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Oluremi Tinubu urges traditional rulers to support fight against deadly diseases

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Wife of the President, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, on Tuesday called on traditional rulers and stakeholders across the South-West to actively support efforts to curb preventable deaths caused by cervical cancer, tuberculosis, and other life-threatening diseases.

Speaking at an enlarged stakeholders' meeting held in Ibadan, Oyo State capital, Mrs Tinubu emphasised the importance of collaboration in combating diseases that continue to claim thousands of Nigerian lives annually. The meeting was attended by traditional rulers, senior government officials, industrial leaders, and civil society representatives from across the region.

She stressed that these health challenges are preventable, adding that all stakeholders must unite to raise awareness, facilitate early diagnosis, and improve access to treatment. "Eradication of these diseases must be a priority for all Nigerians. We need all hands on deck," she said.

Mrs Tinubu, who serves as the global champion for the #StopTB initiative, reiterated her commitment to ending tuberculosis in Nigeria by 2030.

"Tuberculosis is airborne. If infected, please get tested, because it can easily be passed on to others. The government is treating it, and there should be no stigma," she noted.

In his remarks, Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, commended the collaborative spirit of traditional rulers, describing them as "reliable and dependable," and affirmed their role as vital partners in governance.



The Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Akeem Owoade, hailed the visit of the First Lady as a sign of the Federal Government's dedication to regional development.

Similarly, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi, praised Mrs Tinubu for being a strong pillar of support to President Bola Tinubu and lauded her impactful programmes under the Renewed Hope Initiative.

In a related development, Mrs Tinubu commissioned a multi-million naira ICT Centre at the Oladipo Alayande School of Science, Oke-Ado, Ibadan. The centre is named in honour of former Minister of Trade, Chief (Mrs) Onikepo Akande.

Speaking at the commissioning, the First Lady underscored the non-partisan nature of her initiative.

"This is not a political programme—we are all Nigerians. Leadership positions come and go, but people will always ask what impact you made while in office," she said.

She also announced the completion of ten new digital economy centres in Abia, Delta, Edo, Kano, Katsina, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ondo, Yobe, and Zamfara, and revealed that a fourth centre, located

in Benue State, will be commissioned shortly.

"These centres are in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu, aimed at driving economic diversification through digital innovation and industrialisation," she stated.

Governor Makinde thanked the First Lady for choosing Oyo State to host the ICT centre for the South-West geopolitical zone.

"You could have taken it to Lagos or Osun, but thank you for bringing it here," he said, pledging the state's full support and utilisation of the facility.

Among the dignitaries present were the wife of the Vice President, Nana Shettima; wife of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Fatimah Abbas; Minister of Communication, Innovation and Digital Economy, Bosun Tijani; and wives of various state governors. Also in attendance were leading traditional rulers including the Soun of Ogbomosho, Oba Ghandi Olaoeye; the Aseyin of Iseyin, Oba Sefiu Oyebola; and the Olugbon of Orile-Igbon, Oba Francis Alao.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	372,500.00
HALF PAGE	213,000.00
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14X2	118,000.00
10X6	261,585.50
10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
9X6	254,977.00
9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
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3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
1X1	4,400.00

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14X2	109,500.00
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10X5	237,500.00
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POLITICAL COLOUR

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POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

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9X3	112,875.00
8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
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1X1	3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

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9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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6X3	41,124.50
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5X4	42,825.00
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PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
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EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
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FG cancels BEA scheme, labels it a 'waste of resources'

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Federal Government has announced the discontinuation of the Bilateral Education Agreement (BEA) programme, citing its high cost and limited benefit as justification.

The move follows growing criticism from former beneficiaries who accused the government of neglect and delay in fulfilling financial obligations.

Speaking on Tuesday, April 29, during a courtesy visit by the newly elected leadership of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Minister of Education, Maruf Tunji Alausa, declared that the BEA scheme would not continue beyond 2025.

He described the initiative as a "waste of public funds," vowing instead to redirect resources toward domestic scholarship programmes that would benefit a broader spectrum of Nigerian students.

The BEA, established through partnerships with countries including China, Russia, Algeria, Hungary, Morocco, Egypt, and Serbia, enabled Nigerian students to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate degrees abroad.

However, concerns about accountability, poor course selection, and lack of academic monitoring have increasingly cast a



shadow over the scheme.

"In 2024, shortly after I assumed office, I was asked to approve ₦650 million for just 60 students going to Morocco. I refused. It's not fair to the majority of Nigerian students. Some are sent to Algeria—a French-speaking country—to study English, psychology, and sociology. These are courses we teach far better in Nigeria," Alausa said.

He revealed that ₦9 billion had been earmarked for 1,200 students under the BEA programme in 2025, a figure he criticised as unjustifiable given the financial needs of millions of local students.

"Every course these students are studying abroad is already available in Nigerian universities. That money can be better used to fund local scholarships," he added.

The minister also addressed recent social media criticism from BEA scholars, accusing some of using "blackmail tactics" to draw attention to delayed allowances.

While confirming that all payments had been made up to December 2024, he appealed for patience, noting that further funds had been requested to address outstanding entitlements affected by exchange rate volatility.

Despite the cancellation, current BEA beneficiaries will be allowed to complete their studies, but no new admissions will be made under the scheme from 2025 onward.

NANS President Olushola Oladoja, who led the student delegation, praised the minister's reform-driven approach and expressed support for the redirection of funds to strengthen local tertiary education.

RMAFC to review salaries of political office holders

By Friday Omosola

Chairman of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), Mohammed Shehu, has announced a plan to review the existing revenue allocation formula and the remuneration packages for political and public office holders.

Shehu said this during the opening ceremony of a 2025 retreat for newly inaugurated members of the Commission, held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

He said the Commission is the custodian of the fiscal soul of the federation.

Shehu urged governments at all levels to invest in non-oil sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and solid minerals to diversify revenue sources.

He affirmed the Commission's full alignment with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu.

However, the federal government (FG) commended Shehu for his dynamic leadership and commitment to strengthening Nigeria's fiscal governance.

Representing Vice President Kashim Shettima, the Technical Adviser on Public Debt and Revenue Mobilisation, Ibrahim Natagwandu, lauded the Chairman for his proactive efforts to boost the Commission's



capacity and enhance fiscal discipline.

He praised Shehu's drive to secure improved funding, embrace data-driven decision-making, and ensure the effective discharge of RMAFC's constitutional responsibilities.

In a goodwill message, Akwa Ibom State Governor Umo Eno welcomed participants and praised Shehu's visionary leadership.

He described the retreat's location as a testament to the State's commitment to national development and pledged support for efforts aimed at deepening fiscal federalism and strengthening intergovernmental financial collaboration.

Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum and Governor of Kwara State, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, represented by Razaq Fatai, Head of Data and Analytics, stressed the urgency of a new revenue allocation formula.

"A balanced and just formula is

imperative for the effective delivery of public services and the deepening of democratic dividends," he said, urging the Commission to continue its reform-focused agenda amid economic uncertainties.

The Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, represented by Barrister Imarha Ogehnyerowo Ruben, pledged the Ministry's support in addressing legal challenges hindering the Commission's operations.

He reaffirmed the Ministry's readiness to work with RMAFC and the National Assembly to enact necessary reforms to clarify statutory and constitutional ambiguities.

Yahaya Abdullahi, Chairman of the Senate Committee on National Planning and Economic Affairs, praised RMAFC's impact across all tiers of government and called for stronger legislative backing for the Commission's reform agenda.

Food security: Kyari urges development of climate-smart seeds

By Friday Omosola

The Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Abubakar Kyari, has called for the urgent development of climate-smart seeds to address Nigeria's food security challenges and boost economic growth.

Kyari made this call during a meeting with the newly appointed Board Chairmen of Agricultural Research Institutes and Colleges, held recently in Abuja.

Highlighting the impact of climate change on agricultural productivity, the minister urged the institutions to prioritise research into drought-resistant, heat-tolerant, and high-yielding seed varieties.

According to him, "Climate change is here to stay. We must adapt by breeding seeds that are drought-resistant, heat-tolerant and high-yielding. Our research institutions must take the lead in delivering these solutions to Nigerian farmers."

He further emphasised the need for seeds



with shorter gestation periods and improved productivity to make efficient use of Nigeria's limited arable land.

Kyari also encouraged the board chairmen to maintain open communication and close collaboration with the ministry, assuring them of the ministry's support.

"This is your home. Our doors are open for advice, clarification, and constructive dialogue. Together, we can place

Nigeria's agriculture on the path to true transformation," he said.

Also speaking at the event, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Aliyu Abdullahi, reiterated the ministry's commitment to ensuring national food security.

