



**Court to rule on
Natasha's suspension
suit June 27** **Pg 2**

**Reps reject rotational
presidency, six other
bills** **Pg 8**



The New Daily Prime

f @new daily prime x @prime_dail1149 @ @new_daily_prime

...your prime source for excellence in journalism

57 children in Gaza died of malnutrition

PAGE 20



**Trump faces backlash for
welcoming white South
African refugees** **Pg 21**

WORLD

**President Emmanuel
Macron to visit King
Charles July 8** **Pg 23**



ENTERTAINMENT

**Diddy could face life
sentence over shocking
sex trafficking allegations**

**Pg
17**



Court to rule on Natasha's suspension suit June 27

By Friday Omosola



Justice Binta Nyako of the Federal High Court, Abuja, has scheduled 27 June for judgment in the legal challenge brought by suspended Kogi Central senator, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, over her removal from the Senate.

Akpoti-Uduaghan is contesting her suspension, which was initiated by Senate President Godswill Akpabio on allegations of misconduct—a decision she claims was unjust and politically motivated.

In her suit, she named the National Assembly, the Senate, the Senate President, and Senator Neda Imasuen—Chairman of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges, and Code of Conduct—as respondents.

Originally assigned to Justice Obiorah Egwuatu, the case was later reassigned to Justice Nyako following Egwuatu's withdrawal.

At Monday's hearing, Akpoti-Uduaghan's lead counsel, Jibrin Okutekpa, confirmed that all required documents had been filed in compliance with previous court directives.

Lawyers representing the Senate and Senate President—Paul Daudu and Ekwo Ejembi—also confirmed their submissions but raised a fresh issue regarding alleged contempt.

They accused the senator of flouting a court order by posting a sarcastic apology to the Senate President on Facebook on 27 March, which was

also published in several newspapers.

“The plaintiff has responded to our motion,” the defence lawyers said, referring to the contempt proceedings initiated against her.

In response, Michael Numan, another member of Akpoti-Uduaghan's legal team, argued that the alleged publication bore no direct link to his client.

He reminded the court that the plaintiff had earlier filed a separate motion alleging disobedience by the defendants.

Justice Nyako will deliver her ruling on the matter on 27 June.

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
1X1	4,400.00

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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
CENTRESPREAD	1,200,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	885,000.00
FULL PAGE	420,000.00
HALF PAGE	213,250.00
QUARTER PAGE	115,012.50

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,050,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	745,000.00
FULL PAGE	315,777.50
HALF PAGE	184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	95,222.50

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	254,533.50
HALF PAGE	142,787.50
QUARTER PAGE	80,706.50
14X2	78,222.50
10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
10X3	121,355.50
9X6	192,305.50
9X3	107,757.50
8X6	170,725.00
8X3	70,390.00
7X4	58,666.50
6X4	67,048.00
6X3	53,361.50
6X2	37,694.00
5X6	83,850.00
5X4	55,900.00
5X3	43,705.00
5X2	27,938.00
4X4	44,493.00
4X3	33,524.00
4X2	22,350.00
3X2	16,763.00
2X2	10,877.00
2X1	5,588.50
1X1	2,795.50

SPECIAL POSITIONS

2X6 FRONT PAGE	700,000.00
2X6 BACK PAGE	300,000.00
2X6 INSIDE PAGE	155,000.00
3X6 FRONT PAGE	1,200,000.00
4X6 FRONT PAGE	2,250,000.00
5X6 FRONT PAGE	3,350,000.00
10X6 FRONT PAGE	8,250,000.00
EARPIECE FRONT PAGE(1.5X2)	246,500.00
EARPIECE INSIDE PAGE(1.5X2)	117,875.00
EARPIECE BACK PAGE	236,796.50
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PUBLIC NOTICE)	1,027,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT)	929,000.00
CENTRESPREAD B&W	800,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	575,000.00
CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR	191,668.50
DOUBLE SPREAD COLOUR	721,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	144,294.00
CENTRE SPREAD B&W	835,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	425,000.00
FULL WRAP AROUND	15,000,000.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	280,690.00
HALF PAGE	164,178.00
QUARTER PAGE	84,641.50
10X6	228,000.00
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
4X2	26,333.50
3X2	19,750.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	210,795.50
HALF PAGE	124,236.00
QUARTER PAGE	70,950.00
14X2	76,128.35
10X6	194,961.00
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
7X4	72,676.00
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
3x3	23,458.00
3X2	14,923.00
2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
1X1	2,700.00

ALLURE RATE

SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
CENTRESPREAD		967,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD		806,250.00
ALLURE COVER		750,000.00
(IBC) Inside Back Cover		376,250.00
(IFC) Inside Front Cover		430,000.00
(BC) Back Cover		483,750.00
Full Page		430,000.00
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
FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00

GENERAL INFORMATION

SERIES DISCOUNT
5 PAGES 2.5%
10 PAGES 5%
15 PAGES & ABOVE 7.5%

SURCHARGE
PAGE 3 (100%)
PAGE 4, 5, 7 AND 8 (50%)
PAGE 2 (75%)

LOOSE INSERT
LEAFLET, POSTERS 1,000 COPIES
SPECIAL INSERTS (8 PAGES) COPIES
SPECIAL INSERTS (4 PAGES) 1,000 COPIES
HANDLING CHARGES FOR LESS THAN 35,000 COPIES
HANDLING CHARGES MORE THAN 35,000 COPIES

CLASSIFIED ADVERT RATES
CHANGE OF NAME
GUIDE BLACK & WHITE
GUIDE COLOUR

25,000.00
45,000.00
30,000.00
75,000.00
100,000.00

2,000.00
3,750.00
4,250.00

CONTACT US

Correspondent Address:
Real Group Plaza, No.1 Junaid Dosumu
Street, CBD, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos
Call the Editor on: 07025014298, 09014323792

E-mail Address:
info@newdailyprime.news
Terms and Conditions apply

ALL RATES ARE VAT INCLUSIVE

FG unveils 'Medipool' scheme to cut drug costs

By Friday Omosola

In a major step toward making healthcare more affordable, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has endorsed a new group purchasing scheme, Medipool.

Medipool is aimed at reducing the cost of medicines and essential medical supplies across Nigeria.

The announcement followed Monday's FEC meeting held at the Presidential Villa in Abuja and chaired by President Bola Tinubu.

The Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Ali Pate, said the Medipool initiative is designed to streamline procurement and create a national supply system that will enable bulk purchasing for better pricing.

"Medipool will function as a group purchasing organisation that brings together the demand from basic healthcare centres and federal tertiary hospitals," Pate explained.

"This allows the government to negotiate more favourable prices by leveraging its position as a major buyer."

He noted that the platform would initially be driven by the Basic Health Care Provision Fund, but would expand to cover federal tertiary institutions and potentially other partners.



The scope of the initiative, Pate added, covers procurement planning, distribution monitoring, logistics, regulatory compliance, and quality assurance.

It will also involve support for local pharmaceutical manufacturers, import substitution, financial management systems, and staff training.

"This is about ensuring that Nigerians have access to essential medicines that are both high in quality and affordable," the minister said.

"We studied successful models in countries like Kenya, South Africa, Singapore, and Saudi Arabia to guide the development of Medipool."

In addition to the Medipool approval, the FEC awarded a contract worth N2.3 billion for the purchase of a modern cardiac catheterisation machine for the Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH) in Sokoto.

According to Pate, the high-tech equipment will allow the hospital to perform advanced diagnostic and therapeutic procedures for heart diseases, including treating heart attacks and arrhythmias.

"This facility will serve not just Sokoto State, but the entire North West region. It will enhance our capacity to provide critical care and reduce the need for Nigerians to seek such treatments abroad," he said.

Shettima woos IsDB to invest in Nigeria

By Friday Omosola

Vice President Kashim Shettima has urged investors, particularly the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), to channel investments into Nigeria.

He made the call on Tuesday while receiving a delegation from the IsDB, led by the Head of its Regional Hub, Hammad Hundal, at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

According to Shettima, this is an opportune moment for investors to engage with Nigeria, as President Bola Tinubu's administration has addressed many of the longstanding issues that previously discouraged investment.

He emphasised that the foundation laid by the Renewed Hope administration—through critical reforms in key sectors of the economy, has created a favourable environment for investment.

Shettima also highlighted the administration's strategic interventions in human capital development, nutrition, agriculture, health, education, and the promotion of digital trade, noting that these efforts reflect a strong commitment to resolving challenges in critical sectors.

“This administration is poised to address the challenges that we have in key areas of human capital development, financial inclusion, infrastructure and nutrition. In fact, we have no option but to address most of these issues, and we will continue to act in the right direction,” he maintained.

Shettima commended Nigeria's partnership with IsDB, describing the collaboration as one rooted firmly in the nation's strategic interests.

He urged the IsDB to sustain its



support for key government initiatives, including the Special Agro-Processing Zones (SAPZ) programme, the i-DICE project, and other interventions such as the development of a Halal economy in Nigeria.

Shettima stated, “Let us cross-pollinate ideas and collaborate on a design for your Country Engagement Framework (CEF). I want the development of a Halal economy, the promotion of digital trade, financial inclusion, and other priority areas to be reflected in your CEF. I call for deeper collaboration to help us tackle these pressing challenges.”

He further observed that the bank's interventions in Nigeria align with Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, which spans multiple sectors.

Shettima called for enhanced support from the IsDB, particularly in agriculture, human capital development, gender inclusion, investment in education and healthcare infrastructure, and nutrition.

In response, the Head of the IsDB's Regional Hub in Abuja, Hundal,

reaffirmed the bank's commitment to strengthening its interventions in Nigeria.

He said the bank is undertaking a comprehensive review of its Country Engagement Framework to prioritise critical aspects of Tinubu's development agenda.

Hundal identified key focus areas, including economic infrastructure, private sector support, energy security, and the i-DICE programme.

