

# Crane kills five in Kwara

**A**BOUT five persons were feared killed yesterday in Ilorin, Kwara State by a heavy-duty crane. The crane ran into them following a brake failure while descending a slope in the Challenge area of the metropolis.

The morning rush had hardly ended when the crash occurred in the area which serves as the loading bay for students of the University of Ilorin (UNILORIN). Traffic in the loading bay was higher yesterday courtesy of the convocation of the institution at the permanent site.

From Biodun Oyeleye,  
Ilorin

The accident, led to the closing of businesses in the area. Most of the victims were believed to be sellers of handsets and accessories. One of those killed was a woman who had just sold food to the phone sellers and was reportedly washing dishes when the accident occurred.

Rescue workers recovered her from under the wreckage of the crane. Food items and telephone accessories littered the grounds. There were fears that some

victims were still trapped under the big utility machine.

Eyewitnesses claimed that the crane, marked OYA 6239A, which was coming from the Government House Road, had lost its brakes and put on its headlight to indicate the danger. The driver was said to have notified the driver of another trailer in front of him of his dilemma. He reportedly asked that he be allowed to use the other trailer to stop his own vehicle.

The traffic officer was said to have noticed the de-

velopment and passed the trailer and other vehicles on the way of the crane thus creating room for the crane driver to manoeuvre. The traffic officer himself escaped death by the whiskers as he reportedly fled from the post. His senior officers were seen congratulating him after the accident. But neither him nor the senior officers agreed to speak with the press at the site.

The whereabouts of the crane driver could not be ascertained at press time.

Meanwhile, the bodies have been deposited in the mortuary.