

Oshodi auto crash: Death toll now seven

By Evelyn Usman

LAGOS—THE death toll of the auto crash that occurred Tuesday evening at Oshodi, Lagos, has risen to seven as indication emerged that three of the victims who were in critical conditions gave up the ghost yesterday morning in an undisclosed hospital.

The fate of about seven other victims comprising four females and three males are still hanging in the balance as doctors were said to still be battling to revive them. Among those in critical condition is a little girl whose age was put between nine and ten years. Their identities are however unknown as *Vanguard* gathered that they were unable to respond to questions posed to them, thus making it difficult to contact their relatives.

The tragic incident according to report, happened at about 4pm on Tuesday after a Mercedes 911 lorry fully load-

ed with frozen fish suddenly lost control on top of Oshodi bridge, along the Oshodi/Apapa expressway. In the driver's bid to control the lorry with registration number XP 916 AKL, it reportedly veered off the road and ran into unsuspecting commuters who were waiting to board buses to their different destinations. Eye witness said four of the victims died on the spot and about twelve others lost consciousness.

Some motorists stopped by to take the injured to the hospital. Report said about six of them were referred to the Ikeja General Hospital by doctors in a nearby private hospital who claimed their situations was beyond their handling.

The incident caused a hitch in traffic flow. Officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) and traffic policemen from Makinde, Akinpelu and nearby divisions saved the situation as the lorry was towed off the road and the corpses taken to the mortuary.