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My suspension was pre-written script, not spontaneous – Senator Natasha

By Damilola Olufemi

Suspended Senator representing Kogi Central, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, has described her suspension from the National Assembly as a pre-written script driven by political motives.

Addressing her suspension in an interview with a US-based Nigerian journalist, Adeola Fayeun, she said it was a pre-written script and not spontaneous, adding that the allegation that she disturbed proceedings over her seat was false.

The Senate had on March 6 suspended the Kogi central senator for six months over alleged gross misconduct following her seating arrangement altercation with Akpabio.

“The impression being circulated is that I caused a scene over my seat. That is false.

“I raised a matter of privilege under chapter 4, Item 9b of the Senate rules — a provision that demands immediate attention.

“But the senate president cut me off, ordered the sergeant-at-arms to remove me, and directed the clerk to begin preparing my suspension letter. That wasn’t a reaction; it was a pre-written script,” she said.

Natasha stated that her suspension came a day after she submitted a formal petition against the Senate leadership.

The lawmaker said, “I believe my suspension was retaliatory. The ethics report they cited was merely a smokescreen. I had submitted allegations that shook the system, and the next day, I was silenced.”

While speaking on a claim by Sandra Duru, who alleged that Natasha was making efforts to sabotage the current administration led by someone from the south-west, the lawmaker said, “People who know me know that I am not a tribalist. I respect and appreciate every tribe in Nigeria, every ethnicity.

“I am half Nigerian and half Ukrainian — who am I to talk about tribe when I am one part of the other world? That is not



my nature; that is not my language.”

Natasha claimed that Duru’s statements were backed by political interests threatened by her widespread support.

“If anybody said that, it’s probably her team, the people who have sponsored her.

“Her sponsors are the ones who have probably put those words to her because they knew that I had enjoyed a lot of support from Nigerians, not just in Kogi state, but across the country and even in the diaspora.”

Natasha also accused Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, of misusing his office by singularly ordering her removal from the Assembly.

“He has no authority to unilaterally suspend any senator on the floor. The way he handled it — like I was a staff member in his living room — was not only unlawful but also degrading.

“My reaction was in response to a decision he had already made,” she said.

Natasha speaks on her relationship with Tinubu

Akpoti-Uduaghan said her cordial

relationship with President Bola Tinubu infuriated Akpabio.

“The senate president, Godswill Akpabio, also knows that I enjoyed a good relationship with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

“I have not said it in the open before, but I am saying it now, and that annoyed him because there was a time when the senate president told my husband, ‘Are you aware that your wife goes to see the President?’ and my husband told him he was aware.

“Whenever I have critical issues to raise, like before I brought up the issue of probing Ajaokuta, I did meet with Mr President to make sure he knew the nature of it, and he was okay with it. For other matters, too, I have met him in person.

“So, I do not have a hostile relationship with the president, even though I am in the opposition. I keep saying, the good people of Kogi central voted me as a senator to work, not to antagonise or create enmity.

“I want the people to know my issue is with the senate president — not the entire senate, the Nigerian people, the institutions, or the presidency.”

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Shettima: Nigeria to shift to cocoa processing, targets \$25bn gas pipeline

By Friday Omosola



Vice President Kashim Shettima, has reaffirmed the President Bola Tinubu administration's commitment to transforming the country's cocoa industry by shifting focus from primary production to large-scale processing.

He spoke on Monday during a meeting with a delegation from the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) led by its President, Chris Vincent, at the Presidential Villa.

Shettima said the Federal Government was determined to restore Nigeria's lost glory as a global leader in cocoa production and to unlock greater value through local processing.

"We don't want to be producers of cocoa; we want to be processors," the Vice President said.

"A tonne of raw cocoa may fetch \$9,000, but processed cocoa products can bring in up to \$30,000, and chocolate bars could go for as much as \$50,000."

He noted that the administration had already begun laying the groundwork for

revitalising the sector.

At a recent Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, the government approved the establishment of a National Cocoa Management Board to oversee and coordinate efforts across the cocoa value chain.

"We used to be one of the world's leading cocoa producers before oil discovery diverted our attention. But with the President's Renewed Hope Agenda, we are going back to the drawing board," he said.

Shettima, who revealed he was setting up a personal cocoa farm to lead by example, said the drive was not just about profits but about creating employment and supporting social welfare.

He assured the WCF delegation that Nigeria had a young and capable workforce ready to take on opportunities in the sector.

"I speak from the heart: we are ready to partner with your organisation," he said, pledging to personally engage the Taraba State Governor to secure 10,000 hectares

in Kurmi LGA for WCF's investment plans.

WCF President Chris Vincent expressed readiness to support Nigeria's cocoa ambition, citing the global shortage of sustainable cocoa supply and the current price surge as an opportunity for Nigeria to re-enter the global market competitively.

Meanwhile, Nigeria is seeking a \$25 billion investment to support the construction of the Nigeria-Morocco undersea gas pipeline, a project designed to transport natural gas from Nigeria through the West African coast to Europe.

During a separate meeting on Monday with senior executives of the Vitol Group—the world's largest independent commodity trading company—Shettima described the gas project as critical to Nigeria's energy strategy and a unique opportunity for international investors.

**Continue reading
on next page**

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“Our economy is essentially a gas economy. We have the eighth-largest gas reserves in the world,” Shettima said, adding that the Tinubu administration’s reforms—including fuel subsidy removal, exchange rate unification, and tax reforms—had positioned Nigeria as a top investment destination.

While acknowledging the project’s significant financial cost, the Vice President stressed that Nigeria needed technical expertise more than capital. “We need you more for your technical

expertise than your money,” he told the Vitol team.

He assured them of a transparent management structure and urged them to leverage their global influence to support the project.

“Use your goodwill and contacts to mobilise support. This is where the action is—invest in Nigeria.”

Vitol’s Chief Financial Officer, Jeffrey Dellapina, reaffirmed the company’s

long-term commitment to Nigeria. “We have always been close to Nigeria and are committed to remaining here. We are ready to deploy capital when needed.”

Vitol’s Head of Public Affairs, Murtala Baloni, also noted the firm’s role in supporting Project Gazelle, a crude oil-backed forward-sale financing deal with NNPC Limited, where Vitol contributed \$300 million during the COVID-19 period.

FG declares June 6, 9 public holidays for Eid-ul-Adha celebration By Friday Omosola



The Federal Government (FG) has declared 6 and 9 of June as public holidays to commemorate this year’s Eid-ul-Adha celebration.

The announcement was made by the Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, on behalf of the FG.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Minister congratulated the Muslim Ummah both in Nigeria and the

diaspora on the occasion of the Islamic festival.

Tunji-Ojo urged Muslims to uphold the values of sacrifice and faith as demonstrated by Prophet Ibrahim (Peace be upon Him).

He encouraged them to use the festive period to offer prayers for a peaceful and prosperous Nigeria.

He reaffirmed the FG’s commitment to

people-focused reforms and initiatives under the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu’s administration, aimed at putting the country back on the path of progress.

