

11 dead in pipeline gun battle

THREE soldiers and eight militants were killed in a gun battle at an oil pipeline hub operated by Royal Dutch Shell in Bayelsa State, the navy said yesterday.

Shell said the Tora manifold, which sends oil to the Bonny export terminal, was not damaged in the attack late on Saturday and oil production was unaffected.

"Some militants attacked the Tora manifold where we had some men. There was

an exchange of fire and they killed three of our men. The militants lost eight," navy spokesman Henry Babalola said.

Shell is pumping about 400,000 barrels per day below its full capacity because of rebel attacks and kidnappings since 2006 that have contributed to a rise in world oil prices.

The Tora manifold, in a remote area of the delta, is a known location for illegal siphoning of crude oil into barges, Babalola added.

Seven die in Agbor-Asaba road crash

NO fewer than 10 persons were killed yesterday in separate road accidents in Lagos and Delta states.

Three were killed in the Lagos crash, while the rest perished in Delta.

Witness said the Lagos accident happened at Ogido on the Lagos-Sagamu road around noon after a trailer with registration number XE 242FST belonging to the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) lost control while descending a sloppy hill.

Four of the seven persons that died on the Agbor-

From Dominic Adewole,
Asaba

Benin Expressway in Delta State, were burnt beyond recognition. More than 15 others were seriously injured.

The multiple accidents occurred between Issele Asagba and Ubulu Okiti end of the Expressway.

The four who were roasted alive were part of the burial team in a passenger bus returning from Agbor, Ika South local area of the state.

The source said the bus in which they were travelling ran into a stationary trailer marked XD 158 NNE.

than looking for a suaw. Said Yar'Adua: "They (Atiku and other petitioners) seem to be under the wrong impression that having not proved anything in evidence in the Petition, the answers to the interrogatories will constitute the talisman for proving their very feeble case."

This, he said, had failed because his claim that Iwu lied about the award of contracts for the voters' card for the presidential election was based on the misunderstanding of the law.

The President said Iwu

to the petitioners' counsel, their submissions on the interrogatories are a complete departure from the simple question put in their question number 1, to wit, whether a fresh contract for printing of ballot papers for the presidential election was awarded less than five days to the election, a question which was followed by question number 2 as to whether the said contract was awarded to a company in South Africa.

"None of the questions relates to where ballot papers were printed. There is a

* The ill-fated bus with registration no XP 697 ENU was said to have departed Agbor in the early hours of Saturday.

Two others died before the road safety corps and the Good Samaritans could rescue those trapped in the carnage.

The seventh person died at the Federal Medical Centre, FMC, Asaba, as doctors and nurses lost the battle in vain to rescue the victim.

Mr Stephen, a survivor of the accident, said they were busy clearing the victims from the scene when the petrol tanker hit the lined

up cars and went up in flames.

It however took the joint intervention of men of the Delta State Fire Service and Federal Road Safety Commission to rescue some of the victims of the ugly incident.

Those not lucky at the scene include one Chukwuma Oputa and a man simply identified as Okey who was an electrician working in Asaba, Samuel Ikpieni said he narrowly escaped the disaster with his wife and son but disclosed that two others in the car were still missing.