



2027 polls won't be 100% perfect, INEC chair warns
Pg 2

Police heighten security nationwide over Middle East tensions Pg 6



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Presidency debunks poisoning plot claim against Tinubu Pg 8



Biden warns Trump will try to 'steal' US midterm elections
Pg 17



US Envoy says Trump questioning Iran's refusal to 'capitulate' as nuclear talks resume Pg 16



Pope urges peace as Middle East tensions escalate Pg 14

2027 polls won't be 100% perfect, INEC chair warns

By New Daily Prime

The Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof. Joash Amupitan, has assured Nigerians that the commission has the capacity to electronically transmit election results in 2027, but cautioned that it may not be able to guarantee a “100 per cent perfect election.”

Amupitan spoke on Sunday at the Citizens' Town Hall programme aired live on major television networks and tagged, ‘Electoral Act 2026: What it means for your votes and the 2027 elections.’

The live electoral debate was anchored by popular presenter Seun Okinbaloye and the Executive Director of Yiaga Africa, Samson Itodo.

In attendance were the All Progressives Congress National Chairman, Nentawe Yilwatda, and Labour Party's Interim National Chairman, Nenadi Usman, former Minister of Education, Oby Ezekwesili, Senator Ireti Kingibe, among others.

Amupitan appealed to Nigerians to manage expectations, saying the commission would strive for excellence but could not promise perfection.

“Let me just appeal to Nigerians, because I have noticed now that what Nigerians desire is a perfect election. And INEC will strive as much as possible to give this country the best election.

“However, we may not be able to achieve a 100 per cent perfect election for now. But as far as electronic transmission of results is concerned, I said it before the FCT Area Council that we have the capacity to transmit the results, and that we're going to transmit the results. The only concern was real-time,” he stated.

The INEC chairman described elections as central to democratic governance, emphasising the importance of voter education and institutional transparency.

“Election, for that matter, is the lifeblood of democracy. According to Abraham Lincoln, the ballot is more powerful than the bullets. Also, the ignorance of a voter is very inimical to the security of a nation.

“So, that is why we cannot underscore the role of INEC, as well as the civil society, in guaranteeing a transparent and



credible election,” he stated.

Amupitan noted that INEC was actively involved in the process that produced the Electoral Act 2026, which he said began about three years ago through a joint committee comprising members of the National Assembly, civil society organisations and the commission.

“As of the time I was taking over, the work was almost concluded. But nonetheless, we still made some important provisions and recommendations in the new acts,” he said.

On the contentious issue of electronic transmission of results — a subject that dominated debates after the 2023 general elections — Amupitan disclosed that the commission pushed for mandatory transmission during legislative deliberations.

“Now, even talking about the transmission of the results, you will notice that the original provision that came out of the retreat from the National Assembly was not exactly what you have today.

“But when INEC came in, we talked of transmission being mandatory. But let us be sincere and honest. The only problem that we had was how to define what we call real time,” he stated.

He cited the recent Federal Capital

Territory Area Council elections as a practical example of the challenges confronting real-time transmission, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

“Let's look at the FCT area council election that just took place. Now, there are six area councils in the FCT. The results came out on time in five area councils. But in the Kuje area council, we have 10 wards. And the results in one ward, Kabi, did not come until the following day, Sunday.

“Now, on Saturday, when we mobilised and sent people to that ward from Kuje town, Kabi ward is about three-and-a-half hours' drive. And the terrain is very bad. So I was worried.

“When we sent our polling officials and security agencies to that ward, the moment they entered that place, we could not reach them. They were not accessible by phone. And nobody could speak to them until we had to send somebody on Saturday morning, just to be sure that they were safe, before we now got the results.

“They brought the results to Kuje town. And then it was collated along with the remaining nine wards before the result could be declared,” he explained.

Despite the delay, the INEC boss insisted that transmission itself was not the core problem.

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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
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Tinubu convenes Police Council today to confirm Disu

By News Daily Prime



President Bola Tinubu will on Monday convene a meeting of the Nigeria Police Council to formally consider the appointment of Olatunji Disu as substantive Inspector-General of Police.

Two highly placed officials in the Presidency and the police establishment confirmed the scheduled meeting to our correspondent on Saturday.

“The Police Council Meeting is on Monday,” one of the sources said.

The second source, also familiar with the matter, confirmed, “Yes, we are meeting on Monday. The usual time for FEC meetings is 12:00 or 1:00 pm.”

The meeting is in compliance with the provisions of the Police Act 2020, which requires the Police Council to consider the appointment before the President transmits the nominee’s name to the Senate for confirmation.

In its statement announcing the

resignation of former IGP, Kayode Egbetokun, last Tuesday, the Presidency had indicated that the council would be convened shortly.

“In compliance with the provisions of the Police Act 2020, President Tinubu will convene a meeting of the Nigeria Police Council shortly to formally consider the appointment of AIG Disu as substantive Inspector General of Police, after which his name will be transmitted to the Senate for confirmation,” Tinubu’s Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, said in the statement.

The Police Council is chaired by the President and comprises all 36 state governors, the Chairman of the Police Service Commission, and the Inspector General of Police.

Disu, 59, has been serving in an acting capacity since his appointment on Wednesday following Egbetokun’s exit.

While charging Disu during his decoration ceremony, Tinubu tasked him with making the Nigeria Police

Force “better, more effective and more responsive to the needs of Nigerians.”

