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Tuesday, Feb 08th | Last update 05:00:00 AM GMT | **Headlines:** Ministry inaugurates committee on migration



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20 die in Yobe crash

Tuesday, 08 February 2011 04:49 Hamza Idris, Maiduguri



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TWENTY people were killed yesterday in a ghastly accident which occurred at Dagare village along Kari- Potiskum road when a Yobe Line bus had a head-on collusion with another vehicle belonging to Cross Country transport company.

Witnesses said many other people sustained injuries when the accident occurred around 4.40pm.

The drivers of the two vehicles reportedly lost control while attempting to dodge a pothole in the middle of the road. "Shortly after the accident, the two vehicles burst into flames and most of the passengers in the Yobe Line bus got burnt beyond recognition," Malam Sabo, a witness, said.

"Most of the villagers were at home when we heard a thunderous sound on the highway. We immediately rushed to the scene and saw the vehicles in flames and the passengers wailing and crying for help," Malam Sabo said.

"It was a gory sight. Amidst the confusion, all the villagers went back home and rushed back to the scene of the accident again with buckets of water, leaves and anything handy as part of our efforts to put out the fire that had overwhelmed the vehicles.

"Unfortunately however, our efforts were defeated because the raging flames continued burning until most of the victims could not cry anymore," he said.

"Much later, the fire service men from Potiskum, located about 40 kilometres away from our village came along with the men of the Federal Road Safety Commission. They removed some of the passengers that were injured in the accident," another witness, Mamuda Dagare said.

He said the Yobe line bus was burnt to ashes, while it was only the driver's cabin that escaped the flames in the Cross Country vehicle.

Yobe State road safety commander Mr S.G Maitzumahs who confirmed the accident in a telephone interview said his men have been at the scene of the accident trying to rescue the surviving victims.

"We are doing our best but the rescue operation is very slow. As I am talking to you now, our men are still there because we lack essential equipment for rapid response...it is very, very difficult for us," the commandant said and called for assistance from relevant stakeholders.

"Most parts of the Bauchi-Yobe highway are in bad shape and in need of serious repairs. Drivers are also not helping matters. Whenever accidents happen, rescue operations are difficult for us, we need more ambulances and patrol vehicles," he added.

The Unit Commander of the FRSC in charge of Potiskum, Ali Maigari, said the accident could have been avoided if the drivers were cautious and avoided dangerous overtaking.

Our correspondent reports that a similar accident occurred in 2008 when 44 soldiers were burnt beyond recognition at Siminti village while on their way back to Monguno Barracks in Borno State after peace keeping operations in Dafur, Sudan. The place where the soldiers died is not far from the place where the latest accident happened.

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maliku 2011-02-08 14:21 #2

May ALLAH gives the families of deceased the fortitude to bear this huge losses. AMEEN

Quote

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