

discuss the ceremonies lined up for the installation of the Iyalode of Ibadanland, Alhaja Aminat Abiodun, billed for Friday, especially the need to beef up security around the venues.

In this regard, the Olubadan, Oba Samuel

palace of the Olubadan on Sunday were, Kuye, Abiodun and few chiefs, while the DCP led the police team to the parley.

The Olubadan and the chiefs were said to have expressed displeasure with the way some suspected

The Olubadan was said to have told the police boss to beef up security around his Aremo palace ahead of Monday's meeting of his cabinet members.

He also tasked the police to be on guard to ensure that Friday's installation of Iyalode

10 die in Osogbo accident

Tunde Odesola, Osogbo

Osogbo, on Sunday.

NO fewer than 10 persons died in an auto crash involving a trailer; a passenger bus and a private car in Abere, near

When our correspondent got to the scene of the accident at the front of the Assistant Inspector-General of Police's Office, officers of the

Federal Road Safety Commission and Fire Service were seen battling to keep out the fire, which emanated from the crash.

Five of the victims were burnt beyond recognition. Two recognisable victims were deposited with the five victims burnt beyond recognition.

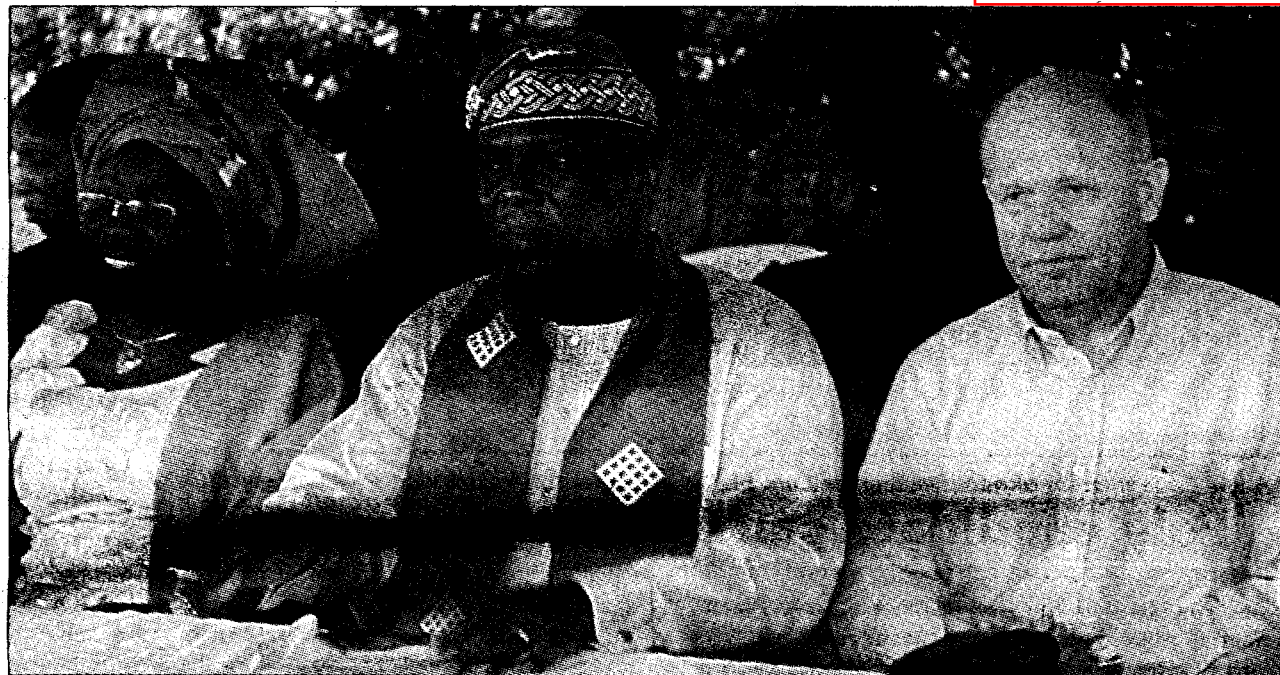
It was gathered that no fewer than four more victims were trapped in the inferno that engulfed the vehicles.

Confirming the incident, the Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Commission, Osun State, Mr. Baba Haldu, said six persons were confirmed dead in the crash.

Explaining that his officers were on a rescue operation at the scene, Haldu said the cause of the accident was yet to be ascertained.

When our correspondent got to the Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital, Osogbo, where the victims were rushed to, no fewer than eight injured persons were on admission at the intensive care unit of the hospital.

The Akoda-Olaiya road on which the accident occurred, has been under construction in the last two years.



•L-R: Deputy Governor, Lagos State, Mrs. Sarah Sosan; Chairman, Special Olympics Nigeria, Mr. Victor Osibodu; and Group Managing Director, Dangote Cement, Mr. Knut Ulumoen, during the reception for Special Olympics Nigeria Athletes to China 2007, in Lagos, on Sunday. Photo: Segun Bakare.

12 die in gas pipeline fire

Sola Adebayo, Warri

NO fewer than 12 persons were feared dead in the fire, which gutted the 10-inch gas pipeline servicing the Utorogu Gas Plant of the Dutch firm, Shell Petroleum Development Company, on Friday.

Findings by our correspondent shortly after the fire was put out on Saturday revealed that 12 persons burnt in the incident.

The deceased were illegal oil operators siphoning condensate, a by product of gas, from the pipeline of SPDC at Otorogu.

pany, a subsidiary of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, following the incident.

Consequently, a daily shut-in of 300 million standard cubic feet of gas resulted from the incident.

SPDC's spokesman, Mr. Precious Okolobo, in a statement on Friday, said the gas plant had been shut down, moment after the fire outbreak.

Meanwhile, SPDC's Media Officer in the western operation in Warri, Mr Obaigbo Aori, said the fire was put out at 2:51pm

on Saturday. Aori, in text message to our correspondent, said, " Investigation into the cause and impact of the incident will be concluded tomorrow, [Monday].

But our correspondent learnt that a Joint Investigation Team, made up of all stakeholders in the nation's oil industry, including regulators, government officials, community representatives and Shell representatives would visit the scene on Monday, to ascertain the cause of the fire.

Aori said a detailed report on the fire incident would be available at the end of the investigation by the JIV team.

The report of the theft of condensate had been rampant in Ughelli and Udu Local Government Areas of Delta State in recent times. The circulation of condensate as kerosene in Delta state resulted in serial kerosene explosions in the various towns and communities in the state. About 15 persons died in the explosions at different parts of the state in August.