He said, “Today, we hand you the responsibility of leading the Nigeria Police Force at a critical time in our nation’s journey.

“You must lead with integrity, prioritise the welfare of your officers, and work tirelessly to restore confidence in the police as a force for good.”

Disu, a Lagos Island native, joined the Nigeria Police Force on May 18, 1992.

He holds a Bachelor’s degree in English Education from Lagos State University and a Master’s degree in Public Administration and in Criminology, Security and Legal Psychology.

If confirmed by the Senate, Disu will become the 23rd indigenous Inspector General of Police.

NASS adopted hybrid results transmission to prevent voter disenfranchisement — Abbas

By Damilola Olufemi

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, has explained that the National Assembly approved a hybrid system combining electronic and manual transmission of election results in the amended Electoral Act to enhance participation and prevent voter exclusion ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Abbas said relying solely on electronic transmission was unrealistic due to Nigeria's inadequate internet coverage and persistent electricity challenges.

The Speaker made the remarks on Sunday while receiving Spain's Ambassador to Nigeria, Felix Costales, during a courtesy visit at the National Assembly complex in Abuja.

According to a statement issued by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Musa Krishi, the meeting was attended by key lawmakers, including Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, Abubakar Bichi; Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Wole Oke; and Chairman of the Nigeria-China Parliamentary Friendship Group, Jafaru Yakubu.

Abbas noted that the decision to adopt a hybrid system followed practical considerations about Nigeria's infrastructure limitations.

"Sometimes, people scream far beyond the exact level of the issue. A lot of people think that we need to embrace electronic transmission in real-time in Nigeria, but within the very little period that you've been in Nigeria, you should be able to speak on the quality of our internet network. You should know that even in advanced cities like Abuja, you are not guaranteed stable internet services all the time," he said.

Citing data from the Nigerian Communications Commission, Abbas added that large parts of the country still lack internet access.

"Based on the NCC report, they said Nigeria is still underserved by almost 40 per cent, which means 40 per cent of territories at large in Nigeria are not covered by the internet."

He warned that adopting only electronic transmission could worsen voter turnout, which he said already remains low.

"It is sad to say that even with the manual arrangement we are using, we are only able to capture about 12–15 per cent of registered voters who, after every four



years, come to vote. That's voter apathy."

According to him, exclusive dependence on technology could disenfranchise millions of voters.

"Now, if we are to introduce only the electronic system, it will further reduce the number because 40 per cent of the country will probably not be able to vote as they don't have adequate internet services... we will also record, perhaps, the lowest number of voters in the next elections."

He explained that the amended law allows flexibility based on local realities.

"That is why we said, in our wisdom, the Electoral Act should be hybrid—a combination of both the manual and electronic systems. Where it is feasible to use the electronic transmission, use the electronic transmission; where it is not possible, use the manual."

Abbas also pointed to power supply challenges, stressing that internet services depend heavily on stable electricity.

"The internet is always backed by energy. How do you power the entire country on the day of the election to have phones that are working and internet that is working, backed by adequate electricity?"

Describing democratic development as gradual, the Speaker said Nigeria would continue improving its electoral processes over time.

"In our entire democracy, we will continue to improve year after year, election after election. I believe Nigeria, with the support of countries like Spain, will do better."

Earlier, Ambassador Costales said his visit aimed to strengthen parliamentary cooperation and deepen diplomatic relations between Spain and Nigeria.

"You can count on us—whatever we can do to deepen Nigerian democracy. Yes, there may be challenges, but you can count on us in any way possible," he said.

He added that political disagreements and polarisation were common across democracies worldwide.

"At the end of the day, if you want to move forward in democracy, you have to reach some level of compromise. We have to try to rule and govern on the level of consensus."

President Bola Tinubu recently assented to the amended Electoral Act passed by the National Assembly, which formally authorises both electronic and manual transmission of election results depending on infrastructure availability.

While supporters describe the hybrid model as a practical solution suited to Nigeria's realities, critics argue that its implementation must be carefully monitored to safeguard transparency in future elections.

Police heighten security nationwide over Middle East tensions

By Damilola Olufemi



Acting Inspector-General of Police, Tunji Disu, has directed commissioners of police across Nigeria to strengthen security arrangements amid rising geopolitical tensions linked to developments in the Middle East.

The directive was disclosed in a statement issued on Sunday by Force Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, who said the measure forms part of preventive actions aimed at shielding the country from possible security repercussions arising from global events.

Disu assured Nigerians that the police remain fully committed to safeguarding lives and property, stressing that the nation's internal security situation remains stable and under firm control.

According to the statement, commissioners of police in all 36 states and the federal capital territory (FCT) have been instructed — with special focus on the north-west, north-east, and north-central regions — “to heighten surveillance and intelligence gathering, strengthen collaboration with traditional and religious leaders, enhance visibility

policing around worship centres and public spaces, and swiftly address any attempt by individuals or groups to exploit global developments to incite unrest or sectarian tension”.

The acting IGP explained that the move is intended to prevent the spillover of foreign ideological or religious conflicts into Nigeria.

“The Nigeria Police Force reiterates that Nigeria will not serve as a theatre for foreign conflicts. Any attempt to import external ideological or religious tensions into the country will be met with the full weight of the law,” the statement reads.

