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**Court to decide on EFCC's re-examination bid in** **Pg 6**  
**Yahaya Bello trial, June 26**



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# JAMB releases 2025 UTME results, withholds nearly 40,000 over irregularities

By Friday Omosola

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has released the results of the 2025 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), while placing nearly 40,000 results under investigation.

Speaking at a press briefing on Friday, JAMB Registrar, Professor Ishaq Oloyede, revealed that the results of 39,834 candidates are currently being withheld due to reported cases of exam malpractice and other discrepancies.

Over 1.9 million candidates had registered for and participated in this year's UTME across the country.

The Registrar further disclosed that 80 individuals are being interrogated nationwide in connection with various forms of examination fraud.

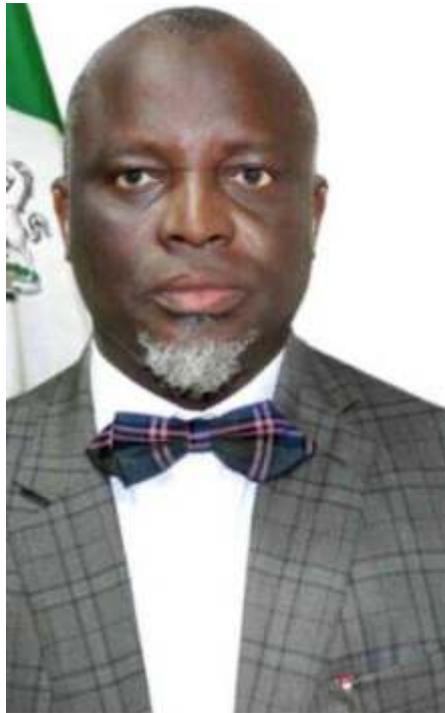
Anambra State recorded the highest number of suspects, with 14 currently in custody.

Professor Oloyede added that 467 underage candidates scored above the minimum cut-off mark, but 50 of them were implicated in cheating-related offences.

"A total of 39,834 results remain unreleased. Of these, 1,426 results are under scrutiny and processing," Oloyede said.

According to the JAMB boss, out of the figure, 96 candidates' results were withheld over exam malpractices, a decrease from 123 in the previous year.

Oloyede said the Board remained resolute in its commitment to eliminating any form of examination



malpractice, adding that 1,957,000 candidates were verified to sit for the exam, while 71,705 were absent.

According to him, 2,157 candidates experienced fingerprint rejections due to suspected registration infractions, a figure, he said, was far above acceptable margins and currently under investigation.

"The 2025 UTME showed the prevalence of some particular types of infractions, which suggests systemic vulnerabilities or gaps in registration and examination administration and/or monitoring.

"The new trends observed were in the Registration and Examination processes and they were mainly in the following categories: Identity Fraud, and Biometric Fraud of Combined Thumbprint of Candidate," he said.

Other infractions, he said, were impersonation at the point of registration with the active

involvement of a few CBT Centres, double registration, and attempted substitution of self by candidates.

Oloyede added that 244 candidates were caught engaging in "WhatsApp runs," subscribing to rogue groups promising leaked questions.

He said their results had also been withheld to set a stern example.

In some cases, he said, the entire syndicate colluded with CBT centres to register using multiple fingerprints.

According to him, as a result of this, 3,656 candidates with "extraneous fingerprints" have had their results withheld, and some CBT centres implicated will face sanctions.

Oloyede added that 80 suspects were being interrogated by the police for their involvement in the examination malpractices and most of them would be prosecuted.'

# THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

## PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

## PRODUCT COLOUR

**EFFECTIVE FROM  
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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	372,500.00
HALF PAGE	213,000.00
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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
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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	329,868.50
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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
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3X2	17,260.00
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10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
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9X3	107,757.50
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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
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1X1	3,292.00

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10X4	103,963.00
10X3	N/A
9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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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
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3X2	14,923.00
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10X6 FRONT PAGE	8,250,000.00
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PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
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# Tinubu welcomes Qatar investment plans, reaffirms readiness for strategic partnership

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has welcomed new investment initiatives from the State of Qatar, particularly in the agricultural sector.

He reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to deepening bilateral relations and implementing existing agreements between both countries.

The President made this known on Friday at the State House, Abuja, while receiving Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, a special envoy from the Amir of Qatar and the country's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Al-Khulaifi conveyed the Amir's

strong interest in expanding cooperation with Nigeria, disclosing that a high-level Qatari business delegation will visit the country in the coming weeks to explore investment opportunities in agriculture, food security, and other priority sectors.

President Tinubu expressed appreciation for the growing partnership between the two nations, recalling the outcomes of his state visit to Qatar in 2024.

He assured that Nigeria is prepared to build on the progress made, and directed key ministers —Abubakar Bagudu (Budget and Economic Planning), Mohammed Idris

(Information and National Orientation), and Ambassador Yusuf Tuggar (Foreign Affairs) — to ensure swift implementation of the bilateral agreements.

“We are grateful to God for what we have experienced as partners in progress,” Tinubu said.

“I am glad the Amir of Qatar recalls the issues discussed during my visit last year. Let me commend the brotherly relations between Qatar and Nigeria. We are willing to strengthen our bilateral ties.”

Continue reading  
on next page

## Cont from page 4

The President also praised Qatar's global peacebuilding efforts and expressed Nigeria's desire to collaborate further in areas of mutual concern.

"I am proud of your efforts to bring peace and stability to the world. Like you, we are confronting terrorism while helping our neighbours. We recognise our true friends and appreciate those supporting us to tackle these challenges," he stated.

Tinubu highlighted ongoing reforms in Nigeria's tax system aimed at making the country more investor-friendly.

He acknowledged the difficulties in implementing tough economic

decisions but insisted they were necessary for long-term growth.

"We are reforming our tax system to encourage investment. The process has been tough, but we are seeing signs of progress. You won't find a better partner than Nigeria. We want to work with Qatar in fighting poverty and promoting human development," he said.

The President added that the partnership between Nigeria and Qatar should focus on food sovereignty and economic prosperity, stressing the importance of peace as a foundation for development.

However, Al-Khulaifi said the Amir

of Qatar is committed to strengthening ties with Nigeria in strategic sectors such as agriculture, petrochemicals, and peacebuilding.

"We are proud of the level of relations we have reached with Nigeria — not just government to government, but also people to people," he noted.

"Our ambassador is closely monitoring the projects, and we have Qatari companies eager to explore opportunities in Nigeria."

He added that the Amir views Nigeria as a key strategic partner in Africa, and reiterated plans to send a business delegation to further cement economic cooperation.



# Court to decide on EFCC's re-examination bid in Yahaya Bello trial, June 26

By Friday Omosola



Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court in Abuja has adjourned proceedings in the ongoing trial of former Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello, to June 26 and 27, and July 3 and 4, 2025.

The adjournment is to allow the court to rule on an application by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) seeking to re-examine its third witness.

Bello is facing a 19-count charge of alleged criminal breach of trust and money laundering involving N80.2 billion.

The charges contravene Section 18(a) and are punishable under Section 15(3) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (as amended).

