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'How Buhari's govt crippled naira'

By Damilola Olufemi

The Senator representing Edo North, Adams Oshiomhole, has laid blame for the naira's sharp decline at the feet of the Buhari administration, pointing to what he described as reckless monetary practices by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) under the guise of the ways and means provision.

Speaking at the Progressives Governors Forum meeting in Benin City on Saturday, the former Edo State governor said, "We are coming from a country that was almost like Zimbabwe or Idi Amin's Uganda where he asked the Central Bank governor, 'go and print more money for us to share to the people'. And the governor said, 'if we print more money, Uganda currency will be like a sheet of paper'."

Oshiomhole likened the Nigerian situation to that of Uganda's infamous economic collapse, noting that the Buhari-era CBN followed a similar path.

He said, "This is what the immediate past CBN governor was doing. In the Senate, we have the record that they printed over ₦31 trillion, which they called ways and means."

The ways and means provision in Nigerian fiscal policy allows the government to borrow directly from the CBN to cover shortfalls in



expected revenue. However, Oshiomhole criticized how it was applied, saying: "They called it ways and means, but I can tell you what it means: it means a situation in which the government prints banknotes, not based on what we have earned or any resources, just print banknotes to go and share to the people to meet their money illusion."

What led to collapse of naira

According to him, this unchecked printing of money had devastating consequences. "It is the result of that excessive printing of banknotes that led to the collapse of the naira," he said.

He also stressed that understanding today's inflation and exchange rate crisis requires looking back at the previous administration's monetary habits. "To understand the root cause

of the present cost of living and the exchange rate regime, you must trace it and locate it in terms of the excessive amount of banknotes through so-called ways and means, the past government created, and which this government has eliminated," Oshiomhole added.

He lamented Nigeria's past borrowing habits, saying the country was "borrowing every day the way fish drink water", and argued that President Bola Tinubu is now saddled with the burden of repaying those loans to protect the nation's financial independence.

In 2024, the Senate launched an investigation into the Ways and Means facility and the CBN's Anchor Borrowers Programme as part of efforts to unravel the legacy of fiscal decisions that many believe severely weakened the economy.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
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Jonathan reveals tense power struggle during Yar'Adua's illness

By Gbenga Olaleye



Former Nigerian President Dr Goodluck Jonathan has opened up about the tense and uncertain period he experienced while serving as Vice President during the presidency of Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, particularly during the latter's protracted illness.

Speaking in an interview with the Rainbow Book Club about his memoir *My Transition Hours*, Dr Jonathan detailed the political storm that brewed as the late President Yar'Adua battled ill health, and the deep divisions it exposed in Nigeria's political and regional landscape.

According to the former leader, there were covert efforts to oust him from the Presidential Villa by elements opposed to the South assuming the presidency. He cited growing conspiracy theories and alleged attempts to frustrate his tenure, driven by the sensitive North-South,

Christian-Muslim political divide in the country at the time.

"The country was very tense. Every day I was hearing about a coup," Jonathan recalled.

He revealed that while Yar'Adua was abroad receiving medical treatment, close associates expressed concern for his safety and urged him to vacate the Presidential Villa temporarily.

"I remember one day, I was still Vice President, they had not even moved the Doctrine of Necessity and some of my friends came and said, 'No, you don't have to sleep here. You have to come and sleep in my guest house'," he recounted.

However, Jonathan said he firmly rejected the advice, opting instead to remain at the Villa despite the risks.

"I said, 'No.' I will stay in the State

House. If anybody wants to kill me, it's better you kill me in the State House so Nigerians will know that they assassinated me in the State House. They know I have not committed any offence."

Jonathan's comments shed new light on the high-stakes political climate of the time, which culminated in the National Assembly invoking the 'Doctrine of Necessity' in February 2010 to formally empower him as Acting President.

Yar'Adua passed away in May 2010, after which Jonathan assumed the presidency in full capacity and went on to win the 2011 general election.

His reflections underscore the fragile nature of Nigeria's democracy during transitional periods and the personal resolve required to navigate the storm.

Nigeria to launch tree-planting campaign next season, says Shettima

By Oluwatosin Ologun

The Vice President of Nigeria, Kashim Shettima has hinted that Nigeria will embark on massive tree planting and its campaign thereof in the upcoming rainy season as part of its national reforestation and environmental sustainability drive.

He said the initiative draws strong inspiration from Ethiopia's Green Legacy Programme, which he described as a model for combining climate action with economic opportunity.

According to a statement by presidential spokesman at the office of the vice president, Stanley Nkwocha, Shettima is on a state visit to Ethiopia.

Speaking on Saturday after touring multiple agricultural and industrial facilities across Ethiopia, VP Shettima, said Ethiopia is a success story worthy of emulation and a pathfinder for Africa's renaissance.

"We intend to plant 20 billion trees in the next rainy season. It requires a lot of planning, energy and drive which Ethiopia was able to galvanise its population into doing.

"I was overwhelmed with joy that the real economic renaissance of Africa is in the offing. Ethiopia has become the pathfinder, the front runner in us reclaiming our pride and our continent. We are mightily proud of them," he said.

The Vice President's tour included visits to the Adama Dairy Farms, Luke Avocado Nursery, Shera Dibandiba Mojo Family Integrated Farm, Biyyo Poultry Farm, and Bishoftu Pea Farm as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral ties in agriculture and industrial development.



Central to the visit was the official launch of Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative, which the Nigerian Vice President described as a win-win for all, saying the programme combines environmental restoration with job creation.

"Ethiopia is a nation of over 100 million people; the success of Ethiopia will reverberate across the length and breadth of East and Southern Africa," VP Shettima said.

The Vice President acknowledged Ethiopia's achievement in wheat self-sufficiency as a key milestone, pointing out that the country has transformed from importing \$1 billion worth of wheat annually to now exporting to neighboring countries, including Djibouti and Kenya.

"If Nigeria and Ethiopia work, Africa will work. Jointly, the two of us constitute over 350 million people, more than the population of the

United States. We have to make these two countries work harmoniously for the betterment of our continent."

Also, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Agribusiness and Productivity Enhancement, Dr. Kingsley Uzoma, described the visit as phenomenal, affirming President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's commitment to replicating Ethiopia's agricultural transformation model.

"President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has a whole lot of respect for the people of Ethiopia. Why we came here is to understudy what we have seen and report back to him. I believe that he will replicate this in a much stronger and bolder scope," Dr. Uzoma said.

He further said that Nigeria is also pursuing economic diversification strategies as part of efforts to reduce its dependence on oil revenues through expanded agricultural exports, including avocado, pineapple, mango, cashew, and cocoa.

'Mr President, this isn't time for holidaying' - Obi slams Tinubu's trip to Saint Lucia

By Friday Omosola



Peter Obi, the 2023 presidential candidate of Labour Party (LP), has criticised President Bola Tinubu's trip to Saint Lucia, a Caribbean island nation.

He described it as an inappropriate 'holidaying' amidst Nigeria's severe socio-economic and security challenges.

In a statement issued on his X page on Saturday, Mr Obi expressed his bewilderment at the Presidency's announcement that Mr Tinubu would depart Abuja on Saturday for official engagements and personal leisure in Saint Lucia and subsequently Brazil.

This confirmation, he noted, followed earlier reports from Saint Lucia's Prime Minister Philip J. Pierre, who indicated that June 30 and July 1 would be dedicated to official visits, with the remaining days allocated for a 'personal vacation.'

Mr Obi condemned the leisure aspect of the trip, especially when, according to him, Nigeria is grappling with an unprecedented level of insecurity, hunger, and economic hardship.

He highlighted that in the past two years, Nigeria has suffered more casualties from criminality than a country officially at war, ranking it among the most insecure places globally.

The former Anambra State governor drew a stark contrast between the President's foreign travel plans and his perceived inaction regarding domestic disasters.

Mr Obi lamented that Mr Tinubu had not visited Minna, Niger State, where over 200 lives were lost and 700 persons remain missing due to a flood disaster.

He also criticised the President's visit to Makurdi, Benue State – where over 200 lives were recently lost to violence – as a 'political jamboree' rather than a genuine condolence visit.

He noted that a public holiday was declared and children were made to line up, while the President did not visit the actual scene of the attack.

Mr Obi underscored the size disparity between the crisis-hit Nigerian

locations and Saint Lucia, pointing out that Makurdi (937.4 km²) and Minna (6789 km²) are significantly larger than Saint Lucia (617 km²), and their populations far exceed Saint Lucia's 180,000 residents.

"The situation in this country today calls for no leisure for anybody in a position of authority, more so the President, on whose desk the buck stops," Mr Obi said.

He accused the current administration of demonstrating insensitivity and a lack of passion for the populace, prioritizing the wealthy while the poor continue to suffer.

Mr Obi called for an urgent reversal of this apparent indifference, urging leaders to focus on alleviating poverty rather than concentrating efforts on the 2027 election and satisfying elites.

He emphasised that Nigeria's resources belong to all citizens, not just a select few, stating, "The time has come to put a stop to this drift before it consumes all and focus on pulling people out of poverty."