He further appealed to community and religious leaders to continue fostering unity and peaceful coexistence, while urging citizens to stay calm, remain vigilant, and promptly report suspicious movements or activities to the nearest police authorities.

The Force assured that it remains resolute, prepared, and fully committed to safeguarding every Nigerian and maintaining national security at all times.

PUNCH Online reports that the statement follows joint US-Israeli strikes on Iran late February 28, 2026, which reportedly resulted in the death of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and other senior officials.

The strikes triggered Iran's large-scale counterattacks starting Saturday.

Explosions rocked key locations in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and other Gulf nations hosting American bases.

Reports indicate civilian casualties, flight cancellations, airport closures, and damage to infrastructure in densely populated areas.

On Saturday, the Nigerian government issued travel advisories for citizens in Iran and Gulf countries, urging maximum caution amid the hostilities.

The country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has separately called for de-escalation and restraint by all parties involved.

ADC unveils online membership registration

By Ismaeel Aleem



The African Democratic Congress (ADC) has launched a free online membership registration portal nationwide, enabling Nigerians to join or revalidate their membership digitally.

The initiative follows the successful commencement of the party's physical nationwide registration and revalidation exercise in Abuja last month.

The new platform, accessible at adcregistration.ng, aligns with the requirements of the Electoral Act 2026, which mandates political parties to maintain verified digital membership registers.

According to the ADC, only individuals whose details are fully captured and verified on this official digital register will be eligible to vote or contest in the party's primaries.

The move addresses legal obligations while aiming to broaden participation ahead of future elections.

Since the grassroots exercise began in February, the party has recorded significant interest from Nigerians across various states and the diaspora.

The introduction of a free online option

seeks to eliminate barriers, streamline the enrolment process, and allow every eligible citizen to affiliate with the ADC securely and conveniently.

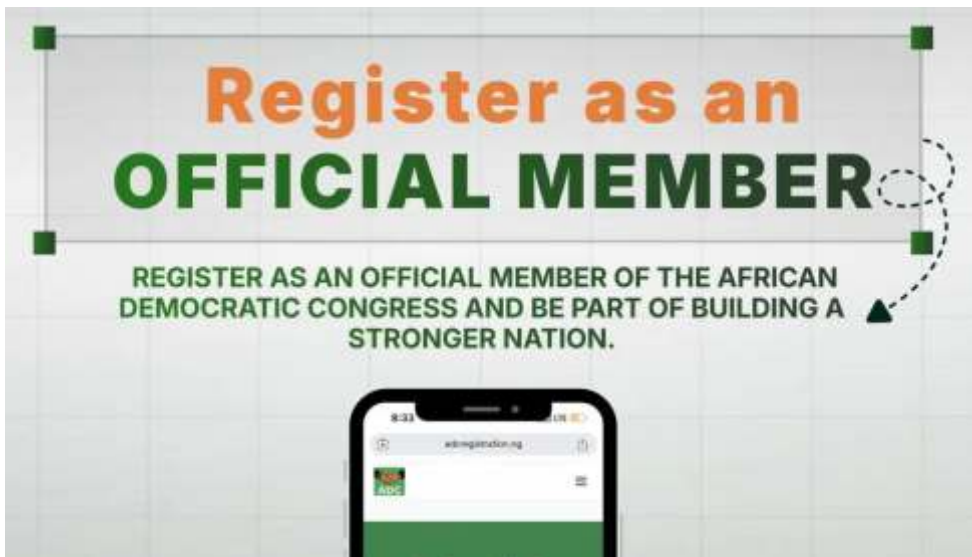
Existing members who registered on the previous platform must revalidate their membership on the new portal, as additional mandatory information is now required to comply fully with the Electoral Act and guidelines from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

The ADC has also encouraged support groups and associations to register via the portal and complete the straightforward onboarding process.

In a statement, the party reiterated its commitment to fostering a modern, inclusive, and citizen-driven political movement capable of providing credible leadership for a better Nigeria.

However, it maintained its strong objections to certain provisions of the Electoral Act 2026, which it argues confer undue advantages on the ruling party, as well as the related INEC timetable.

The ADC emphasised that this registration drive is part of its broader efforts to build a transparent and robust structure, ensuring genuine participation in Nigeria's democratic process.



Presidency debunks poisoning plot claim against Tinubu

By Damilola Olufemi

The Presidency has refuted viral social media reports alleging that members of the kitchen staff at the Aso Rock Presidential Villa were arrested over an alleged attempt to poison President Bola Tinubu.

Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, dismissed the claims on Sunday via his verified X account, describing the report as entirely false.

The widely circulated video purported to show activities within the presidential villa, accompanied by narration claiming security operatives arrested a presidential chef linked to an alleged poisoning plot.

The voiceover alleged, “Today we examine reports surrounding the shocking arrest of a presidential chef over an alleged plot to poison President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, an incident that has prompted swift intervention by a special police squad and triggered heightened security measures within the presidential environment.”

It further claimed that security agencies acted following intelligence indicating suspicious conduct related to food preparation within restricted presidential facilities.



According to the narration, “Authorities moved quickly after receiving credible reports that indicated a possible threat to the safety of the president, leading to a coordinated investigation involving specialised security personnel tasked with protecting national leadership.”

The video also suggested that the operation was carried out discreetly to prevent panic, adding that a kitchen staff member had been detained for questioning while investigations continued.