The highlight of the meeting was the formal presentation of the IsDB's revised Country Engagement Framework to the Vice President by the bank's Country Economist, Obioma Asuzu.

Asuzu explained that the CEF outlines the bank's strategic objectives in Nigeria, which include accelerating recovery, combating poverty, building resilience, and promoting green economic growth.

She noted that the framework is guided by Nigeria's national priorities, partnerships with key stakeholders, and a strong focus on resource mobilisation.

Edun backs private sector as World Bank projects 3.6% growth By Friday Omosola



Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, has reaffirmed the federal government's commitment to private-sector-led growth.

This he said as the World Bank launched its latest Nigeria Development Update (NDU) themed 'Building Momentum for Inclusive Growth.'

Edun, who spoke at the launch, commended the World Bank as a valued development partner.

He lauded its technical support and concessional financing through the International Development

Association (IDA).

"We'd like them to continue and to give us more of that to boost us on our way," he stated.

The Minister highlighted growing investor interest across key sectors and underscored recent progress in fiscal transparency.

"It is an investment that grows the economy, creates high-quality jobs, and lifts Nigerians out of poverty in their millions," he said.

The World Bank projected Nigeria's GDP growth to reach 3.6% in 2025—its strongest economic performance in a decade.

The Bank credited improved revenue mobilisation, rising foreign reserves, and strengthened fiscal reforms for the outlook.

"There is a lot to be positive about in Nigeria," said the Bank's Acting Country Director, Taimur Samad.

He, however, stressed the need for continued monetary discipline to manage inflationary pressures.

Published biannually, the Nigeria Development Update is the World Bank's flagship economic report, designed to support evidence-based policymaking in Nigeria.

Let LGs have representatives in FAAC, Senate tells FG

By Alade Adisa

With the financial autonomy granted local government councils in the country, the Senate on Tuesday asked the federal government (FG) to allow the councils to be represented at the meetings of the Federation Account Allocation Committee, FAAC.

The Senate wants each state and the FCT to have one representative in the committee to safeguard the interests of the councils.

According to the Senate, it observed that Section 5 of the Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc) Act 1981 prescribes the membership of the FAAC to be only representatives of the FG and State Governments to the exclusion of the third tier of Government—Local Government Councils.

Resolutions of the Senate on Tuesday were sequel to a motion titled, “Urgent Need to alter the Composition of FAAC by including representatives of Local Governments and Area Councils”

The motion was sponsored by the Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Jibrin Barau, APC, Kano North and presented at plenary by Senator Isah Jibrin, APC, Kogi East.

Presenting the motion, he said, “The Senate: Notes that LGCs established by Section 7(1) CFRN 1999, as a 3rd tier of the Federation, are entitled as such and by Section 162(3) CFRN 1999 to share directly in Federation Account Allocations as benefitting entities;

“Also notes that the Supreme Court has construed Sections 162(5) and (6) CFRN 1999, to the effect that the States are agents of the Federation to collect Local Government allocations from the Federation Account and pay to LGCs and did not give the States any right or interest in the said allocations to the LGCs, from the Federation Account.

The Supreme Court went further to also



state that the duty of the States is to simply convey to the LGCs their allocations from the Federation Account;

“Aware that the Supreme Court has further recognised that the approach of a direct payment to the LGCs will achieve the intention and purpose of the Constitution and accord with the smooth running of the system of paying the LGCs their allocations from the Federation Account;

“Also aware that the Supreme Court has also pronounced to the effect that paying the LGCs through the States of the Federation has not worked, therefore justice demands that LGCs’ allocations from the Federation Account should henceforth be paid directly to the LGCs;

“Observes that section 5 of the Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc) Act 1981 prescribes the membership of the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) to be only representatives of the Federal Government and State Governments to the exclusion of the 3rd tier of Government, i.e. Local Government Councils (LGCs);

“Also observes that this provision of the

Act is no longer consistent with the current interpretation of Sections 162(5) and (6) CFRN 1999 as recently determined by the Supreme Court in its judgment of July 2024;

“Further observes that it is imperative to urgently harmonize the provisions of Section 5 of the Act with the Constitution and its current interpretation by the Supreme Court.

“Aware that the representatives of the States had always represented LGCs at FAAC; however in light of the current position of the Constitution, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, it has become imperative that a representative of LGCs per State and Area Councils be nominated to represent their interest at FAAC.”

The Senate then resolved to communicate the resolution to the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the economy, Wale Edun as the Chairman of FAAC, for his urgent information and necessary action; and

The Upper Chamber said that it will seek the concurrence of the House of Representatives on the matter too.

Reps reject rotational presidency, six other bills

By Damilola Olufemi

The House of Representatives on Tuesday declined several bills, including the passage of a constitutional amendment bill that proposed rotating the offices of the President and Vice President among Nigeria's six geopolitical zones.

The bill, which sparked considerable debate among lawmakers, failed to move beyond the second reading stage.

In addition to the rotational presidency proposal, six other constitution alteration bills listed on the Order Paper were also rejected. However, the House resolved to revisit each bill individually on Wednesday for reconsideration based on its specific merits.

Other bills rejected include: Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to remove from Independent National Electoral Commission, the Powers of Registration and Regulation of political Parties in Nigeria and Transfer same to the Office of the Registrar General of Political Parties, and a Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Principle of Rotation of the Offices of the President and the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria among the Six Geopolitical Zones of the Country, Namely: North Central, North East, North West, South East, South South, and South West.

Also included are bills for an Act to



Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for Establishment, Independence, and Functions of the Office of the State Auditors-General for Local Governments and the Federal Capital Territory Area Councils, to Strengthen Fiscal Oversight, Promote Accountability and enhance Good Governance at the Grassroots and a bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Create Ughelli East Local Government Area in Delta State.

The House temporarily suspended its standing rules to allow for simultaneous debate on all seven amendment bills. Members were free to choose any of the listed bills to contribute to during the session.

The bill proposing the rotation of executive leadership between geopolitical zones attracted the most

attention and controversy. Many lawmakers spoke against it, warning that enshrining such a provision in the Constitution could lead to unintended political and social consequences.

Deputy Minority Leader, Hon. Aliyu Madaki, was at the forefront of the opposition. He argued that issues of equitable representation were already being addressed through the Federal Character Commission and internal mechanisms within political parties. According to him, forcing zoning into the Constitution would unnecessarily politicise national unity.

Similarly, Hon. Sada Soli (APC, Katsina) described the bill as “well-meaning but flawed,” warning that it could compromise the quality of leadership by prioritising regional turn-taking over merit. He emphasised that governance should focus on competence, not geography.

Bill to convert YABATECH to vocational university scales second reading in Senate

By Alade Adisa

Constitutional steps to change Yaba College of Technology, YABATECH, to a university of technology and vocational studies are now on before the Senate, where the bill to effect that has scaled through the second reading.

The Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Barau Jibrin, APC, Kano North, who presided at Tuesday's plenary session, subsequently referred the bill to the Committee on Tertiary Education and TETFUND for further legislative action and report back in four weeks.

The bill is titled, "A Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of the Yaba Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies Yaba, Lagos State and to make comprehensive provisions for its due management and administration and for other related matters, 2025 (SB. 738).

The Senate leader, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, APC, Ekiti Central, said that the Bill essentially seeks to transform and upgrade YABATECH to Yaba Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies Yaba, Lagos State which has already been done via a presidential fiat.

"This Bill seeks to establish Yaba Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies Yaba, Lagos State. The Bill was read the first time in this Hallowed Chamber on Tuesday, 11th March, 2025.

"The Bill essentially seeks to transform and upgrade the Yaba Polytechnic to Yaba Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies Yaba, Lagos State which has already been done via a presidential fiat.

"Nigeria's steady march towards education for all in the shortest possible time has taken a giant leap with the introduction of this Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of this University.

"I am personally excited by the prospect of transforming this Polytechnic to a University of Technology and Vocational Studies as it will motivate both students and academic staff, just as it will upgrade its facilities and enhance its capability to achieve its objectives."



Similarly, The New University will encourage the advancement of learning and hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction the opportunity of acquiring a higher and liberal education.

It will also do the following: provide courses of instruction and other facilities for the pursuit of learning in all its branches, and to make those facilities available on proper terms to such persons as are equipped to benefit from them; encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research in all fields of learning with emphasis on technical education.

"If Nigeria as planned should aim to become one of the world's twenty leading economies of the world in this 21st century, we must be ready to adjust and position our educational institutions so that its products are geared towards technological challenges inherent in such projections. Our educational authorities are moving to revamp our institutions for these objectives.

"Yaba Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies, when enacted by the National Assembly will have power to establish such campuses, colleges, faculties, institutes, schools, extra-mural departments and other teaching and research units within the University as may from time to time seem necessary or desirable subject to the approval

of the National Universities Commission.

"To ensure continuity in the administration of the university, all property held by or on behalf of the Yaba Polytechnic shall be vested in the University and be held by it for the purposes of the University. Notably, all staff of the Polytechnic are hereby transferred to the University and previous service in the Polytechnic shall count as service for the purposes of any pension payable by the University.

"The institution is prepared to undertake the educational and other modifications that are a natural corollary of transforming to a university. The institution is also prepared to remains true to its core mandate of producing well-trained manpower capable of driving the technological, management and business goals of the nation.

"In this regard, it will seek to emulate the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) which has built upon a tradition of distinction to become one of the world's foremost educational institutions.

"I am fully satisfied that the provisions in this Bill are adequate to ensure the takeoff of the proposed University and I will not hesitate to encourage my colleagues to support it at all stages of its journey to becoming a law of the Federation of Nigeria."

Reps take steps to include inter-university centres in TETFUND's activities

By Alade Adisa

Inter-university centres that have been battling to be included in the series of intervention programmes of the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, TETFund, may soon smile, as the House of Representatives is considering a bill to make the centres beneficiaries of the Fund's activities too.

