www.newdailyprime.news



Ekiti govt to add milk to FG's school feeding programme Pg 2

FG to establish eight medical simulation centres nationwide



Onew daily prime
Onew daily prime
Onew\_daily\_prime
Onew\_daily\_prime
Onew\_daily\_prime
Onew\_daily\_prime

# China slams U.S. plan to revoke student visas for chinese nationals



**PAGE 12** 



Gospel singer Big Bolaji laid to rest in Ibadan Pg 10



Chelsea agree deal for Liam Delap with £30m release clause Pg 21



Tinubu: Fuel subsidies, corrupt FX crippled Pg Nigeria for decades 4

Carmarthenshire farmer bags 12-month suspension for stealing 73 sheep Pg 19

## Ekiti govt to add milk to FG's schoolfeeding programmeBy Friday Omosola

overnor Biodun Oyebanji of Ekiti State has announced plans to supplement the Federal Government's (FG) School Feeding Programme with milk for all primary school pupils in the state once the initiative resumes.

News

The governor made this known yesterday during the launch of the 'Ikun Milk Day'—a weekly free milk initiative for pupils in Ikun Ekiti, organised by Promasidor Nigeria Limited as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Promasidor is the operator of the Ikun Dairy Farm, located in the community.

Speaking at the brief ceremony in Ikun Ekiti, Oyebanji described the free milk initiative as the state's way of complimenting the FG school feeding programme.

He emphasised the vital role of nutrition in the cognitive and physical development of children.

He noted that the inclusion of milk would enhance pupils' health, boost academic performance, and improve enrolment and attendance in public schools.

The governor expressed appreciation to Promasidor for the initiative, assuring the company and other potential investors of his administration's continued support through investor-friendly policies, improved infrastructure, and a secure business environment.

"Our administration remains committed to ensuring that every child in Ekiti has access to quality education



and proper nutrition—two pillars of our development agenda," he said.

Representing the Minister of Livestock Development, Idi Muktah, at the event, the Director of Corporate and Monogastric Services, Victor Egbon, hailed Ikun Dairy Farm as a model of successful Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

He praised the collaboration between the Ekiti State Government and Promasidor for transforming the farm into a productive and innovative enterprise.

Egbon also underscored the livestock sector's importance in achieving food security, creating jobs, and increasing revenue.

He called on stakeholders across the country to replicate and scale similar initiatives in livestock development.

In his remarks, the Chief Executive Officer of Promasidor Nigeria Limited,

represented by the Director of Corporate Affairs, Enom Udoma-Eniang, expressed gratitude to Oyebanji for fostering an enabling environment for the company's operations.

He noted that the governor's support and proactive leadership have been critical to Promasidor's continued investment and success in the state.

Udoma-Eniang reaffirmed the company's commitment to giving back to the host community, pledging to sustain and expand its CSR efforts in Ekiti.

Earlier, the governor, accompanied by state officials and Promasidor executives, toured the Ikun Dairy Farm.

During the inspection, he expressed satisfaction with the farm's improved capacity, particularly the increased number of healthy cows, higher milk production output, and job creation.

### THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR			PRODUCT COLOUR			EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024			
SIZE FULL PAGE	_	37	TOTAL RATE 2,500.00	SIZE FULL PAGE	=		AL RATE 68.50		
HALF PAGE	=		3.000.00	HALF PAGE	=		00.00	POLITICAL COL	OUR
QUARTER PAGE	=		6,500.00	QUARTER PAGE	=		00.00	SIZE	RATE
14X2	=		8,000.00	14X2	=	109,5	00.00	CENTRESPREAD -	1 000 000 00
10X6 10X5			61,585.50 55,238.00	10X6	=	,	500.00		1,200,000.00
10X5	=		6,890.50	10X5	=		500.00	DOUBLE SPREAD =	885,000.00
10X3	=	17	9,608.00	10X4	=		600.00	FULL PAGE =	420,000.00
9X6	=	25	4,977.00	10X3	=		00.00		213,250.00
9X5	=	22	5,738.00	9X6	=		500.00	HALF PAGE =	213,250.00
9X4	_		3,500.00	9X5 9X4	=		000.00 00.00	QUARTER PAGE =	115,012.50
9X3 8X6	_	1	66,223.50	9X3	=		000.00		
8X6		1	25,368.50 106,934.50	8X6	=	216,	000.00	POLITICAL BLACK	& WHITE
7X4		1	30,173.50	8X3	=	98,5	00.00		-
6X4		10	00,434.5	7X4	=	164,	002.00	SIZE	RATE
6X3	_		2.750.00	6X4	=	94,	010.50	CENTRESPREAD _	1,050,000.00
6X2		5	2,499.50	6X3	=	78,	500.00	DOUBLE SPREAD _	745,000.00
5X6	=		23,749.50	6X2	=		500.00		315,777.50
5X5 5X4	_		0,000.00 6,833.00	5X5	=		,000.00		
5X4 5X3	_		6,875.00	5X4	=		500.00	HALF PAGE =	184,700.00
5X3 5X2			2,916.50	5X3 5X2	=		819.00 379.50	QUARTER PAGE =	95,222.50
4X4			0,166.50	4X4	=	,	379.50 000.00		
4X3		3	6,499.50	4X4 4X3	=		000.00	CORPORATE BLACK	& WHITE
4X2	_		9,333.50	4X2	=		003.50		
3X3	=		8,000.00 7,400.00	3X2	=	,	60.00	SIZE	TOTAL RATE
3X2	=			2X2	=		45.00	FULL PAGE =	254,533.50
2X2 2X1			3,000.00 ,600.00	2X1	=		30.00	QUARTER PAGE =	142,787.50 80.706.50
1X1			400.00	1X1	=	4,3	15.00	14X2 =	78,222.50
-				PRODUCT B		WHITE		10X6 <u></u>	217,830.00
PUBLIC N	IOTICE BLA							10x5 =	192,305.50
SIZE			OTAL RATE	SIZE		ΤΟΤΑΙ		10X4 = 10X3 =	142,787.50 121,355.50
FULL PAGE HALF PAGE	=		0,690.00	FULL PAGE	=		95.50	9X6 =	121,355.50
QUARTER PAGE			1,178.00 ,641.50	HALF PAGE	=		236.00	9x3 =	107,757.50
10X6	=		8.000.00	QUARTER PAGE	=	-	50.00	8x6 =	170,725.00
10X5	=		1,600.00	14X2 10X6	=	76,12	8.35 61.00	8X3 =	70,390.00
10X4	-	149	,440.00	10X5	=		22.445	7X4 = 6X4 =	58,666.50 67,048.00
10X3	=	127	7,108.00	10X4	=		63.00	6x3 =	53,361.50
9X6	=		1,600.00	10X3	=	N/A		6X2 =	37,694.00
9X5			9,050.00	9X6	=	162,2	22.445	5X6 =	83,850.00
9X4 9X3	=	1	7,875.00	9X5	=	168,1	91.50	5X4 =	55,900.00
8X6	=		9,368.00	9X4	=	N/A		5X3 =	43,705.00
8X5	=	143	3,500.00	8X6	=	N/A		5x2 = 4x4 =	27,938.00 44,493.00
8X4	=	93	,500.00	8X3	=	N/A		4x3 =	33.524.00
8X3	=		,434.50	7X4	=	72,67		4X2 =	22,350.00
7X4	=	111,	,173.50	6X4	=	41,124		3x2 =	16,763.00
6X4	=	1	,434.50	6X3 6X2		29,85		2x2 = 2x1 =	10,877.00 5,588.50
6X3 6X2	=	1	,250.00	5X6	=	71,378		2X1 = 1X1 =	2,795.50
5X6	=		,000.00 ,749.50	5X4	=	42,82			2,733.30
5X4	=		,749.50	5X3	=	29,85		SPECIAL POSITIO	PNG
5X3	=		,375.00	5X2	=	22,84	1.00		
5X2	=		,916.50	4x4	=	N/A		2X6 FRONT PAGE	700,000.00
4X4	=		,666.50	4X3	=	N/A		2X6 BACK PAGE	300,000.00
4X3	=		,499.50	4X2	_	17,737		2X6 INSIDE PAGE	155.000.00
4X2 3X2	=	1	<u>,333.50</u> 750.00	3x3	=	23,45		3X6 FRONT PAGE	1,200,000.00
2X2 2X2	=		000.00	3X2	=	14,92		4X6 FRONT PAGE	2,250,000.00
2X1	=		500.00	2X2 2X1	-	10,20 5,439		5X6 FRONT PAGE	3,350,000.00
1X1	=		292.00	1X1	=	2,700		10X6 FRONT PAGE	8,250,000.00
						•		EARPIECE FRONT PAGE(1.5X2)	
	LLURE RAT			PICTURE	E & CAP	TION		EARPIECE INSIDE PAGE(1.5X2)	246,500.00
	RATE TO	TAL							117,875.00
CENTRESPREAD DOUBLE SPREAD			967.500.00 806,250.00	SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL	EARPIECE BACK PAGE	236,796.50
ALLURE COVER			750,000.00	PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00	CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR	1,027,000.00
(IBC) Inside Back Co	over		376,250.00	PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00		(PUBLIC NOTICE)	.,
(IFC) Inside Front Co			430,000.00		-	-	32,250.00	CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR	929,000.00
(BC) Back Cover			483,750.00	PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,558.30	(PRODUCT)	
Full Page			430,000.00	PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00	CENTRESPREAD B&W	800,000.00
I0X5			295,625.00		-	7,500.00		CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	575,000.00
Half Page			225,000.00	EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00			CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR	191,668.50
EVENT			250,000.00	FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00	DOUBLE SPREAD COLOUR	721,500.00
			GENERAL INFORMA	TION				DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
SERIES DISCOUNT	r		DOSE INSERT		1	25.000	0.00	DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	144,294.00
5 PAGES 2.5% LEAFLET, POSTERS 1 10 PAGES 5% SPECIAL INSERTS (8			BACES) CODIES 45,000.00			CENTRE SPREAD B&W	835,000.00		
			PAGES) COPIES 30,000 PAGES) 1,000 COPIES 30,000 75,000				CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B &W	550,000.00	
HANDLING CHARGE			S FOR LESS THAN 35,000 COPIES         75,000.00           S MORE THAN 35,000 COPIES         100,000.00				DOUBLE SPREAD B &W	725,000.00	
			S MORE THAN 35,000 COPIES				DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B &W	425,000.00	
PAGE 4, 5, 7 AND 8 (50%) CHANGE OF NAME		ERT RATES		2,000.00		FULL WRAP AROUND	15.000.000.00		
PAGE 2 (75%)		GI	UIDE BLACK & WH	ITE		3,750	.00	HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
СОНТАС	CT US	G	UIDE COLOUR			4,250	.00	HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00
Correspondent	Address:			E-mail Address:					
Real Group Plaza, Street, CBD, Alaus			u	info@newdai		e.new	S	ALL RATES ARE VA	<b>FINCLUSIVE</b>
Call the Editor on: (			23792	Terms and Conditic	ons apply				

## Tinubu: Fuel subsidies, corrupt FX crippled Nigeria for decades <u>By Friday Omosola</u>

President Bola Tinubu has disclosed that fuel subsidies, along with the corruption-laden multiple foreign exchange windows, had long acted as a stranglehold on Nigeria, suffocating the nation's prospects for decades.

News

In a national broadcast marking his second year in office on Thursday, Tinubu stated that both policies were no longer sustainable.

The New Daily Prime reported that the president had ordered the complete removal of fuel subsidies upon assuming office.

He argued that for the federal government, as well as the state and local governments, to remain viable and capable of delivering essential services, it was necessary to eliminate both the subsidy regime and the flawed forex system.

Tinubu further explained that the economic conditions he inherited demanded a bold and visionary redirection of the country's path.

"I immediately implemented two necessary policies to stop our country from further drifting into the precipice. While our administration has implemented the reforms to restore and reinvigorate our national economy and strengthen our social fabric as a strong and united country, I must thank my fellow citizens for your unrelenting support and belief in the grand vision we share to uplift our nation and renew our collective hopes and aspirations.

"We are halfway through the journey that began 24 months ago. Today, May 29, 2025, offers our administration the opportunity to share again how far we have gone and our progress in steering our country along the critical path of socioeconomic development. When we embarked on this journey, propelled by a



burst of hope and abiding faith in Nigeria's unity and progress, I made a pledge before God and fellow countrymen and women to confront Nigeria's challenges head-on by rebuilding trust, fostering prosperity, and restoring our nation's economic health", he said.

Tinubu affirmed that the economic reforms were yielding results and that the country was on track to becoming a stronger, more economically stable nation.

"Under our Renewed Hope Agenda, our administration pledged to tackle economic instability, improve security nationwide, reduce corruption, reform governance, and lift our people out of poverty. While implementing the reforms necessary to strengthen our economy and deliver shared prosperity, we have remained honest by acknowledging some of the difficulties experienced by our compatriots and families. We do not take your patience for granted.

Tinubu noted, "I must restate that the only alternative to the reforms our administration initiated was a fiscal crisis that would have bred runaway inflation, external debt default, crippling fuel shortages, a plunging Naira, and an economy in a free-fall. Despite the bump in the cost of living, we have made undeniable progress. Inflation has begun to ease, with rice prices and other staples declining.'

"The oil and gas sector is recovering; rig counts are up by over 400% in 2025 compared to 2021, and over \$8 billion in new investments have been committed. We have stabilised our economy and are now better positioned for growth and prepared to withstand global shocks. In 2025, we remain on track with our fiscal targets. Gross proceeds per barrel from crude oil are broadly aligned with our forecasts as we intensify our efforts to ramp up production. Our fiscal deficit has narrowed sharply from 5.4% of GDP in 2023 to 3.0% in 2024.

