

Eight die in crash, bus robbery

A FAMILY of four was at the weekend crushed to death by a water tanker along Akure-Ondo Expressway.

Another four travellers were also killed by armed robbers along Akure-Benin Highway when the bandits, numbering about 20, held motorists hostage for more than two hours on the road.

Witnesses told *The Guardian* that the accident was said to have occurred when the driver of the tanker with registration XB440ADK attempted to overtake a trailer with registration XB405DAF.

The trailer and the truck were heading to Ore when the incident happened.

The deceased, a couple and their two children, were said to be heading for their farm when the vehicle ran into them. The victims died on the spot.

At the scene of the accident, the Federal

*From Julius Alabi,
Akure*

Road Safety Commission (FRSC's) Sector Commander, Mr. Ahmed Hassan, told *The Guardian* that empty bottles of dry gin drinks were found inside the truck when searched by his men and they observed that the

driver of the vehicle might have been drunk.

"It is very fortunate that the victims lost their lives in that circumstances in the hand of a reckless and over-speeding driver, who skidded off the road while trying to overtake the trailer", he lamented.

Hassan said the driv-

ers of both vehicles had been arrested while the remains of the victims had been deposited at the mortuary of the state Specialist Hospital, Akure.

For the travellers, the armed robbers were said to have laid ambush for the luxury buses heading to Lagos from Abuja at Owode

Village along the highway.

The robbers reportedly attacked the luxury bus carrying the victims, during which one of them died instantly.

The other three victims were said to have died in an accident, which occurred as the bus attempted to escape from the scene.

Kogi PDP leaders meet, condemn mayhem over aspirant's death

CALM is gradually returning to Yagba-West Local Council after the crisis that greeted the mysterious death of an aspirant to the House of Representatives in Kogi State, Mr. Samuel Bangudu, a fortnight ago.

During the incident, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Secretariat in Odo-Ere, headquarters of the council, was set ablaze. The campaign office of one of the opponents of the late aspirant was also burnt.

The return of peace to the area was facilitated at an emergency meeting of the stakeholders of the party in the area. A state

*From Ralph Agbana,
Lokoja*

leader of the PDP, Mr. Funsho Owoyemi, who hosted the meeting at his residence in Odo-Eri, told *The Guardian* that a panel had been raised to handle the matter.

Owoyemi, who also chaired the meeting explained that the PDP leaders at the talks, mandated the 15-man committee to, among other efforts aimed at dousing tension, commiserate with the family of the deceased politician and the monarch of Odo-Ere, Oba Titus Makanjuola.

According to him, the meeting, which was attended by political office holders and aspirants from the affected council, condemned the "spontaneous" reactions of the youths from Odo-Ere, which resulted in the destruction of property.

He also dismissed insinuations that the development might affect the chances of the party in the area in the next elections.

"It is a spontaneous thing that left no effect of any kind on the party. PDP is waxing stronger and you can see that from the response that we got at the meeting. It

to ascertain what led to his sudden death. He, however, declined to comment on the post-mortem test when he was asked to disclose the content.

The late Bangudu slumped and died in Abuja last month about 48 hours after a campaign tour.

One of his opponents for the seat in House of Representatives race of Yagba-West/Yagba East/Mopamuro Federal Constituency, Mr. Samuel Aro's campaign office was torched during the melee.

Aro told *The Guardian* that he was outside the country during Ban-