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| Chris Agbambu, Hassan Ibrahim, Johnson Babajide and Clement Idoko with Agency Report



ATTEMPTS by terrorists to attack Ajiri and Mafa, as well as other communities on the outskirts of Maiduguri and Dikwa in Borno State, towards the Cameroon borders, were foiled by the security forces, resulting in the killing of 20 insurgents in the encounter.

Also, troops on reinforcement mission in the areas cleared the ambush mounted by the terrorists to

enable them to unleash terror on the communities unchallenged.

“Arms captured from the terrorists include various brands of machine guns and improvised explosive devices. Twenty insurgents died in the encounter, while our troops sustained varying degree of injuries”

“Also, more camps were destroyed on Wednesday in encounters at various forests and mountain locations around Adamawa and Borno states,” Director, Defence Information, Major-General Chris Olukolade, said in a statement in Abuja, on Thursday.

He also frowned on statements by some prominent Nigerians that the insurgents were better harmed.

“For the avoidance of any doubt, it is hereby restated that the Nigerian military cannot by any standard be overwhelmed by the insurgents, neither will the devious antics of their sympathisers and sponsors demoralise the fighting spirit of troops,” he said.

Youths clash with troops in Southern Kaduna

A violent clash on Thursday between youths in Southern Kaduna and soldiers stationed in the area left about six people with varying degree of injuries now receiving treatment in a hospital.

Journalists were told that the crisis began when the youth disagreed with the military operatives in Manchok town of Kaura Local Government Area of Kaduna State, over the arrest of some of them on alleged robbery.

Chairman of the council, Mr Kumai Badu, said the situation had been brought under control, while the injured persons were receiving treatment at a hospital in Kagoro town.

Mr Kabosho Duniyo, who witnessed the clash, said the incident happened when some youths protested the arrest of

six members of vigilance group in the area by the soldiers for alleged robbery.

“Soldiers in the area received a distressed call on Wednesday night from a motorist who claimed to have been robbed in Manchok.

“The prompt response to the call led to the arrest of six suspects who were later taken to the paramount chief of the community for amicable resolution of the matter.

“But the youth protested against the arrest and, in self defence, the soldiers fired gunshots and injured four persons,” he said.

Fulani herdsmen kill 20 in Benue

No fewer than 20 people were killed in a renewed crisis between Fulani herdsmen and Tiv farmers, with several houses burnt, as the herdsmen were said to have invaded three local government areas in Benue State.

Nigerian Tribune reliably gathered that the herdsmen had moved to northern part of the state in Kwande, Katsina Ala and Logo local government areas.

Thirteen people were said to have been killed at Tse Ibor, Tombo and Mbawa, all in Logo, while another seven were said to have been killed at Anyiase, near Kashimbila, a border between Taraba and Benue in Kwande.

As of the time of filing this report, several houses were said to have been burnt in the affected councils.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Dan Ezeala, who confirmed the incident, said many houses had been burnt, but could not ascertain number of casualties.

The state governor, Mr Gabriel Suswam, while signing the 2014 appropriation bill into law on Thursday, confirmed the attacks on the areas, saying, “as I am talking to you right now, terrorists who masquerade as Fulani herdsmen and use cow as smokescreen are on the prowl, attacking Logo, Katsina Ala and Kwande local government areas.”

In a related development, the Nigeria Immigration Service, on Thursday, paraded 251 illegal immigrants in Makurdi, the state capital.

The state Controller of Service, Thomas Bagobiri, while parading the suspects, said the service was determined to fish out all illegal immigrants in the state.

He, however, said one of the arrested suspects was legally permitted to live in Nigeria, but noted that his activities were against the laws of the land.

FG partners Interpol to root out terrorists in Nigeria

THE Federal Government is collaborating with the Interpol and neighbouring countries, as well as strengthening its border patrol to root out terrorists threatening the nation’s security, the Comptroller-General of Nigeria Immigration Service, Mr David Parradang, has said.

Parradang also revealed that the NIS had introduced new Combined Expatriate Residence Permit and Aliens Card

(CERPAC Card) that must be obtained by all non-ECOWAS citizens in Nigeria on or before April 30, 2014.

Speaking at an interactive session with newsmen at the Immigration headquarters in Abuja, he disclosed that NIS, through collaboration with other security agencies, had, so far, repatriated about 4,706 questionable foreigners, while about 150,804 non-Nigerians were refused admission into the country, because they did not possess necessary requirements for entry.

He said the Federal Government was concerned about the nation's porous borders and had taken practical steps to stop the free movement of people in and out of the country through strengthening of the border patrol and collaboration with international security agencies and the neighbouring countries.

The Comptroller-General, who disclosed that the Federal Government had approved the establishment of a Special Border Patrol Corps, said about 1,000 of the immigration personnel were already undergoing training to be appropriately deployed.

He, however, disclosed that about 7,390 Nigerians were also repatriated from foreign countries in 2013, adding the service succeeded in preventing 106,739 Nigerians travelling out OF the country in 2013 in search of the proverbial "greener pastures abroad."

He denied reports in some sections of the media that there had been 100 per cent increase in passport fees, adding that the service had only increased the number of pages on the passport booklet to accommodate those who travelled often and minimal charge for change of data and replacement of lost passport.

Military'll end insurgency in North-East -CDS

The Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh, on Thursday, gave the assurance that the military would end the Boko Haram insurgency in the North-East.

Badeh gave the assurance in Abuja, when the caucus of House of Representatives members from Adamawa, led by Honourable Anthony Madwatte, paid him a visit.

"What I can guarantee you is that we will do our best, but we solicit your assistance to ensure that this war is over," he said.

"We look forward to your protection; you must give us the legal backing for us to do our job. If you want your son to succeed, then you must assist him, if your son succeeds then, the armed forces have succeeded," he said.

Badeh also assured the legislators that the situation would be normalised to enable them to go back home and campaign as election time draws near.



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