

# One feared dead in auto crash as protest spreads in Abuja

By Sola Shittu, Obas Esiedesa, Chibuzor Emejor and Efe Ebelo (Abuja)

ONE person was feared dead and two seriously injured in an auto accident between a Toyota Highlander SUV and Toyota Corolla along Gado Nasko Road at Kubwa in Abuja while trying to avoid the fuel subsidy protest.

The accident, which occurred around 10.am, took residents by surprise as victims were quickly rushed to Kubwa General Hospital.

When Daily Independent visited the hospital, one of the victims was said to be in a critical state and has been moved to intensive care unit

## • Artisans open shops as FCT

of the hospital.

The two policemen at the scene of the accident blamed the accident on over speeding, adding that the two drivers abused the absence of other motorists on the road to their own detriment.

But the protest was more intense in the Central Area than the satellite towns in Abuja. Vehicular activities were almost brought to a stand still, with the few vehicles on the road carrying leaves to signify solidarity with the protesters.

Most workers however chose to stay at home to ob-

serve the strike called by the organised labour.

However, business activities in Abuja and its environs were grounded to a halt as the strike took its toll on the economy.

Banks, offices and markets were shut as citizens obeyed the call to protest President Goodluck Jonathan's deregulation of the downstream sector of the petroleum industries.

At main markets in Wuse, Garki, Maitama, Karimu, Nyanya, Karu and Mararaba shops and stalls were locked

as traders stayed away.

Despite claims by the leadership of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) that it supported the policy, commercial buses and taxis stayed off the roads in clear disregard to the national body's directives.

At Nyanya motor park where a few bus drivers sat idly in their vehicles they backed the trade unions' decisions.

According Chuma Okoye, the government's decision was wrong as "it is meant to impoverish us. Look everything has gone up. Our passengers keep quarrelling with us as if we caused the whole thing".

Two injured in Osun as protesters 'arrest' AIG

By Gbenga Faturoti  
Correspondent, Osogbo

**COMMERCIAL** activities were on Monday grounded in Osun State due to protest against removal of oil subsidy.

The protest held in Osogbo, Osun State capital and other major towns, was peaceful. Public workers in the state complied with the directive of the National Secretariat of NLC and TUC, while banks, shops and private offices were not opened to their customers.

Commuters took to trekking to their destinations including journalists. Protesters did not allow vehicular movement as well.

The protesters armed with placards with various inscriptions held the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) zone 11, Johnson Uzu-egbunam, hostage for about 30 minutes on his way to office.

The protest was led by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC), National Conscience

