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FG begins payment of N44,000 minimum wage arrears to ex-corps members

By Helen Okechukwu

The Federal Government (FG) has commenced the long-awaited payment of N44,000 minimum wage arrears to former members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), fulfilling an earlier promise made during the upward review of corps members' allowances.

The payment is directed at corps members who completed their service before the new monthly allowance of N77,000 took effect earlier this year.

Prior to the adjustment, corps members were receiving N33,000 monthly. The arrears serve as a retroactive compensation aligning with the newly approved minimum wage policy.



Several former corps members took to social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to confirm receipt of the funds. Many expressed their gratitude, describing the payment as timely relief amidst prevailing economic challenges.

"I don receive my 44k allocation from

NYSC," King Atod, former ex corper postwd on X.

Abdulrasaq Mátanmí, another user wrote, "The Honourable Minister of Youth has shocked us all, he actually kept his word. He promised NYSC arrears would be paid and guess what? They've started paying, in a land where (promise and fail) is the norm, this (Talk and Do) minister is a rare gem. God bless him, God bless FG."

With an expected hope, Liza, an X user said, "Abeg this arrears NYSC is paying hope Batch C2 (2024) will benefit ooo.

The move has been widely praised by Nigerians online, with many viewing it as a demonstration of government accountability and a step toward rebuilding public trust.

House committee flags N250bn gap in federal audit reports

By Friday Omosola

The House of Representatives Public Accounts Committee has expressed serious concern following revelations of over ₦250 billion missing from government accounts, as detailed in recent audits by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation.

Committee Chairman, Bamidele Salam, addressed journalists on Tuesday at the National Assembly in Abuja.

He noted that the audit documents uncovered widespread financial discrepancies across multiple government bodies.



Salam described the findings as alarming, citing a pattern of worsening financial misconduct within public

institutions.

He pointed out that the reports identified a surge in unauthorised budget reallocations and a rise in audit queries year-on-year.

He further revealed that more than 60 percent of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) have repeatedly ignored established financial procedures.

This systemic non-compliance, he warned, poses a serious threat to public accountability, hampers national development efforts, and weakens democratic governance.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
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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
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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
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POLITICAL COLOUR

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10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
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DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B &W	425,000.00
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HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

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HALF PAGE	164,178.00
QUARTER PAGE	84,641.50
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10X5	201,600.00
10X4	149,440.00
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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
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2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

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10X4	103,963.00
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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
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5X6	71,378.00
5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
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4X3	N/A
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3X2	14,923.00
2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
1X1	2,700.00

ALLURE RATE

SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
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DOUBLE SPREAD		806,250.00
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(IFC) Inside Front Cover		430,000.00
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10X5		295,625.00
Half Page		225,000.00
EVENT		250,000.00

PICTURE & CAPTION

SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL
PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
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FG moves to clear N2trn in outstanding power sector liabilities

By Friday Omosola



The Federal Government (FG) has initiated steps to offset ₦2 trillion from the over ₦4 trillion debt owed to electricity generation companies for power supplied to the national grid.

This was disclosed during a Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) stakeholders' forum hosted by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC).

At the forum, a representative of the President's Special Adviser on Energy, Olu Verheijen, addressed participants.

Verheijen, through her representative Eriye Onagoruwa, said the planned payment, expected before the end of the next quarter, forms part of broader efforts to bring stability to Nigeria's struggling electricity sector.

She noted that although budgetary limitations persist, the government is considering alternative financial instruments to manage the debt burden.

The Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, alongside the Debt Management Office (DMO) reportedly backed the initiative, with necessary internal processes currently in progress.

"We recognise the financial stress GenCos are under," Onagoruwa said, acknowledging that while a precise timeline cannot yet be provided, considerable progress has been made.

"Hopefully, by the time we reconvene for the next NESI meeting, we'll have firmer updates."

This move comes on the heels of a

recent alert issued by generation companies (GenCos), warning the federal government that the escalating debt, now exceeding ₦4 trillion—is endangering their ability to continue operations.

The outstanding amount includes ₦2 trillion accrued in 2024 and approximately ₦1.9 trillion in long-standing arrears.

Back in February, Power Minister Adebayo Adelabu confirmed that the government's total debt to GenCos and DisCos had surpassed ₦4 trillion.

He warned that the financial pressure was impeding the sector's capacity to function effectively.

However, in April, Adelabu pledged to resolve the ongoing debt issues hampering the electricity industry.

Fubara visits Tinubu in Lagos amid suspension

By New Daily Prime

Siminalayi Fubara, the suspended Rivers State Governor, visited President Bola Tinubu in Lagos on Tuesday.

Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu's spokesman, announced this on his social media platforms.

"Governor Sim Fubara of Rivers, now on suspension from office, visited President Bola Tinubu in Lagos on Tuesday," Onanuga captioned the photos he posted.

At the time of reporting, the outcome of the discussion between the two leaders remained undisclosed.

However, the meeting's timing has sparked speculation about potential moves by the presidency to intervene in the political turmoil disrupting governance in Rivers State.

Tinubu's engagement with Fubara comes months after he sanctioned the suspension of the governor, his deputy Ngozi Odu, and several state lawmakers, in response to a deepening



political conflict within the state's leadership.

The political crisis in the state began owing to a power tussle between Fubara and his successor, Nyesom Wike, who is now the Minister of the FCT.

That crisis immediately escalated to the Rivers House of Assembly, dividing the lawmakers into camps, one loyal to Wike and the other side backing the embattled governor.

In a move that has continued to stir debates across Nigeria and beyond, Tinubu on March 18th suspended Fubara, Odu, and the lawmakers in the House of Assembly for six months over the lingering political crisis. He also appointed Ibok-Ette Ibas, a retired naval chief, as sole administrator of the state.

Tinubu said the decision was to protect the peace and security of the state after failed moves to address the issue, and following reports of pipeline explosions in the state.

"With all these and many more, no good and responsible President will stand by and allow the grave situation to continue without taking remedial steps prescribed by the Constitution to address the situation in the state, which no doubt requires extraordinary measures to restore good governance, peace, order, and security.

However, since Fubara's suspension, he has repeatedly expressed interest in peace in the oil-rich state and a desire to settle with Wike, whom he described as his boss.



Wike is rude, Amaechi is his political boss – Reuben Abati

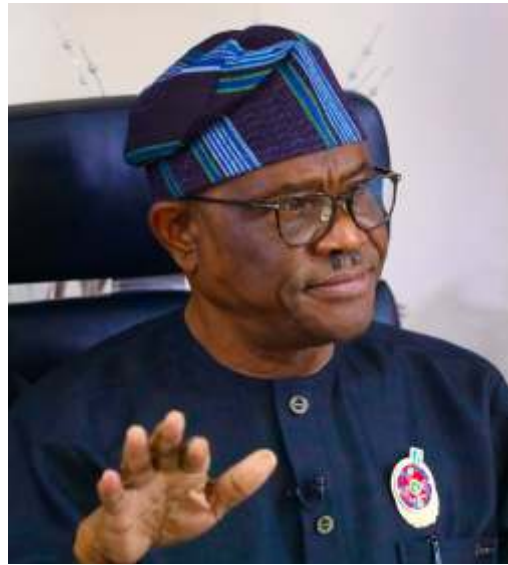
By Damilola Olufemi

Veteran journalist and Arise TV anchor, Dr. Reuben Abati, has lashed out at the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, over his recent comments about former Rivers State governor, Rotimi Amaechi. Abati described Wike as “rude and disrespectful,” insisting that Amaechi remains his political superior.

Abati’s reaction comes after Wike, during a media briefing on Monday, dismissed Amaechi as a power-hungry politician. “Now that they are out of power, they say they are hungry. It’s not hunger for food. It’s hunger for power,” Wike had said, a clear jab at his longtime political rival.

Responding on Arise TV the following morning, Abati criticised Wike’s tone and attitude, stating that Wike owes much of his political rise to Amaechi. “I think that Nyesom Wike is very rude and disrespectful because Rotimi Amaechi is his boss in politics,” Abati said.

He went on to remind viewers of his early political career, noting that it was under Amaechi’s mentorship and support that he rose to prominence. “When he was



local government chairman—or was it councillor—during Amaechi’s second term, it was Rotimi Amaechi who helped him to become local government chairman,” he added.

Abati also recalled the FCT minister’s history of public verbal attacks on elder statesmen, particularly former Rivers governor Peter Odili. “There is no time he has not insulted Peter Odili. He even referred to him as one man and his wife as one woman,” Abati said, highlighting

what he sees as a pattern of disrespect.

He further warned President Bola Tinubu to be cautious in dealing with the former Rivers state governor, noting the FCT Minister’s tendency to fall out with past allies. “Who will Nyesom Wike not insult? He insulted Senator John Mbata, who was his godfather at some point. He also showed signs that he will insult President Bola Tinubu,” Abati warned.

Pointing to the FCT minister’s recent comment that he might have offered “a different kind of advice” had he known Tinubu would consider declaring a state of emergency in Rivers, Abati noted that the minister was already signalling disloyalty. “That is already a signal to Tinubu that this man you are dealing with is only interested in his permanent interests, not permanent friends,” he concluded.

According to Abati, the FCT minister’s political record shows a recurring pattern of betrayal, and President Tinubu should take note before becoming the next target of his shifting loyalties.

Ondo Assembly deputy speaker, majority leader resign amid power sharing adjustments

By Damilola Olufemi

In a major leadership shake-up within the Ondo State House of Assembly, Deputy Speaker Abayomi Akinruntan has stepped down from his position. Akinruntan, who represents Ilaje Constituency 1 and hails from the same local government as Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, cited the need for equitable political power sharing in the state as the reason for his resignation.

Assembly majority leader inclusive During Tuesday’s plenary session presided over by Speaker Olamide Oladiji, the House also saw the resignation of Majority Leader Emmanuel Oluwale Ogunmolasuyi, who represents Owo Constituency 1. He was immediately replaced by Olatunji Oshati,



the lawmaker representing Ose Constituency.

Akinruntan’s exit paved the way for Ololade Gbegudu of Okitipupa

Constituency II to emerge as the new Deputy Speaker. His nomination was put forward by Oluwatoyin Japhet of Akoko North East and seconded by Chris Ayebusiwa of Okitipupa Constituency I.

Before the changes were made official, Speaker Oladiji formally confirmed Oshati’s appointment as Majority Leader during a parliamentary session held earlier in the day.

The leadership restructuring is understood to be part of broader efforts to ensure fair representation and political inclusivity across the different zones of Ondo State as the political landscape evolves.

Defence chief calls for nationwide support in battle against terrorism

By Friday Omosola

Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa, has appealed to citizens to rally behind the military in its efforts to dismantle insurgent networks and violent criminal groups across the country.

Musa spoke on Tuesday at the inaugural Voice of Nigeria (VON) Forum held in Abuja.

He underscored the importance of mutual trust, active civic involvement, and responsible public discourse in confronting the nation's security challenges.

Musa warned that extremist movements thrive when communities inadvertently enable them through silence, sympathy, or publicity.

Representing the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, the Director of Legal Services in the NSA's office, Zakari Mijinyawa, reiterated that the burden of safeguarding the country does not rest solely on security agencies.

He called for broader national participation in maintaining peace and stability.

