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Emmanson: NCAA probes Ibom Air passenger-crew altercation **Pg 13**



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North Korea builds secret ICBM base near China border



NITDA: Big tech firms remove 13.5m accounts in Nigeria over online safety rules

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has announced that major technology companies, including Google, Microsoft and TikTok, deactivated more than 13.5 million accounts in 2024 in line with Nigeria's Code of Practice for online safety.

The disclosure came following the submission of the 2024 compliance reports under the Code of Practice for Interactive Computer Service Platforms and Internet Intermediaries, a regulatory framework jointly issued by NITDA, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC).

The Code requires large platforms to register in Nigeria, comply with local laws, pay relevant taxes and adopt measures to protect users from harmful content.

According to NITDA, the compliance reports showed that users filed a total

of 754,629 complaints last year, resulting in the removal of 58.9 million pieces of harmful content. A further 420,439 items were initially taken down but later restored after successful appeals. In addition, 13,597,057 accounts were permanently closed or deactivated for violations of platform rules and the Code of Practice.

NITDA boss hails steps towards safer digital environment

In a statement signed by its Director of Corporate Communications and Media Relations, Hadiza Umar, NITDA described the development as an important step towards creating a safer digital environment in Nigeria.

"The submission of these reports marks a significant step towards fostering a safer and more responsible digital environment for Nigerian users," the statement read. "Building a safer digital space requires sustained collaboration and engagement among all stakeholders. We remain

committed to working with industry players, civil society and regulatory partners to strengthen user safety measures, enhance digital literacy, and promote trust and transparency in Nigeria's digital ecosystem."

The agency commended Google, Microsoft and TikTok for their continued compliance, adding that transparency through the publication of such reports was essential for accountability in Nigeria's digital governance framework.

Introduced in 2022, the Code of Practice was designed to strike a balance between fostering innovation and protecting users.

NITDA said the latest compliance disclosures showed progress but warned that safeguarding Nigerians from online harm required more than regulatory enforcement, urging continued cooperation between technology companies, regulators and civil society.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	372,500.00
HALF PAGE	213,000.00
QUARTER PAGE	106,500.00
14X2	118,000.00
10X6	261,585.50
10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
9X6	254,977.00
9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
1X1	4,400.00

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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HALF PAGE	192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	100,000.00
14X2	109,500.00
10X6	242,500.00
10X5	237,500.00
10X4	192,500.00
10X3	171,000.00
9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
5X4	61,500.00
5X3	57,819.00
5X2	40,379.50
4X4	55,000.00
4X3	31,000.00
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3X2	17,260.00
2X2	12,945.00
2X1	8,630.00
1X1	4,315.00

POLITICAL COLOUR

SIZE	RATE
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POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,050,000.00
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FULL PAGE	315,777.50
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QUARTER PAGE	95,222.50

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

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HALF PAGE	142,787.50
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10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
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9X3	107,757.50
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4X2	22,350.00
3X2	16,763.00
2X2	10,877.00
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HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

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10X5	201,600.00
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9X5	169,050.00
9X4	137,875.00
9X3	112,875.00
8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
5X2	32,916.50
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4X3	39,499.50
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3X2	19,750.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

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HALF PAGE	124,236.00
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10X5	162,222.445
10X4	103,963.00
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9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
7X4	72,676.00
6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
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5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
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2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
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ALLURE RATE

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10X5		295,625.00
Half Page		225,000.00
EVENT		250,000.00

PICTURE & CAPTION

SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL
PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
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PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
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Tinubu calls on Nigerians abroad to invest in homeland

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has urged Nigerians living in the diaspora to actively participate in the country's development, encouraging them not to stay away from home.

During an interactive session with selected Nigerian professionals and entrepreneurs in Yokohama, Japan, on the sidelines of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD9), the president emphasised that Nigeria is on a path of renewed growth.

The meeting provided an opportunity for Tinubu to share his administration's accomplishments and assure the diaspora community that his government is focused on creating a favourable environment for all citizens.

He described the attendees as a "vibrant representation of Nigeria's diversity" and expressed his commitment to fostering stability, unity, and economic growth through a blend of visionary ideas and practical actions.

To underscore the progress being made, the president invited several officials, including Minister of State for Industry, John Enoch, and the Executive Vice Chairman of NASENI, Khalil Suleiman Halilu, to speak on government programs.

Wale Tinubu, the president's nephew, provided additional insight, explaining that the government's reforms have boosted the economy by making businesses more competitive and attracting new investments.

The president himself noted significant improvements in key areas, such as the streamlined process for issuing passports, which now benefits both residents and the diaspora.

Tinubu acknowledged that some Nigerians might choose to remain abroad for economic reasons, but he passionately argued that their skills and resources are crucial for Nigeria's progress.

"If you stay away, who will build it?" he asked, stressing that national development is a shared responsibility between citizens at home and abroad.

He urged the diaspora community to act as positive ambassadors for Nigeria, countering negative narratives and projecting a more accurate image of the country's potential.

He noted that the strength of a Nigerian citizen isn't just in holding a passport, but in a "character and commitment" to the

nation's advancement.

The president assured his audience that his administration has stabilised key economic fundamentals and is implementing reforms to unlock significant opportunities for investment and job creation.

He also mentioned government efforts to curb medical tourism by upgrading healthcare infrastructure and improving access to quality services within the country.

The president's message was well-received by the attendees, with many expressing satisfaction with the government's reform efforts and pledging their support.

Emeka Ebogota, President of the Nigerian Union in Japan, thanked the president for the meeting and affirmed the commitment of his members to Nigeria's transformation.

Also in attendance were several prominent officials, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Tuggar; Minister of Solid Minerals, Dele Alake; and Minister of Budget, Atiku Bagudu, among others, demonstrating the high-level focus on engaging the diaspora.

Atiku-Obi alliance could weaken APC in 2027, says party chieftain

By Gbenga Olaleye



A prominent figure within Nigeria's ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), Dominic Alancha, has expressed concerns that a potential alliance between former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and ex-Anambra State Governor Peter Obi could significantly undermine the party's chances in the 2027 general elections.

Alancha shared his views during an interview on Politics Today, a current affairs programme aired on Channels Television, where he noted that such a coalition would represent a formidable challenge to the APC's electoral strength.

According to NewDailyPrime, on 2 July 2025, key opposition leaders, including Atiku, Obi, former Senate President David Mark, as well as former ministers Rauf Aregbesola and Rotimi Amaechi, alongside ex-Kaduna

State Governor Nasir El-Rufai, formally adopted the African Democratic Congress (ADC) as their unified political platform to take on President Bola Tinubu in the forthcoming polls.

The move follows widespread criticism of President Tinubu's administration, particularly regarding the state of the economy, rising inflation, and the increasing cost of living, which have all fuelled public discontent.

Speaking on the possible implications of an Atiku-Obi ticket, Alancha stated:

"In 2027, the dynamics may not be the same as what happened in 2023. If Peter Obi and Atiku can align, have a consensus amongst themselves and agree on a single ticket, I'm telling you it's going to deplete our support base because, at the table, they already have over 13 to 14 million votes."

He added that the alliance would pose a serious threat to the APC's grassroots support, urging the party and President Tinubu to begin earnest preparations to mitigate any potential fallout.

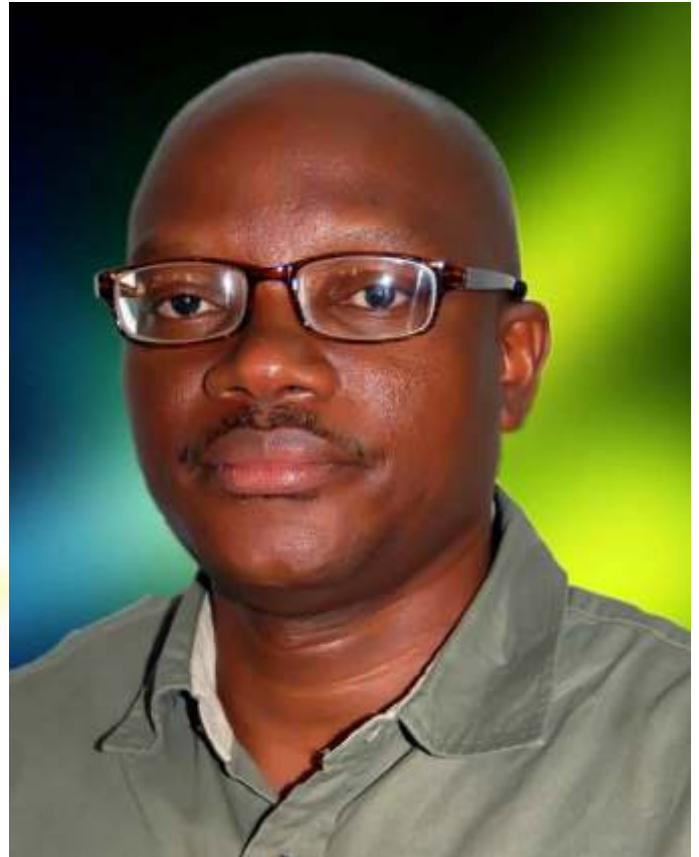
"It is not too early in the day because preparation precedes manifestation. If you're not preparing to succeed, then you must have been planning to fail," Alancha cautioned.

"What we are telling the President, as members of the APC and as citizens in touch with the grassroots, is that there may be quietness now, but when campaigns commence, there are going to be serious issues," he concluded.

The comments come as the political landscape begins to heat up ahead of the 2027 elections, with various actors realigning in what promises to be a fiercely contested race.

ASUU warns of impending strike, cites govt's failure to honour agreements

By Friday Omosola



The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is threatening to launch a fresh nationwide strike, accusing the Nigerian government of a prolonged failure to meet its obligations under a 2009 agreement.

During a press conference at the University of Jos, ASUU President Christopher Piwuna said that years of unfulfilled promises and stalling tactics by the government have “destroyed trust.”

Piwuna detailed a list of unresolved issues, including the renegotiation of the 2009 agreement, unpaid salaries, withheld promotions, and pension concerns for retired professors.

He stated that despite repeated attempts to engage with the government through letters, their appeals have gone unanswered.

“It is the Federal Government that has consistently pushed our union to embark on a strike action”, Piwuna said, suggesting that a strike may be the only remaining option to get the government to act.

The union leader also voiced strong opposition to the government’s proposed loan scheme for tertiary institution staff, labelling it as a “trap.”

He emphasised that the union’s members need the government to fulfil its existing agreements to improve their financial well-being, not to be saddled with more debt.

In addition to the financial issues, ASUU criticised the rapid creation of new universities without a corresponding plan for sustainable funding, arguing that this has led to a decline in educational quality and global rankings.

Piwuna highlighted the plight of retired professors, noting that some who have dedicated decades to their work are now receiving monthly pensions as low as N150,000, which is insufficient to keep up with the rising cost of living.

ASUU stated it will await the outcome of an upcoming government meeting on August 28 before making a final decision on a strike.

However, the union announced that its members would hold protest rallies on university campuses next week to express their frustration.

With time running out and trust at a low point, the union’s latest warning signals that another major disruption to the nation’s higher education system could be on the horizon.

Wike declares loyalty to who stands with Tinubu

By Damilola Olufemi

The Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has declared that his loyalty will go to those who openly support President Bola Tinubu, urging residents to align themselves with leaders “the government will listen to.”

Wike made the remark on Thursday at the flag-off of Lot 2 of the Karu Water Supply Project, where he praised former FCT senator, Philip Aduda, and the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC) chairman, Christopher Maikalangu, for their roles in driving development.

Responding to Aduda’s request for a 2-kilometre road in Karu, Wike promised immediate action.

“There is a road where you said is about 2km, is it not? Consider it done. You know, one thing about government and politics, support those who have capacity to bring something to the people. Support those that government will listen to,” he said.

He added that Aduda’s influence was evident in the federal government’s swift response to his appeal.

“From what happened now, you see that Aduda, government has his ear where he is. And that’s why government said where is that road he mentioned? Consider it done.”

