



NANS: Call your family to order, Atiku tells Tinubu

Pg 2

'Without reliable power, Nigeria's economy 'll remain stuck in slow growth' - Adesina

Pg 5 & 6



The New Daily Prime

f @new_daily_prime x @prime_daili149 @ @new_daily_prime

...your prime source for excellence in journalism

Rivers women walk out on Ibas' wife, chant 'we want Simi' **PAGE 7**



Lagos BRT driver to die by hanging for killing Bamise

Pg 8



Nigerian nurse based in UK found dead after 'missing'

Pg 11



FBI, DEA delay Tinubu's drug case allegation documents for three months

Pg 15

WORLD

Pg 18

Trump vows to strip Harvard's tax-exempt status



ENTERTAINMENT

I'll contest again, Funke Akindele reveals political plans

Pg 12



NANS: Call your family to order, Atiku tells Tinubu

By Friday Omosola

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has called on President Bola Tinubu to rein in members of his family, particularly his son, Seyi Tinubu.

In a statement issued by his media aide, Paul Ibe, Atiku said Seyi appeared intent on securing political loyalty for his father through any means necessary—including coercion, violence, and intimidation.

He made the remarks in response to allegations made by the President of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Atiku Isah, who accused Seyi of physical assault, abduction, and inducement.

Atiku described the allegations as deeply troubling, stating that they strike at the heart of democratic principles and civil liberties.

He further noted that such grave accusations levelled against a member of the First Family are both disturbing and dangerous.

The statement read: “Had this incident ended fatally, it would have been recorded among the growing list of atrocities committed by criminal elements in the country. That it is allegedly tied to the President’s own son makes it even more horrifying. What’s worse is the emerging suggestion that even top security officials are not beyond Seyi Tinubu’s overreaching



influence — an unacceptable compromise of state institutions.

“It is intolerable that the first family would seek to subjugate the NANS—or any civil society group — through threats, bribes, or brute force. Nigeria is a democratic republic, not a monarchy handed down to one family.

“Well-meaning Nigerians must rise to speak out. The actions of the President’s family — specifically their rabid drive to consolidate political power through manipulation and fear — must be condemned unequivocally. We must remind them that the presidency is a public trust, not a private inheritance.

“Attempts to drag former Vice President Atiku Abubakar into this scandal by alleging a political alliance with Comrade Isah are baseless, malicious, and desperate. Atiku Abubakar’s meeting with Isah was centered solely on education reform and improving student welfare, which also includes institutions he founded, like the American University of Nigeria and AUN Academy.

“Comrade Isah’s advocacy and public stance must be evaluated based on fact, not fiction. The allegations of abuse he has made demand an independent investigation, especially since the very agencies meant to protect citizens appear complicit in his ordeal.

“We issue a clear warning: nothing must happen to this young man. Any harm to him will not go unnoticed or unchallenged. Nigerians deserve truth, accountability, and a leadership that respects the rule of law — not a regime that weaponizes power to silence dissent.

“Atiku Abubakar remains firmly committed to the principles of democracy, rule of law, and the use of education as a cornerstone for national progress and development. He will not be distracted by false narratives or cowardly intimidation.”

Meanwhile, Seyi has denied the allegations.

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
QUARTER PAGE	106,500.00
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
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
1X1	4,400.00

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

POLITICAL COLOUR

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

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

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

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

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

SPECIAL POSITIONS

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

PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	280,690.00
HALF PAGE	164,178.00
QUARTER PAGE	84,641.50
10X6	228,000.00
10X5	201,600.00
10X4	149,440.00
10X3	127,108.00
9X6	201,600.00
9X5	169,050.00
9X4	137,875.00
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
5X2	32,916.50
4X4	52,666.50
4X3	39,499.50
4X2	26,333.50
3X2	19,750.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

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

ALLURE RATE

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

PICTURE & CAPTION

SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL
PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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

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

2,000.00
3,750.00
4,250.00

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:
info@newdailyprime.news
Terms and Conditions apply

ALL RATES ARE VAT INCLUSIVE

Insecurity: 'Nigeria will not bow to terror, fear, or Treachery' – Tinubu declares

By Oluwatosin Ologun



President Bola Tinubu has delivered a powerful message to Nigerian troops stationed in Katsina, affirming that the nation will not yield to fear, terror, or treachery.

During a morale-boosting visit to frontline troops in Katsina State on Friday, Tinubu emphasised that those who threaten Nigeria—internal collaborators or external adversaries—will not undermine the nation’s resolve.

According to him, “To those who seek to destabilise our nation, be they domestic collaborators or foreign agents—hear this: Nigeria

will not bow. Not to fear. Not to terror. Not to treachery.

“You are the brave sons and daughters who stand between our people and the forces of terror. Every inch of ground you hold, every terrorist you neutralise, and every community you secure is a victory for justice, freedom, and the future of our children.

“My dear soldiers, this is a defining moment in our history. The threats of terrorism, banditry, and insurgency have persisted for too long. Nigerians are counting on us and on you to end this menace and reclaim every inch of our territory.

“We are taking bold steps to equip you with advanced equipment, superior intelligence, and robust logistical support not only to defend this nation but to dominate and defeat every adversary.

“Let me hear you loudly: Are you ready? Are you committed to ending this insecurity once and for all? Let your resolve echo through every valley and forest.

“You, the Nigerian military, are the spearhead of this fight. With your valour and discipline, peace shall prevail.”

‘Without reliable power, Nigeria’s economy ‘ll remain stuck in slow growth’ – Adesina

By Friday Omosola

Over the years, numerous economic experts and stakeholders have consistently called for improvements in Nigeria’s electricity supply. Joining this growing chorus is the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Akinwumi Adesina.

Speaking at the 20th Anniversary Dinner of Chapel Hill Denham in Lagos, Adesina warned that Nigeria risks long-term economic stagnation unless it decisively tackles its chronic infrastructure and power deficits.

He stressed that no country can industrialise, remain competitive, or generate employment at scale without a reliable power supply.

Adesina urged Nigerian policymakers and investors to take bold steps in reforming critical sectors if the nation is to reclaim its economic future.

“Access to power is not just about lights,” he said. “It’s about productivity, competitiveness, and prosperity.”

He further noted that Nigeria’s digital economy cannot thrive on diesel generators, emphasising the need for a 21st-century electricity grid powered by clean, reliable, and scalable energy solutions.

To achieve this, Adesina stated that the private sector must be central to the country’s energy transition.

He also called for structural reforms to attract increased private investment in Nigeria’s energy sector.

