

# Fatal crashes, deaths

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**TRAGEDIES** struck on Wednesday in parts of the country as families were thrown into mourning over the deaths of their loved ones.

In the various tragic incidents, several persons met untimely deaths majorly through road accidents.

**A drunk truck driver** reportedly crashed into a bus on Wednesday around the Castinjo/Ola Bus Stop on the Ota-Idiroko Expressway in the Ado-Odo/Ota Local Government Area of Ogun State, killing the bus driver and his motor boy instantly.

The driver, according to eyewitnesses, was driving at high speed when he lost control and rammed into the bus coming in the opposite direction, killing the bus driver and his assistant on the spot.

The spokesperson for the Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Agency, Babatunde Akinbiyi, in a statement sent to journalists, disclosed that the incident happened at about 6.48am on Wednesday.

He said, "A fatal accident occurred this morning along the Ota-Idiroko traffic corridor. Four male adults were involved with two presumed dead. The vehicles involved are an unregistered MAN truck and a red bus with registration number JND 224 GF."

"The driver of the bus and the motor boy died on the spot due to the impact of the collision while the drunk driver of the truck and its motor boy ran away."

Akinbiyi added that the bodies of the deceased victims were deposited at the Ife General Hospital while the vehicles involved had been evacuated to the nearest police station.

**Three killed in Lagos**

## Ibadan crash

Three persons lost their lives while two others sustained varying degrees of injuries on Wednesday in a single-vehicle crash around Edeko Bridge on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

The crash, which occurred at about 1.07pm, involved a green Toyota jeep with registration number BDG213BJ, carrying five passengers.

The accident was attributed to a tyre burst, which made the car lose control and crash under the bridge.

The spokesperson for the Federal Road Safety Corps, Ogun State Sector Command, Florence Okpe, confirmed this in a telephone conversation with our correspondent.

She said, "A total of five people were involved, consisting of four men and one woman, and two got injured, while the remaining three were killed in the lone crash."

Detailing the circumstances surrounding the accident, Okpe, in a statement obtained by our correspondent, said, "The crash involved one vehicle with registration number BDG213BJ, a Toyota Jeep, green colour."

"A total of five persons were involved (four male adults and one female adult) and two got injured while the remaining three were killed from the lone crash (two male adults and one female adult)."

The cause of the lone crash was Tyre burst speed which led to loss of control and the vehicle crash under the bridge.

"The injured victims were taken to Victory Hospital Ogere while the corpses were deposited at FOS Morgue, Ipara Remo."

## Lagos Oba dies after Salah prayer

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has mourned the passing of the paramount ruler of Isolo Kingdom, Oba Kabiru Alani Adelaja Agbabiaka, Adeola Olusili III.

The governor also commiserated with the people of Isolo and the family of the Osolo of Isolo Kingdom, Oba Agbabiaka Salii, who passed away on Wednesday at the age of 64 at the Lagos State Teaching Hospital shortly after observing the Eid prayers.

Sanwo-Olu, in a statement issued by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Gbonye Akosile, described the passage of the Osolo of Isolo Kingdom, as a great loss to the traditional institution and Lagos State as a

whole.

The governor said, "On behalf of the government and people of Lagos, I commiserate with the people of Isolo, the deceased family, friends, and associates on the transition of the paramount ruler of Isolo Kingdom, Oba Kabiru Alani Adelaja Agbabiaka, Adeola Olusili III."

"The death of Oba Agbabiaka is a great loss to the people of Isolo, and he will be greatly missed. He made lots of positive impacts during his lifetime, contributing meaningfully to the growth and development of his community as a traditional ruler."

"Oba Agbabiaka, as a first-class traditional ruler, left a lasting legacy that the people of Isolo Kingdom will continue to cherish. I pray that Almighty God be pleased with the soul of the late monarch and grant the royal family and the people of Isolo and Lagos State the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss."

The governor urged the family, friends, and associates of the deceased, as well as the entire people of Isolo, whose interests the late monarch represented and worked tirelessly for during his lifetime, to work towards immortalising him.

## Road accident claims two in Anambra

Two yet-to-be-identified individuals have died while one person was injured in a road crash that occurred on the Idemili-Oraifite road near Oba junction in the Idemili South



## One dies in Lagos fire accident

Some residents of the Lagos Island area of Lagos State have blamed the escalation of the fire that rocked the Dosumu Market area on Tuesday on the absence of a fire station around the market.

The inferno, which also left one dead, with nine others sustaining burn injuries and several goods damaged, raged overnight until Wednesday.

No fewer than 14 buildings were gutted by the fire which took place on Tuesday and lasted till Wednesday morning.

Peter Dada, Akure

**THE** Ondo State Security Network Agency, also known as the Amotekun Corps, on Wednesday, paraded no fewer than 45 suspected criminals in the state.

