



New commissioners take seats at INEC

From Nkechi Onyedika, Abuja

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has administered the oath of office on eight new commissioners.

The commission has also disclosed its readiness to bring about more reforms in the electoral process, with a view to making INEC one of the best electoral bodies in Africa by 2015 when the country would hold the next general elections.

The new commissioners are: Sylvester Ezeani (Anambra), Madaki Usman (Taraba), Lawrence Azubike (Imo), Gabriel Ada (Cross River), Sam Olugbadebo (Ondo), Ishaku Dafwang (Plateau), Mrs. Gesila Okubama Khan (Bayelsa) and Mukaila Abdullahi (Jigawa).

INEC Chairman, Prof. Attahiru Jega, who disclosed this yesterday at the swearing-in ceremony in Abuja, said that the commission was doing its best through a sustained effort to bring transparency and accountability into the nation's electoral process.

Bandits kill two in Maiduguri

From Njadvava Musa, Maiduguri

FOUR suspected gunmen in an unmarked vehicle on Sunday attacked the Tandari Mosque in Hausari ward of Maiduguri metropolis of Borno State, killing two persons.

Residents of Hausari ward also told *The Guardian* that the gunmen stormed the mosque at about 6:45pm, before men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) countered.

The suspects, according to an anonymous witness, opened fire in the direction of two of the worshipers who had just finished their sunset (Magreb) prayers, a development which forced other worshipers to flee for their lives.

Sources, however, said two victims were later found on the floor in their pool of blood and were later deposited at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) mortuary.

Residents of the area said they were gripped with fear and apprehension over the serial attacks and killings.

'New wave of deforestation threatens Africa's climate'

From Armsfree Ajanaku Onomo, Durban, South Africa

THE prognosis appears bleak to say the least for our dear continent!

Alongside bad governance, war, poverty and diseases, a new wave of deforestation is sweeping across Africa, decimating wildlife and threatening the resilience of the continent's ecosystem to the many adverse effects of climate change, especially in the area of food security.

This was the conclusion of experts at Forest Day 5, a side event at the ongoing COP 17 in the serene coastal city of Durban, South Africa. "Deforestation rate in Africa...are accelerating," said Helen Gichochi, president of the African Wildlife Foundation during a keynote address at the event.



Libya's new interim cabinet member

'Africa

By Ben Ukwuoma

AFRICAN leaders have challenged to promote knowledge-based economic growth with shared values and shared responsibility in response to HIV/AIDS. The Executive Director, UNAIDS, Michel Sidibe, who spoke at this on Sunday at the opening ceremony of the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections.

Jonathan

From Laolu Akande, New

CORRUPTION remains the greatest obstacle to Nigeria's development. Tackling it ought to be an urgent priority and for the Goodluck Jonathan Presidency, Vice President of the Africa Region, World Bank. Mrs. Oby Ezekwesili, has committed.

Ezekwesili stated that during the weekend at a law

Govt, sch

By Osigbesan Sultan Luqman

NIGERIA, and indeed the rest of the world, must promote dialogue between cultures and mass education of the citizenry, among other things, to stem crises in religious, ethnic, social and political differences.

The above was the fulcrum of recommendations made by a broad spectrum of academic, government officials, traditional rulers, media personalities, clerics, jurists, scholars, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and students at a recent two-day international conference in which attracted participants from across the world.

Also, according to a communiqué issued at the end of the event, which them

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