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Tinubu administration abusing power with VDM's arrest, detention – Atiku

By Friday Omosola



Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has condemned the arrest and detention of popular activist Martins Otse, known as Verydarkman (VDM), by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), describing it as an abuse of power.

VDM was arrested on Friday, and on Monday, EFCC spokesperson Dele Oyewale confirmed the arrest, stating that it was based on multiple petitions from members of the public.

Oyewale added that VDM would be charged to court as soon as possible.

Reacting in a statement posted on his Facebook page, Atiku described the

incident as yet another blatant abuse of power by the President Bola Tinubu administration.

He said the action has made political repression a defining feature of its rule.

He expressed deep concern that VDM remained in custody without formal charges.

He called it a flagrant violation of his constitutional rights and a disturbing indication of the growing authoritarianism under the current government.

“This latest episode is part of a disturbing pattern: the Tinubu regime’s relentless assault on the

fundamental freedoms of Nigerians, particularly those who dare to speak truth to power or align with the political opposition. We must not allow state-sponsored repression to become the defining character of our democracy.

“While security agencies are quick to target dissenters and critics, often in complete disregard of due process, political loyalists with credible allegations of corruption walk free, trading sycophancy for immunity.

“The Tinubu administration’s systematic crackdown on opposition voices is nothing short of disgraceful. It is an affront to democratic norms and must be fiercely condemned and resisted”, said Atiku.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	372,500.00
HALF PAGE	213,000.00
QUARTER PAGE	106,500.00
14X2	118,000.00
10X6	261,585.50
10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
9X6	254,977.00
9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
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FULL PAGE	329,868.50
HALF PAGE	192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	100,000.00
14X2	109,500.00
10X6	242,500.00
10X5	237,500.00
10X4	192,500.00
10X3	171,000.00
9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
5X4	61,500.00
5X3	57,819.00
5X2	40,379.50
4X4	55,000.00
4X3	31,000.00
4X2	22,003.50
3X2	17,260.00
2X2	12,945.00
2X1	8,630.00
1X1	4,315.00

POLITICAL COLOUR

SIZE	RATE
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POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

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CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

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10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
10X3	121,355.50
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4X2	22,350.00
3X2	16,763.00
2X2	10,877.00
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SPECIAL POSITIONS

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DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	144,294.00
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DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B &W	425,000.00
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HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

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10X5	201,600.00
10X4	149,440.00
10X3	127,108.00
9X6	201,600.00
9X5	169,050.00
9X4	137,875.00
9X3	112,875.00
8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
5X2	32,916.50
4X4	52,666.50
4X3	39,499.50
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3X2	19,750.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

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FULL PAGE	210,795.50
HALF PAGE	124,236.00
QUARTER PAGE	70,950.00
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10X5	162,222.445
10X4	103,963.00
10X3	N/A
9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
6X2	29,858.00
5X6	71,378.00
5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
4x4	N/A
4X3	N/A
4X2	17,737.50
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3X2	14,923.00
2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
1X1	2,700.00

ALLURE RATE

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CENTRESPREAD		967,500.00
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(IFC) Inside Front Cover		430,000.00
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10X5		295,625.00
Half Page		225,000.00
EVENT		250,000.00

PICTURE & CAPTION

SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL
PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
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Tinubu bans procurement of foreign goods, launches 'Nigeria first' policy

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu on Monday, announced a sweeping ban on the procurement of foreign goods and services by government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).

Tinubu placed the ban as he unveiled a bold new 'Nigeria First Policy' during the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting in Abuja.

The policy, according to the President, signals the start of a new era centred on local content, economic nationalism, and industrial revitalisation.

He declared that the federal government would now prioritise Nigerian-made goods and homegrown solutions in all public procurement.

"This policy beckons a new era of local content enterprise, self-belief, and national pride," Tinubu said.

"We will make what we use and use what we make — not as a slogan, but as a national commitment."

The President directed the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) to immediately revise and enforce procurement guidelines that prioritise local content.

The BPP must also develop a Local Content Compliance Framework and maintain a register of high-quality Nigerian manufacturers and service providers frequently engaged by the federal government.

He further ordered that procurement officers be deployed by the BPP to MDAs to ensure strict compliance, without compromising efficiency.



Under the new directive, MDAs are prohibited from procuring foreign goods or services already available locally, unless they obtain a written waiver from the BPP.

Contracts for unavailable local options must now include provisions for technology transfer, local production, or skills development.

All MDAs have been ordered to audit their procurement plans and submit revised versions in accordance with the new directive.

Breaches will attract sanctions, including the cancellation of procurement and disciplinary measures against responsible officers.

Tinubu highlighted the progress made by his administration in economic reform, citing rising reserves, increased oil output, renewed investor confidence, and multi-billion-dollar commitments from global firms such as Shell, Total, ExxonMobil, and SALIC.

He also reaffirmed his commitment to

agricultural development, referencing the National Sugar Master Plan II launched in 2024.

The plan, he said, aims to increase domestic sugar production and reduce reliance on imports through strict backward integration.

Despite these reforms, Tinubu acknowledged that the private sector had yet to fully embrace the opportunities his administration had created.

He blamed a legacy system that prioritised deal-making over real investment.

"Public funds should not enrich intermediaries who export value instead of creating it," he said. "We must foster a new business culture — bold, confident, and Nigerian."

Onanuga faults Adesina's claim Nigerians economy worse off than in 1960

By Helen Okechukwu

Bayo Onanuga, the Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Information and Strategy, has criticized the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Akinwumi Adesina, for claiming that Nigerians today are worse off than in 1960.

Onanuga, on Monday via his X page, said Adesina's claim that Nigeria's GDP per capita in 1960 was \$1847 and that it is \$824 today was questionable.

He wondered how Adesina arrived at the conclusion, noting that the figures do not align with available data.

"According to available data, our country's GDP was \$4.2 billion in 1960, and per capita income for a population of 44.9 million was \$93—ninety-three, not even one hundred dollars," he said.

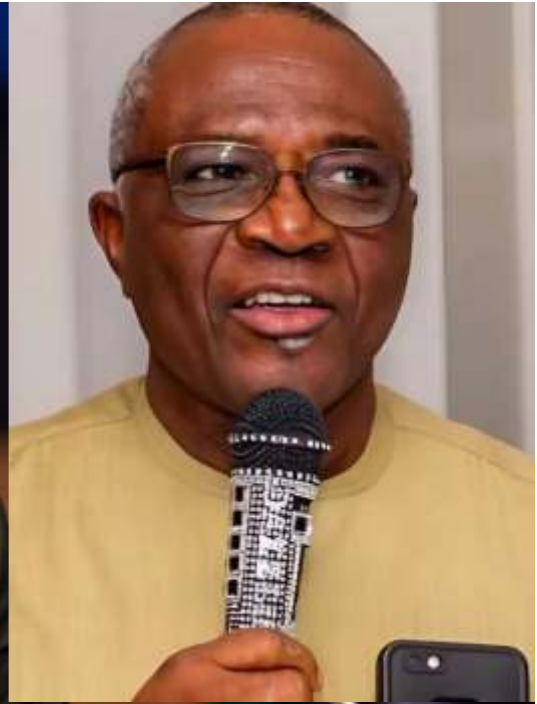
"Our country's GDP did not rise remarkably until the 1970s, when crude earnings ballooned. In 1970, our GDP rose to \$12.55 billion. In 1975, it was \$27.7 billion, \$64.2 billion in 1980, and \$164 billion in 1981.

"Up until 1980, per capita income did not exceed \$880. It rose to \$2187 in 1981 and dropped to \$1844 in 1982. In 2014, after rebasing, it reached an all-time high of \$3,200."

Read Also: Onanuga dismisses Osinbajo's claim of Babaginda tormenting Tinubu
He described Dr. Adesina's criterion used to determine GDP per capita and the standard of living for Nigerians as a poor tool for assessing living standards.

"Its primary usefulness is in giving us the metrics to compare economic output in a country or between countries," he added. "GDP masks many activities in a country's economy."

Explaining further, he said, "It neither discloses wealth distribution or income inequality nor accounts for the informal economy, which experts have said is enormous. It does not account for subsistence farming or income transfer from one family member to another."



Backing his assertion, Onanuga analyzed that Nigeria has witnessed significant improvement and development between 1960 and 2025 in GDP per capita.

He highlighted that, as of 2025, the country has more infrastructure across primary, secondary, and tertiary schools, including medical facilities, both private and public.

On this note, he questioned on what basis Dr. Adesina arrived at his conclusion that Nigerians' standard of living is worse than in 1960, when Nigeria marked her independence.

"We have phenomenal access to telephones," he said.

As of when Nigeria marked her independence, Mr. Onanuga shared that, out of a population of 45 million, only 18,724 operational phone lines were in use.

Supporting his point, he said currently, over 200 million Nigerians have access to mobile phones—evidence that the country has improved compared to 65 years ago.

He reiterated that GDP figures published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)—if they do not include the

informal economy, depth, and breadth of Nigeria's economy, which some policymakers believe exceeds the formal economy—are inaccurate.

With this analysis, he urged Dr. Adesina to consider all aspects before making his conclusion.

Flashing back, he disclosed that between 1999 and 2000, Vodacom, a telecommunications company, refused to establish operations in Nigeria because they perceived Nigerians were too poor to purchase GSM services, based on GDP data presented during consultations.

"However, MTN and other companies that entered the market later proved them wrong, demonstrating that GDP figures alone do not provide a complete picture of a country's economic potential or the living standards of its people."

For over 20 years of operation, despite the economic hardship faced in 2023 and 2024, MTN and other investors are still present in Nigeria, citing the country's potential as a reason they remain.

"In its first-quarter results this year, MTN declared revenue of N1 trillion and an increase of 8.2 per cent in subscriptions, which took the number of its voice and data users to 84 million."

