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Friday, April 03, 2009

Three feared killed in auto mishap, building collapse

From Tunji Omofoye (Osogbo) and Hendrix Oliomogbe (Asaba)

TRAGEDY struck yesterday in Ikirun, the headquarters of Ifelodun Local Council in Osun State when a truck crushed two persons to death while about six others were injured.

The Guardian learnt that the incident occurred at about 7.30a.m. at the popular Oja-Oba market near the palace of the monarch of the town when the driver lost control of the vehicle and ran into the victims, killing them instantly.

The truck with registration number Kwara AS 913, conveying roofing sheets from Ilorin, the Kwara State capital, was said to have developed a faulty brake while on a slope.

A witness said that in a desperate bid to manoeuvre the vehicle to safety, the driver ran into two beggars who were sitting by the roadside.

Six others who escaped with serious injuries were later rushed to the state General Hospital, Ikirun while the bodies were taken to the mortuary of Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital (LAUTH), Osogbo.

The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) unit Commander in the area, Mr. Ade Sule, who confirmed the incident, said the driver whose identity could not be ascertained, was being held at the Iyaganku Police Station.

He warned traders in the area to desist from roadside trading, especially on market days, saying that the habit constitutes serious danger to their life.

Also in Asaba, the Delta State capital, one person was

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feared killed when a school building under construction collapsed at Okwe. Several others were wounded and are battling for their lives in the state-owned General Hospital, Okwe.

The two-storey building was said to have collapsed at about 8.00a.m. when one of the workers removed the bamboos holding the decking. The pillars suddenly caved in and the decking fell on him, burying him in the pile of rubble.

A witness, who pleaded anonymity, explained that the incident which is coming on the heels of a similar tragedy in the nation's commercial capital of Lagos occurred just when the victim resumed for work in the morning.

While the owner of the building, Mr. Ifeanyi Ijeh, accused the engineer of doing a shoddy job, an administrative officer at the Delta State Development Property Authority (DDPA), Mr. Austin Umunna, said the building was illegal as the owner of the building did not get the approval from the relevant authority before embarking on the construction.

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