Fubara, Wike, Amaewhule reunite publicly after fresh peace talks

By Gbenga Olaleye



Suspended Rivers State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, alongside the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and his predecessor, Nyesom Wike, and the suspended Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly, Martin Amaewhule, made a rare public appearance together on Saturday — just days after another round of peace talks convened at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

The trio, who have been at the centre of a prolonged political crisis in Rivers State, were seen at a funeral service held in Rumueprikom, Wike's hometown in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area. Their joint appearance has stirred fresh speculation about possible reconciliation efforts following nearly two years of bitter political conflict.

Their presence at the event comes in the wake of Thursday's high-level peace meeting brokered by President

Bola Ahmed Tinubu in Abuja. The meeting, which brought together Fubara, Wike, and other political stakeholders, aimed to bring an end to the ongoing dispute that has plagued the governance and stability of Rivers State.

Political observers believe the public appearance could be a signal that efforts to resolve the crisis may finally be gaining traction. However, sources close to the matter say key issues remain unresolved behind the scenes.

Also present at the funeral service were several prominent political figures, including Senator Allwell Onyesoh, Senator George Thompson Sekibo, and Senator Olaka Nwogu. Other dignitaries in attendance included former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Chibudom Nwuche; former House of Representatives Member, Hon. Ken Chikere; South-South Vice Chairman of the All Progressives Congress

(APC), Victor Giadom; and former PDP Deputy National Chairman, Dr Sam Sam Jaja.

Despite the show of unity, political insiders caution against assuming a full resolution of the crisis. Governor Fubara is expected to meet with his political supporters in a closed-door session later today to brief them on the outcome of the latest discussions held in Abuja with President Tinubu and Minister Wike.

The long-running dispute has seen divisions deepen within the state's political structure, affecting legislative and executive relations, and prompting national intervention.

While the public reunion offers a glimmer of hope for peace in Rivers State, many are watching closely to see whether it marks a true turning point or merely a temporary ceasefire in an ongoing power struggle.

Dangote's uncle Aminu Dantata dies at 94

By Damilola Olufemi

Billionaire businessman and elder statesman Aminu Alhassan Dantata has passed away at the age of 94.

His longtime aide, Mustapha Junaid, confirmed the news in a statement early Saturday.

“Innalillahi wa inna ilaihi rajiun. Innalillahi wa inna ilaihi rajiun. It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of our beloved father, Alhaji Aminu Alhassan Dantata. May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdaus and forgive his shortcomings. The Janazah details will be shared later insha Allah,” Junaid wrote.

Who is Dantata

Dantata, a granduncle to Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, came from a legendary lineage of wealth and entrepreneurship. His father, Alhassan Dantata, widely regarded as Nigeria's first millionaire, was one of West Africa's most prominent traders in the early 20th century. Alhassan is also the great-



grandfather of Dangote.

Aminu Dantata carved out his legacy as a business pioneer and philanthropist. He served as Kano State's Commissioner for Planning and Development from 1967 to 1972 but was best known for his role in

shaping northern Nigeria's business landscape.

He founded Express Petroleum & Gas Company Ltd and played a leading role in establishing Jaiz Bank, Nigeria's first non-interest financial institution. He was also the inaugural Chancellor of Al-Qalam University, Katsina.

Dantata's philanthropic efforts were widespread. He championed educational and economic empowerment initiatives, especially through the Kano State Endowment Fund. He was also a major benefactor to health institutions, notably donating the Alhassan Dantata Haemodialysis Centre to Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital.

His death marks the end of an era for one of Nigeria's most influential business dynasties. Funeral arrangements are expected to be announced in due course by the family.

Ganduje out, Dalori in as APC's national acting chairman

By Damilola Olufemi

The All Progressives Congress (APC) has officially confirmed the resignation of Abdullahi Ganduje from his position as national chairman.

Ganduje, a former two-term governor of Kano State, stepped down on Friday, citing the need to focus on his health and pressing personal matters. According to the party, the resignation is effective immediately.

Felix Morka, APC's national publicity secretary, announced the development in a statement Friday night, noting that Ganduje's resignation letter was submitted to the party's National Working Committee (NWC) through the national secretary, Ajibola Basiru.

Dalori confirmed as national acting chair

“To ensure continuity in leadership, Deputy National Chairman (North), Ali Dalori, has been directed to take over in an acting capacity until the party's National Executive Committee (NEC)



convenes in December to elect a substantive chairman,” Morka stated.

He praised Ganduje for his “invaluable contributions” and commitment to advancing the party's unity and democratic values during his time in office.

“Throughout his tenure, he dedicated himself to strengthening the party's unity and cohesion, expounding its

democratic ideals and enhancing the party's electoral competitiveness,” Morka said.

He also highlighted the confidence shown in Ganduje by the party's NEC and caucus meetings in February 2025, calling it “a profound recognition and honour for his service.”

Morka noted that Ganduje exits the role “with great pride in our collective achievements,” including successful political defections and court rulings that reinforced the legitimacy of the APC's leadership.

He reassured party members that the APC remains focused on its mission to deliver on President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope agenda and bring meaningful change to Nigerians.

Ganduje took over as APC national chairman in August 2023, following the resignation of his predecessor, Abdullahi Adamu.

Rivers State Crisis: 'We're not aware of any agreement Fubara reached with Tinubu, Wike' - PDP

By Friday Omosola

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has distanced itself from any agreement allegedly reached between suspended Rivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara, FCT Minister Ezenwo Nyesom Wike (CON), and President Bola Tinubu concerning the ongoing political crisis in Rivers State.

New Daily Prime had earlier reported that following a closed-door meeting on Thursday night at the Presidential Villa in Abuja, an agreement was allegedly reached to end hostilities and allow all parties involved to work together.

The meeting reportedly included President Tinubu, FCT Minister Wike, Speaker Martin Amaewhule, and the suspended lawmakers from the Rivers State House of Assembly.

In its Friday report, The Cable stated that President Tinubu had agreed to reinstate Fubara as Governor of Rivers State — on the condition that he would not contest the 2027 gubernatorial election.

As part of the arrangement, Mr Wike would be permitted to appoint all 23 local government chairpersons in the state. Additionally, there was a directive to pay all outstanding allowances and entitlements owed to the 27 suspended lawmakers loyal to the FCT Minister.

The report further stated that the lawmakers, led by Mr Amaewhule — who defected to the All Progressives Congress (APC) but continued to hold onto their seats — also agreed to suspend impeachment proceedings against Governor Fubara.

The conditions reportedly agreed upon have since sparked widespread controversy, with several prominent political figures and civil society groups openly criticising the deal.



When contacted for clarification, the PDP — under whose platform Mr Fubara was elected governor in 2023 — denied any knowledge of the purported agreement.

Speaking exclusively to this newspaper, PDP National Publicity Secretary Debo Ologunagba said the party was not involved in any discussions between Governor Fubara, President Tinubu, or Mr Wike.

“The PDP will make its stand known very soon. Let me say this clearly: the PDP was not a party to that discussion. I have not seen any copy of the agreement you referred to, so it would be premature to comment on it. When we have full details, we will communicate them to the public,” he stated.

“Again, we were not part of that negotiation. Until we see a formal document, we will not be able to make any official comment. Once we do, the party will respond accordingly.”

When asked about the declaration of a state of emergency in Rivers State, Mr Ologunagba clarified that it was solely the decision of President Tinubu and not endorsed by the PDP.

He added that, in the PDP's view, the declaration was unconstitutional.

“And if you don't know, let me now inform you — there is a pending case at the Supreme Court on these matters. A group of PDP governors is already in court,” he said.

“When issues are in court, they are sub judice. That's why we refrain from commenting further. The legal status of that declaration is being contested, and we await the court's judgment.”

President Tinubu declared a State of Emergency in Rivers State on March 18, 2025, suspending Governor Fubara, Deputy Governor Ngozi Odu, and all elected members of the Rivers State House of Assembly for an initial period of six months.

The President said the decision was necessary due to a total breakdown of governance, rising political instability, and a constitutional crisis caused by the prolonged feud between Governor Fubara and Minister Wike.

Following the suspension, President Tinubu appointed retired Admiral Ibok-Ete Ibas as Sole Administrator to manage the affairs of the state. The National Assembly later ratified the President's declaration through a voice vote.

Obi commends Ganduje's resignation, urges ailing leaders to follow suit

By Friday Omosola

The 2023 Labour Party presidential candidate, Peter Obi, has praised Umar Ganduje for resigning as the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Mr Obi, in a statement posted on his X page on Saturday, described Mr Ganduje's resignation from office as a timely and exemplary move.

The former governor of Anambra State said he read reports confirming Mr Ganduje's resignation, which the former Kano State Governor attributed to health challenges.

"I must commend Dr Ganduje for prioritising his health above all else," Mr Obi stated.

"It is both wise and honourable to step aside when one can no longer render the level of service required by the party, the



people, and the nation."

Mr Obi said Mr Ganduje's resignation sends a strong message to other political leaders who may be struggling with health issues but continue to hold onto power at the expense of effective governance.

"By this exemplary action, Dr Ganduje has thrown a challenge to other leaders who, due to health-related issues, are no longer able to deliver optimally. I sincerely hope they take a cue from him," Mr Obi said.

He stressed that Nigeria's current situation demands leaders who are not only competent but are also physically and mentally fit to handle the nation's pressing challenges.

