



Tinubu, AGF, others shun suit challenging Ibas' appointment in Rivers State **Pg 2**

Dangote refinery reduces Petrol loading price to N865 per litre **Pg 4**



The New Daily Prime

f @new daily prime x @prime_dail1149 @ @new_daily_prime

...your prime source for excellence in journalism

Nigeria must fix electricity to achieve \$1trn economy - Elumelu

Elumelu says Nigeria must fix power to transform

Pg 7



Tony Elumelu

Nato warned over Internet blackouts in wake of subsea cable attacks

Pg 26



UK markets resurge after Trump tariff climbdown **Pg 25**



King Charles discusses Ukraine, NATO in Italian parliament address **Pg 27**

WORLD

EU halts Trump retaliation tariffs, opens 90-day window for talks **Pg 24**



SPORTS

Chelsea cruise as George scores, Madueke nets brace **Pg 30**



ENTERTAINMENT

"Taylor Swift stopped my Super Bowl dream, Kanye West reveals"

Pg 20



Tinubu, AGF, others shun suit challenging Ibas' appointment in Rivers State

By New Daily Prime

A legal challenge seeking the removal of Vice Admiral Ibokette Ibas (Rtd) as the Sole Administrator of Rivers State, currently being heard at the Federal High Court in Abuja, appears to have been abandoned by President Bola Tinubu, the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, and other key respondents.

At the resumption of proceedings, neither the President nor the AGF was represented in court. However, attorneys representing the states of Lagos, Bayelsa, Taraba, and Edo were present. Counsel to the plaintiff, Mr. Chimezie Euka, informed the court that all defendants, except the Attorneys General of Zamfara and Bauchi states, had been duly served with the originating processes and hearing notices.

With agreement from the parties present, Justice James Omotosho postponed the hearing until June 11 and directed that fresh hearing notices be issued to all defendants.

President Tinubu is named as the first defendant in the matter, while the AGF and the Attorneys General of the 36 states are also joined as co-defendants. The suit, marked FHC/ABJ/CS/572/2025, was filed by Abuja-based legal practitioner, Mr. Johnmary Jideobi.

Jideobi is asking the court to nullify all decisions and actions taken by Vice Admiral Ibas in the capacity of Sole Administrator of Rivers State, on the grounds that such a role is unknown to the Nigerian Constitution. He contends



that the appointment is unconstitutional and therefore of no legal effect. The plaintiff further seeks a perpetual injunction preventing the President or any of his agents from removing, suspending, or interfering with the tenure of a duly elected governor or deputy governor of any Nigerian state.

He also challenges the constitutional basis of appointing a sole administrator to any state government, asserting that no section of the 1999 Constitution permits such an action, even under emergency provisions. Through his originating summons, Jideobi argues that the Constitution provides specific circumstances under which a governor or deputy governor may be removed, such as through resignation, impeachment, or death, none of which applied in the case of Rivers State.

The legal practitioner maintains that the President lacks the constitutional authority to unilaterally suspend an elected governor and replace them with a non-elected official. He further emphasizes that such an action undermines federalism and violates the

separation of powers entrenched in the Constitution.

In a sworn affidavit supporting the case, Jideobi states that as a legal practitioner, he has never encountered the term "Sole Administrator" in any provision of the amended 1999 Constitution. He argues that governors and their deputies are not appointees of the President or the AGF and therefore cannot be suspended or replaced at will.

He describes his action as one taken in the public interest and in defense of the rule of law and the supremacy of the Constitution, which he describes as the "most sacred document" preserving the balance and continuity of the Nigerian state. Jideobi expresses concern that if left unchallenged, the President's actions could set a dangerous precedent where the removal of elected state leaders becomes a recurring practice, posing a threat to constitutional democracy.

He urges the court to intervene, stating that its decision is vital to preserving constitutional integrity and preventing the erosion of democratic governance.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

**EFFECTIVE FROM
DECEMBER 1, 2024**

POLITICAL COLOUR

SIZE RATE

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

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE RATE

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

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

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

SPECIAL POSITIONS

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

ALL RATES ARE VAT INCLUSIVE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	= 329,868.50
HALF PAGE	= 192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	= 100,000.00
14X2	= 109,500.00
10X6	= 242,500.00
10X5	= 237,500.00
10X4	= 192,500.00
10X3	= 171,000.00
9X6	= 232,500.00
9X5	= 206,000.00
9X4	= 177,500.00
9X3	= 150,000.00
8X6	= 216,000.00
8X3	= 98,500.00
7X4	= 164,002.00
6X4	= 94,010.50
6X3	= 78,500.00
6X2	= 47,500.00
5X5	= 100,000.00
5X4	= 61,500.00
5X3	= 57,819.00
5X2	= 40,379.50
4X4	= 55,000.00
4X3	= 31,000.00
4X2	= 22,003.50
3X2	= 17,260.00
2X2	= 12,945.00
2X1	= 8,630.00
1X1	= 4,315.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	= 210,795.50
HALF PAGE	= 124,236.00
QUARTER PAGE	= 70,950.00
14X2	= 76,128.35
10X6	= 194,961.00
10X5	= 162,222.445
10X4	= 103,963.00
10X3	= N/A
9X6	= 162,222.445
9X5	= 168,191.50
9X4	= N/A
8X6	= N/A
8X3	= N/A
7X4	= 72,676.00
6X4	= 65,000.00
6X3	= 41,124.50
6X2	= 29,858.00
5X6	= 71,378.00
5X4	= 42,825.00
5X3	= 29,858.00
5X2	= 22,841.00
4x4	= N/A
4X3	= N/A
4X2	= 17,737.50
3x3	= 23,458.00
3X2	= 14,923.00
2X2	= 10,200.00
2X1	= 5,439.50
1X1	= 2,700.00

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	57,558.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00

ALLURE RATE

SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
CENTRESPREAD		967,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD		806,250.00
ALLURE COVER		750,000.00
(IBC) Inside Back Cover		376,250.00
(IFC) Inside Front Cover		430,000.00
(BC) Back Cover		483,750.00
Full Page		430,000.00
10X5		295,625.00
Half Page		225,000.00
EVENT		250,000.00

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

CONTACT US

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

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

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

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

2,000.00
3,750.00
4,250.00

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

Dangote refinery reduces Petrol loading price to N865 per litre

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Dangote Refinery has notified marketers and its customers of a downward revision in its ex-gantry petrol loading price, reducing the rate to N865 per litre.

This represents a N15 reduction from the N880 per litre at which the facility was selling as of Wednesday.

The refinery communicated the revised price in a customer notice issued on Thursday, April 10, morning. A Pro forma invoice sighted by our correspondent, along with confirmation from petroleumprice.ng, verified the adjustment.

Earlier in the week, marketers had indicated that a price cut from the 650,000-barrel-per-day refinery was expected by the weekend, a move anticipated to contribute to a broader reduction in fuel prices.

Reacting to the development, the National Publicity Secretary of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), Chinedu Ukadike, reaffirmed the likelihood of a price drop, particularly in light of the Federal Executive Council's (FEC) recent directive on the naira-for-crude policy.

On Wednesday, April 9, the FEC ordered the full implementation of the previously suspended naira-



for-crude agreement with local refiners, describing the measure as a strategic and long-term approach to bolstering Nigeria's refining capacity.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the initiative is not a stopgap solution but a key policy directive aimed at supporting sustainable local refining and enhancing energy security.

A statement released via the ministry's official X (formerly Twitter) handle, titled "Update on the Crude and Refined Product Sales in Naira Initiative", outlined the outcome of a meeting held on Tuesday, April 8, between the Minister of Finance, Wale Edun, and representatives of the Dangote Refinery, a major stakeholder in the agreement.

The statement read: "The

Technical Sub-Committee on the Crude and Refined Product Sales in Naira initiative convened an update meeting on Tuesday to review progress and address ongoing implementation matters.

"The stakeholders reaffirmed the government's continued commitment to the full implementation of this strategic initiative, as directed by the Federal Executive Council."

The ministry reiterated that the policy aims to reduce Nigeria's reliance on foreign exchange for petroleum imports, stating, "This is not a temporary or time-bound intervention, but a key policy directive designed to support sustainable local refining, bolster energy security, and reduce reliance on foreign exchange in the domestic petroleum market."

PDP govts' suit: FG moves to justify Rivers emergency rule

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Federal Government is planning its defence against the suit filed by 11 Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governors challenging the imposition of state of emergency in Rivers State by President Bola Tinubu.

This comes after a top official at the Federal Ministry of Justice in Abuja disclosed on Wednesday that the government has officially received the opposition governors' suit.

Speaking on condition of anonymity for lack of authorisation, the source said the suit had been served on the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice.

According to PUNCH, the source stated, "They have served the HAGF with the suit."

NEW DAILY PRIME reports that the opposition party's governors, representing Adamawa, Enugu, Osun, Oyo, Bauchi, Akwa Ibom, Plateau, Delta, Taraba, Zamfara, and Bayelsa States, approached the Supreme Court to challenge the President's constitutional authority to suspend an elected state government structure.