While extending his best wishes for a joyful Eid-ul-Adha celebration, the Minister called on all Nigerians to support the current administration’s efforts in restoring Nigeria’s image as a great nation.

Celebrating a Visionary Mentor

HAPPY
Birthday

**Kayode
Adaramodu**

On your birthday, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to a man of exceptional character and wisdom — Kayode Adaramodu.

Wishing you continued grace, strength, and impactful leadership as you celebrate another purposeful year today, June 3, 2025.

Courtesy:

Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Director, New Daily Prime



Wike accuses Amaechi of power obsession following 'hunger' remark

By Friday Omosola



The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Nyesom Wike, has taken a swipe at former Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, over his recent remark about being 'hungry.'

Speaking during a media interaction in Abuja on Monday, Wike described Amaechi's statement as misleading and disrespectful to Nigerians grappling with real economic hardship.

He argued that the former governor's use of the term 'hunger' was not about food, but a reflection of his relentless craving for political relevance.

"Amaechi is not talking about hunger in the literal sense. He simply cannot detach himself from the corridors of power," Wike said.

The two political heavyweights, who have long been rivals in oil-rich Rivers State, both previously held the governorship of the state.

Wike succeeded Amaechi in 2015, following the latter's completion of two terms in office.

Wike also served two terms before assuming his current ministerial position in August 2023.

Amaechi, while speaking at an event to mark his 60th birthday last Friday, declared that he was 'hungry' and willing to align with a political coalition led by opposition figure Atiku Abubakar in a bid to challenge President Bola Tinubu in 2027.

In response, Wike dismissed the declaration as a veiled attempt to re-enter power, branding it disingenuous.

"He was Speaker of the Rivers Assembly from 1999 to 2007, then governor until 2015. From there, he served eight years as Minister of Transportation under Buhari. Not once did he mention hunger during those periods," Wike noted.

"But now, two years out of office, he's suddenly claiming hunger? It's not food he's hungry for—it's power."

Wike criticised Amaechi for making such a claim on his milestone birthday, calling it dishonest and insensitive to the suffering of ordinary Nigerians.

"To say such a thing on your 60th birthday is regrettable. Aligning with Atiku and Nasir El-Rufai under the guise of hunger is an insult to the people. He just doesn't know how to live without power," he said.

Obi visits Niger flood scene, condole with victims

By Agency Reporter



The 2023 Labour Party (LP) Presidential flag bearer, Mr Peter Obi on Monday paid a sympathy visit to Niger over the tragic flood that claimed hundreds of lives.

Obi was accompanied on the visit to the scene of the incident and to see affected families by the Acting National Chairman of LP, Dr Nenadi Usman, and the National Coordinator of the Obedient Movement, Dr Yunusa Tanko.

The former governor of Anambra, in his X handle, said they also visited the Niger government house where he was received by the Deputy Governor of the state, Alhaji Yakubu Garba.

According to him, today, along with Sen. Nenadi Usman and Dr Yunusa Tanko, I travelled to Niger state to condole and show solidarity with the governor and good people of the state over the devastating floods in the

Mokwa area.

“While in the UK yesterday, I had earlier called the governor, His Excellency, Mohammed Umaru Bago, to express my heartfelt condolences.

“While in Niger state, I was warmly received by the deputy governor, Garba, and we discussed the urgent needs of the affected communities.

“Over 200 lives had been lost, about 1,000 persons are still missing, more than 3,000 people have been displaced from their homes, and several homes destroyed,” he stated.

Obi revealed that the flood incident and other happenings all over Nigeria affected us all.

He explained that as a family, we must come together to care, comfort and stand together, especially in times of grief and difficulty.

“I hereby urge and appeal to governments, all support agencies, and well-meaning Nigerians to assist the good people of Niger in ameliorating their sufferings.

“I also wish to commend the efforts of the governor and the local response teams for their courage and resilience in the face of this overwhelming challenge.

“As part of my commitment to stand with the people of Niger during this difficult time, I made an initial donation of N20 million to support efforts of the government and I will continue to support their efforts,” he added.

He prayed that God should comfort the families of those who lost their loved ones, protect those still missing, and grant healing and strength to everyone affected by the disaster.

June 12: Take It Back Movement to protest press attack, insecurity, hardship

By Damilola Olufemi



The Take It Back Movement (TIBM) has announced June 12, 2025, as a national day of protest in Nigeria.

In a statement signed by its National Coordinator, Juwon Sanyaolu, on Monday, the civil rights campaigner movement decries the escalating insecurity, press attack, and economic hardship faced by Nigerians across the country.

The Take It Back Movement coordinator frowns that freedom of speech is under attack, saying, “the state has turned on its citizens with an unrelenting campaign of intimidation and censorship. Journalists are harassed. Activists are detained. Citizens are arrested for social media posts.”

Sanyaolu added that through weaponisation of the Cybercrime Act, government agents now stalk the digital footprints of dissenters, silencing legitimate criticism and criminalising free expression.

He further described the escalating assault on the right to protest as uncalled for.

“Protesters demanding better governance are met with brute repression, arbitrary detentions, and sometimes death. From university campuses to labour rallies, the Nigerian state has responded not with dialogue, but with repression and violence,” he said.

He added that insecurity ravaging Plateau, Benue, Southern Kaduna, and the Middle Belt, including mass killing, has continued to decrease the number of residents of the communities with no consequences for the perpetrators.

“Lives are snuffed out without consequences. Internally displaced persons multiply, while perpetrators roam free. The bloodletting has become a routine, and the state remains complicit, through its inaction, negligence, or outright denial. This is not a democracy. This is organised cruelty.”

Take It Back Movement rejects hollow ceremonies

As the nation marks June 12, the movement has vowed to reject the hollow ceremonies and official pageantry, stressing that it will not participate in the hypocrisy of celebrating freedom where none exists.

“Instead, we declare this day a national day of resistance, a day to stand against tyranny and bad governance.”

Take It Back Movement urged Nigerians, youth, students, workers, civil society, market women, artisans, and patriots at home and in the diaspora to rise in defence of their rights.

“This June 12, we march not just for ourselves, but for the slain in Benue, the displaced in Plateau, the silenced in detention, and the starving masses abandoned by a corrupt elite,” Sanyaolu said.

Two years of Tinubu: A review of his presidency

By Damilola Olufemi, Friday Omosola and Helen Okechukwu

Since President Bola Tinubu assumed office in May 2023, today, May 29, 2025, marks the completion of his second year in office. Investigations by The New Daily Prime revealed that the tenure is marked by critical economic issues, insecurity and others.

While, there are issues, the tenure also brings good tidings to the country.

In this report, The New Daily Prime explores Tinubu's presidency over the past two years, a period not without controversies that sparked reactions both within Nigeria and beyond.

