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Family, unions react as Uk varsity sack Nigerian grandmother over alleged theft **Pg 10**



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Postecoglou sacked by Spurs after Europa League triumph



Eid: Obi urges leaders to embrace sacrifice, accountability

By Friday Omosola

Peter Obi, the 2023 Labour Party presidential candidate, has extended warm greetings to Muslims across Nigeria as they marked Eid al-Adha.

He urged leaders at all levels to embrace the virtues of sacrifice, humility, and service.

In a statement posted in his X page and titled “Eid al-Adha: A Time for Reflection, Sacrifice, and Leadership”, the 63-year-old said the celebration served as a powerful reminder of faith, obedience, and selflessness.

He joined Muslims in thanking Almighty Allah for the grace of unity and peace that the sacred occasion represents.

Obi also described Eid al-Adha as a time



for deep reflection on the values that bind Nigerians together— compassion, justice, and shared responsibility, especially towards the most vulnerable.

The former governor of Anambra State called on political leaders to reflect on the noble ideals of leadership and to apply

them meaningfully in their service to the public.

“I wish all Nigerians a peaceful and joyful Sallah. May this season renew our collective hope, strengthen our unity, and inspire us all to work toward a better, more inclusive Nigeria,” he stated.

Ex-CJN Mohammed Uwais Dies At 89

By New Daily Prime

A former Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Mohammed Uwais, is dead.

He was aged 89. His family confirmed his death.

The retired jurist died on Friday, June 6, 2025, in Abuja, Nigeria’s capital city.

Born on June 12, 1936, Justice Uwais served as the Chief Justice of Nigeria from 1995 until his retirement in 2006.

After retiring from the Supreme Court, he was appointed by the late President Umaru Musa Yar’Adua to lead the Electoral Reform Committee, where he played a key role in efforts to improve Nigeria’s



electoral system.

Uwais chaired a commission that published a much-publicised report on electoral reform.

Uwais was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple, London, in 1963 after graduating

from the University of London.

He served as a State Counsel and Senior State Counsel (1966-1970), before his appointment as a Judge of the High Court, and later Chief Judge, of Kaduna State (1973-1976).

In 1977, he was appointed a Justice of the Court of Appeal, and in 1979 as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. In 1995, he was appointed Chief Justice of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman of the National Judicial Council.

Uwais served as Chairman, Nigerian Body of Benchers (1993-1994), and as Chairman, Board of Governors of the National Judicial Institute of Nigeria from 1995 to 2006.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
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8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
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Eid-el-Kabir: Tinubu urges support for security forces, compassion for vulnerable

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has urged Nigerians to remember members of the armed forces and vulnerable citizens in their prayers and actions during the Eid-el-Kabir festivities.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu spoke after observing the Eid-al-Adha prayers at the Eid Ground within Dodan Barracks, Lagos.

The President called on the public to show unity, love, and sacrifice in line with the spirit of the season.

Tinubu stressed the need to offer prayers for military personnel and security operatives who continue to risk their lives battling insecurity across the country, particularly in the fight against terrorism and banditry.

“This season reminds us of the importance of sacrifice,” he said. “We must remember the less privileged, give generously, and stand together as one. Our

troops deserve our prayers for their courage and commitment to securing our nation. We must not take their efforts for granted.”

The President also urged citizens to show care for their neighbours and uphold unity in their communities, adding that national progress depends on collective compassion and responsible citizenship.

The Chief Imam of Lagos State, Sheikh Suleiman Oluwatoyin Abu-Nola, who led the congregation in prayers, delivered a sermon that echoed the theme of sacrifice.

He reminded the faithful of Prophet Ibrahim’s devotion and encouraged them to emulate that selflessness in their families, communities, and national life.

He urged Muslims to place service to God above all else and to make meaningful contributions to the wellbeing of the nation.

“True sacrifice is about serving others,”

he said. “To achieve a better Nigeria, we must be willing to put aside ethnic divisions and work together regardless of our backgrounds.”

Dignitaries who joined Tinubu at the Eid ground included Minister of Defence Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, Minister of Marine and Blue Economy Adegboyega Oyetola, Minister of State for Defence Bello Muhammed Matawalle, Lagos State Deputy Governor Femi Hamzat, and former Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola.

Also in attendance were National Security Adviser Nuhu Ribadu, Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly Mudashiru Obasa, President of the Dangote Group Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Chairman of BUA Group Abdul Samad Rabi, Oando Group Chief Executive Wale Tinubu, and Professor Shaffideen Amuwo, a long-time associate of the President.

FG sets up committee for 2025 Democracy Day

By Friday Omosola

The Federal Government, FG, has inaugurated an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) to plan and coordinate activities for the 2025 Democracy Day celebration.

The committee is tasked with delivering a memorable and befitting national event in honour of Nigeria's democratic journey.

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), George Akume, inaugurated the committee yesterday.

He was represented at the event by the Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Abubakar Bagudu.

In his remarks, Bagudu highlighted the importance of Democracy Day as a moment for national reflection, describing it as an opportunity to honour the sacrifices of Nigeria's founding fathers and those who struggled to end military rule.

He stated that celebrating Democracy Day is a way of acknowledging the efforts of past leaders and democratic champions whose resilience and sacrifices helped Nigeria attain and sustain democratic governance.

Bagudu noted that the annual event also provides a platform for the government to present its scorecard and highlight its achievements to Nigerians.

Bagudu further called on members of the committee to work in close collaboration with President Bola Tinubu to ensure that the Democracy Day celebration aligns with the Renewed Hope Agenda and the administration's vision for national



development.

The 2025 Democracy Day celebration will include a series of events scheduled to take place over several days.

These events include a World Press Briefing and a Special Juma'at Service on Friday, 6th June; a Church Service on Sunday, 8th June; a Youth Programme on Tuesday, 9th June; a Public Lecture on Wednesday, 11th June; and a Presidential Broadcast and National Parade on Thursday, 12th June.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee is chaired by Akume. Other members include the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun; the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris; Bagudu; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar.

Also on the committee are the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike; the Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo; the Special Adviser to the President on

Policy and Coordination, Hadiza Bala-Usman; the Inspector-General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun; the Director-General of the Department of State Services, Adeola Oluwatosin Ajayi; and the Commander of the Guards Brigade, Brigadier General Adebisi Onasanya.

The committee also includes the Permanent Secretary of the General Services Office in the OSGF, Nnamdi Mbaeri; the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Kachollom Daju; and the Permanent Secretary of the Political and Economic Affairs Office in the OSGF, Nadungu Gagare, who will serve as the Member/Secretary.

The terms of reference for the committee include planning, organising, and executing all approved activities for the Democracy Day celebration; co-opting any relevant organisations or individuals necessary for the successful execution of the programme; documenting all activities for posterity; and carrying out any additional assignments needed to ensure the success of the celebration.

Akwa Ibom governor finally dumps PDP for APC

By Friday Omosola



Governor Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom State has formally severed ties with the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and declared his allegiance to the All Progressives Congress (APC), bringing an end to weeks of intense political speculation.

Speaking in Uyo on Friday, Eno explained that his decision came after three months of wide-ranging consultations with political leaders and stakeholders throughout the state.

“For quite some time, discussions have swirled around my possible departure from the PDP—the party that brought me into office,” the governor said. “Today, I’m here to put an end to the rumours and share my decision openly.”

Quoting the Dalai Lama, Eno said, “Change is necessary, but it must

never come at the cost of our collective values.”

He stressed that the move was the outcome of careful reflection and sincere dialogue with political allies.

He revealed that he had resigned from the PDP earlier in the day, submitting a letter to his ward chairman and forwarding copies to the party’s leadership at both state and national levels.

“I’m grateful to the PDP for the platform it provided and for the opportunity to serve Akwa Ibom under its banner these past two years,” he said.

According to the governor, his final round of consultations took place Thursday evening with senior PDP members.

He described the process as the most

extensive in the state’s political history, adding that he had acted out of deep respect for the people and leaders of Akwa Ibom.

“This is not a decision I made in isolation,” Eno noted. “It was important for me to listen, to seek guidance, and to be transparent about my intentions.”

