

Maiduguri kerosene explosions kill two

Kerosene explosions from four wards in Maiduguri Metropolis, Borno State, in the past weeks have killed two persons and injured four others.

The explosions took place the night when the victims, including two children and four women, were attempting to light their lanterns.

Daily Trust report that four of the victims are in the surgical ward of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH). He says the victims are receiving treatments for the burns.

Our correspondent learnt that the two dead victims include a 20 year old girl, Agnes Dickut Musa and a 10-year old girl who died from injuries sustained in the explosion.

Confirming the kerosene explosions, the Zonal Manager of the Department of Petroleum Resources, Alhaji Mohammed Usman, in a telephone interview yesterday, said: "The fire explosions that killed and injured six people were caused by the misuse of kerosene when

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

lighting either a stove or lantern."

While sympathizing with the victims and their families, he, however, said kerosene supplied from any filling station is "dully tested and certified" by the DPR before it is sold to customers.

He said that people should learn how to properly use kerosene in lanterns and cooking stoves.

He cautioned that any abuse or misuse of kerosene by children and housewives could lead to fatal explosions.

Narrating her ordeal at the hospital, one of the victims, Mrs Okoye, said that on February 9, 2008, she had bought N130 worth of kerosene to cook food for her husband when the lantern exploded with large ball of fire.

She said that she was engulfed in the fire.

She said that her neighbours ran to her rescue and extinguished the fire.

space of bribe attempts by members of the public to custom officers to release contraband goods.

Comptroller of the unit, Dr Hussaini Suleiman Kangiwa, alleged in Benin City, the Edo State capital, yesterday that in the past two months, three attempts were made to bribe custom officers with N4 million.

According to the Comptroller, the latest was the alleged attempt by one Mr Zamdayi Joseph to bribe officials of the unit with the sum

He said the money was collected from Joseph and will be tendered in court as exhibit.

Dr Kangiwa said a container truck with registration number XM 448 JJJ, was intercepted by his men at the Benin end of the Lagos-Benin expressway on February 11.

He said when the truck was inspected, it was stocked with used women underwears allegedly imported into Nigeria illegally.

He said when the truck

The suspect, Joseph told us in his statement that the container with serial number GLDU 753769/3 belongs to his friend. He claimed that he was only trying to help the owner secure the release of the truck.

"Meanwhile, the N1.5 million cash offered as bribe, the truck and all its contents have been deposited at the government warehouse in Benin City pending the completion of investigations into the matter," he said.

The Comptroller said the

in an attempt to secure the release of his bus.

He said the matter has been charged to a Federal High Court in Enugu.

He said his command is also investigating another attempt by a transporter whose vehicle was confiscated for conveying suspected smuggled goods.

He said the transporter also offered his men the sum of N1.5 million to secure the release of his truck and goods but was arrested and is now being questioned.

Three die in Jigawa robbery shoot-out

The police yesterday killed three out of a seven-man gang of armed robbers on Kano - Jigawa road.

Confirming the incident to Daily Trust in Dutse, the Jigawa State capital, the state Command Police Public Re-

From Ahmed Abubakar, Dutse

lations Officer, ASP Abdul Jinjiri, said "the gang of armed robbers were among those wanted by the police for allegedly killing police officers in Kano."

He said that policemen of the "Operation RUGU-RUGU" team and Ali Kwara's team engaged the robbers, killing three of its members.

He disclosed that the command had been receiving reports of the robbers attacking unsuspecting motorists.

"When the police received the signal yesterday night, police officers confronted them and gunned three of the suspects.

"After about three hours of fierce gun battle between the police and the robbers, our men were able to overpower them. Four robbers were injured but they escaped," he stated.

He said the police recovered one AK47 riffle, two single barrel guns, 26 cartridges, 180 live ammunitions and two motorcycles.

According to him, "the robbers who were killed were among those who killed five policemen in Kano and had changed their base to Jigawa."

Man to die by hanging for killing mother-in-Law

ASokoto High court has sentenced to death, one Mohammed Ladan, by hanging for killing his mother-in-law, Hauwa Mohammed.

Mohammed Ladan was charged to court for culpable homicide punishable with death, after he killed his mother-in-law on the 26th of February,

From Rakiya. A. Muhammad, Sokoto

2002 in Tangaza local government area of the state.

The convict who was a staff of Tangaza Local Government and a student of Shehu Shagari College of Education, was said to have beat up Hauwa Mohammed

and strangled her.

Counsel to the accused pleaded for leniency for the convict while the prosecuting counsel, Barrister Lemu Sambo Ali, urged the court to allow justice take its course.

The presiding judge, Justice Dogon Daji, in passing the sentence, said the convict deserved it.