

# 5 die in road crash, gas explosion in Ondo, Ogun

**From Bamigbola Gbolagunte, Akure and Laide Raheem, Abeokuta**

**THREE** persons, including a commercial motorcycle operator, known as okada rider, yesterday, lost their lives in a ghastly accident along the Akure-Idanre express road in Akure, the Ondo State capital.

The accident, which occurred at a location close to Idanre, was reportedly caused by overspeeding by the motorbike rider.

It was learnt that the two passengers on the motorcycle were suspected internet fraudsters, otherwise known as Yahoo boys.

A source said the motorcycle had a collision with an upcoming truck at a sharp corner on the road and the three occupants died on the spot.

Although the victims were reportedly rushed to the hospital, they were said to have died on the spot.

The crash, however, led to unrest on the road, as some aggrieved commercial motorcycle operators, popularly called okada riders, and residents of Idanre set the truck ablaze.

Also, yesterday, at least two people were feared dead as a gas explosion

rocked the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library (OOPL), Abeokuta, Ogun state capital.

The explosion occurred at the Marquee Event Centre, situated in the premises of the Presidential Library.

An eyewitness said the explosion was triggered when technicians were

topping up gas into one of the air conditioners at the event centre.

Meanwhile, the two gates leading into the OOPL were shut to visitors when Daily Sun visited the Library.

The incident occurred around 11.00am at the OOPL, which is adjacent to the Conference Hotel

where a gas also exploded on Tuesday, killing two people.

The hotel, owned by former governor of the state, Otunba Gbenga, is still under lock and keys following the gas explosion, on Tuesday.

No fewer than six people, including an infant, have died in three different gas explosions in Abeokuta, in the last two weeks.

## Scores injured as motor park touts, soldiers clash in Lagos

**By Christopher Oji**

**THERE** was pandemonium, yesterday, at the Oshodi area of Lagos, when soldiers from the Nigeria Air Force (NAF) clashed with motor park touts and some hoodlums, leaving many injured, while some people were robbed of their money and other personal belongings.

Many people believed to be touts were taken away by the soldiers at the Capa Motor Park in Mosafejo area of Oshodi.

Trouble started when the soldiers heard about the death of one of their colleagues who was allegedly murdered, on Monday, by hoodlums, on top of the Oshodi bridge.

A source told Daily Sun that the personnel of the NAF was allegedly murdered by hoodlums, on Monday, while his body was seen on top of

the bridge, on Tuesday, and evacuated by government officials to the morgue.

Early in the morning, yesterday, Military personnel stormed the popular Capa Motor Park to question the chairman on what he knew about the death of the soldier, but the touts, who thought their chairman was being arrested by the soldiers, started throwing stones, bottles and cudgels at the soldiers who got angry and started shooting

into the air. The touts were said to have touched the patrol vehicles belonging to the soldiers.

It was gathered that there was pandemonium as residents, traders and road users ran for cover. Motorists and their passengers also abandoned their vehicles, while many passengers were stranded as no commercial vehicle driver had the courage to pass through the road as the soldiers had taken over the entire area.

## Police arrest 4 kidnappers, rescue 2 vi

**POLICE** Public Relations Officer in Plateau, Mr Gabriel Ubah, said the command has arrested four kidnappers and rescued two victims from them.

In a telephone interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), yesterday, in Mangu Local Area of the state, Ubah said the command was also making efforts to rescue the remain-

ing two victims from the kidnappers.

He recalled that the kidnappers had unleashed terror on Gaya Layout near Chichim Quarters in Mangu town around 8.30pm, on May 19.

But the police and members of a vigilante group accosted them and arrested four of them, while others escaped with four victims.