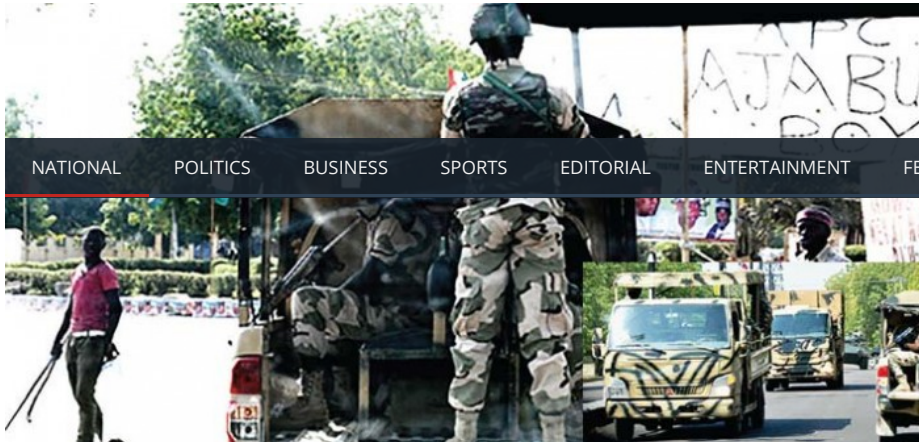




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BY OUR REPORTER ON MARCH 11, 2015

COVER, NATIONAL

From TIMOTHY OLANREWAJU, Maiduguri

Two major attacks in two towns in Borno State by Boko Haram yesterday killed 20 people with dozens injured.

An explosion which occurred a few metres from the scene of last weekend's second blast killed at least 12 people while 21 people were injured.

A female terrorist walked into a crowded area near El-Kanemi Cinema Roundabout around Maiduguri Monday market at about 4pm yesterday and detonated a bomb. Sources at the State Specialists Hospital said eight bodies were brought to the mortuary while 11 injured people are on admission, swelling up the over 40 injured victims of last weekend's triple blasts still recuperating at the hospital.

A source also told Daily Sun that 10 other victims of yesterday's blast are receiving treatment. Some youth vigilante who participated in the rescue operation said three more bodies were discovered after the first eight, bringing the casualty to 12.

In another attack on Ngamdu town, about 100 kilometres to Maiduguri, eight people mostly motorists and travellers were killed when over 20 terrorists riding on horses and two vehicles invaded the town. The insurgents were said to have shot at motorists and commuters, killing eight people while 10 people were injured.

"They opened fire on some of our drivers travelling on the road at about 10.30am (yesterday). We lost about five people and some of our colleagues were injured," Abubakar Mohammed, a bus driver, said.

Some medical staff attended to five injured people, all drivers, at the Accident and Emergency Unit of the

Umaru Shehu State Hospital. Three of the victims had gunshots on their thighs and heads. Some of their

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relations and friends were seen assisting medical personnel to clean up the blood-soaked bodies.

A military source who is not authorised to speak, confirmed the attack, adding that soldiers were deployed in the town to repel the attack. He said the insurgents who disguised as horse-riders fled when they were confronted by the troops.

20 insurgents routed in Adamawa

From David MALOMO, YOLA

The military killed 20 Boko Haram insurgents on Monday night while recovering five Toyota vans, cache of arms and ammunition in Gombi, Adamawa State.

Although, no casualty was recorded by the troops and the vigilante group, but many insurgents met their Waterloo in a fierce battle that lasted for hours in Gombi, which is 120 kilometres from Yola, the state capital.

The state police command confirmed that the insurgents were repelled by soldiers which resulted in the casualty suffered by Boko Haram.

DSP Othman Abubakar, the command's spokesman, said yesterday that the insurgents tried to penetrate Gombi through Biu-Garkai road but the joint operations of the military and local vigilante contained them. He said the terrorists left the battle-field with many of their dead colleagues.

Gombi is one of the seven local government areas that were recaptured from the sect and had recently witnessed incessant attacks by Boko Haram. "The men came in from Goloso, Garkida villages through Biu Road, about 6.30pm in a motorcade and vehicles. They engaged soldiers in a gun battle," a resident, who gave his name as Abubakar, said.

According to him, many residents fled as the shooting lasted for over two hours.

"There was pandemonium in the town, people scampered for their lives for fear of the uncertainty," he said.

A resident fleeing the town, one Mr Bitrus Danladi, said many residents ran into the bush. "As I am talking to you, we are here on the mountain taking refuge.

"They (Boko Haram) insurgents had attempted to capture the town, so we are afraid, hence I fled with my wife and two little children," Danladi revealed.

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