

ing recently from oppos-  
ing political divides to

rent rampage of Boko  
Haram. It is this very  
an well-meaning Nigeri-  
ans appreciate President  
hility, candour and the  
forthrightness of Presi-

leaders who were at the  
event.

# Again, bomb blasts rock Borno, 35 feared killed

By Mohammed Abubakar  
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Less than a week after the  
dreaded Boko Haram sect  
stormed and killed over  
59 students at the Federal  
Government College in  
Yobe State and another 35  
in Adamawa, the sect on  
Saturday struck again in  
Borno State killing another  
35 in a twin bomb explo-  
sion.

The latest target is a  
shopping mall and com-  
mercial area by suspected  
Boko Haram suicide bomb-  
ers in Maiduguri, Borno  
State capital. Not less than

35 people were killed while  
many were injured, resi-  
dents said.

According to a witness,  
the first blast exploded  
about 6.05 p.m. while the  
second went off two min-  
utes later in the same area  
while rescuers were trying  
to assist those injured in  
the first blast.

Witnesses told news-  
men that the bombs were  
neatly packaged inside a  
firewood truck, believed  
to had taken off from the  
Sambisa Forest in Dam Boa  
Local Government Area.

The witness, Moham-  
med Buba, said the blasts  
occurred around 6 p.m.

when most residents were  
preparing for the evening  
prayer.

"Nobody can say exactly  
how it happened. The first  
blast occurred just about 15  
minutes before the second  
one.

"Only few people were  
injured by the first blast,  
but while people were try-  
ing to rescue the victims of  
the first blast, the second  
one occurred killing many  
people," Mohammed said

Commissioner of Police  
in Borno, Lawal Tanko,  
confirmed the blasts, say-  
ing that 35 bodies had been  
evacuated so far.

"We are still counting;

so far we have counted 35  
bodies. Our men are still  
working with rescue work-  
ers at the scene," Tanko  
said.

It was further gathered  
that many residents fled  
the area shortly after the  
blast.

"Women and children  
are among those killed,"  
a source who visited the  
scene minutes after the  
explosion told Sunday In-  
dependent. He said men of  
the state fire service were  
drafted to the scene imme-  
diately to evacuate corpses.

"The fire service men are  
already evacuating corpses  
now. Some policemen are

also near the place," he dis-  
closed.

Meanwhile, panic has  
now gripped both teach-  
ers and students in all the  
boarding schools in the  
state, culminating in the  
mass exodus of students  
from their hostels.

Sunday Independent gath-  
ered that students and  
teachers, who now live in  
fear, go to school from their  
respective homes.

Boarding houses are  
now deserted, making the  
once bubbling students  
residence a ghost town.

At the Federal Govern-

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