Plateau Killings: Police arrest more suspects, gunrunners

By Friday Omosola



The Nigeria Police has confirmed the arrest of three additional suspects in connection with the recent spate of killings in Plateau State.

Olumuyiwa Adejobi, the police spokesperson, in a statement on Monday, said this follows a string of targeted operations by operatives of the Intelligence Response Team (IRT).

Adejobi said the operations focused on curbing criminal conspiracy, gunrunning, and the unlawful possession of firearms—offences believed to be linked to the violent attacks that have plagued parts of the state.

He said on 3 May, at approximately 4:30 p.m., IRT operatives acting on credible

intelligence arrested one Abubakar Jibrin in the Kalone community, Shendam Local Government Area.

According to him, Jibrin was found in possession of prohibited firearms and his confession led to the recovery of one submachine gun (SMG) rifle with an empty magazine hidden in his residence.

Adejobi said further success was recorded the following day, 4 May, in Barkin Ladi LGA, where police recovered two fabricated revolver rifles.

He said these were traced to cartridges linked to another suspect, Ismail Danjuma, who is currently in custody and assisting with investigations into the Plateau killings.

“These recent operations underscore the Nigeria Police Force’s unwavering commitment to ensuring that every individual complicit in these condemnable killings is apprehended and brought to justice,” he said.

According to him, the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Kayode Egbetokun, urged the public to remain calm and continue supporting the efforts of law enforcement agencies.

He said the IGP also appealed for credible information that could aid the ongoing efforts to restore peace in Plateau State and other troubled regions across the country.

Tinubu to meet GenCos over N4trn power sector debt

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu will meet with leaders of Nigeria's electricity-generating companies (GenCos) as the federal government moves to address the growing N4 trillion debt burden threatening the stability of the country's power sector.

This follows high-level deliberations in Abuja last Tuesday between the Minister of Power, Adebayo Adedun, and the chairpersons of major GenCos.

The talks were aimed at preventing a potential collapse of electricity infrastructure nationwide.

In a statement issued yesterday by Bolaji Tunji, Special Adviser on Strategic Communications and Media Relations to the Power Minister, assured GenCos that the government would begin immediate disbursement of a sizeable portion of the outstanding debt.

The remainder, he added, would be settled using structured financial instruments.

"There is a need to pay a substantial amount of the debt in cash. At the minimum, let us pay a substantial amount, then ask for a debt instrument in promissory notes to pay the rest," Adedun was quoted as saying.

He stated that the balance would be cleared within six months through promissory notes and other options, reaffirming the administration's commitment to stabilising the power sector and ensuring continuity of operations.

"The government is committed to resolving this debt to stabilise the sector and prevent further crisis," he said.

He noted that the President would personally engage GenCos leadership in follow-up discussions to speed up the process.

Leading the delegation of the generating firms was Col. Sani Bello (rtd), Chairman of Mainstream Energy Solutions and head of the Association of Power Generating Companies (APGC), who warned that the sector was nearing a breaking point.



He described the N4tn debt as a critical danger to the financial viability of operators.

He also highlighted that GenCos' inability to access credit or maintain key infrastructure due to liquidity challenges posed a grave risk to the national energy supply.

"Without urgent intervention, the entire power ecosystem could collapse," he warned.

Kola Adesina, Chairman of Egbin Power and First Independent Power Limited, underscored the situation's severity: "This is a national emergency. Everything hinges on power—industries, homes, hospitals. We cannot afford to let the sector fail."

Adedun admitted that government inefficiencies had contributed to the crisis.

He promised to introduce reforms targeting operational inefficiencies and advocated for a fully liberalised power market where tariffs reflect true service costs.

"Citizens must pay the appropriate price for the energy consumed. The Federal

Government will continue to provide targeted subsidies for economically disadvantaged Nigerians. We have to understand that our economy cannot sustain subsidies indefinitely," he said.

He encouraged nationwide awareness campaigns to support the reforms.

Joy Ogaji, CEO of APGC Power, also addressed the wider financial instability in the sector, citing inconsistent payments, gas supply shortfalls, and foreign exchange challenges.

She noted that the naira's devaluation—from ₦157/\$1 in 2013 to around ₦1,600/\$1—had wreaked havoc on GenCos' maintenance funding and debt servicing.

"GenCos have borne unsustainable risks—from grid failures to unproductive taxes—while remaining patriotic," she said.

Looking ahead, the Power Minister said regulatory adjustments were on the table to reduce burdensome charges and foster long-term market stability.

VDM's detention: Amnesty Int'l accuses EFCC of intimidation, harassment

By Friday Omosola



Since the arrest and detention of activist and social media commentator Martins Otse, known as VeryDarkMan (VDM), by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), several prominent Nigerians, civil society, and others have demanded his release.

Joining voices with notable figures such as former Labour Party presidential candidate Peter Obi, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, and others, Amnesty International condemned VDM's continued detention.

Calling for his immediate release, the organisation described the EFCC's actions as a flagrant abuse of power.

In a statement, the global human rights organisation labelled VDM's detention

as arbitrary, stating that it was designed to intimidate and harass him—as well as others—who dare to criticise public and corporate institutions.

“The Nigerian authorities must end the arbitrary detention of Martins Vincent Otse. His detention by the EFCC is a clear abuse of power, solely meant to silence him and other activists,” Amnesty International stated.

The organisation noted that the circumstances surrounding VDM's arrest suggest a calculated attempt to stifle his voice and punish him for exercising his constitutionally protected right to freedom of expression.

“Punishing individuals for expressing their opinions is unlawful. No institution is above scrutiny or criticism.

VeryDarkMan's efforts to hold public and corporate bodies accountable fall well within his rights,” the statement added.

Amnesty International further decried the apparent misuse of law enforcement and anti-graft agencies to silence dissent, warning that such actions undermine the rule of law and democratic principles.

“The frequent manipulation of government agencies to suppress dissenting voices sets a dangerous precedent. The right to freedom of expression is guaranteed by the Nigerian Constitution and international human rights law. It is entirely unacceptable for the police—whose duty is to protect lives and uphold justice—to become tools for political repression,” the organisation said.

Only 22% of 2025 UTME candidates scored above 200 – JAMB

By Damilola Olufemi

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has revealed that only 22.13% of candidates who sat for the 2025 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) scored 200 and above.

This was disclosed in a statistical analysis released by the examination body on Monday.

Out of a total of 1,955,069 candidates who took the exam, only 432,829 scored 200 or higher.

JAMB broke down the score distribution as follows:

320 and above: 4,756 candidates (0.24%)
 300–319: 7,658 (0.39%)
 300 and above (total): 12,414 (0.63%)
 250–299: 73,441 (3.76%)
 200–249: 334,560 (17.11%)
 160–199: 983,187 (50.29%)
 140–159: 488,197 (24.97%)
 120–139: 57,419 (2.94%)
 100–119: 3,820 (0.20%)
 Below 100: 2,031 (0.10%)

JAMB also noted that 40,247 underage candidates were allowed to participate in the exam to demonstrate their “exceptional abilities.” However, the board stated, “Only 467 of these candidates (1.16%) achieved scores that meet the threshold for exceptional ability as defined for the UTME, with their performance in the subsequent three stages still pending.”

On issues of malpractice and attendance, JAMB said, “Of the total number registered, 97 candidates were involved in examination infractions, while 2,157 others are currently undergoing investigations for suspected malpractices.”

The board added, “Additionally, 71,701 candidates were absent. Those facing



biometric challenges are also under investigation, and those who are cleared will be rescheduled for examination at designated centres.”

JAMB further noted that some results are still being processed. “A few of the results, including those of blind candidates and others in the JEOG candidates group, are still being processed,” it said.

“A press conference to announce the individual results of candidates and to facilitate result checking will be held later this week,” JAMB concluded.

JAMB reacts to exam location restrictions

JAMB had earlier clarified that candidates are free to sit the UTME in any part of the country, regardless of where they registered.

This comes in response to a misleading media report suggesting that candidates are restricted to writing the exam only within their state of registration.

In a statement released on Wednesday,

April 16, the Board’s Public Communication Adviser, Dr Fabian Benjamin, described the report as “inaccurate and misleading,” urging the public to disregard it.

“In a recent interview with a NAN reporter, I clarified that candidates are not restricted to taking the examination within their state of registration. They have the flexibility to register anywhere in the country and select any town nationwide from any registration point,” he said.

Dr Benjamin explained that Computer-Based Test (CBT) centres are organised by town for ease and convenience, allowing candidates to pick any preferred examination town across Nigeria. He emphasised that once a candidate selects an examination town, they must take the test in that specific location.

“For example, if a candidate selects Garki as their examination town, they must take the exam there and cannot be reassigned to another town, as is sometimes falsely claimed,” he stated.

No N71bn missing from student loan programme – NELFUND clarifies

By Friday Omosola

The Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) has denied reports suggesting that ₦71 billion has gone missing from its student loan scheme.

Recent media claims alleged that certain educational institutions were siphoning off funds meant for the government-backed programme.

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has since initiated a probe into the matter

However, NELFUND's Managing Director and CEO, Akintunde Sawyerr during an interview on Channels Television's Sunday Politics, dismissed the claims as baseless.

He maintained that the fund remains intact and emphasised that the public was misinformed.

“We are all trying to locate this so-called missing money. Let me make it absolutely clear: no such theft has occurred,” he said.

“The initiative, which was established by the President as a well-meaning intervention to support students, is fully



operational and financially sound.”

Sawyerr further explained that the fund is designed to assist students who cannot afford higher education, and its administration has been guided by strict protocols.

He clarified that contrary to public belief, money is not transferred to students directly but is sent to educational institutions to cover tuition and other institutional fees.

“Students are granted access to their education without barriers. Where a student has already paid fees out of pocket, reimbursements are considered—but these are

isolated cases,” he noted.

He acknowledged that certain procedural issues may have arisen due to human involvement but insisted that these did not amount to financial misappropriation.