He noted that the ministry's priorities would soon be shared with the board chairmen and announced plans for a retreat aimed at harmonising ideas for advancing the sector.

Responding on behalf of the board chairmen, Ogar Eba, Chairman of the Rubber Research Institute, Edo State, pledged their support to the ministry's goals.

He stressed the need for sustained collaboration between the board chairmen and the ministry to achieve food sovereignty and expressed confidence that the expertise of the new appointees would help drive the agricultural sector forward.

Prominent Lagos socialite E-Money arrested for alleged currency abuse

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arrested popular Lagos socialite and businessman, Emeka Okonkwo Daniel, popularly known as E-Money, on allegations of currency abuse.

The arrest was confirmed by EFCC spokesperson, Dele Oyewale, in a statement to DAILY POST on Tuesday. According to sources close to the investigation, E-Money was apprehended at his residence in the Omole area of Lagos on Monday night.

His arrest reportedly followed an event where he was allegedly seen spraying US dollars, a practice considered a violation of Nigerian financial



regulations under anti-money laundering laws.

Preliminary investigations are said to be

underway, with the EFCC indicating that the suspect will be charged to court upon conclusion of the inquiry.

When contacted, Oyewale told DAILY POST, "The report is true, he was arrested last night," but declined to provide further details pending ongoing investigations.

E-Money, known for his lavish lifestyle and influential presence on social media, is a well-known figure in Nigeria's entertainment and business circles. His arrest has sparked significant public attention and discussions about the enforcement of currency-related offences.

Okowa claims Atiku preparing to exit PDP ahead of 2027 elections

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Former Governor of Delta State, Ifeanyi Okowa, has alleged that former Vice President Atiku Abubakar is preparing to leave the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) ahead of Nigeria's 2027 general elections.

Okowa, who served as Atiku's running mate during the 2023 presidential election under the PDP banner, recently defected to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Speaking during an interview on Arise News on Tuesday, April 29, Okowa revealed that he had informed Atiku of his intention to leave the PDP.

"I actually did communicate with him that we were going to have stakeholders' meetings this week [last

week] and that it was going to be a leadership meeting, the outcome of that meeting was going to determine our next path because we were no longer comfortable with the PDP," he said.

He further claimed that Atiku himself was already making moves to exit the party.

"I also know that he is already heading out of the PDP from the communications he has passed on to me, and that Nigerians know already," Okowa added.

The revelation comes amid growing political realignments. On 20 March 2023, Atiku, alongside Labour Party leader Peter Obi and former Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai,



announced the formation of a coalition designed to challenge President Bola Tinubu in the next general election.

The emergence of the coalition has sparked widespread speculation about the formation of a united opposition front.

2027: Tinubu needs second term to sustain reforms – Keyamo

By Friday Omosola

Nigeria's Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, has called on members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to set aside personal ambitions and rally behind President Bola Tinubu's re-election bid in 2027.

Speaking during an appearance on Channels Television's 'Politics Today', he argued that the President requires a second term to consolidate and complete his reform agenda.

Keyamo stressed that continuity in leadership is critical to the success of Tinubu's policy initiatives, many of which he said are still in progress.

"It would be a serious setback for the country if another administration comes in and halts the current reforms," he warned.



"This has been a recurring problem in Nigeria—abandoned policies and a lack of policy continuity."

The Minister, who hails from Delta State, made headlines recently by relinquishing party leadership in the state following the defection of Governor Sheriff

Oborevwori from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the APC.

Keyamo described the move as a necessary sacrifice to strengthen the APC's position ahead of the next general election.

"For me, personal political losses are secondary. What matters now is uniting the party and securing President Tinubu's re-election. Even if I have to step aside politically, I will," he declared.

The Minister also took a swipe at the PDP, claiming the party had lost a key pillar with Oborevwori's exit.

"Delta State was not just a PDP stronghold—it was one of the party's major financial and political backbones. With the governor now in the APC, the PDP has lost its soul in the state," he said.

APC youth council rejects Kwankwaso's return, labels him 'politically irrelevant'

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The All Progressives Congress Youth and Students Council (KASASCO) has categorically rejected any plans to facilitate the return of Senator Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso to the party, branding him politically irrelevant and a potential threat to the unity and progress of the APC.

Addressing journalists at a press conference held at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Press Centre in Kano on Tuesday, April 29, the youth group made clear that the APC in Kano has no interest in welcoming Kwankwaso back, stating his influence has significantly diminished and that his return would add "no value, either directly or indirectly."

KASASCO praised the current leadership of the party in the state, led by Prince Abdullahi Abbas, under whom the APC has reportedly regained firm ground.

The group noted the party's current strength, pointing to its control of two Senate seats, several seats in the House of Representatives, and a strong presence in the Kano State House of Assembly.

The youth council also pointed to internal fractures within the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Kwankwaso's current political base, citing a wave of defections by high-profile figures previously



aligned with the Kwankwasiyya movement.

Among those who have reportedly defected to the APC are Senator Abdurrahman Kawu Sumaila and House of Representatives members Kabiru Alhassan Rurum and Abdullahi Sani Rogo, along with other key political actors from Kano.

"These individuals left due to unjust and imbalanced treatment after their sacrifices to the Kwankwasiyya movement," the group stated, accusing the NNPP of marginalising loyal members.

KASASCO further applauded the APC's internal reconciliation efforts and expressed strong confidence in the party's ability to perform well in the 2027 general

elections. They projected that Kano would deliver over two million votes for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and APC candidates nationwide.

Dismissing Kwankwaso's alleged attempts to return to the party as "a desperate bid for political refuge," the group warned: "The APC is not a refuge organisation. We are not seeking figures whose presence could threaten the party's unity and progress."

The council also lauded the efforts of APC National Chairman Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje and Senator Barau Jibrin, attributing the successful defection of approximately 80 percent of the Kwankwasiyya movement to their strategic leadership and political acumen.

CAC cracks down on unregistered companies, sets deadline for registration

By Friday Omosola

The Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) has given unregistered businesses across Nigeria a six-week window to formalise their operations by registering with the Commission.

CAC, in a statement on Tuesday, warned that those who fail to comply may face legal consequences, including possible imprisonment.

The Commission cited Section 863 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), 2020, noting that running a business in Nigeria without proper registration—whether as a company, limited liability partnership, limited partnership, or under a business name—is a criminal offence.

CAC added that the same applies to individuals or organisations operating under an unregistered name or acronym.

The Commission also reminded registered companies of their obligation under Section



729 of the Act to visibly display their registered name and registration number at all operational premises.

“In addition, the company is required to state its registered name and registration number on all its official publications, including letterheads, signage, marketing, and publicity materials,” said CAC.

Furthermore, CAC warned that non-compliance may lead to criminal prosecution.

“Offenders could face penalties, including a two-year prison sentence.”

The Commission also referenced Section 862 (1) of the Act, which stipulates that providing false information in documents required under the Act—including corporate publications—constitutes a criminal offence.

Upon conviction, violators may face up to two years imprisonment and a daily fine for each day the violation persists.

Given the legal implications, the CAC urged all affected entities—whether companies, partnerships, or sole proprietorships—to comply with the relevant sections of the law within the six-week.

The Commission warned that it would take enforcement action, including prosecution, against any defaulters once the deadline lapses.

EFCC arrests businesswoman Aisha Achimugu upon arrival from London

By Damilola Olufemi

Businesswoman Aisha Achimugu was taken into custody by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) early Tuesday morning at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja, shortly after arriving from London.

Sources confirmed that the arrest occurred around 5 a.m. In March, Achimugu had previously been declared wanted by the EFCC over allegations involving criminal conspiracy and money laundering.

A day earlier, the Federal High Court in Abuja, presided over by Justice I.E. Ekwo, ordered that Achimugu appear before the EFCC on Tuesday and also mandated her presence in court on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

Her legal counsel, Chief Chikaosolu Ojukwu, confirmed the arrest, stating that his client returned to Nigeria voluntarily in compliance with the court’s directive, only to be detained by EFCC officials at the airport.



Ojukwu condemned the arrest, arguing it contradicted the court’s instruction, which he interpreted as protecting his client from being detained upon her return.

“In accordance with the agreement made in

court, she came back to honour the EFCC’s invitation. Despite this, she was apprehended at the airport,” Ojukwu said, adding that Achimugu had begun a hunger strike in protest, describing her as “a prisoner of conscience.”

An EFCC official, who asked not to be named, also confirmed the arrest. He emphasised that the agency had the right to take her into custody since she had previously been declared wanted.

“She had been on our wanted list, and the court’s instruction did not prevent us from arresting her—it only stated she shouldn’t be detained if she voluntarily appeared. Arresting her at the airport was a precaution, as there was no guarantee she would report to us,” the source said.

