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Foreign trips: PDP criticises Tinubu, Shettima, says not prepared for governance

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

The Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Board of Trustees (BoT), Adolphus Wabara, has strongly criticised President Bola Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima for their recent foreign travels, accusing them of being unprepared for governance at a time when the country is facing significant challenges.

Wabara expressed his dismay over the timing of their trips, with Tinubu on a two-week working visit to France and Shettima in Dakar, Senegal, to represent the President at the country's 65th Independence Day celebrations on April 4.

The PDP leader described the dual absences of both the President and the Vice President as "the height of executive rascality."

In a statement, Wabara questioned the appropriateness of both leaders being out of the country simultaneously, leaving Nigeria without a clear leadership presence.

He said: "Mr President has the right to travel outside the country when necessary, but he should duly hand over power to his Vice President in



an acting capacity. It is absolutely not proper for the Vice President, who should be the Acting President, to also travel while the President is away."

Wabara went on to stress that the situation was deeply troubling, pointing out that the country was facing pressing issues requiring urgent presidential attention.

"It's baffling to hear that the President and his Vice both abandoned governance and travelled out of the country at the same time, thus leaving the country headless. How can the country be burning, and the number one and number two citizens of the country be away? This can only happen in Nigeria."

He continued, condemning the apparent disregard for the nation's needs: "How else can a leader show disdain for the people he swore an oath to lead and defend? Leaving the country headless at a time when so many boiling issues demand presidential intervention is a misplacement of priority."

Wabara concluded by questioning the leadership capabilities of Tinubu and Shettima: "Tinubu and his Vice have again, clearly demonstrated that either they are overwhelmed or simply not prepared for governance. They have shown that they have little or no regard for Nigeria and Nigerians."

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FG admits US tariffs will hurt Nigerian exports

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

Providing what could be regarded as the first official response three days after the announcement, the Federal Government has admitted that US President Donald Trump's newly imposed tariffs will adversely affect several of Nigeria's oil and non-oil exports.

While several governments of the world had been reacting and bracing for the much-vaunted tariffs even before they were finally imposed last week, the Nigerian government has offered its first take on the global development, admitting that the adverse effects of the tariffs, will disrupt trade relations, and weaken the competitiveness of Nigerian products in the U.S. market.

According to a PUNCH report, the Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, made the admission in a statement she signed on Sunday, providing the government's first response days after the tariffs were announced.

NEW DAILY PRIME reported that Trump had announced in a decision widely condemned by the European Union and exporting nations that countries seeking to sell goods to the United States would now face taxes as high as 50 per cent.

Expectedly, financial analysts and economic experts have been reacting and are unanimous in their opinion that the policy would raise the prices of goods and services for consumers, weaken the standard of living, hamper manufacturing activities, hinder international trade and consequently lower demand for Nigerian oil in the US, one of its key markets.



Responding to this development, the minister noted that the new tariff on key categories could negatively affect the competitiveness of Nigerian goods in the U.S. market and destabilise businesses in the non-oil sector, affecting both price competitiveness and market access.

Oduwole said, "Nigeria's exports to the United States in the last two years have consistently ranged between \$5 and \$5-6 bn annually.

"A significant portion—over 90 per cent—comprises crude petroleum, mineral fuels, oils, and gas products. The second-largest export category, accounting for approximately 2-3 per cent, includes fertilisers and urea, followed by lead, representing around one per cent of total exports (valued at approx. \$82m).

"Nigeria also exports smaller quantities of agricultural products such as live plants, flour, and nuts, which account for less than two per cent of our total exports to the U.S.

"While oil has long dominated Nigeria's exports to the US, non-oil products—many previously exempt

under AGOA—now face potential disruption.

"A new 10 per cent tariff on key categories may impact the competitiveness of Nigerian goods in the U.S. For businesses in the non-oil sector, these measures pre-destabilise challenges to price competitiveness and market access, especially in emerging and value-added sectors vital to our diversification agenda.

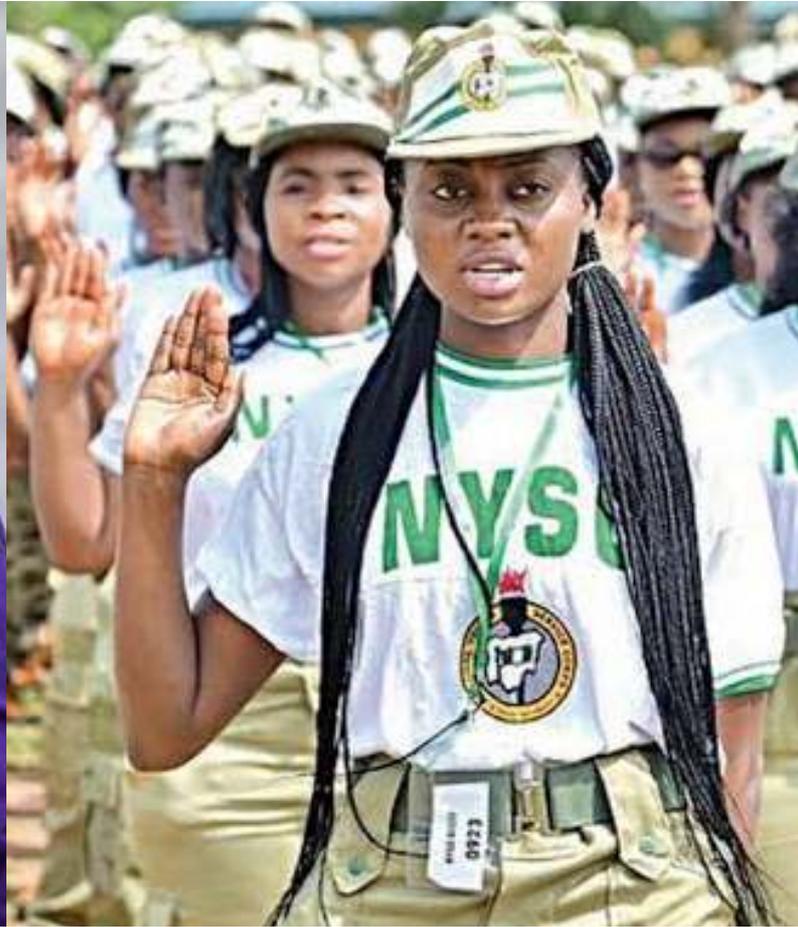
"SMEs building their business models around AGOA exemptions will face the pressures of rising costs and uncertain buyer commitments.

"This development strengthens Nigeria's resolve to boost its non-oil exports by strengthening quality assurance, control, and traceability in Nigerian exports to meet global standards and improve market acceptance in more economies across the globe."

President Trump's announcement, made during a 'Make America Wealthy Again' event in the Rose Garden, marked a dramatic shift from decades of free-trade orthodoxy that had underpinned the global economy since World War II.

Minister proposes later start for NYSC camp drills

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



The Minister of Youth, Comrade Ayodele Olawande, has called on the management of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to adjust its orientation programme, advocating for a later start to daily activities in a bid to improve the welfare of corps members.

Speaking at the 2025 annual management conference in Abuja, themed ‘Transforming the NYSC Scheme to Meet the Yearnings of Contemporary Nigerian Graduates and Society’, Olawande suggested that camp drills begin at 7:00 am instead of

the usual 4:00 am.

He argued that this adjustment would allow corps members to rest properly, making them more active and engaged during their time at camp.

Olawande, who has already begun consultations on this change, stressed that the goal is not to eliminate drills but to ensure that corps members are well-rested and mentally prepared.

He emphasised that such a shift would align with the overarching goal of unity in diversity, while

also encouraging greater innovation and productivity among the youth.

He further criticised the current system, pointing out that despite the annual mobilisation of around 480,000 corps members, there has been little improvement in their transition to the job market.

“We can’t keep doing the same thing every year and expect different results,” Olawande remarked, stressing the need for a new approach to empower young Nigerians for a better future.

New Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Owoade, credits his emergence to God's will

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The newly crowned Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Akeem Olatunji Owoade, has expressed deep gratitude for his ascension to the throne, attributing it entirely to divine will rather than political manoeuvring or external influence.

