

Seven Boko Haram suspects killed in Gombe

THE Police in Gombe State on Friday shot dead seven suspected members of the Islamist sect,

Boko Haram, during a clash. The clash lasted two hours, according to the Gombe Police spokesman

Fwaje Atajiri.

However, the claim could not be independently confirmed.

The clash came 24 hours after members of the sect swooped on Damboa, Borno State, killing 11 people.

The terrorists, according to a report, attacked soldiers, burned shops and killed residents.

A military source said: "More troops have been dispatched to the area to confront the insurgents. They sneaked away towards the bush leading to parts of Yobe and Gombe states."

Around 50 gunmen in cars and motorbikes

stormed the rural town, forcing hundreds of residents to flee to hide in nearby farms, locals said.

The insurgency was initially weakened in the weeks immediately following the declaration of a state of emergency in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe in May, but remains active and there has been an uptick in violence in the past month.

Four Thais released after Rivers kidnap ordeal

FOUR Thais held in an apparent ransom kidnapping in Rivers State have been freed unharmed, a spokesman for the kingdom's foreign ministry in Bangkok said yesterday.

A gang of armed kidnappers seized the four Thais and two Nigerians on a waterway while they were on their way to work at a state-owned fish farm in the state a week ago.

"All of them are released," ministry spokesman Manasvi Srisodapol said of the Thai nationals.

"The Thai Foreign Minister has talked with one of

them. They are fine and will continue to work in Nigeria," he added, without confirming whether a ransom was paid or the exact time of their release.

One of Thai hostages spoke to Thai television yesterday and said he believed the kidnap was linked to rivalry between competing fish farms.

"They took us as hostages and used us as a bargaining chip," Somchoke Panpinij told Thailand's Channel 7. "We will not return to Thailand yet... I came here to help them to develop their country."



•Yoruba traditional rulers at the meeting on unity held at Premier Hotel, Ibadan at the weekend.

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They summoned the leading fuel trading companies to the

Inside the presidential fight

similar notions. Such developments would be a major blow to the PDP but would also present the APC with some

reached the federal level. Jega is considering several ways to get the actual polling station results directly to