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Sunday

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Shettima arrives in Gabon for presidential inauguration

By Friday Omosola



Vice President Kashim Shettima arrived in Libreville, Gabon, on Saturday to represent Nigeria at the inauguration of the country's President-elect, Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema.

He was received at the airport by Gabonese Prime Minister Raymond Ndong Sima upon his arrival.

Shettima departed Abuja earlier in the day at the behest of President Bola Tinubu.

Oligui Nguema, who has served as Gabon's transitional leader since August 2023, secured a resounding victory in the 12 April presidential election.

According to final results released by Gabon's Constitutional Court, he garnered 58,074 votes—equating to 94.85% of the total votes cast.

He faced seven challengers, including former Prime Minister Alain Claude Bilie-By-Nze, who came second with just 3% of the vote. The remaining candidates

failed to reach the 1% mark.

Nigeria continues to support Gabon's peaceful democratic transition and reaffirms its broader strategic commitment to promoting democratic governance and regional stability across Central Africa.

Shettima is expected to return to Nigeria following the inauguration ceremony.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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| 9X5 | 225,738.00 |
| 9X4 | 193,500.00 |
| 9X3 | 166,223.50 |
| 8X6 | 225,368.50 |
| 8X3 | 106,934.50 |
| 7X4 | 180,173.50 |
| 6X4 | 100,434.50 |
| 6X3 | 82,750.00 |
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| 5X6 | 123,749.50 |
| 5X5 | 110,000.00 |
| 5X4 | 76,833.00 |
| 5X3 | 66,875.00 |
| 5X2 | 42,916.50 |
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CONTACT US

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

E-mail Address:
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'Focus on results, not critics' – Tinubu to govvs

By Friday Omosola

During his two-day working visit to Katsina State, President Bola Tinubu advised governors to ignore armchair critics and focus instead on delivering visible results that impact their people's lives.

Tinubu emphasised that the true test of leadership lies in the tangible outcomes it produces.

"Let the people be at the heart of your programmes. Your hard work and concrete achievements will answer any criticism. Ignore distractions—your results will speak for you," he said.

During the visit, Tinubu commissioned the 24-kilometre Eastern Bypass Road, completed by Governor Dikko Umar Radda within 18 months.

The road connects Dutsin-ma Road through Kano and Daura Roads to Yandaki in the Kaita Local Government Area.

The President also unveiled the Katsina Agricultural Mechanised Centre.

Acknowledging the security challenges facing the state, Tinubu praised Governor Radda's courage and determination.

"You have shown determination and courage to move Katsina State forward despite facing terrorism and banditry. You will not walk alone—the Federal Government will stand with you," he assured.

President Tinubu identified hunger and poverty as the greatest threats to peace in Nigeria.



He added that his administration was committed to achieving food security through mechanised farming.

"The economy is on the right track. We are determined to banish hunger and empower our people through agriculture. The old style of farming is gone. We must invest in mechanisation and water management," he said.

He revealed that the Bank of Agriculture would be revitalised and restructured to provide financial support for farmers across different scales.

President Tinubu commended Governor Radda's accomplishments in agriculture, infrastructure, healthcare, and education, describing him as 'a patriot and a progressive mind.'

He also paid tribute to former governors Aminu Bello Masari and Ibrahim Shema for their leadership and support and thanked the traditional rulers in Katsina and Daura Emirates for promoting unity and peace.

However, Radda said the new mechanised centre would serve all 34 local government areas of the state.

The governor disclosed that 400 tractors were procured using the Federal Government's N25 billion agricultural intervention fund.

He also highlighted other achievements, including the construction and rehabilitation of 160 kilometres of roads, improvements in electricity and water supply, upgrades to healthcare facilities, and support for irrigation farming with the provision of 4,000 pumping machines.

According to the governor, the state distributed 448,000 metric tonnes of fertiliser to farmers last year and plans to distribute 400,000 metric tonnes this year.

Among the dignitaries at the event were the governors of Borno, Benue, Kaduna, Kwara, and Jigawa states, as well as several federal ministers and former governors.

'It's embarrassing' – Wike condemns walkout on First Lady in Rivers

By Friday Omosola

Several hours have passed since a group of women in Rivers State walked out of the Renewed Hope Initiative empowerment programme, organised by the office of Nigeria's First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu.

The New Daily Prime reported that the women left when Theresa Ibas, wife of the state's sole administrator, Ibok-Ete Ibas, was invited to address them.

Reacting to the action, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike condemned the walkout staged by a group of women in Port Harcourt on Friday

He described the act as 'disturbing' and 'embarrassing', in a statement issued on Saturday by his Senior Special Assistant on Public Communications and Social Media, Lere Olayinka.

Wike, who is currently on an official trip to China, expressed regret over the incident, which he said cast the people of the state in a bad light.

Wike alleged that the women, reportedly led by former local government vice chairpersons loyal to the suspended Governor of Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara, walked out during the empowerment programme held at the EUI Event Centre in GRA, Port Harcourt.



The programme was aimed at empowering 500 women across the state with various support items.

Wike apologised to both President Bola Tinubu and his wife, stating, "Any insult directed at someone representing the First Lady of Nigeria at an official event is a direct insult to the Office of the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. As a leader in Rivers State, I apologise."

The FCT Minister accused the suspended governor's loyalists of acting in bad faith, warning that their actions were undermining peace efforts in the state.

"It is not enough to visit people and plead for peace. Those who truly desire peace must act in line with

their words," Wike said.

"How can you claim to want peace while sponsoring people to insult the President and his wife?"

He described the walkout as a "show of shame" and reaffirmed that it does not reflect the values and ideals of Rivers people.

"We condemn in totality the disgraceful conduct of those few women who clearly do not represent the character of Rivers State. I again extend our unreserved apology to the First Lady."

The incident comes amid ongoing political tension in Rivers State following the suspension of Governor Siminalayi Fubara and a prolonged crisis between factions loyal to Wike and the embattled governor.

Lassa fever, meningitis cases decline amid improved surveillance – NCDC

By Helen Okechukwu



Nigeria is experiencing a promising decline in confirmed cases of Lassa fever and Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM), according to recent data released by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC).

In week 16 of the epidemiology, the country reported 4,253 suspected Lassa fever cases, with 696 confirmed and 132 deaths—yielding a case fatality rate of 19.0 percent.

Encouragingly, this marks a significant reduction from earlier weeks.

Speaking at a press conference, NCDC Director General Dr. Jide Idris highlighted this positive trend: “Since epidemiology week 12, Nigeria has recorded a steady decline in confirmed Lassa fever cases—from 41 cases down to 10 in week 16 (ending April 20, 2025),” he said.

“Encouragingly, both the number of deaths and the case fatality rate have also decreased, with only three deaths reported recently. These improvements reflect the positive impact of ongoing surveillance, treatment, and community engagement efforts. However, the risk remains high, especially in endemic areas, and we must intensify our efforts.”

Read Also: NCDC DG assured Nigeria Ebola-free, heightened surveillance
The situation is similar with Cerebrospinal Meningitis, where Dr. Idris noted that both new infections and deaths have declined over the past three weeks.

“Surveillance, treatment, and vaccination strategies are being dynamically adapted to emerging data, with a strong emphasis on building community trust and encouraging early care-seeking,” he added. While the outbreak remains serious, improved national and sub-national coordination,

preparedness, and vaccination efforts are beginning to turn the tide,” he stated.

He reaffirmed the agency’s commitment to maintaining response efforts until the outbreaks are fully contained and state authorities fully implement the CSM Incident Action Plan.

Acknowledging the progress made, Dr. Idris credited the NCDC’s collaboration with state health ministries, the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), and other partners.

“We have seen a steady decline in both cases and deaths over the past three weeks. We will maintain all response activities—coordination, provision of medical supplies, surveillance, laboratory support, clinical mentoring, vaccination planning, and community engagement—until no new cases emerge and state systems fully implement the CSM Incident Action Plan,” he stated.

Health authorities confirm 16 suspected anthrax cases in Eastern DRC

By Helen Okechukwu

Health officials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have confirmed 16 suspected human cases of anthrax in the country's eastern North Kivu Province, with one case laboratory-confirmed and one death recorded.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), the outbreak is centered in four health zones near Lake Edward, a region bordering Uganda, which is also responding to a similar outbreak across the lake in Kabale District.

The Ministry of Health, supported by WHO, is intensifying its emergency response to prevent further spread.

Measures underway include active disease surveillance, contact tracing, provision of antibiotics, and identification of transmission chains.

WHO is also coordinating efforts between DRC and Ugandan health officials to ensure a cohesive cross-border response.

Our efforts are focused on swiftly breaking the animal-to-human transmission," said Dr. Boureima Sambo, WHO Representative in the DRC. "We're working closely with the government, communities and partners to strengthen response measures to protect public health now and in the future."



Anthrax is a bacterial disease that mainly affects animals but can spread to humans through contact with infected animals or their products.

The disease has three forms in humans — cutaneous, gastrointestinal, and inhalational—all of which require urgent medical treatment.

The most common, cutaneous anthrax, begins with a skin lesion that can lead to severe complications if untreated.

The outbreak was first reported on March 22 following the deaths of dozens of wild animals, including buffaloes and hippopotamuses, in Virunga National Park.

Veterinary teams are now

vaccinating livestock and safely disposing of animal carcasses to prevent further infections. Awareness campaigns are also being carried out to educate communities on recognizing symptoms and avoiding exposure.

WHO and local authorities are responding through the One Health approach, which integrates human, animal, and environmental health to better manage and prevent disease outbreaks. Officials emphasize that controlling anthrax in animals is essential to protecting human health.

The situation remains under close watch as response teams work to contain the outbreak and prevent its spread within the region.