"We achieved this through improved revenue generation and greater transparency in government finances. In the first quarter of this year, we recorded over N6 trillion in revenue. We have discontinued Ways & Means financing, which has been a major contributor to high and sticky inflation. The NNPC, no longer burdened by unsustainable fuel subsidies, is now a net contributor to the Federation Account. We are also achieving fuel supply security through local refining."

## Sidi Ould Tah of Mauritania replaces Adesina as new AfDB President

By Friday Omosola

auritania's former Minister of Economic Affairs, Sidi Ould Tah, has been elected the new President of the African Development Bank (AfDB).

News

He succeeded Nigeria's Akinwumi Adesina after nearly a decade of leadership.

Tah announced this in a statement posted on his X page on Thursday, describing his emergence as president as the start of a challenging yet inspiring journey.

"I am humbled and honored to be elected President of the AfDB. I extend my deepest gratitude to all who supported me – regional and non-regional members of the Bank and the leaders and countries that they represent.

"This marks the beginning of a challenging yet inspiring journey—together, we will drive Africa's transformation with unity, ambition, and purpose", he wrote.

Tah, 60, clinched the top position after just three rounds of voting—far fewer than the six rounds required when Adesina was elected in 2015.

He received 76.18% of total votes, comfortably surpassing his closest rival, Zambian economist Samuel Munzele Maimbo, who garnered 20.26%. Senegal's Amadou Hott followed with 3.55%.

To win the presidency, candidates must secure dual majorities: one from all 81 member states and another from the 54 African countries within the bank.

Tah achieved 72.37% of the African vote.

A seasoned development expert, Tah has served for a decade as the Director-



General of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).

His extensive experience in pan-African financial diplomacy, especially between North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, is expected to aid his transition into the AfDB's top job.

Reacting to the outcome, Maimbo congratulated his opponent and reiterated his hopes for the continent.

"My candidacy was inspired by a deep commitment to Africa's future. I respect the decision of the Governors and wish Dr Tah every success," he said in a postelection statement.

During his campaign, Tah pledged to focus on deepening Africa's financial autonomy, boosting regional development institutions, investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, and leveraging demographic trends to accelerate economic growth.

His election comes at a challenging time for the AfDB. The institution is grappling with global economic uncertainties and a potential \$500 million funding cut from the United States—amid policy shifts introduced by the Trump administration. These funds were critical to supporting projects in some of the continent's poorest countries.

The AfDB, created in 1964, is among the largest multilateral lenders globally.

It draws financial strength from member contributions, borrowings from international markets, and returns on existing investments.

All five contenders for the presidency committed to continuing the transformative agenda launched by Adesina, built on five priority pillars: providing electricity, food security, industrialisation, regional integration, and improving living standards.

The New Daily Prime reported on Tuesday that Adesina in farewell speech reflected on his tenure with pride and highlighted major accomplishments.

The achievements includes extending access to electricity for millions, funding Africa's largest wastewater treatment facility in Egypt, and supporting infrastructure such as the Senegambia Bridge, Togo's expanded port in Lomé, and sanitation systems in Lesotho.

The New Daily Prime

## Edo: Appeal Court upholds Okpebholo's election victory



he Court of Appeal in Abuja has upheld the election of Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State, dismissing the legal challenge brought by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its candidate, Asuerinme Ighodalo.

A three-member panel led by Justice M.A. Danjuma on Thursday delivered the ruling, agreeing with the decision of the Edo State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal, which had earlier affirmed the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate as the duly elected governor.

The appeal stemmed from the September 21, 2024, governorship election, where Okpebholo was declared winner by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), having secured 291,667 votes against Ighodalo's 247,655. The PDP and its candidate had argued that the election was marred by irregularities, alleging INEC's failure to comply with key provisions of the Electoral Act 2022. Their petition claimed that sensitive election materials were not properly handled and that vote manipulation occurred in over 700 polling units, resulting in inflated figures favouring the APC.

Despite presenting 19 witnesses and various exhibits, including BVAS machines from 133 polling units, the tribunal ruled that the petitioners failed to substantiate their allegations with credible and convincing evidence. The court criticised the quality of the testimonies, noting that most were hearsay, and pointed out that no polling agents or presiding officers were called to testify about the alleged infractions.

The tribunal also rejected claims of

over-voting and mismanagement of sensitive materials, stating that the burden of proof rested solely on the petitioners, which they failed to meet. It held that merely submitting documents without proper demonstration in court could not satisfy the requirements of electoral law.

Court affirms Okpebholo, dismisses Ighodalo

Affirming this position, the Court of Appeal dismissed the PDP's appeal, saying there was no basis to overturn the tribunal's earlier verdict.

In response to the ruling, Ighodalo expressed his intention to pursue the case to the Supreme Court, signalling that the legal battle over the Edo governorship may not be over just yet.

News

## High-profile kidnapper in Rivers neutralized, police chase fleeing suspects **By Helen Okechukwu**



n a major breakthrough, police operatives from the Rumuji Division of the Rivers State Police Command have neutralized a notorious kidnapper and murderer, David Kamalu, popularly known as M-Kaze.

News

The police spokesperson, Grace Iringe-Koko in a document shared on Thursday said the operation took place in the early hours of 25 May, at a suspected criminal hideout in Rumuodogu 1 Community, Emohua Local Government Area (LGA).

The operation, which began at about 1:00 am, followed days of intelligence gathering. It was part of ongoing efforts by the police to dismantle criminal gangs in the state.

met armed resistance from M-Kaze and his gang during the raid. A gun battle ensued, leading to the death of M-Kaze. Several gang members escaped with gunshot wounds.

A search of the hideout led to the recovery of, one pump-action shotgun, two live cartridges and local charms believed to be used for protection and intimidation.

Read Also: Police get more time to question suspect in Liverpool parade crash

M-Kaze was a high-value target known for leading a deadly kidnapping gang. He was declared wanted for the murder and beheading of a local security operative, Mr. Alete (also known as "Hunter Commander"), in January 2025. He was also linked to several highprofile kidnappings and armed robberies along the East-West Road.

The police say the raid was successful, but investigations are ongoing to capture the fleeing suspects. They are calling on the public to report anyone with gunshot wounds to the nearest security agency.

The states Commissioner of Police (CP) Olugbenga Adepoju, praised the efforts of the operatives and assured residents that the command remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of all citizens.

All recovered items have been documented for further investigation and possible prosecution.

According to police reports, officers

### Prioritise safety amid robbery incidents in Ile-Ife, NAUS Southwest Security urges members

By Friday Omosola

News

he National Association of University Students (NAUS), Southwest zone, has called on students, particularly those within the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) community, to remain vigilant and adhere strictly to safety guidelines in response to a recent wave of robberies in Ile-Ife.

In a statement issued by Olaore David Kolokolo, Director of Security and Project Delivery for NAUS Southwest, the association expressed concern over the growing insecurity around studentpopulated areas and reaffirmed its commitment to student safety and welfare.

"We understand the fear these incidents have caused," Kolokolo stated, while extending solidarity to students affected by the recent robberies. He emphasised that personal safety must take precedence during such incidents and offered practical safety advice to minimise risk.

