

Gunmen kill five bakers in Borno

From Hamza Idris, Maiduguri & Hamisu Kabir Matazu, Damaturu

GUNMEN suspected to be members of the Boko Haram sect yesterday sneaked into a popular bakery in Maiduguri and killed five workers.

A witness said the gunmen, numbering about four, hid assault rifles beneath their cloth and stormed Kasmi Bread factory at Polo area around 9.30am.

Jummai Stephen, a resident of the area, said after killing of the five bakers, the assailants disappeared from the area. "They shot sporadically in the air and then disappeared. We later came out and saw the bakers in a pool of blood. All of them died at the spot," she said.

She said few minutes later, armed soldiers and other security agents arrived.

Commissioner of Police in Borno State, Mr. Bala Hassan, who con-

firmed the killing of the five bakers, said as soon as the incident happened, operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF) comprising the police, SSS and army mobilized to the scene.

In a related development, a water vendor who was identified as John was killed around 6pm at Abbaganaram area of Maiduguri metropolis on Wednesday when he was about parking the cart that he normally used to convey water to residents in the neighborhood.

A customs officer, was also killed around the same time on Wednesday while he was buying fish in front of Gamboru market.

Also in Damaturu, Yobe State, unidentified gunmen yesterday trailed and killed a police corporal in his house at Pawari ward. The Police Public Relations Officer of the state police command, Mr. Gbagesin Toyin, confirmed that the police corporal was killed outside his house after a lunch with his wife.

'We need action on cotton, not paper work'

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Katsina

FORMER minister of agriculture, Alhaji Shettima Mustapha, says cotton farmers are tired of paper works being carried out by successive governments regarding improvement of cotton production in the country.

Mustapha, who is also a founding father of the National Cotton Association of Nigeria (NACOTAN) said for over 30 years now government has been conducting workshops and seminars on cotton production but with no result.

"We, the cotton farmers in Nigeria, are tired of workshops and seminars; what we need now is action but not paper work which we have been witnessing for years", the former minister said in Katsina yes-

terday.

The former minister also said, "let us go to the farm and make our efforts practically to see whether we can improve our production or not. Government should change its approach towards improvement of cotton production."

He lamented that for many years now cotton production is declining in the country, hence the need for government to do something urgently to address the situation.

He said unless government pays more attention to the challenges being faced by cotton farmers across the country, the business will collapse.

Other areas that need urgent attention from government, according to him, is price and market.

ates to the family as a gentle, humble and caring mother. The remains of the deceased have since been buried in Ilorin according to Islamic rites.

Governor Abdulfatah Ahmad in a condolence message signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Alhaji Abdulwahab Oba, described her death as painful and prayed to God to grant the deceased *Aljanat Fridaus*.

One killed, 15 injured in Onitsha multiple auto mishap

ONE person was killed while 15 others were injured in a multiple road accident at the Upper Iweka Fly-Over Bridge in Onitsha, Anambra yesterday.

The accident, which occurred around 4:30 p.m, involved a 911 truck, loaded with palm kernels, a motorcycle, L-300 bus and a Peugeot Boxer utility bus. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that five of the people injured in the crash were said to be in a coma and had been receiving treatment at Toronto and Borromeo Hospitals in Onitsha.