The governor characterised his defection as a strategic response to the shifting political landscape, saying: “Leadership demands that we read the times correctly. At this point, I believe aligning with the APC is the right step forward.”

He joined the likes of Sheriff Oborevwori, Governor of Delta State, Ifeanyi Okowa, Senator Ned Nwoko, and others in defecting from the PDP to the APC.

Fubara's visit to Tinubu not for defection, he won't join APC - Rivers PDP

By Friday Omosola and Helen Okechukwu

The frequent visits of suspended Rivers State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, to President Bola Tinubu have sparked speculation, especially amid recent waves of defections from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Several PDP governors, including Akwa Ibom State's Umo Eno and Delta State's Sheriff Oborevwori, have reportedly aligned more closely with the APC in recent months, fueling rumors of potential defections.

Fubara's visits to Tinubu have been interpreted by some as part of a defection plan or a bid for reinstatement. However, the Rivers State chapter of the PDP has strongly dismissed these claims, labeling them as misleading distractions aimed at diverting public attention. The party emphasized that Tinubu's presidency is not defined by party lines.

In separate interviews with The New Daily Prime, PDP members expressed continued confidence in Governor Fubara's loyalty to the party, despite the current political turbulence.

Comrade Okey Waka, former PDP ward vice chairman in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area, urged President Tinubu to intervene in Fubara's suspension.

"Tinubu is the President of Nigeria, and he holds constitutional authority above any governor, regardless of party affiliation. He has the power to intervene or even terminate the suspension," Waka stated.

He added, "Supporting the president doesn't equate to defecting to APC. In politics, if someone from another party performs well and aligns with your values, you can support them. That doesn't make you a member of their party. People often misunderstand this. Support is about performance, not necessarily party allegiance."

Waka also stressed the PDP's focus on ensuring a southern presidential candidate in the future.

"We're not agitating to become APC members. Our interest is ensuring that the



South—whether South-South or otherwise—produces the next president. That's why we support whoever aligns with that vision, while still remaining in the PDP."

Simeon Chuku, the PDP's Organizing Secretary in Rivers State, echoed the sentiment, asserting that Fubara remains a committed PDP member—just like FCT Minister Nyesom Wike, despite Wike serving under the APC-led federal administration.

"There's nothing wrong with the FCT Minister supporting President Tinubu's second-term bid. In Rivers PDP, our major concern is ensuring the next president comes from the South-South. That's our priority," Chuku said.

He also confirmed that reconciliation efforts are ongoing within the PDP.

"There have been several meetings among stakeholders, and the national body has set up a committee to help resolve internal issues. Once the committee's report is implemented, it will impact both the state and local levels," he said.

While acknowledging concerns about a possible defection, Chukwu clarified, "If Fubara decides to defect to APC, it will definitely shake the PDP. But for now, there's no such signal. Until he openly declares his intent, we remain in PDP.

Even if we're supporting someone in APC, that doesn't mean we've switched parties. It's not double-dealing."

Opurum Loveday, a PDP member and coordinator of the Young Elite Advocacy Forum, emphasized that President Tinubu is the leader of the entire nation, not just the APC.

"Fubara's visit to the president has nothing to do with defection. It's about building synergy. A governor must maintain a good relationship with the president to function effectively, regardless of party," he explained.

Loveday argued that the visits do not compromise PDP's credibility.

"It only becomes a problem if Fubara officially defects. Until then, visiting the president is a matter of governance, not politics."

He continued, "Nigeria is a unique nation. Everyone is affected by the current economic and social realities. The federal government's actions impact all Nigerians, not just members of a particular party. The situation in Rivers State reflects broader national issues."

He concluded by acknowledging the

Costly rams force many Muslims to scale back Eid plans

By Adeniyi Yusuf



As today marks Eid-ul-adha celebration, some Muslims in Lagos State have said they would celebrate Sallah with no ram because of the exorbitant prices of livestock. This casts a shadow over the festive season despite its religious significance.

Findings by New Daily Prime revealed that the low sales and high prices are mainly linked to the ongoing closure of the Nigeria-Niger border, which has disrupted the regular supply of livestock.

This, combined with widespread economic hardship and rising inflation, has made it nearly impossible for traders to offer affordable prices, forcing many potential buyers out of the market.

In a price survey conducted by our correspondent at key livestock

markets in the state, particularly Alaba Irago Market, ram prices ranged from ₦200,000 to ₦800,000, with the lowest-priced ram going for ₦200,000.

Along Okokomaiko, Badagry Expressway, Yunus Fasasi, a resident, told our correspondent that the prices of ram could not afford him to buy this year.

He, "It is painful that I can't afford to buy a ram for me and my family to celebrate sallah. Some years ago, I buy ram effortlessly but this time around if I try it, I will go bankrupt. But I will just manage with my family and I pray Allah help me. it is not do or die."

Similarly, Kaburi Yemi lamented, "The situation is tough. With the current prices, many families simply can't afford the traditional Eid sacrifice this year. Things have only gotten worse since the fuel subsidy

was removed in 2023."

Another resident, Fatimah Kasali, said, "The prices this year differ from those of last year. They range from ₦200,000 to ₦750,000 for rams. My husband couldn't buy due to the high cost."

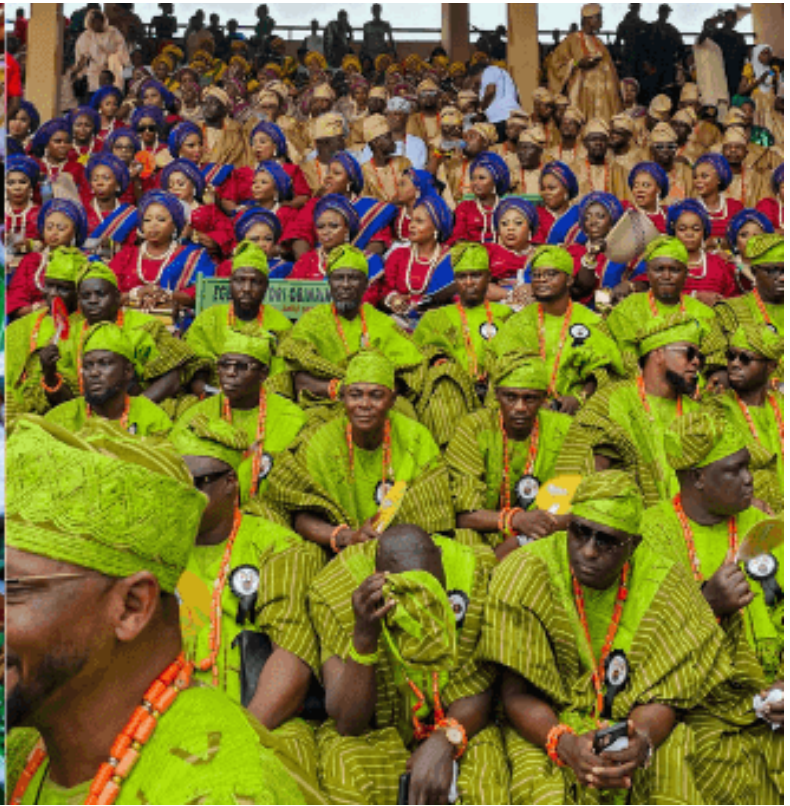
Also, Waheed Bakare, said she had to redirect her savings to food and basic needs instead. "We'll celebrate in our own small way. It's sad, but survival comes first this year."

Meanwhile, a trader, who only identified as Suleiman, who sells livestock at the market, expressed concern over low patronage.

He noted, "We brought in fewer rams this year because we knew many people wouldn't be able to buy. Even with fewer animals, we're struggling to sell."

100 million people expected at 2025 Ojude Oba festival

By Damilola Olufemi



Organisers of the yearly popular Ojude Oba Festival have expressed that no fewer than 100 million people are expected to participate in the 2025 edition of the event.

The Coordinator of the Ojude Oba Festival Committee, Dr Fassy Yusuf, the festival was scheduled to be held on Sunday, in Ijebu-Ode, Ogun state, in honour of the Awujale of Ijebuland.

