

12 die in auto crash

AT least five people including two toddlers lost their lives yesterday in an auto accident between Omupo and Ajase-Ipo along the Ilorin-Offa highway in Kwara State.

The two kids were said to have accompanied their parents to a chieftaincy ceremony from Lagos and were on their way back when the incident occurred.

The accident involved a Toyota car with registration number Kebbi AE 177 BRK and an 18-seater Nissan Urvan bus painted in the yellow and black stripes used by commercial vehicles operating in Lagos, although its registration number is Oyo XC 857 BDJ.

Apart from the two kids, the other victims were three young men said to have been in the Toyota car.

Occupants of the commercial bus, about 17 in number, were said to be members of an extended family. They were said to have hired the bus from Lagos for a return trip to their hometown, Fajeroni, near Omupo and back to Lagos.

They were said to have made the trip to felicitate with an elderly female member of the family who

From Biodun Oyeleye, Ilorin

was honoured with a chieftaincy title in the village and were said to have barely left the village for Lagos 30 minutes before the accident occurred at the outskirts of Ajase-Ipo from the Omupo side.

Eyewitness account claimed that the accident occurred when the driver of the Toyota car, which was coming from Ajase-Ipo direction, attempted to avoid potholes on his lane but, lost control and made straight for the Lagos bound bus head on.

The two vehicles involved in the accident were seriously damaged. Luggage including clothes and edibles some littered the road at the scene of the accident.

When our correspondent visited the scene three people including the two kids who were suspected to have died were seen on the ground covered with clothes. Sources at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UIITH), confirmed last night that that corpses of the five people have been deposited in the mortuary.

Meanwhile another accident has claimed seven lives

on the Talata Mafara/Gusau road in Zamfara State.

Eye witnesses account at the weekend in Gusau showed that the road mishap which left several persons with serious injuries, occurred on Friday evening.

The report said the accident involved a Honda Erodeck car and an 18-seater bus.

According to the source, the car was coming from Talata Mafara, while the bus which was coming from the opposite direction lost control and collided with the former while trying to avoid potholes.

The source said that five persons died on the spot while the remaining two, including the only woman on the bus, died on the way to the hospital.

Confirming the report, the state Sector Commander of the FRSC, Alhaji Umar Liman, said all the injured persons were receiving treatment at the Federal Medical Centre, Gusau.

Liman, who attributed the mishap to the terrible state of the road, called on drivers plying the route to avoid over speeding and recklessness, describing the road as a death trap.