"When confronted by robbers, staying calm is crucial," Kolokolo said. "Avoid panic or sudden movements that may escalate the situation. Do not attempt to resist or fight back, as doing so could endanger your life and the lives of others. If possible, observe and remember key details about the attackers, such as their appearance, weapons, language, and direction of escape."

Kolokolo also addressed emergency responses, noting that in some dire



situations, signalling for help using bonfires or burning tires may be effective. However, he warned that such actions should be carried out with caution to avoid further danger. Fires, he stressed, must be managed carefully to prevent them from spreading or damaging property.

He further advised students to avoid spreading misinformation in the aftermath of security incidents. "False or exaggerated reports can cause unnecessary panic. Always verify information before sharing, and use official channels to report incidents," he said.

Preventative measures were also outlined, including keeping hostels and surroundings well-lit, avoiding public display of valuables, locking doors and windows, and moving in groups at night. Kolokolo encouraged students to participate in or support existing studentled security initiatives as a means of building a united front against insecurity.

Following robbery incidents, he noted

that law enforcement may increase their presence through patrols and stop-andsearch checkpoints. Students were urged to cooperate respectfully, remain calm, and present identification when requested.

In light of the situation, NAUS Southwest issued a direct appeal to relevant authorities, including the Inspector General of Police, the Osun State Government, the Osun State Police Command, and the Ife Central Local Government. The association called for the immediate deployment of special tactical units to high-risk areas and the provision of functional patrol vehicles to boost security response around student communities in Ile-Ife.

"The director of security and project delivery to the national vice president, Southwest, remains steadfast in its commitment to the safety, welfare, and rights of Nigerian students," the statement concluded. "We will continue to monitor developments at OAU and ensure the voices of students are heard."

### FG to establish eight medical simulation centres nationwide By Helen Okechukwu



he Federal Government has announced plans to establish eight advanced medical simulation centres across Nigeria to improve medical training and healthcare delivery.

Speaking in Abuja during the inauguration of a 19-member Implementation and Monitoring Committee, Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, said the centres would address the lack of simulation facilities in medical institutions.

The committee is tasked with finalizing the project proposal, ensuring compliance with objectives, developing quality assurance measures, and working with selected institutions on implementation.

Alausa said the initiative supports our vision to make Nigeria a hub of medical excellence. He also emphasized financial sustainability through inclusive funding models.

TETFund Executive Secretary, Sonny Echono, noted that simulation is key to modern medical education, helping train professionals and test innovations.

"The simulation centres not only for training but also as hubs for innovation, developing and testing new medical devices, protocols and training models," Echono added.

TETFund Board Chairman, Aminu Masari, expressed confidence in the committee, while its chairman, Prof. Wale Sulaiman, pledged to deliver on the project through collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

The centres aim to enhance training, reduce reliance on foreign facilities, and boost the quality of Nigeria's healthcare system.

The New Daily Prime

### Gospel singer Big Bolaji laid to rest in Ibadan

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Renowned Nigerian gospel artist Bolaji Olanrewaju, better known as "Big Bolaji", was laid to rest on Wednesday, May 22, at All Souls Private Cemetery in Ido, Ibadan.

The beloved singer passed away on April 19, 2025, at the age of 50 after a brief illness.

His funeral brought together a crosssection of the gospel music community, family members, friends, and admirers who came to pay their last respects and celebrate his remarkable life and career.

A life remembered with love and music

The funeral service began at the Hall of Grace in Jogor Centre, Ibadan. The event started with a lying-in-state, where mourners viewed Big Bolaji's casket, beautifully adorned with flowers. A sombre mood filled the air as pallbearers carried the coffin into the hall.

Although the atmosphere was filled with grief, it was also a celebration of a life that touched many through music and ministry. A tribute video was played during the service, showing memorable moments from Big Bolaji's musical journey. The video highlighted his passion for gospel music, his vibrant performances, and his deep connection with audiences across Nigeria and beyond.

Many in attendance were moved to tears as scenes of his past performances and messages of faith filled the screen. Applause and quiet sobs echoed through the hall, reflecting the strong emotional bond between Big Bolaji and those he inspired.

Tributes from gospel community and beyond

Several prominent gospel singers came to honor their late colleague. Among them were Tosin Bee, Mike Abdul, Bidemi



Olaoba, and Yetunde Are. They joined hundreds of other mourners, including fans and members of the Christian community, to celebrate the life and legacy of Big Bolaji.

Popular comedian and gospel performer Woli Agba also attended the ceremony. In his tribute, he described Big Bolaji as "a man of joy, spirit, and purpose," noting how his songs lifted countless hearts.

Speakers during the service shared personal stories of his kindness, humour, and dedication to spreading the gospel through song. Many described him not just as a musician but also as a mentor, leader, and servant of God.

Big Bolaji's final journey to the cemetery After the service, a slow and solemn procession left the Jogor Centre and made its way to All Souls Private Cemetery in Ido. Cars followed the hearse in a long convoy, with mourners singing hymns and softly praying.

At the cemetery, Big Bolaji's wife, children, siblings, and close friends gathered for the final rites. The burial was simple but deeply emotional. Loved ones stood quietly as the pastor said prayers and offered words of comfort.

The casket was then lowered into the ground, marking the end of a remarkable life devoted to music, worship, and community service. Some mourners wept openly, while others held hands and prayed silently.

A lasting legacy

Big Bolaji rose to fame in the gospel music scene with his powerful voice, joyful stage presence, and message of hope. For decades, he thrilled audiences with his songs of praise and worship, earning the respect of fellow artists and the love of many fans.

He was known for hosting gospel concerts and mentoring younger musicians, always eager to uplift others through his platform. His energy, humor, and heart for God made him a unique and beloved figure in Nigeria's gospel landscape.

Even in death, his message of faith continues to echo. The large turnout at his funeral reflected the deep impact he had on lives across the country.

Remembering the man behind the music

Though his voice has gone silent, the legacy of Big Bolaji will continue through his songs, his teachings, and the memories he created. Friends and fans remember him as someone who sang not just with talent but with conviction and purpose.

As the sun set over Ibadan on the day of his burial, one thing became clear: Big Bolaji may be gone, but his spirit will live on in the music and in the hearts of all who knew him.

## Social media willdestroy many, PaulOkoye warnsBy Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian singer Paul Okoye, widely known as "Rudeboy" has raised alarm over what he sees as the growing misuse of social media among Nigerian youths.

The "Reason With Me" crooner expressed deep concern about how some young people chase clout online, often without considering the long-term effects.

Taking to his Instagram story, Rudeboy didn't mince words. He wrote, "Social media is going to destroy a lot of people... You might think it's just cruise, clout, or to trend... Your eye go clear."

His comment has since sparked conversations online, as many reflect on the impact of digital platforms on personal values and public behaviour.

Clout chasing and the quest to trend

Rudeboy's message targets what has become a common trend using social media to gain attention at all costs. Many Nigerian youths, in a bid to become popular or go viral, often post controversial or misleading content. For some, the aim is to entertain. For others, it's simply a trend.