He noted that the festival, which has been on for over 100 years, “is expected to draw Ijebu sons and daughters from across the world, along with tourists and dignitaries eager to witness the vibrant celebration of culture, fashion, and tradition at the Utoro Centre in Ijebu-Ode.”

While speaking during an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abeokuta, he said the estimated 100 million participants include approximately 200,000 people expected to converge at the main pavilion and the surrounding Utoro Centre.

million attendees are expected across Ijebu towns and other parts of Ogun.

“Besides the physical turnout, millions more will be watching online through various live streaming platforms globally,” he added.

The coordinator of the festival promised participants coming of a safe celebration and security provisions, saying, “the Nigerian Police, NSCDC, DSS, the military, Amotekun Corps, and the Vigilante Group of Nigeria, among others, will be fully deployed to prevent any breach of security.”

He added that the festival showcases our collective pride, unity, and cultural strength. We will not allow any hoodlums or miscreants to disrupt this landmark event.

He also expressed appreciation to corporate sponsors and stakeholders for their continuous support, noting that such partnerships reflected shared values of inclusiveness, cultural pride, and national development.

The Ojude Oba is a Yoruba festival held in Ijebu Ode, a town in Ogun State, Southwestern Nigeria.

It is held annually on the third day after Eid al-Kabir. It is a festival whereby different cultural age groups known as regberege parades at the front of the king’s palace on the third day of Eid al Kabir festival, popularly referred to as “Ileya” in Yoruba language.

Ojude Oba, which means king’s forecourt in Yoruba language is usually celebrated with pomp and pageantry by about 1,000,000 people from different parts of the world and Nigeria, especially those from Yoruba origin and most especially by people of Ijebu descent all over the world.

Ojude Oba is one of the most glamorous cultural and spiritual festivals in Ijebuland and in Ogun State in general. This is a celebration that has traditional, cultural, religious, social, and military significance. It has been celebrated for more than 100 years.

“Additionally, between two and three

About Ojude Oba Festival

Family, unions react as Uk varsity sack Nigerian grandmother over alleged theft

By Oluwatosin Ologun

The sack of a 71-year-old Nigerian grandmother, Janet Olufunke Damiro, from the London School of Economics (LSE) has generated a series of reactions from her family and unions.

The New Daily Prime reported that a 71-year-old Nigerian had been dismissed from her job after being accused of stealing a gold bracelet.

In a video obtained on X, Damiro, a Nigerian-born grandmother, narrated how she has lived in the United Kingdom since 1971, and how she was dismissed without pay in April 2025 after working at LSE for 13 years.

The dismissal followed an allegation of theft involving a student's bracelet found at the Saw Swee Hock Student Centre, where she was on duty.

According to Damiro, the bracelet was picked up during her shift and placed in her coin purse for safekeeping, to hand it in later. However, she says she forgot about it until she was questioned by LSE management three days later. She then retrieved the item and immediately returned it, apologising for the oversight.

"I can't sleep. I have never had a bad record or been to HR before in my life," Damiro said in a video. "LSE have treated me really badly. It was my only job and I loved working there. I never expected to be suspended or dismissed. I did not steal this thing."

Despite her apology and the return of the item, Damiro was suspended and later dismissed for gross misconduct. Her union, United Voices of the World (UVW), is contesting the decision and has launched an appeal on her behalf.

Family defends Nigerian grandmother
The family of Janet Damiro has spoken out against widespread media reports, describing the coverage as misleading and lacking important context.

In a statement released on Friday, Aina Damiro, Janet's daughter, clarified the circumstances surrounding her mother's dismissal, saying the issue had been "blown out of proportion."

"When approached a few days later, she



was honest and cooperative," the statement read. "She retrieved the bracelet immediately and explained what had happened. There was no denial or attempt to hide it."

The family emphasized that Janet's actions were the result of forgetfulness, not misconduct, and underscored her long-standing dedication to her job.

"To see her name and image associated with wrongdoing is not only unfair but deeply hurtful," the family said.

"This was an innocent mistake that has been misrepresented, raising concerns about the treatment of older workers—especially women of colour in low-wage positions."

They also noted that Janet had agreed to speak with Metro UK in hopes of raising awareness, not to be publicly shamed.

"We urge the public and media to reconsider how this story is being portrayed," the family stated, calling on institutions to reflect on their responsibility to protect vulnerable, long-serving staff members.

Unions defend Janet Damiro, demand recall

The dismissal of Janet Damiro has caused a broader conversation about fairness in the workplace, particularly in the treatment of elderly and minority staff in lower-paid roles.

Speaking on the union's position, a UVW spokesperson said, "It is ludicrous and

absurd that someone can conclude she was committing an act of theft. If you were to steal an item, you're not going to keep bringing it back to where you've stolen it. Janet is absolutely horrified at the thought that anyone would think she had stolen anything."

Damiro's dismissal has prompted an outpouring of support from her colleagues. Over 70 of them, including three supervisors, submitted a joint letter to LSE management defending her integrity and professionalism. "Janet has always conducted herself with integrity and consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic," the letter read.

Students at the university have also launched a petition demanding her reinstatement. The petition criticises the school's decision as "deeply disturbing" and argues that a sweeping punishment for what appears to be a minor and honest mistake undermines trust in institutional fairness.

LSE has declined to comment publicly while the internal appeal process is ongoing. A hearing is expected later in June.

Meanwhile, the case has gained attention online, with hashtags such as #JusticeForJanet and #RespectElderWorkers circulating across social media platforms. Many users have described the school's actions as unnecessarily punitive and have called for reconsideration.

UNICEF delivers solar boreholes to curb disease in Borno

By Helen Okechukwu



To prevent cholera and other waterborne disease outbreaks in flood-devastated areas of Borno State, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has commissioned six solar-powered boreholes to restore access to clean water for nearly 12,000 people.

The intervention, handed over on Thursday in Maiduguri, comes in response to the 2024 floods that submerged about 70 per cent of the city and surrounding areas, severely disrupting water and sanitation infrastructure.

UNICEF Deputy Representative, Dr. Rownak Khan, said the agency prioritized water supply in its emergency response, as families forced into overcrowded shelters were left vulnerable to disease due to

a lack of clean water.

"The risk of disease outbreaks, especially cholera and other waterborne illnesses, increased exponentially," Dr. Khan warned. "'In the face of this crisis, the response required urgency, coordination, and a focus on long-term impact."

The boreholes, each capable of supplying 22,000 litres of clean water daily, were installed in six of the hardest-hit communities across Maiduguri and Jere: Fori, Bulabulin, Shehuri North, Kusheri, Shetimari New GRA, and Goungolong.

The project was carried out in collaboration with the Borno State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency and funded by IHS Towers.

It aims to support recovery for displaced families, schoolchildren, and mothers in healthcare centres still grappling with the aftermath of the disaster.

Dr. Khan commended the Borno State government and community stakeholders including IHS Towers partners for collective support.

Cholera, is bacterial disease causing severe diarrhoea and dehydration. It spreads through contaminated water to human. If not treated properly, it can lead to death.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) published in 2023, Borno State recorded 12,496 confirmed cases with 394 deaths.

WHO warns of Mpox spread beyond Africa, issues new care guidelines

By Helen Okechukwu

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued sweeping new guidelines for the clinical management and infection prevention of mpox, as the virus, formerly known as monkeypox, continues to evolve and cross international borders.

Mpox is an infectious disease that can cause a painful rash, enlarged lymph nodes, fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain and low energy. Most people fully recover, but some get very sick. It is caused by the monkeypox virus (MPXV).

The revised recommendations come in response to mounting global cases and the resurgence of new virus clades beyond Africa, prompting the WHO to declare a second public health emergency of international concern in August 2024.

While earlier mpox outbreaks were largely contained in Central and West Africa, WHO reports that clade Ib infections are now emerging outside the continent, mirroring the global spread seen with clade IIb in 2022.

These developments have triggered a call for heightened vigilance among healthcare systems, public health authorities, and caregivers worldwide.