Lagos deploys 20 youth fellows to drive mandatory health insurance

By Friday Omosola

In a bold move to accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC), the Lagos State Health Management Agency (LASHMA) has inducted 20 National Health Fellows (NHFs) as ILERA EKO Champions.

The initiative, unveiled during a stakeholders' engagement in Alausa, Ikeja, seeks to harness youth leadership in driving the state's mandatory health insurance scheme.

LASHMA Permanent Secretary, Emmanuella Zamba, congratulated the newly appointed fellows and urged them to uphold the values of both the National Health Fellows Programme (NHFP) and the ILERA EKO initiative.

She described their roles as crucial to expanding access to quality healthcare, particularly at the grassroots.

Zamba commended the Federal Government for launching the NHFP, expressing LASHMA's enthusiasm for receiving the fellows.

She noted that their involvement would bring new energy and innovation into healthcare delivery across Lagos.

Highlighting their task, Zamba charged the fellows with promoting the ILERA EKO scheme within their local government areas, encouraging wider enrolment in line with the Executive Order signed by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu on 16 July 2024, which mandates health insurance for all Lagos residents.



"These young leaders will provide fresh perspectives and serve as vital links between government and communities," she said.

"We are charting new territory with this social health insurance scheme, and their ideas will help shape its future."

Jumoke Oyenuga, Director of Healthcare Planning, Research and Statistics at the Lagos State Ministry of Health, praised LASHMA for involving the fellows in its activities.

She said this inclusive approach would enable them to play active roles in implementing the Governor's Executive Order.

Providing context, Oyeyemi Ogunjobi, the Sector-Wide Approach (SWAP) Desk Officer, explained that the NHFP aims to recruit 774 fellows annually for three years, deploying them across Nigeria's Local Government Areas to strengthen

public health systems and monitor service delivery.

Also, Olufunke Longe, Director of Admin and Human Resources at LASHMA, emphasised the rising influence of young people in governance and called on the fellows to champion the agency's mission and core values.

On behalf of the inductees, Sophie Adeyeye of Ikeja Local Government expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Health and LASHMA.

She pledged the fellows' commitment to driving meaningful change in Lagos' health sector.

The event also featured detailed briefings on key LASHMA programmes, including the ILERA EKO health plan, the mandatory insurance policy, and the EKO Social Health Alliance (EKOSHA).

Tinubu vows to reclaim forests, tackles insecurity in northwest

By Friday Omosola

As insecurity persists daily in the northern region, particularly the North-West, President Bola Tinubu has pledged to bring it to an end.

Speaking at a state dinner hosted in his honour yesterday night at the Katsina Government House, he pledged to intensify efforts to secure ungoverned territories in Nigeria.

Tinubu said forests in the North West will be protected and recovered through advanced surveillance and technology as part of a comprehensive strategy to combat terrorism, banditry, and kidnapping.

The President responded to security concerns raised by former Governor Bello Masari, promising bold action to restore safety across affected regions.

“We will invest more in technology and take over the forests,” the President said. “Security is a national issue. If we truly want investment in Nigeria, we must address security. Investment is cowardly—it will not go where there is banditry and terrorism.”

He added that federal authorities would work collaboratively with states and local governments to implement lasting solutions to insecurity.

Tinubu also lauded recent signs of economic recovery, attributing the progress to decisive policy measures. He revealed that the federal government was considering plans to upgrade Katsina’s airport—a move expected to stimulate the local economy and create employment opportunities.

He assured that victims of terrorism



would receive federal support to help them rebuild their lives.

He expressed gratitude to former Masari for backing his presidential bid and acknowledged the support of governors from Kaduna, Jigawa, Borno, Benue, Yobe, Sokoto, and Kwara States, who attended project commissioning events and the wedding of Governor Radda’s daughter.

Reflecting on the contributions of Katsina’s political figures, Tinubu praised former President Muhammadu Buhari as a man of integrity who had played a significant role in national development. “I wish him well,” he added.

However, Governor Dikko Radda highlighted the state’s security efforts, including the creation of a local intelligence outfit.

He also announced that the proposed

expansion of Katsina Airport—featuring cargo and passenger terminals and upgraded fire services—would generate an estimated 2,700 direct jobs and cost N54 billion.

Former Masari commended the President for appointing two Katsina indigenes to ministerial roles, and others from the region to strategic positions, including in the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN).

Justifying his support for Tinubu in the 2023 presidential race, Masari said: “You have the political will and courage to face the challenges of this country. Leadership is not about when all is well. The hard way is the best, and I believe you can do it.”

He called for a grassroots approach to ending insecurity in the northwest.

VeryDarkMan detained by EFCC

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian social media influencer Martins Vincent Otse, better known as VeryDarkMan (VDM), has been arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The news of his arrest broke on Friday evening. It was confirmed by activist lawyer Deji Adeyanju in a post on his official Facebook page.

Background: Arrest linked to bank dispute

Earlier reports pointed to a brewing dispute between VDM and Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB). According to sources, VDM had called out the bank after alleging that unauthorised transactions were made from his mother's account.

In response to his public criticism, reports suggest that GTB may have played a role in alerting the EFCC, leading to his arrest. This claim, however, has not yet been confirmed by the bank.

Lawyer provides update from custody

In an update on Friday night, Adeyanju shared more details about the arrest. He revealed that a team of lawyers from his firm, led by lawyer Marvin Omorogbe, visited the EFCC office where VDM was being held.

The legal team met with a friend of VDM, who was arrested alongside the influencer. However, they were unable to meet VDM himself. According to Adeyanju, VDM refused to leave his cell or meet with anyone.

"VDM refused to come out of the cell; he said he won't see anyone," Adeyanju wrote on Facebook. He also described how VDM was held in the GTB exit door area for over five minutes to allow EFCC officials to arrest both him and his friend.

Legal action looms against GTB



Adeyanju did not mince words about his displeasure with the situation. He described the arrest as a case of "inhumane treatment" and vowed that legal action would be taken against GTB.

"We will be taking legal actions against GTB for the inhumane treatment meted out to our client," Adeyanju wrote in his post.

He stressed that his legal team would pursue all available options to ensure that VDM's rights are protected. Adeyanju's firm has a reputation for championing human rights and defending public figures in high-profile cases.

Rising profile of VeryDarkMan

VDM has gained a massive following on social media platforms over the past few years. Known for his outspoken style, he often comments on social issues, corruption, and scandals. His videos regularly spark debate and attract thousands of views and comments.

His arrest has already triggered a wave of reactions online. Fans, followers, and fellow influencers are expressing shock and anger over the development. Some are calling for his immediate release, while others are demanding an

explanation from GTB and the EFCC.

A broader conversation on free speech

This incident has also raised larger questions about free speech in Nigeria. Many observers worry that the arrest of a vocal critic like VDM sends the wrong signal. They argue that public figures should have the right to criticise institutions, including banks, without fear of arrest or harassment.

Others point out that if the EFCC was called in over public complaints, it sets a troubling precedent. They warn that such actions could silence activists, discourage whistleblowers, and limit open discussion on social media.

What happens next?

At the time of this report, neither GTB nor the EFCC has released an official statement explaining the reasons behind VDM's arrest.

Legal experts say the next steps will depend on the charges, if any, that are filed against VDM. Adeyanju and his team have promised to keep the public updated on the case and are preparing to challenge GTB legally.

For now, VDM remains in custody, and his many supporters are waiting anxiously for more news.

Resemblance between late son Ifeanyi, new son 'scary', Davido reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Grammy-nominated Nigerian singer Davido has shared the deep emotional struggle he has faced since the tragic loss of his son, Ifeanyi.

The heartbreaking incident took place in November 2022 when three-year-old Ifeanyi drowned at Davido's Banana Island home in Lagos.

In a recent interview with Apple Music, he opened up about how the loss affected every part of his life. He said the pain almost made him give up everything. "That type of loss made you just be like, 'I'm out,'" he revealed. "I just wanted to chill, take care of my wife, take care of the family, and get my head right."

But time, faith, and family helped him heal. Almost a year after Ifeanyi's passing, Davido and his wife, Chioma, welcomed twins, a boy and a girl into their family.

A remarkable resemblance

What struck him the most was the uncanny resemblance between his newborn son and his late son, Ifeanyi. "The boy looks just like my son that passed. It is scary," Davido said. "It's like literally him. We're like, 'No, it's him. He came back.'"

This moment brought both comfort and emotion to the grieving father. While the memory of Ifeanyi remains painful, he feels the twins are a blessing and a sign of hope.

Finding strength in family and music

The afrobeat star admitted that his loss could have crushed him, but instead, he found strength in his family and music. He believes his marriage to Chioma and the success of his 2023 album, *Timeless*, are part of God's plan for his healing.

"I just thank God," he said, expressing how his faith has been renewed through these experiences.



Beyond his personal recovery, he now wants to inspire others who face hardship. He sees himself as someone who can offer encouragement to people going through tough times. "I've been through pain, but I'm still here," he seems to say through his actions and music.

New music and big collaborations

Even as he navigates personal grief, he has kept busy in the studio. He revealed that he has been working closely with American singer Chris Brown. Together, they have already recorded about 20 songs.

"We could put out two albums right now," he shared. "It's going to happen." He expressed excitement not just for their joint music but also for Chris Brown's career milestone celebrating his 20-year anniversary in the music industry. He added, "I was meant to go on this tour the Breezy Bowl, the 20-year anniversary tour."

Fans can expect big things from this powerful music duo in the near future.

Stepping into film and storytelling

The musician is also making moves outside the music scene. He has stepped into the world of film as an executive producer. He is working on both a movie and a series with Nigerian director Dammy Twitch.