At the resumed hearing on Friday, EFCC counsel, Olukayode Eniola,

requested leave of court to re-examine prosecution witness Nicholas Ojehomon, particularly on Exhibit 19, a document relating to the payment of school fees for the defendant's children at the American International School, Abuja (AISA).

Eniola clarified that the re-examination was not a fresh examination-in-chief but a legal response to issues raised for the first time during cross-examination by the defence.

He alleged that the defence tampered with the document and used it extensively during cross-examination, warranting further clarification from the witness.

Citing Section 32 of the Constitution and Section 215(3) of the Evidence Act, Eniola maintained that the prosecution had a right to fair hearing

and should not be denied the opportunity to address contentious issues arising from cross-examination.

He also referenced legal precedents, including *Ameobi vs. Ameobi*, where denial of re-examination was deemed a miscarriage of justice.

"The prosecution must not be shut out," Eniola argued.

"Doing so would amount to injustice, especially as the defence introduced the document in question during the prosecution's case."

The defence team, led by J.B. Daudu, SAN, objected to the request, prompting the judge to reserve ruling on the matter.

Justice Nwite adjourned the case to June 26 and 27, and July 3 and 4 for ruling and further trial proceedings.

# UBEC unveils fresh strategy to curb out-of-school children

By Helen Okechukwu

The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) has pledged renewed efforts to combat the persistent problem of out-of-school children across Nigeria.

The pledge focuses on strengthening access to quality basic education for vulnerable communities.

Speaking at the opening of a two-day management retreat in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, UBEC's Executive Secretary, Aisha Garba, emphasised the urgent need to remove barriers preventing millions of children—especially those from impoverished and rural backgrounds—from enrolling in school.

The retreat, themed “Repositioning UBEC for Sustainable Basic Education Delivery in Nigeria,” is being held at the Ibom Icon Hotel & Golf Resort and aims to develop new strategies to improve access and equity in the country's education system.

Garba lamented the slow progress in early childhood enrolment and expressed concern over the growing disparity in the teacher-pupil ratio, which she said was putting pressure on already overstretched classrooms and affecting learning outcomes.



“The figures between 2018 and 2022 show only marginal growth in enrolment for children aged three to five. Coupled with a shrinking teacher base, the quality of education is increasingly at risk,” she said.

She also reiterated that the Federal Ministry of Education remains fully committed to strengthening UBEC's operational capacity in delivering inclusive and quality education nationwide.

Highlighting previous efforts, Garba noted that UBEC, working with State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs), had made notable progress in expanding school infrastructure—constructing thousands of new schools and refurbishing dilapidated classrooms across the country.

However, she raised concerns over the inability of some states to access federal education grants due to administrative bottlenecks, which continue to hinder progress in key areas such as infrastructure, teacher recruitment, and instructional materials.

“While we have steadily increased funding to address infrastructure and classroom congestion, challenges remain—particularly with states that delay accessing matching grants critical for project implementation,” she added.

The retreat also aims to explore solutions to improve fund utilisation, promote inclusive policies, and ensure that Nigeria moves closer to its universal basic education goals.

# Lagos govt calls for 'civic innovation' in public service

By Friday Omosola

The Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to building a dynamic and future-oriented public service by urging civil servants to transform into 'civic innovators' capable of driving meaningful change.

This call was made by the Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Afolabi Ayantayo, during the inauguration of a strategic training programme titled "Leveraging Talent Development for the Next Public Service," held recently in Alausa, Ikeja.

Ayantayo described the initiative as a timely intervention and stressed the need for a fundamental shift in the mindset and responsibilities of public servants—from traditional bureaucrats to proactive, solution-oriented change agents.

"In an era defined by rapid change, maintaining the status quo is no longer an option for our public institutions. The next public service must be characterised by innovation, adaptability, and a strong commitment to core values," he said.

The Commissioner highlighted the importance of talent development as a cornerstone of effective governance.

He argued that recruitment alone is not sufficient, calling for continuous upskilling and alignment of public



sector competencies with the strategic priorities of the state.

"Simply recruiting talent is insufficient; we must actively cultivate it, enhance skills, and align it with the strategic imperatives of a public service deeply focused on the well-being of our citizens," he added.

Ayantayo noted that the training programme represents a deliberate investment in capacity building, performance management, and fostering a culture of continuous learning across Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

He commended the facilitators and resource persons for their expertise and urged participants to fully embrace the opportunity to redefine their roles in line with contemporary governance demands.

"You are not merely civil servants; you are potential civic innovators—the engine room of government," he declared.

"The future efficacy of our administration depends on a well-trained, talented, and transformed workforce, and that is the path you are now on."

The intensive training is a key element of the Ministry's broader strategy to reposition the Lagos State Public Service in alignment with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's THEMES Plus Agenda.

Over 100 participants drawn from various cadres and MDAs across the state are currently taking part in the programme.

# 25-year-old suspected human organ harvester arrested in Lagos

By Helen Okechukwu



Ibrahim Mansur/TheCable

**S**amson Oghenebreme, a 25-year-old male suspect, has been arrested in Lagos State by operatives of the Odo-Noforija Division for being in possession of a human organ.

Benjamin Hundeyin, the Lagos State Police Command spokesperson, announced the suspect's apprehension on Friday via the Command's X page.

Hundeyin noted that the suspect was arrested on April 25, following credible information from members of the public who observed his suspicious movements.

The police spokesperson said, "Preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect was transporting the organs from Edo state to a native doctor for the purpose of money-making rituals."

He added that the human organ recovered from the suspect has been deposited at the General Hospital, Epe, for preservation pending the outcome of the investigation.

Meanwhile, the case has been transferred to the Edo State Police Command for further

investigation and prosecution.

While praising his team and the Odomola community for their efforts, the Lagos State Commissioner of Police (CP), Olohundare Jimoh, emphasized the importance of timely information, which led to the suspect's apprehension.

Encouraging residents to remain vigilant and report suspicious activities to the nearest police station, Jimoh reiterated the Command's commitment to protecting lives and property across the state.

# WHO, MPP partner with Nigeria's Codix Bio to boost local production of rapid HIV tests

By Helen Okechukwu



In significant groundbreaking landmark to maintain health independence in Africa, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) have signed a sublicensing agreement with Nigerian health tech company Codix Bio to begin making rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs).

The deal allows Codix Bio to use advanced technology from SD Biosensor, a global diagnostics firm.

The move will help boost local production of quick and reliable tests for HIV, with the ability to expand to malaria, syphilis, and other diseases.

These tests work without special equipment, deliver results in 20 minutes, and are especially suited for low- and middle-income countries.

Read Also: WHO calls for urgent action to stop FGM in new guidelines  
 “This landmark agreement is for local healthcare manufacturing in Africa,” said Codix Bio CEO Sammy Ogunjimi. “With support from WHO and MPP, we are committed to producing high-quality, rapid diagnostic tests that can transform access to timely diagnosis, not just in Nigeria, but across the continent.”

This is the first sublicense under the Health Technology Access Programme (HTAP), formerly known as C-TAP. HTAP aims to close health access gaps by supporting local producers with licenses, technology, and training.

