

OF EASTER

Three Feared Dead At Retreat In Ilorin

Church Denies Reports Of Casualties

Abiodun Fagbemi, Ilorin

KWARA

ABOUT three persons, among them two children were feared dead at an Easter Retreat organised by the Deeper Life Bible Church, Ilorin, Kwara state.

The incident occurred at the church's Camp site located at Eyenkorin on the outskirts of the state capital in the early hours of Friday due to a rain-storm, which caused a pillar at the camp to collapse and fell on the worshippers, according to sources at the camp.

The incident also claimed a Pastor with the church, who had gone to donate blood at the hospital in the wake of the tragedy, which also left several worshippers injured.

The Pastor, who was riding on a motorcycle was said to have rammed into an oncoming vehicle. He died on the way to the hospital.

The storm had accompanied the first heavy rain fall witnessed in the state capital. The rain which lasted for about 40 minutes began at about 12.30 am.

Although the state's police command's spokesman, Dabo Ezekiel only confirmed the death of the pastor and claimed that several others only suffered injuries, independent investigations by our reporter confirmed that seven people died from the rain storm havoc, apart from the Pastor.

Sources at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital confirmed that three of the victims were brought in dead (BID) along with one woman and two children.

Ex-Guber Aspirant Killed

KADUNA

From Saxe Akhaine, Kaduna

TRAGEDY struck in Kaduna at the weekend when the owner of a petrol station in Kaduna and former governorship aspirant in the state in 2007, Alhaji Kabiru Muhammad, was shot dead by unknown gunmen.

However, his fiancée, who was reportedly with him when the gunmen struck, escaped death by a stroke of luck, as the assassins asked her to leave.

Spokesman of the Kaduna State Police Command, DSP Aminu Lawan, confirmed the story but explained that the gunmen were suspected armed robbers, who shot Muhammad and ran away with the deceased's Honda Accord.

The PPRO said investigations had commenced while alerts were sent on information about the car to all stations in the metropolis, in order to aid the quick arrest of the suspects. Meanwhile, Muhammad, who had been buried, according to Muslim rites, left behind two wives and six children.

Journalists were told that the gunmen stormed the high-brow Gwamna Road area in Kaduna in the evening, where they met Muhammad in company of his fiancée.

An elder brother to the deceased, Mallam Bashir Lawal Nababa, said: "We just spoke with my brother a few minutes before his death. Because around 6pm, he called me to meet him, saying he had something very important to discuss with me."