In 2024, President Tinubu submitted four tax reform bills to the National Assembly, stating that the proposed legislation aligned with his administration's economic objectives. These bills included the Nigeria Tax Bill 2024, aimed at creating a comprehensive fiscal framework; the Tax Administration Bill, designed to enhance efficiency and reduce tax disputes through clearer regulations; the Nigeria Revenue Service Establishment Bill, intended to repeal the Federal Inland Revenue Service Act and establish a new revenue service; and the Joint Revenue Board Establishment Bill, which proposed the creation of a tax tribunal and ombudsman.

Tinubu argued that these reforms would strengthen Nigeria's fiscal institutions and drive broader national development. However, the proposals were met with controversy, especially from stakeholders in the North, who viewed the reforms as a ploy to compel state governments—particularly in the North—to increase their Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

Due to mounting pressure from northern governors and other political stakeholders, the House of Representatives indefinitely suspended debate on the bills. Nevertheless, the National Assembly eventually passed four reform bills aimed at improving tax collection and administration to boost economic and social outcomes.

One of the most defining developments in Tinubu's tenure has been the wave of defections that rocked major opposition parties. The Labour Party (LP), Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and Social Democratic Party (SDP) all suffered significant losses as key figures defected to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

In Delta State alone, Governor Sheriff Oborevwori, the Speaker of the House of Assembly Emomotimi Guwor, and 21 other



lawmakers formerly with the PDP defected to the APC in what was described as a major realignment of political interests. Notably, former PDP vice-presidential candidate Ifeanyi Okowa also joined them.

These mass defections are expected to strengthen the APC's electoral prospects, potentially delivering millions of votes and altering regional political dynamics. Some analysts have warned that the trend suggests Nigeria may be heading towards a one-party system. This belief was further fuelled by the dramatic exit of former Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai from the APC in March 2025, following accusations of betrayal directed at President Tinubu.

However, political experts who spoke with correspondent dismissed concerns over a one-party state, arguing that while defections may signal a dominant party, they do not equate to the elimination of political competition.

They asserted that even in dominant-party systems, viable opposition parties can still exist and contest for power.

Another contentious issue gaining momentum is the debate over zoning, particularly as opposition parties and political coalitions begin to position themselves ahead of the 2027 general elections. Tinubu, a southerner, is expected to seek a second term, potentially completing eight years in office as his northern predecessor, Muhammadu Buhari, did.

However, internal coalition discussions reveal

tension over whether to zone the next presidential ticket to the South again. Some argue that a southern candidate should serve for eight years to maintain equity, while others warn that such a decision might reduce the chances of victory in 2027, given the power of northern votes.

Zoning has played a pivotal role in determining Nigeria's presidential leadership since the return to democracy in 1999. Buhari, from the North, served two terms, and Tinubu is expected to do the same. This continuity has led some northern leaders to back Tinubu's second term bid, with the understanding that the North could take over again thereafter.

One of the most talked-about incidents during Tinubu's administration remains the mass failure recorded in the 2025 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB).

Results released on 9 May 2025 showed that over 78 per cent of candidates scored below 200 out of a possible 400. JAMB Registrar, Professor Ishaq Oloyede, attributed the poor performance to a technical glitch. He announced that 379,997 candidates were scheduled to retake the examination, which has since been conducted.

**Continue reading
on next page**

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Following widespread complaints about low scores, irregularities in the exam process, and faulty technology, 20 individuals were arrested in connection with alleged misconduct. The House of Representatives Committee on Basic Education and Examination Bodies later concluded that the problem stemmed from human error rather than systemic technological failure.

Whether dismissed or deemed serious, these events—ranging from tax reforms and political defections to zoning debates and examination failures—will remain etched in the annals of Tinubu's administration. Much like the Boko Haram insurgency under Goodluck Jonathan and the Chibok schoolgirl abduction under Buhari, these moments have become historical markers that will shape the legacy of Nigeria's current President.

Performances saga

To achieve the goals outlined in the Renewed Hope Agenda and attract international investors, strict policies were established to uplift Nigeria's economy, which had been struggling since the days of his predecessors.

President Tinubu's policy interventions included fixed exchange rate liberalization, price control measures, stamp duties, and importation bans aimed at restructuring the country's economy.

Fuel Subsidy Removal—Nigerians Fumed

During his inauguration, President Tinubu uttered a powerful line—putting an end to the fuel subsidy. This unpopular decision marked a significant shift in Nigeria's economy and inflicted pain, leaving Nigerians to bear the brunt.

However, being in office for two-year, his determination to revamp the nation's economy has faced significant backlash and controversy as economic hardship has hit the citizens.

In this report News Daily Prime will reviewed President Tinubu two year in office:

Economic Growth

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the first quarter of 2024 recorded a year-on-year growth of 2.98%, compared to 2.31% in 2023 when he assumed office. This increase in GDP signifies an improvement since the fourth quarter of 2023.

Inflation

With the removal of the fuel subsidy and the rollout of other strict policies that placed pressure on the Naira, most Nigerians have

suffered as prices of essential items have skyrocketed—transportation, house rent, food items, and other basic necessities have all seen significant increases.

These developments were witnessed during Tinubu's second year in office. Due to inflation and a rising dollar exchange rate between 2023 and 2025, many importers have been trapped by the doubled exchange rate, leading to massive losses.

Despite the palliatives shared with millions of Nigerians, the pain of citizens remains, as food prices, transport costs, insecurity, and other costs of living remain high. The economic challenges, combined with recurring attacks by bandits on farmlands, have made food the leading driver of inflation in Nigeria.

In April 2025, Fitch Ratings, a credit rating agency, upgraded Nigeria's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'B' from 'B-', reflecting confidence in the Nigerian government's commitment to implementing policy reforms following the shift from orthodox economic policies in June 2023.

Speaking on Wednesday, President Tinubu acknowledged the pain Nigerians are facing and noted that he remains determined to sustain his reforms.

Health Reforms Witnessed

As part of the RHA, the health sector was not left out. Policies aimed at improving the healthcare system are underway—from making primary healthcare centres and general hospitals more conducive, to the rollout of vaccines, and the provision of initiatives to tackle drug abuse, among others, using the Universal Health Coverage policy.

Tinubu administration has witness partnership from health partners such as Gavi and also okayed the production of healthcare products locally.

However, the pressure mounted by the economic reforms and the accompanying devaluation of the Naira has made survival overwhelming for the average Nigerian.

Meanwhile, Bola Tinubu, in his mid-term address on Thursday, May 29, as President of the country, halted the country from further drifting into the precipice upon his assumption into office.

Making reference to the removal of fuel subsidy and the corruption-ridden multiple foreign exchange windows and longer sustainable and have become a chokehold on our nation's neck, strangling our nation's future, he said, "it was apparent that if the federal government and the other two tiers of

government must remain viable and cater to the citizens' welfare."

He added that his administration has implemented reforms to restore and reinvigorate the nation's economy and strengthen the social fabric as a strong and united country.

"Despite the bump in the cost of living, we have made undeniable progress.

"Inflation has begun to ease, with rice prices and other staples declining. The oil and gas sector is recovering; rig counts are up by over 400% in 2025 compared to 2021, and over \$8 billion in new investments have been committed. We have stabilised our economy and are now better positioned for growth and prepared to withstand global shocks," he said.

