

News

Five perish in boat disaster, three die as building collapses

By Felix Uka (Abakaliki) and Sunday Apah (Ughelli)

A **POULTRY** farm complex under construction collapsed in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State capital on Monday, claiming three lives.

This is as at least five persons were confirmed dead in a boat accident involving a high powered speedboat and a ferry along the busy Ojobo waterway.

Victims of the building collapse were by 5.p.m. on Mon-

day evening still trapped by debris of the two-storey structure belonging to the youth leader of the state branch of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chin-edu Ogah.

Although the cause of the mishap has not been confirmed, observers pointed at possible structural defects, while others raised suspicion that explosives could have been planted in the house to discredit Ogah, an influential official of the ruling party.

By the time our reporter

visited the scene, on Tuesday morning over 15 armed policemen and other security agents were seen sniffing the area.

They took to the Federal Medical Centre's mortuary the corpse of the third victim that was unearthed by 8.13.a.m.

Two of the victims are relatives of the landlord, while the other was a labourer at the site.

Eyewitness account had it that a loud bang was heard causing people within the vicinity to rush to the site to

see half portion of the building caved in burying the three persons therein.

It took the neighbours, and swift intervention of Ogah to get caterpillars to remove the debris but found out that those trapped had given up the ghost.

The boat mishap, it was learnt, occurred around 8.p.m last weekend at the waterfront of Esampou community, Ekeremor Local Government Area, Bayelsa State, killing five passengers.

Guobadia's contributions indelible, says Jonathan

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has described the late former National Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Dr. Abel Guobadia, as a great leader whose contributions to the development of the nation will remain in the sands of time.

The President stated this when a Federal Government delegation led by Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Yayale Ahmed, paid a condolence visit to Edo State governor, Adams Oshiomhole, in Benin City.

According to Ahmed, "It is on this sorrowful moment that the President of the Federal Re-