

Petrol fire claims five in Bauchi

Five people have been confirmed dead at Badagari village in Bogoro local government area of Bauchi state following a petrol fire sparked off by a family which makes its living from selling the product.

The incident also left one Solomon Wollo in a critical condition at the General Hospital in Tafawa Balewa.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire started when one Hannatu Habila, a mother of six, volunteered to sell petrol to a customer because her daughter, Mommy, who operated the business known as 'black market' was not around. Mommy who is disabled, was running the business, often regarded as illegal, and risky, to assist the family augment the little they earn to keep body and soul.

The dutiful mother, oblivious of the danger, was attempting to sell the product to a motorcyclist, Solomon Wollo at about 7:00pm that

**From Tashikalmah Hallah,
Bauchi**

fateful day when suddenly a loud bang occurred.

The explosion came swiftly like a hurricane, roasting two of her children and Solomon to death, leaving Hannatu and two of her children with various degrees of burns with the fire said to have consumed the entire house. *Daily Trust* further learnt that Hannatu and one of her children have died at the Tafawa Balewa hospital.

Daily Trust gathered that the unfortunate incident happened when Solomon was expressing his dissatisfaction and refusing to empty the fuel into his motorcycle tank, saying that the fuel he had requested for was not up to the quantity he was supplied.

An eyewitness said Solomon in protest dropped the galloon on the ground thereby splashing some of the content of the highly inflam-

mable substance on the ground just as the homemaker unknowingly came out with a lantern, a development that resulted in the explosion.

Spirited efforts by villagers from nearby houses to put out the fire failed as they watched the fire roast the victims who screamed for help. The chief mourner, Mr Bogoro could not be reached for comment.

When *Daily Trust* visited the house, the place looked desolate as only the remains of burnt properties were seen littering the place.

Chairman of Bogoro local government area, Mr Elisha Tula Gwamis, described the fire disaster as the most unfortunate ever recorded during his administration.

Gwamia blamed it on the poverty situation in the country and donated the sum of N20,000 to the victims to augment their medical expenses and prayed God to give the victims' families the fortitude to bear the loss.