

FLIVE persons including a three-year old baby were yesterday feared dead and others wounded when a commercial vehicle rammed into a market at Ojo area of Lagos State.

The child identified as Tolu died later in an undisclosed hospital, while it was not clear as at press time, if his mother survived the auto accident.

Daily Champion learnt that the commercial bus with registration number XA149AAA allegedly lost control and hit a car marked GP828AAA before further crashing into Vespa Market on the Badagry Expressway.

A witness said the traders and customers alike were taken unawares by the incident, resulting into pandemonium.

She said, the vehicle hit one Emmanuel Bayo (30), who was allegedly one of the deceased, and several others buying used shoes and clothings.

She noted that a building in the market was pulled down by the vehicles which rammed into it.

The source, further disclosed that two pregnant women who were hit by the car are on the danger list in an undisclosed hospital at Badagry.

Daily Champion learnt that scores of injured people are also receiving treatment at an Ijanikin hospital, Ojo.

Also at Berliet Bus stop, on Oshodi/Apapa Expressway, one Ifeoma Onyebuchi (30) was crushed by another commercial bus while five others sustained

Vehicle crashes into market, kills 5

injuries and were rushed to hospital.

Confirming the incident, Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni said only three people died, at the Vespa Market noting that they died at the hospital while receiving

first aid. He also confirmed the incident at Berliet bus stop

Ojajuni, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) said the injured traders are receiving treatment at a hospital in the area.

"The car lost control and hit

one Nissan and crashed into Vespa Market, some market women and men sustained injuries, and were hospitalized but three of them later died in the hospital."

He added that their bodies have been deposited in a public mortuary for autopsies

Coup: Thai Army gives transition time-table

FUNKE ODUWOLE,
with agency report

A new Prime Minister for Thailand would be named in a fortnight, while new elections would hold in a year's time once a new constitution had been written.

Leader of the military coup in Thailand, General Sonthi Boonyaratgrin announced this transition timetable yesterday in a news conference in the country's capital, Bangkok.

Tanks rolled into Bangkok late on Tuesday, and martial law was declared, with large gatherings of people banned. The UK's foreign office confirmed that Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was expected in London later on yesterday.

The coup followed months of growing tension in Thailand, with protests against Mr Thaksin and a general election which was annulled due to concerns about its legitimacy.

So far, reporters in Thailand said the atmosphere remained

calm and no outbreaks of violence have been reported.

In the news conference on Wednesday evening, Gen Sonthi claimed he was acting in line with the wishes of the Thai people, blaming government mismanagement for forcing coup leaders to act.

But he denied the military wanted a permanent hold on power, attempting to reassure his audience by putting a deadline on how long he would remain in power. "We have two weeks. After two weeks, we will step out," he said.

He said coup leaders were considering candidates to appoint as the new prime minister, who would rule until fresh elections in a year's time. In the interim, he said, a new national assembly would be appointed to draft a new, permanent constitution.

He said "fellow countryman" Mr Thaksin would be welcome to return to his homeland, but warned he could face criminal charges for corruption.

In an earlier TV address on

seizing power, Gen Sonthi said coup leaders had "agreed that the caretaker prime minister [Thaksin] has caused an unprecedented rift in society".

The UK's foreign office has confirmed Mr Thaksin is expected in London, "as he has relatives in the UK".

In the capital Bangkok, tanks have cordoned off the government district. They have yellow ribbons tied around their barrels to signify loyalty to Thailand's revered king - who, Gen Sonthi said, had nothing to do with the coup.

The BBC's Kate McGeown in Bangkok says on the surface it is functioning as normal. But she says there is a strange quietness about the usually vibrant city.

Regional army commanders have been in charge of areas outside the capital, Bangkok, and Wednesday has been declared a public holiday.

BBC World, CNN and other international TV news channels have been taken off the air, while Thai stations have been broadcasting footage of the royal