

# Sallah: Three killed as explosions hit Maiduguri

- *Two die in renewed Kaduna riots*
- *Police swoop on arms manufacturers*

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AS Nigerians prepare to join other Muslims faithful across the world to celebrate the Eid-el fitr, three suspected Boko Haram suicide bombers in a black Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) Jeep, yesterday, in Maiduguri, the Borno state capital, attacked and bombed some parts of the Joint Task Force (JTF) Headquarters in Pompomari ward of the metropolis, destroying part of the buildings of the military installations at about 1.20pm.

Two other blasts went off simultaneously at the State Security Services (SSS) headquarters by 1.30pm in Bulunkutu ward, wounding six other civilians near the El-Kanemi Theological College, Maiduguri and a soldier.

The three suicide bombers in the vehicle were also killed in yesterday's multiple blasts, after the suspects failed to gain entry into the military installations in Pompomari ward.

One soldier was, however, severely wounded and was taken to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) by the JTF.

However, the Bauchi State police command yesterday arrested one Gambo Mohammed and his alleged collaborator, Alhassan Mohammed for allegedly manufacturing illegal firearms.

State Police Commissioner, Ikechukwu Aduba, who made this known in an interview with newsmen in his office yesterday in Bauchi said the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, SARS, recovered some locally made guns, ammunition, fabricating implements, one oxygen gas cylinder, corrugated iron sheets for man-

ufacturing firearms, three locally made berretta pistols with 27 rounds of live ammunition and 10 cartridges from the suspects. He later paraded the suspects along with three other armed robbery suspects at the police headquarters.

In Kaduna, unknown gun men yesterday disrupted a church service at the southern Kaduna village of Tabak, killing two persons and injuring several others, 14 of whom were admitted at St Louis Catholic Hospital in Zonkwa. This is the sixth time some people have been killed in such attacks by yet to be identified gunmen since the post Presidential election violence led to the killing of over 850 persons in some Northern states including Kaduna.

In Bauchi, Aduba said, "SARS first arrested Alhassan Mohammed on suspicion of being a notorious firearms dealer resident in Bauchi township. Upon his arrest, he voluntarily confessed to having sold numerous locally made pistols to some people at the cost of N60, 000 each. "His confession led the team of detectives to arrest Gambo Mohammed who also confessed to establishing and operating a functional illegal firearms enterprise, adding that he usually supplied Alhassan Mohammed these lethal weapons for financial gain."

On the activities of the Boko Haram militants in the state, the Police Commissioner however, urged the people not to panic, assuring that the command had spread its dragnet to tackle the group during the Eid el Kabir festival. Saturday Vanguard learnt that Kaduna women and youths from the area who protested the alleged unprovoked attack reportedly held the state governor, Sir Patrick Yakowa hostage for over one hour and "refused to listen to his ap-

peals," even as they "denied him access to the victims," although the government later denied that Yakowa was held hostage. The gunmen were said to have invaded the St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Tabak village in Zango Kataf Local Government around 11.45pm when the worshippers were observing a vigil inside the church through the internationally recognized cattle grazing route close to the village and immediately opened fire on the worshippers, killing two women instantly and leaving several others with various degrees of wounds. Eye witness said that there were blood stains on the alter of the church, while bullets from the attack penetrated the iron doors, thus indicating that the attackers were armed with sophisticated weapons. There were fears of reprisal attack as the people from Zango-Kataf area are already accusing Fulani herdsmen of carrying out the attack and vowed to attack Fulani men who came across them.

In Maiduguri, one blast went off outside a school where parents had arrived to pick up students. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but blame immediately fell on Boko Haram, which has staged targeted assassinations and bombings around Maiduguri, killing more than 24.

Borno state police commissioner Simeon Miden-da said one blast detonated around noon outside the El-Kanemi Theological College where parents had gathered. Midenda said others had entered the college grounds to attend Friday prayers at a mosque located on its campus.

