

NEWS

Bomb scare in Port Harcourt

• Explosive-laden laptop bag recovered

From Bisi Olaniyi,
Port Harcourt

BARELY 24 hours after suicide bombers killed 72 persons and injured 133 people in Abuja, there was a bomb scare in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

An explosive, placed in a laptop bag, was discovered near a two-storey building at the densely-populated Education bus stop, on Ikwere Road, Mile One, Diobu.

Three killed in Edo community clash

THREE persons have been killed in a leadership tussle in Azagba, Uhunmwode Local Government Area of Edo State. Some houses were set ablaze in reprisal attacks.

Osadolor (28), Amigolo Ighitu (45) and Ameosa Egbobamwanye were reportedly shot at close range.

It was learnt that the tussle between the Community Development Association (CDA) Chairman, Charles Egbe and the community's spiritual leader has spanned three years.

The victims' relatives

From Osagie Otabor, Benin

yesterday took to the street, demanding police protection in their community.

The protesters accused Egbe of bringing thugs to cause mayhem.

Ighitu's nephew Loveth Odigie said: "My uncle was pursued into our house and shot. His mother begged the killers but they pushed her away. I don't know what they are fighting for. They killed him for nothing."

An eyewitness, Elvis Ero, said he saw the thugs chasing Ighitu with a pistol and

shot him twice.

"Charles Egbe has ruled for nine years and when we asked him to account for his tenure, he refused. Instead, he brought thugs to our community. Several people have been injured since this fight started."

But Egbe said he went with four boys to clean his house, when his rival brought thugs, who dragged one of his boys away.

His words: "My rival came with his boys but he told them not to touch me. They took one of my boys away and I was later told that he

was shot.

"I called the police and it was around 7:30pm. I heard the boy died in the hospital. I don't know what they are saying. I don't know what happened in the bush.

"My house at Azagba was set ablaze. They said I should not enter my house in the village but I went there and they came to fight me. How can I take four boys to go and fight?

"I did not take any thugs there and I did not know how many people were killed. Police were in my house protecting me that day."