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Gunmen kill 2, burn schools in Borno

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri

UNKNOWN gunmen yesterday afternoon attacked and killed two people at Railway Quarters in Maiduguri metropolis while two schools were burnt at the weekend.

Witnesses said the victims were killed in their separate houses by some gunmen who disappeared shortly after the killings. "Residents were scared

away by sounds of gunshots and nobody was seen outside the areas when operatives of the Joint Task Force arrived at the scene," a neighbour of one of the deceased said.

Another witness said he saw when two corpses were taken to Maiduguri Specialist Hospital mortuary in a Joint Task Force Hilux vehicle around 1.30pm.

"We are yet to be briefed on the identity of the victims but we have

deposited them at the mortuary," a source at the hospital said.

Borno State police spokesman Samuel Tizhe confirmed the killing and said details about the killings are sketchy.

Two schools, including Kul-agumna Primary school and Gamboru II Primary and Junior Secondary Schools in Maiduguri metropolis, were also burnt at the weekend.

"We woke up in the morning

on Saturday and found that the schools have been razed down. This is the second time that Kul-agumna was attacked but nobody was killed," Kawu Dan Giwa, a resident of Customs area said.

Our correspondent reports that so far, more than 15 public and private schools have been set ablaze even though the state government had since commenced renovating and reconstructing most of them.

3 die in Kogi auto crash

From Usman A. Bello, Lokoja

THREE persons yesterday died while seven others sustained injuries in an accident that occurred in Aku village along the Okene - Lokoja Road.

The accident, according to an eyewitness, involved a Toyota Corolla with registration number AAA 680 AE and a Nissan Sunny with registration number AG 537 GAR.

He said the accident happened at about 2:30 pm when one of the vehicles on high speed overtook dangerously and in the process rammed into the other vehicle on opposite direction, killing three people on the spot and injured seven others.

The Kogi State sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Michael Olapade, who confirmed the accident, blamed it on speed limit violation.

He said the injured victims were taken to the FRSC clinic at Zariagi while the corpses were deposited at the Kogi State Specialist Hospital's morgue.

Illegal bomb factories demolished in Kogi

From Usman A. Bello, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Command of the State Security Service (SSS) says the illegal bomb factories discovered in Okene and Kabba areas in the state recently have been demolished.

The SSS state director, Mike Fubara, who disclosed this in Lokoja yesterday when the new INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) for the state, Mr. Olusegun Agbaje, paid him a courtesy call, said all the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) recovered from the fac-

ories had also been destroyed. The SSS boss, who described Okene, Adavi and Okehi local government areas as the hot spot for criminal activities in the state, said the service had also commenced the process of recovering illegal arms in the hands of some individuals in the state. The state of insecurity in Ebi-raland, according to him, was being compounded by personal-ity clashes and political disagreements between some notable politicians in the area.

He said the factories were docked for 'illegal collec-

tion' of N3.9m allowances. A former Commissioner for Transport in Enugu State, Mr. Luke Mamel, was on Monday docked for allegedly collecting N3.9 million as wardrobe and furniture allowances from the Institute of Management and Technology (IMT), Enugu.

Mamel, who is currently the Director of Works Services in the institute, appeared before the panel of enquiry probing the past administration of the institute.

A memorandum by Mr. Basil Ofori, the former Administrative Secretary to the former rector of the institute, said Mamel

first applied for the N3.9 million allowances in 2011 but his application was turned down by the then rector as he did not merit the allowance.

According to the memorandum, the said money was illegally approved by the current administration of the institute.

The former commissioner was also accused of carting off earth moving equipment, including a bulldozer as well as luxury buses belonging to the institute.

Mamel, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges while the case was adjourned to April 17.