

# Auto crash claims 18 in Katsina

From MU'AWUYA B. IDRIS, Katsina

A FATAL accident along Katsina-Kano road has claimed the lives of about 18 people, *Daily Triumph* can reveal.

The accident occurred at the weekend at Abukur junction in Rimi council area and involved a lorry with registration number KA 458 CRC and Nissan Urban with registration number AE 295 SML.

*Daily Triumph* learnt that the accident occurred when the two vehicles collided, which led to the death of the driver and all the passengers on board the Nissan Urban.

An eyewitness told *Daily Triumph* that the driver of the lorry escaped unhurt while some passengers sustained serious injuries.

The eyewitness who identified himself as Malam Abdulmajidi Sa'idu Abukur, said the driver of the lorry was coming from Chiranchi village, and while trying to escape from running into a pot-hole, the lorry collided head-on with the Nissan Urban coming from Katsina.

Malam Sa'idu explained that early presence of an ambulance at the scene of the accident, which took the injured passengers to Katsina General Hospital saved the lives of some of them.

He further said that both himself and some good samaritans used cutlasses to remove mangled dead bodies out of the bus.

Our correspondent who visited the scene of the ac-

cident last Saturday, learnt that the Nissan was completely damaged beyond repairs.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Rimi council, Comrade Bilya Rimi, has described the fatal accident as disastrous and prayed

for the repose of the deceased souls.

Comrade Rimi, who condoled with the families of the victims, called on the federal government to dualise Kano-Katsina road to minimize accidents along the road.

## Learn from Sokoto Caliph

From KBIRU YUSUF, Abuja

PRESIDENT Olusegun Obasanjo said in Abuja that the whole country could learn a useful lesson on the merits of orderly transition from the peaceful manner in which the new Sultan of Sokoto emerged.

Receiving a delegation from Sokoto state which included Governor Attahiru Bafarawa, Sultan Sada Abubakar III, former President Shehu Shagari and other notable indigenes of the state, President Obasanjo commended the expeditious way in which the new Sultan was chosen "unanimously, without conflict and without rancour".

"This sort of oneness augurs well, not only for the royal family, but for all of us. The position of leadership is given by God. It is a lesson for all of us even in the exercise we are embarking upon," President Obasanjo said, referring to preparations for next year's general elections.

While condoling the government and people of Sokoto state once again over the death of Sultan Muhammadu Maccido and others in the recent crash of an ADC Airlines aircraft, the President restated his "deep personal loss" at

the late Sultan's demise, describing him as "a man of peace, a man we all adore and a man who lost his life in the quest for the best for Nigeria".

President Obasanjo prayed that God Almighty will direct and support the new Sultan in the arduous task of following in the

## OPEC

ALI Al-Naimi, Saudi Arabian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, said yesterday that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would cut oil output again to check rising fuel stocks in consumer nations and to restore stability in the global market.

Naimi said OPEC, at its meeting on December 14, is all set to address the growing concerns of the energy exporting countries and will decide a future course of action. However, he said that oil prices were not a decisive factor every time.

The minister was speaking to journalists after delivering a keynote address at a high profile energy conference in Riyadh yesterday. More than 100 senior officials including energy experts from over 35 countries are participating in this two-day event enti-