

## NIGER-DELTA

# Woman killed as pirates attack cargo boat

By Samuel Oyadongha

**Y**ENAGOA—THE peace of the creeks of Bayelsa State, was Sunday, shattered, when suspected pirates attacked a local cargo boat, killing a businesswoman.

*Vanguard* learnt that the incident occurred on the Nun River in the Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of the state.

The ill-fated cargo boat, it was learnt, was returning from Ikibiri with some merchandise when

the hoodlums struck.

The deceased woman was identified as Ebibai Bleble.

The latest attack is now causing apprehension among commuters and boat operators over the likely resurgence of piracy in the once troubled waterways. Sources told *Vanguard*, that only last week, a man lost his life in the waterways in an attempt to escape from some pirates, who raided the speedboat in which he was travelling.

The man was said to have jumped into the

river with the bag containing the money he was carrying and got drowned.

However, in the Sunday attack, the pirates were said to have attempted to rape the deceased woman after raiding the cargo boat but that she rebuffed them.

The hoodlums were said to have in their fit of anger, ripped open the stomach of the deceased before fleeing the scene.

The remains of the deceased had since been deposited at the Federal Medical Centre, Yena-

goa.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Eguavoen Emokpae, confirmed the incident, saying the command had commenced investigation in the incident with a view to tracking down the perpetrators of the heinous act.

"Some pirates attacked a local boat on the Nun River around Ikibiri and killed a woman. The matter is under investigation," he told our reporter.