But the singer believes this behaviour can have serious consequences. According to him, seeking attention without responsibility can lead people down a "dangerous path." He cautioned that what may seem like fun or harmless "cruise" today could backfire tomorrow.

This message echoes what several public figures and digital experts have said over time, that while social media has many benefits, its misuse can lead to mental health issues, legal troubles, or even reputational damage.

No regulatory framework yet

In Nigeria, the use of social media remains largely unregulated. There is no official government agency that oversees how Nigerians use platforms like X



(formerly Twitter), Instagram, Facebook, or TikTok.

This has led to the rise of fake news, cyberbullying, online scams, and character defamation. Many public figures, including celebrities and politicians, have been targets of online smear campaigns. Others have faced backlash for controversial posts that went viral.

Because of these growing concerns, several stakeholders have called for a form of regulation. They argue that just like the broadcast and print media are monitored, there should also be guidelines for online behaviour.

The social media bill: A controversial proposal

In response to these concerns, a bill was introduced in the National Assembly to regulate the use of social media in Nigeria. The proposed law aimed to curb the spread of false information and harmful content online.

However, the bill was met with mixed reactions. While some Nigerians supported the move, believing it could bring order to the online space, many others saw it as a threat to freedom of expression.

Critics said the bill could be used to silence dissent and limit free speech, especially in a country where social media has become a powerful tool for activism and public accountability.

The backlash was swift and loud, ironically, mostly from social media users. Hashtags trended, influencers and civil society groups weighed in, and several public campaigns were launched to stop the bill.

As a result, the bill stalled and has not yet been passed into law.

Paul Okoye calls for responsible use of social media

Rudeboy's recent comments highlight the urgent need for self-awareness and responsibility in how people use digital platforms. While laws may eventually play a role, many believe the change must begin with individuals choosing to act wisely online.

Social media, when used positively, can inspire, educate, and connect people. But when misused, it can break lives and damage reputations.

For Nigerian youths, the message is clear: the internet never forgets. What is posted today for "likes" and "shares" might return tomorrow with unexpected consequences.

As Rudeboy warned, "Your eye go clear" a stark reminder that actions online have real-world results.

## China slams U.S. plan to revoke student visas for chinese nationals By Damilola Olufemi



B eijing has criticised a recent move by the United States to revoke visas held by Chinese students, calling the measure "political and discriminatory," according to AFP.

The policy, introduced by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, introduces stricter visa rules targeting Chinese and Hong Kong nationals, especially those linked to sensitive fields of study or alleged ties to the Chinese Communist Party. The changes are expected to affect thousands of students and will include more thorough background checks and social media monitoring for future applicants.

Responding swiftly, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning confirmed that Beijing has formally objected to the decision, accusing Washington of unjustly targeting Chinese students and threatening the integrity of global academic exchange. Mao also urged the U.S. to uphold the rights and protections of international students studying in the country.

This development comes amid a broader U.S. shift in foreign policy and growing concerns over foreign influence in American universities. The Trump administration has in the past pushed for tighter controls on foreign students, even suggesting that elite universities such as Harvard were fostering anti-American sentiment.

Despite such concerns, students from China have long represented a significant portion of the international student population in the U.S. Nearly 280,000 Chinese nationals studied in American institutions during the 2023–24 academic year, though India recently overtook China as the top sender of international students.

US Embassies pause student visas appointments

As part of the new directive, U.S. embassies have reportedly been instructed to pause new student visa appointments while a review of application protocols is conducted. Critics have warned that the policy could have a chilling effect not only on Chinese applicants but also on students from other nations.

Among those affected is a Taiwanese doctoral student who had plans to begin studies in California. The student expressed concern over the delays but remains cautiously optimistic that the situation may be resolved before the academic term begins.

Meanwhile, backlash continues to build at institutions like Harvard University, where recent actions by the Trump administration—including tighter regulations on research funding and admissions—have sparked protests and legal action. The university has rejected any claims of bias and is actively defending its admissions policies in court.

## Top Hamas chief, Sinwar killed in Gaza,<br/>Netanyahu confirmsBy Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

sraeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Wednesday that Mohammed Sinwar, Hamas' Gaza chief and younger brother of slain leader Yahya Sinwar, has been killed in an Israeli military operation, marking what could be one of the most significant assassinations in the months-long war in Gaza.

The death of Sinwar, if confirmed by Hamas, would be the latest blow to the militant group's upper ranks. Netanyahu, speaking to lawmakers in the Knesset, claimed Israel had eliminated not just Mohammed Sinwar but also Mohammed Deif, Ismail Haniyeh, and Yahya Sinwar, the masterminds behind the October 7, 2023, attacks that ignited the war.

"In the last two days, we have been in a dramatic turn towards a complete defeat of Hamas," Netanyahu told Israeli parliamentarians. "We eliminated the head of the snake."

Mohammed Sinwar had taken over leadership in Gaza after Yahya's death and was regarded as one of Israel's most wanted targets. His reported killing comes as Israeli forces continue an aggressive campaign across Gaza, including strikes on dozens of sites, from missile outposts to weapons storage facilities.

Gaza mums on Sinwar death as uncertainty in leadership roars

Hamas has not yet confirmed Sinwar's death, and the implications for the group's leadership structure remain uncertain. According to Reuters, Izz al-Din Haddad, commander of Hamas' armed wing in northern Gaza and a close associate of Sinwar, may be poised to assume control, potentially deepening divisions between Hamas' military and political wings, the latter largely exiled abroad.



Observers say the shifting leadership could complicate ceasefire negotiations and weaken the exiled political bureau's influence over fighters still entrenched in Gaza.

#### Gaza death toll nears 54,000

The war, now stretching into its 600th day, has devastated Gaza. Palestinian health authorities report nearly 54,000 people killed, including thousands of children, as airstrikes and ground battles ravage densely populated areas.

While Israel remains focused on dismantling Hamas and securing the release of the remaining 58 hostages from the October 7 attack, which left 1,200 Israelis dead, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has reached alarming levels.

Aid Chaos Amid Hunger and Gunfire In a related development, Netanyahu confirmed that Israel is taking control of food distribution in Gaza. This follows the launch of a U.S.- and Israeli-backed aid initiative aimed at easing the suffering in the besieged enclave.

But the system's rollout has already turned deadly. On Tuesday, gunfire

erupted at a new food distribution site near Rafah, killing at least one person and injuring 48 others. Thousands of desperate civilians overran the aid centre, prompting Israeli troops to fire into the air to disperse the crowd. It remains unclear who fired the shots that caused casualties.

The aid centre, operated by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, is the first of four planned distribution points in the region. Its opening coincides with Israel's decision to ease a three-month aid blockade.

As Israel pushes toward what Netanyahu calls the "complete defeat" of Hamas, analysts warn that eliminating militant leaders may not equate to long-term stability. The group's ability to reorganise and continue resisting, especially if power consolidates under hardliners on the ground, remains a pressing concern.

