

displeasure over the Lagos State Police Commissioner's statement that the tragic incident was caused by an electrical fault.

One of them who could not hide his consternation over the report, attempted to rough handle some newsmen, blaming them for taking sides with the police. The report, according to some of them, was part of the reason why some journalists were barred from entering the deceased's apartment.

"Why would you people believe everything that is said? Is investigation not part of your job. Look around for yourselves, are there any electrical gadgets here? Then, why must you add that in your report?" Mr Showunmi, as he was later identified, asked.



Vehicles involved in an accident on Airport Road at Lugbe in Abuja, yesterday.

## Police dock masqueraders over murder of Islamic cleric

BY DAUD OLATUNJI

**ABEOKUTA** — THE Ogun State Police Command, yesterday, arraigned three masqueraders before the State Magistrate Court 4 sitting in Isabo, Abeokuta, for allegedly killing an Islamic cleric, Lateef Amusa, during an Egungun festival.

The three masqueraders — Shittu Adeyemi (61), Waidi Babalola (64) and Ajani Olabintan—were standing trial over their involvement in the alleged killing of Amusa during the festival held at Ijaye,

Abeokuta.

The Islamic cleric, Lateef Amusa, was allegedly shot dead during an Egungun festival in Ijaye area of Abeokuta, leading to the arrest of the three suspects while the masquerade was said to have escaped.

The prosecution counsel, Augustine Ozimini, told the court that two of the suspects, Babalola and Adeyemi, who were first and second defendants in the suit were charged to court for conducting masquerade procession without permit from the state government and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 3 (a) (b) of the Public Order Law of the Federation, while the third suspect, Olabintan was facing a murder case.

Counsel to the first and second respondents, Adebisi Ogundeyi, however, prayed the court to grant the application for bail on the ground that the offence committed by the accused persons was bailable.

Granting the bail application, Magistrate Idowu Olayinka said only two of the three accused persons would be granted bail in the sum of N500, 000 each with two credible sureties in the like sum.

The Magistrate further said that the sureties must also exhibit title documents of landed properties within the jurisdiction of the court and an evidence of tax payment in the last three years to the purse of Ogun State government.

## Police probe killing of Customs officer by colleague

BY EVELYN USMAN

**LAGOS** — THE Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Mr Umar Manko, yesterday said investigation into the alleged killing of an Assistant Superintendent of Customs, Baba Mohammed, last Saturday by his colleague, along Seme-Badagry expressway, had begun.

Currently, the Customs officer, Oseni Musa Tunde, a Deputy Superintendent of Customs, attached to the Federal Operations Zone 'A' Ikeja, who allegedly pulled the trigger that killed his colleague, according to Manko, had been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Yaba, for further investigation.

Manko spoke while

answering questions from newsmen during a parade of a prophet and his accomplice found with human parts, weekend.

The late Mohammed was reportedly shot by Musa who

led a team that intercepted two vehicles suspected to have been loaded with contraband goods at Celenizer bus-stop.

However, spokesman for the Federal Operations Unit, Uche Ejiesime described the incident

as an accidental discharge, explaining that a service pistol in Musa's possession fell and accidentally discharged, following stiff resistance from owners of the intercepted vehicles.

## 3 die, 3 others injured at illegal mining site in Ebonyi

BY PETER OKUTU

**ABAKALIKI** — NO fewer than three persons were, weekend, confirmed dead while three others sustained injuries following the collapse of a mining pit at Enyim-Agalegu Ndufu Alike in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

The ugly incident which took place at the early hours of the fateful day threw the village into

confusion as the victims were mainly youths of Agalegu Alike Ikwo, Governor Martin Elechi's ancestral home.

In their reaction, members of the community described the death of the youths as untimely and painful.

Those who died as a result of the incident were Amobi Nwaonu, 18, Echezomunna Onuhia, 13, and Chibueze Nweke, 18. While Uche Nwancho, Obinna Nweke and

Emmanuel Mba who sustained injuries were still receiving treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of the Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki.

Vanguard gathered that the victim left their homes at about 7a.m on the fateful day to the mining site without the premonition that the pit would collapse on them as such trade was common among youths of the area.