

Two kids die in Ogun midnight inferno

By Segun Adeleye
Reporter, Abeokuta

IT WAS a black Thursday in Abeokuta, Ogun State capital, as two children of same parents were burnt to death in a midnight fire which razed down the entire six-room bungalow at Ago Ika area of the town.

The fire, was said to have started around 11pm on Wednesday night when the children were fast asleep.

The deceased, a 12-year-old Lateef Lekan Akinwunmi and five-year-old Jumoke Akinwunmi, were the two of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Akinwunmi.

Though the cause of the fire was said to be mysterious, *Daily Independent* gathered that it might not be unconnected with the candle lit by mother of the dead children, Mrs. Bashirat Akinwunmi.

Sympathisers were seen round to console the parents.

Daily Independent gathered that the house was razed down as a result of its inaccessibility to fire fighters as it was located in the slum area of Ago-Ika area of the town.

Two trapped as two-storey building collapses in Ilorin

By Dele Moses
Reporter, Ilorin

A TWO-STOREY building under construction was on Thursday in Ilorin, Kwara State capital, collapsed with two of the workers at the site trapping under the debris.

The incident occurred at Coca-Cola road, off Abdulwahab Folawiyi (Unity) road, where the building, said to be owned by an Ilorin legal practitioner, is located.

The victims were however said to have been rescued by their co-workers, who acted before the victims' case got worsening.

The victims, whose names were given as Dayo and Fat-tai, who were described as concrete mixer and machine operator respectively, were reportedly rushed to a nearby hospital where they were treated and discharged later in the day.

Oshiomhole consoles IGP

GOVERNOR Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State has commiserated with the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Dahiru Abubakar, over the death of his mother, Hajia Aisha Abubakar.

The governor, in a condolence letter to Abubakar, said "on behalf of the people and government of Edo State, I wish to extend condolence to you on the passing on of your beloved mother.

"Although she was advanced in age, we appreciate how much pain her death would still have caused you, knowing how tenderly close you were to her.

"However, with Allah's (SWT) consoling grace, there is no loss too much that we cannot bear, once we appreciate that His will prevails on all of us.

Tension in Bayelsa as Dickson plans one-million-man march against Sylva

By Igoniko Oduma
Correspondent, Yenagoa

TENSION has gripped Bayelsa State as the Governor Seriake Dickson administration mobilises youth groups to stage a one-million-man march in Yenagoa against the foot-dragging of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to arrest and prosecute former Governor Timipre Sylva, over alleged financial crimes.

Already, huge sums of money had been allegedly disbursed to various youth groups for the march scheduled for next week. *Daily Independent* investiga-

tion showed that the state government under Dickson, had been worried that EFCC was reluctant in arraigning Sylva.

A pro-democracy group, which styles itself as Bayelsa Democratic Front (BDF), has also accused the administration of deploying cash through the office of the Special Adviser on Youth Empowerment to execute the protest ahead the expected Supreme Court judgment in the case between Sylva and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on April 20.

BDF President General, Promise Okpoebi, alleged in a statement in Yenagoa on Thurs-

day that the rally, which could promote violence in the state, was planned by the Dickson administration to prevail on the EFCC to act on the alleged charges against the former governor.

But the state government had denied that the rally was intended to compel the EFCC to fast track the arrest and prosecution of Sylva.

It insisted that it was a proposed peace walk designed to create awareness on the need for stakeholders in the state, including youths to shun violence and maintain the existing peace in the state and in the Niger

Delta region.

Senior Special to the Governor on Media and Public Affairs, Daniel Iworiso-Markson, who reacted to the allegations via e-mail, said government did not need a one-million-man march to win judgment at the Supreme Court.

"The mobilisation of youths in the state was for a proposed peace walk earlier scheduled for Saturday April 14, and organised by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Governor of Bayelsa State on Youth Empowerment, Training and Rehabilitation", Iworiso-Markson said.



Delta State Governor, Emmanuel Uduaghan (left), with Minister of Culture and Tourism, Edem Duke, during the ground-breaking ceremony of the Delta Leisure Park, Oleri, Udu Local Government Area on Thursday.

Kaduna doctors donate N.3m drugs to blast victims

By Baba Negedu
Reporter, Kaduna

FOLLOWING the Easter Day bomb blast that claimed scores of lives in Kaduna, the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Kaduna State chapter, has donated essential drugs and other medications worth N300,000 to the victims.

The donation was made to the victims receiving treatment at the St. Gerald Catholic Hos-

pital and Barau Dikko Specialists Hospital, both in Kaduna metropolis.

NMA Chairman, Dr. Solomon Avidime, who led the delegation, told newsmen that the consignment of drugs and other essentials worth N150,000 each, were given to supplement and support the needs of the patients, who have suffered various degrees of injuries.