Under the new guidance, WHO underscores that only mild and non-complicated mpox cases should be treated at home, while those with acute infections or at risk of complications, such as immunocompromised individuals, require medical care in health facilities with enhanced support.

The infection prevention and control



(IPC) protocols are now more stringent. In healthcare settings, WHO advises staff to wear gloves, gowns, medical masks, and eye protection, with respirators mandated during aerosol-generating procedures or in poorly ventilated rooms.

For home-based care, isolation is no longer mandatory for mild cases if skin lesions are fully covered and the patient wears a well-fitting medical mask when near others.

In a notable shift, WHO also provides new recommendations around maternal care.

Mothers infected with mpox are encouraged to continue breastfeeding while minimising direct contact with their infant. Once recovered, they can resume normal contact and breastfeeding as soon as the lesions are healed.

Another crucial update concerns people living with HIV.

WHO now recommends the rapid initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) for mpox-infected individuals who are either ART-naïve or have experienced treatment interruptions, highlighting a proactive approach to co-infection management.

The expanded guidance targets a broad range of frontline professionals—from emergency responders and clinicians to IPC specialists across sexual health clinics, maternity wards, dental practices, and infectious disease units.

Mpox continues to defy historical patterns. As mpox continues to defy historical patterns, WHO's updated recommendations serve as a critical global alert: the virus is changing, and so must the world's preparedness and response.

Gaza: WHO calls for immediate ceasefire

By Helen Okechukwu

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a stark warning about the collapse of Gaza's already crippled healthcare system, calling for an immediate and lasting ceasefire as the territory's major medical facility, Nasser Medical Complex, teeters on the brink of shutdown.

Nasser Medical Complex and Al-Amal Hospital — the last two operational public hospitals in Khan Younis — are now at serious risk of becoming non-functional.

This comes as Israeli authorities have informed Gaza's Ministry of Health that access roads to both facilities will be obstructed, severely hampering the movement of patients, staff, and aid.

No formal evacuation orders have been issued, but the hospitals lie in or near the evacuation zone declared on 2 June.

The WHO stated that both hospitals are operating well beyond their capacity, with Nasser Medical Complex functioning at 180 per cent and Al-Amal at 100 per cent. Yet, life-threatening injuries continue to pour in as the conflict escalates and essential medical supplies run dry.

"Losing the two hospitals would cut 490 beds, reducing the Gaza Strip's overall hospital bed availability to less than 1400 hospital beds for the entire population of 2 million people," said a WHO spokesperson.

This marks a 40% reduction from pre-conflict levels and further weakens



access to critical care, including surgery, cancer treatment, dialysis, and emergency transfusions.

Read Also: Budget: WHO member states approve 20% increase in membership fee

The WHO emphasised that only 17 of Gaza's 36 hospitals remain partially functional. Of these, just five — including Nasser and Al-Amal — serve as major referral centres and currently support 75 per cent of all hospital beds in the region.

The agency also highlighted the catastrophic shortage of supplies. Fifty trucks carrying vital medicines and equipment remain stalled at Al-Arish in Egypt and the West Bank, unable to enter Gaza due to ongoing restrictions.

Read Also: Death toll of journalists in Gaza rises to 225 amid ongoing conflict Despite efforts by one national and four international Emergency Medical Teams stationed at Nasser and Al-Amal,

the healthcare system is buckling under relentless pressure.

WHO and partner organisations, operating under extreme duress for over 20 months, are now sounding the alarm louder than ever.

"The relentless and systematic decimation of hospitals in Gaza has been going on for too long. It must end immediately," the WHO urged. "Patients seeking refuge and care to save their lives must not risk losing them trying to reach hospitals. Hospitals must never be militarised or targeted."

The agency called for the urgent protection of healthcare facilities and unrestricted delivery of medical aid.

Most critically, WHO reiterated its demand for an immediate ceasefire, warning that without it, Gaza's health system faces imminent and irreversible collapse.

Sanwo-Olu, Funke Akindele nominated for Eko Mi Awards

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Plans are in top gear to hold the second edition of the Eko Mi Awards.

With the team, 'Eko Best 11,' the event is set to be held on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at the

Radisson Blu Hotels, in Ikeja GRA, Lagos.

According to Otunba Bestman Nze Jumbo, the CEO of Image Expression, publisher of Eko Mi, Eko E Newspaper and the organiser of Eko Mi Awards, this edition isn't just another event.

"It's a salute to legacy, leadership, and the relentless Lagos spirit. We're celebrating pioneers, disruptors, and legends who've redefined what's possible and powered the pulse of Lagos," he said.

Nze-Jumbo further reiterated that just like the second edition, the award ceremony will be held after a careful selection process that went through a rigorous routine by the team behind the awards ceremony.

Already, prominent Nigerians in Lagos, who are adding value in different sectors, have been listed as possible recipients of the awards ceremony scheduled to hold on June 19, 2025.

These personalities include Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Tunde Onakoya, Tony Rapu, Emmanuel Orobosa, Funke Akindele, James Faleke, Olawale Talabi, Awele Elumelu, Sanmi Doherty, Femi Otedola, Olawale Ayilara, Tokunbo Wahab, Dele Oshinowo, Oba Suleiman Raji Adesina, Kunle Afolayan, Odunayo Eweniyi, Femi Aina, Akin Alabi, Chris Oyakhilome, Tosin Eni Olorunda, P Prime, Cosmas Maduka, Jimi Benson, Tunde Folawiyo, Seyi Tinubu, Tony Elumelu, Aliko Dangote, Femi Gbajabiamila, Obafemi Hamzat, Jim Ovia, Sam Adeyemi, Veekee James, Oba Saheed ElegEko Mi Awards Return for Second Edition with Lagos Icons in



Spotlight

Award ceremony set for June 19

Plans are in full swing for the second edition of the Eko Mi Awards, a highly anticipated event designed to honour exceptional Lagosians. Organised by Image Expression, publishers of Eko Mi and Eko E Newspaper, the event is scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Ikeja GRA, Lagos.

Themed "Eko Best 11," this year's ceremony promises a night of celebration, recognition, and powerful storytelling.

Honouring legacy and the Lagos spirit

According to Otunba Bestman Nze Jumbo, CEO of Image Expression and the driving force behind the awards, this edition is more than a simple ceremony, it's a tribute to the enduring legacy of Lagos and the individuals shaping its future.

"It's a salute to legacy, leadership, and the relentless Lagos spirit. We're celebrating pioneers, disruptors, and legends who have redefined what's possible and powered the pulse of Lagos," Nze-Jumbo said.

He stressed that the awardees will

emerge after a thorough and transparent selection process carried out by a dedicated team behind the scenes.

Celebrating excellence across all sectors

The Eko Mi Awards aim to recognise individuals making lasting contributions across various sectors. From politics and entertainment to entrepreneurship and innovation, the awards reflect the wide scope of talent and hard work that drives Nigeria's economic and cultural capital.

A long list of nominees has already been compiled, featuring some of the most influential names in Lagos and beyond. The final list will be trimmed to just 11 honourees, who will be celebrated as the Best of Eko for 2025.

Nominees reflect the diversity of Lagos

Those being considered for this year's honours include a mix of public officials, entertainers, business leaders, creatives, and community builders. Among the notable figures are:

Only 11 will make the final cut

Despite the impressive lineup, only 11 individuals will be selected to receive the Best Eko 11 award at the event. The organisers note that the selection process is not just about fame, but impact, innovation, and service to society.

Laide Bakare denies mocking Biola Bayo's divorce

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Laide Bakare has addressed the backlash following a cryptic social media post that many believed was aimed at fellow actress Biola Bayo, who recently announced the end of her marriage.

The controversy began after Laide posted a message that seemed to hint at Biola's situation. In her post, she wrote: "All of us will eat breakfast. Asiko lo ma ya to. Good morning, people."

Many interpreted the phrase "eat breakfast", Nigerian slang for experiencing heartbreak, as a subtle dig at Biola, who had just gone public with her divorce. Social media users quickly linked the message to Biola's personal life, sparking a flurry of criticism.

Laide breaks silence

But Laide Bakare has come forward to clear the air. In a follow-up message posted to Instagram, she firmly denied the claims, stating that she was not even aware of Biola's divorce announcement when she made the post.

