

Assassins kill patient on hospital bed

UNKNOWN gunmen yesterday stormed the Federal Medical Centre, Asaba, Delta State, killing a patient and injuring a nurse.

The patient, Richard Odili, President-General of Utchi Community Youths in Ndokwa East Local Government, was admitted into the amenity ward on June 29.

It was gathered that the hoodlums, who were dressed in mobile police

From Okungbowa Aiwerie, Asaba

uniform, entered the ward at about 8.30pm, went straight to the patient's room and shot him.

Sources said two of the hoodlums first entered the ward and made an inquiry, after which they returned in company of other gunmen.

The gunmen reportedly escaped through a back door.

A nurse, who tried to stop them, was shot in the thigh.

The hospital's Managing Director, Dr. Leo Erhumwunse, declined to speak on the incident, saying "the matter is now with the police who came here to investigate".

The deceased's brother, Patrick, said he was in the hospital to treat a poison-related ailment.

He said he was not aware

if Richard, an oil dealer, had any problem with his associates or friends.

Patrick said the Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV), which his brother parked in the hospital was missing.

He said the family was waiting for the police to come up with their findings.

Police spokesman Charles Muka said investigation was in progress.

Tribunal throws out Uduaghan's applications again

THE Delta State Election Petitions Tribunal yesterday formulated key issues for determination in the January 6 governorship rerun, following a series of issues tabled by the first, second, and third respondents.

Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan is the first respondent; the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) second, and the Independent national Electoral Commission (INEC) third.

Tribunal Chairman Jus-

From Okungbowa Aiwerie, Asaba

tice Uzoamaka Ogwurike said the issues common to all parties are whether or not the petition is competent with regards to the Electoral Act and the constitution.

Uduaghan's counsel Ken Mozia told the tribunal that he had filed three applications.

But Justice Ogwurike objected, saying Mozia was delaying the tribunal.

Mozia urged the tribunal to grant subpoenas *ad Testificandum* and *Duces Tecum* on the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), Dr Gabriel Ada.

He is also seeking the dismissal of the petition of Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) governorship candidate Great Ogboru on the grounds that the petition "had become academic, spent, stale, hypothetical and of no value".

But DPP's counsel Mogbeyi Sagay (SAN) chal-

lenged the application, arguing that the application was an abuse of court processes.

He argued that a similar application had earlier been struck out by the tribunal on Monday.

Justice Ogwurike struck out the application, but upheld the application for subpoena by the first respondent on the REC.

She also dismissed Mozia's application, urging the tribunal for extension of time.

Five die in Edo, Oyo road accidents

THREE persons died in a multiple accident on Monday on the Auchu-Benin Road at Jattu in Etsako West Local Government in Edo State.

The accident, which involved a trailer, three cars and three motorcycles, was said to have occurred when the trailer conveying some goods rammed into the vehicles, which were caught in traffic.

Eyewitnesses said the

From Osagie Otabor, Benin and Bisi Oladele, Ibadan

vehicles: a Mercedes Benz, an Audi car and a Peugeot 505, were held up in traffic.

The road was allegedly blocked by some persons protesting the cutting of a high-tension wire by a heavy duty vehicle.

The witnesses said men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and the police battled to retrieve the mangled bodies of victims

from the wrecked vehicles. Survivors were rushed to various hospitals in the locality.

Also in Oyo State, two people, including the driver of a commercial minibus, died in an accident in Ibadan, the capital.

The accident occurred at Agbowo Bus Stop on the Lagos-Ibadan Road when an 18-seater commercial minibus bus, with registration number XZ 840 FKJ,

rammed into a stationary trailer.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO), who confirmed the incident, said several other passengers were injured.

He said the bus was coming from Lagos and heading to Oyo. The DPO attributed the accident to over-speeding.

The bodies had been deposited at the morgue of Adeoyo General Hospital.