

Cultists behead 3 students

**Stock
market
down by
₦17bn**

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THE nation's stock market began the week's activities with bearish transactions that pulled down the prices of some highly capitalised stocks. The effect of the decline in stock prices reduced the market capitalization of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) by N17 billion or 0.4 per cent, from N4.166 trillion to N4.149 trillion.

A total of 176.689 million ordinary shares worth N2.856 billion were exchanged in 6,272

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NEW SAN... Chief Registrar, Supreme Court of Nigeria, Mr Danlami Z. Sbuchi (r) congratulating Mr Nathaniel O.O. Oke after being sworn in as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) by the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Alifa Belgore in Abuja, yesterday.

Photo: Anayo Onara

ABIODUN FELIX, Osogbo

FEAR and terror, yesterday, gripped staff and students of Osun State Polytechnic (OSP), Iree, as suspected cultists beheaded three students of the institution.

The incident which happened in the early hours of yesterday, jolted the entire Iree community leaving them in shock and bewilderment as the three headless bodies of the students were discovered in a bush on Eripa Road, a neighbouring community.

Also several machete cuts were inflicted on the dead students, by their suspected killers.

The dastardly act was said to have been carried out by a notorious cult group on the campus.

Two of the beheaded students were identified as Segun Oluwole Suraju, pre-National Diploma (ND) Mass Communication and one Bashiru, an ND II student of the Department of Business Administration.

The identity of the third student was unknown at press time.

Confirming the incident, Rector of the institution, Dr Timothy Ademola Ibitoye described the killings as unfortunate, saying the school authorities were already investigating the incident.

He said: "Three suspected cultists have been declared wanted in connection with the incident while the state police command has been equally informed".

He disclosed further that the bodies of

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the dead students have been deposited at the morgue of the General Hospital, Ikirun.

Dr Ibitoye added that one of the known cultists in the school nicknamed "Small

Jesus" sustained injury but is still at large.

In a related development, chairman of the governing council of the institution, Chief Olaide Okunola has ordered the immediate closure of the institution, directing all students to vacate the campus

Cultists

immediately.

The rector who confirmed the closure, said the decision was taken to prevent the crisis from degenerating beyond control.

Confirming the incident, Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO,) ASP Joshua Olayemi disclosed that plain-clothes policemen have been drafted to the town to apprehend the fleeing suspects.