According to Laide, she had been celebrating a joyful moment in her own family and had no idea what was going on in Biola's life.

"Let us all be guarded, please. It's still June 5th here in America—California, to be precise. I can never shade my own sister @biolabayo," she wrote.

She explained that her attention was completely on her daughter, Simline, who had just graduated. "My prayers are with you. I didn't get any updates. I was busy with @simlineboss' graduation. Trolls are evil," she added.

Standing with Biola

Laide went a step further to show public support for Biola Bayo. She called her a "sister" and sent her prayers during what is a difficult time.

Her message was not only a denial but also a call for kindness. She urged social



media users to avoid jumping to conclusions and to stop spreading negativity. She stressed that people often post messages without any hidden meaning, and not every post is connected to trending news.

Trolls slammed

Laide also slammed those who quickly assumed the worst about her post. She accused internet trolls of being quick to stir drama where there is none. "Trolls are evil," she repeated, making it clear that she believed the backlash was unfair and fueled by people who thrive on conflict.

She emphasised that her relationship with Biola Bayo remains strong and respectful. The idea that she would mock her friend during a painful moment, she said, is completely false.

Biola Bayo opens up about her divorce

Biola Bayo recently shared the news of her divorce with fans on social media. She revealed that her marriage had ended and spoke about the emotional toll it had taken on her.

The actress, who welcomed a child via surrogacy last year, said the decision to part ways with her husband was not an easy one. Her announcement drew widespread attention, sympathy, and support from fans and colleagues in the entertainment industry.

In light of this, many were quick to

assume that Laide's earlier post was targeted at Biola. But Laide insists that was never the case.

Social media pressure

This incident highlights how quickly words can be misunderstood online. A vague or unrelated post can suddenly become the centre of attention, especially when it appears to align with a trending story. For celebrities, every word is scrutinised.

Laide's call for people to "be guarded" seems to be a reminder that everyone, even public figures, deserves a moment of peace, especially when celebrating personal victories or going through difficult times.

Moving on

As both women move forward, one celebrating a major family milestone and the other dealing with personal loss, their stories remind us that life online is often full of assumptions. Laide Bakare's message is clear: not every post is meant to hurt, and not every moment should be turned into controversy.

Her final message remains one of peace and support:

"My prayers are with you, Biola. I can never shade my own sister."

For now, Laide continues to celebrate her daughter's success, while Biola focuses on healing and rebuilding.

Davido mocks APC's Owoeye over alleged Adeleke-Tinubu defection deal

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Afrobeats star Davido has taken a swipe at former Speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly, Hon. Timothy Owoeye, following a controversial comment made by the politician during a press briefing in Osogbo.

The incident unfolded just hours after Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, visited President Bola Tinubu in Lagos on Tuesday. Adeleke's visit came amid an ongoing crisis involving local government elections in Osun State.

Background: Osun faces political tension

Since February 2025, local government funds in Osun have reportedly been withheld. The situation arose from a conflict between the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) over the conduct of council elections in the state.

Tensions between both parties have escalated in recent months, leading to accusations and counter-accusations about electoral irregularities and governance failures.

To resolve the issue, Governor Adeleke met with President Tinubu in Lagos on Tuesday. He was accompanied by his elder brother, billionaire businessman Dr. Adedeji Adeleke, and award-winning musician Davido, who is also a member of the Adeleke family.

Rumours of defection emerge

Following the meeting, speculation spread on social media and across political circles. Some claimed the visit hinted at a potential defection deal between the Adeleke family and the APC.

Although there was no official confirmation of such a plan, the rumours gained traction and sparked debate among supporters and critics of both political parties.

Reacting swiftly, Hon. Timothy Owoeye, a senior member of the APC and former Speaker of the State Assembly, dismissed the idea during a press conference held on Wednesday in Osogbo.

Owoeye's strong words against Adeleke

Speaking firmly, Owoeye rejected the



possibility of the Adeleke family joining the APC.

"The Adeleke family is not welcome in the APC," Owoeye declared. "There is no space for the PDP or the Adeleke family within our party."

His statement made headlines, as it appeared to shut down any suggestion of political reconciliation or collaboration between the rival factions in the state.

Davido fires back on social media

Not long after the press conference, Davido took to the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter) to respond to Owoeye's comments.

In a post that quickly went viral, the singer mocked the former Speaker by referencing a scandal from 2018. He wrote, "No be this guy naked for bush?"

The comment drew laughter and sharp reactions online, with many social media users recalling the infamous incident involving Owoeye.

The 2018 ritual scandal resurfaces

In 2018, Timothy Owoeye was at the centre of a public scandal when a video surfaced online showing him allegedly performing ritual acts in a forest at night. The footage, which showed him naked and surrounded by suspicious materials, sparked outrage and widespread ridicule.

At the time, Owoeye denied wrongdoing, claiming he had been set up. Despite this, the incident left a lasting mark on his political

image and remains a recurring topic during controversies involving him.

Davido's comment revived public memory of the scandal, adding fuel to the ongoing political drama in Osun State.

Political fallout continues

The heated exchange highlights the deepening divide between Osun's major political players. It also reveals how personal history and public perception can shape political narratives in Nigeria.

Governor Adeleke has not issued a statement addressing either the defection rumours or the mocking comment by Davido. Likewise, the Presidency has remained silent on the nature of Adeleke's visit.

However, political observers believe the governor's meeting with President Tinubu may signal an attempt to find a middle ground in resolving the local government impasse.

Conclusion: A clash of politics and pop culture

This latest development brings together politics and pop culture in a uniquely Nigerian way. While the local government crisis remains unresolved, attention has shifted, at least temporarily, to the verbal spat between a prominent musician and a controversial political figure.

As the situation unfolds, many will be watching to see if the Adeleke family's political path will intersect with the APC or remain firmly within the PDP fold.

DDG plans to buy home in Nigeria amid drama with Bailey

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular American rapper and YouTuber Darryl Dwayne Granberry Jr., better known as DDG, has announced his intention to buy a house in Lagos, Nigeria, as his custody battle with ex-girlfriend Halle Bailey continues to make headlines.

The 26-year-old entertainer announced on Friday, using his X (formerly Twitter) account. “Finna buy a house in Lagos, Nigeria. What’s a good area?” he posted, sparking a flurry of reactions from fans and followers both in Nigeria and abroad.

This is not the first time DDG has shown interest in relocating to Africa. In March 2025, he hinted at plans to move to Nigeria permanently, citing dissatisfaction with his life in the United States. At the time, he shared that he was tired of the pressure and negativity that came with fame in the United States.

Growing interest in Nigeria

Nigeria, particularly Lagos, has become a top destination for celebrities seeking a change of environment. With its vibrant culture, music scene, and growing luxury real estate market, Lagos offers both comfort and a unique lifestyle. DDG’s interest in owning property in the city reflects a growing trend among African-American entertainers reconnecting with Africa, not just through music or fashion, but by investing in property and spending more time on the continent.

Many Nigerians on social media welcomed DDG’s post with suggestions on the best places to buy a home in Lagos. Popular areas like Lekki, Victoria Island, and Ikoyi were frequently mentioned.

Legal troubles continue at home for DDG. Back in the United States, DDG remains locked in a custody battle with Halle Bailey, the singer and actress best known for her role in Disney’s live-action film *The Little Mermaid*. The former couple shares a child, and the court case surrounding their custody arrangements



has been highly publicised.

Recently, media reports claimed that DDG had been denied a temporary restraining order (TRO) against Halle. However, his legal team has come forward to deny those reports.

In a statement, DDG’s attorney clarified that the court did grant a restraining order, saying:

“Mr. Granberry was granted a Temporary Restraining Order based on the serious allegations outlined in his application.”

The lawyer also stressed that custody issues are still being decided.

“Custody-related matters remain pending and are subject to a full evidentiary hearing, where both parties will have the chance to present their claims and defences.”

A difficult chapter for the young father

This ongoing legal dispute has taken a toll on both stars. DDG has often expressed frustration online, speaking about the mental and emotional stress caused by the situation. Meanwhile, Halle Bailey, who has been more private about the matter, continues to focus on her career and motherhood.

