

# Boko Haram: 3 dead, 13 injured in suicide attack

by Abubakar & Olatunji Omirin,

At least 13 persons have been killed and 13 worshippers sustained various degrees of injuries in a suspected Boko Haram suicide attack that detonated explosives near a village in Gwoza Local Government Area, Borno State, a civilian Joint Fact-Finding Team (JFTF) source said.

The incident occurred during the Muslim early morning congregational prayer at Bulabulin in Gwoza town, headquarters of Gwoza Local Government, northern part of the state.

The civilian JTF member who participated in the evacuation of victims' bodies said female suicide bombers strapped Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) to their bodies, which exploded before they got access into the mosque, and resulted to their instant death.

"The two female suicide bombers had manoeuvred their way into Gwoza town, to launch an attack during our morning prayers, but luck ran against them before they entered the mosque, as their IEDs exploded outside but the explosion destroyed the mosque completely."

"A 12-year-boy was killed and 13 worshippers were injured due to the magnitude of the explosion. The victims were taken to hospital for immediate treatment" the civilian JTF member said.

Meanwhile, the military on Saturday sealed off the Borno office of an international non-governmental organization, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) evening.

In a statement issued by Theatre Operations Lafiya Dole obtained by *Daily Trust* in Maiduguri yesterday, explained that "The Borno office of

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) was sealed off in Maiduguri on Saturday evening by government forces.

"This was carried out through the directives of the theatre commander Lafiya Dole on a tip-off that four of its staff members were caught plying Magumeri route and working without clearance from government or INSO.

"Trip from Maiduguri to other LGAs in Borno state requires approval by the military and the INGO Civil Military Cooperation platforms." the statement said.

## Kidnappers' house demolished in Katsina

by Umar Aminu, Katsina

A bedroom house used as a hideout where victims are kept in Katsina, and belonging to a kingpin identified as Ibrahim Masaja, of a village of Kafur Local Government Area of Katsina State, was yesterday demolished by a combined force of security operatives.

The latest kidnap victim is Paul Lawal who was kept in the house and a ransom of N15 million was demanded for his release.

Following the exercise, a spokesman of the police said, Gambo Isah on the 18th of this month at about 0300hrs, the Anti Robbery Squad commander and his team acting on intelligence stormed the camp of Ibrahim Masaja at a village, Kafur LGA, Katsina State.

kidnappers.

"A gun duel ensued between the kidnappers and the security personnel where one Muhammad Bello, 34, was arrested and two others killed in the crossfire."

He said after the fire exchange, the victim was discovered chained in a hut in the premises of the demolished house, adding that the owner of the house, Masaja, was at large, while the police are after him.

One of the suspects arrested, Muhammad Bello, confessed to have participated in kidnapping Paul Lawal and the demand for ransom of N15 million.

In a chat with newsmen, the suspect however claimed to have been involved in the activity for the first time and insisted that he was lured by those already killed by the police.

This is the second house to be demolished by security personnel. The first was that belonging to Yunusa Boka



■ From left: High Commissioner of India to Nigeria, Mr Abhay Thakur; Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Zubairu Dada (middle); Minister of State for Health, Sen. Adeleke Mamora (2nd right); and Dr (Mrs) Surabhi Thakur, during the 71st Republic Day and 60th Anniversary of India-Nigeria diplomatic relations at the Indian High Commission in Abuja on Friday

## Gunmen attack travelers near Kaduna train station

From Mohammed Ibrahim Yaba, Kaduna

Suspected gunmen have again attacked vehicles conveying travelers near Rigasa railway station in Kaduna.

The incident which happened on Saturday around 9:15am, along airport road

*Daily Trust* reported a similar incident that happened on Friday night at the same spot, when travelers were alleged to have been attacked by suspected gunmen.

The police command spokesman DSP Yakubu Sabo, however denied the Friday night attack, saying based on

the second attack on Saturday along the same Airport link road from the railway station has worried people around the area.

There were no details yet on the number of travelers affected on Saturday even though there was fear that some victims were abducted.

A witness at the train station's