In his first public statement after being crowned the 46th Alaafin, Owoade made it clear that his emergence was not influenced by any political connections, notably stating that he had never met Oyo State Governor Seyi Makinde or former Senator Monsurat Sunmonu during the selection process.

Oba Owoade, who was crowned on Saturday, April 5, after completing all the required rites and ceremonies, shared his thoughts during a thanksgiving service at the Anglican Cathedral Church, Esiele, in Oyo town.

He remarked that he had never been desperate for the position and had not attempted to cut corners in order to attain the throne.

“I never knew I would be the next Alaafin of Oyo. It was never something I sought or worked towards,” he said, stressing that his coronation was the will of God.

The new monarch further clarified that his ascent to the throne was not based on any political influence or machinations.

“I never knew nor met both the Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, and Senator Monsurat Sunmonu before or during the process to the throne,” Owoade stated.

His words seemed aimed at dispelling any speculation about political interference in his selection, a common



occurrence in Nigerian traditional leadership processes.

Owoade, who pledged to uphold ethical leadership, further emphasised the importance of unity within Oyo State.

“Let us remember that united we stand and divided we fall. In unity lies our strength,” he said, calling on the people of Oyo to work together in harmony, devoid of bickering and acrimony.

He noted that with cooperation, the community could overcome the challenges ahead.

The newly crowned Alaafin's commitment to an inclusive leadership approach was clear, as he also promised to ensure the well-being and security of all Oyo citizens. His message was one of hope, inclusivity, and focus on the collective progress of the state.

Governor Seyi Makinde, who officially presented Oba Owoade to the public over the weekend, affirmed the new monarch's legitimacy, inviting anyone sceptical about his ascension to come and witness the new Alaafin for themselves.

“Those who say they have not been told or heard, or who are running around, should come and see the new Alaafin of Oyo,” Makinde stated, further solidifying Owoade's position as the rightful ruler.

Oba Owoade's emergence follows a period of anticipation after the passing of the former Alaafin, Oba Lamidi Adeyemi, and marks the beginning of a new era for the Oyo kingdom.

His coronation is seen as a fresh chapter in the long history of the Alaafin monarchy, one that many hope will bring stability and growth to the region.

FULL LIST: 20 states yet to implement N70,000 minimum wage

By **Damilola Olufemi**

The National President of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Alhaji Haruna Kankara, has revealed that about 20 states are yet to implement the N70,000 new minimum wage for local government workers and primary school teachers.

Defaulting States:

Northwest: Sokoto, Zamfara, Kaduna

Northeast: Yobe, Gombe, Borno

South-South: Cross River

Southeast: Imo, Ebonyi

Federal Capital Territory: Abuja

Some states have commenced paying state workers but excluded local government workers and primary school teachers. Kankara stated, "We truly have the challenge of so many states, like about 20 that have not started implementing the new minimum wage." He added that some states promised but failed to fulfil their promises, saying, "We are hoping that just very soon all of these would have been resolved"

Implementation Challenges

Taxation Issues: In Kwara State, despite implementing the N70,000 minimum wage, heavy taxes imposed by the government have reduced workers' take-home pay. NULGE's state president, Seun Oyinlade, disclosed, "The heavy taxes imposed by the state government have greatly affected the take-home pay".



Delayed Payments: Some teachers have yet to receive the N30,000 minimum wage of 2019. States owing teachers include Zamfara, Yobe, Taraba, Sokoto, Niger, Kogi, Kaduna, Imo, Gombe, Cross River, Borno, Benue, Adamawa, and Abia.

States That Have Implemented the New Minimum Wage

Lagos, Rivers, Bayelsa, Niger, Enugu, Akwa Ibom, Abia, Adamawa, Anambra, Jigawa, Ogun, Kebbi, Ondo, Kogi.

President Bola Tinubu signed the N70,000 minimum wage bill into law on July 29, 2024. NULGE is pushing for the Central Bank of Nigeria to issue a circular allowing local governments to open bank accounts, a crucial step towards autonomy.

In January, Organised Labour warned state governments and private employers to implement the

new national minimum wage of ₦70,000, along with the consequential salary adjustments, by the end of the first quarter of 2025 or face serious consequences.

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) said it is unacceptable for some states and organisations, who know the current realities of the Nigerian economy to insist on paying peanuts to workers, knowing fully well that the wage cannot take workers home.

The President of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU), Comrade Mohammed Ibrahim, who is also the National Internal Auditor of the NLC, issued the warning during the union's National Leadership Retreat in Abuja on Wednesday.

Ibrahim stressed that state governments and institutions delaying or manipulating wage payments would face severe repercussions.

Youths defy Police, stage protests across major cities over economic hardship, Cybercrime Act Misuse

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Despite warnings from the Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian youths on Monday stormed the streets of Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, and other major cities in a wave of coordinated protests against what they described as growing authoritarianism and worsening economic conditions.

The nationwide protest, led by the Take-It-Back Movement and several civil society organisations, drew attention to pressing national issues, including the alleged abuse of the Cybercrime Act, inflation, insecurity, and political instability—particularly the crisis rocking Rivers State.

In Lagos, demonstrators were seen in Ikeja, chanting slogans and carrying placards with inscriptions such as “Stop the Repression” and “Let Us Breathe.” The protest also spread to Abuja, where youths gathered in Maitama before being dispersed by police officers who fired teargas into the crowd.

Port Harcourt witnessed a similar scene as protesters defied security warnings and converged at Isaac Boro Park. However, the peaceful rally quickly turned chaotic after security operatives launched tear



gas at the crowd. Undeterred, protesters voiced their frustrations, insisting they had a constitutional right to peaceful assembly.

“We are not here for violence. We just want our voices heard. We have no functioning government in Rivers State right now,” one protester told journalists, referencing the suspension of Governor Siminalayi Fubara and what they called an unconstitutional administration.

Prominent activist and former presidential candidate, Omoyele Sowore, was also seen at the protest ground in Abuja, showing solidarity with the demonstrators.

Reacting to the protest, the police had earlier described the planned action as “ill-conceived and mischievous,” urging organisers

to cancel it in light of the National Police Day celebration. But the Take-It-Back Movement’s National Coordinator, Juwon Sanyaolu, dismissed the warning, accusing the authorities of suppressing dissent and ignoring the suffering of ordinary Nigerians.

“The aim of this protest is simple—to resist authoritarian rule and demand immediate relief for Nigerians grappling with hunger, insecurity, and economic despair,” Sanyaolu said in a statement.

As the dust settles from Monday’s protest, the message from the streets remains loud and clear: young Nigerians are demanding accountability, transparency, and leadership that truly serves the people.

ECOWAS: Africa loses \$88.6b annually to corruption, illicit financial flows

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has disclosed that Africa loses a staggering \$88.6 billion annually to corruption and illicit financial flows (IFFs).

This amount represents 3.7 per cent of the continent's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), a figure that highlights the significant economic and social challenges posed by these issues.

The revelation was made by ECOWAS' Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security, Ambassador Abdel-Fatau Musah, during a regional certification training on financial investigation for anti-corruption institutions in Niger state on Monday, April 7.

Represented by Ebenezer Asiedu, the head of the commission's Democracy and Good Governance Division, Musah explained that corruption and financial crime remain among the most formidable obstacles to the region's economic and social development.

"As research indicates, Africa loses a staggering \$88.6 billion annually due to corruption and illicit financial flows, which takes up 3.7% of our continent's GDP," Asiedu stated, underscoring the scale of the problem.

The commissioner further noted that with the increasing growth of the financial sector in West Africa, the rise of cryptocurrencies and other online financial systems has introduced new risks and vulnerabilities.

These developments have made it even more crucial for anti-corruption institutions across ECOWAS Member



States to develop specialised skills and knowledge to combat financial crime effectively.

ECOWAS has long been committed to promoting democratic governance and addressing corruption across the region.

Since the advent of democratic governance in West Africa, the commission has tirelessly supported the deepening of democratic practices in line with the ECOWAS Revised Treaty (1993) and other legal instruments, such as the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (2001) and the Protocol on the Fight Against Corruption (2001).

