

## 2 soldiers

**TWO** Nigerian soldiers were killed and nine others wounded in two separate mine blasts in the North-East, where troops are battling Boko Haram extremists, military and militia sources said.

## dead, 12 injured in mine blasts

The two incidents occurred on Saturday, a military officer told AFP. "We lost two soldiers in the incidents. Nine others and three civilian vigilantes were injured," said an officer who spoke on the condition of anonymity as he was not authorised to speak on the matter.

In the first incident, troops on foot patrol stepped on a mine around Kumshe village, near the border with Cameroon.

"Two soldiers were killed in the explosion," a member of a civilian militia assisting in the fight against the jihadists, told AFP.

Hours later, a military patrol hit a mine planted on a road between the towns of Dikwa and Marte, about 140 kilometres away. Nine soldiers were wounded as well as three from the civilian militia group, the officer said.

Boko Haram has intensified at-

tacks on military targets in Borno and neighbouring Yobe State in recent months.

The nine-year jihadist conflict, which has spilled into Niger, Cameroon and Chad, has claimed 27,000 people and left some 1.8 million homeless in Nigeria alone.