

Riot in Ibadan as smugglers' car hits two siblings

Olalekan Adetayo, Ibadan

THERE was pandemonium in Samonda area of Ibadan, Oyo State capital on Tuesday when some youths took to the street to protest a fatal accident that occurred in the area.

Our correspondent gathered that trouble started at about 7.15am when some armed riot policemen on duty at a checkpoint on the Sango-Ojoo Road attempted to stop convoy

of four cars suspected to be driven by smugglers of used vehicles popularly called Tokunbo.

Three of the smugglers were said to be driving on top speed against the traffic at the time of the incident.

An eyewitness, Mr. Ismaila Emiola, alleged that when it became obvious that the suspects would not stop, the policemen started shooting.

In their bid to escape,

Emiola said one of the vehicles in the convoy hit two boys who were crossing the road on their way to their school.

While one of the boys died on the spot, the other was said to have had a fracture on one of his arms. Their ages were put at six and nine.

The incident reportedly infuriated some youths in the area who immediately mobilised and mounted bonfires on the highway, causing

traffic jam on the ever busy road.

They also attacked policemen on sight.

A combined team of armed policemen and men of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps backed with an Armoured Personnel Carrier was later deployed in the troubled spot.

Tear gas canisters were fired by the security agents to disperse the irate youths before normalcy was restored in the area.

The Divisional Police Officer in charge of Sango Divisional Headquarters, Mrs. Sybil Akinfenwa, a Chief Superintendent of Police, later led some policemen to the scene and took the parents of the children, Kalejaiye and Mufuli Olatubosun, to the police station as a way of dousing tension in the area.

Akinfenwa quickly ordered that security be beefed up around the police station as onlookers gathered around the area.

The Public Relations Officer of the state police command, Ms. Olabisi Okuwobi, a Deputy Superintendent of Police, confirmed the incident.

She said that investigation was still ongoing..

Ekiti asks controversial regent to step aside

**Sunday Aborisade,
Ado-Ekiti**

THE controversial regent of Ikole, whose appointment has caused crisis in Ekiti, Princess Jumoke Aderonke Mshelbwala has been asked to step aside by the Ekiti State government.

The Olomodikole of Ikole, High Chief Olusegun Ogunjobi, said on Tuesday in Ado-Ekiti that the Regency Council has assumed the responsibility of selecting a Regent for the town, following the development.

Ogunjobi, who stated this in an interview with journalists on the outcome of the peace meeting convened by the Deputy Governor of the state, Dr. Sikiru Lawal, said the earlier process of appointing the regent had been faulted by some

chiefs.

He said that it was agreed at the peace meeting that the names of the potential regents would be submitted to the Regency Council for "normal screening and approval."

The alleged government interference in the appointment of the regent had triggered off crisis among traditional chiefs in the town.

The Ikole Local Government had earlier approved the appointment of the first daughter of the late Elekole, Princess Jumoke Aderonke Mshelbwala, a move which was rejected by the chiefs.

They said the woman was nominated by a chief, who was not a member of the Ikole Traditional Council.

However, the state deputy governor who summoned the

chiefs to his office on Tuesday and resolved the logjam.

Mshelbwala was asked to step aside and allow for a fresh selection process that would conform to the law and due process.

However, Ogunjobi said the chiefs resolved to commence a fresh process to select a regent for the community.

He said the chiefs through the regency council, have called for fresh nomination of candidates for the seat of the Regent in line with the Morgan Chieftaincy Commission Report of 1981.

The day-to-day administration of the community is now carried out by the Regency Council pending the emergence of a Regent to run the affairs of the town.