Tinubu added that the fiscal deficit of Nigeria has narrowed sharply from 5.4% of GDP in 2023 to 3.0% in 2024.

"We achieved this through improved revenue generation and greater transparency in government finances. In the first quarter of this year, we recorded over N6 trillion in revenue."

The president noted that the federal government is eliminating the burden of multiple taxation, making it easier for small businesses to grow and join the formal economy, adding that "the tax reforms will protect low-income households and support workers by expanding their disposable income. Essential goods and services such as food, education, and healthcare will now attract 0% VAT. Rent, public transportation, and renewable energy will be fully exempted from VAT to reduce household costs further."

He said, "amid the new security challenges, we can report some successes. In some areas of the northwest, hitherto under the control of bandits, our gallant armed forces have restored order, reducing and eliminating threats to lives and livelihoods. With the success achieved, farmers are back tilling the land to feed us. Highways, hitherto dangerous for travellers, have become safer. Our security agencies have succeeded many times in rescuing the abducted citizens from the hands of their tormentors. I promise you, we shall remain vigilant, as I told security chiefs during the last meeting to up their game and collaborate to end this plague of evil men. Every Nigerian deserves to live without fear."

While Nigerians are embroiled with mixed reactions on the successes and challenges faced, many see 2027 as a channel to express their support and clamp their grievances on the current administration.

Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan to appear in court Tuesday

By Damilola Olufemi

Suspended Senator for Kogi Central, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, is expected to appear before a Federal Capital Territory High Court on Tuesday, following a court summons. This was confirmed by her lead counsel, Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), West Idahosa.

Speaking on Sunday, Idahosa stated that while Akpoti-Uduaghan is prepared to honour the summons, there is still no clarity on whether the Federal Government intends to formally arraign her at that appearance.

“We don’t know,” he said regarding the possibility of arraignment. “We saw a notice of amended charges. We don’t know what they are trying to do. They’ve amended the charges once and could do so again—it’s their decision.”

Despite the uncertainty, Idahosa emphasised that his client remains committed to upholding the law and will comply with all court processes.

“Our client is a law-abiding citizen. Why wouldn’t she be there? It’s a summons we have undertaken. Only disrespectful institutions that disregard court orders would fail to appear, and she is not in that category,” he said.

The Federal Government, through the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mohammed Abubakar, has filed criminal charges against Akpoti-Uduaghan, accusing her of making defamatory allegations against Senate President Godswill Akpabio and former Kogi Governor Yahaya Bello.

According to the charges filed on May 16, 2025, and marked CR/297/25, Akpoti-Uduaghan allegedly made the remarks during an interview on Channels TV’s Politics Today on April 3. During the broadcast, she reportedly said:

“It was part of the meeting, the discussions that Akpabio had with Yahaya Bello that night — to eliminate me... he then emphasised that I should be killed in



Kogi.”

She is also accused of making similar defamatory claims during a phone conversation on March 27, 2025, with Dr Sandra Duru. In that call, Akpoti-Uduaghan allegedly linked Akpabio to organ trafficking involving the late Iniubong Umoren, purportedly to benefit Akpabio’s ailing wife.

As the case progresses, Akpabio, Bello, and four other individuals have been listed as witnesses expected to testify.

Commenting on the legal strategy, Idahosa told The PUNCH that the legal team is prepared to challenge the charges head-on.

“If the case is called tomorrow, we will respond accordingly with our client,” he said. “The issue of protest is irrelevant to us; we are lawyers, and our focus is on defending charges we believe can be contested. Protests are the domain of civil societies and others in that terrain.”

The court appearance comes amid heightened interest and political tension, with observers closely watching how the case unfolds.

My suspension was pre-written – Natasha
Natasha had described her suspension from the National Assembly as a pre-written script driven by political motives.

Addressing her suspension in an interview with a US-based Nigerian journalist, Adeola Fayehun, she said it was a pre-written script and not spontaneous, adding that the allegation that she disturbed proceedings over her seat was false.

The Senate had on March 6 suspended the Kogi central senator for six months over alleged gross misconduct following her seating arrangement altercation with Akpabio.

Natasha also accused Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, of misusing his office by singularly ordering her removal from the Assembly.

“He has no authority to unilaterally suspend any senator on the floor. The way he handled it — like I was a staff member in his living room — was not only unlawful but also degrading.

“My reaction was in response to a decision he had already made,” she said.

Again, Niger floods wreak havoc as fresh tsunami ravages state – Report

By Adeniyi Yusuf



Before now, Niger state has continued to grapple with flood that claims lives and destroy properties in the state.

Despite the efforts of the state and federal governments, the state yearly face unending disaster.

Investigation by the New Daily Prime revealed that Niger stated was grossly affected last year by flood.

Some days ago, in the Mokwa Local Government Area of the state the number of corpses recovered so far from the flood that ravaged has risen to 151 with 3,018 persons displaced.

The Niger State Emergency Management Agency, made this known on Saturday morning in a terse statement in which it said three communities were affected and two bridges washed away.

Director General of the agency, Abdullahi Baba-Arah, said that 503 households

were affected while 265 homes were washed away. Two roads were also washed away, while 11 people were injured in the flooding disaster.

“The latest update from the Mokwa communities flood shows that 151 corpses have so far been recovered, while 11 persons were injured.”

In 2022, Aljazeera reported that The floods presently ravaging Niger may also find its way to our shores because it emanates from River Niger, which passes through Nigeria before funneling into the Atlantic. According to the Red Cross Society of Niger, as many as 868 houses were destroyed by flooding of the Niger River in Niamey, starting from 23 August. A total of 2,283 households (approximately 15,981 people) have been affected with many of them displaced and taking refuge in local schools or host families.

Also, in 2024, according to the Niger State Emergency Management Agency DG, 11 people lost their lives to the floods

in five local government areas of Mokwa, Shiroro, Munya, Katcha and Rijau while 529 communities in 19 out of the 25 LGAs In the state were affected by the flooding.

Consequently, 41,192 people and 6865 households were affected while 34 communities have been displaced and are presently taking refuge in Internally Displaced Peoples camp created by the Niger State government.

Commiserating, Turkey expressed sympathy to Nigeria following the devastating floods that hit Mokwa and surrounding communities in Niger State.

In a statement, the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs conveyed condolences to the Nigerian government and the families of those affected by the disaster.

It expressed sorrow over the loss of lives and extensive damage caused by the flooding in the Mokwa region.

Police rescue 12 trafficked children, recover arms in Kogi, Abia operations

By Friday Omosola



The Nigeria Police Force has announced that it had rescued 12 trafficked children and recovered a cache of illegal firearms and ammunition in separate operations in Abia and Kogi States.

Police spokesperson, Olumuyiwa Adejobi on Monday said officers in Kogi State intercepted a green Sharon vehicle that sped through a security checkpoint.

