



DAILY IN

THE MO

Vol.10 No.22062

EDITORIAL

Jonathan goes to Washington

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News

Jonathan at UN, restates Nigeria's support for fight against HIV/AIDS

President Goodluck Jonathan has restated Nigeria's support for the global fight against the scourge of HIV/AIDS. He made the point on Tuesday at the debate on the impact of the deadly disease on international peace and security at the United Nations (UN) in New York.

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Ten feared dead as explosions rock Borno

• Security beefed up in Kano

By Augustine Madu-West (Kano) and Abdulkareem Haruna (Maiduguri)

SECURITY was beefed up in Kano on Tuesday upon the news that three members of *Boko Haram* were among the 10 persons killed in Maiduguri when the fundamentalist Islamic sect set off another round of multiple bombs accompanied by gunshots.

The three men were in a car which exploded in front of Saint Patrick's Church, which the sect had attempted to bomb last Thursday.

On Monday, a prominent Islamic cleric, Ibrahim Biu, was shot dead in his home in Biu town, 187 kilometres from Maiduguri.

Eyewitnesses counted 10 corpses on Tuesday, although police said five died.

The divisional police headquarters and part of the church were destroyed.

The four bombs exploded after Governor Kashim Shettima addressed the state Assembly and later inspected the Baga Motor Park, Musa Usman State Secretariat, and the water treatment plant, all in Maiduguri.

Eyewitnesses recounted that gunmen invaded Gwange police divisional headquarters, detonated bombs and opened fire at those scampering for safety.

The police returned fire and shot dead three Boko Haram members. Stray bullets killed two civilians.

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Five corpses and 14 injured persons were taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital.

Another bomb was set off in a blue Honda Accord car ferrying explosive devices in front of the gate of the church.

The three occupants of the car, suspected to be *Boko Haram* members, were burnt to ashes. Two passers-by were also killed.

A policeman on guard at the church said the bomb in the car detonated after one was thrown from the car at the building.

Windows were shattered in the opposite Musa Usman Secretariat.

Police Public Relations Officer, Lawan Abdullahi, said despite the casualties, the day had been "a day of victory for the police because we gunned down three *Boko Haram* members."

An AK 47 rifle was recovered from the attackers of Gwonge police station.

Borno State Governor, Kashim Shettima, gave an assurance that he would not be deterred by the attacks, and would pursue peace and development.

The security build up in Kano is connected with the activities of *Boko Haram*, the sect which now sends panic across the core North.

Boko Haram members fleeing Maiduguri and Bauchi are taking refuge in the suburbs of Kano.

A police source disclosed that two *Boko Haram* suspects were arrested in Sharada and Brigade areas of Kano last week and moved to Abuja for questioning.

Some sect members arrested were branded robbers.

The source recalled how members of the group slithered into the city three years ago and launched attacks on police and other security formations where they killed officers and stole arms.

It is believed that the same group killed an Islamic scholar, B. Jafar, in a mosque in Sharada in 2008.

Security chiefs in Kano have placed their men on red alert following the alleged arrest of two members of the sect taken to Abuja.

Police and troops from the 3 Mechanised Brigade patrol the city along with plain clothes policemen and other security personnel gathering intelligence.

Assistant Inspector General of Police (Zone One, Kano), Abubakar Mohammed could not be reached for comment.

However, Public Relations Officer, Aminu Dandidi, confirmed that security has been tightened in the states of Kano, Katsina, and Jigawa.