“There is an ongoing investigation to understand any lapses or inconsistencies, but to be clear: no money has vanished from the fund,” he reiterated.

While some students and parents have expressed frustration over payment delays, NELFUND maintains that it is committed to ensuring the effective delivery of the programme without financial misconduct.

3 suspects, including minor apprehended for human trafficking in Lagos

By Damilola Olufemi



The Lagos State Government, through the operatives of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC) of Badagry Command, has announced the arrest of three notorious suspected human traffickers' syndicates, including a minor.

The suspects, Damilola Bashiru, 17, a resident of Posukoh; Afolabi Senami, 22; and Christian Loveth, 25, were apprehended within Badagry in Lagos State.

According to the LNSC on Sunday, the three suspects were said to have been arrested on 28 April following weeks of surveillance and intelligence gathering.

Further details revealed that Bashiru and Senami are recruiters working for Loveth.

Loveth who hails from Abia State but resides at Singbomeh Quarter, Mowo, Badagry is the major target and alleged mastermind of the trafficking operation.

The report noted that two young women — Hungbo Dorcas, age 22 of Ajara Vetho, Badagry, and Muhammed Taiwo, age 21 of Ajara Agamathen.

Read Also: Police nab human traffickers with 59 children in FCT
Also, New Daily Prime learnt that another victim, Ezun Ayomide, age

21, was also trafficked by the same suspect.

“During interrogation, it was discovered that Loveth coordinated the illegal transit of her victims using a commercial driver identified as Freedom Ibe, operating out of the Mazamaza motor park in Lagos,” LNSC noted in the statement shared.

Meanwhile, for more investigation and prosecution, the three suspects have been handed over to the security force of Badagry Division.

“The LNSC reiterated its commitment to curbing human trafficking and other criminal activities across Lagos communities,” LNSC added.

Nigeria tops Africa in child malnutrition, says UNICEF

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has raised concern over the alarming rates of child malnutrition in Nigeria, revealing that the country holds the highest number of malnourished children in Africa and ranks second globally.

During a press briefing on Monday in Abuja, Nemat Hajeebhoy, UNICEF's Chief of Nutrition, shared that around 600,000 children across Nigeria are currently suffering from acute malnutrition. Of this number, roughly half are at risk of progressing to severe acute malnutrition—a condition that significantly increases the likelihood of death.

“Children with severe acute malnutrition are nine to eleven times more likely to die,” she said.

The media session was convened by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to unveil its 2025 lean season multisectoral response plan for the crisis-hit states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe.

Also speaking at the briefing, Serigne Loum, Head of Programme at the World Food Programme (WFP), highlighted Nigeria's food crisis, stating that the country has the highest number of food-



insecure people on the continent.

These revelations come amid urgent appeals for financial support to combat the escalating food and nutrition emergency in Nigeria's northeast. OCHA's Head of Office, Trond Jensen, disclosed that \$300 million is required to adequately address the challenges of food insecurity, malnutrition, water and sanitation, health, protection, and logistics during the upcoming lean season.

\$160 million of the total appeal is needed for immediate interventions – UNICEF

Jensen stressed that \$160 million of the total appeal is needed for immediate interventions. “This is the bare minimum we need,” he said, adding that the response capacity has been weakened due to

reduced funding, particularly from the United States and other key donors.

“It's a paradox that while the number of children in need has doubled, our resources to meet those needs have in some cases been cut in half,” he noted.

Jensen said the UN is now only able to target two million people—half the number supported last year—due to the ongoing financial shortfall. He urged both Nigerian authorities and international partners to step up their contributions.

The call for assistance follows OCHA's recent announcement that it would begin scaling back its operations in Nigeria, citing a continued decline in donor funding

Experts reveals how street farting reduces risk of developing cancer, other conditions

By Helen Okechukwu

Experts say the cheekily dubbed “fart walks” not only aid digestion but may help reduce the risk of chronic conditions, including cancer.

In a surprising twist on wellness advice, physicians are encouraging people to take post-meal walks — and not be ashamed to pass gas while doing so.

Dr. Tim Tiutan, an internal medicine physician at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, shared in a viral Instagram Reel that walking after meals promotes intestinal motility — the movement of the intestines — which helps reduce gas buildup and prevents constipation.

“I totally support fart walks,” Tiutan said with a laugh.

Gastroenterologist Dr. Christopher Damman, from the University of Washington Medical Center’s Digestive Health Center, agrees.

“The bowel does move well on its own, but it moves better when you move,” he said, adding that light exercise post-meal stimulates the digestive system and encourages smoother bowel activity.

Beyond gastrointestinal comfort, this modest form of exercise offers broader health benefits.

Studies show that walking — even for just five minutes after eating —



can blunt the spike in blood sugar that typically occurs post-meal. That’s especially important for people at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Read Also: Cancer death rate rising to 60% in UK’s deprived areas
“If you wait too long, you’ll miss the spike,” Damman warned. “It starts within minutes after you eat, as nutrients begin to enter the bloodstream.”

The timing, experts say, is crucial. A short walk within an hour of eating helps the body regulate insulin, avoiding the long-term damage that repeated blood sugar spikes can cause — such as eye damage, kidney disease, and heart complications.

Importantly, this simple practice

may also help lower cancer risk. According to Dr. Alpa Patel of the American Cancer Society, walking briskly for just 30 minutes a day can significantly reduce the risk of several types of cancer. Doing so after meals makes the effect even stronger.

“You get more bang for your buck if you walk after meals,” echoed Professor Loretta DiPietro of the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health.

So next time you head out after lunch or dinner, don’t be embarrassed if nature takes its course. Your body — and possibly your future health — may thank you for that post-meal stroll and a little breeze on the way.

Embrace your uniqueness, Omotola Jalade-Ekeinde advises young girls

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood star Omotola Jalade-Ekeinde has sent a powerful message to young girls, urging them to focus on their personal growth and well-being.

The veteran actress called on young women to stop comparing themselves to others and instead celebrate what makes them unique.

In a heartfelt post shared with her fans, Omotola addressed the growing pressures young women face today. She stressed that every individual blossoms in their own time and that there is no single timeline for success or fulfilment.

Resist societal pressure

Omotola warned against the dangers of trying to meet society's expectations at the cost of personal happiness.

"Family, society, and culture have framed when it seems right," she said, "but it is not always best, and possibly not for you."

She explained that many young girls feel pressured to follow a set path, whether in relationships, career, or lifestyle, even when it does not fit their own journey. But Omotola urged them to step back and realise that being different is not a weakness. Instead, it is a strength.

"You seem... you are different," she added. "But because you're not 'normal,' you think it's bad. No, it's special. You are special."

Focus on self-improvement

The actress encouraged young girls to spend more time developing themselves and less time worrying about what others are doing.

"Start working on yourself," she said. "Find things that keep you moving, and do them!"

Omotola specifically advised cutting back on social media. She admitted that



even she takes breaks often to focus on what truly matters.

"Turn off social media, even I do it very often," she shared.

She stressed that surrounding oneself with positive influences is key. According to her, young girls should fill their days with activities, people, and messages that bring hope and joy, not negativity or comparison.

Spiritual connection as a source of joy

Beyond practical steps, Omotola offered a personal piece of advice: seek a spiritual connection.

"If you don't know him, my personal advice is to seek a personal relationship with Jesus," she said. "Try that. I promise you'll find joy in your journey."

She explained that faith has been a source of lasting happiness and direction in her own life. Omotola believes that a spiritual anchor can help young girls navigate life's ups and downs with resilience and hope.

A message of hope

Omotola's message came in response to a social media post she saw about a young girl feeling lost and uncertain. Moved by

the story, she felt compelled to speak directly to young women who might be going through similar struggles.

"Your best is yet to come," Omotola assured them. "It might not feel like that now. But key in, soon you'll smile. You'll see."

Her words aim to remind young girls that difficult moments are temporary and that growth often comes at unexpected times. She wants them to know they are not alone and that brighter days lie ahead.

A voice for empowerment

As one of Nigeria's most beloved actresses, Omotola has long used her platform to inspire and uplift. Her latest message continues that tradition, offering comfort, encouragement, and practical advice to the next generation.

She is not only calling on young girls to resist harmful social pressures but also inviting them to build a life grounded in self-love, personal growth, and faith.

By sharing her own experiences and insights, Omotola hopes to light the path for others, reminding them that every journey is unique, and that embracing one's individuality is the key to lasting joy.

I was forced to perform in police cell, Skales recounts cell experience

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

In a shocking revelation, Nigerian singer Skales has opened up about a night he was forced to perform his hit songs *Shake Body* and *Emergency* inside a police cell all to secure better treatment from fellow inmates.

Speaking during a candid interview shared by Zikoko Media, the musician recounted how he ended up behind bars due to a power struggle involving his manager and a wealthy Nigerian billionaire.

Trouble with a billionaire

According to him, the incident began when his manager got into a dispute with a Nigerian billionaire. Without warning, the police swooped in and arrested the manager. He was told he could leave. But the singer refused.

“One time, my manager and I were locked up for no reason,” he said. “They told me to go home, but I said, how can you arrest my manager and I just leave?”

The Musician insisted on following the police to the station. He wanted to write a statement to defend his manager. But things quickly took a turn. Instead of allowing him to leave after writing, the officers informed Skales that he would also spend the night in the cell.

Recognition in the cell

Inside the cell, he faced a tense atmosphere. But soon, one of the inmates recognized him. “One guy said I looked like Skales,” he recounted. “I told him, I am Skales.”

The inmate was shocked. He asked how someone like him could end up in jail. He explained the situation. The inmate, familiar with such stories, sighed and told him, “That’s how these billionaires do.” Shockingly, the inmate even offered to “help” he takes revenge on the billionaire. But he firmly refused, telling him to forget about it.