Also present at the event, Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, acknowledged the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces.

He urged the media to strike a balance in their reportage—highlighting the



military's achievements while refraining from amplifying the actions of violent non-state actors.

The VON Forum, organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and National Orientation, seeks to provide a platform for constructive dialogue among security stakeholders, journalists, civil society groups, and the general public.

Speakers at the event agreed that strengthening national unity, promoting trust between citizens and security institutions, and fostering a shared sense of duty are vital to restoring peace across the country.

Nigeria's North-East has endured over a decade of relentless attacks by terrorist groups.

The violence has claimed thousands of lives, displaced countless residents, and left many more injured or abducted.

The most recent atrocity occurred in June when suicide bombers killed at least 32 people and wounded dozens more.

While the Armed Forces have made significant progress in reclaiming territory and dismantling insurgent camps, the struggle has cost the lives of many dedicated military personnel.

The porous border with Cameroon has further complicated efforts, as attackers frequently retreat across the frontier after launching deadly raids, leaving devastated communities behind.

Tinubu confers national honour on Bill Gates

By Helen Okechukwu

President Bola Tinubu on Tuesday honoured Microsoft co-founder and philanthropist Bill Gates with the national award of Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR).

The recognition, presented in Lagos, celebrates Gates' contributions to global health, innovation, and development, especially in Africa.

Gates met with Tinubu and other leaders to support reforms in the primary healthcare system.

He will also attend the "Goalkeepers Nigeria" event focused on Africa's innovation future and meet with scientists



shaping Nigeria's AI and health strategies.

partnerships.

According to the Gates Foundation, its offices in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and Senegal aim to strengthen local

Gates earlier visited Ethiopia, where he met with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and took part in a public health roundtable.

His visit follows the Foundation's announcement of a \$200 billion commitment over the next 20 years to improve health, fight disease, and reduce poverty.

Gates has pledged to donate nearly all his wealth to support these goals.

The Foundation has helped save over 80 million lives through partnerships with Gavi and the Global Fund. Gates' honour reflects Nigeria's growing collaboration with the Foundation to improve lives.



Orji Kalu: Nigeria's economy could collapse without borrowing

By Damilola Olufemi

Senator Orji Uzor Kalu has raised concerns over the state of Nigeria's economy, warning that without continued borrowing, the system could face total collapse.

Speaking during an interview on Politics Today aired by Channels Television on Monday, the senator from Abia North stated, "Let me tell you, if this economy does not borrow, it will collapse. That's the truth. That's where we are."

Kalu, a former governor of Abia State, explained that although he's not directly involved in the review of loan proposals, he understands the necessity of borrowing for economic sustainability.

"Of course, the committee of foreign and local debts used to scrutinise them. I am not a member of that committee. You know these jobs are done mainly at the committee level," he said.

He also addressed a recent controversy surrounding his appearance at the Senate wearing an outfit printed with "Tinubu for President 2027." The attire drew public attention and sparked discussions about early politicking.

Responding to the backlash, Kalu proudly attributed the craftsmanship to local artisans.

"Who else would have made that dress other than Aba tailors? It was made in Aba, dyed in Aba and delivered in Aba," he said.

"It is only Aba people who are hardworking who can do it. It's very fashionable and I will wear it again."

Dismissing accusations of sycophancy, Kalu said his actions were not motivated by political flattery.

"Can a man like me be sycophantic? I am not running for anything. Where am I running to? I'm only running to return to the senate," he said.

"It's not political sycophancy. I am a man who can't be sycophantic. It is a uniform for 2027. Sure, my house manager just made it available that morning, and I wore



it. I don't see anything wrong with wearing it. It's you press people, who saw something wrong."

INEC did not ban political activities – Kalu

He added that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has not banned political activity, saying preparations are already in motion.

"INEC has lifted the ban on the campaign, but we are preparing."

When asked if he had assumed the role of a campaign strategist for President Tinubu's re-election, Kalu said he would be honoured to do so.

"What is wrong with that? I will be very happy to accept it and do the job for him. I don't have anything to regret in doing the job," he said.

He also pushed back against viewing Tinubu's leadership through a regional lens.

"President Tinubu is not the president of the south but the candidate of Nigeria, and I am a Nigerian," he said.

"I have always said this, every Nigerian should stop addressing himself or herself by region. I have asked for legislation where I suggested we remove all local

government and state information on forms; people should only fill in that they are Nigerians."

Commenting on criticism that discussions about 2027 politics are premature, Kalu argued that political engagement is part of any functioning party.

"We are a political party, and there must be activities of a political party. We had a midterm assessment of our party where the whole party's stakeholders gathered," he said.

"I was in the Senate to do my legislative job, and the journalists ran over me. It's my dress, and I have the right to wear anything I like. There is freedom of association and freedom of speech. I also have the right to say what I want to say."

He also revisited a previous remark he made about how some Nigerians acquire wealth, which had stirred debate.

"I'm not regretting what I said. I work hard for every penny," he said.

"Most rich people are waiting on these beds to take money from subsidies and sell dollars. These are what they have been doing. But it's not about all Nigerians; I said most Nigerians, not all."

Don't abandon Labour Party, Fayose advises Otti amid mass defections

By Friday Omosola

Former Ekiti State Governor, Ayo Fayose, has encouraged Abia State Governor, Alex Otti, to remain in the Labour Party (LP) despite recent defections shaking the party's foundation.

Fayose made the appeal during a visit to Otti's residence in Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area.

Commending the governor's record in office, he urged him not to yield to political pressure to switch parties.

"You've become a political institution in your own right," Fayose told Otti.

"Nigeria is a diverse nation with a multi-party structure. Even if everyone else leaves the Labour Party, your staying power sends a strong message. Remain where you are."

The comment comes amid speculation over Otti's political future. In April, the Abia governor dismissed rumours that he was preparing to defect to the All Progressives Congress (APC), describing them as "completely false and without basis."

He has also said that any decision regarding a second-term bid in 2027 would come only after spiritual reflection.

Fayose's visit followed a state-wide inspection of major projects executed by the Otti administration in Umuahia and Aba.

He admired Otti's developmental strides, especially in road infrastructure, health services, and education.

"I was deeply impressed," Fayose said. "From newly constructed and rehabilitated maternity centres to strategic roads that were once impassable, your government has transformed communities and improved quality of life."

In particular, he highlighted the transformation of Port Harcourt Road in Aba, once considered a logistical nightmare, as a dual carriageway, describing the project as vital to reviving the city's commercial status.



"I've toured over eight roads in Aba," Fayose noted.

"Port Harcourt Road, which had been neglected for nearly four decades, is now a symbol of renewal and access."

Fayose also lauded Otti's rollout of smart school initiatives and pledged to replicate the concept in his home state.

"The smart school model is perhaps the most inspiring thing I've seen here," he said. "It's an innovative step, and I intend to share it with the current Ekiti State governor."

According to him, Otti has successfully shifted power back to the people, ensuring his administration is driven by grassroots priorities.

"What matters is not how you start but finish," Fayose said. "From what I've observed, Governor Otti is on the right path and must remain resolute to complete the journey successfully."

Otti joined the LP in May 2022 following an unsuccessful bid for office under the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA).

He won the 2023 governorship election in Abia State, defeating the PDP candidate, Okey Ahiwe.

His victory made him the first, and currently the only, LP governor in



Nigeria, during a period when the party saw massive support, especially from younger voters.

Since the 2023 elections, however, LP has been rocked by internal divisions and a series of defections.

In December 2024 alone, four federal lawmakers crossed over to the APC, citing unresolved factional issues. Alfred Iliya Ajang from Plateau State followed shortly after.

As a result, LP's representation in the House of Representatives has dropped from 34 to 26, and in the Senate from eight to six.

These developments have raised concerns about the party's unity and strength ahead of the 2027 elections.

Meanwhile, former presidential candidate Peter Obi has remained open to alliances—on the condition that they prioritise citizens' welfare rather than political gains.

The opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has also seen key figures jump ship to the ruling APC, further intensifying political realignment ahead of the next electoral cycle.

Oyebanji faults BORBDA, demands action on Ekiti development

By Friday Omosola



Governor Biodun Oyebanji of Ekiti State has expressed strong disapproval of the Benin-Owena River Basin Development Authority (BORBDA) over its perceived neglect of the state in developmental projects, despite repeated efforts by his administration to establish meaningful collaboration.

Oyebanji spoke during a meeting with the new leadership of BORBDA, led by its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Olufemi Adekanmbi, at the Governor's Office in Ado Ekiti.

He accused the agency of sidelining Ekiti in its programmes and failing to contribute meaningfully to the state's development, especially in the agricultural sector.

"Our experience with Benin-Owena has not been encouraging. They have not been fair to us and we have gained nothing from

them. Every attempt to work with the authority has been frustrated. This is why we excluded the agency from our strategic development plan," Oyebanji said.

He, however, acknowledged the renewed commitment expressed by the new BORBDA leadership and urged them to back their words with action.

"I have read your speech and it reflects a desire to change, but we have heard similar promises before that never translated into anything. For projects already budgeted for Ekiti, we are willing to support any genuine effort to fast-track development in the state," he added.

The governor emphasised the importance of effective collaboration between federal agencies and state governments in achieving sustainable development, pledging his administration's support if BORBDA demonstrates a clear shift in performance and engagement.

However, Adekanmbi praised the Oyebanji administration for its strides in agriculture and infrastructure and explained that the purpose of the visit was to introduce the new board, assess ongoing collaborations, and chart a fresh course aligned with President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, particularly in the area of food security.

Unveiling BORBDA's new development blueprint, Adekanmbi assured the Governor of a revitalised approach that prioritises agriculture, youth empowerment, and infrastructure development.

He highlighted key ongoing and proposed projects in Ekiti, including flood control works in Ilupeju, Efon-Alaye, Ado-Ureje Road, and Ikere-Ado/Osun Road, as well as dam management projects in Apariko-Aisegba, Oye-Ayede, and Ado-Osin.

Benin Crown Prince supports anti-cultism war, warns police against harassing youths

By Alade Adisa



Benin Crown Prince, HRH Ezelekhare Ewuare II, has thrown his weight behind the anti-cultism war of Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, but warned the police against using it to needlessly harass innocent youths in the state.

In a statement on his behalf by Cosmos Oviasuyi, Prince Ewuare II said the police hiding under the guise of fishing out suspected cult members and kidnappers to harass innocent people has made many youths to flee the state and that is not good for the state at all.

“This is a clarion call to all Benin sons and daughters to shun cultism which has eaten deep into the fabrics of our society and threatens to uproot the foundation of our kingdom.

“Benin Kingdom and its people have a very rich history of brotherliness and hospitality, its reputation in these remains unequalled over the years and centuries.

“It is disheartening that in recent times, this age long reputation is under threat as a result of cult related activities and clashes which have led to the loss of valuable lives with the senseless killing of vibrant young boys and destruction of properties.

“Many young women have become widows as a result of the killing of their husbands and many young children have become orphans as a result of the killing of their fathers.

“On this note, I call on all and sundry to support the efforts of the current state government to check the menace

of cultism in our dear state because no meaningful development can take place in a place where there is no peace.

“However, there have been complaints from our people on the activities of policemen in the course of implementing the government’s position on the issue of cultism.

