

20 killed as bus driver avoids goat

Francis Falola, Minna

ABOUT 20 peoples died at Mariga village in Magama local government area of Niger State when the driver of a Sokoto-bound commercial bus crashed into a ditch as he attempted to avoid a stray goat, killing 20 of its occupants.

The tragedy threw the sleepy community into a sorrowful mood occurred on Sunday when the bus, with registration number, Abuja EE 320 ABC, believed to be travelling from Kano to Sokoto lost control in an attempt to avoid the goat.

Eyewitnesses told our correspondent that 11 of the passengers, who were mostly traders, including the driver of the ill-fated bus, died on the spot.

The remaining nine passengers, according to sources, died while being conveyed to the Kontagora General Hospital, which is about 80 kilometres away from the scene of the accident.

The remaining two passengers who survived the accident, gave an account of how the driver tried to control the vehicle after successfully avoiding killing the goat.



•L-R: Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN), and mother of late politician, Chief Funsho Williams, Ibukun Williams, during Fashola's visit to her on her 87th birthday in Lagos ... on Monday. Photo: NAN.

Seven-year-old boy dies in Ibadan flood

Akin Oyedele, Ibadan

A seven-year-old boy, identified simply as Pelumi, was swept away by flood during a torrential downpour that lasted for several hours in Ibadan, Oyo State, on Friday, killing him in the process.

A source said that the incident occurred around 7pm at Oliyide Street, off Shobande Street, Mokola when the boy went in company with his elder sister, also identified as Pamilerin, to empty refuse into the flooded road.

Shortly after the sister emptied the refuse, it was learnt that the boy slipped and fell into the flood which swept him away and dragged him through a thick bush known as Igbo Agala in Ajibade area of Mokola.

A search team made up of 10 young men was said to have combed the bush through the

drainage channel that connects the Oyo State Government secretariat where the boy was found.

The neighbourhood was thrown into mourning when the lifeless body of the boy was recovered and brought to his parents' home.

The mother of the boy was said not to be at home when the incident occurred, while the father was said to be living

separately with his family outside Ibadan.

A member of the rescue team who spoke in confidence with our correspondent said that the search effort, was frustrated by the dusk, which impaired visibility in the bush.

It was gathered that another disaster was averted when a member of the team was almost electrocuted when he had contact with the fence of

the Oyo State fish pond close to Agodi Gardens.

Our source said, "The boy was half buried in the quicksand by the time we found him after almost two hours of efforts. Unfortunately, he was confirmed dead when we took him to the hospital.

"It is a lesson for the people to stop dumping refuse inside the flood whenever it rains."

Daniel canvasses return of schools to missions

Ademola Oni, Abeokuta

GOVERNOR Gbenga Daniel of Ogun State, has restated the need for the return of schools to missionaries in order to restore good morals and discipline among the youths in the society.

The governor contended that "all the references that we can make to good moral behaviour in schools seem to

have been terminated when the missionaries left."

Daniel, according to a statement by his Press Officer in Abeokuta on Monday, spoke at the 60th birthday anniversary of the Archbishop of Lagos, Archbishop Ephraim Ademowo, held at MUSON Centre, Lagos, on Saturday.

The governor also stressed the need for strong partnership between the church and

government to evolve a better society.

At the occasion, which also witnessed the presentation of a book, Christianity in Ijeshaland-Historical and Ecumenical Perspectives, written by Ademowo, Daniel added, "The works of government and the church are interwoven as they both strive to raise and meet the hope of the people through commitment and

supplication."

He described the cleric as "a distinguished minister of God and an eminent son of Ogun, whom hard work and commitment have taken to greater heights."

The Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN), extolled the sterling qualities of the Archbishop, describing him as a worthy ambassador of his faith.