These reforms, he said, should include cost-reflective tariffs, enforceable power purchase agreements, and improved access to blended finance from multilateral institutions such as the AfDB and the World Bank.



Adesina stressed the importance of functional markets and the need for transparent, predictable, and financially viable investment frameworks to attract investors.

He added that Nigeria has the potential to emerge as a regional leader in green energy, provided that it establishes a sound regulatory environment that encourages innovation and investment.

He revealed that the AfDB, in collaboration with the World Bank, had introduced Mission 300—a bold initiative aimed at delivering electricity access to 300 million Africans by the year 2030.

Nigeria, he said, must position itself strategically to reap the benefits of this drive. Accelerated electrification, he warned, must become a national priority.

Beyond energy, Adesina stated how Nigeria’s chronic infrastructure deficits were hindering industrial output and limiting its ability to compete across the West African region.

He enjoined the government to channel long-term funds—such as pension and

sovereign wealth resources—into infrastructure development, framing it not as an option but as an economic necessity.

He called for massive investments in modern transport systems, including expressways, rail lines, high-speed trains, seaports, airports, and robust digital infrastructure.

“Unless we resolve logistics constraints,” he warned, “Nigeria will be left behind in the African Continental Free Trade Area.”

Investors, he added, are unlikely to remain in an economy where goods cannot move efficiently and communication infrastructure is weak. Infrastructure, he stressed, underpins national competitiveness.

Continue reading
on next page

Cont from page 5

Adesina encouraged Nigeria to embrace innovative finance strategies such as the “originate-to-distribute” model and to reduce risks around infrastructure ventures.

He also recommended developing local financial markets and expanding naira-denominated funding for large-scale initiatives.

Addressing the country’s dwindling manufacturing sector, the AfDB president pointed to Nigeria’s meagre \$160 manufacturing export value per capita, in stark contrast with Vietnam’s \$3,600 and Malaysia’s \$7,100.

“In the 1980s, Nigeria showed industrial promise—we built vehicles, manufactured textiles, and processed

food. Much of that capacity is gone, lost to other nations,” he lamented.

He noted that Nigeria had forfeited the opportunity to become Africa’s automotive hub, a position now occupied by South Africa.

To reclaim lost ground, Adesina said the country must build up its industrial capacity by transforming raw materials locally, expanding industrial zones, and streamlining the business environment.

“Crude oil, cassava, cocoa—these must not leave our shores unprocessed,” he insisted. “Adding value domestically is the key to job creation, GDP growth, and economic stability.”

He also advocated for a shift towards a

knowledge-based economy anchored on research, science, and innovation. For this to happen, he said, Nigeria must invest in its higher institutions and create the right conditions to retain and attract top talent.

Agriculture, too, offers a major opportunity for economic transformation, he noted.

He highlighted the ‘Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones’ (SAPZ) programme—a \$1.3 billion project funded by the AfDB, Islamic Development Bank, and IFAD—as a blueprint.

These zones, he said, would revitalise rural economies, create jobs for young people and women, and curb urban migration.

Uber, Indrive, Bolt drivers, others threaten to shut down operations in Lagos

By Damilola Olufemi

Ride-hailing drivers in Lagos are issuing a warning to global platforms like Uber, Bolt, inDrive, Lagride, and Rida that they may switch to homegrown alternatives if their longstanding demands are not addressed.

The warning was issued by Steven Iwindoye, the spokesperson for the Amalgamated Union of App-Based Transporters of Nigeria (AUATON), during a press briefing on Friday.

According to Iwindoye, drivers are pushing for better pay, enhanced safety for both drivers and passengers, a cut in commission rates to just 5%, and full recognition of their rights and welfare as workers.

“If these companies refuse to listen, we will migrate en masse to locally developed ride-hailing platforms that are open to fairer treatment. Three such apps are already active, and our union is also working on launching its own,” he said.

He criticised the major platforms for putting profits above the dignity and well-being of the drivers who power their businesses.

The app-based drivers in Lagos staged a 24-hour protest on May 1, 2025, to



express frustration over issues such as high commissions, unstable income, poor working conditions, and unilateral policies like facial recognition mandates and sudden account deactivations.

The union claims that repeated attempts to engage with the ride-hailing companies have been ignored, leaving them no choice but to intensify their resistance.

Iwindoye referenced the recent May Day protest, during which drivers halted operations for 24 hours, as a turning point in the struggle for fairer labour practices in the ride-hailing sector.

He also revealed that the union has submitted a formal petition to the National Assembly and is preparing to petition the Lagos State House of Assembly and other relevant bodies.

Plans are also underway to announce a date for picketing the offices of the ride-hailing companies, aimed at ramping up pressure until their demands are met.

“This is only the beginning,” Iwindoye said. “We will keep pushing until both the companies and the government take us seriously.”

Rivers women walk out on Ibas' wife, chant 'we want Simi'

By Friday Omosola



Hundreds of women of Rivers State have staged a walk out on the Wife of the Sole Administrator of the State, Theresa Ibas'.

The ridiculous incident happened on Friday afternoon during an empowerment programme in Port Harcourt, where Ibas' wife posed as the First Lady of the state.

The event which was organised at the EUI event center in Government

Reserved Area, GRA, Port Harcourt, is said to be an avenue to empower women of the state.

The empowerment programme is said to be organised at the instance of the first lady of Nigeria, Sen. Oluremi Tinubu.

However, the hundreds of women who were invited for the event arrived the venue peaceful while the event progressed.

But, in what appeared to be a

well thought plan, the participants at the empowerment Programme staged a walk immediately wife of the Sole Administrator, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ibas, rtd., mounted the podium to address the women.

The women, who were chanting, "We don't want Ibas', We want Simi", pulled out of the hall in drove, abandoning the acclaimed first lady of the state and her entourage.

Lagos BRT driver to die by hanging for killing Bamise

By Damilola Olufemi



The Lagos State High Court sitting at the Tafawa Balewa Square has on Friday, April 2nd, 2025, sentenced a driver of Lagos Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Andrew Nice Ominikoron, to death by hanging for killing a 22-year-old fashion designer, Bamise Ayanwola, in 2022.

Justice Sherifat Sonaike gave the verdict.

“The deceased died from severe cerebral injury and blood forced trauma, and his actions and inactions led to her death. The law established that the person last seen with a deceased bears full responsibility for the death unless he explains how he had no hand in the death.

“In his evidence, he admitted he was alone with her in the bus and where her body was dropped and failed to return to the place to help her and ran away to another state without reporting the case,” the Judge said.