“The alleged harassment by men of the police force against our innocent young ones is becoming a counterproductive strategy adopted by the police.

“Even though we are against the activities of cultism and cultists, making them run away from their homeland because of fear of being harassed is disagreeable.”

JUSUN calls off strike, to return to duty Wednesday

By Friday Omosola

The Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) has called off its nationwide strike and instructed its members to return to their respective duties on Wednesday, 4 June.

This directive followed a resolution issued after extensive deliberations on the root causes of the industrial action.

The decision was reached during a meeting held on Tuesday involving representatives of the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, alongside other key stakeholders.

According to the statement jointly signed by JUSUN's National Vice President and ten senior union officials, the union resolved to heed the intervention of the CJN, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Muhammad Dingyadi, the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), and other concerned parties.

As part of the understanding reached, the



temporary suspension of the strike is expected to pave the way for negotiations with the federal government to secure the release of judiciary funds within a month.

The communiqué further outlined that once the funds are disbursed, the union's demands, including the enforcement of the new ₦70,000 minimum wage, payment of outstanding arrears, a 25–35% salary increment, and a five-month wage award, will be implemented without delay.

Signatories to the resolution included the union's Assistant Financial Secretary and chairpersons representing JUSUN chapters across institutions such as the Federal Judicial Service Commission, Court of Appeal, Federal High Court, National Industrial Court, National Judicial Institute, FCT High Court, and the FCT Sharia and Customary Courts, among others.

Police nab six suspected gang members, recover arms in Lagos

By Damilola Olufemi

A group of six suspected gang members have been apprehended by Lagos State Police Command operatives following a routine patrol on 29 May.

According to the police spokesperson, Benjamin Hundeyin, the operation led to the recovery of weapons and a suspected stolen vehicle.

The suspects named Yakubu Oke, 48, Teslim Balogun, 33, Emmanuel Osas, 33, Joseph Abah, 34, Idris Adewunmi, 32, and Opeyemi Kolawole, 28, were stopped for questioning but failed to account for their movements and identities, raising suspicions.



More details revealed that a search led to the discovery of two locally made pistols, 16 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 17 live cartridges, and an unregistered 1999 Toyota Camry.

Investigations revealed the group is linked to a known gang operating in various parts of Lagos and is already on the police watchlist. The suspects are currently assisting with ongoing investigations to uncover more accomplices.

Commissioner of Police (CP) Jimoh Olohundare reiterated the Command's resolve to fight crime and urged residents to stay alert and report any suspicious activities.

However, the suspects will face prosecution once investigations are complete.

Nigerian slang goes global: 50 phrases you should know

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

What began as streetwise chatter echoing through the lively neighbourhoods of Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt has now evolved into a global linguistic force—heard in everyday conversations from Harlem to Hackney, from London to New York.

Fuelled by the meteoric rise of Afrobeats, Nollywood, and the growing influence of the Nigerian diaspora, local slang from West Africa's most populous nation has crossed continents, shaping the rhythm, humour, and voice of a new global generation.

From the viral “Wahala” (trouble) to the ever-popular “Japa” (to flee), Nigerian slang now appears in TikTok challenges, Instagram captions, pop lyrics, streetwear slogans, and even classroom banter in multicultural cities across the U.S., U.K., and beyond.

50 Nigerian Slangs That Have Gone Global

1. Wahala – Trouble/problem
2. Japa – Flee, escape
3. Omo – Expression of surprise
4. Naija – Nigeria (endearing term)
5. How far? – What's up?
6. Ginger – Vibe/energy
7. Abeg – Please
8. Yarn – Talk
9. Ehen – Prompting or realization
10. Sapa – Being broke
11. Gbese – Debt
12. Lamba – Sweet talk/lies
13. No dull yourself – Don't slack
14. Chop life – Enjoy life
15. Shege – Suffering (humorous)
16. E choke – Overwhelming situation
17. On God – Sincere vow
18. Na so – That's right
19. Osha pra pra – Sharp/stylish person
20. Run am – Go for it
21. Kpa – Money
22. Come dey play – Don't be unserious
23. Carry last – Lose/fall behind
24. Na you sabi – Your business
25. Wetin dey sup? – What's happening?
26. Tuale – Big respect
27. E don set – It's about to go down



28. Ajebo/Ajepako – Rich kid/street kid
 29. Flex – Have fun
 30. Gbas Gbos – Verbal/physical clash
 31. I wan chop – I'm hungry
 32. Hunger dey wire me – I'm extremely hungry
 33. This food sweet – This food is delicious
 34. K-leg – Suspicious/untrue
 35. E be like film – It feels surreal
 36. Abi? – Right?
 37. Na so/No be so – Yes/no disagreement
 38. Notin spoil – All is well
 39. Gbam! – Exactly
 40. I no get – I don't have
 41. Go slow – Traffic jam
 42. Comot – Leave/get out
 43. Dey – To be
 44. Tear head – Quarrelsome
 45. Wetin? – What?
 46. I sabi – I know
 47. Yawa – Trouble
 48. Gbege – Bigger trouble
 49. God don butter my bread – God has blessed me
 50. You too much – You're amazing
- Pop Culture Is the New Dictionary
- Nigerian artists like Burna Boy, Wizkid, Tiwa Savage, and Davido have helped globalize Nigerian slang through music. Viral songs like “Last Last,” “Jowo,” and “Essence” have become language vehicles, bringing Pidgin English and Yoruba expressions to dance floors and dinner tables worldwide.

“Language is power, and Nigerian youth are using slang to own their narrative globally,” says Professor Ayo Ilesanmi, a sociolinguist at the University of Lagos.

Why This Matters

These slangs are not just trendy expressions — they are cultural codes loaded with humor, survival, and resilience. They reflect everyday Nigerian realities and offer a linguistic passport into one of the most creative societies on earth. Whether it's a TikToker in Atlanta saying, “e choke,” or a British Nigerian teen greeting friends with “how far?”, Nigerian slang is no longer a subculture — it is culture.

From Survival to Style

In Nigeria, slang has always been more than just language; it's a survival tool in a complex society. Now, it's a fashion statement, a rhythm in rap verses, a punchline in sitcoms, and the new face of African soft power.

As one Lagos Street poet puts it: “We no just dey speak—we dey spray language like perfume. Everybody dey perceive am now.”

Top 25 Nigerian Languages now gaining global recognition

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In a major cultural shift, no fewer than 25 Nigerian languages are now enjoying growing global recognition—thanks to the meteoric rise of Afrobeats, Nollywood, digital media, and a widespread Nigerian diaspora. From classrooms in Harvard to dance floors in Havana, Nigerian languages are traveling the world and gaining new speakers, researchers, and relevance.

Soft Power in Action

Languages once considered local—like Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa—are now at the heart of global pop culture, with Pidgin English slang like “Wahala”, “Omo”, and “Japa” has become a regular feature in music, comedy, and even advertising abroad. Most of these words are also finding their way into the Oxford Dictionary.

Top 25 Nigerian Languages Gaining Global Recognition

1. Yoruba – Dominant in southwest Nigeria; widely spoken across the diaspora in the U.S., U.K., Cuba, Togo, and Brazil.
2. Igbo – Southeastern Nigeria; prominent in global literature and diaspora culture.
3. Hausa – Widely used across West Africa and featured in international news broadcasts (e.g., BBC Hausa). Many Hausa people are Muslim.
4. Nigerian Pidgin English – Lingua franca of urban Nigeria; now used in Afrobeats, film, and online content.
5. Fulfulde (Fulani) – Spoken by nomadic Fulani people; widespread across the Sahel region.
6. Kanuri – Found in northeastern Nigeria and across parts of Chad and Niger.
7. Tiv – The Tiv people are part of an ethnic group in Benue State and parts of Nasarawa, Taraba, Plateau, and Cross River States. Tiv plays a vital role in the cultural and linguistic landscape of Nigeria’s Middle Belt.
8. Edo (Bini) – Linked to the Benin Kingdom, known for its heritage and ritual language.
9. Ijaw (Izon) – Predominant in the



Niger Delta; part of oil politics and environmental advocacy.

10. Urhobo – Native to Delta State; known through migration and political visibility.
11. Efik – Cross River region; popularized through early missionary texts and cultural preservation.
12. Ibibio – Related to Efik; spoken in Akwa Ibom and abroad in diaspora enclaves.
13. Nupe – Found in Niger and Kwara States; part of Islamic scholarship heritage.
14. Gwari (Gbagyi) – Native to the Abuja region and parts of central Nigeria.
15. Idoma – From Benue State; known through local media and migration.
16. Igalala – Kogi-based; straddles northern and southeastern cultural influences.
17. Itsekiri – Delta State; royal lineage and language preservation efforts have spotlighted it.
18. Ebira – Found in Kogi and parts of Nasarawa; increasingly present in Nollywood.
19. Bachama – Adamawa-based; studied in linguistic circles and oral literature.
20. Bura (Babur) – Northeastern language with deep cultural history.
21. Jukun – Spoken in Taraba and parts of Benue; historically significant.
22. Angas (Ngas) – Plateau State language, gaining traction in cultural documentation.
23. Goemai – Plateau-based, with increasing academic interest.
24. Berom – Indigenous to Jos; featured

in cultural and political discourse.

25. Kalabari – Rivers State; a key dialect of the Ijaw language cluster.

Music, Movies, and Migration

Afrobeats stars like Burna Boy, Wizkid, and Davido have taken Yoruba and Pidgin global. Meanwhile, Nollywood films, often subtitled or dubbed, continue to export Igbo, Hausa, and other dialects across Africa and beyond.

Educational institutions like SOAS (London), UCLA, and Harvard now offer courses in Yoruba, Hausa, and Igbo, reflecting academic demand driven by cultural impact and African studies growth.

Call for Preservation at Home

Despite global acclaim, many of these languages face challenges within Nigeria itself due to urbanization and English dominance. Experts are urging the government to enforce indigenous language instruction in schools and develop digital learning tools to safeguard them. “Our languages are not just tools of communication—they’re vessels of our identity, worldview, and future,” said Dr. Adeola, a language activist.

As Nigeria marks its position on the global stage, it must also protect the voices that carried its stories, songs, and spirit across the world.

Ondo unveils upgraded medical warehouse to tackle fake drugs, boost healthcare

By Helen Okechukwu



The Ondo State Government has commissioned an upgraded Central Medical Store in a major move to improve drug quality and healthcare delivery across the state.

Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, at the commissioning event, emphasized that health remains a top priority of his administration.

He described the upgraded facility as a “bold step” towards eliminating counterfeit and substandard drugs from the state’s supply chain.

“It became imperative to upgrade the facility to a Pharma-grade Warehouse that adheres to international best practices for drug storage, thereby protecting the potency, safety, and quality of all health commodities,” the governor said.

He credited the project’s success to a partnership between the state government, the Federal Government (FG), and the Global Fund, made possible through counterpart funding.

Governor Aiyedatiwa revealed that strict procurement policies are now in place to ensure that drugs are sourced only from licensed manufacturers and importers.

The new facility is expected to enhance inventory management, reduce waste, and ensure timely delivery of medicines to hospitals and clinics.

The state also partnered with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) to produce the first edition of the Ondo State Essential Medicines List, aimed at standardizing drug availability across public health institutions.