Although earlier media reports had suggested that the suit was filed last week, it was gathered that the suit was only filed late Tuesday, with the Federal Government given 14 days to file a response to the suit.



The suit questions the legality of President Tinubu's March 18 proclamation, which declared a state of emergency in Rivers State and suspended Governor Siminalayi Fubara, Deputy Governor Ngozi Odu, and all members of the state House of Assembly for an initial six-month period.

Following the suspension, President Tinubu appointed retired Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ibas as the Sole Administrator to oversee the affairs of the state during the period of emergency rule.

The National Assembly has since backed the President's decision.

Aggrieved by what they view as an unconstitutional act, the 11 PDP governors filed a suit marked SC/CV/329/2025, urging the Supreme Court to determine several constitutional questions, including:

"Whether, upon a proper construction of Sections 1(2), 5(2), 176, 180, 188, and 305 of the 1999 Constitution, the President can lawfully suspend or interfere with the offices of a Governor and Deputy Governor of any of the 36

states, and replace them with an unelected nominee as a Sole Administrator, under the guise of a state of emergency."

They further asked the court to decide: "Whether, based on Sections 1(2), 4(6), 11(4) & (5), 90, 105, and 305 of the Constitution, the President can suspend a State House of Assembly under the pretext of declaring a state of emergency."

The suit also challenges what it describes as a "threat" to constitutional federalism:

"Whether the threat by the first defendant, acting on behalf of the President, suggesting that governors and their deputies could be suspended by virtue of an emergency proclamation, does not contravene Sections 1(2), 4(6), 5(2), 11(2) & (3) of the 1999 Constitution and violate the principles of constitutional federalism."

With the suit now formally received by the Attorney General's office, preparations are underway for the Federal Government's legal response at the Supreme Court.

Sell your NIN, get arrested, NIMC warns Nigerians

By Dave Oludare Oso

Nigerians have been warned against selling their National Identification Numbers (NINs) to unauthorised individuals or organisations in exchange for monetary compensation under any condition.

The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), gave the warning in a statement by the Head of Corporate Communications of the commission, Dr Kayode Adegoke on Wednesday.

The warning followed reports that some residents in Anambra State were being lured to submit their NINs for money, a practice the commission described as illegal and punishable under the NIMC Act No. 23 of 2007, the Data Protection Act, and the Cybercrime Act.



NIMC said the illegal activity had been brought to its attention and that arrests had already been made in collaboration with security agencies.

He said: “The National Identity Management Commission has been notified of the activities of unauthorised individuals or organisations purportedly asking for the submission of the National Identification Number of Anambra

residents in exchange for money.”

The commission said upon receiving the information on the activities of the unscrupulous individuals, NIMC, in conjunction with the Department of State Services (DSS) and the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), swiftly arrested the culprits, saying they were being interrogated and would be made to face the full wrath of the law.

EFCC nabs 3 UNIUYO undergrads, 11 others for internet scam

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) operatives have arrested 14 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations within Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital.

According to reports, the anti-graft agency's operatives from the Uyo Zonal Directorate swooped on the culprits on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at Ikot Akpanabia, Udoudoma, and the Nwaniba areas of Uyo in an intelligence-driven sting operation.

EFCC's spokesman, Dele Oyewale disclosed that three of the arrested suspects are undergraduates of the University of Uyo.



Oyewale added that items recovered from them include 26 smartphones, one iPad, three laptops, one wristwatch, and a black Toyota Camry car.

Speaking on the operation, the EFCC's spokesperson noted that the suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

Nigeria must fix electricity to achieve \$1trn economy – Elumelu

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

The Chairman of Transcorp Group, Mr Tony Elumelu, has said that Nigeria's ambition to grow a \$1 trillion economy cannot be realised without urgent and sustained intervention in the country's electricity sector.

Speaking at the company's Annual General Meeting held in Abuja on Wednesday, Mr Elumelu stated that access to reliable electricity remains the most critical factor in transforming Nigeria's economy, particularly in bolstering contributions from the non-oil sector.

"I want to use this opportunity to reiterate that access to electricity remains the single most critical factor in fixing the Nigerian economy, especially as we seek to have the non-oil sector make greater contributions to our economy," he said.

"We must, therefore, fix power to fix and transform Nigeria. We know that to grow a \$1tn economy, electricity must be fixed. That is not the case today."

Mr Elumelu acknowledged that although President Bola Tinubu had issued a directive in 2023 for the removal of all obstacles in the power sector, the pace of implementation remains slow.

"The President directed last year that all impediments to the power sector should be removed. But I'm afraid to say that critical people who should help to see the President's vision come alive are afraid to do so, May I use this opportunity to call on them to help translate the President's initiative idea into action," he said.

The Transcorp Chairman also raised alarm over the growing debt owed by the Federal Government to Transcorp for electricity supplied to the national grid, revealing that the sum had exceeded ₦600 billion (approximately \$400 million).

"Much as we, patriotic Nigerian investors,



are committed to supporting the efforts of the Federal Government in fixing the economy, we have a rather excruciating burden of subsidising the sector. It requires urgent attention," he said.

Despite the challenges, Mr Elumelu announced significant growth in the group's operations. He noted that Transcorp Plc's market capitalisation had risen from ₦2 billion in 2011 to over ₦4.5 trillion in 2024.

"When we took over this company in 2011, the market cap of Transcorp was actually ₦2bn. Today, the group market cap is over ₦4.5tn," he said.

He added that since the takeover, the company has consistently paid dividends, declaring ₦1 per share for the 2024 financial year.

"2025 will definitely be better than 2024," he assured shareholders.

Mr Elumelu disclosed that Transcorp Power now holds a market valuation of over ₦2.7 trillion and has fully repaid its \$215 million foreign exchange acquisition loan this year.

He also announced the completion of a new 5,000-capacity event centre at Transcorp Hilton in Abuja, with the aim of positioning Nigeria as a leading destination for global events.

"Rwanda, Dubai and Kenya have become event centres. So, we want to put your country on that map. And you have succeeded," he stated.

Looking ahead, Mr Elumelu revealed that Transcorp is considering expansion into agriculture and renewable energy, based on shareholder recommendations and in alignment with the Federal Government's economic diversification goals.

"We came back from Israel not too long ago, exploring possibilities about investing in the agriculture sphere. But beyond agriculture, we're interested in renewable energy," he said.

Addressing the investing public, he added: "To shareholders of Transcorp, they are very excited. And to the investment public, it's time to come on board and enjoy what our shareholders are already having."

Also speaking at the event, the President and Group Chief Executive Officer of Transcorp Plc, Dr Owen Omogiafo, reiterated the group's commitment to innovation and excellence.

She noted that the firm is strategically exploring diversification, particularly in agriculture, to deliver high-impact solutions and support national development.

AfDB President Adesina urges investment in African youth over freebies

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye and Friday Omosola

The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina, has stated that young people in Nigeria and across 51 other African nations do not require handouts in the name of empowerment programmes, but rather access to capital to transform their ideas into sustainable wealth.

Speaking during an exclusive interview aired on Sunrise Daily, a morning programme on Channels Television, on Thursday, April 10, Dr Adesina described the ongoing emigration trend among Nigerian youth — commonly referred to as the “japa” syndrome — as a significant loss to the country.

“Young people don’t need freebies; they don’t need people saying, ‘I just want to give you an empowerment programme,’” Adesina said.

“They have skills, they have knowledge, they have entrepreneurship capacity, and they want to turn their ideas into great businesses. What young people need is not those empowerment programmes; they need capital, they need you to put your money at risk on their behalf,” he added.

Dr Adesina, a former Nigerian Minister of Agriculture, emphasised that Africa’s youthful population should not be seen as a challenge but as a powerful demographic asset, similar to the experiences of India and China.

He argued that this asset must be harnessed through strategic investments in education, vocational training, and access to finance.

He highlighted the importance of transforming Africa’s youth bulge into an



economic advantage by focusing on human capital development.

“If young people in Africa are well-skilled, have access to decent jobs and social protection, they will become a major driver of prosperity on the continent,” he said.

The AfDB president also stressed the need for African economies to focus on internal consumption, particularly in an era of increasing global trade barriers. According to him, building domestic consumption into the continent’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is key to long-term resilience and growth.

Adesina: Africa’s youths need investment, not handouts

President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), has emphasised that young Africans require meaningful financial support to realise their potential—not tokenistic handouts

masquerading as empowerment.

Touching on the growing trend of emigration, popularly referred to in Nigeria as ‘Japa’, the former Nigerian Minister of Agriculture expressed concern over the scale of youth migration.

“The ‘Japa’ wave is a massive loss to Africa,” he said. “Our young people are not looking for freebies. They want opportunities to transform their knowledge, skills, and entrepreneurial drive into thriving businesses.”

He criticised short-term empowerment schemes that offer limited cash handouts, saying they fail to address the real needs of young innovators.

“What they need is access to capital and a system that believes in their potential enough to invest in them,” he stated.

LP slams Obi, Otti over 'illegal' NEC meeting

By Friday Omosola

The Labour Party (LP) leadership has condemned a meeting convened by former presidential candidate Peter Obi and Abia State Governor Alex Otti.

