

...as Okada riders protest police killing in Edo

Emmanuel Obe, Benin

SOcial and commercial life was brought to a standstill in Benin on Monday when commercial motorcycle operators took to the streets to protest the killing of one of them by a police armoured personnel carrier.

The motorcyclists took over the vital Ring Road at the King's Square and set bonfires along major streets in the city for several hours, daring the police to push them out.

The protest followed the crushing to death of a commercial motorcyclist, one Mr. Patrick Ofili, by a police armoured personnel carrier at the busy Olaha Market in Benin city.

The cyclists claimed that the corpse was abandoned by the policemen who allegedly drove off towards the police headquarters after the incident.

The angry cyclists whose number swelled as they marched towards the city centre, took the deceased to the Central Hospital where he was confirmed dead before taking the remains to the Edo State House of Assembly.

The Speaker of the House, Mr. Friday Itulah, was however not on hand to receive the protesters.

Ewang dumps PDP, picks ANPP governorship ticket

Chukwudi Akasike, Uyo

THE former military administrator of Ogun and Rivers states, Group Captain Sam Ewang (rtd) has dumped the Peoples Democratic Party for the All Nigeria Peoples Party.

Ewang subsequently picked the party's governorship ticket in readiness for the forthcoming election in Akwa Ibom State.

Speaking to party faithful in Uyo on Monday, Ewang said he dumped the PDP be-

But an official of the legislature assured them that he would pass on their message to the leadership of the House.

The cyclists moved on to the Government House where they also expressed their anger to the Chief of Staff who stood in for the governor.

But the protesters were barred from the police headquarters.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Peter Ogboi, said the incident that led to the protest was an accident which was being investigated.

Man, 31, kills 2-year-old daughter

Sola Adebayo, Warri

A 31-year-old man (names withheld) has been arrested by the police in Delta State, for allegedly killing his two-year-old daughter.

The suspect is currently being detained at Ekpan Police Station, located in Uvwie Local Government Area of the state.

Police sources said the deceased was a product of an extra-marital affair between the suspect, an Isoko man, and a woman, who hailed from one of the states in the South-East.

Mr. Ismael Tark-Oputu, stated that the youths embarked on the demonstration to show their anger and express their desire.

Frank-Oputu said, "In Bayelsa, we need disciplined and God-fearing leaders. These attributes can only be found in Doukpola and Igali.

"Besides their wealth of experience, they are mature and have what it takes to take the state to the promised land. If President Obasanjo and the Federal Government want an end to hostage taking, youth restiveness, pipeline vandalism and other related vices, the PDP ticket should be given to Doukpola."

Our correspondent learnt that the suspect, who resided in Ekpan, sneaked into the abode of the woman in Ozoro, headquarters of Isoko North Local Government Area of the state and escaped with the deceased.

The woman, who was said to be in the bathroom when his "lover boy" eloped with the baby, later raised the alarm over the fate of the deceased.

It was gathered that the suspect allegedly killed the baby and secretly buried her at a location in Ekpan.

Police sources said he took the action in a desperate bid to erase all visible signs of the relationship with the woman.

It was gathered that members of the family and friends of the suspect later conveyed a meeting to resolve the circumstance of the disappearance of the baby following persistent claims by her mother that he was responsible for the fate of the deceased.

Our correspondent gathered that information about the incident eventually filtered to the policemen at Ekpan police station, who arrested the suspect at the meeting.

He thereafter confessed that he killed the baby and buried her in a shallow grave in Ekpan.