

15 pupils, four teachers die in Yobe accident

IT was a scene of blood and tears yesterday in Damaturu, Yobe State.

This time, it was not a Boko Haram attack. Fifteen pupils and four teachers of a primary school were killed in an accident.

The school, Shalom Nursery and Primary School, belonged to the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).

Fifty-five persons also died in separate accidents.

The head of the school, a pastor, was said to have died with the pupils.

A woman teacher reportedly died with her only son.

• Two survive as 55 killed in separate incidents

**From Duku Joel,
Damaturu**

A source told our correspondent the pupils were coming back to Damaturu from the Redemption Camp in Abuja, after a National Annual Competition.

Two surviving pupils are said to be receiving treatment at the Potiskum General Hospital.

A mass burial was organised for the children at the accident site, as many were burnt beyond recognition.

Sympathisers trooped to the victims' homes to commiserate with their parents.

Members of the church were milling around the premises waiting for the provincial pastor and parents of the victims, who went for the funeral.

"This is the first time that our children from Yobe State are participating in this competition and imagine this tragedy that has befallen us," one of the pastors said.

The provincial pastor

could not be reached for comments.

Fifty five people died yesterday in two accidents, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) has confirmed.

FRSC spokesman Yusuf Sani told reporters in Damaturu one of the accidents occurred on Gashua-Garin Alkali road and 20 people (16 women and four men) died.

The other one, involving three cars, occurred on the Damaturu-Potiskum Road. Thirty-five people died.

An eyewitness in Gashua said some villagers were returning from the Sunday Market.

The FRSC spokesman said there were seven survivors.

Yusuf said the accident was caused by "over speeding and dangerous overtaking."

He said: "Twenty people died at Gashua. They were returning from a Sunday market at Garin Alkali. In Damaturu/Potiskum Road, 35 people died, seven survived.

"The accident was caused by over speeding and overtaking."

'Celebrate Ubeku.