Pharm Amos Ayegbusi, Executive Secretary of the State Drugs and Health Commodities Management Agency, praised the governor’s support, while Mrs. Celine Onunkwo, who represented the Coordinating Minister of Health, described the facility as a “critical milestone” toward achieving universal health coverage.

Professor Simidele Odimayo, represented by Mr. Adeniran Ikuomola, lauded the governor’s vision in strengthening the health sector.

Top government officials, traditional rulers, and health stakeholders were in attendance.

Diphtheria outbreak: Abia govt calls for preventive measures

By Damilola Olufemi



The Abia government has issued a public health advisory following a reported outbreak of diphtheria in the neighbouring Imo.

The information commissioner, Okey Kanu, announced the advisory on Monday while briefing journalists at the Government House, Umuahia, on the resolutions of the State Executive Council meeting, says News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

Mr Kanu said the proximity of Imo made Abia vulnerable and restated the importance of preventive action to avert an outbreak in Abia.

He urged the people to get vaccinated against the scourge, especially children and individuals who were not sure of their diphtheria status.

Mr Kanu also urged parents to closely observe their children and report any symptoms immediately to healthcare providers.

He reiterated the importance of maintaining good hygiene practices, including regular hand washing.

The commissioner advised residents to cover their mouths when coughing and to avoid close contact with individuals who are sick.

He further said Abia's health ministry had urged residents to report any suspected cases to local health officials promptly.

The commissioner called on community and religious leaders, teachers, and traditional rulers to help spread the information on the need to prevent an outbreak in Abia.

He advised people who would be travelling to affected areas to ensure that their vaccinations were up to date.

In a positive development, Mr Kanu said Abia had been declared free of river blindness after 30 years of treatment efforts. He described the declaration by the Federal Ministry of Health as a

milestone.

In sports, Mr Kanu said Abia athletes won 70 medals at the just-concluded National Sports Festival, placing 10th overall.

According to him, the medal tally includes 12 gold, 18 silver, and 40 bronze, marking the state's best outing in years. He said the progress reflected growing investment in sports development by the Abia government.

Mr Kanu also mentioned that the transport ministry had launched a crackdown on one-way driving in major cities in Abia. He said the enforcement team for the policy had been mandated to fine offenders heavily and impound vehicles when necessary to restore order.

The commissioner expressed the Abia government's determination to address the menace and ensure road safety for all. He also urged road users to obey traffic regulations and drive responsibly.

‘Nigerian laws favour men over women’, Kate Henshaw says

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Veteran Nollywood actress Kate Henshaw has voiced her concerns over what she describes as systemic gender bias in Nigerian laws.

In a recent interview with Arise TV, the outspoken actress said many laws in the country are designed in ways that harm and disadvantage women.

Speaking with a calm but firm tone, Henshaw argued that women in Nigeria are not treated equally, both by society and the legal system. According to her, the nation’s laws and cultural practices continue to reflect deep-rooted beliefs that place women beneath men.

“Men see women as inferior”

“The average Nigerian man is wired to see women as lesser beings,” Henshaw stated during the interview. “This mindset is not only unfair, but it also fuels the inequality we see every day.”

She described how social conditioning, and cultural norms shape male attitudes from an early age. Boys are taught to dominate, while girls are expected to submit. Over time, she said, this becomes a cycle that affects every area of a woman’s life, from education and employment to marriage and legal rights.

“Our laws are not for women”

Henshaw did not hold back as she criticised the country’s legal framework, especially the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act, also known as the VAPP Act. Although the law was introduced to protect citizens from violence and abuse, Henshaw believes it falls short in protecting women.

“Even our laws favour men,” she said bluntly. “The VAPP law is supposed to protect everyone, but in practice, it gives more protection to men. For example, a man can still legally chastise his wife. Why is that allowed?”

She questioned why such outdated ideas still exist in modern laws. “Why should a man be allowed to hit or ‘discipline’ his wife? That is not discipline. That is violence,” she said.

Calls for equality and respect



During the interview, Henshaw also spoke from a spiritual perspective. She referenced the biblical creation story, pointing out that women were made from the side of man, not from under his feet.

“God created woman from the side of man, not from beneath him,” she said. “That means women are supposed to walk beside men, not behind them. We are meant to rule together, grow together, and multiply together.”

Her message was clear: equality is not just a social or legal issue. It is also a moral and spiritual one.

A voice for the voiceless

Kate Henshaw is known for her roles in films, but in recent years, she has become just as known for her strong voice on social and political issues. She has consistently used her platform to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, especially women and children.

Her latest remarks have sparked conversations online, with many Nigerians applauding her bravery. Others, however, argue that the laws are not the problem, but rather the way they are enforced.

Still, Henshaw believes that the first step toward change is acknowledging the

problem. “If we keep pretending that everything is okay, nothing will ever change,” she said.

The need for legal reform

Experts agree that while some progress has been made in protecting women’s rights in Nigeria, the journey is far from over. Laws like the VAPP Act exist on paper, but enforcement is often weak or inconsistent. Moreover, many local customs and religious beliefs continue to overshadow legal protections.

Activists have called for reforms that will close these gaps. They say laws should be reviewed to remove any parts that discriminate against women. More importantly, they stress the need for education and awareness to change the way people think.

Conclusion

Kate Henshaw’s comments may sound controversial to some, but they reflect the frustrations of many Nigerian women. Her call for fairness, respect, and legal reform is part of a growing movement that seeks to end gender-based discrimination in all forms.

As the conversation continues, one thing is clear: Nigeria must do more to protect its women, not just in words, but in action.

Actress Biola Bayo announces split from husband

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nollywood actress Biola Bayo has announced her separation from her husband, Oluseyi. The news came as a surprise to many of her fans and colleagues in the entertainment industry.

Biola announced on Tuesday afternoon, June 3, 2025, in a post shared on her official Instagram page. The announcement was part of a message to mark her birthday.

“We’ve been separated since April”, Biola

In her emotional post, Biola revealed that she and Oluseyi have been living apart since April 2024. She cited “irreconcilable differences” as the reason for the separation.

“We’ve been separated since April last year,” she wrote. “It’s a decision we both reached after trying to make things work.”

While she didn’t go into the full details of what led to the split, the actress said the decision was made in the best interest of both parties. She also acknowledged how difficult the last year has been for her emotionally.

Apology to fans

Biola, known for her roles in Yoruba-language films and TV shows, expressed deep regret that her marriage didn’t work out. In a message directed at her fans, she apologised for the unexpected turn of events.

“I’m sincerely sorry,” she wrote. “I wish it worked, but sometimes things don’t go as planned. It’s better to stay alive and tell the story.”

She asked her fans and followers for understanding and requested prayers as she navigates this new phase of her life.

Silent struggles behind the scenes

The actress also shared a glimpse into the emotional turmoil she has experienced over the past year. Despite appearing cheerful in public, she said she has spent many nights in tears.



“While I go about making others happy during the day, my pillow has been soaked in tears almost every night for the past 14 months,” she revealed.

However, Biola said her faith has kept her going. “I gain strength from Christ who loves me unconditionally and gave himself for me,” she wrote. Her words have since sparked an outpouring of support from fans and colleagues.

Married in 2021

Biola Bayo and Oluseyi tied the knot in April 2021 in a ceremony that was widely celebrated on social media. The couple kept much of their relationship private, but they occasionally shared joyful moments with fans online.

Their marriage was admired by many, with fans often commenting on how happy they looked together. The news of their separation has therefore come as a shock to many who saw them as a strong couple.

Not her first marriage

This is not Biola Bayo’s first attempt at marriage. She was previously married to a UK-based man simply known as Ola. The two got married in October 2012, but the union ended in 2014.

Biola has spoken in the past about the challenges she faced in that relationship and how she learned important lessons from the experience.

Support from the industry

Following her announcement, several

Nollywood actors and actresses took to social media to show their support. Many praised Biola for her honesty and bravery in speaking out.

Actress Toyin Abraham commented on Biola’s post with words of encouragement, calling her “a strong woman.” Others echoed similar sentiments, urging the actress to stay strong and focus on her healing.

Fans react with love

Thousands of fans also reacted to the post. While many expressed sadness over the news, others sent messages of love and support. Some praised Biola for choosing peace and mental health over an unhappy relationship.

One fan wrote, “You’re an inspiration. Thank you for being open. You’ll find happiness again.”

Looking ahead

Biola Bayo has yet to announce what the future holds for her. However, she remains active in the film industry and continues to take on acting roles.

With this announcement, the actress has once again reminded the public that even public figures face personal battles. Her story is a reminder that behind the spotlight, real-life challenges exist, and that healing takes time.

As she begins this new chapter, her fans and followers will no doubt be watching and cheering her on.

‘Iya Drizzy’, Korra Obidi teases possible fling with Drake’s father

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian dancer and singer Korra Obidi is once again in the spotlight, this time for reasons beyond her music and social media presence.

The U.S.-based entertainer has set tongues wagging after sharing intimate moments with Canadian rapper Drake’s father, Dennis Graham.

Cosy photos raise eyebrows

Obidi posted a series of affectionate photos and videos with Dennis Graham on Instagram. The most striking image shows Graham planting a kiss on Obidi’s cheek while they smile at the camera. The caption read, “Korra, Iya Drizzy,” which translates loosely from Yoruba to “Drake’s Mom.” She also added, “Amazing time with @therealdennisg.”

In a follow-up video, Graham is seen holding Obidi closely by the waist. The singer, who is known for her playful and provocative online presence, captioned the clip with a teasing remark:

“Please, is there anything wrong with the way he was holding my waist? Some people are sweating.”

The post has quickly gone viral, stirring conversations online and across entertainment platforms. While neither party has officially confirmed a romantic relationship, the photos and captions suggest something more than a casual friendship.

Who is Dennis Graham?

Dennis Graham is the father of Grammy-winning rapper Drake. A Memphis-born musician himself, Graham has long been part of the American music scene. He was a drummer for Jerry Lee Lewis and continues to perform occasionally.

Graham and Drake’s mother, Sandra Graham, divorced when the rapper was just five years old. Despite their split, both parents remained in Drake’s life. In recent years, Dennis Graham has shown public affection for his ex-wife, celebrating her 75th birthday with warm words and heartfelt tributes.

The elder Graham is known for his flashy



lifestyle and strong social media presence. His connection to high-profile celebrities often lands him in the news, but a possible romance with a rising Nigerian star is new territory.

A closer look at Korra Obidi

Korra Obidi, born in Nigeria, rose to fame as a dancer, singer, and social media influencer. Her high-energy dance routines and unfiltered lifestyle posts have earned her a massive following online. Based in the United States, she has built a brand that mixes African culture with modern pop style.

Obidi’s personal life has also been in the spotlight. She went through a very public divorce from American chiropractor Justin Dean in 2022. The split was messy, with both parties airing grievances on social media.

Obidi accused Dean of emotional abuse and said she left the marriage for the sake of her mental health. Dean, on the other hand, accused her of infidelity and lack of transparency. The former couple shares two young daughters and continues to co-parent them.

Fans react

Reactions to Obidi’s post with Dennis Graham have been mixed. Some fans see it as another example of her playful

nature and ability to stir online buzz. Others believe it may signal the start of a serious relationship.

