

■ Pupils of Salem Academy, Lugbe entertaining guests during their graduation ceremony on Saturday in Abuja.

Man drown as boat capsizes at Mamagi village

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Tragedy struck Thursday evening when a yet to be identified middle-aged man drowned after a speed boat he had boarded capsized on River Gurara at Mamagi village, in Abaji Area Council of the FCT.

A witness, Aliyu Saidu, said the incident happened at around 5:47 pm when some villagers were returning back to Mamagi village from Abaji market and boarded a speed boat to convey them across the river.

He said seven women and three

men boarded the boat at the river along with two motorcycles and that the boat was about taking off when it suddenly overturned.

The witness said seven women and two men were rescued while a middle aged man was missing.

According to him, the weight of the occupants of the boat rested in one direction, saying immediately the incident occurred alarm was raised to attract some residents including the village head of the community, Alhaji Muazu Kolo, who mobilized fishermen to the river to

rescue the victims.

"But a middle aged man, who was also inside the boat and hails from neighbouring Gupa village in Niger State, was yet to be found despite effort made to trace him," the witness said.

Also speaking on the incident, a school principal at the village, Mr. Ugwuanyi Nicholas, said he used the boat any time he was coming from Abaji to the school, adding that on the day of the incident, he had earlier entered the boat to return to Abaji after school hours.

He expressed shock over the incident and advised the council authorities to liaise with the FCT administration to open up a road from Yaba to the community or provide a bridge across the river.

The chairman of the council, Alhaji Yahaya Garba Gawu, while reacting to the incident, described it a tragedy.

While commiserating with the victims, the chairman urged the FCT administration to expedite action on the construction of a bridge across River Gurara.

The don noted that if a parent successfully allots a specified time everyday to his child's studies, the child will definitely return good results from school, adding that such involvement can also help a child discover his/her talents and potentials, which will be an accelerating factor for the child's development.

He cited instances of a girl, who published a novel while in junior secondary school One and a boy who wrote three published novels before completing senior secondary school due to encouragement from their parents.

Earlier in her speech, Mrs F.O. Adejo stated that the school does not compromise standards and commended the pupils and students, who graduated for their hard work.

Highlights of the event were the award of certificates to 91 pupils who graduated from kindergarten classes; six in the Basic 6 Diadem classes and the rest from the secondary section.

Onaiyekan visits Apo mosque, | Muslim group visits Kuje prison,