



NIGERIAN @ 51: Mrs. Florence Idowu; Ambassador Oluwole Idowu; Lebanese MP, and former Interior Minister, Yassin Jaber and his successor, Charbel Nahass during Nigeria's 51st Independence anniversary celebration in Beirut.

12 die, 16 injured in Ibadan auto crashes

BY OLA AJAYI

IBADAN—SEPARATE motor accidents in two different parts of Ibadan yesterday left no fewer than 12 people dead while 16 others were severely injured. The victims included two school children.

According to an eyewitness, the first auto crash happened on Ibadan-Ife road at the wee hours of yesterday while the second one which reportedly left five people dead occurred at Boluwaji area of the city.

The separate accidents resulted in traffic snarl that

forced many motorists to take alternative routes to their destinations.

It was gathered that an 18-seater Toyota Hiace bus marked LAGOS QX 362 LSR which was heading to Abuja, skidded off its lane and collided with the one coming from Ife end of the road.

Though, it could not be verified, it was gathered that the driver of the bus was drunk and could not control the bus when it went off its lane. It later ran into a truck on the other side of the road.

The impact of the crash, it was gathered reportedly led to the death of seven

occupants.

The Head of Operation, Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, Egbeda Unit Command, Mr. Dennis Ioryina said the truck with marked XT 134JJJ was faulty and parked by the roadside.

He explained that the driver of the Toyota Hiace bus, left his lane to escape armed robbery attack before he ran into the trucks.

FRSC officials were said to have organized a rescue operation which led the survival of some of the victims.

He said out of the 18

passengers, seven died while other survived with injuries.

According to him, the injured victims were taken to Axion and University College Hospital, Ibadan while the corpses were deposited at a Catholic Hospital, Ikire, Osun State.

In the accident that happened on Lagos-Ibadan expressway, five persons including two school children died.

The accident was said to have involved two trucks and a Volkswagen bus with number plates XA 760 BLR (Gombe) and XU 440 SAK and UZ 758 KJA (Lagos).