A bill in that regard passed second reading in the House on Tuesday. It was titled, “Bill for an Act to Amend the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act, No.16, 2011 to Provide for the Inclusion of Inter-University Centres among beneficiaries of the Tax Imposed under the Act; and for Related Matters HB.1754,” was sponsored by the Deputy Speaker Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu and eight others.

The inter-university centres in the country are: the National Mathematical Centre (NMC), Abuja; National Institute for Nigerian Languages (NINLAN), Aba, Abia State; Nigeria French Language Village (NFLV), Badagry, Lagos State; and National Arabic Language Village, Ngala, Borno State.

Leading the debate on its general principles, one of the co-sponsors, Hon. Tolani Shagaya recalled that TETFund was established under the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Establishment) Act, No.16 of 2011 to provide supplementary support for the general development of public tertiary institutions across the federation.

While acknowledging that the scheme has grown to make great impact on tertiary education in the country he, however, said that the Inter-University Centres, which are established by Acts of the National Assembly to serve all universities have been excluded from this support framework, despite the fact that they play



a unique and indispensable role in advancing tertiary education across Nigeria.

He said, “InterUniversity Centres support the entire university ecosystem by offering centralised expertise, hosting advanced research, conducting nationwide language training, and enhancing academic cooperation across institutions. Yet, because they are not classified as traditional universities, polytechnics, or colleges of education, they have been excluded from the funding streams that sustain similar tertiary institutions.

“This situation has placed the Inter-Universities Centres at a serious disadvantage — leaving them underfunded, under-equipped, and undervalued, despite their clear national mandate. This Bill seeks to correct that anomaly and to ensure that Inter-University Centres are recognised for their contributions and supported accordingly. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, the Bill proposes following key amendments to the Principal Act – (a) Amendment of section 4 which provides

for the recognition of InterUniversity Centres under the Act; (b) Amendment of section 7 which provides for a new allocation/sharing ratio of 2:1:1:1 which will consequently provide for funding of the InterUniversity Centres (this ratio is could be further adjusted at the Committee Stage when inputs of stakeholders have been taken); and (c) Amendment of section 20 which provides for the interpretation and meaning of “Inter-University Centres”.

“This is a practical and inclusive amendment that ensures no vital academic institution is left behind. By providing for the recognition of Inter-University Centres as eligible beneficiaries of the tax imposed under the Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act, the Inter-University Centres would be reinforced, become stronger, and become more coherent structural support for the nation's tertiary education system.”

The Deputy Speaker, Rt Hon. Benjamin Kalu, who presided over the session, put it to a voice vote and it was passed and referred to the Committee on TETFUND.

Alleged forgery: Okpebholo orders immediate arrest of NBM president

By Friday Omosola



Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State Governor, has called for the immediate arrest and prosecution of the President of the Neo Black Movement (NBM) of Africa, Olorogun Ese Kakor, over alleged forgery of official government documents.

The call was made in a petition addressed to the Inspector-General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, and the Director General of the Department of State Services (DSS), Oluwatosin Ajayi.

The governor accused Kakor of forging documents that falsely claimed he had state authorisation to

assist schools in the state's south senatorial district.

Okpebholo described the act as both fraudulent and a direct assault on the integrity of the state's administrative processes.

He alleged that the forgery was carried out in collusion with certain low-level civil servants, who have now been identified and taken into custody.

According to the governor, a police investigation is already underway to determine the extent of their involvement.

He vowed that all those found

culpable would face prosecution per the law.

The governor also announced the revocation of the land title on which the NBM headquarters was built in Edo State.

He said the decision was based on the organisation's alleged involvement in violent crimes and unlawful activities.

Okpebholo urged both the police and the DSS to intensify efforts to curb the operations of groups allegedly linked to criminality and ensure that all those responsible are brought to justice.

UNILAG announces delay in movement to some halls of residence

By Friday Omosola



The management of the University of Lagos, UNILAG, has announced delay in the movement of students into some halls of residence on campus.

In a statement on Tuesday by Alhaja Adejoke Alaga-Ibraheem, Head, Communication Unit, the university said the delay was as a result of the need to renovate the affected halls.

“The University of Lagos Management wishes to inform students of recent development regarding the Halls of Residence.

“To ensure our students were able to write their 1st Semester, 2024/2025 examinations, halls of residence were allocated free of charge even though

the refurbishment of some of the halls had not been fully completed.

“Due to the high demands placed on these halls during the examination period, noticeable damages and deteriorations have been observed in some of the halls that require timely maintenance. Similarly, there are some halls still undergoing repairs to meet conducive standards for our students.

“In light of this, we kindly appeal to our dear students that movement into the affected halls of residence, for students who were allocated bed spaces there, will be delayed until necessary repairs are completed. We understand the inconvenience this may cause and appeal for patience and

understanding as we work to restore these halls to standard.

“However, students allocated bed spaces in any of the following halls can commence registration process in the halls from Wednesday, May 14, 2025, and move in from Saturday, May 17, 2025: Mariere, Eni-Njoku, Saburi Biobaku, Shodeinde, Makama Bida, Queen Amina and Honours.

“The University remains committed to providing a safe and conducive living environment for all students and will ensure that all repairs are completed as swiftly as possible.

“Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.”

Rivers NAWOJ condemns stigmatisation of deaf, mute child

By Helen Okechukwu



The Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), Rivers State Chapter, has strongly condemned the stigmatisation of a deaf and mute child by women, particularly mothers, at the Azikiwe Police Division in Port Harcourt, where the child was taken for safety.

In a statement jointly signed by Chairperson Susan Serekara-Nwikhana and Secretary Precious Ahiakwo-Ovie, NAWOJ expressed deep disappointment over reports that some mothers at the station mocked the child and referred to her as an “imbecile,” dismissing her as unworthy of care due to her disability.

The statement read, “It is utterly disgraceful that women, who should naturally be protectors of vulnerable children, were the ones mocking a helpless minor simply because of her disability.”

“This cruel behaviour is not only a

failure of basic humanity but also a reflection of the deep-seated stigma and ignorance that still plague our society.”

Read Also: 4 children dead after car crashes into Illinois after-school program

NAWOJ commended the swift intervention of human rights advocate Prince Wiro, who ensured the child’s safety and protection at the scene.

The group called on the police and social welfare authorities to expedite efforts toward reuniting the child with her family and securing her proper care.

NAWOJ Calls for Compassion and Action

The association stressed the critical role of mothers as primary caregivers, urging them to lead in showing empathy rather than discrimination, especially toward children with special needs.

“How can we build an inclusive society

if even mothers, who should nurture and protect, are the ones dehumanising a child in need?” NAWOJ asked.

They further called on community leaders, women’s groups, and civil society organisations to intensify advocacy efforts against the stigmatisation of persons living with disabilities.

NAWOJ demanded immediate reorientation programs to address what it described as a “toxic mindset” and urged the Rivers State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Welfare to take decisive action in the matter.

The association pledged to monitor the situation closely and collaborate with stakeholders to ensure justice and proper rehabilitation for the child.

It also announced plans to launch a targeted media campaign to promote disability rights and challenge harmful societal attitudes.

Becoming obese before 45 raises risk of early death by 52% - Study

By Helen Okechukwu

Gaining weight in early adulthood may be far more dangerous than previously thought, with new research revealing that becoming obese before the age of 45 significantly increases the risk of dying young.

The findings, presented at the European Congress on Obesity in Malaga, Spain, show that the earlier in life individuals become obese, the greater the long-term consequences on their health.

The study, which followed 620,000 Swedish adults aged between 17 and 60, found that individuals who became obese between the ages of 30 and 45 increased their risk of early death by 52 per cent.

Alarming, those who gained excessive weight even earlier, before the age of 30, faced a much higher risk.

Obese men in this category were 79 per cent more likely to die early, while women faced an 84 per cent increased risk, compared to those who gained weight later in life.

Researchers attribute these elevated risks to “cumulative damage” caused by prolonged exposure to obesity-related health issues.

Every pound gained between the ages of 17 and 29 was found to raise the risk of early death by over 20 per cent.

The dangers were linked to a wide range of chronic diseases, including heart disease, various cancers, and type 2 diabetes.

Huyen Le, a doctoral student at Lund University and the study’s lead researcher, emphasised the importance of early prevention.

“The key message from this study is clear: avoiding weight gain — especially in your late teens and



twenties — can have a major impact on your long-term health,” she said.

Her colleague, Dr. Tanja Stocks, associate professor of epidemiology at Lund University, echoed the warning.

“Even modest weight gains in your twenties can significantly increase the risk of early death if they persist over several years. The earlier people embrace healthy living, the better the chance of a long life.”

The study adds to mounting evidence that young adulthood is a “critical life stage” for establishing habits that influence long-term health outcomes.

Experts argue that tackling obesity early could prevent a cascade of health complications and premature mortality later on.

Katharine Jenner, director of the Obesity Health Alliance, called the findings a “wake-up call” and criticised the current food environment.

“Many young people are on course to reach obesity by 30, driven by a food environment dominated by fast-food

deals, oversized portions, and highly processed products,” she said.

“This is the consequence of decades of failure by the commercial food system and the lack of action by government to fix it.”

Currently, around one in four adults in the UK is classified as obese, according to NHS data.

Obesity is already known to increase the risk of at least 13 types of cancer, in addition to type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

The researchers behind the study are calling for urgent action to support healthier lifestyles among young adults.

“Supporting healthy habits during this critical life stage can have lasting benefits,” said Dr. Stocks.

As the obesity crisis continues to grow, experts stress that preventing early weight gain may be one of the most effective strategies to ensure a longer, healthier life.

I started beef between M.I, Vector, OAP N6 opens up

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian rapper and media personality Nnamdi Nwabasili, widely known as N6, has revealed that he played a major role in sparking the long-standing feud between fellow rappers M.I Abaga and Vector Tha Viper.