Adejobi noted that the fleeing driver abandoned the vehicle and escaped into nearby bushes, prompting officers to conduct a search of the scene.

According to him, the search led to the discovery of five AK-47 rifles, eight magazines, 283 rounds of 7.62x39mm ammunition, 62 rounds of 5.56mm, and two rounds of

7.62x59mm ammunition.

“Preliminary intelligence links the vehicle to a recent armed robbery attack on a fuel station in Kabba. The suspect remains at large, and efforts to track him down are ongoing.”

In a separate operation in Abia State, he said police operatives arrested two suspects, 49-year-old Blessing Emebo and 42-year-old Sunday Emebo, for allegedly running an unregistered and illegal orphanage from their residence on Ikot Ekpene Road in Aba.

Adejobi said the illegal facility was discovered following credible intelligence.

“Police rescued twelve children aged between six months and 14 years, reportedly brought in from various

villages in the Arochukwu area.

“The children have been handed over to the Abia State Ministry of Women Affairs for care and rehabilitation. The suspects are currently in custody and will be prosecuted upon conclusion of the investigation”, he added.

Adejobi said the Inspector-General of Police, IGP, Kayode Egbetokun, commended the officers involved in the operations, describing the breakthroughs as proof of the Force’s determination to fight crime and protect the most vulnerable members of society.

He urged the public to remain security conscious, avoid handing children over to strangers, and to report any suspicious activity to the nearest police station.

Lagos boosts youth empowerment in creative sector

By Friday Omosola



The Lagos State Government has strengthened its commitment to youth development in the creative industry by equipping over 10,000 young people with professional training in film making, animation, screenwriting, and other related fields.

This development was announced by the Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture, Toke Benson-Awoyinka, during a ministerial press briefing held in Alausa, Ikeja, as part of activities marking Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's sixth year in office.

Benson-Awoyinka revealed that the initiative was made possible through collaborative efforts with top-tier creative institutions such as Del-York Creative Academy, EbonyLife Creative Academy, and the African Film Academy.

These partnerships, she noted, aim to

bridge essential skills gaps and position Lagos as a hub of creative excellence.

"Through our targeted interventions, more than 10,000 young individuals have undergone extensive training in critical areas of the creative economy — ranging from cinematography and acting to sound engineering, production management, and digital storytelling," she said.

The commissioner emphasised that the programme is not solely about imparting skills, but also about building long-term career prospects, fostering entrepreneurship, and enhancing global competitiveness among Lagos-based creatives.

She added that Lagos, already widely regarded as Nigeria's entertainment nucleus, is rapidly establishing itself as a continental force in content creation, capable of delivering output

that rivals international benchmarks.

Benson-Awoyinka further stated that the project aligns with Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Development Agenda, which underscores innovation and youth empowerment as cornerstones of the state's economic strategy.

According to her, many of the programme's graduates have already begun making their mark within Nigeria and beyond, securing employment, launching startups, and contributing to high-value media and tech ventures.

She affirmed the Ministry's intention to scale up the initiative, ensuring even broader access to opportunities for young creatives across the state, while laying the foundation for sustainable growth in Lagos's cultural and creative economy.

Osun govt, Smart City sign MoU to boost investment, quality of life

By Friday Omosola



The Osun State Government, under the leadership of Governor Ademola Adeleke, has entered into a strategic partnership with Smart City Plc to drive innovation, economic development, and enhance the quality of life for citizens.

The agreement was formalised with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between both parties.

The deal aligns with Adeleke's broader industrialisation agenda, which prioritises infrastructure, technological advancement, healthcare, education, agriculture, and commerce as key drivers of inclusive growth and development.

Smart City Plc, a Nigerian investment and infrastructure

company founded in 2017 and headquartered in Ikoyi, Lagos, specialises in real estate development, smart urban planning, and emerging technologies.

The initiative is structured as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with policy backing from the Osun State Government and technical implementation by Smart City Plc.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, the Osun State Commissioner for Commerce and Industry, Bunmi Jenyo, who signed on behalf of the state government, expressed delight over the milestone.

He praised the collective efforts of various government agencies that helped bring the project to life.

Chairman of the Board of Directors at Smart City Plc, Demola Aladekomo, who signed the agreement on behalf of the company, described the partnership as a timely step towards transforming vision into reality.

According to the terms of the agreement, the project, located within the Living Spring Free Trade Zone—will include an affordable housing scheme for salaried workers and is expected to create over 100,000 direct jobs.

Beyond employment, the initiative is anticipated to generate revenue and position Osun State as a global investment destination, potentially attracting further foreign direct investment.

I may not raise my kids in Nigeria - Falz

By New Daily Prime

Nigerian rapper and activist, Falz, has opened up about a dilemma that faces many Nigerians in this day and age: whether or not he would raise his future children in Nigeria, and he has stated that he is unsure.

In a recent interview, he was asked the big question and was immediately taken aback, contemplating his response. After some thought, the outspoken artist revealed his uncertainty, citing the country's insecurity, threats linked to his activism, and the perceived complacency of many Nigerians.

Ah! That's a deep question. I didn't expect to hear this question. I haven't really thought that far, let me not lie. But it's something that I can't actually say 'yes' to because of what we are talking about: insecurity in the country, threats due to my activism, and Nigerians' docility.



Falz, who is known for his advocacy, particularly through his music, stressed that he could neither say yes nor no because while he believes in Nigeria, the current state of the country gives people a cause to worry.

It's something I cannot outrightly say 'yes' to. And it's so sad. But I can't also outrightly say 'no' because I'm pro-Nigerian and I really believe that we can

actually get it right. But I don't know, I don't know, but let's see

The rapper's statement quickly stirred heated reactions online. Many social media users voiced their understanding of his uncertainty, echoing their own fears about raising children in a country plagued by insecurity, political instability, and a rising culture of mass emigration for better opportunities.

Burna Boy fires back at critics over free Burkina Faso concert

By New Daily Prime

Burna Boy is not holding back in his reaction to the heavy criticism he has faced over his desire to give the people of Burkina Faso a free concert.

In a post on the Instagram story of NSOW TV, Burna Boy shared that he was shocked by the negative reactions and insisted that the critics don't have the right to tell him what he can or can not do in any part of Africa.

The Grammy winner further shared that while he has nothing to gain from anyone, this hasn't stopped him from doing great work.

"I said I wanted to do a free show in Burkina Faso and I got a lot of Positivity but at the same time, surprisingly some Morons said a lot of unbelievably negative shit that had me in shock.

1. I'm sorry but YOU are not qualified to even speak my name If your only contribution to this world is typing dumb comments or talking into your cheap Ringlight and Phone.



2. How can you tell me what to do for any part of my home "AFRICA" when Nobody in the history of your Family tree has done anything

significant or even at all for any part of Africa or even planet Earth as a whole.

3. I have nothing to gain from anybody, and

I don't owe anyone anything, but that never stopped me from doing the great work I do; my integrity is unquestionable.

Therefore, burn in hell if you said anything negative."

