

Gunmen kill five in Borno

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

ARMED men yesterday night launched a series of attacks on Dala Alamderi, Gomari and Airport road in Maiduguri, killing five persons.

Witnesses said the gunmen operated on two motorcycles and

attacked a patent medicine store at Dala.

"We were seated close to the medicine store when about six gunmen alighted from two motorcycles...it was as if they wanted to buy drugs," Bunu Musa, a witness, said.

"The next thing we heard

was gunshots and the sound of the fleeing motorcycles. When we came out, we saw the owner of the store and his boy in the pools of their blood," Musa said. Sources said the next attack which took place not far from the first one led to the death of three other men who were taken unawares

by the attackers. Mairama, an old woman who sells bean cakes in the area, said it was the attackers that killed two persons at the medicine store that launched the second attack.

"They attacked the victims with precision and the operation took them a few seconds.

All of us and many people nearby scampered for safety because of sounds of gunshots," she said. Police spokesman Lawan Abdullahi confirmed the incident but said details were still sketchy and promised to make them available when investigation was completed.