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BY HAMZA IDRIS AND IBRAHIM SAWAB, 22 MARCH 2013

Maiduguri — At least one soldier, two suspected gunmen and some civilians are feared dead following a gun duel in Biu town in southern part of Borno State, residents said.

Witnesses said trouble started when some gunmen robbed a Coca Cola major shop at Abba Liman Shopping Complex but while attempting to flee, they were confronted by soldiers.

It was gathered that serious shootings ensured which reportedly led to the killing of a soldier, two gunmen and some civilians who were hit by stray bullets.

Sources said some houses, shops and vehicles were also set ablaze but the circumstances that led to the burnings were not clear as at the time of filing this report.

Biu is about 185 kilometres away from Maiduguri, the state capital and of recent, the town is facing renewed security challenges. About ten days ago, a senior police officer was killed by suspected gunmen.

There was no official statement from JTF spokesman Lt Colonel Sagir Musa as well as police spokesman DSP Gideon Jibrin.