

News

2 drown as car crashes into river

By Mahmud Jega

Two men, among them the manager of a bank in Abuja, were feared drowned yesterday when the car in which they were travelling rammed into a bridge and fell into the river at Gadar Azara, five kilometres from Jere town on the Abuja-Kaduna highway.

According to witnesses at the scene, the accident occurred at about 9 o'clock in the morning when the driver of the car lost control as he approached the bridge.

There was a loud crash followed by a splash as the car rammed into the bridge's rails, most of which had earlier fallen off and dived into the river at high speed.

Rescuers who rushed to the scene, including at least a dozen policemen, saw one of the car's passengers frantically trying to swim to safety, even though the river's powerful currents swept him along.

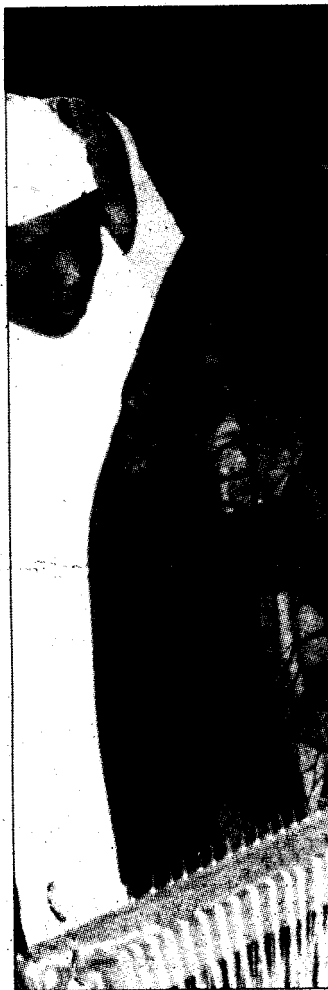
Several people dived into the river but had to swim for nearly half a kilometre before they succeeded in rescuing the man. He had a deep gash on his face, sustained in the accident.

Policemen then interviewed the lone survivor who said they were travelling to Abuja from Kano and that there were two other persons in the car, including a bank manager.

Frantic efforts by local fishermen to locate the car and rescue the trapped occupants failed. Even though they searched the place where the car was thought to have fallen into the river, they

could not find the wreckage.

Rescuers later said they believed the powerful currents had swept the car further down the river. The fishermen also said the river was very deep and that it was difficult to undertake a proper search.



Wife of Kebbi State Governor, H. Argungu (left) inspecting knitting.