Burna Boy's reaction comes after some critics described his offer as an unnecessary distraction for the West African country that is currently undergoing a critical moment in its political history.

Earlier in May, the Nigerian superstar disclosed his desire to headline a free concert in Burkina Faso.

The West African country has attracted global attention courtesy of its young military ruler, Captain Ibrahim Traore, who in 2022 took over the government in a coup.

Traore's reforms and vocal rejection of imperialism have attracted praise among millions of people, especially among young Africans who see him as a revolutionary force.

China says US has 'seriously breached' trade war agreement

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Tensions between the United States and China flared again on Monday, as Beijing accused Washington of “seriously violating” the trade truce agreed in Zurich just weeks ago. The flare-up has sent shockwaves through global markets, rattling investors and reigniting fears of a prolonged trade war between the world’s two largest economies.

In a fiery statement, China’s commerce ministry condemned recent US actions, including new export restrictions on AI chips, curbs on chip design software, and visa revocations for Chinese students. The ministry accused the US of “unilaterally and repeatedly” provoking economic conflict, warning that China would take “forceful measures” to defend its interests.

“The U.S. government has unilaterally and repeatedly provoked new economic and trade frictions,

exacerbating uncertainty and instability in bilateral economic and trade relations,” the statement read.

Beijing’s retaliation came just days after US President Donald Trump publicly accused China of “totally violating” the trade agreement, a comment that many interpreted as a signal of renewed escalation. In a characteristically blunt post last Friday, Trump said: “CHINA HAS TOTALLY VIOLATED ITS AGREEMENT WITH US,” igniting fresh concerns across financial markets.

The fallout was immediate. Asia-Pacific stock markets fell sharply, with Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index dropping 1.5%, Japan’s Topix down 0.9%, and China’s CSI 300 index slipping 0.5%. The US dollar also weakened, with the pound rising to \$1.35 and the euro climbing to \$1.138.

“This is getting increasingly difficult

to track,” said Jim Reid, a market strategist at Deutsche Bank. “It’s hard to see past trade at the moment, especially with the court ruling last week throwing another wrench into the works.”

That ruling, from a US federal court, deemed Trump’s so-called “liberation day” tariffs illegal. However, a federal appeals court has since issued a temporary stay, allowing the tariffs to remain in place for now as the legal battle continues.

While some analysts believe the most aggressive phase of US trade policy may be behind us, few expect clarity anytime soon. As both powers dig in their heels, markets are bracing for a period of prolonged uncertainty.

“This isn’t just about tariffs anymore, it’s technology, it’s regulation, it’s visas, it’s diplomacy,” one analyst remarked. “The ripple effects are global, and no one is immune.”

Right wing candidate Karol Nawrocki narrowly wins Polish presidency

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



In a razor-thin victory, right-wing candidate Karol Nawrocki clinched Poland's presidential runoff election, official results revealed early Monday. Securing 50.89% of the vote, Nawrocki edged out liberal rival Rafal Trzaskowski, the progressive mayor of Warsaw and close ally of Prime Minister Donald Tusk, who garnered 49.11%.

Nawrocki's candidacy was backed by the nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party, which governed Poland until Tusk's coalition triumphed in the 2023 parliamentary elections. His presidential win poses a significant challenge to Tusk's reform ambitions, as the president holds veto power that could block government initiatives until the next parliamentary election in 2027.

The outcome stunned many after exit polls suggested Trzaskowski had a narrow lead of 0.6%. Jubilant, Trzaskowski prematurely declared victory Sunday night, calling it a "special moment in Poland's history." Meanwhile, Nawrocki remained defiant, telling his supporters, "We must win tonight... and save Poland."

The campaign was intensely polarized, with each candidate offering a starkly different vision for the nation. Trzaskowski advocated for progressive reforms, including liberalizing abortion laws and introducing civil partnerships for LGBT couples. Nawrocki, a conservative historian and former boxer, has vowed to veto such policies, aligning with PiS's socially traditionalist stance.

Nawrocki succeeds outgoing president Andrzej Duda, another PiS ally, whose term ends in August. Although the Polish presidency is largely ceremonial, it plays a vital role in foreign policy and defense, and crucially, can veto legislation. Tusk's coalition lacks the 60% parliamentary supermajority needed to override vetoes.

Political analysts suggest Nawrocki's win will embolden PiS and extend the legislative stalemate. "If Nawrocki wins, Tusk has a lame-duck administration for the next couple of years," noted Prof. Aleks Szczerbiak, a political expert from the University of Sussex. PiS figures have hinted at plans to fracture Tusk's broad coalition and reclaim legislative power.

Nawrocki, previously head of the Institute of National Remembrance, a state-backed historical body criticized for political bias, faced media scrutiny over alleged past misconduct during the campaign. Nonetheless, he succeeded in energizing the conservative base and reaching out to voters of eliminated first-round candidates.

Trzaskowski, Oxford-educated and mayor of Warsaw since 2018, presented himself as a competent partner for reform. But his campaign faced accusations of elitism and controversy over foreign-sponsored digital ads.

As both candidates emphasized the importance of every vote in the final stretch, Sunday's high-stakes runoff saw strong voter engagement, echoing the high turnout in 2023's parliamentary elections that delivered Tusk's coalition victory. However, Nawrocki's win signals a prolonged political standoff and an uncertain road ahead for reform in Poland.

12-year-old gang member kills foster carer in UK

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



A 12-year-old boy tragically ran over and killed his foster carer just six days after moving into her home, an inquest in Sheffield, England, has heard.

Marcia Grant, 60, died from serious injuries after the child reversed her car over her outside her home on 5 April 2023. She had worked as a foster carer for seven years and was described by her family as “a soul like no other,” with “an unshakeable ethical compass.”

The boy—referred to only as Child X—was placed with Marcia and her husband, Delroy, in an emergency arrangement after a call went out for urgent foster care on 30 March 2023. Although the couple were only approved to care for one child at a time, they agreed to take Child X for a temporary six-day placement. They were already fostering another young person, known as Child Y.

Read Also: Lagos man sentenced to death for killing wife, brother-in-law

The inquest heard that Mrs Grant died on the final day of that six-day emergency period.

In November 2023, Child X admitted causing death by dangerous driving. A charge of murder was dropped. He was sentenced to two years in custody.

Warnings Ignored

Social worker David Wade, who supported the Grants in their foster care work, told the inquest he had not supported placing Child X with the couple. He was concerned about the impact on Child Y, who had been making progress in their care. However, a senior manager made the final decision.

Wade also said he was unaware of Child X’s self-reported past involvement with gangs and knives. If he had known, he told the coroner, he would have strongly objected to the placement.

Matthew Boud, who led the children in care service at Rotherham Council at the

time, approved the emergency placement. He said the council was under pressure to find a safe place for Child X and that placing him with the Grants seemed the best option at short notice. Without them, the child might have ended up in a hotel or been moved far from the area.

“We were desperately trying to provide some stability for Child X,” Boud said, calling the decision “appropriate” under the circumstances.

