

# One feared killed, as Customs, smugglers clash at border

**O**NE person was feared killed yesterday in Imeko, Ogun State during a clash between men of the Nigeria Customs and suspected smugglers.

It was during a shootout at the border area of the *Gateway State* that the middle-aged man was shot dead.

The man, identified as Demola, was said to be an employee of the local government in the area.

Several others were also injured in the face-off which lasted several hours, *The Nation* learnt.

Of the injured persons, three of them were said to be policemen on duty during the clash.

Eyewitnesses said the gun duel occurred and during an attempt by the

smugglers to escape with their contrabands.

Trouble began when Customs officials on patrol intercepted some vehicles believed to contain contraband that came in through Cotonou.

The vehicles conveying the goods were intercepted, the development which did not go down well with the smugglers who were alleged to have offered "tips" to some senior officials to enable them have easy passage.

A source said: "The Customs men succeeded in seizing the vehicles and wanted to take them to their station. On their way, however, another batch of suspected smugglers attacked the men near the Imeko motor park. That was when the

clash between the smugglers and the Customs started."

It was in the process that Demola was hit by stray bullets while several others were injured.

Speaking on the development, the customs

## 75-year-old abandoned patient dies at UCH

**A** 75-year-old prophetess, who was abandoned at the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan, Oyo State by her supposed relatives, died yesterday.

Mrs Comfort Alabi was in a state of coma when her people took her to the hospital on February 5.

The people, who reportedly abandoned her a few hours after they took her into a ward, left with a fake

Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Austin Aiso confirmed the clash, saying that details of the clash were "sketchy."

"It's true that there was a fracas in the town this morning, but I can as-

sure you that the situation is under control, but we don't have detailed information on the clash. I know that much later in the day we will have much detailed information of what happened," he said.

From Sola Adeyemo, Ibadan

family home address.

A Medical Social worker at the hospital, Mr. Raheem Adeleke, said some workers at his department decided to cross-check the address when it was obvious that the patient had been abandoned.

His words: "We went to look for the address, simply given as SW/- Ile-Aperin, Ibadan and when it was obvious that no such descrip-

tion existed, we decided to contact the head of the Ile-Aperin Family House.

"We met the head of the family in the person of Mogaji Jiire Obisesan, who said no member of his family bears such name and we left."

The social worker said that the hospital management treated the septuagenarian despite her abandonment, until she died on Tuesday. She was diagnosed to be suffering from paralysis and diabetes.

## Tributes as commissioners, others mark Agagu's birthday

dressed for the special occasion among others as a leader

