

Cult violence: Eight killed in Edo

**Emmanuel Obe,
Benin**

AN official of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and seven students were killed on Tuesday in separate clashes in the university town of Ekpoma, Edo State.

While the NDELA official was killed by a suspected student drug offender, who he and four of his colleagues had gone to arrest, the seven students were killed in different parts of the town in clashes involving the Black Axe Confraternity and the Eiyé Confraternity.

The Commissioner of Police, Edo State Command, Mr. Bala Hassan, who confirmed the killings, said the student drug offender opened fire on the NDLEA officials and escaped, leaving one of them dead.

He said the other NDLEA officials escaped after their colleague was felled. Ekpoma is host to the Ambrose Alli University.

But the incident triggered clashes in the town, as members of the cult group to which the suspected drug offender allegedly belonged attacked members of a rival group for allegedly inviting the NDLEA men to the school.

In the clash that occurred

at Ujoelen, four students were shot dead, two others were killed on Poultry Road, and one at Iruékpen, a neighbouring town.

The Public Relations Officer of the institution, Mr. Chris Adamaigbo, confirmed the clashes to our correspondent.

He, however, said he had not received the full details.

The police boss said seven students injured in the clashes had been taken to the hospital, while five students have been arrested.

He said he had ordered the police area commander to deploy his men to the town to keep the peace.

Meanwhile, the institution's authorities have shut the gates of the schools against students and visitors. Many students resident on the campus and in the town were seen leaving.

Commercial activities in the town were grounded on Tuesday, as commercial drivers avoided the town while shops and markets remained closed.

Lagos commercial drivers protest again

Olalekan Adetayo

COMMERCIAL bus drivers in Lagos took to the streets again on Tuesday to protest the alleged ordeal they go through at the hands of security operatives, especially the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority.

Tuesday was the second day of protest embarked upon by the irate drivers this week. They had staged a protest on Monday.

Areas affected by the latest protest include Egbeda, Oshodi and Mile 2, among others.

Vehicular movement was stalled in the affected areas,

leaving commuters stranded.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the latest unrest to our correspondent.

Ojajuni, a deputy superintendent of police, said the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Adebayo, had directed all area commanders in the state to put the branches of all transport unions operating in their jurisdiction under surveillance.

He warned that the command would not hesitate to deal decisively with any person or group that was found to be undermining the peace of the state.