

■ Traders on a pedestrian bridge in Kubwa. The bridge is a location for business activities especially at night.

3 burnt to death as bus plunges into ditch at Yangoji

By Taiwo Adeniyi

Three persons, including a driver, were burnt to death on Tuesday after a bus plunged into a ditch near Government Secondary School (GSS), Yangoji village, on the Abuja-Lokoja expressway.

A witness said the incident happened around 2 a.m. when the tyre of an unmarked J5 Peugeot bus busted while on top speed.

He said the situation forced the driver to lose control,

veered off the road and crashed into a ditch.

He added that the vehicle caught fire on the spot with the passengers trapped inside.

"Even the officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) did not notice on time, until a thick smoke was seen rising and a passer-by went to the scene, saw burnt corpses and went to inform the FRSC officials," he said.

When contacted, Yangoji unit commander of the FRSC,

Austine Chukwudi Okeke, confirmed the incident.

He said his men were alerted by passers-by after discovering a thick smoke billowing out from a ditch.

He said that the corpses of the trapped passengers were removed with an extricating machine and buried at Yangoji.

In another incident, a commercial cyclist and his passenger sustained injury after they were knocked down by a motorist at Abaji, on the Abuja-Lokoja road.

A witness said the accident happened around 5 p.m. when the cyclist conveying a passenger to Manderegi village was knocked down by the motorist who sped off the scene.

They said the victims were taken to the hospital by FRSC officials.

When contacted, Abaji unit commander of the FRSC, Moses Audu, confirmed the incident, saying the victims were taken to to Abaji General Hospital.