

NEWS

Two Feared Dead In Cult Attack

BY ABIODUN FAGBEMI
(ILORIN)

TWO persons, a student and a politician, were feared dead on Thursday in Offa, as suspected cult groups clashed at separate spots in the town.

While the politician died of suspected gunshot wounds, the student, an undergraduate of a tertiary institution in the town, was slaughtered.

The development came on the heels of a failed assassination attempt on the immediate past Provost of College of Education, Ilorin, Dr. Toyin Akanbi.

The Offa clashes occurred about 5 pm. Eyewitness accounts said masked men attacked the student with cutlasses at the 'Osunte Road Junction.

He was allegedly hewed in a manner described by some eyewitnesses as unprecedented in the history of the town.

For the slain politician who was an associate of a former principal officer of the Kwara State House of Assembly from Offa, he did not die at Idi Ogun area of Offa where he was attacked. He was rushed to the emergency wing of the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital. (UITH), where he later died.

Narrating his ordeal at the UITH male surgical ward, Akanbi, said five men in a car trailed him on his way to his Oloje Road residence at Basin, Ilorin. "Unknown to me, I hooted the horn of my vehicle as usual for any of my children to open the gate so that I could park my car in the garage. It was around 7.40pm.

Renewed cases of cult-related attacks are on the increase in Offa, after a lull of about three years. Five weeks ago, a fresh human head was found at the 'Osunte Junction at dawn.

Earlier, two adult males were allegedly shot dead by suspected cult members.



A 65-year-old man dives into the Huanghai Sea as he exercises in Qingdao, east China's Shandong province. He will be joined by four other people who will jump into the sea 208 times each to mark the start of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games on August 8 next year.

PHOTO:MAIL ONLINE

President, Senate Mourn Enwerem, Okpara Urges State Burial

FROM
AZIMAZI MOMOH JIMOH
(ABUJA)

THE nation's upper legislative chamber, the Senate, has described as shocking, the death of a former President of the chamber, Chief Evan Enwerem, just as the president, Umaru Yar'Adua expressed a feeling of national loss.

The Chairman, Senate Committee on Information and Media, Ayogu Eze, in a statement yesterday described Enwerem's tenure in glowing terms.

"Enwerem's era as Senate president in 1999 marked the beginning of the consolidation of our

present democratic dispensation. The Senate and the nation will miss his doggedness and industry. He was one person whose belief in the Nigerian project was undiluted, and he did everything within his capacity, even up to the time of his passage, to be counted on the side of democracy and the rule of law."

According to Eze, "Senator Enwerem as governor of Imo State, brought maturity, forbearance and moderation to bear on governance, the same traits he brought to the national arena as Senate president."

"The Senate president, the principal offi-

cers, senators and indeed the National Assembly will miss its foremost patriot, a bridge builder, a distinguished administrator and a detribalized Nigerian," Eze declared.

Also yesterday, the former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Austin Okpara, said Enwerem's death occurred at a time the nation needed him most.

In a statement signed by his Special Assistant on Media Matters, Mr. Austin Uganwa, the former Deputy Speaker stated that Enwerem deserved a national funeral.

Also, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua yester-

day expressed "immense sadness" at the death of former Senate President, Chief Evan Enwerem.

He also said the death leaves a deep feeling of national loss. A statement from Musa Aduwak of the Office of the Special Adviser (Communications) to the President said that the late politician contributed a lot to the entrenchment of democracy in Nigeria.

Text of the statement reads: "President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua has received news of the death of former Senate President, Chief Evan Enwerem with immense sadness and a deep feeling of national loss. President Yar'Adua

recalls that Chief Enwerem contributed a lot to the entrenchment of democracy in Nigeria as Governor of Imo State, as a Senator and as Senate President.

"The President prays for the peaceful repose of Senator Enwerem's soul. He further prays that God Almighty will grant solace to his family and all who mourn his demise."

Pilot Dies In Helicopter Crash

BY WOLE SHADARE

A HELICOPTER operated by Bristow Helicopters has crashed, killing a foreign pilot, the sole occupant.

The incident was said to have occurred in Eket, Akwa Ibom State, about 1pm yesterday.

Already, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and the Accident Investigation Prevention Bureau (AIPB) have been dispatched to the scene of the accident.

The cause the accident was not clear last night.

The Director-General of NCAA, Dr. Harold Demuren confirmed the accident to journalists from Maiduguri, where he and the Managing Director of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) had gone to inspect facilities at the Maiduguri Airport.




He said: "We recorded a crash this afternoon at Eket; one person, a foreign pilot, lost his life in the accident. It was unfortunate, accident investigators and personnel from the NCAA have already moved to the crash site."

Yesterday's incident brought to three the number of helicopter crashes the country has recorded in the last one year. The first involved AOS late last year in a village in Delta State, killing the three people on board.

The second occurred during the general elections when the military helicopter on electoral duties crashed near Owerri, Imo State killing about three military personnel on board.

WEATHER BULLETIN

VALIDITY: SATURDAY, 04/08/2007

CITY	MAX TEMP (°C)	WEATHER	
SOKOTO	30		T/STORM
MAIDUGURI	29		T/STORM
KANO	28		T/STORM