

The federal government should also ensure that such cal standards for such clinical trials. three people including the driver and the conductor of they could put the fire under

# Kerosene explosion: Student killed, two others hospitalised

The College of Education, Jalingo and its community was thrown into mourning on Monday following the death of a female student in a kerosene explosion.

Ruth Ezekiel, 27, a 200 level student of the agric education department, was burnt to death inside a thatched hut which she rented with a fellow female student within the college neighbourhood known as ATC.

Two other male students of the college who survived with various degrees of burns from a similar case of kerosene explosion in the area are now receiving treatment in a clinic near the school.

Fanya Daniel, a bio-geography student of the college who lives in the same area which is mostly populated by students, told *Daily Trust* that the fire incident occurred in the early hours of that fateful day.

He said: "There were shouts of fire! fire! from the hut and when we came out, we saw thick smoke and flames. We attempted to enter the hut but we couldn't", Daniel narrated. According to him, the deceased's friend and room mate, Wolsunya Zanolomi, also of the

From Fidelis Mac-Leva, Jalingo

department of Agric education department, was later rescued through the window of the hut.

"We enquired about her room-mate but she could hardly speak because she was almost unconscious. We all thought that probably her friend (the deceased) may have either been outside the hut or escaped unhurt."

Daniel further told *Daily Trust* that it was when the hut was completely burnt that the charred remains of Ruth who hailed from Donga local government area, was found on her bed. He said attempts by neighbours to put out the fire proved abortive because of the absence of men of the fire service as well as water within the college community.

*Daily Trust* checks revealed that the fire which consumed the female student may have been caused by an explosion from adulterated kerosene. The two female students were said to have gone to bed the previous night after reading, leaving on a bush lantern that was powered by kerosene suspected to have been mixed with gasoline.

*Daily Trust* investigations further indicates that no fewer than five students of the college who live in rented huts due to lack of hostel accommodation had previously suffered from various degrees of burns as a result of kerosene explosion in their huts.

Two of the victims, Friday Danladi and Japhet Francis, are currently being treated at the Natty Zion Medical Services, located near the college. They separately told our correspondent who visited them on their sick beds that the fire outbreak in which they were victims were caused by

explosions from kerosene suspected to have been adulterated.

As at press time the corpse of the deceased student had been conveyed to Donga for burial. The Provost of the college, Mohammed Tukur Aliyu, could not be reached as he was said to have attended the burial of a male lecturer who incidentally died the same Monday.

The public relations officer of the college, Abdulkareem Bello, however, confirmed the death of Ruth saying that the Provost had earlier visited the scene of the fire incident.

## ‘Beninnoise children abused

By Elkanah Chawai

Hundreds of Beninnoise children are being trafficked into Nigeria and forced to work in quarries and farms in some states, figures have revealed.

According to a release by UNICEF yesterday on "African Child Day", 261 Beninnoise children working in Nigerian quarries were repatriated to Benin Republic in 2003.

According to the United Nations, about four million children are being trafficked

across the world of which between 800,000 and two million of these children are found in West Africa.

Briefing journalists on the commemoration of "African Child Day", officials at the ECOWAS Commission said that cases like the trafficking of children can only be solved by Nigerian authorities.

They said that the mitigation of children trafficking can be achieved by the will of