The party, in a statement by its National Secretary, Farouk Ibrahim, described the meeting as an 'illegal' National Executive Council (NEC) gathering aimed at hijacking the party's structure.

LP alleged that Obi and Otti led a group of 'party outlaws' to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) headquarters in Abuja, in a bid to pressure the electoral body into taking unconstitutional actions against the current LP leadership.

"Their actions today reveal a desperate attempt to hijack the party's structure," said the party.

"If the Supreme Court judgement is truly in their favour, why are they rushing to INEC and trying to exert undue influence on the Commission?"

The party also dismissed reported claims by Obi and Otti that they were offering a 'soft landing' to the current National Chairman, Barrister Julius Abure, by proposing to appoint him Chairman of the party's Board of Trustees (BoT).

The LP insisted that such a move is neither constitutional nor within their powers.

"Abure did not appoint himself National Chairman; his position reflects the will of the party's organs. The constitution of the Labour Party does not grant anyone the prerogative to allocate positions arbitrarily," the statement said.

The LP further accused those at the meeting of issuing threats and vowing to use "all means, including brute force," to reclaim control of the party.

It also drew attention to similar comments allegedly made by a political union leader, Comrade Joe Ajaero, threatening to picket LP offices nationwide.

"Our immediate response to these threats is that such plans amount to self-help. There are legal and peaceful means to enforce a judgment if it truly favours them," said LP.



The party reiterated that the NEC meeting convened by Obi and Otti violates both the Supreme Court's ruling and the party's constitution.

It stressed that only the National Secretary, with the consultation and approval of the National Chairman, is authorised to convene such a meeting.

Quoting Article 14 of the party's constitution, the LP outlined the official composition of its NEC, stating that neither state governors nor former presidential candidates are empowered to summon NEC meetings.

"For the avoidance of doubt, the article is here reproduced as follows: National Chairman, Five (5) Deputy National Chairmen, at least one female, One each from NLC and TUC. One representing the North and one South, The President and Vice President. The President of the Senate and the Deputy, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives; if produced by the Party and all the Governors and Deputy Governors produced by the Party.

"Chairmen and Secretaries of State Executive Councils of the Party.
v. Six (6) National Vice Chairman each representing the six geopolitical zones of the country, National Secretary; Three(3) Deputy National Secretaries viii. National Treasurer, Financial Secretary, National Publicity Secretary, (a) Deputy National Publicity Secretary, National Organizing Secretary, Deputy National Organizing Secretary, National Legal Adviser.

"Deputy National Legal Adviser, National Auditor, Deputy National Auditor, National Women Leader, six (6) Deputy National

Women Leaders each representing each of the six geo-political zones of the country, National Youth Leader and six(6) Assistant National, Youth Leaders. Each represents each of the six geo-political zones of the country.

"Presidents and General Secretaries of Labour centres if they are, financial members of the party representing the platforms, Ex-officio members to be appointed by the National Executive Council, Chairpersons of Women Commissions of labour centres if they are members of the Party."

It also declared the existence of a so-called 'National Caretaker Committee' as unconstitutional and without basis in the party's legal framework.

The list of attendees at the disputed meeting, which included former candidates, members of the National Assembly, and representatives of labour unions, was also dismissed by the LP leadership as a further example of constitutional violations.

"If our leaders cannot obey the constitution of the party when they are not in power, what assurances do we have that they would respect the Nigerian Constitution or Electoral Act when in power?" the statement questioned.

The LP urged its members and the general public to disregard the Abuja meeting and its resolutions, labelling the entire process "illegal, null and void."

Sanwo-Olu emphasises Lagos' role in boosting bilateral trade with Belgium

By Friday Omosola

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, has reaffirmed his administration's steadfast support for the growing bilateral relationship between Belgium and Nigeria.

He highlighted Lagos' pivotal role in advancing international partnerships.

The governor made the commitment during a reception hosted by the Belgian Ambassador to Nigeria, H.E. Pieter Leenknecht, in collaboration with the CBL-ACP Chamber of Commerce.

The event was held at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Governor Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Secretary to the Government of Lagos State, Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, emphasised Lagos's strategic importance as Nigeria's commercial hub.

He reiterated that Lagos continues to be a key player in driving trade, investment, and cultural exchanges, which are vital for both local and international prosperity.



"Lagos State, as the economic heartbeat of Nigeria, highly values collaborations that enhance trade, investment, and cultural ties," Sanwo-Olu said.

He applauded the Belgian Embassy and the CBL-ACP Chamber of Commerce for their tireless efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between the two nations.

The governor also praised Ambassador Leenknecht for his dedication to fostering long-term relationships through dialogue and mutual respect.

He expressed that the reception served as a symbol of the shared vision of prosperity and global cooperation between Belgium and Nigeria.

Sanwo-Olu reiterated Lagos State's commitment to international collaboration.

He assured attendees that the state is eager to explore new avenues for joint initiatives that would foster economic growth and enhance people-to-people connectivity.

The event, which was marked by a spirit of cordiality, fruitful discussions, and reinforced networks, set the stage for deeper cooperation between Belgium and Nigeria.

It also provided an opportunity for key stakeholders to explore future opportunities for collaboration.

Kemi Olunloyo renounces family name following death of former Oyo governor

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Controversial media personality, Kemi Olunloyo, has publicly renounced her family name and distanced herself from the family of her late father, Dr Victor Omololu Olunloyo, former Governor of Oyo State.

Dr Olunloyo, a respected mathematician and politician, passed away on Sunday, 6 April, at the age of 89.

In a series of posts and videos shared on her Facebook and TikTok accounts, Ms Olunloyo stated that she no longer considers herself part of the Olunloyo family and would not be accepting condolences over her father's death.

"I am uploading video statements on my father's death on TikTok. I am not part of the Olunloyo family anymore and told you that in 2024 that I will never return to Nigeria even if my parents died," she said.

She added, "I am not accepting anybody's condolences because I am not condoling with anybody."

While Ms Olunloyo noted that she had forgiven her father, she accused him of presenting a false public image, claiming he behaved differently within the family.



"My father, Victor Omololu Olunloyo, is two different people. He was one person to the world; he was another person to the family. My father destroyed our family unit; my father tortured us as kids. He tortured us emotionally and physically," she alleged.

Ms Olunloyo further claimed her father had exploited her positive public image for personal gain, asserting, "My father marketed me as his favourite daughter and child to the world... But I was far from being his favourite. My father used me for a lot of things."

In addition, she alleged that the late former governor practised occultism for a significant portion of his life before converting to Christianity.

"My father was into 'juju' heavily.

My father was into occult practices and I called my father out on his 80th birthday. After I called him out, he went to Pastor E.A. Adeboye that he wanted to become born-again, and he did," she said.

According to Ms Olunloyo, a key source of conflict within the family was her father's relationship with Aderonke Omololu Olunloyo (formerly Ronke Sonaike), whom he met during his 1983 governorship campaign and later married.

She stated that the union caused division within the family and greatly affected her mother, particularly after Ronke became pregnant.

"My mother married an intellectual, a man who got his Ph.D at 26 years old. And he turned into a polygamist... the way it happened to my family," she said.

Femi Otedola celebrates Aliko Dangote, hails him as Africa's greatest entrepreneur

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



Nigerian billionaire businessman, Femi Otedola, has extended warm birthday wishes to fellow industrialist, Aliko Dangote, describing him as “the greatest entrepreneur to have come out of Africa.”

Otedola shared the tribute via his social media platform on Thursday, commemorating Dangote’s birthday with a message filled with admiration and respect for the renowned business magnate.

“Happy Birthday to my dear brother, the greatest entrepreneur to have come out of Africa ...” Otedola wrote, celebrating Dangote’s impact on the continent’s

economic and industrial growth.

The post quickly attracted attention across social media, with numerous followers and admirers also sending birthday wishes and praising Dangote’s achievements. Many highlighted his role as a source of inspiration and a mentor to aspiring entrepreneurs.

One user described Dangote as a “big motivation to the younger generation” and encouraged him to “keep inspiring,” while another remarked, “Happy birthday Sir, long life in good health... no wonder I always see myself as a billionaire.”

Aliko Dangote, founder and

chairman of the Dangote Group, is widely recognised for building a vast business empire that spans sectors including cement, oil, and gas. His entrepreneurial journey has made him one of Africa’s wealthiest and most influential figures.

His contributions to industry and development have earned him widespread admiration, with Otedola among several high-profile personalities who have publicly acknowledged his legacy.

Dangote’s birthday celebrations were marked not just by tributes from friends and business associates, but also by countless messages from well-wishers across the continent.

LP alerts INEC to illegal governorship primaries in Anambra

By Friday Omosola

The Labour Party (LP) has raised the alarm over what it described as an illegal governorship primary being conducted in Anambra State by some ‘disgruntled members’ of the party.

Obiora Ifoh, the party’s National Publicity Secretary warned the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the public to disregard the exercise.

The party reaffirmed that it already concluded its governorship primary in line with electoral guidelines and had submitted the name of its duly elected candidate to INEC.