However, Onanuga firmly rejected the

narrative, insisting that no such incident occurred at the presidential residence.

He wrote, “No Aso Rock kitchen staff arrested. No Aso Rock kitchen staff attempted to poison President Tinubu. Please ignore this fake news being disseminated by this video.”

As of the time of reporting, authorities have not disclosed the source of the misleading footage or the motive behind its circulation online.

Manual results transmission option in electoral act not an issue, says NSE ICT Head

By New Daily Prime

The Head of ICT at the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Oluwadara Oluwalana, sees no issue with the manual backup for the transmission of results in the Electoral Act 2026.

Oluwalana said this on Sunday at the Citizens’ Townhall on the 2026 Electoral Act, citing other countries that adopted a similar measure.

“I would also like to speak about the manual part of the process. It should not be an issue. I think we should be looking at how we solve the disputes that arise. For example, as Senator Umeh mentioned, how do we resolve these disputes when they happen?”

“When India started real-time elections,



they had to re-incorporate manual backups because a lot of disputes came up. As you saw with the technology recently,

where the ‘glitch’ necessitated a change, we have simply made provisions for everything.

“Our focus now should be: how do we move forward? How do we ensure we resolve the issues that emerge between the IReV (INEC Result Viewing Portal), the BVAS, and the manual records? I believe we have the right technology to try it out in this election.”

President Bola Tinubu assented to the Electoral Act 2026 some weeks back. However, critics have faulted the law, which provides for the electronic transmission of results but makes room for a manual backup in case of technological issues.

NDLEA arrests wanted drug kingpin after 13 years in hiding

By **Damilola Olufemi**



The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has apprehended Reginald Peter Chidiebere, described by authorities as “a wanted drug kingpin”, ending over a decade of evasion linked to multiple cocaine and heroin trafficking cases.

According to a statement issued on Sunday by NDLEA spokesperson, Femi Babafemi, Chidiebere was initially arrested in 2013 over cocaine trafficking offences and subsequently arraigned before Justice Ayokunle Faji of the Federal High Court in Lagos under charge number FHC/L/187c/2923.

However, he absconded after being granted bail and remained in hiding for years.

The agency said investigations later identified him in February 2024 as one of the principal figures behind the importation of 49.70 kilogrammes of heroin shipped from South Africa. The illicit consignment was intercepted by NDLEA operatives at the import shed of the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Ikeja.

Babafemi explained that operatives carried out further operations linked to the suspect.

“A follow-up operation was carried out on 19th February 2024 at his Golden Platinum Hotel & Suites, located at No. 16/18 Reginald Peter Chidiebere Street, Hope Estate, Ago Palace Way, Okota, Lagos where an additional 2.20 kilograms of heroin was recovered from one of his guests, Igbanugo Ebuka ThankGod. As a result, Chidiebere went underground,” the statement reads.

Following the discovery, the agency secured an interim forfeiture order on the hotel while bank accounts associated with the suspect were frozen.

“Following these developments, Chidiebere could no longer sustain himself in hiding, prompting his surrender to the agency on 13th February 2026,” Babafemi added.

The suspect is now in NDLEA custody and will face both the earlier charges he fled from in 2013 as well as fresh counts relating to the 2024 heroin seizures.

Reacting to the development, NDLEA Chairman, Buba Marwa, praised operatives involved in the operation, reaffirming the agency’s determination to dismantle drug trafficking networks.

“I commend our officers and men for their persistence and professionalism in this operation,” he said.

In related operations, NDLEA officers in Imo State on February 25 uncovered “a clandestine laboratory tucked in Isiozi Obiato, Umuaka, Njaba local government area”, where 18.4 kilogrammes of methamphetamine alongside “large quantity of precursor chemicals and equipment used in the production of the illicit substance” were recovered.

At the Seme border in Lagos, operatives on February 27 arrested a Togolese national, Hadiza Musa, after she allegedly concealed “5,000 pills of tramadol in her luggage”.

The agency also recovered “1,040 kilograms of skunk” from an abandoned building at Akodo village, Seaside Eleko, in the Ibeju-Lekki axis of Lagos.

Additional seizures across the country included 1,499 bottles of codeine syrup intercepted in Kano, 87.4 kilogrammes of skunk recovered in Katsina, and 18.085 kilogrammes seized in Osun State.

'Other parties are dying,' Yilwatda defends mass defections into APC

By New Daily Prime

The All Progressives Congress (APC) has defended the mass defections into the ruling party, citing better management.

APC National Chairman, Nentawe Yilwatda, said this on Sunday at the Citizens' Townhall on the 2026 Electoral Act.

"It is very fair. It is very fair because they discovered that those political parties are already dying. They saw a reason to join us because of how we operate as a party—from party management to organization and mobilization," Yilwatda said at the event.

"APC seems to be the best party in terms of mobilization, organization, and governance. That provides a leeway for competition. When I go to the market, I have a choice to make: a choice between



good governance, good party management, and a transparent system.

"I will give you an example. We have a

primary solution where, through consensus, all nine candidates in Osun agreed on a single candidate. No other political party in Nigeria has achieved a consensus like that without ending up in court. Only APC has successfully done that in two states."

In recent months, the APC ranks have swelled, leaving opposition parties like the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Labour Party (LP), and others depleted.