In a recent interview with Day Genius, N6 opened up about how his 2017 diss track, a direct response to M.I's controversial release, may have inspired Vector's later attack on the Chocolate City rapper. According to him, his track was the first serious response that hit M.I hard, unlike the more diplomatic replies from other rappers at the time.

The song that started it all

The drama began in 2017 when M.I dropped "You Rappers Should Fix Up Your Lives," a bold track that criticized the Nigerian rap scene. The song called out rappers for losing relevance and not evolving with the times. It sparked a wave of responses from Nigerian hip-hop artists, most of whom kept their replies respectful and cautious.

But N6 decided to go a different route. He fired back with his own track titled "You Should Fix Up Your Life, Too." The song took direct aim at M.I, challenging his authority and reputation in the industry.

Not a fan of conflict, but ready to respond

Despite his response, N6 says he doesn't enjoy beefs. He prefers to maintain a good relationship with his colleagues in the music scene. But in this case, he felt the need to speak up.

"I don't like drama. I usually stay out of rap quarrels," N6 told Day Genius. "But when M.I dropped that song, I felt like he went too far. So I responded. He didn't reply me with a track, he responded with 18 tweets instead."

According to N6, the Twitter exchange between him and M.I was intense. Although it didn't evolve into a full rap battle, it marked the beginning of real



tension. "That was the only time I ever went after a fellow rapper," he said. "Normally, I stay friendly because I know I'm talented. There's nothing to fight over."

Setting the stage for Vector's attack

N6 believes his diss track set the tone for what later became the infamous beef between M.I and Vector. According to him, M.I ignored most of the other replies from rappers who responded with softer lines and respectful tones. But N6's hard-hitting bars got M.I's attention.

"When I dropped my reply, we got into a real fight," N6 revealed. "Most people don't know that my track was what laid the foundation for the M.I and Vector beef."

He continued, "M.I did 'You Rappers Should Fix Up Your Lives,' and a few rappers responded, but they were careful with their words. I wasn't. I said what I had to say. And that's why out of 4,000 replies, he came after me."

Rap beef with lasting impact

The M.I-Vector beef would later dominate the Nigerian hip-hop scene, leading to a string of diss tracks from both rappers. Songs like Vector's "The Purge"

and "Judas the Rat," and M.I's "The Viper," captured the attention of fans and sparked endless debate.

While N6 didn't remain part of the feud, his role in starting it remains largely unknown to many. Now, years later, he's finally sharing his side of the story, and making it clear that his words carried weight.

"I don't pick fights. But that time, I had to speak up," he said. "I wasn't trying to cause drama, but sometimes, the truth hits hard."

A moment in Nigerian rap history

The events that followed M.I's 2017 track became one of the most memorable moments in Nigerian hip-hop. Although N6 stayed mostly behind the scenes after his one-off diss, he now believes that his bold response changed the direction of the conversation and pushed the scene toward a new level of lyrical rivalry.

As fans look back at the timeline of events, N6's claims add a new layer to the story. His decision to drop a direct and fearless reply may have been the spark that lit the fire between two of Nigeria's biggest rap stars.

My uncle, Ademola Adeleke, best Governor Osun ever had, Davido brags

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music sensation David Adeleke, better known by his stage name Davido, has publicly declared that his uncle, Governor Ademola Adeleke, is the best governor Osun State has ever had.

He made this bold statement during a recent appearance on Culture Knock Out (C.K.O), a show hosted by media personalities Chris and Baloo.

“He proved everyone wrong”, Davido

During the interview, Davido explained that many people had underestimated his uncle when he entered politics. According to him, critics didn’t take Governor Adeleke seriously because of his fun-loving personality and his well-known love for dancing.

But Davido insisted that his uncle has gone on to prove everyone wrong through hard work and results.

“My uncle, the Dancing Governor, is good vibes,” Davido said with a smile. “He has an amazing story. He’s the last born of my dad’s family. A lot of people in Osun never believed he could become governor.”

Davido added that Governor Adeleke’s journey is a lesson in not judging people based on appearances.

“He is a real example of ‘Don’t judge a book by its cover.’ Just because somebody likes to dance and have a good time doesn’t mean they can’t deliver when it’s time to work. Now, he’s been the best governor they’ve ever had,” Davido said.

Governor Adeleke: From “Dancing Senator” to respected leader

Governor Ademola Adeleke first caught public attention years ago for his lively personality and dance moves, which earned him the nickname “The Dancing Senator.” Many saw him as a figure of entertainment rather than a serious politician.

However, since becoming governor of Osun State, he has gradually shifted that perception. He took office in November



2022 after winning a highly contested election. His victory was seen as a major political shift in the state, ending the rule of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and returning the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) to power in Osun.

Since taking office, Governor Adeleke has focused on several areas of development, including infrastructure, education, healthcare, and worker welfare. His administration has also prioritized paying salaries and pensions on time, which has earned him praise from many residents.

Davido and the Adeleke political family

Davido, known globally for hit songs like “Fall” and “Unavailable,” is a proud member of the Adeleke family, a household name in both the entertainment and political spheres in Nigeria.

His father, Adedeji Adeleke, is a wealthy businessman and philanthropist, while his uncle, Ademola Adeleke, has been active in politics for several years. Before becoming governor, Adeleke served as a senator representing Osun West in the National Assembly.

Despite his fame as a musician, Davido has never shied away from showing support for his family’s political journey. He was actively involved in his uncle’s 2022 campaign, even performing at rallies and



using his platform to speak up for him.

“Don’t judge by appearances”, a message to critics

Davido’s comments during the C.K.O interview serve as a strong defense of his uncle’s image. He stressed that liking fun, dancing, and music doesn’t mean a person lacks discipline or seriousness.

He pointed out that Governor Adeleke has managed to balance his outgoing personality with a strong commitment to public service.

“People didn’t believe in him because of how he expresses himself,” Davido said. “But he has done the job, and now people respect him.”

Public reactions and growing support

In recent months, Governor Adeleke’s popularity has grown across Osun State. Many residents, especially young people, say they feel more connected to a leader who remains accessible and relatable.

Social media has also played a role in changing opinions about the governor. Videos of him dancing and interacting with ordinary people have gone viral, helping to soften his public image while also showing a different side of leadership, one that combines joy with responsibility.

Diddy could face life sentence over shocking sex trafficking allegations

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Shocking new details have emerged in the federal sex trafficking trial against music mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs.

During opening statements on May 12, prosecutors described deeply disturbing events allegedly involving the rapper and his former girlfriend, singer Cassie Ventura.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Emily Johnson painted a troubling picture of the celebrity’s private life. She told jurors that Combs once forced a male escort to urinate into Cassie’s mouth during one of his notorious parties, which prosecutors called “freak offs.” Johnson said Cassie felt like she was choking during the act and was visibly shaken.

Alleged abuse at private “freak off” parties

According to prosecutors, these so-called “freak offs” were not just wild celebrity parties. They were organised, high-end sexual events. Women, and sometimes men, were allegedly forced or manipulated into participating.

Johnson told the court that Combs was the one orchestrating these encounters. In some cases, she said, he gave direct instructions or stood by recording the scenes on camera.

One such encounter allegedly involved a male escort, Daniel Phillip, who testified in court. He said he was hired several times to sleep with Cassie. Phillip told jurors he was paid up to \$6,000 for each encounter.

He also claimed that both Combs and Cassie instructed him during one session to urinate on her. “Cassie was actually the one who asked me,” he said. “She even told me I was doing it wrong, and both of them corrected me.”



Phillip added that he felt trapped. “I felt like I was dealing with someone who had unlimited power,” he said. “Even if I went to the police, I believed I could still lose my life.”

Video evidence and physical abuse allegations

Prosecutors also referenced a 2016 video that appeared to show Combs physically attacking Cassie. In the footage, which reportedly surfaced online, Combs is seen kicking, hitting, and dragging her in a hotel hallway.

This video, according to the prosecution, offers further proof of an abusive and controlling relationship that went far beyond verbal or emotional harm.

Defense says relationship was “mutually violent”

Combs has denied all criminal allegations. He has pleaded not guilty to a list of federal charges, including one count of racketeering conspiracy, two counts of sex trafficking, and two counts of transporting individuals for prostitution.

His legal team plans to argue that the

relationship between Combs and Cassie was “mutually violent.” According to the defense, Cassie was not a helpless victim but someone who actively participated in many of the encounters now being presented as abuse.

Cassie, who has not yet taken the stand, is expected to testify later in the trial. Her testimony will likely be one of the most critical moments in the proceedings.

Wider claims of abuse and federal charges

The case has drawn nationwide attention not just because of the celebrities involved but also due to the larger claims surrounding Combs. Prosecutors say that over the years, he abused more than 120 people. These include men, women, and even a 9-year-old boy.

Combs was arrested in Manhattan on September 16, 2024, and later indicted by a federal grand jury in the Southern District of New York.

If convicted of racketeering, he could face life in prison. A separate conviction for sex trafficking carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years.

What’s next in the trial

Denise Bidot accuses Lil Wayne of abuse

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

American model Denise Bidot has accused rapper Lil Wayne of physical abuse and emotional cruelty.

The 38-year-old made the claims in a heartfelt Instagram post on Sunday, May 11. The post has since drawn widespread attention and sparked conversations online.

Bidot, who has been in a public relationship with Lil Wayne since 2020, shared that the rapper ended their relationship in a text message on Mother's Day.

"Breaking up with someone on Mother's Day is diabolical," she wrote. "Prayers up though. God always pulls me through. Walking with faith."

Allegations of being kicked out

Bidot revealed that Lil Wayne, whose real name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., forced her and her daughter out of his home on the same day.

"Wayne literally kicked me and my daughter out on Mother's Day today," she wrote. "I'm just recovering from surgery. I'm five weeks out from a whole mommy makeover. I can't even lift my boxes."

Despite her condition, Bidot claims that the rapper sent his assistants to remove her and her belongings. She said this happened without any personal conversation or empathy.