While DDG’s decision to buy a house in Nigeria may seem sudden, many fans believe it reflects his desire for peace, privacy, and a fresh start. Some even speculate that the move could lead to more collaborations with African artists or content creation focused on life in Nigeria.

Public reaction and plans

DDG’s message about buying a house was met with mixed reactions. Some fans supported the idea and encouraged him to embrace Nigerian culture. Others expressed concern, suggesting that the timing of the move might be linked to the custody case.

Still, many see his interest in Lagos as a bold step toward building a new chapter in his life, one that distances him from ongoing legal drama in the U.S.

Whether or not he follows through on the purchase, one thing is clear: DDG is actively looking for change, and Nigeria may just be the place where he finds it.

As fans wait to see what happens next, both in court and in Lagos, DDG continues to navigate fame, fatherhood, and the complex realities of life in the spotlight.

Why countries are choosing dollar over their currencies

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In an era of growing financial volatility and global uncertainty, an increasing number of nations are adopting an unconventional strategy to stabilize their economies: embracing the U.S. dollar as their official currency.

While the dollar remains the world's dominant reserve currency, its role as legal tender beyond America's borders is less well known — and increasingly significant. Several countries and territories now use the greenback as their primary currency, replacing their national units with what they see as a symbol of stability, international credibility, and economic integration.

Why the Dollar?

For countries plagued by hyperinflation, currency crises, or fragile institutions, adopting the U.S. dollar — a process known as “dollarization” — offers a lifeline. By tying their economies to the dollar, these nations gain price stability, lower transaction costs in global trade, and a boost in investor confidence.

However, the decision comes with trade-offs. Dollarized countries surrender control over their monetary policy and lose the ability to adjust interest rates or conduct currency interventions tailored to domestic conditions.

Countries that have adopted the Dollar

At least eight sovereign nations, along with several territories, now fully or partially rely on the U.S. dollar:

Ecuador

The South American nation switched to the dollar in 2000 following a banking collapse and rampant inflation. More than two decades later, dollarization remains popular among Ecuadorians.

El Salvador

In 2001, El Salvador adopted the U.S. dollar to deepen ties with the United States and attract investment. In 2021, it controversially added Bitcoin as legal tender, becoming the first country to do so.

Panama

Panama has used the dollar alongside its national currency, the balboa, since 1904. Balboa coins circulate locally, but paper currency is exclusively in U.S. dollars.



East Timor (Timor-Leste)

After gaining independence in 2000, this Southeast Asian nation adopted the U.S. dollar to support economic stability.

Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands

These Pacific island nations use the dollar through Compacts of Free Association with the United States, which provide economic assistance and defense guarantees.

Zimbabwe

Following the collapse of its national currency in 2009 amid record-setting hyperinflation, Zimbabwe informally dollarized. Though a local currency has since been reintroduced, the U.S. dollar remains widely trusted and commonly used.

Territories Where the Dollar Dominates

In addition to sovereign countries, the dollar also circulates in several U.S. territories:

Puerto Rico, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa — all use the dollar as legal tender. Several non-U.S. territories also rely on the dollar:

British Virgin Islands (a U.K. overseas territory)

Parts of the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, and Saba)

Dollarization is not without its challenges. Countries that adopt the U.S. dollar give up the ability to conduct

independent monetary policy and can struggle to respond to external economic shocks. They also risk becoming more vulnerable to shifts in U.S. fiscal and monetary policies.

Yet in regions where monetary mismanagement and political instability have eroded trust in local currencies, the dollar's perceived safety and global acceptance make it an attractive alternative.

Analysts say the trend could expand as inflation and economic instability rise globally. “For small, open economies with weak institutions, the dollar offers a solution” said John Hays, a Johns Hopkins University economist and a prominent advocate of dollarization. “But it also means surrendering a critical lever of national economic control.”

With geopolitical tensions escalating and financial markets increasingly volatile, the greenback's role as the world's safe-haven currency shows little sign of fading.

As Washington debates the global implications of weaponizing the dollar through sanctions and financial controls, policymakers around the world face their own complex calculations. For now, in the markets of Ecuador, the shops of El Salvador, and the streets of Zimbabwe, one truth remains: when confidence in local money collapses, the U.S. dollar remains the currency of choice.

Musk says Epstein files remain sealed to protect Trump

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Elon Musk and President Donald Trump engaged in a heated public feud on Thursday, an unexpected figure emerged at the centre of their dispute: the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

In a dramatic twist, Musk alleged that the U.S. government has withheld the full release of files related to the Epstein case because Trump's name appears in them.

The Tesla and SpaceX CEO, who recently left his role in the administration over opposition to Trump's controversial "Big Beautiful Bill," made the explosive claim on his X (formerly Twitter) account.

"Donald Trump is in the Epstein files. That is the real reason they have not been made public. Have a nice day, DJT!" Musk wrote on Thursday.

The billionaire further urged his followers to remember his statement, adding that the "truth will come out."

Musk's allegations emerged amid an increasingly bitter fight between the two former allies. Once a special adviser in Trump's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), Musk had parted ways with the administration last month, citing concerns that his business interests were suffering.

Now firmly at odds, Musk and Trump traded barbs online throughout the day. Musk's reference to Epstein's files added a new and controversial layer to the feud.

What Are the Epstein Files?

For months, Trump administration officials have faced growing pressure to release the remaining investigative documents related to the case of Jeffrey Epstein, who died by apparent suicide in a New York federal jail in 2019 while awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

The so-called "Epstein files" are believed to contain extensive information about Epstein's network and contacts, though no official "client list" has been released. The issue has fueled public speculation and demands for transparency. While Musk provided no direct evidence for his claim about Trump's name being in the files, his statement quickly went viral, sparking renewed debate over what might be hidden within the sealed documents.



Here are 10 key facts to know about Jeffrey Epstein — useful for background in news reporting or public understanding:

1. Who Was He?

Jeffrey Epstein was an American financier and convicted sex offender. He was born in 1953 in Brooklyn, New York, and worked in the world of high finance.

Mysterious Fortune

Epstein claimed to be a billionaire and managed money for the wealthy, but details of his clients and how he built his fortune remain murky to this day.

Elite Connections

Epstein was known for cultivating relationships with high-profile figures — including politicians, royalty, and celebrities — such as Bill Clinton, Prince Andrew, and Donald Trump.

Important: Many of these figures deny wrongdoing and deny knowing about Epstein's crimes.

First Conviction

In 2008, Epstein pleaded guilty in Florida to procuring an underage girl for prostitution and served 13 months in a controversial "sweetheart deal" that was heavily criticized. He was allowed to leave jail during the day on a work-release program.

New Federal Charges

In July 2019, Epstein was arrested again — this time on federal charges of sex trafficking minors in New York and Florida. Prosecutors alleged that he abused dozens of underage girls and ran a trafficking ring.

The Properties

Epstein owned multiple lavish properties that were allegedly used to groom and abuse young girls — including a mansion in Manhattan, a private island in the U.S. Virgin Islands ("Little St. James"), and homes in Palm Beach, New Mexico, and Paris.

Mysterious Death

Epstein died by apparent suicide in a federal jail in Manhattan in August 2019, just one month after his arrest. His death sparked widespread suspicion and conspiracy theories due to multiple reported lapses in jail procedures the night of his death.

The "Client List" Myth

There is public fascination with the idea of a "client list" of powerful people who may have been involved in Epstein's crimes. However, no official "client list" has been released, and many claims about such lists remain unverified.

Ghislaine Maxwell's Role

Ghislaine Maxwell, a British socialite and Epstein's close associate, was arrested in 2020 and convicted in 2021 of sex trafficking minors. She was accused of recruiting and grooming young girls for Epstein.

Ongoing Investigations

Even after Epstein's death, civil cases and investigations continue. Victims are still seeking justice, and public pressure remains to release more documents related to Epstein's activities and powerful associates.

