

1 killed, 4 wounded as fire guts 4 tankers

LUKKEY ABAWURU

ONE person was feared dead and four others severely wounded yesterday in Agege, Lagos, when four tankers, loaded with diesel went up in flames.

Daily Champion learnt that the incident occurred at about 1.30 pm at college road, Ifako, Agege. A witness told our correspondent that the tanker drivers were transloading diesel with a standby generator when the diesel caught fire resulting into explosions that caused the death of the victim.

According to him, two of the tankers had full load of the product and were transloading the diesel to the empty ones with the assistance of a 50kg generator when the tankers got ignited and went up in flames.

As at press times, the identities of the victim were not ascertained but our source said the deceased might be one of the trailers

conductors while the wounded ones might be onlookers who watched the driver transload the diesel.

The wounded victims are receiving treatment in a hospital in the area.

The source who pleaded for anonymity said it took fire fighters from Ikeja several hours to put-off the fire.

He added that save for prompt intervention of men of the fire service, the fire would have spread to nearby houses, adding that residents of the area had started parking out their belongings from their houses as a result of the incident.

Confirming the incident, Police Public Relations Officer, (PRRO), Mr. Olubode Ojajuni said the value of property destroyed could not be ascertained as at press time.

Ojajuni, a superintendent of police, (SP) said the police are probing the cause of the incident.

In another development, Ojajuni said the lifeless

body of a housewife, Mrs. Mosummolla Adebule, who hanged herself, yesterday, has been removed and taken to mortuary for autopsy.

He said the woman hanged herself in her room for undisclosed reasons.

Preaching against suicide, Ojajuni said "it is biblically and physically wrong for one to take his/her life no matter the situation, it is a criminal

SUNDAY KUDASI, Akure

DEJI of Akure, Oluwadare Adepoju Adesida has warned violence- trigger persons in the state to voluntarily surrender their objects of destruction and charms within the next seven days or face mysterious death.

He also implored politicians and their supporters to endeavour to eschew violence during the forthcoming poll.

The monarch who made the plea yesterday when he addressed politicians, market and religious leaders as well as security operatives, spoke against

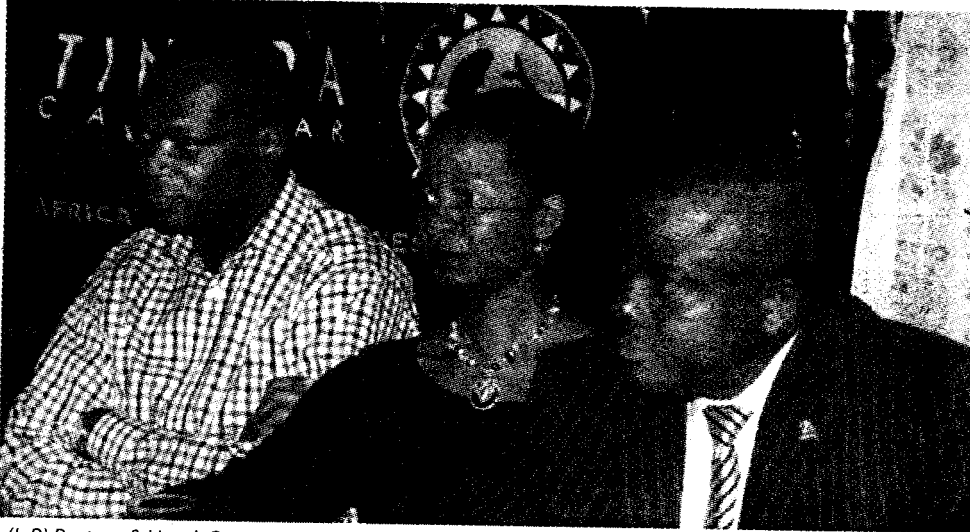
Royal father warns

the backdrop of recent polit thuggery and violence in the st especially at Akure.

The Deji said violence I become common in Aku warning that if the u deveopment persisted, the 15 political mayhem in the state i be a child's play.

He, therefore, charged politi leaders, state security servic police, and other stakeholders the state to warn their followers the need to shun violence bef during and after the poll.

All the political parties exce



•(L-R) Partner & Head, Corporate Finance, KPMG, Mr. Kunle Elebute, Manager, Property/Leasing, Broll, Lo Sowunmi and Managing Director, Tinapa, Mr. Sam Anani at Tinapa pre-commissioning briefing in Lagos recently.



