

Many killed as insurgents attempt bombing police station

Hamza Idris & Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

MANY persons, mostly suspected members of Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati Wal Jihad group (Boko Haram) were feared dead as they allegedly attempted to bomb the Ibrahim Taiwo Divisional Police

Headquarters in Maiduguri in the early hours of Friday.

Residents said they heard blasts of no fewer than eight Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in some parts of Maiduguri city in the early hours of yesterday and two thunderous sounds at around 8 am.

Spokesman of the police in

the state, Deputy Superintendent Gideon Jibrin, confirmed that an attempt to attack the police station between 11.30pm on Thursday and the early hours of yesterday was repelled by the joint efforts of soldiers and the police.

As at the time of filing this report, Jibrin said he was yet to be briefed on

the number of persons killed but said the police station was intact.

In the last three years, insurgents have made more than 10 attempts to set the station ablaze but did not succeed, prompting the police to bar motorists from using the roads in front of the station and the one beside it.

People who live close to the police station said they saw at least 15 dead bodies around the place and in alleys close to the place in the early hours of yesterday.

Trader at the nearby Baga Fish Market, who were turned back home also said they saw two corpses on the ground.

Suswam sacks 11 commissioners

Hope Abah, Makurdi

GOVERNOR Gabriel Suswam of Benue State yesterday sacked 11 of his cabinet members leaving only five to continue on their duty post.

Announcing the change on the state owned broadcast station, the governor who did not adduce any reason for his actions, also relieved the Head of Service, Mike Iordye of his appointment and replaced him with the former Permanent Secretary (Special Duties), Terner Hua.

Commissioners retained are Conrad Wergba, Information, Alex Adum, Justice, Terfa Atoza Ihnida, Commerce and Industry, his counterpart in Finance, Omadachi Okolobia and Orduen Abunku, Health and Human Services.

The governor wished the sacked cabinet members well in their future endeavours just as he thanked them for the useful contribution made to his administration.

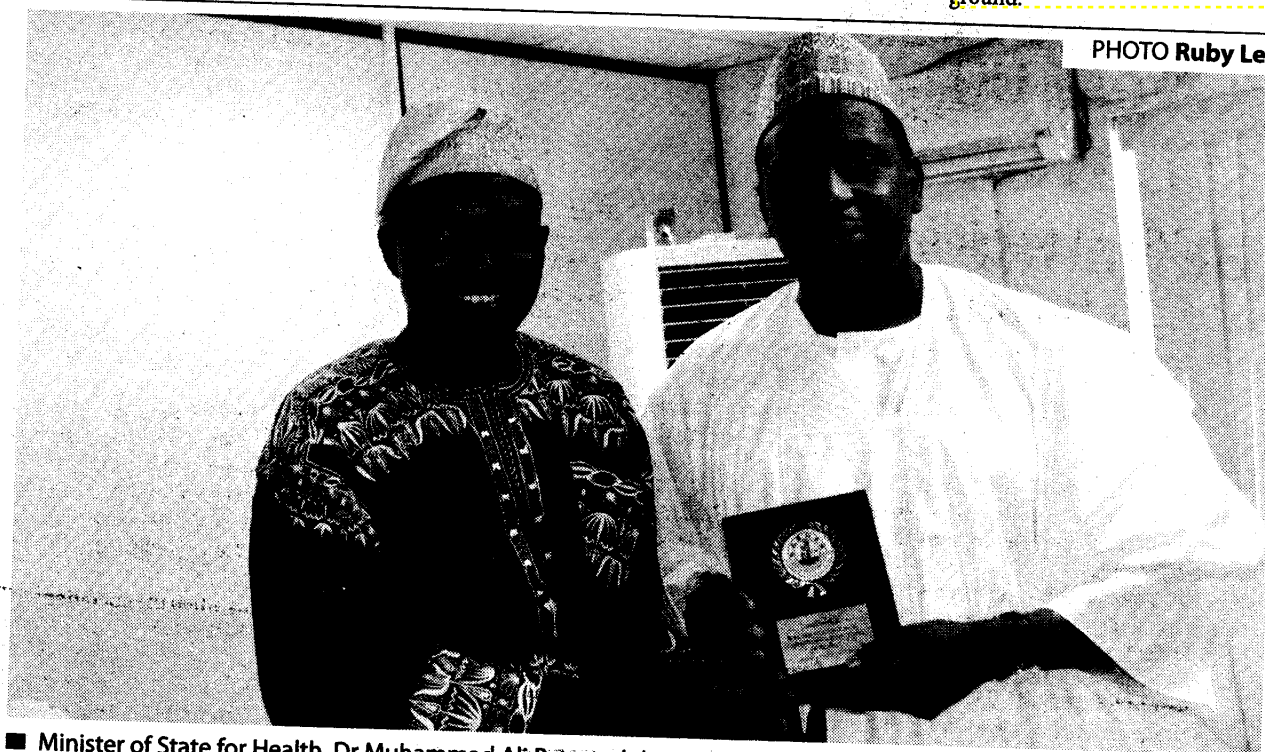


PHOTO Ruby Leo

■ Minister of State for Health, Dr Muhammad Ali Pate and the President, National Association of Community Health Practitioners of Nigeria, Prince M. A. Tadese, displaying a plaque presented to him by the association, yesterday.

Gunmen kill 5, injure 7 in Gombe

Adamu Saleh, Gombe

UNKNOWN gun men riding on motorcycles yesterday killed five persons and injured seven others, including a police officer attached to Government House Gombe at Bagadaza area of Gombe metropolis.

According to Bulus Chiroma,

a witness who said his daughter operates a shop near the scene of the incident, gunshots scared people around the area and he ran into his house.

He said after the shots, bodies were lying on the street, adding that the gunmen riding on motorcycles opened fire on people playing cards at about 4 pm and

killed five of them, injuring seven others.

Another witness, a policeman, said among the injured was a policeman attached to Government House Gombe.

The policeman also said that residents of the area refused to allow the police to take away the bodies of those killed in the attack,

insisting that the governor must come and assess the scene before the bodies can be released.

"We pleaded with them to allow us carry the dead bodies but they insisted that the governor or commissioner of police must come to the scene before they will allow the bodies to be taken away," he added.

Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent Fwaje Atajiri, confirmed that five people were killed during the attack, while seven others, including a policeman sustained injuries.

He said those who sustained injuries are receiving treatment at the Federal Medical Centre, Gombe.

Ahmadu Ali's son

Basili