

48 die in Bauchi road mishap

NO fewer than 48 people, including 10 women and five children, lost their lives in an auto crash which occurred at Dagauda, 20 kilometres from Azare, Bauchi State on Monday.

The accident occurred at about 12.35 p.m. It was reportedly caused after a truck carrying about 100 tonnes of cement and 95 passengers to Kano suffered a burst tyre.

*From Njadvara Musa,
Damaturu*

Following the tyre burst, the truck somersaulted and flung off the cement bags and passengers, killing 30 people on the spot.

Though help did not come promptly, the remaining passengers were however taken to the Potiskum General Hospital with varying degrees of injuries, which included fractured

limbs and ribs.

At the hospital, 18 of them later died five hours after they were admitted. The 18 were said to have died as a result of excessive internal bleeding and multiple fractures after they were "buried" by the bags of cement.

Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in the state, Mr. Emmanuel Ekekwe, disclosed that

overloading of the truck with cement and passengers exerted too much pressure on the tyres, such that with the bursting of the front tyre, the vehicle somersaulted and crashed into a tree.

Ekekwe added that people boarded the cargo truck mainly because they could not afford high transport fares to Kano, which had been increased by 50 per cent due to the fuel scarcity.