

seriously injured. More than 15 people were also said to have died in sporadic gun shots and confusion that followed the blasts at 7.14 a.m.

Meanwhile, a new commander, Col. I.S Isa, has been appointed for the JTF in Yobe State by the Military Defense Headquarters.

The appointment was contained in a statement by the JTF spokesman, Lt. Lazarus Eli, yesterday in Damaturu.

According to the statement, Col. Isa replaces Col. Dahiru Abdullahi, who has already proceeded to the Nigeria Defense Academy (NDA) for further studies. Before Isa's appointment, he was the deputy director for training

and operations at the Nigeria Army Defense Headquarters, Abuja.

Gubio is 85 kilometres north of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital. According to an eyewitness and resident of Gubio, Ba'ana Modu, the Chinese and his Nigerian aide were killed while returning from the local market where they had gone to buy meat and other items.

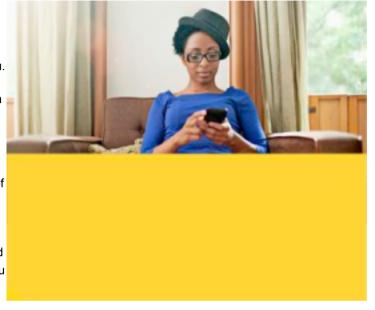
"The gunmen came to the area in a tricycle. Two of them alighted and walked toward the Chinese national and his friend who accompanied him to the market. The gunmen shot them and everybody fled immediately," Modu said.

Security authorities, including the Borno State Police Command declined to comment or confirm the incident

And barely a week after the Lagos Bridge bomb blast in Maduguri, another one exploded yesterday when the JTF patrol vehicle ran over a planted Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) at the road side of the Lagos Street, injuring two soldiers. An eyewitness and resident of Gwange ward said the JTF vehicle was thrown up and had its windscreen shattered while the two soldiers were rushed to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) at 7.30am.

Confirming the blast yesterday in Maiduguri, the JTF spokesman, Lt. Col Sagir Musa, said: "There was a bla involving a JTF Hilux vehicle at about 7.14am today along Lagos Street in Maiduguri," adding that it is feared that two soldiers were wounded. He said the planted explosives by suspected Boko Haram gunmen, was an attack on soldiers on patrol of Gwange ward and the NUJ Press Centre.

The JTF has warned residents against habouring terrorists, criminals, arms and explosive devices that are used in the serial attacks and bombings, stating that such residents and community members will be appropriately dealt with. The warnings were contained in a statement by Lt. Col Musa yesterday in Maidugur



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Ofeimun , Adebanjo stoke controversy over Achebe's comments on Awolowo He said besides the warnings, residents of the Maiduguri metropolis, are advised to remain "alert and securil conscious" as well as to continue giving timely and credible information on any suspicious movement of pers groups of people to the security agents through the following telephone numbers: 0805464012 and 0815442

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Sun Scattered

Mostly Thunder Sunny

T-Storms

ABUJA WEATHER





С 31C Fri Sat 31C Sun

Mostly SunnyPartly Cloudy

PORT HARCOURT WEATHER







29C Fri

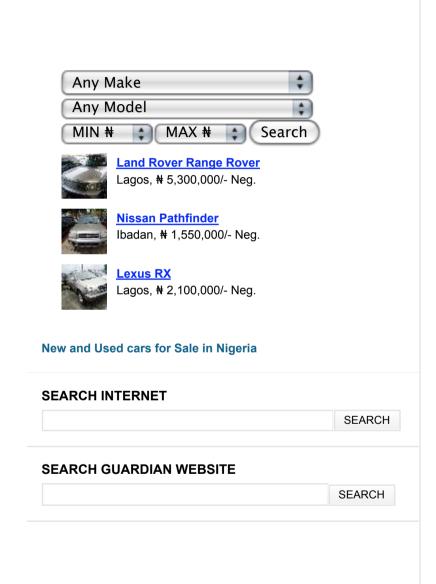
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