

Seven killed, 13 arrested as JTF engages gunmen in Borno

From Hamza Idris & Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

SEVEN deaths were recorded as wave of violence and serial killings continued in Maiduguri yesterday, with officials of the Joint Task Force (JTF) saying a suspected member of the Boko Haram sect was killed in a hideout while three armed robbers were also killed during an exchange of fire.

On the other hand, two policemen includ-

ing an inspector as well as a civilian were killed by unidentified gunmen in various locations in Maiduguri.

Spokesman of the JTF, Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa said following a tip off, armed security operatives raided a hideout of suspected members of the Boko Haram at Pom-pomari area in the state capital around 5.30am.

He said one suspect was killed and Ak47 rifles and some materials for making Impro-

vised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were recovered at the scene.

Before then, the spokesman said JTF operatives had raided another suspicious area at Wulari, also in Maiduguri metropolis around 3.30am and cordoned off the whole surrounding houses.

"A cordon and search operation was conducted and 13 suspected members of the Boko Haram were arrested and are being

investigated now," he said.

He said in the early hours of yesterday, JTF operatives responded to a distress call and rushed to Gomari area where they engaged some armed robbers in a shoot out.

"It was around 2.18am," he said. "The shoot out led to the killing of 3 suspected robbers. One locally made pistol, a dane gun and three machetes were recovered from the robbers," he said.

PIC:MACJOHN AKANDE



FROM left: Corps Marshall of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Chief Osita Chidoka, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator Anyim Pius Anyim and Director General Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation, Otumba Olusegun Rusewe, at the National Summit on the Nigeria Road Safety Strategy in Abuja, yesterday.

CBN governor pays tribute to Majekodunmi

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

AS the remains of Dr. Moses Adekoyejo Majekodunmi, the first Minister of Health and former personal physician to the late Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, were finally buried in Abeokuta yesterday, with eminent Nigerians extolling his virtues.

Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Malam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, who attended the burial, said the death of Chief Majekodunmi was a personal loss to him considering their relationship that dated back to the early 60s.

The CBN boss, who spoke at the palace of the Alake and paramount ruler of Egbaland during a courtesy visit, said that his late father and Majekodunmi were close friends.

"I could not remember the number of times that he had assisted me in life while growing up. It is a personal loss. In fact, I was planning to visit him before the information got to me that he died. I shall definitely miss him and no doubt the entire people of Egbaland and Nigeria will miss him too," he said.

Six Bauchi council workers arraigned over N9m theft

From Ahmed Mohammed, Bauchi

SIX accounts staff of Katagum Local Government Council of Bauchi State have been arraigned by the police before a chief magistrate's court in Bauchi for criminal conspiracy, house breaking and negligence of duty that led to the stealing of the council's workers March salary amounting to more than N9 million.

Arraigning the suspects yesterday, police prosecutor, Inspector Baba Sarki Hussaini said the case was transferred from Azare police division along with the suspects to the state Criminal Investigation Department in Bauchi for thorough investigation.

SSS kills man, 33, injures brother in Kano

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu & Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

STATE Security Service (SSS) operatives Monday night killed a 33-year-old Kano businessman, Zahradeen Muhammed Musa, and injured his 18-year-old brother, Usman at Giginyu area in the city.

The incident occurred around 8.30pm, when the deceased and some family members visited a friend's residence near the state SSS headquarters at Sardauna Crescent, relations said.

The deceased's mother, Hajiya Bahijja, who was together with the victims in the car when the incident occurred, said "security men opened fire at them for no reason", as they arrived their destination.

"We were five in the car with the two of them, Zahradeen's

wife, Samira and one of our neighbours and just as the deceased who was driving the car was trying to park in front of a house we visited at Giginyu, they opened fire at us, killing Zahradeen and injuring Usman on the neck," said Hajiya Bahijja.

According to her, she noticed that Zahradeen had died on the spot while Usman was bleeding from the neck injury he sustained and therefore came out of the car in search for help to rush the injured for medication.

"When I touched Zahradeen and noticed he had died already, I immediately thought it was more important to get help for Usman who was seriously bleeding and when I came out of the car, the security men threatened to shoot me too. I asked them to go ahead.

"It was then they claimed that

they had to open fire because they were stopping our car and we didn't stop. I told them all I needed then was to get medical help for Usman and they insisted that they were taking us to the Army hospital along Airport Road. Since we got to the hospital, they have denied us access to seeing him. In fact, they even attempted to seize my phones when I was making calls to notify my family about the incidence as we drove to the hospital," she said.

Hajiya Bahijja, however, said she has submitted everything to Allah but called on the authorities concerned to address the rate at which the security men are killing innocent souls since their deployment to ensure security in the city.

Zahradeen was laid to rest according to Islamic rites yesterday morning while Usman is on

admission at the Army hospital.

Contacted, Kano State director of SSS Mr. Bassey Eteng, confirmed the incident, saying however that his men shot at the car because it approached their checkpoint at high speed and the driver defied orders to stop.

The director, who said the incident happened around 9pm, told Daily Trust that SSS operatives took precautionary measures, especially against the backdrop of a foiled suicide attempt on the office in January.

"He was warned that he should stop so that they will conduct normal checking but he refused. Warning shot was fired, but the next thing he did was that he turned abruptly. So the operatives thought they were dealing with an offending vehicle and they fired on the vehicle."

Cop absconds with lady after killing sister

By Eugene Agha, Lagos

DETECTIVES attached to the Criminal Investigations Bureau in Lagos have commenced a search for a police officer who

at Ifako area of Gbagada, Lagos.

The suspect was said to have disappeared with the deceased's sister simply identified as Patience after he shot dead his

officially declared a deserter by the Nigeria Police Force.

He said the suspect, if arrested would first