

Flood destroys 300 farms in Sokoto villages

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

Assorted crops estimated at millions of naira in about 317 farms have been washed away by flood in four villages of Rabah local government area of Sokoto State.

Similarly, 206 irrigation farmers were also said to have been affected in Rahia, Giganie, Tsamiya and Dan'Ali villages by the disaster.

Secretary Rabah local government Alhaji Gidado Shuni, who confirmed incident, said the flood was as a result of the "sudden release of water from the Bakolori dam in Zamfara State".

He said the affected farm produce include groundnut, soya beans, cowpea and onions, saying the local government set up a committee to assess damage caused by the flood.

The secretary called on the farmers to remain calm as the council intended to give assistance the flood victims as soon as the committee completes and submits its report.

The council scribe urged the Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority to always alert local governments on the fringes of the Goro-nyo and Bakalori dams before the release of water towards ensuring farmers take the precautionary measures.

Managing Director of the Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority Engr. Yusuf Khalid explained that release of the water followed an emergency request by Sokoto Water Board.

10 feared dead in renewed Offa/Erinle clash

From Abdullateef Aliyu, Ilorin

The age-long hostilities between Offa and Erin-Ile communities in Offa and Oyun local government areas of Kwara State resurfaced on Monday night, leaving 10 people dead.

It was gathered that trouble started when a vehicle belong-

ing to an Erin-Ile indigene hit an Offa man's car leading to serious argument which snowballed into fracas.

10 lives and properties worth millions of naira were said to have been lost in the bloody clash.

A source in the area told Daily Trust yesterday that sporadic gunshots were fired thereby spiralling

the tension in the communities and forcing many people indoors.

The latest crisis came barely a month after a similar clash involving indigenes of the two communities left many injured amidst tension of imminent reprisal attacks.

Following the raging tension, security agents from the state

police command were drafted to the warring communities to maintain law and order.

However, state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) DSP Olufemi Fabode denied that "10 or five people" lost their lives in the fresh crisis, saying the police had deployed more mobile police men to normalise the situation.



■ From Left: Governor Olusegun Mimiko of Ondo State, Governor Aliyu Wamakko of Sokoto State and Governor Babatunde Fashola of Lagos State at the National Economic Council meeting in Abuja.

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Soldiers killed my brother, friend - Gombe resident

From Adamu Saleh, Gombe

Adamu Usman of Pantami quarters in Gombe metropolis yesterday accused military personnel on operations against terrorists of killing his brother and friend.

Usman told newsmen in Gombe yesterday that soldiers at 2am last Friday went to their house in Pantami quarters and forced themselves in without permission, saying that after searching and vandalizing the house they could not find any incriminating item or exhibit. The soldiers, he said, left with his younger brother Hamza

Usman, a teacher in a private Nursery/Primary School in Federal Low-cost Area and his friend Adamu Babayo, a roadside auto-mechanic and never heard from them again only to hear that his brother and his friend had died in the soldiers' hands.

"My brother and his friend were not known to be members of Boko Haram," he said.

He said all efforts to recover the dead bodies from the army proved abortive as they only received the corpses from the police in the evening on Monday after they were told by the DPO in charge of Gombe Division

that the bodies were found on Yola road. But Commander of the 301 Artillery Regiment, Gombe Colonel Joseph Iwara denied his men's complicity in the crime. The commander told newsmen in Gombe yesterday that the army does not go into any operation without having detailed information about any area or suspect. He said considering the wave of insecurity in the country, especially in the Northeast region, soldiers are only forced to kill when they are attacked as they don't just kill indiscriminately during their operations and asked journalists to discard such allegations.

Obas want Oyo royal palace declared as national monument

From Dele Ogunyemi, Ibadan

Some traditional rulers from Yewaland in Ogun State led by Olu of Ilaro Oba Kehinde Adenole Olugbenle yesterday paid a solidarity visit to Alaafin of Oyo Oba Lamidi Olayiwola Adeyemi over the recent fire incident that gutted a section of his palace, canvassing for conversion of the Oyo Royal Palace to a national monument.

Speaking with journalists shortly after being conducted round the remains of the burnt rooms in the palace, the Olu of Ilaro described the palace as "a pride of the Yoruba race which should not be allowed to go into extinction."

"The Afin palace at Oyo, it must be realized, is the culture Mecca of the Yoruba race. It is far too important to be allowed to suffer neglect, hence the need for adequate preservation so that Yoruba cultural heritage will not be in extinction. It is the pride of Yoruba race. We are happy to be here to sympathize with our father, an undisputable custodian of Yoruba culture and tradition, and paramount ruler with unequalled attributes," he said.

Also on sympathy visit to the palace was the Obas of Ajoriniwin town, in the Atisbo local government area of Oyo State, Prince