Accusations of physical abuse

In a painful admission, Bidot alleged that the rapper physically assaulted her during their relationship.

"This man has actually laid a f***ing hand on me. And I took it," she wrote. "They always say we are so stupid for love, and I thought it was a mistake."

She went on to suggest that she is not the



only woman he has hurt.

"But I know other women he's put his hands on," she added.

Infidelity allegations

Bidot also accused Lil Wayne of cheating. In her post, she claimed the rapper flew in two other women on the same day he broke up with her.

"I know he flew in two girls today, and who knows how many he has," she said.

Her words suggested a pattern of disrespect and betrayal, which added to the emotional pain she described.

Lil Wayne and girlfriend Denise Bidot
Lil Wayne and girlfriend Denise Bidot
A call for legal help

Toward the end of her post, Bidot asked her followers for lawyer recommendations. This suggests that she may be planning legal action or seeking protection following the alleged abuse and sudden breakup.

She did not provide further details about her next steps, but her public plea for legal support shows that she may be preparing for a court battle or custody-related issues.

Silence from Lil Wayne

As of now, Lil Wayne has not made any public response to Bidot's claims. The rapper, known for hits like Lollipop and A Milli, has continued to remain active on social media but has not addressed the controversy.

This silence has led to growing public pressure. Fans and followers are urging the rapper to clarify or respond to the serious accusations.

Background on Lil Wayne and Denise Bidot relationship

Lil Wayne and Denise Bidot first confirmed their relationship in 2020, following the rapper's breakup with Australian model La'Tecia Thomas. Since then, the couple had shared several public moments online, including affectionate posts and photos.

Bidot, a model known for promoting body positivity, had often expressed her love for Lil Wayne during their relationship. However, Sunday's emotional post revealed a painful reality behind the scenes.

Reactions and public support

Social media users have since flooded Bidot's post with supportive messages. Many praised her for speaking out and encouraged her to seek justice.

Embattled Canadian Rapper Tory Lanez stabbed in prison fight

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Canadian rapper Tory Lanez was rushed to a hospital on Monday after he was stabbed during a violent altercation inside a California prison.

The 32-year-old is currently serving a 10-year sentence for the 2020 shooting of fellow rapper Megan Thee Stallion.

Lanez, whose real name is Daystar Peterson, was attacked by another inmate in the prison yard of the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi. The incident took place during what prison officials described as a “heated dispute” between inmates.

According to reports from TMZ, Lanez was quickly transported out of the prison in an ambulance. He was taken to a nearby medical facility for treatment. Sources say his injuries are not life-threatening.

Tory Lanez’s violent attack in prison yard The stabbing occurred around midday when inmates were allowed into the yard for routine recreation. Eyewitnesses told prison staff that an argument broke out between Lanez and another prisoner. The dispute quickly escalated, ending with the rapper being stabbed.

The exact cause of the altercation remains unclear. Prison officials are still investigating the motive behind the attack. They have not yet released the identity of the inmate involved in the stabbing.

The prison has since locked down the yard and restricted inmate movement while the investigation continues.

Lanez serving time for 2020 shooting

Tory Lanez is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence after being found guilty of shooting Megan Thee Stallion in 2020. The high-profile case drew national attention and sparked widespread conversation about violence against



women in the music industry.

During the trial, Megan testified that Lanez told her to “dance” before shooting her in the feet. The incident happened in the Hollywood Hills after a party. Lanez denied the charges but was convicted in 2022.

Since beginning his sentence, Lanez has kept a relatively low profile. This attack marks the first known violent incident involving the rapper behind bars.

Fans and family react

News of the stabbing quickly spread online, with fans expressing concern for Lanez’s safety. Social media platforms lit up with messages of support and criticism alike. Some called for increased security for high-profile inmates, while others pointed to the dangers of prison life.

Tory Lenaz

Tory Lenaz

Lanez’s legal team has yet to release an official statement, but sources close to the family say they are shaken by the news and are closely monitoring his condition.

Meanwhile, Megan Thee Stallion has not commented on the incident.

Questions raised about prison safety

The attack has raised fresh concerns about safety in correctional facilities, especially for high-profile inmates. Advocates argue

that prisons should take extra steps to protect well-known individuals who may be targeted because of their fame.

Lanez’s stabbing is the latest in a string of violent incidents in U.S. prisons involving celebrity inmates. While his injuries are said to be non-life-threatening, critics say the situation could have been far worse.

Prison authorities have promised a full investigation. “The safety and security of all inmates is our top priority,” said a spokesperson for the California Department of Corrections. “We are reviewing what happened and will take appropriate action based on our findings.”

What happens next

As Lanez recovers in the hospital, investigators are working to determine what led to the stabbing. They will also decide whether any charges should be filed against the inmate responsible for the attack.

It’s unclear how this incident might affect Lanez’s time behind bars. Depending on the outcome of the investigation, he could be moved to a different facility or placed under tighter security.

For now, Tory Lanez remains hospitalised under guard. His injuries are serious but not fatal, and he is expected to make a full recovery.

57 children in Gaza died of malnutrition

By Fatimah Idera



The World Health Organisation (WHO) have said 57 children have died from the effects of malnutrition during the ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip

A representative of WHO in the Palestinian Territories, Rik Peepkorn, said in a video call that the UN organisation has not yet verified these figures. However, he noted that the WHO has observed an increase in malnourished children.

In connection with this, he reported many young patients with pneumonia and gastrointestinal diseases.

“You normally don’t die from starvation, you die from diseases associated with it,” he said.

From the WHO’s headquarters in Geneva, it was stated that in recent

weeks, more than 57 children may have already died due to the food crisis.

Since the beginning of March, the Israeli military has not allowed aid deliveries into the Gaza Strip.

The armed forces accuse the Palestinian extremist organisation Hamas of selling aid supplies at inflated prices to the suffering population and using the proceeds to pay for their fighters and weapons.

The UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) warned at the beginning of the week of an escalating famine in the coastal strip.

A recent analysis has indicated that the entire population of the Gaza Strip, around 2.1 million people, are affected by acute food insecurity. Of

these, 244,000 people are already suffering from famine, the FAO said. UNICEF is concerned about malnutrition like WHO in Gaza

Nemat Hajeebhoy, UNICEF’s Chief of Nutrition, stated 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.

Trump faces backlash for welcoming white South African refugees

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A controversial decision by U.S. President Donald Trump has ignited global debate after a group of white South Africans, known as Afrikaners, were granted refugee status and arrived in the United States this week.

Met at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, D.C., by Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau and Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Troy Edgar, the group, numbering between 49 and 59 according to conflicting reports from Reuters and the Associated Press, was greeted with American flags and public praise from senior U.S. officials.

“It is such an honour for us to receive you here today,” Landau told the newly arrived Afrikaners. “It makes me so happy to see you with our flag in your hands.”

Landau invoked his own family’s history of fleeing Nazi Germany, drawing a controversial parallel to the experiences of the white South Africans, whom Trump has repeatedly described as victims of a “genocide”, a claim widely debunked and associated with far-right conspiracy theories.

“We’re sending a clear message that the United States really rejects the egregious persecution of people on the basis of race in South Africa,” Landau added, echoing Trump’s position.

The move has sparked backlash both domestically and abroad, with critics accusing the Trump administration of prioritizing white refugees while simultaneously curbing protections for people fleeing war and persecution in countries like Afghanistan. On the same day the Afrikaners arrived, the U.S. ended



temporary protections for Afghan refugees, claiming the Taliban-led country had reached “sufficient stability.”

Landau defended the prioritization, stating that the Afrikaners “could be easily assimilated into our country,” a remark that drew sharp criticism for its racial undertones.

The Trump administration’s decision followed a February executive order that granted refugee status specifically to Afrikaners. This came after Trump suspended the broader U.S. refugee program in January, leaving over 100,000 approved refugees stranded worldwide.

When asked why white South Africans were being prioritized over victims of famine, war, and systemic violence across Africa, Trump responded, “It’s a genocide that’s taking place,” again repeating a widely discredited narrative. He added, “Their race makes no difference to me,” but insisted that South African leaders must address the issue before he would consider attending the G20 summit in Johannesburg later this year.

South African President Cyril

Ramaphosa rejected Trump’s claims, stating at a conference in Ivory Coast that he had directly informed the U.S. president that he had been misled.

“We think that the American government has got the wrong end of the stick here, but we’ll continue talking to them,” Ramaphosa said. He pointed out that efforts to address historical racial inequalities, still deeply felt decades after apartheid, are being misconstrued as anti-white discrimination.

Economic inequality in South Africa remains stark: white South Africans hold, on average, 20 times more wealth than their Black counterparts, and the unemployment rate among Black South Africans stands at 46.1%, compared to just 9.2% among whites.

In the U.S., human rights and refugee advocacy groups expressed deep concern. Laura Thompson Osuri, executive director of Homes Not Borders, greeted arrivals with a sign reading: “Refugee. Noun. A person who has been forced to leave his or her country due to persecution, war or violence. Afrikaners are not refugees.”

Hamas releases last American hostage, Edan Alexander

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Edan Alexander, a 20-year-old American-Israeli soldier held hostage by Hamas for nearly 20 months, has been released in a surprise move that may signal a shift in efforts to end the war in Gaza.

Alexander, captured on October 7, 2023, during Hamas's attack on his Israel Defence Forces (IDF) base, was freed with no ceasefire in place. He was handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross, dressed in civilian clothes, after what Hamas called "direct contacts" with the U.S. administration.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who celebrated the release on Truth Social, called it "a good faith step" and urged continued efforts to end the war and recover all remaining hostages. "Edan Alexander, the last living American hostage, is being released. Congratulations to his wonderful parents, family, and friends!" Trump posted.

Hamas said the unilateral release aimed to "achieve a ceasefire, open crossings, and bring aid and relief to our people in Gaza," and called on Trump's administration to "continue its efforts to end this brutal war."