The suspects, who were apprehended by the corps' personnel across the 18 local government areas of the state, were presented at the headquarters of the corps in

The Lagos Territorial Coordinator of the National Emergency Management Authority, Ibrahim Farinloye, had, in a telephone conversation with our correspondent on Tuesday, said four buildings out of 14 collapsed.

"On Wednesday, the state fire service confirmed the death of a yet-to-be-identified victim."

Farinloye, who also blamed the cause of the fire on the careless refuelling of a generator in the penthouse of one of the buildings, decried the difficulty faced by emergency responders in accessing some of the affected areas.

The residents, while speaking with *The PUNCH* on Wednesday, urged the state government to take decisive steps by investigating the circumstances leading to the recurring fire incidents in the Lagos Island market.

Being the fifth fire incident recorded in the state central market in 2024, residents lamented the absence of fire service stations in the market.

A resident, who identified as Taofeek, told *PUNCH Metro*, "We have been seeing fire destroying goods and property in this market in the past year. It is high time the government provided fire service stations at different points in the market. These are standard facilities that a market of this nature should not lack and one of the reasons why the incident keeps recurring."

While citing issues relating to the planning of the structures, another resident, Feyisayo Benson, said, "The government needs to look into the structures and planning of the market. Their closeness is the main reason why the fire spreads quickly. Yesterday's fire would not have gotten to that level but because of the closeness of the buildings."

Another resident, who gave his name simply as David, said bad roads and overcrowding often hinder access to emergency responders during fire incidents in the market.

David said, "Some roads leading to the markets are

bad, the government should fix them. One of the Fire Service trucks got stuck in a flooded gully at Ojo Giwa and Oroyinrin Street yesterday while trying to access the scene of the fire. The overcrowding is also another factor."

Confirming the death of one person, the Director of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Margaret Adeseye, in a

statement on Wednesday, identified the victim as the person who was refuelling a generator in a penthouse of one of the buildings before it ignited the fire.

She said, "Regrettably, the incident claimed the life of the person who was refuelling the working generator that ignited the fire. Eight individuals suffered from carbon monoxide inhalation, and one sustained a fracture, all were treated and discharged on the scene by the Emergency Management Service."

Similarly, the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, in a statement by its Permanent Secretary, Damilola Oke-Osanlyotolu, on Wednesday, noted that the number of affected buildings had increased to 15 while six of the buildings had collapsed.

## Two drown in Lagos Lagoon

Two passengers reportedly fell into the Lagoon on Wednesday after a commercial bus crashed on the Third Mainland Bridge in Lagos State.

The *PUNCH* learnt that other occupants of the vehicle sustained varying degrees of injuries from the accident.

The Lagos Territorial Coordinator of the National Emergency Management Agency, Ibrahim Farinloye, in a statement, noted that the driver of the 18-seater bus,

who was speeding, swerved off the road and collided with the bridge rails.

He stated that the impact of the crash forcefully pushed the two passengers off the bus into the Lagoon, adding that the victims, adult male and female, were being searched for by the Marine Police.

"Personnel of the Marine Police were searching for



the two passengers, a male and female, who fell off the vehicle. The injured have been evacuated to a nearby hospital."

The spokesperson for the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Adebayo Taofiq, while also confirming the incident in a statement, disclosed that 18 seriously injured passengers were rescued by officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority from Zone 1, Lagos Island.

He added that the driver of the vehicle fled the scene of the accident.

"Police from Adeniji Adele Police Station provided security backup during the rescue of 18 seriously injured passengers by LASTMA officials."

"LASTMA Ojo-Oniyun Olamide (One Alpha, Zone 1 Lagos Island) who led the recovery operations confirmed that his team immediately evacuated the 17 commercial bus off the road for unhindered vehicular movement towards the Adeniji Adele area of Lagos Island," Taofiq stated.

He also confirmed that the Marine rescue team was inside the Lagoon on a search and

rescue mission. When contacted late Wednesday, NEMA boss, Farinloye, told *PUNCH Metro* that search and rescue efforts were still underway.

## Worshipper dies in Zamfara

The Police in Zamfara State have arrested a member of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps for allegedly killing a worshipper during this year's Eid-el-Fitr prayer.

Speaking to *The PUNCH* on the telephone on Wednesday, the spokesperson for the state police command, ASP Yazid Abubakar, said the NSCDC personnel was currently at the State Criminal Investigation Department.

Abubakar said, "The officer has been arrested and is now with the Criminal Investigation Department for further inquiries and action will be taken after the investigation."

Meanwhile, there was tension in the state following the killing of the female worshipper.

The officer was quickly attacked by an irate mob who wanted to kill him, but he narrowly escaped.

However, the angry youths burnt down the official vehicle belonging to the NSCDC.

## Motorcyclist shot dead

A yet-to-be-identified commercial motorcyclist has been shot dead by suspected gunmen at Ansarudeen Primary School in the Makun area of Sagamu, Ogun State.

