

## NEWS

# Five die in groups' dash in Borno

From TIMOTHY OLANREWAJU, Maiduguri

**F**ive people were feared dead and many others injured at the weekend when two youth vigilante groups on counter-insurgency mission, clashed in Biu, South of Borno State.

Residents and security sources hinted that a volunteer youth group popularly

called Civilian JTF, from Maiduguri had stormed Biu, the second largest town in Borno and about 185 kilometres from Maiduguri, the state capital last Friday on a mission to fish out Boko Haram insurgents. The insurgents were believed to be behind series of attack in the area including last week's reported killing of some residents and a college teacher.

However, some youths who were said to have organised themselves into a volunteer vigilance group, reportedly attempted to restrict the civilian JTF from Maiduguri from carrying out their counter-insurgency mission in Biu, because it could spur more problems for the community.

A battle line was reportedly drawn as the two groups later engaged in a free-for-all that lasted about 30 minutes.

"Five people died and many of the youths were injured."

The Civilian JTF in Biu had asked those that came from Maiduguri to leave the town because their presence was likely to cause more trouble than good in Biu town," a resident said.

According to him, it was in the process of resisting the visiting Maiduguri civilian JTF that fight ensued between

the two groups, which led to the killing of five persons.

"An eyewitness said he saw five dead bodies being evacuated from the scene of the clash. He said the casualty figure could be more because soldiers also shot sporadically," a resident said in an e-mail yesterday.

Both the Joint Task Force (JTF) and the police could not be reached for reaction as at press time.