

Suicide bomber attacks police command, kills 5

Adelani Adepegba,
Abuja

Five persons were feared killed in a suicide attack on the Borno State Police Command Headquarters in Maiduguri on Friday.

A suicide bomber had attempted to gain access into the command, but the bombs he bore exploded at the gate and killed the victims.

The exact number of policemen affected by the blast could not be immediately ascertained.

But the police later confirmed that an inspector and four civilians died in the blast.

Police spokesman, Mr. Frank Mba, a chief superintendent of police, in a statement on Friday, said a lone male suicide bomber driving a light green Toyota Camry car, loaded with Improvised Explosive Devices, attempted to smash through the gate of the Borno Command HQs at about 11.30 am.

According to him, the attempt failed as "vigilant and combat-ready police officers on guard duty" at the gate resisted and prevented him from gaining access into the premises.

Mba said, "Obviously acting out of frustration and desperation, he detonated the explosives right outside the gate of the headquarters, killing himself in the process and one Inspector Ali Bulama."

He said four other

civilians, who were passers-by, lost their lives in the incident.

"Three other civilians and a few police officers sustained injury of varying degrees.

"They are all responding to treatment at various hospitals in Borno," Mba added.

Meanwhile, a combined team of detectives from the Borno State CID and the Police Bomb Disposal Unit had begun an investigation into the incident.

The police appealed to the public to continue to support them and other security agencies by volunteering useful information at all times.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack but Islamic insurgent group, Boko Haram, had carried out attacks on police stations in the past.



•Cameroonian cultural dancers during the fifth African Arts and Crafts Expo in Abuja... on Friday. Photo: Sam Adeko

Driver absconds with master's three kids, new car

John Alechenu, Abuja

A driver in Abuja has absconded with three of his master's children.

The kids are: Chinemere Anusiem (five), Okechukwu Anusiem (four) and Nzube Anusiem (two).

The driver, identified as Godwin Tikia, has worked in the Anusiem household for about three months before becoming the prime suspect in a suspected kidnap saga, which happened on Thursday.

Very little is said to be known about the suspect, but it was confirmed that he is a Tiv man from Benue State.

His last known permanent home address was an area located around Ogli'oko Secondary School, North Bank, Makurdi.

He was said to have picked up the children from school as he had done for the three months he had been in the employ of the family.

This time, he did so in the family's new lemon grey Toyota Avensis,

which had no registration number.

The mother of the three children, who recently gave birth to another baby, was too traumatised to speak when our correspondent visited the family residence at Utako on Friday. Her husband was not at home.

All Mrs. Anusiem could muster strength to say amid sobs was, "I just want my children back home; please, bring them back home."

However, a relative, who

pleaded for anonymity, said, "Yesterday (Thursday) was not the first time the driver will be going to the school to pick the children.

"Their mother just put to bed about one week ago. If not, she could have gone there herself.

"When the driver picked the children, he even called their father that he had picked them from school and that he was on his way home. That was the last time they heard from him."

Asked whether there was an unresolved dispute between the woman and the driver, the source said, "She doesn't have any

Buhari debunks ACN/CPC merger, says no deal yet

Mustapha Salihu, Kano

The presidential candidate of the Congress for Progressive Change, Maj.-Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, on Friday denied any deal on merger talks between his party and the Action Congress of Nigeria ahead of the 2015 polls.

Buhari flew into Kano on Friday along with a former Lagos State Governor and ACN leader, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, in the same aircraft.

The ex-head of state told newsmen that no political understanding had been reached on the issue.

He, however, gave the assurance that as soon as the deal materialised, it would become a public issue.

Bosede Olusola-Obasa
and Oyetunji Abioye

to disperse their passengers, who had already boarded.

to Port Harcourt owing to the development.

Nigeria, Mr Akin Olukunle, did not also pick his calls.

Runway blackout grounds flights at Abuja airport