

Gunmen kill three policemen, abduct several others in Niger

From Justina Asishana, Minna

3 **G**UNMEN yesterday raided a police station in Ishau under the Kafin-koro Police Division of Paikoro Local Government Area of Niger State. They, in the process, killed three policemen.

The deceased policemen were shot by the gunmen while others who were in the station ran away for safety.

It was learnt that the gunmen also conducted a village-to-village raid in the Kafin-koro area as 11 communities which include Zubakpere, Kuna, Aboloso, Kudami, Dakolon Daji, Nugwazi, Amale, Adunu, Ishau and parts of Beni were said to have been attacked.

Several others, including a village head, four of his children and five women were abducted across six communities in the local government area.

The Niger State Police Public Relations Officer, Wasiu Abiodun, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) could not be reached. He did not pick his call or respond to a text message.

4 One feared killed as protests over hijab rock Kwara school

From Adekunle Jimoh, Ilorin

CONTROVERSY over wearing of hijab by Muslim students in Oyun Baptist High School (OBHS), Ijagbo, Oyun Local Government Area of Kwara State turned bloody yesterday. In the process, one person was feared killed and some others allegedly sustained various degrees of injuries.

An unconfirmed source said unknown people armed with dangerous weapons unleashed terror on peaceful protesters at the school. It was gathered that yesterday's protest was borne out of the January 17 decision of authorities of the school to prevent hijab-wearing Muslim pupils from entering the school.

Consequently, the state government intervened and directed that the status quo be maintained; saying that hijab or beret-wearing should be made optional in all grant-aided schools.

To prevent escalation of the fracas, the state government announced the closure of the school.