“For the avoidance of doubt, the Labour Party has since concluded its governorship primaries in Anambra State, and the name of the successful candidate has already been submitted to INEC in line with the election guidelines

“We disassociate ourselves from any parallel exercise or its outcome, as the party has moved on and is now preparing for the official flag-off of its campaign.”

According to the party, the process began with the mandatory issuance of a 21-day notice to INEC, followed by official notices of the commencement of its primaries.

LP added that after the screening process, two aspirants—John Nwosu and Chief Moghalu—were cleared to contest.

“The primaries were held on April 5,



2025, following ward congresses conducted on April 1.

“Moghalu emerged victorious with 573 delegate votes, while his opponent, Chuma Nwosu, polled 19 votes. The exercise was described as ‘hitch-free’ and was monitored by senior INEC officials.

“A certificate of return has since been issued to Moghalu as the Labour Party’s candidate for the November 8, 2025 governorship election”, the party said.

The party reminded all political stakeholders that INEC had mandated political parties to conclude their primaries by April 10, 2025, in line with Section 28(1) of the Electoral Act 2022.

It also cited Section 84 of the same Act, which requires parties to strictly follow INEC’s guidelines to ensure effective monitoring of the primaries.

Reiterating its compliance with all electoral processes, the Labour Party warned that it would not tolerate any attempt to undermine its internal democratic procedures.

“We are warning anyone or group of persons attempting to disrupt a process that began over a month ago and has reached a logical conclusion, to desist from such malfeasance and mischief.”

The party also cautioned that disciplinary action would be taken against any member found to be instigating confusion, adding that members must adhere to party rules and respect its authority, as recently reinforced by Supreme Court pronouncements.

Calling on supporters and democrats nationwide, the party urged them to rally behind its candidate and help ‘rescue Anambra State from imminent collapse’ caused by what it described as ‘bad governance’ by the current administration in the state.

“Of all the major candidates in the race, the Labour Party has produced the best and most experienced contender, whose track record in both private and public sectors speaks for itself,” the party said.

WhatsApp issues urgent update over 'spoofing' hack risk

By Dave Oludare Oso

WhatsApp has issued an urgent update after discovering a vulnerability that could allow hackers to gain remote access to a user's device through a shared image or file.

The security flaw involves a "spoofing issue" that allows cyber criminals to execute an attack through an attachment, according to an alert issued by WhatsApp's parent company Meta.

Only versions of WhatsApp for Windows Desktop are at risk to the exploit, which is triggered as soon as a user opens a malicious attachment on their device.

"A maliciously crafted mismatch could have caused the recipient to inadvertently execute arbitrary code rather than view the attachment when manually opening the attachment inside WhatsApp," the security advisory stated.

Meta did not share whether any WhatsApp users have fallen victim to the security issue. The Independent has reached out to the company for further details.

Security experts warned WhatsApp users to be wary of the images they receive, as well as sharing them with others in their group chats.

"Most people will be part of a WhatsApp group where it is common for images to be shared and this is where this vulnerability becomes dangerous," Adam Pilton, a senior cybersecurity consultant at CyberSmart, told The Independent.

"If a cyber criminal was able to share this image either in your group or with someone you trust who then goes on to share it in your group, anybody in that group could unknowingly execute the malicious code associated with the shared image.



The latest bug, which was reported to Meta through a bug bounty programme, is part of a rising trend of malware being disguised as harmless attachments.

A recent report from cyber security firm SonicWall revealed that malicious attacks of this type rose significantly in 2024.

The company observed 210,258 never-before-seen malware variants, averaging 637 new threats daily last year.

19-yr-old killed by suspected cultists at Kwara football viewing centre

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A 19-year-old boy was killed by stray bullets while two others were injured as a group of suspected cultists stormed a football viewing centre at Coca-Cola Road in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State.

Reports said the incident occurred around 9:05 p.m. on Wednesday while fans were watching a European Champions League (UCL) football match.

A source described the terrifying scene, noting that the attackers opened fire indiscriminately, causing panic and chaos.



"They just came out of nowhere and started shooting. People ran in different directions. It was like a war zone," the source who pleaded for anonymity said.

The 19-year-old victim, whose identity has yet to be officially confirmed, was reportedly shot in the head and died instantly.

"He was lying in a pool of blood. It was a horrifying sight," the source added.

The two other individuals who sustained gunshot wounds were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for medical attention.

"I heard a gunshot and had to turn back immediately. My wife's shop is located at that place. A young man was hit by a stray bullet and was lying in a pool of blood," he said.

Alleged N33.8bn Fraud: EFCC tenders more evidence against Mamman

By Friday Omosola

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Thursday advanced its case against former Minister of Power, Saleh Mamman, in a trial-within-trial before Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court, Abuja, over the admissibility of the defendant's extra-judicial statements.

Mamman, who is being prosecuted in connection with alleged corruption in the Mambilla Power Project, is facing a 12-count charge bordering on conspiracy and money laundering amounting to N33.8 billion.

At Thursday's hearing, EFCC investigator Abubakar Muhammed Kwaido, led in evidence by prosecuting counsel Rotimi Oyedepo, insisted that Mamman's statements to the Commission were made voluntarily and without coercion.

"At no point did I harass or intimidate him. My boss even asked him if he could write, but he said he would prefer his lawyer to do so on his behalf," Kwaido testified.

A video recording of Mamman's interview with EFCC operatives was played in court.

In the footage, the former minister appeared calm and cooperative, admitting to cash transactions aimed at avoiding detection due to his public office.

"Honestly, I gave him N5 million about three times. I didn't transfer or put it in his account. I gave him cash. Why I didn't do a transfer was because I am a civil servant and I've left my business and some of my things, so I have been very careful,"



Mamman said.

He identified the recipient of the cash payments as Abubakar Mustapha Bida, the Mambilla Project accountant, linking the transactions to the purchase of a property in Abuja's Kado district.

"After the payment, he then gave me the house, that is why I didn't bring up that issue. Then I accepted the house at Kado," he said.

Mamman also recounted a separate real estate deal involving a property in Wuse, Abuja, which he claimed to have bought jointly with a friend who is a serving member of the House of Representatives.

According to him, the lawmaker registered the house under another name, complicating efforts to retrieve ownership documents.

"We bought the house from N30 to N35 million and agreed I would be paying in tranches. Things later changed and I left the office. He didn't give me the papers and that's how I left it," Mamman said.

Throughout the recording, Mamman repeatedly accused Bida of dishonesty, alleging that most of the questionable dealings were carried out by Bida's personal assistant, Musbahu Idris. Despite these claims, he admitted to benefiting from the illicit transactions.

"Whether I like it or not, I benefitted, because my people have benefited from the money. That was why I was all involved in it," he confessed.

The video also captured Mamman explaining why his lawyer wrote his statements: "Honestly I can't write, I'm not too strong, but as you can see, I'm about to take my medication. That's why I spoke to him to write because I don't want to stress myself."

"The doctors warned me not to stress myself. I was advised by my lawyer to come so that it will all be easy," he said.

Justice Omotosho adjourned proceedings to April 14, 2025, for continuation of trial.

Ex-lawmaker calls for local vaccine production to cut costs, job creation

By Helen Okechukwu

Former senator and health advocate, Dr. Ibrahim Oloriegbe, has called for the urgent need for Nigeria to rely on local vaccine production, which will aid in quicker distribution, reduce costs, create jobs, and ensure availability.

Oloriegbe made this call on Wednesday during a press conference in Abuja, stating that vaccine financing should be substantial enough to cover logistics, cold-chain maintenance, and last-mile delivery.

“Vaccines don’t walk themselves to health centers,” he noted. “The cold chain is critical. Vaccines must be stored at sub-zero temperatures and transported securely through multiple levels, from national to state, local governments, and finally to healthcare facilities,” Oloriegbe said.

He added that the federal, state, and local governments have responsibilities and roles to play in ensuring that vaccines are distributed and delivered to the last mile, warning that delays might lead to child deaths.

“Ideally, every local government should receive vaccines from the state store and ensure delivery to the facilities under their care,” he said.

While highlighting the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic due to breakdowns in global supply chains, he said, “We don’t need to produce all vaccines at once. Start with traditional ones like BCG and polio. Local production will reduce costs, create jobs, and ensure availability.”

Emphasising the danger of delay in administering vaccines for measles to infants, he noted, “A child born today can’t wait for the next quarter to receive the BCG vaccine,” citing that delay makes the vaccine lose its effectiveness.

He stressed that untreated diseases such as measles, pertussis, and tetanus can lead to long-term health complications such as blindness, deafness, and cognitive delays.



At the event, the Vaccine Network for Disease Control (VNDC) also urged the Federal Government and relevant stakeholders to implement a long-term and reliable vaccine financing system.

The appeal comes as donor support continues to decline and fiscal limitations intensify, posing risks to the country’s immunisation progress.

The organisation acknowledged recent government actions, including the clearance of outstanding vaccine funds from 2022 and 2023, and the partial disbursement of the 2024 vaccine budget.