Singing for a sleeping spot

The encounter didn’t end there. The inmate warned Skales that if he didn’t show respect to the cell’s leader or “boss” the other inmates would make life difficult for him.

“So, they took me to the boss,” Skales explained. “When he heard I was Skales, he asked me which song I wanted to perform. He even sang some lines from *Emergency*.”

The boss then made him an offer: if he performed for the group, they would let him sleep on a mat. Without the performance, he would have to join the rest of the inmates sleeping directly on the cold floor.

The musician agreed, he sang his hits *Shake Body* and *Emergency* for the inmates, delivering a shameless performance inside the police cell. “I performed everything,” he said. “Afterward, the boss actually felt bad for me. He said, this boy doesn’t deserve to be here.”

Surviving on family support

Life inside the cell was rough. According to him, inmates rely entirely on money sent by family members to the police to buy food. Without that, they go hungry.

“When you’re in the cell, your family has to keep sending money so the police can buy you food,” he revealed. “If they don’t, you won’t eat.”

After his release, the experience stuck with him. Feeling grateful for the small kindness shown by the inmates, he returned with food to thank them. “When I left, I bought them a lot of food,” he said.

An unseen side of fame

In the interview, he admitted that few people know about this dark chapter in his life. It was one of several challenges he has faced in the music industry, many of which, he says, remain hidden from the public eye.

Despite his fame, his story reveals the harsh realities of power, influence, and survival in Nigeria. Even a hitmaker with chart-topping songs can find himself at the mercy of the system, forced to sing for a place to sleep.

Seun Kuti survives stray bullet in U.S. hotel

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian musician Seun Kuti, son of Afrobeat legend Fela Kuti, narrowly escaped injury after a stray bullet pierced through the window of his hotel room in the United States.

The shocking incident, which Kuti shared on his Instagram page Sunday evening, has sparked concern among his fans and followers worldwide.

Bullet crashes through hotel window
Kuti, known for his outspoken personality and powerful music, posted a video showing the aftermath of the terrifying event. According to his account, he was relaxing in his room when the unexpected happened.

“I was just chilling in my hotel room when, boom, this happened,” Kuti said in the clip, his voice still carrying the shock. “Tell me you are in America without telling me you are in America.”

He also commented, “I read somewhere that these are the civilized people,” clearly expressing his surprise over the incident.

The video, which quickly went viral, shows the damaged hotel window with shattered glass. Kuti can be heard describing his disbelief as he pans the camera across the scene.

Fans express relief

As soon as the video appeared online, fans rushed to express relief and concern. Many left messages of support under his post, thankful that the musician escaped harm.

“It’s a blessing you are safe, Seun,” one follower wrote. Another commented, “Stay strong, brother. This world is crazy.”

His followers from Nigeria, the U.S., and beyond flooded his social media with messages, showing the wide reach of his influence.

Rising gun violence in the U.S.

This frightening event puts a spotlight on a



larger issue: rising gun violence in the United States.

According to recent reports, gun-related incidents have been increasing across major cities, including stray bullets that sometimes hit innocent people. Seun Kuti’s experience adds another voice to the growing concern over safety, even in places like hotels where guests expect to be secure.

For many international visitors, the U.S. remains a top destination for business and entertainment. However, stories like Kuti’s remind people that risks exist even in places considered safe.

A narrow escape

Kuti did not share the exact location of the hotel, but his fans have been left wondering about the details behind the bullet that entered his room.

So far, there has been no statement from local U.S. authorities about the incident. It remains unclear whether the bullet came from nearby criminal activity, an accidental discharge, or another source.

Despite the unanswered questions, one fact is clear: Kuti had a close call.

Seun Kuti’s global presence

Seun Kuti, 41, has built an international reputation for keeping his father’s Afrobeat legacy alive. He tours widely, playing concerts across Africa, Europe,

and the Americas. His music often carries strong political and social messages, and he has a loyal fanbase both at home and abroad.

With this latest experience, Kuti’s life story adds another chapter, one where his survival makes headlines and draws attention beyond the world of music.

Staying resilient

Despite the scare, Kuti appears to be in good spirits. He ended his Instagram video with a calm but pointed reflection on the experience.

“I guess this is part of the journey,” he said, giving a small, knowing smile to the camera.

His calm response shows resilience, something Kuti has shown throughout his career. From speaking out on political issues to carrying the weight of his family’s musical name, Kuti remains a figure who does not shy away from challenges.

Looking ahead

It’s uncertain if Kuti will comment further on the incident or if more details will come from U.S. authorities. For now, fans and well-wishers are simply grateful that the Afrobeat star is safe and unharmed.

His near-miss serves as a powerful reminder that even celebrities are not immune to the dangers of everyday life, no matter where in the world they are.

EFCC arrests VeryDarkMan over multiple cyberstalking petitions

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has confirmed the arrest of social media influencer Martins Otse, popularly known as VeryDarkMan, following multiple petitions filed against him.

Speaking to BBC News Pidgin on Monday, EFCC spokesperson Dele Oyewale stated that the arrest was based on allegations of cyberstalking submitted by several individuals.

“We arrested him to respond to a series of allegations raised against him by some petitioners,” Oyewale said.

He added that VeryDarkMan would be released once he meets the bail conditions and that the matter would be taken to court in due course. “We are law-abiding,” he emphasised.

Responding to speculation about a possible connection to Guaranty Trust Bank, Oyewale clarified that the petitions came from different individuals and that the EFCC is responsible for acting on such complaints.

The commission also confirmed plans to arraign the influencer in court.

The news of his arrest broke on May

3rd, 2025, and was confirmed by activist lawyer Deji Adeyanju in a post on his official Facebook page.

Background: Arrest linked to bank dispute

Earlier reports pointed to a brewing dispute between VDM and Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB). According to sources, VDM had called out the bank after alleging that unauthorised transactions were made from his mother’s account.

In response to his public criticism, reports suggest that GTB may have played a role in alerting the EFCC, leading to his arrest. This claim, however, has not yet been confirmed by the bank.

Donald Trump's first 100 days mark a bold, controversial start

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Donald J. Trump's return to the White House has been nothing short of a political earthquake. While his critics label the first 100 days of his second term chaotic and divisive, a closer look reveals a presidency that has hit the ground running, aggressively implementing its agenda, reshaping federal policy, and redefining America's place on the world stage.

Media War and the Narrative Divide

From day one, President Trump has been locked in a fierce battle with what he calls the "liberal-dominated media establishment." Outlets such as The Washington Post and The New York Times, still reeling from Kamala Harris's defeat in the 2024 election, have painted the Trump administration as disordered and incoherent. But on the ground in Washington, many observers say a different story is unfolding — one of rapid action and political determination. However, his combative stance on media bias has reignited concerns over press freedom, yet it has also solidified his support among voters tired of what they see as elite-driven narratives.

Securing the Border, Reasserting Sovereignty

One of Trump's most lauded accomplishments among supporters has been his crackdown on illegal immigration. In just over three months, illegal crossings have plummeted to their lowest levels in decades. The end of Biden's "catch and release" policy, the revival of the Remain in Mexico program, and the official terrorist designation of violent cartels such as MS-13 mark a hardlines but effective shift in border security.

In what is poised to be the largest deportation campaign in U.S. history, the Trump administration is asserting that border control is not only possible — but enforceable with political will.

War on Woke and Government Reform

Domestically, Trump's unapologetic crusade against DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) initiatives has reshaped



federal hiring practices and institutional culture. DEI mandates have been banned within the federal workforce, and merit-based advancement has been reinstated. Protections for women's sports have been reintroduced, and university campuses are under pressure to combat rising antisemitism. These actions, however, have not been well received by many minority communities in America. Academic institutions and faculty unions, such as the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), have raised concerns that the crackdown on DEI threatens academic freedom and hinders the creation of inclusive learning environments.

Perhaps the most symbolic move has been the creation of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) — led by tech mogul Elon Musk. DOGE has already claimed \$160 billion in taxpayer savings, slashing bureaucracy and forcing federal employees back to the office full-time — or face termination.

Global Posture: Strengthening Alliances, Redefining Priorities

On the international front, Trump has revitalized calls for NATO burden-sharing. His pressure has led to significant defense spending commitments from European allies ahead of the upcoming

NATO Summit in The Hague. In a significant diplomatic win, the U.S. has signed a rare-earth minerals agreement with Ukraine, bolstering its economy and countering Russian aggression.

Vice President JD Vance, meanwhile, has signaled progress toward a major U.S.-UK trade deal, with a potential Trump state visit to Britain set for September — further affirming a revived Anglo-American partnership.

The Critics Remain Vocal

Despite these headline victories, opposition to Trump's presidency remains fierce. His executive order restricting travel from several Muslim-majority nations reignited fierce legal and moral debates, with many labeling it a discriminatory "Muslim ban." Protests erupted at airports, and civil rights groups launched immediate challenges.

His rollback of environmental policies, including withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and deep cuts to foreign aid, has drawn criticism from scientists, world leaders, and humanitarian groups.

Britain marks 80th VE Day anniversary with grandeur

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Beneath the solemn gaze of Sir Winston Churchill's statue and under the chimes of Big Ben at noon, Britain paid tribute to one of the most pivotal moments in modern history: the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. In an emotional and grand ceremony that unfolded across central London on Monday, military pageantry blended with poignant remembrance, honouring the generation that bore witness to the final triumph of the Second World War in Europe.

For the first time since its unveiling in 1920, the Cenotaph stood draped in the Union flag, a powerful symbol of sacrifice and unity. Crowds filled the Mall, waving red, white, and blue as they watched a 1,300-strong military procession, massed bands, and flypasts that stirred echoes of both celebration and sorrow.

VVIP Veterans Take Centre Stage

While Buckingham Palace served as the visual epicentre of the day's spectacle, the true heart of the event belonged to the dwindling number of Second World War veterans, VVIP guests whose presence carried the weight of lived history. A palace tea party hosted by the King and Queen brought together 30 veterans, aged 98 to 104, and others who endured the war years, from former prisoners of war to agents of Churchill's secret army.

