



From left: Mark Booth, Pearson Publishers; Joyce Agyare, Scholastic UK; Mrs Tina Udoji, Managing Director, Chelis Bookazine Ltd.; Mr. Leo Udoji, General Manager, Chelis Bookazine Ltd, Louise Davidson, Collins Publishers, and Peter Williams, Nelson Thornes Publishers, during the Chelis Bookazine gala day, in Lagos.

PDP presents Airhiavbere to Oba of Benin

BY SIMON EBEG-BULEM

BENIN—PEOPLES Democratic Party, PDP, in Edo State, yesterday, presented its governorship candidate for the July 14, governorship election in the state, Gen. Charles Airhiavbere, to the Oba of Benin, Oba Erediauwa, for his blessings.

Leading the delegation, was the state chairman of the party, Chief Dan Orbih; former Minister of Defence, Gen. Godwin Abbe; former Chief Whip of the Senate, Senator Rowland Owie; former Speaker of the state House of Assembly,

Zakawanu Garuba and other members of the state executive of the party.

Chief Orbih, informed that Oba that the party's candidate emerged after a free and fair primary of the party and he believed that as a son of the soil, the candidate would be given the desired royal support to excel in the election.

Palace chiefs, who were at the palace stressed the need for candidates to run a peaceful campaign to avoid political crisis in the state, while the Oba said that he will continue to monitor their political activities on television.

NDDC contractors warned against sharp practices

DELTA State Chapter of the Niger Delta Development Commission Registered Contractors Forum has warned contractors executing NDDC projects in the state to desist from sharp practices else they would be directed to the appropriate authority for prosecution.

The statement signed

by the group's Chairman, Mr. Francis Yiki, Vice Chairman, Mr. William Ovbije, Secretary, Mr. Efe Olowu and Mr. Aghogho Esemiodje, PRO, also called on management of the commission to issue tags in order to avoid embarrassment from security personnel at the headquarters premises.

Gunmen kill Yobe, Borno Customs' Comptroller

KANO (AFP) - Unknown gunmen in Nigeria late Tuesday shot dead a senior customs officer in charge of two states that have recently been rocked by Islamist attacks, police said.

Adamu Amadu, Comptroller of Nigeria Customs Service for Yobe and Borno states, was shot dead along with his bodyguard when gunmen stormed his house in the Garin Daji district of Potiskum, a major city in Yobe, said state police commissioner Lawan Tanko said.

"I have received the report of the killing of the comptroller of customs for Borno and Yobe states in his personal home in Potiskum this evening," he said on telephone from Damaturu, capital of Yobe.

"From reports reaching me, he was shot dead by unknown gunmen along with his bodyguard. The gunmen stormed his house around 7:30 pm (1830 GMT), shot them dead and fled," he said.

He said that policemen have been mobilised to track down the attackers. "We hope our hunt will be successful," he said. He declined to speculate on who the attackers were, saying that investigations were underway.

The neighbouring states of Borno and Yobe have in the past months witnessed a spate of gun and bomb attacks blamed on Boko Haram Islamist sect.

The group, blamed for a wave of violence mainly in northern Nigeria, had over the past two-and-a-half years targeted mostly the police and other symbols of authority in Africa's most populous nation.

It has lately added churches on its list of targets.

Although its specific aims remain largely unclear, violence by the sect since mid-2009 has claimed more than 1,000 lives, including more than 300 this year alone, according to AFP and rights groups.

We killed more than 10 soldiers —MEND

●As Police recover bodies of five slain colleagues

BY EMMA AMAIZE

WARRI—MOVEMENT for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, MEND, yesterday, said that it was not only four military men that were killed in the March 2, gun fight between Joint Task Force, codenamed Operation Pulo Shield, with militants in the creek of Bayelsa State, adding that over 10 soldiers, including a Lieutenant Colonel, were killed.

It also said none of its men was killed in the encounter and challenged the task force to produce the corpse of any of its fighters that was killed.

JTF had, after the bloody fight, said that it killed Shadrack Itokofuwei, an alleged sea pirate, who led the attack and killing of Lt Col Malik and three naval ratings.

Meanwhile, the Police in Bayelsa State said

they have recovered the bodies of five policemen killed by unknown gunmen on the Nembe Waterway on March 1.

Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Eguavon Emokpai, said in Yenagoa, yesterday, that the remains of the five cops had been deposited at the Federal Medical Centre Mortuary in

Yenagoa.

Emokpai said the policemen were shot at a marine police post along Nembe waterway by unknown gunmen.

MEND in a statement by its spokesperson, Jomo Gbomo, said: "Unfortunately, we are again compelled to respond to the rambling of the spokesperson for the

JTF. We urge the public to discountenance the propaganda of JTF, which attributes the attack on its convoy to pirates.

"Since when have pirates in the Niger Delta been known to travel in such large numbers as admitted by the JTF, which for once is forced to concede to the loss of a senior officer?"

Woman found dead under bridge in Warri

...suspected killer on the run

BY EMMA ARUBI

WARRI—A MIDDLE-AGED woman and mother of two, simply identified as Caroline, from Okere, Warri, Delta State, has been found dead under the Ogonu Bridge in Warri.

Vanguard learnt that the deceased was called on phone around 8p.m. the previous night by

somebody to meet him at a hotel (name withheld) on Olomu Street, behind a popular pentecostal church in Warri, which she did but never returned home, until a call was allegedly put across to a family member, to go trace her lifeless body to the bridge point.

According to a family source who pleaded anonymity, when they got

there, they saw the corpse and invited the police to the scene before removing the deceased to Warri Central Hospital morgue.

Security account revealed that the Managing Director of the hotel, said the deceased was invited by a guest who works in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, who had lodged in the hotel on March 4. His identity was discovered through the identity card found in the bag left behind in the hotel.

It was learnt that Managing Director of the hotel disclosed that at about 11p.m., the said guest informed waiters in the hotel that Caroline, was vomiting and that he was taking her to the hospital for treatment, noting that they both did not return to the hotel.

Though no arrest had been made, Police from the "B" Division, Warri are already on the trail of the key suspect.

Security man jailed 6yrs over murder attempt

BY AUSTIN OGWUDA

ASABA—A DELTA State High Court, Asaba, has sentenced one Muhammed Adamu from Adamawa State to six years imprisonment with hard labour for attempting to kill the wife of his boss.

He was convicted and sentenced by the trial

judge, the Chief Judge of Delta State, Justice Z. Smith, after he pleaded guilty to the one-count charge of attempted murder against him.

Prosecution told the court that the convict, "Adamu, on or about January 18, 2011, at Onwuegbuna Crescent, Off Okpanam Road, Asaba, attempted to kill one Mrs. Uche Nwosa, fe-

male, by inflicting matchete cuts on her head and parts of her body."

The convict, a gate-man, was said to have attacked Mrs. Nwosa, his boss's wife with matchete without any provocation and inflicted deep wounds on her hands, which she had raised to protect her head and other parts of her body.