VNDC also highlighted the proposed N231.7 billion in the 2025 budget dedicated to immunisation, malaria vaccines, and vaccine monitoring, describing these moves as positive steps forward.

Despite notable achievements in immunisation—such as eliminating wild poliovirus, protecting millions of children under five, and attaining a 71% HPV vaccine coverage—Nigeria still struggles with a high number of children who have never received any routine vaccinations.

VNDC emphasised that without a sustainable funding structure, these accomplishments could be reversed.

The organisation recommended that vaccine funding be prioritised in the national budget to ensure timely access and prevent shortages.

It also urged President Bola Tinubu to task the Ministry of Budget and National Planning with creating a consistent vaccine financing framework and encouraged the National Assembly to formally prioritise vaccine funding in budgetary decisions.

Additionally, the group appealed to state and local governments to establish and release dedicated vaccine budgets promptly.

It also encouraged private sector involvement, positioning vaccine support as an investment in national health and economic development.

VNDC further commended the Federal Government’s N1 trillion initiative to strengthen Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs), noting that improved PHCs will enhance vaccine access and reduce the number of unvaccinated children across the country.

WHO launches historic guidelines to combat meningitis, targets faster diagnosis

By Helen Okechukwu

In a major step toward ending the global threat of meningitis, the World Health Organization (WHO) has released its first-ever global guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment, and care of meningitis disease.

According to WHO it aimed at improving early detection and boosting survival rates, the guidelines offer a comprehensive, evidence-based framework to reduce the devastating toll of meningitis—particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where the burden remains highest.

Despite the existence of effective treatments and vaccines for some forms of meningitis, the disease continues to claim hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

Bacterial meningitis—the deadliest form—can kill within 24 hours and often leaves survivors with long-term disabilities.

In 2019 alone, an estimated 2.5 million cases were reported globally, including 1.6 million bacterial meningitis cases that resulted in approximately 240,000 deaths.

“Bacterial meningitis kills one in six of the people it strikes and leaves many others with lasting health challenges,” said WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “Implementing these new guidelines will help save lives, improve long-term care for those affected by meningitis, and strengthen health systems.”

The new guidelines are the first global standard focused specifically on improving clinical care for children over



one month of age, adolescents, and adults affected by acute community-acquired meningitis.

They provide health professionals with clear recommendations on diagnosis, antibiotic therapy, adjunctive treatments, supportive care, and the management of long-term complications.

Given that meningitis symptoms often mimic those of other diseases, timely diagnosis and treatment are critical.

The WHO guidelines take this into account, offering strategies for both bacterial and viral causes of the disease.

Special emphasis is placed on equipping healthcare workers in first- and second-level facilities—including emergency rooms and outpatient clinics—with the tools they need to act fast.

The guidelines replace WHO’s 2014 epidemic response protocols and now include detailed recommendations for both non-epidemic and epidemic scenarios.

Developed with the realities of resource-limited settings in mind, the guidelines aim to be practical, scalable, and applicable in countries with the highest disease burden—particularly in Africa’s “meningitis belt,” a region prone to recurring outbreaks.

Beyond clinical care, the guidelines contribute directly to the WHO’s broader Defeating Meningitis by 2030 Global Roadmap.

Adopted by member states in 2020, the roadmap sets bold targets: eliminating bacterial meningitis epidemics, reducing vaccine-preventable cases by half, cutting deaths by 70%, and improving quality of life for survivors.

WHO highlighted that early detection, treatment, vaccine affordability, disease surveillance, care and support, advocacy, along with engagement, will aid in achieving the goals of curbing and preventing the strong strain of this deadly disease globally.

Davido, Wizkid, Burna Boy will collaborate on a song - Iyanya

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Iyanya has expressed hope for a long-awaited collaboration between Afrobeats powerhouses—Davido, Wizkid, and Burna Boy.

In a post shared on social media, he encouraged the trio to unite musically and focus on making money, not drama.

Davido blames fans for delay

The conversation began when Davido appeared on a recent podcast. During the interview, he spoke about why he, Wizkid, and Burna Boy have never recorded a song together. He pointed to fan rivalry as one of the biggest reasons.

According to Davido, fans often create unnecessary tension between artists by comparing them and fueling competition. These online arguments, he said, have made it harder for the three stars to come together in the studio.

Iyanya speaks out on X

In response, Iyanya took to X (formerly Twitter) to share his thoughts. He reposted a viral clip from the podcast and added his own message, urging fans and artists alike to look beyond the drama.

“Trolls are trying to make money off trolling real, hardworking brothers,” he wrote. “It’s not easy to look away sometimes, especially when they attack someone or something close to your heart.”

“Let’s make music and get money”

Iyanya went on to express optimism that a collaboration between the trio will eventually happen. He reminded his followers that he’s one of the few artists



who have worked with Davido, Wizkid, and Burna Boy separately.

“I believe one day we will get that collaboration between Davido, Wiz, and Burna,” he said. “Let’s make music and get money.”

His words struck a chord with fans, many of whom echoed his thoughts in the comments.

Collaborations between the stars so far

Over the years, Burna Boy and Wizkid have worked together more than once. Their popular tracks *Ginger* and *B D’or* were well-received by fans and showcased their musical chemistry.

Burna Boy and Davido once worked on a lesser-known song titled *Trumpet* before Burna Boy’s rise to global stardom. The track didn’t make a major impact and has since been overshadowed by their solo successes.

Surprisingly, despite years of fan pressure and several close moments, Davido and Wizkid have never released a song together. This absence has sparked plenty of speculation, with fans often blaming industry politics or personal

issues.

Fans long for unity

Iyanya’s call for unity has reignited hope among fans. On social media, many praised him for using his platform to promote peace and collaboration. Several fans said a song featuring all three artists would be a game-changer for the genre.

Afrobeats continues to grow around the world, and a joint track from Davido, Wizkid, and Burna Boy could be a global hit. It would not only break streaming records but also mark a new chapter in Nigerian music history.

The bigger picture

Iyanya’s message is more than just a call for a song. It’s a reminder that success is bigger than rivalry. He’s encouraging the stars to ignore the noise, unite their talents, and create something timeless.

As fans wait for what could be the biggest collaboration in Afrobeats, Iyanya’s words offer hope—and perhaps, a spark to make it happen. If Davido, Wizkid, and Burna Boy do come together, it won’t just be music. It’ll be history in the making.

I practise polygamy – Harrysong reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Harrysong has once again ignited public debate by making a bold, unapologetic statement about his personal life and stance on polygamy.

In a recent Instagram post, the artist openly declared his support for polygamy, unapologetically saying, “Not sorry, I’m polygamous. Life should be happiness, freedom, and support.”

His comment quickly caught fire online, drawing both support and criticism. The timing of this declaration comes just months after his public split with his wife, Alexer. Their marital issues had already sparked widespread discussion in late 2023.

Fallout from a broken marriage

The breakdown of Harrysong’s marriage was messy and very public. He had accused Alexer of cheating on him—claims that shocked fans and divided public opinion. According to Harrysong, Alexer was unfaithful both before and during their marriage. He even alleged that she became pregnant by another man while they were still together.

In response, Alexer posted an emotional video, denying all the accusations. She stayed calm but firm. In her words, she painted a different picture of their marriage. She claimed Harrysong was emotionally abusive, manipulative, and often unfaithful. Her side of the story gained traction, especially among those who believed she had kept quiet for too long.

Public drama and private pain

This exchange between the former couple lit up social media. Some fans supported Harrysong, praising him for speaking his truth. Others felt his posts were too personal and too public. Many also questioned his timing—why speak up now, months after the breakup?

His recent statement on polygamy added



more fuel to the fire. Critics say he is intentionally drawing attention to himself. Supporters, on the other hand, argue that he has the right to live his life the way he chooses.

Still, the conversation has taken on a life of its own. People from all walks of life have weighed in. While some agree with his beliefs, others see it as a way to stay in the spotlight.

Social media reactions: Mixed and loud

Reactions on Instagram have been swift and intense. Some users saw his statement as attention-seeking. One user, @realeffixzzyboss, wrote, “You dey find trouble.” Others were more disappointed. @_simifanpage commented, “I love this song, but this your stand is not good.”

But not everyone disagreed. @iidasophiasceo offered support, saying, “We’re all polygamous by nature. Monogamy is religiously man-made.” Yet, others remained unimpressed. @liberalTV responded, “This is not good at all, coming from you.”

These reactions show how deeply personal choices can divide public opinion, especially when shared by celebrities with wide reach.

Polygamy in the spotlight

Harrysong’s statement has revived ongoing debates around marriage, monogamy, and societal expectations in Nigeria. In many parts of the country, polygamy is legal and even common. However, the modern view—especially online—is more critical. People expect transparency, respect, and emotional safety in relationships.

By choosing to speak so publicly, Harrysong has positioned himself in the middle of a larger conversation. Whether he wanted that or not, the attention is now firmly on him.

What’s next for Harrysong?

Despite the backlash, Harrysong has not backed down. His message was clear, and he seems to be standing by it. Whether this is a personal revelation or a calculated move to remain in the public eye remains unclear.

