

Gunmen kill Borno vigilante chairman

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

SUSPECTED gunmen Saturday killed Ali Banga, the leader of the Borno State Vigilante Association (BOVA).

Witnesses said 48-year-old Banga was trailed to his Mairi residence along the Bama road in Maiduguri, the state capital, where they killed him around 7.36 pm.

The incident took place less than 24 hours after a policeman, Malachy Kambai, who was attached to the convoy of Governor Kashim Shettima was shot dead in similar circumstances in his house in Gomari along the Airport road in Maiduguri.

They said the gunmen shot the vigilante leader severally before they fled away. "They shot him on the head and chest," Inusa Ali, one of his neighbours said.

"The family of the deceased told me that some strange people had come to his house on three different occasions, but did not meet him at home. This is their fourth time of coming," he said.

As at the time of filing this report, no group had claimed responsibility, but the state's Commissioner of Police, Simeone Midenda, confirmed the killing and accused members of the Yusifiyya Movement, popularly known as Boko Haram of carrying out the attack.

"We learnt they attacked him in his house and we have started investigating the matter," the commissioner said, stressing that no arrest had been made.

Daily trust reports that this is the first time that a vigilante man would be killed in Maiduguri.