

# 'Ritualists' cut off day old baby's intestine

**A** newly born baby, believed to be only a day-old, was yesterday found dead with its intestines cut off and its stomach wide open, along the Monday market in Maiduguri.

Our correspondent reports that the baby, whose corpse was found around an area popularly called "Tobacco", where people often dump refuse behind the market, is believed to have been killed by ritualists.

There have been rampant cases of mysterious deaths in Borno with mutilated bodies found, especially some few months ago, with most of the cases attributed to ritual killers.

**From Isa Umar Gusau,  
Maiduguri**

*Daily Trust* gathered from witnesses at the scene that commercial motorcycle riders, referred to as 'yan achaba' spotted the baby's corpse when they a very unpleasant and unusual odour oozing from the heap of garbage around the area.

One of the *achaba* men, Ibrahim Ali, told newsmen that they found the baby "because there was so much smell all around as if something was decomposing.

The smell was unusual, so there was need to check what was wrong, and surprisingly, a baby was found with the intestines cut out com-

pletely by ritualists. The baby was left in cold blood".

Our correspondent reports that with a big scene created as passers by moved to catch a glimpse of the dead baby, policemen arrived and took away the corpse.

*Daily Trust* gathered that no parent has so far made enquiries about a missing baby, but the police public relations officer, ASP Mohammed Sani, who told our correspondent that he was yet to be officially briefed of the matter, was quoted by a Maiduguri based broadcast medium as saying that the Borno police command was already investigating the matter.

## Cult clashes continue in Port Harcourt as death toll rises

**R**ival cult groups have continued to terrorise Port Harcourt, the Rivers state capital, as residents now live in fear. This has worsened the security situation and the rampaging militants and rival cultists have entered their fourth day of rivalry while the number of victims has increased.

In the last forty eight hours, about 20 people have been killed from gunshots in every part of the city and its suburbs.

Areas where the renewed violence has continued are Eleme junction which links the city with other neighbouring cities and states.

Other places include Diobu, Njemanze, Iwofe, Marine Base, NPA and the Abuja base in the town which are all strongholds as well as Abonnema wharf, Udi, Abakaliki, Ogbogoro, Rumuolumeni, Iguruta and the railway base.

The militants yesterday shot around the Government House which attracted the presence of heavily armed policemen who began a stop and

**From Muhammad Ajah,  
Port Harcourt**

search operation of vehicles plying the roads around the government house.

However, the state government has warned that henceforth, anyone engaging in the use of firearms, kidnapping, cultism and other activities inimical to the development of the state will be dealt with decisively.

The state police commissioner, Mr. Felix Ogbaudu, told newsmen that the clashes were

a result of the high level of unemployment among the youths in the state. He said the command has taken control of the situation and appealed to people to be law abiding and assist the police to ensure safety.

He urged the youths to be patient with government, which according to him, was doing everything possible to create opportunities to engage them in fruitful ventures, noting that the miscreants would be arrested in due course and brought to book.

## Virgin Atlantic aircraft released, crew suspended

**F**lights to London on Virgin Airways resumed yesterday after a cabin crew member was discovered trying to smuggle cocaine onto a flight. The aeroplane had been impounded for several hours but the flight was eventually allowed to leave by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), which

**From Shakirat  
AbdulMajeed, Lagos**

impounded the aircraft on Wednesday following the arrest of one of its crew members. The aircraft was billed to leave Nigeria for London on Wednesday.

It was further delayed after a fatal car accident caused traffic jam on the third main-

elections tomorrow