A Life Remembered

Marcia Grant’s family described her as a “proud and loving mother” whose “infectious laugh” touched everyone who knew her. She and her husband were experienced, well-regarded carers in their community.

Her death has raised serious questions about emergency foster care decisions, especially when full information about a child’s background is not shared with those taking them in.

Ukraine strikes deep into Russia in unprecedented drone attack

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Ukraine has launched its most daring and destructive drone strike of the war, targeting multiple Russian airbases deep within Siberia and damaging more than 40 military aircraft, according to Ukrainian security officials. The operation, which took place on the eve of peace negotiations in Istanbul, marks a major escalation in the three-year conflict between the two countries.

The attacks struck four separate airfields, reportedly destroying or disabling Tu-95 and Tu-22 strategic bombers, the same aircraft Russia frequently uses to launch missile strikes on Ukrainian cities. Ukraine's SBU intelligence agency claimed responsibility for the mission, which they say was 18 months in the making and resulted in losses to the Russian military estimated at \$7 billion.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed he personally oversaw the operation, codenamed "Spiderweb", praising its precision and secrecy. "This is a completely unique operation," Zelenskyy said. "Planning, organisation, all the details were perfectly prepared."

Photograph released by Ukraine's security service, allegedly showing the drones used in the attack.

The drones were reportedly smuggled into Russian territory and hidden in the roofs of wooden sheds, which were then placed on lorries and driven near the targeted airfields. When the time came, remotely activated mechanisms lifted the roof panels, allowing the drones to launch undetected. In total, 117 drones were used across three Russian time zones, with all operators withdrawn safely before the attack.

Footage provided by Ukrainian officials shows bombers engulfed in flames, while Russian Telegram channels posted clips of drones launching from disguised trucks and bombers ablaze at Olenegorsk airbase in Murmansk. In one clip, a Russian soldier at the scene is heard saying, "It's fucked here," as the aircraft burn behind him.



The Russian defence ministry confirmed that several planes "caught fire" at airbases in Murmansk and Irkutsk, though it claimed there were no casualties. Authorities also said some "participants" in the attack had been arrested.

The attack on Belaya airbase in Irkutsk oblast, located more than 2,500 miles (4,000km) from Ukraine, underscores Kyiv's growing long-range capabilities, especially in drone warfare. In March, Ukraine revealed it had developed drones with a 3,000km range, though it declined to share details.

The strikes came as Russia also escalated its offensive. Moscow launched 472 drones overnight, the highest number in a single night since the war began, alongside seven missile strikes. Ukraine's military reported at least 12 soldiers killed and over 60 wounded in a missile attack on an army training unit.

In a separate development, two train derailments in Russia's Kursk and Bryansk regions killed at least seven people and injured dozens more. Russian investigators have blamed sabotage, calling the incidents acts of terrorism. Bridges were reportedly destroyed by explosions, causing chaos on routes used for transporting troops and military supplies.

The Kremlin confirmed that President Vladimir Putin had been briefed

overnight and that Russian authorities were investigating the train derailments and drone attacks.

Despite the sharp escalation, both countries are set to attend peace talks in Istanbul on Monday. Zelenskyy said Ukraine's delegation, led by Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, would present proposals for a complete and unconditional ceasefire, the return of prisoners and abducted children, and reparations from Russia. He insisted there would be no compromise on Ukraine's sovereignty or military capacity.

According to Reuters, the Ukrainian peace proposal rejects Russian sovereignty over any occupied territory and rules out future limits on Ukraine's military strength.

By contrast, President Putin's stated terms for ending the war include Ukraine renouncing its ambitions to join NATO and withdrawing from the four regions partially occupied by Russian forces.

The United States, under President Donald Trump, has increased pressure on both sides to reach a settlement and warned it may withdraw support if no progress is made, a move that could leave Ukraine heavily reliant on European aid.

U.S. urges Australia to boost defence spending to 3.5% of GDP

By Fatimah Idera

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Monday that his government would determine its defence capability requirements before committing to any increase in military spending, responding to a U.S. request for Australia to raise its defence budget to 3.5 per cent of GDP.

“What you should do in defence is decide what you need your capability and then provide for it,” Albanese told reporters. He emphasised that his government had already accelerated A\$10 billion in defence funding over the next four years and is targeting a defence budget of 2.3 per cent of GDP by 2033.

The comments came after U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth urged Australia to lift defence spending to 3.5 per cent of GDP “as soon as possible,” during talks with Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles on Friday.

According to a Pentagon statement released on Sunday, the two officials discussed strengthening U.S. military capabilities in Australia and expanding cooperation in defence industries.

Their meeting on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue, Asia’s key security summit which marked only the second top-level security engagement between the allies since the U.S. President Donald Trump took office in January.

Albanese, who was re-elected in May and has not yet met with President Trump, did not announce any



defence spending changes in this year’s federal budget, pointing instead to the government’s prior commitment of A\$50 billion in new funding over the next decade.

Peter Dean, director of foreign policy and defence at the University of Sydney’s United States Studies Centre, said Albanese appears to be carefully shaping Australia’s defence policy ahead of his first meeting with Trump. According to Dean, the prime minister wants any decisions to be viewed as sovereign choices rather than responses to U.S. pressure a stance that resonates well with domestic audiences following the recent election.

Australia’s defence spending has declined as a share of both GDP and the federal budget since the 1980s. In 1987, defence accounted for around three per cent of GDP and 10 per cent of the budget; by 2025, it is projected to fall to two per cent of GDP and six per cent of total spending.

“To achieve self-reliance in the modern era, with rising threats in the Indo-Pacific especially, China is going to cost more money,” Dean said. He noted that the U.S. is on track to spend 3.5% of its GDP on defence this year.

Australia has already committed to a massive A\$368 billion investment over 30 years under the AUKUS pact, aimed at acquiring and building nuclear-powered submarines in partnership with the U.S. and the U.K. The country is also ramping up domestic missile production and acquisition to strengthen its strategic capabilities.

Despite pressure from Washington, Albanese remains focused on balancing alliance obligations with domestic expectations, positioning defence spending as a national decision rather than a foreign directive.

Flood kills 34 in Northeast India

By **Fatimah Idera**

At least 34 people have died in India's northeast following four days of relentless rainfall that triggered widespread flooding and landslides.

The India Meteorological Department has warned of more heavy rain in the coming days, raising concerns of further devastation.

In the Himalayan state of Sikkim, more than a thousand stranded tourists were being evacuated on Monday, according to a government statement.

Meanwhile, in Meghalaya, army rescue teams have been deployed to reach over 500 people trapped in flood-affected areas.

The impact has also been felt across the border in Bangladesh.

In the northeastern district of Sylhet, four members of a family were killed in a



landslide.

Authorities have opened hundreds of emergency shelters across the hilly districts of Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachhari to protect vulnerable communities.

Officials in both countries have warned of continued risk from landslides and flash floods, urging residents in high-risk zones

to remain alert and take necessary precautions.