"At this critical time, we can no longer afford leadership defined by medical tourism, long holidays, or absenteeism caused by age-related ailments. These things are taking a serious toll on our development," Mr Obi warned.

He prayed for Mr Ganduje's peaceful and fulfilling retirement.

Hardship: Pastor Adeboye to lead national prayer for economic revival

By Gbenga Olaleye

The General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pastor Enoch Adeboye, is set to lead a national prayer session aimed at seeking divine intervention for Nigeria's struggling economy.

The prayer session is scheduled to take place during the RCCG's July 2025 Thanksgiving Service, themed "Divine Intervention", at the church's national headquarters in Oyingbo, Lagos. This comes amid mounting economic challenges that have left many Nigerians grappling with rising costs and financial hardship.

In a statement delivered through his Special Assistant on Administration, Pastor Dele Balogun, Pastor Adeboye expressed optimism that the country's economic woes can be reversed through collective faith and action.

"Our nation, Nigeria, as well as other nations of the world, are going through a



challenging time. However, the good news is that these challenges are surmountable by faith, if we do not entertain doubt," Adeboye said.

He urged Nigerians to shift away from negative narratives and instead embrace faith-driven thinking, asserting that such a mindset could unlock the nation's potential and accelerate its journey towards economic recovery.

Adeboye emphasised that the prayer

session is not just symbolic but a purposeful effort to initiate national transformation and open the door to what he described as "divine opportunities" for progress.

Echoing this sentiment, the RCCG's Assistant Pastor in Charge of Province 1, Pastor Olusegun Macaulay, noted that divine opportunities are often activated by God and are most accessible to those who are spiritually in tune.

Macaulay further revealed that a dedicated intercessory team has been praying for Nigeria throughout the second half of 2025, with focused petitions on the economy, the environment, and national stability.

As anticipation builds for the July thanksgiving service, many believers are looking to the prayer initiative as a potential turning point in the nation's ongoing struggle for economic recovery and spiritual renewal.

13 facts to know about late Alhaji Aminu Dantata

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Nigeria is mourning the death of one of its most iconic business figures, Alhaji Aminu Alhassan Dantata, who passed away on Saturday at the age of 94. Widely regarded as one of the most influential industrialists in West Africa, Dantata lived a life that blended enterprise, public service, and devotion to community upliftment.

As tributes continue to pour in following his death on June 28, here are thirteen essential facts that capture the extraordinary life and legacy of this iconic figure.

1. He Was Born into a Dynasty of Wealth and Trade

Aminu Dantata was born on May 19, 1931, in Kano into the famed Dantata family. His father, Alhassan Dantata, was already a legend in commerce, known as one of the wealthiest merchants in pre-independence West Africa. Aminu would go on to inherit not just his father's name, but his sense of purpose and business foresight.

2. He Took Over the Family Business in His Twenties

After joining the family firm, Alhassan Dantata & Sons, in 1948, Aminu quickly rose through the ranks. Following the death of his brother Ahmadu in 1960, he assumed leadership of the business. He was just 29. Under his direction, the enterprise transitioned from regional commodity trading to a diversified conglomerate with national reach.

3. He Built One of Nigeria's Most Respected Business Groups

From the 1960s through the 1990s, Dantata led the family business into construction, petroleum, manufacturing, and logistics. His companies handled major national contracts, including work on the Nigerian Defence Academy and the School of Aviation in Zaria. By the 1990s, the group rebranded as the Dantata Organization and continued to expand under his leadership.

4. He Was a Pioneer in Islamic Banking and Oil Exploration

Dantata was instrumental in the founding of Express Petroleum & Gas Company Ltd, one of Nigeria's early indigenous oil firms. He was also a key figure in the creation of Jaiz Bank, the country's first fully Islamic bank, reflecting his commitment to ethical, Sharia-compliant financial systems.

5. He Played a Role in Shaping Nigeria's Economic Policies

In the early 1970s, Dantata served as Kano State's Commissioner for Economic Development, Trade, and Industry under Governor Audu Bako. He also sat on the board of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank and participated in Nigeria's first post-independence



international economic mission in 1961.

6. His Education Was Rooted in Tradition and Private Study

Aminu's formal schooling began at Dala Primary School. His education continued through a private home-school system set up by his father—an early sign of the family's emphasis on discipline, independence, and tailored learning. He entered business not from a university lecture hall, but from the heart of the marketplace.

7. He Was a Silent but Powerful Philanthropist

Though not one to seek publicity, Dantata was deeply invested in giving back. He was one of the principal backers of the Kano State Foundation, which provided educational scholarships and supported young entrepreneurs. His quiet donations helped fund mosques, schools, and community development across Northern Nigeria.

8. He Was Part of Africa's Wealthiest Family Network

The Dantata family remains one of the most influential in Africa. Aminu Dantata was the uncle of Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man. The Dantatas have collectively shaped the continent's business landscape, with figures like Sayyu Dantata (founder of MRS Holdings) and Saadina Dantata (Danba Group) continuing the family's commercial influence.

9. He Helped Define Modern Kano's Economic Identity

From real estate to oil, banking to construction, Dantata's businesses employed thousands and helped build the infrastructure of Kano as a commercial capital. His presence helped make Kano not just a historic city—but a vital center of Nigerian economic life.

10. He was a member of Nigeria's First Post-Independence Economic Mission (1961)

He was appointed alongside other business and government leaders to represent Nigeria internationally, which had a political dimension.

11. Chancellor, Al-Qalam University

He served as Chancellor of Al-Qalam University in Katsina, an honorary role often held by respected public figures. He oversees major ceremonial events like convocations and advises on university matters, but doesn't manage daily operations.

12. Public appearance

Alhaji Aminu Alhassan Dantata's most recent public appearance was at President Bola Tinubu's inaugural gala on May 29, 2023, in Abuja. Despite being a largely private figure in his later years, he made a notable exception to attend the event, surprising many of his admirers given his reclusive lifestyle.

13. He Leaves Behind a Legacy Rooted in Faith and Nation-Building

Aminu Dantata was not merely a businessman—he was a statesman, a mentor, a spiritual guide, and a builder of legacies. His humility, generosity, and unwavering belief in God earned him respect far beyond the boardroom. His life is a blueprint for leadership anchored in integrity.

As Nigeria prepares to lay him to rest, Alhaji Aminu Dantata will be remembered as more than a businessman. He was a steward of a family tradition that shaped a nation, and a quiet force behind much of the country's modern economic development. May Allah grant him eternal rest.

Kwankwaso tipped to replace Ganduje as APC chairman

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



The National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, has officially stepped down from his position in what insiders say was a move influenced by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Though no formal reason was provided for the abrupt resignation, it is widely believed that it was requested by the President during a late-night meeting on Friday. Shortly after, Ganduje's portrait was removed from the APC national secretariat, signaling a swift transition. A copy of Ganduje's resignation letter, accessed by New Daily Prime, is attached below.

This development comes amid rising political intrigue surrounding the 2027 general election. President Tinubu, while remaining silent on Vice President Kashim Shettima's status as his potential running mate, has stated that he will only announce his choice after officially accepting the party's nomination at the next APC national convention. His decision to withhold endorsement at this stage is viewed by many as a strategic move, as political realignments gain momentum within the ruling party.

Adding further complexity to the unfolding drama, there are strong indications that formal Kano State Governor, Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, may be on the verge of joining the APC. High-level negotiations are said to be ongoing, and several sources suggest that Kwankwaso could be tapped as Ganduje's successor and control APC structure in Kano State. The possibility of Kwankwaso assuming the party's top position is believed to have created discomfort for Ganduje, whose longstanding political rivalry with the governor has been well documented.

Ganduje's departure follows a pattern of short-lived leadership tenures within the APC. While Chief John Odigie-Oyegun remains the only chairman to have completed a full term since the party's formation, subsequent leaders, including Adams Oshiomhole, Mai Mala Buni, and Senator Abdullahi Adamu, either resigned or were removed before completing their tenure. This trend raises continued concerns over leadership stability within the party.

Before his resignation, Ganduje had faced legal challenges regarding his appointment. In September 2024, Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court in Abuja dismissed a lawsuit that questioned his eligibility based on the APC's zoning arrangements. The case, filed by the North Central APC Forum, argued that the chairmanship, having previously been held by a leader from the North Central region, should not have been transferred to Ganduje, who is from the North West. The court's decision upheld Ganduje's position, but the political pressure surrounding his leadership has ultimately proved decisive.

As the APC navigates this latest leadership shakeup, questions loom over the party's internal coherence and the potential role of emerging figures like Kwankwaso in shaping its direction. With President Tinubu holding back on confirming his running mate and factions positioning themselves ahead of 2027, the party appears headed for a critical period of strategic repositioning.

No sacrifice is too big for peace in Rivers, Fubara

By New Daily Prime



The suspended Governor of Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara, has declared that there is no sacrifice too big for the peace, stability, and progress of the state.

Addressing his supporters in Port Harcourt on Saturday, Governor Fubara reassured them that every step he has taken, including the recent reconciliation with his predecessor and Federal Capital Territory Minister, Nyesom Wike, was done with their collective interest in mind.

The governor acknowledged the anxiety and disappointment felt by many of his loyalists following the peace deal, but insisted that difficult times call for difficult decisions and concessions.

