

Police confirm one dead, four injured in Lagos fracas

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

THE Lagos State Police Command has confirmed the death of one person in a fracas between rival Hausa and Yoruba groups in Lagos on Wednesday.

Police spokesman Frank Mba said the corpse was deposited at the Naval Hospital in Satellite Town while four others were being treated for injuries in the hospital. He did not give the names of the victims.

The police added that four male suspects were arrested and machetes were recovered from them and they are presently in detention at the State CID on the orders of the Commissioner of Police Mr. Marvel Akpoyibo for investigation. Crisis erupted Wednesday when some transporters in Ijora motor fought over passengers which later became a Hausa/Yoruba crisis. Witnesses said yesterday that more than 40 people were injured, some critically.

When Daily Trust visited the scene of the crisis at about 1:00pm yesterday, some mobile policemen were seen around the area while people who refused to be named stated that people were arrested by the police.

A bus conductor said when an Hausa bus driver was to load passengers, he was ignored in favour of another driver, a Yoruba man.

Some of the people said some Yoruba youths tried to burn the New Nigerian Newspapers building but the police intervened on time to stop them. The police however, through their spokesman, Mr. Frank Mba, a Superintendent of Police, said investigations had commenced in earnest as directed by the Commissioner.

The police denied that the fight had any political, ethnic or religious connotation saying it was a fight between Area Boys.

Tailor kills colleague with scissors

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

A 23 year-old tailor Wednesday stabbed his colleague to death with a pair of scissors at Gadun Albasa in Kano metropolis.

The incident occurred during a scuffle between the two. Nura Abdullahi told our reporter that the deceased, Abba, attempted to strangle him by squeezing his neck during a disagreement over an instruction by their boss, maintaining that he resorted to the object and pierced the deceased's chest. Abdullahi, now in custody of the police at Kwalli Division, said his action was in a desperate bid to save his neck. Our correspondent gathered that late Abba's corpse was released to his family by the police on the day of the incident and has been buried according to Islamic rites. When contacted, the Kano Police Command Public Relations Officer SP Baba Mohammed told Daily Trust that the suspect would be charged to court when investigation is completed.