While significant progress has been made, Musah acknowledged that many Member States still face challenges, particularly due to the persistence of corruption.

He emphasised that despite improvements, democracy in the region remains fragile, with corruption

continuing to undermine governance and development.

Echoing Musah's sentiments, the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Ola Olukoyede, highlighted the transnational and increasingly sophisticated nature of corruption in Africa.

He pointed out that these issues are not confined within national borders, but are deeply embedded within political and economic structures.

"To effectively confront these challenges, we must work together, share intelligence, harmonise our methods, and speak with one voice as a region committed to integrity and justice," Olukoyede urged, stressing the need for collective action in tackling the growing menace of corruption across the continent.

Protesters defy police warnings, rally in Lagos against Cybercrime, emergency rule concerns

By Damilola Olufemi

In defiance of police warnings and increased security presence, members of the Take It Back Movement (TIBM) took to the streets of Lagos on Monday to protest against cybercrime and what they describe as a looming threat of emergency rule in Rivers State.

The protesters gathered beneath the popular Ikeja Under-Bridge before marching to the Lagos State Government House and the State House of Assembly in Alausa, chanting solidarity songs and carrying placards that decried systemic failure and political suppression.

The demonstration remained peaceful, despite heavy security around government buildings and concerns about potential unrest. Organizers stressed the constitutional right to freedom of assembly and expression, saying the protest was a necessary civic action.

This show of defiance came just a day after the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, called for the cancellation of all planned protests nationwide. The police had warned that any such gathering would be considered disruptive, especially as April 7



has now been declared National Police Day by the federal government.

“In line with global best practices in celebrating police institutions, the Nigerian Government has declared April 7 as National Police Day,” read a statement issued Sunday by police spokesperson Muyiwa Adejobi.

The statement criticized the timing of the protest, saying:

“The rationale behind staging a nationwide protest on the same day is questionable and perceived as a deliberate and unpatriotic act aimed at maligning the image of the Nigeria Police and the nation as a whole. The Nigeria Police Force hereby advises the organizers to shelve the planned protest.”

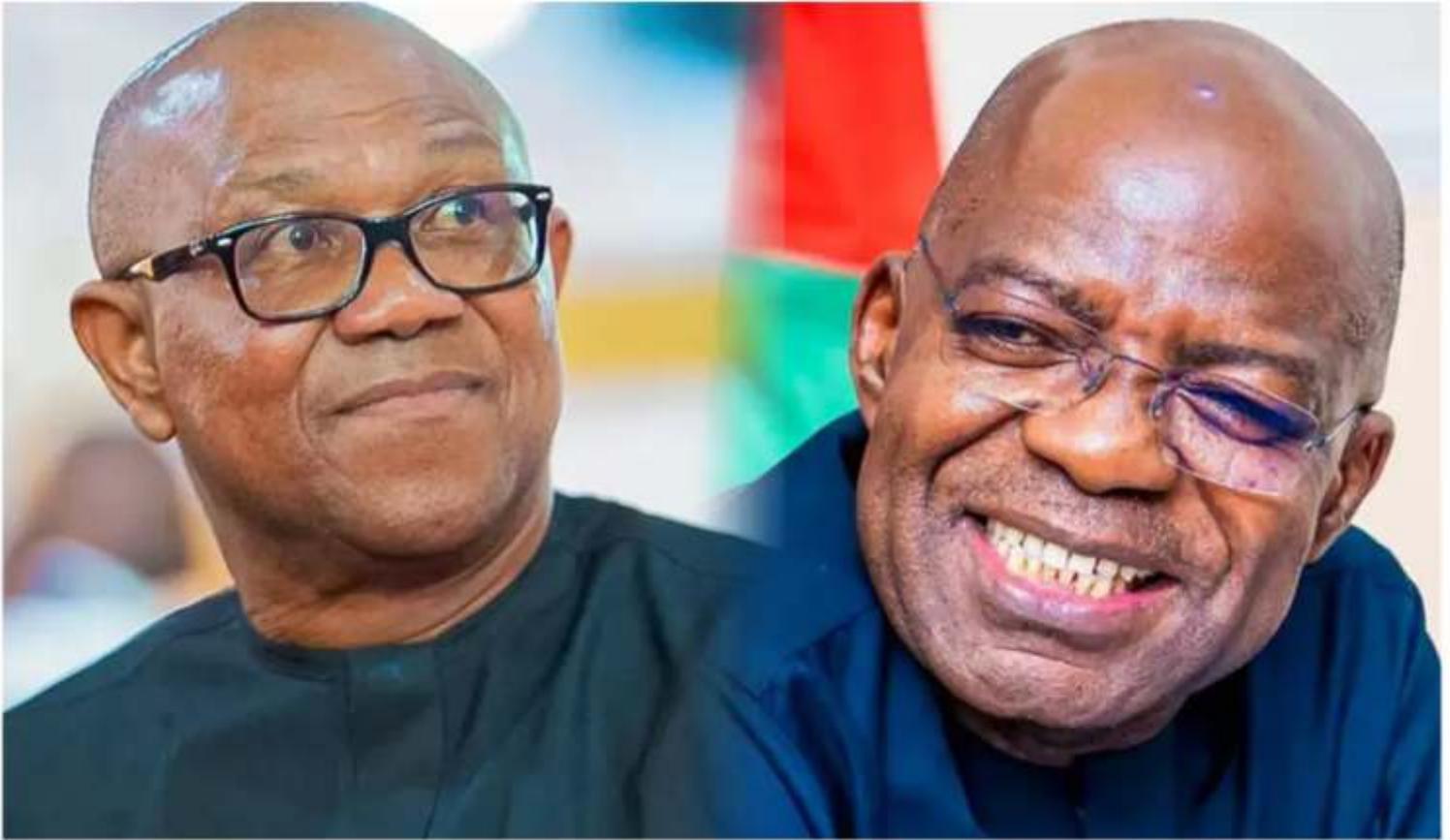
Despite the warnings, TIBM proceeded with the Lagos protest, asserting that the concerns of citizens must not be silenced by symbolic declarations or institutional pushback.

“We must speak up when things are going wrong, and no day—National Police Day or not—will take away our right to peaceful protest,” a TIBM spokesperson said during the rally.

As the situation in Rivers State continues to generate political tension, and debates over civil liberties grow louder, Monday’s protest highlights the persistent divide between state authority and citizen activism in Nigeria.

Labour party leaders convene key NEC meeting in Abuja

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



Two prominent figures of the Labour Party (LP)—Peter Obi, the party's 2023 presidential candidate, and Alex Otti, the Governor of Abia State—have called for a crucial meeting of the party's National Executive Committee (NEC).

The meeting is set to take place on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, in the Nigerian capital, Abuja.

According to a notice jointly issued by Obi and Otti, the NEC meeting will be followed by an interactive town hall engagement with major stakeholders and other key party organs.

The engagement will be held at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja, providing a platform for broader discussion on the future direction of

the Labour Party.

The announcement, signed by Ibrahim Umar, spokesperson for the Party's Operations and Media Relations (POMR), was shared with New Daily Prime.

The upcoming gathering will see attendance from a wide range of influential figures within the Labour Party.

These include the party's vice-presidential candidate in the 2023 general elections, serving and former senators, senatorial candidates from the 2023 polls, and current and former members of the House of Representatives, along with LP candidates for the 2023 elections.

In addition, representatives of the National Labour Congress (NLC) and

Trade Union Congress (TUC) Political Commissions, as well as all members of the National Caretaker Committee (NTC) and the former LP National Working Committee (NWC), will also be present.

Former governorship candidates who remain within the party are also invited to the event.

The meeting comes in the wake of a landmark Supreme Court ruling that effectively dissolved the Julius Abure-led National Working Committee (NWC), triggering significant shifts in the party's leadership structure. The Labour Party now faces a critical juncture, and the outcomes of this gathering are expected to shape its trajectory in the lead-up to upcoming elections.

Channels TV reporter alleges police brutality during Rivers protest

By Helen Okechukwu

A Channels Television (TV) reporter has accused the Rivers State Police Command of manhandling him during a protest in the state.

The protest occurred on Monday in Port Harcourt, the state capital.

