

BOKO HARAM

Explosion at bomb factory kills three

- Unknown gunmen kill policeman in fresh Kano attack
- Sect writes govt, vows more attacks over arrests

It was another day of bloodletting across northern Nigeria Saturday as three suspected Boko Haram members were killed in Maiduguri following an explosion at a house where they were said to be coupling together an explosive device. The suspected bomb factory is located in Shuwari area of Maiduguri.

From Kolade Adeyemi, Kano and Joseph Abiodun, Maiduguri

The incident happened on the same day unknown gunmen suspected to be Boko Haram members attacked policemen on duty along Kumbotso rail line in Kano, killing a police constable and injuring another officer.

This latest attacks occurred barely 24 hours after suspected members of the Islamist sect killed three Nigeria Air Force officers, and injured one at the Nigerian Air Force Comprehensive Secondary School in Kano.

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Three killed, one missing in fresh Jos attack

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Maiden Ibru, wife of the late Publisher of *The Guardian*, flanked by her children Tive and Toke at the funeral service held at his home town, Agbarha-Otor, Delta State yesterday

Five burnt to death in Kogi car crash

From Mohammed Bashir, Lokoja

A MULTIPLE car crash along Abuja-Lokoja-Okene highway yesterday, involving four vehicles, left a gory sight as five victims were burnt beyond recognition.

An eye witness at the scene of the accident told *The Nation* that the accident in the wee hours of Saturday involved two articulated vehicles and two Peugeot J5 buses conveying kolanuts and tomatoes to Kaduna State.

A truck, with registration number Plateau XB 326 BLD loaded with cement suddenly developed mechanical problems in the middle of the ever busy Abuja/Lokoja/Okene express way at night.

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Protesters, police clash over Lekki Expressway toll

AN otherwise peaceful protest embarked upon by residents of Lekki over the planned tolling of the Lekki Toll gate, turned awry yesterday after suspected hoodlums took on the protesters prompting policemen to disperse the crowd of protesters.

The protest rally which was led by the chairman of the Lekki Phase 1 Residents Association, Chief Wole Akala began from the Epe end of the road in the early hours of yesterday.

The rally tagged: "Occupy Toll Gate" was meant to be a sit in protest near the Lekki Toll Plaza by residents ahead of the planned commencement of tolling tomorrow by the Lekki Concessioning Company (LCC) with the active collaboration of the state government.

The residents had mobilised men and materials including the Lekki Peninsula Phase 1 Residents Association Security Patrol vehicle with the plate number, XS611 BDG which they parked at strategic locations. The protesters carried food, drinks and placards.

By Ibrahim Apekhade Yusuf

ards. Most of them wore white t-shirts with the inscription: "NOTTOLA" meaning "No To Tolling On Lekki Axis!" also carried different placards which bore the following messages: "Scrap Lekki Toll", "Three Tolls in one Local Government Area?"

Madness!!!!", "No To Fencing!", "No To Privatisation", "No Payment For Unfinished Road!!!!"

However, as the protest began to gather steam, a team of policemen arrested Akala at the Lekki Phase 1 roundabout and drove him away in a Lagos State Environment Task Force

Black-maria vehicle with plate number LA76 BA01.

Amidst shouts of "No More Toll gate", "All we're saying, no more tollgates!" "Shoot your guns!" the protest rally matched towards the tollgate just as the police had a hectic time controlling the crowd.

One of the protesters, Mr. Sotade Olayinka, coordinator, Youth Movement,

said: "As a government you cannot ignorantly conclude that only multi-millionaires are living along this route. Over 50 per cent of the people living here are not millionaires. If you take N500 from a motor vehicle everyday, from 50, 000 commercial motor vehicles on this route is N25million everyday. In a month it is N750million. In a year it is N9billion. It means that in six years you would have made N54billion. And you have concessioned this road for 30 years."

Echoing similar sentiments, ace Nollywood actress, Kate Henshaw, also a resident in the neighbourhood said: "We do not want any tolling on this road at all because we do not have an alternative route to follow. The so-called alternative route belongs to Oniru. When we tried to pass there when they were doing this road, it was cordoned off, it was blocked. And there are too many lanes in here for people to pass through there."

Speaking earlier, the DPO of Elemoro Police Division, Ywamhi Bello, said he didn't get any official notification on the protest and only heard from the grapevine that a protest was in the offing.

"We didn't get any official notification for the protest but only heard from the grapevine as such we had to mobilise our men to be

here to prevent a breach of peace", he said.

Pressed further, he said: "While we are not against people protesting, we shall not condone a situation where the protesters may try to infringe on the right of others by blocking the right of way. As you are aware, according to the Road Traffic Act, nobody has a right to block the right of way. We are ground to forestall any situation where this protest may be hijacked by hoodlums. Once this happens our men will swing into action. But other than that, we will just observe."