Dr. Yukiko Nakatani of WHO praised the move as key to building fairer and stronger global health systems.

MPP Executive Director Charles Gore said the agreement shows how voluntary licensing can build supply resilience in underserved regions.

Codix Bio was chosen after an open call for LMIC manufacturers. WHO and MPP will continue to support the company and may soon add more sublicensees.

The push for local production follows lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed how heavily LMICs depend on imported medical supplies.

With support from partners like Africa CDC, Unitaid, and the Global Fund, this deal is a promising start toward better pandemic preparedness and health security in Africa.

# Kwara gov approves recruitment of health workers

By **Friday Omosola**

In a move to tackle shortage of health personnel, Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has authorised the recruitment of additional medical and health personnel to enhance the delivery of healthcare services across the state.

The approval was announced on Friday by the Permanent Secretary of the Kwara State Civil Service Commission, Hajia Jimoh.

Jimoh noted that the recruitment is part of ongoing efforts to revitalise the state's health sector.

Jimoh during a media briefing in her office, Hajia Jimoh commended the



governor for his decisive action to strengthen the workforce in the health sector.

She highlighted that the recruitment exercise aims to improve service delivery and further the transformation of Kwara's healthcare system, which has seen significant upgrades in infrastructure and increased patronage throughout the state.

A public notice for the recruitment has already been published, and Jimoh encouraged prospective candidates to adhere strictly to the application guidelines.

This latest initiative reflects the governor's ongoing commitment to improving healthcare access and service quality for residents of Kwara State.

# Nigeria reaffirms commitment to stronger regional health at ECOWAS meeting

By **Helen Okechukwu**

Nigeria has restated its commitment to improving healthcare across West Africa during the 26th Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Health Ministers' Meeting in Praia, Cape Verde.

Speaking on behalf of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Iziak Salako, praised Cape Verde's hospitality and the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) for its efforts in health security and regional coordination.

Dr. Salako emphasized this year's theme, "Community Health Principles and Standards," saying West Africa must focus on local solutions to reduce high maternal and child deaths, health worker shortages, and the migration of medical professionals.

he said, "We must intensify efforts to ensure universal access to equitable, quality, and community-based health services."

He highlighted key goals under President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda



(RHA), including: Revamping 17,000 primary healthcare centres by 2027, training 120,000 frontline health workers and Using task-shifting policies to improve services

Dr. Salako also announced \$200 million in local funding to fight HIV, TB, and malaria as donor support reduces.

He noted a new Presidential Executive Order to boost local vaccine and drug production, calling it key to health self-reliance in the region.

He promoted Nigeria's Digital-in-Health

Initiative to improve healthcare through technology and praised the government's move to give local governments financial control as a way to strengthen grassroots healthcare.

Call for Regional Unity

Dr. Salako reaffirmed Nigeria's support for ECOWAS Vision 2050, urging joint action and investment to improve health systems.

Dr. Salako said, "Nigeria remains firmly committed to supporting regional frameworks that deliver health for all."

# Resident doctors criticized NUC decision to upgrade Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Optometry degree to “doctor” status

By **Helen Okechukwu**

**T**he Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) has criticized the National Universities Commission (NUC) over its recent decision to upgrade Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, and Optometry from bachelor’s degrees to doctor’s status.

In a press release shared on their X page recently, NARD explained that the decision to change the degree status across Nigerian universities may have unintended consequences, despite seeking improved welfare and a stronger health system.

NARD, through the executive council, revealed that for the past two decades, the majority of health worker groups, instead of focusing on driving systemic improvements, have aimed to compete with medical doctors.

“Between 2005 and 2025, most strikes by these groups have centered on demands to adjust the Consolidated Health Salary Structure (CONHESS) to match the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS),” the executive stated.

According to the executive council, they highlighted that globally, the



medical doctor earns more when compared to pharmacists, physiotherapists, or optometrists in public institutions.

“Patients typically seek doctors for diagnosis and treatment decisions—a fact reflected in salary structures and clinical governance worldwide.”

“Conferring the title “Doctor” on multiple professional groups without public education or structural clarity may confuse patients, worsen interprofessional tensions, and enable quackery in an already fragile health system. Teamwork in care delivery depends on clear roles and trust,” the health union added.

NUC said in “global best

practices,” countries like the UK and Germany do not permit the “Doctor” title to pharmacists or physiotherapists after undergraduate training, except through a PhD.

“These systems emphasize clear clinical boundaries and robust governance.

“We believe all healthcare professionals should take pride in their unique roles. If one wishes to become a medical doctor, there is a rigorous, defined pathway for that.

“We respectfully urge the NUC to reconsider this change and instead pursue policies that strengthen collaboration, clarity, and excellence in healthcare.”

# Make walking, cycling safer globally – WHO urges nations

By Helen Okechukwu



The World Health Organization (WHO) has urged all government sectors globally to ensure that every individual has access to quality roads as they embark on walking and cycling activities.

This call was made during the launch of the new toolkit as the 8th United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week kicks off around the world, titled “Make Walking and Cycling Safe.”

The new toolkit aims to aid governments in promoting active mobility.

Data from WHO revealed that about 1.2 million people lose their lives yearly on the road, with fewer fatalities among those engaged in walking or cycling. However, worldwide, only 0.2% of roads are constructed with cycle lanes.

It also noted that the majority of communities lack sidewalks and safe pedestrian crossings.

Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, highlighted the health benefits of walking and cycling, noting they help cut congestion, air pollution, and disease.

“But we must make walking and cycling safe, so more people choose these healthier, greener options,” Ghebreyesus said.

It was also disclosed that fewer than one-third of countries have national policies to promote walking and cycling, despite the known health benefits.

The new toolkit offers practical, evidence-based guidance to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Aimed at policymakers, urban planners, and civil society, the toolkit urges bold action such as integrating walking and cycling into national policies, building safe infrastructure, enforcing safer speed limits, and promoting public awareness.

The call comes as pedestrian deaths rose by 42% in South-East Asia, and cyclist fatalities jumped by 50% in Europe and 88% in the Western Pacific Region between 2011 and 2021.

WHO, alongside over 400 NGOs in 100 countries, is advocating for urgent global action on road safety.

“It is urgent to make what should be our most natural means of transport safer,” said Dr. Etienne Krug of WHO. “We’re calling on all sectors to ensure walking and cycling are safe and accessible for everyone.”

# Lateef Adedimeji appreciates wife after earning 10 AMVCA nominations

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Actor and filmmaker Lateef Adedimeji has opened up about his deep admiration for his wife, actress Mo Bimpe, while also reflecting on the importance of culture, heritage, and recognition in the Nigerian film industry.

His heartfelt message comes just days before the 2025 edition of the Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards (AMVCA), where his film *Lisabi* earned an impressive 10 nominations.

**A tribute to love and culture**

In an emotional statement shared on social media, Adedimeji praised his wife for her constant support and radiant presence. He described her as the light in his life and a symbol of warmth and strength.

