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respectively.

1 From Hassan Ibrahim, Bauchi

A downpour killed four traders and injured three others at the just concluded 15th Joint North East Trade Fair organised by the North East Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture.

City & Crime gathered that the heavy rain, accompanied by strong winds, that started around 8pm on Saturday night wreaked havoc to the pavilions and killed two people on the spot while five others sustained injuries, including fractures, and were evacuated to the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH).

A hospital source said, "We received a certain number of casualties from the scene of the incident, unfortunately two were brought in dead and three had severe injuries from the heads to the abdomen and they died shortly

Downpour kills 5, injures 3 in Bauchi

after arrival. Currently, we have three patients with multiple fractures who are receiving treatment and are gradually improving."

The Bauchi State police spokesman, SP Ahmed Wakil, confirmed the incident, saying, "On the evening of June 1, 2024, Bauchi Metropolis experienced a severe rainstorm accompanied by strong winds. The IBB Square, which hosted

the just concluded North East Trade Fair, was significantly affected.

Wakil said "Those who lost their lives are Abdullahi Abubakar, 38 years old from Yakubu Wanka area, Sadiq Ahmed Alfa, 32 years old resident of Fadaman Mada area, Malam Musa from Maliya Ventures, Tudun Salmanu and Abdullahi Abdurrahman from Gombe state."

Reacting, the state's Commissioner

for Commerce and Industry, Alhaji Mahmood Baba Ma'aji Abubakar, said, "The incident occurred around 8pm yesterday due to a downpour and strong windstorm. The state government is deeply concerned with what has happened."

"Certainly, the trade fair closed about a week ago and people are still doing business there. It is not those that participated fully there that were involved in the tragedy. The people should now leave the place as the government has asked them to leave so that they can take a stand on it," he said.

The Director General (DG) of the Bauchi State Chamber of Commerce Industry, Mines and Agriculture (BACCIMA), Alhaji Sani Tahir Hamid, extended the chamber's condolences to the families of the deceased.



■ The Collapsed structure