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Jeff Bezos sells \$5.7 billion in Amazon stock after wedding **Pg 23**

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Senate denies rift between Speaker Akpabio, Leader Bamidele

By Friday Omosola



The Senate has dismissed as false reports claiming that Senate President Godswill Akpabio and Senate Leader Opeyemi Bamidele were involved in a confrontation during a recent executive session.

In a statement released on Sunday, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Yemi Adaramodu, debunked the claims, insisting the reports misrepresent the actual proceedings within the upper chamber.

Senate clarifies Akpabio, Bamidele

“Our attention has been drawn to diverse media reports claiming

that the president of the Senate, His Excellency Godswill Akpabio, and leader of the Senate, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, clashed during an executive session recently convened to deliberate whether the Senate should proceed on annual recess,” Adaramodu stated.

“The reports do not contain any iota of truth. In entirety, they misconstrue time-tested practices and traditions in the parliament worldwide, where members, regardless of their political leanings, leverage the instruments of parliamentary debates, questions or interpellations to discuss every initiative decisively and eclectically before approval or authorisation.”

Adaramodu emphasised that the Senate, like any other democratic legislature, encourages rigorous debate and thorough scrutiny of motions, bills, and policy proposals as a norm that should not be mistaken for internal strife.

“Whether in the chamber or committee room, debates on policy issues should not be misconstrued as altercations among members, nor do they suggest any crack in the ranks of the leadership,” he said.

He concluded by reiterating that the purpose of all Senate deliberations is to act in the collective interest of Nigeria’s over 230 million citizens.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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9X6	254,977.00
9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
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10X3	171,000.00
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9X3	150,000.00
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8X3	98,500.00
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POLITICAL COLOUR

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9X4	137,875.00
9X3	112,875.00
8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
5X2	32,916.50
4X4	52,666.50
4X3	39,499.50
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10X4	103,963.00
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9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
7X4	72,676.00
6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
6X2	29,858.00
5X6	71,378.00
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5X3	29,858.00
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Tinubu to receive Super Falcons after WAFCON title win

By Oluwatosin Ologun



President Bola Tinubu has expressed his delight at the Super Falcons' spectacular victory at the 2024 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON), stating that he eagerly looks forward to receiving the trophy in Abuja.

In a post-match video call with team captain Rasheedat Ajibade, her teammates, and Nigerian officials, President Tinubu congratulated the team on securing a record 10th continental title and lifting the nation's spirits.

A statement released by the Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, said Tinubu promised that the Super Falcons will be celebrated on Monday (today)

"I am very, very proud of you. The

entire nation is proud of you. You have lifted our spirits. You are a pride to your generation and we are all very happy.

"You will be celebrated, and I congratulate all the coaches and management of the team, including the ministers and the officials," he said.

The President extended his best regards to Rasheedat Ajibade, who emerged as the tournament's Most Valuable Player and clinched the Woman of the Tournament award.

He also praised Esther Okoronkwo's composure during a crucial moment in the final, describing her 64th-minute penalty kick, which sparked a dramatic comeback, as "very courageous."

Okoronkwo created the second goal and delivered the decisive free-kick that Jennifer Echegini converted to seal Nigeria's 3-2 victory.

"Safe journey home, enjoy yourselves, avoid injuries, God bless you," the President told the jubilant players and officials, who repeatedly interjected with "Thank you, Mr President!"

Responding on behalf of the team, Ajibade thanked the President for approving the full payment of players' allowances. She assured him the team was eager to present him with the WAFCON trophy in Abuja.

The lively exchange ended with a spirited rendition of the national anthem and three thunderous "Gbosa!" cheers for the President.

Shettima leads Nigerian delegation to UN food systems summit in Addis Ababa

By Friday Omosola



Vice President Kashim Shettima has departed Abuja for Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, to represent Nigeria at the second United Nations Food Systems Summit, taking place from July 27 to 29, 2025.

During the high-level international gathering, Shettima is slated to participate in discussions focused on transforming the global coffee value chain and engage in various roundtables and meetings.

These engagements are strategically aimed at bolstering Nigeria's ongoing drive for food security.

The summit itself serves as a critical platform for global leaders to assess the advancements made

since the inaugural 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

It seeks to accelerate commitments towards establishing resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems worldwide.

In addition to the main sessions, he will take part in a series of sideline events designed to showcase successful examples of food systems transformation, foster knowledge exchange, promote partnerships, and inspire collective action through evidence-based strategies.

A key side event will be a ministerial roundtable dedicated to public finance, trade, and responsible investment, aimed at accelerating the transition towards sustainable food systems.

Ahead of his departure, Shettima outlined Nigeria's three core objectives for its participation in the summit.

These include positioning Nigeria as a leading voice in African food systems reform, leveraging international collaborations that align with the nation's domestic priorities, and championing a private sector-driven model for food transformation across the continent.

The summit is a collaborative effort between the United Nations and the governments of Ethiopia and Italy.

Shettima is expected to return to Nigeria following the conclusion of his engagements at the summit.

Lagos to face daily electricity interruptions as TCN begins 25-Day transmission line upgrade

By Damilola Olufemi

Electricity consumers in Lagos have been notified of expected daily disruptions in power supply as the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) begins a major maintenance project on the Omotosho–Ikeja West 330kV transmission line.

The TCN, in a public statement, announced that the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and the National Independent System Operator (NISO) have both approved the infrastructure upgrade, describing it as critical for enhancing grid performance.

According to Ndididi Mbah, TCN's General Manager, Public Affairs, "The upgrade involves the installation of Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) fibre cable on the Omotosho/Ikeja West 330kV transmission line, scheduled from July 28, 2025, to August 21, 2025, from 8 am to 5 pm."

She explained that during the upgrade period, power would be restored at the end of each workday. "All other circuits will remain operational to ensure a stable power supply to the Lagos complex during the exercise," Mbah added.

TCN also noted that the upgrade would facilitate the full activation of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, aimed at enabling real-time monitoring and more efficient grid management.

Distribution companies notify electricity customers



Both Ikeja Electric and Eko Electricity Distribution Company (EKEDC) have issued alerts to their customers, warning of intermittent power supply during the TCN's maintenance window.

In its public notice, Ikeja Electric stated, "Dear Esteemed Customer, please be informed that the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) will carry out scheduled maintenance on the Omotosho-Ikeja West 330kV transmission line from Monday, July 28, to Thursday, August 21, 2025, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM daily."

"During this period, customers may experience intermittent power supply and load shedding across our network due to the planned TCN outage," the statement added.

EKEDC issued a similar advisory: "Dear Valued Customer, kindly be

informed that there will be a planned outage by our partner, Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN).

Date: Monday, 28th July to Thursday, 21st August, 2025

Time: 08:00 – 17:00 hrs (daily)

Reason: To enable works to be safely carried out on the Omotosho – Ikeja West 330kV power line

Impact: Intermittent outage and load shedding across our network

Affected Areas: Across our network coverage."

The announcement comes as Nigerians continue to grapple with power supply challenges and rising energy costs. However, TCN insists that the ongoing infrastructure investments are necessary steps toward stabilizing and modernizing the national grid.

Residents and businesses are advised to make arrangements ahead of the daily maintenance hours to manage the impact of the expected outages.

APC has deepened poverty more than any govt in history – LP

By Friday Omosola



Senator Nenadi Usman, who chairs an interim faction of the Labour Party (LP), has stated that the current All Progressives Congress (APC)-led government has plunged Nigerians into a deeper state of poverty than any preceding administration in the nation's history.

