

Militant killed in shoot-out with JTF

**Bisi Olaniyi and
Sola Adebayo**

An unidentified member of the Niger Delta militant was on Monday, killed by men of the Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta, codenamed Operation Restore Hope.

Two of the militants, who attempted to kidnap expatriates working for the Daewoo Oil Servicing Company at their camp at Mbiama, Rivers State, bordering Igbogene in Bayelsa State, along the Yenagoa-Mbiama Road, off the East-West Road, were also arrested by the JTF men while others fled.

The incident took place barely 24 hours after the three-year-old British girl, Margaret Hill, who was kidnapped and held hostage for four days, regained her freedom.

An impeccable source confided in our correspondent that the militants struck around 9 pm, shooting sporadically to scare the JTF men, who were fully prepared for them and eventually overpowered the youths, mainly armed with AK-47 rifles.

The remains of the deceased militant and the two arrested youths were moved to the JTF's camp at Ekeki area

of Yenagoa on Monday night, before they were relocated to the Warri, Delta State headquarters of the task force, and helping the military in their investigations.

Security had already been beefed up at the premises of the Korean firm, to prevent a reprisal, as it happened at Ogboinbiri in Southern Ijaw LGA of Bayelsa State last month, when the militants re-

inforced to avenge the killing of their colleagues by the JTF men at the flow station of the Nigerian Agip Oil Company.

More JTF men were also deployed in the Ogu site of Daewoo, offices and camps of the multinationals and oil servicing firms in Bayelsa to prevent further attacks.

The JTF Commander, Brig.-Gen. Lawrence Ngubane, in a telephone in-

terview on Tuesday, confirmed the incident. But no militant group had claimed responsibility for the attack.

It will be recalled that militancy and hostage taking has become rampant in the crude oil and gas-rich Niger Delta, with the daring youths claiming that they are doing so to call the attention of the international community to the neglect and marginalisation of the region.

Olubadan-designate will restore sanity to Iba

Akin Oyedele, Ibadan

THE President, Ibadan Foundation, Dr. Lekan Are, on Tuesday, said the enthronement of the Olubadan of Ibadan designate, Chief Samuel Lana, would restore sanity to traditional institution of Ibadan.

Are said that before the latest development, the ancient city had been lacking in "strong traditional leadership," which he noted was responsible for the social and political upheavals that had enveloped the land in the recent past.

Are spoke at the Monatan residence of the Olubadan designate on Tuesday when he led members of the foundation to pay homage to Chief

Lana.

On the entourage were the first Vice-President of the IF, Chief Lere Adigun; second Vice-President, Chief Bayo Alugin; General Secretary, Mr. Muda Ayeni; Ambassador Olu Sanu; and a former Deputy Governor of Oyo State, Chief David Abinusawa among others.

Are exuded confidence that the reign of Chief Lana would herald the much-sought traditional leadership and sanity to Ibadan.

Extolling the virtues of the Olubadan-in-waiting, Are described him as a punctual and resourceful leader, who was always on hand to counsel the younger ones and settle rift among them.

He said, "We will all be praying for you, because we are confident that when you become king, we will be able to move freely about."

He also used the occasion to convey the message of Balogun of Ibadanland, High Chief H.V.A. Olunloyo, to the Olubadan-designate, which was contained in a July 9 letter to the kingmakers.

The letter by a former Governor of the state, Dr. Omololu Olunloyo, which was written on behalf of Balogun, who is the head of the family, pledged 100 per cent support for the appointment of Chief Lana to fill the stool.

Fielding questions from journalists after the visit, he blamed external forces for the