

Birnin Gwari dam collapses, kills 50

...1,500 families displaced

At least 50 people are believed to have died and about 1500 houses washed away in the flood that occurred when a Birnin Gwari dam in Kaduna state burst on Saturday after six hours of torrential rain.

Millions of tons of water flowed into Birnin Ruwa, Gusau metropolis of Zamfara state on Saturday morning. The flood struck just after morning prayers.

Five pregnant women are

From Salisu Zakari Maradun,
Gusau with agency report

among the dead, survivors said yesterday.

Seven hundred of the thousands made homeless are camped at a school in Gusau city, emergency agencies confirmed yesterday.

A spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), said they do not know the whereabouts of the other people

washed out of their homes. Ibrahim Farinloye, spokesman of NEMA said: "I can't say where the others could

their feet and into the river."

The dam was the main source of water supply to Gusau.

The Zamfara state government has donated N1 million and 50 bags of rice to the victims of the flood.

The houses were engulfed in a surge of water which carried off houses and left people stranded.

Governor Ahmed Sani, touring the scene yesterday, said: "The body of water

Cont. on Pg. 4

COLLAPSED DAMS ACCROSS THE WORLD

1. Teton Dam, USA 1975 14 killed
2. Banqiao Dam, China 1975, 85,000 killed
3. Shimantan Dam, China, 1975
4. Hubai Dam, China, 2004, 6 killed
5. Loire Dam, France, 1997, 20 killed
6. Zegzoun Dam, Syria, 2002, 20 killed
7. Cavite Dam, Laguma, 2006, 5 killed



L-R: Aisha Ibrahim, Eneh Ideh and Blessing Wuyep, pupils of the Command Children School, Abuja at the independence anniversary celebrations at the Eagle Square, Abuja ...yesterday.

be. Maybe they have gone to family or friends." He could not confirm how many people had died.

The state governor told newsmen that water behind the dam had reached a critical level following torrential rains, forcing the structure to give way.

Staff at the dam had been unable to open the floodgates. State authorities have put up temporary shelters to house survivors.

Governor Ahmed Yarima called on the federal government to provide aid adding that a tidal surge engulfed the area.

"The body of water was just like the pictures of tsunami that we have seen," he said.

"It had enough force and

RAMADAN MESSAGE

In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

The Originator of the heavens and the earth! How can He have a child, when there is for Him no consort, when He created all things and is Aware of all things?

(Qur'an 6: 101)

Such is Allah, your Lord. There is no God save Him, the Creator of all things, so worship Him. And He taketh care of all things.

(Qur'an 6: 102)

Vision comprehendeth Him not, but He comprehendeth (all) vision. He is the Subtile, the Aware.

(Qur'an 6: 103)

Revile not those unto whom they pray beside Allah lest they wrongfully revile Allah through ignorance. Thus unto every nation have We made their deed seem fair. Then unto their Lord is their return and He will tell them what they used to do.

(Qur'an 6: 108)

Forsake the outwardness of sin and the inwardness thereof. Lo! Those who garner sin will be awarded that which they have earned.

(Qur'an 6: 120)

And approach not the wealth of the orphan save with that which is better, till he reach maturity. Give full measure and full weight, in justice. We task not any soul beyond its scope. And if ye give your word, do justice thereunto, even though it be (against) a kinsman; and fulfill the covenant of Allah. This He commandeth you that haply ye may remember.

(Qur'an 6: 152)

SPONSORED BY:

News

was just like the pictures of the Asian tsunami that we have seen. It had enough force and speed to sweep people off their feet and into the river."

He described the aid his government was giving as an "interim measure". The amount of rice the state is

giving amounts to a few cups for each of the 1500 households washed away.

He said photographs of the flood was being passed to NEMA and asked them to respond promptly.

Gov. Sani advised people living near the river bank to

Dam *Cont. from pg. 1*

leave the place immediately assuring that government would do everything within its "limited resources" to ensure that they are relocated.

Also destroyed was a large number of houses estimated at about 800, some dom-

estic animals which included cows, sheep, goats and other effects within the affected houses.

The downpour which started at about 12:00pm to 6:00 am, also led to the breaking down of the city's water barrage which made it possible for the water to flow into the houses of the affected people, washing away all their belongings including animals,

One of the victims who didn't want to be identified, said: "Only God knows exactly how many households along with their children have died. It is a terrible thing to happen".

Unconfirmed reports said the collapse of the dam might not be unconnected with the inability of the state's water board officials to open the spillway when water in the dam reached a dangerous level yesterday night following a heavy downpour.

The dam was the main source of water supply to Gusau. Hundreds of villages have been cut off by the flood.

FG takes Atiku, others to Code of Conduct Tribunal

The federal government has charged the Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, to the Code of Conduct Tribunal sitting in Abuja over allegations of corruption and abuse of office.

The VP was charged along with the former Executive Secretary of the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Hamisu Abubakar and Umar A. Pariya, Personal Assistant to Abubakar.

According to a letter of

By Anas A. Galadima

thereby making Nigeria to lose \$85 million in the deal."

He was further accused of receiving N250 million as bribe from Mofas Shipping Company owned by Otunba Fasawe. The money was said to have been transferred to a float account in Bank PHB from Trans International Bank.

Also, Alhaji Hamisu Abubakar was accused of unlawfully receiving a reward

of N200 million in form of a loan from Equitorial Trust Bank and a Trucking contract with Con Oil – both companies owned by Chief Mike Adenuga, contrary to section 12 of the Code of Conduct Bureau.

Other people charged to the Tribunal, according to the letter are: Chief DSP Alamiyeseigha, former governor of Bayelsa State, Mr. J. Dogo, Cecilia T. Yargwa, Price PT Wallen, Clement Agwul and M. A. Odeh.