Speaking to reporters in Kafanchan, Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State, Usman described the level of economic hardship across the country as utterly "intolerable."

Usman pledged the Labour Party's firm commitment to rectifying what she termed the "profound errors and shortcomings" of the APC-led Federal Government.

She urged citizens to place their faith in the LP, assuring them that the party is dedicated to presenting a credible, populace-focused alternative aimed at rekindling hope and restoring national pride.

Addressing the recent trend of defections from the LP and other opposition groups to the ruling APC, Usman criticized the practice as not merely legally dubious but also morally indefensible.

She argued that it is improper for individuals to leverage one party's platform to attain power only to switch allegiance after electoral success.

Despite these departures, Usman maintained that the LP remains resolute, drawing its resilience

from the steadfast backing of the Nigerian populace.

"Many of those who left the party never truly believed in its vision for a new Nigeria," Usman remarked.

"Their exit has only helped to clarify our ranks and strengthen our resolve."

She appealed to all disaffected members to set aside their differences and work collaboratively towards unity, as the party prepares for upcoming membership revalidation exercises, congresses, and its national convention, all sanctioned by the National Executive Council (NEC).

Calls for new states surge across Nigeria, constitutional hurdles remain steep

By Damilola Olufemi

As Nigeria prepares for another constitutional amendment cycle, one of the most hotly debated issues resurfacing is the demand for the creation of new states. From the creeks of the Niger Delta to the rugged terrains of the North-East, various ethnic and regional groups are intensifying their calls to redraw Nigeria's federal structure.

The House of Representatives Committee on Constitution Review, led by Deputy Speaker Benjamin Kalu, has received a staggering 46 separate requests for new states, alongside 117 proposals for additional local government areas. "We are receiving numerous submissions, and each will be evaluated on constitutional merit, economic viability, historical relevance, and administrative necessity. The process will not be sentimental," Kalu affirmed.

Although Nigeria's regions often differ ideologically, the demand for new states appears to be a rare unifying factor. The breakdown of submissions cuts across all six geopolitical zones, with the North-Central leading the charge.

According to the committee's data, the North-Central has tabled 12 state creation proposals. This push is largely attributed to the region's ethnic diversity and ongoing cries of marginalisation. Minority groups in Kogi, Benue, and Plateau States, for instance, have long decried being overshadowed by dominant groups.

The South-West follows with eight demands, motivated largely by cultural revival and calls for administrative decentralisation. Meanwhile, the South-East and North-East—each submitting six proposals—anchor their demands in historical and political imbalances. The South-East, in particular, has consistently raised concerns over being shortchanged, having only five states compared to six or seven in other zones.

Why the call for new states

The reasons for these growing calls are layered and emotional. At the heart of the matter lies perceived political marginalisation. For instance, the Okun people of Kogi West argue that governance in Kogi is largely dictated from Kogi Central, leaving their region neglected.

Others cite a lack of economic access. In large states with scattered rural populations, citizens often find governance inaccessible. Cultural preservation also plays a role, as regions like Ijebu in Ogun State and Adada in



Enugu seek statehood to protect their identities and heritage.

Supporters also argue that smaller states would lead to more efficient administration and local development. However, not everyone agrees.

Critics warn that the push is less about service delivery and more about expanding political influence. "We are barely funding the existing 36 states. Adding more could increase overhead without increasing value," cautioned Hon. Sada Soli (APC, Katsina).

Constitutional process

Despite the loud calls, the reality is more complicated. Section 8 of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution outlines an arduous five-step process for creating a new state—none of which has been met by any of the 46 proposals.

Deputy Speaker Kalu admitted this during a session with civil society groups, noting that many submissions lacked essential legislative endorsements, maps, or evidence of referendum support. "In essence, zero proposals are presently eligible for serious legislative processing," he disclosed.

To move forward, proposals must get support from two-thirds of lawmakers from affected areas, secure approval from two-thirds of State Assemblies and LGAs involved, win a referendum backed by two-thirds of registered voters in the proposed area, receive simple majority

approval from all states, and be passed by two-thirds of both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Given these conditions, chances are slim that any proposal will scale through under the current legal framework.

New states may not be created soon

The Constitution Review Committee is expected to wrap up its initial vetting later this year. But with none of the proposals currently meeting the requirements, it's unlikely any new state will be created soon.

Still, the widespread agitation sends a powerful message: many Nigerians feel underrepresented and disconnected from the current federal system.

Whether through new states or sweeping constitutional reforms, there's a growing consensus that Nigeria's political structure is due for recalibration. The state creation demands may not yield immediate results—but they may be laying the groundwork for a deeper national conversation on equity, identity, and true federalism.

The momentum, though stymied by law, is undeniable. Reform, many believe, is no longer optional—it's inevitable.

Sanwo-Olu swears in new Lagos LG, LCDA chairmen

By Damilola Olufemi



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Sunday officially inaugurated the newly elected Chairmen and Vice Chairmen across the state's 20 Local Government Areas (LGAs) and 37 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs).

The swearing-in ceremony, which took place at the Sports Ground of the Lagos House in Ikeja, was attended by political stakeholders, traditional leaders, civil society groups, and residents who gathered to witness the occasion.

Addressing the newly sworn-in officials, Governor Sanwo-Olu stressed the importance of inclusive and equitable governance at the grassroots level. He urged the local council leaders to prioritise the needs of all constituents, regardless of political affiliation.

"This is not the time for politics. Govern with empathy and equity regardless of those who voted or those who did not vote for you," Sanwo-Olu said. "You have been called to service, and I strongly believe that you will deliver good governance, being the closest government to the people."

Sanwo-Olu calls for accountability

He reminded them that their positions come with a responsibility to uphold trust and transparency, while wisely exercising the autonomy granted to local governments. "We have given you the platform, the tools and the opportunity. This is not the time for politics; it is a time to work," he stated.

The governor also charged the council executives to align their leadership efforts with the THEMES+ development agenda of his administration. "I urge all of you to use your office to drive the THEMES+ development agenda in your various councils," he added.

Sanwo-Olu reassured the officials of continued support from the state government, promising capacity-building initiatives and leadership training to help them succeed in their roles. He further advised them to be intentional in selecting members of their cabinets.

"Be deliberate about service delivery and align with our vision of a greater Lagos. Your emergence is a call to duty. You must

show Lagosians that they made the right choice," he said.

Also speaking at the event, Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs and Rural Development, Mr. Bolaji Robert, noted that the outcome of the recent council polls was a reflection of public trust in the elected leaders.

"The victory of today's sworn-in chairmen and their deputies is not just political, it is a demonstration of public trust and a call to deepen democracy at the grassroots," Robert said.

In a speech on behalf of the council leaders, Mr. Sesan Olowa, Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki LGA, expressed appreciation to the governor and the electorate.

"We are grateful to the electorate for this mandate and to Governor Sanwo-Olu for his unwavering support. We assure the people that we will not disappoint—we will deliver grassroots governance that works for all," Olowa said.

Lives feared lost as boat carrying market traders capsizes in Niger

By Friday Omosola



A tragic boat accident in Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State yesterday is feared to have resulted in numerous fatalities.

The Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA) confirmed the incident on Sunday, indicating that rescue operations are ongoing amidst uncertainty about the exact number of victims.

According to a statement from Ibrahim Hussaini, NSEMA's Director of Information and Special Duties, the vessel was transporting an unspecified number of passengers and various goods en route to Kwata, Zumba Market when it overturned mid-river.

