

Now three children, 11 others burnt to death on Lagos-Ibadan road - TRACE

Daud Olatunji, Abeokuta

At least 14 passengers including three children have been burnt to death in a fatal auto crash along Lagos-Ibadan Expressway on Thursday night.

Three others sustained injuries and had been taken to hospitals for treatment.

It was learnt that the accident happened around 10.20pm on Thursday at the Long Bridge axis of the expressway, Ogun State, inwards Lagos.

The accident involved a silver Toyota RAV 4, the number plate, LND 13 GS, a Toyota Camry, marked GGE 369 GJ and a burnt Mazda bus with an unidentified number plate.

Our correspondent gathered that the burnt commercial bus was involved in a wrongful overtaking before it hit a stationary faulty vehicle, the Toyota Rav 4, in the middle of the road.

The spokesperson for the Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps, Babatunde Akinbiyi, disclosed this in a statement on Friday.

Akinbiyi said many occupants of the bus were burnt beyond recognition, saying three of them sustained burns.

He said TRACE operatives, policemen and officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps rescued two victims to the Lagos State Accident and Emergency Centre, Tollgate, and one other to the General Hospital, Gbagada.

He said, "In all, 17 passengers were on the bus when the crash happened with three seriously injured and 14, among which were three children, burnt beyond recognition.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the burnt commercial bus was involved in wrongful overtaking before it hit a stationary vehicle (Toyota Rave 4) parked in the middle of the road due to breakdown.

"In the process, it lost control and somersaulted before it burst into flames. As of now, it can't be ascertained if the Mazda bus was fully loaded, but carcass of burnt bodies beyond recognition was noticed at the accident scene.

"While TRACE Corps commiserates with the family

of the dead victims, drivers are again warned to desist from speeding, wrongful overtaking and overbearing cum nonchalant attitude that expose other road users to risk and danger."

LASEMA, police disagree

Afeez Hanafi

The Lagos State Emergency Management Agency and the state's police command on Friday disagreed over the cause of fire at Cairo Market, Oshodi, Lagos, where about 101 shops, four offices and goods worth millions of naira were destroyed.

While LASEMA said the fire was caused by "some form of explosives/accelerants," alleging foul play, police dismissed the claim, describing it as a rumour.

It was learnt that the fire broke out at the fabric market around 8pm on Thursday, and spread to several shops before emergency responders arrived at the scene.

The LASEMA General Manager, Dr Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu, in a statement on Friday, said the fire was contained through the joint effort of the agency and state's fire service, lamenting that responders were attacked during the operation.

He said, "Initial investigations suggest that some form of explosives/accelerants were used, indicating some foul play. Relevant authorities including the Nigeria Police have been alerted to carry out further investigations. The fire affected 66 K-Clamp shops, 25 containerised shops, four administrative offices and goods worth millions of naira.

"Our firefighters were exposed to violence at the incident. Members of the public sabotaged our efforts by cutting our hoses in the middle to save their individual shops which affected the overall efforts of our personnel and caused damage to our equipment.

"Some members of our team were attacked with several sustaining injuries that required medical attention. It is of