

CITY NEWS



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Al-Habibiyyah
frees inmates to
mark Islamic New
Year

By Abbas Jimoh

IN commemoration of the Islamic New Year, Hijrah 1433, Al-Habibiyyah Islamic Society of Nigeria yesterday freed 10 prison inmates after paying their fines at Suleja Prisons, in Niger State.

The Islamic group was led by their secretary Alhaji A'Ganiyu A'Rasaq, while Administrative Secretary, Adebisi Abdulfattah, handed over N80,000 to pay for the inmates fines in order for them to be set free.

Abdulfattah, who said the money was paid from the society's

18 passengers die in Awawa auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Ishah

TRAGEDY struck on Saturday night when 18 passengers of a commercial bus lost their lives in an accident on Saturday night at Awawa village, along Abuja-Lokoja road.

Our reporter gathered at the scene that seven others all males, sustained various degrees of injuries and were rushed to Abaji General Hospital by officials of the Fed-

eral Road Safety Commission (FRSC).

A witness, Danlami Shuaibu, said the accident happened at about 10:24 pm, when an 18-seater Toyota Hiace bus overloaded with 26 passengers overtook another vehicle while on speed and collided with an oncoming Daf truck with registration number XD 812 GKA, killing 18 persons on the spot.

"The bus with registration number XA 141 ABS had the

driver and three other persons in the front seats, who were all trapped.

Some villagers brought axes and other implements to remove corpses from the damaged bus.

A witness said the bus was heading to Port Harcourt from Jigawa State when the incident happened.

Commenting on the accident, Abaji FRSC unit Commander, Joseph Onyemauche Ezech, said 18 males died on the spot and attributed the accident to wrong-

ful overtaking by the commercial bus driver.

"The corpses were conveyed in a chartered bus to Jigawa State for burial as requested by the deceased persons' relatives," the commander stated.

He described the accident as the worst this year and appealed to the Federal Government to expedite action on the completion of the dualized Abuja-Lokoja road in order to save lives of innocent Nigerians.