



**Nigeria considers review of N54.99 trn budget amid US tariff dispute** **Pg 2**

**Natasha sues colleague for N5bn over six kids, six husbands claim** **Pg 5**



# The New Daily Prime

**f** @new daily prime **x** @prime\_daili149 **@** @new\_daily\_prime

...your prime source for excellence in journalism

## 104% China tariffs take effect at midnight – White House

**Pg 25 & 26**



**Diamond Bank founder, Pascal Dozie dies at 85**

**Pg 11**



**Arizona prisoner serving 16 life sentences kills 3 fellow inmates** **Pg 30**



**Chinese manufacturers struggle to stay afloat amid Trump's steep tariffs** **Pg 29**

**WORLD Pg 31**

**Musk's DOGE using AI to spy on federal workers**



**WORLD**

**Pg 27**

**UK welcomes first baby born from womb transplant**



**SPORTS**

**Pg 37**

**Referees to wear bodycams at 2025 Club World Cup**



# Nigeria considers review of N54.99 trn budget amid US tariff dispute

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Nigerian government has indicated that it may review its 2025 budget of N54.99 trillion in response to recent tariff actions by the President of the United States, Donald Trump, which have caused turmoil in global trade.

Wale Edun, Nigeria's Minister of Finance, made the announcement during a press conference at the inaugural Corporate Governance Forum in Abuja, organised by the Ministry of Finance Incorporated.

According to Edun, the country's economic management team, which includes key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, will assess the evolving situation and propose strategies to mitigate the risks and adapt to the new global trade environment caused by Trump's tariff policies.

"We are considering budget adjustments and prioritisation where possible, along with exploring innovative non-debt financing strategies. It is our responsibility to look at the various scenarios and options and advise the government accordingly," Edun stated.

This development comes after President Trump imposed a 14 percent tariff on



Nigerian exports in retaliation for a 27 percent tariff on US goods.

Despite this, the US President's announcement exempted mineral-related exports from Nigeria, which constitute a significant portion of the country's N5.5 trillion export revenue in 2024.

Earlier, Edun downplayed the immediate impact of Trump's tariff, suggesting that it would be minimal as long as Nigeria maintains its oil and mineral export volumes.

"Consequently, the tariff effect on exports is negligible if we sustain our oil and minerals export volume," he said.

The tariff dispute follows a broader set of trade policy changes announced by Trump in April 2025, including a 10 percent global tariff on all imports into the US. These sweeping tariffs have contributed to a downturn in global trade, with stock markets and oil prices both experiencing significant declines.

## Wike meets with Rivers Assembly members in UK

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) minister, Nyesom Wike hosted suspended Rivers House of Assembly members to a dinner in the United Kingdom on Monday.

Senior special assistant on public communications and social media to the minister, Lere Olayinka, in a video shared on X, said the lawmakers, "who are in the UK for legislative capacity building" were hosted to a dinner by the minister.

He said, "Wike left Nigeria on Sunday night after visiting his political friends and associates in Port Harcourt, Rivers State."

Also, a statement last week by special assistant on media to Martin Amaewhule, speaker of the Rivers assembly, Martins Wachukwu said the UK tour aims to enhance lawmakers' legislative skills.



Wachukwu said the five-day tour began in Central London, adding that lawmakers viewed it as a chance for peer review and deeper parliamentary insight.

He added that during the opening ceremony, lawmakers expressed optimism that the tour would enhance peer engagement and offer valuable insights to strengthen parliamentary oversight functions.

By Helen Okechukwu

Rivers State has been embroiled in political crisis stemming from the power struggle between Siminalayi Fubara, governor of the state, and Wike, his predecessor.

The rift led to the polarisation of the Rivers assembly. The faction of the house loyal to Wike is led by Amaewhule.

At the peak of the crisis in 2023, an attempt to impeach the governor resulted in the demolition of the Rivers house of assembly. On March 18, 2024, President Bola Tinubu declared a state of emergency in Rivers following the prolonged political crisis in the south-south state.

The president also suspended Fubara, Ngozi Odu, his deputy; and members of the state assembly.

Tinubu nominated Ibok-Ete Ibas, a retired vice-admiral, to administer the state.

# 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
FULL PAGE	329,868.50
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
4X2	22,003.50
3X2	17,260.00
2X2	12,945.00
2X1	8,630.00
1X1	4,315.00

## POLITICAL COLOUR

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,200,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	885,000.00
FULL PAGE	420,000.00
HALF PAGE	213,250.00
QUARTER PAGE	115,012.50

## POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,050,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	745,000.00
FULL PAGE	315,777.50
HALF PAGE	184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	95,222.50

## CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	254,533.50
HALF PAGE	142,787.50
QUARTER PAGE	80,706.50
14X2	78,222.50
10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
10X3	121,355.50
9X6	192,305.50
9X3	107,757.50
8X6	170,725.00
8X3	70,390.00
7X4	58,666.50
6X4	67,048.00
6X3	53,361.50
6X2	37,694.00
5X6	83,850.00
5X4	55,900.00
5X3	43,705.00
5X2	27,938.00
4X4	44,493.00
4X3	33,524.00
4X2	22,350.00
3X2	16,763.00
2X2	10,877.00
2X1	5,588.50
1X1	2,795.50