"I'm an executive producer on a movie and a series with my director, Dammy Twitch," Davido explained. In addition, he's preparing to release a personal documentary that will give fans an inside look at his life and journey.

These projects show Davido's desire to expand his creativity and share his story across different platforms.

A message of resilience

His story is one of loss, survival, and hope. Despite facing unimaginable heartbreak, he has found a way to move forward. His love for his family, his passion for music, and his growing interest in film have all played a role in his recovery.

Above all, Davido's journey reminds his fans and himself that even in the darkest times, new beginnings are possible.

My first heartbreak made me toxic, Ruger reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Michael Adebayo Olayinka, widely known as Ruger, has opened up about a painful memory from his childhood.

The young star, famous for hits like *Toma Toma* and *Bounce*, shared a surprising story about how his first heartbreak happened when he was just six years old. Speaking recently on *The Bro Bants* podcast, Ruger described how that early experience deeply affected him and shaped how he grew up.

A crush that turned into heartbreak

Ruger recalled how, as a little boy, he had a big crush on an older girl. She was someone close to his family, an “aunty” who used to tease him by calling him her “boyfriend.”

“I really believed she was my woman,” Ruger said, smiling slightly as he told the story. “I was just six years old, but I took it seriously.”

Unfortunately, that innocent feeling soon turned into heartbreak.

One day, he witnessed something that shattered his young heart. “I saw her with another man,” he said. “I saw them through the window. The man was... you know... smashing her. It broke me. I cried and cried.”

The aftermath: A lasting impact

The musician didn’t hold back in describing how that moment affected him. “It traumatised me,” he admitted. “I was just a kid, but that experience stayed with me for years.”

He explained that this early heartbreak sparked feelings of anger and confusion. “That was the moment I became toxic,” Ruger said honestly. “I didn’t understand relationships, but I already felt betrayed.”

To cope with the pain, young Ruger turned to music. “I remember I kept



playing ‘Imagine That’ by Styl-Plus over and over again,” he shared. The classic Nigerian love song became his outlet as he tried to process his feelings.

A deeper look at Ruger’s journey

For fans, his story may come as a surprise. Known for his confident stage presence and bold lyrics, the singer rarely shows this vulnerable side. Yet his openness on *The Bro Bants* show revealed a personal layer many had never seen.

The experience also offers insight into Ruger’s music and personality. Many of his songs explore themes of love, heartbreak, and emotional struggle. While listeners may enjoy the catchy beats and smooth vocals, it’s clear that Ruger draws from deep, sometimes painful places.

Rising above early pain

Despite the rough start, he has worked hard to rise above his early pain. Over the years, he has developed into one of Nigeria’s top music talents. His unique voice, eye patch look, and hit songs have made him a standout in the Afrobeats scene.

But he doesn’t shy away from admitting his flaws. “That heartbreak shaped me in a way I didn’t expect,” he reflected. “It made me more guarded. It made me question love.”

Even as his fame grows, Ruger remains honest about his past. He often uses interviews and songs to talk about his personal journey, showing fans that success doesn’t erase old wounds.

Learning and growing

Looking back, he recognizes that his early experience taught him important lessons. “Now I know better,” he said. “I understand that love is complex, and people make mistakes.”

He encourages his fans, especially younger ones, to stay strong through heartbreak. “It’s part of life,” Ruger said. “You’ll hurt, you’ll heal, and you’ll grow.”

A message to fans

By sharing his story, he hopes to connect with others who have gone through similar pain. His honesty serves as a reminder that even stars have scars.

“I want people to know they’re not alone,” he said. “We all go through things that hurt us. But we can come out stronger on the other side.”

As Ruger continues to rise in the music world, his past remains part of his story — a reminder of where he’s been and how far he’s come. For fans, his openness adds a new layer to the artist they know and love.

Be careful with record deals, Odumodublvck warns upcoming artists

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Award-winning Nigerian singer and rapper Odumodublvck has issued a strong warning to upcoming artists about the risks of taking money from record labels too soon.

In a message shared on the social media platform X, the artist urged young musicians to think carefully before accepting advances from music companies or organisations. He stressed that rushing into deals before their music is truly ready could trap them in debt.

“Don’t rush into advances”

Odumodublvck, known for his powerful lyrics and unique sound, spoke directly to his younger colleagues in the industry.

“Dear upcoming artist, if you know your music is not ripe, stay away from an advance,” he wrote.

An advance is money given upfront by a label, often meant to help the artist produce more music or cover living expenses. But this money isn’t free. It must be paid back — often through sales, streams, or future earnings.

Odumodublvck warned that if an artist takes an advance before they are truly prepared, they may struggle to repay it.

“You do not want to be owing an organisation so much money,” he cautioned. “You will die a debtor. Please heed my advice. Be patient and work hard until you are ready, please.”

Patience and hard work over quick deals

The singer stressed the value of patience. He advised upcoming artists to focus on improving their skills and building a solid foundation before signing contracts.

“Don’t let the excitement of a record deal cloud your judgment,” he seemed to

suggest. Many young musicians, hungry for success, jump at the first offer they receive. But Odumodublvck believes this rush can be dangerous.

He encouraged artists to take the time to refine their craft, build a loyal fan base, and understand the business side of music. Only when they are fully prepared should they consider taking financial deals.

The hidden risks of advances

Music industry experts agree that advances can be tricky. On paper, they seem like a great opportunity for money upfront, a chance to focus fully on music, and the backing of a major label. But many artists don’t realize that these advances often come with strings attached.

Once the money is accepted, the label expects to earn it back, usually through album sales, streaming numbers, or tours. If the artist’s music underperforms, they may find themselves owing money they can’t repay.

This can lead to stress, creative pressure, and in some cases, legal battles.



Odumodublvck’s rise to fame

Odumodublvck’s own journey in the music industry gives weight to his words. Known for hits like Declan Rice and Dog Eat Dog, he has worked hard to build a strong fan base and carve out his unique space in the Nigerian music scene.

He has also been open about the challenges and lessons he’s learned along the way. His warning to younger artists comes not from theory but from experience.

Advice to the next generation

Odumodublvck’s message is clear: slow down, prepare well, and don’t be lured by fast money.

For young artists dreaming of success, his words offer a reality check. Success in music takes time, effort, and careful planning. Jumping into contracts and taking advances before being fully ready can cause more harm than good.

By focusing on their craft, understanding the industry, and waiting for the right moment, upcoming artists can avoid debt and set themselves up for long-term success.

Why is Segun Johnson's music so special?

By Eyitayo Jemimah Ajayi

Segun Johnson is a performing artist every major party wants to have. Many Nigerian celebrities strive to invite him to their events and movie premieres. His musical entertainment thrives on infectious hype that captivates audiences beyond comprehension. He also incorporates trending songs and dance moves into his performances, capturing the attention of many.



Segun Johnson's fame continues to grow, and even international audiences have caught on to his vibrant energy. He draws from the rich cultural tradition of panegyrics, but reimagines it with fast-paced beats and dynamic dance steps. Capitalizing on his unique style, Segun Johnson branded his sound as what he calls 'hype music.' In other words, he is not a gospel artist, but a hype musician.

You might be wondering when Segun Johnson began his career. The singer has been active for some time and even performed at Tomike Adeoye's wedding in 2019. He started his journey at the age of 24 as an instrumentalist, playing in church and for other musicians. Today, his career is flourishing—thanks to the creative and strategic approach he brought to his craft.

This musician has developed a way to praise folks using their influence, beauty, networth, and career. At that point, the person being praised goes all frenzied and starts to spray the singer wads of cash.

You might think that he only does his hype for Yoruba, but at this point, Segun Johnson is quite talented at catching the spraying prowess of people from other cultures. He also has an advantage in coming up with rhythmic and instant hype for folks. After he must have praised you, you have no choice but to deliver the foreign currencies into his hands.

With so much infectious hype like "Moro, Sia Pa Won", Segun Johnson has caught the heart of many, such that a lot of Nigerian folks in diaspora are willing to have him play at their party.

Finally, Segun Johnson is more than just a singer—he's a cultural force transforming the party experience across Nigeria and beyond. While many performers show up with playlists and stage presence, Johnson brings a tailor-made atmosphere of joy, rhythm, and recognition that turns every event into an unforgettable spectacle.

His ability to connect with diverse audiences of all ages, regardless of cultural background, is what truly sets him apart. Whether it's a high-profile wedding, a celebrity premiere, or a lavish birthday abroad, one thing is certain: when Segun Johnson shows up, the vibe changes. He doesn't just sing—he creates moments, celebrates people, and leaves memories echoing long after the party ends.

Elon Musk fights for white South Africans, says Akon

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Senegalese-American singer Akon has made headlines after claiming that Elon Musk, the world's richest man and head of the U.S. Department of Government Efficiency, is defending white South Africans because Black South Africans enjoy better living conditions.

Akon made these remarks during a recent American podcast, Bagfuel Brigade episode. His comments have sparked conversation, touching on long-standing issues of race, land, and power in South Africa.

Musk's claims about South Africa

Elon Musk was born and raised in South Africa. Over the years, he has openly criticized the country's government, accusing it of creating unfair conditions for white citizens. Musk has called South Africa's ownership laws "racist" and has even used the word "genocide" to describe the violence against white farmers.

His statements became even louder after South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's government passed the Expropriation Act in January. This new law allows the government to take over land sometimes without paying for it if it is unused or if there is a public need to redistribute it.

Musk argues that this law unfairly targets white landowners and deepens divisions. He has used his global platform to draw attention to what he sees as the mistreatment of the white minority in the country.

Akon: White South Africans are struggling

On Bagfuel Brigade, Akon claimed Musk's efforts are motivated by concern for the white community.

