

...CRIME, SECURITY, COURT

① Nine killed as container falls on commercial bus in Lagos

11 burnt to death in Ondo auto crash 2 Two killed in Bauchi accident

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② **N**INE persons, including two children, were on Sunday killed after a 20-foot container fell on a commercial bus in the Ojuelegba area of Lagos State.

The Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) confirmed the deaths and added that one person sustained injuries in the incident.

An eyewitness at the scene of the accident said the truck, which was heading towards Fadeyi area on Ikorodu road, lost control and fell on the bridge.

The permanent secretary of LASEMA, Dr Femi Oke-Osanyintolu, said: "Upon arrival at the scene, a truck conveying a 20-foot container was found to have landed on a commercial bus.

Further investigations re-

vealed that the bus was picking up passengers when the truck lost control and fell over it.

"After suspending the container load with the aid of the agency's forklift and cutting off the top of the bus with light rescue equipment, a single adult woman was extricated alive and taken to the trauma centre."

The LASEMA boss said: "A total of nine fatalities were recorded.

He said: "The agency's heavy duty Goliath and teams from Onipanu and Cappa are on ground. The Lagos State Fire Service, Federal Fire Service and Nigeria Police have been working on this situation."

Oke-Osanyintolu also added that: "Further investigation to be carried out by the Nigeria Police on the removal of the barriers on the bridge aimed at preventing trucks from ascending."

② In another accident, 11 people

were killed on Sunday morning after a vehicle they were traveling in collided with a truck at Soka Bridge in Ore, headquarters of Odigbo Local Government Area of Ondo State.

According to an eyewitness, the accident involved a Marcopollo bus and a truck, with the victims burnt beyond recognition.

The source explained that the truck drove against traffic and collided with the Marcopollo bus and two vehicles before bursting into flames.

He said: "The truck followed a one-way and in the process collided with the Marcopollo bus which was coming from the Benin-Lagos road.

"The bus caught fire immediately and there was no timely help to save the victims, as 11 of them were burnt beyond recognition."

Confirming the incident, the Ondo State sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Mr Eze-

kiel Son'Allah, attributed the accident to reckless driving and over-speeding.

He said the 11 passengers were burnt beyond recognition.

"The fire has been extinguished while the traffic is being controlled on the Benin/Lagos lane.

"The accident occurred as a result of excessive speeding on the part the drivers of the vehicles involved."

"Efforts are in top gear with other security agencies to remove the crashed vehicles from the road," Son'Allah said, adding that the remains of the victims had been deposited at the morgue of the General Hospital in Ore.

He advised motorists to always maintain speed limit, concentrate, exercise patience and obey all traffic rules and regulations while driving in order to save lives and property.

③ Meanwhile, in Bauchi

State, the FRSC confirmed that two persons were killed while 30 others were injured in an accident on Saturday at Miyabarkate, along Toro-Jos axis on the Bauchi-Jos highway.

According to a road traffic crash (RTC) report from Toro Unit Command, the crash involved three vehicles at about 1230p.m.

The report said 32 people, comprising 27 male adults and five female adults were involved in the accident, out of which two male adults died.

The injured victims and the corpses were later evacuated and taken to Toro General Hospital.

Meanwhile, the Corps Marshal of the FRSC, Dauda Ali Biu, has expressed concerns over the crashes.

In a statement, the FRSC's spokesperson, Bisi Kazeem, said while the corps marshal's concerns stem from the recurring container

crashes on Ojuelegba Bridge, he recommended the construction of barricades against articulated vehicles (tankers, trucks, trailers and other heavy duty vehicles) on the on the bridge as a permanent solution to the recurring crashes.

On the Soka Bridge, Lagos-Benin expressway, accident, he used the opportunity to caution commuters against route violation (popularly referred in the local parlance as 'One Way'), as well as driving against prescribed legal speed limits on all roads.

Kazeem said according to preliminary investigation conducted into the crashes, the Ojuelegba crash involved a Mack truck, which apart from engaging in excessive speed, also indulged in an act of wrongful overtaking, while the Soka avoidable accident involved a truck driven against traffic and a Marcopollo bus.

④ One killed as police foil armed