

Bus drivers on rampage as task force operative allegedly kills driver

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COMMERCIAL bus drivers plying Choba-Mile-3 route in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, yesterday went on the rampage over the report of the killing of one of their members simply identified as Christian by personnel of Civil Defence attached to Rivers State Task Force on illegal trading and motor parks.

The task force team was alleged to have stopped Christian along Ada-George Road and asked him to step out of the vehicle.

It was alleged that Christian, popularly called Biggy, was rough handled by members of the task force before the Civil Defence personnel pulled the trigger and killed him.

A source, who gave his name simply as Emmanuel, said: "The driver further called on his colleagues, who

immediately joined him to demand repairs of his vehicle, but as the task force and NSCDC officials objected to their demand, the situation became tense.

"Consequently, the issue got out of hand when the security operatives corked their guns and the drivers on the other side brought out weapons such as spanners and hammers for a fight."

Reacting, Coordinator of Rivers State Task Force, Felix Nwadibeyi, said he was yet to be briefed on the development, but promised to get back to newsmen.

It was gathered that the remains of Biggy, the commercial bus driver, were taken to a mortuary by fellow drivers.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Nnamdi Omoni, who confirmed the incident, said: "I am aware that an NSCDC officer attached to state task force shot a commercial bus driver, but calm has returned to the area as our men have been mobilised to the area."

Scavenger dies as

building collapses on him

Meanwhile, a scavenger, simply identified as Chibuzor, reportedly died when rubble collapsed on him at a demolition site around the Ikoku-Azikiwe axis of Diobu, Mile 3, Port Harcourt.

It was gathered that Chibuzor and other scavengers defied the government's warning that people should stay off the demolition area of the ongoing construction of Nkpulu Oroworukwo Flyover by the River State Government.

Defiant Chibuzor was on Monday said to be among other scavengers removing rods and other reusable materials from a three-storey building under demolition when a pillar fell on him.

An eyewitness said: "Chibuzor was gasping for breath when he was brought out and finally gave up the ghost. He was among other scavengers struggling to get hold of any rod or other reusable materials off the storey building as the demolition machines were at work.