Edan Alexander release period

The release occurred as Gaza faces worsening humanitarian conditions, with UN-backed experts warning that over 500,000 Palestinians are on the brink of starvation amid an Israeli siege.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressed gratitude to Trump but emphasised the role of Israeli military pressure in the release. "This was achieved thanks to our military pressure and the diplomatic pressure applied by President Trump. This is a



winning combination," he said.

Alexander, held in a tunnel in Gaza and shackled with other captives, reportedly told Israeli forces after his return that he had been confined in a cage and endured months of captivity underground.

His release, brokered by mediators from Qatar and Egypt, took place on the eve of Trump's first Middle East trip since his re-election. While Trump has maintained strong support for Israel in the past, Israel is notably absent from his itinerary.

Amid speculation of strained ties, Trump's ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, downplayed any rift, saying after a meeting with Netanyahu and envoy Steve Witkoff, "Forget rumours. We're all on the same page."

The U.S.-brokered release has renewed calls inside Israel for a broader hostage deal. As crowds gathered in Tel Aviv's Hostages Square, Trump claimed only 20 remaining hostages are still alive, an assertion the Israeli government has not confirmed.

Netanyahu said Israeli negotiators had been dispatched to Doha to explore a

possible ceasefire deal, but his coalition is divided. While Trump urges a truce, far-right members of Netanyahu's government are pushing for a continued offensive.

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich reiterated calls to destroy Gaza entirely, stating earlier this month that Palestinians should "leave in great numbers."

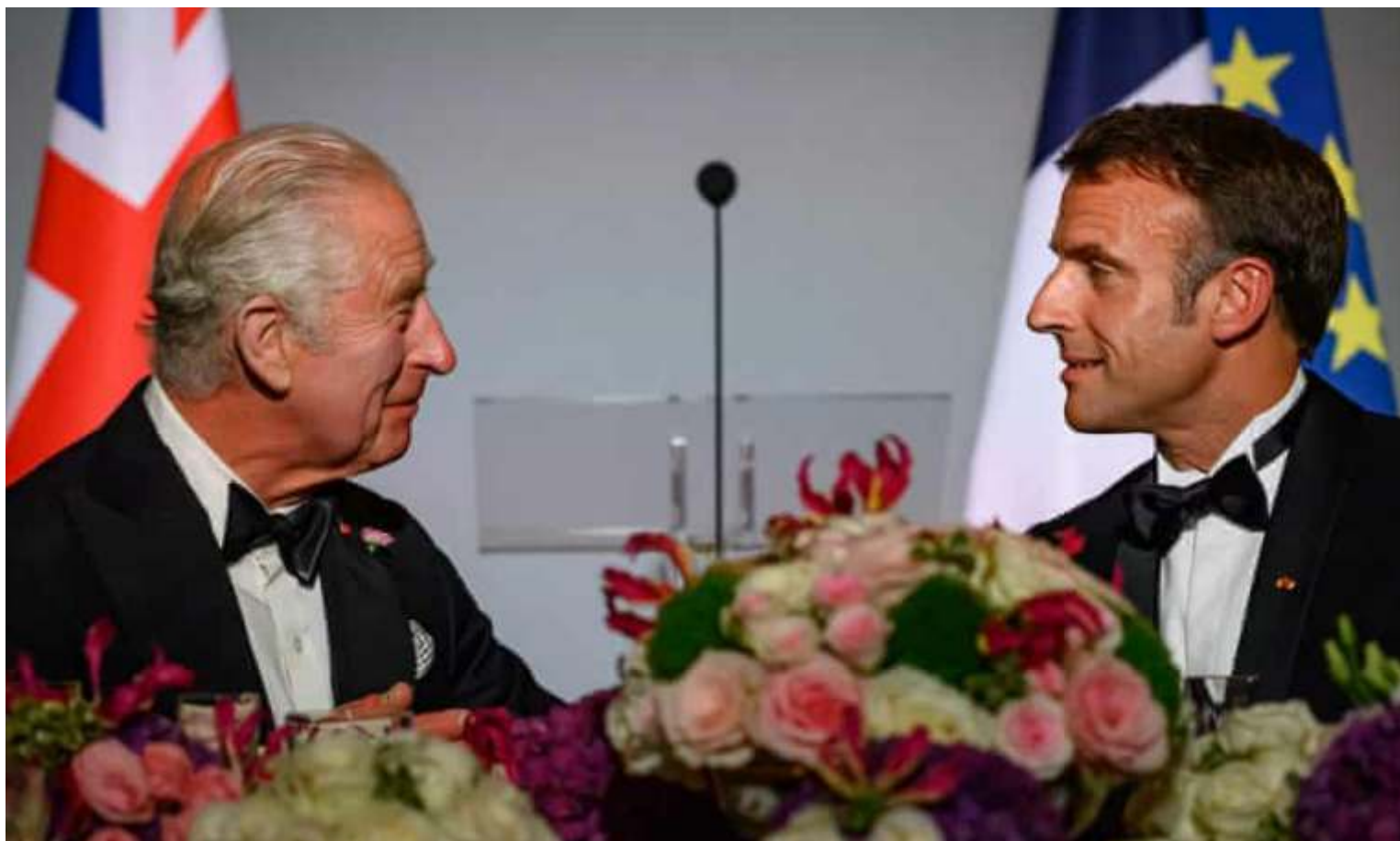
Public pressure on Netanyahu is mounting. Einav Zangauker, whose son Matan was once held with Alexander, accused the prime minister of sacrificing hostages for political survival.

"Instead of saving lives and bringing everyone back, he chose to turn our loved ones into corpses," she said, calling Netanyahu an "angel of death" and urging mass protests to oust him.

With 58 hostages still believed to be held in Gaza, many Israelis are demanding action. Whether Alexander's release becomes a turning point or a brief pause in a long and bloody conflict remains to be seen.

President Emmanuel Macron to visit King Charles July 8

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Buckingham Palace has announced that President Emmanuel Macron of France will pay a state visit to the United Kingdom from July 8 to July 10, 2025, at the invitation of King Charles III.

Macron, accompanied by First Lady Brigitte Macron, will stay at Windsor Castle during the three-day visit. This marks the first French state visit to the UK since 2008, when then-President Nicolas Sarkozy and Carla Bruni were hosted by Queen Elizabeth II.

In a statement, the palace said: “The president of the French Republic, his excellency Emmanuel Macron, accompanied by Mrs Brigitte Macron, has accepted an invitation

from his majesty the King to pay a state visit to the United Kingdom.”

The upcoming visit underscores the deep-rooted historical and diplomatic ties between the two nations. It follows King Charles and Queen Camilla’s state visit to France in September 2023, during which the monarch was warmly received at the Palace of Versailles and honoured with a grand state banquet.

King Charles’ hosting: What to expect

The July engagement is expected to feature all the traditional pageantry of a British state visit, including a ceremonial welcome, a state banquet, and high-level diplomatic meetings. It comes at a time when France and the UK continue to navigate shared

challenges on defence, climate, and trade in the post-Brexit landscape.

Meanwhile, preparations are reportedly underway for another high-profile state visit. U.S. President Donald Trump is expected to be hosted by King Charles after UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer extended an invitation during a White House meeting in February. However, no official date has been set for Trump’s visit.

As King Charles continues to shape his reign through diplomacy and soft power, Macron’s visit is poised to further strengthen Anglo-French relations in a time of global uncertainty.

US, Saudi Arabia sign \$142bn largest defense sales agreement

By Fatimah Idera

The United States and Saudi Arabia signed a historic arms agreement worth nearly \$142 billion during President Donald Trump's visit to Riyadh.

This deal, described by the White House as the largest defense sales agreement in history, will provide Saudi Arabia with state-of-the-art warfighting equipment.

As part of the agreement, Saudi company DataVolt plans to invest \$20 billion in AI data centres and energy infrastructure in the United States.

This move marks Saudi Arabia's effort to play a leading role in the technology sector. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has already pledged around \$600 billion in new Saudi investments, with Trump suggesting that reaching \$1 trillion would be even better.

During a brief interaction, Trump expressed his friendly rapport with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, stating, "I really believe we like each other a lot." Trump also highlighted the potential economic benefits for the US, saying, "We have the biggest business leaders in the world here today and they're going to walk away with a lot of cheques." He estimated that the deal could lead to approximately two million jobs for the United States.



Trump's four-day Middle East visit began in Saudi Arabia, where he signed major economic and bilateral cooperation agreements with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. These deals aim to strengthen ties with a key regional ally amid ongoing tensions over Iran's nuclear program and the war in Gaza.

Upon arrival at King Khalid International Airport, Trump was warmly welcomed by the Saudi Crown Prince. The two leaders

participated in a ceremonial hall, where they were served traditional Arabic coffee, and held formal proceedings at Al Yamamah Palace's Royal Court, featuring an elaborate lunch gathering.

After Saudi Arabia, Trump moves to UAE. Following his visit to Saudi Arabia, Trump will travel to Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, both significant US allies with established connections to the former president.

'Freed hostage Edan Alexander won't travel to Qatar'

By Damilola Olufemi

Freed U.S.-Israeli hostage Edan Alexander will not travel to Qatar to meet U.S. President Donald Trump, the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said on Tuesday.

"The Alexander family confirms that as of now, Edan will not fly to Qatar," the forum said in a statement. The family remains in regular contact with the Trump administration, according to the statement. New Daily Prime reported Edan Alexander's release.

Several Israeli media outlets had reported before Alexander's release on Monday that he might travel to Qatar to meet President Trump, who is currently on a multi-day visit to the Middle East—his first foreign trip since



returning to office in January.

Local media also reported that Alexander's family said the 21-year-old "needs peace and quiet" following his release, but confirmed that he was expected to speak with President Trump by phone on Tuesday and meet with

him at a later date.

Alexander is said to be in good condition after being held hostage for more than 19 months by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, following the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israel.

He is currently receiving medical treatment at a hospital.