While the boat operator and a few individuals were successfully rescued, one person is currently receiving medical attention at the General Hospital in Kuta.

Officials are still working to ascertain the precise casualty count, with NSEMA desk officers collaborating with local divers and volunteers in the search efforts.

Such maritime disasters are unfortunately a recurring concern across Nigeria's waterways.

The nation's extensive river networks, particularly the Niger River, a vital trade artery for West Africa, are frequently used for transportation due to inadequate road infrastructure and persistent security threats, including kidnapping, along highways.

This latest incident follows a series of similar tragedies.

In November 2024, a boat capsized on the Niger River, claiming at least 27 lives and leaving over a hundred others missing as it transported approximately 200 passengers from Kogi to the state.

That same month, dozens were feared dead when another vessel carrying over 300 individuals overturned on the River Niger.

A year prior, 29 children drowned in the same river while on a trip to collect firewood.

Furthermore, during severe flooding in December 2022, at least 76 people perished when their boat sank in a swollen river in Anambra State.

Despite efforts by authorities like the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) to enhance safety, including banning night-time navigation and criminalizing vessel overloading, such regulations are frequently disregarded by boat skippers and crews, contributing to the persistent risk of accidents.

NDLEA intercepts Chinese national with 26.10kg drugs

By Friday Omosola



The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has arrested a Chinese national, Liang Tak You, at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos, with 26.10kg of Loud, a synthetic cannabis strain.

According to the Director of Media & Advocacy, Femi Babafemi on Sunday, Liang, who arrived from Bangkok via Dubai on 25 July, was caught with 50 parcels of Loud hidden in two suitcases. NDLEA operatives tracked and arrested him after he cleared airport checks.

In Calabar, Cross River State, 80-year-old Grace Ekpeme was arrested on 26 July with over 3kg of skunk at her home following intelligence reports.

In Lagos, on 23 July, officers intercepted Chidi Agbafo along the Epe–Ajah Expressway with 21.7kg of Colorado disguised in moimoi sachets and 3.8 litres of codeine syrup en route to Delta State.

At Apapa Seaport, a joint operation with Customs uncovered 101kg of Canadian Loud hidden in 202 tins of food labelled “Bean Salad Mix” inside two Toyota Sienna vehicles shipped from Canada.

At the same day, along the Abuja–Kaduna highway, Usman Musa was arrested with 71,000 pills of tramadol, diazepam and Exol-5. In Maiduguri, Borno State, 30.1kg of skunk was recovered from the home of Binta Usman. Her accomplice, Bala Abdullahi, was arrested two days later.

In Ondo State, three brothers — Nanna, Chizom and Maxwell Ozirinye — were arrested during a raid on a cannabis farm in Idoani where 2,500kg was destroyed and 121.4kg recovered.

In Benin, Edo State, 26-year-old Bright Sunday Okon was arrested with Colorado, Loud, Arizona, skunk, and methamphetamine.

Other seizures include: 105.4kg of skunk from an abandoned car in Keffi, Nasarawa; 6,400 tramadol pills from Bashir Abdullahi in Niger; 113kg of skunk from Jamiu Omolaja in Ogun; and 10,910 tramadol capsules from Adamu Adamu in Gombe.

In Kogi, skunk hidden in garri and herbs was intercepted on the Okene–Lokoja highway. A follow-up led to the arrest of Kindness Bala in Abuja. Another seizure on 26th July in Ayingba uncovered 23,600 tramadol pills, 300 pentazocine ampoules and 700g of skunk.

Meanwhile, NDLEA’s WADA campaign continued in schools across Oyo, Ebonyi, Sokoto and Lagos, and with traditional rulers in Anambra.

NDLEA Chairman, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd), praised the agency’s officers for their commitment to tackling drug trafficking.

UNICEF renews call for ceasefire, unhindered aid access, child protection

By Helen Okechukwu



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has issued a renewed appeal for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, alongside urgent calls for full humanitarian access, the safeguarding of children, and the safe release of all hostages.

In response to Israel's recent commitment to implement humanitarian pauses, UNICEF welcomed the move as a step towards improving the delivery of critical aid.

The organisation described the situation in Gaza as "catastrophic," with children bearing the brunt of the ongoing conflict.

Since hostilities escalated following the breakdown of the ceasefire in March, access to necessities has become increasingly scarce.

Read Also: UNICEF seeks collaboration from stakeholders for

effective vaccination delivery in Nigeria North Central

UNICEF says 2 million Gaza residents face food insecurity

According to UNICEF, Gaza's 2 million residents are suffering from severe food insecurity, with one in three people reportedly going without food for days.

Alarmingly, children account for 80% of all reported deaths linked to starvation.

It views the temporary halts in fighting as a potential turning point to expand life-saving support and ease the humanitarian emergency.

The agency has continued operations throughout the crisis, but says more can be done if humanitarian corridors are expanded to accommodate both aid convoys and commercial deliveries.

In July, the organisation managed to send 147 trucks into Gaza, carrying essential nutrition supplies such as baby formula, milk, and high-energy biscuits. The agency says it is fully prepared to increase the volume of assistance if access conditions improve.

"We are ready to increase this number and ensure more life-saving aid enters Gaza at the required scale and bring hope to an exhausted population," the agency stated.

Reiterating its core demands, UNICEF called on the global community to support an immediate ceasefire, ensure unimpeded access to aid across the territory, uphold the protection of children in conflict, and facilitate the release of hostages so they can be safely reunited with their families.

Priscilla, Juma Jux spark confusion over baby timeline

By Eyitayo Jemimah Ajayi



Oh, what a tangled web we weave when we begin with deception, especially in an age where cameras capture everything and the internet never lacks an opinion! Welcome to the amusing whirlwind of actress Iyabo Ojo's daughter, Priscilla, and Juma Jux's romance, where "true love" appeared to come with a perfectly timed expiration or due date.

When news broke that Priscilla, now known as Hadiza, had gotten engaged to Juma Jux, a previously little-known Tanzanian singer, it took many by surprise. Most assumed she'd eventually settle down with someone from Nigeria, perhaps even her ever-emotional best friend, Enioluwa.

Public opinion was sharply divided. Some questioned whether 23 was too young for Priscilla to consider marriage. But many quickly dismissed the age debate, arguing that love, not age, was the decisive factor, especially if she had found the right person.

Within just eight months of meeting, Priscilla and Juma Jux tied the knot. Their wedding festivities unfolded before our eyes, with the first ceremony televised in February in Tanzania and the final one held in May, also in Tanzania.

Naturally, speculation followed: would a baby announcement soon be on the cards, perhaps within nine months or even sooner? Well, the internet didn't have to wait long. In under three months, a pregnancy announcement arrived, sparking widespread chatter.

Now, the public is closely scrutinising the timeline of her weddings against the visible stage of her pregnancy. As expected, the internet is ablaze with questions, rumours, and no small amount of confusion.

Priscilla and Juma: A Shotgun Wedding, or Was it a Bazooka?

The sudden union of Priscilla and Juma Jux had more conspiracy theories swirling around it than a flat-earth convention. The Ojo family, bless their hearts, desperately tried to brand it as "true love," that time cannot bear, but let's be real, if that baby bump had made its grand debut before the vows, netizens would have questioned the speed of that "love" faster than you can say "shotgun wedding!"