He revealed that the reconciliation process was not a solo decision, explaining that at every stage,

consultations were held with key stakeholders and trusted allies within his political family.

Fubara admitted that the new political realities may be painful for some to accept, especially for those who have stood firmly with him through the turbulence. However, he emphasized that the larger goal remains the peace and stability of Rivers State.

Governor Fubara also lamented the impact the political crisis has had on governance, pointing out that several development projects across the state have suffered delays.

He, however, expressed optimism that with the reconciliation process in motion, the pace of project implementation would soon pick up.

While addressing the tensions that

have followed the peace deal, Governor Fubara acknowledged the role Wike played in his emergence as Governor, saying that the political history cannot be erased.

He reminded his supporters that now is the time to prove their loyalty and trust in his leadership, even when immediate political rewards seem uncertain.

Reiterating his commitment to peace, Governor Fubara disclosed that President Bola Tinubu had personally intervened, giving a clear directive that both he and the FCT Minister must reconcile for the sake of Rivers State.

In a passionate appeal, the Governor urged all who believe in his leadership and vision to embrace peace and allow the state to recover and take a leap to the next level.

Who's next? more PDP, LP lawmakers poised to join APC

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In another blow to Nigeria's opposition ranks, two federal lawmakers from the Labour Party (LP) — Senator Neda Imasuen and Hon. Chimaobi Atu — have officially defected to the All Progressives Congress (APC), the country's ruling party. Their exits come amid a wave of defections reshaping the National Assembly ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Imasuen: "I Must Align With National Priorities"

During Thursday's Senate plenary, Senate President Godswill Akpabio read a letter from Senator Neda Imasuen (Edo South), in which the lawmaker declared his decision to join the APC after "extensive consultations with constituents and political stakeholders."

"I want to align my senatorial district with the development goals and the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu," Imasuen stated.

He cited internal crises and leadership dysfunction within the Labour Party as core reasons for his defection, claiming that the ongoing turbulence hindered his ability to effectively represent Edo South.

Akpabio welcomed the move, saying it was "very important for the benefit and peace of this country," and noted that the senator had previously complained about the LP's internal divisions.

Legal Context: Can a Defecting Lawmaker Keep Their Seat?

Under Section 68 of the Nigerian Constitution, a lawmaker must vacate their seat if they defect from the party on whose platform they were elected — unless their original party is in crisis. This clause is now at the center of growing debate as opposition leaders threaten to challenge recent defections in court.

Atu Joins APC, Faces Protest in House

In the House of Representatives, Hon. Chimaobi Atu (Enugu North/South) also announced his switch from LP to APC. His decision was read aloud by Speaker Tajudeen Abbas during plenary.

Atu, echoing Imasuen's reasoning, said



internal wrangling within the Labour Party had rendered him ineffective in fulfilling his legislative mandate.

However, his defection did not go unchallenged. Minority Whip Ali Isa raised a point of order, urging the Speaker to declare Atu's seat vacant in line with constitutional provisions. Abbas acknowledged the concern but withheld ruling, saying the matter required further legal review.

A Pattern of Political Realignment

These moves follow closely on the heels of three other defections to the APC:

Peter Akpanke (PDP, Obanliku/Obudu/Bekwara—Cross River)
Paul Nnamchi (LP, Enugu East/Isi-Uzo)
Joseph Nwobashi (APGA, Ezza North/Ishielu—Ebonyi State)

As a result, the APC now controls more than 67 of 109 Senate seats, and a growing bloc in the House — inching closer to a two-thirds majority that could allow the party to pass constitutional amendments and reshape Nigeria's governance framework.

"This is part of a broader strategy to consolidate governance and legislative synergy under the Renewed Hope Agenda," a senior APC official told New Daily Prime under condition of anonymity.

LP Reacts: "Defectors Should Be Held Accountable"

The Labour Party, in a swift statement issued by its National Secretary, Umar Farouk, condemned the defections, calling them a "betrayal of voter trust."

"These lawmakers were elected by Nigerians on the strength of our manifesto and our promise to build a people-first democracy. Their actions are not only disappointing — they are anti-democratic," Farouk said.

He also hinted that the party is exploring legal options to reclaim its seats, arguing that the cited "internal crisis" is not recognized by the party's National Working Committee (NWC).

Political Analysts: "Classic Power Play Before 2027"

Observers see the ongoing defections as part of a strategic repositioning for the 2027 general elections.

"This is not unusual. In Nigerian politics, access to federal power is often a deciding factor. Many lawmakers will gravitate toward the center to protect their careers," said political analyst Dr. Grace Onome, of the Centre for Democracy and Legislative Studies (CDLS).

Ganduje's resignation and political calculations for 2027

By Alade Adisa

The sudden resignation of the National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC, Abdullahi Ganduje, came as a surprise to many people. What could have happened? Some were quick to ask on Friday when the news hit the airwaves.

Checks by New Daily Prime show that it all has to do with calculations for the 2027 presidential elections.

Kano, Rivers, Lagos factor

A scrutiny of previous elections in the country shows that Kano, Rivers and Lagos states are the leading swing states in Nigeria. The trend has been that the winner of the presidential election wins at least two of the three states.

The states usually give the winner millions of votes. It was only in 2023 that President Bola Tinubu, who emerged the winner, won only one state- Rivers. That is why Tinubu is treating Nyesom Wike as a god.

Before that, in 2015 and 2019, Muhammadu Buhari won in Kano and Lagos. In 2011, Goodluck Jonathan won the three and the trend continues.

Kwankwaso factor in Kano

Rabiu Kwakwanso is reportedly negotiating to come over to the APC from the New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP. However, his coming to the APC is predicated on some conditions, one of which is to take control of the APC in Kano State.

Because of the alleged diminishing influence of Ganduje in Kano, where he served as a governor, Tinubu is considering embracing Kwakwanso and jettisoning Ganduje.

The current emirship tussle in Kano is



also traceable to the political battle between Ganduje and Kwakwanso. The federal and state governments are locked in a battle too, courtesy of Ganduje using his federal influence in the state, which may be whittled down now, as the pendulum may shift in favour of Kwakwanso and his choice, Emir Sanusi.

Northwest and Northeast

Tinubu has seen the handwriting that the Northwest is strongly opposed to him for some reasons, and that poses a major obstacle to his reelection.

The Northwest is dominated by the APC except for Kano and Zamfara, which are led by the NNPP and the PDP. The zone is also a major vote basket. All the states can deliver over one million votes each. There are seven states there.

In the Northeast, the PDP controls three states, Bauchi, Adamawa and Taraba, while the APC is in charge in Borno, Yobe and Gombe states. Tinubu cannot rely on the zone for his voting strength.

Shettima in limbo?

From the look of things, current Vice President Kasim Shettima may be a sacrificial lamb to appease the

Northwest, the major zone opposed to Tinubu.

The recent comment by the Deputy Senate President, Senator Barau Jubrin, that he is ready to serve Tinubu in any capacity is a sign of the overtures being made to him to run with Tinubu in 2027. He was contacted after Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani, expressed satisfaction with his current position.

Who will now become the APC chairman?

Investigation reveals that the former Governor of Nasarawa State, Umaru Tanko Al-Makura may be the final choice. Adamu Abdullahi, whom Ganduje took over from, is also a former governor of that state. Being from the North Central, Al-Makura stands a chance to balance the political equation in the APC.

Leaders of the party from the zone had earlier agitated that it was somebody among them who should succeed Abdullahi and not Ganduje. In fact, former Kogi Governor, Yahaya Bello felt that position would land on his lap before he ran into trouble with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

'I was living in bondage while married to Annie', 2Face reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music legend Innocent Ujah Idibia, widely known as 2Face or 2Baba, has spoken publicly about the emotional struggles he faced during his marriage to Nollywood actress Annie Macaulay-Idibia.

In a deeply personal revelation, the "African Queen" singer compared his experience to being in captivity, saying he felt trapped and even feared for his life during the union.

The award-winning artiste made these claims during a yet-to-be-released episode of the +234 Mzansi Podcast, co-hosted by popular Nigerian comedians Nedu and Acapella, alongside South African media personality Kifilwe.

"I was living in bondage", 2Face speaks out

In a clip from the upcoming podcast episode, 2Face didn't hold back his emotions as he reflected on his now-ended marriage. When asked about the situation with his estranged wife Annie, he gave a blunt and striking response.

"This thing wey dem call 'living in bondage' is real," he said. "There were some people who were ready to kill me."

His words sparked immediate reactions on social media, with fans and industry observers expressing concern and curiosity about what might have happened behind closed doors.

A marriage that seemed strong on the surface

2Face and Annie's relationship had long been admired in the public eye. The couple officially tied the knot in May 2012 after many years of on-and-off dating. Together, they have two daughters, Isabella and Olivia.

While their love story once seemed inspiring, the marriage faced several storms, many of which played out in the media. There were reports of arguments, infidelity claims, and emotional



outbursts from both sides over the years. Still, many believed they had weathered the storm until things finally fell apart earlier this year.

Separation confirmed in January 2025

On January 26, 2025, 2Face announced his separation from Annie in a cryptic and controversial post shared on his social media pages. The message shocked fans, especially as it came without much explanation. In the post, he hinted that he had made peace with his decision and was moving forward with his life.