"In South Africa, white people don't have it as good as white people have in America," Akon said. "South Africa is probably the one place in Africa where the



tables have turned. The white folks live in the hood, and the Black people are living well."

Akon added, "This is why Elon Musk is fighting for those white folks in South Africa. He feels like they are being mistreated and there is no equality. White folks are fighting for equality in South Africa because Blacks are the majority. Blacks in South Africa are united. If all the other African countries did that, we would be the superpower of the universe."

Does Akon's claim match the data?

While Akon's comments drew attention, available data from South Africa tells a different story.

According to 2022 figures from the World Bank, white workers in South Africa earn nearly three times the average wage of Black workers. This pay gap highlights how economic inequality still exists along racial lines, even decades after the official end of apartheid.

Land ownership data further challenges Akon's claims. White farmers still own about three-quarters of the country's land, even though they make up only about 7% of South Africa's population.

Experts note that although poverty affects all racial groups, historical advantages still favor the white minority in areas such as land, income, and access to services.

Tensions over land reform

The issue of land reform remains one of South Africa's most heated debates. During apartheid, Black South Africans were forced off their lands and pushed into poor, underdeveloped areas. Today, efforts to correct these past injustices often face resistance.

The Expropriation Act aims to speed up land redistribution, but critics like Musk argue that taking land without compensation is unfair and harmful. Supporters of the law, however, believe it is necessary to fix the deep inequalities left by apartheid.

A global spotlight on local issues

Akon's comments show how figures outside South Africa can bring global attention to local issues. But they also highlight the importance of understanding local realities before making broad claims.

While Akon paints a picture of white South Africans as a struggling minority, the data shows they still hold considerable economic power. At the same time, Musk's activism has drawn both praise and criticism, with some seeing him as a defender of rights and others as a billionaire inserting himself into a complex national issue.

As South Africa continues to wrestle with questions of land, race, and fairness, the world will be watching. And voices like Akon's and Musk's will no doubt keep the spotlight shining on a nation still working to heal from its divided past.

Ugandan judge convicted under UK's modern slavery act

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

A high-ranking Ugandan judge who once served on a United Nations criminal tribunal has been sentenced to more than six years in prison by a British court after being found guilty of modern slavery and immigration offenses involving the forced labor of a young Ugandan woman.

Lydia Mugambe Ssali, 50, was convicted in March at Oxford Crown Court of conspiring to breach immigration law, facilitating travel with intent to exploit, forcing labor, and conspiring to intimidate a witness. She was sentenced Friday to six years and four months in prison and barred from contacting the victim.

Prosecutors said Mugambe used her legal expertise and social status to orchestrate the victim's illegal entry and then forced her to work without pay as a maid and nanny while Mugambe pursued a doctorate in law at the University of Oxford.

A Scheme Involving Diplomatic Abuse

The victim arrived in the U.K. on a domestic worker visa, which had been arranged by John Mugerwa, then Deputy High Commissioner of the Ugandan Embassy in London. Authorities said the visa was issued under the guise that the woman would work in Mugerwa's household — a privilege allowed under diplomatic arrangements. However, evidence presented in court showed Mugerwa acted as a proxy for Mugambe, who did not have the legal authority to sponsor such a visa as she was a student.

Prosecutors argued that in return for helping with the visa, Mugambe agreed to assist Mugerwa with an unrelated legal matter in Uganda. The woman's travel expenses were covered by Mugambe, who picked her up from the airport and immediately put her to work in her home in Kidlington, Oxfordshire.

"She was prevented from earning money, from leaving freely, and from contacting anyone for help," said prosecutor Caroline Haughey KC, who read the victim's statement in court. The woman



described living "in almost constant fear," aware of Mugambe's political and legal connections in Uganda.

She has since been granted asylum in the United Kingdom, citing a credible fear of persecution if she returns.

No Remorse, Says Judge

Sentencing Judge Foxton described the case as "very sad," noting Mugambe's long career in human rights law, including her service on the UN roster of criminal tribunal judges and the Ugandan High Court. But he said she showed "absolutely no remorse" and attempted to shift blame onto the victim during proceedings.

Mugambe resigned her UN post following the investigation. Her defense attorney, Paul Raudnitz KC, described her as having had a "glittering legal career" and noted the vocal public support she received outside the courtroom, where several individuals held signs calling for her acquittal.

A Pattern of Abuse Among Elites

Mugambe is among several African nationals recently convicted in the United Kingdom under the Modern Slavery Act, a law enacted in 2015 to combat trafficking and exploitation:

Ike Ekweremadu, former Nigerian Deputy Senate President, was sentenced in 2023 to over nine years in prison for attempting to traffic a man to the U.K. for

organ harvesting on behalf of his ailing daughter.

Beatrice Ncube and Trust Chiweshe, a Zimbabwean couple, were sentenced in 2021 for forcing a woman into unpaid labor in their Manchester home, using threats and withholding her passport.

Shekiel Sands, a British national with African heritage, was sentenced in 2022 along with his associates for exploiting children and vulnerable adults in a county lines drug trafficking operation.

Implications for Global Legal Institutions
Mugambe's case raises difficult questions for international judicial bodies. According to public records, she was appointed to the UN's judicial roster in May 2023 — three months after Thames Valley Police launched their investigation.

Legal experts say her conviction could undermine trust in international institutions that depend on the moral authority of their officials.

"She embodied the principles of law and human rights — and then turned them upside down for personal gain," said one legal scholar familiar with the case, who asked not to be named due to ongoing international legal proceedings.

The victim, who remains in protective care, told the court she may never see her family again.

King Charles to open Canada's parliament on 27 May

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

King Charles III will open Canada's new session of Parliament on 27 May, the first time in over six decades that a reigning monarch will deliver the Speech from the Throne in Ottawa. Prime Minister Mark Carney called the visit "an historic honour that matches the weight of our times."

The symbolic move comes amid growing geopolitical tensions, as Carney prepares to meet U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington on Tuesday. Trump, who dominated the Canadian election cycle with threats of annexation and trade aggression, has imposed tariffs on Canadian goods and repeatedly questioned Canada's sovereignty, remarks Carney has denounced as a "betrayal."

"As I've stressed repeatedly, our old relationship, based on steadily increasing integration, is over," Carney said at his first post-election news conference Friday. "The questions now are how our nations will cooperate in the future."

Carney's Liberal Party is poised to form a minority government after Monday's election, with a projected 168 seats. The Conservatives follow with 144, while the Bloc Québécois captured 23, the New Democrats seven, and the Greens one. With recounts pending in two ridings, the balance of power may yet shift slightly.

Despite the minority status, Carney rejected the notion of a formal governing pact with the New Democrats, unlike his predecessor Justin Trudeau's 2021 arrangement.

"Canadians elected a new government to stand up to President Trump and build a strong economy," Carney said, noting his party won the most votes in Canadian history.

He announced a gender-balanced cabinet will be sworn in on 12 May, with Parliament resuming on 27 May under the King's ceremonial leadership, a moment



Carney says "clearly underscores the sovereignty of our country."

Facing criticism that his party has not adequately addressed voter concerns, Carney pledged a tougher stance on crime, including changes to bail laws for individuals accused of serious offenses such as human trafficking, auto theft, and home invasion.

On housing, he promised tax cuts for new builds and major efforts to boost housing supply, citing affordability as a pressing issue across Canada.

"I'm in politics to do big things, not to be something," Carney declared. "Now that Canadians have honoured me with a mandate to bring about big changes quickly, I will work relentlessly to fulfil that trust."

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, who failed to win his own seat, will have the opportunity to run in a by election. Carney pledged to fast-track the process as soon as the Conservatives choose a member to vacate their seat.

"No games," he said bluntly.

Much of the media focus, however, centered on Carney's upcoming White House meeting. Amid rising economic tensions, the prime minister warned against expectations of a breakthrough.

"Do not expect white smoke out of that meeting," he said, referencing papal conclave tradition.

Carney confirmed he would press for the removal of what he called unjustified tariffs, particularly those tied to the alleged flow of fentanyl into the U.S. from Canada, which experts say lacks evidence.

"The fentanyl-related tariffs, we don't understand why they're still in place," he said in French.

When asked directly about Trump's offhand suggestion that Canada could become the 51st U.S. state, Carney was unequivocal:

"It's always important to distinguish want from reality."

The last time a monarch opened Canada's Parliament was in 1957, when Queen Elizabeth II visited Ottawa. King Charles's upcoming appearance is being interpreted as a statement of continuity, unity, and symbolic resistance to outside pressure.

In a time of global uncertainty, rising nationalism, and testy cross-border relations, Canada's government is attempting to strike a balance between asserting sovereignty and managing its closest, and now most unpredictable, ally.

7 takeaways from US-Ukraine natural resources agreement

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



In a landmark agreement signalling deepened economic and strategic ties, the United States and Ukraine have signed a long-awaited deal granting Washington access to key natural resources in Ukraine. The agreement, months in the making, establishes an investment framework that Kyiv hopes will anchor continued U.S. support amid its ongoing war with Russia.

The deal, now published by the Ukrainian government, outlines a joint effort to harness Ukraine's mineral, oil, and gas wealth while simultaneously addressing geopolitical sensitivities—including Ukraine's path to EU membership and questions surrounding U.S. military support.

Here are seven major takeaways from the agreement:

No Ukrainian Repayment for U.S. Aid
Despite previous suggestions from

U.S. political figures—most notably former President Donald Trump—that Ukraine should repay the estimated \$350 billion in aid received during the war; the deal includes no provision for debt repayment. Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal confirmed that no financial “payback” is required under the agreement, a notable concession by Washington that reinforces its role as a committed, if cautious, ally.

