

Tanker explodes in Lagos, kills one

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ONE person was feared dead and six others were injured when a petrol tanker exploded, after veering off the Lagos-Badagry Expressway and crashing into a pole.

One of our correspondents learnt that the tanker, which was heading to Badagry, on the outskirts of Lagos, had a burst tyre at Aradagun bus-stop as the driver was on high speed. The resultant fire engulfed a bus, three cars, one motorcycle and five ice-cream carts.

Also, a resident of Aradagun area, Mr. Francis Ogundijo, told the *News Agency of Nigeria* that the tanker, with registration No. XS 465 AGL, "was on high speed

before it had a burst tyre, rammed into an electric pole and caught fire."

Ogundijo said the fire burnt a woman and the Honda car in which she was riding while her husband escaped.

"Three male and female occupants of the school bus that was burnt had serious injuries and have been taken to the Alafia and Badagry General hospitals," he told NAN.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Command, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the accident to one of our correspondents. He said that six other persons, who sustained injuries in the crash, were being treated at an undisclosed hospital.

Mba said, "It happened in the morning. Only one person was burnt beyond

recognition. A tanker carrying a petroleum product lost control and ran into a electric pole somewhere around Aradagun along Badagry Expressway.

"Four other vehicles were involved in the accident; one bus and three other cars as well as a commercial motorcycle were burnt to ashes. Five carts used by ice cream hawkers, which were parked by the side of the expressway, were also burnt to ashes. Six people were reported injured."

The Badagry Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Mr. Roland Onamusi, confirmed the incident to NAN. According to him, "I am only aware of the burnt woman and five others, who were taken to the hospital for treatment."

The Divisional Police

Officer, Badagry Police Station, Mr. Salihu Samuel, who was at the scene, told NAN that he was not aware if anyone was rushed to the hospital.

"I only saw the burnt woman in the Honda car," he said. The accident caused a traffic jam in the area while the driver of the tanker allegedly escaped mysteriously.

The Sector Commander, FRSC, Lagos State, Mr. Jonas Agwu, told one of our correspondents on the telephone that the accident was caused by overspeeding and a burst tyre.

Accidents involving tankers have become rampant in recent times in Lagos and its suburbs. Two weeks ago, a tanker caught fire at Ibafo on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, leading to the death of five persons and the razing of some other vehicles.

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