Charles Oporum, the reporter who was allegedly brutalized, narrated his ordeal with the “overzealous” police officers during the “Take It Back” movement protest.

As the protesters converged from Isaac Boro Park and arrived at the CFC flyover, the deployed police team interrupted the peaceful protesters who were advocating for the reinstatement of elected democratic government officers.

“I was covering the takeitback protest here in Port Harcourt. While they were marching from the Isaac Boro Park towards the federal secretariat, where the police said they had approval to protest,” the Channels TV reporter recounted. “I really don’t know the arrangement between the protesters and the police because it’s not my job, my job is to report on what is happening.

“Along the line, the police started shooting, started firing teargas, somewhere under the CFC flyover, I tried to film what was happening because that’s the job, and an overzealous police man attacked me.”

According to Oporum during an interview session with journalists, he said he was beaten and dragged into the police vehicle for carrying out his assignment as a reporter, despite identifying himself as



a journalist.

“He dragged me by the shirt, dragged me by the trouser, said who are you? So, I identified myself, I even showed him my ID card, he now said even if you are a Journalist and we tell you not to protest are you not supposed to listen to us? I said I am not protesting, I am here to report on what is actually happening,” he said.

While sharing his ordeal with the security officers, he said an overzealous officer reached out for his phone but was resisted before he was pushed into the police vehicle.

Speaking further, the assaulted reporter frowned at the outcome of a peaceful demonstration following the attack by police personnel.

Read Also: DSS officers brutalise policeman at Abia Assembly complex

He continued by saying an officer kept, “slapping me and dragging me, he tried to force me into a bus but I said no, I can’t

enter this bus because this is not a police van, rather put me in a police van let me know that I am in the custody of the police. So he dragged me to the second van and pushed me inside.

“He tried to take my phone but I resisted and held my phone back.”

He shared how he regained his freedom. He said, “When I got into the van and he closed the van, it turned out that the people in the van were members of the CP monitoring unit and they know me, they were even surprised to see me.

“They asked me Charles what happened, what did you do? I said I didn’t do anything I was just filming, observing what was happening. After waiting for like five minutes they said you can go, please just be careful and they apologized to me for their colleague arresting me, they actually apologized to me. That’s how I was released. That’s basically the summary of what transpired between myself and the police in the line of duty.”

Police intercept Lagos protesters from accessing House of Assembly

By Damilola Olufemi

Men of the Lagos State Police Command on Monday intercepted protesters from getting into the Lagos State Assembly complex, where they planned to tender a letter containing their demands and requests.

The Take-It-Back Movement (TIBM) and other civil society organisations led the continuing protest to draw government attention to trendy national matters such as the alleged misuse of the Cybercrime Act, and the state of emergency declaration in Rivers State.

New Daily Prime earlier reported that in defiance of police warnings and increased security presence, members of the TIBM took to the streets of Lagos on Monday to stage the protest.

The national coordinator of the Movement, Juwon Sanyaolu, claimed security operatives tendered on their rights to protest and access the House of Assembly.

He said, “The policemen are preventing us from accessing the house of assembly. It is the people’s assembly, so why are they blocking it? They are impeding our constitutional rights to movement, peaceful assembly, and protest.”

While speaking to the press, he called for the release of protesters allegedly arrested in some parts of



the country where the protest was held, including Abuja and Rivers.

He said, “Currently, protesters have been arrested in Abuja after they were violently dispersed. We are calling for the immediate release of the protesters arrested in Abuja, Yobe, Gombe and Rivers States. This is a warning action and we going back to remobilise by the time we get back in August, we will shake the entire country and the entire world.

“We want the federal government to stop the Cyber Crime Act, the emergency rule in Rivers State, the demolition of houses in Oworonshoki and other parts of Lagos State and stop the trial of those who are being charged for treason after the #Endbadgovernance protest.”

Recall that the protesters gathered beneath the popular Ikeja Under-Bridge before marching to the Lagos

State Government House and the State House of Assembly in Alausa, chanting solidarity songs and carrying placards that decried systemic failure and political suppression.

The demonstration remained peaceful, despite heavy security around government buildings and concerns about potential unrest. Organizers stressed the constitutional right to freedom of assembly and expression, saying the protest was a necessary civic action.

This show of defiance came just a day after the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, called for the cancellation of all planned protests nationwide. The police had warned that any such gathering would be considered disruptive, especially as April 7 has now been declared National Police Day by the federal government.

7 arrested for murder in Lagos as woman kills man with broken bottle

By New Daily Prime

The Lagos State Police Command has announced the arrest of seven individuals linked to separate murder cases across the state within the past two weeks.

Speaking at a press briefing at the Command Headquarters, the spokesperson, Chief Superintendent of Police Benjamin Hundeyin, disclosed a series of tragic incidents that have prompted swift law enforcement responses.

Fatal Altercation in Ikotun

According to CSP Hundeyin, police officers attached to the Ikotun Division responded to a distress report on March 30, involving a fatal stabbing at Abaranje. A 46-year-old man was allegedly stabbed in the chest with a broken bottle during a dispute with a 36-year-old woman.

“The victim was rushed to the hospital but was later confirmed dead,” Hundeyin said. “The female suspect has been arrested, and the corpse has been deposited in the morgue for an autopsy.”

Man Beaten to Death in Ijora Badia

In a separate incident on the same day, police at the Ijora Badia Division received a report involving a 38-year-old man, who was reportedly beaten to unconsciousness by a 21-year-old suspect near the rail line in Ijora Badia. The victim later died at



Apapa General Hospital.

Triple Homicide in Badagry

On April 1, residents of Badagry reported a chilling case in which an armed suspect — still at large — opened fire on three elderly individuals aged 75, 70, and 59. All three victims were rushed to the Badagry General Hospital, where they were confirmed dead.

“One suspect, a 33-year-old man who allegedly accompanied the gunman to the scene, was arrested,” Hundeyin noted. The following day, the primary suspect was reportedly found and rushed to a hospital, where he was confirmed dead.

Market Brawl Turns Deadly in Agege

Also under investigation is a violent altercation that occurred on March 31 at Abattoir Market in Agege, where a 28-year-old man was stabbed in the neck during a

fight involving three individuals. The victim died at the scene.

“Detectives from the command responded promptly, visited the scene, and arrested the three suspects involved,” Hundeyin said.

CSP Hundeyin further reported a disturbing domestic incident in the Ojo area on March 26, where a man was apprehended for allegedly beating his 27-year-old daughter to death.

The police spokesperson confirmed that all suspects currently in custody will be charged in court upon the conclusion of investigations.

“These cases are under active investigation, and we remain committed to ensuring justice is served swiftly and transparently,” Hundeyin said.

Tragedy on Otedola Bridge: Private vehicle plunges off expressway

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In the early hours of Monday, chaos struck once again on the ever-busy Lagos-Ibadan Expressway as a private vehicle veered off the Otedola Bridge and plunged to the ground below, leaving behind a scene of twisted metal, shattered glass, and shaken commuters.

The vehicle, reportedly carrying four passengers, crashed off the bridge under still-unclear circumstances. Eyewitnesses described the incident as “horrific,” recounting how the vehicle somersaulted mid-air before landing with a heavy thud.

Miraculously, the driver survived the fall and was promptly rescued by first responders. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he is currently receiving treatment. The condition of the other occupants remains unclear, though all reportedly sustained varying degrees of injuries.

Confirming the incident in a statement on its official X handle (formerly Twitter), the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) said:

“Report of an accident of a car that fell from Otedola Bridge. The driver has been rescued and taken to the nearby hospital.”

As news of the crash spread, a



major traffic backlog quickly developed, stretching from the bridge through Berger and inward Secretariat. LASTMA officers were swiftly deployed to the scene to control the gridlock and ensure road users were guided safely through the bottleneck.

The agency added that its personnel were “on ground doing the needful” to clear the debris and manage the scene efficiently.

This latest incident adds to a growing list of tragedies associated with the Otedola Bridge. Just weeks ago, the same location witnessed a deadly explosion after a gas-laden tanker keeled over and erupted in flames underneath the bridge. That inferno claimed two lives, left six others injured, and destroyed surrounding properties including a church, a residential

building, and a mechanic yard.