The APC has about 31 governors and an overwhelming majority of the National Assembly members on its register, a move critics claim is turning Nigeria into a one-party state.

But Yilwatda said the APC is attracting defectors due to its solid organizational structures.

Amended electoral act has given us hope — Ex-INEC ICT Director

By New Daily Prime

A former Director of Information and Communication Technology at the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Chidi Nwafor, says recent amendments to Nigeria's electoral framework provide renewed confidence in the country's capacity to deliver more transparent elections.

Nwafor spoke on Sunday at the Citizens' Townhall on the Electoral Act 2026 held in Abuja, where electoral stakeholders assessed the readiness of institutions ahead of the 2027 polls.

"Technologically speaking, for me, the new Electoral Act has given us hope. In the new Electoral Act, you now have IReV in there. Whether we like it or not, we don't have a 100 per cent network, we know that," he said.

Providing context on infrastructure realities, Nwafor added, "At the time we did that design, we had about 93 to 94 per cent 2G coverage.

"As of today, we are talking about roughly 86 to 89 per cent in terms of 3G.



You can compress your data and use 2G to send your information, that is not the issue."

'Real-time Reporting'

He stressed that the central goal of the reforms is the real-time transmission of results from polling units.

"There is this word, real time. You finish the election, count it, and when you finish counting, you send two pieces of information: the accredited voters and the results," he said.

According to him, the process already allows officials to transmit both the accreditation figures and images of result sheets, though connectivity gaps may still occur in remote areas.

"There are two possibilities, one is that you must snap and send. The second is that it may not go because of network challenges," he noted.

Nwafor explained that delayed uploads do not necessarily compromise the integrity of the process, as data can still be transmitted once connectivity improves.

"The moment you move from the polling unit to the ward, you get more network. If you send a message through your phone and it didn't go, once you get a network, it sends, and the results have their own transfer mechanism," he said.

Insecurity: Over 1,000 Nigerians killed this year — Peter Obi

By New Daily Prime



The 2023 Labour Party presidential candidate, Peter Obi, has claimed that more than 1,000 Nigerians were killed and thousands more abducted between January and February of 2026.

In a post via X on Sunday, Obi said the scale of violence across the country is worse than that of nations officially at war.

He criticised what he described as the “politics of zero humanity” in the country, accusing political leaders of prioritising 2027 election calculations over the safety of Nigerians.

“It is profoundly disturbing that while we, the politicians, continue to obsess over the 2027 elections—spending our energy scheming about how to capture, grab, and run the next election—the first two months of 2026 have reportedly seen the killing of over 1,000 Nigerians and the abduction of several thousand others.

“This is the painful reality confronting our nation. From Zamfara State to Kwara, Ondo, Kebbi, Edo, Benue, Adamawa, Plateau, and many other states, families have buried loved ones, and communities have been emptied by gunshots and fear.”

The former Anambra State governor alleged that more than 25 states across the

country had been affected by attacks carried out by bandits and other terrorist groups, lamenting that the crisis had yet to receive the necessary attention from the relevant authorities.

“In over 25 states across all geopolitical zones this year alone, there have been major violent attacks on innocent citizens, kidnappings by armed bandits, mass shootings, village invasions, and brazen assaults on worshippers and travellers.

“The scale of bloodshed and the number of deaths in just two months in Nigeria are even worse than what we see in countries officially at war. Yet the urgency with which we discuss these tragedies does not match the urgency of our discussions surrounding zoning formulas, party structures, and campaign strategies,” he stated.

The African Democratic Congress (ADC) chieftain noted with dismay that while leaders were engrossed in debates about power sharing, Nigerians were busy sharing funeral programmes.

Obi stressed the need for authorities to elevate human life to what he described as “sacred status in our national priorities”, cautioning that leadership is not about winning elections but saving lives.

“We debate power sharing while citizens are sharing funeral programs. I watched in tears yesterday as families in the Doruwa Babuje community in Plateau State buried their dead after attacks by armed terrorists, but our media and leaders were focused on discussions about party issues and the 2027 elections.”

“When we aren’t even sure we will be alive to see it, given all the deaths happening in our country today. We strategise about 2027 while Nigerians struggle to survive 2026. This is inhumane.”

“We must elevate human life to a sacred status in our national priorities. Leadership is not about winning elections; it is about saving lives. We can, and we must, aspire to a Nigeria devoid of bloodshed—a Nigeria where governance is measured not by political dominance but by the safety and dignity of its people.

“History will not remember how many strategies we perfected for 2027; it will remember whether we acted when Nigerians were dying. We must choose Nigerian lives over politics. We must put Nigerians first.” Obi added.

When Romance Fades in a Relationship: Choosing Reality Over Fantasy

By **Letura Dumbor-Ereba**



Falling in love is easy, but when romance fades in a relationship, reality begins to replace imagination. We see the best, hear the best, and fill in the blanks with what we hope is true. That's human optimism at work. Understanding when romance fades in a relationship is essential for growth.

Then time passes. The filters fade. The other person's edges begin to show. What once felt charming now feels complicated.

Reality vs. Early Romance

When romance fades in a relationship and reality takes its place, many relationships lose balance. We often mistake the arrival of truth for the end of love. But disappointment does not always mean incompatibility. Sometimes, it simply means we are finally seeing each other as real human beings. According to relationship experts at Psychology Today, emotional intensity naturally evolves over time, and understanding this shift can save long-term connections.