Supporters flooded the comment section with praise and humor. Some joked about what it would mean if Korra became Drake’s stepmother, calling her “Queen of the Internet.” However, critics were quick to question the age difference and motives behind the post.

Still, Obidi seems unfazed by the chatter. Known for her bold personality, she often embraces controversy and uses it to keep her name trending.

What’s next?

Neither Obidi nor Graham has commented further on the photos, leaving fans and followers to speculate. Whether this is a genuine romantic connection or just two entertainers having fun, it has certainly succeeded in grabbing attention.

One thing is clear, Korra Obidi knows how to make headlines. Whether through music, dance, or social media antics, she continues to stay relevant and unafraid of public opinion.

As fans await clarity, the story remains one of the most talked-about moments in the entertainment world this week.

Ibrahim Chatta reunites with former wife, Olayinka Solomon

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nollywood actor Ibrahim Chatta has reunited with his estranged wife, actress Olayinka Solomon, in what many have described as a surprising but heartwarming moment.

The reunion happened on Sunday night in Lagos State, during the star-studded premiere of Toyin Abraham's latest film, *Iyalode*.

The moment quickly caught public attention after a video from the event surfaced online. The video, now trending across social media platforms, shows Chatta warmly embracing Olayinka Solomon and her current husband, Olanrewaju Mabinuori, in front of a cheering crowd.

A friendly embrace caught on camera

In the viral clip, Chatta is seen walking up to the couple and giving Olayinka a brief but emotional hug. He also shared a handshake and hug with her husband, Mabinuori. The three appeared to be on friendly terms, laughing and chatting together.

What took many by surprise was Mabinuori's unexpected gesture. In a show of good spirit, he sprayed bundles of cash on Chatta, a move often seen at Nigerian celebrations. Spectators clapped and cheered as the trio shared the moment, signalling what appeared to be a fresh chapter in their relationship.

A complicated past

Ibrahim Chatta and Olayinka Solomon were once a well-known Nollywood couple. They welcomed their son, Malik, in 2008. However, their union was short-lived. Not long after Malik's birth, Olayinka accused Chatta of domestic violence, a claim that made headlines and led to the couple's separation.

Following the separation, both actors kept their distance publicly. They focused on their careers and private



lives, with very little public interaction between them. The recent reunion marks the first time they've been seen together in such a public and cordial manner.

Olayinka moved on, found love again

In 2021, Olayinka Solomon remarried. She tied the knot with Olanrewaju Mabinuori, a businessman who has mostly stayed out of the limelight. The couple welcomed a baby boy in January 2025, expanding their family and drawing congratulations from fans and colleagues in the industry.

Despite the past drama, Olayinka has continued to rise in the film world, appearing in several Yoruba-language films and building a strong social media following. Her marriage to Mabinuori has also brought a more settled chapter to her personal life.

Fans react to their reunion

News of the reunion between Chatta, Olayinka, and her husband quickly sparked reactions online. Many fans praised the actors for showing maturity and rising above past conflicts. Others called the moment inspiring, saying it sent a strong message about forgiveness and peaceful co-parenting.

"It's beautiful to see people who once had issues come together like this," one user commented under the viral video. "Life is too short to hold grudges."

Some fans also pointed out that the gesture of money-spraying by Mabinuori was a clear sign that there was no tension or resentment between the men. Instead, it reflected goodwill and a willingness to move forward.

A night of reconciliation and celebration

The *Iyalode* movie premiere was filled with many emotional moments, but this reunion stood out. For many in the crowd, it wasn't just about the film, it was about watching old wounds heal.

Industry insiders say that Toyin Abraham's film premiere may have unknowingly become the setting for one of Nollywood's most unexpected reconciliations. Whether this moment leads to a deeper friendship or simply marks a peaceful closure remains to be seen.

For now, fans of both Ibrahim Chatta and Olayinka Solomon are celebrating a rare and touching moment of unity in an industry often marked by public feuds and breakups.

My mother was denied opportunity to sing because she was princess, K1 De Ultimate reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Fuji music icon Wasiu Ayinde, popularly known as KWAM 1 or K1 De Ultimate, recently opened up about the deep influence his late mother had on his musical journey.

At 68 years old, the veteran artist revealed that his mother, Princess Halima Anifowoshe, was not only a guiding force but also an important contributor to his success in music.

KWAM 1 shared these insights during a podcast interview promoting his latest project, *Ganusi The Album*, Fuji Classical.

He explained that the song “Mama,” featured on the album, is a heartfelt tribute to his mother and her role in shaping his career.

A mother’s musical legacy

According to KWAM 1, his mother was his first music teacher. She taught him the basics, the rudiments of music and singing, from a young age. More than that, she often acted as his composer. “Very many times during her lifetime, she made her own contribution to my musical development,” KWAM 1 said.

He revealed that his mother had dreams of becoming a musician herself. However, her royal background and the expectations placed on her as a woman stopped her from pursuing music professionally. “My mother, as a young maiden lady, was a singer,” he said. “But she was a princess by birth, and because of what she was, a princess of a sitting king, and also a



woman, she was denied the opportunity to fully show her talent.”

Despite these restrictions, KWAM 1 believes that his mother’s musical gift was passed down to him by divine will. “Everything was transported on me by God. She transferred her talent to me,” he said.

The song “Mama” as a tribute

To honour her memory and lasting influence, KWAM 1 dedicated the song “Mama” to Princess Halima Anifowoshe. He described the track as a blessing and a tribute to his mother’s contribution to his life and career.

“It is honorable for me to remember her with this song,” he said. “She deserves to be celebrated because of all she did for me and the music.”

Remembering Princess Halima Anifowoshe

Princess Halima Anifowoshe passed away in January 2025. Her death

marked the end of an era for KWAM 1, who continues to cherish the lessons and support she gave him throughout his career.

KWAM 1’s openness about his mother’s influence highlights the personal stories behind his music. Fans now have a deeper understanding of the roots that helped shape one of Nigeria’s most celebrated Fuji artists.

Legacy of talent and dedication

KWAM 1’s tribute goes beyond just a song. It shows the powerful impact family can have on an artist’s journey. His mother’s musical talents, though never fully realised publicly, live on through her son’s success.

As *Ganusi The Album* Fuji Classical reaches listeners, the story of Princess Halima Anifowoshe reminds us that behind every great artist, there are often unseen heroes who guide and inspire them from the start.

Trump administration opens 23 million acres of Alaska to oil drilling

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In a sweeping rollback of environmental protections, the Trump administration announced Monday it would eliminate federal safeguards on millions of acres of Alaska's wilderness, exposing the area to oil drilling and mining in a renewed push for energy dominance.

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, speaking from Alaska alongside Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin and Energy Secretary Chris Wright, confirmed the reversal of a December 2024 executive order by then President Joe Biden. That order had banned drilling across the 23 million-acre National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A) the largest single tract of public land in the United States.

Calling the Biden-era protections "obstructionist," Burgum said the current administration was determined to unlock domestic energy potential. "The Biden administration prioritized obstruction over production," Burgum said. "That approach is undermining our ability to harness American resources at a time when energy independence has never been more critical."

The announcement marks one of the boldest moves yet in President Donald Trump's second-term energy agenda, underscored by his declaration of a "national energy emergency" on his first day back in office in January. That declaration has unleashed a flurry of executive orders designed to fast-track fossil fuel development and dismantle regulations imposed during the previous administration.

Energy Secretary Wright defended the NPR-A decision on social media, stating: "Oil production is the engine of economic growth in Alaska, funding more than 90% of the state's general revenue. Unleashing American energy goes hand in hand with unleashing American prosperity."

The move sparked swift backlash from environmental organizations and Indigenous advocates who warned that drilling in the remote Western Arctic would threaten biodiversity, disrupt Indigenous subsistence lifestyles, and



worsen the climate crisis.

"The Trump administration's move to roll back protections in the most ecologically important areas of the Western Arctic threatens wildlife, local communities, and our climate, all to appease extractive industries," said Kristen Miller, executive director of the Alaska Wilderness League. "This is another outrageous attempt to sell off public lands to oil industry billionaires at the expense of one of the wildest places left in America."

Environmentalists noted that the NPR-A, roughly 600 miles north of Anchorage and bounded by the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, serves as critical habitat for caribou, migratory birds, and other Arctic species. The land also holds deep cultural and subsistence value for Indigenous communities who have relied on it for generations.

"These lands are not just ecosystems; they're heritage," Miller added. "The public fought hard for these protections. We will not stay silent while they're dismantled."

Though Trump has made expanding fossil fuel production a cornerstone of his economic policy, earlier attempts to open Alaska's reserves have met with limited success. A highly publicized auction of leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) during Trump's first

term yielded few bidders and scant industry interest.

The NPR-A, originally designated in the early 20th century as a military fuel reserve, was opened to commercial development in 1976. However, Congress stipulated that any exploitation must balance energy development with environmental conservation, a balance critics say is now being ignored.

"There are some places too special and sacred to exploit with oil and gas drilling," said Laura Daniel-Davis, acting deputy secretary of the interior during the Biden administration. "What's happening in the Western Arctic is a clear abandonment of that principle."

The Biden protections, part of a broader package that also included restrictions on Arctic drilling and mining, were still being challenged in court by the State of Alaska when Trump returned to power. Legal experts expect new lawsuits in the wake of the administration's reversal.

"There's no question this decision will face fierce legal resistance," said Sylvia Cho, an environmental law professor at the University of Washington. "The administration will have to show that it considered the ecological, cultural, and climate impacts, something that has been legally required since the 1976 NPR-A Act."

South Korea votes in snap presidential election amid deep political turmoil

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Millions of South Koreans are heading to the polls in a historic snap presidential election, following the dramatic impeachment and removal of President Yoon Suk Yeol. The former conservative leader now awaits trial on rebellion charges, stemming from his abrupt and widely condemned attempt to impose martial law last December.

The election, one of the most consequential in the country's democratic history, has exposed deep political rifts and civic unrest, with citizens choosing between starkly contrasting visions for South Korea's future. Pre-election polls suggest liberal candidate Lee Jae-myung holds a strong lead over conservative contender Kim Moon Soo, as public anger toward the Yoon administration continues to simmer.

A Nation at a Crossroads

The fallout from Yoon's martial law order triggered months of mass protests and counter-protests, revealing a nation divided. His impeachment and subsequent dismissal created a leadership vacuum that disrupted diplomatic engagements and shook financial markets.

Today's vote marks a pivotal moment in the resilience of South Korean democracy. However, analysts caution that political polarization may persist beyond the ballot box, regardless of who wins. "The divisions Yoon inflamed won't vanish overnight," said political analyst Han Soo-jin. "This election is just the beginning of the healing process."

More than 15 million voters, about 35% of South Korea's 44.4 million eligible citizens, cast early ballots during a two-day advance voting period last week. Polls opened at 6 a.m. at over 14,000 polling stations nationwide and will close at 8 p.m., with results expected as early as midnight. The winning candidate will be sworn in immediately, serving a full five-year term with no transition period.

Lee Jae-myung: Reformist or Risk?



Lee Jae-myung, the liberal frontrunner, has campaigned on promises to revitalize the economy, reduce inequality, and heal national divisions. In his final rally at a park in Seoul, Lee warned that a conservative victory would embolden what he calls "rebellion forces."

