

# 30 dead in Adamawa fire

**N**O fewer than 30 people were yesterday burnt to death in a tanker fire in Adamawa State.

According to an eyewitness, the people were scooping petrol from a tanker that fell and spilled its content.

The disaster occurred at Gani Gaku in Demsa Local

From **Barnabas Manyam,**  
Yola

Government Area disaster occurred.

Sources said as the people were scooping petrol, there was an explosion which was followed by an outburst of fire.

Medical officials confirmed that many bodies, were de-

posited at the General Hospital, Numan mortuary. Those injured were treated at the Specialist Hospital in Yola. But officials declined to give the casualty figure "because we are not authorised to speak".

Many sympathisers have been visiting the scene of

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# Explosion kills man in Kaduna

**A**N explosion yesterday rocked Ungwan Muazu area of Kaduna metropolis, killing the man suspected to be carrying an explosive device. Two people were injured as residents scammed for safety.

The explosion occurred at about 6.40 pm as the man came out of his house apparently on his way to plant the device in an undisclosed place.

An eye witness who claimed to be present when the explosion took place said: "the explosion happened in my presence. I was coming out of Ungwan Muazu when I heard the sound. As people were running, I moved to the place. The bomb killed the person who carried it and injured two persons at the scene."

Men of the state special security outfit, *Operation Yaki*, were immediately mobilised and they cordoned off the area even as residents ran in

## • Gunmen torch police stations in Yobe • Council chief killed in Maiduguri

different directions following the confusion created by the explosion.

Police spokesman Aminu Lawal confirmed the explosion in a telephone interview. He said: "Yes, it happened and we have mobilised our anti-bomb squad to the place. However, based on the report I got from the place, I can confirm that one person died."

Gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram members yesterday launched attacks in Potiskum and Nangere local government Areas of Yobe State. They torched two police stations. Police spokesman Toyin Gbadegesin confirmed the attacks.

He said: "There was an attack yesterday at about 7.00pm. Yendiski Police Station in Potiskum and Nangere Police Divisions were burnt down by suspected Boko Haram mem-

bers: "They came in a Hilux bus and a Golf saloon car and opened fire on the stations. A suspect, who was undergoing interrogation, was killed. One of the sect members was also killed, but his body was taken away by his colleagues."

"At the Nangere Police Division, a similar attack took place. The assailants came from the bush, detonated explosives at the station and later went to the local government secretariat and destroyed equipment, doors and windows," Gbadegesin added.

The Yobe police spokesman said part of the challenges the Joint Task Force (JTF) and his men were facing is the terrain in the state.

In neighbouring Borno State, suspected Boko Haram men also yesterday killed Caretaker Chairman of the

Chibok Local Government Mr. Wanandu Kashau, in Maiduguri.

He was shot dead yesterday at about 12.30 pm at his Abbaganaram Low Cost Housing Estate residence by two gunmen while having lunch in the company of his friend after attending a church service.

On arrival, the gunmen reportedly ordered his friend to go out and then demanded N100,000 from the chairman, which he was said to have given them.

The gunmen also collected his car key before shooting him in the presence of his children. His wife was said to have travelled to Chibok, their home town. The gunmen escaped after the operation.

The remains of Kashau were later removed by the police and taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital mortuary at about 2 pm.

The Borno State Police spokesman Samuel Tizhe confirmed the killing.

the Police Pensions Task Force. "I am hereby instructing you personally, each member of the Task Force individually, to give full and unfettered cooperation to the KPMG officers."

"This includes giving access to all files, computers details of accounts and all other data that would ensure a full and complete review of the Police Pensions Scheme and the work carried out to date by the Task Force."

"Please note that the directive contained in this letter supersedes and overrides any other directives that might have been given with regards to the Police Pensions System or to the Task Force."

"Therefore, any actions taken by members of the Police Pensions Task Force counter to those contained in this letter would be considered prejudicial to the mandate by Mr. President and the directives of the Coordinating Minister of the Economy and Hon. Minister for Finance; and such members would be held fully accountable for their actions."