The minister also commended Maikalangu’s track record as AMAC chairman, noting his ability to attract federal projects to his constituency.

“You can see that since he (Maikalangu) became the Chairman of AMAC, he has brought government to do Saburi Road, he has brought the government to do Kabusa-Takushere Road, he has brought government to



redo this road. He has brought government to do Deidei Road.”

Wike backs Maikalangu’s re-election bid on loyalty

Wike assured residents that his support for Maikalangu’s re-election bid in 2026 would not be based on party affiliation but on loyalty to the Tinubu administration.

“The chairman has access to us. Anything he tells us, we will do. This is the only man I know. If he wins as chairman of AMAC, we will give him whatever he wants. I don’t know the party he belongs to. But I know that he supports Tinubu. Anybody who supports Tinubu, I will support him.”

Turning to the water project, Wike contrasted the Tinubu-led government with previous administrations, accusing past leaders of neglecting Karu.

“We have had a government who stayed here for five years, isn’t that correct? We have had a government who stayed here for eight years too, is that correct? Has any government come to say, look, we will provide you

water? Have you had water before? Did this government promise it will give you water? Have we come now to give you water?”

He told the people of Karu that they had entered a “covenant” with Tinubu’s administration.

“So, you believe you have a covenant with this government. And the covenant is like somebody said, agreement is agreement. So, the people of Karu, you will readily remember the government that remembers you, is it not correct? Will you remember those who had the opportunity and they refused to do anything for you? Will you remember those who left Karu unattended, will you remember them? So, we have come to fulfil the promise we made to you, that you must have clean and potable water.”

Aduda, who represented the FCT under the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from 2011 until his defeat in 2023, was also present at the event. Maikalangu, who defected from the PDP to the All Progressives Congress in 2024, is seeking re-election as AMAC chairman in the February 2026 council polls.

NOA condemns assault on corps member in Anambra, calls for swift prosecution

By Friday Omosola



The National Orientation Agency (NOA) has condemned a recent assault on a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) member by vigilantes in Anambra State.

The New Daily Prime earlier reported that a group of vigilantes at Oba, Idemili South Local Government Area (LGA) of Anambra State assaulted and stripped a female corps member of her clothing.

Bala Musa, NOA's Director of Communication and Media in a statement on Thursday said the agency's Director General, Lanre Issa-Onilu expressed deep dismay over the incident, calling the actions of the vigilantes "unbecoming and grossly irresponsible."

Issa-Onilu, denounced the assault as a violation of the rights and dignity of a Nigerian citizen.

He referenced the National Values Charter, which outlines the reciprocal responsibilities between leaders and citizens.

He stated that those in positions of authority must ensure accountability, and all citizens must show mutual respect.

The DG described the abuse of power against a corps member, who is serving in the national interest, as an act that

undermines the country's core values.

Issa-Onilu commended the swift response from the Anambra State Government and urged the thorough prosecution of all individuals involved.

He emphasised that holding the perpetrators accountable is the minimum level of justice owed to the corps member whose rights were violated.

Issa-Onilu also highlighted that such incidents tarnish Nigeria's national reputation and serve as a "wake-up call" for all citizens to uphold the nation's positive image.

He stressed that the collective reputation of the country is sacred and should not be

undermined by the actions of a few.

Aside from NOA, several other agencies including the management of the NYSC.

NYSC restated its firm stance against any act of intimidation, harassment or abuse directed at corps members across the country.

The scheme, in a statement condemned the assault on a female corps member, Edema Jennifer with the state code: AN/24C/0626.

The management described the incident as "unacceptable," stressing that the safety and welfare of corps members remain a top priority.



Alaafin: I'm not in supremacy battle with any monarch

By Gbenga Olaleye



The Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Akeem Owoade, has firmly stated that he is not engaged in any supremacy battle with any monarch, either within Yorubaland or anywhere in the world.

This clarification comes amid growing public speculation following a recent disagreement between the Alaafin and the Ooni of Ife, Oba Enitan Ogunwusi.

The dispute reportedly began after Oba Owoade criticised the Ooni's decision to confer the chieftaincy title of Okanlomo of Oduwa on businessman Dotun Sanusi during an event in Ibadan.

In a statement released on Thursday by his Director of Media and Publicity, Bode Durojaiye, the Alaafin described himself as a custodian of Yoruba culture and tradition, committed to the welfare of his people and the preservation of cultural values.

"Why would the Alaafin get into any battle for supremacy with any Oba, either in Yorubaland or anywhere in the universe?" the statement read.

Durojaiye added that Alaafin Owoade has no interest in personal power struggles but remains devoted to a leadership style grounded in tradition, humility, and service. He described the monarch as a ruler who "would never compromise tradition, culture and the development of his people for a pot of porridge."

The statement highlighted the deep historical roots of the Alaafin's authority, tracing his lineage to Oranmiyan, son of Okanbi and grandson of Oduduwa, the mythical progenitor of the Yoruba people.

It further noted the prominent role Oyo played in the ancient Yoruba political structure, and referenced the British colonial administration's recognition of the Alaafin as the legitimate head of the Yoruba nation during treaty negotiations.

"Oyo simply rose to prominence through wealth gained from trade and military skills... it was the largest West African

empire, the most authoritative of all the early Yoruba principalities."

The statement also described the Alaafin's reign as one that balances royalty with modern governance, adding that his enduring popularity stems from prioritising the security, prosperity, and cultural integrity of his people.

The reported tension between the Alaafin and the Ooni of Ife stems from differing interpretations of traditional protocols and titles. While both monarchs hold significant cultural weight in Yorubaland, the Alaafin's response appears focused on setting the record straight, rather than fuelling further confrontation.

The statement concluded with a reaffirmation of the Alaafin's spiritual and traditional authority, citing his initiation into the mysteries of Yoruba deities such as Ifa and Sango, and positioning him as a symbolic representative of the gods on earth.

Sanwo-Olu inspects Sangotedo agro food hub

By Friday Omosola



Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has announced that the mid-level Agro Food Hub in Sangotedo, Eti-Osa, is over 90 per cent complete, with final touches currently being applied.

The governor, who toured the facility yesterday stated that the hub is a crucial component of the state's strategy to decentralise food distribution and improve food security for residents.

The Sangotedo hub, which occupies a 23,000 square meter plot, is designed to offer storage facilities, trading floors, and ample parking.

According to Sanwo-Olu, the facility will make it easier for people in the corridor to access fresh produce.

The Sangotedo project is one of several similar hubs under development across Lagos.

The governor confirmed that additional hubs are being built in Agege, Lagos

Island, Oregun, and Ikorodu, with plans for more in Epe and Badagry.

These local hubs are designed to connect with a central logistics hub located in Ketu-Ereyun, which will serve as the backbone of the state's entire food distribution network.

Sanwo-Olu highlighted that these investments are central to the state's food security agenda and align with key initiatives such as the Lagos Agricultural Roadmap and the "Produce for Lagos" programme.

He expressed confidence that by this time next year, the hubs will be operational and significantly improve food accessibility for residents.

Earlier, the governor commissioned a 550-seater auditorium at the Epe campus of Lagos State University.

The facility was donated by the Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection

Commission (FCCPC), Olatunji Bello, as part of his commitment to education and service to the state.

Sanwo-Olu described the building as a space where ideas would be exchanged and students encouraged to aim higher.

He added that it would serve as a hub for academic discourse, cultural exchange, and strategic engagements, thereby enriching the learning environment and inspiring students to strive for excellence.

"I am grateful to Mr Bello for giving back in such a meaningful way. His generosity aligns with our vision to strengthen education through our THEMES+ Agenda, and it reminds us that we can achieve much more when we work together.

"For our students, this is a gift of opportunity. I believe it will enrich their learning and strengthen LASU's culture of excellence for years to come", he said.

We don't want thieves as leaders – Otti warns Abia town unions

By Gbenga Olaleye



Abia State Governor, Alex Otti, has issued a stern call to the leadership of community development unions across Abia and beyond, urging them to prioritise integrity and good governance within their localities.

Speaking on Wednesday during a meeting with the Abia State Association of Igbo Town Unions at the Government House, Umuahia, Governor Otti lamented the continued presence of individuals with questionable character in leadership positions across some communities.

The union delegation, led by its President General, George Mgborurukwe, met with the governor to discuss issues affecting their operations and collaboration with the state government.

Otti made it clear that his administration would not tolerate individuals lacking moral credibility occupying leadership roles in town unions.

“We don’t want thieves. We don’t want drug dealers, and we don’t want 419 people as leaders of town unions,” he said emphatically.

“Because, if your leader is a thief, he will teach people to steal. If he is a drug addict, if you arrest somebody, he would want to bribe you to release him.”

The governor insisted that only individuals with integrity, traceable sources of income, and a genuine desire to serve the people should be allowed to hold community leadership positions.

Governor Otti stressed that his administration places high value on knowing who leads town unions, as these leaders play a crucial role in shaping the moral and security standards of their communities.

He challenged the Association to return to their various communities

and ensure that the next generation of leaders are individuals the people can trust and be proud of.

Governor Otti also called on the union leaders to become active partners in governance and security. He encouraged them to provide credible intelligence to both the government and security agencies to help fight crime, especially in rural areas.

In a gesture of support, the governor approved a land allocation for the Association to establish its office in the state, strengthening its institutional presence and ability to coordinate grassroots development efforts.

Governor Otti’s message was clear: Abia needs honest leaders, not those driven by ill-gotten wealth or criminal reputations, to lead its communities into a more secure and morally upright future.

Kwara govt, Kwasu launch electric vehicle conversion initiative

By Friday Omosola



The Kwara State Government, in partnership with Kwara State University (Kwasu), has launched a new initiative to promote sustainable transportation with the handover of converted electric vehicles.

The project, which saw scrapped gasoline-powered vehicles transformed into electric models, is a significant step towards reducing carbon emissions and fostering technological innovation in the state.

The Commissioner for Business, Innovation and Technology, Damilola Yusuf Adelodun, announced the development during the official handing-over ceremony.

She described the collaboration as a major milestone, highlighting the potential of electric vehicles to drive eco-friendly transportation in Kwara.

Adelodun praised Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq for his leadership and support, which she said were instrumental in bringing the project to fruition.

She noted that the successful conversion of the vehicles demonstrates the viability of sustainable transport options in the state and confirmed that training for relevant staff would be provided soon.

Mary Kemi Adeosun, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, lauded Kwasu for its forward-thinking initiative, particularly in the context of the global energy transition.

She expressed gratitude to the Governor for his vision in undertaking such a project.

Representing the Vice Chancellor,

Prof. Kenneth Adeyemi, Chairman of the Kwasu Holdings Committee, stated the university's pride in collaborating with the state government.

He emphasised that the initiative is a testament to the success of public-private partnerships and serves as proof of concept for the technological possibilities championed by the Ministry.

The initiative aims to promote sustainable transportation, drive innovation, and enhance environmental awareness across the state.

The handover ceremony was attended by officials from both the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Technology and Kwasu, including representatives from the university's Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Emmanson: NCAA probes Ibom Air passenger-crew altercation

By Damilola Olufemi

The Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has launched a formal investigation into the recent clash between a passenger, Comfort Emmanson, and members of the Ibom Air cabin crew.

As part of the process, NCAA officials held a meeting in Abuja on Wednesday with Julie Edwards—one of the crew members accused of orchestrating the incident—as well as other staff of the airline who were directly involved.

The NCAA's spokesperson, Michael Achimugu, disclosed this in a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Thursday.

"Yesterday in Abuja, the NCAA team met with Julie Edwards and other members of the crew involved in the Comfort Emmanson incident as part of investigations into that event.

NCAA assures proper investigation on Emmanson's case

The NCAA's directorates of Aviation Security, Operations, Licensing, and Training Standards, Legal, and Consumer Protection are collaborating to ensure a proper conclusion to this investigation," Achimugu stated.

He also confirmed that Emmanson was scheduled to appear before the Authority



later on Thursday, accompanied by her lawyer.

