

Six Die In Opobo Boat Mishap

By Kevin Nengia
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, Bonny

At least six people drowned along the Kono-Opobo route as their boat capsized within the narrow Kono creek.

It was learnt that the passengers were on their way to attend a burial ceremony at Kalaibama, a satellite town in Opobo, Opobo/Nkoro Local

Government Area of Rivers State.

Though eyewitnesses gave varied accounts on how the accident occurred, it was learnt that the boat capsized when the driver lost control, while negotiating a bend within the narrow creek.

While six bodies had already been recovered there are fears that some had been swept away

by the tide.

It was also learnt that some prominent Opobo and Bonny indigenes were among those who drowned, including an aspirant in the forthcoming local government polls in the area.

Meanwhile, the Bonny branch of the Maritime Workers Union (MWU) has protested the poor welfare condition of its members.

According to a statement signed by its Chairman, Mr Fred Allison, and Secretary, Mr Kenneth Hart, the union alleged that the drivers are suffering from poor salaries, poor boat maintenance and inadequate training.

It stated that "every driver is supposed to have passed through the screening of the union and not from the boat owners".

NANS Gives FG Ultimatum On ASUU Strike

By Rafiu Ajakaye
REPORTER, Lagos

National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) Zone 'D' has given the Federal Government up till July 4 to meet the demands of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) or face revolt.

Although Zone 'D' NANS is the umbrella body for all students in the South-West region, its view has been echoed by

Cult Clash Claims Five In Port Harcourt

By Soni Daniel
BUREAU CHIEF, Port Harcourt

At least five people were killed in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, on Monday when two rival cult groups clashed in the Rumuolumeni area of the metropolis.

Members of the community immediately vacated the area to avoid being attacked by the warring factions or indiscriminate police arrest in connection with the killings.

But the police claimed that only

two people were killed and six others received bullet wounds when the hoodlums clashed in the early hours of the day before the law enforcement agents got to the scene.

Eyewitnesses said trouble started on Sunday when some cult members loyal to one of the factions in the community accused the youth leader of the area of belonging to a notorious gang in the state. They asked the leader and his supporters to leave the community.

When the youth leader identified as Golden Isi resisted their assault,

his attackers shot him and fled.

However, as the news of the attack spread, his followers mobilised and confronted his suspected killers on Monday.

No fewer than three persons were killed in the exchange of gunshots that rattled the coastal community for over two hours.

The cross-fire forced business outfits on the long stretch of the road, which leads to the Rivers State College of Education and the Headquarters of the Nigerian Navy in the state, NNS Pathfinder, to shut down.

NAMA May Get Franchise To Collect Charges From Airlines

By Sade Ayodele
AVIATION CORRESPONDENT, Lagos

Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) may authorise the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) to collect navigational charges from the Airlines Operators of Nigeria (AON).

NAMA had complained severely about the charges, saying AON has refused to pay the charges.

NAMA also wrote a letter to NCAA asking for permission to collect charges from the operators.

It was learnt that NCAA is now ready to grant the request in form of franchise.

According to sources, NAMA lost about N3 billion to the non-collection of the charges in the last six years.

About N500 million is expected to be generated into the coffers of NAMA yearly the charges.