• Dr. Okonjo-Iweala

vice (OHCSF) operated about 47 bank accounts (some of which had amounts, ranging from N2 billion downward).

"As at today, instruction has been given to the banks having account with OHCSF pension to collapse all the operational accounts to one account each, where more than one account is being operated."

"At the end of the instruction, 14 bank accounts are expected to be in operation even though the Task Team recommended three accounts only."

It was learnt that the scattered pension funds have now been mopped up and harmonised accordingly.

A separate memo from the task force gave the breakdown of the N51.6 billion recovered so far as follows:

N64.6 billion—savings from reduction of Pension Wage Bill from N5 billion per month to N3.4 billion from June 2010 to December 2011.

N24 billion—carted away by former staff of the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation.

N35 billion—idle pension funds located in various banks by the Task Force.

N28 billion—saved from the restructuring of the Police Pension Office in three months.

The report added: "The Task Team has adopted an e-Pension Management System where all relevant agencies can log in and monitor the activities of the Head of Service Pension, Police Pension and CIPPO."

"Smart cards will also be issued to all pensioners so that they can verify themselves at their leisure, thereby cutting hundreds of millions which government expends on quarterly pensioner verification exercise in all the pension agencies."

## Why Jonathan is yet to sign budget

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advise Dr Goodluck Jonathan to sign the document or not. After harmonisation, the Senate and the House of Representatives on March 15 passed a budget of N4.88 trillion with a benchmark of \$72 per barrel.

The vote was increased from N4.65 trillion proposed by the Executive.

It was gathered that although the budget was passed on March 15, the Executive did not get the details until last Wednesday from the National Assembly.

A source, who spoke in confidence, said: "The main bill was submitted two weeks ago, but the government did not get the details until March 28."

"These details were about 3,000 pages and upon the receipt of these, the Budget Office and the Ministry of Finance worked round the clock to analyse the details."

"The Budget Office had completed the analysis yesterday but it noticed some technical errors in the bill as passed by the National Assembly."

"These technical errors have to be cleaned up before the Budget Office can advise the President to assent the 2012 budget or not."

Asked to be specific on the technical errors, the source added: "For example, there are some ongoing projects in the Niger Delta but no money was allocated for their completion. The funds meant for the projects were put elsewhere."

"Also, since the National Assembly raised the benchmark to \$72 per barrel, it means automatically that statutory funds for the NDDC and the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) will go up. But the reverse was the case in the bill sent."

"We have many other errors like that which we need to clean up."

Responding to a question, the source added: "There is no disagreement between the Presidency and the National Assembly at all on this budget."

Another official in the Budget Office said: "The budget has not been sent to the President for his signature because of some 'irregularities' with the budget the legislators passed."

"The irregularities noticed in the 2012 budget by the ministry and the Budget Office had to do with some components of the budget like the administrative capital which the Executive had drastically reduced to free up more money for infrastructure development. The National Assembly retained some of the Administrative Capital."

"Administrative capital

deals with the funds in the budget set aside for the provision of office furniture and equipment, which the government believes could be forfeited to make more money available for other serious capital projects - in line with the administration's desire to deliver on social infrastructure."

"Also, the budget figures for the Legislature were said to have been jacked up by the National Assembly. This does not go well with the Executive."

Despite these irregularities, the Budget Office official said President Jonathan is anxious to sign the 2012 Budget into law.

The official also denied any friction between the executive and the legislature, stating that "the executive has done its ground work to ensure that there is no conflict of interest between both arms of government".

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the disaster.

Police spokesman Nemuel Yoila confirmed the disaster but declined to give further information, saying: "we are aware and we are investigating."

### OUR ERRORS

- The Onigbinde story promoted on the front page on Friday was not run due to technical hitches.
- The headline on page 27 of this edition should have read: "Cash-less stakeholders' wish prevails as charges begin today". The errors are regretted.