

# 30 die in Abuja-Okene road crash

● *Rescuers use axes to tear-up cars to reach victims*

BY GABRIEL  
ENOGHOLASE

**B**ENIN—NO fewer than 30 persons were reportedly killed in a fatal road accident, involving two passenger buses on Okene-Abuja Expressway, Monday.

*Vanguard* gathered that one of the passenger buses was heading to Kano from Benin. It had a head-on collision with another bus which was heading towards Edo State from Abuja.

Victims of the accident, said to have occurred at about 11am between Okpella in Edo State and Okene axis of Kogi State, were on their way to join families for *Ed-el Fitri* celebration.

When the news of the accident filtered into Benin City, yesterday, several families were seen making frantic checks on the passengers manifest at the corporate headquarters of a

transport company at Aduwawa, Benin City.

An eyewitness said: "All passengers in both vehicles may have lost their lives in the accident."

The eyewitness said the magnitude of the accident was such that both vehicles were squeezed almost beyond recognition, trapping all passengers on board.

It was gathered that it took several hours before

officials of Federal Road Service Commission, FRSC, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSDC, and other security operatives could bring traffic on the busy Abuja-Okene Road under control.

Axes were said to have been used to break up the vehicles before trapped victims could be removed.

Though the immediate cause of the accident was not known at press time,

it was, however, gathered that it may not be unconnected with the drivers of both vehicles' claim to right of way.

Attempt to reach the Sector Commander of FRSC in Edo State for comments proved abortive as he was said to have mobilised his men and material to join its Kogi State counterpart to restore order on the busy road.

## ... as FRSC records 42 deaths on Asaba-Benin highway

BY AUSTIN OGWUDA

**A**SABA—THE Issele-Uku axis of Asaba/Benin highway recorded a total number of 42 deaths, while 256 persons were wounded between January and September this year, says Zonal Commanding Officer of

Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, Mr. Yakubu Attah.

Represented by Mr. Luka Ikpi, Delta State Sector Commander, at a workshop organised for stakeholders and school children, he noted that the programme was designed to educate the public on

the menace of traffic accidents. He added that the accidents usually increase during *ember* months.

According to him, between January and September, the number of Road Traffic Crashes, RTC, on Issele-Uku axis of Delta State was 99, with 779 people involved, made up