

Auto crash claims 3 lives on Asaba- Benin road

CAJETAN MMUTA, *Asaba*

ONE person was roasted while two others on a motorcycle were crushed to death in an accident in Asaba, Delta state capital along the busy Benin-Onitsha expressway.

The incident which occurred Monday around 7:54pm involved a long trailer vehicle filled with about 35,000 litres of petrol and an *Okada* rider carrying a passenger near the Hausa cattle market in the capital city.

According to an eyewitness, an *Okada* man with his passenger were on the wrong lane on the dual carriage route close to the market and had wanted to make a short and quick cross to the market when suddenly, the two were crushed to death by the fast moving trailer vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle was said to have lost control while trying to avoid hitting the *Okada* man and the passenger but could not as he was already close to them, thereby losing control and in the process rammed into a tree on the road and went up in flames.

The conductor of the lorry was trapped in the fire while the driver sustained serious injuries.

Rescue team of men of the state Fire Service and officers of the Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, were quickly

alerted who put off the raging fire before the charred bodies of the victims were removed.

The sector commandant of the FRSC in the state, Mr. Oluwasusi.O.Familoni who confirmed the incident disclosed that the plate number of the trailer vehicle could not be seen as it was burnt to ashes while that of the motorcycle was given as QF 484 LEH, adding that three male adults lost their lives in the fatal accident.

Abia gets ne

JAYNE UCHE-UKONNE, *Aba*.

GOVERNOR Theodore Orji of Abia state has sworn-in six new permanent secretaries and warned that any one of them found indulging in corruption or nepotism would be booted out of office.

He gave the charge after the swearing-in of the first set of permanent secretaries appointed by his administration. They include the former accountant-general of the state, Dr. Vivian Umah, the director of Protocol, Mr Onyii Wamah, one lady and three others at the executive chambers of the Government House, Umuahia.

He charged them to be