"Standing beside my beloved, I'm captivated by her radiant smile," he wrote. "Together, we wear our heritage like a badge of honour. Our traditional attire is a testament to the beauty of our roots. Her presence is a symphony of laughter and warmth. Our love is a celebration of the little things that make life worth living."

Adedimeji, known for his powerful roles in Yoruba and English films, often uses his platform to celebrate love and culture. This time, he used his message not only to appreciate his partner but to send a broader message about identity and pride.

**Honouring the past, embracing the future**

He reflected on the legacy of their ancestors and the weight of responsibility that comes with preserving African heritage.

"With every step, I feel the weight of our ancestors' legacy on my shoulders," he said. "I want to make them proud, to honour the sacrifices they made for us to be here today."



The actor also expressed optimism for the future, saying that looking into his wife's eyes fills him with hope and a sense of endless possibilities.

**Recognition at the AMVCA**

Adedimeji's film *Lisabi* received 10 nominations at this year's AMVCA, one of the most prestigious awards in the African entertainment industry. The nominations span multiple categories, recognising both on-screen performances and behind-the-scenes work.

"The joy of every filmmaker is in seeing your work earn recognition from the right places," he wrote. "And in the spirit of the AMVCA season, I am excited and humbled by the honour of being nominated not once, not twice, but ten times!"

The actor, who starred in *Lisabi* alongside his wife, expressed deep gratitude to everyone involved in the project from the cast to the crew members who worked tirelessly behind the scenes.

**Team effort and shared success**

"I have spoken so much about my *Lisabi* experience, and it gives me great joy that every one of us, those who acted with me and my wife, and those who worked behind the scenes got recognised through

the AMVCA nominations," he wrote.

He congratulated others nominated in the same categories, describing the achievements as collective wins for the industry. "We are all winners. Let's keep up the good work. We owe it to the generations coming after us to leave behind projects that will stand the test of time and inspire them to aim higher."

**A call to embrace African identity**

Adedimeji ended his message with a passionate call to Nigerians and Africans everywhere to take pride in their culture. He urged people to celebrate their identity, language, and traditional fashion.

"To my people, the Yoruba, Nigerians, and Black people across the world I say: Let's hold on tightly to our heritage," he declared. "Let's wear our African prints like Ankara, aso oke, adire, damask with pride. Let's speak our languages with joy and celebrate our cultures with passion."

According to him, African culture is more than just tradition; it's a source of strength, beauty, and pride. "In our heritage lies our strength, our identity, and our glory," he added. "Let's pass it on to our children so they know their worth and the richness of their roots."

# I paid N16million for Mohbad's second autopsy, Singer's father allergies

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Joseph Aloba, the father of the late Nigerian singer Mohbad, has revealed that he paid ₦16 million to a pathologist for a second autopsy on his son.

He made this statement during a recent live session on TikTok, where he opened up about the financial burden and emotional toll of pursuing justice for his son.

Aloba claimed that the ₦16 million was only the first payment he made. He said the total cost increased further, with nearly ₦2 million more spent on other related expenses.

“With all sincerity, I paid the first tranche of ₦16 million to the pathologist. After that, I spent close to ₦2 million,” Aloba said during the livestream.

“If the pathologist can come out to deny my claim, then don't believe me again,” he added.

“Some people were saying I paid ₦12 million, but I'm telling you now that I paid ₦16 million.”

## Confusion over autopsy costs

Aloba's statement clears up the confusion that followed earlier reports suggesting he paid ₦12 million. He insisted that the figure was higher and urged anyone doubting him to verify his claims directly with the pathologist involved.

This revelation comes just weeks after the independent autopsy and forensic medical review failed to identify the cause of Mohbad's death.

## Autopsy still inconclusive

Mohbad, whose real name was Ilerioluwa Oladimeji Aloba, died under controversial circumstances in September 2023 at the age of 27. His sudden death sparked public outrage, widespread speculation, and calls for a thorough investigation.

In response to public pressure and his family's demand for answers, a second autopsy was ordered. However, the



process has not yet produced a clear explanation for what led to the young artist's death.

A month ago, Dr. Uwom Eze, a pathologist hired for the independent review, announced that the results of the autopsy were inconclusive. He cited issues such as the state of Mohbad's body and possible delays in examination as factors that made it hard to determine the exact cause of death.

## Court granted permission for independent autopsy

In June 2024, a Coroner Court in Ikorodu, Lagos State, granted permission to Joseph Aloba to seek an independent autopsy. The court, led by Magistrate T.A. Shotobi, allowed Aloba to hire a licensed pathologist to carry out a second medical examination. This came after concerns were raised about the credibility of the initial autopsy.

The court's decision was seen as a major step toward transparency and fairness in the investigation. Aloba used this legal backing to proceed with his efforts to uncover the truth.

## Aloba's fight for justice

Since his son's death, Joseph Aloba has remained vocal. He has used social media and interviews to press for a deeper probe into the events surrounding Mohbad's

final days. His latest livestream is part of a broader effort to keep the public informed and maintain pressure on authorities.

He continues to call for accountability, saying that his only goal is to find out what truly happened to his son.

“I will not stop until I get justice for my son,” he has said in previous interviews.

## Public reaction

The public has followed the case closely, with fans and celebrities alike calling for justice. Many have expressed sympathy for Aloba and praised him for his persistence. Others have questioned why a second autopsy, costing millions, has yet to produce concrete answers.

There is growing concern about the quality and speed of forensic investigations in Nigeria, especially in high-profile cases.

## What happens next?

As the case remains unresolved, Nigerians are looking to the authorities for answers. The final coroner's report is expected in the coming months. Until then, Joseph Aloba says he will continue to fight for justice, no matter the cost.

# Burna Boy, Rema, Ayra Starr, others earn BET nominations

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The nominees for the BET Awards 2025 have been officially announced, and Nigerian artists are again in the spotlight.

The organisers revealed the full list on Thursday, May 8, drawing attention to the rising influence of Afrobeats on the global music stage.

Nigerian artists make a strong showing

Five Nigerian stars made the list of this year's BET nominees. Burna Boy, Tems, Rema, Ayra Starr, and Shallipopi are all being recognised for their impact in the past year. Their nominations highlight the continued growth of Nigerian music and the global reach of Afrobeats.

Ayra Starr leads the pack

Among the Nigerian nominees, Ayra Starr stands out with three nominations—more than any other Nigerian artist this year. The 21-year-old singer is nominated for Best Female R&B/Pop Artist, Best New Artist, and Best International Act. Her unique voice and style have earned her fans across continents, making her one of the most promising young stars to watch.

Tems earns recognition for empowering music

Tems picked up two nominations, both in the BET Her category. Her songs *Burning* and *Hold On* were praised for their strong, empowering messages aimed at uplifting women. This recognition further cements her place as a powerful voice in global R&B and soul music.

One nomination each for Rema, Shallipopi, and Burna Boy



Rema, known for hits like *Calm Down*, was nominated for Best International Act. His continued success in both African and global markets makes him a strong contender in this category.

Shallipopi, one of the fastest-rising acts in Nigeria, earned a nomination for Best New International Act. His energetic performances and viral hits have caught the attention of fans and critics alike.

