

Gunmen kill cleric, soldiers escape blast in Borno

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

A FRESH blast yesterday hit one of the checkpoints in Bulabulin Ngarnam ward of Maiduguri Borno State, sending many residents running for their lives.

Thankfully, however, no life was lost to the improvised explosives.

But two suspected *Boko Haram* gunmen at the weekend killed Mallam Ali Gana'a, a cleric in Kaleri Ward, Maiduguri.

The cleric was attacked at the weekend at his residence in the evening.

Confirming the blast and assassination of the Maiduguri cleric, the Field Operation Officer, Joint Task Force (JTF), Col. Victor

Ebhaleme, said that the blast went off in the morning when residents were still in their houses.

Ebhaleme said: "The target of the bombers was our men at the checkpoints of Kaleri Ward, but fortunately, only plumes of dust were thrown into the air. No casualty was recorded in Sunday's bomb blast."

Also, Borno State Police Commissioner, Simeon Midenda, told *The Guardian* that the explosion did not injure any policeman.

He said: "The reports I received from the police commander of the area indicated that there were no casualties from Sunday's bomb blast that sent a lot of dust into the air for over three minutes. No life or property was destroyed or damaged in the blast."

Nasarawa forecloses new projects

GOVERNOR Umaru Tanko Almakura of Nasarawa State has said that he would not initiate any new project but ensure the completion of all abandoned ones so that the state could get the full benefit of the spent funds.

Almakura, who stated this yesterday when he paid a surprise visit to the Nasarawa State School of Nursing project along Shendam

Road, Lafia said his administration was ready to focus on abandoned projects with the aim of completing them.

Cleric tasks judiciary on graft

SECRETARY, House of Reps