Bamise, the last child of her parents,

was abducted after boarding a BRT in Lagos, Nigeria and found dead 9 days later.

The Background story of Bamise It would be recalled that on February 26, 2022, after exiting work at Ajah area of Lagos state, Bamise boarded a BRT at Chevron axis going to Oshodi around 7:30 pm to go to visit her elder brother’s family to spend the weekend.

However, after boarding the bus, the driver flirted with her and told her to sit at the back. She was the only passenger in the bus while the interior was dark.

She also observed that at no fewer than two other male passengers entered the bus afterwards. The driver refused to pick up more passengers while there were no CCTV cameras in the bus.

Upon her being observant, Bamise contacted a friend by sending voice notes, video recordings of the bus

interior with the bus plate number identifier to her friend on WhatsApp, disclosing her concerns. Her friend urged her to alight as soon as possible at the next bus stop.

Unfortunately, after further attempts by her friends and relatives to contact her via phone calls were unsuccessful.

Before this, one of her last recorded conversations with her friend was “.....Please, pray for me.” After several failed attempts to communicate via her phone, the last known sound heard after a caller picked up her phone revealed her struggling with an unidentified man. The following day, she was reported missing.

On March 7, 2022, her lifeless body was discovered naked near the Carter Bridge on Lagos Island. An eyewitness stated that Bamise was still alive after she was thrown off the BRT bus, but she couldn’t be treated or rushed to the hospital before she died.

New NCoS boss unveils 7-point agenda for prison reform

By Friday Omosola

The newly appointed Controller General of the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS), Sylvester Nwakuche, has unveiled a seven-point reform blueprint.

Nwakuche expressed commitment to tackling chronic challenges such as prison overcrowding, inadequate facilities, and poor staff morale during a formal decoration ceremony held in Abuja on Friday.

His plan includes enhanced surveillance, infrastructure upgrades, staff training, and the introduction of more non-custodial measures.

“We have over two-thirds of our inmates awaiting trial. This is a structural challenge we must urgently address in collaboration with the judiciary and state authorities,” he stated.

He also pledged greater attention to the rehabilitation of young offenders, promising to strengthen and expand Borstal Institutions as part of efforts to prevent youth recidivism.

“We will not give up on our young people. They deserve a second chance. Our correctional institutions must become centres of transformation and new beginnings,” he said.

Nwakuche called for collective support from officers, stakeholders, and partners, declaring, “Only through unity and shared commitment can we build a correctional system that truly serves justice and humanity.”

Nwakuche, appointed by President Bola Tinubu in acting capacity on December 13, 2024, was confirmed as the substantive CG by the Senate on March 25, 2025.

He succeeds Haliru Nababa.



Nwakuche expressed appreciation for the confidence placed in him, describing his new role as a pivotal moment in the history of the service.

“This appointment is not just a promotion—it is a profound responsibility to reform a system that must be both secure and humane,” he said.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government has urged him to prioritise transformative reforms and rehabilitation in his leadership agenda.

Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, charged Nwakuche with steering the service away from punitive practices and towards a correctional system grounded in accountability, dignity, and renewal.

“You’ve been entrusted with a critical national responsibility. This role demands vision, measurable goals, and clear timelines. You’re not just heading an institution—you’re leading a shift in philosophy,” the minister said.

Emphasising the importance of modern leadership, Tunji-Ojo encouraged Nwakuche to elevate the operational standards of over 250 custodial centres nationwide, insisting that the service must become a platform for redemption rather than condemnation.

“We want to see stability and meaningful change in the Correctional Service. The centres should not symbolise hopelessness but serve as grounds for reformation,” he added, describing inmates as “potential assets” who must be treated with fairness and guided towards reintegration.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Magdalene Ajani, echoed similar sentiments, noting that the Ministry and citizens alike expect a transformation that will reshape public perception of the correctional system.

“There’s immense work ahead, and the expectations are high. You must deliver reforms that will be remembered,” she said.

2027: LP rules out coalition talks

By Friday Omosola



Ahead of the 2027 elections, discussions about a possible coalition between major political parties have taken place, with several meetings held intermittently.

However, on Friday, the Labour Party (LP) revealed its position on the matter.

Julius Abure, LP Chairman made the party stance clear, noting that LP ‘is not participating in any coalition discussions.’

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is known to be engaging opposition figures over possible alliances at unseating the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Speaking after the party’s National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting in Abuja, Abure said the LP would continue to pursue its political objectives independently.

“The NEC affirms that the Labour Party is neither in coalition talks nor planning to enter any alliance ahead of 2027. Instead, the party will focus on strengthening its internal structures, expanding its base, and refining its strategies to contest and win future elections”, the communique issue after the meeting stated.

The committee also emphasised its desire to foster unity within the party and extended a call for reconciliation. “We renew our appeal to aggrieved

members to embrace peace in the interest of the party and the nation at large,” the communiqué added.

Reaffirming the party’s belief in democratic values, the NEC stated its ongoing commitment to Nigeria’s democratic growth and development.

In addition, Abure announced the formation of a disciplinary panel to probe allegations of anti-party conduct, including those involving Abia State Governor Alex Otti and other members under scrutiny.

He also welcomed the Supreme Court’s recent verdict, which he said provided clarity and finality to the party’s internal leadership tussle.

Nigerian nurse based in UK found dead after 'missing'

By Damilola Olufemi



A wave of sorrow has swept through the nursing communities in both the UK and Nigeria following the tragic death of Nnena Miriam, a Nigerian nurse based in Leeds.

Her body was discovered in her apartment after friends and colleagues grew concerned over her sudden disappearance.

Fellow Nurses Africa, a professional body committed to the advancement of African nurses, confirmed her passing in a statement released on Wednesday. According to the organisation, a friend raised the alarm when repeated attempts to reach Miriam failed, prompting a missing person report. Police later found her unresponsive at home.

Miriam's last known work shift was the previous Sunday, and her absence from work and her silence raised immediate concern among those close to her.

The news comes just days after what should have been a joyful milestone in her life. Miriam had recently returned to the UK after holding an introduction ceremony in Nigeria, a cultural prelude to her traditional marriage. April 29 was intended to mark a special chapter in her life — instead, it became a day of mourning.

"It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Nurse Nnena Miriam," the statement read. "Her death under such sudden and distressing circumstances has left her colleagues and loved ones devastated."

Her peers remembered Miriam as a compassionate and dedicated professional who brought warmth and commitment to her role in healthcare.