## SPECIAL POSITIONS

2X6 FRONT PAGE	700,000.00
2X6 BACK PAGE	300,000.00
2X6 INSIDE PAGE	155,000.00
3X6 FRONT PAGE	1,200,000.00
4X6 FRONT PAGE	2,250,000.00
5X6 FRONT PAGE	3,350,000.00
10X6 FRONT PAGE	8,250,000.00
EARPIECE FRONT PAGE(1.5X2)	246,500.00
EARPIECE INSIDE PAGE(1.5X2)	117,875.00
EARPIECE BACK PAGE	236,796.50
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PUBLIC NOTICE)	1,027,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT)	929,000.00
CENTRESPREAD B&W	800,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	575,000.00
CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR	191,668.50
DOUBLE SPREAD COLOUR	721,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	144,294.00
CENTRE SPREAD B&W	835,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	425,000.00
FULL WRAP AROUND	15,000,000.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

## PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	280,690.00
HALF PAGE	164,178.00
QUARTER PAGE	84,641.50
10X6	228,000.00
10X5	201,600.00
10X4	149,440.00
10X3	127,108.00
9X6	201,600.00
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
4X4	52,666.50
4X3	39,499.50
4X2	26,333.50
3X2	19,750.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

## PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	210,795.50
HALF PAGE	124,236.00
QUARTER PAGE	70,950.00
14X2	76,128.35
10X6	194,961.00
10X5	162,222.445
10X4	103,963.00
10X3	N/A
9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
7X4	72,676.00
6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
6X2	29,858.00
5X6	71,378.00
5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
4x4	N/A
4X3	N/A
4X2	17,737.50
3x3	23,458.00
3X2	14,923.00
2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
1X1	2,700.00

## ALLURE RATE

SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
CENTRESPREAD		967,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD		806,250.00
ALLURE COVER		750,000.00
(IBC) Inside Back Cover		376,250.00
(IFC) Inside Front Cover		430,000.00
(BC) Back Cover		483,750.00
Full Page		430,000.00
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
PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
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
FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**SERIES DISCOUNT**  
5 PAGES 2.5%  
10 PAGES 5%  
15 PAGES & ABOVE 7.5%

**SURCHARGE**  
PAGE 3 (100%)  
PAGE 4, 5, 7 AND 8 (50%)  
PAGE 2 (75%)

**LOOSE INSERT**  
LEAFLET, POSTERS 1,000 COPIES  
SPECIAL INSERTS (8 PAGES) COPIES  
SPECIAL INSERTS (4 PAGES) 1,000 COPIES  
HANDLING CHARGES FOR LESS THAN 35,000 COPIES  
HANDLING CHARGES MORE THAN 35,000 COPIES

**CLASSIFIED ADVERT RATES**  
CHANGE OF NAME  
GUIDE BLACK & WHITE  
GUIDE COLOUR

25,000.00  
45,000.00  
30,000.00  
75,000.00  
100,000.00

2,000.00  
3,750.00  
4,250.00

## CONTACT US

**Correspondent Address:**  
Real Group Plaza, No.1 Junaid Dosumu  
Street, CBD, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos  
**Call the Editor on: 07025014298, 09014323792**

**E-mail Address:**  
**info@newdailyprime.news**  
Terms and Conditions apply

**ALL RATES ARE VAT INCLUSIVE**

# Tinubu vows to build modern, tech-driven police force

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to reforming the Nigeria Police Force into a well-trained, tech-driven institution.

He pledged enhanced welfare, modern tools, and greater support for officers and their families.

Tinubu spoke through Vice President Kashim Shettima at the maiden edition of the National Police Day celebration in Abuja yesterday.

He declared April 7 of every year as National Police Day to honour the sacrifices of police personnel and commemorate their contributions to national peace and security.

"As President, I reaffirm this administration's steadfast dedication to the welfare and empowerment of the Nigeria Police Force," Tinubu stated.

"We are resolute in our commitment to police welfare and comprehensive reform. A secure Nigeria is vital for our collective prosperity, and this vision begins with ensuring that our police force is well-equipped, well-trained, and well-motivated."

The President outlined immediate measures to uplift the morale and effectiveness of the force, including provision of modern tools and technology, better housing, accessible healthcare, quality education for officers' families, and improved salaries and benefits.

"These promises will begin to materialize immediately. Anything



less would be unacceptable," Tinubu said, emphasising that his administration will leave no stone unturned in addressing internal security challenges like banditry, insurgency, and kidnapping.

He described the police as the cornerstone of national security and frontline defenders of democracy, noting that the newly institutionalized National Police Day is a symbol of the government's respect and enduring partnership with the force.

"To the families of our fallen heroes, we extend our deepest condolences and our unwavering commitment to preserving their legacy. April 7 is not merely a date—it is a symbol of national gratitude," Tinubu added.

The President also praised Inspector-General of Police Kayode Egbetokun for his leadership in advancing reforms that align with the administration's goals, describing the ongoing transformation as a foundation for a police force all Nigerians can be proud of.