The coming days will reveal whether the vacuum left by Mohammed Sinwar's reported death shifts the war's trajectory or simply fuels another chapter in Gaza's unrelenting crisis.

## Tariffs: Court slams Trump, says president lackspower to impose broad dutiesBy Fatimah Idera

U.S. Trade Court blocked most of President Donald Trump's tariffs in a sweeping ruling on Wednesday that found the president overstepped his authority by imposing across-the-board duties on imports from U.S. trading partners.

The Court of International Trade said the U.S. Constitution gives Congress exclusive authority to regulate commerce with other countries that is not overridden by the president's emergency powers to safeguard the U.S. economy.

"The court does not pass upon the wisdom or likely effectiveness of the President's use of tariffs as leverage," a three-judge panel said in the decision to issue a permanent injunction on the blanket tariff orders issued by Trump since January. "That use is impermissible not because it is unwise or ineffective, but because it is federal law which does not allow it."

Financial markets cheered the ruling. The U.S. dollar rallied following the court's order, surging against currencies such as the euro, yen, and the Swiss franc in particular. Wall Street futures rose, and equities across Asia also jumped. The judges also ordered the Trump administration to issue new orders reflecting the permanent injunction within 10 days.

The Trump administration, minutes later, filed a notice of appeal and questioned the authority of the court.

The court invalidated with immediate effect all of Trump's orders on tariffs since January that were rooted in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), a law meant to address unusual and extraordinary threats during a national emergency. The court was not asked to address some



industry-specific tariffs Trump has issued on automobiles, steel, and aluminium, using a different statute.

The decisions of the Manhattan-based Court of International Trade can be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in Washington, D.C. and ultimately the U.S. Supreme Court

Trump has made charging U.S. importers tariffs on goods from foreign countries the central policy of his ongoing trade wars, which have severely disrupted global trade flows and roiled financial markets.

Companies of all sizes have been whipsawed by Trump's swift imposition of tariffs and sudden reversals as they seek to manage supply chains, production, staffing, and prices.

BA White House spokesperson said U.S. trade deficits constituted "a national emergency that has decimated American communities, left our workers behind, and weakened our defence industrial base, facts that the court did not dispute." "It is not for unelected judges to decide how to properly address a national emergency," Kush Desai said.

The ruling blows a giant hole through Trump's strategy to use steep tariffs to wring concessions from trading partners, creating deep uncertainty around multiple simultaneous negotiations with the European Union, China, and many other countries.

Analysts at Goldman Sachs noted the order doesn't block sector-specific levies, and there are other legal avenues for Trump to impose across-the-board and country-specific tariffs.

Trump promised Americans the tariffs would draw manufacturing jobs back to U.S. shores and shrink the \$1.2 trillion U.S. goods trade deficit.

The ruling came in a pair of lawsuits filed by the Liberty Justice Centre and 12 U.S. states, arguing the tariffs would hurt their ability to do business.

Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield called Trump's tariffs unlawful, reckless and economically devastating, saying the ruling reaffirms that trade decisions can't be made on the president's

### Massive glacier collapse devastates Blatten, one missing By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



64-year-old man remains missing after a massive chunk of the Birch Glacier collapsed Wednesday, triggering a devastating rock and ice landslide that buried much of the Alpine village of Blatten in Switzerland's southern Lötschental valley.

Authorities had preemptively evacuated the village earlier this month amid growing fears the glacier was unstable. Despite the precautionary measures, the destruction left behind is immense. State Councillor Stéphane Ganzer told Radio Télévision Suisse that 90% of the village has been destroyed.

"An unbelievable amount of material thundered down into the valley," said Matthias Ebener, a spokesperson for local authorities, as quoted by Reuters.

Blatten's mayor, Matthias Bellwald, confirmed the village's near-total devastation. "We've lost our village," he told reporters. "The village is under rubble. We will rebuild."

The Cantonal Police of Valais confirmed that a search and rescue mission is ongoing for the missing man, whose identity has not been released. The effort includes drones equipped with thermal cameras.

The landslide occurred after a massive portion of the Birch Glacier broke off, unleashing an avalanche of rock, ice, and mud that partially buried homes and filled the Lonza River bed, raising concerns of dammed water and potential flooding.

Footage posted to social media and broadcast on Swiss television captured the sheer force of the disaster: plumes of dust shot into the sky as brown sludge surged through the village, swallowing buildings in its path.

In the days leading up to the collapse, around 300 people and all livestock had been evacuated due to increasing warnings from Swiss glaciologists about the glacier's instability. Scientists had estimated the looming mass of ice at approximately 52 million cubic feet.

Experts say the collapse is part of a larger, alarming trend driven by climate change. Switzerland, home to more glaciers than any other European country, saw 4% of its total glacier volume disappear in 2023 alone, the second-largest annual loss on record following a 6% drop in 2022.

Glaciologists have long warned that warming temperatures are accelerating the retreat and destabilisation of glaciers across the Alps.

The Swiss government and local officials have pledged support for Blatten's residents and have begun assessing plans for rebuilding the devastated community once the situation stabilises.

#### Israel approves new 22 west bank settlement **By Fatimah Idera**



srael's government has approved 22 new Jewish settlements in the Loccupied West Bank, a move that could deepen divisions with some allies who have threatened sanctions over such moves, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said on Thursday.

Bezalel Smotrich, an ultra-nationalist advocating for Israeli sovereignty over the West Bank, wrote on X that the settlements would be in the northern West Bank, without specifying where.

Israeli media cited the Defence Ministry as saying that among the new settlements, existing outposts would be legalised and new settlements would also be built. A spokesperson for Defence Minister Israel Katz did comment on the announcement.

The Western-backed Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited rule in the West Bank, and the largely Gazabased Islamist militant group Hamas condemned the Israeli decision.

The spokesperson for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Nabil Abu Rudeineh said it was a dangerous escalation, accusing Israel of continuing to drag the region into a "cycle of violence and instability, as this extremist Israeli government is trying by all means to prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state," urging the U.S. administration to intervene.

After the announcement, B'Tselem, a leading Israeli human rights organisation, accused the right-wing government of advancing "Jewish supremacy through the theft of Palestinian land and the ethnic cleansing of the West Bank."

In a statement, B'Tselem also criticised the international community for "enabling Israel's crimes."

The decision was praised by Yisrael Ganz, chairman of the Yesha Council, which represents Jewish settlements and has close ties with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Ganz said the move countered the Palestinian Authority's bid to establish a state.

"This historic decision sends a clear message we are here not only to stay but to establish the State of Israel here for all its residents and to strengthen its security," he said.

Around 700,000 Israeli settlers live among 2.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, territories Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 war.

Israel later annexed East Jerusalem, a move not recognised by most countries, but has not formally extended sovereignty over the West Bank.

Read also: 80 killed in Israeli airstrikes, artillery shelling across Gaza

Palestinians regard the expansion of settlements as a hindrance to their aspirations to create an independent state in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including occupied East Jerusalem.

