

•Victim dies in hospital

WHILE looking around, I saw that gas was rushing out of the tanker. I tried to alert commuters on the road. While doing that, I saw a big iron running towards the tanker; it looked like silencer (exhaust) of a vehicle; it ignited fire with the liquefied natural gas and exploded."

These were the words of Kabiru Okulade, driver of the gas tanker, that exploded on the long bridge of the Lagos/Ibadan expressway, on Wednesday night.

Okulade, who is in hospital, described the incident as shocking.

Eight persons including Okulade were injured. One of the injured persons died in hospital yesterday.

Four of them including the deceased were taken to Divine Touch Hospital in Ibafo, Ogun State; the remaining five are in Beachland Specialist Hospital, Arepo.

Okulade, bandaged from head to toe, said he parked on noticing that something hit the tanker to check if everything was okay.

He said it was while checking that the tanker exploded, adding: "The next thing I knew was that I fell from the bridge to the road below. Even as I fell, the fire came after me. While I was running, I fell, but stood up again and continued run-

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ning shouting help! help!! help!!!"

Two other survivors at the hospital with him, Abdul Oluwanisola and Femi Abodunrin, were passengers in a commercial bus going to Mowe-Ibafo. Their part of bodies were bandaged.

Oluwanishola said he was on his way to his Ibafo residence after leaving a site in Ojodu, Lagos.

"I was on my way home. It was a full bus. I only recognise the guy (Abodunrin) that is here with me. I don't know the other people. When we got to long bridge, I saw a tanker gas truck parking by the road side. There was no driver in the vehicle. I saw that the gas was leaking and everywhere was white. The floor was white also. By the time, our vehicle would get to the gas truck; we were trying to escape by speeding up. It was not up to two seconds before the gas exploded and everyone in the bus (commercial bus) was trying to rush out. I and the other guy jumped down from the bridge into a hole and hid under the other bridge that faces Lagos. We tried to hide there. There were three of us there and the light was coming at a full force, exploding, and the

Motorist shot, robbed