

1 sur 6 21/09/12 14:24

Three others who were in the canoe that capsized on the Karim River are still missing, said the head of the Red Cross in Taraba State, Manja Agwe Matthew.

"The bodies of 10 passengers in the canoe were recovered by local fishermen while search for the remaining three is still on," he said.

He added that the accident late Tuesday occurred while the group was travelling "to a wedding ceremony in another village across the river."

On Monday, the Red Cross said at least 137 people in Nigeria have died since July from flood-related causes.

Water levels have surged on the River Benue, which feeds the Karim, causing at least 30 deaths.

The suspected Boko Haram sect on Tuesday attacked an abattoir and killed two butchers at Abaganaram Ward in Maiduguri, Borno State.

An eyewitness said that the suspects came on a tricycle, before they ambushed and attacked the butchers at about 8.25 a.m., before men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) and police came to the abattoir.

He said: "The butchers were attending to meat vendors when three gunmen came on a tricycle, and started chanting, God is great, God is great and shot them on the head.

The Borno State Police Command spokesman, Gidieon Jibrin, confirmed the incident.

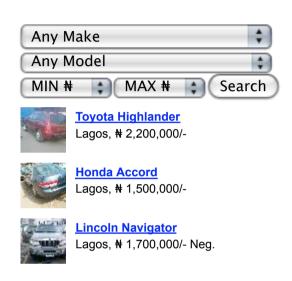
He said even though they were no arrests made, the information provided by some people in the area would assist the police in its investigation.

In the same vein, two persons suspected to be members of the vigilance group were feared dead yesterday when suspected armed robbers stormed a first generation bank in Share, the headquarters of Ifelodun Local Council of Kwara State.

One of the killed vigilance members was identified as the head of the vigilance group in the area.

The incident, which was described as "hellish" by witnesses, started at about 10.30 a.m. and lasted for about an hour when the robbers numbering over 15 rounded off the bank, moved for the frontal door of the bank and started sporadic shooting into the air to scare customers.

Share, a sleepy town in the northern part of Kwara, which is also the country home of Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed, is some 45 kilometres away from Ilorin, the state capital.



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A police source, who pleaded anonymity, said the armed robbers came in a convoy of three vehicles, including a Siena mini bus, gained entry into the bank hall of the bank and went away with unspecified cash belonging to the bank.

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