His release is widely viewed as a diplomatic gesture aimed at the United States, with Hamas reportedly hoping it would encourage President Trump to pressure the Israeli government into agreeing to a deal that includes a permanent ceasefire in the ongoing conflict.

Australia's Albanese sworn in for second term

By Fatimah Idera



Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and his ministers were sworn into office for a second term following a decisive electoral victory. Albanese hailed the win as a mandate for the largest centre-left labour government in the country's history since its federation in 1901.

Albanese's Labour Party rode a voter backlash against global instability caused by U.S. President Donald Trump's policies to a come-from-behind victory on May 3.

The opposition conservative Liberal Party, whose leader Peter Dutton lost his seat at the election, selected Sussan Ley as its new leader on Tuesday.

Ley became the first woman leader of the federal Liberal Party, which lost city seats in Sydney and Melbourne to women who ran as independent candidates with policies supporting climate change and gender equality in the last two elections.

The Australian Electoral Commission is yet to finalise vote counting in several seats, although Labour said it is ahead in at least 94 seats out of the 150-seat House of Representatives.

It was the largest Labour caucus since Australia was formed by the federation of six former British colonies in 1901, Albanese said.

Albanese and his ministers were

sworn in at a ceremony at Government House in Canberra, conducted by Governor-General Sam Mostyn.

The key roles of the treasurer, foreign affairs, defence and trade are unchanged. In new roles, Michelle Rowland was sworn in as attorney-general, Murray Watt as environment minister, and Tanya Plibersek as social services minister.

Albanese will travel to Indonesia on Wednesday and will attend the inauguration mass of Pope Leo XIV on Sunday in Rome, where he said he would also hold meetings with other leaders, including European Union president Ursula von der Leyen, to discuss trade.

Todd Blanche appointed acting Librarian of Congress

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In a move raising eyebrows across political and academic circles, the Department of Justice confirmed Monday that Todd Blanche, former personal criminal attorney to President Donald Trump and current Deputy Attorney General, has been named acting Librarian of Congress.

Blanche, a career prosecutor best known for representing Trump during his 2024 New York criminal trial, has no known experience in library science or information management. His surprise appointment follows the abrupt firing of Carla Hayden, the nation's first Black and first female Librarian of Congress, who had held the role since 2016.

Alongside Blanche, two other senior Justice Department officials, Associate Deputy Attorney General Paul Perkins and Blanche's deputy chief of staff Brian Nieves, have also been assigned key roles at the Library of Congress. Perkins has been tapped as acting Register of Copyrights, replacing Shira Perlmutter, while Nieves assumes the role of acting Deputy Librarian of Congress.

The trio now finds themselves at the helm of the largest library in the world, overseeing a vast collection of books, films, manuscripts, and serving as Congress's primary research body and home to the U.S. Copyright Office.

However, the appointments have not gone smoothly. Perkins and Nieves reported to the Library on Monday but were reportedly escorted out by library staff shortly after arrival, underscoring the confusion and controversy surrounding the



leadership shake-up.

Democrats swiftly criticised the move, arguing that the Library of Congress, as a legislative branch agency, falls outside the president's appointment power. "This is not a White House reality show," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer. "The Librarian of Congress should be appointed by a bipartisan congressional commission, not handed out as a prize to political allies."

Rep. Joe Morelle, the top Democrat on the House Administration Committee, has called for an inspector general investigation into Hayden's firing, calling it "an egregious overreach."

Todd Blanche appointment

Blanche's appointment also comes on the heels of Perlmutter's copyright office releasing a detailed report warning about the legal risks of artificial intelligence tools exploiting copyrighted material, an issue likely to draw attention in his new role.

Hayden, a widely respected figure in library science, made history in 2016 when she was appointed by President Obama. In a 2020 interview with CBS News, she reflected on the symbolic importance of her role: "People who look like me were once forbidden by law to learn to read," she said. "It means so much that here is a person of colour leading the world's largest library."

Robert Newlen, a Library of Congress veteran of over 40 years, was initially set to serve as acting librarian following Hayden's ouster. In an internal email obtained by CBS News, Newlen acknowledged the sudden change, saying, "Congress is engaged with the White House, and we have not yet received direction about how to move forward."

As legal experts and lawmakers question the constitutionality of the appointments, the fate of the Library of Congress's leadership remains uncertain and increasingly politicised.

Trump to lift US sanctions on Syria

By **Fatimah Idera**



U.S. President Donald Trump said on Tuesday he would order the lifting of sanctions on Syria at the behest of Saudi Arabia's crown prince.

This move would be a huge boost for interim Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa as he seeks to stabilize a country shattered by war. Trump made the surprise announcement during a regional tour that began in Saudi Arabia.

The White House said Trump would meet with Sharaa during his Saudi visit. This meeting would take place between the president and a former al Qaeda commander who spent five years in a U.S. prison in Iraq. Two

sources from the Syrian presidency confirmed that Sharaa would travel to Riyadh to meet Trump.

The United States imposed tough sanctions on Syria during the rule of Bashar al-Assad and kept them in place after he was toppled from power. Saudi Arabia has been a leading voice calling for the sanctions to be lifted. Trump's decision marks a significant shift in US policy towards Syria.

Trump said he would remove all sanctions against Syria, stating they had served an important function but it was now time for Syria to move forward. "I will be ordering the cessation of sanctions against Syria

in order to give them a chance at greatness," Trump told an investment forum in Riyadh. "It's their time to shine. We're taking them all off," Trump said, adding "Good luck Syria, show us something very special."

Sharaa was the leader of al Qaeda's official wing in the Syrian conflict before severing ties with the global jihadist network in 2016. Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the group Sharaa led and which was formally dissolved in January, is designated a terrorist organization by the United States and the United Nations. This complex past may have implications for the US-Syria relationship.

Renowned French actor, Gerard Depardieu convicted for sexual assault

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Gérard Depardieu, one of France's most iconic and controversial actors, has been convicted of sexually assaulting two women during the filming of *Les Volets Verts* in 2021. A Paris court on Tuesday handed down an 18 month suspended prison sentence and ordered that the 76 year old be placed on the national sex offender registry.

Depardieu, who has starred in over 200 films and TV series, did not attend the hearing. His lawyer, Jérémie Assous, announced plans to appeal the verdict.

The assaults took place on a Paris film set in September 2021. One of the victims, identified as Amélie, a 54 year old set dresser, told the court that Depardieu forcefully grabbed her buttocks, pubis, and chest after trapping her between his thighs. "What stands out for me is not his sexual desire but his savagery," she testified. "He really terrified me, and that amused him."

The second victim, a 34 year old assistant director whose name was withheld, described being repeatedly groped by Depardieu during the shoot, including one instance where he placed his hands on her breasts after cornering her against a door. "I said no. I was scared," she told the court, adding that the actor constantly made crude sexual remarks on set.

Depardieu's Lawyer

Both women's testimonies were



graphic and harrowing, painting a picture of impunity and predatory behavior from one of France's most celebrated actors. Outside the courthouse, Amélie said, "For me, this is a victory. Justice has been done."

Carine Durrieu Diebolt, Amélie's lawyer, called the verdict a "historic moment" for the French film industry. "No one can now say Gérard Depardieu is not a sexual predator," she stated. "On the opening day of the Cannes film festival, I want the cinema world to think of his victims and speak their names."

Despite mounting allegations over the years, Depardieu has continued to enjoy support from parts of the French artistic elite. Actor Brigitte Bardot previously defended him, dismissing accusations as targeting "talented people who grab a girl's bottom."

The verdict arrives at a critical moment for France's cultural landscape. A recent parliamentary

report described sexual abuse in the entertainment industry as "endemic," highlighting how women and minors remain especially vulnerable. The ruling against Depardieu is widely seen as a pivotal shift, challenging the culture of silence that has long shielded powerful men in French cinema.

Depardieu faces further legal scrutiny. The Paris prosecutor's office has called for a separate trial over rape and sexual assault allegations brought by actress Charlotte Arnould, with proceedings yet to be scheduled. Depardieu denies those accusations, claiming the encounter was consensual.

As France reckons with its own #MeToo moment, the fall of Gérard Depardieu marks a sobering chapter in a country where artistic legacy has long been allowed to eclipse accountability.

Nunez ordered to serve ban after CAS rejects appeal

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Liverpool striker Darwin Nunez has been ordered to serve the remainder of a five-match international ban after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) rejected his appeal. The ban stems from an altercation he was involved in with Colombia fans during Uruguay's Copa America semi-final defeat in July 2024.

The incident occurred after Uruguay lost 1-0 to Colombia, with Nunez seen physically confronting spectators in the stands. The altercation occurred in the Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, USA, following the final whistle. The incident, which involved several other Uruguay players, was condemned by South American football governing body Conmebol, which imposed the five-match suspension on Nunez and a £15,145 fine.

Uruguay's appeal to CAS argued that the players acted in self-defence as the situation involved aggressive fans who were threatening their families. However, the CAS panel dismissed this claim, stating that the actions of the players were voluntary, violent, and unjustified. The court ruled that Nunez's actions violated the Conmebol disciplinary code, which led to the confirmation of the ban.

The dispute arose in a section of the stadium occupied by the families of the Uruguay players. Nunez, visibly angered by the altercation, climbed over railings and made his way into the stands, where tension was high. Uruguay's captain, José María Giménez, explained after the incident



that the players were acting to defend their families from a rowdy section of Colombian supporters. Giménez described the situation as the fault of a few unruly fans who had "too many drinks" and acted inappropriately.

The other players involved in the incident were also given suspensions. Tottenham's Rodrigo Bentancur was handed a four-match ban, while Napoli's Mathias Olivera, Barcelona's Ronald Araujo, and Atlético Madrid's José María Giménez each received three-match bans. These suspensions have already been served.

