

# Two killed, scores injured in Uyo

**A**NGRY Akwa United Football Club of Uyo fans protesting the Sunday's killing of two of their colleagues by the police have turned their anger on Igbo interests in the State.

The incident described by soccer pundits as unsporstmanly started when Mrs O. Felicia the centre referee from Plateau State officiating the *Globacom Premier League* match involving Akwa United and Enyimba Football Club of Aba suddenly awarded what she thought was a penalty to the visitors close to the 90 minutes mark. Akwa United were leading

## Switzerland weight

much Maradona weighed currently, the former soccer star had been reported to be seen frequenting restaurants and night clubs of late.

The doctor said a trip to Switzerland would help Maradona to nutritional guidelines that would specifically help him battle "water retention."

But Cahe did not say where Maradona might go in Switzerland and exactly when.

**From Iniobong Ekponta - Akwa Ibom**

2-1 before the referee called for a penalty after Akwa United defender had deflected a shot with his hand.

Fans in their hundreds who defied the heavy Mobile and regular police presence invaded the pitch, manhandled the referee and other officials while Enyimba players took to their heels into the dressing room where they took refuge.

The overzealous police trying to control the situation began sporadic shooting in and around the stadium. In the process, a 17 - year - old was shot on the forehead.

He died instantly within the stadium, while another was shot in the chest outside the stadium gate. Scores were rushed to the nearby hospitals and clinics for various degrees of injuries.

A police van was set ablaze inside the stadium while another police Peugeot 504 anti-crime patrol van was completely vandalized along Udo Umana Street leading to the stadium. Several barricades and bonfires were set along Aka road and other adjoining streets. The removal of the remains of the 17- years - old by irate youths on Monday morning sparked off another

round of violence. Several hoodlums armed with Machetes, Clubs and other offensive weapons were seen along Aka road, Eka Street and Ikot Ekpene road vandalizing shops owned by the Igbos.

Their wares, mostly building materials and plumbing facilities were strewn on the Aka road while several handsets and their accessories were noticed on the Barracks road, close to the Ibom Plaza.

*SportingLife* learnt the ugly incident was a fall out of what happened in Aba when it was alleged that an Akwa United fan was killed, their buses vandalized including their band set, when they visited Aba to keep a date with Enyimba in the first leg of the encounter.

Apparently anticipating a revenge by the home team in the reverse fixture in Uyo, Anyasi Agwu, Chairman of the Aba Elephants and a member of the Nigerian Football league (NFL) board led a delegation of the game's stakeholders to Uyo last month on a fence - mending mission.

However, the State Sports commissioner, Dr Chris Ekong who received them assured of a peaceful return leg in Uyo. He asked soccer fans in the state to eschew violence anytime Enyimba visit the State for a league game. But that was not to be as a near fracas was averted few minutes into the game.

Fans of the both teams had resorted into missiles throwing and the police had to escort Enyimba fans out of the stadium.

Speaking to *SportingLife*, a Soccer analyst who preferred anonymity said the referee was to be blamed for not over looking a penalty at such crucial moment considering the previous incident of Aba. "I don't know why they assigned a woman to officiate such a high tension game. I still believed by virtue of her training and experience, she should should have adopted a more mature approach on the home team because Enyimba during the first leg employed intimidation to beat Akwa United 3-1 in Aba and since Akwa United were leading 2-1 close to the terminal point, there wouldn't have been any need for such a penalty which was not even too obvious", he said.

At the time *SportingLife* visited the Ikot Akpan Abia Police Force Headquarters, the Commissioner of Police, Omo Anegbode was said to be observing his prayer session. The image maker of the Force, Mr Suur Chafa said he was yet to be briefed on the matter. "I was not at the stadium so I cannot speak on what I did not see. Only the CP can brief you, but he is right now observing his prayer session", he said.

## Agbonlahor denies