There is a growing list of European countries demanding that Israel end the war in Gaza, while Britain, France and Canada this month warned Israel they could impose targeted sanctions if Israel continued to broaden settlements in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, most of the international community considers the settlements illegal. The Israeli government deems settlements legal under its laws, while some so-called outposts are illegal but often tolerated and sometimes later legalised.

Settlement activity in the West Bank has accelerated sharply since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, now in its 20th month. Israel has also stepped up military operations against Palestinian militants in the West Bank, and settler attacks on Palestinian residents have increased.

Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told the media that Thursday's decision was part of "the war led by Netanyahu against the Palestinian people". He urged the United States and European Union to respond to Israel's announcement by taking action.

### Six soldiers killed in Michoacán's cartel bomb attack By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Six soldiers have been killed in Michoacán's cartel bomb attack, while two others were injured late Tuesday in Mexico's western Michoacán state, a region long plagued by violent clashes between drug cartels, according to an official military report obtained by AFP.

17

World News

The blast targeted an armoured military vehicle near a town in Michoacán, destroying it and prompting an immediate emergency response. Military aircraft and helicopters were deployed to assist the wounded, the internal document stated.

President Claudia Sheinbaum condemned the attack as "deplorable" and extended her condolences to the families of the victims.

The deadly explosion is the latest in a series of violent assaults on Mexican security forces in cartel-controlled areas. Criminal groups in Michoacán have increasingly used improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and drones equipped with bombs, turning rural battle zones into deadly traps for military and police.

Michoacán is a hotbed of conflict between the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG), one of Mexico's most powerful and brutal drug trafficking organisations, and several rival local gangs. The CJNG has been linked to numerous high-profile attacks, including a wave of arson and ambushes across the region earlier this year.



In a particularly brazen move, cartel gunmen last month hijacked and torched cargo trucks on a major highway between Mexico City and Guadalajara. Similar incidents were reported in neighbouring Guanajuato, believed to be retaliation for a large-scale military operation in cartel territory.

The influence of criminal organisations in Michoacán extends well beyond violence. In December, a banner at a town Christmas fair thanked Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera, the elusive CJNG leader with a \$15 million U.S. bounty, for donating children's gifts during the holiday season, highlighting the complex and disturbing grip cartels maintain on local communities.

Since Mexico launched its military-led war

on drug trafficking in 2006, more than 480,000 people have been killed, and over 120,000 remain missing, many presumed to be victims of organised crime.

The incident adds to growing pressure on President Sheinbaum's administration to curb cartel violence and secure rural areas increasingly controlled by criminal groups. It also reignites debates about potential U.S. intervention, especially following former President Donald Trump's controversial designation of six Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organisations.

As investigations into Tuesday's deadly bombing continue, authorities have vowed to intensify their efforts to restore order in Michoacán.

### Global restructuring: Chevron slashes 800 jobs in Texas By Fatimah Idera

hevron will lay off nearly 800 employees in Texas, according to a notice on Wednesday to the Texas Workforce Commission, which is part of the U.S. oil producer's plan to cut up to 20 per cent of its global workforce by the end of 2026.

The job cuts will be in Midland County, where Chevron has large operations in the Permian Basin, the top U.S. oilfield, and the layoff date is July 15, according to the notices.

The company previously gave notice that it would lay off at least 600 employees in

California effective June 1, according to a filing in March.

Recall that a key license for Chevron to operate in Venezuela was revoked by the U.S. President Donald Trump's government and a two-month period granted to wind down transactions expired, putting an end to the license, the company said.

Chevron announced plans to slash the global workforce in February in order to cut costs and simplify the business. Since then, Chevron has come under more pressure, as its license to operate in



Venezuela was revoked, and its planned \$53 billion acquisition of oil producer hangs in the balance amid an arbitration dispute.

## Niece slams Trump as "unevolved", "cruel"in new bookBy Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

ary Trump, psychologist and niece of U.S. President Donald Trump, has launched a fresh attack on her uncle, describing him as "unevolved," "cruel," and "incapable of forming close relationships" during an appearance at the Hay Festival in Wales.

Promoting her latest book, Who Could Ever Love You, a scathing memoir about the Trump family legacy, Mary Trump told the audience she is now estranged from nearly all her relatives, calling herself "the black sheep of the family." The only exception, she said, is her daughter.

Mary, daughter of Donald Trump's late older brother Fred Trump Jr., painted a bleak portrait of the Trump family dynamic. Her grandfather, Fred Trump Sr., was described as "literally a sociopath," and the overall family atmosphere was one marked by cruelty.

"Cruelty is a theme in my family," she said bluntly.

Recounting her brief time working for Donald in her 20s, when she was hired to ghostwrite his second book, Mary said it gave her rare insight into the man who would later become president.

"He is the only person I've ever met who's never evolved, which is dangerous by the way," she said. "Never choose as your leader somebody incapable of evolving."

She added that her uncle remains one of "the most provincial people I know," a trait she said has proven disastrous in political leadership.

Reading from her book, Mary described how her father's friend,



Anna Maria, first met Donald when he was a teenager. She recalled him as "cocky, rude, intensely jealous of his older brother Freddie," and someone who "nobody could bear to be around." Mary wrote that Donald "devolved" over the years into "an even more arrogant adult with a widening, cruel streak."

She also accused him of physically aggressive behaviour toward younger relatives, recalling how, at age eight, she was targeted by Donal,d throwing baseballs at her "as hard as he could." She believes a catcher's mitt given to her by her brother was intended to protect her hands from injury.

Mary shared additional family history that shed light on her uncle's early development, noting that his mother was seriously ill after his birth and unable to care for him during a crucial stage of childhood. That left him in the care of his father, Fred Sr.

"So you can imagine how that sort of changed the trajectory of Donald's life," she said.

Mary has been an outspoken critic of

Donald Trump for years, gaining prominence after the release of her bestseller Too Much and Never Enough in 2020. In 2021, Donald Trump sued her for \$100 million, alleging she violated a confidentiality agreement by sharing financial records with The New York Times. Mary said the lawsuit sent a clear message, but she refuses to be silenced.

"What if everybody capitulates? Then what? Well, then we lose. And that's unacceptable," she told the Hay Festival audience.

Closing her remarks with cutting honesty, she said she struggles to understand those who fear her uncle.

"He's so pathetic. I would be embarrassed to be afraid of him."

Mary's latest book continues her crusade to expose the inner dysfunction of one of America's most infamous political families, one damning page at a time.

## Carmarthenshire farmer bags 12-month suspensionfor stealing 73 sheepBy Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Carmarthenshire farmer who admitted to stealing over 70 pregnant sheep from a neighbouring farm has been handed a 12-month suspended prison sentence after pleading guilty to theft.

Hywel Williams, 40, of Llangadog, took at least 73 in-lamb ewes in March from land owned by fellow farmer Rhodri Llyr Evans near Llandysul. The theft, which Williams attributed to overwhelming financial stress, caused what Evans described as "unbearable stress" to both his livelihood and personal life.