Among them was 100 year old Normandy veteran Alan Kennett, who opened the commemorations by carrying the Commonwealth War Graves torch for peace. "The whole place erupted," he said, recalling the moment he and his unit learned of the German surrender in 1945. "It became one great party."

Generations United in Remembrance



As actor Timothy Spall read excerpts from Churchill's iconic victory speech, "My dear friends, this is your hour", a hush fell over the crowd, and memories decades old seemed to hang palpably in the spring air.

Prince George, attending with his parents, represented the new generation. The Prince of Wales stressed the importance of preserving veterans' stories for posterity as he spoke with Alfred Littlefield, a 101 year old Royal Engineers veteran. "It's very important," William said, "for George and the next generation to hear these stories."

Echoes of War in Today's World

This year's VE Day events, stretching over four days, do not only look to the past. A Ukrainian military detachment, selected from those training under the UK's armed forces programme, marched in a moving nod to the ongoing conflicts still ravaging parts of the world, a stark reminder that peace remains fragile and hard-won.

Downing Street Joins the Celebrations Prime Minister Keir Starmer hosted a tea party in Downing Street for war-era guests, featuring a classic British spread of Victoria sponge cake, scotch eggs, and pork pies. "These moments allow us to reflect not just on triumph but on the resilience and unity that carried us

through," Starmer said.

Living Testimonies of Courage

Among the many living witnesses was Bernard Morgan, a 101-year-old RAF codebreaker, who had received news of Germany's impending surrender via a secret telegram two days before VE Day. "German war now over, surrender effective sometime tomorrow," the message had read. "It's so important," he said, "that we make the most of these opportunities to remember... to ensure that such horrors never happen again."

Another guest, Joyce Wilding, 100, who served in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry and SOE, recalled the joyous chaos of VE Day in 1945: "There were soldiers up lamp-posts, it was extraordinary."

Looking Back, Marching Forward

Monday's events culminated in a stirring flypast over the Mall, featuring 23 aircraft from past and present, including the iconic Lancaster Bomber and the Red Arrows streaking the sky with patriotic colour. As the royals waved from the balcony and cheers echoed down the Mall, Britain looked back with pride and forward with resolve — vowing never to forget the price of peace, nor the courage of those who paid it.

Nigerian man arrested in \$600,000 online romance scam

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

A 28-year-old Nigerian man has been arrested and charged in Brampton for allegedly orchestrating a romance scam that defrauded two victims of over \$600,000.

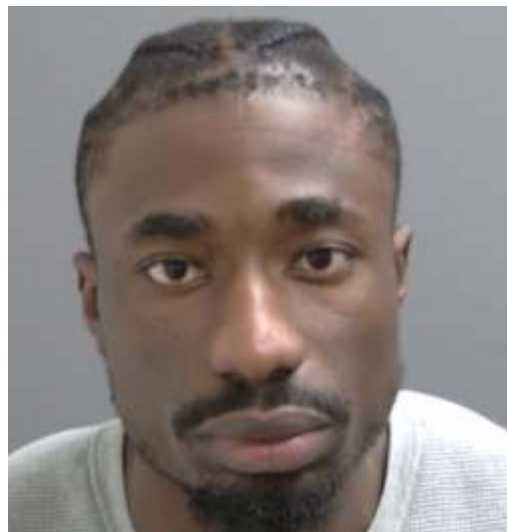
Chimezie Nwabueze, a resident of Toronto, was taken into custody on April 28 following a lengthy investigation by the Peel Regional Police. According to a statement released by the police, the suspect convinced his victims, through an online dating platform, that he was the owner of an oil rig based in the Middle East and urgently needed financial support.

Police allege that between June 2021 and July 2023, Nwabueze maintained an entirely online relationship with the

victims, during which he promised repayment of the money sent and suggested a future in-person meeting. After receiving funds totaling more than \$610,000, Nwabueze reportedly severed all communication, and the victims were never reimbursed.

Following his arrest, he was arraigned before the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton, where he faced several criminal charges, including fraud, laundering proceeds of crime, and participating in organized criminal activity. He was released on bail under an undertaking and is expected to appear again in court in the coming weeks.

Authorities also confirmed that Nwabueze had previously been arrested in November 2023 for a similar scam



involving approximately \$250,000. That case is still before the courts.

Investigators believe Nwabueze may be part of a broader criminal operation targeting older adults through dating websites. Peel police have urged anyone who may have been similarly defrauded to come forward.

Trump considering Miller for national security adviser

By Fatimah Idera

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he is considering naming his deputy chief of staff, Stephen Miller, as national security adviser.

"I have a lot of people that want the job, I can tell you, but I'm going to be naming somebody who needs to fill the job within six months," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew back to Washington from a weekend at his Florida club.

Trump announced Thursday that he was nominating Mike Waltz, whom he removed as national security adviser, as UN ambassador while Secretary of State Marco Rubio would take over Waltz's duties in an interim role. While U.S. officials say they expect Trump to be in no hurry to fill the job on a permanent basis, a number of candidates have emerged.

"Stephen Miller is at the top of the totem pole," he said when asked whether he is considering him for the post.

"I mean, I think he sort of indirectly already has that job, because he has a lot to say about a lot of things... He's a very valued person in the administration," he added.

Waltz came under scrutiny in March after he mistakenly included Jeffrey Goldberg, editor-in-chief of The Atlantic magazine, in a Signal app group chat where Vice President JD Vance, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and other senior officials discussed plans for an attack on Houthi targets in Yemen.

Trump said he didn't lose confidence in Waltz.

"He's going to the United Nations... To me — I think it's — personally, if I had a



choice for myself of doing, I'd rather have that job than the other," he added.

"He didn't resign. I just moved him," Trump said when asked whether Waltz resigned from the administration.

"You people are so bad. You're trying to make a big deal. You are so bad. That's why nobody watches you," the president said to the reporter.

133 cardinals assemble in Rome to elect successor to the Papacy

By Fatimah Idera

Ahead of the conclave beginning this week, all 133 Catholic cardinals eligible to vote for a new pope have arrived in Rome, the Vatican confirmed on Monday.

They will enter into seclusion in the Sistine Chapel at 4:30 pm (1430 GMT) on Wednesday, voting in secret until one of them secures the required two-thirds majority to become the next head of the Roman Catholic Church.

Summoned following the death of Pope Francis on April 21, the group — representing 70 countries across five continents.

The 133 “Princes of the Church” who will vote — all those aged under 80, minus two who are absent for health reasons — will gather on Wednesday afternoon under the frescoed splendour of the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican.

Voting once that day and four times a day thereafter until a pope is chosen, they will stay at the nearby Santa Marta guesthouse but are forbidden from contacting the outside world until they have made their choice.

They will inform the waiting world of their progress by burning their ballots and sending up smoke — black if no candidate has reached the two-thirds majority of votes, or white if they have a winner.

On Monday morning, technicians installed red curtains on the balcony of St Peter’s Basilica, where the new pontiff will make his first appearance.



Of interest to many is whether the new pontiff will follow the popular Argentine pontiff’s progressive line or whether the Holy See will pivot towards a more conservative traditionalist leader.

Francis, an energetic reformer from Buenos Aires, ran the Church for 12 years and appointed 80 percent of the current cardinal electors.

But experts caution they may not choose someone in his model, with many warning there could be surprises.

Vatican affairs specialist, Marco Politi, told AFP that, given the unknowns, the conclave could be “the most spectacular in 50 years”.

Cardinals met on Monday morning for the latest in a series of preparatory meetings, general congregations, and will gather again in the afternoon.

All cardinals are invited to these, not

just those eligible to vote in the conclave, taking the opportunity to discuss the issues that will face Francis’s successor.

Among the pilgrims and sightseers who gathered in the square on Monday, opinions varied widely about who could or should take over.

“Maybe more of Pope Francis than Pope Benedict,” said German visitor Aurelius Lie, 36.

But Canadian priest, Justin Pulikunnel, did not hide his frustration at the direction Francis tried to take the Church, saying he personally sought a return to a more traditional leadership.

“Well, I hope and I pray that the new pope will kind of be a source of unity in the Church and kind of calm the waters down after almost a dozen years of destabilisation and ambiguity,” he said on Sunday.

British goods hit harder by Trump's tariff policy than EU exports

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Despite Donald Trump's long-standing hostility toward Brussels, new analysis reveals that British exports are subject to higher effective tariffs in the United States than goods from the European Union. The findings have renewed concerns about the strength and future of the so-called 'special relationship' between the UK and the US.

According to figures from Capital Economics, documented by the Telegraph, the UK's average effective tariff rate on exports to the US currently stands at 11.6%, compared to just 9.5% for the EU. That places Britain not only behind the bloc, but also behind countries such as Mexico, Canada, India, Thailand, and Vietnam in terms of trade access to the American market.

The disparity stems largely from the composition of UK exports, which include a significant share of items subject to sector-specific levies. While the headline tariff rate introduced by the Trump administration sits at 10% for the UK and 20% for the EU, British goods—particularly steel and automobiles—are hit by additional charges, with some items facing duties as high as 25%.

This is a particular blow to Britain's car manufacturing sector. In 2024 alone, UK carmakers—including Jaguar Land Rover and Aston Martin—exported £9 billion worth of vehicles to the US, making automobiles the UK's single largest export category to the country.

By contrast, a substantial portion of the EU's exports to the US are made up of pharmaceuticals, which are protected under existing carve-outs and remain tariff-free. Similarly, Vietnam and India benefit from exemptions for electronics, while Canada and Mexico continue to



enjoy preferential treatment under the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Ironically, the higher burden on UK goods comes despite Trump's public disdain for the EU, which he has accused of being "formed to screw the United States." Meanwhile, Trump has publicly praised Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's efforts to advocate for a trade deal, stating after a February meeting that "there's a good chance of a deal where tariffs wouldn't be necessary," and adding that Starmer had "earned whatever the hell they pay him over there."