When romance fades in a relationship, it can lead to a deeper understanding of each other.

Romance allows projection, assumption, and fantasy. Reality demands perception, insight, and discernment. When the "ideal

version" fades, you meet the "actual person". One with habits, histories, and imperfections that never existed in your daydreams. That meeting can feel like loss, but it is really an invitation to begin again, this time on solid ground. Recognizing when romance fades in a relationship can be the first step toward revitalizing the connection.

Understanding Expectations in Love

Many couples misunderstand this moment because of expectations. We assume affection should always feel effortless. We believe understanding should be instinctive. We expect the warmth and ease of early love to remain unbroken... wow. When it doesn't, frustration surfaces, not because the relationship has failed, but because our assumptions have.

Expectations quietly create rules no one agreed to:

"You should know what I need without me saying it."

"You should react the way I would."

"You should love the way I expect you to."

When partners violate these invisible contracts, they appear distant or careless.

Conflict grows, not from cruelty, but from mismatched mental blueprints of love. Learning to communicate openly at this stage is crucial. Asking simple questions, like "How are you feeling about us?" or "What do you need from me today?" can prevent misunderstandings and build trust. Over time, these small acts of clarity replace assumptions with understanding.

Breaking the Cycle

What breaks this cycle is curiosity, the decision to ask instead of assume, to understand instead of exaggerate, and to stay without pretending. When we release the fantasy, what remains is the opportunity to build something honest: a connection that survives ordinary days and imperfect people. Being aware of when romance fades in a relationship allows for more meaningful conversations.

Clarity Over Infatuation

Clarity may not feel as intoxicating as infatuation, but it is far more reliable. Loving with your eyes open replaces possession with partnership. You do not need perfection to experience peace, you need understanding.

Because love that survives reality is the only kind built to last. Seeing clearly will always matter more than seeing perfectly.

US confirms deaths of soldiers in Iran operation

By **Damilola Olufemi**

The United States military has confirmed that three of its personnel were killed while several others sustained injuries during ongoing military operations targeting Iran.

In a statement released on Sunday via X, the US Central Command disclosed that the casualties occurred during what it described as Operation Epic Fury.

“Three US service members have been killed in action and five are seriously wounded as part of Operation Epic Fury,” the statement reads.

The command added that additional troops suffered less severe injuries during the operation but are already undergoing recovery procedures.

“Several others sustained minor shrapnel injuries and concussions — and are in the process of being returned to duty. Major combat operations continue and our response effort is ongoing.”

The US military also confirmed



carrying out a strike on an Iranian naval vessel located in the Gulf of Oman, stating that the targeted ship had been critically damaged.

“The ship is currently sinking to the bottom of the Gulf of Oman at a Chah Bahar pier,” the US military said.

The latest development follows coordinated air and missile strikes conducted on Saturday by the United States and Israel across several Iranian cities, an operation that reportedly resulted in the death of Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, alongside senior military commanders.

Reports also indicated that members of Khamenei’s immediate family — including his daughter, grandchild, daughter-in-law and son-in-law — were among those killed during the attacks.

Israeli officials characterised the offensive as a preventive action intended to weaken Iran’s military capabilities and neutralise perceived threats.

Iran responded by launching drones and missile attacks toward Israeli territory while also targeting American military installations across parts of the Middle East in retaliatory strikes.



Pope urges peace as Middle East tensions escalate

By **Damilola Olufemi**

Pope Leo XIV has called on countries caught up in the worsening Middle East crisis to embrace dialogue and demonstrate moral responsibility in preventing further violence following reported joint military strikes by the United States and Israel on Iran.

Speaking during his Sunday Angelus prayer at the Vatican, the pontiff voiced “deep concern” over the rapidly unfolding situation, particularly developments within Iran, according to Vatican News.

He stressed that lasting stability cannot emerge from military confrontation or threats between nations.

“Stability and peace are not built with mutual threats, nor with weapons, which sow destruction, pain, and death, but only through a reasonable, authentic, and responsible dialogue,” he said.

The Pope cautioned that continued escalation could trigger devastating consequences for the region and beyond, urging leaders to halt hostilities before the situation deteriorates further.



“Faced with the possibility of a tragedy of enormous proportions. I address to the parties involved a heartfelt appeal to

assume the moral responsibility to stop the spiral of violence before it becomes an irreparable abyss!,” he said.

Pope Leo XIV also expressed hope that diplomatic engagement would once again take centre stage in resolving the crisis.

“May diplomacy recover its role and may the good of peoples be promoted, peoples who long for peaceful coexistence founded on justice. And let us continue to pray for peace,” he added.

The appeal comes after reports that Israel and the United States launched coordinated airstrikes on Tehran and other Iranian cities on Saturday, actions that reportedly prompted retaliatory attacks by Iran against Israel and Gulf nations hosting American military installations.

Amid the escalating conflict, Iranian state media later confirmed the death of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had led the Islamic Republic for nearly four decades.



One dead, eleven injured after Iranian missile strikes hit UAE airports

By **Damilola Olufemi**

At least one person has been confirmed dead while 11 others sustained injuries after Iranian missile attacks struck airport facilities in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, authorities in the United Arab Emirates have said.

The strikes, launched late Saturday, were carried out by Iran in retaliation for ongoing military operations against its territory by the United States and Israel.

