

# Five killed as robbers invade bank in Port Harcourt

**L**AST Friday morning turned bloody in Port Harcourt as five persons lost their lives in armed robbery attack.

The incident took place when a 10-man gang of armed robbers attempted to rob a commercial bank near Kala Busstop on the ever-busy Ikwerre road Port Harcourt, the Rivers state capital.

Eyewitnesses said that the gang invaded the bank as soon as it opened its door to usher in customers for the day's business.

But unknowingly to the armed robbers, some policemen who were keeping surveillance at the bank on sensing that danger was lurking around went and hid at some corners within the bank premises.

As the armed gang made further moves into the bank, the policemen gunned down two of their

■ Clarice AZUATALAM,  
PORT HARCOURT ■

members and shot a girl who was amongst the gang on her shoulder.

This resulted in the exchange of gun shots between the gang and the police and in the process, a man who came to deposit

money lost his life.

It was said that the dare-devil armed gang succeeded in carrying away the bodies of their dead members and even the wounded girl who came with them and fled.

While fleeing through Iwofe road, the armed robbers shot dead

two naval personnel who were going to work, bringing the number of the dead to five.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr Felix Ogbadu who confirmed the incident commended his men "for their gallant efforts that led to the foiling of the robbery at the bank."

## Fire razes Oshodi market

**A** late hour inferno gutted the textile section of the popular Oshodi Market yesterday, destroying property worth millions of naira.

The cause of the fire which was said to have started at about 9.30 pm was not immediately known.

Some traders who rushed to the scene to salvage their property

■ Mohammed AKOMOLAFE ■

were disappointed as the inferno was so intense that they could not salvage anything.

However, traders whose shops were close-by were seen making frantic efforts to move their wares out of the shops before it was too late.

In spite of the mishap, the security

arrangement in place was such that no attempt was made by miscreants to steal the property of the traders who were rushing to move out as many things as possible before they could be consumed by the inferno. Though fire fighters were seen around by 11.50pm, nothing much could be done to put off the fire