Yet hopes of a swift trade agreement remain uncertain. Recent reports indicate the Trump administration has downgraded Britain to a "second-order priority", with nations such as South Korea receiving more immediate attention in trade talks.

Speaking on Friday, Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds said that "all options remain on the table" following the Government's public consultation on the economic impact of US tariffs. "We are now in a new era for trade and the economy," Reynolds said, "and that

means going further and faster to strengthen the UK's economy. While we analyse responses, this Government's priority will be to build on the strength of our relationship with the US and continue talks to find a resolution for UK businesses."

Paul Dans, a former Trump administration official and lead architect of Project 2025—a conservative policy blueprint widely considered to be influencing current White House strategy—also struck an optimistic tone. "President Trump ultimately wants to get to a yes on deals," he said. "Now is the time for the UK to make a good deal."

Project 2025, drafted by the US-based Heritage Foundation, is a 900-page document recommending sweeping changes to federal policy, including the abolition of the U.S. Department of Education. Many of its authors now serve in Trump's administration, including trade advisor Peter Navarro.

As Britain looks to carve out its future in a reshaped global trade environment, its path with the US—long seen as a natural ally—remains more complicated than ever.

Trump announced 100% tariff on foreign-made movies

By **Fatimah Idera**

U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday announced a 100% tariff on movies produced outside the country, claiming the American movie industry was dying a very fast death due to the incentives that other countries were offering to lure filmmakers.

Trump said on Truth Social, “This is a concerted effort by other Nations and, therefore, a National Security threat. It is, in addition to everything else, messaging and propaganda,”

Trump said he was authorizing the relevant government agencies, such as the Department of Commerce, to immediately begin the process of imposing a 100% tariff on all films produced abroad that are then sent into the United States.

He added: “WE WANT MOVIES MADE IN AMERICA, AGAIN!”

Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said on X: “We’re on it.”

Neither Lutnick nor Trump provided any details on how the tariffs would be implemented.

It was unclear if the tariffs would apply to movies on streaming services as well as those shown in theaters, or if they would be calculated based on production costs or box office revenue.

Meanwhile Hollywood executives were trying to sort out details, The Motion Picture Association, which represents the major studios, had no immediate comment.

In January, Trump appointed Hollywood veterans Jon Voight, Sylvester Stallone and Mel Gibson to bring Hollywood back “bigger, better and stronger than ever before.”



Movie and TV production has been exiting Hollywood for years, heading to locations with tax incentives that make filming cheaper.

Governments around the world have increased credits and cash rebates to attract productions and capture a greater share of the \$248 billion that Ampere Analysis predicts will be spent globally in 2025 to produce content.

On Monday, leaders in Australia and New Zealand responded to Trump’s tariff announcement by saying they would advocate for their local industries. Some Marvel superhero movies have been filmed in Australia, while New Zealand was the backdrop for “The Lord of the Rings” films.

In 2023, about half of the spending by U.S. producers on movie and TV projects with budgets of more than \$40 million went outside the U.S., according to research firm ProdPro.

Film and television production has fallen by nearly 40% over the last decade in

Hollywood’s home city of Los Angeles, according to FilmLA, a non-profit that tracks the region’s production.

The January wildfires accelerated concerns that producers may look outside Los Angeles, and that camera operators, costume designers, sound technicians and other behind-the-scenes workers may move out of town rather than try to rebuild in their neighborhoods.

A ProdPro survey of executives found California was the sixth most preferred place to film in the next two years, behind Toronto, Britain, Vancouver, Central Europe and Australia.

Hollywood producers and labor unions have been urging Governor Gavin Newsom to boost the state’s tax incentives to better compete with other locations.

Trump’s proposed movie tariff follows a series of trade conflicts initiated by his administration, which have roiled markets and led to fears of a U.S. recession.

Trump orders revival of Alcatraz in controversial crackdown on crime

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Sunday that he is directing federal agencies to reopen and drastically expand Alcatraz, the infamous island prison that once held America's most dangerous criminals but has been closed since 1963.

In a statement posted to his Truth Social platform, Trump framed the move as part of a broader push to clamp down on violent crime and repeat offenders, declaring:

"For too long, America has been plagued by vicious, violent, and repeat Criminal Offenders... That's the way it's supposed to be."

He continued, "That is why, today, I am directing the Bureau of Prisons, together with the Department of Justice, FBI, and Homeland Security, to reopen a substantially enlarged and rebuilt ALCATRAZ, to house America's most ruthless and violent Offenders."

Historic Landmark or Prison Fortress?
Alcatraz, often dubbed "The Rock," sits on an island in San Francisco Bay and was once known as the most escape-proof prison in the United States. It housed notorious criminals such as Al Capone and George "Machine Gun" Kelly before being closed due to deteriorating infrastructure and excessive operating costs.

The island is now a major tourist attraction managed by the National Park Service and protected as a national historic landmark. Trump's proposal would require the federal government to reclaim and repurpose the island, a move that legal and logistical experts say would be both enormously expensive and highly contentious.



Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, whose district includes Alcatraz, dismissed the plan outright. "It is now a very popular national park and major tourist attraction. The President's proposal is not a serious one," she wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

High Costs, Legal Hurdles

Experts warn that modernizing Alcatraz would come with an astronomical price tag, especially considering that the Bureau of Prisons has been shuttering facilities across the country due to similar infrastructure issues. The original prison closed in 1963 largely because the cost of transporting supplies, food, water, fuel, to the remote island was unsustainable.

A spokesperson for the Bureau of Prisons confirmed that the agency "will comply with all presidential orders," but offered no comment on the practicality of reopening a facility now under the control of the National Park Service.

A Broader, More Radical Agenda

Trump's Alcatraz announcement is just the latest in a series of extreme proposals aimed at reshaping America's criminal justice and detention systems. He recently suggested sending suspected gang

members to El Salvador's notorious CECOT prison, a move widely condemned by legal scholars for violating due process rights.

He has also floated the idea of expanding the detention center at Guantánamo Bay to house up to 30,000 of what he called the "worst criminal aliens," further igniting debate over the constitutionality and human rights implications of his proposals.

The Rock's Dark History

Alcatraz operated as a federal prison from 1934 to 1963. Surrounded by freezing Pacific waters and treacherous currents, it was considered inescapable. In nearly three decades, 36 inmates attempted to flee in 14 separate incidents. Most were caught or perished, but the mysterious 1962 escape by brothers John and Clarence Anglin and Frank Morris remains unresolved and inspired the 1979 film *Escape from Alcatraz*.

Reopening the prison would mean revisiting that grim legacy and for many, the idea of using such a site again in the 21st century feels less like justice and more like political theater.

Pope Francis's Popemobile reborn as medical clinic for Gaza's children

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Once a symbol of faith rolling through the streets of Bethlehem during Pope Francis's 2014 visit, a converted Mitsubishi popemobile is about to embark on a new mission, this time, as a mobile health clinic delivering urgent medical care to children in the war-torn Gaza Strip.

More than a decade after it was last used, the vehicle is being repurposed into what Caritas, the international Catholic relief organization behind the effort, has dubbed a "vehicle of hope." The initiative, approved by Pope Francis before his passing, comes amid one of the worst humanitarian crises Gaza has faced in recent history.

"This is both symbolic and incredibly practical," said Peter Brune, secretary general of Caritas Sweden, who led the project alongside Anton Asfar of Caritas Jerusalem. "It tells the children of Gaza that peace is possible, that the world remembers them. But more than that, it's going to actually deliver medical aid to children who are desperate for care."

The mobile clinic is being fitted with essential medical equipment: rapid infection test kits, suture supplies, oxygen tanks, and a refrigerated unit for medication. Once operational, it will support Caritas Jerusalem's team of around 100 medical staff on the ground.

"The health system in Gaza has almost completely collapsed," Brune said. "This vehicle will be a concrete, life-saving intervention."

Pope Francis, who passed away earlier this year, had long expressed deep concern over the humanitarian fallout in Gaza. In December, after an Israeli airstrike killed seven children from one family, he condemned the attack, saying,



"This is cruelty, this is not war."

For much of the conflict, the pontiff made nightly phone calls to Gaza's only Catholic church, offering solidarity and prayers for the suffering community. "It was close to his heart," Brune noted. "Since the war began, 3% of Christians in Gaza have been killed."

The pope's written approval of the popemobile project arrived swiftly after the idea was proposed late last year. It stands now as one of his final acts of mercy, a gesture rooted in his lifelong dedication to the vulnerable.

The transformed popemobile is expected to be ready for deployment within a week, pending Israeli permission to enter Gaza. The urgency of the situation cannot be overstated.

"Since March 2nd, no aid has been allowed in," said Brune. "First children froze to death in winter. Now they're starving. It's horrible."

The conflict, triggered by Hamas's surprise attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, which killed over 1,200 people and resulted in 250 hostages, has since

spiraled into a humanitarian disaster. UNICEF reports over 15,000 children killed and nearly one million displaced. Tens of thousands more have been injured, many with no access to care.

While Israel cites security concerns and pressure on Hamas as reasons for its blockade, aid groups warn that the restrictions are devastating civilians, especially children.

"It is forbidden under international law to use civilians, especially children, as tools in war," Brune said. "We must not turn suffering into strategy."

Brune hopes the popemobile's second life will serve as a model for future humanitarian efforts. "Today it's Gaza. Tomorrow it could be Ukraine or the Congo," he said. "Wherever humanitarian access is denied, we want the popemobile to become a beacon for compassion and medical relief."

As Gaza continues to endure the agony of war, this once-ceremonial vehicle now promises to become something more profound: a testament to enduring hope and the power of mercy on wheels.

