

Boko Haram: Maiduguri market closed

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE popular Monday Market in Maiduguri has been closed after Tuesday attack by suspected Boko Haram gunmen that left seven people dead.

The General Manager of the market, Alhaji Ajiya Terab, while conducting the Deputy

Governor of Borno State, Alhaji Zanna Mustapha, round the scene, said the market was temporary closed in solidarity with traders that lost their lives in the attack.

Terab said 11 people, not seven as reported, were killed in the attack but the Joint Task Force (JTF) claimed that only

one person was killed in the attack.

He stated that seven out of the 11 people died on the spot while the other four who were rushed to hospital for treatment, could not survive the gunshot wounds.

He recalled that the gunmen numbering about 10 stormed the

market with four of them with AK47 rifles while others with pistols. Mustapha commiserated with the traders and prayed for the repose of the souls of those who were killed in the incident.

Our reporter, who visited the market, saw that it has since been closed as all the gates leading into it were locked.

PIC: GODSWILL AYEMOBA



A truck belonging to a construction firm went over the railings of the bridge near Millennium Park on Shehu Shagari way in Abuja, yesterday.

How Ibadan bus fire killed 5 pupils

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

OYO State Police Command said the quick intervention of its men reduced the death toll of the Wednesday night bus fire in Ibadan which claimed five pupils.

Fifteen pupils were in the bus when it was engulfed by fire in Ibadan.

Police spokesman Bisi Okuwobi, who confirmed the incident, said, "it was a very sad incident. Thirteen of the kids that had severe burns were admitted at the UCH; some others were taken to private

hospitals for treatment.

"Many lives would have been lost, but for the quick intervention of policemen, other people around and some motorists who stopped to render a helping hand," said Mrs. Olayinka Oke, one of the sympathisers.

The children, aged between five and 11 years were said to be pupils of Divine Wisdom Group of Schools, Amosun area in the Lagelu Local Government Area of Oyo State.

They were enroute their school after having been picked at their

various homes when the tragedy occurred midway as the school bus suddenly caught fire, leaving majority of the children with varying degrees of burns.

The bus caught fire at the main gate of the school, near Ayefele House, Iyana-Church in Egbeda Local Government Area, Ibadan.

The driver of the bus, Mr. Serif Oyedele, said he was conveying the children to school when the vehicle suddenly stopped working at Iyana-Church.

Oyedele said he pleaded with the older pupils to assist in push-

ing the bus, having discovered that its battery was weak. The children who were pushing the vehicle escaped unhurt. The injured were taken in a commercial cab and motorcycles to the hospital.

A combined team of men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and policemen from Monatan Police Station also assisted in the rescue operation.

An FRSC official, Mr. Adekanye Oluwafemi, confirmed that 21 kids were affected by the fire and that the bus was an 18-seater Mitsubishi.

2 killed in Kaduna auto crash

From Christiana T. Alabi & Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

TWO people died yesterday in an auto accident in Gonin-Gora along Kaduna-Abuja expressway while seven others were injured. Our correspondent, who visited the scene of the accident, gathered that the incident occurred at about 9am close to an army check point when a truck, carrying sand lost control due to brake failure and ran into people standing by the road side. Eyewitnesses said one motorcyclist was among those killed.

The rescue officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Kaduna, Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim, confirmed the incident, saying it was caused by over-speeding.

Police: We are after killers of Sarkin Wusasa's son

From Ibrahim Musa Giginyu, Kano

THE Kano State Police Command said yesterday that it is tracking killers of Istifanus Aliyu Hassan who was the only son of the District Head of Wusasa in Zaria, Malam Nuhu Hassan.

Hassan, who was before his death a vice principal of Yandutse College in Kano, was said to have been trailed and killed by gunmen at his Hoto residence in Kano.

metropolis on Monday. Police spokesman, ASP Magaji Musa Majiya, who revealed this to journalists, said investigation into the killing is still ongoing.

In the meantime, the police in a statement issued by the Kano State Police Commissioner, Mr. Ibrahim K. Idris, said that they have arrested 16 suspects who had committed various offences and recovered five vehicles and arms from the suspects.

Quick Read

Easter: No cause for alarm, says Kano police

From Lawan Danjuma, Kano

KANO State Commissioner of Police Ibrahim K. Idris yesterday assured people in the state of adequate security arrangement to guarantee their safety during the coming Easter celebration.

The commissioner, who was reacting to reports of a planned major attack in the state by the Boko Haram members during the religious feast, said the command and other security agencies are mounting surveillance at places of worship and other strategic areas around the state. Idris, who spoke to *Daily Trust* on phone, urged individuals to go about their normal businesses.

...Shettima urges prayer for peace

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

GOVERNOR Kashim Shettima yesterday called on Christians in Borno State to use the Easter period and pray for peace to return. A statement by his Special Adviser on Communications, Isa Umar Gusau, quoted the governor calling on wealthy individuals to reach out to the poor, particularly the sick and physically challenged persons in the spirit of sacrifice which the Easter represents. The statement said, "Governor Shettima strongly urges Christians to use the spiritual festival to offer prayers to God for the attainment of peace and security in Borno State, Nigeria and indeed the world over."

...Gov Ahmad urges Christians to emulate Christ

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

KWARA State Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed has advised Christians to use the Easter period which marks the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to show greater commitment to peace and unity of the country.

Borno approves N3.4bn for schools renovation

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

BORNO State government is to spend N3.4 billion for the renovation and reconstruction of eight schools across the three senatorial districts of the state. Education Commissioner Musa Inuwa Kubo, who disclosed this yesterday during the signing of contracts, said the contracts were awarded to 42 indigenous contractors. Responding on behalf the contractors, Zanna Goni, thanked the state government for awarding the contracts to their firms.