What is certain, though, is that the singer has again placed himself at the center of national conversation—not just about music, but about love, trust, and the evolving shape of relationships in today’s society.

As the dust settles, one thing is clear: Harrysong is not afraid to live his truth, no matter how controversial it may be.

“Taylor Swift stopped my Super Bowl dream, Kanye West reveals”

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Kanye West has once again stirred controversy, this time by claiming that Taylor Swift and his past political actions cost him a Super Bowl performance.

This time, the outspoken rapper claims that Taylor Swift played a role in him not being chosen to perform at the Super Bowl halftime show.

In a now-deleted post on X (formerly Twitter), the 47-year-old artist pointed fingers at multiple incidents from his past. According to West, those events have led to his ongoing exclusion from one of the world's biggest entertainment stages.

“I was never allowed to do the Super Bowl,” Kanye wrote. “Because of three moments. George Bush doesn’t care about Black people. The Taylor Swift moment. And wearing a MAGA hat.”

The infamous Taylor Swift incident

West’s mention of the “Taylor Swift moment” refers to a widely-criticized incident at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. Back then, Swift had just won Best Female Video when Kanye jumped on stage. He interrupted her acceptance speech to say Beyoncé deserved the award instead. The moment drew backlash and became a turning point in both their careers.

Now, more than a decade later, Kanye seems to believe that this one moment continues to follow him.

Politics and public perception

In the same post, he also brought up his support for Donald Trump and his decision to wear a “Make America Great Again” (MAGA) hat. MAGA was the slogan used during Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign. West’s public support for Trump in recent years has



sparked both praise and criticism.

The rapper included that as the third reason why he believes the NFL has never invited him to headline the Super Bowl. He also referenced a moment in 2005 when he criticized then-President George W. Bush during a live TV broadcast. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Kanye famously said, “George Bush doesn’t care about Black people.”

A polarizing figure in pop culture

Kanye has always been a polarizing figure in pop culture. From his fashion choices to his political views, he has rarely shied away from sharing his opinions. But this latest post adds another chapter to his long history of public feuds and self-expression.

The NFL has not responded to West’s claims. Taylor Swift has also remained silent.

Different paths since the feud

In recent years, Swift has seen a massive rise in popularity. She headlined major tours, won countless awards, and was even named Time Magazine’s Person of the Year. Many fans have praised her growth and resilience after earlier controversies.

Meanwhile, Kanye’s public image has been more turbulent. While he remains an influential figure in music and fashion, his remarks and actions have often sparked debate.

Fans react online

Some fans on social media showed support for his claims, saying he has always been treated unfairly by mainstream institutions. Others, however, said that his past actions may have led to consequences that he now faces.

Will he ever take the stage?

Whether or not his claims hold weight, one thing is clear: Kanye West continues to dominate headlines. His latest remarks reignite old tensions and remind the public of how past moments still shape present opportunities.

As the Super Bowl halftime show remains one of the most-watched events in the world, the question lingers will Kanye ever get his shot?

For now, it seems unlikely. But with Kanye West, nothing is ever off the table.

'Fighting Chioma takes toll on my business' - Davido

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigeria music star Davido has revealed how much his relationship with his wife, Chioma, influences both his music career and business success.

In a recent interview on the popular radio show The Breakfast Club, the award-winning singer revealed that his relationship with his wife, Chioma, has a powerful influence on his success in both music and business.

Chioma's impact on Davido's career

During the candid conversation, Davido spoke openly about the spiritual and emotional connection he shares with Chioma. According to him, whenever they have a misunderstanding, things tend to fall apart in his professional life.

"My wife has always had this thing over me since we were young," he said. "Every time I fight her, something bad happens to my business."

He gave an example of how Chioma would react during such times. He recalled that during a disagreement, she would warn him not to test fate.

"If I'm fighting her, she'll say, 'You're fighting me? Your album is about to drop, and you're fighting me?'" Then I start begging her. She has that kind of grace," he explained.

A relationship that stands the test of time

Davido and Chioma's relationship has spanned over a decade. He shared that they met in school when he was just 18 years old, and she was 17.

"We were together for 11 years before we got married," Davido revealed.

Their relationship has weathered the



highs and lows of fame, public scrutiny, and personal trials. Despite being in the spotlight, they managed to build a foundation of trust and growth that eventually led to marriage in June 2024.

Chioma's role in the family

The singer also discussed how Chioma has embraced his children from other relationships. Davido, who has three children with three different women, expressed his relief and joy that Chioma has a warm relationship with all his kids.

"My kids love my wife, especially my daughter," he shared. "There was a time I was scared to bring my kids around her, but there has been growth."

His words painted a picture of a blended family that has grown stronger with time. He noted that Chioma's calm nature and maturity helped bridge the gap and create a loving environment for all his children.

Public reaction to Davido's words

Davido's interview has sparked a wide range of reactions online. Many fans

praised him for being open about his personal life and for giving credit to his wife. Some saw it as a powerful reminder that behind every successful person is often a strong and supportive partner.

Others highlighted the cultural relevance of his statement. In many parts of Nigeria, people believe in the idea of "grace"—a spiritual influence that can bring luck, favor, or protection. Davido's words seemed to confirm that belief.

A love story built on faith and growth
Chioma has often kept a low profile despite being married to one of the most famous musicians in Africa. But Davido's comments showed just how big a role she plays in his life. According to him, her presence—and their peace—may be the secret ingredient to his ongoing success.

This interview gave fans a rare and touching glimpse into Davido's personal world. More than just music and fame, it revealed a story of love, partnership, and the quiet power of a woman who stands strong behind her husband's spotlight.

“I’m not your ATM, Kizz Daniel tell fans”

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music sensation Kizz Daniel has appealed to his fans to refrain from publicly asking him for financial assistance.

The artist, who is known for his generosity, made the statement in a post on his X (formerly Twitter) account.

In recent months, fans have flooded his page with requests for money every time he appears online. This constant pressure, he says, has taken the fun out of interacting with his supporters.

A history of giving

Kizz Daniel has a strong reputation for giving back. He has surprised many fans with cash giveaways on social media. His random acts of kindness have earned him praise from across the country. However, he now says the situation is becoming overwhelming.

Instead of enjoying casual moments with fans, he often finds himself dealing with endless pleas for help. What was once a space for connection has turned into a platform for public begging, and the singer is clearly fed up.

Message to his fanbase

In his post, Kizz Daniel addressed his loyal supporters, who call themselves “Vaddicts.” He asked them to stop using every online opportunity to ask for money. He made it clear that he still intends to help people, but from now on, it will happen privately.

He wrote, “Vaddicts, make una stop all this money thing each time I’m online... shey we no fit just vibe ni?! Even if God wan use me bless person, it will be in private, not public. Not anymore.”

Mixed reactions from the public

The post quickly went viral, drawing mixed responses from fans. Some applauded his honesty and agreed that the pressure had gone too far. They believe it’s right for him to set personal



boundaries and protect his peace.

Others, however, expressed disappointment. With the rising cost of living and economic struggles in Nigeria, many people see celebrities as a last hope. For some fans, social media is their only way to reach out.

The bigger picture: Nigeria’s economic struggles

Nigeria is currently going through serious economic challenges. Inflation continues to rise, while job opportunities are few. For many Nigerians, daily survival is a struggle. In times like these, successful artists like Kizz Daniel are often seen as lifelines.

But while they may be in a better financial position, celebrities also have personal limits. Constant demands can feel overwhelming, and many have spoken out about the pressure of being seen as a public bank.

Private help, public respect

Kizz Daniel’s decision doesn’t mean he is turning his back on people in need. He simply wants to give on his own terms. By helping in private, he avoids the drama and expectations that often come with public acts of charity.

This approach also offers more respect

and privacy to those receiving the help. Not everyone wants their struggles made public, and receiving assistance quietly can protect their dignity.

Setting a new standard

Kizz Daniel is not alone in setting this boundary. Other public figures have also chosen to give quietly. This trend may encourage fans to see celebrities not just as providers, but as people who deserve peace and respect.

His message is a reminder: generosity should be appreciated, not expected. And when it becomes too much, even the kindest hearts need space.

A call for balance

In the end, the singer’s words open up an important conversation. How should public figures handle financial requests? How can fans show support without crossing lines?

Kizz Daniel’s decision may not please everyone, but it reflects a need for balance. He wants to continue vibing with his fans—just without the pressure of constant public demands.

For now, he’s choosing peace and privacy over pressure and performance. And that’s a message many can relate to.

One year on, wife mourns Junior Pope's death anniversary

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Jennifer Awele, the wife of late Nollywood actor Junior Pope, has shared a heartfelt tribute as she marks one year since the tragic loss of her husband.

In a moving Instagram post shared on April 10, she opened up about her grief, the pain of loss, and how her family has tried to stay strong despite overwhelming sorrow.

The tragic incident

Junior Pope Odonwodo, fondly known as Junior Pope, lost his life in a tragic boat accident on April 10, 2024. He was returning from a movie shoot in Anambra State when the boat capsized in the Anam River. The film, produced by Adanma Luke, became the center of controversy after reports revealed there were no proper safety measures in place for the cast and crew. The tragedy claimed multiple lives and sent shockwaves through the entertainment industry.