The controversy surrounding Emmanson and Ibom Air had gained widespread attention after a video surfaced showing airline staff manhandling her during a Lagos-bound flight from Uyo. Reports alleged that she attacked a flight attendant and resisted airport officials, which led to her arraignment before an Ikeja Magistrates' Court and subsequent remand at the Kirikiri

Correctional Centre.

Her release came only after the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, instructed Ibom Air to drop its complaint.

Meanwhile, the NCAA has reiterated its resolve to maintain professionalism and safety standards in Nigeria's aviation sector, assuring that the ongoing review will be impartial and thorough.

CVR: INEC reaffirms voter registration age requirement

By Gbenga Olaleye

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has reiterated that the official age for voter registration remains 18 years, in line with provisions of the Electoral Act.

This clarification was provided by the INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) for Yobe State, Alhaji Ibrahim Abdullahi, during an advocacy visit to the Emir of Bade, Alhaji Abubakar Umar-Suleiman, in Gashua on Thursday.

The REC's statement came in response to a query from the Emir regarding whether individuals aged 16 or 17 could register to vote in anticipation of reaching the legal voting age by the 2027 general elections.

"Only eligible citizens of 18 years and above are allowed to register and vote under the Electoral Act," Abdullahi stated.

He emphasised the importance of voter registration as a fundamental component of



the electoral process, adding that it plays a key role in ensuring the integrity of elections.

Abdullahi noted that the purpose of his visit was to seek the Emir's support in sensitising residents of the area on the ongoing Continuous Voter Registration

(CVR) exercise.

He further stated that INEC is legally mandated to collaborate with relevant stakeholders and to update the voter register ahead of elections.

The REC disclosed that online voter registration commenced on 18 August, while physical registration is scheduled to begin on 25 August. Both processes are expected to run for one year.

Physical registration will be carried out at INEC's state headquarters in Damaturu, as well as at registration centres in all 17 local government areas of Yobe State.

Eligible participants include individuals who have not previously registered, those who have turned 18, persons with issues related to their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs), and those wishing to change their polling units.

Anambra NYSC member breaks silence after assault by vigilantes

By Helen Okechukwu

Edema Jennifer, a serving member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Anambra State with state code AN/24C/0626, has recounted a harrowing experience of physical assault and harassment carried out by operatives of the Agunchemba Vigilante Group in Oba, Idemili South Local Government Area (LGA).

Earlier, New Daily Prime reported that the management of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) condemned the act and reaffirmed its zero tolerance for intimidation and harassment of corps members.

Also, the state Police Command has reacted to the incident, vowing that justice will be served.

According to a viral video posted on X (formerly Twitter), Jennifer disclosed that the incident, which occurred on 23 July at about 5 p.m., took place at a three-storey building occupied by some corps members.

The assaulted corps member said she and her colleagues were in their room charging their phones when they heard repeated knocks at the door.

She added that they initially ignored the knock thinking it was their neighbours.

“The knocks soon became more aggressive. Before I got to the door, it was kicked in. If I had moved closer, the door would have hit me,” she said while revealing that on the other end of the door was a masked man with a gun.

“He wasn’t wearing any form of uniform—whether military or plain uniform. No form of identification. At first, I was afraid that it was an armed robber until I heard him say, ‘All of you outside,’” Jennifer narrated.



She noted that the masked man allegedly ordered them outside without explanation.

The corps members insisted they were all NYSC members, offering to present their ID cards and even log into the NYSC portal for verification.

However, the men, later identified as operatives of the Anambra Vigilante Group, ignored their pleas and allegedly became violent.

“They even forced themselves inside our room to pack our laptops and phones and everything, accusing us of being internet fraudsters.”

She further noted in the video that when they were trying to explain and identify themselves as serving corps members, they were all pushed downstairs forcefully.

“They almost pushed me down the staircase, saying, ‘What gave me the right as a woman to challenge

them,’” the victim recounted.

According to her, when they tried suggesting contacting their Local Government Inspector (LGI), including their principal, the group warned them against contacting anyone, threatening to smash their phones. The situation escalated when she was beaten and had her clothes torn.

“Even my colleague that was pleading with them, saying you cannot be hitting a lady like that—I added that about five of them used an iron rod to hit me for speaking up on her behalf.”

The corps member further alleged that she was shoved into a waiting vehicle marked Anambra Vigilante Group, where she was subjected to further physical harassment.

“They pushed me into the vehicle. One was pressing my neck inside, slapping me, and doing all sorts of nonsense,” the corps member said.

Aiyedatiwa vows to intensify fight against drug trafficking, cybercrime

By Friday Omosola



Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa of Ondo State has reiterated his administration's strong resolve to combat drug trafficking, cybercrime, and other criminal activities, stating that security is a top priority of his government.

Aiyedatiwa made the commitment during a meeting with a delegation from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), led by its Country Representative, Cheikh Toure.

The governor emphasised that security and the rule of law are the foundation of his administration's seven-point development agenda.

He highlighted several measures already taken by the state government, including the recent distribution of 75 hybrid vehicles to security agencies to

boost their operational capacity.

The governor also mentioned significant support provided to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to tackle the cultivation and trafficking of illicit substances, particularly cannabis, which is prevalent in some parts of the state.

Aiyedatiwa also underscored the importance of youth empowerment initiatives, such as the "One Youth, One Skill" programme, which provides vocational training and grants to young people to deter them from a life of crime.

He expressed the state's readiness to collaborate with the UNODC and other international partners to collectively address these challenges.

In his remarks, the UNODC Country Representative, Cheikh Toure, praised the Ondo State government's commitment to security and youth development.

He noted that the UNODC is focusing on working directly with states to create a greater impact at the grassroots level.

Toure highlighted the alarming rate of drug addiction in Nigeria and stressed the need for proactive strategies, including education and community-based interventions, to curb drug abuse and human trafficking.

He assured the governor that UNODC is keen on strengthening its partnership with Ondo State to enhance efforts in youth resilience, crime prosecution, and reducing drug abuse.

El-Rufai warns ADC vanguard against fake statements, demands immediate stop

By Gbenga Olaleye



Former Kaduna State Governor, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai, has strongly cautioned the political support group ADC Vanguard against attributing fabricated statements to him.

In a post shared via his official X (formerly Twitter) account on Thursday, El-Rufai stated unequivocally that while he maintains active platforms for expressing his opinions, the remarks recently circulated by ADC Vanguard did not originate from him.

“Dear ADC Vanguard, please stop fabricating statements and attributing them to me. I have my own social media accounts where I can share my views and opinions,” he wrote.

“I am going to disown the statements you created and attributed, not because I necessarily disagree with the message, but because I never made them. That is not the honest way to represent our party or gain traction. Please stop it forthwith,” El-Rufai added.

His response followed a now-deleted post by ADC Vanguard, which falsely quoted him as criticising President Bola Tinubu’s government as “Nigeria’s most corrupt and dishonest,” and accusing it of “looting shamelessly while deceiving confidently.”

After El-Rufai’s public rebuttal, the group promptly issued an apology.

“Dear Mallam El-Rufai, we sincerely apologise for the inconvenience caused. It was never our intention to misrepresent or attribute statements to you. We respect your voice and your platforms as the proper channels for your views,” ADC Vanguard wrote.

They also pledged to use only verified sources moving forward, thanking El-Rufai for addressing the issue with clarity and respect.

This incident highlights the growing concern over misinformation within political circles, especially as Nigeria inches closer to the 2027 general elections.

Oyebanji: Tinubu is fair to Ekiti, urges patience on federal roads

By Friday Omosola



Governor Biodun Oyebanji of Ekiti State has defended the Federal Government's (FG) efforts on road infrastructure in the state, urging residents to be patient and avoid discrediting President Bola Tinubu's administration.

Speaking at the 2025 Udiroko Festival in Ado-Ekiti, Oyebanji addressed criticism over the poor condition of the Ado-Aramoko-Itawure road.

He stated that while the road's condition is a concern, it is unfair to use it to judge the federal government's commitment to Ekiti, as other significant road projects are already underway.

The governor highlighted that the FG has awarded contracts for the construction of the Ado-Ikere-Akure and Ado-Ijan-Iluomoba roads, which he said are currently in progress.

He added that the state government has also reconstructed the Ado-Iworoko-Ifaki federal road to complement the federal projects.

"The President has supported us a lot, but it is not possible for him to solve all our problems in two years," Oyebanji said.

He added that "Ekiti people are not ingrates, we reject that narrative and we say the President is supporting us."

During the festival, Oyebanji also commended the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, Oba Rufus Adeyemo Adejugbe, for his efforts in fostering peace, unity, and cultural preservation.

He described the monarch as a "symbol of wisdom" and praised his leadership for bringing remarkable progress to the state capital.

"As I speak today, the construction of Ado-Ikere-Itaogbolu-Akure road is ongoing, also the Ado-Ijan-

Iluomoba road has been awarded, while the state has also completed the reconstruction of the Ado-Iworoko- Ifaki federal road to complement the efforts of the federal government.

"It is unfair for any Ekiti indigene to use the condition of Aramoko-Itawure road to measure this government. Ekiti People are not ingrates, we reject that narrative and we say the President is supporting us and Ekiti people are in support of the President", he added.

In his own address, Oba Adejugbe commended Oyebanji for his commitment to good governance and various development projects, including the state Agro-Allied International Airport and a new overhead bridge in Ado-Ekiti.

The monarch also appealed to political actors to prioritise peaceful coexistence and urged citizens to be patient with the current administration's economic reforms.

I won't choose my successor, it must be a democratic process, says Gov Uzodinma

By Gbenga Olaleye



Governor Hope Uzodinma of Imo State has stated that he will not anoint or handpick a successor when his tenure ends in January 2028, stressing that such a decision must arise through a democratic process.

The governor made this known on Thursday while receiving stakeholders from Owerri Zone who paid him a solidarity visit at Government House, Owerri.

Addressing concerns surrounding the Imo Charter of Equity, a political framework aimed at ensuring rotational leadership and addressing imbalances, Uzodinma warned against its misuse, saying it should not become a tool for division or misinformation.

“The Charter of Equity is not for

people to go on social media and spread fake news,” he said. “It is a document created to help us reflect on past imbalances and correct them, not to create new confusion.”

Uzodinma urged the stakeholders to focus on the collective interest of the state, rather than personal or zonal ambitions. He encouraged Owerri Zone to engage with other zones and prioritise unity and inclusiveness in their aspirations for the governorship.

He noted that the state requires a leader who is selfless and capable of making informed decisions that promote balanced development across all regions.

While acknowledging the zone’s unity, the governor also cautioned against premature political

campaigns, urging leaders to concentrate on current challenges such as security, healthcare, and economic development.

Earlier, Chief Charles Amadi, who spoke on behalf of the Owerri Zone delegation, praised the governor for initiating the Charter of Equity. He described it as a bold step toward promoting justice, equity, and peaceful power transition in the state.

Amadi assured the governor of the zone’s full support and alignment with the Charter, adding that they would back any credible candidate adopted through a fair process.

“We now speak with one voice,” Amadi said, “and we appreciate your infrastructural strides and your commitment to a fair power rotation as outlined in the Charter.”

PDP, Wike clash over Ibadan national convention

By Damilola Olufemi

Strong disagreements have erupted within the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Nyesom Wike, threatens to stop the party's national elective convention scheduled for November 15–16 in Ibadan, Oyo State.

Wike, a former Rivers State governor, has openly opposed the exercise, citing unresolved internal disputes, particularly over the South-South and South-East leadership structures of the party.

Appearing on Channels Television's Politics Today on Tuesday, Wike declared that the convention could end in chaos if certain "anomalies" were not corrected.

He warned: "They said they are going for their convention in November. I am not part of it until they have corrected it. Let us wait, there is still time for them to resolve it. If the matter is not resolved, there will be a crisis."

The minister insisted that Chief Dan Orbih, who emerged from a zonal congress in Calabar, remained the legitimate National Vice Chairman for the South-South. He also demanded the removal of Ali Odefa as South-East chairman, citing a subsisting court order.

