



• Ondo State Chairman of the Labour Party (LP), Dr. Olaiya Oni (left) introducing the governorship candidate, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko during a press conference in Akure Ondo state capital

Death toll in Katsina road crash hits 55

THE death toll in Monday's auto crash near Dandume in Katsina State has now increased to 55.

The accident, involving a trailer carrying goods and about 150 passengers somersaulted near Dandume on its way to Lagos.

Several passengers died on the spot, while some of the injured died later at the General Hospital, Funtua also in Katsina State.

As of press time yesterday, bodies of two passengers were still trapped under the vehicle, while road marshals from Funtua unit of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) were struggling to remove them.

One killed as youths protest alleged police harassment

ONE person has been killed during a clash over alleged indiscriminate harassment and arrest by the police in Abavo, Ika North Local Government Area of Delta State.

Eighteen others who were injured are being detained at the command headquarters in Asaba.

Abavo residents were said to have raised the alarm over the alleged excesses of the policemen deployed to the district, but all their complaints were ignored.

A 12-year old boy and a palace chief, the *Nadiobi* of Abavo kingdom that were sent by His Royal Highness, Obi Agu Uche Urenima to the Divisional Police station to solicit for the release, were detained by the police while many fled the community.

The mayhem left a windscreen of the police anti-crime patrol van vandalised and the official uniform of the policemen in the midst of the crisis torn to rags by the angry youths.

The youths had since February 16, the day one was left dead and 18 others detained, clashed with the policemen, following again the arrest of

From Dominic Adewole, Asaba

another four persons in a barbing salon.

A source told *The Na-*

tion that the policemen came in full force, descended on them and raided the barbing salon at about 8pm where the boys were recharging

their cell phones with a generator.

The state police command's spokesperson, Miss. Olabisi Okuwobi, said that there was no clash that those arrested were found smoking Indian hemp.

Akerele clinches Ekiti ANPP governorship ticket

From Odunayo Ogunmola, Ado-Ekiti

United Nigeria Peoples Party (UNPP) in the April 14 polls.

Akerele while visiting the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, Oba Rufus Adeyemo Adejuge noted that he was invited by the national leadership of the ANPP to be the party's flagbearer, describing his move as a "divine arrangement".

The candidate who came first in the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship primaries held on December 9 last year, but failed to secure the mandatory 50 per cent to clinch the ticket at first ballot, also denied being sponsored by former governor Ayo Fayose.

There are speculations that Akerele is being sponsored by the former gover-

nor with N250 million to scuttle the chances of the PDP to regain the governorship seat.

"I don't know Fayose, I have not met Fayose, Fayose's group members are sons and daughters of Ekiti, they are politicians and when their party rejected them, they have the right to move to other parties since politics is a game of number.

'NASS 'll continue to resist tenure elongation'

SENATOR Ben Obi, running mate to Action Congress (AC) presidential candidate, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, has said the National Assembly will resist alleged plans to extend the tenure of this present administration.

Obi said in Onitsha yesterday that the Senate would not allow such extension, adding that it was unconstitutional.

The senator, representing Anambra central, explained that the Constitution only provided two terms of four years each for any president.

He warned that extension of tenure would be disastrous and would result to drift to anarchy and subject the nascent democracy to ridicule.

"We are actually hearing speculations that there are plans for tenure

elongation.

"The Senate has a president who understands the rule of the Senate, guided by the constitution; I also have confidence in my colleagues whom I know would not think twice to discard this issue of tenure elongation.

"So the Senate is on course. It will not sit back and allow anybody who decides to rock the boat to

go ahead and do that."

On the alleged disqualification of Atiku by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Obi said there is no basis for the disqualification of the AC flagbearer and some other candidates.

He expressed confidence in the candidature of Atiku for the presidency and said he would be at home working with him as a Vice.