"She served her community with tireless compassion and touched countless lives," the organisation added. "Her absence will be deeply felt by all who knew her."

Authorities have not yet released details on the cause of death, and an investigation is ongoing.

Her death echoes a similar incident in March 2024, when another Nigerian healthcare worker in the UK, Chidimma Ezenyili, passed away unexpectedly. Ezenyili collapsed while caring for a client and died two days later.

I'll contest again, Funke Akindele reveals political plans

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Famous Nigerian actress and filmmaker Funke Akindele has opened up about her political future, revealing that she is determined to run again despite her earlier defeat at the polls.

In a recent interview, Akindele, who ran as deputy governorship candidate for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Lagos State during the 2023 elections, confirmed her political ambition is far from over.

Her team lost to Babajide Sanwo-Olu of the All Progressives Congress (APC), but the defeat has not discouraged her.

Her first political attempt

The actress, known across Nigeria for her hit films and comedy series, surprised many when she stepped into politics in 2022. She joined the PDP ticket as the running mate to Abdulazeez Adediran, popularly known as Jandor, in the Lagos State governorship race.

Their campaign faced stiff competition from the ruling APC. Despite strong efforts, the PDP duo could not unseat Sanwo-Olu, who secured a second term as governor.

Following the loss, Akindele went silent on political matters. She even cleared her social media pages of all political posts, leading some to believe she was done with politics for good.

Breaking her silence

However, during the inaugural live edition of the WithChude podcast, Akindele finally spoke about her political experience and future. Sitting down for an open and personal conversation, she

shared how the journey shaped her and why she remains determined to continue.

"I need to support, I need to give back," Akindele said during the interview. "That's why I went into politics."

She admitted that the political landscape



was rougher than she had expected. "Getting into it, seeing violence and shouting," she recalled, "then I started watching female politicians like Mummy Abike Dabiri. The way they speak, the way they command respect and authority. I told myself, you too can do this."

Lessons from the campaign trail

Akindele explained that the political journey taught her valuable lessons about courage and resilience.

"I learnt that you have to be bold, courageous, and strong. Fear will only hold you back," she said. "What will be, will be."

She also spoke about the knowledge she gained. Being on the campaign trail pushed her to study the country's political system more closely. "I got educated and acquired more knowledge," she shared. "Now, when I want to speak, I speak with statistics and data."

Akindele emphasized that her political involvement has helped her grow personally and professionally. "I'm reading more and knowing more about my country and my state," she added proudly.

Looking ahead to the future

When asked if she plans to run for political office again, Akindele gave a confident answer.

"Oh, yes," she said with determination. "I

am going to do it again."

This declaration marks a clear return to the political scene for the Nollywood star. Her supporters, who were once disappointed by the 2023 outcome, now have reason to hope for a stronger comeback.

A growing trend of celebrity politicians

Akindele's political journey highlights a growing trend in Nigeria, where entertainers and celebrities are stepping into public service. Many fans admire these stars not just for their talents but also for their willingness to address social and political issues.

By speaking up now, Akindele is positioning herself as a long-term player in Nigeria's political space. She appears ready to learn from past mistakes, build on her experience, and return stronger.

What comes next?

While Akindele has not yet announced a formal campaign or specific office she will seek, her latest statements make it clear that she has unfinished political business.

As Nigeria moves closer to the next election cycle, all eyes will be on her next moves. Will she return as a deputy candidate? Will she aim for a different position? Only time will tell.

Davido praises Chioma for loving his other children

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Afrobeats superstar David Adeleke, widely known as Davido, has publicly praised his wife, Chioma Adeleke, for the deep love she shows toward his children from previous relationships.

Davido, who is one of Africa's biggest music stars, made this heartfelt statement during Chioma's surprise 30th birthday celebration in Atlantca, Georgia.

The singer, who had three children with different women before marrying Chioma, made it clear that her care for his children is one of the reasons he loves her so much. Standing before their friends and family, Davido spoke with emotion and gratitude.

"I love the way you love my kids that are not even yours," Davido said warmly. "So, Chioma, enjoy your 30th birthday. As we celebrate your 30th, we will also celebrate your 40th, 50th, 60th, 70th, 80th, 90th, 100th, and so forth."

A Gift Fit for a Queen

To make the celebration even more special, Davido surprised Chioma with a brand-new car. The singer's gesture drew cheers and applause from the guests, who watched as Chioma reacted with joy and gratitude.

The couple, both dressed in stylish outfits, smiled and danced through the evening. Videos from the party quickly spread on social media, with fans and followers praising the couple's strong bond.

A journey of love and loss

Davido and Chioma's relationship has been closely followed by fans for years. The two first gained public attention in 2018 when Davido openly declared his love for Chioma in his hit song Assurance. The song's music video, which featured Chioma, became an instant hit and fueled even more public interest in their



relationship.

In 2019, the couple announced their engagement, thrilling fans. However, their journey has not been without heartbreak. In November 2022, they lost their first son, Ifeanyi, in a tragic swimming pool accident at Davido's Lagos mansion. The loss shocked the nation and left both parents devastated.

Despite the tragedy, the couple stayed strong together. In 2023, they welcomed twins, marking a new chapter in their lives. Their resilience has inspired many, and fans often admire how they have handled both fame and personal challenges.

Blending families with love

Davido's public praise for Chioma's love toward his other children highlights an important part of their marriage. Before marrying Chioma, Davido fathered three children with different women. In the entertainment world, where blended families can face many difficulties, Chioma's acceptance and care for all the children have stood out.

This display of unity is not only meaningful for their family but also sends a positive message to fans. Davido's open acknowledgment of Chioma's role in supporting his children shows the importance of respect, understanding, and love in blended families.

Fans celebrate the couple

News of Davido's birthday speech and Chioma's car gift spread quickly on social media platforms like Instagram and X (formerly Twitter). Fans flooded comment sections with messages of love and admiration. Many praised Chioma's patience and kindness, while others applauded Davido for openly celebrating his wife.

"I love how Davido always shows love to Chioma," one fan wrote on Instagram. Another said, "Chioma is a queen! She deserves all the good things."

The couple's story continues to inspire fans both in Nigeria and across the world. As they celebrate new milestones together, supporters eagerly watch their journey unfold.

As Davido said in his birthday toast, he looks forward to celebrating many more years with Chioma. His words reflected not just love but also commitment and hope for a long future together.

For Davido and Chioma, the road ahead promises more music, family moments, and public attention. Yet, at the heart of it all is a love that has survived both joy and sorrow. Fans can expect to see much more from this power couple in the years to come.

