

Security forces kill 17 suspects in gun battles

■ Rifles, abandoned vehicles recovered

From Kolade Adeyemi, Kano

ALL was quiet yesterday in Kano where security forces and unknown gunmen were locked in battles for hours on Tuesday.

The police said security forces killed 17 "terrorists" and arrested three during gun battles at various locations.

Speaking to reporters at the Police Headquarters in Kano, Commissioner of Police Ibrahim K. Idris said a police corporal, Saidu Umar, died in one of the battles. Another officer, Sergeant Baba Williams, sustained bullet wounds on his left leg during a gun duel at Dala Police Division.

The police boss, who said security forces matched the strength of the insurgents, revealed that "the terrorist elements" had planned co-ordinated attacks in five locations.

He named the places attacked as Dala Police Division, Jakara Police Barracks, Goron Dutse Prison Yard, 52 Squadron Challawa and Junior Secondary School Sabuwar Doka in Ungogo Local Government Area.

At Dala, the insurgents numbering about 30 attacked police men on duty with assault rifles and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Policemen gallantly repelled the attacks, Idris said.

He went on: "During the gun duel, the superior power of police killed 10 of the extremists. They abandoned their motor vehicles—a Golf Car, a bus containing large quantity of drugs and syringes, Toyota Corolla, N100, 000, 10 undetonated explosives and some drugs for First Aid.

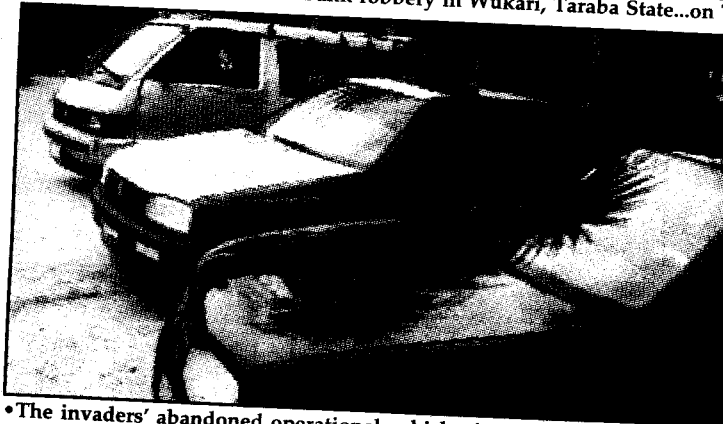
Also recovered from the extremists are three AK 47 rifles and eight magazines with hundreds of live ammunition. Three suspects were arrested while 10 others were killed."

At Jakara, the "insurgents" threw sever-

Continued on Page 4



• A suspect arrested after the bank robbery in Wukari, Taraba State...on Tuesday. Story on Page 57



• The invaders' abandoned operational vehicles in Kano...yesterday



• Some of the recovered AK47 assault rifles from the extremists

10 pupils drown in downpour

TEN pupils were swept to death by a flood following yesterday's early morning downpour in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

They were attending classes at the Living Foundation Nursery and Primary School in Tudun Kauri when the incident occurred.

Seven bodies were recovered in the school premises after the flood water was drained. The remaining three bodies were found in a gully a few metres from the school compound.

An eyewitness, who preferred anonymity, said the plight of the pupils became known when neighbours' attention was drawn to the school's collapsed fence.

He said he shouted for help and neighbours rushed into the school premises where they found most of the pupils trapped in their classrooms.

Tudun Kauri, where the school is located, is flood-prone, just like most parts of Lafia due to the absence of a good drainage system.