In a statement posted on X on Sunday, Abu Dhabi Airports disclosed that emergency services were responding to damage caused by intercepted aerial threats targeting Zayed International Airport.

“Authorities in Abu Dhabi are responding to an incident resulting from the interception of a drone that targeted Zayed International Airport. The interception led to falling debris, which resulted in one fatality of an Asian national and seven injuries,” the statement said.

Officials also cautioned residents against



spreading unverified information, adding: “The public is urged to avoid circulating rumours and to rely only on official sources. Updates will be provided.”

Separately, four individuals were reported injured following impacts linked to the attack near Dubai International Airport.

Following the escalation, several Gulf nations — including the United Arab

Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait — announced the temporary closure of their airspace amid fears of further strikes targeting both civilian infrastructure and US military assets across the region.

The latest developments come after coordinated US and Israeli strikes across several Iranian cities reportedly killed Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, along with senior military commanders, intensifying tensions across the Middle East.



How CIA intelligence guided US-Israel strike that killed Iran's supreme leader

By New Daily Prime



Fresh details have emerged on how intelligence gathered by the United States played a decisive role in the joint American-Israeli military operation that resulted in the death of Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

According to a report by The New York Times on Sunday, intelligence from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) indicated that Khamenei would attend a high-level meeting involving senior Iranian officials at a leadership complex in Tehran. The information reportedly shaped the timing and execution of the coordinated strikes.

Iranian state media confirmed that Khamenei was killed after missiles hit targets in the capital, Tehran, following earlier declarations by Washington and Tel Aviv signalling intentions to pursue regime change in the Islamic Republic.

The newspaper, citing officials familiar with the operation, said the CIA had monitored Khamenei's movements for months and discovered plans for a Saturday morning gathering of top security and political figures. Although the attack had initially been scheduled for nighttime, US and Israeli planners revised the timetable after receiving updated intelligence.

Washington subsequently shared the intelligence with Israel, which led the strike targeting Iran's leadership, the report said. Military action reportedly commenced around 6:00 am Israeli time (0400 GMT), with long-range missiles striking the compound at approximately 9:40 am.

Reports indicated that senior national security officials were assembled in one section of the complex, while

Khamenei was located in a nearby building when the missiles struck.

Iran's judiciary confirmed that two senior military figures were also killed in the operation — Revolutionary Guards chief General Mohammad Pakpour and senior security adviser Ali Shamkhani.

In response, Iran has launched retaliatory attacks across parts of the Gulf region, with explosions reported in areas including the Emirati capital, Abu Dhabi, and locations close to US military installations, raising fears of a widening regional confrontation.

US President Donald Trump has insisted military operations would persist, stating that American bombing would continue "as long as necessary."

Biden warns Trump will try to 'steal' US midterm elections

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Joe Biden has warned that his successor, Donald Trump, will attempt to “steal” the upcoming US midterm elections, delivering the accusation in a rare public address on Friday.

Speaking in South Carolina, where he was honoured for a lifetime of public service, the former president said the United States was facing “dark days”. His remarks came just hours before the Trump administration launched military strikes on Iran.

Addressing an audience at the Columbia Museum of Art, Biden revived a line from his successful 2020 campaign, saying the “battle for the soul of this nation is one that’s never really over”. He criticised Trump’s plans to introduce stricter voting requirements ahead of the midterms, warning that they could disenfranchise voters.

“In America, the power still belongs to the people for now,” Biden said. “And the way to show that power is to vote, show

up and vote. When we do that, that’s bad news for Donald Trump, and he knows it.”

He accused the president of deliberately erecting barriers to voting. “He’s trying to steal the election because he knows he can’t win your vote,” Biden said. “So he’s going to do everything he can to prevent you from wanting to vote.”

Biden, 83, has largely remained out of the public spotlight since leaving office and undergoing treatment for an aggressive form of prostate cancer. He did not address his health during the speech.

He also criticised Trump’s recent State of the Union address and the administration’s immigration crackdown, during which federal agents killed two US citizens, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, in Minneapolis in January.

“He doesn’t mention Renee Good, Alex Pretti, or offer even a word of solace to their families,” Biden said.

The former president added that Trump failed to acknowledge victims linked to disgraced financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, who died in federal custody in 2019. Trump was among several powerful figures known to have associated with Epstein.

Biden’s appearance comes amid historically low approval ratings for Trump. A February survey by the Associated Press-Norc Center for Public Affairs Research found that 61% of Americans disapproved of his performance. A more recent NPR/PBS News/Marist poll reported that most US adults believe the country is heading in the wrong direction.

Biden withdrew from the 2024 presidential race after a widely criticised debate performance and endorsed his vice-president, Kamala Harris, as his replacement. Trump went on to defeat Harris in the general election, securing a return to the White House.

Air travel disrupted as airlines avoid Middle East skies

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Numerous airlines cancelled or suspended international flights across the Middle East through the weekend after India's civil aviation authority classified large parts of the region as a high-security risk zone at all altitudes.

The warning covered airspace over several countries, including Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, prompting widespread disruption to international travel, particularly routes linked to Dubai and Tel Aviv.

Air India announced the cancellation of all flights to Middle Eastern destinations. Turkish Airlines suspended services to Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Jordan until Monday, while also halting flights to Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

In the United States, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines said flights to Tel Aviv would remain suspended at least through the weekend. The Dutch carrier KLM had earlier confirmed it was suspending

flights to and from the Israeli city.