Nigerian men are not romantic, says Tiwa Savage

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian Afrobeats sensation Tiwa Savage has revealed her thoughts about Nigerian men.

Speaking in a recent interview, the popular singer offered a candid view on their personality, charm, and romantic style.

During a sit-down with GRM Daily's Thoughts in a Culli series, Savage did not hold back. She praised Nigerian men for their style but noted they often fall short in romance.

"Swaggalicious but not romantic"

According to Savage, Nigerian men know how to present themselves well. They are stylish, confident, and carry themselves with flair. She even used the playful word "swaggalicious" to describe them.

The mother of one, pointed out that this outer charm does not always match what she looks for in a relationship.

"Nigerian men do have swag, but they are not really romantic when it comes down to it," she explained during the conversation.

Generous but missing something

Tiwa admitted that many Nigerian men can be generous. They are willing to spend money and show affection through gifts or flashy displays.

"They know how to swag and splash cash," she said, smiling. Yet, for Savage, this is not enough. She is searching for something deeper and more meaningful.

"I'm not looking for that," she added, making it clear she values romance and emotional connection over material gifts or outward style.

Looking for more than flash

For the Somebody's Son hitmaker, true romance goes beyond surface-level actions. Her comments suggest she wants a partner who understands emotional connection, tenderness, and meaningful gestures — not just fashion or wealth.



While Nigerian men often impress with their charisma and financial generosity, she believes many miss the romantic side. She hopes for a love life where emotions take the front seat, not just expensive presents or public shows.

Fans react to her words

Following the interview, social media buzzed with reactions. Fans shared mixed opinions about Savage's remarks.

Some agreed, saying Nigerian men often rely too much on money and appearances. Others felt she was being too harsh and believed many Nigerian men are, in fact, romantic.

On X (formerly Twitter), fans debated whether Savage's views reflected her personal experiences or spoke to a wider truth.

Some even joked that she might be hinting at a new relationship standard or setting the stage for a romantic announcement.

A voice for women's desires

Her words highlight a larger conversation around relationships in Nigeria. Many women want more than just financial security or stylish partners. They seek men who show care, affection, and emotional support.

Her comments also challenge some traditional ideas about romance in Nigerian culture, where men are often expected to "provide" but not necessarily focus on softer, emotional gestures. Savage is adding her voice to the push for more balanced, meaningful relationships.

A star who speaks her mind

The musician has always been known for speaking honestly. Whether in her music or interviews, she often shares her true feelings without fear.

This recent conversation is no different. By openly discussing what she wants in a partner, she offers a glimpse into her personal life while sparking a wider discussion on love, romance, and expectations.

As one of Africa's biggest music stars, her opinions carry weight. Fans will likely continue to reflect on her words and discuss what romance really means in today's world.

Conclusion

In the end, her message is clear: she wants more than flash and money. She is looking for real romance, genuine emotion, and deep connection. While Nigerian men may have the style and generosity, she believes many still need to work on the romance part.

FBI, DEA delay Tinubu's drug case allegation documents for three months

By **Damilola Olufemi**



The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will not be releasing documents today related to an alleged drug case involving Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, as previously expected.

Back in April, Judge Beryl Howell of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ordered the agencies to make the documents public by May 2, 2025. However, on Thursday, May 1, both the FBI and DEA filed a joint report asking the court for an additional 90 days to complete their document production.

This request is part of an ongoing lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), initiated in June 2023 by transparency advocate Aaron Greenspan. The suit seeks access to U.S. federal investigation

files connected to a 1990s drug trafficking and money laundering case in Chicago, allegedly tied to Tinubu and several others.

Records on Tinubu's drug case

Court records show that between 2022 and 2023, Greenspan submitted 12 FOIA requests to various federal agencies, including the FBI, DEA, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), CIA, State Department, and U.S. Attorneys' Offices in Illinois and Indiana. The requests centre on four individuals: Bola Tinubu, Mueez Akande, Lee Andrew Edwards, and Abiodun Agbele, who are all suspected of having links to the alleged drug operation.

In their latest update to the court, the FBI and DEA stated that they had begun searching for the relevant non-exempt records but needed more time

to finish reviewing and preparing the documents for release.

"The FBI and DEA have initiated their searches for responsive, non-exempt, reasonably segregable portions of records requested by the plaintiff and anticipate completing their searches in ninety days," the joint status report noted.

Greenspan, however, strongly opposed the extension. He argued that the agencies have already delayed the process for years and insisted that they should be able to produce at least some unredacted records within a week.

"The defendants offer no valid reason for why it should take three more months to finish this task," Greenspan said, emphasising that many of the documents have already been identified.

Trump orders halt to federal funding for NPR, PBS

By Damilola Olufemi



The United States of America President, Donald Trump, on Thursday, signed an executive order aimed at ending federal funding for National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). He accused both media outlets of lacking neutrality in their reporting.

Although NPR and PBS receive some government support through the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), the majority of their funding comes from private donors.

Trump has frequently clashed with mainstream media, often calling them “the enemy of the people.” However, he has maintained a close

relationship with Fox News, a conservative network where several hosts have gone on to hold positions in his administration.

In the executive order, Trump directed the CPB and all federal departments to cut off financial support for NPR and PBS. He claimed that the two organisations do not provide fair or balanced news coverage for American taxpayers.

However, funding for the CPB has already been approved by Congress through 2027, raising uncertainty about how much impact the order can actually have.

According to estimates, NPR

reaches over 40 million listeners weekly, while PBS draws around 36 million viewers each month through its network of local stations.

NPR’s CEO, Katherine Maher, said in March that the station is set to receive roughly \$120 million from CPB in 2025, which accounts for less than five per cent of its total operating budget.

The media watchdog group Reporters Without Borders (RSF) expressed concern over what it called a worsening climate for press freedom in the U.S. under Trump, and noted increasing global challenges for independent journalists.

Prince Harry loses legal fight against UK govt

By Fatimah Idera



In a recent decision to step down from royal duties with his American wife Meghan, Prince Harry had lost his legal challenge to changes to his security arrangements made by the British government.

King Charles' younger son, Harry, had sought to overturn a decision by the Home Office – the ministry responsible for policing – which decided in February 2020 he would not automatically receive personal police security while in Britain.

Last year, the High Court in London ruled the decision was lawful and that decision was upheld by three senior Court of Appeal judges who said that, while Harry understandably felt aggrieved, that did not amount to an error of law in the decision.

Judge Geoffrey Vos said Harry's

lawyer had made powerful and moving arguments about the impact of the decision about his security.

