

# Mother, child, four others killed in auto accident

By Gabriel Enogholase

**B**ENIN—A woman and a child whose identities could not be ascertained were among six people that were killed Tuesday evening in motor accident involving a Toyota Hiace bus which occurred at the Benin Agbor Road. The other four victims were male passengers.

Eye witness account told *Vanguard* that the bus with registration number X 145 UWN was heading towards Agbor from Benin when one of its tyres pulled out at top speed at the busy highway when the accident occurred.

However, the Zonal Commander of the FRSC, Ndah Zakari who confirmed the incident said that apart from those who died, eight others

made up of four males and females respectively were injured.

The FRSC Zonal Commander said that the corpses of the victims had been taken to the Central Hospital, Agbor, Delta State where the injured were also said to be rushed to, for urgent medical attention.

Zakari stated that items recovered from the scene of the accident were with the police who according to him arrive the scene of the accident before the arrival of his men.

Meanwhile, the men of the FRSC had recovered the corpse of one Alaba Joseph, from the Ekhakpamre River along the Warri Benin Road whose light green Mazda car plunged into the river at Agbarho on Sunday.



**UNVEILING:** From left—Mrs E. A. Eghareoba Executive Director N.P.A. Chief Adebayo B. Sarumi Former MD. N.P.A. Hon. Emeka Ihedioha Chief Whip, House of Representatives and the Chairman of Ceremony during the unveiling of Shipping Position Weekly Newspaper, titled; Contemporary Issues in the Maritime Industry; Edited by Sesan Onileimo held in Lagos. yesterday. Photo by Diran Oshe

## Police gun down eight bullion van robbers in Port Harcourt

By George Onah & Jimitota Onoyume

**P**ORT HARCOURT — EIGHT suspected robbers were gunned down yesterday by men of the Rivers State Police Command during an attempt to raid a bullion van belonging to a new generation bank, in Port Harcourt.

Briefing newsmen on the incident, the state commissioner for Police, Mr. Balla Hassan said following a phone call a team of crack detectives from the state anti robbery and operation squad stormed the area. They saw the underworld men numbering about 15 on motor bikes. The hoodlums sensing danger sped off but were given a hot chase by the security operatives. According to the commissioner, the fleeing robbers opened fire several times on his men before running into a mangrove swamp on the eastern bypass area of the state capital.

The police men, the commissioner, said followed them. And in an ensuing gun battle eight of them were killed while two were arrested. Mr. Balla said three locally made pistols, five magazines, nine handsets;

wraps of substance suspected to be cocaine were among things recovered from them.

The shooting which started at about 8.20 on the Nwaja Bridge, overlooking, the railway flyover bridge and the Elekohia Junction, sparked a

pandemonium, forcing motorists, commercial cyclists and other commuters to flee for cover.

The shooting started shortly after the bullion van appeared from the Garrison Junction-end of the road and was driving

## Rainstorm wreaks havoc in Bayelsa

By Samuel Oyadongha

**Y**ENAGOA — SEVERAL homes were yesterday sacked following a downpour in Yenagoa the Bayelsa State capital.

Though the wet season is gradually come to an end in most parts of the country but the situation appears to be different in Bayelsa which falls within the rain belt where heavy downpour is being experienced daily.

The worst affected areas during yesterday storm include Onopa which is some distance away from the Government House, Amarata, Ovom, Ekeki, Okaka, Yenizue-Gene and Bioghola among others all of which have low and marshy land.

Most civil servants residing in these flood prone areas were forced to rush home on noticing the gathering storm at about noon ostensibly to salvage what they could from the anticipated flood.

As at the time of filing this report most landlords including

hoteliers were using motorized pumping machine to expel flood water from their premises.

Although Yenagoa the state capital is predominantly a low marshy land with several adjoining canals which could have served as natural drainages but many of these natural drainages have been turned into refuse dump by residents while land developers have also blocked right of way of the canals making free movement of water impossible.

Also most of the roads recently constructed by the state government were done without any environmental impact assessment with the result that many do not have drainages while those with drainages do not flow into the canal thereby causing flooding and anguish to residents.

Some buildings on Imgbi road in the heart of the capital city where most of the national dailies have their offices were completely submerged with the residents battling to salvage their valuables from the flood.

## Sylva reads riot act to warring Bayelsa communities

By Samuel Oyadongha

**Y**ENAGOA — GOVERNOR Timipre Sylva of Bayelsa State yesterday read riot act to warring communities in the state saying they will henceforth not benefit from government projects.

Condemning the activities of some criminals parading themselves as militant groups, Chief Sylva said the government could no longer fold its arms and allow the reign of terror to continue not only in Bayelsa but the entire Niger Delta region.

The governor who gave the warning at the commissioning of the multi million water

project carried out by the Niger Delta Development Commission in Biseni clan, Yenagoa local government area of the state lamented the rate at which local and foreign investors are migrating from the state.

Sylva said the present security situation in the region has led to mass withdrawal of contracting firms from their various sites in reference to the abandoned Jamboree road by the Julius Berger.

According to him, investors are being scare of staking their monies in the region as a result of the prevailing crisis which in turn is having adverse effects on its economy.