"The so-called acting national chairman of the party wrote a letter to INEC after congress was held that it was postponed. There is no two ways about it—the National Vice Chairman of PDP South-South is Chief Dan Orbih. If they don't agree, that's another round of crisis," Wike said.

On his exclusion from the NEC's preparations, he added: "I am not aware that any convention would be held in Ibadan. As a NEC member,



nobody has informed me. If notice of a meeting is not given, we have the right to challenge it, and nobody can deny me that right."

PDP hits back

The PDP leadership, however, dismissed Wike's claims and insisted the Ibadan convention would go ahead as planned.

National Publicity Secretary Debo Ologunagba stressed that due process had been followed and warned that the party would not tolerate acts of sabotage.

"Our NEC and other meetings have been convened properly. INEC has been duly informed. The NEC, which is the second-highest decision-making body, fixed Ibadan as the venue for November 15 and 16. All arrangements are in motion, and the train is already moving," Ologunagba stated.

He further cautioned: "There will be zero tolerance for disloyalty in our party. PDP is a party of process and rule of law. If there are actions inconsistent with the constitution, the necessary steps will be taken."



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Deputy National Youth Leader Timothy Osadolor also warned Wike against overstepping, reminding him that the Supreme Court had ruled internal party matters non-justiciable.

"The FCT Minister is overreaching himself by putting himself above the collective interests of the party. No single individual can derail the progress PDP has made post-defections. Our program is set, and nothing will stop it," Osadolor said.

Former Southwest Vice Chairman Eddy Olafeso echoed the warning, vowing resistance to Wike's moves.

"In the final analysis, it's obvious that Wike plans to destroy our party, and nobody will allow that. We've followed due process all through, and he cannot stop us. If they want to go to court, we'll meet them there," he declared.

Elder statesman and former Deputy National Chairman, Chief Bode George, was even more dismissive, describing Wike's threats as mere "noise."

LASU Epe campus gets new 550-seater auditorium By Friday Omosola



Lagos State University (LASU) in Epe has received a major infrastructure boost with the official opening of a new 550-seater auditorium.

The state-of-the-art facility was a donation from Olatunji Bello, the Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC).

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu commissioned the Olatunji Bello Auditorium yesterday, four years after the former Lagos State Government Secretary pledged to construct the edifice to mark his 60th birthday.

The event was attended by academics, government officials, students, and notable leaders, including former Ogun State Governor Aremo Segun Osoba.

Sanwo-Olu hailed the auditorium as a “beacon of knowledge, creativity, and intellectual engagement.”

He praised Bello for his generosity, noting that the donation aligns with his administration’s focus on education and technology.

The governor emphasised that the new facility would enhance academic discourse and cultural exchange, inspiring students to strive for excellence.

Also, Bello, who is also the husband of LASU’s Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, stated that his motivation for the project was to leave a lasting legacy in academia.

He stressed that individuals with the means should invest in public tertiary education to help close infrastructure gaps, as the

government cannot do it alone.

He further announced that a private management company would maintain the auditorium for its first year before handing over maintenance to the school.

More so, LASU’s Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, said the auditorium is a “strategic investment in academic excellence and institutional identity.”

She remarked that her husband’s philanthropic act has permanently etched his name into the university’s history.

The new facility, equipped with compact writing platforms and an overhead gallery, is designed to accommodate various academic and cultural events and includes additional classrooms and office space.

SPI urges states to boost health investment, workforce recruitment

By Helen Okechukwu



Nigerian state governments have been advised to increase funding for hospitals, hire more medical professionals, and bridge the urban-rural gap in service delivery, following the release of the 2025 State Performance Index (SPI).

The nationwide survey, produced by Phillips Consulting Limited (PCL) and unveiled in Abuja, painted a bleak picture of healthcare in the country. Fewer than 30% of citizens said they were satisfied with treatment in public hospitals, making healthcare one of the most poorly rated areas of governance.

The SPI measured performance across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), drawing on both statistical evidence and public opinion. Results revealed sharp contrasts: states that invested in upgrading facilities and improving

affordability generally performed better, while those struggling with insecurity, underfunding, and poor infrastructure ranked low.

Nasarawa was recognised for strong hospital access, yet the FCT came in last for infrastructure, highlighting concerns that the nation's capital is failing to keep pace with demand.

Read Also: Tinubu slashes dialysis costs in major healthcare push
Benue performed relatively well on affordability, but only two in ten residents expressed satisfaction with care standards. In Kogi, just 16% of respondents reported being content with hospital costs, among the lowest figures in the country.

Across the board, healthcare was grouped with poor roads and inadequate water supply as one of the top three areas fuelling citizen dissatisfaction. Respondents cited a

shortage of doctors and nurses, drug scarcity, high out-of-pocket costs, and deteriorating facilities as everyday struggles.

“Healthcare remains a pressing concern for Nigerians,” the report noted. “States that ignore this risk falling further behind in both perception and performance.”

Experts warned that the sector's weakness is not only eroding public trust but also stunting economic growth, worsening poverty levels, and deepening inequality.

The SPI recommended that governments increase transparency in health budgets, strengthen collaboration with development partners, and design localised solutions to address pressing health challenges.

NPHCDA boss urges new recruits to uphold nation's building

By Helen Okechukwu



The Executive Director of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Muyi Aina, has charged newly recruited staff of the agency to seize the opportunity provided by the Federal Government to contribute meaningfully to the nation's health system while advancing their own careers.

Aina, who spoke during the official commencement of onboarding and training for 126 fresh employees of the agency, said President Bola Tinubu's administration remains committed to tackling long-standing challenges in Nigeria's health sector.

He urged the recruits to uphold strong values, dedicate themselves to learning, and put in their best efforts as they begin their service.

According to him, the induction programme forms part of the President's Renewed Hope Agenda (RHA) aimed at creating jobs for Nigerians and strengthening institutions that deliver essential services.

NPHCDA boss shares exercise importance

Highlighting the importance of the exercise, Aina explained that the training is designed to enhance the capabilities of the agency's workforce and better position it for accountable delivery of the Nigeria Health Sector Renewal Investment Initiative.

He added that the initiative also aligns with NPHCDA's strategic blueprint to build a motivated and skilled workforce.

The training is being conducted under the NPHCDA Leadership Development Academy, which was established in 2019 to nurture leadership and management competencies among staff.

Since inception, the academy has trained four cohorts of employees and graduated 55 fellows across two sets.

In a statement signed on Thursday by the agency's Director of Advocacy and Communication, Dr. Ladan Aliyu, NPHCDA reiterated its mandate to provide technical and programmatic support to states, local governments, and stakeholders to ensure effective planning, implementation and supervision of primary health care services nationwide.

Royal Marsden pioneers new prostate cancer detection system to cut needless biopsies

By Helen Okechukwu



A pioneering system designed to detect prostate cancer more accurately has been introduced at the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, raising hopes that it could pave the way for future screening programmes while reducing unnecessary biopsies.

Unlike the current approach, which relies heavily on the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test, the new model provides a more comprehensive assessment before patients undergo scans or treatment.

The PSA test is not sufficiently reliable to support national screening, with experts warning it could result in many men receiving treatment they do not actually require.

Advances in diagnostic technology, however, have led to significant improvements. At the Royal Marsden, detection rates using the new system have risen from 27% to 52%.

Crucially, men whose prostate

abnormalities do not require intervention are identified earlier, preventing them from undergoing invasive procedures unnecessarily, says Independent report.

The hospital has also reduced the average waiting time for an MRI from referral – cutting it from nine days to just three.

Nurse consultant in uro-oncology at the trust, Dr Netty Kinsella, described the system as “fundamentally a triage optimisation model – directing high-risk patients through rapid MRI and biopsy, while sparing low-risk or inappropriate cases from unnecessary investigation,” this, she explained, not only improves diagnostic accuracy but also allows resources to be focused on men most likely to benefit.

Under the new pathway, patients first undergo a detailed medical history, physical examination, and urinary assessment before proceeding to an MRI scan.

Artificial intelligence is then used to support imaging analysis, ensuring other conditions such as urinary tract infections are ruled out ahead of any biopsy.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the United Kingdom (UK), with around 55,100 new cases diagnosed annually – the equivalent of 150 every day.

Around 12,000 men die from the disease each year. Symptoms may include difficulty urinating, increased urgency, erectile dysfunction, and the presence of blood in urine or semen.

While some forms of prostate cancer grow so slowly that treatment may never be needed, others are more aggressive and can spread quickly, requiring prompt intervention.

Campaigners hope that innovations such as the Marsden’s model will help strike the right balance between early detection and avoiding overtreatment.

Adekunle Gold reflects on five years of afro pop vol. 1

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian Afrobeats star Adekunle Gold has taken time to reflect on his artistic journey, five years after the release of his groundbreaking album, Afro Pop Vol. 1.

In a heartfelt post shared on his X with fans, the singer described the project as a “leap of faith” that transformed his career and marked a bold departure from the limitations he once faced in the industry.

“This album was my leap of faith. Five years ago, I chose freedom because I knew I was bigger than the labels around me. That decision changed everything. Fear became courage, and doors I never imagined started to open,” Adekunle Gold wrote.

Released in August 2020, Afro Pop Vol. 1 was more than just another project. It signaled a reinvention for the artist, who had initially risen to fame with a highlife-inspired sound under Olamide’s YBNL Nation. While his earlier work earned him recognition for soulful, folk-inspired hits like Sade and Orente, the 2020 album marked a shift into bolder, more mainstream Afropop territory.

The 10-track album showcased Adekunle Gold’s willingness to experiment. Songs like Something Different and Okay revealed a more modern, global sound, blending Afropop with R&B, dancehall, and Caribbean influences. Collaborations with Tekno, Nailah Blackman, Patoranking, and Olayinka Ehi further pushed the album’s versatility and gave it a wide appeal.

For many fans and critics, the project was a turning point. It allowed Adekunle Gold to reach a broader international audience while cementing his reputation at home as one of Nigeria’s most adaptable voices.

In his reflection, the singer expressed deep appreciation for the listeners who embraced his reinvention and supported him as he expanded his sound.

“I’m forever grateful for what this album did for me and for everyone who embraced it. Nothing has been the same



since then,” he added.

The message struck a chord with many of his fans, who recall Afro Pop Vol. 1 as the project that introduced a new, edgier version of the artist they had come to love.

Adekunle Gold’s journey since 2020 has only reinforced the importance of that “leap of faith.” He has gone on to release two critically acclaimed projects, Catch Me If You Can in 2022 and Tequila Ever After in 2023.

Both albums showcased his signature genre-blending style, balancing Afrobeats with R&B, pop, and global influences. Songs like High with Davido and Party No Dey Stop with Zinoleesky further expanded his fanbase and underscored his ability to remain relevant in a fast-changing industry.

His constant reinvention has also earned him recognition on the global stage, placing him among the vanguard of Nigerian artists shaping the future of Afrobeats.

Adekunle Gold’s reflection goes beyond nostalgia. It is a reminder of the power of self-belief and artistic freedom in shaping

a musician’s path. By breaking away from restrictive industry molds, he opened himself to new sounds, bigger stages, and a more diverse audience.

His career trajectory mirrors the evolution of Nigerian music itself. Just as Afrobeats has expanded beyond local borders to become a global movement, Adekunle Gold has evolved from a highlife singer to a versatile star with international acclaim.

As he continues to grow musically, Adekunle Gold has hinted that his journey is far from over. His recent projects suggest an artist still pushing boundaries, still unafraid to take risks, and still guided by the freedom he embraced five years ago.

For fans, his reflection on Afro Pop Vol. 1 is both a celebration and a promise, that Adekunle Gold will keep reinventing himself while staying true to the values that first defined his artistry.

Five years later, the album remains a milestone, not just in his personal journey, but in the wider story of Afrobeats: a genre powered by courage, innovation, and the refusal to be boxed in.

