



# Colonel, Captain, 4 other soldiers killed in *Boko Haram* battle

## ●...as rampaging bandits kill 20 in Sokoto

**S**SIX soldiers, including two officers, who fought to repel a *Boko Haram* attack, Wednesday evening, were killed by the insurgents.

One of the victims was a colonel and another captain.

Several *Boko Haram* fighters were also killed by the Nigerian soldiers in the attack that occurred at about 6p.m. along Maiduguri-Damaturu Highway during a patrol by the colonel and other soldiers of the 29 Task Force Brigade.

Army has not announced the development and its spokesman, Sagir Musa, did not return calls from *Premium Times* seeking comments on the incident.

Also, *Premium Times* is withholding the identity of the slain officers, saying they were not sure their families had been briefed by the Army.

The military has avoided announcing own casualties in recent months, including the two lieutenant colonels who were killed within the past two months.

However, a military source said the six soldiers were killed near their base in Jakana.

A soldier, who went missing has since returned to base, sources said. A reinforcement was sent from the 29 Task Force

Brigade Headquarters in Benisheik to the Jakana outpost.

The remains of the colonel and five others have been sent to the Nigerian Army medical facility in Maiduguri, Borno State capital.

### ... bandits in Sokoto

Meanwhile, bandits have killed over 20 persons in Dan Tatsako village in Goronyo Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

A source in the local government said the armed assailants arrived in the village

at night and started shooting sporadically.

He said apart from the 20 persons killed, houses and other property were destroyed by the bandits.

He explained that survivors of the attack fled the village to seek refuge in nearby communities within Goronyo and Isa Local Government areas of Sokoto State.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Mohammed Sadiq, confirmed the attack, but at press time said the casualty figures were yet to be ascertained.

## Many escape death, as hotel building collapses in Ebonyi

**G**UESTS escaped death by the whiskers, as a wing of a hotel in Abakaliki, capital of Ebonyi State, collapsed on Wednesday.

The Abakaliki Capital Territory Development Authority sealed off the entrance of the hotel yesterday morning, but no life was reportedly lost in the incident.

Ejem Okoro, Special Assistant on Capital Territory to Governor David Umahi, said the hotel was locked to

ensure proper probe of the incident.

Autsine Orji, a member of the hotel management, said they had noticed a crack on some of the pillars holding the building.

He said the management immediately commenced renovation of the building, during which the building collapsed.

Orji said those who lodged in the hotel were outside the building for a seminar, when the incident occurred.