

Suspected suicide bombers kill over 60 in Maiduguri

JAMES BWALA - MAIDUGURI

BOMB explosion in six different places within Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, claimed the lives of over 60 residents of Ajilari cross ward on Sunday, newsmen have learnt.

According to residents, the explosion, which occurred at a mosque, viewing centre, checkpoint Majalisa and two other locations, also killed two soldiers and a police officer.

Ajlari cross, outskirts of Maiduguri, had witnessed series of Boko Haram attacks, including bombings in recent past.

The explosions which were suspected to have been mas-termined by suicide bombers occurred simultaneously at about 7:38 p.m, while the last one took place at about 8.00 p.m, forcing residents to flee to the main city for safety.

Mallam Ali Babagana, a survivor based in Ajilari, told the *Nigerian Tribune* on phone that the

the blasts as we sought an escape route to Gomari Airport," he said.

In another development, some suspected members of the Boko Haram sect am-

bushed an operational vehicles of security forces along Maiduguri-Dikwa-Gamboru Ngala road on Saturday.

Dikwa and Ngala was captured by terrorists some

couple of months ago, only recently that the Chief of Army Staff, General Tukur Buratai led some troops to recapture the two towns from the insurgents.

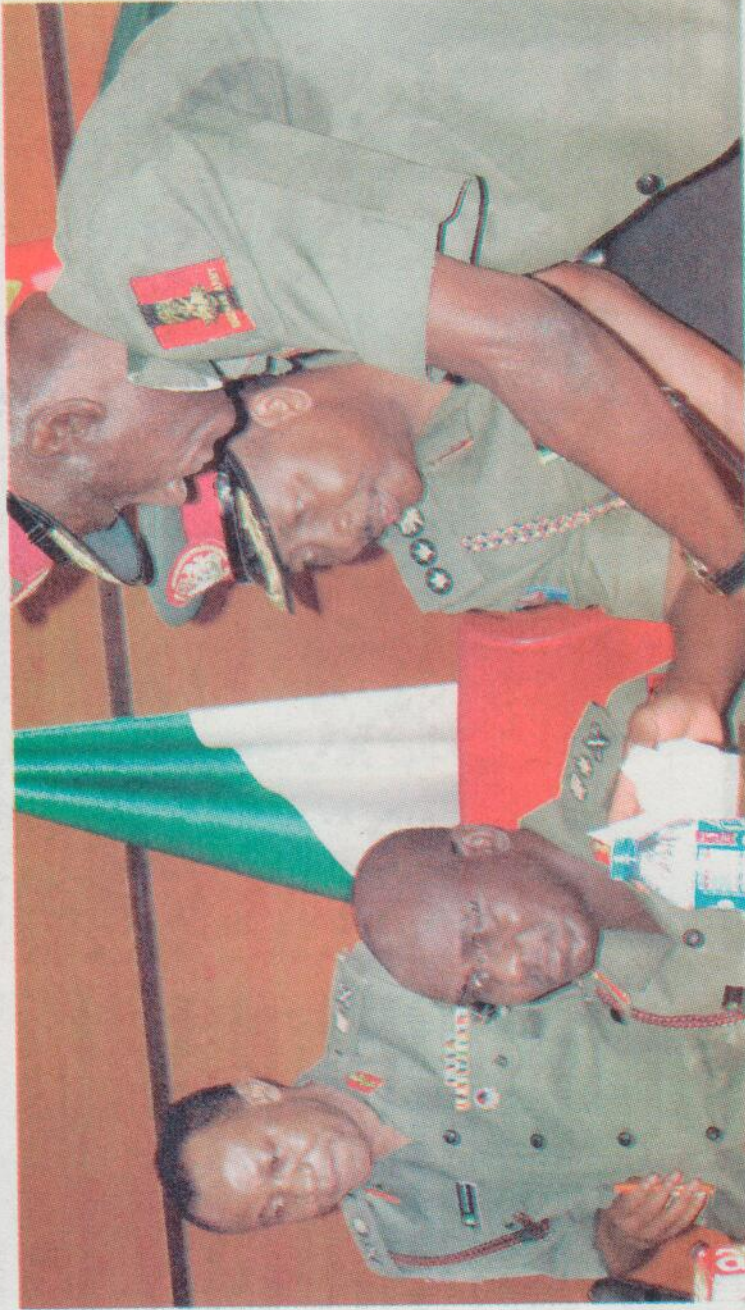
Due to poor telecommunications networks in the area, details of casualties on the side of the security operatives and the terrorists were sketchy as

of press time, but sources said both sides suffered severe casualties during the ambush.

When contacted on phone, the Deputy Director, Army Public Relations of the 7 Division in Maiduguri, Colonel Tukur Gusau, told *Nigerian Tribune* that he was busy somewhere, but promised to get back when he might have obtained details from troops in the affected communities of Dikwa and Ngala, even as he said he had not heard of any explosion in Maiduguri as of the time of going to press.

Hospital source at the State Specialist Hospital in Maiduguri told *Nigerian Tribune* that many corpses were brought to the hospital last night, but the number was not known.

"They are many that were brought to the hospital, but I don't have the figure," he said. The police Public Relations Officer, ASP Emmanuel Isuku, could not be reached as of the time of filing this report.



From left, Chief of Policy and Plans, Major-General Lincoln Ogunewe; Chief of Army Staff, Major-General Tukur Buratai; acting Director, Army Public Relations, Colonel Sani Usman and the Chief of Army Administration, Major-General Adamu Abubakar, during the Chief of Army Staff's third quarter conference, in Abuja, on Monday. PHOTO: NAN