India's northeast and neighboring Bangladesh frequently experience torrential monsoon rains, which often lead to life-threatening floods and landslides, disrupting the lives of millions each year.

In Assam's Silchar city, floodwaters have submerged homes and roads, and fallen trees have blocked key routes, according to footage from news agency ANI. Local residents are grappling with dire conditions.

"We are facing a lot of challenges. I have a child, and their bed is under water. What can we do in this situation? We stay awake all night," said Sonu Devi, a Silchar resident.

Rescue efforts are ongoing across the region, as emergency teams race against time to reach those still stranded or at risk.

2 Scottish men shot dead outside Irish bar in Spain

By **Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**

Tragedy struck the sunny coastal town of Fuengirola in southern Spain on Saturday night as two Scottish men were gunned down outside a busy Irish-themed bar. The double shooting occurred around 11 p.m. outside Monaghans, a well-known pub perched on the beachfront and favoured by British tourists and expatriates.

According to local authorities, a masked man opened fire on the victims as they stood near the entrance of the establishment before fleeing the scene on foot. Emergency services rushed to the location, but both men were pronounced dead at the scene.

Javier Salas, the deputy government delegate in Málaga, confirmed on Sunday that the deceased are believed to be Scottish nationals. The Guardia Civil's violent crime unit is now leading the investigation, with forensic officers seen combing the area for evidence in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The incident occurred while the bar was packed with patrons, many of whom were



watching the Champions League final. Witnesses described scenes of chaos and fear as the sound of gunfire erupted across the promenade.

"I thought they were going to kill me too," a local resident told Málaga Hoy. "At first I thought it was fireworks, but then I saw someone firing a gun."

Another eyewitness, a Chinese shop owner whose store is located next to the bar, said: "I heard a noise and looked out. I

saw a man pointing and shooting."

Families with children who had been enjoying the seafront nearby were forced to take cover inside surrounding businesses. "We just crouched down and stayed safe," said a worker at a nearby beach restaurant. "Everyone ran once it was over. It was terrifying."

So far, the motive for the shooting remains unclear and no arrests have been made. Police have appealed for witnesses or anyone with footage of the incident to come forward.

A spokesperson for the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) said it had not yet been contacted for consular assistance but that officials were prepared to support any British nationals affected. Police Scotland has also been approached for comment.

The double killing has sent shockwaves through the British expat community in Fuengirola, a town long known for its vibrant nightlife and relative safety.

2 Dead, hundreds arrested after PSG's historic Champions League victory

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

What was meant to be a night of jubilation turned into a scene of fiery chaos across France as Paris Saint-Germain fans took to the streets to celebrate the club's historic Champions League victory, its first ever. The joy quickly turned into unrest as violence, vandalism, and political fallout gripped the country.

Following PSG's 5-0 triumph over Inter Milan in Munich on Saturday night, supporters flooded the Champs-Élysées in central Paris. But celebrations spiraled out of control. According to the French Interior Ministry, 491 people were arrested in the capital alone. An additional 68 arrests were made across the country.

Tragically, two people lost their lives in incidents under investigation for links to the post-match chaos. A 17 year old boy was reportedly stabbed in the chest in the town of Dax, southwest France. Meanwhile, a 23 year old man riding a scooter in central Paris was killed after being struck by a vehicle.

Authorities also reported 692 fires through the night, with 264 cars set ablaze. Flares and fireworks lit up the Paris sky, not just in celebration, but as weapons. Eighteen police officers in Paris sustained injuries, along with three officers in other cities. Firefighters were not spared either; seven were hurt in the violence. Among the most serious cases, a police officer in Normandy was placed in an induced coma after a firework exploded in his eye.

While Sunday evening's official parade on the Champs-Élysées passed without major incidents, PSG condemned the previous night's



violence in a strongly worded statement. "Winning the title should be a moment of collective joy, not of unrest and disorder," the club stated, calling for "responsibility and respect" from fans.

The unrest has since ignited a political firestorm. Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau described the perpetrators as "barbarians" who turned the streets of Paris into a battleground. "It is unbearable that it is not possible to party without fearing the savagery of a minority of thugs who respect nothing," he posted on social media.

However, not all were aligned with Retailleau's stance. Antoine Léaument of the left-wing party La France Insoumise blasted the government's use of teargas against what he claimed was a "peaceful gathering." Posting a video of himself amid the gas on the Champs-Élysées, Léaument said, "Bruno Retailleau uses barbaric methods. He is responsible for the chaos."

Far-right figures were quick to capitalize on the situation. Jordan Bardella, president of the Rassemblement National party, declared Paris "a playground for thugs," invoking long-running far-

right narratives about lawlessness, especially in the city's suburbs, many of which produce the football talent now celebrated on the international stage.

Elsewhere in France, violence rippled out beyond the capital. In Grenoble, a car drove into a group of celebrating fans, injuring four members of the same family, two seriously. The driver turned himself in and is currently under investigation, though authorities believe the crash was not intentional.

Meanwhile, in Munich, tensions flared even before the final whistle. German outlet Bild reported that PSG and Inter Milan fans clashed at Fröttmaning station, throwing stones and causing disruption by venturing onto train tracks en route to the Allianz Arena.

Despite the mayhem, PSG's victory captivated the nation. A staggering 11.5 million people tuned in to watch the final, according to Mediametrie and broadcaster Canal+. President Emmanuel Macron, a known Olympique de Marseille supporter, is expected to host the victorious players in the coming days.

Super Eagles coach releases revised squad for Russia friendly

By Damilola Olufemi



Super Eagles head coach, Eric Chelle, has released a revised squad for the upcoming international friendly against Russia. This followed a series of injuries and player withdrawals that prompted last-minute changes.

The Super Eagles of Nigeria arrived in Moscow on Monday and are set to commence training sessions on Tuesday ahead of the high-profile encounter.

Goalkeepers:

Maduka Okoye (Udinese FC, Italy)

Amas Obasogie (Singida Blackstars, Tanzania)

Defenders

Bright Osayi-Samuel (Fenerbahce SK, Turkey)

Bruno Onyemaechi (Olympiacos FC, Greece)

Oluwasemilogo Ajayi (West Bromwich Albion, England)

Igoh Ogbu (SK Slavia Prague, Czech Republic)

William Troost-Ekong (Al-Kholood FC, Saudi Arabia)

Sodiq Ismaila (Remo Stars, Nigeria)

Benjamin Fredericks (Brentford FC, England)

Midfielders

Saviour Isaac (Enugu Rangers, Nigeria)

Raphael Onyedika (Club Brugge, Belgium)

Fisayo Dele-Bashiru (Lazio FC, Italy)

Chrisantus Uche (Getafe CF, Spain)

Frank Onyeka (Augsburg FC, Germany)

Papa Daniel Mustapha (Niger Tornadoes, Nigeria)

Forwards

Victor Boniface (Bayer Leverkusen, Germany)

Simon Moses (FC Nantes, France)

Tolu Arokodare (KRC Genk, Belgium)

Olakunle Olusegun (Krasnodar FC, Russia)