

shop was found in his pocket. The shop attendant said that was



1 Dies In Chopper Crash

A chopper belonging to an oil company in Warri, with four passengers on board crashed this morning at the Delta Steel company town in Ovwian-Aladja near Warri Delta State, killing the pilot. Three of the passengers were

critically injured. And there were doubts whether one of them would survive the injury sustained.

Witnesses said police, army and fire service personnel rushed to the crash scene and cordoned off the site.

action was unusual, considering the fact that he had given Akala unflinching support and even openly endorsed him for the 2007 governorship race in Oyo State, on the occasion of his 79th birthday.

The governor also had the shock of his life yesterday when only two of his commissioners attended the album launch.

Other members of the cabinet, as well as members of the State House of Assembly, also stayed away. Only Akala's deputy, Azeem Gbolarumi and the secretary to the State government, were the prominent members of his government in attendance, apart from the two commissioners, supervising education and environment, Professor Nurudeen Alao and Engineer Ayo Ola respectively. Chief of Staff to the governor, Zakariyau Balogun and his Special Adviser on Communication and Strategy, Diran Odeyemi also attended.

Others were the Chairman of Ibadan North Local Government Council, Demola Omotoso who represented ALGON, Managing Director, Dudu Heritage Limited, Ola Ibiroke and Managing Director of Bank Digital World, Adebayo Adedeke.

Speaking at the occasion, Chief

Olakojo and Odeyemi disagreed over the genesis of the project.

While Odeyemi said the project was the idea of the government, Olakojo pointed out that the project was a surprise to the government as he did not know about it.

Meanwhile, it was further gathered that Adedibu is beginning to keep Akala at arms' length following reports that he (Adedibu) had been exposed for engaging in anti-party activities.

Sources said Adedibu's support for Akala's governorship ambition was a deliberate ploy to prepare the way for Senator Ajumobi to clinch the governorship seat in 2007.

It is believed that Akala, who is from Ogbomoso may not make any headway in Oyo State during the election if the PDP finally fields him whereas Ajumobi, who may contest under the platform of AC, would stand a better chance because "he is the son of the soil who won with a landslide during the 2003 senatorial election in Adedibu's Senatorial District, even though he was in AD, a rival party to Adedibu's PDP.

Ajumobi is said to be more popular among the electorate than Akala who is seen to be a non-Ibadan in Igbo.