“It was plain that the Duke of Sussex felt badly treated by the system, but I conclude – having studied the detail of the extensive documentation – I could not say that the Duke's sense of grievance translated into a legal argument for the challenge to RAVEC's decision,” he told the court.

Harry now lives in California with Meghan and their two children.

Recall that Harry attended two days of hearings in person in April, when his lawyer told the court that he had been singled out for different, unjustified and inferior treatment.

His lawyers said al Qaeda had recently called for him to be murdered, and he

and his American wife Meghan had been involved in “a dangerous car pursuit with paparazzi in New York City” in 2023.

“One must not forget the human dimension to this case: there is a person sitting behind me whose safety, whose security and whose life is at stake,” his lawyer Shaheed Fatima told the court as Harry watched on.

“His presence here and throughout this appeal is a potent illustration, where one needed, of how much this appeal means to him and his family,” she said.

However, the government's legal team said the bespoke arrangement for Harry, the Duke of Sussex, had positive advantages from a security assessment point of view.

Trump vows to strip Harvard's tax-exempt status

By Fatimah Idera

Amid his wider crackdown on elite universities and the U.S. education system, Donald Trump said on Friday that he had planned to strip Harvard University of its tax-exempt status by setting up another potential legal fight with the Ivy League school.

In a post on his social media platform, without specifying when he might take action, Trump revealed that "We are going to be taking away Harvard's Tax Exempt Status. It's what they deserve!"

Representatives for the Internal Revenue Service did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump's post and whether it was revoking the university's tax-exempt status.

Harvard, in a statement, said the move would be unlawful and unprecedented.

"There is no legal basis to rescind Harvard's tax-exempt status," the Boston-area school said. "The unlawful use of this instrument more broadly would have grave consequences for the future of higher education in America."

It would also cut money available for student scholarships, medical research and technological advancements that drive economic growth, Harvard added.



Since taking office in January, Trump has targeted major U.S. universities by freezing federal funding, launching investigations, revoking student visas and making other demands. He has said higher education has been gripped by antisemitic, anti-American, Marxist and radical left ideologies.

Under federal law, the president cannot request that the IRS, which determines whether an organization can have or maintain tax-exempt status, investigate organizations.

Most universities are exempt from federal income tax under the U.S. tax code because they are deemed to be operated exclusively for public educational purposes.

Trump's administration has escalated its fight against Harvard in recent weeks, probing its nearly \$9 billion in federal funding, seeking details on its foreign ties and threatening its ability to enroll foreign students. The administration has also demanded a

ban on diversity, equity and inclusion practices, a crackdown on some pro-Palestinian groups and a mask ban.

On Wednesday, Trump suggested he would withhold grants.

Harvard has pushed back, suing the administration over the halted U.S. research funding and other demands, and joining more than 200 university and college presidents in protesting Trump's higher education policies.

Trump said he was considering an end to Harvard's tax-exempt status in a separate social media post on April 15, when annual U.S. tax returns are due, but did not say how he would do it.

White House spokesperson Harrison Fields last month, revealed any forthcoming IRS actions were independent of the president and that any tax status investigations were initiated before Trump's post.

Diddy rejects plea deal as trial nears jury selection

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Sean “Diddy” Combs, the embattled hip-hop mogul and music producer, has rejected a plea deal in his high-profile sex trafficking and racketeering case, paving the way for a full trial set to begin next week in Manhattan federal court.

Combs, 55, appeared in court Thursday for his final pre-trial hearing, entering the courtroom in tan prison attire, carrying a notebook, and at times donning glasses to read. He waved to supporters in attendance before confirming to District Judge Arun Subramanian that he was rejecting the prosecution’s plea offer.

“Yes, I do,” Combs replied when asked directly by the judge if he was turning down the deal. The terms of the proposed plea agreement were not disclosed.

Judge Subramanian began the hearing by asking Combs to confirm that he was of sound mind and not under the influence of drugs. Combs has been held without bail since his arrest in September on charges including transportation to engage in prostitution and sex trafficking. He faces up to several decades in prison if convicted.

Jury Selection Begins Monday



With jury selection scheduled to begin Monday, prospective jurors have already completed detailed questionnaires. They will now undergo individual interviews to determine whether they have been influenced by recent media coverage.

Combs’ defense team, which currently includes six attorneys, announced Thursday they will be adding two more lawyers as preparations intensify. Opening statements are slated for May 12.

In an unexpected twist during the hearing, defense attorneys raised concerns over one of the alleged victim’s personal attorneys, accusing them of giving a media interview to boost their client’s credibility. Judge Subramanian reminded all legal parties and witnesses of their obligation to follow strict professional conduct, especially with

a trial of such public interest.

While Combs has been appearing in court in standard jail attire, the judge recently approved a request allowing him to wear select street clothes during the trial, including button-down shirts, pants, sweaters, socks, and shoes without laces.

The judge has urged all parties to expedite jury selection in the coming days to allow time for trial preparation ahead of next week’s proceedings.

As one of the most closely watched celebrity criminal trials in recent years, the case is expected to attract intense media scrutiny and could carry serious legal consequences for Combs if convicted on any of the five felony counts he currently faces.

Israel launches airstrikes near Syrian Presidential palace

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Israeli Air Force launched airstrikes early Friday near the Syrian presidential palace in Damascus, in what Israeli officials described as a stern warning to Syria's leadership following days of intense sectarian violence between pro-government militias and fighters from the Druze minority.

The strikes, confirmed by Israel's military, marked the second attack in Syria this week. They targeted areas adjacent to the residence of President Ahmed al-Sharaa, though specific damage or casualties have not yet been disclosed.

In a joint statement, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Israel Katz declared that the strike was "a clear message to the Syrian regime." The Israeli leadership emphasized its commitment to preventing any threat against the Druze community, stating: "We will not allow the deployment of forces south of Damascus or any threat to the Druze community."

The airstrikes come on the heels of violent clashes that erupted Tuesday in the Damascus suburbs of Sahnaya and Jaramana, where 56 people have reportedly died. The conflict was sparked by an audio clip, allegedly from a Druze cleric, containing derogatory remarks about the Prophet Muhammad. Though the authenticity of the clip remains in question, its circulation provoked outrage among Sunni Muslim residents and quickly escalated into armed confrontation.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights attributed the deaths to both local Druze fighters and Syrian security forces. However, Damascus has denied any government involvement in the violence.

