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Trailer rams into market, kills 25 persons

By Femi Makinde, Akure with agency report

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The people of Ikare, Ondo State, were thrown into mourning on Thursday as a trailer which had a break failure, lost control and killed about 25 persons in a market in the town.

Our correspondent gathered that the accident occurred about 12noon as the truck, with Gombe State registration number, was descending the hilly road in front of the palace of Olukare of Ikare, Oba Akadiri Momoh.

An eyewitness, Mr. Hamzat Yusuf, said that he counted at least 25 corpses at the scene of the accident.

He added that two commercial motorcyclists were among the dead.

But the Police Public Relations Officer in Ondo State, Mr. Adeniran Aremu, said that only nine people died in the accident while four were critically injured.

He said that the truck lost control and crushed the victims before it was stopped by an electric pole.

According to him, the truck caught fire in the process and five commercial motorcycles were burnt.

But he said that the driver of the ill-fated truck escaped immediately he realised the havoc caused by the vehicle.

It was gathered that the bodies of the victims had been deposited at the Ikare General Hospital, while the injured were also receiving treatment at the same hospital.

The Public Relations Officer of the Federal Road Safety Commission in Ondo State, Mr. Olugbenga Mohammed, confirmed the accident.

He, however, could not give the casualty figure.

Mohammed sympathised with the families of the victims and warned motorists against overspeeding and reckless driving.

Meanwhile, over 25 shops were burnt in an early morning fire on Wednesday at the Ahmadu Bello Way in Jos, the Plateau State Capital.

A correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria who visited the scene said that many of the affected traders were seen clearing the debris of the burnt shops.

"When we got to this place, everything had been burnt while the fire was still burning," said one of the victims, Mr. Peter Charles.

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- 2. I am ready to step on toes — Oshiomhole
- 3. Four policemen, two others killed in Ibadan robbery
- 4. We have no information on Ribadu, police activities — Reps
- 5. Poor outing at MAMA
- 6. Trailer rams into market, kills 25 persons
- 7. N'Assembly budget may be slashed by 50%
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He said they were not sure of the likely cause of the fire, adding that security men at the scene informed them that an electric spark which occurred in one of the shops, when power was restored to the area triggered the fire.

Most of the shops affected were those dealing in children's wears, dressing materials, wrappers, second-hand shoes, plastics and sewing machines.







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