

11 die in Osun auto accident

TRAGEDY struck in Osun State yesterday as 11 persons including a three-month old baby were burnt beyond recognition during a road accident that left 16 people seriously injured.

Most of the victims reportedly left a village in Ile-Ife suburb for the Id-el Kabir and the new year celebration but met their untimely death at Agbungbu area around Sekona town.

The accident which occurred around 10.am along Ife-Osogbo road threw the entire communities around the accident into serious mourning.

Villagers were seen wail-

*From Seun Adeoye,
Osogbo*

ing while men of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and some handful policemen were battling to rescue some of the survivors.

According to a witness, Moruf Olasupo, the driver of a Toyota panel van with registration number AE 610 EDE, tried to overtake a Toyota 10-seater bus but lost control of the vehicle.

The situation, he said, led to the panel van hitting the bus and immediately there was an explosion and instant fire which gutted the two vehicles.

The 10-seater bus with

registration number Osun XA 247 FNN reportedly carried 26 persons with other heavy luggage.

Besides, a motorcycle with registration number QA 786 SSU behind the bus which was heading towards Osogbo ran into the fire but the rider reportedly sustained a minor injury.

While the 16 people who were badly burnt were taken to Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital (OAUTH), Ile-Ife and the remains of the dead victims were deposited at the morgue of Ladoke Akintola University of Technology

(LAUTECH), Teaching Hospital, Osogbo.

The Acting Sector Command of FRSC, Oke Peter disclosed that a sum of N13, 000 was recovered at the scene of the accident.

He stated that there was the possibility that one of the vehicles could be carrying fuel in jerry cans hence the sudden explosion of the two vehicles after the crash.

Oke appealed to motorists especially during the Yelutide to be cautious on the road. "Motorists should stop carrying fuel in jerry cans and stop overspeeding or drinking alcohol. It is dangerous to do any of these, he said."

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