In a powerful rebuke, Syria's top Druze religious figure, Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri,



accused the Syrian regime, now dominated by radical Islamist factions aligned with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, of launching a "genocidal attack" against the Druze minority.

The Druze, an offshoot of Ismaili Shia Islam dating back to the 10th century, number around 1 million globally, with more than half residing in Syria, mainly in the Sweida province and southern Damascus suburbs. Others live in Lebanon, Israel, and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

The fall of Bashar al-Assad's Alawite-led regime in December created a power vacuum now filled by Islamist coalitions, prompting fresh instability and deepening sectarian divisions. The March massacre of over 1,700 civilians, primarily from Assad's Alawite community, further heightened tensions across the country.

Israel's recent military actions appear aimed at both deterring threats to the Druze and undermining Syria's new rulers. Since Assad's fall, Israel has ramped up airstrikes on Syrian military assets and re-established a presence in the formerly demilitarized Golan Heights, capturing key strategic ground once controlled by Syrian forces.

At a meeting in Sweida, Druze leaders reaffirmed their loyalty to a unified Syria, rejecting any form of separation or external interference. "We are an inseparable part of the Syrian homeland," a community spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani urged "national unity" and condemned foreign intervention, warning it would only fuel further division.

Complicating the situation, a missile fired from Yemen, believed to be launched by Iran-backed Houthi rebels, triggered air raid sirens in northern Israel on Friday. Israeli air defense systems successfully intercepted the projectile. The Houthis have repeatedly targeted Israel in solidarity with Palestinians amid the ongoing war in Gaza, now in its 18th month.

Back in Israel, Druze citizens staged protests Thursday night, briefly blocking roads and calling on the government to step up efforts to protect their kin across the border.

UAE funnels \$2bn into Trump's cryptocurrency

By **Fatimah Idera**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has shared plan to spend \$2bn on one of Donald Trump's cryptocurrencies, as the move has triggered accusations of a conflict of interest.

The Emirati investment firm MGX, which is backed by Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund, said it planned to do a deal using a so-called stablecoin called USD1.

The coin, which is meant to track the value of the US dollar, was developed by World Liberty Financial, a cryptocurrency venture that launched last autumn and is majority-owned by the Trump family.

President Trump is listed as the venture's "chief crypto advocate", while his sons Eric, Donald Jr and Barron are also cited as "web3 ambassadors" on the company's website.

It is run by Zach Witkoff, the son of the president's Middle Eastern envoy, Steve Witkoff.

MGX revealed would use World Liberty Financial's token to invest in Binance, a cryptocurrency exchange whose founder was handed a four-month sentence for violations of US anti-money laundering and sanctions laws last year.

The announcement of the deal comes less than two weeks before



President Trump is scheduled to make a state visit to the UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

Zach Witkoff announced the MGX deal at a crypto conference in Dubai on Thursday, appearing on stage with Eric Trump.

Mr Witkoff said: "We are excited to announce today that USD1 has been selected as the official stablecoin to close MGX's \$2bn investment in Binance."

He added: "We thank MGX and Binance for their trust in us. It's only the beginning."

The Democrat senator, Elizabeth Warren said in a post on X that "A shady fund, backed by a foreign government just announced a \$2bn deal using Trump stablecoins.

"The Senate is gearing up to pass stablecoin legislation that will make it easier for Trump's family to line their own pockets. This is

corruption. No Senator should support it."

A White House spokesman said: "President Trump's assets are in a trust managed by his children. There are no conflicts of interest."

In March, World Liberty announced that it had sold \$550m in tokens, with the bulk of sales taking place after Mr Trump's election. The company used the funds to launch USD1 that same month.

The president has taken major policy steps to benefit the crypto industry since he took office, signing an executive order in March to create a strategic bitcoin reserve and a US digital asset stockpile.

Abu Dhabi is a backer of RedBird IMI, the fund which the UK Government blocked from taking over The Telegraph last year over fears of foreign government ownership of British media assets.

Reeves North Sea tax hike hits Shell with £380m bill

By **Fatimah Idera**

Following Rachel Reeves's raid on North Sea oil and gas companies, the FTSE 100 giant has revealed that Shell faces an extra £380m in tax.

The oil giant said it expected the Chancellor's expansion of the so-called energy profits levy – also known as the windfall tax – to cost an additional \$509m (£382m) up to 2030.

It comes after Ms Reeves extended the levy's duration by a year while increasing the headline rate of tax paid by North Sea producers from 75pc to 78pc.

She also scrapped rules that let companies reduce their exposure by making investments in new or existing oil and gas fields.

Shell previously disclosed a payment of \$462m under the levy for 2023.

It was revealed as Shell reported its latest financial results, which showed that profits fell from \$7.7bn to \$5.6bn in the first quarter of the year.

In December, it was announced that it was combining its assets in the UK North Sea with those of Norwegian giant Equinor under a new 50-50 joint venture.

Ashley Kelty, an oil and gas analyst at Panmure Liberum, said the shake-up would allow both companies to pool their respective tax allowances, helping to improve the efficiency of investments.

Shell's disclosure comes amid growing signs of a civil war within Labour over its green policies,



following Sir Tony Blair's warning that limiting the consumption of fossil fuels was "doomed to fail".

The Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, the former prime minister's think tank, later walked back the statements and clarified that he supported the UK's policies.

But the remarks have triggered debate about Cabinet ministers and Labour MPs, with Steve Reed, the Environment Secretary, saying they were "valid and important".

This week, Sir Keir Starmer's spokesman said the Prime Minister had confidence in Ed Miliband, the Energy Secretary, but refused to guarantee his job was safe until the next election, as he has done for Ms Reeves and David Lammy, the Foreign Secretary.

Ms Reeves's decision to expand the energy profits levy has been heavily criticised by oil and gas firms that argue it is accelerating the decline of North Sea production as companies close up shop because of high costs.

Other government policies have also come under fire for similar reasons, including a de facto ban on new drilling licences that has been imposed by Mr Miliband.

By October Budget, the Treasury estimated that the Chancellor's changes would raise an extra £2.3bn from 2025 to 2030.

Ministers are also considering the introduction of a new tax post-2030, one that would potentially be levied on sales if oil and gas prices exceed certain levels.

A consultation published in March said the measure would ensure British households "share in the profits" of future energy crises.

However, windfall tax was first imposed by then-chancellor Rishi Sunak in 2022, when the war in Ukraine sent oil and gas prices surging, but it has since been expanded under both the Conservatives and Labour.

