

Blast kills 1, injures 2 at bomb factory in Damaturu

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri & Hamisu Kabir Matazu, Damaturu

AT least one man, suspected to be a member of the Boko Haram was killed yesterday in Damaturu while two of his colleagues sustained serious injuries following a blast in a house where they were assembling an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

The house where the bomb exploded was located a few metres away from the palace of the Emir of Damaturu, Alhaji Shehu Hashimi Ibn Umar El-Kanemi.

Witnesses said there was pandemonium in the area, a situation which forced the residents to scamper for safety.

"There was a loud and deafening sound, followed by a terrifying smoke which reminded us of the November 4th multiple blasts in this town," Inusa Mohammed, a trader around the emir's palace said.

"We hurriedly retired to our houses until the time we heard the siren of the police. As soon as they arrived, they took away a badly injured person and cordoned off

the area", he said.

Yobe State Police Commissioner, Lawal Tanko who briefed newsmen in Damaturu confirmed that the incidence occurred around 12:00 noon.

"We received a distress call from members of the public and on reaching the scene, our men discovered that an explosion had taken place and there were evidences that some suspected members of Boko Haram sect were assembling explosives in the house", the commissioner said.

Tanko disclosed that one of the

suspected members of the sect, simply identified as Abdullahi Bana, sustained serious injuries and was captured alive and taken to hospital.

"Two other suspects that sustained various degrees of injuries are now at large but the police are already on their trail," the commissioner said.

A source at the Sani Abacha Specialists Hospital in Damaturu said an injured suspect was rushed to the emergency unit of the hospital but died few hours later.

The police commissioner said

items recovered at the local bomb making hideout include, 3 AK-47 rifles, ammunitions, explosive making materials, 1 Hilux vehicle, 3 motorcycles, 2 handsets and other dangerous weapons like swords.

He said some documents, drivers' license and identity cards were also recovered in the house.

The explosion in Damaturu came three days after a similar one at Shuwari area of Maiduguri metropolis, where a local bomb making factory exploded and killed three suspected Boko Haram members.

...Bomb plant explodes in Kaduna

By Sunday Isuwa, Kaduna

A two bedroom flat used as a bomb factory yesterday exploded, injuring three occupants at a ghetto in Angwan Magaji, Malakali Area of Manda, close to National Eye Centre in Kaduna metropolis.

The Police spokesman, Aminu Lawan who confirmed the story said that two AK47 and one Squeeze Machine Gun (SMG) were discovered adding that three persons were in their custody for investigation.

"We believed that the house is used for making explosives. The three victims of the explosive are also the suspects because they are the occupants of the house. The guns and cans used in making the explosives have been gathered while investigation is ongoing", Lawan said.

Speaking to *Daily Trust*, a resident of the area, Abdulkadir Mohammed said the explosion started at about 1:25 pm. "I was together with the district head when it happened. They called me that they would need my attention in the area. I then asked them what happened and they told me that bomb had exploded in our neighbour's house.

"When I came to the scene, I called my village head; Isiaku Abdulwahab and he also called the district head, Alhaji Aliyu Abdulwahab to the place. We met three people with serious injuries. We called the new barracks divisional headquarters Kawo and handed over the people to them", he said.

Speaking further, Mohammed said: "The occupants of the two bedroom flat that the explosion occurred were new tenants. They came to the house not less than three months ago. We usually saw some men coming out of the house. We've been praying here but none of them came to pray with us.

"In fact, I was just telling this my neighbour that I suspected this people. It was a day before yesterday we were discussing this issue and see what happened."

On his part, a 35-year-old man, Maidala Ilu whose house was also affected by the blast said he was working in his house when he heard the sound.



SPECTATORS gather around Angwan Magaji, Malakali Area of Mando, Kaduna, where an explosion injured three persons yesterday.

Boko Haram faults police claim on Kano arrest

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

SPOKESMAN of the Boko Haram, Abul-Qaqa yesterday faulted the claim of the Kano State Police Commissioner, Ibrahim Idris who told newsmen that the four suspects paraded on Sunday were members of the Boko Haram and that some of them engaged security agents in a gun duel on Saturday.

Qaqa, who spoke during a telephone interview, denied links with the four suspects, stressing that all of them were arrested long before the Saturday's encounter at Kar-kasara area of Maiduguri metropolis.

"The police simply picked Kanuri businessmen who were in

Kano for legitimate business. All of them are businessmen... the commissioner should have allowed the pressmen to interview the suspects thoroughly to ascertain when and where they were arrested," he said.

The police commissioner had told journalists in Kano that there was shootout on Saturday after a suspected Boko Haram leader discovered his house was under surveillance and called out other members of the group to attack the police.

He said two of the police officers on surveillance around the suspected house were killed and when reinforcement was sent, another officer was killed and a fourth one wounded.

Fuel tanker explodes in Lagos

From Eugene Agha, Lagos

A petroleum tanker yesterday went up in flames at the Mile Two end of the Oshodi Apapa, expressway, Lagos.

Though, the Police said no life was lost in the explosion, eye witnesses alleged that yet to be ascertained number of persons sustained various degrees of injury in the stampede that followed.

The witnesses alleged that those who were following the tanker behind before it eventually went up in flames took to their heels for fear of being trapped in the inferno.

"Petrol was gushing out from a hole under the tanker. The driver of the tanker refused to heed to the advice of other road users

when the leakage was first noticed. Rather he continued his journey. It was so for a long period of time before a spark from the truck ignited the fire," the source alleged.

The source told *Daily Trust* that both the driver and his conductor took to their heels for fear that they may be beaten up by the angry mob," the witness added.

It however, took the intervention of both the police, men of the Lagos State Fire Service and other road users to put out the fire.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Samuel Jinadu who confirmed the incident to *Daily Trust* on phone said that no life was lost and that it was only the truck carrying the petroleum product that was completely burnt.