

## CITY NEWS



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# Mother, daughter die in Kugbo multiple crash

By Abubakar Yakubu

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

A mother with her underage daughter were on Wednesday evening crushed to death when a truck lost control and rammed into four vehicles along the Kugbo-Nyanya road in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

About nine other passengers who sustained serious injuries were rushed to the hospital by officials of the road safety rescue team.

A witness, Aminu Mohammed, said the truck lost control while on motion at 6.15 pm and bashed into vehicles on the highway before it veered into the Kugbo Mechanic village entrance and fell on its side.

"People around including me had to look for knives and razor blade to cut seat belts to free victims, while a woman with her daughter appeared dead as they were not breathing," he said.

He said some of the victims lost limbs, while a man had one of his eye's pulled out.

The witness said the truck driver tried to run away but was apprehended by some mechanics, who later handed him over to the police.

Other witnesses said the truck also crushed a motorcycle, but the rider sustained broken limbs.

A Federal Road Safety officer at the scene of the accident blamed the accident on the carelessness



THE mangled car where the woman and her child died on Wednesday evening.

of motorists to ensure that their vehicles are in order.

National chairman of the Self Employed Commercial Drivers Association (SECDA), Chief Kenneth Ezech Ugwu, appealed to the

FCT minister to consider an advise commercial drivers gave during a stakeholders meeting organised by the Federal Road Safety Commission at Mararaba last year.

He said the drivers advised that

trucks should not be allowed to ply the AYA-Nyanya road during peak periods, adding that a park be made for them at AYA so that they relax there until it is safe for them to move.

"I have continuously advocated on this point and I'm surprised that it is taking government a long time to implement while people are dying almost every day on the road," he said.

## Technician jailed two months

By Usman A. Bello & Romoke W. Ahmad

A 30-year-old technician, Abdulazeez Kuti, has been sentenced to two months imprisonment by an Abuja Magistrate's Court for criminal breach of trust.

The accused was arraigned on May 11, 2009, on a two-count charge of criminal breach of trust and cheating, offences contrary to

Sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code.

The prosecutor told the court that the accused collected N149,000 from one Jerry Lawan on the pretext that he knew someone who will repair his faulty photocopy machine but instead disappeared with the money.

Magistrate Elizabeth Woni in her ruling found the accused guilty for criminal breach of trust

and discharged him for cheating.

"Evidence before the court shows that the accused dishonestly converted the money for the repairs of the machine to his own," the magistrate stated.

She sentenced the accused to two months imprisonment or to pay N5,000 as fine.

The magistrate also ordered the accused to pay N80,000 to the complainant as compensation.

## Driver remanded over pedestrian's death

By Usman A. Bello & Shenjobi O. Omotoyosi

AN Abuja Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded a driver, Afedia John Ayo, in prison custody for allegedly causing the death of a pedestrian.

The accused, Afedia John Ayo of Kubwa village, was accused of using his vehicle to knock down a pedestrian, who died as a result of

the injuries sustained.

Prosecutor Adamu Abdullahi had earlier told the court that on July 31, the accused drove his Toyota Carina 11 car with registration number CN 198 RBC in a dangerous manner along Herbert Macaulay Way, by Wuse bus stop and hit a pedestrian, who later died at Wuse General Hospital.

He said the corpse is still at the hospital's morgue, while the

deceased person's relations have not been contacted because there was nothing to identify the corpse with.

When the charge was read, the accused pleaded not guilty, while his counsel requested for his bail.

The prosecutor did not object to his bail and Magistrate Okeagu Azubike remanded the accused in prison custody and adjourned the case to September 2 for hearing.

## Six held for allegedly raping underage girl

By Ogechi Ohalee

SIX men have been arrested by detectives at Jahi Police Outpost for allegedly raping a 10-year-old girl last Friday in the area.

A witness said on the fateful day, he saw the victim's mother and elder brother holding one of the suspects called Haruna, while the victim was bleeding from her private part.

He said when he inquired from them what happened, he was told that the suspect and five others raped the girl in one Bello's house.

"I asked Haruna if it was true and he admitted the rape allegation," the witness said.

He said Haruna listed the other suspects as Ma'awuya, Danladi, Lawal, Sani and Kunshi.

The girl's mother told our reporter that she sent her daughter to grind corn opposite her

house and was shocked to hear from her sister as well as two other persons of the rape.

"I rushed out to find my daughter and we forced open Haruna's door, where my child was covered with an old mattress," she stated.

She said the matter was reported at Jahi Police Outpost and the Chief of Jahi, who expressed surprise on the incident.

When questioned, Haruna, the prime suspect, regretted his action and blamed his action on Bello, whom he said raped the girl first.

Reacting, the officer-in-charge of Jahi Police Outpost said the case has been transferred to Utako Police Station, while the Utako division police officer declined to comment but said the case has been charged to court.