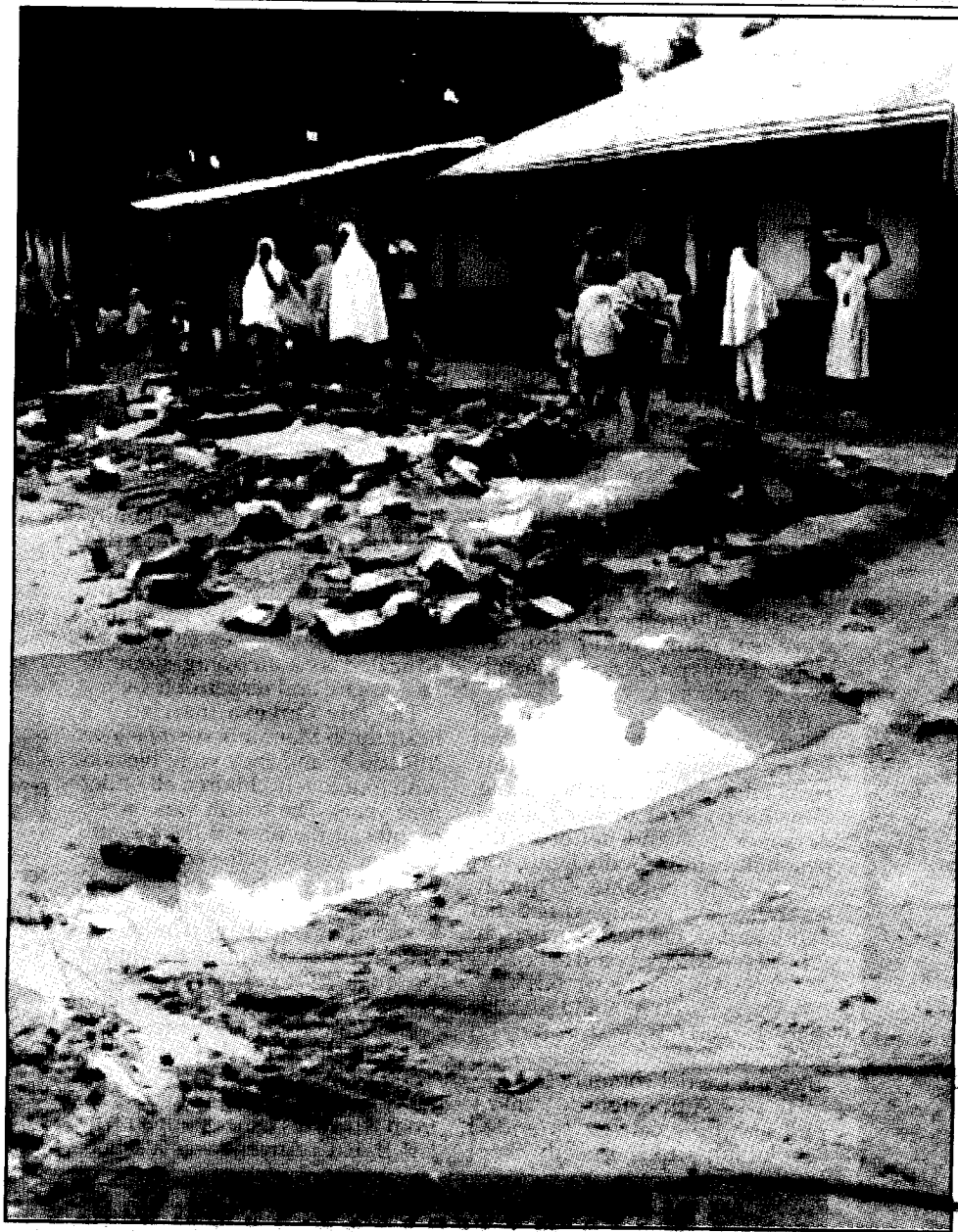
Successive governments have failed to tackle flooding in Lafia metropolis.

The school mistress was not available for comments. She was said to have gone to the police in connection with the incident.

The pupils' bodies have been deposited at the Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital.

Police spokesman, Cornelius Ochoi said he was yet to get the details of the incident as he was out of town on an official engagement.

The Chief Fire Officer, Alhak Dogar, said his men launched a rescue operation, which was hampered by bad



• The Living Foundation Nursery and Primary School, Lafia where 10 pupils drowned...yesterday

From Johnny Danjuma, Lafia

roads coupled with high currents of the flood. He expressed regret that the school was sitting on waterways which made it more difficult

to rescue the pupils.

"I received a call from the Ministry of Works that there was a problem around that area. You know we all woke up to heavy downpour, and

that signifies that there was a problem because of lack of proper drainage. People built on waterways, which is very dangerous," Dogar said.

Terrorism: Senate seeks special court to try suspects

Continued from Page 1

The lawmakers said effective governance must be entrenched through implementation and monitoring of appropriation laws.

They asked the Federal Government to strengthen laws relating to insecurity and terrorism.

They resolved that all Nigerians should be re-orientated to be united, resolute and focused on building a stronger country.

They asked the government to enhance bi-lateral and multi-lateral networking in curbing terrorism.

The senators called on government at all levels to increase support for communities that are affected by environmental degradation through the effective deployment and use of the ecological fund.

The lawmakers resolved to take expeditious actions to facilitate the implementation of the resolutions of the 2012 retreat.

They observed that effective national security is crucial for

meaningful sustainable development in the country and lamented the collapse of positive values and allegiance to national symbols.

The Senate also expressed sadness that the level of insecurity has impacted negatively on the economy, most especially in the North.

It said despite the measures being pursued by the government, there is need for dialogue as a feasible solution to resolving Boko Haram problem.

The lawmakers enjoined the sect members to embrace dialogue.

The government, the Senate said, should partner with the international community to curb insecurity and terrorism, saying such is imperative, given the international dimensions and connections of terrorist organisations.

They also stated that counter terrorism and insecurity require new legislations and re-examination of existing legal framework.

Alleged \$620,000 bribe: Rep Jagaba gets Police deadline

ANOTHER lawmaker is to tell the police all he knows about the \$620,000 cash-for-clearance scandal.

The police have invited Adam Jagaba, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Finances, to make a statement on his role, if any, in the matter.

The lawmaker has publicly denied any role in the scandal. He has up till tomorrow to report to the police.