Agreement Includes Oil and Gas Access

Though widely framed as a minerals-focused pact, the agreement explicitly includes provisions for oil, natural gas, and other hydrocarbons. This represents a strategic expansion from earlier drafts, which focused solely on critical minerals such as lithium and titanium.

While ownership of the resources remains with Ukraine, the U.S. gains joint access for exploration and development. U.S. officials noted that peace would increase the commercial

viability of these assets, hinting at a broader incentive to support a faster end to the conflict.

No Conflict with EU Accession Plans
Concerns had emerged in Kyiv that the agreement might conflict with Ukraine's ambition to join the European Union, especially due to existing raw materials agreements between Ukraine and the EU. However, the agreement specifically acknowledges Ukraine's EU aspirations and commits to aligning with any future EU obligations.

The text also affirms that the U.S. will negotiate in good faith if Ukraine needs to revisit any terms due to its EU membership path. Moreover, the U.S. has pledged to support additional technology and investment transfers from both EU and international partners.

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U.S. Military Support Tied to Economic Deal

U.S. officials have signalled that the agreement serves as a precondition for continued military assistance, including air defence systems and strategic aid. Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko, who signed the deal in Washington, noted that the agreement lays the groundwork for new defense cooperation.

This framing reintroduces a quasi-conditional military commitment into U.S.-Ukraine relations—especially important given the evolving political landscape in Washington.

No Formal Security Guarantees from the U.S.

Notably, the agreement does not contain formal security guarantees. This omission reinforces the fragility of U.S. commitment should political leadership or priorities shift.

While President Biden has historically maintained strong support for Ukraine, President Trump and other Republicans have expressed scepticism about long-term military involvement. The current deal links U.S. support more to economic interest than to defence policy, a dynamic

that raises questions about the sustainability of the partnership.

Profits May Be Reinvested in Ukraine—for Now

A key detail highlighted by the Ukrainian government is a provision stating that profits from the investment fund will be reinvested in Ukraine's economy for the first 10 years. These funds are intended to support postwar reconstruction and new infrastructure projects.

However, this clause does not appear in the formal text of the agreement signed in Washington. Deputy Prime Minister Svyrydenko stated on social media that the reinvestment commitment would be formalized in a future “technical agreement.”

After the initial 10-year period, profits may be shared between Ukraine and its international partners, including the U.S.

U.S. Frames Deal as Compensation and Partnership

In U.S. political circles, the deal is also being marketed as a form of compensation for America's financial and military contributions to Ukraine. U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Fox News that the agreement represents an

opportunity for the American people to “participate” in Ukraine's recovery and “get some of the funding and weapons compensated.”

At a White House briefing, Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller went further, describing the agreement as “repayment” for the hundreds of billions of dollars in taxpayer funds directed toward the war effort.

Looking Ahead

While the Kremlin has yet to respond to the announcement, analysts say the deal could trigger geopolitical pushback. However, Kyiv views it as a strategic win—ensuring continued Western alignment while simultaneously advancing its EU membership goals and economic recovery.

For Washington, the deal balances diplomacy, economics, and national interest—tying future military support to economic gains in a post-war Ukraine.

New Daily Prime will continue to monitor developments on this historic agreement and its implications for the future of the war, regional stability, and international investment in Ukraine's recovery.



Confusion over age may disqualify African cardinal from Papal conclave

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

African cardinal may be barred from participating in next week's historic papal conclave due to uncertainty about his date of birth—an issue that could have serious implications for the legitimacy of the next pope's election.

Cardinal Philippe Ouédraogo, the Archbishop Emeritus of Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso, is at the center of a peculiar age-related dispute. Official Church records are unclear whether he was born on January 24, 1945, which would make him 80 years old and ineligible to vote, or on December 31, 1945, which would place him at 79, just within the age limit set by the Catholic Church.

Why His Age Matters

Under the apostolic constitution *Universi Dominici Gregis*, only cardinals who are under the age of 80 on the day the conclave begins may participate in the secretive process to elect the next pope. The conclave is scheduled to begin on May 7, the first following the death of a sitting pope in over two decades.

If Cardinal Ouédraogo were to vote and was later found to be ineligible, it could potentially render the election invalid, casting a shadow over the new pontificate.

Two Birthdates, One Cardinal

The discrepancy appears rooted in Ouédraogo's rural upbringing. "In my village, there were neither hospitals nor schools. I was born at home and was not given a birthdate," the cardinal said in a recent statement.

He explained that January 25 was assigned randomly when he entered seminary, for bureaucratic purposes. Later, Burkina Faso's national registry gave him December 31 as his official birthdate—common practice for many citizens whose actual birthdates were never formally recorded.



Further complicating matters, the Vatican's official yearbook listed January 24, 1945 as his birthdate last year, but changed it to December 31, 1945 in this year's edition. No explanation has been given for the update.

Jokes and Serious Questions

Italian media have taken note of the oddity, with one newspaper joking that the cardinal had "found the secret to stopping time." Another quipped, "The strange case of the cardinal who became a year younger to enter the conclave."

But Vatican insiders are treating the issue seriously. With only 133 cardinals now eligible to vote—down from the original 135 after Kenyan Cardinal John Njue and Spanish Cardinal Antonio Cañizares Llovera withdrew due to health concerns—every vote is considered crucial, especially for factions seeking to steer the Church in a more traditionalist direction.

Conservative Influence at Stake

Cardinal Ouédraogo, appointed by Pope Francis, is known for his conservative theological leanings. His participation in the conclave could be pivotal for cardinals who aim to roll back Pope Francis's reforms, including

more inclusive pastoral approaches to LGBTQ+ Catholics and the blessing of same-sex unions.

Despite his conservatism, the cardinal has also earned international respect for promoting interreligious dialogue in Burkina Faso, where Muslims form a majority and Catholics represent about one-fifth of the population. He has been a bridge-builder in a country historically marked by religious tolerance and communal co-existence.

With the conclave only days away, Vatican officials must now determine whether Cardinal Ouédraogo is eligible to vote. Any uncertainty could cause further delays or force his exclusion from the proceedings.

While the Vatican has not made an official statement, canon lawyers suggest that unless the Church can definitively establish that he turned 80 before May 7, he may be excluded out of caution to preserve the conclave's legitimacy.

As the Catholic world prepares for one of the most consequential papal elections in recent memory, one cardinal's disputed birthday may become an unlikely but symbolically significant factor in shaping the future of the Church.

Australian PM Albanese re-elected, makes history

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In a historic win for Australia's center-left, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has secured a second consecutive three-year term, becoming the first leader in 21 years to achieve such a feat.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton conceded defeat late Saturday night, acknowledging Labor's commanding lead.

"We didn't do well enough during this campaign, that much is obvious tonight, and I accept full responsibility for that," Dutton said. He also confirmed he had called Albanese to congratulate him on the win, calling it "a historic occasion for the Labor Party."

According to projections by the Australian Electoral Commission, Labor is expected to claim 70 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives, while the conservative opposition coalition lags far behind with just 24 seats. Independent and minor party candidates appear set to win 13 seats. Prominent ABC election analyst Antony Green predicted Labor will likely secure 76 seats, enough to form either a majority or a slim minority government. Green ruled out any chance of the coalition forming government.

COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS AND ENERGY POLICY SHAPE ELECTION OUTCOME

The election unfolded against the backdrop of a deeply felt cost-of-living crisis. Inflation, rising interest rates, and food insecurity dominated public discourse. Foodbank Australia revealed that 3.4 million households experienced food insecurity last year, a staggering number in a country of just 27 million.

In response to economic hardship, the central bank reduced the benchmark cash rate to 4.1% in February and is widely expected to lower it again on May 20 to boost investment, especially amid



international market instability caused by protectionist trade policies from the United States.

Both major parties proposed measures to address inflation and assist first-home buyers, but it was Albanese's moderate economic stewardship and messaging of unity that resonated most with voters.

"We've seen the attempt to run American-style politics here of division and pitting Australians against each other," Albanese said, in a thinly veiled jab at Dutton. "That's not the Australian way."

"DOGE-Y DUTTON" AND NUCLEAR POLITICS

The campaign was not without drama. Labor cheekily branded Dutton as "DOGE-y Dutton," drawing parallels between the opposition leader's approach and that of former U.S. President Donald Trump. Dutton's pitch to slash over 20% of public service jobs and invest in nuclear energy, instead of renewables like solar and wind, drew sharp criticism. Labor accused the Liberals of preparing to gut essential services to fund an impractical nuclear agenda.

Despite both parties committing to net-zero emissions by 2050, Dutton's nuclear push failed to sway a public increasingly invested in green energy and climate-conscious governance.

SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS AND A

NEW POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

This election marked a demographic milestone, Baby Boomers were officially outnumbered by younger generations for the first time in an Australian federal vote. Campaign strategies leaned into youth-friendly housing and climate policies as millennials and Gen Z voters emerged as a formidable political force.

Labor also celebrated improved diplomatic ties with China, which lifted trade barriers worth AU\$20 billion since Albanese's administration came to power in 2022, a diplomatic win that likely boosted confidence in his leadership.

MAJORITY OR MINORITY? FINAL NUMBERS LOOM

Before the election, Labor held 78 seats in the 151-seat House. With the redistribution reducing the total to 150 seats, the party needed 76 for a majority. Any final tally below that would force Albanese to negotiate with independents to form a minority government, a scenario not seen since 2010.

If no party commands a majority, history may repeat itself with prolonged negotiations. After the 2010 vote, it took 17 days to confirm Labor's minority government.

For now, though, Anthony Albanese stands tall, his re-election a rare and resounding vote of confidence in an era of political volatility.