Several European airlines, including Lufthansa, Air France, Transavia and Pegasus, cancelled all flights to Lebanon. American Airlines suspended its Philadelphia–Doha route.

Virgin Atlantic said it would avoid flying over Iraqi airspace, resulting in slightly longer flight times for services to and from India, the Maldives and Riyadh. The airline confirmed it was already avoiding Iranian airspace and said all aircraft would carry additional fuel in case of sudden rerouting.

British Airways suspended flights to Tel Aviv and Bahrain until next week and cancelled services to Amman on Saturday. The airline said passengers booked to travel up to Wednesday could request a full refund.

The flight disruptions followed a series of airspace closures across the region. Iran closed its airspace "until further notice", according to its Civil Aviation

Organisation. Israel also shut its skies to civilian aircraft, transport minister Miri Regev said.

Qatar temporarily closed its airspace, while Iraq announced a complete shutdown, according to state media. The United Arab Emirates said it had partially and temporarily closed its skies.

Syria closed part of its southern airspace near the Israeli border for 12 hours, its civil aviation authority said. Jordan's military confirmed that its air force was conducting drills to defend the country's airspace. Kuwait also announced the closure of its skies.

Airlines said they were continuing to monitor the situation closely amid heightened regional tensions and rapidly changing security assessments.

Putin calls Iran's supreme leader's killing 'cynical violation' of 'morality, international law'

By New Daily Prime



Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday slammed the United States and Israel's killing of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as a "cynical violation" of morality and law.

Tehran has stood by as one of Russia's closest allies throughout Moscow's Ukraine offensive, and the Kremlin had earlier called for restraint in the run-up to the US-Israeli strikes on Iran.

On Sunday, the Kremlin published a message that Putin sent to Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian in which the Russian leader expressed his "deepest condolences for the assassination of" Khamenei.

US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had said on Saturday that Khamenei was dead, after Israel and the United States launched an attack of unprecedented scale against the country.

But the Russian president said the killing was "carried out in a cynical violation of all norms of human morality and international law".

Putinsaid Khamenei "will be remembered as an outstanding statesman who made an enormous personal contribution to the development of friendly Russian-Iranian relations".

He asked Pezeshkian to "convey my most sincere sympathy and support to the relatives and loved ones of the Supreme Leader, to the government and to the entire people of Iran".

The Russian foreign ministry on Sunday said Khamenei's death, as well as that of other top Iranian officials, was "met with outrage and deep regret in Moscow".

Russia "resolutely and consistently condemns the practice of political

assassinations and the 'hunting' of leaders of sovereign states," the ministry added.

It called for "an immediate de-escalation, a cessation of hostilities, and a return to the political and diplomatic process".

On Saturday, Moscow condemned the strikes on Iran, warning they could spark "catastrophe" in the region.

Also Saturday, Russia's top diplomat Sergei Lavrov spoke by phone with Iranian counterpart Abbas Araghchi, with the Russian ministry stressing that the call was held "at the initiative of the Iranian side".

In 2025, Russia and Iran signed a strategic partnership treaty aimed at strengthening ties — including in military matters.

AFP

Sesko fires United into top three as Tottenham slump

By Damilola Olufemi

Benjamin Sesko continued his impressive scoring run, netting the decisive goal as Manchester United secured a 2–1 victory over Crystal Palace to climb into third place in the Premier League, while Tottenham Hotspur's relegation worries deepened following defeat at Fulham.

Handed his first start in seven matches under manager Michael Carrick, Sesko delivered when it mattered most, helping United extend their unbeaten run since the former midfielder assumed control at Old Trafford. The win means United have now collected 19 points from a possible 21.

Crystal Palace struck first when Maxence Lacroix overpowered Leny Yoro to head home Brennan Johnson's corner early in the match. However, the contest shifted dramatically just before the hour mark when Lacroix was sent off for pulling back Matheus Cunha inside the box, conceding a penalty.

Bruno Fernandes stepped up and calmly converted the spot-kick past former United goalkeeper Dean Henderson to restore parity.

Fernandes later turned provider, delivering a curling cross that Sesko powered into the net. The Slovenian striker has now scored seven goals in his last eight appearances, easing doubts surrounding his £74 million transfer fee



after a slow start to life in England.

Tottenham struggles continue

Tottenham's difficult season showed little sign of improvement as interim coach Igor Tudor suffered another setback in a 2–1 loss to Fulham at Craven Cottage, leaving Spurs just four points above the relegation zone.

Fulham took control before halftime through goals from Harry Wilson and Alex Iwobi, boosting their push for European qualification as they climbed to ninth place.

Richarlison pulled one back late on for Tottenham, but the North London side remain the only Premier League team yet to register a league victory in 2026.

Elsewhere, Nottingham Forest's survival hopes suffered another blow with a 2–1 defeat to Brighton. Diego Gomez and Danny Welbeck scored for the Seagulls, either side of Morgan Gibbs-White's response.

Forest now sit only two points above the relegation zone ahead of a challenging midweek trip to Manchester City.

Attention turns to Sunday's headline clash where league leaders Arsenal host Chelsea. Arsenal's advantage at the summit has been cut to two points after City's narrow win over Leeds, while Chelsea also need a positive result as they battle to remain in the top five and secure Champions League qualification.

