

Lagos... on Tuesday. PHOTO: Saneeda Olugboon

# Five missing as boat capsizes in Taraba, police intensify search

**Justin Tyopuusu, Jalingo**

**FIVE** persons were said to have drowned in the River Benue section of Taraba State following a boat accident on Saturday.

The incident occurred when a boat carrying 14 passengers from Mayo-Reniwo village in the Ardo-Kola Local Government Area to a village in Karim-Lamido Local Government Area capsized midway into the journey.

Taraba State Police Command's Public Relations Officer, Abdulahi Usman, told newsmen in Jalingo that the boat was carrying 14 passengers when the incident happened.

According to him, while nine of the passengers were successfully rescued, five other passengers were missing and might have drowned.

Usman said search operation was on for the five victims.

Our correspondent gathered that one of the five persons

## Man, 28, arrested for kidnapping, raping 15-year-old girl, collecting ransom

**Tunde Oyekola, Ilorin**

**T**HE Kwara State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps on Monday said that it arrested one Bello Muhammed, 28, for kidnapping and sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl while in their captivity.

The spokesman for NSCDC,

missing in the accident is Rev. Shedrack Bako, a pastor with the Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria.

When contacted, the Taraba State Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev. Isaiah Magaji, said he was aware of a boat accident, but could not

ascertain the calibre of persons involved in the accident.

"I am yet to get a clear picture of the incident because the reports that are available to me now are very scanty. I am still expecting a detailed report of what actually happened and the people involved," he said.

Babawale Afolabi, said Muhammed conspired with two other suspects, now at large to kidnap the girl, who was sent on an errand in Ilale in the Oke-Ero Local Government Area two weeks ago.

Babawale said the three suspects allegedly dragged the victim to the bush, tied her hand

and raped her many times and released her after the payment of N100,000 ransom by her parents.

Luck, however, ran out on one of the alleged abductors as Muhammed arrested by local vigilante at Kara market, who handed him over to the operatives of the NSCDC.

"During interrogation, Muhammed confessed to