

7 killed as gunmen attack market in Borno

From Hamza Idris & Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

SEVEN people were reportedly killed yesterday when some gunmen suspected to be members of the Boko Haram sect stormed the popular Monday Market in Maiduguri while an electrician was killed in his shop at Lagos Street, also in Maiduguri.

But spokesman of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Borno State, Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa, confirmed the death of only one person at the market.

Mijinyawa Sani, a trader at the market said, "the attack at the market was launched around 1.30pm when the gunmen, numbering about four disguised as customers attacked owners of some shops that sell assorted household items.

"There was pandemonium at the market because it was filled to capacity and nobody can tell how the gunmen escaped... I personally laid flat in front of my shop as if I was dead," he said.

Another witness, Isma'il Sabo, said he saw two army patrol Hilux vehicles, the first one loaded with

seven dead bodies and the second one conveying soldiers heading towards Dandal way in Maiduguri.

According to the JTF spokesman, "information at the disposal of the JTF indicate that there is rumour going round Maiduguri that three people were shot dead by suspected members of the Boko Haram at the Monday Market.

"This led to serious apprehension which made some people to close their shops on hearing the news.

"It was discovered that there was sporadic shooting for about three

minutes which led to the death of one person.

"The whole area surrounding the market was condoned off and during a search of nearby houses, a double barrel gun and 23 rounds of ammunitions were discovered," he said. He said a pistol was also recovered in a house close to the market.

In the Lagos street killing, witnesses said two gunmen trapped one Tajuddeen in his electrical appliances store around 12.30pm and shot him severely before they fled.

Quick Read

Gunmen take 14 rifles from police station, injure one

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

SEVEN hoodlums yesterday attacked a police station at Amichi town, Nnewi South Local Government Area of Anambra, and carted away 14 AK47 rifles. An eye witness in the area said the hoodlums stormed the station in a black SUV Pajero Jeep around 2:30 a.m. and shot sporadically in the air. The eyewitness said one of the three police men on duty at the station was injured while the other two took to their heels. "When the gunmen realised that there was no counter fire, they went into the station and freed two detainees before carting away 14 AK 47 rifles in the armoury," the eyewitness said. Mr John Nwelle, the Police Area Commander, later visited the scene of the attack to ascertain the extent of damage. The state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Emeka Chukwue-meka, could not be reached as his GSM was not available.

2 soldiers killed in Taraba

From Terkula Igidi, Jalingo

TWO soldiers deployed from the 93 Battalion, Adda Barracks in Takum, were yesterday reported killed and their camouflage uniforms, guns and boots removed by gunmen. The two soldiers were killed in the early hours of yesterday when they were deployed to intervene in the herdsmen, farmers lingering crisis in the area. Witness said the security forces engaged the gunmen, numbering over 200, in a gun battle. Bodies of the deceased were recovered by soldiers and conveyed to the barracks in Takum. Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ibiang Mbasekeik, said the police command has discovered that the gunmen were hired by some highly placed persons to cause crisis in the area. Meanwhile, politicians from the local government, including the chairman of the LGC, Tanko Tamti, held a closed door meeting with Governor Danbaba Suntai of Taraba seeking for means to end the crisis.

7 killed in Lafia auto crash

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

A head-on collision involving a commercial bus and a trailer yesterday killed seven people at Shabu village along Lafia-Akwanga road in Nasarawa State. The accident happened at about 4pm. The Sector Commander of the Federal Roads Safety Commission (FRSC), Tuma Dalok, confirmed the death of the seven bus passengers. Witnesses said the bus, with registration number XA932ABF, travelling to Lafia, ran into the trailer with registration number XA192BAU while trying to dodge an oncoming vehicle.



CHAIRMAN, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Attahiru Jega (right) with the International Republican Institute (IRI) Country Director, Nigeria, Robina Namusisi, when she visited the INEC office in Abuja yesterday.

JTF, deceased's family disagree over killings

From Nazifi Dawud Khalid (Kano) & Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar (Abuja)

THE Joint Task Force in Kano yesterday denied allegations that its men were responsible for the killing of two women at a checkpoint in the state last Sunday night.

JTF spokesman in Kano, Lieutenant Ikedichi Iweha, said in a statement sent to *Daily Trust* that "criminal elements" were behind the attack.

But in a swift reaction to the claims, one of the bereaved families said the JTF was economical with the truth.

One 20-year-old Aisha Lawal and an elderly woman were reported to have been shot dead by men of the task force at a checkpoint along Dorayi Sabon Titi, in the outskirts of Kano.

Iweha said in the statement that criminals, who were trying to evade security checks, might be responsible. "Let me correct a story carried by *Daily Trust*

publication of yesterday 3 April 2012 on an incidence involving two women. Contrary to the report, criminal elements in their bid to evade a JTF check point at Kwanar Madobi general area on 2 April 2012 at about 2000hrs, opened fire indiscriminately to scare and to maim innocent members of the society," he said.

He said if not for the professionalism exhibited by men manning the checkpoint, the outfit would have lost some of its men to the attackers. "While the JTF regrets the loss of lives, it is not responsible for the unfortunate loss", he added.

But in his reaction yesterday, the deceased's brother, Muhammad Lawal, who survived the attack told our correspondent on phone that it was soldiers that opened fire at them, killing his sister and injuring him in the hand at the said checkpoint.

He said he did not know of any gunmen who fired at the scene other than the task force officials.

God will deal with my son's killers —Sarkin Wusasa

From Isa Sa'idu, Kaduna

THE District Head of Wusasa in Zaria, Malam Nuhu Hassan, yesterday said God will expose and deal with those who killed his only child, Istifanus Aliyu Hassan, in Kano.

Nuhu, who has lost his sight because of old age, made this known at his palace, saying that God would not spare the killers of his only son.

Istifanus Aliyu Hassan was killed on Monday, April 2 by gunmen at his residence in Hoto area of Kano metropolis. He was a vice principal of a private school in Kano.

"Well, nobody can say exactly how the murder took place because we were not there. We only received the news of his death. However, some people, who witnessed the murder, said my son was on his way to work when two people stopped him around his house. One of the people, according to what we were told, came to his front as if he wanted to have a chat with him. The other person, who was at his back, then opened fire and that was how he was killed.

"It is not easy for somebody of my age to lose his only child but there is nothing one can do. The happiest thing is that God is there waiting and I am sure He will appropriately deal with anyone who has perpetrated the heinous act," Nuhu said.