Burna Boy, a Grammy-winning artist and long-time global ambassador for Afrobeats, received a nod for Best Male Hip-Hop Artist. Known for his fusion of styles, Burna Boy continues to push boundaries and set new standards for African music.

Kendrick Lamar tops the overall list

In the overall nominations, American rapper Kendrick Lamar leads the pack with 10 nominations. His name appears across key categories, reflecting his continued dominance in the music industry.

Other top nominees include Drake, Future, Doechii, and GloRilla, each

earning six nominations. These artists are expected to be central figures at this year's awards ceremony.

Big night set for June 9

The 2025 BET Awards will take place on Sunday, June 9, at the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles. The event will be broadcast live on BET, giving fans around the world a chance to watch the show in real time.

The BET Awards are famous for their star-studded performances, heartfelt speeches, and unforgettable moments. This year promises to deliver another memorable night celebrating Black excellence in music, entertainment, and culture.

Afrobeats continues its global rise

This year's nominations show how far Afrobeats has come. The presence of Nigerian artists in major categories proves that the genre is not just a regional trend; it's a global force. With stars like Ayra Starr, Tems, and Burna Boy gaining recognition, the future of African music looks brighter than ever.

# Salawa Abeni remains my wife, Kollington Ayinla claims

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Veteran Fuji musician, General Kollington Ayinla, has made a bold statement about his past relationship with fellow music star Queen Salawa Abeni.

Despite being separated for over three decades, the 76-year-old insists that Salawa remains his wife “until death.”

Kollington shared this during a recent interview on The Honest Bunch podcast hosted by Teju BabyFace. His comments have since stirred conversation across the entertainment world, especially among fans of both artists.

“She’s still my wife”, Kollington speaks. When asked about his former wife, Kollington did not hesitate. He said, “She is still my wife. No matter what happens. Even if she’s with someone else now, that man is only borrowing her. She belongs to me.”

According to him, the connection they built over the years has never faded. He pointed out that Salawa has not had any children with her current partner, while she shares three children with him. This, he believes, shows the depth of their bond.

“She has three children with me. That alone says it all,” he said. “Till the end of life, she is my wife.”

## Reasons behind the split

Speaking on what led to their separation, Kollington didn’t give full details. But he hinted that fame and public attention played a role.

“She’s a celebrity. Men always run after female stars, just like women chase male musicians,” he explained. “But women don’t always understand the life we live. She didn’t fully understand me at that time.”

He also added that despite the split, Salawa continues to show up for him in times of need. “No matter what I’m doing, she always turns up,” he said with a smile. “She’s loyal. She has never left my corner.”



## History of their relationship

Kollington and Salawa were once one of Nigeria’s most admired celebrity couples. They met in the early 1980s when both were rising stars in the music scene. Their union lasted eight years and produced three children.

However, in 1990, the couple went their separate ways. The breakup came after years of working together both on stage and off. At the time, fans were shocked, but neither of them spoke openly about the details of their split.

Now, more than 30 years later, Kollington’s new remarks have brought the relationship back into public discussion.

## Public reacts to his comments

Since the interview aired, reactions have poured in from fans and observers. Many are surprised by the strength of Kollington’s words, while others question if Salawa shares the same feelings.

Salawa Abeni, now 63, has not yet responded to the claims. She is currently in a relationship with another man, but has kept much of her private life away from the spotlight.

Social media platforms have been

buzzing with opinions. Some fans praised Kollington’s boldness, while others believe he should respect her current relationship.

## A legacy beyond love

Both Kollington Ayinla and Salawa Abeni have made lasting marks on Nigerian music. Kollington, known for popularizing Fuji music, has released dozens of albums since the 1970s. Salawa, often called the “Queen of Waka,” broke records as the first female artist in Nigeria to sell over one million albums.

Their romantic history has always been part of their public story, adding to their legendary status.

## Looking ahead

Whether or not Salawa responds to Kollington’s recent claims, one thing is clear: their history is deeply rooted in both music and personal connection. For Kollington, the love remains. He ended the interview with a simple, emotional statement:

“She will always be my wife. That is how God planned it.”

# Being a boyfriend now costs more than being a husband, BBNaija's Tochi sparks debate

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Former reality TV star, Tochi, is back in the spotlight, this time for his latest opinion on relationships.

The Big Brother Naija star, known for sharing controversial views on love and dating, recently claimed that being a boyfriend in today's world is more financially demanding than being a husband.

The statement, brief but bold, was shared on his Instagram story. It read: "It's more expensive now to be a boyfriend than a husband."

That single sentence quickly made waves across social media. Screenshots of the post were shared widely, sparking a flurry of comments and online debates.

Mixed reactions trail the post.

Tochi's comment drew mixed reactions. Many users seemed to agree with him, saying modern relationships come with high expectations. Some pointed out that boyfriends are often expected to spend heavily to prove their commitment, through expensive dates, gifts, surprise outings, and constant financial support.

Supporters argued that dating has become a high-maintenance phase, especially in today's social media-driven society. They said many men feel pressure to compete and impress, sometimes even more than married men do. One user wrote, "Boyfriends these days are paying rent, funding businesses, and still planning proposals. Meanwhile, husbands sometimes do less."

However, not everyone agreed. Some commenters described Tochi's statement as exaggerated and misleading. They pointed out that marriage brings a different level of responsibility, such as paying bills, raising children, and managing a home. According to critics, being a husband involves long-term financial planning, unlike the often short-lived spending of boyfriends.



A broader look at modern relationships

Tochi's post has triggered wider conversations about how gender roles and financial expectations are shifting in modern relationships. Many social media users noted that the line between dating and marriage is becoming increasingly blurred, especially when it comes to money.

Some argue that cultural pressures and the rise of lifestyle content on platforms like Instagram and TikTok have made dating more expensive. Others believe that the cost of romantic relationships is influenced more by individual choices than by status, boyfriend or husband.

A relationship coach who joined the conversation online said, "It's not about who spends more. It's about what each person expects from a relationship. These days, there's a lot of pressure to show love through spending money."

Tochi's history of hot takes

This is not the first time Tochi has shared a view that splits opinions. The reality star has built a reputation for posting short, sharp comments on love, relationships, and life in general. His followers often look forward to his thoughts, even if they don't always agree with them.

Tochi appeared on Big Brother Naija

Season 5 and has remained active on social media since the show ended. While he has not responded directly to the online reactions, it is clear his words have sparked conversations that go beyond his original post.

A growing trend in public opinion

Celebrities and influencers like Tochi often use their platforms to share personal views, which can quickly go viral. In today's digital age, a single sentence can lead to national conversations. The rise of hot takes and quick opinions is becoming a regular part of public discourse.

Whether people agree or not, Tochi's post has drawn attention to the changing nature of romantic relationships, and the price tags that sometimes come with them.

Final thoughts

At the heart of the debate is a simple question: who spends more, boyfriends or husbands?

There may never be a clear answer. Every relationship is different, and expectations vary from one couple to another. But one thing is certain: Tochi's words hit a nerve and opened up a conversation many people were already thinking about.

