

1 Children's Fund (UNICEF) says over 743,000 under-18 children have fled their homes to escape violence perpetrated by Boko Haram in the North-East.

The Chief Child Protection UNICEF Nigeria, Rachel Harvey, who spoke in Abuja during an occasion to commemorate this year's Children's Day celebrations, lamented that many Nigerian children were still living under the shadow of one form of violence or the other.

She said, "Most alarming is the level of violence in the North-East, of which children are bearing the brunt. Over 743,000 under-18s have fled their homes to escape the violence."

According to her, this year's Children's day focuses on an important and timely theme for Nigeria: Violence Against Children: Addressing the Challenges.

Harvey said, "Many children in Nigeria live under the shadow of violence not just in their communities, but also in their homes and in their schools, places that should provide safety from harm."

"Children have lost their lives, witnessed horrific acts of violence, been forcibly recruited to fight and been subjected to sexual violence," she said.

The immediate past Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development,

of the ugliest form of vio-

choice of this year's theme was informed by the Nige-

rian environment that is

Maina said it was a cal-

holders on the ms of violence, sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

26 worshippers dead, 28 injured in Maiduguri mosque attack

• *Another blast claims 15 lives*

By Ndahi Marama,
Maiduguri

A suicide bomber, yesterday, sneaked into a mosque along Ali Kotoko Road, near Monday Market in Maiduguri, Borno State capital, leaving 26 dead and 28 critically injured, security sources assisting in the evacuation of victims said.

The incident took place at about 3:45pm when Muslim faithful gathered to perform their afternoon prayer.

Unconfirmed sources, however, revealed that apart from the mosque explosion, another blast rocked some area of the Monday Market with fewer casualty figure.

The incidents came barely 12 hours after Boko Haram gunmen were repelled by the military in Maiduguri, which also claimed many lives.

The mosque explosion, according to Modu Fugu of Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), occurred when the prayer session was about to commence with over five

dozens of people in attendance.

"We were terrified by the loud explosion that rocked the mosque near bicycle sellers market and other shops when the prayer session was cut and worshippers fled to safety. But many were killed and scores injured", Fugu stated.

Borno State Police

Command confirmed the mosque blast, but said it was yet to get the casualty figure. The Red Cross and volunteers were reportedly involved in the rescue operation.

In another incident, yesterday, 15 residents were reportedly dead when suspected members of Boko Haram, in a convoy of vehicles and motorcycles laden with Improvised

Explosive Devices (IEDs), rocket grenades and anti-aircraft guns attacked Malari village in Borno State. 19 others in Bulunkutu Saleke, Gomari and Ajilari areas of the state were said to have been wounded.

The killings, according to Ibrahim Yakubu of Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF),

were caused by the insurgents' sporadic gunshots, explosions and shelling on the four villages that commenced from 12.35 - 2.45 a.m.

Confirming the incident in Maiduguri, a source at Borno Police Command said many residents of Gomari, Bulunkutu Saleke and Ajilari were killed during the attacks.

Anglican Bishop Fearon asks Mr President to probe CAN, TAN, super-rich Nigerians

By Bilesanmi
Olalekan

BISHOP of the Kaduna Diocese of Anglican Diocese, Most Revd Josiah Idowu Fearon, has charged President Muhammadu Buhari to go after super-rich Nigerians who, during the Jonathan administration, were accused of receiving money for political campaigns. Fearon mentioned Transformational Ambassadors of Nigeria (TAN) and the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), in particular, and

some public and private office holders, saying Buhari should use the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to investigate them even as he advised the president to sanitize the armed forces, get them well equipped, and flush out Boko Haram insurgents within his first six months in office. The bishop said Buhari cannot afford to fail Nigerians as the situation he has inherited is so bad that he should not expect any period of honeymoon. He spoke in Kaduna during

the diocese's 20th synod.

He advised the president to be careful on the composition of his cabinet, adding that he should guard against powerful individuals who would shield him from what is going on in the country, and those in politics to enrich themselves at the expense of the nation.

"We want to give the President some ideas for his consideration and action. It is obvious, the stakes are high; Nigerians have a high expectation.

You cannot afford to fail by disappointing," the bishop said. "The situation you are inheriting is so bad that you should not expect any period of honeymoon: security is not there, power supply is at its lowest level, queues at our filling stations, hardly ever disappear in spite of the payment of subsidy to those importing fuel, we hear that in some states and some Federal Government departments, salaries have not been paid for months".

Overhaul EFCC for efficiency, TMG tells new regime

By Caleb Ayansina

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Education: UNILAG SUG urges