

8 die in auto, boat mishap in Benue, Zamfara

From Rose Ejembi, Makurdi and Mohammed Munirat Nasir, Gusau

THERE was pandemonium at the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State, yesterday, when a bus crushed four students of the institution to death.

The incident happened at the North Core section of the institution, close to the School of Agronomy, at about 7:30am, when a bus conveying some passengers burst a tyre and rammed

into a motorcycle carrying two persons.

Similarly, not fewer than four people were said to have died in Gidan Goga district in Maradun Local Government Area of Zamfara State after a boat ferrying them capsized in the river. The chairman of the local government area, Alhaji Yahaya Shehu Maradun, said the victims were mostly kids and have been buried in their communities.

The two students who were riding on the motorcycle were said to have died on the spot, while others who were in the vehicle also sustained injuries. Sources

said the deceased students had gone to write a test but left their identity cards at home. They were said to be rushing back home to get the identity cards after the lecturer in charge asked them to produce it before they could be allowed to write the test.

It was while going back to bring the identity cards that they met their deaths. The development was said to have sparked crisis, as aggrieved students burnt down the bus and then protested around the university campus, where they allegedly vandalised

some property.

Another report said that two more students also died in the accident after they were taken to the hospital, bringing the number of deaths to four.

As a result of the incident, the management of the institution immediately closed down the school till further notice apparently to forestall more crisis on campus.

A statement signed by the registrar and secretary to senate and council, Mrs. Helen Nyitse, said the vice chancellor, Prof. Richard Kimbir, on behalf of senate, had approved that the students should proceed on mid-semester break with immediate effect.

"By this notice, all students are expected to hand over all university property in their possession and vacate the campus before 2pm today, Wednesday, August 15, 2018, until further notice," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Maradun said the boat mishap happened when it was trying to cross a river and the water level rose after a heavy downpour, causing the canoe to go adrift.

A witness said the victims were fleeing their community

5 kidnapped as police arrest 20 bandits in Zamfara

From Mohammed Munirat Nasir, Gusau.

AT least five persons have been reportedly abducted by suspected bandits in Gora Namaye village, Maradun Local Government Area of Zamfara State. A source that did not want to be named said the abduction took place in the early hours of Tuesday, when the bandits stormed the village and started shooting to scare

away residents. The source added that among those abducted were Suhaima and Hadiza, wives of one Sulaiman Abdullahi.

Another resident of Gora Namaye said the kidnap came some days after an uproar in the village following attacks on suspected ritual killers, which made the police to impose a curfew on the village.

Reacting, the Zamfara State commissioner of police, Mr. Kenneth

Ebrimson, said the command was yet to receive any report about kidnappings in Gora Namaye. He said what he knew was that some people in Gora Namaye took the law into their hands after allegations that some residents of the village were responsible for ritual killings.

"Seven police patrol teams are in the village and if there is any kidnap or bandits' attack, I would be the first to be notified."

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