How Ukraine plans to survive If U.S support falters

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

As questions grow over whether continued U.S. support for Ukraine will survive a potential Donald Trump presidency, Kyiv is laying the groundwork for strategic independence. While American aid remains vital, Ukraine's leadership is betting on self-reliance—transforming the country into what some officials now call the “arsenal of the free world.”

With the last U.S. aid package approved under President Joe Biden expected to expire by summer, Ukraine has ramped up local production of ammunition and military systems. Ukrainian forces, once heavily dependent on Western weapons, are now deploying locally manufactured 152mm shells for Soviet-calibre D-30 howitzers—evidence that the country is preparing for a future with less foreign support.

“In all plausible scenarios, assistance will eventually end—even if Ukraine accepts the U.S. peace framework,” said Mykola Bielieskov, senior analyst at the Kyiv-based National Institute for Strategic Studies.

The long-anticipated minerals agreement signed between Kyiv and Washington this week may unlock new routes for collaboration. Still, uncertainty lingers as the Trump camp signals a less interventionist stance. Though Trump's administration has just greenlit \$50 million in arms exports to Ukraine, European leaders and Ukrainian officials are under no illusion: American support is not guaranteed.

Strategic Autonomy: A Three-Pillar Plan
Since the failed counteroffensive of 2023 and Russia's gains in Avdiivka, Ukraine has quietly reshaped its war strategy. According to government insiders, President Volodymyr Zelensky's team shifted focus from short-term aid to long-term survival, emphasizing three key areas: domestic arms production, foreign defense investments, and battlefield innovation.



The Rise of Ukraine's Drone Army

“The battlefield evolves every six months,” said Sgt. Oleksandr Yarmak of Ukraine's unmanned systems unit. “That speed of innovation gives us the edge.”

Last year alone, Ukraine produced more than two million FPV drones and several thousand long-range UAVs capable of striking targets as far as 1,700km—roughly the distance from London to Warsaw. This technological leap has enabled Ukraine to carve out a nine-mile-wide kill zone along the eastern front, slowing Russia's advance and disrupting supply chains.

Funding the War: From Donor Reliance to Homegrown Solutions

In 2024, 30% of Ukraine's defense budget came from the U.S., another 30% from the EU, and the rest was funded domestically. With American contributions in doubt, Ukraine and its partners are shifting toward what's known as the “Danish model”—direct funding of local military production.

One example: £850 million sourced from frozen Russian assets was allocated this April to support Ukraine's defense sector. This model bypasses delays and intermediaries, enabling Kyiv to triple production of key artillery systems like the Bohdana howitzer—85% of whose parts are now Ukrainian-made.

Ukraine as a Defense Hub

Ukraine's third strategic pillar is attracting global arms manufacturers. UK-based BAE Systems is already repairing vehicles on the front lines. German arms giant Rheinmetall—which outpaces the entire U.S. in 155mm shell production—plans to open local maintenance centers for Leopard tanks and German artillery.

“If you're not in Ukraine, you don't exist,” said Andrii Koropatva, CEO of Ancestor, a drone software startup. Ukraine is not just defending its territory; it's creating a model of wartime industrial transformation.

Risks and Gaps: Air Defenses and Intelligence

Despite progress, Ukraine remains vulnerable. The most critical shortfalls without U.S. support would be in air defense and real-time intelligence—capabilities that neither Ukraine nor the EU can fully replicate.

“There's no Ukrainian substitute for either,” said Bielieskov. “Europe could help—but only by risking more of its own military stockpiles.”

Ukraine's long game is bold: to outlast Russian aggression by building a self-sufficient defense economy. While the world watches Trump's next moves, Kyiv is acting—expanding factories, forging alliances, and innovating on the battlefield.

Trump denies considering third term

By Fatimah Idera



US President Donald Trump has denied that he is considering a third presidential term, a move which experts agree is banned under the US Constitution.

“I’ll be an eight-year president, I’ll be a two-term president. I always thought that was very important,” Trump told NBC’s Meet the Press with Kristen Welker in an interview that aired on Sunday.

Trump, 78, has previously said that he was “not joking” about wanting to serve a third, or even fourth, term as US president.

He later said his statements were meant to troll the “fake news media”.

His company, The Trump Organization, has been selling “Trump 2028” hats, fuelling speculation that he may seek to

remain in office after his second term ends in January 2029.

In the interview, recorded from his residence in Florida on Friday, Trump said that he has had many requests from people asking that he consider seeking to remain in office.

“So many people want me to do it,” Trump said, just days after celebrating his first 100 days of his second term. “It’s something that, to the best of my knowledge, you’re not allowed to do. I don’t know if that’s constitutional that they’re not allowing you to do it or anything else,” Trump said.

He added that “there are many people selling the 2028 hat”.

“But this is not something I’m looking to do,” he said, going on to list Republicans who could take his place, including Vice-President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

The Constitution’s 22nd Amendment says that “no person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice”.

Changing the Constitution would require a two-thirds approval from both the Senate and the House of Representatives, as well as approval from three-quarters of the country’s state-level governments.

However, some Trump supporters suggest there is a loophole in the Constitution, which has been untested in court.

Asked by NBC whether anyone has approached him with these theories, Trump deflected, answering that “in the capacity of being a big supporter, many people have said different things”.

Israel to expand Gaza offensive, plans long-term presence

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Israel has announced plans to escalate its military campaign in Gaza with the aim of “conquering” the territory and establishing a permanent military presence, officials confirmed late Sunday following a unanimous vote in the security cabinet.

The bold and controversial strategy marks a significant shift in Israel’s stated objectives and is likely to trigger international alarm, as humanitarian conditions in Gaza continue to spiral.

Israeli officials outlined the operation as an “intense offensive” that will include the seizure of territory, forced displacement of Gaza’s population to the south “for their protection,” and “powerful blows against Hamas.” The military is calling up “tens of thousands” of reservists to facilitate the deployment of active-duty soldiers into Gaza, according to Israel Defense Forces (IDF) chief Lt Gen Eyal Zamir.

More than 70% of Gaza is already under Israeli military control or designated as evacuation zones by Israel. Since the breakdown of a fragile ceasefire in March, bombardments have intensified, and buffer zones have been fortified across the enclave’s borders.

A Costly War and a Divided Nation

Israel’s ongoing offensive was launched in retaliation to Hamas’s October 2023 surprise attack that left approximately 1,200 Israelis dead, most of them civilians. According to Gaza’s health ministry, the Israeli response has since claimed the lives of at least 52,535 people, the vast majority of them civilians, with entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, under increasing pressure from far-right coalition partners, continues to promote controversial plans such as the potential displacement of Gaza’s population to neighboring countries like Egypt and Jordan, a proposal first floated in January by former U.S. President Donald Trump.

Humanitarian System Near Collapse
Despite Israel’s claims that “enough food”



currently exists in Gaza, aid agencies paint a drastically different picture. The United Nations warns that the humanitarian system is on the brink of collapse, with widespread hunger, blocked supply routes, and mass civilian displacement exacerbating the crisis.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) condemned Israel’s proposal to replace existing UN-led aid operations with a militarized network of aid distribution hubs operated by private contractors and guarded by the IDF.

“This contravenes fundamental humanitarian principles... and is dangerous,” said an OCHA spokesperson, adding that the plan “further entrenches forced displacement” and puts civilians and aid workers at serious risk.

Mounting Political Backlash

Hamas labeled Israel’s proposed aid framework “political blackmail,” and blamed the Israeli government for the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza.

Meanwhile, a coalition of hostage families sharply criticized Netanyahu’s decision to ramp up military operations, warning that it jeopardizes the lives of the 58 hostages still held by Hamas, nearly half of whom are believed to be dead.

“The expansion of military operations

puts every hostage at grave risk,” the group said in a statement. “It also threatens the lives of our soldiers and deepens the toll on countless Israeli families already carrying the burden of this war.”

Overnight airstrikes continued across the territory, with at least 17 people killed in northern Gaza, including women and children, according to al-Shifa hospital staff. Strikes targeted Gaza City, Beit Hanoun, and Beit Lahiya.

Geopolitical Stakes Rise

Trump is expected to visit Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE later this month, which may increase diplomatic pressure on Israel to reach a new ceasefire. Trump’s recent remarks, urging Netanyahu to be “good to Gaza”, suggest he may push for limited concessions during the trip, though his alignment with Israel’s hardline strategy remains firm.

Observers believe Israel’s public declaration of a full-scale Gaza occupation could be a calculated move to strengthen its negotiating hand in future talks with Hamas and other regional stakeholders. But with lives hanging in the balance and global scrutiny intensifying, the coming weeks may prove decisive in determining whether this war continues or if peace has any chance of returning to the region.

Tanzania explains reason for banning foreign currencies in local trading

By Damilola Olufemi

The Tanzanian government has officially prohibited the use of foreign currencies in local transactions, a decisive step aimed at strengthening the national currency and ensuring tighter oversight of the country's financial system.

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) announced on May 2 that all payments for goods and services within the country must now be made exclusively in Tanzanian shillings. This policy, which came into force on March 28, also bars businesses from quoting or advertising prices in currencies like the US dollar or euro.

"No one is allowed to reject payments made in Tanzanian shillings," the central bank stated, emphasising that contracts involving foreign currencies will now face tighter regulations.

Under the new guidelines, agreements signed after March 28 must be denominated in the local currency, while existing contracts that involve foreign currencies may only remain valid during a limited transitional window, though the specific timeline was not provided.

While the rule applies to all domestic transactions, exceptions are made for tourists and non-residents. These groups must, however, convert foreign currencies through licensed banks or forex bureaux. They are also permitted to use digital payment options such as credit cards and mobile platforms.

The policy shift comes amid currency



volatility. After appreciating by 9.5% against the US dollar in the latter half of 2024, the Tanzanian shilling depreciated by 3.6% between April 2024 and April 2025. The BoT attributed the decline to seasonal variations in foreign exchange availability, maintaining that the bank will continue to operate under a flexible exchange rate system and intervene only to stabilise market conditions.