Womb watchers unite! And the "Bad Belles" Get Their Day

Those brave souls who dared air their

suspicions online were immediately branded as "bad belles" – the internet's equivalent of a grumpy cat. Meanwhile, the wedding itself was a serenade that had a shocking number of "uncontentious fellows" sighing, "God when?" Some keyboard warriors, clearly fueled by spiritual caffeine, even started spinning out prayer points from the whole affair, declaring, "Priscilla didn't marry out of wedlock like her mother!" By "wedlock," they meant she wasn't pregnant before the wedding, or perhaps that she snagged a richer man. It will be daring to see their faces now, knowing their initial claims were seemingly untrue.

Everyone knows Iyabo Ojo's humble beginnings – how she got pregnant with her first child, Festus, just before she got admission to study law in UNILAG. According to her, in an interview with Biola Adebayo, she had agreed to marry her baby's father and forfeit her career because she was in love despite her father's indifference.

**Continue reading
on next page**

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Her only daughter, Priscilla, might just be walking in her trail, only that she had bagged someone richer, making this beginning not humble but a bold, wealthy one. She took pride in getting pregnant by saying, “Men will impregnate you because of your hot body”. But I think we know better.

The Great Baby Bump Cover-Up: A Bloated Nose Never Lies

Priscilla Mkambala valiantly attempted to camouflage her growing bump during the wedding festivities, but alas, some “unconventional camera angles” had other plans. And let’s not forget the “bloated nose” – a clear sign that even the best contour couldn’t conquer! Savvy “womb watchers” at the Headies Awards probably got the memo faster than a celebrity gossip column. The initial narrative of “Priscilla married a virgin” swiftly morphed into “Priscilla met Juma Jux as a virgin.” And that, dear friends, is how celebrities master the art of painting digital masterpieces, leaving us mere mortals to swallow their “truths” hook, line, and sinker. We could all channel our inner Eni and exclaim, “We’re surprised, shocked, and honestly did not know!”

The Mkambalas’ “Blue Jet” Has Landed!

Congratulations to the Mkambalas on the birth of their little bundle of joy! While Priscilla’s pregnancy reveal came as a surprise to a few, for those with discerning eyes (and a keen interest in celebrity bellies), it was merely the grand fulfillment of their suspicions. When the news finally dropped, it felt like a pregnancy announcement, but in a classic celebrity twist, little Mkambala had already arrived! The actual birth date remains concealed in mystery, but the comment section, a goldmine of unfiltered truth, gave it away faster than a forgotten birthday. Celebrities were congratulating her on a newborn, not a pregnancy. The collective “feigned surprise” in the comments was palpable. The “Blue Jet” (presumably the baby, not a private

plane) had landed before the official announcement on Thursday.

The Celebrity Bump Hide-and-Seek: A Spicy Deception

It’s a celebrity rite of passage: the great baby bump concealment. But this particular game came with a delightful side of “mixed deception.” Why? Because Nigerian customs and moral standards dictate that a woman should ideally be married before procreating or, heaven forbid, engaging in conjugal bliss! This cultural expectation has birthed an army of “womb watchers” who can calculate your due date from your wedding date with alarming accuracy – just ask Moses Bliss, he knows the struggle!

“You Go Explain Tire!”: Priscilla’s Pre-Nikkah Defense

Yesterday, in a valiant effort to defend herself against the relentless womb watchers, Priscilla declared she had already been married to her husband before the official Nikkah ceremony that graced the internet in February. Oh, Priscilla, “you go explain tire!” This “secret” wedding was conveniently not included when they were tallying up their seemingly endless string of wedding ceremonies.

Juma Jux’s Podcast Confession: The Timeline That Raised Eyebrows

Public opinion started to wane from the Mkambalas’ favor earlier in July when Juma Jux, bless his candid heart, revealed in a podcast that he had to convince Priscilla to convert to Islam. Most people expressed their displeasure, and the timeline, a mere eight months from meeting to conversion and marriage, seemed a tad rushed. Now, dear readers, it all makes sense, doesn’t it?

Rihanna’s Rules vs. Nigerian Celebrity “Branding”

Nobody blames Rihanna for having three (or more!) babies with a man she’s not married to, because she doesn’t pretend otherwise. Nigerian celebrities and influencers, take note! Your “personal branding” needs to be about public perception, not public deception. Nobody is blaming Priscilla for getting pregnant; it’s the attempt to trick people into believing she followed all the cultural due processes that feels a bit like she’s playing on the intelligence of the Nigerian populace.

However, this is Nigeria, a place where people often turn a blind eye to the seemingly wrongdoings of the upper class, yet mercilessly condemn the same actions when committed by those of lower status or by people they simply don’t like. So, what’s next for the Mkambalas? Another reality show, perhaps?



Nkechi Blessing gets N1m monthly salary from anonymous person

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



Popular Nollywood actress, Nkechi Blessing Sunday, has opened up about the surprising reason she stepped away from acting for a while.

In a candid conversation on the latest episode of *Curiosity Made Me Ask*, hosted by online content creator Bae U Barbie, the actress explained how a generous and anonymous benefactor changed the course of her career.

According to Nkechi, she wasn't making enough money from Nollywood roles at the time. Despite being a well-known face in the industry, the financial returns were often too low to sustain her. But then, something unexpected happened, someone quietly stepped in to support her with a weekly allowance of ₦1 million.

"Someone anonymously put me on a ₦1 million weekly salary because I wasn't getting paid enough for movie roles. That's why I took a break from acting," she said during the interview.

Nkechi share new project
Nkechi went further to explain that working on film projects didn't always bring in worthwhile income. She revealed that the profits from some movies didn't even come close to ₦1 million, making the anonymous offer too good to pass up.

"I can't shoot a movie and not even makeup to ₦1 million in profit," she said. "But here's someone giving me that every week just to help me out. Of course, I took the break."

The revelation stirred curiosity from the host, who asked if the mysterious benefactor is still in the picture or if their identity has since been revealed. But Nkechi firmly shut down the question.

"It's not your business," she replied sharply, choosing to keep the person's identity private.

Her response, though brief, made it clear she had no intention of giving away any more details. She seemed determined to protect the privacy of the person who helped her.

Nkechi's honesty in the interview drew attention to a larger issue many actors in the Nigerian movie industry face, low pay. While Nollywood is one of the biggest film industries in the world in terms of volume, not all actors enjoy financial stability. Many up-and-coming or mid-level actors, even those with some fame, often struggle with poorly paid roles, delayed payments, and lack of consistent work.

Her story highlights how hard it can be to survive in an industry that, on the surface, seems glamorous but often hides the struggles behind the scenes.

In the interview, Nkechi didn't just share her challenges, she also expressed gratitude. She said the anonymous gesture made her feel valued and gave her the space to step back, rest, and think clearly about her career.

The actress did not say whether she plans to return fully to acting anytime soon. However, her fans will likely be watching closely, hoping to see her back on their screens. For now, Nkechi seems content with her choice and grateful for the support that allowed her to take care of herself without the pressure of constantly working.

Her revelation adds another layer to the ongoing conversation about fair pay and support in the Nigerian entertainment industry. It shows that even stars sometimes need help, and that help can come from unexpected places.

In the end, Nkechi's story is one of survival, support, and self-care. It's a reminder that while talent and fame are important, having someone who believes in you, even from the shadows, can make all the difference.

Super Falcons' WAFCON comeback, BBN twist, Kemi Adetiba's movie spark reactions

By Damilola Olufemi

Nigeria's sports and entertainment spaces are lighting up with excitement as three major events capture the nation's attention — the Super Falcons' thrilling WAFCON victory, the surprise twist in Big Brother Naija's 10th season, and the breakout success of Kemi Adetiba's new Netflix series, *To Kill a Monkey*.

