

He said 26 arms had been recovered from the warlords,

them, and we sat together. I pleaded with them, but they

started," he said.

Military, CJTF evacuate victims of Maiduguri blasts, as troops demobilise heaps of mines in Marte

• Terrorists' infiltration of civilian population hampers air bombardment

From Timothy Olanrewaju, Maiduguri

MILITARY and Civilian JTF have commenced evacuation of victims of multiple bomb explosions and attacks by Boko Haram.

No fewer than 15 badly injured including children and women were evacuated from Gwange Borehole Line blast to the Accident and Emergency ward of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH).

"About 16 wounded persons have been taken to the A & E ward now," a CJTF team leader preferring anonymity told Daily Sun.

Scores of family members and friends of the victims besieged the hospital, some crying and attempting to force their way into the ward.

Boko Haram had detonated explosives at Gwange, Kaleri and Bulabulin in the city.

They also fired mortal bombs.

Meanwhile, barely 48 hours after receiving the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Attahiru's charge to rid Marte and its neighbouring communities from Boko Haram elements, Nigerian troops have successfully destroyed several mines laid on their paths by terrorists.

It was learnt that apart from landmines, the terrorists' infiltration of the civilian population in Marte, prevented the Air Force from launching aerial bombardments, to avoid collateral damages.

The troops de-mined some communities and villages on major routes to Marte as they pushed further in the axis.

"Our troops, more than ever before, are committed to dealing with terrorists in the North-East. They have since, after the COAS' charge,

swung into action, with a view to liberating Marte and some adjoining communities.

"The terrorists' attacks have not dampened their morale in any way. Troops in Dikwa have also not been distracted. At the moment, we are intensifying our intelligence gathering mechanism to uncover terrorists' informants," a military source said.

Attahiru, on Sunday, issued a 48-hour dateline for troops to clear terrorists from Marte and adjoining villages, including Kirenowa, kirta, Wulgo, Chikingudo communities of in Borno State.

The COAS who undertook a surprise operational visit to Dikwa to commend Commanders and troops for protecting the town, had assured them of the needed support to carry out the task,

which he said must be done within 48 hours.

It was gathered that the General Officer Commanding 7 Division of the Army, Major Gen. Abdul-Khalifa, commended commanders and troops in that axis for thwarting the attempt by terrorists to takeover Dikwa.

While coordinating a massive military operation in the Sambisa Forest, Gen. Khalifa had quickly mobilised reinforcement from different military units to protect Dikwa.

He also led other troops to the town to ensure safety of citizens and large numbers of IDPs from the advancing terrorists. One of the Commanders that led the successful Dikwa Operation include the Garrison Commander of Operation Lafiya Dole, Brig Gen. Abubakar Haruna with fighting troops from Gulumba.

Kwara gov. Finance Minister meet on