DOJ sues Colorado, Denver over 'Sanctuary' policies

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a federal lawsuit against the state of Colorado, the city of Denver, and several top officials, accusing them of obstructing federal immigration enforcement through so-called "sanctuary" policies. The suit, filed Friday in Denver federal court, claims these laws undermine national security and enabled violent gangs like Tren de Aragua to gain a foothold.

"The United States has well-established, preeminent, and preemptive authority to regulate immigration matters," the lawsuit states. It argues that Colorado's restrictions on cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities directly interfere with federal mandates.

Central to the case is a controversial apartment complex in Aurora, where President Donald Trump previously alleged that the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua had taken over the building. While local officials pushed back on the scale of Trump's claims, they acknowledged that the complex had been "terrorized," with individuals linked to the gang involved.

The lawsuit singles out specific city ordinances and state laws that prohibit law enforcement from sharing information with or detaining individuals for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The complaint argues that such policies "by intent and design interfere with and discriminate against the Federal Government's enforcement of federal immigration law," and requests the court to strike them down under the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution.



Named in the lawsuit are:

Colorado Governor, Jared Polis

State Attorney, General Phil Weiser

Denver Mayor, Mike Johnston

Denver Sheriff, Elias Diggins

In response, a spokesperson for Governor Polis said the state "will not comment on the merits of the lawsuit" but denied the "sanctuary state" label. "The State of Colorado works with local, state and federal law enforcement regularly... If the courts say that any Colorado law is not valid, then we will follow the ruling."

Mayor Johnston's office issued a stronger rebuke, stating: "Denver will not be bullied or blackmailed, least of all by an administration that has little regard for the law and even less for the truth. Denver follows all laws local, state, and federal and stands ready to defend its values."

In March, Johnston testified before Congress about Denver's approach to undocumented immigrants. During the hearing, Republican lawmakers criticized Johnston and other big-city mayors for refusing to hold individuals for ICE, claiming this endangered both law enforcement

and the public.

Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser's office also vowed to defend state law. "We are committed to defending Colorado law and have done so successfully in the past in this area. We stand ready to do so again."

The Trump administration, which recently returned to power, has renewed its hardline immigration stance. The president signed an executive order earlier this week directing the Justice Department to investigate sanctuary jurisdictions and potentially strip them of federal funding.

While there is no formal definition of a "sanctuary city," the term generally refers to jurisdictions that limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, particularly in detaining individuals flagged for deportation by ICE. These policies are often rooted in concerns over public trust, safety, and local autonomy.

The lawsuit against Colorado follows similar legal battles the DOJ has launched against other cities, including Chicago and Rochester, New York, further escalating the national debate over immigration policy and federal-state authority.

U.S. labels Haitian gang alliance as 'Transnational Terrorist Group' amid escalating crisis

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The United States (U.S) has officially designated a powerful Haitian gang alliance and a notorious affiliated faction as transnational terrorist organizations, a move that marks a significant escalation in Washington's response to the deepening chaos in Haiti.

Viv Ansanm, a sprawling criminal coalition that has seized control of much of Port-au-Prince, and the Gran Grif gang, responsible for a horrific massacre of at least 115 people in the town of Pont-Sondé last October, were both included in the designation announced Friday.

"They are a direct threat to U.S. national security interests in our region," said U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in a statement. He warned that anyone providing material support to the gangs could face criminal prosecution, removal from the United States, or be deemed inadmissible to enter the country.

The designation is part of a broader U.S. crackdown on organized crime in Latin America. Earlier this year, the U.S. labeled Venezuela's Tren de Aragua and Mexico's Sinaloa cartel as global terrorist entities. However, the practical implications of the new designation in Haiti, where governance has nearly collapsed, remain uncertain.

Experts say the move could have sweeping consequences beyond security. "It could function as a de facto embargo," said Jake Johnston of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. "The gangs exercise tremendous control over



the commerce of the country. Doing any kind of business with or in Haiti is going to carry much greater risk now."

The designation comes as Haiti plunges deeper into crisis. More than 1 million people have been displaced by violence in recent months, and the situation is deteriorating rapidly. Gangs now control major roads, critical fuel depots, the country's largest port, and entire neighborhoods in the capital. They impose tolls, restrict aid, and effectively dominate key aspects of Haitian life.

Despite repeated calls from the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, the international response has been minimal. The U.S. and other nations have continued deporting Haitian migrants even as conditions on the ground worsen. Aid flows have been hampered by bureaucratic delays and security concerns. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has also seen significant cuts, weakening its presence during a time of dire need.

Meanwhile, an underresourced UN-backed multinational security mission, intended to stabilize the country, has made little progress in halting the gang surge. Haiti's last election was in 2016, and the country has been without a functioning government since President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in 2021.

In the absence of state authority, gang rule has become the norm. Hospitals are shutting down, food insecurity is climbing, and firearms continue to flood into Haiti, largely through ports in Florida, according to a recent UN report.

The terrorist designation could potentially limit the gangs' access to international finances and pressure foreign actors to avoid any transactions linked to Haiti's illicit networks. But on the ground, for millions of Haitians caught between hunger and bullets, the immediate effect may be little more than symbolic.

UK tribunal rules deportation of asylum seeker over English test fraud

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

After a seven-year legal battle, a UK tribunal has ruled that a Bangladeshi national can be deported from the country after determining he used a proxy to fraudulently complete an English language test required for his immigration status.

The Upper Tribunal, led by Judge Bulpitt, found it “highly probable” that Md Abdur Rahim, now 37, engaged in deception by employing a stand-in to sit the mandatory English language test on his behalf in 2012. The finding affirms the Home Office’s longstanding refusal to grant him indefinite leave to remain.

Rahim’s case is among thousands that followed a 2014 BBC Panorama exposé revealing widespread fraud at English testing centres operated by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The investigation prompted the UK Home Office to invalidate many results, including Rahim’s.

13 Years in the UK, 7 Years in Court

Rahim first arrived in the UK in 2007 as a student and legally remained in the country until 2014. His 2012 application to extend his leave to remain included a Test of English for International Communication (TOEIC) result, which the Home Office later claimed had been fraudulently obtained.

In October 2017, Rahim applied for indefinite leave to remain on the grounds of long residency, citing 10 years of continuous presence in the UK. However, the Home Office rejected the application, arguing that his previous use of deception in 2012 rendered the claim invalid.

Rahim challenged the decision, launching a lengthy legal process that spanned the First-tier Tribunal, the Upper Tribunal, and eventually the Court of Appeal.

ETS Scandal and Forensic Voice Analysis
At the heart of the case was Rahim’s test, taken at the London College of Media and Technology in 2012—one of the centres later implicated in systemic test fraud. Of



the 159 tests conducted that day, 131 were found to be invalid, including Rahim’s. The remaining 28 were flagged as “questionable.”

The Home Office submitted evidence based on forensic voice analysis conducted by ETS using biometric technology. Officials matched Rahim’s voice sample to others from separate tests, indicating that a proxy likely sat for him.

Despite Rahim’s insistence that he had taken the test himself, he was unable to provide credible supporting evidence. His testimony relied on a 2018 witness statement describing his trip to the test centre, but he failed to provide corroboration from anyone who referred him to the site or from his partner.

Judge Bulpitt criticized Rahim’s account as “wilfully vague,” lacking transparency and crucial supporting detail. In contrast, he described the Home Office’s case as “compelling,” especially in light of the exceptional test score Rahim received and the high frequency of fraud documented at the testing centre.

Quote from the Tribunal
In his ruling, Judge Bulpitt stated:

“Overall, we found Mr Rahim’s account to lack transparency, to be wilfully vague, and to lack support in circumstances where supporting evidence—especially from his partner—could reasonably be expected.”

He added that the Home Office’s conclusion that Rahim used a proxy was “highly probable,” given the volume of

fraudulent tests recorded at the centre and biometric evidence from ETS.

Broader Implications

Rahim’s case shines a spotlight on the scale of immigration fraud exposed in the wake of the Panorama investigation, as well as the growing backlog of immigration appeals. According to government data, more than 41,000 immigration appeal cases are currently pending across the UK.

The UK government has pledged to address this backlog by cutting down the average time for appeals to reach court to just 24 days.

Legal observers note that while some students affected by the ETS scandal were wrongly accused, many—including Rahim—have failed to provide convincing evidence to counter the government’s findings.

The tribunal’s ruling clears the way for Rahim’s removal from the UK, 13 years after his initial entry and more than a decade after the test in question. No further right of appeal has been granted at this stage.

The Home Office has yet to comment publicly on the outcome but is expected to proceed with deportation measures in line with the tribunal’s decision.

New Daily Prime will continue monitoring developments around immigration tribunal rulings and the broader fallout from the ETS English test scandal.

73-yr-old US landlord jailed 53 years for killing boy

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

An Illinois man who brutally killed a six-year-old Palestinian Muslim boy and seriously injured his mother in a hate-fueled attack was sentenced on Friday to 53 years in prison, closing a chapter on a case that reignited fears of anti-Muslim violence across the U.S.

Joseph Czuba, 73, was convicted in February of first-degree murder, attempted murder, and hate crime charges in the killing of Wadee Alfayoumi and the wounding of the child's mother, Hanan Shaheen. The attack occurred in October 2023, just days after the war between Israel and Hamas began.

Prosecutors said Czuba targeted the family because of their Islamic faith and Palestinian identity. The Alfayoumis, who had recently moved to the U.S., were renting rooms in Czuba's suburban Chicago home in Plainfield, about 40 miles southwest of the city.

"Wadee was an innocent child," said Ahmed Rehab, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' (CAIR) Chicago chapter. "He was targeted because of who he was – Muslim, Palestinian, and loved. No sentence can restore what was taken, but today's outcome delivers a necessary measure of justice."

