

25 killed in Kaduna-Abuja highway, Bauchi road crashes

From **Sola Ojo**, Kaduna and **Paul Orude** Bauchi

FOURTEEN people lost their lives, while seven others sustained varying degrees of injuries in a fatal auto crash involving a commercial bus and a truck at Kilometre 27, close to Olam farms.

Preliminary findings revealed that the Toyota Hiace bus, ash colour, with the registration number BWR658YL, with 25 passengers on board, dangerously overtook another vehicle which led to a head-on collision with a DAF trailer, blue, with registration number PKM969XA, killing 14 people on the spot, with seven injured, while four others escaped unhurt.

Acting Sector Commander, Kaduna State Command, Deputy Corps Commander Garba Lawal, who confirmed the development to Daily Sun via a phone call, said the injured were taken to a nearby hospital, while the 14 dead bodies were deposited at St Gerald Catholic Hospital, Kaduna.

"It is true. The crash was caused by the commercial bus driver who embarked on dangerous overtaking, which led to a head-on collision with a trailer coming from the opposite direction," he said.

A witness recounted that the accident affected the free flow of traffic, while men of the FRSC were on ground to

manage the situation.

The Federal Government, under President Muhammadu Buhari, had, five years ago, announced its intention to repair the busiest federal road from Abuja-Kaduna-Kano.

However, due to poor funding, the contractors handling the project, including Julius Berger, have been economical with the pace of work, leading

to several deaths and the destruction of property.

The contractor handling this particular section of the road where today's accident happened had begun work on one lane, but abandoned it, forcing motorists in and out of Kaduna to use one lane.

Also, no fewer than 11 people were killed in another road accident which occurred

at Hawan Jaki village on Alkaleri-Gombe road in Alkaleri Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

The Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC), Bauchi State Command, Yusuf Abdullahi, who confirmed the incident to journalists yesterday, said two commercial vehicles were in-

volved. He said the fatal crash occurred on Saturday, at about 5.30pm and involved 20 people.

He said the FRSC rescue team arrived at the scene and rushed the victims to hospital, with nine confirmed dead by a medical doctor, while two others, who were injured and were receiving treatment in the hospital, later died.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)

2 die, 23 injured in communal, APC, PDP youth clashes in Plateau, Zamfara

From **Gyang Bere**, Jos

TWO people lost their lives while 23 others suffered injuries of varying degrees in a communal clash in Plateau State and another clash involving youths suspected to be supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Zamfara State.

In Plateau, one person was killed and five others injured when a group of youths suspected to be gang rivals clashed at Gwarandok community in Jos South Local Government Area. The incident, which occurred at about 7pm, last Saturday, left many people injured and the community deserted.

The fracas also grounded commercial activities in the area as shop owners hurriedly locked up in fear of reprisal by the gangsters. It was gath-

ered that some members of the gang had earlier launched an attack on the rival gang at Namu Junction, last Friday evening, but were repelled by local vigilantes.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Alfred

Alabo, confirmed the incident and said the police were alerted of the ugly incident, and when they arrived at the scene, two people were found in the pool of their blood.

He explained that one of the victims died and one was

in coma in an undisclosed hospital, saying he was the only person who could give a vivid account of the incident. Alabo noted that the police team was investigating the matter with a view to arresting those behind it.

(Continued on www.sunnewsonline.com)

Crisis: Ebonyi, Cross River communities sign peace pact

From **Magnus Eze**, Enugu

THE Erei communities on the western bank of Cross River State and the Unwana community, Afikpo, Ebonyi State have jointly entered into a Memorandum of Understanding geared towards having sustainable peace, despite their differences.

The peace pact was mutually entered into by elders, stakeholders and some village heads of both parties, including the Chairman of Biase and Afikpo North Local Govern-

ment Areas, Ada Egwu and Uche Ibiam, respectively.

In the MoU dated September 23, 2022 and titled: "The roadmap to genuine and lasting peace," the people appealed to the governments of Cross River and Ebonyi states to take measures towards finding lasting solution to the inter-community crisis in Western Erei, to enable the internally displaced persons, most of who are taking refuge in Unwana and Afikpo communities, to return to their homes.

Other major decisions agreed on were total ban on sporadic shootings within Unwana territory, as well as mounting serious checks by vigilance and security agents along Unwana-Erei route, especially during late hours; ensuring that the displaced Erei indigenes taking refuge in Unwana and Afikpo do not cause security risk, and have joint periodic meetings with the mandate to resolving issues of common concern to sustain mutual trust.

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