

Pirates kill two oil workers in Calabar

Mudiaga Affe, Calabar

TWO persons are feared dead in a clash between pirates and staff of an oil company, along the Calabar, Cross River State and Oron, Akwa Ibom State waterways.

The incident happened the same day (Saturday) the Cross River State Government pleaded with the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Ola Ibrahim, to intervene in the incessant

attacks by pirates, militants and other criminal elements on the waterways in Bakassi Local Government Area of the state.

The two oil workers, who were reportedly on routine duty of lifting oil from offshore, met their untimely death on the high sea, as they met the pirates navigating in a speed boat towards an oil installation, carrying empty Jerry cans to scoop fuel.

It was gathered on Thursday that the oil workers

had attempted to ward off hoodlums by raising the alarm and beckoning on marine police to intervene, but the alarm did not move the die-hard pirates, who were determined to carry out their nefarious business.

The suspected pirates were equally said to be determined to capture the boat of the oil workers, which was moving to the Calabar river bank with containers of oil.

Pandemonium was said

to have broken out when the pirates persistently tried to seize the oil boat and the oil workers who had not got any help from the marine police, abandoned the boat and dived into sea, attempting to swim to the shore.

Two of the oil workers, who could not swim, were said to have drowned while others, who were good divers, swam to the bank of the river, where they were taken to the Bayside Police station in Calabar for health examination.

The survivors were later taken to the General Hospital, Calabar, for further medical attention.

An autopsy conducted on the deceased, whose remains were found after 52 hours, reportedly did not show any machete cut or gunshot, as they were said to have given up the ghost due to excessive intake of water, coupled with the turbulent tide of the sea.

Calls put across to the Cross River State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Etim Dickson, did not go through as he was said to have gone for a promotion course.

Five die in Ibadan auto crash

Akinwale Aboluwade, Ibadan

FIVE persons were believed to have lost their lives and others reportedly injured in two different auto crashes in Ibadan on Thursday.

No fewer than 11 vehicles were allegedly damaged in one of the crashes.

It was learnt that the first crash happened on Wednesday evening along the Ojo-Moniya road when the brake of a trailer with number plate OYO XD 159

BDJ, laden with petroleum product, failed.

Eyewitnesses said the driver lost control and hit two commercial vehicles with number plate XY 912 AGL and GA 985 LSR.

Eleven people, including two pupils, were on Tuesday killed in two different auto crashes in Ibadan.

The Federal Road Safety Commission, Moniya Unit Commander, Mr. Adebayo Francis, who confirmed the incident in Ibadan on Thursday, said the trailer climbed the commercial

buses.

According to him, the four victims died on their way to hospital.

He said the officials of the FRSC were unable to get to the scene of the incident on time because of the heavy traffic caused by the crash.

Our correspondent learnt that the second crash occurred along the Moshod Abiola Way when the driver of another trailer laden with a petroleum product lost control as a result of brake failure thereby crashing into about 11 vehicles.