

Nine die in Bayelsa road accident

Bisi Olaniyi, Yenagoa

IT was a tragic scene in Yenagoa on Tuesday night, when nine persons, including a male child, lost their lives in a road accident on the ever-busy Yenagoa-Mbiama Road.

The deceased, whose corpses had been deposited at the mortuary of the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa included seven

males and two females.

The only survivor in the accident was seriously injured and currently receiving treatment at the FMC in the state capital.

The Bayelsa State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. John Meheux, in an exclusive interview in Yenagoa on Wednesday, disclosed that the accident involving a Toyota Liteace bus

and a truck carrying chippings, occurred at about 8pm at the Opolo area of Yenagoa.

The green coloured commercial bus with registration number XA 221 NTT, ran into the truck without registration number, that was on the speed/fast lane and about to drop the chippings near Chief Stella Obasanjo Way.

The sector commander said that the bus driver, who also died in the accident, was speeding excessively in a "built-up" area, with the truck having poor brake lights and no reflective tapes.

Meheux said the state command immediately sent out a rescue team, but regretted that the victims died on the spot.

The badly damaged bus, coming from the Mbiama in Rivers State and heading for the Ekeki Park in Yenagoa, was still at the scene of the accident as at 12:45pm on Wednesday.

The truck driver, who escaped after the accident, was still at large as at press time, while the truck, which experienced minimal damage, had been removed.

Meheux said non-adherence to safety regulations led to the avoidable accident, stating that the truck ought to be on the slow lane and not on the speed lane.

He wondered why truck drivers and contractors decided to ignore the advice of the command on not dropping chippings on the road.

Hoodlums attack popular musician, Obesere

Kunle Adeyemi

A popular Yoruba musician, Alhaji Abass Akande, otherwise known as Obesere, narrowly escaped being lynched on Sunday in Epe, Lagos State.

Akande, it was learnt, was invited as a guest musician by the monarch of Epe to perform at the town's annual Kayokayo Festival.

Our correspondent gathered that before Akande began his show, some social miscreants had asked him to "settle" them but they were not satisfied with what they got from him.

The show continued until the early hours of Sunday. At about 5am, Akande was said to have stopped playing, but to the disappointment of the miscreants.

These miscreants, who apparently wanted the musician to continue playing, protested and demanded that the show should continue.

When they discovered that Akande was not ready to listen to them, the miscreants besieged the stage and began

to destroy musical instruments.

Some bouncers working for Akande resisted the miscreants and that resulted in a free-for-all.

It was alleged that during the scuffle, the miscreants carried away a box containing all the money that was sprayed on Akande during the show.

The musician himself was hurriedly parried away from the scene by his aides as the miscreants threatened to hit him.

The situation had degenerated before the arrival of a team of policemen from Epe Police Station.

The police later arrested six persons suspected to have taken part in the mayhem.

Our correspondent learnt that the musician insisted that the suspects be held liable for his damaged instruments and urged the police to track down other fleeing suspects.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Wednesday.

One killed, police station burnt in Sagamu bloody clash

Niyi Odebode, Abeokuta

A 28-year-old butcher, Jamiu Bello, was killed in Sagamu, Ogun State on Wednesday, during a violent clash between a vigilance group and an anti-oil pipeline vandalisation team.

During the clash, a police station at Sabo area of the town was burnt, while shops and hotels in the area were also vandalised.

No fewer than 10 vehicles were also vandalised during the crisis. When our correspondent got to the town at noon on Wednesday, there were burnt tyres and broken bottles on major roads in Akarigbo, Ijoku and Agura areas.

The roads were deserted as about 100 policemen drafted

to quell the riot patrolled the town.

There were two different accounts of the clash, which started at Sabo area of the town.

While some eyewitnesses said it was caused by the anti-oil pipeline vandalisation team's attack on some hotels, the state government stated that the team was attacked by some cult members.

An eyewitness, Emmanuel Adesanya, the proprietor of Victory Hotel, Sabo, in an interview with journalists, alleged that the problem started when the anti-pipeline vandalisation team forcibly entered his hotel at 12am on Wednesday.

According to him, the team, after scaling the gate of the ho-

tel, claimed that they were looking for oil pipeline vandals.

He alleged that they broke into the rooms of the hotel and rough-handed guests.

The man further alleged that one of the guests lost N30,000 during the attack. Adesanya added other hotels such as Adeolu and Goje, were also ransacked by the team.

Investigations by our correspondent showed that the actions of the team led to a reprisal attack on its members on Wednesday morning by a vigilance group.

The state government, however, confirmed the death of a man during the clash. It alleged that "some cult boys" attacked the anti-petroleum pipeline vandalisation security team.