The recurrence of accidents at the Otedola axis has sparked renewed concerns among residents and commuters, who are now questioning the safety infrastructure of one of Lagos’ busiest traffic corridors.

Experts are calling on relevant authorities to intensify road safety inspections, implement stricter enforcement of speed regulations, and install reinforced barriers on bridges to prevent similar occurrences.

For now, the scars on the asphalt and the rattled hearts of Lagosians remain—yet another stark reminder of the fragile thread between life and disaster on Nigeria’s roads.

Tension in Rivers as Police fire tear gas, disperse protesters

By Helen Okechukwu



Despite a heavy security presence, members of the Take it Back movement staged a peaceful protest on Monday at Isaac Boro Park, Port Harcourt. But tensions escalated near the CFC axis where security forces reportedly fired tear gas and live rounds to disperse the crowd.

New Daily Prime correspondents on the ground observed chaotic scenes as protesters scattered and nearby residents hurriedly closed their shops. Panic spread quickly as gunshots were allegedly heard at close range.

“We came out with placards, no

weapons. But before we knew it, they started firing tear gas. People were running everywhere,” said a protester who asked to remain anonymous for safety reasons.

The demonstration coincides with the newly declared State Emergency in the state, a development that drew strong criticism from authorities. On Sunday, Inspector General of Police Kayode Egbetokun called for the protest to be canceled, describing it as “ill-timed” given the significance of the day.

Background: What Is the ‘Take it Back’ Movement?

The Take it Back movement, which began as a youth-led call for accountable governance, has gained traction nationwide in recent years. Advocates say the protests are aimed at demanding economic justice, police reform, and respect for democratic freedoms.

While Monday’s protest started peacefully, the response from security forces has reignited conversations around freedom of assembly and police conduct.

No official reports of injuries or arrests had been released as of press time.

Northern youths snub planned nationwide protest, warn against violence

By Dave Oludare Oso



Fearing a possible breakdown of law and order, the Northern Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) has dissociated itself from the nationwide protest, tagged ‘Take-It-Back’ planned for today.

In a statement issued on Sunday in Kaduna, NYCN President, Isah Abubakar, warning that such demonstrations could inflame tensions and destabilise the country.

Abubakar said while the council acknowledges the frustrations of many young Nigerians, it believes that the current atmosphere calls for restraint, dialogue, and national unity, not street protests.

His statement read, “We are deeply concerned about the rising tension across various regions and the increasingly fragile socio-political climate.

“As an organisation committed to youth empowerment, we understand the grievances driving these calls for protest.

“However, we urge calm and peaceful engagement over actions that may worsen the situation.”

The group noted that previous mass demonstrations, including the EndSARS protest against police brutality, were later hijacked by hoodlums, leading to widespread violence, destruction of public infrastructure, and loss of lives.

He further warned, “No one desires a repeat of such tragic events.”

The NYCN said that while recognising the legitimacy of the concerns raised by organisers of the planned protest, it is important to recognise that peace and national stability must take precedence.

The Northern youths also pledged to

continue working with relevant government agencies and other stakeholders to ensure youth voices are heard through constructive and lawful means.

“We urge our fellow young Nigerians to come together, not through protests, but through meaningful dialogue and civic engagement.

“Let us channel our energy towards building a more inclusive and progressive Nigeria,” it added.

The council concluded by appealing to Nigerian youths to remain calm, avoid violence, and trust ongoing efforts by authorities to address pressing national issues.

“We must be patient and vigilant. The path to lasting change is through peaceful, strategic action—not chaos,” it said.

Meningitis outbreak death toll rises to 151

By New Daily Prime



The Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has announced that the death toll from the ongoing meningitis outbreak has risen to 151, with 1,826 suspected cases reported across 23 states. This translates to a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 8.3%.

In the Cerebrospinal Meningitis Situation Report for Epidemiological week 12, the agency disclosed that the majority of suspected cases, approximately 94% are concentrated in 10 states: Kebbi (881 cases), Katsina (158), Jigawa (147), Yobe (109), Gombe (47), Sokoto (303), Borno (36), Adamawa (27), Oyo (23), and Bauchi (66).

The report added that a total of 17 Local Government Areas (LGAs) across nine states have reported more than 10 suspected cases during the current season

of cerebrospinal meningitis (CSM). They include; Gwandu (313), Tambuwal (155), Aleiro (143), Katsina (69), Kankia (54), Sule-Tankarkar (29), Jega (61), Fune (28), Maiduguri (29), Jahun (15), Birnin kudu (13), Nafada (13), Nguru (53), Bauch (25), Gamawa (20), Taura (14), Sule-Tankarkar (30), Birnin kudu (13), Nafada (13) and Yola South (13).

In the reporting week, 315 new suspected cases were documented across three states, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Yobe. Of these, 38 cases tested positive, with 23 attributed to *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup C (NmC), 14 to serogroup W (NmW), and one to *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (Spn). A total of 14 deaths were recorded in this period, resulting in a CFR of 4.4%.

The agency reported that four LGAs, Gwandu, Aleiro, Jega, and

Tambuwal—have surpassed the epidemic threshold, prompting heightened concern and response.

However, the NCDC reports a 65% decrease in the number of suspected cases in Epidemiological Week 12 compared to the previous week.

Cerebrospinal meningitis (CSM) is an infection of the protective membranes (meninges) surrounding the brain and spinal cord, usually caused by a bacterial or viral infection.

The most common bacterial causes of meningitis are *Neisseria meningitidis* (meningococcal meningitis), *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (pneumococcal meningitis), and *Haemophilus influenzae*. It can also be caused by viruses, fungi, or parasites.

Democracy has never developed a country – Burkina faso's president

By Dr Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Burkina Faso's President, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, declared that the country is not governed by democracy, but is instead undergoing what he calls a 'popular and progressive revolution.'

Speaking at a flag-raising ceremony at the Koulouba Palace, Traoré dismissed democracy as a path to development, stating, "It is impossible to name a country that has developed in democracy. Democracy is only the result."

"If we have to say it loud and clear here, we are not in a democracy. We are in a popular, progressive revolution," he said. "So this question of democracy or libertinism of action or expression has no place. As much as you think you are free to speak and act, the other is also free to speak and act, and there we end up with a society of disorder."

Traoré emphasized that his administration will continue efforts to "communicate, explain, and make people understand what revolution is."

Since assuming power in September 2022 following a military coup, the 37-year-old leader has taken a defiant stance against what he sees as foreign influence and ineffective



governance models.

He recently made headlines for rejecting an offer by Saudi Arabia to build 200 mosques in Burkina Faso, instead urging the Gulf nation to invest in infrastructure projects such as hospitals, roads, and schools that directly benefit citizens.

Born in 1988 in the commune of Bondokuy, Traoré studied geology at the University of Ouagadougou and later joined the military, rising to the rank of captain in 2020. His rise to power came after a second coup in 2022 ousted interim President Paul-Henri Damiba, amid growing discontent over the handling of jihadist violence in the country.

Traoré's leadership marks a shift away from Western-style

democratic frameworks. In May 2024, his transitional government extended its mandate by five years, setting a 60-month timeline beginning July 2, 2024.

Despite pledges to restore order, Burkina Faso continues to grapple with insecurity, with large portions of the country under control of extremist groups. Traoré's revolutionary rhetoric, combined with a growing pivot away from traditional democratic ideals, has raised questions about the long-term direction of governance in the West African nation.

International observers remain cautious as Traoré attempts to chart a new course — one rooted in centralized authority and a rejection of conventional democratic norms.

Bobrisky never served jail term in prison - Baale of Kirikiri alleges

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Over the weekend, the Baale of Kirikiri, Babalola Shabi, accused officials of the Nigerian Correctional Services of aiding Bobrisky to secure VIP treatment during his stay in prison.

In a new revelation, the Baale (traditional leader) of Kirikiri Town has alleged that controversial internet personality Bobrisky did not actually serve the 2024 prison sentence he was widely believed to have completed.