A year of grief

Jennifer, who has remained largely private since the incident, used her platform to reflect on the past year—a year marked by sadness, strength, and an unshakable love for the man she called her best friend.

“It’s been one year of standing in the face of our unimaginable loss,” she wrote. “Not a day has gone by without thinking of you. Your love still surrounds us. Your laughter echoes in our hearts.”

She described the last twelve months as a difficult journey for herself and their three young children—Jason, Jaden, and little Jamon, fondly called “J Papa” by his father. Despite the support from friends and family, Jennifer said the void left by her husband is one that words cannot fill.



Holding on through faith

“It’s been tough trying to stay strong for each other,” she wrote. “Even as the world around us seems to fall apart, we look up to heaven for strength.”

The mother of three revealed how difficult it has been to answer the questions her children ask about their father. “Jason and Jaden still want to know if Daddy will fulfill his promise to take them to a proper football academy. They remember his exact words—he said he wouldn’t miss their first official match for anything in the world,” she shared. “And Jamon keeps asking when Daddy will bring him the big toy car he promised.”

A father remembered

Her words were raw, honest, and deeply emotional. She spoke of the silent moments that now carry the loudest echoes of Junior Pope’s absence. She also expressed gratitude to those who have continued to support her family through their grief.

“We appreciate everyone who stood—and still stands—by us,” she wrote. “Your love and support have carried us through our darkest days.

Words cannot express how thankful we are.”

A legacy that lives on

Jennifer’s tribute also honored her husband’s impact beyond their home. “You didn’t just leave us, your family,” she said. “You left behind so many people who loved you and admired your work. It’s hard to believe we’re saying goodbye, but your memory and your legacy live on.”

A final goodbye

In her closing words, she found comfort in faith. “Though you’re no longer by our side, you live on in every memory, every smile, and every tear. We carry you with us always, until we meet again.”

She ended with a heartfelt farewell: “We cannot question God, right? May your soul rest in perfect peace, my love.”

Remembering Junior Pope

As the Nigerian film industry and fans continue to remember Junior Pope, his family’s tribute serves as a reminder of the man behind the screen—the loving husband, the devoted father, and the friend whose light continues to shine in the hearts of those he left behind.

EU halts Trump retaliation tariffs, opens 90-day window for talks

By New Daily Prime

In a surprise shift that signals the potential for renewed transatlantic dialogue, the European Union has announced a 90-day delay in implementing retaliatory tariffs against the United States, following President Donald Trump's sudden decision to pause new levies on European imports.

The move, confirmed by E.U. officials on Thursday, came just one day after the White House unexpectedly hit pause on its "reciprocal" tariff strategy, which had included plans to impose a 20% blanket tariff on E.U. goods. Instead, that figure has been reduced to 10% for the duration of the negotiation window.

President Trump's reversal came hours after European leaders had approved a sweeping retaliation package — tariffs of 10 to 25 percent on \$23 billion worth of U.S. goods, including soybeans, peanut butter, and personal care products. However, in light of the U.S. pivot, the E.U. opted to withhold enforcement.

"If negotiations are not satisfactory, our countermeasures will kick in," said Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission. "Preparatory work on further countermeasures continues."

Though the pause offers a diplomatic lifeline, several of the more punitive U.S. tariffs — particularly the 25 percent duties on steel, aluminum, and automobiles — remain in place. These tariffs are the primary targets of the E.U.'s retaliation blueprint.



White House officials voiced optimism that the delay would create breathing room for a deal

"I think what's going to happen is they are going to be pushed out for the 90 days, so they have time to negotiate with the president without having something hanging over their head," said U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick.

European Commission spokesperson Olof Gill echoed a more cautious tone:

"We'll take a bit of time to think, take a bit of time to analyze, take a bit of time to reflect."

Over the past several weeks, Brussels has sought to dissuade Washington from further escalation, repeatedly advocating for the elimination of industrial tariffs altogether.

"Tariffs are taxes that only hurt

businesses and consumers," von der Leyen said Wednesday. "That's why I've consistently advocated for a zero-for-zero tariff agreement between the European Union and the United States."

Still, the Commission made it clear that Europe will continue to strengthen its internal market and build new trade alliances to reduce reliance on what von der Leyen called an "increasingly fickle" partner in the U.S.

"In times of uncertainty, the single market is our anchor of stability and resilience," she wrote.

As both sides prepare for talks, ambiguity remains. Pressed on which tariffs were truly on hold and which remained active, Gill admitted the fast-moving developments have left even insiders scrambling to keep pace.

UK markets resurge after Trump tariff climbdown

By **Fatimah Idera**

UK markets have begun to rebound after Donald Trump announced a 90-day pause in his sweeping tariffs, though ministers insisted they would remain cautious in the face of instability.

The FTSE 100 rose by more than 6% after stock markets opened in London on Thursday.

Following a significant rally for markets in the US and Asia, after President Trump said he would be delaying tariffs on most nations for 90 days while raising his tax rate on Chinese imports to 125%.

Amid the rising market confidence the senior Cabinet minister Yvette Cooper continued to urge caution.

The Home Secretary said, “We are seeing changes all the time. We are seeing quite a lot of global instability, we are seeing that in the economy, we are seeing it also on security, on defence issues.”

“But I think that just comes back to the approach that we have taken – it’s the plan for change” and “We are not keeping a running commentary on different trade negotiations, on the different approaches that other governments are taking.”

Cooper explained that “What we are doing is just being really steady about this. We have made



clear our principles and our approach. We want to see a reduction of trade barriers and we want to negotiate good arrangements that are in the UK’s interests.”

Meanwhile, FTSE has rebounded following its downturn in earlier days, the index of the UK’s top stocks is still far below where it was in the days before Mr Trump’s tariffs came into force.

The US pause has not completely eliminated taxes on goods into America, with all countries now expected to pay a 10% levy, instead of the reciprocal rates Mr Trump’s administration had originally set out.

However, many America’s trading partners had threatened retaliatory action before the

pause, like the EU, which had voted to impose countermeasures on some US goods.

The UK had been spared higher tariffs rates hitting others and had resisted retaliatory action.

Other countries now find themselves in the same situation as the UK, which was already required to pay the 10% tariff rate.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves will seek to negotiate with the US when she visits Washington at the end of April for the International Monetary Fund’s spring meeting of global finance ministers.

She also said a UK-EU summit on May 19 would be a chance to refresh our relationship and make it easier for businesses to trade.

Nato warned over Internet blackouts in wake of subsea cable attacks

By **Fatimah Idera**

Military chiefs at Nato have been warned of global internet blackouts following a string of suspected Russian attacks on subsea cables.

Telecom companies including Vodafone, O2 owner Telefonica and Orange have written to UK, EU and Nato officials warning that a rise in sabotage incidents was putting critical services at risk.

In an open letter, they wrote: “The repercussions of damage to subsea cables extend far beyond Europe, potentially affecting global internet and power infrastructure, international communications, financial transactions and critical services worldwide.”

It comes after a spike in incidents relating to fibre optic cables on seabeds that carry huge volumes of data, voice and internet traffic between countries.

More than 500 cables carry around 95pc of all international data, while their remote location makes them difficult and costly to monitor.

Meanwhile, 11 subsea cables have been damaged in the Baltic Sea since October 2023 and similar outages have been reported in the North Sea.

The incidents have fuelled fears of sabotage by hostile actors, with more than 50 Russian ships observed in areas of high cable density in the Baltic Sea. The UK is monitoring the Russian spy ship Yantar amid concerns that it is mapping critical underwater infrastructure.

Concerns have also been raised about Chinese sabotage following a number of incidents around Taiwan.

John Healey, the Defence Secretary, in January described the outages as “another example of growing Russian aggression”.



He said: “I also want President Putin to hear this message: we see you, we know what you are doing, and we will not shy away from robust action to protect this country.”

Members of the parliament (MPs) on the joint committee on the national security strategy have launched an inquiry into Britain’s ability to defend its subsea infrastructure from attacks.

Matt Western, chairman of the committee, said: “As the geopolitical environment worsens, foreign states are seeking asymmetric ways to hold us at risk. Our internet cable network looks like an increasingly vulnerable soft underbelly.”

In the letter, the telecoms groups said network security was an “absolute priority”, arguing that infrastructure diversity meant traffic could be rerouted in the event of an incident and that countries had the capacity to intervene quickly to repair cables.

But they warned that the rise of malign attacks by hostile actors meant governments needed to step up their security measures.

The companies called for the entire subsea cable network to be classed as critical infrastructure to ensure they are granted the appropriate level of protection and security investment and called for a simplification of permitting processes and governance structures.

They also urged the EU, UK and Nato to collaborate on intelligence sharing, as well as shared monitoring and surveillance initiatives.

They wrote: “Harmonised approaches must be developed for the subsea cables ecosystem, aiming to align security objectives with operational feasibility as well as a viable business model and based on proportionate and risk-based best practices, developed in close consultation with industry.”