During Friday's sentencing hearing, Wadee's great-uncle, Mahmoud Yousef, was the only family member to speak. He called the sentence inadequate, saying no punishment could undo the pain Czuba inflicted. He implored the convicted killer to explain his motive, asking what news or rhetoric had driven him to



violence. Czuba offered no response.

The trial revealed deeply disturbing evidence. Shaheen, the boy's mother, gave harrowing testimony about Czuba's sudden, frenzied attack. Prosecutors said he had become enraged by media coverage of the Israel-Gaza conflict and told Shaheen they had to leave his home because they were Muslim.

He then turned violent, stabbing Shaheen before attacking her son with a military-style knife, plunging it into the child 26 times. The blade was left lodged in Wadee's body.

"He could not escape," Assistant State's Attorney Michael Fitzgerald told jurors. Police testified that the scene was so graphic the judge ordered screens displaying crime scene photos turned away from the courtroom gallery, which included Wadee's grieving relatives.

Jurors took less than 90 minutes to convict Czuba. Illinois does not have the death penalty.

The attack devastated Plainfield's

tight-knit Palestinian community and reverberated nationwide. Many in the area have roots in the West Bank and Gaza and say they've long felt the chill of suspicion, especially during times of international conflict.

In the wake of the tragedy, federal authorities launched a hate crime investigation. Separate civil lawsuits have also been filed in connection to the boy's death.

Mary Czuba, the defendant's ex-wife, testified against him during the trial, revealing that her husband had grown agitated and consumed by news of the conflict just before the attack.

"This was not random. This was not confusion. This was hatred," said Rehab. "And this must never be allowed to happen again."

The sentencing marked a grim milestone in the national conversation around Islamophobia and racially motivated violence, reminders of the real-world consequences of bigotry, and of the work still left to protect the vulnerable.

Aid ship bound for Gaza hit by drone strike in international waters, Israel accused

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A ship carrying humanitarian aid and international activists to Gaza was attacked by armed drones in international waters off the coast of Malta early Friday morning, severely damaging the vessel and halting its mission, according to its organizers.

The ship, *Conscience*, part of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, was struck at approximately 12:23 a.m. local time, the group said in a statement. The vessel, unarmed and clearly marked as civilian, suffered two drone strikes that ignited a fire and tore a substantial breach in its hull, leaving it without power and at risk of sinking.

An image posted online by the coalition showed explosions and flames aboard the vessel. Although no definitive evidence of drone use has been publicly confirmed, Cypriot authorities released photos showing extensive structural damage. There were no casualties reported among the 12 crew members and four passengers, according to the Maltese government, which dispatched a nearby tugboat to assist the stricken vessel.

The coalition accused Israel of carrying out the attack. "Israeli ambassadors must be summoned and answer to violations of international law, including the ongoing blockade and the bombing of our civilian vessel in international waters," the group said.

Israel has not commented on the incident.

The *Conscience* departed from the Tunisian port of Bizerte on Tuesday and was en route to pick up additional activists, including Swedish climate advocate Greta Thunberg, near Malta. Thunberg confirmed she was set to board the vessel on Friday.

"I was part of the group who was supposed to board that boat today to continue the voyage towards Gaza," she



told Reuters. "This attack caused an explosion and major damage to the vessel, which made it impossible to continue the mission."

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition has a history of attempting to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza. A 2010 mission from Turkey ended in bloodshed when Israeli commandos boarded the *Mavi Marmara*, killing 10 activists and wounding dozens. Turkish officials confirmed that Turkish nationals were also aboard the *Conscience*, condemning the latest attack in the "strongest terms."

"This is an attack on a civilian ship in international waters, and we will make every effort to identify the perpetrators and hold them accountable," Turkey's foreign ministry stated.

The incident comes amid a deepening humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. The Israeli blockade, in place since October 2023, has tightened in recent months, with no food, fuel, or medicine allowed into the territory. Aid organizations have warned of an impending famine and the total collapse of healthcare and food distribution systems.

The International Committee of the Red Cross issued an urgent plea Friday, saying, "Aid must be allowed to enter Gaza. Hostages must be released.

Civilians must be protected. Without immediate action, Gaza will descend further into chaos that humanitarian efforts will not be able to mitigate."

Medical supplies for chronic illnesses like cancer and diabetes are nearly nonexistent, and remaining hospitals are overwhelmed. "I don't know how people are managing," said Amjad Shawa, director of the Palestinian NGOs Network. "They have lost everything."

A United Nations team is currently in Gaza to assess the severity of malnutrition and the risk of famine, as hundreds of thousands remain displaced and desperate.

Israeli officials have justified the blockade by accusing Hamas of commandeering aid for its fighters. However, humanitarian organizations on the ground dispute these claims and warn that new Israeli plans to distribute aid through private contractors could violate international law and prove ineffective.

The war in Gaza began following Hamas's surprise attack on Israel in October 2023, which killed approximately 1,200 people. Since then, at least 52,418 Palestinians have died, according to Gaza's health ministry, most of them civilians.

Shooting at Inglewood college leaves 2 critically injured, suspect in custody

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



A shooting at the Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology in Inglewood on Friday afternoon has left two women critically injured and a suspect, believed to be a former employee, in police custody.

According to the Inglewood Police Department, the incident occurred around 3:40 p.m. on the campus, located in the 8900 block of Aviation Boulevard. Emergency services responded promptly to the scene after receiving reports of gunfire.

Los Angeles County firefighters arrived to find two victims, both women, suffering from gunshot wounds. They were transported to a nearby hospital in critical condition. Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts later confirmed the victims were employees of the college.

Witnesses reported that the alleged shooter may have been wearing a security uniform at the time of the attack. Despite an initial search of the campus yielding no suspect, authorities were able to identify the individual and the vehicle he was using.

Just after 6 p.m., Mayor Butts announced that the suspect had been apprehended in the Pico-Union neighborhood of Los Angeles. The man, whose name has not yet been released, was found near Berendo and Twelfth streets following a 911 call made by members of his own family. According to police, the family told dispatchers he had shot two women and that the weapon used was in the backseat of his vehicle.

The suspect was taken into custody

without further incident.

Following the shooting, a heavy police presence, including officers in tactical gear, was observed on the campus. Dozens of staff and students were seen gathered outside as the investigation began.

Initial reports had suggested three victims, but authorities later clarified that only two people had sustained injuries.

As the investigation continues, the motive behind the attack remains unclear. Authorities are urging anyone with information to come forward.

This is a developing story. Updates will be provided as more details emerge.

Leeds clinch Championship title in dramatic final-day twist

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

In a stunning conclusion to one of the most thrilling Championship seasons in recent history, Leeds United were crowned champions after a dramatic stoppage-time winner by Manor Solomon secured a 2-1 victory over Plymouth Argyle.

With both Leeds and Burnley locked at 100 points heading into the final minutes of their respective games, it was Solomon's goal in the dying moments that edged the West Yorkshire side to the top on goal difference, breaking Burnley hearts just as fans at Turf Moor prepared to celebrate.

For the first time ever, two teams reached the century mark in a single Championship campaign, underlining just how fiercely contested the title race was. And in a broader context, it was a historic season across the Football League, with Birmingham City also crossing the 100-point threshold in League One—a first in the league's 137-year existence.

Leeds' Late Glory

Before kickoff, Leeds held the upper hand, knowing a win would seal the title. However, as Burnley took control against Millwall, pressure mounted. Leeds fans were forced to endure every twist and turn until Solomon's last-gasp strike confirmed their triumph.

"It's a dream come true to score the winning goal and take this Championship," said a visibly emotional Solomon. "We knew what was happening at Burnley. We had to find something, and we did. It will take a while to sink in."

Leeds ended the season with 95 goals—more than any other



side—powered by a dynamic attack featuring Joel Piroe (19 goals), Dan James (12), and Solomon (10).

Manager Daniel Farke, who secured his third Championship promotion after two previous successes with Norwich City, praised the resolve of his squad.

"We've invested so much this season, and now we can call ourselves the best team," Farke said. "It feels pretty special for everyone involved—players, staff, and supporters."

Burnley's Near-Perfect Season

Despite being denied the title, Burnley's campaign was nothing short of exceptional. They equaled the Football League record for clean sheets (30), went unbeaten at home, and suffered just two defeats all season. Their 33-game unbeaten run since November was a testament to their defensive strength and consistency.

"If you told me we'd hit 100 points, concede only 16 goals, go 33 games unbeaten, and not win the league—I wouldn't believe you," admitted manager Scott Parker, who added a third promotion to his resume after stints with Fulham and Bournemouth.

Captain Josh Brownhill, instrumental in midfield with 18 goals, remained optimistic: "This is a different team now. We're well prepared to go back up and stay up this time."

The Bigger Picture

While Leeds and Burnley stole the headlines, Sheffield United's campaign should not go unnoticed. The Blades led the table for large parts of the season and finished with 90 points—enough for automatic promotion in most other years. They now face Bristol City in the play-offs, looking to rejoin the Premier League.

Yet, amid the celebrations, recent history serves a cautionary tale. All three clubs promoted last season—including Burnley and Sheffield United—were relegated, highlighting the challenges ahead.

Still, this year's promotion race will be remembered for its fierce competition, high drama, and unrelenting quality. Leeds held their nerve at the crucial moment, but both they and Burnley delivered campaigns worthy of the record books.

In a season defined by fine margins, Leeds United stood tallest at the end—just.

Bournemouth stun Arsenal with comeback win at Emirates

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Arsenal's preparations for their crucial Champions League semi-final second leg were dealt a serious blow as Bournemouth produced a stunning second-half comeback to win 2-1 at the Emirates Stadium — their first-ever victory at the venue.