Just days after the announcement, 2Face began appearing in public with his new partner, Natasha Osawuru. Natasha is a rising political figure and currently serves as a member of the Edo State House of Assembly. Their public outings and social media posts suggest that the singer has quickly embraced a new chapter in his personal life.

Reactions pour in from fans and critics

Following his revelations on the podcast, fans have been divided. Some have praised 2Face for finally speaking his truth, while others have criticized him for airing personal matters in public. Annie, on the other hand, has remained silent on the issue since the separation announcement. She has not released any official statement in response to her ex-husband's recent

comments.

Social media has been buzzing with opinions, with some users expressing sympathy for both parties. Others called for more discretion, especially when children are involved.

What lies ahead for 2Face

Despite the personal turmoil, 2Face appears focused on his music and personal growth. He has continued performing at shows and recently hinted at an upcoming project. His relationship with Natasha Osawuru has also become a topic of interest in the entertainment and political scenes.

As one of Africa's most celebrated musicians, 2Face's influence goes beyond music. His latest revelation sheds light on the often-hidden struggles celebrities face in their private lives, and it raises important conversations about emotional well-being, toxic relationships, and the pressures of living in the spotlight.

Conclusion

2Face Idibia's bold comments about his former marriage mark a new chapter in his life, one marked by reflection, change, and perhaps healing. While the full details of his experience remain unclear, one thing is certain: the singer is ready to move on from what he described as a dark and dangerous time.

Frank Edoho hints at second divorce, says 'Maybe I'm not good at it'

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian broadcaster and host of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, Frank Edoho, has revealed that his second marriage has ended in divorce.

He disclosed during a recent appearance on the *Tea With Tay* podcast, where he spoke candidly about his struggles with marriage and relationships.

The respected TV personality admitted that despite putting in maximum effort, both of his marriages failed. Speaking with honesty and self-reflection, Edoho said he now questions whether he is cut out for marriage at all.

"Maybe I'm not good at marriage", Edoho

In the interview, Edoho stated, "Maybe I'm not good at marriage, I must confess." He explained that in both his first and second marriages, he gave everything he could. Yet, the relationships did not work out.

He described a deep emotional investment in his partners, saying, "I know that I went above and beyond for the two marriages. I carried my partner. I can abandon everything for her." Still, even such sacrifices, he added, were not enough to keep the marriages alive.

Edoho stressed that he doesn't blame his ex-wives for walking away. "You don't blame them for falling out of love with you," he said.

Reflecting on love and compatibility

The TV host also took time to reflect on the difference between love and true compatibility. According to him, while one may be in love with someone, that person may not necessarily be a soul mate.

"The two women I had been married to are not my soul mates," he said. "The love of your life is the person who comes to your mind when you think of love. But your soul mate is someone who understands you even before you express yourself. You naturally align with them."



This distinction, he noted, may explain why both marriages, despite strong feelings, did not last.

A look back at Edoho's marriages

Frank Edoho was first married to Katherine Obiang, a broadcaster and actress. Their union, which produced children, ended in 2011 amid reports of disagreements. Following the end of that relationship, Edoho married his second wife, Sandra Onyenuchenuya.

While his marriage to Sandra was less publicly documented, it was known to be stable for many years. However, his recent disclosure confirms that the relationship has quietly ended.

Edoho did not go into the specific reasons for the second split but made it clear that love alone was not enough to sustain the relationship.

"Even Kaka got divorced"

To support his point, Edoho referenced Brazilian football star Ricardo Kaka, who was once considered a model husband and deeply religious man. Despite Kaka's good looks and positive public image, his wife still divorced him. Edoho quoted her reason: "He is too good."

He used this example to suggest that even people who seem ideal partners may still face rejection in love. "Sometimes, being the perfect partner isn't enough," he said.

Edoho's story sparks reactions

Frank Edoho's openness about his marital struggles has triggered conversations online, with many praising his vulnerability and honesty. Some sympathised with him, while others used his experience to highlight how challenging modern relationships can be, even for people in the public eye.

His story adds to a growing list of Nigerian celebrities who have recently spoken publicly about relationship issues, further shedding light on the pressures and complexities of love, fame, and personal growth.

Final thoughts

Though Edoho's remarks came with a touch of sadness, he showed no bitterness. Instead, he shared his experiences with grace and insight, hoping others might learn from them.

As he continues his career in media, Edoho's story stands as a reminder that even those in the spotlight face personal battles, and sometimes, being "too good" doesn't guarantee a happy ending.

Actor Odira Nwobu survives ghastly car crash

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian actor and content creator, Odira Nwobu, was involved in a deadly car accident on Wednesday. The crash happened along the busy Lagos-Ibadan expressway, a highway often known for tragic road incidents.

According to eyewitnesses, the accident claimed several lives and left many others injured. Nwobu was among the survivors, though he appeared seriously hurt.

Scene captured on video

A viral video that surfaced online showed the horrific aftermath of the crash. In the footage, bystanders could be seen scrambling to rescue victims from the wreckage. The scene was chaotic, with concerned passersby pulling people out of crushed vehicles, trying to help before emergency services arrived.

The actor's vehicle was completely wrecked. The front and side parts of the car were badly smashed, making the car almost unrecognizable.

The actor found covered in blood

Odira Nwobu was spotted lying on the ground, visibly conscious but in pain. Blood stains were seen on his clothes and body. Despite his injuries, he managed to remain alert. He was quickly placed on a stretcher and taken to the hospital, along with other injured passengers.

At the time of this report, details about his condition remain unclear, though sources say he is receiving medical attention and is responding to treatment.

Multiple casualties reported

While the exact number of victims is yet to be confirmed, reports suggest that the crash led to multiple fatalities.



Some of the dead were said to have died on the spot due to the impact. Others were rushed to nearby hospitals, but some later died from their injuries.

Emergency responders, including officials from the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), were seen working tirelessly to clear the road and attend to the injured.

Outpouring of concern online

The news of Odira Nwobu's involvement in the accident sparked an outpouring of concern on social media. Fans and colleagues took to various platforms to pray for his recovery and express their shock at the incident.

Many Nollywood stars also posted supportive messages, urging the public to keep Nwobu in their prayers.

Actor known for comic roles

Odira Nwobu is a familiar face in the Nigerian film industry. He has gained a large following for his comic roles in Nollywood movies and online skits. His ability to deliver humorous lines and portray unique characters has made him a fan favorite.

The news of his involvement in a fatal crash came as a shock to many, especially those who have come to know him for his energetic and lively performances.

Authorities yet to release official statement

As of now, there has been no official statement from the police or FRSC regarding the exact cause of the crash. However, locals suggest that overspeeding and poor visibility may have played a role.

The Lagos-Ibadan expressway is notorious for road accidents, especially involving commercial vehicles and private cars traveling at high speeds. Officials have repeatedly warned motorists to drive carefully and avoid reckless behavior on the road.

Prayers for recovery continue

Nwobu's fans and loved ones continue to hope for his full recovery. While many are thankful he survived, the tragic loss of other lives in the same crash has left a dark cloud over the incident.

Messages of sympathy have continued to pour in for the families of the victims, and calls have been made for better road safety measures.

As the story develops, more updates about the accident and Odira Nwobu's health condition are expected in the coming days.

BBNaija Reunion: Onyeka reveals why she can't be friends with Victoria

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Ex-Big Brother Naija Season 9 housemate, Onyeka, has firmly ruled out any chance of friendship with fellow contestant Victoria, reigniting tension from their time on the show.

The two women, who were once caught in a heated rivalry during the reality TV show, have made it clear that their relationship remains strained. Their clash centred around romantic interest in fellow housemate Ozee Mbadiwe. The love triangle sparked drama and created lasting friction between Onyeka and Victoria throughout the season.

No reconciliation in sight – Onyeka

During the much-anticipated BBNaija reunion show, host Ebuka Obi-Uchendu raised the issue of their fractured relationship and asked both women if they were willing to reconcile. While Victoria appeared open to letting bygones be bygones, Onyeka had a very different response.

Ebuka posed the question directly: “Is the issue between you and Onyeka resolvable?”

Victoria responded calmly: “Right now, I’m indifferent. Let’s do our thing. I’m way past it and I’ve made peace with it.”

However, Onyeka made it clear that there was no chance of reconciliation. Her words were sharp and deliberate: “I don’t like snakes. Snaky movement is not my vibe. So, I just want to stay on my own.”

Past conflicts still fresh

The rivalry between Onyeka and Victoria began during their stay in the Big Brother house. Both women grew fond of Ozee Mbadiwe, and their mutual interest soon led to visible tension. From subtle jabs to direct confrontations, viewers witnessed the fallout in real time.



Despite attempts by other housemates to mediate, neither Onyeka nor Victoria backed down. Their feud became one of the most talked-about storylines of the season.

The reunion episode, which brought together all the Season 9 housemates, offered a chance for some unresolved issues to be addressed. While a few contestants used the platform to heal old wounds and clear the air, Onyeka was unyielding in her stance on Victoria.

No room for pretend peace

During the reunion, Onyeka went a step further by revealing that she and Victoria had once mutually agreed never to be friends. She said that the agreement still stands, and she has no intention of going back on it.

“We made a vow not to be friends, and I want it to stay that way,” she said firmly.

