

Militants Kill 2 Cops in Bayelsa

Suspected militants struck, in the early hour of yesterday, killing two policemen in Okiki, Ogbia local government area of Bayelsa state in what appeared a resurgence of militancy in the state after months of relative peace.

The two men, Sgt William Idiseye and Cpl Allison Negite, who were detailed to the community on official assignment were shot at close range by a group of rampaging armed youths, killing them instantly.

Attempts to help the dying cops by some community leaders were countered with sporadic warning shots by the militants.

The action of the youths is coming on the heels of an attack on a Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) flow station at Diebu creek in

•Vehicles, party office torched in Sokoto

From Mohammed Amihun

*in Sokoto and Segun James
in Yenagoo*

Southern Ijaw local government area of the state penultimate week.

The Bayelsa incident came as no fewer than four persons were injured in a renewed clash between Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and supporters of Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) in the countdown to the fresh guber race in the state.

The violence led to the burning of four vehicles during the DPP gubernatorial flag-off campaign in Gudu local government council in Sokoto state.

THISDAY checks revealed that four people sustained varying

degree of injuries during the clash between the rival groups along Tangaza-Gudu road when the supporters of DPP were on their way to Gudu for the flag-off of Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) gubernatorial campaign in the state. Similarly, the party secretariat belonging to the PDP in Gudu local government council was vandalized and set on fire by thugs believed to be members of DPP.

THISDAY gathered that the victims of the clash were rushed to a nearby hospital in Tangaza local government council after swift intervention from the security agents attached to DPP convoy. Speaking at the flag-off ceremony, former state Governor, Alhaji Attahiru Bafarawa said he joined politics not for the sake of enrich-

ing himself but to encourage democratic ideals and promote good governance in the country.

He expressed shock at the manner in which youths were brandishing weapons at the campaign venue and appealed to supporters to desist from carrying weapons, saying that no meaningful progress could be attained in an atmosphere devoid of peace.

"It is indeed disheartening what is happening in Sokoto where young men are killing themselves in the sake of politics. We cannot allow these youth to be roaming the streets brandishing weapons while our children are in the universities", he lamented. Bafarawa maintained his resolve not to abuse or join issues with political opponents in the state, pointing out that his achievements in the last eight years has brought transformation in the state.

He reminded them of developmental projects he had executed during his eight years in office in the state and called on the people to support the DPP candidate, Alhaji Maigari Dingyadi by voting for him during the election. In his remarks, DPP gubernatorial candidate, Alhaji Maigari Dingyadi promised to bring programmes that would transform the lives of the people.

High Food Prices Here to Stay, IMF Warns

Global food prices will remain high in the near future, giving room for only temporary relief, says the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Fund's First Deputy Managing Director, John Lipsky, says policy response, particularly in developing countries, which include new investment and reforms may take time to materi-

From Constance Ikoku

in Washington, D.C.

Without this, supply response in emerging and developing countries which are hard hit by the food crisis will remain elusive, he argues. Policies should also target the upgrading of infrastructure, distribution and storage systems, expansion of irrigations systems,

could undermine prospects for restoring solid growth and low inflation rate, he states. "In emerging economies whose currencies are closely linked to the dollar and that are facing overheating concerns, macroeconomic policies need to be strengthened in response to generalized inflationary pressures," he notes.