As of the time of this report, EFCC spokesperson Dele Oyewale had not responded to calls or messages requesting comment.

CJN urges NBA to safeguard judiciary's honour

By Friday Omosola

The Chief Justice of Nigeria, CJN, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, has urged the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) to take an active role in defending the dignity and independence of the judiciary.

She made the appeal in a statement issued by Tobi Soniyi, her Media Adviser.

Addressing concerns raised by members of the NBA Bar and Bench Forum over increasing threats to judicial officers, Kekere-Ekun lamented the surge in unfounded allegations of corruption against judges.

She described many of these petitions as lacking merit and intended solely to harass or exert pressure on judicial officers.

She highlighted the emotional toll such baseless accusations can have, noting that even after being cleared of wrongdoing, judges often remain distressed by the experience.

While encouraging citizens to channel legitimate complaints through the



National Judicial Council (NJC), the CJN cautioned against submitting spurious claims without evidence.

She insisted that any corruption accusation must be backed by credible and verifiable proof.

Kekere-Ekun expressed disappointment over the NBA's silence in the face of these attacks, stressing that the association must do more to defend the judiciary.

She also criticised legal practitioners who publicly condemn judgments without first studying the court's reasoning.

Furthermore, she called on senior lawyers to serve as mentors to junior colleagues, helping instil discipline and uphold ethical standards within the profession.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the NBA Bar and Bench Forum, Richard Oma Ahonaruogho, also decried the trend of frivolous petitions and suggested that such actions should attract severe penalties.

Ahonaruogho recommended a more robust screening mechanism by the NJC to eliminate time-wasting claims and called for strengthened collaboration between the Bench and the Bar.

CBEX promoter declared wanted surrenders to EFCC

Adefowora Abiodun, who was declared wanted among five others for promoting the cryptocurrency trading platform, Crypto Bridge Exchange (Cbex), has voluntarily turned himself in to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for investigation.

He was said to have reported at the anti-graft agency on Monday.

This followed the ruling and approval of Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court in Abuja last Thursday to arrest the six promoters pending the conclusion of investigations and possible prosecution.

Six promoters were declared wanted by the EFCC over a suspected \$1 billion



DEFOWORA ABIODUN OLAONIKEKUN
nipekun is 44 years and his last known address is at Jimoh Odutola, Ogunpa, Ibadan, Oyo State.

investment fraud.

Around 4:00 p.m., Abiodun, one of the suspects, turned himself in at EFCC headquarters with his lawyers.

By Helen Okechukwu

His counsel, Babatunde Busari, said Abiodun was ready to cooperate and clear his name against false media reports.

Meanwhile, following the commission's counsel, Fadila Yusuf's submission, Abiodun, along with five others – Adefowora Oluwanisola, Emmanuel Uko, Seyi Oloyede, Avwerosuo Otorudo, and Chukwuebuka Ehirim – were declared wanted.

In granting the EFCC's application, Justice Nwite declared, "I have listened to the submission of learned counsel for the applicant (EFCC). I have also reviewed the affidavit evidence and exhibits, along with the written address. I am satisfied that the application is meritorious and hereby grant it as prayed."

How police arrested suspect linked to 2022 officer's murder

By Helen Okechukwu

The spokesperson of Anambra State Police Command, Tochukwu Ikenga, on Tuesday revealed the arrest of Ewulu Chikwo, 35, a suspect who was allegedly involved in the murder of a policewoman in 2022.

Ikenga said the criminal attack that led to the gruesome murder of security officer Inspector Stella Maris occurred at Ukpok Divisional Police Headquarters.

The suspect who is a native of Osumoghu Isieke Village, Ihiala Local Government Area (LGA), said to have confessed to the crime and also a member of the Proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).



According to the police spokesperson, he said Chikwo was apprehended by the members of Police Operatives attached to the Rapid Response Squad/Anti-Kidnapping on 25 April 2025.

However, the security operative, following credible information, launched an attack at the criminal camp located at Ukpok in Anambra State.

“The suspect and his gang members were allegedly planning to enforce an illegal sit-at-home in the area the following Monday,” Ikenga stated.

It was gathered that the Joint Security Force has intensified patrols in the area, “even as the State Police Command has equally assured swift action on any security information, especially as it affects the arrest of other gang members in the area,” the spokesperson added.

Court grants request for witnesses to testify secretly in Nnamdi Kanu's trial

By Damilola Olufemi

The Federal High Court in Abuja has approved a request from the Federal Government for witnesses in the terrorism trial of Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), to give their evidence behind a protective screen.

The request, made by government counsel Adegboyega Awomolo (SAN), was granted by Justice James Omotosho during proceedings on Tuesday.

Kanu is currently facing a seven-count charge related to terrorism, filed by the Federal Government. In an ex-parte motion, Awomolo



argued that the safety of the witnesses was at risk due to the sensitive nature of the case and asked that their identities be shielded from public view.

Justice Omotosho agreed with the prosecution's concerns and approved the use of protective measures to conceal the witnesses' identities during testimony.

Kanu's lead counsel, Kanu Agabi (SAN), did not object to the request but asked for a similar level of cooperation from the government when the defense seeks bail for his client.

After the court's ruling, the prosecution proceeded to call its first witness, identified only by the initials PWAAA, who began delivering testimony as the trial officially commenced.

EFCC urges banks to strengthen KYC compliance

By Friday Omosola



The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has called on financial institutions across Nigeria to enhance their collaboration with the Commission in the ongoing fight against economic and financial crimes.

Speaking on Tuesday in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, the Acting Zonal Director of the EFCC, Assistant Commander of the EFCC (ACE I), Adebayo Adeniyi, addressed bank compliance officers.

He urged them to prioritise customer due diligence and robust Know Your Customer (KYC) procedures.

Adeniyi emphasised the crucial role of banks in the anti-corruption

campaign, warning that institutions and individuals who fail to adhere to due diligence and KYC guidelines would face sanctions.

He stressed the need for ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability in banks' dealings with customers.

"It is important to remind banks of their critical roles as major stakeholders in the fight against corruption and that there is a need for the Commission and the banks to work together," he stated.

The EFCC official also highlighted the significance of proper customer identification and regular updates of customer records to support ongoing investigations.

He cautioned bank staff, especially

account officers, against aiding internet fraudsters by facilitating the creation of multiple accounts or tipping off customers under investigation or whose accounts have been flagged by the EFCC.

"In as much as you have to protect the bank, don't do so at the detriment of the nation. Do not protect the bank and destroy the image of your own family and that of the society," Adeniyi warned.

In response, Edward Keto, one of the compliance officers present, commended the EFCC for the engagement.

"It is a privilege to have this kind of meeting with the Commission, and it will help us deal more professionally with our customers," he said.

Murder of girlfriend: Military court sentences soldier to death by hanging

By Alade Adisa

A General Court Martial (GCM) sitting at the Headquarters, 82 Division, Nigerian Army, Enugu, has sentenced a soldier, Private Adamu Mohammed, to death by hanging for killing his girlfriend, Hauwa Alli.

The same court also jailed another soldier, Private Abubakar Yusuf, for 10 years for robbery.

A statement by Lt. Col Jonah Unuakhalu, Acting Deputy Director of 82 Division Army Public Relations, said, "The sentences were handed down after due consideration for the offences of murder and robbery for which the soldiers stood trial".

The GCM, composed of 11 members, was inaugurated by the General Officer Commanding 82 Division, Nigerian Army, Major General Oluyemi Olatoye, on February 18, 2025, to try erring personnel within the Division for various offences which could not be disposed of summarily.

The President of the GCM, Brigadier General Sadiyu Buhari, while delivering the judgment on the first accused, Private Adamu Mohammed, stated that he was found guilty of the offence of the murder of his girlfriend, Hauwa Ali, an offence punishable under Section 106 (a) of the Armed Forces Act, Cap A20 LFN 2004.

The unanimous judgement, he



explained, was arrived at after a careful review of the facts before the GCM, the career and service record of the soldier, and the compassionate plea for mitigation presented by the accused and his counsel.

However, the President of the GCM noted that in the interest of societal decorum and justice for the deceased, the law had to be applied to its fullest.

"Given this, the GCM has determined that the accused soldier, 21NA/80/6365 Private Adamu Mohammed, is hereby sentenced to death by hanging for the charge of murder," Sadiyu said.

Relatedly, the General Court Martial equally sentenced Private Abubakar Yusuf to 10 years imprisonment for robbery at a mall within Enugu.

