

Ekiti pastor's house burnt over missing child

SOME youths in Ekiti have set a pastor's house on fire after the body of a seven-year-old girl was allegedly found there.

The incident reportedly happened in the early hours of yesterday in the Adehun area of Ado-Ekiti, the state capital.

The girl, simply identified as Demilade, was said to have been sent to buy pap around 8am on Monday.

When she did not return, her parents raised the alarm and some residents launched a search for her. It was learnt that after their effort proved abortive, the incident was reported at the nearby police station by the parents and family friends.

The girl's body was later found at the pastor's house in the neighbourhood.

"Yesterday (Monday) morning, Demilade's mother sent her to buy pap around 8am and within a very short time, the girl was declared missing. She traced her to where she sent her but could not find her. A search party was launched for the girl by her parents and some resi-



•The house on fire...yesterday

**From Rasaq Ibrahim,
Ado-Ekiti**

dents and she was never found before her body was found this (yesterday) morning at the residence of a pastor in the neighbourhood.

"So, it was later on we heard the pastor and his wife had gone to the police command to report his mentally-ill daughter's act. I even heard the

girl had once attacked her father with a machete.

"So, angered by the development, some irate youths, armed with petrol, mobilised themselves to the scene and burnt down the pastor's house.

At the time our correspondent visited the scene, smoke was still billowing from the house. When contacted, police spokesman, Sunday Abutu,

said a suspect had been arrested in connection with the alleged murder.

Abutu said the arrest was effected based on the information given by the parents, saying the alleged culprit was in detention at the police headquarters in Ado Ekiti.

"The body of the girl has been deposited at the morgue," he said.

'I was celibate for six years living with E