The *PUNCH* learnt that the incident occurred at about 9.35pm on Tuesday when the victim was waylaid by the suspected criminals.

An eyewitness, who preferred not to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter, told our correspondent that the suspects forcefully took the deceased's motorcycle after shooting him.

The gunmen fled with his motorcycle after shooting him. We immediately alerted the police, who arrived shortly after the call. When they arrived, they found him in a pool of blood."

"He was unconscious at the time. So, the policemen and other residents quickly rushed him to Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital in Sagamu for treatment. But we later heard that he died," the eyewitness said.

Contacted, the spokesperson for the Ogun State Police Command, Omolola Odutola, said the perpetrators of the heinous crime had been apprehended and would face the full force of the law.

"Some residents informed the Sagamu Divisional Police Headquarters about the incident. Our officers swiftly

rushed to the scene, where they found the deceased unconscious. They took him to the hospital, where a doctor on duty confirmed the victim dead.

"The details of the deceased are still unknown. The corpse has been deposited at the OOUTH morgue for preservation and possible identification. In the meantime, some suspects have been arrested. Some exhibits were recovered, and the investigation is ongoing," Odutola said.

## Bayelsa police confirm 28-year-old police

The Bayelsa State Police Command on Wednesday confirmed the death of 28-year-old Victor Namabebe due to cult rivalry in Amara, a suburb in Yenagoa.

The command's spokesperson, ASP Musa Mohammed, told the News Agency of Nigeria in Yenagoa that the cult groups, Greenlanders and the Bobos, clashed on Tuesday at about 9.00 p.m.

Mohammed said the corpse of the deceased had been deposited at a hospital morgue in Yenagoa.

"At about 9.00pm, on Tuesday, one Chief Emmanuel Namabebe reported at the A Division of the Nigeria Police that his 28-year-old son, Victor Namabebe, was found dead at Amara area of the state capital."

"Police personnel from the A Division mobilised to the area and found the victim."

"Upon examination, he was found with various grievous injuries to the head," Mohammed said. NAN gathered that many of the residents, who were at various football viewing centres at around 8.00 for the UEFA Champion League matches, abandoned the game and scamped for safety.

## Ex-Kogi gov's son dies after Eid prayers

A former governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, has lost his son, Muhammad.

Muhammad was said to have died earlier this morning after Eid prayers.

He was said to have slumped at his Abuja residence. "Muhammad was a member of the House of Representatives between 2007 and 2011."

The elder brother of the deceased, Abubakar Idris, who confirmed the death, expressed sadness over Muhammad's death. While speaking with *The PUNCH* on the phone on Wednesday, Abubakar said, "It's true. He died this morning shortly after coming back to his residence after Eid prayers."

# criminal hideouts, recover weapons in Anambra

Locations around Amiyi and Ochuiche were combed for the insurgents.

"Troops of the Nigerian Army and the Nigerian Navy lent considerable firepower to the operation, which completely routed the hoodlums from their hideouts in the forest."

"Several camps were found and destroyed during the operation, which lasted several hours. Nine

improvised explosive devices recovered from the camps were safely defused by the police bomb squad."

The PPPO added that the Commissioner of Police in Anambra, CP Ademir Adeoye, commended the military for its steadfastness in supporting the fight against criminality.

The CP also thanked the DSS, NSCDC, NDLEA, NIS, and various vigilantes

groups across the state for the wonderful synergy that is yielding fantastic results in keeping Anambra State safe.

"The Commissioner of Police also warned cultists running amok in the state capital to be aware that their days are numbered. He warned that security will not fold its hands and watch them destabilise the state in the name of cult rivalry leading to fatalities."

# Ondo Amotekun nabs 14 suspected kidnappers, 31 others

Akure, the state capital.

During the parade of the suspects, the state Commander of Amotekun, Adetunji Adeleye, stated that the suspects would face the full force of the law for their crimes, stressing that they had all been profiled.

Providing a breakdown, the commander revealed that the paraded suspected criminals included 14 kidnappers, one dangerous driver, five burglars, two anti-grazing offenders, and five individuals arrested for

theft and the purchase of stolen goods.

Adeleye stated, "We arrested 14 kidnappers. We have a particular case where we were able to break the kidnappers' syndicate in Akoko LG. The two kidnappers are present and the bike the kidnappers were supplied with, in our stride to bring them out, the kidnapper that had already confessed was mached in several places by his fellow kidnappers who wanted to cover up the crime."

"The officers of the corps rushed the suspected kidnapper to the hospital, and he was treated. He has given useful information."

"This kidnappers' syndicate has confessed to several kidnapping activities in Akoko, Kogi and Edo areas. And we are still looking for their sponsor who is at large."

"We are reassuring the people that there is no hiding place for criminals in Ondo State."