

NEWS

Four killed in Sapele

FOUR persons, including a seven-year-old boy, were crushed in Sapele, Delta State, when a vehicle ran into motorists queuing up for fuel.

Eyewitnesses said the Toyota Corolla car carrying six mourners, was returning from a burial in a nearby community when the accident occurred.

It was gathered that the driver of the vehicle lost control and veered off the road, before running into a group of fuel hawkers and motorists on Boyo Road.

An eyewitness said the vehicle later rammed into a nearby building, alleg-

road crash

From Shola O'Neil, Warri
edly being used to store petroleum product by illegal dealers, before erupting into fire.

The child was reportedly walking where the petrol hawkers were selling when the vehicle rammed into him. He died on the spot.

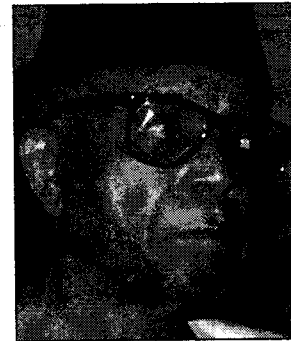
"We were all doing our business on the road when the vehicle started coming in on top speed. As soon as we saw it, everybody started running helter-skelter because it was obvious that the driver had lost control", recalled one of the petrol hawk-

ers at the scene of the accident.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Sapele Police Station, Mr. Danjuma Kromda, could not be reached for comments but a police officer confirmed the report. He said the driver of the vehicle had been arrested.

A source at the station said the driver might be charged with murder and driving under the influence of alcohol as he was suspected to be drunk.

Meanwhile, the remains of the victims have been deposited in the morgue of the Sapele General Hospital.



• Chief Anthony Enahoro, PRONACO chieftain

PRO-National Conference Organisation (PRONACO), has renewed the call for constitutional amendment instead of infinitesimal review of the Electoral Act.

For a free and fair polls to occur in the future, the organisation said only a

PRONACO restates call for review of constitution

comprehensive review of the 1999 Constitution can herald the much desired electoral reforms.

A delegate to the PRONACO's parley last year, Mr. Bisi Adegbuyi, a lawyer regretted that the review of the 1999 Constitution had been confused with the review of the flawed Electoral Act.

For proper guidance, Adegbuyi asked the Federal Government to consult the "Draft constitution" proposed by PRONACO, pointing out that most of the contentious national questions have been resolved by the draft.

He added that to demonstrate its seriousness and commitment to democratic sustenance, the call for the convocation of a Sovereign Na-

By Emmanuel Oladesu

tional Conference for the restructuring of the country must also not be jettisoned.

Adegbuyi, the Action Congress (AC) Senatorial Candidate for Ogun East in the last election, spoke in Lagos on the import of electoral reforms and substance of constitutional amendment.

He believed that a far reaching electoral reform will resolve the delay in giving judgment on crucial litigations arising from petitions over flawed elections in the future.

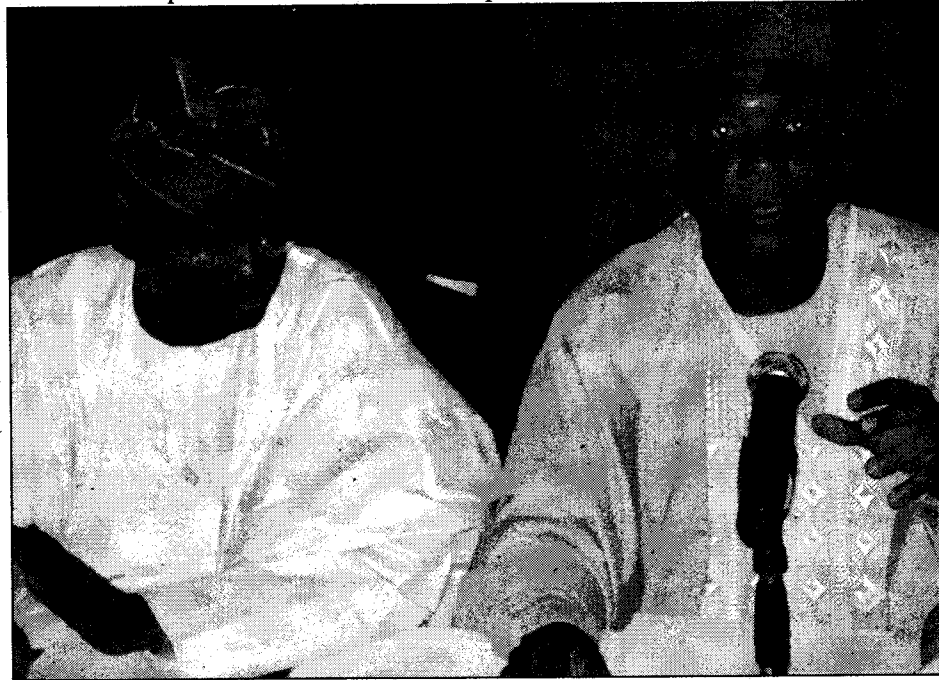
"I am sure that in the unlikely event that we have a repeat of the ugly scenerio, the court will expeditiously handle the matter and judgement would be accelerated," he said.

Group rejects clearance of Ehindero

By Austin Oniyokor

THE Democratic Coalition Alliance (DCA), has described the clearance of the former Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Mr Sunday Ehindero, by the Force as "unacceptable."

In a statement by its National Coordinator, Mr Morakinyo Ogele, a lawyer, the group urged the acting Inspector-General of Police, Mr Mike Okiro to transfer the matter to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), or the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences



• Lagos State Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola (left), with Chairman of the Governors' Forum, Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State, during the recent Governors' meeting at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja.

PHOTO: AKIN OLADOKUN

Lagos seals off two houses

By Kayode Aboyeji

TO avert another calamity, the Lagos State Government yesterday sealed off houses 71 and 73, Agoro Street, Idumota, Lagos. Part of the house 71 had collapsed on Monday night.

The two four-storeyed houses are disasters in waiting.

Monday night incident was the second within 48 hours in the metropolis.

On Saturday, a building on 31/33 Egerton Lane, Oke-Arin collapsed, killing six people.

Some residents had moved out of both houses. When *The Nation* visited, the two buildings were empty, possibly to comply with the government's directive.

An official of the state

agency told *The Nation* that the two buildings "are old with visible cracks on the deck and walls, a signal that they can collapse at any time."

Security operatives including soldiers and civil defence have cordoned off the street to safeguard against loss of lives in case of collapse.

Similarly traders, especially the Igbo speaking that sell around the collapsed building at Oke-Arin have started evacuating.

Speaker blames external forces on Assembly's crisis