

# Sallah tragedy: Boko Haram kills 13 at praying grounds

## • Army, police issue conflicting accounts

**T**HE Eid el-Fitr turned bloody yesterday in Damaturu after bombs carried by three girls went off at two Eid prayer grounds in the city, killing at least 13 worshippers.

Fifteen others were injured by the blasts at Layin Gwange and at Phase 1, about two kilometres from the Central Mosque where Governor

■ Duku JOEL, Maiduguri ■  
with agency reports

Ibrahim Geidam of Yobe State, the Chief of Army Staff, Major General Tukur Buratai, and other dignitaries observed the

Eid prayers.

Buratai was in the Yobe State capital as part of his effort to boost the morale of soldiers who have been fighting the Boko Haram insurgents and to enable him assess the requirements

of his men.

"13 people were killed in the suicide blasts," said Police Commissioner Markus Danladi. "The attacks were carried out by three underage girls. 15 people were also injured in the

attacks."

The Army's account was slightly different, with the acting Director of Army Public Relations, Colonel Sani Usman, saying the suicide bombings were carried out by "one elderly woman and a 10-year girl."

"Four persons died in the first explosion and seven people injured, while five people lost their lives in the second explosion and 11 were wounded," Usman said, saying the Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs) went off as security personnel were screening worshippers entering the prayer grounds.

He said that the situation had been brought under control and declared that "no amount of terrorist act would deter our

resolve to stamp out terrorism and insurgency."

The explosions sent people scampering to safety while many others chose to stay indoors.

The police and other security agencies had intensified their watch over Yobe and Borno states over the last few weeks, following the upsurge in attacks by the terror organisation.

The Islamic State (ISIS) group, to which Boko Haram has pledged allegiance, had issued a directive to create more mayhem during the just-concluded Ramadan.

Only on Thursday, two bombs killed about 50 people buying goods for the festivities at a market in Gombe.

The National Emergency Management Agency spokesman Sani Datti said another 75 were wounded.

## Chief Imam calls for support for Aregbesola