Vodafone is one of the UK’s largest owners of subsea cables after acquiring hundreds of thousands of kilometres of cables from Cable & Wireless in a £1bn deal in 2012.

The technology is also increasingly owned by US tech giants including Google, Facebook and Microsoft

King Charles discusses Ukraine, NATO in Italian parliament address

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

On his third day of a state visit to Italy, King Charles hailed Rome's steadfastness in supporting Ukraine amid Russia's invasion.

The state visit has been seen as part of an ongoing effort by London to strengthen ties with its European allies amid global turbulence and rising instability.

"Our countries have both stood by Ukraine in her hour of need and welcomed many thousands of Ukrainians requiring shelter," he told Italian parliamentarians, warning that images of wars were now reverberating again across the continent.

The King also met with the Pope during his visit to Rome

The King also met with the Pope during his visit to Rome (Vatican via Getty Images)

Charles added that Italian and British armed forces "stand side by side" as part of the Nato alliance, noting the two countries' joint plans to develop with Japan a new fighter jet.

"It will generate thousands of jobs in our countries and speaks volumes about the trust we place in each other," he said.

The monarch also used the opportunity to meet with Pope Francis during the visit.



However, not much was given away regarding their discussions.

Britain's King Charles makes surprise visit to Pope Francis at Vatican

By Fatimah Idera

Buckingham Palace and the Vatican said Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla had an unannounced meeting with Pope Francis during their state visit to Italy.

Recall that Charles and Camilla had been due to make a formal state visit to the Vatican, but postponed their plans after doctors prescribed Francis two months of rest following the pontiff experienced a serious bout of double pneumonia.

In a statement by the Vatican, the pope met the royal couple privately and offered his best wishes for their 20th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on Wednesday.

Buckingham Palace said Charles



and Camilla "were delighted the Pope was well enough to host them – and to have had the opportunity to share their best wishes in person."

As British monarch, Charles heads the Church of England, which split

from the Catholic Church in 1534.

Francis and Charles met twice previously in 2017 and 2019 before Charles became king. The late Queen Elizabeth II visited Francis at the Vatican in 2014.

Global stock markets rebound after Trump tariff U-turn

By Dave Oludare Oso

The unexpected decision of President Donald Trump to pause the hefty tariffs he had just imposed on dozens of countries brought relief to battered global stock markets, even as he ratcheted up a trade war with China.

Markets across Asia rose sharply on Thursday on signs that the US president's trade war may not prove as damaging to the global economy as feared.

European markets, which had closed when Trump announced the 90-day pause on Wednesday, jumped at the start of Thursday's session. The FTSE 100 was up 6.2%, rising 485 points to 8166 points, continuing the relief rally. Germany's Dax rose 7.8% while France's Cac 40 was up 6.4%, and Spain's IBEX 35 climbed 7.2%.

Trump's U-turn, which came less than 24 hours after steep new tariffs kicked in on most trading partners, followed the most intense episode of financial market volatility since the early days of the Covid pandemic.

The upheaval erased trillions of dollars from stock markets and led to an unsettling surge in US government bond yields that appeared to catch Trump's attention.

"I thought that people were jumping a little bit out of line, they were getting yippy, you know," Trump told reporters after the announcement.

US stock indexes shot higher on the news, with the benchmark S&P 500 index closing 9.5% higher, and the relief continued into Asian trading.

Taiwan stocks soared 9.2% in early



trading on Thursday. In Japan the Nikkei 225 was up 7.2%, while in Seoul the Kospi was up more than 5%. In Australia, the ASX 200 jumped more than 6%. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index climbed 2.69%, while the Shanghai composite index jumped 1.29%.

On the FTSE 100, shares in Barclays rose 14%, with industrials company Melrose up 12% and investment firm St James's Place rising 11%.

After the market surge, White House officials said "this was his strategy all along" and showed "the art of the deal" at work.

The moves triggered accusations of market manipulation. The Democratic senator Adam Schiff called for an investigation, saying: "These constant gyrations in policy provide dangerous opportunities for insider trading."

"Who in the administration knew about Trump's latest tariff flip-flop ahead of time? Did anyone buy or sell stocks, and profit at the public's expense? I'm writing to the White

House – the public has a right to know."

European futures also pointed to big gains but there were already signs the rally may be short-lived with US stock futures trading lower. Oil prices also fell about 1%, extending a grim spell fuelled by fears that the trade tensions could push the global economy towards recession.

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has repeatedly threatened an array of punitive measures on trading partners, only to revoke some of them at the last minute. The on-again, off-again approach has baffled world leaders and spooked business executives.

The US Treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, asserted that the pullback had been the plan all along to bring countries to the bargaining table. Trump, though, later indicated that the near panic in markets that had unfolded since his 2 April announcements had factored into his thinking.

Europa League: Lyon, Spurs draw; Tottenham miss victory

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Lyon stunned Manchester United with a 2-2 draw, while Tottenham was held 1-1 by Eintracht Frankfurt in Europa League quarter-finals.

Lyon's dramatic late equaliser denied United a vital win. Andre Onana's two costly errors allowed Joshua Zirkzee and Rayan Cherki to score, with Cherki's 95th-minute goal securing the draw. Despite United's dominance in possession, Onana's mistakes left them disappointed as they head into the return leg at Old Trafford next Thursday.

Tottenham had a similarly frustrating night, drawing 1-1 with Frankfurt at home. Spurs' Pedro Porro equalised after



Hugo Ekitike's early goal for Frankfurt, but despite a dominant second half with several shots hitting the crossbar and inspired saves from Frankfurt's goalkeeper, Kaua Santos, Tottenham couldn't find a winner. Micky van de Ven's late header was denied by Santos, leaving Spurs needing to win in Germany

next week to progress.

In other results, Rangers held Athletic Bilbao to a 0-0 draw despite playing with 10 men for most of the match, while Chelsea cruised to a 3-0 win over Legia Warszawa.

Spurs held 1-1 by Frankfurt as Santos' saves frustrate hosts

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Tottenham Hotspur were left to rue missed chances as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Eintracht Frankfurt in the first leg of their UEFA Europa League quarter-final, with Frankfurt goalkeeper Kaua Santos delivering a stunning performance to keep Spurs at bay.

In a match packed with attacking flair and near misses, it was the visitors who struck first, capitalising on a defensive lapse in the sixth minute. Hugo Ekitike showcased his growing reputation with a low, clinical finish after being played through by Ellyes Skhiri.

Spurs responded with determination and flair, leveling the game 20 minutes later. James Maddison floated a clever pass into the box for Pedro Porro, who netted with an audacious backheel—his first goal in major European competition for the club.



After the break, Tottenham turned up the pressure, dominating possession and carving out a flurry of chances. But they were met by a wall in goal, as Santos—standing in for injured regular Kevin Trapp—made a string of world-class saves. He denied curling strikes from Son Heung-min and Maddison, while also producing a brilliant fingertip stop to push Micky van de Ven's stoppage-time header over the bar.

Lucas Bergvall and Rodrigo Bentancur both rattled the woodwork during a frantic second half, as Spurs pushed for a winner in front of a restless home crowd.

With Spurs languishing in 14th place in the Premier League and already knocked out of both domestic cups, the Europa League remains their final chance at silverware this season. Head coach Ange Postecoglou, who is under increasing scrutiny, will be desperate for a turnaround in the second leg on 17 April in Frankfurt's intimidating Waldstadion.

While Tottenham dazzled for spells, their lack of cutting edge in front of goal and Frankfurt's resilient display has left the tie delicately poised. A thrilling night in North London ends level—but Spurs will feel it should have been much more.

Chelsea cruise as George scores, Madueke nets brace

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



Chelsea took a huge step toward the UEFA Conference League semi-finals with a commanding 3-0 win over Legia Warsaw in Poland, thanks to goals from teenager Tyrique George and substitute Noni Madueke.

After a goalless and cagey first half, the game burst into life shortly after the break. Just four minutes into the second half, 19-year-old winger George opened the scoring, reacting quickest to slot home a rebound after Reece James' shot was saved. It marked his first senior goal for Chelsea, having been with the club since age eight.

Legia, backed by a raucous

home crowd and an intense pre-match tifo showing a knight slaying a lion, struggled to cope with Chelsea's second-half pace and precision.

Jadon Sancho, a constant threat on the wing, set up Madueke for Chelsea's second in the 57th minute with a neat low pass. Madueke, who came on at half-time for the ineffective Cole Palmer, then netted again in the 74th minute after Nkunku missed a penalty just seconds earlier.

Despite the missed spot-kick, Chelsea's dominance never looked in doubt. The Premier League side, led by Enzo Maresca, are heavy favourites to

lift the trophy in Wroclaw this May and are on course for a return to European success, having last won the Champions League in 2021.

Their European campaign has been near flawless—six wins in the group stage, 26 goals scored, and only five conceded. After dispatching Copenhagen in the last 16, they now look set to breeze past Legia and face either Djurgardens or Rapid Vienna in the semi-finals.

The return leg at Stamford Bridge is set for Thursday, 17 April, and with a three-goal cushion, Chelsea already have one foot firmly in the final four.