These milestones have reignited national pride and stirred up excitement across social media and beyond.

In Rabat, Morocco, on Saturday night, the Super Falcons pulled off a stunning comeback to reclaim the Women's Africa Cup of Nations title, beating host nation Morocco 3-2 in a nail-biting final.

Down 2-0 at halftime in a charged stadium, the Nigerian side roared back with a trio of goals — Esther Okoronkwo sparked the rally, Folashade Ijamusi levelled it, and Joe Ekeghini sealed the win with a dramatic late finish.

The triumph marks Nigeria's 10th WAFCON championship and re-establishes their supremacy in African women's football. It's also a sweet redemption, coming two years after losing the title to South Africa.

Oluremi Tinubu celebrates Super



Falcons' historic WAFCON win

In a similar vein, Oluremi Tinubu, the First Lady of Nigeria, via a post on her official X handle, commended the Super Falcons for their significant achievement, attributing it to their resilient spirit.



"I celebrate you, our lovely Super Falcons, for the landmark victory of your 10th Women's Africa Cup of Nations championship," a statement signed by her.

While football fans were celebrating, the long-awaited 10th season of *Big Brother Naija* premiered with the theme "10/10" — and a format twist no one saw coming.

During the live launch hosted by Ebuka



Obi-Uchendu, viewers were introduced to the first batch of housemates. But what stole the spotlight was the show's bold change to its winning formula.

"Instead of one housemate walking away with ₦150 million, contestants will now have to earn the money in bits through weekly tasks and challenges," the show revealed, introducing what it called a "work-and-reward model."

The new approach is expected to raise the

stakes, intensify competition, and keep audiences guessing through the show's run till October 5.

On the streaming front, award-winning filmmaker Kemi Adetiba is dominating Netflix Nigeria with her gritty new series *To Kill a Monkey*, which shot to No. 1 just days after its July 18 release.

The crime thriller follows Efe, a struggling young man whose quiet life is upended when someone from his shadowy past resurfaces. Featuring standout performances from William Benson, Bucci Franklin, Bimbo Akintola, Stella Damasus, and Chidi Mokeme, the show dives deep into betrayal, power, vengeance, and survival.

Described as "a rare gem," the series is being praised for its sharp writing, high production value, and layered storytelling. Fans and critics alike are calling it one of the most compelling Nigerian series of the year.



Palace of joy enters new era under Dr Elizabeth Onanuga

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In a vibrant and spirit-filled celebration themed “God’s Favour” (Psalm 90:17), the Cherubim & Seraphim (C&S) Palace of Joy Global Church Manchester marked its 2025 Anniversary and Church Thanksgiving at its Manchester headquarters, located at No. 1, Belgrave Mill, Honeywell Lane, Oldham, UK.

The event brought together worshippers, church leaders, and dignitaries from Nigeria and the UK to give thanks for divine grace, spiritual growth, and the global impact of the ministry over the past years.

A Celebration of Leadership and Legacy Presiding over the thanksgiving was Her Grace, Iya Aladura Dr. Rev. Prophetess Mother Elizabeth Adetoyin Onanuga, the visionary founder of the Palace of Joy Global Church with branches in both Manchester and Nigeria. This year celebration was centred on Psalm 90:17: “May the favour of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands.”

Distinguished Guests and Ministers

The event featured a lineup of respected spiritual leaders and guests who played key roles in the celebration:

Ven./Sup. Evangelist Sunday Onabanjo (HOP) – Delivered the day’s sermon with spiritual clarity and conviction.

Apostolic Mother Prophetess Adebola Adepeju Ogimole (Emirate Prophetess) – Led powerful intercessory prayers.

Apostle Sikiru Olanlekan Oluwatimileyin – Served as the Anniversary Chairman, calling for spiritual renewal and unity.

Prophetess Dr. Nike Miracle Badmus (MISM) – Coordinated the anniversary program with excellence.

Ms. Temmy Yusuf – Vice Chairperson, recognized for her dedication and administrative support.

Spiritual Milestone Marked by Unity Beyond commemorating the church’s journey, the anniversary served as a moment of reflection, worship, and rededication. With live music, prophetic declarations, and testimonies of healing and transformation, attendees described the event as “uplifting, prophetic, and powerfully orchestrated.”

The celebration reaffirmed the church’s



commitment to building a spiritually vibrant, compassionate and Christ-centred global community.

Foundations in Faith: The Legacy of Saint Moses Orimolade

The Cherubim & Seraphim movement traces its roots to the pioneering work of Saint Moses Orimolade Tunolase (1875–1933), the founder of the first African Indigenous Christian movement, The Eternal Sacred Order of the Cherubim and Seraphim, established in 1925.

Born into a royal family in Ikare-Akoko, Ondo State, Orimolade was baptised and nurtured in the Anglican tradition at St. Stephen’s Anglican Church. Known for his spiritual gifts from a young age, including prophecy, healing and visions, he later founded Egbe Aladura (The Prayer Group) to promote the power of prayer for healing and divine encounters across his communities.

From Revival to Movement

During the 1918 influenza pandemic, many Nigerians sought healing through the Egbe Aladura. The miraculous recoveries led to explosive growth in the prayer groups. By 1924, Orimolade had moved to Lagos, preaching and offering spiritual guidance. He became affectionately known as “Baba Aladura”, the father who prays.

Orimolade’s spiritual methods, which included drumming, clapping, dancing and manifestations of the Holy Spirit, conflicted with European missionary

expectations and were often misunderstood. However, these cultural expressions of faith resonated deeply with African worshippers and laid the foundation for a new, authentically African Christian movement.

Co-Founder and Continued Leadership

The legacy of the church is also shaped by Her Most Eminence (Dr.) Captain Christian Abiodun Emmanuel, recognized as co-founder of the broader C&S organization. She serves as Supreme Head of the Olori C&S Unification Church of Nigeria, guiding the movement through a continued emphasis on unity, purity, and Holy Spirit-led worship.

As the Palace of Joy Global Church steps into a new chapter, Dr. Onanuga emphasized priorities such as youth empowerment, community outreach, and the expansion of global missions.

“God’s favour has brought us this far. We continue to pray that He will establish every work of our hands in this ministry, for His glory,” she declared.

With this celebration, the church reaffirms its commitment to advancing in faith, unity, and service—carrying forward the vision of its spiritual forebears into a future full of promise.

For a true life-changing God-touch experience, follow us on Instagram: @palaceofjoychurchinmanchester

Phone: +44 7840 857458

Starmer faces potential clash with Trump over Gaza

By **Fatimah Idera**

The United Kingdom (UK) Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer is expected to urge U.S. President Donald Trump to back efforts to end the war in Gaza during a private meeting in Scotland on Monday, raising the possibility of diplomatic tension over the Middle East crisis.

Starmer's push for an urgent ceasefire contrasts with Trump's more hawkish stance. The U.S. president has stated that Hamas does not want peace, suggesting a potential flashpoint between the two leaders.

The meeting will take place during Mr Trump's brief visit to Scotland, where he is visiting both of his golf courses. He will also meet with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to discuss transatlantic trade relations.

While the UK-U.S. trade deal, finalized in May, will be a key topic of discussion, Starmer plans to broaden the agenda to include support for Ukraine and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Sources suggest he will reaffirm the UK's commitment to securing the release of the approximately 50 Israeli hostages still held by Hamas.