The Gunners, with a full-strength lineup despite their looming clash with Paris Saint-Germain, appeared to be in control when Declan Rice opened the scoring in the 34th minute. Celebrating his 100th appearance for the club, the England international latched onto Martin Ødegaard's pass, rounded Bournemouth goalkeeper Kepa, and slotted home to give the hosts a deserved lead.

But what followed was a collapse that will concern Mikel Arteta, as Bournemouth turned the match on its head with two goals in just eight second-half minutes.

The visitors had threatened in the first half without reward but found a breakthrough after the break. In the 67th minute, centre-back Dean Huijsen rose highest to meet Antoine Semenyo's long throw, powering a header past David Raya to level the scores.

The Emirates crowd was still reeling when Bournemouth struck again. From a corner in the 75th minute, striker Evanilson bundled the ball over the line after escaping his marker, Ødegaard, to complete the turnaround and give the Cherries a memorable lead.

Despite Arsenal's urgent attempts to respond, they failed to muster a single shot on target after going behind — a telling indicator of their struggles in front of goal and a lack of clinical edge without



a true striker.

Arsenal remain second in the Premier League, but third-placed Manchester City are now just three points behind with a game in hand, increasing pressure on the Gunners as the season enters its final stretch.

Meanwhile, Bournemouth's historic win lifts them to eighth and reignites their European ambitions. The result is all the more remarkable considering they had only won once in their previous nine league matches. Manager Andoni Iraola's inspired second-half substitutions, particularly the introduction of Semenyo, proved decisive in swinging momentum their way.

The loss marks Arsenal's second consecutive Premier League stumble, and Arteta now faces the difficult task of lifting his side ahead of Wednesday's pivotal Champions League clash in Paris. Trailing 1-0 from the first leg, the Gunners must deliver one of their finest European performances if they are to reach the final.

Set-pieces — usually a strength under Arteta — proved Arsenal's undoing, as both of Bournemouth's goals came from

such situations. Poor marking and sluggish reactions left the Gunners exposed and vulnerable, and their attacking play never recovered.

The Emirates crowd of 60,110 watched in growing frustration as Bournemouth managed the final stages with discipline and belief, earning a famous win that could define their season.

Dean Huijsen deservedly claimed Player of the Match honours with a rating of 8.61, dominating at both ends of the pitch and leading Bournemouth's defensive resilience.

For Arsenal, the performance raised more questions than answers. Their attacking fluency was muted, their defensive structure shaky, and their form worryingly inconsistent heading into a season-defining week.

Final Score: Arsenal 1 – 2 AFC Bournemouth
Goals:

Arsenal: Rice (34')

Bournemouth: Huijsen (67'), Evanilson (75')

Attendance: 60,110, Emirates Stadium
Can Arsenal regroup in time to rescue their European dream in Paris?

Heartbreak at the Hawthorns as Luton face second relegation

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Luton Town's turbulent journey through the English football pyramid took another agonizing twist on Saturday, as they were relegated to League One after a thrilling but ultimately futile 5-3 defeat at West Bromwich Albion on the final day of the Championship season.

Needing a win to secure their Championship status, the Hatters instead endured a defensive collapse that sealed their fate, dropping into the third tier just a year after falling from the Premier League. Despite a spirited fightback and a late goal from Millenic Alli, Matt Bloomfield's men were undone by West Brom's ruthless finishing and an inferior goal difference that left them level on points with Hull City but below the survival line.

It was a cruel ending for a side that had sparked hope in recent weeks with three consecutive wins, clawing their way out of the relegation zone and into a position of control. But on a day when drama unfolded across the country, Luton simply couldn't match the occasion.

Early Drama, Rapid Collapse

Tom Fellows got Albion off to a flying start, squeezing in the opener just seven minutes in. Luton responded through Alli, who equalised within two minutes following a brilliant ball from Thelo Aasgaard, but that glimmer of hope was soon extinguished.

Daryl Dike, making his first league start in over a year due to persistent injury setbacks, marked the occasion with a powerful header to restore West Brom's lead. Fellows added his second just three minutes later, leaving Luton stunned and staring down the barrel of another relegation.

By half-time, with Hull leading at Portsmouth and Luton trailing 3-1, Bloomfield was forced into changes—substituting captain Carlton



Morris and altering his formation in a desperate bid to turn the tide.

But the Hatters' hopes were quickly crushed again when Callum Styles struck twice in the space of four minutes early in the second half. Though Jordan Clark and Alli added goals to reduce the deficit, and news of a Portsmouth equaliser briefly lifted spirits, the comeback was too little, too late.

Disappointment and Reflection

Speaking after the match, a visibly emotional Bloomfield addressed the traveling fans and shared in their disappointment.

"It is a particularly painful moment for us and everyone associated with our football club," he said. "We needed a big performance today and we just didn't deliver. We're sorry to our supporters who have stuck with us through a tough season."

While Albion interim boss James Morrison was pleased with his team's attacking display—"five goals in one game after struggling all season to score, it's something to enjoy"—his thoughts also reflected the frustrations of a campaign that didn't meet expectations.

From Premier League to League One in Two Seasons

Luton's rapid fall is a sobering reminder of how unforgiving English football can be. Just two years ago, they were celebrating promotion to the Premier League at Wembley. Now, they face the challenge of rebuilding in League One.

Former manager Rob Edwards, who led them to that top-flight promotion, was dismissed in January after a poor run. Bloomfield was brought in from Wycombe Wanderers and initially struggled, going eight games without a win. But a late-season surge brought renewed belief, only for it to be dashed at the final hurdle.

Still, there is optimism in the long-term future. The club has secured approval for a new 25,000-seater stadium, due to open by 2028, and with Bloomfield's League One experience and the core of a competitive squad, Luton will aim to bounce back swiftly.

Yet for now, it is pain and regret that dominate the narrative. A revival came, but it came too late. The road back starts all over again.

Aston Villa edge Fulham to keep Champions League hopes alive

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

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While Leeds and Burnley stole the headlines, Sheffield United's campaign should not go unnoticed. The Blades led the table for large parts of the season and finished with 90 points—enough for automatic promotion in most other years. They now face Bristol City in the play-offs, looking to rejoin the Premier League.

Yet, amid the celebrations, recent history serves a cautionary tale. All three clubs promoted last season—including Burnley and Sheffield United—were relegated, highlighting the challenges ahead.

Still, this year's promotion race will be remembered for its fierce competition, high drama, and unrelenting quality. Leeds held their nerve at the crucial moment, but both they and Burnley delivered campaigns worthy of the record books.

In a season defined by fine margins, Leeds United stood tallest at the end—just.

Poulsen's last-gasp equaliser delays Bayern Munich's title coronation

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Bayern Munich were left stunned after conceding a stoppage-time equaliser in a pulsating 3-3 draw against RB Leipzig that denied them an early Bundesliga title celebration.

With Bayern needing just one more win to reclaim the title from current holders Bayer Leverkusen, it appeared Vincent Kompany's side had pulled off a stunning comeback at the Red Bull Arena. But Yussuf Poulsen's dramatic 94th-minute goal left Bayern's champagne on ice — for now.

The result means Bayern, who are nine points clear of Leverkusen and possess a superior goal difference of +30, must wait at least another day to mathematically secure their 34th German league crown. If Leverkusen fail to beat SC Freiburg on Sunday, Bayern will be confirmed champions. Otherwise, they'll have the chance to clinch the title at home next Friday against Borussia Mönchengladbach.

A Comeback for the Ages — and a Sting in the Tail

It was a game that typified the drama of the Bundesliga's title race. Leipzig, backed by a vociferous home crowd, started brightly and took a deserved lead through 21-year-old forward Benjamin Sesko. The Slovenian starlet produced a sensational finish with the outside of his boot from distance to beat Jonas Urbig.

The home fans were on their feet again just before half-time when defender Lukas Klostermann rose highest to head in a second goal, giving Leipzig a 2-0 cushion at the break and threatening to derail Bayern's title charge.

But Bayern, as ever, showed why they remain German football's most formidable force. Kompany's half-time team talk appeared to ignite a fire in his players, and within two minutes of the restart, Bayern were level. First, Eric Dier



nodded in from close range after a well-worked set piece. Then, almost immediately from the kickoff, Michael Olise cut inside and fired past the Leipzig keeper to level the match at 2-2.

Bayern's intensity didn't relent, and with six minutes remaining, Germany international Leroy Sané curled in a stunning third goal to complete the turnaround. The traveling fans — and even Harry Kane, suspended for the match but watching from pitchside — began preparing for celebrations.

But Leipzig had other ideas.

Deep into injury time, with Bayern defending desperately, the ball broke kindly for Yussuf Poulsen. The Danish striker showed great composure to chip the ball over Urbig and into the net, sending the Leipzig fans into raptures and forcing Bayern to delay their celebrations.

Kane Still Waiting for Silverware

The late twist also prolongs Harry Kane's agonising wait for the first major silverware of his career. The England captain, who joined Bayern last summer in pursuit of trophies, was suspended for the match but was seen clapping and urging his teammates on from the

sidelines.

Kane has been instrumental in Bayern's title run this season, leading the line with typical consistency and scoring in key matches. While his wait for a trophy may extend a few more days, Bayern remain firm favourites to seal the Bundesliga title.

What's Next?

Bayern now turn their attention to Leverkusen's result against Freiburg. A Leverkusen win will delay Bayern's coronation until next week, while any other result would hand Kompany his first Bundesliga title as a manager.

Regardless, Bayern's dramatic draw in Leipzig will go down as one of the season's most thrilling encounters — a showcase of resilience, talent, and the unpredictability that makes football so compelling.

For Kompany, the message will be clear: job not done yet, but almost. For Leipzig, it was a performance that reminded the league of their quality and desire to compete with the best.

And for Harry Kane — the wait goes on. But perhaps not for long.