Her words drew mixed reactions from fans on social media. While some praised her honesty, others felt she was being unnecessarily harsh, especially since Victoria appeared willing to move forward.

Viewers react online

Shortly after the reunion aired, social media platforms lit up with reactions. Some fans supported Onyeka’s decision, stating that it’s better to stay away from people who do not align with your values.

One viewer wrote on X (formerly Twitter): “She has every right to protect her peace. Not everyone deserves a second chance.”

Others, however, felt that her “snake” comment was too strong and could have been avoided.

Another user posted: “She didn’t need to go that far. It’s okay to set boundaries, but words matter too.”

Looking ahead

Neither Onyeka nor Victoria has issued a follow-up statement since the reunion aired, but the two will continue to keep their distance.

As BBNaija fans await more updates from their favourite housemates, the lingering tension between Onyeka and Victoria serves as a reminder that not all reality TV drama ends when the cameras stop rolling.

Assisted dying: Trump govt tags UK bill 'suicide law'

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



The White House has sharply criticized the United Kingdom following a narrow vote in the House of Commons to support a controversial assisted dying bill. In an unprecedented intervention, the U.S. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, under the Trump administration, condemned the proposed legislation as “state-sponsored suicide,” sparking diplomatic tension between the two longstanding allies.

The proposed law, which recently cleared its second reading by a 23-vote majority (314 to 291), would allow terminally ill adults in England and Wales to legally end their lives under specific, regulated conditions. It applies to individuals over the age of 18 who have been registered with a GP for at least 12 months, possess the mental capacity to make the decision free from coercion, and are expected to die within six months.

Read Also: Assisted dying bill sparks controversy over mental health inclusion

In a public statement, the U.S. bureau said, “As the UK Parliament considers support for state-subsidised suicide,

euphemistically called a Bill for ‘terminally ill adults,’ the United States reaffirms the sanctity of life. The Western world should stand for life, vitality and hope over surrender and death.”

The declaration reportedly caught Downing Street by surprise, as the U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had made no mention of the issue during his recent diplomatic meeting with British Foreign Secretary David Lammy. The intervention highlights what many observers describe as the Trump administration’s growing tendency to weigh in on UK domestic affairs, particularly issues with ethical, religious, or cultural implications.

While the legislation still faces scrutiny in the House of Lords, its supporters—including Labour leader and Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer—have pledged to ensure its eventual implementation. Speaking from The Hague, Starmer said, “It is my responsibility to make sure the Bill is workable, and that means workable in all its aspects. I’m confident we’ve done that preparation.”

Despite the outrage from Washington,

it’s notable that twelve U.S. jurisdictions, including Washington, D.C., already allow assisted dying under similar conditions. However, figures close to former President Donald Trump, such as Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh, are known opponents of the practice.

The reaction has drawn mixed responses within the UK. Sir John Hayes, chair of the Conservative Party’s Common Sense Group, said he agreed with the White House’s position but expressed concern over the diplomatic implications. “It is unusual for our closest ally to become involved in issues around the legislative detail of what goes on in Parliament,” he stated.

The intervention follows recent U.S. engagement with British pro-life and free speech advocates. A five-member delegation from the U.S. recently met with campaigners in the UK, raising concerns over Britain’s Online Safety Act and its perceived impact on freedom of expression.

As the assisted dying bill advances, the debate appears far from over—not just in Britain’s Parliament, but across international political lines.

Starmer's welfare U-turn could cost up to £3 Billion, think tank warns

By **Fatimah Idera**



Sir Keir Starmer's decision to roll back parts of his Government's welfare reform plans could cost the Treasury as much as £3 billion, according to the Resolution Foundation.

In a major concession to Labour rebels, the Prime Minister announced that existing recipients of the Personal Independence Payment (PIP) will continue to receive their benefits, with tougher eligibility rules only applying to new applicants. The move followed a mounting rebellion from Labour MPs over proposed £5 billion a year welfare savings, set to be in place by 2030.

Ruth Curtice, chief executive of the Resolution Foundation, told the BBC that the revised policy is likely to carry a hefty price tag. "The PIP changes alone could cost between

£1.5 billion and £2 billion, especially when you factor in related spending like carer's allowance," she said. "Add to that the reversal of the freeze on Universal Credit health-related support, which we estimate will cost around £1 billion, and the total could come close to £3 billion."

Care Minister Stephen Kinnock declined to say how the Government would fund the shortfall, stating only that Chancellor Rachel Reeves would outline the fiscal implications in the autumn Budget. The announcement adds further pressure to Reeves, who is already facing what some estimate to be a £20 billion hole in the public finances, worsened by slower than expected economic growth and likely downgrades from the Office for Budget Responsibility.

The backtrack followed a week of tension within Labour, with a group of MPs demanding changes to the proposed cuts. The scale of the revolt reportedly caught both Downing Street and the Labour whips by surprise and is seen as a blow to Sir Keir's authority, despite his strong majority in the Commons.

Government ministers have continued to argue that without reform, welfare spending is projected to rise sharply. A recent impact assessment warned that social security costs could balloon by £18 billion over the next five years roughly equivalent to the UK's entire annual policing budget. Even with the original reforms, the welfare bill was expected to grow by £8 billion by the end of the decade, according to ministers.

Tories plan new investment visa to lure 'Golden Geese' to the UK

By **Fatimah Idera**



The Conservative Party is developing plans for a new investment visa aimed at luring wealthy individuals back to the UK, in a bid to counter the exodus of high-net-worth individuals following Labour's tax reforms.

Shadow Business Secretary, Andrew Griffith announced the proposal during a speech at the Prosperity Institute, describing it as part of a "world-beating offer for wealth creators."

Griffith criticised Labour's decision to abolish the non-domiciled tax regime and extend inheritance tax to global assets, arguing it has driven entrepreneurs, investors, and top talent away from the UK. "Instead of increasing wealth, Labour has attacked those who create it, shooing away the golden geese," he said, noting that "too many of our best and

brightest" are choosing destinations like Dubai, Miami, and Lisbon over London and Manchester.

Research has suggested that up to 16,500 high-net-worth individuals may leave the UK in 2025 as a result of Labour's tax changes. In response, the Conservatives are considering a new visa scheme that would offer residency in exchange for multimillion-pound investments in UK businesses.

Griffith stressed that the UK currently has no such visa route available, despite the potential economic contributions of wealthy investors.

The plan may also include restoring a form of non-dom status for those entering under the new investment visa reviving a policy that Chancellor Rachel Reeves recently abolished. Griffith also criticised Labour's global

inheritance tax policy, calling it "out of kilter with other global jurisdictions."

The move follows a similar proposal from Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, who earlier this week announced plans for a £250,000 Britannia card that would allow wealthy foreigners to live in the UK tax-free on global assets. While Farage claims the scheme would help fund social security, critics estimate it could cost the Treasury £34 billion in lost revenue.

Griffith also suggested modernising the London Underground with autonomous, round the clock trains similar to systems in cities like Paris. "The Government talks about autonomous driving in cars, but ignores the opportunity under our feet," he said, blaming union influence for stalling such reforms.

British gas set to invest billions in Miliband's nuclear power project

By Fatimah Idera



British Gas is preparing to take a significant multibillion pound stake in Sizewell C, a nuclear power plant championed by Energy Secretary Ed Miliband.

The deal, led by British Gas's parent company Centrica, is expected to be announced within weeks and will see the company acquire a 15% stake in the project.

Centrica's investment will match the stake held by French state-owned energy giant EDF, giving a major boost to Sizewell C after extended delays and financing hurdles. The move comes shortly after the Government confirmed it would inject an additional £14 billion into the project by 2029 bringing the total public investment

to £17 billion.

The Government's backing of Sizewell C is part of a broader strategy to revitalise the UK's nuclear energy sector. Once operational, the plant is projected to supply electricity to six million homes. Ed Miliband has defended the heavy investment, calling it "the right choice for bills, the right choice for jobs and the right choice for growth."

Sizewell C has long been plagued by delays and spiralling costs. Initially scheduled to open in 2020, the plant is now not expected to become operational until after 2030. The total cost has also ballooned to £40 billion double the original estimate.

Despite the cost increase, officials have stood by the project, arguing that lessons learned from EDF's Hinkley Point C development will lead to faster and more efficient construction at Sizewell. A government spokesperson noted that EDF's second Hinkley unit is being built 25% faster than the first, and said Sizewell C would benefit from this replication.

In addition to Centrica and EDF, several major investors including Amber Infrastructure Partners, Brookfield Asset Management, and Canadian pension fund CDPQ are reportedly considering stakes in the project.

Centrica and EDF have been contacted for comment.

World Bank raises alarm over rising extreme poverty in Nigeria

By Damilola Olufemi



The World Bank has expressed serious concern over the growing rates of extreme poverty in Nigeria and 38 other countries struggling with conflict and deep instability, warning that these conditions are worsening hunger and derailing global development efforts.

In a report released on Friday titled “Extreme Poverty is Rising Fast in Economies Hit by Conflict, Instability”, the Bank revealed that poverty is intensifying in fragile states long after much of the world has begun recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

World Bank lists fragile countries
Nigeria is among the 39 countries the World Bank categorises as Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations — a list that includes Afghanistan, Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Haiti, Venezuela, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

“These countries include both those experiencing active conflict and others facing deep instability,” the report noted.