Tanzania's foreign exchange

Despite recent fluctuations, Tanzania's foreign exchange reserves remain strong, standing at over \$5.6 billion at the end of Q1 2025—sufficient to cover 4.5 months of imports. The BoT expects this buffer to hold steady in the coming months.

To further support the shilling, the government plans to boost foreign reserves by purchasing gold and hard currencies, promoting exports, and advancing import substitution efforts.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Tanzania's economy grew by 5.5% in 2024. With inflation kept in check and fiscal conditions improving, the IMF projects continued economic growth through 2025, bolstering confidence in the country's long-term financial stability.

US to pay illegal migrants \$1,000 stipend for self-deport

By Fatimah Idera

The Trump administration announced on Monday that it will pay a sum of \$1,000 stipend and travel assistance to illegal immigrants for self-deport from the U.S said the Department of Homeland Security.

The stipend and potential airfare for migrants who voluntarily depart would cost less than an actual deportation, the agency said. The average cost of arresting, detaining and deporting someone without legal status is currently about \$17,000, according to DHS.

President Donald Trump, a Republican, took office in January pledging to deport millions of people but so far has trailed

deportations under his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden. Biden's administration faced high levels of illegal immigration and quickly returned many caught crossing the border.

The Trump administration has deported 152,000 people since January 20, according to DHS, lower than the 195,000 deported from February-April last year under Biden.

Trump's administration has tried to encourage migrants to leave voluntarily by threatening steep fines, trying to strip away legal status, and deporting migrants to notorious prisons in Guantanamo Bay and El Salvador.



"If you are here illegally, self-deportation is the best, safest and most cost-effective way to leave the United States to avoid arrest," Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in a statement.

Trent Alexander-Arnold's Exit Ends an Era at Liverpool

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

In a move that has rocked Anfield and left fans reeling, Trent Alexander-Arnold has announced he will leave Liverpool at the end of the season, bringing the curtain down on a glittering spell with his boyhood club. Though his next destination remains unconfirmed, the footballing world understands Real Madrid will be his new home.

Alexander-Arnold's decision, delivered via an emotional farewell video, comes just weeks before Liverpool's title parade — a moment that should have marked an uncontested celebration of triumph now tinged with a sense of heartbreak. Having spent 20 years with the club, the 26-year-old's impending departure feels like the end of an era.

A modern great of the Merseyside outfit, Alexander-Arnold leaves behind a legacy carved out in silverware: two Premier League titles, a Champions League crown, FA Cup, two League Cups, a Club World Cup, and UEFA Super Cup. With 352 appearances, 23 goals, and 86 assists to his name, his influence in Liverpool's renaissance under both Jurgen Klopp and Arne Slot is indelible.

Still, fans are left asking why now?

Why leave a club on a high, well-positioned to dominate for years, for a Real Madrid side in flux — battered in Europe and soon to part with veteran manager Carlo Ancelotti?

The answer, as Jude Bellingham once



put it, lies in the mystique of Madrid: “When Real Madrid knock on the door, the whole house shakes.” For Alexander-Arnold, the allure of Los Blancos appears to have finally broken even the deepest ties to his hometown.

Liverpool rejected a £20m bid for him in January, clinging to hope he might reconsider. But by March, the writing was on the wall. A meeting with new head coach Arne Slot ended with Alexander-Arnold confirming he would not sign a new deal.

While many supporters will feel stunned or even betrayed, his contributions cannot be denied. He redefined the right-back role — a defensive player who operated like a playmaker, unlocking defences with the kind of vision usually reserved for midfielders. His assists, long-range passes, and set-piece brilliance made him unique.

Of course, it wasn't all smooth sailing. Injuries, inconsistent form, and defensive lapses occasionally tested

fan patience, none more so than during the shaky 2-2 draw with Manchester United in January — a performance that felt symbolic of his internal conflict.

But for Liverpool supporters, the image that should remain is not of his missteps, but of the highs: lifting the Champions League trophy in Madrid, storming down the flank at Anfield, and that unforgettable corner flag celebration at Leicester.

As he prepares for his final Anfield appearance on 25 May against Crystal Palace, emotions will run high. There may be boos, but there will also be tears, gratitude, and applause for a local lad who lived the dream — and gave Liverpool fans memories they'll never forget.

In time, supporters may come to understand: great careers are often built on bold decisions. Trent Alexander-Arnold is leaving as a legend — one who dared to write the next chapter abroad.

Curry leads Warriors past Rockets to reach west semis

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Stephen Curry rose to the occasion once again, guiding the Golden State Warriors to a 103-89 victory over the Houston Rockets in a decisive Game 7 clash of their Western Conference first-round playoff series.

With the series tied at 3-3, and the final game taking place in a hostile Houston environment, the seasoned Warriors delivered a clutch performance that reminded fans why they remain perennial playoff contenders. Curry, who scored 14 of his 22 points in a dominant fourth-quarter display, was quick to highlight the collective effort that sealed the win.

“A lot of resilience and everybody stepping up,” said Curry. “Everybody’s been talking about our team the last two games in terms of our execution, our energy, all that. We blocked it all out and just understood we had 48 minutes to dig deep. Everybody contributed. Buddy Hield was unbelievable.”

Indeed, Buddy Hield was electric, leading all scorers with 33 points, including a remarkable nine three-pointers. His sharp shooting stretched the Rockets’ defense all night and created the kind of spacing Curry thrives in. It was Hield’s best performance since joining the Warriors and a timely one at that.

Also stepping up in a big way was Jimmy Butler, who added 20 points, eight rebounds, and seven assists. Butler, acquired in a midseason trade from the Miami Heat, has been pivotal in helping the Warriors balance experience and tenacity. His all-around play and leadership under pressure gave Golden State a steady presence throughout the game.

“For us to build chemistry on the fly and build trust on the fly and perform like we did in a Game 7, it means the world,” Curry added. “So, mission accomplished – step one.”



Golden State now advances to face the Minnesota Timberwolves in the Western Conference semi-finals. The Timberwolves, who have had a breakout season, present a different kind of challenge, but the Warriors are gaining momentum at just the right time.

The win over Houston was particularly sweet considering the Rockets had clawed their way back into the series after trailing 3-1. Had they completed the comeback, Houston would have become just the 14th team in NBA history to overturn a 3-1 deficit in the playoffs.

The Rockets, second in the Western Conference regular season standings compared to the Warriors’ seventh-place finish, entered Game 7 with confidence. But they faltered under pressure, particularly in the second half, where Golden State’s defense tightened and their stars began to shine. Houston’s young core struggled to match the composure and execution of the playoff-hardened Warriors.

Meanwhile, in the Eastern Conference, the Indiana Pacers made an early statement with a 121-112 road victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 1

of their semi-final series.

Andrew Nembhard led the Pacers with 23 points, while Tyrese Haliburton contributed 22 in a well-rounded offensive display. The Cavaliers, who swept the Miami Heat 4-0 in the first round and finished the regular season atop the Eastern Conference, suffered their first defeat of the playoffs.

“We’re definitely the heavy underdog, but we’re trying to control what we can,” said Haliburton after the win. “It gives us a lot of momentum for sure, but this is the best team in our conference. They don’t lose much.”

Indiana’s victory is a reminder of how unpredictable playoff basketball can be. While the Cavaliers are favored, the Pacers’ up-tempo offense and aggressive backcourt may prove troublesome if Cleveland can’t make quick adjustments.

As the playoffs intensify, both the Warriors and Pacers showed the kind of grit and execution needed to survive and advance. With their Game 7 triumph, Golden State proved once again that experience matters in the postseason. And as Curry put it, the mission is far from over.

French Minister apologises to Liverpool fans over 2022 chaos

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

In a rare admission of fault, former French interior minister Gérald Darmanin has formally apologised to Liverpool fans for the chaotic scenes at the 2022 Champions League final, acknowledging his role in wrongly blaming English supporters for the unrest outside the Stade de France.

Speaking in a candid interview on the Legend YouTube channel, Darmanin, now France's justice minister, described the night as "the biggest failure" of his political career and conceded that early accusations directed at Liverpool fans were both mistaken and unfair.

"It was a failure because I had not foreseen. That was a mistake on my part. I was led astray by my preconceptions," he said. "The scapegoat was easy to find, and I apologise now to Liverpool supporters. They were quite right to be hurt."

The final, which saw Real Madrid defeat Liverpool 1-0, was marred by dangerous crowd congestion, police violence, and reports of local gangs targeting fans. Riot police used tear gas and pepper spray on ticket-holding supporters trying to enter the stadium, while others were mugged or assaulted.

Initially, Darmanin and Paris



police chief Didier Lallement blamed fake tickets held by Liverpool fans for the crush. That claim was later debunked in an independent UEFA-commissioned report, which cleared supporters of wrongdoing and condemned the French authorities' poor planning and response.

"Our security arrangements were not designed for that eventuality," Darmanin admitted. "We got our arrangements wrong. We were expecting a war of hooligans, and what we got instead was muggers. What you need against that kind of delinquency is officers in running shoes — not riot police with big boots and shields."

The apology comes amid growing scrutiny of public safety in France. Darmanin also sparked controversy in the same interview by claiming "there is no longer any

safe place" in the country, citing the spread of drug-related violence even in rural areas. His remarks drew swift backlash from opposition parties, particularly the far-right National Rally, whose MP Jean-Philippe Tanguy accused Darmanin of "treating the French like imbeciles."

Now 42 and viewed as a possible contender to succeed President Emmanuel Macron in 2027, Darmanin did little to quiet speculation about his ambitions. "Do I think of the presidential election? The answer is yes," he said, adding that he wants "the country to do better than what I see now."

For Liverpool fans, the apology is long overdue. But as the political dust settles, many will be left wondering why it took three years for the truth to be acknowledged.