

# Boko Haram chief bomb maker blown off by own IED

• Bandits kill newborn, free mum in Kaduna

**B**OKO Haram chief bomb maker, Awana Geidam, has died in Sambisa Forest.

Zagazola Makama, a counterterrorism expert in the Northeast, said Geidam was killed by his own Improvised Explosive Device (IED).

Geidam, a top ranking Boko Haram member, had been on the wanted list of the military in the Northeast for a very long time. He was Boko Haram chief bomb maker and a dreaded terrorist before his accidental death by his own device.

The 39-year-old was one of the terror group's reliable hands in the making of IEDs.

According to Zagazola, "Awana was believed to be responsible for plotting many IED attacks on troops of Operation Hadin Kai patrol teams along major highways from Maiduguri to Damboa, Bama to Pulka and Bita as well as Banki to Darajamal general area.

Giving details of how the Boko Haram bomb expert was killed, Zagazola said: "The bomb struck his vehicle along Njumia and Arra in the Sambisa forest, on March 27, killing him instantly.

"The sources said that Awana had planted bombs in strategic positions to fortify his camp

From Duku Joel, Damaturu

within the Sambisa forest but little did he know that he planted it against himself, which blew him off, shattering his body to pieces".

In Kaduna, some bandits have reportedly shot dead a newborn baby delivered at their camp when its mother was a hostage in their den.

Reports said the child's mother, her husband, Mustapha and their 16-year-old daughter, Mahapuza, were kidnapped early February at their residence in the Janjala community in Kagarko local area of the state.

Days later, the husband, Mustapha, was freed after the bandits collected N2 million, a brand new motorcycle and foodstuff from his relatives.

But they held back his pregnant wife and daughter and demanded another N2 million before freeing them. A source said the woman put to bed last Sunday.

After releasing the woman, the bandits held back her daughter and demanded another N1.5 million.

When the woman was delivered of the baby, the bandits' leader called the family to come and pick up the woman, it was said.