The President of the GCM stated that

the panel found Private Yusuf guilty of robbery, punishable under Section 107(1)(b) of the Armed Forces Act, Cap A20 LFN 2004.

Although the court attentively considered the plea for mitigation presented by the accused and his counsel for leniency, the law was applied to uphold societal decorum and protect the reputation of the army.

"However, due to the inability of the GCM to reach a unanimous decision required to impose the maximum mandatory punishment prescribed under Section 107(2) of the Armed Forces Act, Cap A20 LFN 2004, the GCM, relying on the provisions of Section 140 (3) of the Armed Forces Act, hereby sentences the accused soldier, 23NA/85/12116 Private Abubakar Yusuf, to 10 years imprisonment," Brigadier General Sadiyu Buhari announced.

US INL pledges to support NDLEA as fight against drug abuse, trafficking continues

By Helen Okechukwu



As the fight against drug abuse and trafficking continues, the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (US-INL) has pledged more support and collaboration to Nigerian authorities.

The Director of INL in Nigeria, Ms. Candace Spradley, who led her colleague, Ms. Ada Aki, made this pledge to the Chief Executive Officer, Brig Gen Mohamed Marwa, during a courtesy visit at the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) headquarters in Abuja on Monday.

INL praised Nigeria's agency for their successful operations towards tackling illegal drug abusers and traffickers.

Speaking on the aim of the visit, she explained that it was to reinforce the commitment of the US government and strengthen collaboration between the NDLEA and INL to fight against narcotics.

"If there is any area of assistance you would like, we'll be ready to assist you," she said.

While averring President Donald Trump's interest in tackling drug abuse, Marwa underscored the commitment of President Bola Tinubu's administration to addressing the situation.

Marwa appreciated the INL for their support and also revealed that more assistance is needed from the US and other international partners to sustain

the current operational successes of the agency.

"While commending INL for its support to NDLEA, which has, among others, positioned the Agency as the number one anti-narcotics body in Africa, Marwa said more assistance will still be needed from the US and other international partners to sustain the current operational successes of the Agency," Femi Babafemi, the Director, Media & Advocacy, noted.

Babafemi outlined the key areas needed for support as operation vehicles, forensic laboratory equipment, training for forensic analysts, training and capability in cyberspace, among others.

Experts urge inclusion of male health workers in conducting mammograms amid staff shortage

By Helen Okechukwu

Experts have sought that male health workers should be given licences to conduct mammograms on patients in order to address the national staff shortage.

Although this move has already attracted political mixed reactions.

The Society of Radiographers (SoR) explained that a mammogram is a breast-screening examination reserved exclusively for female staff.

Mammograms are carried out on patients to identify tiny cancers which are not visible to the eyes or can't be felt.

During the SoR annual delegates' conference in London, suggestions were raised: "The role of a mammographer is to have technical expertise operating imaging equipment, proficiency in understanding anatomy, while maintaining patient comfort and analysing the images produced – skills learnt through education and experience.

"These are not inherently gendered attributes, specific or biased to one gender."

The National Health Service (NHS) shared that every three years, women aged 50 to 70 are invited to undergo breast screening (mammogram).

Due to its strict policy and shortage of staff among mammographers – radiographers who specialise in breast imaging – the SoR has now called for a change in policy.



The SoR officials urged that male workers should be given a chance, expressing belief that male health workers could excel in the field.

The motion raised added that men "might excel in this" and "offer a different perspective or approach to patient care".

Conservative Party leader Kemi Badenoch has voiced strong opposition to the idea of men performing mammograms, describing the procedure as "very intrusive" and insisting that it should be conducted by female clinicians.

Speaking to Times Radio, Badenoch said, "I've had a mammogram — it is a very, very intrusive process. It involves the clinician holding both of your breasts for a long period of time, feeling them, manipulating them, putting them in the machine.

"I would not want a man doing that — I definitely would want a woman," she added.

According to the Society of Radiographers (SoR), vacancy rates among screening mammographers stand at 17.5 per cent, while those for symptomatic mammographers — who assess women presenting with lumps or a family history of breast cancer — are nearly 20 per cent.

Charlotte Beardmore, executive director of professional policy at the SoR, argued that allowing men to work in mammography could ease staffing pressures.

"This would help reduce shortages — and therefore reduce waiting lists," she said. "That, in turn, would ensure that every patient is given the treatment they need when they need it."

But Badenoch dismissed that approach, stating the solution is to get more radiographers, not to ask women, yet again, to sacrifice their privacy and dignity to deal with a supply issue."

Study reveals how ultra-processed foods may lead to premature death in UK

By Helen Okechukwu

A new study revealed that the huge number of death recorded in United Kingdom (UK) may be as a result of consuming ultra-processed foods (UPFs).

UPFs are food product that contains various and additives ingredients not typically found in home such as ice cream, processed meats, crisps, mass-produced bread, some breakfast cereals, biscuits, and fizzy drinks.

Due to health issues that come after the excessive consumption of UPFs, such as obesity, heart disease, and cancer, including death, experts in the study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine urged the government to issue recommendations on the consumption of UPFs.

In the research, experts noted that UPFs which usually contains fat, salt, sugar, and additives, lacks nutritional benefits and more of less nutrition options.

As the mortality rate soars high, experts wonder why health issues are on the increase and their correlation with UPFs, if it is a result of people consuming less nutritional foods that are not prepared at home.

Data retrieved from eight countries showed that in the UK, UPFs reached 53 per cent of people's energy consumption when compared to 55 per cent recorded in the US, which is the second highest in the study.

According to their statistics, UPFs are attributed to early death, scaling from 4 per cent to 14 per cent in the UK and US, suggesting that about 17,781 premature deaths recorded between 2018 and 2019 could be as a result of UPFs.

Eduardo Nilson, the lead investigator of the study from the scientific body the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Brazil, highlighted the implications of the industrial processing and several ingredients. Nilson said, "UPFs affect health beyond the individual impact of a high content of critical nutrients..."



"So assessing deaths from all causes associated with UPF consumption allows an overall estimate of the effect of industrial food processing on health," Nilson added.

Dr Nilson explained the study revealed that each 10 per cent increase in UPF diet consumption increases the risk of death by 3 per cent.

Stephen Burgess, statistician in the MRC Biostatistics Unit at the University of Cambridge, said, "This type of research cannot prove that consumption of ultra-processed foods is harmful, but it does provide evidence linking consumption with poorer health outcomes," he said.

"It is possible that the true causal risk factor is not ultra-processed foods but a related risk factor such as better physical fitness – and ultra-processed foods are simply an innocent bystander.

"But when we see these associations replicated across many countries and cultures, it raises suspicion that ultra-processed foods may be more than bystanders."

While acknowledging the health implications arising from the consumption of diets higher in calories,

fat and sugar, which possibly lead to premature death, Nerys Astbury, associate professor from the University of Oxford, said, "This study adds to the body of evidence on the association between UPF and ill health and disease."

"However, many UPF tend to be high in these nutrients, and studies to date have been unable to determine with certainty whether the effects of UPF are independent of the already established effects of diets high in foods which are energy dense and contain large amounts of fat and sugar.

"The authors of the study conclude that advice to reduce UPF consumption should be included in national dietary guideline recommendations and in public policies.

"However, rushing to add recommendations on UPF to these recommendations is not warranted based on this study, in my opinion."

While explaining how the Nova system in the human body works when it comes to how food is processed, she stated, "More research is needed to ascertain a causal link between UPF and disease and to establish the mechanisms involved."

How to argue positively with your partner while maintaining healthy relationship

By **Helen Okechukwu**

For partners navigating the long journey of life together, the occasional argument might seem like a sign of trouble—but experts increasingly argue that healthy conflict can actually be the key to a stronger, more resilient relationship.

While celebrity couple George and Amal Clooney recently made headlines with their claim of nearly 12 years of marriage without a single argument, therapists say such friction-free unions are the rare exception, not the rule—and possibly not even ideal.

“People are drawn into thinking that lots of conflict is a sign that there’s something wrong with a relationship, and an absence of conflict means there isn’t something wrong,” says Joanna Harrison, a couples therapist and author of *Five Arguments All Couples (Need to) Have and Why the Washing-up Matters*.

According to Harrison, learning to argue the right way can strengthen a relationship.

Rather than trying to avoid conflict altogether, partners should view disagreements as opportunities to better understand each other’s values, frustrations, and emotional needs.

Stefan Walters of Harley Therapy agrees, noting that research has shown that couples who argue effectively are more likely to stay together over time. “Arguing is a great skill,” he says. “For many of us, unfortunately, it wasn’t modelled for us very effectively in our



childhood.”