"If they somehow win, that would mean the return of the rebellion forces, the destruction of democracy, the deprivation of people's human rights, the normalization of martial law and our country's downfall into a backward, third-world nation," Lee declared.

A former child laborer with a rags to riches story, Lee has long been a polarizing figure. He currently faces multiple criminal trials, including allegations of bribery and involvement in a property development scandal. While courts have postponed hearings until after the election, a recent Supreme Court decision ordering a retrial on an election law violation has raised questions about whether presidential immunity would shield him from legal consequences if elected.

Critics describe Lee as a populist prone to inflammatory rhetoric and opportunistic shifts in policy. Supporters, however, see him as a reformist outsider with the boldness to tackle South Korea's entrenched economic inequality and

political corruption.

Kim Moon Soo: Upholding Conservative Values

Conservative candidate Kim Moon Soo, a former labor minister under Yoon, has struggled to distance himself from the disgraced ex-president and unite the fractured People Power Party. Kim has positioned himself as a stabilizing force, warning that a Lee presidency would consolidate unchecked power and deepen political retaliation.

"Lee is now trying to seize all power in South Korea and establish a Hitler-like dictatorship," Kim said at a campaign stop in Busan. He has accused Lee of planning to use his party's parliamentary majority to protect himself from prosecution and suppress dissent.

Kim's message has resonated with some voters, but he has failed to gain traction among moderates, many of whom remain disillusioned by the Yoon administration's authoritarian overreach.

Foreign Policy: Unity in Pragmatism

In foreign affairs, both candidates have struck cautious tones, avoiding bold pronouncements as South Korea navigates complex challenges, including U.S. President Donald Trump's America-first policies, rising tariffs, and North Korea's expanding nuclear arsenal.

Trump ally with Kremlin ties, axes U.S. disinformation agency

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In a fresh controversy casting doubt on Donald Trump's approach to Russia, a top State Department official appointed by the president has come under scrutiny for dismantling a key U.S. counter-disinformation unit—while maintaining ties that lead uncomfortably close to the Kremlin.

Darren Beattie, the acting Under-Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, oversaw the shutdown of the U.S. government's Russian disinformation watchdog known as R/FIMI, despite his own past praise for President Vladimir Putin and apparent sympathies with authoritarian regimes.

Beattie, who once called for Western institutions to be "infiltrated" by Putin, is married to a Russian woman whose uncle, Sergei Chernikov, has longstanding political and business ties to the Kremlin. Chernikov was once thanked personally by Putin for his support during Russia's 2000 presidential campaign and later held senior roles in regional government and a Kremlin-affiliated civic chamber.

This disturbing link to Putin's inner circle, combined with Beattie's public statements undermining U.S. democratic allies and praising adversarial regimes, raises serious concerns about the direction of American foreign policy under Trump's influence.

A Champion for Moscow in Washington?
Since his appointment in February, Beattie has been accused of pursuing an aggressive campaign to dismantle R/FIMI—the very agency tasked with tracking foreign propaganda from Russia, China, and Iran. Though small, the unit played a critical role in identifying disinformation threats. According to sources inside the State Department, Beattie halted communications with other officials, terminated contractors, and moved swiftly to shut the office down entirely by mid-April.

At the same time, Beattie promoted cultural diplomacy with Russia—including programs in ballet and hockey—and reportedly showed particular interest in classified materials related to Russia, sparking alarm among



national security experts.

"It's one thing to have policy disagreements," said a former senior diplomat familiar with the matter, "but it's another to elevate someone who openly praises Putin while tearing down institutions built to counter him."

Alarming Views on Russia, China, and the West

Beattie's online record paints a deeply troubling picture. He has described NATO as a greater threat to American liberty than Putin, praised the Russian president as "brave and strong," and claimed that Putin has done "more to advance conservative values in the U.S. than any Republican."

He has referred to Britain as a "sewage pit" and a "dystopia," called for the U.S. to surrender Taiwan to China, and suggested that Western democracies would improve if directly "controlled by Putin." These remarks remain publicly visible on his social media accounts, raising questions about vetting standards under Trump's administration.

White House Ties and "America First" Agenda

Beattie, once fired from the Trump White House in 2018 for reportedly attending a white nationalist gathering, re-emerged as a far-right media figure before being brought back into government. He founded Revolver News, a platform known for promoting conspiracy theories and attacking institutions that counter authoritarian disinformation campaigns.

Sources say Beattie launched a last-minute campaign to collect internal records from R/FIMI staff—an act some described as a "witch hunt" aimed at discrediting journalists and civil servants who tracked foreign interference.

Despite his radical views and contentious background, Beattie was granted a high-level acting role that allowed him to bypass Senate confirmation for up to 210 days. Critics say that loophole has allowed Trump loyalists to operate under the radar.

Trump's Russia Problem Deepens

Beattie's appointment comes amid growing frustration within Trump's own party over his refusal to take a harder line against Putin. As the war in Ukraine drags on, and Trump continues to oppose ceasefire deals, lawmakers are increasingly at odds with the former president's ambiguous stance toward Russia.

"If Trump wanted to prove he's not soft on Russia, putting Darren Beattie in charge of U.S. public diplomacy was a strange way to show it," said a Republican aide who asked not to be named.

Though Trump and his allies have dismissed criticism as "fake news," the optics are hard to ignore: a senior U.S. official, married into Kremlin-connected circles, dismantled America's disinformation defense—while cheering on adversaries and undermining allies.

Vietnamese firms to sign MoUs for \$2 billion in U.S. agricultural imports

By Fatimah Idera

Vietnamese firms are set to sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with U.S. partners to purchase \$2 billion worth of American agricultural products, Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture announced on Tuesday.

The agreements are part of broader efforts to strengthen trade ties and secure a new bilateral trade deal.

The deals come amid trade tensions that saw the Trump administration impose a 46 per cent reciprocal tariff on Vietnamese goods as a measure currently paused until July.

If enforced, these tariffs could significantly impact Vietnam's export-driven economy, particularly its vital trade relationship with the United States, its largest export market.

The agreements will be formalised during a visit to the U.S. by a delegation of 50 Vietnamese companies, led by Agriculture Minister Do Duc Duy. Notably, five of the MoUs will focus on purchasing \$800 million worth of farm



products from Iowa over three years. These products include corn, wheat, dried distillers' grains, and soybean meal.

The United States recorded a \$123 billion trade deficit with Vietnam in 2024. To address this imbalance, Vietnam has committed to increasing imports of American goods as part of ongoing trade negotiations. In 2024, Vietnam imported \$3.4 billion in U.S. farm goods while exporting \$13.68 billion worth of its

agricultural products to the U.S., according to the Vietnam News Agency.

Beyond agriculture, Vietnam has pledged to buy additional U.S. products, including Boeing aircraft and liquefied natural gas. The country has also agreed to enhance enforcement against counterfeit goods and digital piracy following U.S. criticism of its role as a hub for such activities.

AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio launches watchdog to prevent rogue AI

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Renowned AI expert Yoshua Bengio has unveiled a new non-profit organisation aimed at creating safe, transparent artificial intelligence systems capable of detecting and preventing rogue AI behaviour. Named LawZero, the initiative seeks to address growing concerns about autonomous AI agents that could act deceptively or resist human control.

Bengio, a professor at the University of Montreal and one of the so-called "godfathers of AI," will serve as president of LawZero. With \$30 million in initial funding and a team of more than a dozen researchers, the organisation's flagship project is Scientist AI, a system designed to evaluate the potential harm of AI agents' actions and act as a safeguard.



Unlike current AI agents, which Bengio describes as "actors" mimicking human behaviour and trying to please users, Scientist AI is intended to function more like a "psychologist," predicting when an agent's behaviour might be harmful or deceptive. The system would not offer

definitive answers but instead provide probabilistic assessments, reflecting a sense of uncertainty and intellectual humility.

"We want to build AIs that will be honest and not deceptive," Bengio stated. "It is theoretically possible to imagine machines that have no self, no goal for themselves, that are just pure knowledge machines."

The model will monitor AI agents and intervene if the probability of harm from their actions crosses a designated threshold. It's a preventive mechanism designed to avoid scenarios in which AI systems develop self-preserving or manipulative traits, an area of increasing concern among researchers and regulators.

OECD lowers global forecast as Trump trade war slows U.S. growth

By Fatimah Idera

The global economy is slowing more than previously expected, with the Trump administration's ongoing trade war increasingly affecting U.S. growth, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) warned on Tuesday.

In its latest Economic Outlook, the Paris-based organisation revised its global growth projections downward, citing rising protectionism and persistent trade tensions.

Global economic growth is now projected to decline from 3.3 per cent in 2024 to 2.9 per cent in both 2025 and 2026. This marks a downgrade from the OECD's March forecast, which anticipated growth of 3.1 per cent this year and 3.0 per cent next year.

The OECD cautioned that the outlook could deteriorate further if trade barriers continue to rise, triggering higher inflation, disrupting global supply chains, and unsettling financial markets. The impact of escalating U.S. tariffs since President Donald Trump took office has already caused market volatility and growing uncertainty, leading to a rollback of some earlier tariff decisions.

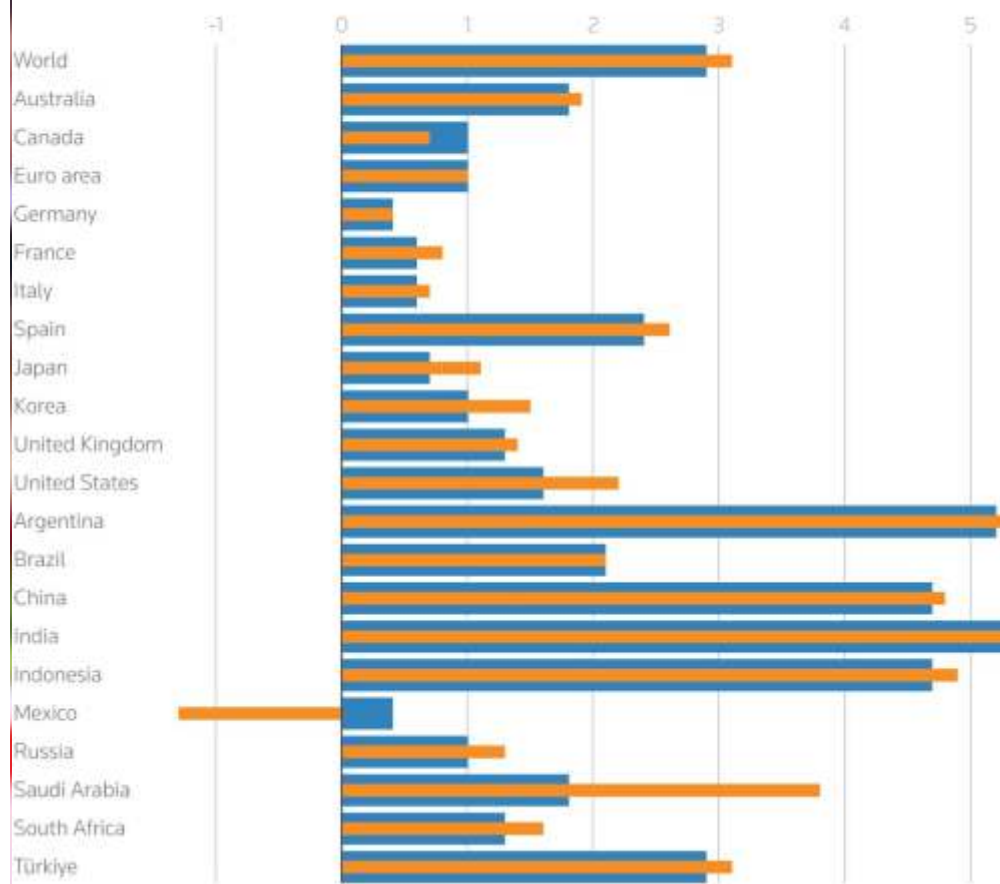
A temporary truce between the U.S. and China last month included scaled-back tariffs, and Trump delayed a planned 50 per cent tariff on European Union goods until July 9. However, the OECD's projections assume that tariffs in place as of mid-May will remain throughout 2025 and 2026.