The suspended Chairman of the House Committee on Fuel Subsidy Management, Mallam

From Yusuf Alli, Abuja

Farouk Lawan, is also expected to appear before the Police Special Task Force (STF) tomorrow.

Lawan was again at the STF over the alleged bribery. He spent about 10 minutes at the Force Headquarters. The whereabouts of the \$620,000, which businessman Femi Otedola said he gave the lawmaker remains unknown.

Jagaba, who Lawan alleged was in custody of the cash, has not reported to the police.

A source, who spoke in confidence, said: "We have read

Continued on Page 5

Security forces kill 17 suspects in gun battles

Continued from Page 1

al IEDs which shattered part of the police outpost, which, according to the police, had been locked since last December.

There were sporadic gun shots at Jakara, which left two of the invaders dead during a gun duel with Barracks Guards.

The attack at Goron Dutse Prison was unsuccessful as no casualty or damage was recorded. Five gunmen were killed at 52 Squadron in Challawa during a battle with Mobile policemen.

The police boss said at Sabuwar Abuja in Panshekara, explosions went off. A suspect was killed at a private residence.

"An explosion was heard at Sabuwar Doka Junior Secondary School in a suburb of Ungogo. A team of policemen and Anti-bomb Squad were drafted to the scene and it was discovered that one classroom was partially damaged by the explosion."

According to the Commissioner, items recovered from the gunmen at various locations include five assault rifles, 14 IEDs, 220 live ammunition, five motor vehicles, three motorcycles, N100, 000 and large quantities

Gunmen kill two civilians, JTF kills two suspects, arrests one

From Duku Joel, Damaturu

THE police in Damaturu have confirmed the killing of two suspected members of the Boko Haram and two civilians in Thursday's attack in the Yobe State capital. Commissioner of Police Patrick Egbuniwe said yesterday that one woman and her child were wounded by a stray bullet during the operation at Sabon Pegi in the Damaturu metropolis.

"There were attacks on a police and military posts by suspected gunmen, where two civilians were killed in the Sabon Pegi ward and the Federal Polytechnic staff quarters."

"One block of classrooms in the

polytechnic was torched by the Boko Haram members but I must say that they were just retreating and decided to burn the class because anytime you are chasing them, they will just burn what they see around.

"We also combed the school and found the body of a Federal Polytechnic security man who was killed in the attack," Egbuniwe said.

He said there were pockets of armed assailants still hiding in the communities in the metropolis, warning that the police and JTF would continue to raid such hideouts.

"On sighting operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF), the terrorists attempted to flee the area but were engaged by troops of the JTF. After the intense gun battle, seven of the terrorists were killed and several wounded. Arms and ammunition were recovered from them as well as IEDs which, as at this moment are still being discovered and detonated by the Police Anti Explosive Ordinance Unit safely.

"Area search is still on going to apprehend those with gunshot wounds as well as other unexploded IEDs. The JTF appeals to members of the public to report immediately, any person seen with any form of wound or any suspicious package for prompt action.

"Gentlemen of the press, you would recollect that a couple of days ago, members of the terrorist sect staged a prison break in Damaturu, the capital of Yobe State, where about 40 inmates were freed. As efforts are on to track the fleeing inmates, another situation was averted by the swift response of the JTF in Kano yesterday as the JTF believes that the intent of the terrorists was to first destabilise the closest reinforcement to the Goron

Speaking on whether the police got a hint on the purported text message sent to the institution prior to the attack, Egbuniwe said: "Yes we were alerted that a message was pasted round the school with the inscription that 'brothers and sister, you have to leave the school because we are coming to bomb it' but the reason why they bombed that classroom as I told you, is because they were retreating from the gunfire."

He said that no security agent was killed in the operation, adding that the situation was brought under control. The curfew in Damaturu is still from 7am to 6pm.

Dutse Prison and then storm the prison for a possible prison break. This attempt was frustrated by the JTF.

"This latest incident, once again, reveals that members of the terrorist sect would stop at nothing to destabilise the peace of the state and commercial activities, which are slowly picking up. All hands must be on deck to root out these terrorists.

"The JTF, once again, thanks the good people of Kano State for the cooperation it has been receiving from them. The JTF urges the general public to continue to cooperate with it in the area of providing informa-

tion on suspicious persons within the communities and to remain vigilant to apprehend terrorists who may be lurking around to drop IEDs.

"It will be recalled that the same terrorist gangs having failed in their attempt to destabilise Kano earlier, went and planted IED in a mosque in Fagge just before last Friday's prayers with an intent to provoke religious conflicts among the adherents of the two major religions, thereby achieving their aim of destabilising the state. The JTF will continue to treat all information given with the utmost confidentiality."

Security has been strengthened in the ancient city as vehicles, motor cycles and pedestrians are thoroughly searched. People are asked to raise up their hands at several checkpoints.

Some businesses have remained closed, as people stay indoors, following explosions early yesterday.

But the explosions were said to have been those safely defused by the Police Anti-Explosive Ordinance Unit.

Kano remained calm and peaceful last night, but there was apprehension among residents that more battles were on the way.