Clinical psychologist Linda Blair adds that the goal in an argument should never be to “win.” Instead, couples should seek mutual understanding and compromise. “When we get emotional, we think in black and white: we win or we lose, we’re right or wrong. You need to find the compromise,” she says. “When we stay calmer, we’re able to see the grey between the blacks and the whites.”

Blair recommends practical techniques like walking side-by-side rather than facing each other to reduce perceived threats, or even discussing difficult issues in public spaces, like a restaurant, where tempers are less likely to flare.

Most importantly, the experts say, is what happens after the argument. Taking time to reflect on what the conflict was truly about, and making space for honest curiosity, can be what ultimately brings couples closer. “Be a detective,” says Harrison. Try to understand what the argument really meant to your partner. Often, it’s not just about the dirty dishes.

Top Tips for Constructive Conflict Given by Blair

DO:

- Choose your moment: Plan for serious conversations instead of catching your partner off guard.
- Be curious: Ask questions and listen rather than dominate.
- Take ownership: Use “I feel” statements rather than pointing fingers.
- Know when to pause: Walk away and revisit the issue later if things escalate.

DON'T:

- Fight to win: Make the issue, not your partner, the enemy.
- Keep score: Avoid saving grievances as future ammunition.
- Explode in front of children: Conflict modeling is okay—but shouting matches are not.
- Show contempt: Respect is non-negotiable, even in the heat of the moment.
- While the Clooneys may be blissfully argument-free, for most couples, it’s not about if you argue—but how. And with the right tools, even a disagreement can bring you one step closer.

Annie Idibia reveals her true support system after split from 2Face

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

At the Headies Awards in Lagos, actress Annie Macaulay called her daughters her “backbone,” saying they’re the most important part of her life.

A mother’s love takes centre stage

The mother of two, recently parted ways with her husband, legendary singer Innocent “2Face” Idibia, made this emotional statement while speaking to reporters on the red carpet. When asked about her family and how she was coping, she didn’t hesitate to shift the spotlight to her two daughters, Isabella and Olivia.

“The only family I have now is my girls,” she told a journalist. “They are my backbone. I don’t joke with them.”

Proud words in pidgin

Switching to Nigerian Pidgin, she continued with passion and pride.

“You mean my children? My children dey kampe. The first one dey Yankee, she dey go school. No play with that girl o. I don’t play with my kids. Na them be my backbone.”

Her words carried emotion and certainty, signalling how deeply she has leaned on her daughters during what appears to be a challenging chapter in her life.

A bold moment on stage

She didn’t stop there. While introducing herself on stage during the Headies event, she made a bold and surprising remark that caught the attention of the audience. She referred to herself by her maiden name and hinted at her newly single status.

“My name is Annie Idi—oh sorry, Annie Macaulay. Hey, single ladies!” she said with a playful smile, drawing cheers and some gasps from the crowd.

The moment quickly went viral online,



with fans interpreting her words as both a confirmation of her breakup and a show of confidence in her new chapter.

A relationship in the spotlight

The actress, known for her roles in Nollywood films and appearances on reality TV, has long been in the public eye, especially for her relationship with 2Face, one of Nigeria’s most celebrated musicians.

Their love story has seen many ups and downs, including rumours of infidelity and other personal challenges..

2Face introduces new woman

However, things have changed. Just a day before her appearance at the Headies, 2Face reportedly introduced a new woman, Natasha, to his mother. The move has further fueled speculation that the couple’s marriage has ended.

Sources close to the family say she has recently focused more on her daughters and career. Her social media pages reflect that shift, with frequent posts featuring her children and messages about strength and motherhood.

Fans show support

Her fans have rallied around her since her public comments. Many praised her courage and her focus on her children.

“She’s been through a lot and still stands strong. Her daughters must be so proud of her,” one fan wrote online.

A new chapter begins

Annie and 2Face married in 2012 and have two daughters together. Over the years, their relationship faced scrutiny due to 2Face’s past relationships and other children. Despite the challenges, she often defended their marriage and stood by her husband.

Now, however, it seems the actress is ready to focus on a different future, one where her daughters come first.

With her recent public appearance and strong words, she has made one thing clear: she may be walking away from her marriage, but she’s standing firm in love, purpose, and motherhood.

“My girls are my everything,” she said. “I’m standing tall because of them.”

Nigerian parents don't scold kids who provide for the family, Rema claims

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Afrobeat sensation Divine Ikubor, better known as Rema, has said that Nigerian parents rarely challenge or question children who provide financial support to the family.

The chart-topping singer made this statement during a recent conversation with popular content creator Enzo. Their exchange highlighted the often strict cultural values held by Nigerian parents, especially around personal appearance and self-expression.

Enzo shares his experience

During the chat, Rema encouraged Enzo to get a tattoo, suggesting it as a form of self-expression. However, Enzo quickly responded that his mother would never approve. He recalled an experience when he braided his hair, and his mother reacted by refusing to speak to him for days.

"My mum won't let me get a tattoo," Enzo said. "The time I did braids, she didn't talk to me for days. It was bad."

"Hustle first, then express yourself"

In response, Rema advised him to focus on his career and work harder. The singer explained that parents, especially in Nigerian households, often become more lenient when their children contribute financially to the home.

"Don't worry, you just need to hustle a little bit more. Wait till you cash out big. Nigerian parents don't advise breadwinners," Rema said.

Rema reflects on his journey

The singer's comments sparked a discussion about the relationship between young Nigerians and their parents, especially when it comes to financial independence and personal choices. For many, Rema's words reflect a reality where money influences respect, freedom, and acceptance within the family.

Rema has been open about his journey and struggles from an early age. In earlier interviews, he revealed that he became the breadwinner of his family while still a teenager. After his father passed away, he had



to step up and support his mother and siblings.

Made his first million at 17

He shared that he made his first million naira at the age of 17. Instead of spending the money on himself, he handed it over to his mother, whom he often describes as his biggest source of strength.

"That first million I made, I gave it all to my mum," he said in a past interview. "I didn't buy a car or anything. I just knew she needed it more than I did."

Rising to fame and global recognition

The singer's comments come as no surprise to fans who have followed his rise to fame. Since releasing his debut single "Dumebi" in 2019, Rema has become one of Nigeria's most successful young artists. Known for blending afrobeat with trap and pop influences, he has built a global fan base and collaborated with international stars, including Selena Gomez and Chris Brown.

More than just music

Beyond the music, Rema often speaks about deeper issues, including youth struggles, family pressure, and mental health. In 2022, he told Apple Music that losing his father and brother at a young age shaped his drive to

succeed.

"I knew I had to make it. Not just for me, but for my mum. I couldn't afford to fail," he said.

A message young Nigerians can relate to

For many Nigerian youths, especially those in creative fields, Rema's story is both inspiring and relatable. His recent comment about parents respecting financially stable children echoes a common sentiment: money often changes the dynamic between parents and their children in traditional homes.

Mixed reactions online

Online, the clip of Rema and Enzo's conversation has drawn mixed reactions. Some social media users agreed with the singer's view, pointing out that parents tend to be more tolerant when their children achieve financial success. Others, however, argued that values, not money, should guide parental support.

Conclusion: Hustle first, then be free

Still, Rema's message remains clear: in many Nigerian homes, financial independence can lead to more freedom and acceptance.

King Sunny Ade debunks rumours, confirms he's alive and well

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Legendary Juju musician, King Sunny Ade, has strongly denied rumours claiming he was missing.

In a press statement posted on his official Instagram account, the music icon assured fans that he is alive, healthy, and in good spirits.

False report linked to daughter

The false claim about his disappearance surfaced online on April 28, 2025. According to King Sunny Ade, the rumour was started by his daughter, Damilola Esther Adeniyi-Adegeye, and her associates. He described the reports as completely false and misleading.

Public response and clarification

The 77-year-old music legend, whose real name is Dr. Sunday Adeniyi-Adegeye, MFR, expressed shock and disappointment at the rumour. He emphasized that there is no truth to the claim that he had gone missing.

"I am alive, well, and safe," he wrote. "The news being spread by Damilola and her group is a total fabrication. It is important for me to clear the air and assure everyone that I am fine."

Gratitude to fans and supporters

The musician also used the opportunity to thank his fans, friends, and well-wishers for their concern and love. He said he was touched by the outpouring of support and wanted to reassure everyone who reached out.

Warning to rumour mongers

In the statement, King Sunny Ade called on those behind the false report to stop immediately. He warned that if they



continue, he would take legal action to protect his name and reputation.

"It is very important to address the falsehood and fabricated news by Damilola Esther Adeniyi-Adegeye and her associates and to assure the general public and loved ones that I am alive and safe," he wrote.

