

The pyramid of rice recovered by the Central Bank of Nigeria from Rice Farmers Association of Nigeria in Niger State.

## Two killed in Benue

Johnson Babajide  
| Makurdi

**T**WO people were killed in separate incidents in Makurdi, Benue State capital,

between Friday night and early hours of Saturday.

① The first incident happened on Friday night at the Modern market in Makurdi, when a group of people suspected to be cult members butchered a member of a factional cult group.

It was gathered that the suspected cultist was trailed into the market by a rival gang, who used cutlasses and other sharp objects to cut him into pieces, when the gunshots aimed at him didn't penetrate.

② The second incident happened around Demekpe in the early hours of Saturday, when some vigilance group member responded to a distress call by a motorcyclist, who raised the alarm when a thief snatched his motorcycle.

The vigilante members were said to have chased the thief into a church where a vigil was ongoing.

A member of the church (Living Seed Mega Church), who identified herself as Comfort, said: "We were having all night prayer when a young man ran into our church around 3:00am today (Saturday) calling on our pastor to help him and was soaked in blood.

"And suddenly, some members of vigilance group in the area pursued him into the

church and the pastor pleaded with them to have mercy on him but they resisted all the plea of our pastor and they forcefully dragged him out of the church."

It was gathered that the vigilante members later took the thief to the main road and set him ablaze.

When contacted, Benue State Command spokesperson, DSP Catherine Anene, confirmed the incidents

"Incidents confirmed and condemned," Anene said in a text message.

Students' abduction dangerous to North West — **El Rufai**