Singer-Songwriter Jill Sobule dies in Minnesota house fire at 66

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Jill Sobule, the trailblazing singer-songwriter best known for her witty pop anthem *Supermodel* and the pioneering LGBTQ hit *I Kissed a Girl*, has died in a tragic house fire. She was 66.

Sobule's body was discovered on Thursday in a home in Woodbury, Minnesota. Authorities are currently investigating the cause of the blaze.

Her longtime manager, John Porter, confirmed her passing in a statement to The Minnesota Star Tribune, describing Sobule as "a force of nature and human rights advocate whose music is woven into our culture."

"I lost a client and a friend today," Porter said in a separate tribute to The Hollywood Reporter. "I hope her music, memory and legacy continue to live on and inspire others."

The news came just a day before Sobule was scheduled to perform in her hometown of Denver, Colorado, showcasing songs from her autobiographical stage musical *Fck 7th Grade**, which was nominated for a Drama Desk Award in 2023.

Sobule's musical career began in earnest in 1990 with the release of her debut album *Things Here Are Different*, produced by Todd Rundgren. But it was her 1995 self-



titled album that brought her mainstream acclaim. That record featured *Supermodel*, a satirical pop gem made famous by its inclusion in the cult classic teen film *Clueless*, and *I Kissed a Girl*, a bold and ahead-of-its-time single that became the first openly LGBTQ-themed song to break into the Billboard Top 20. It peaked at No. 20 in the summer of 1995.

Sobule's version of *I Kissed a Girl* drew fresh attention years later when Katy Perry released a different song with the same title in 2008.

Over the course of her three-decade career, Sobule released over a dozen albums, carving a niche for herself with songs that balanced

personal vulnerability, political commentary, and sharp humor. She was known for her fearless storytelling, her advocacy for human rights, and her deep connection to fans who saw themselves in her lyrics.

As tributes pour in from around the music world, fans remember Jill Sobule not only for her unforgettable songs but for her unflinching honesty and enduring spirit.

"She sang the truth, whether it made us laugh or cry," one fan posted online. "And she did it before most dared to try."

Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced.

Arne Slot hopes title triumph will help Liverpool secure transfer targets

By New Daily Prime

Liverpool Manager, Arne Slot hopes that Liverpool's title triumph and the emotional celebrations that followed will help the club beat off competition for their main transfer targets this summer.

The Liverpool head coach gave his players two days off as reward for clinching a record-equalling 20th league title on Sunday, when a party was held at Anfield after the 5-1 rout of Tottenham. Slot's celebrations continued with his wife's birthday meal on Monday before his focus switched back to business on Tuesday.

Slot described last Sunday as one of the best days of his life and claimed it would motivate his squad to recreate the unforgettable scenes at Anfield next season. He believes Liverpool's transfer targets will also want to be part of a "special" club.

"To experience this once is really nice," Slot said. "But we would love to experience it one more time. It has been special for all the fans and it's definitely been special for the players and for us as well. Now we know why, when we start next season, what we do it for.

"But it definitely helps to attract new players as well because mostly the players that we want, we are not the only club who thinks they are good players, so they have more options. Then maybe it helps for them to see that the way we do things here is special. Until now, if I spoke to players who we wanted to bring in, I always told them that our fans are really special and it is special to play at



this club. But after Sunday I don't think I ever have to tell anyone again how special our fans are because that was unbelievable."

One advantage of winning the Premier League in April, according to Slot, is that it gives Liverpool more time to work on transfers and prepare for next season. He intends to use the final four matches as groundwork for next season by rotating his squad more than usual.

He said of plans for next season: "I already did this a little bit in the background. It's not like after we won the league was the first time Richard [Hughes, Liverpool's sporting director] called me and said: 'OK, these are the players we are interested in.' That would be a bit weird. But there's a bit more time now to have these conversations.

"But let there be no mistake, we want to win every single game we play. The players will be prepared in the same way [for Chelsea on Sunday] as they've been prepared for all the other games."

Slot's title celebrations showed he will not lose focus. "Monday was my wife's birthday, she was here together with the children and some friends, so we had lunch together," he said. "Tuesday they left and I had left my car at Anfield so went back to pick it up. And Wednesday we trained.

"It's not like the whole world has changed by winning this league title. Sometimes you think before you win: 'Oh, probably everything is going to change.' But when I woke up Monday morning I still felt the same person. I felt really happy, but it doesn't completely change you in your life all of a sudden."

Pirates fan who fell from Clemente Wall at PNC Park identified

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A night of baseball turned tragic on Wednesday after 21-year-old Kavan Markwood fell from the 21-foot-high Clemente Wall in right field at PNC Park during a game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Chicago Cubs. The fall left him critically injured and fighting for his life, according to officials and community members.

The incident occurred during a moment of celebration when Pirates veteran Andrew McCutchen hit a double. Markwood, reportedly cheering with friends, lost his balance and fell from the bleachers, landing on the warning track below. Pittsburgh Public Safety is treating the incident as accidental.

Markwood, a standout athlete and beloved community member, graduated from South Allegheny High School in 2022. He was known for his athleticism, leadership, and big heart. A former football team MVP and all-conference honoree for the South Allegheny Gladiators, he went on to play collegiate football at Walsh University before enrolling at Wheeling University in West Virginia.

"He's fighting for his life right now," said South Allegheny School District Superintendent David McDonald in an emotional statement to KDKA. "If there's anybody who can overcome this, it's Kavan. He's a fighter. He's proven that for 21 years."

Sources close to the family say



Markwood suffered a fractured skull in the fall. His best friend, who witnessed the incident, reportedly leapt onto the field in a frantic effort to reach him. Markwood had attended the game with both his friend and his girlfriend.

Pirates Chairman Bob Nutting issued a sombre statement on Thursday, saying, "We are all deeply saddened and truly heartbroken after the terrible accident that occurred last night. It was one of the most difficult moments many of us have ever experienced."

Just weeks before the accident, Markwood had secured a job in the insurance industry and was preparing to begin certification courses. His community remembers him as a beacon of resilience and kindness.

"Kavan is best known for his

strength, resilience, and kindness," said a spokesperson for the South Allegheny School District. "He is a friend to all, someone who lifts others up and faces challenges with courage and grace."

Superintendent McDonald described him with warmth and admiration: "He's got a chipped front tooth, and when he smiled at you, he had that mischievous smile that melted you."

As Markwood remains hospitalised in critical condition, support has poured in from across the Pittsburgh area.

Family, friends, and former classmates are rallying around him, holding on to hope and the fighting spirit he's long been known for.

An investigation into the exact circumstances of the fall is ongoing.