

Water scarcity: **Car kills girl in Minna**

*From BALA B. BITRUS,
Minna*

THREE weeks of acute shortage of water in Minna and environs has resulted in the death of a girl in Tunga area of the Niger State capital.

The girl, whose identity was not immediately known, had gone along with others in search of water when she met her untimely death along David Mark road.

On their way back, a vehicle whose registration number was not known sped from the opposite direction and ran over the girl, leaving her motionless body on the side of the road.

Passers-by who witnessed the incident rushed to her rescue, just as the driver of the vehicle made a quick detour and sped off.

Residents of the capital city have for weeks been experiencing shortage of water, resulting in steady rise in prices of water from vendors.

A jerry can of water (20 litres) now sells between 40-60 Naira depending on the location of the city and the source of water.

Sellers of packaged sachet of water have equally hike prices of the commodity which now sells between 70-100 Naira depending on the brand.

Many homes with open dug wells have been turned to busy areas as women and girls make repeated trips to such places to fetch water for their domestic use.

Authorities of the state Water Board have not made any official statement over the development, but a staff of the board told our correspondent on condition anonymity that the board is grappling with infrastructural and obsolete equipment problems, making it ill-equipped to frontally tackle the water shortage problem.