

NNPC faults
Sanusi's fresh
claim of unremitted
\$20b - Page 4

My life, property
under threat, says
Delta SSG - Page 4

Bill Gates steps
down as Microsoft's
chairman, new CEO
named - Page 9

Former Heads of State, Shehu Shagari (left), Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar, Ernest Shonekan and Gen. Yakubu Gowon, during the National Council of State meeting at the State House, Abuja... yesterday.

PHOTO: PHILIP OJISUA

Gunmen kill 76 in Plateau, Kaduna, Yobe

From Saxe Alkhaine (Kaduna), Isa Abdulsalami Ahovi (Jos) and Njavaru Musa (Damaturu)

ABOUT 76 persons have been killed as gunmen attacked some communities in Plateau, Kaduna and Yobe states.

The attack in Plateau came less than 24 hours after a security stakeholders' meeting was organised by the state police command to find lasting peace in the area.

A source said that about 30

Soldiers, policemen slain, houses burnt

persons were killed in two communities in Riyom Local Council of the state.

An eyewitness, Mr. Rufus Gyang, told journalists yesterday: "The attackers stormed the two villages in their hundreds about 3.00 a.m. today (yesterday) and started shooting sporadically, killing innocent villagers in their sleep.

"Homes belonging to villagers were burnt down by

the attackers. The names of the villages attacked are Rajak and Atakar in Riyom Local Council of the state. Nineteen were killed in Rajak while 11 were killed in Atakar."

He further said that over 60 houses were razed by the gunmen.

A member representing Riyom and Majority Leader in the state House of Assembly, Daniel Dem, confirmed the

incident. He said that among those killed were two members of the Special Task Force (STF) deployed to restore law and order in the state.

"As we speak, those killed have been given mass burial. Scores of persons were injured and have fled their homes to neighbouring villages in Kaduna State," he said.

Noting that the STF opera-

tives were not enough, Dem called on the Federal Government to deploy more troops to begin air surveillance in order to stop further attacks on the communities.

Riyom Local Council has been a battlefield for some time now. It is also in the same local council that a Chinese contractor was killed two weeks ago.

The phone of the spokesman of the STF, Capt. Salisu Ibrahim Mustapha,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Stakeholders seek

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2