# Victory in Europe Day: King Charles sues for global peace

By Fatimah Idera



**B**ritain's King Charles has called for the commitment of the world to seek lasting peace and preventing warfare.

He made the call in a speech to mark the end of four days of commemorations for the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day at a sombre thanksgiving service at Westminster Abbey, where he and other senior royals joined 10,000 guests, including veterans for a music concert at Horse Guards Parade near Buckingham Palace.

The gathering marked a part of events to remember Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender, which took effect on May 8, 1945.

The anniversary, which comes at a time of ongoing conflict in Europe with Russia's war in Ukraine, was also marked with events in France and Germany, while Moscow will hold a major military parade on Friday.

The British monarch echoed the words of his grandfather George VI from 80 years earlier, saying how those who had died in the cause of freedom in World War Two should never be forgotten.

"As we reach the conclusion of the 80th anniversary commemorations, we should remind ourselves of the words of our great wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill, who said 'Meeting jaw to jaw is better than war'," Charles said.

"In so doing, we should also rededicate ourselves not only to the cause of freedom but to renewing global commitments to restoring a just peace where there is war, to diplomacy, and to the prevention of conflict."

VE Day's 80th anniversary will be one of the last major celebrations with living veterans attending events, as most are now in their 90s or older.

During his speech Charles also reflected on how his late mother Queen Elizabeth, then a 19-year-old princess, had joined the crowds on VE Day to celebrate, believed to be the only time during her 96 years she mingled with the public unrecognised.

# Ukraine, Western Allies push for 30-day ceasefire as Russia offers brief truce

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



In a new diplomatic push to end the grinding war, Ukraine and top officials from the United States, France, Britain, and Germany have discussed ways to pressure Russia into accepting a 30-day ceasefire. The talks, held online, focused on a U.S.-backed proposal that Ukraine has signaled willingness to implement immediately.

Andriy Yermak, chief of staff to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, revealed details of the conversation on Thursday, saying the parties agreed that “a complete and unconditional ceasefire should be the first step towards a just and sustainable peace.”

Senior officials involved included U.S. special envoys Steve Witkoff and Keith Kellogg, France’s diplomatic adviser Emmanuel Bonne, Britain’s national security adviser Jonathan Powell, and Guenter Sautter, a top

adviser to German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

Ukraine has accused Russia of sidestepping the proposal, offering instead a mere three-day truce, from Thursday to Saturday, which Yermak dismissed as a strategic ploy.

“The Kremlin’s proposal for a three-day truce is not about peace, but about safely holding the parade in Moscow. This is political manipulation,” Yermak said via Telegram, referring to Russia’s planned Victory Day celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of Nazi Germany’s defeat.

Despite Moscow’s limited offer, reports indicate that Ukrainian skies remained quiet across major cities on Thursday after the short-term ceasefire took effect. However, clashes reportedly continued in eastern Ukraine, underscoring the

fragility of the lull.

Yermak added that during the talks, the group also discussed possible “instruments of pressure” to be used if Russia either rejects the ceasefire proposal or violates any agreements made.

Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and has since faced mounting international isolation. Friday’s military parade in Moscow is expected to be a symbolic display of strength by Russian President Vladimir Putin, even as the war grinds on with no clear end in sight.

As Ukraine signals openness to a longer-term truce and the West scrambles for diplomatic leverage, the possibility of a broader peace deal remains uncertain but not out of reach.

# Pentagon orders removal of transgender troops following Supreme Court ruling

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Pentagon has issued a new directive ordering the removal of up to 1,000 openly transgender service members from the military, following the Supreme Court's greenlight for the Trump administration's controversial ban to take effect while legal challenges continue.

The directive, released Thursday, gives all remaining transgender personnel 30 days to self-identify before being subject to medical record reviews and potential discharge. This marks the most aggressive enforcement yet of the administration's policy against transgender individuals serving in uniform.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, who signed the order, made no effort to temper his position. "No More Trans @ DoD," he posted on X shortly after the court's decision. Speaking earlier at a special operations conference in Tampa, Hegseth added, "No more pronouns. No more dudes in dresses. We're done with that s—."

Under the new policy, those with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, a condition where one's gender identity does not align with their biological sex, will be ineligible for service. Those currently serving with the diagnosis will be discharged involuntarily, unless they meet strict criteria for a waiver.

As of December 9, 2024, Pentagon officials estimated 4,240 troops had been diagnosed with gender dysphoria across active duty, the National Guard, and Reserves. That figure may be higher, as not all cases are documented or disclosed.

The new directive revives a February memo that had been stalled due to



lawsuits. Now, with the Supreme Court lifting the injunction, the Pentagon plans to begin enforcement immediately. Service members have until June 6 to self-identify if on active duty, and until July 7 if serving in the Guard or Reserves.

A Pentagon spokesperson confirmed that the 1,000 troops who previously self-identified will now begin "voluntary separation" proceedings.

The Department of Defense has defended the policy on operational grounds, arguing that individuals diagnosed with gender dysphoria pose "medical, surgical, and mental health constraints" incompatible with military readiness.

Still, the policy allows for narrow exemptions. Troops seeking waivers must prove they directly support combat operations, have never transitioned, and demonstrate at least three years of stability in their biological sex without "clinically significant distress."

Even then, those granted waivers will be subject to strict limitations. They will be recognized only by their biological sex in official matters, including access to facilities and forms of address.

Between 2015 and 2024, the military spent approximately \$52 million on gender-related treatments including hormone therapy, psychotherapy, and surgeries, a cost Hegseth and others have pointed to as justification for the ban.

The Supreme Court did not issue an opinion with its decision, as is typical in emergency appeals. The court's three liberal justices dissented, arguing the policy should remain blocked while lawsuits proceed.

The move has sparked backlash from LGBTQ+ advocacy groups and veterans' organizations, who call the directive discriminatory and damaging to morale. Legal challenges continue, but for now, the Trump administration's vision for a "de-woke" military is firmly in motion.

As the June and July deadlines approach, thousands of transgender service members face an uncertain and potentially career-ending reckoning.

This is a developing story. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

# Trump fires Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden in sudden dismissal

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President Donald Trump abruptly fired Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress, on Thursday, marking the latest in a string of high-profile dismissals by the administration and prompting immediate backlash from lawmakers and library advocates across the country.

In an email obtained by NBC News, Trent Morse, deputy director of presidential personnel, delivered the news to Hayden on behalf of the president: “Your position as the Librarian of Congress is terminated effective immediately.” A spokesperson for the Library of Congress later confirmed the termination.

Robert Newlen, the institution’s Principal Deputy Librarian, informed staff shortly afterward that he would assume duties as Acting Librarian of Congress “until further instruction.”

Hayden, appointed by former President Barack Obama in 2016 and confirmed in a bipartisan 74–18 Senate vote, made history as the first woman and first African American to lead the Library of Congress in its 225-year existence. She was also the first Librarian to serve under the 10 year term limit enacted by Congress in 2015. Her term was due to expire in 2026.