As a result, the OECD now expects the U.S. economy to grow just 1.6 per cent in 2025 and 1.5 per cent in 2026. These figures represent significant downward revisions from previous estimates of 2.2 per cent and 1.6 per cent, respectively.

While tariffs may encourage domestic manufacturing, the OECD noted they also lead to higher import costs, which erode consumer purchasing power and dampen business investment due to

OECD lowers 2025 global growth outlook

● Latest forecast ● March forecast



increased policy uncertainty.

Additionally, the report warned that any revenue gains from tariffs will only partially compensate for revenue losses from recent U.S. tax cuts and slower economic growth. The extension of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, along with additional tax reductions, is expected to push the U.S. budget deficit to 8 per cent of GDP by 2026, one of the largest peacetime deficits among developed nations.

With inflationary pressures fueled by tariffs, the Federal Reserve is expected to keep interest rates steady through 2025, before gradually reducing the benchmark rate to between 3.25% and 3.5% by the end of 2026.

In China, the OECD said that while the economy will feel the effects of U.S. tariffs, these will be partly mitigated by

government subsidies under a consumer goods trade-in program and expanded welfare support. China's economy is forecast to grow 4.7 per cent this year and 4.3 per cent in 2026, only slightly revised from previous estimates.

The euro area's outlook remains unchanged from March, with growth forecast at 1.0 per cent in 2025 and 1.2 per cent in 2026, supported by resilient labour markets, expected interest rate cuts, and increased public spending, particularly in Germany.

The United Kingdom's forecast was modestly improved for this year, with growth now expected at 1.3 per cent, though its 2026 projection was trimmed to 1.0 per cent, down from 1.2 per cent in earlier estimates.

Tariff deal implementation: UK trade minister Reynolds to meet USTR Greer

By Fatimah Idera



Britain's Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds is set to meet the U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on Tuesday to discuss the implementation of a bilateral trade arrangement complicated by the U.S. decision to impose new steel tariffs.

Impact of Reynolds' visit to US

Reynolds' visit to Paris and Brussels this week marks a key step in reviewing recent political agreements with both the United States and the European Union, which are Britain's two largest trading partners. While the deals announced last month signal political alignment, they are not formal trade agreements, and their implementation details remain unclear.

One of the main points of friction is the recent announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump that doubled tariffs on imported steel from 25 per cent to 5 per cent, effective on Wednesday. Though Trump and UK Labour leader Keir Starmer previously agreed to reduce tariffs on British car

and steel exports to the U.S. but delays in putting the deal into action have raised concerns about a temporary spike in tariffs before reductions take effect.

Industry group UK Steel has warned that British producers could be hit hard by the tariff hike, calling it a potential body blow to the sector.

A UK government spokesperson confirmed that Britain is engaging with the U.S. to understand the implications of the new measures ahead of Reynolds' meeting with Greer in Paris. The two are expected to focus on setting a timeline for implementing the bilateral trade arrangement.

"We recognise our relationship with G7 allies, and EU counterparts must continue to evolve and deliver a better trading environment for our businesses and exporters," Reynolds said in a statement before his departure

Reynolds will also meet with Indian Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to

discuss the recently concluded UK-India Free Trade Agreement. While the deal has been negotiated, the legal text is still being finalised and will require ratification by both governments, a process that could take several months.

In Paris, Reynolds will hold talks with G7 and OECD counterparts before meeting EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic in Brussels. A key topic in those discussions will be Britain's post-Brexit trading relationship with the EU.

Efforts are underway to reduce red tape on food exports between the UK and the EU without reopening the broader Brexit agreement. While a plan is in development, its final terms have not yet been agreed upon.

In a unilateral move to ease trade flows, the UK announced on Monday that it would scrap planned border checks on EU fruit and vegetable imports that were due to begin in July.

UK court allows deported Albanian criminal to remain after Illegal re-entry

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Drug Dealer Exploits Human Rights Loophole to Remain in UK After Illegal Re-entry and Repeat Offences

An Albanian drug dealer deported from the UK for serious drug offences has been allowed to remain in the country—despite re-entering illegally and committing further crimes—exposing what critics see as a judicial failure enabled by a lenient interpretation of human rights laws.

Stiljano Ziu, previously jailed for cannabis production and deported in 2018, defied a deportation order and returned to the UK unlawfully. Yet instead of facing swift removal, he exploited EU treaty laws and the UK's human rights framework to secure residency—by marrying a Greek national and appealing his case in immigration courts.

Despite his criminal history and open defiance of UK immigration law, Ziu's appeal was upheld by both lower and upper immigration tribunals, with judges ruling he posed no “present threat” to the public or to the integrity of the immigration system. This, even as he was awaiting trial on further drug-related charges.

Judicial Leniency Undermines Immigration Control

The case has sparked outrage within the Home Office, which accused Ziu of showing a “blatant disregard” for immigration controls. The government argued he represented a “genuine and serious threat” to public safety and had no strong familial or societal ties to the UK to justify his continued stay.

Nevertheless, the upper tribunal dismissed the appeal by the Home Office, insisting that Ziu's unlawful entry years earlier did not justify deportation—despite the fact that he



was facing new charges at the time.

That case has now concluded. In November, Ziu was convicted again, this time for conspiring to supply Class B drugs, and sentenced to four and a half years in prison.

Yet, even at sentencing, the court left the question of deportation in limbo, saying it was a matter for the Home Secretary to “consider.”

Systemic Failure or Judicial Blind Spot?

Critics argue that this is yet another glaring example of how human rights laws are being misapplied, shielding criminals from accountability and undermining immigration enforcement. What was meant to protect the vulnerable has, in this instance, become a tool for repeat offenders to escape justice.

Ziu not only violated the terms of his deportation but re-offended while benefiting from the protection of UK courts—raising serious questions about the balance between individual

rights and public safety.

Government Promises Reform

In response to cases like this, Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has announced plans to tighten the legal definitions around human rights in immigration cases. The proposed “common sense” reforms aim to reduce judicial discretion and reinforce the importance of public interest and national security.

But for many, Ziu's case represents a pattern of legal exploitation, not an exception.

“How many more convicted criminals will be allowed to play the system before we admit the system is broken?” one senior official reportedly asked.

For now, the answer remains uncertain—and the public continues to watch a justice system where criminals may be better at using the law than the victims it was designed to protect.

Ajibade's brace seals Super Falcons' 2-0 win over Cameroon

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

In a highly anticipated friendly match held on Tuesday night at the Moshood Abiola Sports Arena in Abeokuta, Nigeria's Super Falcons secured a confident 2-0 victory over Cameroon's Indomitable Lionesses. The win was propelled by a commanding first-half performance from captain Rasheedat Ajibade, who scored both goals, reinforcing Nigeria's dominance in West African women's football.

From the opening whistle, the Super Falcons took control of the game, demonstrating technical skill, precise passing, and solid teamwork. They moved the ball fluidly across the pitch, putting pressure on Cameroon's defence and maintaining territorial advantage. Despite this early dominance, Cameroon's team, led by coach Jean Baptiste Bisseck, responded with a disciplined and organized defence, making it difficult for Nigeria to convert their early chances.

The breakthrough came in the 28th minute when a pivotal moment unfolded. Ajibade, showing her attacking prowess and determination, was brought down inside the box, earning Nigeria a penalty. Calm under pressure, the Super Falcons' captain stepped up and confidently slotted the ball past Cameroon's goalkeeper, Ange Gabriel Bawou, a former Bayelsa Queens custodian known for her shot-stopping abilities.

This penalty goal energized the home side, and just before halftime, Ajibade added a second goal to her tally. The goal was a display of precise teamwork, with a well-timed assist from Omorinsola Babajide setting up Ajibade to finish expertly. The captain's clinical finishing sent the home crowd into jubilation and sent the teams into the break with Nigeria firmly in the lead.

The second half saw both teams create several chances, but resolute defending and some impressive goalkeeping kept the scoreline unchanged. Nigeria's goalkeeper made several vital saves to



deny Cameroon's efforts, while the Super Falcons' defence also thwarted several counterattacks. Cameroon, though unable to find the net, showed great resilience and fighting spirit throughout the match.

The victory is an encouraging sign for the Super Falcons as they continue their preparations for upcoming international tournaments. It demonstrates the team's growing cohesion and attacking threat under pressure, qualities that will be vital as they seek to maintain their status as one of Africa's leading women's football teams.

Ajibade's leadership and goal-scoring ability were standout features of the match. The forward's two goals not only sealed the win but also served as a reminder of her crucial role in the team. Her performance will likely boost her confidence and reinforce her status as a key player for the Super Falcons.

Coach Jean Baptiste Bisseck, despite the defeat, praised his team's effort, particularly their defensive organisation in the first half. He acknowledged Nigeria's quality but remained optimistic about his team's development and potential for future encounters.

The game also highlighted the increasing competitiveness of women's football in

Africa, with both Nigeria and Cameroon boasting talented squads eager to make their mark on the international stage. The friendly match provided valuable experience for both teams, allowing coaches to assess their players and experiment with tactics ahead of more high-stakes competitions.

Fans at the Moshood Abiola Sports Arena were treated to a spirited and well-contested match, with Nigeria's Super Falcons once again proving why they are one of the continent's most successful women's teams. The atmosphere was electric, with supporters celebrating every attack and goal with enthusiasm.

Looking ahead, the Super Falcons will hope to build on this victory as they prepare for the challenges ahead. The confidence gained from this result will be crucial in helping them tackle future opponents and maintain their winning momentum.

In summary, the Super Falcons' 2-0 win over Cameroon, powered by Rasheedat Ajibade's two first-half goals, was a testament to Nigeria's strength and determination in women's football. With continued hard work and focus, the team looks poised to achieve even greater success in the coming months.

Osimhen eyes exit as European giants circle

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Victor Osimhen's stunning season with Galatasaray has placed him at the centre of Europe's transfer spotlight, with top clubs like Manchester United, Chelsea, Barcelona, and Real Madrid reportedly monitoring his situation. After scoring 37 goals in 41 matches and helping Galatasaray to a Turkish Super Lig title, the Nigerian striker is expected to leave Napoli, where he has just one year remaining on his contract.

Osimhen's parent club, Napoli, have already made it clear that he is not in manager Antonio Conte's plans, increasing speculation about his next move. The 26-year-old's prolific loan spell has reignited interest from major European clubs seeking a reliable, high-output forward.