Chioma returns to social media with an emotional post

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music superstar David Adeleke, better known as Davido, and his wife, Chioma, have moved fans to tears with a heartfelt moment on Instagram.

The couple, still healing from the tragic loss of their son, Ifeanyi, shared an emotional exchange that has drawn wide support from admirers across the world.

Chioma Adeleke had been absent from social media for more than two years. Her silence followed the heartbreaking death of Ifeanyi, who drowned in October 2022 at Davido's Banana Island residence in Lagos.

Since then, she has kept a low profile, rarely posting online and staying away from the spotlight.

But on Thursday, Chioma made a quiet yet powerful return. She shared a touching photo of her wedding bracelet. On it was an image of her late son, serving as a reminder of his presence in her heart. Alongside the photo, she wrote a message that immediately struck a chord with fans.

"My best friend walked into me forever, Ify, you're on my mind every day and you live in my heart. Always and forever. Love, Mummy," she wrote.

Read Also: Davido opens up on son's death, how tragedy changed his life
The post reflected both her pain and her enduring love for her son. It was a moment of vulnerability, one that many parents who have endured loss could relate to.

Davido, who has also been open about the grief of losing Ifeanyi, responded in the comments with just two words: "Till Infinity." The brief reply carried the weight of his emotions and showed solidarity with his wife.

For fans, the simplicity of his words was powerful. It captured the depth of the couple's love for their son and their strength as they continue their journey of healing.

The exchange quickly attracted reactions from fans and well-wishers across social media. Many expressed their admiration for the couple's courage to share their



grief publicly. Others offered prayers, encouragement, and messages of love.

"Stay strong, Chioma, the world loves you," one fan wrote. Another said, "Davido and Chioma are an example of resilience. May God continue to comfort you."

The responses show how deeply the tragedy touched not only the family but also the wider public, who have followed their journey with empathy.

The death of Ifeanyi Adeleke in October 2022 shocked Nigeria and the global entertainment community. The three-year-old drowned in the family's swimming pool, sparking an outpouring of grief across social media. Celebrities, politicians, and fans alike sent messages of condolence to the Adeleke family.

In the weeks that followed, both Davido and Chioma withdrew from public life. Davido returned months later with his album *Timeless*, which he described as part of his healing process. Chioma, however, chose silence, making her recent post an even more significant moment.

The couple's relationship has often been in the spotlight, with their love story

celebrated and scrutinised in equal measure. Yet the tragedy of losing their son has reshaped how fans see them. Many now view them not just as celebrities but as parents coping with unimaginable pain.

Observers say Chioma's return to social media is not just about posting a picture. It symbolises a step in her healing journey, showing strength in vulnerability. For Davido, his quick but heartfelt response demonstrates unity and the shared bond of grief.

As fans rally behind them, one thing is clear: the memory of Ifeanyi lives on strongly in the hearts of his parents. Chioma's words, "Always and forever," and Davido's response, "Till Infinity," stand as eternal testaments to their love for their son.

For many, the moment was not just about celebrity news. It was about resilience, faith, and the power of love in the face of pain.

While the journey of healing continues, the show of strength from Davido and Chioma has once again reminded the world that grief may bend the heart, but it does not break love.

Lil Kesh reportedly robbed, stabbed in Lagos

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Keshinro Ololade, popularly known as Lil Kesh, has reportedly survived a violent robbery attack in Lagos.

The shocking incident, which allegedly took place on Wednesday night, has left fans in panic and sparked widespread reactions across social media.

According to reports by Hip TV, the Shoki crooner was stabbed in the neck during the attack. He was also said to have been dispossessed of jewellery valued at millions of naira.

Although the full details remain unclear, the incident has raised concerns about the growing spate of violent crimes in Lagos.

As of Thursday, both Lil Kesh and the Lagos State Police Command have remained silent on the incident. No official statement has been released, leaving many questions unanswered. It is not yet clear where in Lagos the attack happened, who was involved, or whether arrests have been made.

Despite the absence of an official confirmation, news of the alleged attack has spread quickly, with several media platforms reporting that the rapper was injured but survived.

The attackers reportedly made away with expensive jewellery, including chains and wristwatches, worth several millions of naira. In recent years, flashy accessories and luxury items have made Nigerian entertainers prime targets for robbers. Observers note that the attack on Lil Kesh may have been premeditated, given the value of items stolen.

Security experts say that criminals often monitor celebrities' movements through social media, where expensive purchases are sometimes displayed. This trend, they argue, makes high-profile figures more vulnerable.

The reported attack has once again drawn attention to security challenges in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial hub. In recent months, there have been multiple reports of armed robbery incidents, car



snatching, and violent assaults in different parts of the city.

Analysts warn that such attacks not only endanger lives but also discourage public confidence in safety measures. For entertainers like Lil Kesh, whose work often requires public appearances, concerts, and nightlife engagements, the risks are even higher.

About Lil Kesh

Lil Kesh, who shot to fame with his 2014 hit Shoki, has remained a notable figure in the Nigerian music scene. Signed under Olamide's YBNL Nation at the peak of his rise, he later launched his label, YAGI Records. Known for hits such as Efejoku, Cause Trouble, and Is It Because I Love You, he built a reputation as one of the street-pop pioneers of his generation.

Though his music career slowed in recent years, he continues to maintain a loyal fan base and remains active in the industry. The news of the robbery has therefore sparked widespread concern among music lovers, many of whom have followed his journey from breakout star to label owner.

As of the time of this report, it is still

unclear whether Lil Kesh is receiving medical treatment for his injuries. Efforts to reach his management team have not been successful. Similarly, the Lagos State Police Command has not confirmed the details of the incident.

Until an official statement is released, much of what is known remains based on eyewitness reports and media speculation.

The incident has reignited conversations around the safety of Nigerian celebrities. Several entertainment figures have in the past fallen victim to robbery, theft, or assault, with many calling for improved personal security arrangements.

For fans, the focus remains on Lil Kesh's recovery. Messages of support continue to flood social media timelines, with many praying that he pulls through without lasting harm.

Whether the attack leads to a renewed push for tighter security measures for public figures in Lagos remains to be seen. For now, fans and colleagues wait anxiously for updates from Lil Kesh and the authorities.

Marriage: Actress Omoborty urges women to prioritise peace over public opinion

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Biodun Okeowo, popularly known as Omoborty, has shared her thoughts on marriage, urging women not to measure their union by the number of years spent together but by grace, intentionality, and peace of mind.

The actress made her remarks in a heartfelt Instagram post, where she reflected on the challenges many women face in marriage.

According to her, some men can remain unfaithful or take a second wife even after decades of being married.

“Marriage isn’t about length or years, it’s about grace... even after 50 years, some men can still show that Solomon trait in them. At this point, one can only pray, may God bless every good and intentional man who keeps his vows pure,” she wrote.

Omoborty stressed that the number of years spent in marriage does not automatically guarantee loyalty or stability.

Referring to recent stories making the rounds on Instagram, she said many women have discovered that time does not stop a man from misbehaving.

“Following all the gist on Instagram about the recent event, one lesson is clear for every woman. Sadly, length of years in marriage doesn’t stop a man from misbehaving or even taking a second wife,” she stated.

The actress observed that while some men might betray their vows, others remain committed and faithful. She urged women to acknowledge the existence of intentional men who stay true to their partners.

“It’s all in God’s hands, because while some will stain your white, there are still good, intentional, and determined men. May God have mercy on women!” she added.

Omoborty prioritises peace of mind

In her message, Omoborty encouraged women not to sacrifice their peace of mind for the sake of societal expectations. She explained that staying in an unhappy or toxic marriage just to satisfy public



opinion could be harmful.

“As a woman, never remain where peace is lost just because of what people will say. Let them talk, your peace is your true wealth,” she advised.

Her post has sparked widespread discussions among fans and social media users, many of whom praised her for voicing concerns that reflect the struggles of women in difficult marriages. Some applauded her courage for speaking out, while others noted that her words serve as a reminder for women to prioritize their well-being above societal pressures.

Omoborty’s comments come at a time when conversations around marriage, gender roles, and women’s rights are growing louder in Nigeria. In recent months, social media has been flooded with stories of marital scandals, separations, and discussions about infidelity.

For many women, the pressure to remain in a troubled marriage is often fueled by cultural and societal norms. In many communities, divorce is still stigmatized, and women are judged harshly for walking away, regardless of the circumstances.

By stressing that peace is more important than reputation, Omoborty’s message challenges these norms. Her remarks highlight the need for women to prioritize self-respect, mental health, and happiness

over external validation.

Despite highlighting the flaws in many marriages, the actress also acknowledged the presence of men who remain committed and faithful. She prayed for such men, describing them as “good and intentional.”

Her recognition of these men, fans say, adds balance to her message, showing that she does not believe all men are unfaithful. Instead, her emphasis is on women being discerning, prayerful, and intentional in their choices.

Following her post, many of Omoborty’s followers flooded her comment section with messages of agreement and appreciation. Some women shared personal experiences, echoing her thoughts about how difficult it can be to stay in an unpeaceful marriage. Others praised her for reminding women that they have the right to choose peace over pain.

Although Omoborty did not reveal if her comments were linked to her own experiences, her tone suggested deep reflection. Known for speaking openly about issues affecting women, she has often used her platform to share messages of empowerment and encouragement.

Her latest remarks further position her as one of the Nollywood stars who consistently speak out about real-life issues beyond the screen.

Police debunks fake bulletin linking Iyabo Ojo

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The Nigerian Police Force has denied reports that Nollywood actress Iyabo Ojo was declared wanted.

The rebuttal came after a forged police bulletin carrying her name and photo spread rapidly across social media platforms.

On Wednesday, the Force issued a public notice to set the record straight. It said the document did not come from the police and should not be regarded as authentic.

According to the statement, the bulletin claiming Ojo was wanted by the Inspector-General of Police Monitoring Unit was “not an official communication.”

The fake circular had circulated widely earlier in the week. Screenshots of the so-called “wanted person” notice appeared in WhatsApp groups, on X (formerly Twitter), and on Instagram blogs. It was designed to look like a formal police gazette, with Ojo’s image attached and a claim that she was under investigation.

Within hours, the post triggered panic and debate. Many fans and colleagues demanded clarity. Some expressed disbelief, while others worried that the actress was facing a criminal probe.

The speed of the rumour highlighted just how fast false information spreads in Nigeria’s digital space.

Iyabo Ojo is one of Nollywood’s most recognisable faces. She is not only an actress but also a filmmaker, entrepreneur, and outspoken social commentator. News that she could be “wanted” by police came as a shock to her followers.

Her admirers rushed to defend her, calling the document a malicious attempt to damage her reputation. For others, the incident raised serious questions about how easily fake police bulletins can be created and circulated without verification.

The Nigerian Police moved quickly to contain the situation. In its official



clarification, the Force stressed that the publication was false.

“The Nigeria Police Force wishes to clarify that the recent Wanted Person Bulletin circulating, stating that Nollywood Actress Iyabo Ojo is wanted by the Office of the IGP Monitoring Unit, is NOT an official communication from the Force,” the statement read.

It also urged Nigerians to cross-check sensitive information before sharing. “We advise the public to verify information through official channels and be cautious of misinformation,” it added.

The intervention has eased some of the tension, but concerns remain about the broader issue of fake news.

In recent years, false reports and doctored documents have become common in Nigeria’s online space. Once such content surfaces, it often spreads far faster than official corrections.

For celebrities like Ojo, the damage can be severe. A single false claim can affect personal safety, brand deals, and career opportunities.

Analysts say public figures with millions of followers are often targets of smear campaigns. In Ojo’s case, her outspokenness on social and political

issues may have made her a convenient target for mischief-makers.

Observers also warn that fake police circulars do more than harm individuals. They weaken trust in law enforcement.

“Once people start doubting the authenticity of official documents, it undermines the credibility of security agencies and fuels unnecessary panic,” a media analyst told our reporter.

This erosion of trust, experts argue, poses a risk not only to individuals but also to the integrity of national security institutions.