The stolen sheep were later recovered by Dyfed-Powys Police following a public appeal, which was widely shared, garnering more than 700 shares online. The animals were found across multiple locations, including Williams' land, a local auction mart, and an abattoir, with many of the sheep missing their identifying ear tags. Additional sheep were discovered to have been given to another farmer as a way of settling a personal debt. Inspector Matthew Howells praised the community's involvement in aiding the investigation, stating: "The support from farming communities near and afar has been vitally important in securing a positive outcome. I'd also like to thank those who came forward with information, which enabled my officers to respond quickly, ensuring the safe return of these animals to their rightful owners."

Appearing at Aberystwyth Magistrates Court on Wednesday, Williams was sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for two years. In addition, he was ordered to carry out 250 hours of unpaid community service and pay over £5,000 in compensation to Mr. Evans.

Williams, who runs a 113-hectare (280-acre) farm with his elderly uncle, told the court he acted under financial pressure and acknowledged the harm he had caused.

"I deeply regret my actions and feel

ashamed," he said, according to BBC Wales.

The case highlights a broader issue of livestock theft, which has surged across the UK in recent years. The crime cost an estimated £2.7 million in 2023 alone and presents serious concerns for animal welfare and public health, as stolen animals are often moved through unregulated and illicit channels.

In response to the rising trend, police forces are increasingly turning to forensic methods to track stolen livestock. In 2024, the National Farmers' Union Mutual Insurance Group funded a dedicated livestock theft officer role at the National Rural Crime Unit, reflecting growing concern over the scale and impact of rural crime.

The court's decision underscores the seriousness of agricultural theft while acknowledging the complex pressures facing rural communities.

## Trumps gives Havard 30 day ultimatum to end international student enrollment By Fatimah Idera

The Trump administration on Thursday backed away from plans to immediately revoke Harvard University's ability to enroll international students and would instead give it 30 days to contest those plans through a lengthier administrative process.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security sent Harvard a notice of intent on Wednesday to withdraw the school's certification under a federal program to enroll non-U.S. students.

The Justice Department filed the notice in court ahead of a hearing before the U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs in Boston over whether to extend a temporary order blocking President Donald Trump's administration from revoking the Ivy League school's right to host international students.

Citing the potential for Harvard and its students to be harmed if the administration reverted to its earlier plans, Burroughs at that hearing said she planned to issue a broad preliminary injunction preserving the status quo while the newly announced administrative process plays out. Harvard had argued that the revocation violated its free speech and due process rights under the U.S. Constitution.

In addition, Harvard contended that the revocation failed to comply with DHS regulations. The regulations required providing at least 30 days to challenge the agency's allegations and giving Harvard an opportunity to pursue an administrative appeal. Harvard has said losing that right would affect about one quarter of its student body and devastate the school. It has denied Trump administration charges of alleged bias against conservatives, fostering antisemitism on campus and coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party.

The Homeland Security Department said it sent Harvard the notice after school



officials indicated an intent to comply with requirements of the federal Student and Exchange Visitor Program, which allows Harvard to enroll non-U.S. students.

"We continue to reject Harvard's repeated pattern of endangering its students and spreading American hate which must change its ways to be eligible to receive generous benefits from the American people," Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said in a statement.

The revocation announced on May 22 was an escalation of the Trump administration's attack on Harvard. The Cambridge, Massachusetts-based university's lawyers argued the agency's action was part of an unprecedented and retaliatory attack on academic freedom at Harvard, which is pursuing a separate lawsuit challenging the administration's decision to terminate nearly \$3 billion in federal research funding.

Harvard argues the Trump administration is retaliating against it for refusing to accede to its demands to control the school's governance, curriculum and the ideology of its faculty and students.

The case before Burroughs, an appointee of Democratic former President Barack

Obama, was filed after Noem revoked the school's certification to enroll non-U.S. students. In announcing the decision, Noem, without providing evidence, accused the university of "fostering violence, antisemitism, and coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party."

In a letter that day, she accused the school of refusing to comply with wide-ranging requests for information on its student visa holders, including about any activity they engaged in that was illegal or violent or that would subject them to discipline. Harvard said the decision was devastating for the school and its student body.

The university, the nation's oldest and wealthiest, enrolled nearly 6,800 international students in its current school year, about 27% of its total enrollment. The department's move would prevent Harvard from enrolling new international students and require existing ones to transfer to other schools or lose their legal status.

Trump told reporters in the Oval Office on Wednesday that Harvard University should have a 15% cap on the number of non-U.S. students it admits.

## Chelsea agree deal for Liam Delap with<br/>£30m release clauseBy New Daily Prime



	Delap vs Jackson	
	Premier League 2024/25	
Liam Delap	Nicola	s Jackson
12	Goals scored	10
2	Assists	5
8	Big chances scored	7
17.65	Shot Conversion (%)	13.16
40	Take-ons completed	18

helsea have agreed a deal to sign Ipswich striker Liam Delap.

The Blues will meet Delap's £30m release clause in his Ipswich contract following their relegation from the Premier League.

Chelsea will now discuss personal terms with the player's representatives, with discussions expected to be a formality ahead of an eventual medical.

Champions League football is not the main reason Delap is joining Chelsea. Instead, the style of play, a young squad, opportunities to play, the likelihood of being able to challenge for major trophies together for years to come and relationships with people already at Chelsea are understood to have played a part.

Delap watched Chelsea's Conference League final win over Real Betis and was very impressed with the second-half performance.

Members of the Chelsea squad represent a known quantity to Delap, who played alongside Romeo Lavia and Cole Palmer during their time at Manchester City. Chelsea head coach Enzo Maresca and recruitment co-director Joe Shields during their time in the North West.

Chelsea will sign more attacking players in what is understood to be a busy summer ahead of their involvement in the Club World Cup in the United States. The Blues will likely sign wingers, and they have a target list with nine to 10 names.

Delap fits the profile of the striker Chelsea are looking for and the overall cost of the deal - including wages - is another major consideration. Chelsea's recruitment strategy is to sign young, developing players on long, incentivised contracts.

Amid the ongoing situation with Delap, Ipswich have an interest in Chelsea striker Marc Guiu. His name is understood to have been mentioned in discussions around the Delap deal.

Ipswich have been aware of Guiu for a while and he fits the type of striker they would like to sign in Delap's place.

### What does Delap's arrival mean for Jackson?

Chelsea will play at least eight Champions League games next season, plus 38 Premier League fixtures along with domestic cups to contend with next season.

Enzo Maresca's side will not have a normal pre-season because of the Club World Cup, so there will be plenty of opportunities for players to play.

Chelsea to be busy this summer

Sky Sports News chief reporter Kaveh Solhekol:

"Liam Delap feels Chelsea is the perfect place to move to and has worked with Enzo Maresca and Joe Shields.

"The question is, will Chelsea sign just one striker or more? There are players like Hugo Ekitike, Viktor Gyokeres and Benjamin Sesko.

"Players would have to go for them to bring more players. Chelsea are going to be busy again this summer.

"They are pleased with the season but they want to aim higher and win the Champions League.

"They feel Delap is someone who can help them to where they want to go."