Solomon, who commended the doctors, expressed apprecia-

tion on how they handled the disaster, adding that the number of the dead had been curtailed by the expertise shown by members of the association.

In their separate responses after receiving the consignments, Medical Directors of the two hospitals, Dr. Benjamin Tosin Oluwojebutu and Dr. Hussaini Yahaya, St. Gerald Catholic Hospital and Barau Dikko Specialists Hospital respectively, appreciated efforts of the NMA.

They disclosed that many of those affected had been treated and discharged, while others with severe cases had been referred to other tertiary medical institutions, like the ABU Teaching Hospital in Chika.

According to the duo, there are presently about nine people admitted in the two hospitals, with two in St. Gerald and seven in Barau Dikko hospitals and all were responding to treatment at the time of the visits.

Cannibal, Clifford Oji, runs mad in Kirikiri prison

By Femi Ogbonnikan
Correspondent, Lagos

STRONG indications have emerged that the alleged cannibal, Clifford Oji, who was arrested 13 years ago at Toyota bus stop, along the busy Oshodi/Apapa expressway and found in possession of human parts, has completely gone mad at the Kirikiri Maximum Security Prison, Lagos, where he has been awaiting trial.

Oji reportedly claimed then to be selling human parts to notable Nigerians

This is coming on the heel of report that 554 persons are awaiting trial at the maximum prison for several years.

Deputy Comptroller of the Prisons, Noel Ailewon, disclosed this during a visit by the Lagos State Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Ade Ipaye, and representatives of the Office of the Public Defender (OPD).

The visit was to evaluate the number of Awaiting Trial Persons (ATP) and possibly to facilitate their release and those who ought not to be there.

Ailewon, who said Oji was in a bad state of health, told Ipaye that "Oji's health is getting worse by the day.

"He has gone completely mad, vomiting and even defecating without restraint and is naked most of the time"

He said efforts by the Director, Office of the Public Defender, Mrs. Omotola Rotimi, to address Oji's mental state, had proved unsuccessful.

The 46-year-old alleged cannibal, she noted, had been taken to two psychiatric hospitals for treatment, but had been rejected.

"Initially, we took Oji to Yaba Psychiatric Hospital, but he was rejected because they claimed they did not have long-term medical facilities.

"Subsequently, he was taken to another hospital in Ewekoro, but he was similarly rejected".

Also, Ipaye attributed Oji's state to the inability of his case to be heard, an indication that he may be kept longer among the list of those awaiting trial.

Describing his case as a pathetic one, Ipaye stated, "Oji is mentally disturbed and no hospital is accepting him.

Extra judicial killings: Police summons Odinkalu, NHRC boss, over allegation

FOR daring to accuse the Nigerian Police Force of extra-judicial killings, Chairman, Governing Board, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Chidi Odinkalu, has been summoned to appear before the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) for interrogation.

In a letter dated Wednesday, April 11, signed by Dan Bature, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Odinkalu was summoned to appear before a Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of the FCID on Friday 11 am.

Should Odinkalu honour the invitation, he would most likely be held for the weekend and possibly released on Monday, police sources familiar with the plan informed.

Though Nigerian law stipulates that a suspect cannot be detained for more than 24 hours before prosecution, the Nigerian police have the habit of inviting suspects on Fridays, and then using the excuse of work free weekends to detain them beyond 24 hours.

Why Ondo must return to Awo's political lineage -Farukanmi

By Yemi Akintomide
Correspondent, Akure

FORMER Senator in the old Ondo State, Olurunimbe Farukanmi, on Thursday insisted that Ondo State must return to the political lineage of the late sage, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, in the coming governorship election slated for October 20.

Farukanmi, while addressing a rally at Akure City Hall, in Akure, to flag-off his gubernatorial campaigns under the platform of Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), said only the party represents the old Action Group and later Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) that ruled over the old West under the leader premiership of Awolowo.

He noted that as at the moment, only Ondo State is being governed by "a strange party" among its sister states in the old Western Government, which include Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Ekiti, Osun and Edo states, all under the control of ACN.

S'South leaders shift meeting

THE meeting of South South Leaders, under the aegis of BRACED, the acronym for Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo and Delta states, scheduled for Friday in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State capital, has been shifted.

A statement issued by BRACED Chairman and governor of Cross River State, Liyel Imoke, said the meeting will now hold on Sunday at 6pm.

Those expected to attend the meeting include the Chief of Staff to President Goodluck Jonathan, Mike Oghiadomhe, the six South South states governors, senators from the region, ministers of South South origin, every member of the House of Representatives from the region and Speakers of State Houses of Assembly of the six South South states.