Chief Shabi also known as “Baale No Nonsense,”, alleged that the cross-dresser smuggled eight Automated Teller Machine (ATM) cards into the Kirikiri custodial facility and used them to funnel a total of N35 million through Point of Sale operators in the area, with intentions to bribe the prison officials for preferential treatment.

“Before the truth came out, everyone believed he was in Kirikiri serving his time. But the reality is that Bobrisky was living comfortably outside the prison walls, thanks to a criminal collaboration involving some officials,” he said.

He added that the prison officials who aided Bobrisky have since been suspended.

I personally called in the EFCC after I summoned the POS operators to



my palace. From there, they were able to trace the transactions and decode the money trail. It was shocking how N35 million could be sourced from around here so quickly. Clearly, this was not a one-man job. The officials who aided him have been suspended.

The DSS first invited me for questioning, and I told them everything I knew. The EFCC also reached out, and I gave them my full cooperation. As a community leader, I cannot allow this type of impunity to go unchecked.

Recall that Bobrisky became a massive mention in news headlines after being arrested, charged and sentenced to six months in prison for abusing Naira notes in 2024.

After pleading guilty, he was believed to have served the 6 months in prison until his release, however, popular social media personality Very Dark Man claimed otherwise.

In a scathing viral audio he released on September 24, 2024, Bobrisky alleged that some unnamed EFCC officers collected N15 million from him to drop money laundering charges against him.

In the voice note, he also admitted to paying EFCC N15 million to clear his money laundering case, also adding how he was taken into a private apartment instead of prison to serve his sentence for abusing the naira.

China refuses to back down as Trump threatens 50% tariffs

By New Daily Prime

China has vowed not to yield to pressure or threats, responding firmly to U.S. President Donald Trump's latest warning of imposing an additional 50 percent tariff on Chinese goods if Beijing proceeds with its planned countermeasures.

"We have stressed more than once that pressuring or threatening China is not the right way to engage with us. China will firmly safeguard its legitimate rights and interests," said Liu Pengyu, spokesperson for China's embassy in Washington, in a statement to AFP.

President Trump's remarks came as part of his aggressive new global trade stance, which has already rattled markets worldwide. On Monday, he reiterated that no pause in tariff hikes was being considered, despite last week's sharp market sell-off and mounting international concern.

Trade War Escalates

Last week, Trump introduced sweeping tariffs that jolted global markets, sparking fears of a looming international recession. Despite criticism from within his own Republican Party, the president appears determined to press forward.

Beijing, for its part, announced retaliatory tariffs of 34 percent on U.S. imports, set to take effect Thursday. In response, Trump issued a stark ultimatum: if China does not immediately withdraw its countermeasures, the U.S. will raise tariffs by an additional 50 percent starting Friday.

"I have great respect for China, but they cannot do this," Trump stated from the White House. "We are going to have one shot at this... and it's an honor to do it."

According to the White House, the new measures could bring the total cumulative



tariff rate on Chinese imports to 104 percent this year.

Markets in Turmoil

Global markets responded with sharp declines. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index plummeted 13.2 percent — its worst performance in nearly 30 years. Tokyo's Nikkei dropped nearly 8 percent, while Frankfurt's DAX fell by as much as 10 percent before trimming losses. In the U.S., both the Dow Jones and S&P 500 closed lower after a volatile session.

The sell-off wiped trillions off global market valuations, with analysts warning of increased volatility in the days ahead.

Global Fallout and EU Response

Trump doubled down on Monday, canceling planned talks with Beijing and stating he was "not looking" at any delay in implementing tariffs. Still, he left the door open for future negotiations, saying the U.S. was "ready to talk with any country willing to negotiate."

European Union trade ministers met in Luxembourg to assess the bloc's response, with France and Germany pushing for countermeasures — including digital taxes on American tech giants. French Trade Minister Laurent Saint-Martin called for a robust response, stating, "The European toolbox is

comprehensive and can be extremely aggressive."

However, not all EU members are aligned. Ireland voiced concerns about escalating the conflict to the services sector, warning that such a move could trigger further instability.

Economic Fears Mount

Trump's economic message remains defiant. Posting on social media ahead of Wall Street's opening bell, he urged Americans to "Be strong, courageous, and patient — and GREATNESS will be the result!"

He believes the tariffs will drive manufacturing back to the U.S., but economists remain skeptical. JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon cautioned that inflation could rise and that while a recession isn't certain, economic growth will likely slow. Even Trump allies like Senator Ted Cruz have raised concerns about the impact on American families and consumers.

As the standoff deepens, the world watches closely — with markets, businesses, and households bracing for the potential consequences of a full-scale trade war between the world's two largest economies.

King, Queen mark anniversary with photo in Rome

By Hannah Furness

The couple will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary at a state banquet

The King and Queen are spending their 20th wedding anniversary in Rome, posing for a photograph to mark the milestone.

The new photographs of King Charles III and Queen Camilla were taken at Villa Wolkonsky, the British Ambassador's residence.

They were photographed hours after landing on Monday evening, in the Villa's grounds, next to the Neronian spur of the Aqua Claudia.

The Queen wore a white and beige coat dress by Anna Valentine and a Lily of the Valley brooch that once belonged to the Queen Mother. The flower symbolises love, and is often included in royal wedding bouquets.

In a message on social media signed 'Charles R & Camilla R', the couple said: "As we begin our first visit to Italy as King and Queen, we are so looking forward to celebrating our twentieth wedding anniversary in such a special place – and with such wonderful people!

"A presto, Roma e Ravenna!"

Earlier in the day, the ambassador said he hoped the trip will create "memories that will last a generation", and strengthen UK-Italian relations via a shared love of "culture, food, heritage" and ties that "resonate very, very deeply".

The King and Queen are making their first state visit to the country since the Coronation, in which the King will become the first British monarch to address both houses of Italy's parliament.

The visit will be celebrated by a joint military fly past including the Red Arrows, and the King will hold meetings with the country's president and prime minister.

Unusually for a royal overseas visit in recent years, there are no planned protests by republicans or campaigners.

The couple will visit Dante's tomb and attend a 'slow food' event Credit: Chris Jackson/Chris Jackson Collection



Recent trips to the Commonwealth have regularly included calls for Britain to apologise for its colonial past, or been disrupted by republican campaigners or those wanting to make public points about causes including Gaza.

A local newspaper says the "fever" is growing for the arrival of the English Royals in Ravenna.

The route from the airport to the centre of Rome includes a balcony where residents have placed large cardboard cut outs of the King and Queen.

The King and Queen arrived on Monday evening, around 5.15pm, flying on a British government jet, accompanied by two F-35s from the Italian air force as they came in to land at Rome's Ciampino 31st Wing Airport.

The arrival saw them greeted by a guard of honour and formally welcomed on the red carpet by British and Italian representatives including David Lammy, the Foreign Secretary.

The Queen, wearing a dark blue Fiona Clare dress, said she was "delighted" to be in Italy.

The King and Queen will spend four days in Rome and Ravenna, with a programme including a "slow food" event, a visit to Dante's tomb and the Byron museum.

They will spend their 20th wedding anniversary on Wednesday at a state banquet, surrounded by 150 guests who will toast to them.

There are "no plans" to visit the Pope, who is recovering from a serious illness. A day-long

state visit to the Holy See, including an audience with the Pope, has been postponed.

The King is said to be "raring to go" after a health scare in which he was hospitalised briefly with the side effects of cancer treatment.

Aides have spread the remainder of the engagements, originally planned over two days, to spread across three for a slightly lighter schedule.

The King will hold audiences with Sergio Mattarella, the president, and Giorgia Meloni, the prime minister.

The UK and Italy's defence co-operation will be marked by a joint flypast over Rome by the Italian air force's aerobatic team, Freccia Tricolori, and the RAF's Red Arrows.

