

17 burnt to death in auto crash

By Gbenga Olarinoye

OSOGBO—NO fewer than 17 people were burnt to death in a multiple accident that occurred on Thursday night between Gbongan and Ife, Ibadan

road. According to an eye witness the accident which took place at about 8 pm on Thursday involved four vehicles a trailer loaded with drinks, a commercial Peugeot 504 station wagon, a Mitsubishi truck and a BMW car. It

was noted that the vehicles were still on fire as at 10.30 am yesterday as many of the victims were consumed by fire.

It was gathered that the accident was caused by a trailer loaded with alcoholic drinks

which was coming from Ibadan end and defected to the other side of the road as a result of bad road.

Vanguard learnt that the three vehicles which were coming from the Ife end of the road, rammed into the trailer as a result of which there was spark which caused the fire.

It was noted also that fire prevented the combined team of police, Federal Road Safety Corps and men of fire services from saving the lives of those that were trapped in the accident.

As at the time of this report, the mangled bodies of some of the victims trapped in the accident were still burning while the bottles of drinks carried by the trailer were still exploding as a result of the fire.

A police officer ASP Aiyegbeinu who led the police rescue team to the accident scene confirmed that about 17 dead bodies had been taken out of the scene adding that the rescue team would have save more lives but for the fire which was causing the explosions of some bottles and scaring people from making efforts.

Mr Aiyegbeinu stressed that those that were rescued had been taken to emergence ward of Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital for treatment.

Kidnappers of ex-VC demand N100m ransom

By Jimitota Onoyume

PORT HARCOURT—GUNMEN who kidnapped former Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt and Chairman, Rivers State Indepen-

dent Electoral Commission, Prof. Nimi Briggs have reportedly demanded for a ransom of one hundred million before he could be released.

It would be recalled that about eight gun men had stormed the former's Vice Chancellor residence in the university on Thursday night to abduct him.

Though no group had claimed responsibility for the act at press time but sources said they established contact with the family demanding the ransom.

Meanwhile, the university authority has urged those behind the abduction to release him as the continued hold on him would do them no good.

A statement signed by the Registrar of the school,

Mr M Onyige reads: "The authorities of the university has condemned the abduction of a former vice chancellor of the institution, Prof. Nimi Briggs.

"The university vehemently condemns this flagrant violation of sanctity of the university campus as a center of academic excellence."

The statement also urged the police and other security operatives to act fast in securing his release.

Meanwhile, governor Rotimi Amaechi who visited the family of the hostage said the state government was doing everything possible to ensure his release. Prof Briggs is also the Chairman of an economic advisory committee recently set by the state government.

ground two rafts

fect its flight operations, Arik Air is apologising to its customers to bear with the disruptions the incidents might cost it.

"We sincerely plead with our valued guests to please bear with us as we take steps to rectify whatever disruption the incidents would cause to our operations.

"We remain resolute in our commitment to develop new routes and bring air travel to