

**Briefly**

**Nasarawa voters shun polling units**

UMAR MUHAMMED

The invalidation of many votes by the Independent National Electoral Commission during the presidential and National Assembly elections on March 28 affected voter turnout during the governorship and state House of Assembly elections in Nasarawa State on Saturday.

Our correspondent, who went round to monitor the elections, observed that in Doma Local Government Area of the state, the inability of the card reader operators to reconfigure the machines delayed the commencement of the accreditation of voters.

Speaking in an interview with our correspondent at Ozayashi Sabon Gari polling unit, Mr. Abubakar Sadiq, said the failure of the card readers to delete old information from their memory delayed the accreditation of eligible voters in the local government.

Also speaking to our correspondent on the low turnout of voters at the Angwan Mangu polling unit, Mr. Joshua Bulus, said, "The unnecessary cancelation of some valid votes during the presidential election by INEC was why people refused to turn out for this governorship and House Assembly elections in the state.

"People are tired because after taking the pains to come out and to exercise their franchise and vote the

# Youths beat councillor to death in Bauchi

ARMSTRONG BAKAM

**A**NGRY youths in Bogoro, Bogoro Local Government Area of Bauchi State allegedly beat a councillor from Gizaki/Badagari Ward, Mr. Musa Daniel, to death during Saturday's elections.

The Chairperson of the Caretaker Committee of Bogoro LGA, Mrs. Hassana Arkila, broke the news to newsmen shortly after casting her vote.

Arkila described the incident as unfortunate, saying it was the handiwork of enemies of the country's

democracy.

"I have just been informed that one of my councillors on lawful duty has been beaten to death by irate youths. I am assuring you that the full wrath of the law will catch up with the attackers," she said.

The council boss urged the people of the local government to sheath their swords and embrace peace, adding that violence was not the solution to political differences.

According to Arkila the action of the youths was an indication that the opposition was jittery of defeat and called for calm

among PDP supporters in the area.

When our correspondent called the Public Relations

Officer, Bauchi State Police Command, Haruna Mohammed, to confirm the incident, he said he was not

aware of it.

"I am not aware of such an incident but I will confirm it later," he said.

## ...Police arrest suspects for snatching ballot boxes

**C**ases of ballot box snatching were recorded on Saturday shortly after voting had been completed in the governorship and state House of Assembly elections in Bauchi State.

It was gathered that the Police had arrested many people in connection with ballot box snatching and other electoral offences.

After officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission announced the results of the elections at the polling unit at Bauchi Club, some hoodlums forcefully made away with the ballot boxes.

Similar incidents were reported in Azare, headquarters of Katagum Local Government Area of the state, and in Darazo

Local Government Area.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Bauchi State Command, Haruna Mohammed, who confirmed the reports while addressing journalists at the command's headquarters in Bauchi, stated that the Police had made so many arrests in connection with the incidents.

"We are compiling the various incidents across the state. We made some arrests and recovered some exhibits. In fact, we have arrested so many. As soon as we compile all the details, we are going to inform the public," he said.

The Bauchi State Commissioner of Police, Mohammed K. Mohammed, had at a forum organised by INEC, said the Police had uncovered plans by some disgruntled politicians to disrupt the polls.

The CP then warned those behind the plan to desist as the Police would not spare anyone disrupting the polls and the

