

Girl, 23, Drowned In Onitsha

GLORIA ANAEZE

ONITSHA

A 23-year-old girl, Chukwusom Nwoko on Thursday lost her life in a heavy downpour which occurred in Anambra state during the visit of President Muhammadu Buhari for a political rally.

Dependable source said trouble reportedly started for the girl on the fateful day after closing from her duty post where she works as a sales girl.

It was gathered that the deceased had joined her two other friends (sales girls) to return home as usual when the rain started again heavily and they were forced to take shelter in a nearby shop within Ochanja market round-about.

Sources said few minutes after, the owner of that shop asked them to leave his shop to enable him close since it was getting late.

The girls were said to have pleaded with him to allow them tarry a little as it was still raining heavily but the man ignored them and they decided to leave.

The girls were gathered were crossing the plank used as a bridge to across the deep gutter in front of the man's shop that is chan-

neled to the River Niger.

"The girls were crossing the gutter one after the other through the planks and as the third girl was crossing, the man reportedly rushed and raised the plank while the deceased was on it. She fell into the deep gutter that was filled to capacity because of the heavy downpour and got drowned immediately.

"On seeing that she got drowned the shop owner briskly shut his shop and ran away to avert the wrath of sympathisers and on-lookers who defied the devastating rain to rescue the girl.

"Corpse of the girl was taken to Borromeo Catholic Mission Hospital morgue by traders within the scene. "One of the sources explained.

Speaking to this reporter, the father of the girl, Mr Ndubuisi Nwoko said the suspect had been on the run adding that he has reported the matter at Fegge police station.

Confirming the incident when contacted, the Fegge Divisional Police Officer, DPO, Mr Garba Rabi'u also confirmed that the police have spread its dragnet to arrest the suspect.