•Managing Director/CEO, Starcomms Ltd, Mr. Maher Qubain (right) with the Commercial Director, Mr. Prakash Pantham during a briefing on their services in Lagos, yesterday.



•Arik Air Managing Director, Mr. Michael M.C. Tighe (left) with Ewo Dare-Mabibiaku at a briefing by the airline on its six months operations and expansion held at Murtala Muhammed Airport, Ikeja Lagos, yesterday.

Photo: Marcel Ohiri

FRSC sacks 25 officers over corruption

VINCENT ADEKOYE, Benin

THE Benin Zonal Command of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), has sacked about 25 officers attached to the Command for various offences ranging from extortion to poor conduct.

In the same manner, the authority of the command in the zone, has placed all its men on surveillance with a view to determining their efficiency and good conduct especially when posted to duty on highways within and outside the zone.

Zonal Commander of the FRSC in the Benin zone which comprises of Edo, Delta and Anambra states, Commander Chike Nwaka, disclosed this yesterday in Benin, Edo State capital while presenting awards to some road safety friendly individuals and corporate organizations who have contributed to the promotion of safety on road within the zone.

Nwaka stated that the commission is very concern with the death toll on our highways across the Country which he attributed to reckless driving on the part of drivers saying that he commission which is seen as the organ that is constitutionally empowered to fight against the incessant road accident in the country cannot afford to be seen as being part of the tragedy.

"The zone within the past two years have sacked about 25 officials who were found wanting in some areas especially in the area of extorting money from motorists and other offences. We have zero tolerance for habits of this nature and this is the reason why we cannot condone such act that could be seen as contributing to road accident in the country.

"I want to use this medium to let us know that the number of death being recorded on our highways across the country is far more than those killed by some of the diseases like HIV/AIDS because in a single fatal accident, death rate as high as 15 could be recorded.

"Another alarming phenomenon in this matter is that good percentage of the accident victims are young

men and women who could be regarded as manpower of the nation and this tend to have effect on the economic development of the nation and this is one of the reasons why efforts should be made to create the necessary awareness on safety to our motorists", the zonal FRSC commander stated.

He called on members of the public to report any official of the command found wanting on duty adding that while such report would be treated with absolute confidentiality, the affected officers shall be made to face the due process disciplinary measure so as to serve as deterrent to others.

Speaking at the award ceremony, the chairman of the occasion and a prominent chief in Benin kingdom, Chief Eduwu Ekhatior, the Obasogie of Benin Kingdom, commended the FRSC in the zone for creating the necessary awareness about safety on the road and called on government and other individuals to come to the aid of the command in the areas of logistics and other needs so as to enhance its operations.

Over 16 awards were giving out at the ceremony. Some of the awardees included the Federal Housing Controller in Benin, Mr. Adeyemi Ademola and Mrs. Grace Alomoge.

Some of the dedicated men of the command were also rewarded at the ceremony.

DELE OGUNYEMI, Ibadan

SAKI town in Oyo State is on fire following students rioting as four persons including two students of The Polytechnic, Ibadan on Wednesday met their untimely death in a ghastly motor accident which was reportedly caused by some men of the police patrol team in the town.

Daily Champion reliably gathered that the two students together with one Hausa man and the driver of the commercial bus which was coming from Lagos, died instantly in the auto

crash as the highway team of the Nigeria police was pursuing the bus having refused to give out N20 bribe.

Many other passengers in the ill-fated commercial bus were said to have sustained varied degrees of injuries in the auto crash and are currently receiving treatment from different hospitals in the town.

Pandemonium ensued in the agrarian town immediately information about the death of the students, particularly the circumstances surrounding the accident, filtered to the Saki Satellite

Campus of The Polytechnic.

Students resorted to rioting, destroying properties all over the town in mass protest against what they called the barbaric act of the police patrol team.

Meanwhile, the Oyo State Police Command have dispatched anti-riot police men to Saki to quell the riot and put everything under control.

The commercial bus involved in the accident was said to be conveying the students and other passengers from Lagos until it got to Saki area when the Police demanded for the

N20 gratification from the driver.

The driver of the vehicle, it was learnt, refused to give out the bribe and was pursued by the highway patrol which led to the accident.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Police in the State Police Command, Mr. Tunji Caulcrick confirmed the report but maintained that it was not the highway patrol team that caused the accident, just as he stated that the Command had commenced investigations into the circumstances leading to the gory incident.

Poly students protest death of colleagues in auto crash