

Five Boko Haram Members Killed in Kano, Maiduguri

Fierce gun battles between the Joint Security Task Forces (JTF) in Kano and Maiduguri yesterday left five members of the Boko Haram sect dead. In Kano, two members of the sect died during a JTF bust on their hideout in Sabuwar Gandu Phase One area of Kumbotso Local Government Area of the state. Confirming the death of the two suspected Boko Haram members, the commander of the 3 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Kano, Brigadier General Iliyasu Abba, told reporters while conducting them round the scene of the incident, that the suspects wanted to detonate an improvised explosive device (IED) loaded in a car so that it could also kill the security forces, that stormed their house following a tip off. "Unfortunately the IEDs inside the car exploded on them and shattered their bodies," he said.

Also in Borno, the state JTF engaged members of the sect in a shootout that lasted for an hour. This followed the sect's attack on a task force location along the Abaganaram and railway quarters in the town between 5:30 and 7:15pm yesterday.

Though the total number of casualties was not clear last night, JTF claimed that three members of the sect were killed in the shootout with its men. JTF spokesman, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa told THISDAY that the attack was repelled and three Boko Haram

From Ibrahim Shuaibu in Kano and Michael Olugbode in Maiduguri

members were killed while an AK 47 rifle was recovered from the fundamentalists as well as 200 rounds of 6.722 mm special ammunition. He said the military was still in pursuit of the fleeing

members of the sect, even as he claimed that the situation was under control and that the press would be furnished with more information as it unfolds. THISDAY learnt that apart from the men of the JTF who were attacked, the fundamentalists laid a siege on the Lamisula Police Station.

UTME: FG Lauds JAMB Students Demand Better C

The federal government yesterday commended the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) over the successful conduct of this year's Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) held across the country yesterday.

Minister of Education, Prof. Ruqayyatu Ahmed Rufa'i; Minister of State for Education, Chief Nyesom Wike, as well as chairmen, Senate and House Committees on Education, Senator Uche Chukwumerije and Hon. Farouk Lawan respectively, who monitored the examination in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), praised JAMB for improving on the conduct of the examination, which was almost marred in the city, as a result of the Peoples Democratic Party Convention National Convention.

From Bukola Olatunji in Al Funmi Ogu

While Rufa'i praised the peaceful conduct and improvement in the seating arrangement of the examination, Wike expressed hope that the biometric data capture would completely eliminate examination malpractice, while Chukwumerije pledged the Senate's support to the examination body, through appropriate legislation. Meanwhile, science students who sat for yesterday's UTME have called on JAMB to put science students into consideration while preparing for subsequent examinations for better performance.

About 1.5 million candidates sat for the examination in several centres across the country. This year's question papers were dif-