As of press time, Iyabo Ojo had not issued an official statement on the incident. However, close associates dismissed the bulletin as an obvious attempt to smear her image.

Her colleagues in Nollywood and fans across social media have expressed support. Many are calling on the police to trace and prosecute those behind the false publication.

Security experts say the Force must go beyond clarifications and investigate the source of the forged bulletin. They argue that only by holding perpetrators accountable can similar incidents be prevented in the future.

Baby bump season: Toke Makinwa, other pregnant Nigerian celebrities, new moms

By Eyitayo Jemimah Ajayi



Pregnancy announcements from celebrities are always a source of joy and excitement. In 2025, Nigerian celebrities have not disappointed. From musicians to media personalities, numerous well-known figures have shared their journeys to motherhood, captivating fans and filling social media with well-wishes. The announcements, often made on platforms like Instagram and X, have sparked widespread celebrations, with fans and colleagues alike sharing in the celebrities' joy.

The public's enthusiastic response highlights the deep connection many Nigerians feel with their favourite stars, celebrating these personal milestones as if they were their own. These announcements are more than just news; they offer a glimpse into the personal lives of public figures, reminding us that behind the glitz and glamour, they, too, navigate universal life experiences.

For some, these revelations represent the culmination of a long-awaited dream, making the news even more poignant and inspiring. The stories shared by these celebrities resonate with many, offering hope and a sense of shared humanity.

The beautiful maternity photos, heartfelt captions, and flood of congratulatory messages create a powerful sense of community and support that defines these joyous moments.

Here are some of the Nigerian celebrities who have announced their pregnancy this year:

Toke Makinwa's pregnancy

Media personality, author, and entrepreneur Toke Makinwa stunned her fans in August when she revealed she was expecting her first child. In a heartfelt social media post, the 40-year-old showcased her baby bump and reflected on her long journey to motherhood. She described the pregnancy as "the biggest project of my life" and "the highest calling ever," a testament to her profound gratitude. Having been open about her desire to have children in the past, her announcement was met with an outpouring of support and celebration from her colleagues and followers.

Priscilla Ojo

The daughter of Nollywood actress Iyabo Ojo, Priscilla Ojo, also shared the joyous news of her pregnancy with her followers. The socialite and influencer, who recently got married to Tanzanian musician Juma Jux, announced her pregnancy and has since welcomed a baby boy. Her pregnancy journey was well-documented on social media, with fans and well-wishers sending their congratulations to the new mother.

Mercy Chinwo

Gospel musician Mercy Chinwo and her husband, Pastor Blessed, have welcomed their second child. The couple shared the news of their baby's arrival in August, coinciding with their third wedding anniversary. Mercy Chinwo's pregnancy photos, shared on her official Instagram page, brought joy to her fans, who celebrated the expansion of her family.

Maraji

Popular comedienne and skit maker, Maraji, is among the expectant celebrity moms. Known for her creative and hilarious content, Maraji delighted her fans by announcing she was expecting her third child. The news of her third pregnancy was shared with her followers, who have been a part of her motherhood journey since her first child, Jayden Mensah, in April 2022. Maraji's announcement and subsequent vlogs about her pregnancy, including one titled "Pregnancy vlog, hospital rant, grocery shopping #babyno3", have been met with an outpouring of love and well-wishes from her fans.

While this list highlights some of the most prominent pregnancy announcements, it's a testament to the fact that joy is in the air for many of Nigeria's favorite personalities. As these celebrities embark on the journey of parenthood, their fans continue to share in their happiness and eagerly await glimpses of their new bundles of joy.

Nigerian man wins deportation appeal after gay asylum claim despite past marriage to woman

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

A Nigerian man with a long history of failed asylum claims and a conviction for violent disorder has won the right to remain in the UK after judges accepted he would face persecution for being gay if returned to his home country.

The man, whose identity has been protected by the courts, first arrived in Britain in 1983. Over the course of more than four decades he has repeatedly sought to secure legal status, advancing claims on the basis of political persecution, marriage, and later family life. Each of these earlier attempts was rejected by the Home Office.

In 2003 he was jailed for four years following a conviction for violent disorder. His sentence led the government to issue a deportation order, and for several years he appeared to have exhausted all avenues for appeal. However, in 2015 he submitted a fresh claim on the grounds of sexuality, arguing that he had been in a three-year relationship with a man and would be at risk of imprisonment and violence if returned to Nigeria, where same-sex relationships remain criminalised.

Judges accept “well-founded fear of persecution”

At a final appeal hearing, immigration judges accepted that claim, ruling they were “satisfied to the lower standard” that he was gay and would face a “real risk of persecution” in Nigeria.

“Accordingly, the appellant has a well-founded fear of persecution and he therefore qualifies for protection under the Refugee Convention,” the tribunal concluded.

The court also found that deporting him would breach his rights under Articles 3 and 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), which prohibit torture and inhuman treatment and protect the right to family life.

A chequered immigration history

Court documents reveal the man first attempted to secure leave to remain by claiming he would face political persecution in Nigeria. When this failed,



he argued that his marriage to a Portuguese woman should allow him to stay, before later relying on the birth of a son in 2001.

Judges noted that he had made “numerous unsuccessful attempts to regularise his stay in the UK” and therefore had a “clear motivation” to use all available arguments, including sexuality, to prevent deportation.

However, they stopped short of rejecting his claim on those grounds alone. Instead, they found his evidence to be “plausible and internally consistent,” pointing to communications from his family between 2010 and 2013 urging him to end a same-sex relationship and threatening to report him to the Nigerian authorities.

Nigeria’s anti-LGBTQ+ laws

Nigeria enforces some of the harshest anti-LGBTQ+ laws in the world. Same-sex activity can carry a prison sentence of up to 14 years, while the Same-Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act of 2014 also criminalises public displays of affection and membership of LGBTQ+ organisations.

Human rights groups have consistently documented harassment, arbitrary arrest and violence against LGBTQ+ people in Nigeria. The judges concluded that deportation would therefore expose the man to serious harm.

Political tensions over asylum and human

rights

The ruling comes at a time when the government is seeking to tighten immigration rules and restrict the use of human rights legislation to prevent deportations. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has signalled her intention to review the use of Articles 3 and 8 of the ECHR in asylum and deportation cases, amid concern that a growing proportion of foreign nationals — including those with criminal records — are successfully appealing removal orders.

A Whitehall source said ministers are “deeply concerned” that nearly one-third of deportation cases are now being overturned on “exceptional” human rights grounds. Cooper has proposed measures to narrow judges’ discretion in such cases, though critics argue this risks undermining international obligations under the Refugee Convention.

Balancing control and compassion

Campaigners insist protections must remain in place for vulnerable groups. “Whatever someone’s immigration history, if they are at risk of imprisonment or abuse because of their sexuality, the UK has a legal and moral duty to protect them,” said a spokesperson for a leading LGBTQ+ rights charity.

The case underscores the ongoing tension between government policy, which seeks to demonstrate tougher immigration enforcement, and Britain’s obligations under international law.

Starmer faces Labour council backlash over migrant hotels

By Fatimah Idera

Sir Keir Starmer is facing growing pressure from within Labour ranks after a landmark High Court ruling in Epping Forest sparked a wave of potential legal challenges from local councils including Labour-led authorities over the government's use of hotels to house asylum seekers.

On Tuesday, Epping Forest District Council successfully obtained a temporary injunction to shut down the Bell Hotel, where migrants were being housed.

The court ruled the site was in breach of planning rules, requiring all asylum seekers to be removed by September 12. The case has set a significant legal precedent, with other councils now considering similar action.

Labour-run Wirral and Tamworth councils are among those actively exploring legal avenues. Wirral Council leader Paula Basnett said:

"We have concerns about the Home Office placing asylum seekers in hotels without consultation or proper regard to local planning requirements. If necessary, we will challenge these decisions to protect both residents and those seeking refuge."

Tamworth Council, where the local Holiday Inn Express was previously the site of violent unrest, said it is reviewing the Epping ruling closely to assess its implications.

The growing movement has prompted senior conservative figures to urge councils to act.



Business Secretary Kemi Badenoch wrote to all Tory-led authorities, encouraging them to pursue injunctions where possible.

Meanwhile, Shadow Justice Secretary Robert Jenrick launched a new initiative, Lawyers for Borders, aimed at supporting councils and community groups with legal advice. Jenrick claimed to have received 100 emails within hours, including from planning barristers offering pro bono help.

Other councils, including Hillingdon, Reigate, and Banstead, have said they are studying the Epping decision to determine whether similar legal action could be taken in their areas.

However, not all authorities plan to follow suit. Councils in Newcastle, Ashford, Wychavon, South Staffordshire, and North Yorkshire have ruled out taking legal action.

Reform UK also announced that all 12 county councils it controls would



campaign to close asylum hotels. But, some of these councils lack the planning authority needed to pursue court action.

The Epping Forest case turned on the claim that housing asylum seekers in the Bell Hotel amounted to a "clear breach of planning permission," as the property was no longer functioning as a hotel. Home Office lawyers argued that further injunctions could increase pressure on the asylum system and risk inciting unrest arguments the court ultimately rejected.

Currently, over 32,000 asylum seekers are being housed in nearly 210 hotels across the UK, costing the taxpayer more than £5 million per day.

The New Daily Prime had earlier reported that a high court orders closure of migrant hotels as migrant accommodation across the UK remain in crises.

Trump steps back from Ukraine-Russia discussions

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Donald Trump is holding back from direct involvement in negotiations to end Russia's invasion of Ukraine, instead urging Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelenskyy to hold a bilateral meeting before he joins the process.

According to administration officials, the president wants the Russian and Ukrainian leaders to meet face-to-face as the next stage towards peace, with the prospect of a trilateral summit involving him only after such talks take place.

In a radio interview on Tuesday, Trump said he believed it would be better for the two men to meet without him initially. "I just want to see what happens at the meeting," he told host Mark Levin. "So they're in the process of setting it up and we're going to see what happens."

Trump's shift comes as he has admitted that ending the conflict is proving harder than he anticipated. On the campaign trail last year, he insisted he

could broker peace within 24 hours of taking office. Earlier this month, his own deadline for Russia to end the war expired without progress.

Following meetings with Zelenskyy and European leaders at the White House on Monday, Trump said he had taken steps towards arranging a bilateral meeting. A senior administration official described his position as a "wait-and-see approach", adding that no venue had yet been agreed for potential talks.

Trump continues engagement with Russia, Ukraine officials

The White House later confirmed that Trump and his national security team were continuing to engage with Russian and Ukrainian officials. "It is not in the national interest to further negotiate these issues publicly," a statement said.

Trump also spoke with Putin on Monday in a 40-minute call. Afterwards, Putin's foreign policy

aide, Yuri Ushakov, said the two leaders had agreed to appoint senior negotiators for direct talks, suggesting a meeting between Putin and Zelenskyy may still be some way off.

Despite this, Nato's secretary general, Mark Rutte, voiced optimism that a meeting could be arranged within two weeks. Putin has previously rejected several overtures from Zelenskyy for a face-to-face dialogue since the start of the war.

At a press conference following his Washington visit, Zelenskyy said discussions with Trump and European leaders had centred on security guarantees for Ukraine in any peace deal, aimed at preventing a renewed Russian assault. Trump indicated the United States could contribute to such guarantees, though he has ruled out deploying American troops on the ground. Instead, any US involvement is expected to focus on intelligence sharing and possible air support.

Brazil suspends agreements safeguarding Amazon rainforest, Soy Moratorium

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Brazilian authorities have suspended one of the most significant agreements safeguarding the Amazon rainforest, the soy moratorium, raising fears of renewed destruction on a vast scale.

The move, which conservation groups described as a devastating setback, comes less than three months before Brazil hosts the Cop30 climate summit in Belém. The decision could open an area the size of Portugal to clearance for farming, prompting warnings that the country risks undermining its own climate commitments.

The moratorium, introduced in 2006, was a voluntary pact between farmers, traders, environmentalists and multinational food companies including Cargill and McDonald's. Under the agreement, soybeans grown on land in the Amazon deforested after 2008 were barred from supply chains, regardless of whether the clearance was legal under Brazilian law.

