

Auto crash claims 14 in Jigawa

From LAMARA GARBA AZARE, Dutse

ABOUT 14 persons mostly in their mid-20s were reported dead on Saturday evening following a fatal road accident along Taura-Ringim road in Jigawa State.

An eye witness told *New Nigerian* that the accident occurred at Angayami village in Taura Local Government Area of Jigawa State involving a

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Honda Civic belonging to the Deputy Speaker of the Jigawa State House of Assembly, Alhaji Inuwa Sule Udi, which collided with a commercial bus which is coming from Hadejia town.

It was gathered that the accident occurred when one of the drivers was trying to avoid a pothole, as a result of which they had a head-on collision.

It was also gathered that 12 persons died instantly, including all the six young persons in the private Honda car, who were on their way to attend a wedding ceremony of their friend in Gumel town.

The commercial bus was conveying passengers from Hadejia Local Government Area of Jigawa State to Kano State.

Two of the deceased were buried on the scene of the accident as they were crushed beyond recognition, while the remaining five corpses were taken by their families for burial and the five seriously injured people died in Ringim General Hospital.

New Nigerian reports that as the news of the death of these six young people filtered into Ringim, the whole town was thrown into mourning mood as friends and families of the deceased started weeping uncontrollably. The Emir of Ringim, Dr. Sayyadi Mahmud, who was away for an official assign-

ment has to cut short his trip to be part of the sympathizers.

Jigawa State Governor, Alhaji Sule Lamido, who was on his way back to the state capital Dutse from Kazaure where he went for a condolence visit to the family of Abdu Idi, a permanent secretary who died last week made a stop over in Ringim to join hundreds of people in condoling the families of the deceased.

The youths from Ringim who lost their lives in the accident were Basiru Sule Udi, Basiru Suleiman Yaroro, Mamuda Suleiman Yaroro, Abdurra'uf Suleiman, Abdullahi Haruna and Nura Mansur.

A friend of the deceased, Abdurrahman Ringim, told our reporter that they slept with the two deceased in the same room the previous night discussing crucial issues not knowing that they would never meet again. He described their death as a tragedy and a great loss not only to Ringim people and their families but also to the nation at large.

Governor Lamido, while condoling with the families of the deceased, said their death was shocking, especially taking into consideration that they all died in their prime.

Alhaji Sule Udi, father of one of the deceased, could not control himself as he was seen crying amidst thousands of sympathisers.