On Saturday, Starmer confirmed that Britain will evacuate critically ill children from the Gaza Strip for treatment in the UK. He also announced cooperation with Jordan on a plan to deliver aid via air drops.

"Israel must allow aid in over land to end the starvation unfolding in Gaza. The situation is desperate," Starmer said. "We are urgently accelerating efforts to evacuate children who need critical medical assistance."

Meanwhile, Israel has announced new humanitarian measures, including air drops of food packages and the establishment of corridors for UN aid convoys. A power line will also be reconnected, increasing Gaza's water supply by an estimated 20,000 cubic metres.



The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed that the aid drops would include flour, sugar, and canned food. "The humanitarian airdrop operation will be conducted in coordination with international aid organisations," the IDF said on X.

Starmer speaks on Palestinian state
Starmer, who pledged in Labour's 2024 manifesto to formally recognise a Palestinian state, continues to delay the move, citing the importance of timing. Some senior Cabinet members, including Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, have called for immediate recognition.

Israel's ambassador to the UK, Tzipi Hotovely, strongly criticised the idea. She argued that recognition would be tantamount to a reward for terrorism following Hamas's October 7 attack that killed approximately 1,200 Israelis.

Despite their political differences, Starmer and Trump have built a surprisingly cordial relationship. Speaking after landing at Glasgow Prestwick Airport on Friday, Trump praised the UK leader.

"I like your Prime Minister, slightly

more liberal than I am, as you probably heard, but he's a good man," Trump said. "He got a trade deal done. They've been working on this deal for 12 years. He got it done. It's a good deal for the UK."

Trump confirmed there would be no renegotiation of the deal next week but promised a celebration of the agreement during his visit.

Protests across Scotland during Trump's visit have been largely peaceful. Police Scotland reported no arrests at demonstrations related directly to the former president's presence.

However, a 50-year-old woman was issued a police warning for alleged threatening behaviour at a Stop Trump protest outside the U.S. consulate in Edinburgh. In Glasgow, a 49-year-old counter-protester was arrested for allegedly obstructing police during a mass deportation rally led by Ukip figure Nick Tenconi.

Police also reported two unrelated arrests in Aberdeen. One involved an 18-year-old man wanted on multiple warrants, while a 56-year-old man will be reported for an alleged assault.

Badenoch calls for ban on doctors to strike

By **Fatimah Idera**

Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch has said doctors should be banned from striking just as military and paramilitary officers.

In a statement on GB News with Camilla Tominey, Badenoch announced that a future Conservative government would change the law to prevent doctors, but not nurses, from taking strike action.

She called on Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer to adopt a similar position and accused the British Medical Association (BMA) of acting out of control, referencing 11 doctors' strikes over the past 18 months. According to Badenoch, some of these strikes had led to patient deaths.

"The BMA has become militant. These strikes are going too far, and it is time for action."

She added that "doctors do incredibly important work. Medicine is a vocation, not just a job. That's why, in government, we offered a fair deal that supported doctors but also protected taxpayers."

Badenoch highlight strike effects

She warned that the strikes are not only harming the economy but also endangering patient safety, with cancelled procedures and growing distress for families. "We're making a common-sense offer to protect patients and public services," she said. "We will work with the Government to stand up to the BMA and safeguard the NHS."

Her remarks come during a five-day walkout by junior doctors despite them receiving a 28% pay increase from the government.

Under Conservative proposals, doctors would be added to the list of professions restricted from striking



under the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992. This law currently bars police officers, military personnel, and prison officers from industrial action due to their critical public safety roles.

While doctors would still be allowed to unionise through the BMA, similar to the Police Federation as they would be limited to forms of protest short of a strike, such as working to rule or refusing overtime.

The Conservatives are also backing legislation that would introduce minimum service levels across vital sectors, including healthcare, education, and transport, to ensure that essential services continue during periods of industrial action.

The party argues these reforms would align the UK with countries like Australia and Canada, which have stricter limits on doctors' strikes, and several European nations, including Italy, Greece, and Portugal, where laws mandate basic healthcare services during strikes.

However, legal challenges are expected. Critics may argue that a strike ban violates Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects the right to freedom of association and trade union membership. The extent to which the right to strike is protected under this article remains a contested issue.

Historically, police officers have been banned from striking since 1919, when the Police Act made it a criminal offence due to their special responsibilities for public safety. Armed forces members are similarly restricted, with unionisation prohibited under the King's Regulations. Military personnel are sometimes deployed to provide emergency support during NHS strikes.

If implemented, the Tories' proposed legislation would prohibit strike action across all levels of the medical profession and could include measures such as back-to-work orders, a legal mechanism used in other European nations to compel workers to return to their duties during critical periods.

Britain signals willingness to join fight over Taiwan

By **Fatimah Idera**

Britain is prepared to take military action in the Pacific if conflict breaks out over Taiwan, Defence Secretary John Healey has stated, marking one of the strongest signals yet of potential UK involvement in a future Indo-Pacific conflict.

Speaking aboard the HMS Prince of Wales in Darwin, Australia, alongside Australian Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles and Mr Healey, reaffirmed the UK's commitment to regional allies. The aircraft carrier is participating in joint military exercises with partners, including the US, as part of a wider show of strength and unity in the region.

Explaining the UK's response to potential Chinese aggression toward Taiwan, Mr Healey said: "If we have to fight, as we have done in the past, Australia and the UK are nations that will fight together. We exercise together, and by exercising together and being more ready to fight, we deter better together."

While Healey emphasized he was speaking in general terms, he also stressed the importance of deterrence, alliances, and upholding international order, saying, "we secure peace through strength, and our strength comes from our allies."

His remarks come amid rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific, where Chinese military activity around Taiwan and disputed maritime territories has raised concerns of a broader conflict. China's President Xi Jinping has not ruled out the use of force to bring Taiwan under Beijing's control, but a stance rejected by the government in Taipei.

A conflict over Taiwan, a major hub for semiconductor production, would likely trigger a global crisis, drawing in regional and international powers. Experts have long warned of the potentially vast economic and military fallout of any invasion.

The UK has historically followed a cautious approach on Taiwan, avoiding direct statements about potential military involvement. However, Healey's comments indicate a shift toward a more



assertive posture, reflecting growing concern over China's actions in the region.

Britain's largest warship on deployment
The HMS Prince of Wales, Britain's largest warship, is on a nine-month deployment through the Indo-Pacific—the most significant Royal Navy presence in the region in nearly three decades. This includes participation in Talisman Sabre, Australia's largest-ever joint military exercise, and future stops in Japan and South Korea.

The UK's military deployment comes alongside diplomatic developments, including the signing of the Geelong Treaty—a new 50-year defence pact with Australia, reinforcing the UK's role in the Aukus alliance with the US and Australia. The agreement commits the nations to jointly develop a new generation of nuclear-powered submarines.

The UK has also increased its commitment to freedom of navigation operations in the region. Last month, the HMS Spey, a Royal Navy patrol vessel, sailed through the Taiwan Strait, a move welcomed by Taiwan but condemned by Beijing. While the UK does not announce its naval movements in advance, it is widely expected that the Prince of Wales will pass through the Strait on its way to East Asia.

Foreign Secretary of Britain David Lammy, who was also aboard the ship, has previously affirmed the UK's intention to increase patrols in the area to uphold the international laws of the sea and safeguard maritime freedom.

Despite these moves, the UK has not

signalled any formal change in its policy toward Taiwan. Mr Healey confirmed there is no change in the UK's approach, reiterating the government's preference for peaceful and diplomatic resolutions.

