

Niger Speaker killed in auto crash

•Nigerian pilgrim also, en route Jeddah

THE Speaker, Niger State House of Assembly, Alhaji Alhassan Jikantoro, is dead.

The State Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Umaru Ragada, made the announcement in Minna yesterday.

He said Jikantoro died in a motor accident at Kwakuti along Minna- Suleja road.

An eyewitness told the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* that the accident occurred at

about 10.p.m on Sunday when the speaker was returning from Kaduna.

The source said the vehicle conveying the speaker skidded off the road and plunged into a ditch.

Jikantoro, 44, who was buried in his home town, New Bussa is survived by four wives and a number of children.

Meanwhile, a Nigerian pilgrim from Yobe has died aboard a Kano Air flight carrying pilgrims from

Kano to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. A correspondent of the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)*, who was on the same flight, reports that the deceased, who has not yet been identified, slumped in his seat just few minutes before the plane landed at the airport in Jeddah.

An alarm was immediately raised and the flight officials requested for assistance from any medical personnel on board.

•Continues on page 6

Continued from Page 1

However, a medical doctor, who came to rescue the situation could not revive the pilgrim.

It was learnt that the cause of death could have been from high blood pressure. The deceased, who hailed from Potiskum, was said to be among

Speaker

the last batch of pilgrims from the state who spent three days at the Maiduguri International airport awaiting transportation to Saudi Arabia.

The pilgrims were brought

to Kano from Maiduguri on Sunday where they boarded the flight. No official of the state pilgrims agency was available for comments but the flight captain Nur Bayero confirmed the death and expressed the airlines condolences to fellow passengers and the family of the deceased.

Continued from Page 1