

ACROSS THE

13 die in road accident

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—THIRTEEN passengers have been killed in a motor accident at Umuola, Umunakanu-Ama, Ehime Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State.

Among the victims were a man and his two children aged between two and four years, the bus driver and a pregnant woman.

The mishap involved a tipper with registration number AA450KWC and an 18-seater commercial bus, XB732ABA, with the inscription "Road Transport Employers Association, Aba South Chapter."

An eyewitness said a police patrol team on road block flagged the tipper down but the driver refused to stop and they gave a hot chase.

"In a bid to escape from the police patrol team, the driver

smashed the stationary commuter bus. The sad thing is that the police patrol team did not stop to assist any of the dying passengers, as they made good their escape from the scene," the eyewitness said. He also said the tipper driver escaped unhurt, while only three persons in the commuter bus, including the conductor that sustained varying injuries were quickly moved to nearby hospitals for medical attention.

Meanwhile, a young man (names withheld) that busied himself stealing from the dead accident victims was nearly roasted alive when he was caught in the act.

An eyewitness said that the sum of about N18,000 was recovered from the rogue while he was saved from being lynched by some good spirited individuals from the village.

Robbers kill fuel station manager in Owerri

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—THE Umuoke, Okpofe, Ezinihitte Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State has been thrown into mourning after some dare devil armed robbers invaded the residence of a petrol filling station manager, Mr. Edmund Adiele, and murdered him in cold blood after robbing him of unspecified amount of money.

A relation of the deceased, who simply identified himself as Chinonyerem, said when the rampaging armed robbers entered the compound, they switched off all the security lights.

The 45-year-old Adiele and father of five, hid in a corner of the compound but he was fished out by the hoodlums and dragged into his house.

"Soon after they robbed and snuffed life out of Adiele, they moved to the apartment of the owner of the filling station and the deceased's elder brother Chief Vitalis Adiele, but met only the wife, Mrs. Veronica Adiele, at home," Chinonyerem recounted.

Villagers said after the operation, the robbers came back, moves straight into the dead man's bedroom where he was still lying and pumped more bullets into his lifeless body, possibly in a bid to ensure that he was truly dead.