In Nigeria, escalating insecurity, including insurgency in the northeast and widespread kidnappings and banditry in the northwest, has been

identified as a key contributor to the country’s fragility.

The Bank found that while other developing nations are seeing economic growth post-pandemic, fragile states are moving in the opposite direction.

“Since 2020, their per capita GDP has shrunk by an average of 1.8 per cent per year, while expanding by 2.9 per cent in other developing economies,” the report stated.

According to the findings, over 421 million people in conflict-affected countries currently survive on less than \$3 a day — more than the total in all other parts of the world combined. That figure is projected to rise to 435 million by 2030, representing nearly 60% of the world’s extremely poor.

While global attention has been fixated on the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, the World Bank emphasised that Africa continues to suffer the most.

“More than 70% of people suffering from conflict and instability are Africans,” the report said.

“Untreated, these conditions become

chronic. Half of the countries facing conflict or instability today have been in such conditions for 15 years or more.”

Indermit Gill, Chief Economist of the World Bank Group, warned that such widespread suffering has ripple effects:

“Misery on this scale is inevitably contagious.”

The report also highlighted how extreme poverty is now largely concentrated in places where progress is hardest to achieve.

“In countries facing conflict or instability, the extreme poverty rate stands at nearly 40%, compared to just six percent in other developing economies,” it said.

Worryingly, the report revealed that employment opportunities in these fragile states have not kept pace with growing populations.

“In 2022, more than 270 million people were of working age in these economies—but barely half of them were employed,” it added.

Labour dismisses MP's proposal to exempt retirement homes from council tax

By **Fatimah Idera**



Labour has turned down calls from one of its own MPs to offer council tax exemptions for families struggling to sell inherited retirement properties.

Labour MP for Shipley, Anna Dixon had urged the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government led by Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner to extend the period during which grieving families are exempt from the second home council tax premium when trying to sell retirement homes. These homes, which can only be sold to people aged 55 and over, are notoriously difficult to sell and often sit on the market for extended periods. They are also subject to high service charges and frequently lose value over time, further deterring buyers.

Currently, councils in England are allowed to charge a 100% council tax premium on second homes. Owners can avoid this surcharge if the property is on the market, but only for up to 12 months. After this period, the charge resumes regardless of whether the property has

sold.

In a written parliamentary question, Dixon asked if the government would consider extending the exemption period to cover the full time a property is being actively marketed, particularly for leasehold retirement homes. Housing Minister Jim McMahon responded that there were “no plans to change the exceptions to the council tax premiums.”

Critics say this lack of flexibility unfairly penalises bereaved families. Retirement homes surged in popularity in the 1980s and 1990s, but now many stand empty for long stretches due to limited buyer pools and mounting service fees. According to property firm Hamptons, around one in 10 retirement flats takes more than a year to sell.

The issue gained national attention after reports highlighted numerous cases where families were being charged double council tax on properties they were unable to sell, with some facing thousands of pounds in unexpected bills.

Kevin Hollinrake, the Conservative shadow housing minister, criticised Labour’s stance, saying: “Labour should be actively reviewing how the new regime is working in practice. Their refusal to even consider extending the exemption for retirement properties shows a shocking disregard for bereaved families.”

Dennis Reed of Silver Voices, a charity for older citizens, also condemned the decision: “This inflexibility and obstinacy flies in the face of fairness. A hard-to-sell flat in a retirement complex is clearly not a second home. Labour should be showing some empathy to those who have lost a loved one.”

A spokesperson for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government defended the current policy, saying it was up to individual councils to decide whether to apply the council tax premium. “Councils can opt to add up to 100% extra on the council tax bills of second homes to help local leaders protect their communities,” the spokesperson said.

England U21 crowned Euro champions after thriller final

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

England Under-21s clinched back-to-back UEFA European U21 Championship titles after edging Germany 3-2 in an enthralling final that went to extra time in Bratislava.

A dramatic header from substitute Jonathan Rowe just two minutes into the added period secured the title for Lee Carsley's Young Lions, who now join the elite company of successive U21 champions — a feat not achieved since Dave Sexton's class of 1982 and 1984.

This latest triumph underlines Carsley's remarkable stewardship since taking the helm in 2021, and with his contract freshly extended until 2027, the Football Association may now have a task on their hands to keep him amid likely interest from top club sides and even international suitors.

Fast Start, Early Drama

England began the final in electric fashion. Liverpool's Harvey Elliott, who finished with five goals in the tournament, opened the scoring inside five minutes, sweeping home clinically to cap a dominant start. Omari Hutchinson doubled the lead with a fierce finish on 24 minutes, latching onto James McAtee's incisive pass.

It was nearly three before the break, as Elliott and Hutchinson were twice denied by German goalkeeper Noah Atubolu, while Jay Stansfield missed a golden opportunity at the far post.

Yet just as England seemed poised to pull away, Germany struck back. Nelson Weiper powered home a header in first-half stoppage time from Paul Nebel's delivery, giving Antonio Di Salvo's side hope.

Germany Fight Back

Germany grew into the game in the second half, asserting themselves in midfield after Alex Scott's enforced exit just before the break. Their equaliser arrived on the hour when Nebel curled a



beautiful strike into the top corner, capping an inspired individual performance from the Mainz winger.

England briefly lost their grip, but Jarell Quansah and Charlie Cresswell stood tall at the heart of defence, repelling wave after wave of German attacks. Despite Germany attempting 44 crosses in the match, they only connected with five — a testament to England's aerial resilience.

As full time approached, Nebel nearly sealed a German comeback, rattling the crossbar in the dying seconds of regular time.

Rowe the Hero

In extra time, with penalties looming, it was Marseille forward Jonathan Rowe who made the decisive impact. Just two minutes after coming on, he met Tyler Morton's pinpoint cross with a well-timed glancing header in the 92nd minute, sparking wild celebrations on the England bench.

Germany almost forced spot-kicks when Merlin Rohl's speculative long-range effort crashed off the bar in the final minute of stoppage time, but England held on to seal a famous victory.

Player Performances

Harvey Elliott earned Player of the Match honours with an 8.64 rating, capping a standout tournament with another influential display. McAtee was relentless in midfield, while Elliott Anderson and Alex Scott also impressed, particularly in the first half.

Defenders Quansah and Cresswell were immense, combining physical dominance with tactical intelligence to nullify the threat of Germany's six-goal top scorer Nick Woltemade, who was restricted to zero shots.

Looking Ahead

With the Euro 2025 title retained, England now shift focus to Euro 2027 qualification, beginning in September with a fixture against Kazakhstan. Momentum is firmly on their side as they aim to complete a historic treble.

Germany, meanwhile, will regroup and begin their next cycle against Latvia, knowing they came within inches of forcing a shootout and possibly reclaiming the crown they last won in 2017.

For now, though, the night belongs to England's rising stars — and the architect of their glory, Lee Carsley.

Tearful Pogba signs Monaco deal after doping ban

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Paul Pogba fought back tears as he officially signed a two-year deal with AS Monaco, marking his emotional return to competitive football after serving an 18-month doping suspension.

The 32-year-old former Manchester United and Juventus midfielder has been without a club since November 2023, when he and Juventus mutually agreed to terminate his contract in the wake of a provisional suspension. That suspension followed a failed drug test after Juventus' opening match of the 2023–24 Serie A season against Udinese.

In his Monaco unveiling, Pogba expressed gratitude and determination. "Thanks for the trust," he said in a heartfelt video message shared by the club. The clip ended with the words "La renaissance" — French for "The rebirth" — suggesting the World Cup winner is aiming for a personal and professional comeback.

Return to Ligue 1 at Last

This move to Monaco marks Pogba's first venture into Ligue 1, despite being born and raised in France. Having come through the youth system at Le Havre, he moved abroad early, joining Manchester United's academy at 16 before his first spell at Juventus.

His return to top-level football comes after a rollercoaster period that saw his once-glittering career thrown into uncertainty.

Doping Suspension Explained

Pogba's suspension stemmed from the presence of dehydroepiandrosterone (DHEA), a banned substance that boosts testosterone levels, in his system. He had tested positive during a random check in August 2023.

Initially handed a four-year ban by Italian anti-doping authorities, Pogba appealed the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which reduced the ban to 18 months in October 2024.

The court's final ruling stated that Pogba



had taken the substance inadvertently and that DHEA's effects are primarily limited to females, significantly weakening the argument of competitive enhancement in his case.

This allowed Pogba to resume training and register with clubs from March 2025, though he has had to wait until now to complete a move.

From Record-Breaker to Rebuilder

Pogba's journey to Monaco represents a dramatic chapter in one of modern football's most talked-about careers. In 2016, he became the most expensive footballer in the world when Manchester United paid £89 million to re-sign him from Juventus.

He won the Europa League and the League Cup during his first season back at Old Trafford and was pivotal in France's 2018 World Cup triumph, even scoring in the final against Croatia.

However, the years that followed were plagued by injuries, inconsistency, and friction with management, particularly under Jose Mourinho. He eventually left Manchester United in 2022 for a second spell with Juventus — this time on a free transfer.

His second stint in Turin failed to live up to expectations, with physical setbacks and his doping case overshadowing any

on-field contributions.