The UK's position remains broadly aligned with the US strategy of strategic ambiguity, in which Washington refrains from clearly stating whether it would defend Taiwan in a conflict. While former US President Joe Biden broke from this stance during his term, current President Donald Trump has returned to a more cautious approach, though Pentagon preparations for potential conflict continue.

Australia has also maintained a careful tone. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese recently declined to confirm whether Australia would join the US in defending Taiwan if war were to erupt.

Former Defence Secretary Sir Gavin Williamson told the media that the UK's tougher rhetoric reflects a growing recognition of the threat China poses in the Indo-Pacific.

"There's a realisation that by being completely silent, it doesn't make it more or less likely [that conflict will happen]. Deterrence is about setting out the consequences that will come about as a result of other people's dangerous or malign actions."

He added that stronger messaging from British officials could help prevent escalation by reinforcing the consequences of aggression.

Trump calls for prosecution of Harris, Beyoncé, Oprah over alleged campaign payments

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

US President Donald Trump has called for the prosecution of former Vice President Kamala Harris, along with celebrities Beyoncé, Oprah Winfrey, and Reverend Al Sharpton, alleging they received illegal payments for endorsements during the 2024 presidential election.

In a fiery post on his Truth Social platform on Saturday, Trump claimed that Harris' campaign had paid millions to the stars for their public support, payments he insists amounted to illegal endorsements.

"I'm looking at the large amount of money owed by the Democrats after the Presidential Election," Trump wrote. "These ridiculous fees were incorrectly stated in the books and records. YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PAY FOR AN ENDORSEMENT. IT IS TOTALLY ILLEGAL TO DO SO."

Trump expressed concern that if politicians were allowed to pay public figures for endorsements, it would "break out all hell."

Harris, who ran unsuccessfully for president in 2024, faced previous scrutiny for campaign payments tied to celebrity appearances. According to Federal Election Commission filings, her campaign paid Beyoncé's Parkwood Entertainment \$165,000 for a rally held in Houston on 26 October. Oprah Winfrey's company, Harpo Productions, was paid \$1 million for a livestream event in Michigan, and Sharpton's National Action Network received \$500,000.

However, Trump cited different figures in his latest post, without indicating the source of his claims.

"Eleven Million Dollars to singer Beyoncé for an ENDORSEMENT (she never sang, not one note, and left the stage to a booing and angry audience!), Three Million Dollars for 'expenses,' to Oprah, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars to very low rated TV 'anchor,' Al Sharpton (a total lightweight!), and others," Trump wrote. "They should all be prosecuted!"



The Harris campaign has previously denied any wrongdoing, insisting that payments made to Beyoncé's company were for event production and not for a personal endorsement. Beyoncé's mother, Tina Knowles, publicly denied reports that her daughter was paid \$11 million to speak at the event.

Winfrey has also pushed back against the allegations, stating she "was not paid a dime" and that any funds went solely towards covering production costs.

Sharpton, who has long been a political figure in Democratic circles, has not commented on the latest allegations.

Trump earlier accused Harris. This is not the first time Trump has made such claims. Last December, he accused the Harris campaign of paying \$11 million, \$2 million, and \$500,000 to Beyoncé, Oprah, and Sharpton respectively, though the figures vary from those in his most recent post. In May, he reignited the issue, questioning whether other celebrities such as Bruce Springsteen and Bono had also been paid for their support of Harris.

Despite the accusations, there is no legal evidence to support the claim that the

Harris campaign paid any individual directly for an endorsement. Campaigns are permitted to cover event and production costs under US election law, provided they are correctly disclosed.

Kamala Harris' 2024 presidential campaign raised significant funds, \$1.15 billion in direct contributions and \$843 million in outside support, according to data from Open Secrets. In comparison, Trump's campaign amassed \$464 million in direct donations and \$989 million from outside groups.

Trump's Truth Social post comes during a four-day visit to the United Kingdom. The former president has continued to use his social media platform to attack political rivals and repeat allegations of misconduct, despite multiple legal challenges and investigations currently surrounding his own campaign activities.

The Harris team has yet to respond to Trump's latest remarks.

Rubio backs JD Vance for 2028, downplays own presidential run

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has poured cold water on speculation that he is gearing up for a presidential bid in 2028, instead throwing his support behind Vice President JD Vance as a potential Republican nominee.

Speaking during an interview on Fox News' My View with Lara Trump, Rubio, a former 2016 presidential contender, praised Vance's performance in office and expressed hope that the vice president will enter the 2028 race.

"Well, I think JD Vance would be a great nominee, if he decides he wants to do that," Rubio said. "I think he's doing a great job as Vice President. He's a close friend and I hope he intends to do it."

Rubio, who was long considered a top pick in the running to be Donald Trump's running mate in 2024, ultimately lost out to Vance. Since then, he has taken on a demanding role within the Trump administration as Secretary of State, one which he described as all-consuming.

While he did not shut the door entirely on a 2028 run, Rubio stressed that he remains committed to his current position and is constrained by regulations that prevent him from engaging in domestic politics.

"It's kind of early, you know, but being in the role that I'm in here at the Secretary of State, I really don't play in politics," he explained. "There's actually rules against me being involved in domestic politics."

"I want to do this job as long as the president allows me to do it, which would keep me here all the way through January of 2028. You never know what the future holds. You never rule things out," he added.



Rubio speaks about Vance

Rubio also called Vance "one of my closest friends in politics," a sentiment echoed in light-hearted comments made by the vice president, who once joked about the multiple responsibilities Rubio has taken on under Trump.

"I think he could take on a bit more. If only there was a job opening for a devout Catholic..." Vance quipped last month, following the death of Pope Francis.

Rubio's workload has included overseeing the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), stepping into the role of de facto national security adviser, and even serving briefly as acting Archivist. The Secretary of State's remit under Trump has far exceeded its traditional boundaries, reflecting the administration's trust in Rubio.

The 2028 election is shaping up to be a pivotal moment in American politics, the first open race since 2016 on both the Democratic and Republican sides. With Donald Trump unlikely to run

again, the Republican Party will face a new test in selecting its next standard-bearer.

Reflecting on his own 2016 campaign against Trump, Rubio recalled their heated rivalry. "We happened to be competing for the same thing. So in any competition, especially as you get down and it narrows to three or four people, punches are going to be thrown," he said. Trump had famously dubbed him "Little Marco" during the primaries.

"But then that ends, and then we're on the same team because he's the Republican nominee and I'm a Republican," Rubio added, praising Trump's "incredible instincts for human behaviour" and contrasting the fast-paced energy of the administration with the slower workings of the US Senate.

"It's incredibly rewarding," he said. "There is no point in being in this business and in this line of work if you can't get things done. So that makes it a lot of fun."

Jeff Bezos sells \$5.7 billion in Amazon stock after wedding

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Jeff Bezos, the billionaire founder and chairman of Amazon, has completed a colossal round of stock sales worth nearly \$5.7 billion (£4.4 billion), marking one of the largest insider share divestments of 2025.

The sale, carried out under a pre-arranged 10b5-1 trading plan, began shortly after Bezos wed his partner in a high-profile ceremony in Venice this June. His initial offload amounted to \$737 million worth of Amazon shares.

According to a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Friday, Bezos sold the final tranche of approximately 4.2 million shares, valued at \$954 million, across Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

In total, the tech mogul sold 25 million shares this year, capitalising on Amazon's impressive stock market rally. Since its April low, the company's share price has surged by 38%, driven largely by investor confidence in Amazon's aggressive investments in artificial intelligence. The firm is set to

report its latest earnings next week, with analysts keenly watching for signs of further AI advancements.

