

15 die in Delta auto crash

By Festus Ahon

ASABA—An accident involving a luxury bus and a Toyota Sienna bus, yesterday, claimed 15 lives at Alifekede, along the busy Benin/Onitsha expressway in Ika South Local Government Area, Delta State.

A source said the luxury bus ran over the Sienna car, which was reportedly driving against traffic, lamenting that the accident caused pandemonium in the community.

The source added that five persons were brought out dead from the damaged vehicles, while some others were brought out unconscious as some sustained serious injuries.

According to the source, 10 passengers were confirmed dead at the hospital they were rushed to by officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC.

Head of Operations of Delta State Command of the FRSC, Mr Bakare Adesina, who confirmed the incident, could not, however, give further details at press time.

3 Suspected Yahoo boy kills nursing mother in Asaba

Meanwhile, a nursing mother was crushed to death by suspected yahoo boy along DLA Road in Asaba,

the Delta State capital.

The yet to be identified nursing mother, according to a source, was walking on the pedestrian walkway with her two months old baby, when the 28-year-old suspected yahoo boy ran over her with a Toyota Corolla car, killing her on the spot.

Anger, apprehension grip Owerri over kidnapping

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—The kidnapers of the Auxilliary Bishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Owerri, Most Rev. Moses Chikwe, in Owerri, Imo State are yet to contact the church for ransom as palpable apprehension has reportedly gripped other priests and laity following the kidnap.

Vanguard also gathered that the armed hoodlums equally kidnapped the Bishop's cousin and driver, Mr Bede Ndubuisi.

One of the priests told Vanguard in strict confidence that "everything about the kidnap is extremely sketchy, but we were informed about the incident during our meeting, Monday, by the Chancellor and Archdiocesan Secretary, Monsignor Alphonsus Oha."

It was also gathered that the hoodlums carefully drove the kidnapped Bishop's official vehicle to the Maria Assumpta Cathedral gate, abandoned it there and quickly scampered into safety.

When Vanguard visited the Bishop's country home, Umuehihe 1, Uzoagba, Ikeduru Local Government Area of the state, people wearing sad looks, were seen in groups discussing the incident.

The source said the car veered off the road while on top speed and rammed into the victim from behind, smattering her skull against a fence.

The Public Relations Officer of the state Police Command, Onome Onovwakpoyeya, who confirmed the incident, said the suspect has been arrested and his car impounded.

Some of his kith and kin were heard placing curses on the kidnapers and members of their respective families.

"The Bishop is the last child of his mother. He is simple, harmless and a dedicated Catholic priest. It is not long he was consecrated Auxilliary Bishop of Owerri Archdiocese. Why would anybody think of harming or traumatising this clergyman? God save our soul," one of the villagers told Vanguard.

Meanwhile, the Archdiocese Monday evening, issued a press statement, confirming the Bishop's kidnap.

The statement, which was signed by the Chancellor and Archdiocesan Secretary, Monsignor Alphonsus Oha, and addressed to all priests, religious, parishes, chaplaincies and special jurisdictions, read: "His Grace, Most Rev. Anthony J. V. Obinna, Archbishop of Owerri, painfully informs Christ's faithful and Christ's people at large that Most Rev. Moses Chikwe, Auxiliary Bishop of Owerri, was kidnapped late evening, on Sunday, December 27, 2020,

"The sad incident took place around Sight and Services, New Owerri, Imo State. The Archbishop appeals to all to join him in prayer for Bishop Chikwe's