He added, "Lastly, I utilize this medium to admonish the blogger(s) responsible for this mischievous act, alongside those that take undue privileges to trample on my hard-earned reputation and image, to desist forthwith—otherwise be prepared to face the wrath of the law."

Relief and reactions from fans

King Sunny Ade closed the statement by thanking everyone once again for their concern and praying for their well-being. "Thank you and God bless all," he concluded.

The Instagram post quickly gained attention, with fans expressing relief and sending warm wishes to the musician. Many condemned the spread of fake news and called for greater responsibility on the part of those who share unverified

information online.

A legacy worth protecting

This incident is not the first time King Sunny Ade has had to address false stories. Despite being a private person, he has occasionally stepped into the spotlight to correct misleading narratives and protect his legacy.

King Sunny Ade

King Sunny Ade

Widely regarded as one of Nigeria's greatest musicians, King Sunny Ade has had a career spanning over five decades. He is known for his influence on the development of modern Juju music and for bringing Nigerian music to international audiences.

Still active and celebrated

In recent years, he has continued to perform, receive awards, and support cultural initiatives. In fact, he is set to receive a lifetime achievement award at the launch of Governor Seyi Makinde's book—a testament to his continued relevance and impact in the music and cultural space.

Sex offenders to be denied asylum rights — UK

By Fatimah Idera

Asylum seekers will be denied the right to stay in the UK if they have been convicted of sexual offences, the government has announced.

Any offender sentenced to more than a year in prison, as well as terrorists and war criminals, can currently be refused asylum and deported under the Refugee Convention.

The government wants to widen the scope to include anyone convicted of a crime that places them on the sex offenders register, regardless of the length of their sentence.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said this would “ensure these appalling crimes are taken seriously”.

Cooper said ministers would move to classify sex offences as a particularly serious crime – enabling the government to reject the asylum applications of sex offenders.

Cooper also called for stronger rules to stop judges blocking the deportation of migrants on human rights grounds, suggesting there could be a new framework set by Parliament in future, although she did not provide details.

The government is currently reviewing how the right to a family life contained in Article 8 in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is applied in immigration cases, with an update expected in the coming weeks.

Article 8 has been used by some migrants and asylum seekers to successfully appeal deportation.

Asked about the issue on Radio 4's Today Programme, Cooper said she had concerns about some of the individual cases where the government disagreed with decisions made in the courts.

“Respect for family life is supposed to be balanced against other issues, including against the public interest, including against the ability for a government to set its own policies, for Parliament to set policies, and for respect for border



security and control,” she added.

It is not clear how many cases the change could affect, and the Home Office has not said how many sex offenders have been granted asylum.

Under sentencing guidelines, most sexual crimes carry recommended prison terms beyond a year.

But first-time offenders and less serious examples of sexual assaults, exposure, and sexual communication with a child could lead to custodial sentences of under 12 months.

Cooper said the changes would help tackle instances like that of Abdul Ezedi, who was granted asylum despite being a convicted sex offender.

Ezedi killed himself within hours after he was suspected of dousing his ex-girlfriend with a corrosive liquid when he attacked her and her children in south London in January last year.

He was already on the sex offenders register, after pleading guilty to charges of sexual assault and exposure in 2018, when he was granted asylum in 2020 following two failed attempts.

The changes will be introduced through an amendment to the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, which is currently making its way through Parliament.

The government also plans to set a 24-week deadline for appeals by foreign offenders and housing asylum seekers, aiming to cut the backlog.

The Home Office said that harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) for processing asylum claims could also save up to an hour per case by summarising interview transcripts and accessing country advice.

A range of measures to reform the asylum system are being introduced, including new powers for the Immigration Advice Authority to issue fines of up to £15,000 for anyone involved in advising fraudulent claims or posing as an immigration lawyer who is not registered.

There will also be restrictions on foreign offenders living in the community, including mandatory electronic tags, strict night-time curfews and enforced exclusion zones.

Enver Solomon, chief executive of the Refugee Council, welcomed efforts to resolve asylum cases quickly, but warned the use of AI could backfire if it produced flawed decisions that end up in the courts.

The Law Society of England and Wales also raised concerns that the target for appeal decisions would be “unworkable” in practice, as the justice system is already struggling to cope with the current demand.

Trump touts immigration crackdown despite concerns over due process

By **Fatimah Idera**

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration had touted the early results of his immigration crackdown despite concerns over due process, as Trump acted to take further steps while photos of alleged criminal offenders were displayed on the White House lawn.

The president signed three executive orders on Monday. The first calls for the attorney general to identify cities and states failing to comply with federal immigration laws, the second relates to protections for law enforcement officers, and the third is tied to English literacy for commercial truck drivers.

Trump launched an aggressive enforcement campaign after taking office, surging troops to the southern border and pledging to deport millions of immigrants in the United States illegally.

The Republican president, who made immigration a major campaign issue in 2024, said the actions were needed after years of high illegal immigration under his predecessor, Democrat Joe Biden.

White House officials at a press briefing touted a steep decline in illegal crossings at the border during Trump's first three months in office – even as concerns have emerged over the due process rights of immigrants and U.S. citizens swept up in the dragnet.

The U.S. Border Patrol arrested 7,200 illegal migrants crossing the border in March, the lowest monthly total since 2000 and down from a peak of 250,000 in December 2023.

"We have the most secure border in the history of this nation and the numbers prove it," Trump border czar Tom Homan said at the briefing.

According to the American Civil Liberties Union, Democrats and civil



rights advocates have criticized Trump's heightened enforcement tactics, including the cases of several children who are U.S. citizens and were recently deported with their parents. One of the children has a rare form of cancer,

Homan blamed the parents for putting their children at risk of deportation by remaining in the United States.

"If you choose to have a U.S.-citizen child, knowing you're in this country illegally, you put yourself in that position," he said.

Under the U.S. Constitution, anyone born in the country is automatically granted citizenship, a right that Trump has tried to ban under an executive order he issued when he took office in January. The Supreme Court is due to hear arguments in the case next month.

In his first hundred days in office, Trump has moved to strip legal immigration status from hundreds of thousands of people, increasing the pool of those who can potentially be deported.

While arrests of immigrants in the United States illegally have spiked,

deportations remain below last year's levels under Biden when there were more people illegally crossing the border who could be quickly returned.

Deportations were down in Trump's first three months in office from 195,000 last year to 130,000 this year, Homan defended the figures and said it was not fair to compare them to Biden-era tallies.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities have been over capacity, with some 48,000 people in custody as of early April, beyond the funded level of 41,500.

Homan said that Texas military base Fort Bliss could be ready "in the very near future" to hold migrant detainees. The Trump administration has already been using the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Photos posted on the White House lawn featured 100 people charged or convicted of serious crimes, including murder, rape and fentanyl distribution. Numerous studies show immigrants do not commit crimes at a higher rate than native-born Americans.

U.S. Coast Guard seizes \$74 million worth of cocaine from fishing vessel in Atlantic

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A U.S. Coast Guard crew seized approximately 10,000 pounds of cocaine from a fishing boat operating in the Atlantic Ocean earlier this month, the agency announced Monday. The contraband, valued at an estimated \$74 million, marks another major victory in the ongoing battle against transnational narcotics trafficking.

The seizure occurred in mid-April, roughly 1,200 miles west of Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, where the Coast Guard cutter Calhoun identified a suspicious fishing vessel sailing through international waters. The vessel's behavior triggered suspicions of drug trafficking, prompting a Coast Guard team to board and inspect the ship, where they uncovered the large cache of cocaine.

Five individuals suspected of smuggling the narcotics were apprehended and are now in U.S. custody.

"This interdiction demonstrates the Coast Guard's unwavering commitment to combating transnational criminal organizations," Vice Adm. Nathan Moore, commander of the Coast Guard Atlantic Area, said in a statement. "Our dedicated crews, in close coordination with interagency and international partners, continue to disrupt the flow of illicit narcotics, which serves as a critical strategic



action that disrupts the financial networks of TCOs, undermining their ability to fund further illicit activities that threaten our communities."

The bust adds to a series of significant drug seizures conducted by the Coast Guard in recent months. Last week, the cutter Kimball offloaded approximately 18,898 pounds of cocaine in San Diego, California, after intercepting six trafficking vessels off the coasts of Mexico, Central America, and South America between February and April. That haul carried an estimated street value of more than \$214 million.

Earlier this month, two Coast Guard cutters, James and Mohawk, offloaded more than 48,000 pounds of illegal drugs valued at over \$509 million at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The drugs, mostly pure cocaine along with

marijuana, were seized during 13 separate operations in the eastern Pacific Ocean, according to CBS Miami.

