they would be voted out of office."

Responding to a question on the dwindling fortunes of the party in previous elections, the ANPP National Chairman explained that "the ANPP was not formed to remain an opposition party forever," expressing optimism that the party would form the national government some day in the future.

While assuring the institution of the continued support of his administration, he said the government was looking forward to stronger partnership with it to turn around the education sector in the state.

Engr. Kwankwaso congratulated the board chairman on his appointment, hoping the move would help the institution grow, and said his visit would encourage the State Government do more for the institution.

Earlier, the chairman of the governing council, FCE Technical, Bichi, Abom Tony Esu who hailed the education - friendly disposition of the Kwankwaso administration between 1999 and 2003 appealed for the assistance of the government to forge ahead.

He mentioned some of the problems faced by the institution which include insufficient staff and students' accommodation, insufficient shuttle buses for staff and students as well as lack of electricity supply.

Meanwhile, Governor Kwankwaso has directed the committee set up by the state government to advise it on modalities of lessening traffic congestion in Kano city to commence working round the clock to decongest the roads.