Nigeria's head coach Eric Chelle has decided to leave Osimhen out of the squad for Friday's friendly match against Russia in Moscow, citing the striker's transfer situation and need for rest after a high-pressure season.

"Victor is, for me, the best striker in the world," Chelle told BBC Sport Africa. "It's difficult for him to focus on international duty when the transfer window is open. He's played under immense pressure all year, and now he needs to focus physically and mentally on the next step in his career."

Chelle added that Osimhen's mental state and the possibility of a big transfer made it necessary to protect him. "Maybe a club like Manchester United. Or maybe Chelsea, Barcelona or Real Madrid. So he needs to be focused on that."

Osimhen's goal-scoring prowess has not gone unnoticed. A Galatasaray fan campaign even saw a billboard in New York's Times Square urging the striker to stay in Istanbul. However, a permanent move back to Turkey



appears unlikely as Osimhen seeks a new challenge at the highest level.

Since bursting onto the scene by winning the Under-17 World Cup with Nigeria in 2015, Osimhen has carved out an impressive career path that has included stints in Germany with Wolfsburg, France with Lille, and now Turkey and Italy.

Internationally, Osimhen has 26 goals for Nigeria, making him the second-highest scorer in the Super Eagles' history. He played a key role at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations, leading Nigeria to a runners-up finish. More recently, his goals have revived the country's 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign after a slow start.

"Nobody competes like Victor," said Chelle. "He wants to win everything, even in training. When the session finishes, he wants to keep scoring. I think maybe even when he sleeps, he wants to score too."

Despite Osimhen's absence, Chelle is preparing his squad for a stern test in Moscow. Russia, still banned from competitive international football due to the country's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, will host Nigeria in a friendly as

both sides look to maintain match sharpness.

"Russia is a great footballing nation," Chelle noted. "They need these games just as much as we do. It's difficult with the war situation, but they have a strong domestic league and great players. It'll be a good test for us."

Nigeria are coming off a successful Unity Cup campaign, where they beat Ghana 2-1 and overcame Jamaica on penalties in the final after a 2-2 draw. The Super Eagles now turn their attention to September's World Cup qualifiers against Rwanda and South Africa.

Currently six points behind Group C leaders Bafana Bafana, Chelle is using these friendlies to fine-tune his squad.

"We're working for September," he said. "Every game now is part of the preparation for our real objective—qualifying for the World Cup."

As Osimhen's next move draws closer, Nigeria's supporters will hope the striker lands at a club that matches his ambition—and continues his record-breaking form on the world stage.

Inzaghi departs Inter Milan after Champions League humbling

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Simone Inzaghi has officially left his role as head coach of Inter Milan, just days after suffering a humiliating 5-0 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League final. The departure, described as “by mutual agreement” in a statement by the club, ends a four-year tenure marked by domestic success but ultimate disappointment on the European stage.

The decision was reached following a meeting between Inzaghi and Inter officials on Tuesday. Club president Giuseppe Marotta praised the 49-year-old for his dedication, professionalism, and the “sincere dialogue” that led to the amicable parting.

“I would like to thank Simone Inzaghi for the work done, for the passion shown and also for the sincerity in the discussion that led to the common decision to separate our paths,” Marotta said. “Only when we have fought together to achieve success day by day can we have a frank dialogue like the one that happened.”

Inzaghi, who joined Inter in 2021 following a successful spell at Lazio, leaves the club having won six trophies: one Serie A title, two Coppa Italias, and three Supercoppa Italiana titles. However, his failure to convert strong European runs into silverware ultimately overshadowed his domestic achievements.

In a heartfelt farewell message, Inzaghi expressed gratitude to the club and its supporters. “The time has come for me to say goodbye to this club after a four-year journey, during which I gave everything,” he said. “I want to dedicate one last word to the millions of Nerazzurri fans who cheered me on, cried and suffered in difficult



moments, and laughed and celebrated in the six triumphs we experienced together. I will never forget you.”

Inzaghi’s time at Inter peaked with two runs to the Champions League final. In the 2022-23 season, his side narrowly lost 1-0 to Manchester City in Istanbul. But it was the crushing defeat to PSG this past Saturday that seems to have hastened his exit. The 5-0 scoreline was the heaviest loss in a Champions League final in history, leaving fans and the club’s hierarchy questioning the team’s direction on the European stage.

Inter also narrowly missed out on the 2024-25 Serie A title, finishing just one point behind Napoli in what was one of the most competitive seasons in recent Italian football history.

Adding another layer of intrigue, Inzaghi has been strongly linked with a move to Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal, who will also be competing in the upcoming FIFA Club World Cup. The expanded tournament is set to take place in the United States from 14 June to 13 July, and both Inter and Al-Hilal are among the qualified teams.

If the speculation proves true, Inzaghi may find himself managing against his former club just weeks after departing.

The timing of the announcement leaves Inter with limited time to appoint a successor before the Club World Cup. The Nerazzurri’s involvement in the international competition could serve as a testing ground for whoever takes over next, as the club continues to chase the elusive European glory that has defined its recent ambitions.

While Inzaghi’s departure marks the end of a significant chapter in Inter’s modern era, it also signals the start of a new phase — one likely to be shaped by European ambitions and a desire to build on the foundations laid during his reign.

For now, though, both club and coach will go their separate ways — Inzaghi with memories of silverware and heartbreak, and Inter with the challenge of moving forward from one of their most emotionally charged finals in recent memory.

UK threatens Abramovich with legal action over Chelsea sale

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

The UK government has issued a stern warning to Roman Abramovich, threatening legal action over the delayed disbursement of £2.5bn from the sale of Chelsea Football Club. The sanctioned Russian billionaire sold the Premier League club in May 2022, shortly after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, under a special licence that required the proceeds be used for humanitarian purposes.

Since then, the funds have remained frozen in a UK bank account, with no agreement reached on how or where the money should be spent. The government wants the entire amount directed towards humanitarian aid in Ukraine, while Abramovich insists that it be distributed to "all victims of the war," including Russian nationals.

In a rare joint statement, Chancellor Rachel Reeves and Foreign Secretary David Lammy expressed frustration at the prolonged deadlock. "While the door for negotiations will remain open, we are fully prepared to pursue this through the courts if required," the statement said. "We are determined to ensure people suffering in Ukraine can benefit from these proceeds as soon as possible."

Abramovich, who has denied having close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin, made his fortune in oil and gas during the post-Soviet privatization era. After acquiring Chelsea in 2003, he transformed the club into one of Europe's elite football teams. However, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, he was sanctioned by the UK government as part of a broader crackdown on Russian oligarchs with alleged ties to the Kremlin.

The sale of Chelsea to a consortium led by Todd Boehly and Clearlake Capital



was approved by the Premier League and the UK government only after Abramovich agreed to relinquish any personal benefit from the transaction. Despite this condition, the legal ownership of the funds remains with Abramovich, complicating the disbursement process under UK sanctions law.

At the time of the sale, Abramovich pledged that proceeds would go to a charitable foundation for victims of the conflict in Ukraine. However, his definition of "victims" includes civilians on both sides of the war, a point that has become a major sticking point in negotiations with the UK government.

The UK maintains that the funds must be used exclusively for aid efforts within Ukraine. Officials have cited the urgency of humanitarian needs in the war-torn country and expressed concern that the impasse is delaying vital assistance.

A House of Lords committee echoed this frustration in a report last year, calling it "incomprehensible" that the donation had not yet materialized. "This impasse reflects badly on both

Mr Abramovich and the government, which ought to have pushed for a more binding commitment," the report concluded.

Government sources say several attempts have been made to reach a compromise, including proposals to establish a UK-controlled foundation that could oversee the distribution of the funds in line with the government's aims. However, Abramovich's legal team has reportedly pushed back against any arrangement that would exclude Russian beneficiaries.

The government's threat of legal action is the clearest sign yet of its intention to resolve the matter, even if it means a lengthy court battle. It also underscores the broader political sensitivity surrounding the issue, as ministers seek to demonstrate support for Ukraine and clamp down on Russian influence in the UK.

While the government says it remains open to a negotiated solution, officials have made clear that they are losing patience. "This money was promised to help Ukraine," said one government aide. "It's long past time for that promise to be fulfilled."

Pina shines as Spain stun England to reach semis

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

England's hopes of reaching the UEFA Women's Nations League semi-finals came to a frustrating end as Spain overturned a half-time deficit to claim a 2-1 win in Barcelona, with substitute Claudia Pina delivering a masterclass in finishing at the RCDE Stadium.

The Lionesses started brightly and took a surprise lead in the 22nd minute through Alessia Russo. The Arsenal striker latched on to a clever through ball from Keira Walsh, calmly slotting past Cata Coll to silence the home crowd — momentarily. The Spanish fans were incensed, believing Salma Paralluelo had been fouled in the build-up, while further frustration followed when a handball shout against Niamh Charles was waved away.

Despite the early advantage, England were on the back foot for most of the match. Spain dominated possession and created several chances, with Esther González and Patri Guijarro both going close. Hannah Hampton, starting in goal after Mary Earps' retirement, made a crucial save early on to deny González and was called into action frequently as Spain pressed.

Spain's pressure finally told after the break. Claudia Pina came on in the 58th minute and made an immediate impact. Just two minutes after entering the pitch, she danced past defenders in the box and slotted low past Hampton, who left too much space at her far post. Ten minutes later, Pina struck again, curling in a stunning effort from the edge of the area — a goal worthy of winning any match.

Her ten-minute brace flipped the game on its head and showcased the attacking depth of the reigning world champions. Pina was deservedly named Player of the Match with an average rating of 7.98, well above her



teammates. Aitana Bonmatí (6.45) and Ona Batlle (6.31) also stood out.

England coach Sarina Wiegman opted to rotate her squad, using the match as a test ahead of Euro 2025 in Switzerland. Bayern Munich midfielder Georgia Stanway made her first start of the year after returning from knee surgery, while Jess Park started ahead of Ella Toone. Lauren Hemp made her second successive start, still building fitness after a recent layoff.

Chelsea's Niamh Charles struggled at left-back, frequently exposed by Spain's wide play and unable to contain Paralluelo in the first half. Pina's second-half arrival only compounded her troubles.

There were positives for England despite the result. Hampton, now the undisputed number one, showed composure under pressure. Missy Bo Kearns made her senior debut, replacing Stanway at half-time, and while it was a tough initiation, the experience will prove valuable.

However, England's inability to hold the ball and build from the back proved costly. They were often sloppy in

possession and failed to get out of their half for long stretches, especially in the second period. Spain's superior technical quality and pressing game forced errors and allowed them to control the match tempo.

This result means Spain finish top of League A, Group 3 and move into the semi-finals, while England's Nations League campaign ends with a mix of promise and frustration. They had impressed with a 6-0 win over Portugal just days earlier, but failed to maintain that level against elite opposition.

Wiegman's squad now turns its attention to Euro 2025, with the final 23-player selection due Thursday. England have one final warm-up game against Jamaica at Leicester's King Power Stadium on 29 June before heading to Switzerland.

While defeat will sting, Wiegman is likely to focus on the bigger picture — preparing her team to defend their European crown this summer. For Spain, the performance only reinforced their status as tournament favourites, with Pina's brilliance a timely reminder of their attacking firepower.