Over the past 19 years, the deal has been hailed as one of the most effective conservation measures of its kind, credited with preventing around 17,000 sq km of deforestation while allowing soy production to expand elsewhere.

Earlier this week, however, Brazil's anti-monopoly agency, Cade, gave major grain traders such as Bunge, Cargill, Louis Dreyfus and Cofco ten days to suspend the agreement or face fines. Cade's general superintendent, Alexandre Barreto de Souza, said he had launched an investigation into whether the moratorium amounted to anti-competitive behaviour, noting that it involved the sharing of



commercially sensitive information.

Greenpeace Brazil condemned the suspension as a "terrible mistake" and accused powerful farming interests of exerting political pressure. "Without the soy moratorium, soy will once again become a major driver of Amazon deforestation, and this will bury any chance of Brazil meeting its climate targets," said Cristiane Mazzetti, the group's forest campaign coordinator.

The timing of the decision has embarrassed the government of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, which had hoped to showcase progress on rainforest protection at Cop30. The conference will be the first to take place in the Amazon.

Brazil's agribusiness lobby succeeds in pushing legislation

In recent months, Brazil's agribusiness lobby has succeeded in pushing legislation through Congress that weakens indigenous land rights and environmental

licensing rules. Conservationists say the suspension of the soy moratorium compounds what they describe as the biggest reversal in environmental protections in four decades.

"Tearing up this agreement on the eve of the Cop30 climate talks sends completely the wrong signal to the world," said Tanya Steele, chief executive of WWF-UK. "This is a perilous development that would have a far-reaching impact on global companies. This suspension has to be reversed."

The industry group Aprosoja Mato Grosso, representing farmers in the state that is Brazil's soy capital, welcomed the decision, calling the moratorium "a private agreement without legal support" that imposed unfair restrictions.

Analysts estimate that as much as 10m hectares, roughly the size of Portugal, could now be legally cleared for soy, potentially increasing land values fivefold.

Israel expands Gaza city offensive

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Israel has announced an escalation of its military operations in Gaza City, as the UK foreign secretary, David Lammy, condemned the approval of a vast new settlement in the West Bank as a “flagrant breach of international law.”

What Israel Defence Forces spokesperson said

An Israel Defense Forces (IDF) spokesperson, Effie Defrin, said the military had entered the second phase of Operation Gideon’s Chariots, launched in May, and would intensify strikes on Hamas in Gaza City, describing it as a “stronghold of regime and military terror.”

The announcement coincided with a statement from the office of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who ordered an acceleration of plans for a long-threatened offensive to seize control of Gaza City, home to hundreds of thousands of residents.

“Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has directed that the timetables for seizing control of the last terrorist strongholds and the defeat of Hamas be shortened,” the statement said.

Hamas condemned the move, calling it a “blatant disregard” for international mediation efforts aimed at securing a ceasefire and hostage exchange. The



group said the assault on Gaza City, where nearly one million residents and displaced people live, would cause catastrophic consequences.

Israeli officials have already deployed troops on the outskirts of the city and in the Zeitoun neighbourhood. Earlier on Wednesday, Israel confirmed it had called up an additional 60,000 reservists to prepare for the offensive. The new phase was partly justified by a recent attack in which 18 Hamas fighters struck an Israeli position, described by the IDF as “large-scale” despite its limited size.

The looming offensive has prompted thousands of Palestinians to flee Gaza City amid worsening conditions of

starvation. Jordan’s foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, said Israel’s actions had caused “massacres and starvation” and were “killing all prospects” for peace.

French president Emmanuel Macron warned the operation risked a “true disaster” and could drag the region into permanent conflict. A German government spokesperson, Steffen Meyer, said it was “increasingly difficult to understand how these actions will lead to the freeing of all the hostages, or to a ceasefire.”

Israeli defence minister Israel Katz confirmed he had approved the plan to conquer Gaza City, despite Hamas and other Palestinian factions in Gaza having agreed earlier this week to a ceasefire proposal closely aligned with terms Israel had previously accepted. Israel has yet to formally respond.

Alongside the military announcement, Israel confirmed the approval of a major new settlement project in the West Bank. The development would effectively cut the territory in two, a move far-right finance minister Bezalel Smotrich said was intended to end any possibility of a future Palestinian state.

In response, Lammy wrote on X that the plan “would divide a Palestinian state in two, mark a flagrant breach of international law and critically undermine the two-state solution.”



I listen, do what I like – World's oldest woman turns 116

By Gbenga Olaleye



The world's oldest living person, British great-grandmother Ethel Caterham, celebrated her 116th birthday on Thursday, 21 August 2025, marking yet another extraordinary milestone in a life that spans more than a century of global change.

Caterham, who resides in a care home in Surrey, England, became the world's oldest person earlier this year following the death of Brazilian nun Inah Canabarro Lucas in April, who also reached the age of 116.

Born on August 21, 1909, in Shipton Bellinger, a village in southwestern England, Caterham was just five years old when World War I began. Her lifetime has encompassed two world wars, the rise and fall of empires, the moon landing, and the digital age.

According to both the Gerontological Research Group (GRG) and LongeviQuest, she now holds the official title of the world's oldest living person.

Quiet Celebration, Royal Recognition
Her care home confirmed that Caterham would be celebrating the day quietly

with her family, enjoying the occasion "at her own pace."

"Ethel and her family are so grateful for all of the kind messages and interest shown to her as she celebrates her 116th birthday this year," the home said in a statement.

While she has declined to give interviews, staff noted she may make an exception for King Charles III, who previously sent her a congratulatory letter on her 115th birthday, calling it a "truly remarkable milestone."

A Life of Simplicity and Resilience

Ethel Caterham has attributed her long life to a simple philosophy:

"Never arguing with anyone! I listen and I do what I like," she once said.

She outlived both her daughters and her husband, Norman, who passed away in 1976. Despite the personal losses, she continued to live independently well into her late 90s, only giving up driving just before turning 100. She also played

bridge for many years and even survived a bout of COVID-19 at age 110 during the 2020 pandemic.

She is survived by three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, and her life continues to inspire both her local community and people around the world.

Record-Holding Legacy

While Caterham is currently the oldest living person, the record for the oldest person ever remains with Jeanne Calment of France, who lived to be 122 years and 164 days, passing away in 1997.

Britain also recently mourned the loss of John Tinniswood, who was the world's oldest living man for most of 2024 before dying at 112.

As Ethel Caterham celebrates her 116th birthday, she not only sets a remarkable record but also offers a shining example of endurance, resilience, and the quiet strength of a life well lived.

British education in crisis as GCSE pass rates fall to lowest in a decade

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Britain's education system is facing a deepening crisis after the latest GCSE results revealed English and maths pass rates have slumped to their lowest levels in more than a decade, with white working-class children hit hardest.

Just 58.3 per cent of pupils across the UK passed maths this year, down from 59.5 per cent in 2024, the weakest performance since 2013. In English, the pass rate fell by 1.7 percentage points to 60.2 per cent, matching a low not seen since 2016 and marking the poorest result since 2004.

According to Department for Education (DfE) data, white working-class pupils continue to struggle the most. Only 35 per cent of white British pupils eligible for free school meals secured a pass in both subjects last year, leaving nearly two-thirds — an estimated 57,000 pupils — facing compulsory resits this summer, or leaving school without the essential qualifications.

Compulsory Resits Under Review

Under current rules, pupils who fail English or maths at 16 must resit the exams if they remain in sixth form or college. However, the system has come under heavy criticism as pass rates for resits remain abysmally low. This summer, just 23.1 per cent of pupils retaking English achieved a grade 4 or above, with maths faring worse at 18.2 per cent.

Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson has admitted that “four in five white working-class children” are failing to gain the basic skills required to succeed in life. She has ordered an independent curriculum review and has refused to rule out scrapping mandatory resits altogether.

A Whitehall source told The Telegraph that the review is “likely to recommend replacing the current system”, with ministers considering alternatives such as “building block” tests in stages or a driving licence-style certificate to



demonstrate essential literacy and numeracy skills.

Pressure Mounts for Reform

Education experts have long criticised the resit model. Professor Becky Francis, who is leading the independent review, described the current pass rates as “indefensible” and argued for more nuanced pathways to help students achieve positive outcomes post-16.

Others, including Lee Elliot Major, professor of social mobility at the University of Exeter, have suggested a dual-track system: offering standard GCSE resits for academic pupils alongside alternative functional skills qualifications for those less likely to reach grade 4.

Helen Hayes MP, chair of the Commons education committee, also wrote last month urging the review panel to consider “more practical and applied alternatives in mathematics for students unlikely to reach grade 4”.

Balancing Standards and Opportunity

While critics argue that compulsory resits trap students in a cycle of repeated

failure, others warn that scrapping them outright risks lowering standards. Supporters of reform insist the priority should be equipping young people with the core skills employers demand, rather than forcing them to “strike lucky” on repeated GCSE attempts.

As Ms Phillipson noted, the stakes are high: “It’s not just the life chances of those children that are being damaged — it’s also the health of our society as a whole. Swathes of human capability and potential are being wasted.”

With English and maths pass rates at their lowest in a decade, pressure is mounting on ministers to act. The independent review is expected to deliver its recommendations later this year, with speculation that radical change could be on the horizon.

For now, thousands of pupils across Britain are trapped in a system many say is broken. Whether the government has the political will to confront the crisis and reshape the pathway to core skills remains to be seen. What is clear is that Britain can ill afford to consign another generation to educational failure.

France probes death of man abused on kick livestream

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

France probes death of man abused on kick livestream French authorities have launched an investigation into the death of a man whose violent mistreatment was regularly streamed live on the video platform Kick.

The 46-year-old, identified as Raphael Graven and known online as Jean Pormanove, died on Monday in the village of Contes, north of Nice. Prosecutors have ordered an autopsy and opened a judicial inquiry.

France's junior minister for AI and digital technology, Clara Chappaz, described the circumstances surrounding his death as "absolutely horrific." Graven had frequently appeared in Kick broadcasts in which he was physically assaulted or humiliated by co-streamers while viewers watched in real time.

Kick Français said it was cooperating with investigators and had banned all co-streamers involved in the fatal broadcast. The platform added it was reviewing its French content, saying: "Our priority is to



protect creators and ensure a safer environment on Kick."

Chappaz said she had referred the matter to the media regulator Arcom and to Pharos, France's portal for reporting illicit online

content. She also confirmed that she had sought explanations from Kick, adding: "The responsibility of online platforms for dissemination of illegal content is not optional, it is the law."

French media outlets have published extracts of past broadcasts showing Graven being beaten, insulted, strangled, covered in paint and oil, and fired at with a paintball gun. It remains unclear whether he submitted to the violence voluntarily or was coerced, or whether all of the abuse was genuine or staged.

A lawyer for one of the co-streamers, Yassin Sadouni, told BFM television that Graven had cardiovascular problems and insisted the violence was scripted. "All those scenes are just staged, they follow a script," he said.

Kick, a live-streaming platform registered in Australia, shares advertising revenue with its content creators and has faced criticism over its lax content moderation policies.

UK govt takes control of third-largest steelworks

By Fatimah Idera

The United Kingdom (UK) Government has taken control of the country's third-largest steelworks after a High Court ordered the compulsory winding up of Speciality Steels UK (SSUK), part of Sanjeev Gupta's Liberty Steel empire.

The decision puts nearly 1,500 jobs in Rotherham and Sheffield at risk.

The court found SSUK to be hopelessly insolvent, with just £600,000 in cash against a £3.7m monthly wage bill, while its parent group faces insolvency proceedings across nine jurisdictions. As a result, the official receiver, a government-appointed liquidator along with consultants from Teneo, will oversee the company while ministers cover wages and running costs until a buyer is found.

Creditors, owed hundreds of millions, argued that the government-backed process would protect jobs and allow steel production to restart under new ownership. A letter from the Department for Business and Trade confirmed that third parties had already expressed



interest in reviving parts of the business.