Additionally, in February, the cutter Waesche offloaded over 37,000 pounds of cocaine intercepted from 11 smuggling vessels operating near Mexico and Central and South America. That haul was valued at more than \$275 million.

Federal authorities have credited these operations with severely impacting the operations of major drug trafficking organizations by cutting off critical revenue streams and deterring further illegal activities.

The Coast Guard, working alongside international and interagency partners, continues to pledge relentless action against narcotics smuggling efforts across the globe.

Canada election: Carney slams Trump amidst victory

By Fatimah Idera

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberals retained power in the country's election on Monday, but fell short of the majority government he had wanted to help him negotiate tariffs with the U.S. President Donald Trump.

The Liberals were leading or elected in 167 electoral districts, known as seats, followed by the Conservatives with 145, with votes still being counted.

The Liberals needed to win 172 of the House of Commons' 343 seats for a majority that would allow them to govern without support from a smaller party.

"Our old relationship with the United States, a relationship based on steadily increasing integration, is over," Carney said in a victory speech in Ottawa.

"The system of open global trade anchored by the United States, a system that Canada has relied on since the Second World War, a system that, while not perfect, has helped deliver prosperity for our country for decades, is over."

"These are tragedies, but it's also our new reality."

Carney said the coming months would be challenging and require sacrifices.



Shachi Kurl, president of the Angus Reid Institute, a polling firm, revealed that the Liberal win hinged on three factors.

"It was the 'anybody-but-Conservative' factor, it was the Trump tariff factor, and then it was the Trudeau departure ... which enabled a lot of left-of-center voters and traditional Liberal voters to come back to the party," Kurl said, referring to the resignation of unpopular former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Carney had promised a tough approach with Washington over its import tariffs and said Canada would need to spend billions to reduce its reliance on the U.S. But the right-of-center Conservatives, who called for change after more than nine years of Liberal rule, showed unexpected strength.

Minority governments in Canada rarely last longer than 2-1/2 years.

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre conceded defeat to Carney's Liberals and said his party would hold the government to account.

The result capped a notable comeback for the Liberals, who had been 20 percentage points behind in the polls in January before Trudeau announced he was quitting and Trump started threatening tariffs and annexation.

"America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country," Carney said. "These are not idle threats. President Trump is trying to break us so America can own us. That will never ever happen."

4 children dead after car crashes into Illinois after-school program

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



A devastating crash at an after-school center in the small town of Chatham claimed the lives of four young girls Monday afternoon, leaving a tight knit community reeling with grief.

According to Illinois State Police, the tragedy unfolded around 3:20 p.m. at the YNOT Outdoors Summer and After School Camp, located at 301 Breckenridge Road. A vehicle, for reasons still under investigation, struck several people outside the building before barreling through its east wall, plowing through the interior and exiting through the opposite side.

Authorities confirmed the victims were two 7 year old girls, an 8 year old girl, and an 18 year old young woman. Six others were injured, with one victim airlifted to a nearby hospital in critical condition. The remaining five were transported by ambulance.

State police said initial findings do not suggest the crash was a targeted attack. The investigation remains ongoing, and authorities have not yet disclosed whether the cause was medical, mechanical, or otherwise. The driver, whose identity and age have not been released, was uninjured but was taken to a hospital for evaluation.

The YNOT Center, a place where children often waited for their parents after school, turned into a scene of chaos and heartbreak within moments. Parents rushed to the site as word of the crash spread, some frantically searching for their children. First responders from across central Illinois quickly converged to secure the area and assist with rescue efforts.

Witnesses described scenes of overwhelming agony. In video captured at the scene, one woman can be heard crying out, “Oh, poor

babies!” upon learning the building had been filled with children.

In a statement on Tuesday, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker called the incident “horrific and deeply saddening.”

“Our community lost a group of bright and innocent young people with their whole lives ahead of them,” Pritzker wrote on X (formerly Twitter). “My heart is heavy for these families and the unimaginable grief they are experiencing something that no parent should ever have to endure.”

As Chatham mourns the unimaginable, questions remain about how such a tragedy could have unfolded in a place meant to nurture and protect.

Illinois State Police said they will release further information as the investigation continues.

US probes Harvard, its law to review for race-based discrimination

By **Fatimah Idera**

President Donald Trump's administration said on Monday it was probing whether Harvard University and the Harvard Law Review violated civil rights laws when the journal's editors fast-tracked consideration of an article written by a member of a racial minority.

Information of the new probe came hours after a federal judge agreed to expedite Harvard University's lawsuit seeking to block the Trump administration from freezing \$2.3 billion in federal funding that the Ivy League school has warned will threaten vital medical and scientific research.

The announcement of the probe by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services said Harvard Law Review editors may have engaged in race-based discrimination in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Education Department's acting assistant secretary for civil rights, Craig Trainor, said in a statement. "Harvard Law Review's article selection process appears to pick winners and losers on the basis of race, employing a spoils system in which the race of the legal scholar is as, if not more, important than the merit of the submission,"

A Harvard University representative said the school is "committed to ensuring that the programs and activities it oversees are in compliance with all applicable laws and to investigating any credibly alleged violations."

Representatives of the Harvard Law Review, a legally independent student-run organization, did not immediately



respond to emails seeking comment.

Since taking office, Trump has cracked down on diversity, equity and inclusion programs that aim to uplift marginalized groups who have faced historical inequity. He has cast those steps aimed at helping minorities as discriminatory against groups such as white people and men.

Harvard University said on Monday it was renaming its office for equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging to Community and Campus Life. Trump has passed executive orders aiming to dismantle DEI in the government and private sector.

Harvard's announcement in an internal email did not lay out what would happen as a result of the renaming. It added that the work ahead "requires us to find new ways to bring people of different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives together as one community, focusing on the unique experiences and contributions of the individual and not the broad demographic groups to which they belong."

Earlier, the U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs during a brief hearing in

Boston set a July 21 hearing for the case after Harvard warned that the funding freeze and additional threatened cuts were putting research at risk.

Monday's hearing was the first she has held since Harvard sued last week after refusing to cede to what the university's president said were illegal demands from an administration antisemitism task force to control whom we hire and what we teach.

Those demands included calls for the private university to restructure its governance, alter its hiring and admissions practices to ensure an ideological balance of viewpoints, and terminate certain academic programs.

Harvard has said that while it is committed to combating antisemitism, the administration's sweeping demands violate the free speech guarantees of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

Rather than seek a preliminary injunction blocking the freeze pending the outcome of the litigation, Harvard has opted to skip straight to the merits of the case, which both it and the U.S. Department of Justice asked the judge to quickly address.

Cyclists who kill pedestrians bagged jail term in England

By Fatimah Idera

Cyclists who kill pedestrians by dangerous cycling could face life imprisonment in England and Wales under new amendments to the crime and policing bill.

The offence of causing death by dangerous cycling would be brought into line with driving laws under amendments tabled on Thursday, the Department for Transport said.

Dangerous or reckless cycling is usually punished with a maximum two-year jail term. The amendments renew a planned change of the law under the Conservatives that was derailed by the general election.

The transport secretary, Heidi Alexander, plans to close a loophole whereby reckless cycling was caught under legislation dating back to the 1860s.

Campaigners have welcomed the new legislation. Matt Briggs, whose wife, Kim, 44, was killed by a cyclist nine years ago, told the Telegraph: "After losing Kim in 2016, I began campaigning the following year to have these laws enacted.

"The use of the wanton and furious charge for so many cases has been inadequate and archaic.

"I'm absolutely delighted that this Labour government has followed through with our calls for new legislation.



"This isn't just a victory for me and my family, it's also a victory for all the families who have worked tirelessly through their unbearable tragedies to have these laws changed."

The amendments have been criticised by some cyclists. In May last year, Chris Boardman, the former Olympic cyclist and national active travel commissioner for England, said the new laws could prevent people from cycling.

Labour has promised "unprecedented levels of funding" to encourage more people to cycle as it aims to meet its net zero targets.

A DfT spokesperson said: "Dangerous cycling is completely unacceptable, and the safety of our roads is a key priority for this government.

"The government is proposing new offences and penalties for dangerous cycling, updating legislation that is over 160 years old, to ensure that the tiny minority who recklessly disregard others face the full force of the law.

"These are being brought forward as part of the crime and policing bill and will be debated in due course."

FIFA backs new study on ACL injuries in women's football

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

FIFA is taking a major step towards tackling the surge of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries in women's football by funding a pioneering research project to investigate whether hormonal changes during menstrual cycles could be contributing to the increased risk.

The year-long study, set to begin next month at Kingston University London, comes as the sport grapples with a troubling trend: female footballers are reported to be two to six times more likely to suffer ACL injuries than their male counterparts.

