

recently.

Generator inferno: Man, wife, 2 kids burnt to death

By Emma Arubi

WARRI—TRAGEDY struck, yesterday at Ajamimogha, Warri, Delta State, when a midnight inferno allegedly caused by a generating set, consumed a 37-year-old man, his wife, a six-month-old baby girl and their three years old daughter.

The man, Mr. Nuhu Eg-bunu, an Igala from Kogi State, was said to have hosted his town union's meeting on Sunday and went to bed

late, with his generator on, until the unfortunate incident. Neighbours said the fire started at about midnight.

Narrating how he narrowly escaped death, Mr. Godwin Menetie, said he was woken up by the persistent knocks on the wooden partition separating his room and that of the deceased family, who he suspected must have been choked by the carbon monoxide from the generator and were perhaps struggling with death

already.

He said when he came out and saw the fire, he had to rescue his family first while shouting for help like others, who were busy evacuating their children and belongings to safety also.

Vanguard gathered that though men from the fire service came on time, they had just little water, which could not put out the flame even with the efforts by hundreds of youths from the community. By the time the inferno subsided, two

buildings made of zinc and wood had been reduced to rubbles. The over 50 inhabitants of the buildings now quartered at the community's town hall.

When *Vanguard* visited the scene, large crowd of sympathisers were seen weeping and lamenting the death of the young couple and their two children.

Meanwhile, their charred remains had been taken back to their home state, Kogi, for proper burial by their relations.

construction and to date we have achieved about 54 per cent physical accomplishment. We are fully mobilized on site and the present seemingly low activity on site is occasioned by the inclement weather condition.

"Section Two covering from Kaiama to Eleme Junction in Port-Harcourt was initially given to Julius Berger but the company had to pull out owing to the hostility of the militants.

Contract for the dualization of the Section Two of the East West Highway Project, between Kaiama and Port Harcourt was awarded to our organisation in two separate awards after the

commitment for high standards of performance to meet our clients' needs. We shall not compromise on these principles.

"In general, the challenges posed by inadequate budgetary allocation for the project execution was the incontrovertible source of delay to the project realization. Now, with the creation of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs and the visible level of commitment of the government, we believe that the Project will be handed over and completed before the year 2012 runs out."

Suspected cultists' clash leaves 4 dead

By Festus Ahon

UGHELLI — FOUR persons were feared dead, yesterday, in Ozoro, Delta State, during a violent clash between members of two suspected secret cult groups.

A dependable source told *Vanguard* that a member of one of the groups was feared dead, Sunday night.

The source, who pleaded anonymity, said three other persons suspected to be members of rival groups were shot dead in a reprisal attack in the early hours of yesterday at Alah Square in

the Ozoro metropolis.

It was learnt that residents of the area had to scamper for safety for fear of being hit by stray bullets from the suspected cultists' exchange of fire.

The Alah Square area of the town, *Vanguard* gathered, had been deserted. The reason for the recent clash was still hazy at press time.

Efforts to reach the Divisional Police Officer, DPO, in charge of Ozoro Police Division, proved abortive at press time. However, a senior police officer in the division confirmed the incident.

IBB group meets in Benin to strategise for victory

By Gabriel Enoghase

BENIN — AHEAD of the 2011 presidential election, a group supporting the emergence of former Military Head of State, General Ibrahim Babangida (rt), as the next President of the country, yesterday in Benin,

Edo State, met at the Benin residence of Admiral Augustus Aikhomu (rt) to articulate how the former Head of State would actualise his ambition.

The group, Campaign Network for Ibrahim Babangida, CNI, said that they were supporting the

former Head of State, for the 2011 presidential race because of his antecedent and achievements while in office.

Spokesman for the group, Mr. Clem Iriata, described the former head of state as a detribalised Nigerian, who touched the lives of every segment of the Nigerian society while he was at the helm of affairs of the country.

According to him, "IBB never discriminated against any section of the country. Virtually all his ministers, advisers and key appointments were held by people from all the six geo-political zones of the country. He took merit into consideration while making such appointments. He built bridges across the geographical divides of this country, he understand the problems of Nigeria and would be able to provide solutions if giving the opportunity once again".

Rivers students want upward review of bursary

By Jimitota Onoyume

PORT HARCOURT — STUDENTS of Rivers State origin have appealed to the state government for an upward review of their annual bursary allowances. The students who paid a courtesy visit to the Special Adviser to the Governor on Students Affairs, Mr. Princewill Dike, said realities of the time informed their appeal.

National president, National Union of Rivers State Students, NURSS, Godspower Egbule, who spoke for the students, lauded Governor Chibuike Amaechi for his performance. He said the students were impressed by his achievements.

Mr. Dike cautioned the students against cultism, advising them to take their studies serious.

Amaechi, Okrika rift deepens

By Jimitota Onoyume

PORT HARCOURT — WHAT appeared to be a fall out of the incident between Governor Chibuike Amaechi and wife of President Goodluck Jonathan at Okrika, when the latter paid a two-day visit to the state, manifested, yesterday, in Port Harcourt as Chiefs of Okrika, home town of the first lady, vowed to protect what they termed the "rights of Okrikans to the Port Harcourt waterfront communities."

The Chiefs in a statement by Chairman, Okrika Divisional

Council of Chiefs, Senator Tari Sekibo, said they would not hesitate to head to court to defend their rights. "We hereby reiterate our resolve never to roll over and die anytime the name Okrika is mentioned. Our fathers were in the fore of the struggle for the creation of Rivers State."

The statementsaid: "Okrika people will do everything lawful to protect their rights in Port Harcourt waterfront communities, even if it means going to the highest court in the land," he said.

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