US sanctions ICC judges amid Netanyahu, Afghanistan probes

By Damilola Olufemi

The United States on Thursday imposed sanctions on four judges from the International Criminal Court (ICC), intensifying a diplomatic clash over recent decisions by the tribunal targeting US and Israeli officials, according to AFP.

The sanctions are a direct response to the ICC's arrest warrant issued for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and its ongoing investigation into alleged war crimes committed by US forces in Afghanistan. The punitive measures include travel bans and the freezing of any US-based assets belonging to the judges.

"The United States will take whatever actions we deem necessary to protect our sovereignty, that of Israel, and any other US ally from illegitimate actions by the ICC," said Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

He also criticised nations that continue to support the court. "I call on the countries that still support the ICC, many of whose freedom was purchased at the price of great American sacrifices, to fight this disgraceful attack on our nation and Israel," Rubio added.

The ICC swiftly responded, condemning the sanctions as a threat to its legitimacy and independence. "These measures are a clear attempt to undermine the independence of an international judicial institution which operates under the mandate from 125 States Parties from all corners of the globe," the court said in a statement.

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu welcomed the move in a post on social media, praising US leadership for defending Israel against what he described as biased legal action.

Thank you, President Trump and



Secretary of State Rubio, for imposing sanctions against the politicised judges of the ICC. You have justly stood up for the right of Israel," he said.

Human Rights Watch denounced the sanctions, arguing they are intended to intimidate the court and obstruct accountability for serious violations. "The sanctions aim to deter the ICC from seeking accountability amid grave crimes committed in Israel and Palestine and as Israeli atrocities mount in Gaza, including with US complicity," said Liz Evenson, the group's international justice director.

Among those sanctioned are Beti Hohler of Slovenia and Reine Alapini-Gansou of Benin, both involved in the deliberations that resulted in the ICC issuing an arrest warrant for Netanyahu. The court said it had "reasonable grounds" to believe Netanyahu and former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant were criminally liable for war crimes, including using starvation as a weapon during military operations in Gaza following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack.

The other two judges—Luz del

Carmen Ibanez Carranza of Peru and Solomy Balungi Bossa of Uganda—were part of the panel that approved an investigation into alleged war crimes by US personnel in Afghanistan.

ICC treaty established in 2002

Neither Israel nor the United States is a member of the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the ICC in 2002. However, many US allies, such as the United Kingdom, Japan, and South Korea, are signatories and could be legally bound to cooperate with the court, including executing arrest warrants.

The sanctions mark a return to the combative stance of the Trump administration, which previously targeted ICC officials over the Afghanistan probe. Those measures were rescinded during President Joe Biden's tenure, as his administration shifted to a more cooperative relationship with the court, especially in supporting investigations of Russian actions in Ukraine.

Russia offers Elon Musk political asylum over feud with Donald Trump

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



Russia has seized on the spectacular public falling out between Elon Musk and Donald Trump, offering the world's richest man a politically charged lifeline: asylum on Russian soil.

In what analysts describe as a classic Kremlin move to exploit divisions within the West, a senior Russian MP has publicly suggested that Moscow would welcome Musk should he find himself in need of refuge.

The offer comes after Trump allies called for Elon Musk to be deported from the United States over his misunderstanding with his former boss, Donald Trump. Their bitter spat has triggered political waves and economic fallout — Tesla stock has plunged, Musk has resigned from his US government advisory role, and reports suggest he is now persona non grata at the White House.

Sensing an opportunity, Dmitry Novikov, first deputy chair of the Russian State Duma Committee on International Affairs, floated the asylum offer, likening Musk to whistleblower Edward Snowden, who has lived in Russia since fleeing US authorities in

2013.

“I think that Musk is playing a completely different game, that he will not need any political asylum,” Novikov said. “Although if he did need it, Russia, of course, could provide it.”

He added that Musk has built “a certain political communication” over the years, implying that Russia views him as a sympathetic figure in the shifting landscape of global power dynamics.

The remarks underscore how Moscow continues to leverage high-profile fractures within the US political and business elite for its own soft power gains.

A Transatlantic Rift

The offer follows an extraordinary week in which Musk and Trump turned from allies into fierce adversaries. Their dispute, which began over opposition to Trump's flagship “Big Beautiful Bill,” has since spiralled into personal insults and allegations.

Musk went so far as to accuse Trump of being mentioned in the sealed Jeffrey Epstein files — a charge that threw fuel on an already volatile public feud.

Trump and his allies responded with threats to investigate Musk's citizenship and business dealings, with some calling for his deportation.

For Musk, the consequences have been swift: Tesla's market value has dropped by over \$150 billion in recent days amid investor concern over his erratic political involvement and the potential loss of government contracts.

Geopolitical Implications

Russia's swift move to insert itself into this drama reflects a familiar playbook: identifying opportunities to embarrass Washington and drive wedges between US political factions.

Whether Musk would seriously consider such an offer is doubtful. He retains vast commercial interests in the US and Europe and is unlikely to abandon his global empire. Yet, the Kremlin's message is clear — as the West fractures, Moscow stands ready to capitalise.

For now, Musk remains in the crosshairs of a transatlantic political storm — a position that Russia seems all too eager to exploit.

Death toll of journalists in Gaza rises to 225 amid ongoing conflict

By Damilola Olufemi

The number of journalists killed in Gaza since October 2023 has reached 225, according to a statement released by the media office of the Gaza government on Wednesday.

The statement confirmed that four more journalists had recently lost their lives, pushing the overall toll higher. "Since the beginning of the war of extermination against the Palestinian population, the number of killed journalists has increased to 225 after the deaths of four more journalists," the statement read.

Gaza Strip

It went on to urge global media bodies to take action: "We call on the International Federation of Journalists, the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, and journalistic organisations worldwide to condemn these systematic crimes against Palestinian journalists and media workers in the Gaza Strip."

Earlier in the day, Tahseen al-Astal, deputy head of the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate, informed RIA Novosti that four media professionals from Arab satellite television networks were killed in an Israeli airstrike. According to reports, the strike hit a tent they had set up near the al-Ahli Arab Baptist Hospital in



Gaza City.

Both the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS) have denounced the killings and called for a full investigation.

The tragic deaths come amid continued Israeli military operations in Gaza. According to the Gaza Ministry of Health, more than 4,400 Palestinians have been killed and over 13,400 injured since March 18, when Israel resumed its airstrikes following a breakdown in

ceasefire negotiations.

Israel claims the renewed offensive was prompted by Hamas' refusal to accept a U.S.-mediated proposal for extending the truce and releasing hostages. The ceasefire had officially lapsed on March 1.

In addition to the renewed bombardment, Israel reportedly cut off power to a vital desalination facility and prevented the delivery of humanitarian aid into the territory, worsening the humanitarian crisis.

Timeline of sudden feud between Trump, Musk

By Damilola Olufemi

The relationship between former allies Donald Trump and Elon Musk unravelled spectacularly on Thursday, playing out hour by hour across social media and the White House. What began as subtle criticism quickly spiralled into a full-blown public feud, with barbed comments and sharp accusations flying back and forth.

"We had a great relationship..." – Trump

Speaking to reporters from the Oval Office, Trump acknowledged the rift:

"Look, Elon and I had a great relationship. I don't know if we will anymore. I was surprised."

His comments came in response to Musk's earlier attack on Trump's flagship tax and spending legislation, which the Tesla CEO had slammed as a "disgusting abomination."

Musk strikes back – 12:19 p.m.

On X (formerly Twitter), Musk doubled down on his criticism of the bill:

"Ditch the MOUNTAIN of

DISGUSTING PORK in the bill... Either you get a big and ugly bill or a slim and beautiful bill. Slim and beautiful is the way."

Trump digs deeper – still in the Oval Office

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The former president expressed personal disappointment:

"I'm very disappointed, because Elon knew the inner workings of this bill better than almost anybody sitting here... All of a sudden, he had a problem."

Musk denies insider knowledge – 12:25 p.m.

Musk quickly refuted Trump's claim, tweeting:

"False, this bill was never shown to me even once and was passed in the dead of night so fast that almost no one in Congress could even read it!"

"Such ingratitude" – Musk, 12:46 p.m.

