

Four die in road mishap

By Simon Ebegbulem

BENIN—FOUR persons yesterday lost their lives while 12 others sustained serious injuries in three accidents that occurred near the Ovia River at the Benin-Lagos express road.

It would be recalled that the authorities of the Federal Road Safety Commission in Edo State had raised an alarm last June over the number of road accidents occurring at that particular spot which they attributed to the bad state of the road after 18 persons lost their lives in a ghastly motor accident and appealed to the Federal Government to urgently repair the road.

One of the accidents involved a trailer, a Hiace commercial bus and a luxury bus near the Ovia River. In that accident, 10 occupants of the commercial bus belonging to a Benin-based transporter were critically injured and were taken to the Igbinedion University Teaching Hospital, Okada for treatment.

In the second accident, the driver of a tanker carrying diesel veered off the road to

avoid collision with an on-coming vehicle, consequently, it overturned and blocked that portion of the road making it impossible for motorists to ply it.

Vanguard gathered that the driver and conductor of the tanker were rushed to the hospital at Okada for treatment too.

Four persons lost their lives in the third accident which involved a luxury bus and a commercial Hiace bus after they had a head-on collision along the same stretch of the road.

The Okada unit Commander of the FRSC, Mr. Chukwu-uma Uzor told *Vanguard* that all the accidents were caused by the violation of the one-way rule on the dualised road. It would also be recalled that a 911 lorry plunged into the Ovia River three days ago killing three of its occupants.

It was learnt that the youths of the area made rescue mission difficult when they insisted that the relations of the deceased must come and pay some fees so that they would appease the gods before the corps could be taken away, arguing that the deaths had desecrated the river.