Despite the eye-watering sell-off, Bezos remains Amazon's largest individual shareholder, holding roughly 884 million shares, equating to more than 8% of the company. His Amazon stake remains the cornerstone of his \$252.3 billion (£196.3 billion) fortune, positioning him as the third-richest person in the world, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Bezos sells 75m Amazon shares

Bezos is no stranger to such massive divestments. In 2024, he sold 75 million Amazon shares for \$13.6 billion, using much of the proceeds to fund ventures such as his space exploration company, Blue Origin, and to support various philanthropic efforts.

In 2025 alone, Bezos has donated around \$190 million worth of Amazon shares to non-profit organisations.

Interestingly, over his more than two decades with Amazon, he has only purchased shares once, buying a single symbolic share for \$114.77 in 2023.

This year's \$5.7 billion stock sale dwarfs similar moves by other corporate titans. Oracle CEO Safra Catz sold shares worth \$2.5 billion in the first half of the year, while Dell Technologies founder Michael Dell offloaded \$1.2 billion.

Bezos's plan to sell up to 25 million shares, first disclosed in a May filing with the SEC is part of a long-term strategy. The structured trading plan allows the billionaire to gradually offload shares through to May 2026, offering him flexibility and legal protection from insider trading concerns.

While Amazon continues to expand its AI footprint, Bezos appears to be diversifying his financial empire, stepping further beyond the realm of e-commerce into space, science, and global philanthropy.

34 killed in Congo church attack by ISIS-linked rebels

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



The death toll from a brutal attack on a Catholic church in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo has climbed to 34, according to local civil society leaders, with fears that the number may yet rise.

The assault, believed to have been carried out by Islamic State-linked Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels, took place in the early hours of the morning in Komanda, a town in Ituri province. According to Dieudonné Duranthabo, a civil society coordinator in the area, the victims' bodies remained at the scene for several hours as volunteers began preparing a mass grave within the church compound.

"The bodies of the victims are still at the scene of the tragedy, and volunteers are preparing how to bury them in a mass grave that we are preparing in a compound of the Catholic church," Duranthabo told the Associated Press.

At least five additional people were killed in a separate assault on the nearby village of Machongani. Local leaders reported that several residents were abducted and taken into the bush, with their number and whereabouts still unknown.

"They took several people into the bush; we do not know their destination or their number," said Lossa Dhekana, another civil society representative in Ituri.

The ADF rebels, notorious for their use of guns and machetes, stormed the church at approximately 1 a.m., torching nearby homes and shops. The military initially confirmed 10 fatalities, but local media and humanitarian sources report the total number of deaths to be more than 40.

Video footage circulating online shows the aftermath of the attack, burnt structures and bodies strewn across the church floor. Survivors wailed in anguish as they tried to identify the dead, while others stood in stunned silence.

A U.N.-backed radio station cited security sources in stating that 43 people were killed. It reported that the attackers fled from their stronghold, located around 12 kilometres (7 miles) from Komanda's centre, before security forces could intervene.

Duranthabo condemned the attack, calling for urgent military action. "This happened in a town where all the security officials are present," he said. "We

demand military intervention as soon as possible, since we are told the enemy is still near our town."

Eastern Congo faces attack

Eastern Congo continues to endure relentless violence at the hands of armed groups, including the ADF and M23, a rebel group allegedly supported by Rwanda. The ADF, which emerged in Uganda in the late 1990s following discontent with President Yoweri Museveni's rule, moved into Congo in 2002 after military pressure forced them across the border.

Since pledging allegiance to the Islamic State in 2019, the ADF has escalated its brutal tactics, targeting civilians and sowing terror across Ituri and North Kivu provinces. Earlier this month, the group was blamed for another massacre in Ituri, which a United Nations spokesperson described as a "bloodbath."

Despite ongoing military operations, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) have struggled to contain the violence, as attacks continue to destabilise communities and overwhelm local authorities.

World Cup Qualifier: Super Eagles to face Rwanda, South Africa September

By Damilola Olufemi

Nigeria's Super Eagles are gearing up for a critical phase of their 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying journey, with back-to-back matches lined up against Rwanda and South Africa in September.

According to FIFA's Head of Qualifiers and International Matches, Gordon Savic, the high-stakes Group C fixture between Nigeria and South Africa's Bafana Bafana will be played on Tuesday, 9th September 2025. The match is set to take place at the Toyota Stadium in Bloemfontein, with kick-off scheduled for 4:00 p.m. GMT, which is 5:00 p.m. in Nigeria and 6:00 p.m. in South Africa.



Super Eagles to play Rwanda

Before travelling to Bloemfontein, the Super Eagles are expected to host Rwanda in another crucial qualifier, as they continue their push for a spot in the 2026 FIFA World Cup to be jointly hosted by the USA, Canada, and Mexico.

The Toyota Stadium, previously known as Vodacom Park and later Free State Stadium, will serve as the battleground for the South Africa clash. Opened in 1995, the venue has a seating capacity of 46,000 and is located in Bloemfontein,

South Africa's judicial capital.

With Group C still wide open, the September fixtures could prove decisive for Nigeria's hopes of returning to the world stage after missing out on the 2022 edition in Qatar.

Odegaard's late penalty seals 3-2 Arsenal win over Newcastle in Singapore thriller

By Damilola Olufemi

Martin Odegaard calmly converted a penalty in the 84th minute to hand Arsenal a 3-2 victory over Newcastle United in a lively pre-season clash held in Singapore on Sunday.

Before kick-off, Arsenal's newest acquisition, Viktor Gyökeres—signed a day earlier from Sporting Lisbon—was unveiled to the crowd of over 38,700 fans. Though he didn't feature in the match, the Swedish striker soaked in the atmosphere from the bench and could potentially make his debut against Tottenham in Hong Kong next Thursday.

"We are increasing the quality of the squad all the time, so we're super happy to have Viktor with us," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "It has been a long journey to get him here."

Newcastle, without star forward Alexander Isak amid ongoing transfer speculation, took the lead early with their very first real chance. Anthony Elanga, one of their new summer signings, smashed a low drive into the bottom corner in the sixth minute after being picked out by Sandro Tonali.

Despite the early setback, Arsenal gradually



found its rhythm. Mikel Merino pulled them level in the 33rd minute, latching onto a smart flick from Kai Havertz.

Just moments later, the Gunners edged ahead when Newcastle defender Alex Murphy misjudged a ball in the box and turned it into his net, giving Arsenal a 2-1 lead.

The Magpies nearly went two behind after the break when Bukayo Saka attempted an

acrobatic bicycle kick, but goalkeeper Nick Pope pulled off a brilliant stop to keep Newcastle in it.

Shortly after that save, Jacob Murphy equalised for Newcastle with a speculative effort from outside the area that slipped past Arsenal keeper David Raya.

With the game appearing to be heading for a draw, 15-year-old Max Dowman made a driving run into the Newcastle penalty area before being brought down by Joelinton. The referee pointed to the spot, and Odegaard stepped up to coolly slot home the winner, handing Arsenal their second pre-season win in Singapore following a 1-0 triumph over AC Milan.

Reflecting on the contest, Arteta noted the intensity of the encounter. "Playing against Newcastle today wasn't just a friendly. It was a real test," he said. "It gave us the chance to raise our competitiveness and physical level. There are still things we need to work on, like how we compete, understand our positions and show the willingness to win."