



GRADUANDS of 12 Battalion Nigerian Army Pre-Deployment Training, yesterday displaying at the Nigerian Army Peace Keeping Centre (NAPKC) at Jaji, Kaduna State.

Gunmen kill 3 Air Force personnel in Kano

●...shoot 1 policeman

Sadeeq Aliyu, Kano

THREE Airforce personnel were killed by gunmen at the Nigeria Air Force Comprehensive School, Kano. The suspects, who were said to be 12 in

number, stormed the school Thursday night where they were said to have carted away several items. Two airmen who were on guard duty at the time of the attack, confronted them and in exchange of fire, two

of the soldiers were killed on the spot while a third one who sustained injury died later at a hospital.

No group has claimed responsibility. A top security source told Weekly Trust that the attacks are

coming at a time when increased concerns of Boko Haram's infiltration of Kano are rife.

Air Commodore Y. Anas who confirmed the story on behalf of Chief of Air Staff, said few other army

personnel who sustained injuries are currently receiving treatment at Murtala Mohammed Teaching Hospital. He said no student was harmed during the incident, while investigation into the

incident has commenced. He reassured parents and guardians that safety of their wards in the school is guaranteed as extra measures are being put in place to prevent future re-occurrence.

Jonathan greets Buhari on his 69th birthday

Mohammed S. Shehu

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has congratulated former Head of State and Congress for Progress Change (CPC) presidential candidate, retired Major General

Muhamadu Buhari on the occasion of his 69th birthday anniversary today, Saturday, December 17. A statement yesterday by the Special Adviser to the president on Media and Publicity, Reuben Abati, said

Jonathan is conveying birthday greetings to Buhari.

"I join your family, friends and well-wishers to thank God for the richly fulfilling life He has endowed you with and pray that He continues to prosper

you and bless you with good health. On behalf of my family, the Government and people of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and on my own behalf, I wish you a most Happy Birthday," the President wrote.

5 killed by unknown gunmen in Maiduguri

Hamza Idris, Yahaya Ibrahim & Nazifi Dawud Khalid, Maiduguri

SOME unidentified gunmen on Thursday night shot and killed five people at Gamboru II area in Maiduguri metropolis. One other person was said to have sustained serious gun injuries and was taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) for treatment. Witnesses said the gunmen came in and unmarked salon car and fired several shots at the victims who were chatting in front of a make-shift shop. "The gunmen targeted the victims in front of the shop and shot them. They also shoot sporadically into the air which forced all the people nearly to scamper for safety. The gunmen fled the scene immediately after they finished what brought them," a witness who refused to give his name said.

A resident of the area, Madam Joy told our reporter that the bodies of two of the victims were discovered in a gutter on yesterday morning with several bullets holes in their heads and chests. "Obviously, it was in their attempt to run away that they fell into the gutter after being shot", she said mournfully.

The people that were killed include: Modu Gomariye, 42, Josili Emmanuel, 16, Abba, 25 and William Joshua, 28. The name of the fifth person could not be ascertained as at press time. Spokesman of the Joint Task Force (JTF), Lieutenant Colonel Muhammed Hassan who confirmed the killings said no arrest was made in connection of the attacks.

The attack was launched a day after some gunmen on Wednesday evening, laid ambush on Santimari area in Polo Road and killed two people and injured three others. Around the same time, a bomb exploded in Gwange ward of Maiduguri metropolis, though nobody was killed.

Court sends Ndume to prison

Atika Balal

AN Abuja Federal High Court yesterday remanded Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume to Kuje Prison pending the outcome of his bail application Monday December 19. Justice Gabriel Kolawole had on Monday said the state should take appropriate steps for moving Ndume to Kuje Prison in the event that his bail application cannot be completed.

Yesterday however, Ndume's Counsel, Rickey Tarfa (SAN), prayed to the court to allow his client remain in custody of the State Security Services (SSS) pending the determination of the application, particularly as the constitution is not against it and the prosecution did not object.

But Justice Kolawole said doing so will not be in consonance with his judicial oath. He said he is reluctant in a criminal matter to remand an accused person in custody of his accusers. Moreover, he said the law by which the SSS was established never intended

for it to be a remand facility for persons awaiting trial. Tarfa had earlier prayed to the court to grant his client bail on self recognition.

He asked the court to take into cognisance the special circumstances surrounding the application, Ndume's medical condition and the fact that his constitutional right had been violated by the state having kept him in custody without charging him for more than the two days stipulated, and grant him bail. He said prosecution had itself conceded in its address that Ndume is on a special diet and medication and that the offense for which he is being charged is a bailable one.

He similarly said being a serving Senator and based on the fact that the circumstances surrounding the charges are borne out of his involvement in certain matters at the National Assembly, there is enough deposition to show that Ndume will be available to stand trial.

Tarfa said there is no way Ndume can interfere

with prosecution witnesses if granted bail, because only one witness was named in the proof of evidence (Ali Sanda Umar Konduga) and the said witness is in custody of the SSS. Prosecuting counsel Olufumilayo Fatunde however told the court that granting Ndume bail will be premature at this stage and that prosecution will rather apply for accelerated hearing since it is ready to proceed with the case.

Ndume was on Monday arraigned on four counts of concealing information on attacks being planned by the Boko Haram sect, offenses which attract up to 20 years imprisonment under the Anti-Terrorism Act. He is alleged to have received information on or about October 4 from convicted Boko Haram spokesman Ali Sanda Umar Konduga (alias Al-Zawahiri) regarding planned attacks on judges of the Borno State election tribunal and the National Assembly, but failed to disclose the information to

a law enforcement officer as soon as reasonably practicable.

The offence is contrary to Section 7(1) (b) of the Terrorism Prevention Act 2011, and attracts a 15-year jail term. Ndume is also accused of providing telephone numbers of certain public officers, including the Attorney General of the Federation Mohammed Bello Adoke, on or about October 4, to Konduga for the purpose of communicating terrorist messages to the said persons. The offence attracts a 20-year jail term under the anti-terrorism law.

Ndume is alleged to have been in possession of Konduga's mobile phone number but failed to disclose it to a law officer as soon as reasonably practicable, knowing that it will be of material assistance in arresting Konduga, contrary to Section 7(1) (b) of the Terrorism Prevention Act 2011, and punishable with 10 years in jail. Ndume pleaded not guilty to all four counts. Meanwhile, the court has slated January 2, 7 and 14 2011 for trial.