A Fresh Start in Monaco

Now, Pogba is hoping for a fresh start in the principality. Monaco, known for reviving careers and nurturing talent, may offer the perfect environment for him to rebuild both his reputation and his form.

While he joins a squad brimming with young talent, Pogba's experience could prove vital in their bid for domestic and European success. His leadership, technical ability, and hunger to redeem himself might yet make him a force in Ligue 1.

Fans and pundits will be watching closely to see if the once-world's most expensive player can recapture the magic that made him a global icon.

A Career at the Crossroads

With 91 caps for France and a World Cup medal in his cabinet, Pogba's legacy is already secure in many ways. Yet this latest chapter — marked by controversy, humility, and a desire to start anew — could define the final act of a career unlike any other.

As Pogba takes his first steps back onto the pitch in Monaco colours, the football world waits to see whether La renaissance is just a tagline — or a true comeback.

Banyana Banyana boycott WAFCON prep over unpaid dues

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



South Africa's national women's football team, Banyana Banyana, have boycotted training ahead of their Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) title defence in Morocco, citing unpaid allowances and salaries from the South African Football Association (SAFA).

The reigning continental champions, who arrived in Morocco on Wednesday in preparation for the tournament set to kick off on July 5, staged a sit-in protest on Friday by refusing to take part in their scheduled training session. This marks the second session they've missed, intensifying pressure on SAFA to address the matter swiftly.

According to the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC), the players are demanding immediate payment of outstanding dues for April and June national team camps, which were vital parts of coach Desiree Ellis' pre-WAFCON training program.

Despite being addressed by Head of Delegation Thabile Msomi on Thursday — who assured them that the issue had been escalated to SAFA President Danny Jordaan — the players say they remain in the dark, with no direct communication

or concrete timelines provided regarding their owed payments.

"We had no formal meeting with SAFA today or even prior to camp," a player, speaking anonymously for fear of reprisal, told SABC. "When we sought a meeting with the CEO, they simply said she was unavailable. The excuse given for the CFO and COO was that they were tired from an NEC meeting."

The boycott has sparked concern among fans and officials alike, especially with Banyana Banyana set to defend the historic title they won in 2022 — their first-ever WAFCON crown after beating hosts Morocco in the final.

Coach Desiree Ellis, who has been instrumental in the team's recent rise in African and global women's football, is reportedly frustrated by the situation but remains hopeful a resolution will be reached soon.

"We came here to prepare and perform. Our focus is on retaining the title, but we cannot ignore the legitimate concerns of the players," Ellis said earlier in the week. "It's about respect, fairness, and creating a professional environment."

This is not the first time Banyana Banyana have faced disputes over compensation. In the past, similar protests and negotiations with SAFA have emerged ahead of major tournaments, prompting broader discussions about investment and equality in women's sports in South Africa.

SAFA has yet to release an official public statement addressing the boycott, but sources close to the situation indicate that talks are ongoing behind closed doors.

With the tournament opener just a week away, the clock is ticking. Banyana Banyana are expected to face fierce competition from Nigeria's Super Falcons and hosts Morocco, both of whom are considered top contenders. But for now, their toughest battle may be off the pitch.

As the team awaits intervention from the highest levels of South African football leadership, fans across the continent are watching closely — not just to see if the champions can defend their crown, but whether the institutions that govern the game will finally give their stars the support they deserve.

Wilder back in win column, but comeback questions remain

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Deontay Wilder returned to winning ways on Saturday night, stopping Tyrrell Herndon in the seventh round of a low-profile bout in Wichita, Kansas, that offered more relief than reassurance for the former heavyweight champion.

It was Wilder's first victory since October 2022, ending a streak of three losses in four fights — most recently a punishing fifth-round stoppage at the hands of Chinese southpaw Zhilei Zhang in June 2024.

But this win, against a faded opponent in Herndon, came without the electricity and spectacle once synonymous with the man dubbed the "Bronze Bomber." There was no glittering entrance, no pay-per-view build-up, no sold-out arena — just a former world champion seeking redemption in front of a modest crowd at the Charles Koch Arena and no major TV coverage.

Still, it was a win. Wilder, now 39, dropped Herndon in the second and sixth rounds before sealing the deal in the seventh with two thunderous right hands, forcing the referee to step in.

"I've been laid off for a long time, getting myself back together emotionally," Wilder said post-fight. "It is just nice to be back in the ring. This is a new beginning for me."

Herndon, 37, came in as a heavy underdog, having lost five of his previous 28 bouts, and was stopped in two rounds by rising American prospect Richard Torrez Jr last year. Against Wilder, he showed heart but little resistance to the power that once made the former WBC champion boxing's most feared knockout artist.

Wilder's performance was controlled and methodical. Rather than relying on the trademark right hand that floored 43 of his previous 44 opponents, Wilder used his jab and left hook more than usual, showing a desire to evolve his



approach.

"I wanted to display more," he said. "Taking my time to be able to set up my shot and become more than my right hand. I want to become a complete, all-round fighter."

Yet the question remains: how much of the old Wilder still remains?

Since his brutal trilogy with Tyson Fury — which ended in two stoppage defeats and one draw — Wilder has struggled to recapture the aura that once surrounded him. His flat performance in a unanimous decision loss to Joseph Parker in 2023 ended hopes of a long-anticipated clash with Anthony Joshua. The loss to Zhang seemed, to many, like a career-ending blow.

Wilder vanished from the spotlight after that fight, splitting with long-time trainer Malik Scott and taking time to work with a sports psychologist.

Despite the adversity, Wilder maintains that retirement was never on the table.

"I never planned to walk away. I needed time to repair myself emotionally and mentally," he said. "This was always part of the plan."

Whether Wilder can return to world title contention remains doubtful. With Oleksandr Usyk and Daniel Dubois set to contest the undisputed crown next month, Wilder is far from the title picture. But in the heavyweight division, reputation and power still carry weight.

"When you're in the heavyweight division, you're always one fight away from a title fight," Wilder said, hinting he won't be rushed into taking on the sport's elite again. "Sometimes, it ain't all about the money."

A matchup with Joshua — still a huge draw despite diminished titles — remains a possibility. Wilder vs. Ngannou, in a crossover mega-fight in Africa, has also been discussed. British fan-favourite Dave Allen is another name that's surfaced.

What's clear is that Wilder, though no longer invincible, is not yet finished. He may never reclaim the title of world champion, but for one night in Kansas, he reclaimed something else — belief.

And in boxing, belief can still be a dangerous weapon.

Brentford reject second Man Utd's £62.5m bid for Bryan Mbeumo

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Manchester United have seen their latest bid for Brentford star Bryan Mbeumo rejected, as the West London club stand firm on their valuation of the in-demand forward.

United's improved offer, reportedly worth up to £62.5 million – consisting of £55 million upfront and £7.5 million in add-ons – was turned down by Brentford, who are understood to be holding out for a fee similar to what Wolves received for Matheus Cunha earlier this summer.

Cunha's recent move to Old Trafford, also for £62.5 million, has seemingly set a benchmark in the market. Sources close to the negotiations suggest Brentford want that amount paid up front, not through structured add-ons, if they are to part ways with one of their most influential players.

Mbeumo, 25, is coming off the back of a career-best season, netting 20 goals and providing nine assists across all competitions. His consistent performances have made him a pivotal figure in Brentford's attack and a fan favourite at the Gtech Community Stadium.

Having joined the Bees from French side Troyes in 2019 while the club was still in the Championship, Mbeumo has grown into a key asset. His contributions were instrumental in Brentford's promotion to the Premier League in 2021, and he has since accumulated 70 goals in 242 appearances – impressive numbers that underline his value.

United, under new leadership, are aggressively reshaping their squad with the aim of restoring their dominance in English football. The signing of Cunha from Wolves marked their first major move this summer, and the club is eager to add more attacking



options ahead of the new campaign. However, Brentford's firm stance and the growing interest in Mbeumo from other top sides have complicated United's pursuit.

Tottenham Hotspur are reportedly monitoring the situation closely. Newly appointed manager Thomas Frank, who coached Mbeumo at Brentford, is keen on a reunion. Spurs' interest could add pressure on United to move quickly and decisively, or risk losing out on their target.

Additionally, several unnamed Champions League clubs are believed to be weighing up their own offers, which could further drive up the player's market value.

One potential complication for any club signing Mbeumo this summer is his likely absence during the Africa Cup of Nations. Representing Cameroon, the winger is expected to miss up to four weeks of the 2025–26 season. The tournament, hosted in Morocco, begins in late December,

with Cameroon facing Gabon in their opening group game on the 24th.

While this could deter some suitors, United appear undeterred by the short-term unavailability. Managerial and recruitment staff are convinced that Mbeumo's long-term value outweighs the temporary loss.

Brentford, meanwhile, are in a strong negotiating position. Mbeumo still has one year left on his current deal, and despite growing interest, the club is not under pressure to sell unless their valuation is met. The player has not publicly agitated for a move, although the chance to play for a Champions League side may influence his stance if offers continue to come in.

As the summer window progresses, Manchester United will need to decide whether to return with an even more aggressive offer or shift their attention elsewhere. For now, Brentford remain firm: Mbeumo is not for sale – at least not for anything less than top dollar.