Prior to her appointment, Hayden was widely respected as the CEO of the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, where she championed community outreach and digital modernization. During testimony before Congress earlier this week, Hayden outlined her work transforming the Library’s outdated infrastructure, streamlining processes, and expanding public access.

Her sudden ousting came just days



after she testified before both the Senate Appropriations and House Administration Committees, an action that echoes the dismissal of Cameron Hamilton, the acting FEMA director, who was fired under similar circumstances earlier this week.

Democrats swiftly condemned the decision, accusing the former president of politically motivated retaliation.

“Dr. Carla Hayden has spent her entire career serving the public, from helping children learn to read to preserving our nation’s most important records,” said Rep. Joe Morelle (D-N.Y.), the ranking member on the House Administration Committee. He pledged to introduce legislation to transfer appointment power from the president to Congress.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) echoed the sentiment, calling the firing “a continuation of Trump’s reality TV approach to governance” and urged Congress to reclaim oversight over the position. “We must assert our congressional prerogative,” he stated, “by making the Librarian of Congress appointed by a Congressional commission not by presidents that

reat federal appointments like prizes.”

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.) didn’t mince words either. “Donald Trump’s unjust decision to fire Dr. Hayden in an email sent by a random political hack is a disgrace,” he said. “This is part of his campaign to ban books, whitewash American history, and turn back the clock.”

Fueling the controversy is the involvement of the conservative nonprofit American Accountability Foundation, which had targeted Hayden in recent days for allegedly promoting “radical gender ideology” and “woke politics” within the Library. The group praised her removal, posting triumphantly on X: “THANK YOU @POTUS !!!! Woke & radical Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden has been fired.”

As the dust settles, questions remain about the future direction of the Library of Congress, the independence of federal cultural institutions, and the politicization of nonpartisan roles.

Hayden has not yet publicly commented on her termination.

# 1 million refugees cut off from food in Uganda amid UN funding crisis

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Food aid for one million refugees in Uganda has been cut off entirely this week, as the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) grapples with a deepening funding crisis. The abrupt halt has triggered widespread fear of starvation, instability, and forced repatriation across Africa's largest refugee-hosting nation.

The WFP sounded the alarm weeks ago, urgently appealing for \$50 million to continue supporting refugees escaping war and violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Sudan. However, with international donors pulling back, the agency has now confirmed that it can no longer feed over half of Uganda's refugee population.

"Due to severe funding shortages, @WFP\_Uganda has cut 1 million refugees entirely off from food assistance," the agency announced on social media. "Malnutrition has reached critical levels (15%+) in refugee reception centres, and general food rations have been cut by up to 80%."

Uganda currently shelters 1.8 million refugees, many of whom rely exclusively on humanitarian assistance for survival. The country has received 60,000 new arrivals in just the past three months, further straining already stretched resources.

The cutbacks come on the heels of dramatic reductions in foreign aid. Uganda's Minister for Refugees, Hillary Onek, pointed to sweeping aid cuts by the United States and Europe as the driving force behind the crisis. In particular, he cited former U.S. President Donald Trump's January freeze on aid and the UK's recent reduction of its foreign aid commitment from 0.58% to 0.3% of gross national income.

"Aid can't be depended on any more," Onek said bluntly. "Trump came and radically cut off funds to support refugee programmes. Other countries are not honouring their small contributions. WFP and UNHCR are in a total crisis because of lack of funding."



Uganda's Refugee Response Plan for 2024 required \$858 million to operate, but as of now, only 46% of that has been secured.

UN officials are warning of the humanitarian consequences. The UNHCR, which launched an emergency appeal last month for \$44 million to support incoming Congolese refugees, says the rapid influx is overwhelming basic services such as food, health, education, and sanitation. "These conditions have strained the already limited resources," the agency reported.

On the ground, desperation is growing. In Bidi Bidi, one of the largest refugee camps in Africa, South Sudanese refugee Simon Okello voiced his despair.

"We are totally messed up. This has complicated our lives totally," he said. "We have been surviving on food rations and coupons. How are we going to get food to eat now? People will starve and die."

Okello warned that some refugees may be forced to return to war-torn countries or turn to illegal activities in search of food. "Without food now, people might be forced to go back to their home countries where we fled from or engage in illegal activities to get something to eat," he said.

The Ugandan government is now weighing drastic policy shifts. Minister Onek revealed that the cabinet may soon consider forced repatriation for refugees from countries deemed "peaceful."

"The other option available is that those refugees whose countries are peaceful, we should change our policies and make sure we force them to go back to their homes and leave us alone," he stated.

Human rights organizations are deeply concerned. Dismas Nkunda, director of Atrocities Watch Africa, said the situation has been years in the making.

"We saw this coming," Nkunda said. "It began with the self-reliance programme where UN bodies started to go slow on the provision of humanitarian assistance. Matters were not helped by the coming of Trump as president and his cuts in funding for the UN."

Nkunda warned that Uganda may soon abandon its previously lauded refugee-friendly policies. "My fear is that host countries such as Uganda may be forced to become radical and reverse their otherwise good policies in hosting refugees," he said.

As international humanitarian agencies scramble to respond, the fate of over a million vulnerable people now hangs in the balance.

# Brazil rejects U.S. push to label criminal gangs as terrorist organizations

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Brazilian government has officially declined a request from the U.S. State Department to classify two of the country's most notorious criminal gangs, Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) and Comando Vermelho (CV), as terrorist organizations, according to Brazil's National Secretary of Public Security, Mario Sarrubo.

The request was made during a high-level meeting between U.S. and Brazilian officials on Tuesday in Brasília, where American delegates raised concerns over the transnational reach of these gangs, alleging they operate in several U.S. states and pose a security threat.

“We don't have terrorist organizations here,” said Sarrubo following the meeting. “We have criminal organizations that have infiltrated society.” He added that Brazilian law only classifies groups that commit violent acts against the state for religious or racial motives as terrorist entities, criteria that neither the PCC nor the CV meet.

This diplomatic disagreement unfolds amid escalating U.S. rhetoric on gang-related crime and immigration, particularly under the Trump administration. Earlier this year, the U.S. designated several Latin American criminal factions, including Venezuela's Tren de Aragua, El Salvador's MS-13, and various Mexican and Haitian gangs, as terrorist organizations. The administration argues that this status helps in applying sanctions, disrupting supply chains, and allocating federal resources to combat transnational crime.



Sources at the Brasília meeting revealed that U.S. officials justified the request by citing FBI reports that the PCC and CV have established cells in at least 12 American states, including New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Florida, Connecticut, and Tennessee. The gangs are reportedly involved in gun trafficking and money laundering operations through Brazilian nationals traveling to the U.S.

One source noted that U.S. authorities have already denied 113 visa applications in 2024 on the basis of alleged connections to these Brazilian gangs.

Despite the concerns, Brazil has pushed back on the idea of reclassifying its internal criminal landscape to suit foreign policy goals. “This isn't about semantics,” said a senior Brazilian official. “It's about upholding our laws and legal definitions. Organized crime is a serious issue, but it's not the same as terrorism.”

