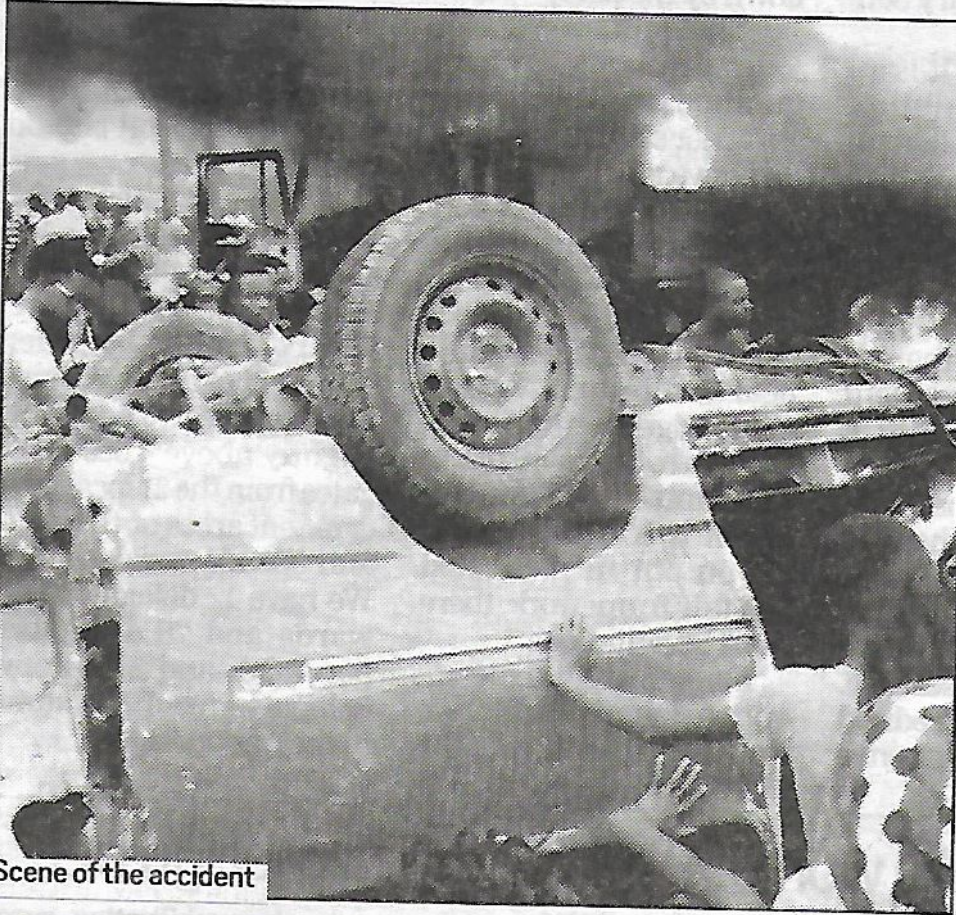


Pregnant woman, eight others die in auto crash

● Protesters ground economic activities in Edo



Scene of the accident

Cajetan Mmuta
BENIN

Tears flowed freely yesterday as a pregnant woman and eight others lost their lives in a motor accident at Upper Sakponba community near Benin, Edo State.

The accident which occurred about 6a.m., involved a tipper and a commercial bus driver on Upper

Sokponba Road near Oka Market in Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area.

The accident sparked outrage and subsequent protest by aggrieved residents, friends and family members of those who died and hundreds of commercial drivers plying the road.

It was learnt that all the occupants of the commercial bus with registration number BEN 435 ZN died in the accident.

Six of the passengers, among them the pregnant woman, died at the scene of the accident while three others gave up the ghost a few minutes after they were rushed to a nearby hospital.

Witnesses said driver of the tipper lost control of the vehicle and in the process rammed into the bus moments after it parked to pick an additional passenger on the road.

Angry drivers were forced to set up bon fires on the road while commercial and social activities were completely crippled. Also passengers resorted to trekking to their destinations.

The protesters also set ablaze the tipper while the driver disappeared.

Relations of those who lost their lives besieged the Benin Central Hospital morgue to identify the victims.

The Edo Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. Samuel Odukoya, confirmed the incident.

Odukoya decried the attitude of the protesters who he said prevented the FRSC rescue team from getting access to the scene.

One of the protesting bus drivers, who identified himself simply as Osas, said the protest and resolve by his colleagues not to continue their work was due to recklessness of driver of the tipper.

Landlord, tenant turn girl, 13, to sex slave

John Chikezie

Magisterial District, did unlawfully defile one 13-year-old girl child (name withheld)

Rape: UN

John Chikezie