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29 Killed In Delta Auto Crash, Boat Mishap In Niger

Kola Eke Ogiugo

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A ghastly motor accident involving a Toyota Nissan car and two trailers loaded with goods on Monday evening between Ekwuoma Community and Igboodo along Benin-Asaba Expressway has claimed the lives of 18 persons, leaving the Toyota Nissan Car damaged beyond repairs.

Eye witness account said that vehicular movements were paralysed for several hours after the driver of the Nissan car lost one of the tyres to top speed and veered out of his way to Onitsha to crash into upcoming trailers that left six occupants including the driver dead on the spot.

It was gathered that goods in the two trailers were completely destroyed and scattered on the road, while 12 other persons who sustained fatal injuries died on their way to the hospital.

The eye witness further disclosed that it took the intervention of men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in the area to maintain law and order, especially with the crying and wailing of the victims' relations who besieged the scene of the accident.

The public relations officer of the FRSC in the state, Julius Bassey, explained that the accident was caused by over-speeding, adding that the driver of the Nissan car lost one of the tyres, a situation which caused him to veer out of his way to crash into the upcoming two trailers.

He warned road users against over-speeding and the use of bad tyres, especially Tokunbo tyres, saying efforts were being made to sensitise road users on the need to observe road signs and make use of solid tyres.

Meanwhile, 11 persons have been confirmed dead in a boat mishap that occurred Monday night in Garafinni Kodo in Borgu local government area of Niger State.

LEADERSHIP gathered that 18 passengers were on board and seven of the passengers survived while the 11 who died drowned as the villagers battled to rescue them.

It was learnt that the incident occurred when the boat coming from Garrafini Kodo to Garrafini hit a short tree covered by water and capsized.

Leadership checks revealed that in the early hours of Tuesday, officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) were seen at the accident scene clearing destroyed goods blocking the express way apart from the two trailers that were still stationary by the bush, but the Nissan Car with registration Number:- AA 132 XX damaged beyond repairs had been removed.

Some residents who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity and the frequent accident on the road, said many of the drivers who ply the express road over speeds adding that in most cases lose control while sometimes lose their tyres to careless driving attitude

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