

Auto Crash Claims 30 Lives On Shagamu-Benin Expressway

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Thirty people were believed to have died on Thursday in a motor accident on the Shagamu-Benin Expressway.

Details of the crash were scanty at press time. But reports said a petrol tanker collided with a commercial bus heading

towards the East. Both exploded.

Radio reports monitored in Lagos said the impact was

so severe that sympathisers had to use metallic objects to dismember the bodies of those

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trapped in the bus to rescue others.

The accident led to a heavy traffic jam on both sides of the busy highway.

On Wednesday, 15 people died and 10 others were injured in an accident at Mandargi village near Abaji on the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

Jonas Agwu, Federal Road Safety Corps Sector Commander, said the accident was caused by dangerous overtaking and speed violation.

Those injured were taken to Abaji General Hospital, and the corpses to Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital.

The accident involved a Jeep marked NH 813 KJA and a bus marked KG42 A28.

An eyewitness, Paul Oshawa, recounted that the crash occurred between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.

He said the Jeep was travelling from Lokoja to Abuja and the bus from Abuja to Okene.

"There was a collision between the two vehicles when the driver of the Jeep tried to overtake another

car travelling in the same direction," he said.

Two children and their mother died on the spot.

Besides, the FRSC noted that 188 people were killed in road accidents last year in Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States.

FRSC Zonal Commander, Samuel Obayemi, said 186 motor accidents were re-

corded in the three states during the year.

"We recorded accidents involving 34 trailers (articulated vehicles), 32 lorries, 43 buses, 19 pick-up vans and 296 motorcycles," Obayemi explained.

He said FRSC Sector Commanders have been directed to maintain 24-hour patrols in all highways under their watch.