The study, led by Simon Augustus, senior lecturer in sport biomechanics at Kingston University, will closely monitor players from professional London clubs, including Fulham and Chelsea, as well as grassroots-level athletes. Participants will undergo regular blood tests and physical performance evaluations to track hormone levels—especially oestrogen and progesterone—throughout their menstrual cycles.

“We want to examine whether athletes may be more predisposed to injuries because of the functional changes in terms of their anatomy and physiology during the menstrual cycle,” Augustus explained.

“We know hormones fluctuate during different phases of the cycle, but we don't yet know how much of an influence that may have on the risk of injury. Our goal is to bring clarity and potential prevention methods to the table.”

The research will simulate real-life football scenarios that often lead to ACL injuries—such as sharp turns, sudden stops, and jumping/landing during headers—and assess whether there's a



link between hormone levels and performance in those situations. The hope is to identify high-risk windows within a player's cycle when ligament laxity or slowed neuromuscular response could increase the risk of injury.

High-profile ACL injuries have plagued the women's game in recent years. England captain Leah Williamson missed the 2023 World Cup after suffering the injury with Arsenal. Teammates Beth Mead and Vivianne Miedema, as well as Australia's Sam Kerr, have also endured long absences due to ACL damage.

While some ACL injuries are impact-related and deemed unavoidable, Augustus believes this research could be a turning point for non-contact injuries: “Those are the ones where we might have more chance to intervene—perhaps through tailored strength training or minor technical tweaks.”

This holistic approach is part of a growing awareness in the football world that women's sports require more gender-specific research and support. In May 2024, a study conducted by University College London, University of Bath, and St Mary's University found that muscle injury risk spikes significantly in the days leading up to menstruation. Among 26

monitored players, the likelihood of injury was six times higher during that premenstrual phase compared to when they were on their period.

These findings underscore the need for tailored training schedules and potentially even matchday planning to protect athletes during vulnerable periods.

In parallel, a separate three-year study—jointly launched by the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA), Fifpro, Nike, and Leeds Beckett University—is examining environmental causes behind ACL injuries. This research focuses on external conditions such as inadequate facilities, limited staff-to-player ratios, training frequency, travel demands, and tight competition calendars.

Inappropriate football boots, poor pitch conditions, and generic equipment have also been highlighted as factors affecting injury rates in female players. Brighton chief executive Paul Barber revealed last month that the club is conducting its own study to ensure their new women's stadium pitch meets standards suitable for elite female athletes.

The sharp rise in ACL injuries has drawn

UCL: Dembélé scores as PSG beat Arsenal in semi-final first leg

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Arsenal's stage was set to deliver a famous night at the Emirates. The reality was far from it in the end, as Mikel Arteta's side came up short against Paris Saint-Germain with a deflating performance.

The nature of their win over Real Madrid in the quarter-finals filled Arsenal with hope and confidence that, after their season threatened to fizzle out, they had found another gear. History had already been made and they wanted more.

The Emirates was a cauldron of noise in the build-up to the club's first Champions League semi-final for 16 years and the fans were as noisy as this stadium has known them. Ousmane Dembele's fourth-minute strike cut right through all of that.

Arsenal's fans recovered after that brief stunned silence but left the stadium wanting more. Leandro Trossard and Gabriel Martinelli had their chances, and there was that save from Gianluigi Donnarumma, but Arsenal didn't do enough in the end.

Mikel Arteta's reign at Arsenal, however impressive the progress, is at risk of becoming one characterised by near misses. Premier League runners-up three years running, and now their Champions League run that promised so much is at risk of going out with a whimper.

Arteta and David Raya were quick to remind us of that Arsenal performance in the Bernabeu after the game as evidence this team is more than capable of pulling off a big performance away in Europe.

There is no doubt that playing at Real Madrid, with the club's history and status



in the Champions League, poses a unique challenge, one which Arsenal rose to with aplomb. This feels quite different though.

Arsenal were playing against a quite underwhelming Real Madrid team with more stars than they know what to do with. PSG are playing on a whole different level and surely pose a far greater challenge.

If Arsenal are to deliver the history they crave, and return to the Champions League final for the first time since 2006, then, as Arteta said after the game, they will have to do something rather special.

PSG made 26 passes in the lead-up to Dembele's goal four minutes in. It felt as if Arsenal hadn't even touched the ball.

Arsenal were chasing shadows for the first 20 minutes. PSG came flying out of the traps and almost always felt like they had their hosts outnumbered. It is rare to see Arsenal so outplayed and outworked, especially at home.

There were parallels to PSG's quarter-final second leg at Villa Park a few weeks

ago. They lost that game but went through on aggregate thanks to two goals scored in the first 27 minutes. Arsenal, like Villa, were blown away early on by PSG.

Luis Enrique clearly wants his team to blitz their opponent from the off to catch them cold. The pace they play at in those moments is, of course, unsustainable over 90 minutes, as shown at Villa, who came back to win 3-2 but just fell short of levelling the tie.

This match followed a similar pattern. Arsenal were just unable to make their dominance count like Villa.

Perhaps the misfortune of playing the first leg at home was a factor. When Villa roared back into the game against PSG, they did so with the knowledge that they had nothing to lose, while Arsenal performed as if they had the handbrake on at times.

Comparing the dominance PSG had over Villa at home compared to the return leg, it doesn't paint an encouraging picture for Arsenal in the return leg.

Usyk vs Dubois: Oscar act or clean Fight?

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

The stage is set, and tensions are rising. Heavyweight boxing rivals Oleksandr Usyk and Daniel Dubois clashed again – this time not in the ring, but at a fiery press conference at Wembley Stadium ahead of their highly anticipated rematch on 19 July.

The rematch comes nearly two years after their controversial first bout in August 2023, when Usyk secured a ninth-round stoppage over Dubois. However, controversy erupted over a body shot from Dubois in the fifth round that was deemed a low blow by the referee, sparking a long-standing debate within the boxing community.

At Tuesday's press event, emotions ran high. Usyk, now the undisputed heavyweight champion after defeating Tyson Fury twice, confronted Dubois with printed photos of the alleged low blow landing below the beltline. In a theatrical gesture, he presented the images to Dubois and asked him to sign them.

"It's disappointing that you would stoop so low," snapped Dubois' trainer, Don Charles. "You should be given an Oscar for that performance. You conned the referee, you conned us, and you conned the boxing world."

Usyk, unfazed and smirking, simply replied, "You should teach your fighter to punch clean."

The exchange set the tone for a tense conference. At one point, Usyk, clearly bored by the relentless debate about the punch, placed his head on the table and later interrupted proceedings by standing up and declaring, "Thank you everyone. We'll go to training camp. See you later."

The drama didn't stop there. A long face-off ended with Dubois breaking eye



contact, in stark contrast to the previous day's promotional event where he aggressively shoved the 38-year-old Ukrainian.

Tuesday's event was marked by striking contrasts in demeanor. Dubois entered with an energetic jog, clad in a simple tracksuit, while Usyk made a flamboyant entrance—bowing, singing along to a Ukrainian tune, and reciting prayers with rosary beads in hand.

Promoters Frank Warren and Alex Krassiyuk waited patiently on the top table as the verbal sparring unfolded. Warren supported the claim that the 2023 body shot was illegal: "All day long, that was an illegal blow. It's not about the belt line—it's where the navel is."

Adding fuel to the fire, Usyk was drawn into another verbal altercation—this time with heavyweight George Fox, son of Don Charles. Usyk, who served in Ukraine's defense against the Russian invasion, had suggested to Fox on Monday that they settle matters with a "street fight" involving four team members each.

Yet for all the controversy, both fighters are riding waves of momentum into the rematch.

Usyk remains unbeaten in 23 professional fights, a decorated Olympic gold medallist, former undisputed cruiserweight champion, and now the holder of the WBA (Super), WBO, WBC, and Ring Magazine titles. He hopes to reclaim the IBF strap currently held by Dubois, which he vacated due to mandatory obligations.

Dubois, 27, has undergone a career resurgence, knocking out Jarrell Miller, Filip Hrgovic, and most notably, two-time world champion Anthony Joshua in a stunning upset. He's full of confidence heading into the rematch.

"I'm on fire now," Dubois said. "I'm just pent up and ready to go. It's going to be a bloodbath. I'm going to put all the controversy and that nonsense to rest. I'm a man of the future."

Dubois even promised a spectacular finish: "[Usyk] will be doing a funny dance in the ring when I hit him."

Whether July's fight will bring clarity or spark another chapter in this dramatic rivalry remains to be seen. But one thing is clear: the heat between these two heavyweights is very real—and it's only getting hotter.