Liberty Steel's chief transformation officer, Jeffrey Kabel, condemned the ruling, insisting the company had offered a very good case to keep control.

He said Gupta's team, supported by investment groups BlackRock and Fidera, had sought a pre-pack administration that would have allowed them to buy SSUK back while shedding debts. But, the judge rejected the plan, noting the company had not filed accounts since 2019 and faced major legal and financial instability.

SSUK's difficulties began after the collapse of Greensill Capital, Liberty's main lender, in 2021.

Since then, steel output at Rotherham has all but ceased, with most staff on furlough at 85% pay.

For workers, the uncertainty continues. Community union rep Chris Williamson, who has worked at the Rotherham site for over 25 years, said special managers had already arrived, but employees were still in the dark. "We've not been told anything so far. We just want certainty and to start producing steel again," he said.

The GMB union described the development as "another tragedy for UK steel," adding to the sector's wider struggles with high energy costs, cheap imports, and lingering US tariffs.

This takeover follows the government's intervention earlier this year at British Steel's Scunthorpe plant, as ministers attempt to safeguard an industry they say remains "vital to a bright and sustainable future."

North Korea builds secret ICBM base near China border

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



North Korea has constructed a secret military base close to its frontier with China that may house its latest long-range ballistic missiles, according to new research by a US thinktank.

The “undeclared” Sinpung-dong missile operating base, located around 27km (17 miles) from the border in North Pyongan province, is likely home to between six and nine nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and their launchers, the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said in a report on Wednesday.

The weapons “pose a potential nuclear threat to east Asia and the continental United States,” the report warned.

CSIS described the facility as one of up to 20 missile bases and associated sites for maintenance, missile storage and warhead stockpiling that North Korea has never declared. It said Sinpung-dong had not previously featured in any denuclearisation negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington.

Analysts believe the missiles and launchers could leave the base in a crisis, link up with mobile units and carry out launches from elsewhere in the country, making them harder to detect.

The findings come as Pyongyang accelerates its weapons programme.

The report said bases such as Sinpung-dong form the backbone of North Korea’s evolving missile strategy and its growing nuclear

deterrence and strike capacity.

North Korea supplied more than 10,000 troops

The research also comes amid closer ties between Pyongyang and Moscow following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Western and South Korean intelligence agencies say North Korea has supplied more than 10,000 troops, along with artillery shells, missiles and long-range rocket systems, to Russia’s Kursk region in 2024.

Washington has accused Moscow of providing Pyongyang with advanced space and satellite technology in return. Analysts note that much of the same technology is used in both satellite launchers and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

WHO declares corporal punishment global public health concern

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



The World Health Organisation has warned that corporal punishment poses a serious global public health threat, harming children's physical and mental wellbeing and increasing the risk of later criminal behaviour.

A new WHO report found that children exposed to corporal punishment were 24% less likely to be developmentally on track compared with those who were not. The study examined data from 49 low and middle income countries.

Corporal punishment, defined as "any punishment in which physical force is used and intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort, however light", affects an estimated 1.2 billion children worldwide each year. In the past month alone, 17% of children subjected to it experienced severe forms, such as blows to the head, face or ears, or repeated hard strikes.

"There is now overwhelming scientific evidence that corporal punishment carries multiple risks to the health of children," said Etienne Krug, director of the WHO's

department for health determinants, promotion and prevention. "It offers no benefits to children's behaviour, development or wellbeing and no benefit to parents or societies either. It's time to end this harmful practice to ensure that children thrive at home and at school."

WHO report highlight on children

The report highlighted that children subjected to corporal punishment face higher risks of anxiety, depression, low self-esteem and emotional instability, which often persist into adulthood and are linked to drug and alcohol use, violent behaviour and suicide.

Self-reported rates of corporal punishment among parents and caregivers of children aged two to 14 varied widely, from 30% in Kazakhstan and 32% in Ukraine to 63% in Serbia, 64% in Sierra Leone and 77% in Togo. In Africa and Central America, 70% of children reported experiencing corporal punishment at school during their lifetime, while in the western Pacific region prevalence was about 25%.

The practice is often accompanied by psychological punishment, including behaviour that humiliates, ridicules or frightens a child. Its persistence is rooted in legal, cultural and religious traditions in many societies.

"Corporal punishment is the most common form of violence against children, yet it is barely talked about," said Bryanna Mariñas, a 23-year-old advocate and researcher from the Philippines and a member of the first global youth movement to end violence against children. "Coming from the Philippines I know how deeply normalised it is but what is normalised is not always what is right." Mariñas has produced a film highlighting the experiences of survivors to raise awareness of its impact.

Since Sweden became the first country to outlaw corporal punishment in 1979, 68 out of 193 UN member states have introduced full bans. In the UK, it is prohibited in Scotland and Wales but remains permitted in the home in England and Northern Ireland.

Labour MSP, Colin Smyth, arrested over alleged possession of indecent images of children

By **Fatimah Idera**



Colin Smyth Scottish Labour MSP Colin Smyth has been arrested and charged following allegations of possessing indecent images of children.

Following the incident, he has since been suspended from the party, and he is now listed as “independent” on the Scottish Parliament’s website.

According to the police, officers executed a search warrant at a property on Marchfield Avenue in Dumfries on August 5, 2025, which led to arrest of 52-year-old Smyth in connection with the alleged offence.

He is expected to appear at Dumfries Sheriff Court at a later date.

A spokesperson for the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service said it had received a standard prosecution report relating to the case.

Smyth, who has served as an MSP for South Scotland since 2016 and previously held several frontbench roles including Scottish Labour’s transport and constitutional affairs spokesperson, was suspended by the party after it became aware of the investigation

A Scottish Labour spokesperson said: “The whip has been removed from Colin Smyth MSP, pending an investigation. We cannot comment further on this matter while the investigation is ongoing.”

Smyth speaks

Two days after his arrest, Smyth appeared in a social media video alongside Labour leader Anas Sarwar. The video has since been deleted.

In a brief public statement, Smyth said: “These events have come as a shock, and this is a deeply stressful time. I am obviously cooperating fully

with any inquiries and hope the matter can be resolved quickly. I am not able to comment further at this stage, and in the meantime, I would ask that my family and friends be given privacy.”

A married father of two, Mr Smyth was raised on a council estate in Dumfries and later became a modern studies teacher before entering politics. He served as a councillor in Dumfries and Galloway before being elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2016.

Earlier this year, he was selected as the Labour candidate for Dumfriesshire ahead of the 2026 Scottish Parliament election. His arrest took place during the Parliament’s summer recess. MSPs are due to return on September 1, when the campaign for the May 2026 election is expected to begin in earnest.

Home Office issues appeal for 5,000 properties to house 20,000 migrants

By **Fatimah Idera**

The UK Home Office has issued an urgent appeal for 5,000 residential properties to house up to 20,000 asylum seekers, following a High Court ruling that could further disrupt current accommodation plans.

Asylum accommodation contractors began contacting property specialists earlier this month, seeking short-term leases for two-bedroom units that could accommodate around four migrants each.

The aim is to reduce government's reliance on hotels, which continue to house over 32,000 asylum seekers despite Labour's pledge to end hotel use for this purpose by the end of the current Parliament in 2029.

The push for alternative housing comes after Epping Forest District Council successfully obtained a temporary High Court injunction to shut down the Bell Hotel in Essex over planning issues. The hotel had become a flashpoint for local anti-immigration protests. The court ruling could inspire similar legal action from at least two dozen other councils, further straining the asylum system.

In response, ministers are exploring various alternatives, including purchasing or renting vacant homes, repurposing disused tower blocks, student accommodation, and old teacher-training colleges as mid-sized housing sites.

The new leases being sought would house asylum seekers for 90 days, with a possible 30-day extension.

Read also: Home Office partners Deliveroo to curb illegal migrant



labour

One such site already in use is the former RAF base in Wethersfield, Essex. The Home Office recently raised its capacity from 800 to 1,225 migrants. Residents were told at a meeting this week that the site currently houses 890 people, with 50 more arriving weekly.

Labour has kept Wethersfield open but scrapped two other major sites introduced by the previous Conservative government RAF Scampton and the Bibby Stockholm barge, both of which were intended to serve as alternatives to hotel accommodation.

The developments sparked criticism from Conservative shadow ministers.

Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp demanded assurances that migrants removed from the Bell Hotel would not be placed in accommodation

needed by British citizens. He also urged Labour to hold an emergency Cabinet meeting to draft deportation plans for all illegal arrivals.

Meanwhile, Shadow Justice Secretary Robert Jenrick launched a campaign, Lawyers for Borders, to support councils in pursuing legal action against the use of hotels for asylum seekers. He called on patriotic councils and legal professionals to join the initiative to pressure the government into stricter immigration enforcement.

Home Office replies

A Home Office spokesperson responded: "this government has consistently said the use of hotels to house asylum seekers is neither sustainable nor suitable as a long-term approach. We remain committed to working with our partners to identify more suitable and cost-effective alternatives."

Chelsea sales hit £250m after Veiga move

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Chelsea's summer clear-out has reached new heights after the club agreed to sell Portuguese defender Renato Veiga to Villarreal in a deal worth up to £26 million. The transfer takes the Blues' total income from player sales to more than £250m during a busy and financially strategic transfer window.

Veiga Set for Villarreal Switch

Veiga, 22, will sign a seven-year contract with the Spanish side once he completes his medical on Thursday. Villarreal's deal is close to their transfer record, underlining their faith in the young defender.

Chelsea bought Veiga from FC Basel in 2024 for £12m, meaning the club is set to make a sizeable profit despite his limited impact at Stamford Bridge. He made just one Premier League start and 18 appearances overall, spending part of last season on loan at Juventus. Atletico Madrid had also shown interest earlier this summer, but Villarreal moved quickly to finalise the deal.

Veiga was considered surplus to requirements by new head coach Enzo Maresca, particularly after requesting to play centre-back rather than left-back midway through last season. As a result, he had been training with Chelsea's "bomb squad" – a group of senior players separated from the main squad while awaiting transfer moves.

Record Summer of Sales

The deal for Veiga means Chelsea have now raised approximately £251.7m from selling 11 players this summer, just shy of their £277m outlay on nine new arrivals. The club's hierarchy view this as a necessary balancing act to meet financial sustainability rules while reshaping Maresca's squad.

Among the headline departures:

Noni Madueke joined Arsenal for an initial £48m.
Joao Felix sealed a big-money move to



Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia for up to £43.7m.

Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall left for Everton in a £28m deal.

Other exits have helped Chelsea refresh their squad and keep the balance sheet in check, ensuring compliance with Premier League financial regulations.

More Moves Expected

Despite the massive outgoings, Chelsea's transfer business is not yet complete. The Blues remain interested in signing Manchester United's Alejandro Garnacho and RB Leipzig's Xavi Simons before the window shuts on 1 September.

At the same time, several senior players could still depart. Nicolas Jackson, Christopher Nkunku, Raheem Sterling, Ben Chilwell, and Axel Disasi are among those the club are open to selling should suitable offers arrive.

Maresca is determined to streamline his squad, focusing on players who fit his tactical approach and long-term vision. The Italian coach has made clear that versatility, discipline, and tactical awareness will be key attributes for anyone staying at Stamford Bridge.

A Statement of Intent

Chelsea's summer of sweeping changes reflects both financial necessity and footballing ambition. With over a quarter of a billion pounds raised in sales and significant reinvestment, the club is attempting to build a sustainable but competitive squad capable of challenging domestically and in Europe.

Veiga's move, while not the most high-profile departure, serves as another reminder of Chelsea's evolving strategy: buy young, develop, and sell at a profit where possible. It is a model that the club's ownership believes will keep them competitive in a shifting football economy.

As the transfer window enters its final weeks, all eyes will be on Stamford Bridge to see whether Garnacho or Simons arrives – and who else might be heading for the exit door.

For now, though, Chelsea have reached a significant milestone: £250m in sales, with the promise of more to come.