The conversation took on a political edge when it was revealed that Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, son of former President Jair Bolsonaro, recently met with officials from the Trump Organization. His office claimed he delivered a dossier purportedly containing intelligence linking the PCC and CV to terrorist activity though the specifics of the evidence remain undisclosed.

The U.S. Embassy in Brasília has not responded to requests for comment.

As tensions simmer between the two nations over security strategy and immigration enforcement, Brazil's rejection signals a broader unwillingness to align with the U.S.'s expanding definition of terrorism, especially when it involves labeling domestic criminal groups in ways that may have significant political and legal implications.

# Former US Supreme Court Justice Souter dies at 85

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



**T**he former US Supreme Court Justice David Souter had died at age 85.

A Bookish and reclusive jurist who joined the U.S. Supreme Court as a supposed conservative stealth nominee but instead emerged as a liberal justice who backed abortion rights and dissented in the 2000 ruling that gave the presidency to Republican George W. Bush had died.

Souter, who served 19 years on the court before retiring in 2009, died peacefully at his home in New Hampshire, the court said in a statement on Friday.

Chief Justice John Roberts said in the statement that “Justice David Souter served our Court with great distinction for nearly twenty years. He brought uncommon wisdom and kindness to a lifetime of public service, and He will be greatly missed.”

When liberal stalwart William Brennan suddenly retired from the

nation’s top judicial body in 1990, Republican President George H.W. Bush chose Souter, then an obscure federal judge from New Hampshire with almost nothing known about his views on major issues.

Bush, in selecting Souter, said he was familiar with his nominee’s general views but did not apply the litmus test approach on abortion or other issues. White House officials at the time assured conservative Republicans that Souter would be a home run when it came to his legal views.

During his Senate confirmation hearings, the Harvard Law School graduate who had served as New Hampshire’s attorney general and a state court judge was dubbed the stealth nominee, with U.S. liberals fearful and abortion rights groups announcing their opposition.

But Souter instead became a favorite of American liberals and a source of immense disappointment to conservatives. He supported abortion rights in a 1992 ruling that reaffirmed

he 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that had legalized the procedure nationwide, as well as backing affirmative action programs to help minorities overcome past discrimination and campaign-finance restrictions aimed at combating political corruption.

Souter joined three liberal justices in dissent in the 5-4 *Bush v. Gore* ruling that ended a recount of ballots in Florida and effectively declared Republican George W. Bush, the son of the president who appointed him, the winner of the 2000 U.S. presidential election over Democrat Al Gore.

“There is no justification for denying the state the opportunity to try to count all disputed ballots now,” Souter wrote in dissent.

Souter announced his retirement at age 69, just months after George W. Bush left office, denying the son of the man who appointed him the chance to replace him and giving that opportunity to Barack Obama, a Democratic president.

# Former US Supreme Court Justice Souter dies at 85

By **Fatimah Idera**



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# China boosts managing US trade issues

By **Fatimah Idera**

China's Vice Foreign Minister, Hua Chunying, has boosted that the country has full confidence in its ability to manage trade issues with the United States of America.

While speaking with the press, he said, "We have no fear," adding that the trade policy of the U.S. administration can not be sustained.

Recall that officials from both sides are set to meet in Switzerland to discuss the tariffs they have imposed on each other.

The weekend talks involving the top U.S. and Chinese economic and trade officials are widely seen as a first step towards resolving a trade war that has disrupted the global economy.

President Donald Trump had said on Thursday that the tariffs of the U.S. on Beijing of 145 per cent would likely come



down.

"We have full confidence," Hua said during a Beijing-organised trip to Malipo county to showcase China's efforts to build up rural economies.

"We do not want any kind of war with any country. But we have to face up to reality. As you can see, people have full confidence in our capability to overcome all the difficulties."

Trump's tariffs on many of the United States' trading partners, including China, are increasingly weighing on a world economy which for decades, had benefited from predictable and relatively free trade.

Many economists are calling the Trump tariffs a demand shock to the world economy, which, by making imports more expensive for American businesses and consumers, will sap activity elsewhere

"What the United States is doing cannot be sustained as ordinary people in the U.S. are already feeling suffering from the tariff war.

"The U.S. administration will come back to normal," she added.

# Trump to cut tariffs on Range Rovers

By **Fatimah Idera**

Donald Trump is said to slash US tariffs on Range Rovers and other UK-made cars to 10pc as part of a trade deal that also drops levies on American beef.

The UK and the US will also remove taxes on up to 13,000 metric tonnes of beef imports and exports per year as Britain won't allow imports of hormone-treated beef under the agreement.

Steel tariffs of 25pc will also be scrapped and subjected to a quota.

Recall that Trump announced new 25pc tariffs on foreign-made cars and car parts imported into the US in March, and UK negotiators have made reducing these levies a key priority in talks.

Sir Keir Starmer hailed the historic deal, saying it would "protect thousands of



British jobs in key sectors including car manufacturing and steel".

"My government has put Britain at the front of the queue because we want to work constructively with allies for mutual benefit rather than turning our back on the world," the Prime Minister said.

However, Kemi Badenoch, the Tory leader, said Britain had been shafted by tariffs that will still begin at 10pc on most

UK goods.

"We cut our tariffs – America tripled theirs. Keir Starmer called this 'historic'. It's not historic. We've just been shafted!" she posted on X.

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), which manufactures Range Rovers, had halted exports to the world's biggest economy as a result of the steep rise in car tariffs.

Adrian Mardell, the JLR boss, hailed the agreement, saying it would help to sustain 250,000 jobs.

"We warmly welcome this deal which secures greater certainty for our sector and the communities it supports," he said.

Official figures suggest the deal will allow most British car exports to the US to benefit from lower tariffs.

# Mo Salah wins Football Writers' Player of the Year prize

By New Daily Prime



**M**ohamed Salah won the Football Writers' Association Player of the Year award for the third time on Friday after inspiring Liverpool's march to a record-equalling 20th English title.

Salah earned the prize after scoring 28 goals and producing 18 assists for Liverpool in the Premier League this season.

The Egypt forward broke the record for the most goal involvements in a 38-game Premier League campaign as Arne Slot's side romped to their first title since 2020.

Salah secured almost 90 percent of the football writers' votes, marking the

biggest winning margin this century.

Liverpool centre-back Virgil van Dijk came second in the contest, with Newcastle striker Alexander Isak third and Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice fourth.

For the third time.

Congratulations to Mohamed Salah on being named The Football Writers' Association's Footballer of the Year.

@theofficialfwa   
pic.twitter.com/EuKG8Omd4

— PFA (@PFA) May 9, 2025

Salah, who was previously given the award in 2017-18 and 2021-22, is now

level with former Arsenal forward Thierry Henry as the only players to win it three times.

The 32-year-old recently ended speculation over his future by signing a new two-year contract to stay at Anfield until 2027.

Salah's decision to commit to Liverpool will make them favourites to win a record 21st title next season as they look to move ahead of Manchester United as England's most successful top-flight club.

Alessia Russo became the second Arsenal player to land the women's award as the striker finished ahead of last year's winner Khadija Shaw.