

Suspected cult members behead man in Rivers

THE lingering rivalry between two cult groups in Bodo, Gokana Local Council of Rivers State, yesterday culminated in the beheading of a middle-aged Ogoni man.

A source in Bodo disclosed to *The Guardian* that the deceased, Monday Gbarami, was kidnapped four days ago by suspected members of the

*From Kelvin Ebiri,
Port Harcourt*

Dee Well cult group who accused him of preparing charms for their rival, Deebam.

The source, who pleaded anonymity, said the late Gbarami was beheaded and buried around the Ashawo Market, Bodo yesterday

morning.

According to him, after burying the decapitated body, the cultists took the head to an unknown destination.

He added that four more persons suspected to be members of Deebam were abducted in the early hours of Monday close to Bori by suspected gangs.

An uneasy calm now pervades Bodo community. The decapitated man is said to be very crucial to members of the Deebam gang, hence there are fears that they might launch a reprisal attack.

The two groups have been involved in a bloody war for supremacy. Two politicians purported to be sponsoring the gangs have been accused of using them to further their aspiration to control the politics of Bodo and Gokana ahead of 2007.

"There have been attempts to reconcile the two politicians behind this bloody conflict but since it is strictly political, none of them wants to be seen as yielding to the wishes of the other. They don't want to appear weak at the end of the war of attrition," the source said.

ject five-year pension package

*By Bertrand Nwankwo,
Abuja*

NITEL Privatisation, which is headed by the Minister of Labour and Productivity, Hassan Lawal, announced its rejection of payment of five years pension as severance package for the workers as proposed by the Taskforce.

NATE in two different protest letters addressed to

Mohammed Abatcha, said that any decision taken at the meeting was not binding on their members since BPE did not invite them to the meeting.

The new NITEL union stated that the Senior Staff Association of Utilities Statutory Corporations and Government Companies (SSAUSCGOC) invited by BPE to the Taskforce meet-

you (the BPE Director-General) avail your exalted office the opportunity to meet with the real workers of the company. If the truth must be told, the leaders of SSAUSCGOC who claim to have been representing NITEL staff in various meetings are too far from the workers whose interest they claim to be representing.

LAMP... look of interest