

16 perish in Edo accident

Sixteen people were killed in a motor accident that occurred on Friday involving a Mazda bus and a Mercedes 1113 truck along the Benin Bypass.

The two vehicles were traveling from Lagos to the eastern part of the country when the accident occurred. The Mercedes Benz truck's number is XA 351NCA (EBONYI), while the bus's number is XA795SKP (RIVERS).

The Edo State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. Sam Obayemi, who led the operation to extricate the bodies of the victims said the two vehicles were overtaking a trailer on the slope towards Ikpoba river when the accident happened.

He said the truck ran over the bus, crushing to death 15 of the occupants, while two of them were critically injured.

Emmanuel Obe, Benin

He said the driver of the truck which was loaded with bags of cement died in the accident while the motor boy escaped unhurt.

"Men of the FRSC Sector Command had a hectic time extricating the bodies of dead victims from beneath overturned bags of cement which the truck conveyed. Some of the bodies were charred as the bus went up in flames during the accident," the Sector's Public Enlightenment Officer, Mr. Olusanjo Olumotanmi, said.

The injured victims, Olumotanmi said, were taken to the Guobadia Hospital along Benin - Auch road by the Mobile policemen who first arrived the scene.

He said the corpses of the deceased persons were deposited at Our Medical centre on Ikpoba slope.