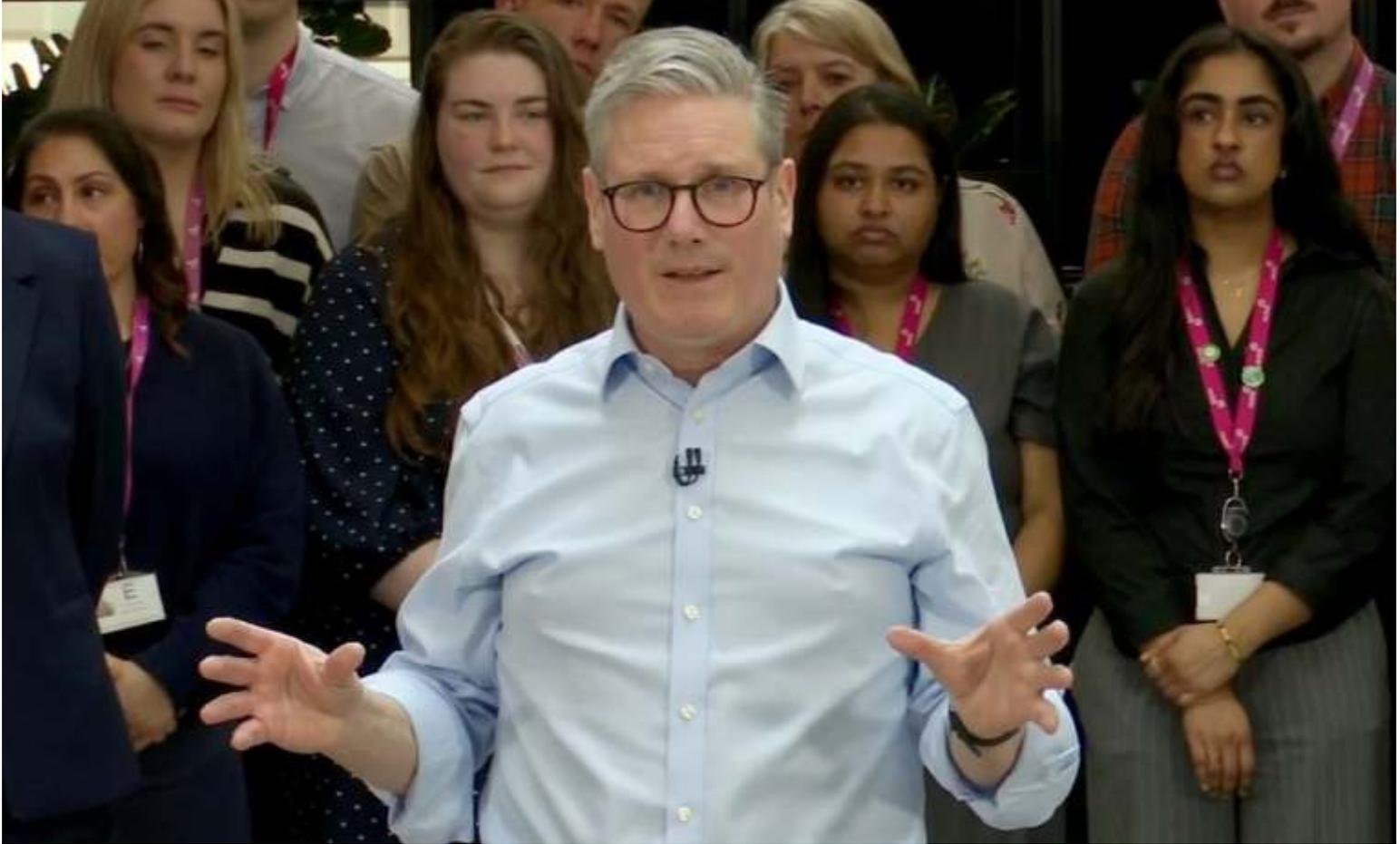
In Ravenna, near Bologna, Charles and Camilla will mark the 80th anniversary of the province's liberation from Nazi occupation by allied forces, on April 10 1945, during a town hall reception.

They will celebrate literary culture by visiting Dante's tomb and the Queen will make a solo trip to the Byron museum.

Lord Llewellyn of Steep, British Ambassador

UK could shut dozens of public bodies to streamline government

By **Fatimah Idera**



Britain said it could consider closing hundreds of arms-length government agencies, as it looks to reform the state to cut costs and improve productivity in what it called “a new era of global instability”.

Britain has over 300 hundreds of quangos, or quasi-autonomous non-governmental organizations which are taxpayer-funded but not controlled by ministers, and include public bodies such as the Health and Safety Executive, Network Rail and the Migration Advisory Committee.

The government said in a statement on Monday that “every quango across government will be reviewed, with a view to close, merge or bring functions back into (government) departments if its continued existence cannot be justified”

Britain is in belt-tightening mode as finance minister Rachel Reeves tries to meet her fiscal rules while also dealing with the fallout from U.S. President Donald Trump’s tariffs which have cut economic growth forecasts.

The government warned that global instability meant it had to go

“further and faster” in its reforms of the bureaucracy.

Last month, Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he was scrapping NHS England, a body overseeing the health system, and bring its functions back into the government’s health department, aiming to save hundreds of millions of pounds.

Some quangos would remain unaffected by the reforms, such as those which scrutinise the government or protect the rule of law, the government said.

Trump's govt battles judge over man mistakenly deported to El Salvador

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

U.S. government attorneys have argued that a federal judge did not have the authority to order the Trump administration to broker the return of a Maryland man who was mistakenly deported from the U.S. to a notorious El Salvador prison, as they urged an appeals court to suspend the ruling.

U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis on Friday ordered the administration to “facilitate and effectuate” Kilmar Abrego Garcia’s return to the U.S. by late Monday night. Justice Department lawyers asked the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to immediately pause the judge’s order.

“A judicial order that forces the Executive to engage with a foreign power in a certain way, let alone compel a certain action by a foreign sovereign, is constitutionally intolerable,” they wrote.

Abrego Garcia’s lawyers in response on Sunday urged the court to deny the government’s request, arguing lawyers for the Justice Department failed to demonstrate their argument would likely succeed on the merits. They also argued the government’s claim that the order to return Abrego Garcia “is neither possible nor proper” is “wrong on both counts.”

“The Government’s contentions that the district court’s order improperly encroached on the Executive’s prerogative to manage foreign affairs are unavailing,” Abrego Garcia’s lawyers wrote. “Courts routinely exercise jurisdiction to protect individual rights, including in immigration cases, without impinging on the Executive’s ability to conduct foreign affairs. ... Courts routinely order the Government to return, or facilitate the return, of individuals the Government wrongly removed to foreign countries—including El Salvador.”

Abrego Garcia, a 29-year-old Salvadoran national, was arrested in Maryland and deported last month despite an immigration judge’s 2019 ruling that shielded him from deportation to El Salvador, where he faced likely persecution by local gangs.

His mistaken deportation, described by the White House as an “administrative error,” has outraged many and raised concerns about expelling noncitizens who were granted permission to be in the U.S.

Dozens of supporters gathered at the Greenbelt, Maryland, federal courthouse for Friday’s hearing. A cheer erupted in the courtroom when Xinis ruled in favor of Abrego Garcia, whose wife, a U.S. citizen,



was in attendance.

Xinis, who was nominated by President Barack Obama, said there was no legal basis for Abrego Garcia’s detention and no legal justification for his removal to El Salvador, where he has been held in a prison that observers say is rife with human rights abuses.

In her full opinion released early Sunday, Xinis wrote of her decision to order Abrego Garcia returned that having “confessed grievous error, the Defendants now argue that this Court lacks the power to hear this case, and they lack the power to order Abrego Garcia’s return.” She added that the government’s arguments “fail as a matter of law.”

“Further, to avoid clear irreparable harm, and because equity and justice compels it, the Court grants the narrowest, daresay only, relief warranted: to order that Defendants return Abrego Garcia to the United States,” Xinis continued.

During Friday’s hearing, Justice Department attorney Erez Reuveni conceded to Xinis that Abrego Garcia should not have been removed from the U.S. or sent to El Salvador. Reuveni could not tell the judge upon what authority he was arrested in Maryland.

“I’m also frustrated that I have no answers for you for a lot of these questions,” he said.

Reuveni’s name was not on Saturday’s court filing. A department spokesperson confirmed that he was placed on leave.

“At my direction, every Department of Justice attorney is required to zealously advocate on behalf of the United States. Any attorney who fails to abide by this

direction will face consequences,” Attorney General Pam Bondi said in a statement.

