

15 die in Bauchi canoe mishap — SEMA

ABOUT 15 people travelling to Yola Doka on a market day were reportedly killed in an overcrowded canoe mishap at Gwaskaram village, Bauchi Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Permanent Secretary, Bauchi State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, Alhaji Shehu Ningi, who confirmed the incident in Bauchi, said the accident happened on the Gwaskaram river in Bauchi Local Government Area of the state.

He said they had confirmed 15 deaths in the mishap while three persons were rescued, adding that rescue operation was still ongoing.

The SEMA permanent secretary assured that efforts were on to recover the remaining bodies.

Ningi said the canoe capsized due to overload, lack of maintenance and a hole that allowed water to weight it down.

He said the canoe had more than 21 people on board, noting that there were too many people and goods on the canoe.

The Ward Head of Gwaskwam, Alhaji Abdullahi Maikano, added that there were over 20 passengers on the wooden canoe that capsized.

"Five were rescued while out of the others, only five dead bodies had been discovered so far," he said.

He added that they were already engaged in searching for other people missing in the river.

He enjoined the deceased families to consider the incident as an act of God.

CAN chairman kidnapped as police officers, hunters for rescue

CHAIRMAN of Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, in Nasarawa State, Bishop Joseph Masin, was yesterday morning kidnapped in Lafia.

Confirming the kidnap of the CAN chairman, yesterday, in Lafia, the police commissioner in Nasarawa State, Bola Longe, said the bishop

was taken from his house in Bukan-Sidi in Lafia around 12:39 a.m.

He said the police have mobilised officers as well as hunters to free the cleric.

Corroborating the incident, Yohanna Samari, a former CAN secretary in the state, said the bishop was abducted by the attackers at midnight in his Bukan-sidi

Lightning strikes JSS 3 student to death

By Ikechukwu Odu

NUSUKKA—A 15-year-old boy, identified as Chinonso Ezema, was Wednesday struck by lightning at Ama Egbu, Ede Oballa, Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State.

The boy, who was a Junior Secondary School, JSS3, student of Community Secondary School, Ede Oballa, was said to be fixing a metal, which channels rainwater into their tank on a rainy evening when he was struck by lightning that killed him instantly.

The deceased elder brother,

Nwachukwu Ezema, said the family is still in shock as to what happened to their promising child.

He also said: "It was in the evening after a downpour when my phone rang and I was summoned to come home.

"On getting home, I noticed a crowd of people running helter-skelter in our compound to salvage a situation; that was when I discovered the lifeless body of my younger brother lying on the floor.

"I was told that he was trying to fix a metal which collects water into our tank and he was struck by thunder.