

NEWS

Victim of Shema's convoy dies, another still in hospital

One of the victims of the hit-and-run road accident which occurred a week ago at Tudun Wadan Rigachikun along Kaduna-Zaria road allegedly involving Governor Ibrahim Shahu Shema of Katsina State's convoy has died and another victim is in critical condition at Barau Dikko Hospital Kaduna.

The accident, which occurred on Wednesday last

From Ibraheem Musa,
Kaduna

week, happened along the major Kaduna-Zaria-express way when the last car on the governor's convoy allegedly lost control and ran into a Volkswagen Golf car that had six passengers in it, Malam Saidu Abdullahi, a victim who narrowly survived recounted.

According to him, the accident occurred around 5pm

while they were sitting with Malam Abbas Mai Nama when suddenly a vehicle on the governor's entourage hit the Golf car. The passengers' car, he said, spun several times on the high way "before it rammed into us who were seated, together with Malama Ummah, who was by the side of the road haggling with an *achaba* man". "From then, I just found myself in the hospital", he added.

Abdullahi also said that it was the timely intervention of good Samaritans like one Hajiya Rabi that saved their lives because they quickly rushed them to the hospital, some of them in an unconscious state. At the hospital, he continued, he

was given up for dead but "by some divine intervention, I was revived." When he gained consciousness, according to him, he saw Malam Abbas Mai Nama wailing, with both ankles fractured, a deep cut across his face and 'his right thumb hanging on its skin'.

The governor, he said, just continued with his journey when the accident occurred, but "someone phoned one of the government officials, intimating them of the havoc that they caused behind." Thereafter, they sent an official to ascertain the number of people involved in the accident and where they were. Afterwards, the emissary promised to get

across to the victims "but up till now we have not seen anything or anybody, he lamented.

When *Daily Trust* visited Malama Ummah at the accident ward of Barau Dikko hospital, she was writhing in pains. Her husband, and brother Harisu narrated how the accident happened, adding that "up till date, no government official has even visited the patient." They also complained of the hospital bills which keep mounting by the day.

When contacted, Alhaji Nasir Abdul, the Special Adviser to the governor on Media and Publicity confirmed that an accident happened on that day at Unguwar Kaji, but that none

of the cars on the governor's convoy was involved in it. According to him, Governor Shema was not even aware of the accident until he got to Katsina and someone telephoned him.

The governor, according to Abdul, promptly dispatched a commissioner to Kaduna to find out what happened and it was ascertained that none of the cars on the governor's convoy was involved. Shema also asked the commissioner to liaise with the state's Liaison Officer in Kaduna in order to foot the victims' medical bills. The special adviser said the governor commiserated with the accident victims.

Patrol team kills three robbery suspects in Borno

Three suspected armed robbers who had been terrorizing motorists along Maiduguri-Monguno road have been killed by a police/military joint patrol team during a shoot out. Displaying the corpses in Maiduguri, co-commander of the team, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) John Bassey disclosed that the suspects were busy operating on the road when *Operation Flush* operatives sighted them. Bassey said lack ran out on the robbers when they instantly opened fire on the security agents, saying the team responded and gunned them down. He stated that the criminals had been terrorizing innocent citizens and on several occasions they were able to escape into the bush, but this time team got them. He pointed out that the team intensified efforts to apprehend all the bandits that are threatening peace of the area and appealed to the general public to furnish the police with useful information that could lead to arrest of the suspects. Items recovered from the robbers included three dane guns, knives, cutlasses and a bag

From Mustapha Isah
Kwaru, Maiduguri

containing leaves suspected to be charms.

FOCUS ON PENSION FUND MANAGERS

In a bid to sanitize the administration of pension in the country and align it with global standards and practice, the Federal Government recently established a new pension scheme. This