Abrego Garcia’s attorney, Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, said the government has done nothing to get his client back, even after admitting its errors.

“Plenty of tweets. Plenty of White House press conferences. But no actual steps taken with the government of El Salvador to make it right,” he told the judge on Friday.

The White House has cast Abrego Garcia as an MS-13 gang member and doubled down on that claim after Friday’s hearing. Abrego Garcia’s attorneys have countered that there is no evidence he was in MS-13.

Abrego Garcia had a permit from DHS to legally work in the U.S., his attorney said. He served as a sheet metal apprentice and was pursuing his journeyman license.

Abrego Garcia fled El Salvador around 2011 because he and his family were facing threats by local gangs. In 2019, a U.S. immigration judge granted him protection from deportation to El Salvador.

Government lawyers say they have no control over Abrego Garcia and no authority to arrange for his return — “any more than they would have the power to follow a court order commanding them to ‘effectuate’ the end of the war in Ukraine, or a return of the hostages from Gaza.”

“It is an injunction to force a foreign sovereign to send back a foreign terrorist within three days’ time. That is no way to run a government. And it has no basis in American law,” they wrote.

Supreme court lets Trump use 1798 deportation law with limits

By New Daily Prime

In a closely watched decision, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday ruled in favor of former President Donald Trump's administration, allowing it to utilize a centuries-old wartime law — the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 — to deport alleged Venezuelan gang members. However, the court imposed key legal safeguards to ensure due process.

In a narrow 5-4 ruling, the court granted the administration's request to lift a lower court order by U.S. District Judge James Boasberg, which had temporarily halted deportations under the 1798 law. The justices made clear that while the executive branch may proceed with removals, detainees must first be given adequate legal notice and access to judicial review.

Deportations Must Allow Legal Recourse

The unsigned opinion stated that detainees must be notified within a "reasonable time" that they are being deported under the Alien Enemies Act. This notice must be delivered in a way that enables them to seek habeas corpus relief — a constitutional right allowing individuals to challenge unlawful



detention — before removal takes place.

The court emphasized that the use of the 1798 law, which has traditionally been invoked only during wartime or national emergencies, does not eliminate an individual's right to challenge their detention in court.

Sharp Divide Among Justices

While the court maintains a 6-3 conservative majority, the ruling saw an unusual split: Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined the three liberal justices in dissent, highlighting concerns over the scope of executive power and due process.

The Alien Enemies Act, part of the broader Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, allows the U.S. government to detain or remove nationals of hostile nations during times of conflict. Its

modern-day use has been rare, and this marks one of the most high-profile attempts to apply it in a peacetime immigration context.

Immigration Policy Under Scrutiny

Trump's effort to revive the centuries-old statute is part of a broader hardline immigration agenda that continues to shape U.S. political discourse. The decision reignites debate over executive authority, immigration enforcement, and constitutional protections for non-citizens.

Legal analysts expect further challenges in lower courts as the case proceeds. Meanwhile, immigration advocates have expressed concern over potential abuses of power, while supporters of the decision argue it strengthens national security and border control

Average UK house price fall as market feels tax break hangover

By **Fatimah Idera**

UK house prices have suffered their steepest decline in a year as the market cools after a buyer rush to beat changes to stamp duty changes in England and Northern Ireland.

The average price of a property fell by 0.5% last month to £296,699, the steepest decline in value since March last year, according to Halifax.

It is the second consecutive month that house prices have fallen, as Britain's biggest mortgage lender revised February's decline from 0.1% to 0.2%.

However, prices in March this year compared with the same month last year were up by 2.8%, the same pace of annual increase as seen in February.

The expiry at the end of March of temporary tax incentives for buyers of less expensive homes as well as for first-time buyers encouraged buyers to move ahead more quickly with their plans in the months leading up to the change.

Last week, another mortgage lender, Nationwide, said its measure of house prices was flat in March and it expected the market to remain soft in the coming months.



Amanda Bryden, head of mortgages at Halifax, said demand was returning to normal levels after the rush created by the tax change deadline and new applications for loans were slowing.

“Looking ahead, potential buyers still face challenges from the new normal of higher borrowing costs, a limited supply of available properties to choose from, and an uncertain economic outlook,” Bryden said.

“However, with further base rate cuts anticipated alongside positive wage growth, mortgage affordability should continue to improve gradually, and therefore we still expect a modest rise in house prices this year,” she said.

Recall that the chancellor, Rachel Reeves, announced in her October budget the end of temporary stamp duty cuts in England and Northern Ireland from April. Scotland and Wales set different taxes on house purchases.

From April 1st, first-time buyers in England and Northern Ireland have to pay tax on homes worth more than £300,000, down from £425,000, and the threshold for a reduced rate for first-time buyers will drop from £625,000 to £500,000.

The zero-tax stamp duty threshold that applies to all housing in England and Northern Ireland has dropped from £250,000 to £125,000.

According to an analysis by Moneyfacts in the latest market, Mortgage rates have slightly dipped compared with last week.

The average two-year fixed mortgage rate is 5.32%, down from 5.33% on Friday. The average five-year fixed mortgage rate is 5.17%, a slight improvement on the 5.18% rate on Friday.

Break good for me mentally – Saka

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Saka Feels Mentally Refreshed After Injury as Arsenal Prepare for Real Madrid Showdown

Arsenal star Bukayo Saka has described his recent injury layoff as a much-needed mental reset ahead of the Gunners' Champions League quarter-final clash with Real Madrid.

The 23-year-old winger, who returned to action last week after 101 days out with a hamstring injury, says the break allowed him to reset after five intense years of non-stop football.

“It was really tough initially,” Saka said. “But once the surgery was successful, I focused on coming back stronger. Mentally, it was really good for me. I got to do things I don’t normally have time for. I feel fresh now.”

Saka scored in his comeback against Fulham and played 45 minutes in Arsenal’s 1-1 draw with Everton on Saturday. Manager Mikel Arteta is optimistic the England international will be ready to start Tuesday night’s high-stakes tie



against reigning European champions Real Madrid.

Arteta, who called the quarter-final “100%” the biggest match of his managerial career, said his team is ready despite injury setbacks. Arsenal will be without key players Gabriel Magalhaes, Riccardo Calafiori, and Kai Havertz for the first leg at the Emirates.

“There are things we cannot control,” Arteta admitted. “But I’m super convinced we’re ready to win. At 8pm, it’s 11 players and 60,000 fans—our mindset is clear.”

Real Madrid, 15-time European champions, also face challenges. First-choice goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois is fit again after a knee

issue, while backup Andriy Lunin remains out. The Spanish giants suffered a shock 2-1 defeat to Valencia at the weekend.

Courtois spoke highly of Arsenal, calling them a “strong team with a good mix of youth and experience.” But the Belgian was firm in his intent: “They’re doing great, but hopefully not in the Champions League this year.”

Real manager Carlo Ancelotti echoed the praise, saying, “There aren’t many teams that do so many things well. Arsenal are stronger than in the past, and they’ll only get better.”

With both sides eager to seize control of the tie, Tuesday night promises a blockbuster clash under the Emirates lights.

Man charged after Grealish slapped in Manchester derby

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



A 20-year-old man has been charged with assault after Manchester City midfielder Jack Grealish was allegedly slapped following Sunday's tense 0-0 draw against Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Grealish, 29, had come on as a second-half substitute in the high-stakes derby. According to reports from the Daily Mail, he was approached and struck while leaving the pitch after full-time.

Greater Manchester Police confirmed on Monday that Alfie Holt, of Haven Drive, Droylsden, has been charged in connection with the incident. He is scheduled to appear at Manchester Magistrates Court on 14 July.

"This charge relates to an incident which took place at Old Trafford Football Club yesterday," the police stated.

Both Manchester United and Manchester City have declined to comment on the matter when

contacted by BBC Sport.

The match was further overshadowed by unsavoury chants from sections of the United fanbase, directed at Phil Foden's mother. City manager Pep Guardiola condemned the behavior, calling it a sign of "a lack of class."

As investigations continue, the incident raises renewed concerns about player safety and fan conduct at major football fixtures.