Witnesses said they saw ambulances carry away at least six wounded people from the site. A short time later, suicide bombers driving a black SUV attempt-

ed to enter a base for the military unit charged with protecting the city from Boko Haram fighters, military spokesman Lt. Col. Hassan Ifijeh Mohammed said.

The SUV couldn't enter the gate and the explosives

## Plateau reviews security situation

THE Plateau Security Council on Thursday held an emergency session to review the security situation in Jos and other hot spots ahead of the forthcoming Eid-el-Kabir celebration.

Mr Abraham Yiljap, the Commissioner for Information, disclosed this at a news conference in Jos.

Yiljap said the meeting, which was presided over by Acting Gov. Ignatius Long-jan in Jos, deliberated on how to effectively tackle any breakdown of law and order during the Eid celebration.

He said the council was satisfied with the prevailing calm in the state and urged the citizens to continue to cooperate with the security agencies to sustain and strengthen the peace.

"The Council endorsed all the measures taken by the security agencies toward a peaceful Sallah, particularly the decision that the Polo Field and Rukuba Road, Jos, should be avoided as praying grounds.

"Adequate security measures have been taken to ensure that the blocked routes are fully enforced to avoid a repeat of the unfortunate incident during the Eid-el-Fitr."

"The Council advises the public not to test the strength of the security agencies as they have been directed to use all the powers within the ambit of the law against anyone who wants to breach the peace."

The News Agency of Nigeria, NAN, reports that the Eid-el-fitr celebration, which

were detonated outside of the base, which damaged several buildings in the military's compound, Mohammed said. The lieutenant colonel said only a few soldiers suffered "minor injuries" from the attack.

Mohammed said blasts occurred at three other places in Maiduguri besides the base, with no one

being killed. Immediately after the attack, soldiers cordoned off one neighbourhood and began an aggressive search. Earlier this week, the military conducted house-to-house searches of some neighbourhoods to collect weapons and round up suspected members of the sect.

took place in August, was marred by violence, which left about 50 people dead and property worth millions of naira destroyed in Jos.

Yiljap appealed for the understanding of the residents of the areas earmarked for blockage, saying that it was a temporary measure. Meanwhile, Yiljap has said

that the leave embarked upon by Gov. Jonah Jang since Oct. 10, did not violate any constitutional provision.

He said Jang wrote to intimate the House of Assembly about it and approval was given by the legislators. Police arrest five arms manufacturers

## Bayelsa: S/South govs fail to save Sylva

BY DANIEL IDONOR,  
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FOR the second time in a week, attempt by the South-South governors to lobby for the clearance of the embattled Governor Timipire Sylva of Bayelsa State by the People Democratic Party, PDP, failed again, as their meeting with President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday ended in deadlock.

Efforts by the South South Governors to save Sylva, "considered by them as one of their own" yielded no positive result, despite a strong plea to President Jonathan.

Vanguard learnt that the governors had initiated the move codenamed, "Operation Sylva must run", following an informed grand plan by powerful group to stop the governor from a rerun.

As a result, the governors decided to mount pressure on the President to prevail on the group to support Sylva, through a meeting which yielded no result earlier.

But, yesterday, undaunted by the first failure, Akwa

Itom's Godswill Akpabio, Cross River's Liyel Imoke and Rivers' Rotimi Amaechi having waited for several hours to see President Jonathan on matter, could not strike a favourable deal for their colleagues.

Their second attempt plea for a soft landing for Sylva in the forthcoming Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, gubernatorial primaries in Bayelsa State, could not sway the President.

The governors came out from the meeting held at the First Lady's wing of the presidential villa wearing long faces, an indication that all was not well, as they were full of disappointments.

When accosted by curious State House correspondents to speak on the outcome of the meeting, all the governors kept mute and refused to comment.

But persisted journalists followed them into their waiting cars, when Sylva turned and asked why he was being trailed with the microphones, saying "why are you following me with microphone now? I don't want to talk!"