

Five killed in *Boko Haram* attack on Chadian army base

1 FOUR soldiers and a cameraman died in the early hours of yesterday from an attack by *Boko Haram* on the northern shore of Lake Chad. Members of the terrorist group attacked the Chadian army base at about one o'clock in the morning.

Meanwhile a delegation of the army general staff on the ground had one of the convoy's vehicles reportedly hit a mine killing two soldiers on the spot, while a third died a few hours later as a result of his injuries. Obed Nangbatna, a national television cameraman who was part of the mission also died.

2 In another development, five Nigerian soldiers have been killed and a number missing after an ambush by *Boko Haram*'s Islamic State-backed faction, security sources said Sunday. Fighters from Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) on Friday opened fire on a column of vehicles under military escort in the northeastern Borno State, according to the sources who requested anonymity.

The troops were escorting residents from Sabon Garin Kimba village in dozens of trucks to a camp in the town of Damboa about 50 kilometres away, according to a militia fighting against the jihadists alongside the army.

They were being evacuated from the village, which lies 130km from the state capital Maiduguri, ahead of a major military offensive against ISWAP, that has recently increased its activities in the area. "We lost five soldiers in the ambush, two were wounded and several are missing, their fate unknown," said one military officer.

He said the attackers seized two military trucks and tried to immobilise an armoured vehicle by destroying its tyres but the driver managed to drive it to safety. "As they approached Bungiri village ISWAP laid an ambush on the convoy. The troops engaged the terrorists in a gun battle and all civilians were able to escape but five soldiers were killed."

3 Last month the jihadists raided a nearby military base in Mararrabar Kimba, killing five troops and stealing weapons, while some 30 troops are still listed as missing.

For several weeks, *Boko Haram* has been increasing incursions into northern Chad, and seems to have adopted a new *modus operandi*: the laying of mines on the enemy's path.

CROSS WORD PUZZLE

• ACROSS

1. Ex-Ondo State MILAD, (7).