Less than 30 minutes later, Musk added another layer to the drama:

"Without me, Trump would have lost the election, Dems would control the House, and the Republicans would be 51-49 in the Senate. Such ingratitude."

Talk of a new party – 1:57 p.m.

Musk escalated his political stance, pinning this statement to the top of his X profile:

"Is it time to create a new political party in America that represents the 80% in the

middle?"

Trump threatens Musk's contracts – 2:37 p.m.

On Truth Social, Trump responded with a direct financial threat:

"The easiest way to save money in our Budget, Billions and Billions of Dollars, is to terminate Elon's Governmental Subsidies and Contracts. I was always surprised that Biden didn't do it!"

U.S. media have estimated Musk's federal contracts are worth around \$18 billion.

Musk references Epstein files – 3:10 p.m.

In a shocking escalation, Musk alluded to conspiracy theories surrounding Jeffrey Epstein:

"Time to drop the really big bomb: @realDonaldTrump is in the Epstein files. That is the real reason they have not been made public. Have a nice day, DJT!"

Trump stands firm – 4:06 p.m.

Trump appeared to respond with defiance:

"I don't mind Elon turning against me, but he should have done so months ago. This is one of the Greatest Bills ever presented to Congress."

SpaceX response – 4:09 p.m.

Musk replied almost instantly, hinting at action in response to Trump's threat:

"In light of the President's statement about cancellation of my government contracts, @SpaceX will begin decommissioning its Dragon spacecraft immediately."

The Crew Dragon spacecraft is a critical component of NASA's manned space missions, currently operating under a contract valued at over \$4.9 billion.

A partial walk-back – later that evening

Musk later replied to a user on X, softening his earlier stance:

"OK, we won't decommission Dragon," he wrote, though it remained unclear whether he was being serious or sarcastic.

What began as a disagreement over policy has now spiralled into a dramatic and very public unravelling of a high-profile alliance, leaving political observers stunned and wondering what's next.



UK varsity fires 71-year-old Nigerian cleaner Damiro over misplaced bracelet

By Damilola Olufemi



Janet Olufunke Damiro, a 71-year-old Nigerian woman who worked as a cleaner at the London School of Economics (LSE), has been dismissed from her job after being accused of stealing a gold bracelet. The incident, first reported by Metro UK, has sparked outcry from her colleagues and supporters.

Damiro, who migrated to the UK in 1971 and had worked at LSE for over 13 years, said she found the bracelet during her shift and placed it in her purse, intending to return it later.

She eventually returned the item three days later when asked about it by management. Despite this, she was suspended and subsequently fired in April on the grounds of gross misconduct.

“I can’t sleep. I have never had a bad record or been to HR before in my life. LSE have treated me badly. It was my

only job, and I loved working there. I never expected to be suspended or dismissed. I did not steal this thing. If I see any items, I always hand them over. This is the first time in my life I have had a problem like this since I came to this country. It is bugging me.”

Damiro’s colleagues defend her. In her defence, more than 70 of her colleagues, including three supervisors, have signed a letter to LSE management, praising Damiro’s character and work ethic. “Janet has always conducted herself with integrity and consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic,” the letter stated.

Her union, United Voices of the World (UVW), has taken up her case and criticised LSE’s decision. In a statement on their website, they confirmed they are appealing her dismissal.

“I don’t steal. I’m not a thief,” Damiro said in an interview with UVW. “I’ve worked at LSE for over 10 years without any problems. I just forgot. At my age, you can forget like that. They look at me like I’m a thief. It’s unfair. I’ve not been myself at all. I don’t sleep at night. I don’t have a job now, but I have to pay my rent and bills. Who’s going to employ me at this age?”

The university has so far declined to issue a public statement, citing the ongoing appeal process. Meanwhile, students at LSE have started a petition demanding her reinstatement, calling the disciplinary action “deeply disturbing” for what they see as an honest mistake.

An appeal hearing, initially set for May 22, was postponed. A new date has been scheduled for later in June.

Super Eagles draw Russia 1-1 in first-ever match

By Damilola Olufemi



The Super Eagles of Nigeria played out a 1-1 draw with Russia in a spirited international friendly at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow.

Russia went ahead in the first half after a defensive miscue saw Nigerian centre-back Semi Ajayi inadvertently score an own goal.

Russia hosted the Super Eagles on Friday evening, marking the first senior-level encounter

between the two countries. Though a friendly on paper, the match shaped up to be a high-stakes encounter for both sides, navigating very different footballing landscapes.

Despite the early blow, the opening half remained tightly contested, with both sides creating chances in an evenly balanced encounter.

Super Eagles came out stronger Nigeria came out stronger in the second half, pressing hard in

search of an equaliser. Their persistence was rewarded when Tolu Arokodare slotted home a well-taken effort, marking his debut goal for the national team.

Both teams pushed for a winner in the closing stages, but neither could break the deadlock.

With the draw, the Super Eagles wrap up their May/June international window without a defeat.

Postecoglou sacked by Spurs after Europa League triumph

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Just 16 days after delivering Tottenham Hotspur their first major trophy in 17 years, Ange Postecoglou has been sacked by the club. The shock decision comes on the two-year anniversary of the Australian's appointment, which began with optimism and ended in division despite European glory.

Tottenham's 1-0 victory over Manchester United in the Europa League final in Bilbao was supposed to be a turning point—a statement of progress. Instead, it proved the final act of a tumultuous second season that saw the club flirt dangerously with relegation. Spurs finished 17th in the Premier League, losing 22 of their 38 matches and narrowly avoiding the drop.

In a statement released on Friday afternoon, Spurs thanked Postecoglou for his “commitment and contribution,” noting that he “oversaw a period of change on the pitch, returning us to the attacking brand of football traditionally associated with the club.”

However, they added that following a review of performances, they felt “a change was necessary.” The club emphasized that their decision “could not be based on emotions aligned to this triumph” and described it as “one of the toughest decisions we have had to make.”

Postecoglou, 59, arrived from Celtic in June 2023 with a reputation for bold, progressive football. His tenure began brightly, with Spurs topping the table in the early stages of the 2023–24 season and Postecoglou picking up three consecutive Premier League Manager of the Month awards. But the form soon deteriorated.

The second half of his debut campaign ended in disappointment, with Spurs slipping out of Champions League contention. The decline continued this past season, with injuries, defensive frailty, and rigid tactics contributing to domestic failure. Spurs conceded 65 goals—third-worst in the league—and finished with just 64 points from their last 66 top-flight games.



Despite that, Postecoglou remained defiant. “The opportunity to lead one of England’s historic football clubs and bring back the glory it deserves will live with me for a lifetime,” he said. “That night in Bilbao was the culmination of two years of hard work, dedication, and unwavering belief in a dream.”

He added: “We have laid foundations that mean this club should not have to wait 17 more years for their next success. I have enormous faith in this group of players and know there is much more potential and growth in them.”

Among candidates to replace Postecoglou, Brentford’s Thomas Frank is the early frontrunner. Bournemouth manager Andoni Iraola, Fulham’s Marco Silva, and Crystal Palace boss Oliver Glasner have all been mentioned. Intriguingly, former Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino—currently managing the United States—has also been discussed.

Reactions to Postecoglou’s dismissal have been swift and emotional. Spurs defender Pedro Porro posted on social media: “Thank you for everything, boss. Above everything, you gave us one of the greatest moments in the club’s history and

for that, you’ll always be celebrated.”

Former England striker Chris Sutton was more critical: “To get someone in who wins them silverware, then straightaway get rid of him—that sums up modern football. It’s absolutely bonkers.”

Match of the Day pundit Alan Shearer added on X: “What a stupid game football is!”

Of managers with 100 or more games in charge at Tottenham, Postecoglou ranks seventh in win percentage, with 46.5% across 101 matches (47 wins, 15 draws, 39 losses). Ultimately, though, his belief in attacking football and refusal to adapt to mounting challenges proved both his charm and undoing.

Spurs have said news of Postecoglou’s successor will follow “in due course.” Whoever steps into the dugout will inherit a club still basking in European success but grappling with deep-rooted domestic problems—and now, another managerial reset.