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Nine die in Maiduguri auto crash

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

NINE persons were feared dead on Tuesday on the Bama-Maiduguri Road near the Maiduguri-Dalori Estate when a Peugeot 504 station wagon collided with a truck carrying sand.

The accident occurred when the truck came out from the Ngada River area and hit the station wagon with nine passengers which was heading to Mubi, Adamawa State at 7.45 p.m.

Eyewitnesses said that the truck had no headlamps, which may have contributed to the driver ramming into the car. According to them, all the occupants of the car died on the spot while four others suspected to be in the truck, sustained injuries.

The Borno State Police Public Relations Officer, Bello Bilyaminu told The Guardian yesterday that the driver of the truck with registration number Borno XA 524 NGL has been arrested while further investigation into the mishap has started.

He warned motorists against driving in the night without headlamps, adding that because of the hazards associated with night journeys, all road users should exercise caution.

All the bodies of the victims have been deposited at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital for identification by their families and relations.

The crash brought to 85 the number of deaths from motor accidents in one month on the Maiduguri- Damaturu-Bauchi Road. It was on the same highway that 46 soldiers, who were returning from a peace-keeping mission in Darfur, Sudan, died recently.

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