Mr. Ebun Adegboruwa, a lawyer and member of the Lekki Residents Association, who had sent a text message on Friday on the protest said: "We had already spread mats near the kerbs. We didn't go anywhere near the toll gate. There were thugs allegedly recruited by LCC who infiltrated our midst and began to beat up our members. And the police decided to seize the opportunity by firing live bullets into the air. And they started beating up our members. It was thereafter police started shooting live bullets into the crowd. Two of our members we are lying critically ill now. We don't know their fate as I speak to you." Among those arrested was Mr. Chima Nweze, a community in Lekki Phase 1.

It was politically motivated —Lagos State govt

THE Lagos State government yesterday reacted to the protest saying it smacked of political sponsorship.

The Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr. Aderemi Ibiroga said while it is the fundamental right of the citizens to protest, there should never be recourse to violence.

While expressing regrets that some journalists and media organisations were affected by the fracas which reportedly broke out at the scene of the protest, the Commissioner noted that reports reaching the State Government indicated that the law enforcement agents had to step in to prevent a breakdown of law and order when alleged thugs arrived the scene and fighting broke out.

According to the Commissioner, the Police stepped in to restore law and order and have made some arrests including a top Peoples Democratic Party candidate

who contested and lost during the last general elections, a development which showed that the protest itself was politically motivated.

Mr. Ibiroga cautioned against the politicization of every issue including developmental issues with clear implications for the welfare of the people and the image of the country as a whole.

He said broad based consultations had been carried out and several conditions set by the people in the Lekki axis including the provision of alternative routes and provision of high capacity buses had been met before an earlier suspension on tolling was lifted.

The State Government, Mr Ibiroga said, would probe deep into the issue and prosecute masterminds of the reported violence during the protest.



Representative of President, Manufacturer Association of Nigeria (MAN), Dr. Yinka Akande (left) with Director General/Chief Executive, Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON), Dr. Joseph Ikemefuna Odumodu behind them is Head, Public Relation, SON, Mr, Mathias Bassey at a day sensitization on Review of SONCAP "Towards Accelerated Clearance of Goods" organized by Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) held yesterday at MAN house Ikeja, Lagos. Photo: Isaac Jimoh Ayodele.

Five burnt to death in Kogi car crash

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The two J5 buses from the South and heading for Kaduna were said to have ran into the motionless trailer from behind.

Upon hitting the truck, the buses exploded in flames, killing and burning beyond recognition five of the occupants. Another vehicle with registration number Kebbi XA 246 DRD ran into the trailer.

The hazy whether, eyewitnesses said, could be

the factor that caused the accident as the vehicles could not sight the motionless truck from distance.

Sources also said two survivors are presently in a critical condition in one of the hospitals in Lokoja.

Meanwhile, members of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Kogi State Command, were seen at the scene of the multiple accident trying to control vehicles and help remove the burnt bodies from the buses.

Three killed, one missing in fresh Jos attack

THREE persons were reported killed in an early morning attack yesterday in Jwöl and Foron all in Riyom local government area of Plateau State.

Some unknown attackers were said to have invaded the villages setting numerous houses ablaze while residents of the houses were shot as they were trying to escape from their houses.

According to the Director, Stefanos Foundation, (a faith based foundation) Mark Lipdo some people

From Yusufu Aminu, JOS

set fire "on surrounding bushes in Jwöl, when the people in the area came out to put off the fire, they were shot at and two were killed while a body is still missing".

He further confirmed that one other person was also killed in Foron in a separate night attack.

Investigation further revealed that the name of the missing person in the Jwöl attack is Mr. Dung Danjuma.

Pray for me, Jonathan begs Adeboye

By Nneka Nwaneri

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday urged the church to support his transformation agenda.

He also asked for the backing of Nigerians in his plan to remove fuel subsidy.

The President who spoke yesterday through the Minister of Labour and Productivity, Mr. Emeka Nwogwu at this year's Holy Ghost Congress at the Redeemed City, Ogun State, said "I am guided by biblical principles of transparency in leadership. Government is pursuing the agenda of re-

gaining government trust in the eyes of the people through his security agenda to foster unity and peace".

Jonathan pleaded with the General Overseer GO of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Pastor Enoch Adeboye to pray for him and thanked the church and the GO for their support during the April presidential election which he won.

He said his victory was made possible through the prayers of Adeboye.

Nwogwu said the president won't let Nigeria and Nigerians down as he takes every decision with them in mind.

"A new thing has happened in Nigeria because your brother and friend, the president shares your vision," the minister said.

Adeboye gave the theme for the first 2012 Holy Ghost Service in January: "A New Alter to the Lord".

He prayed for the country and expressed optimism that Nigeria would be better and "experience a new dawn."

A total of 30 babies: 15 boys and 15 girls were born during the one week convention.

Dignitaries at the service included the wives of the Ogun State governor, Mrs Olufunso Amosun; that of Lagos State, Dame Abimbola Fashola; and deputy governor of Lagos State, Mrs Adejoke Adefulire-Orelope, who implored religious leaders to keep praying for leaders.

Also present were delegates from different parts of the world.