

Delta: Auto crash claims 18, corps member involved, toddler rescued

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➤ • As one dies, several others injured in Edo

there was waiting and anguish as 18 people were feared dead in a motor accident involving a trailer and commercial bus, which occurred near the cattle market, Asaba on Thursday afternoon.

Most of the victims, who were travelling to the eastern of the country for the Yuletide, were burnt beyond recognition even as a toddler was rescued unhurt from the wreckage.

According to an eyewitness account, a trailer with registration number ABUJA XL 987 ABC was

heading towards Benin when one of its tyres suddenly burst near the newly constructed Maryam Babangida Way and somersaulted over the crash barrier. He said a mini bus marked ENUGU XA 594 ENZ, which was heading towards the eastern part of the country collided with the trailer that was fully loaded with gravel.

The bus was said to have burst into flames after the collision. Traffic was held for several hours while officials of Delta State Fire Service tried relentlessly to stop the burning vehicles and men of Federal Road Safe-

ty Commission (FRSC) butchered the bus to rescue trapped bodies.

However, Sector Commander of FRSC, Delta State, Luka Ikpi, said he was yet to get details of the accident.

➤ Similarly, another accident involving a Mitsubishi bus and Peugeot pick-up van on Thursday killed one person and left others seriously injured in Ekpoma, headquarters of Esan West Local Government Area of Edo State.

The accident, which occurred at about 2 p.m. along Benin\Auchi road just before the boundary between Esan West and Esan

Central local government areas, was due to a head-on collision.

It was gathered that a Mitsubishi bus with registration number XA 971 RRU heading towards Auchi collided with a van in the opposite lane while trying to overtake a car on its lane.

The driver of the Mitsubishi bus, it was further gathered, died instantly; while the passengers in the bus were seriously injured and later rushed to Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital. But the driver of the old pick-up van survived the accident with minimal injuries.