

Driver crushes conductor to death

Olaleye Aluko

A trailer driver has crushed a middle-aged man, who also happened to be his conductor, to death in Lagos.

The incident was said to have occurred in the Tincan area, Apapa, on Monday.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the victim, identified simply as Saidu, had been asked by the driver to come down and watch the rear while the driver was reversing the trailer.

Our correspondent further gathered that the driver, who was heading for Tincan through the Liverpool Bridge, had wanted to take another route when he noticed the gridlock on the bridge.

However, tragedy struck when the trailer climbed Saidu while the driver was reversing.

An eyewitness, who identified himself simply as Umar, told our correspondent that the speed of the reverse caught the conductor unaware, crushing him in the process.

He said, "The driver was impatience which caused the incident."

It was learnt that policemen from the Apapa division were called to the scene and they arrested the driver. They were also said to have remove Saidu's corpse to a morgue in the the area.

One of Saidu's relatives, an elder brother who gave his name simply as Abuba-

kar, also blamed the accident on the driver.

He said, "Saidu did not even know this driver. They only happened to meet by virtue of work. This man is a very careless driver. Many people saw the crushed head of my brother. The trailer crushed his head."

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Ngozi Braide, could not be reached for comments as a text message sent to her phone had yet to be replied to as of press time.

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• The suspects, recovered

Mudiaga Affe, Calabar

THE Cross River State Police Command has arrested 19 suspects who specialised in robbing people in commercial vehicles.

The act, popularly referred to as one chance, is a menace that has long faced residents of Calabar.