Nunez will now miss several key matches for Uruguay, including World Cup qualifiers against Paraguay and Venezuela in the upcoming month, as well as a fixture against Peru in September. The controversy surrounding the incident has not been without its defenders. Uruguay's head coach, Marcelo Bielsa, previously expressed that the players deserved an apology from the Colombian fans,

highlighting the importance of defending their loved ones in such circumstances.

The ruling has raised questions about the treatment of players in high-pressure environments, particularly when it comes to the safety of their families. It also brings attention to the intense emotions involved in international tournaments like the Copa America, where the stakes are high, and tensions can boil over into physical altercations.

As the saga continues, Nunez and his teammates will now have to accept the consequences of their actions. Despite the controversy, the situation underscores the delicate balance between player responsibility and self-defence in the face of aggression from outside forces. While Nunez may have acted out of instinct, the CAS ruling has reaffirmed that such actions can have significant repercussions on the international stage.

Ancelotti bids farewell to Real Madrid for Brazil job

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Carlo Ancelotti says he has “never had a problem” with Real Madrid and is not looking to “make a big deal” out of his upcoming departure, as the legendary manager prepares to take over as head coach of the Brazil national team.

The 65-year-old Italian will officially begin his tenure with the five-time world champions on 26 May, a day after Real Madrid conclude their La Liga campaign against Real Sociedad. Although his appointment was confirmed by the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) on Monday, Real Madrid have yet to release an official statement.

Addressing the media ahead of his final few matches in charge, Ancelotti expressed gratitude and pride in his time with Los Blancos, insisting that the parting is amicable and inevitable.

“If I didn’t have the press conference today, it would be fantastic,” he joked. “There are things I can’t explain right now because I’m at Madrid and I want to respect the shirt. From 26 May onwards, I’ll be Brazil’s coach. It’s a very important challenge, but I want to finish the final stretch of this fantastic adventure here well.”

Ancelotti was quick to dismiss speculation of tension between himself and the club hierarchy: “I never had problems with Real and never will have problems with Real. It’s a club that lives dearly in my heart, but everything in life has a date to end.”

He continued, “I couldn’t be Madrid coach for the rest of my life. It comes to an end for many reasons. The club may need a new impetus. I’m not making a big deal



out of it. A thousand thanks to this club. And we’ll carry on. I’ll always be a Madrid fan.”

Ancelotti’s second spell in charge at the Santiago Bernabéu has seen him claim 11 trophies in just four years, contributing to a total of 15 during his combined time with the club. His recent successes include a Champions League and La Liga double in 2023–24.

Reflecting on his achievements, the veteran manager remarked: “The day I arrived [for the second time], if they told me I’d win 11 titles in four years, I’d sign it with my own blood. It’s been an unforgettable time.”

However, this season has not met Real Madrid’s usual high standards. The club were knocked out in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, fell to Barcelona in the Copa del Rey final, and currently sit seven points behind their rivals in the league, now led by Hansi Flick.

Despite the underwhelming end to his tenure in terms of silverware, Ancelotti remains philosophical. “Football is like life; something begins and ends,” he said. “I’ve had a great time. We’ve won a lot, and it will be a memory for life.”

With his Real Madrid chapter closing, attention now turns to his successor. Bayer Leverkusen boss Xabi Alonso, a former Real Madrid and Spain midfielder, is widely tipped to step into the Bernabéu hot seat. The club is reportedly keen to have him in place before the expanded FIFA Club World Cup begins later this year.

On Madrid’s delay in issuing a statement about his exit, Ancelotti remained unfazed: “Madrid will release a statement whenever it wants. There is no problem whatsoever and they’ll do it when they deem it appropriate.”

Ancelotti’s calm and composed departure stands in contrast to the turbulence often associated with managerial exits at Real Madrid. His steady hand and silverware-laden tenure have left a lasting legacy.

Now, as he prepares to take on the challenge of restoring Brazil to global dominance—following their World Cup struggles in recent years—Ancelotti is ready to begin a new chapter. But for both him and Madridistas, the memories forged over two glittering spells will endure long after he departs.

Everton women to make Goodison Park their new home

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Everton have announced that their historic stadium, Goodison Park, will become the permanent home of the club's women's team, scrapping earlier plans to demolish the 132-year-old ground.

The decision marks a significant shift in strategy from the club's new owners, The Friedkin Group, who took over in December 2024. Previously, the site was set to undergo an £82 million regeneration project to make way for housing, shops, a care home and a public park, following the men's team's relocation to the new 53,000-seater Bramley-Moore Dock stadium this summer.

However, following a feasibility study and months of internal discussions, the club has confirmed that Goodison Park will remain in use — this time as the country's largest dedicated women's football stadium, boasting a 39,572 capacity.

"This long-term vision reflects the club's commitment to investing in the women's game," read a club statement. "Goodison Park will continue to play a vital role in both football and the community. For supporters, it offers the chance to be part of a new era in one of football's most iconic venues."

Club CEO Angus Kinnear added: "We know how treasured Goodison is, not only to every Evertonian, but to the game itself. Being able to keep such an iconic stadium at the heart of the legacy project has been incredibly important to us."

The announcement represents a milestone moment for Everton Women, who have played at Walton Hall Park since 2020. That stadium holds just 2,200 spectators, with only 500 seats, and features a hybrid playing surface. In



contrast, Goodison will offer a world-class facility and significant room for growth in line with the rising popularity of the women's game.

Historically, Everton Women have been one of England's leading sides, winning the league title in 1998 and domestic cup competitions in the late 2000s. They also reached the UEFA Women's Champions League quarter-finals in 2011. But under previous owner Farhad Moshiri, the team gradually lost its competitive edge, failing to finish above fifth place during his tenure. This season, they ended in eighth, with an average home attendance of 2,062.

The club plans to upgrade changing room facilities at Goodison and rebrand the exterior to reflect the women's team's legacy and future ambitions. Walton Hall Park will continue to serve grassroots football, with a focus on the girls' game.

Fans and former players welcomed the news with enthusiasm. Julie Clarke, secretary of the Everton Fan Advisory Board, told BBC Radio 5 Live: "I'm beyond thrilled. Men's teams think

Goodison is one of the hardest grounds to visit, so hopefully that becomes the case for our women's team. The new owners could have made a profit selling the land, but they chose to invest in the community."

Former Everton and England goalkeeper Rachel Brown-Finnis echoed the sentiment: "It is fabulous news. Everton Women have played at several different grounds, but none of them have felt like home. It feels like this is Everton Women coming home."

Goodison Park will also host select academy fixtures from next season, including those of the under-21 side, who previously played 16 miles away in Southport.

While many Everton supporters had emotionally prepared for a final farewell to Goodison this weekend, the announcement has shifted the tone of Sunday's fixture against relegated Southampton. Barry Williams of the Everton Fans' Forum said: "It feels like a bit of an anticlimax, but I'm glad it's staying."

Why some Liverpool fans booed Trent Alexander-Arnold

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

As Trent Alexander-Arnold stepped onto the Anfield pitch on Sunday, it should have been a triumphant homecoming — a moment to honour a local lad turned legend in what was likely his penultimate appearance for Liverpool. Instead, he was met with a chorus of boos from a section of the crowd.

The reaction from some supporters to Alexander-Arnold's return—following his announcement that he would leave the club at the end of the season—has stirred debate, exposing emotional fractures within the fanbase.

After spending over 20 years with Liverpool, Alexander-Arnold has lifted every major domestic and European trophy, contributing significantly to the club's recent era of success. Still, his decision to leave on a free transfer this summer has left many fans feeling betrayed.

'It feels like a betrayal'

Lifelong Liverpool supporter Carl Duffy attended Sunday's match with his daughter. Both chose to boo Alexander-Arnold during his second-half introduction.

"To us, it gets no bigger than Liverpool," Duffy explained. "Trent always said this club was his dream, that he watched the 2005 Champions League trophy come down Queens Drive. That made him one of us. So to leave like this — running down his contract and giving the club no compensation — it feels like a backstab."

While Duffy acknowledged the team would recover, he said the emotional fallout was harder to accept. "It's not about losing a right-back. We've lost bigger players before. It's the way he's going. If he really cared, he could've signed a new deal with a buyout clause. Let Madrid pay the fee."

A legacy damaged?



Fellow fan Richard Davis echoed those sentiments. "No one's denying Trent's ability or contribution. But if you love the club, why walk away for free after 20 years of investment in you?" he asked.

"He could've been a legend—maybe top ten all time. But now, his legacy's tarnished. This hurts because it feels like he's turned his back on us."

A divided response

Not all fans felt the same. John Gibbons from Liverpool fan outlet The Anfield Wrap was at the match and described the atmosphere as mixed.

"Some fans booed, yes. But many didn't. Some cheered. There's a lot of emotion here, but also misinformation," Gibbons said on BBC Radio 5 Live. "Plenty of Scousers wish him well. But the worst thing you can be accused of in Liverpool is thinking you're too good for us — and that's what's feeding the booing now."

Alexander-Arnold signed a four-year deal in 2021, alongside teammates Virgil van Dijk and Mohamed Salah. While Van Dijk and Salah have indicated openness to renewals, Alexander-Arnold's exit was confirmed, with Real Madrid believed to

be his next destination.

A bigger picture

Former Scotland international Pat Nevin acknowledged the complexity of the situation.

"He's given Liverpool incredible service and maybe his best years. But leaving for nothing when you're worth £70m — that stings," Nevin said. "It's hard not to think money played a role. Liverpool likely offered a strong deal, but as a free agent, his earnings skyrocket."

Former Arsenal winger Theo Walcott added a more empathetic take.

"I found it disturbing," Walcott said on the Monday Night Club. "We talk about mental health in football — how will this affect Trent? He's human. He's still young. I understand the move; he's done all he can at Liverpool. But booing one of your own? That's tough."

Andy Robertson, Alexander-Arnold's teammate, has publicly defended him, and it's clear the dressing room still respects the 26-year-old. But in a city where football and identity are deeply entwined, emotional decisions often outweigh rational ones.