However, IGP Egbetokun said the National Police Day serves not only as a remembrance of the establishment of the police force but also as a tribute to the sacrifices and heroics of officers in operations across the country and beyond.

He highlighted ongoing reforms focused on building a trusted, professional force that upholds justice and human rights while contributing to national development through enhanced policing.

The celebration at Eagle Square featured an inspection of the guard by the Vice President, tactical unit processions, and silent drill displays.

Dignitaries in attendance included the Governors and Deputy Governors of various states, the National Security Adviser, Service Chiefs, members of the National Assembly, and heads of security and paramilitary agencies.

# Natasha sues colleague for N5bn over six kids, six husbands claim

By Alade Adisa

**T**he suspended Senator representing Kogi Central, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, has instituted a N5 billion defamation case against her colleague, Onyekachi Nwaebonyi for alleging that she had six children for different men.

In the process she filed through her team of lawyers led by a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN, Mr. M. J. Numa, Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan described Nwaebonyi's claim as false, saying it was a deliberate attempt to tarnish her reputation.

She told the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, that Nwaebonyi who represents Ebonyi North Central Senatorial District, had severely injured her reputation, causing her considerable distress and embarrassment to her credibility and public perception.

Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan told the court that the defendant, who is also the Deputy Chief Whip of the Senate, had on March 6, 2025, during a televised interview on Channels TV's "Sunrise Daily" programme, falsely, maliciously, and without any lawful justification, referred to her as a "gold digger," a "habitual liar," and a "habitual blackmailer."

She told the court that aside from the allegation that she had six children for different men, Senator Nwaebonyi equally alleged that her husband, Chief Emmanuel Uduaghan, married her under duress.

"These statements were broadcast nationally and rebroadcast across multiple online and social media platforms, thus ensuring wide publication," the claimant added, insisting the claims were false, malicious and targeted at bringing her image to disrepute.

"The claimant further contends that these statements in their natural and ordinary meaning, are meant and were understood to portray the claimant: as someone who constantly extorts people for money through



dishonest and unscrupulous means as a career.

"As someone who demands money or other benefits from someone in return for not revealing compromising or damaging information about them. As a woman who forms relationships with men purely to obtain money or gifts from them.

"As someone who constantly tells lies and does not speak the truth on most occasions and as someone who uses the threat of damaging information to coerce others into acting in her favour."

The claimant told the court that the defendant deliberately made the defamatory statements knowing same to be false as it was meant to discredit her, in an attempt to justify her illegal suspension by the Senate.

"That the defendant, who is equally a member of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions of the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, made those false and reckless statements to prejudice the mind of the public against the claimant's petition before the Senate."

Consequently, Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan, who is currently on a six-month suspension, among other things, prayed the court for an order of perpetual injunction, restraining the defendant, his associates, agents, assignees, servants, privies, proxies, allies or anyone

howsoever called from further publishing or causing to be published the words complained about or any other defamatory words concerning the claimant.

In the suit marked: CV/1259/25, she further prayed for an order of the court, to compel the defendant to retract the defamatory words on the same platforms used to make the defamatory publications and to tender an unreserved apology in at least two national newspapers electronically and vide print media circulated nationwide, within 7 days from the day of the delivery of judgment in the matter.

She also urged the court to award "the sum of N5 billion only, against the defendant being aggravated and exemplary damages in favour of the Claimant for the false, malicious and injurious statements that have since caused the Claimant considerable distress, reputational harm, embarrassment, and emotional distress."

As well as: "An order of this Honourable Court awarding post-judgment interest on the judgment sum awarded to the Claimant at the rate of 10% per annum from the date of delivery of the judgment until the judgment debt is fully liquidated."

Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan maintained that her characterization by the defendant as a mother of six from different men was baseless, malicious, and indeed reckless.

"The claimant is an inspiration to women in politics and aspiring women to speak truth to power.

"The claimant is not spoiling the chance of women in politics as falsely alleged, rather she is inspiring women to be bold in their quest for politics and good governance," she added.

Meanwhile, no date has been fixed for the matter to be heard.

# Shettima reaffirms Nigeria's commitment to strengthening ties with Ericsson

By Friday Omosola



**V**ice President Kashim Shettima has reiterated Nigeria's commitment to deepening its partnership with Swedish telecommunications giant, Ericsson.

He pledged the swift implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between both parties in 2024.

Shettima made the pledge yesterday during a courtesy visit by a high-level Ericsson delegation to the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

The delegation was led by the company's Senior Vice President and Head of Market Area for Europe, Middle East and Africa, Mr. Patrick Johansson.

Describing Ericsson as an integral part of Nigeria's digital transformation journey, Shettima

recalled the company's early contributions to the country's tech ecosystem, laying the groundwork for other global players.

He commended the firm for its continued support, especially its investment in innovation hubs such as those operated by SchoolTry, and its empowerment of small businesses across the nation.

"Ericsson has kept faith with Nigeria, not just as a commercial partner, but as a collaborator in our shared story of growth and transformation," Shettima said.

"We cherish our relationship with Sweden and your company, and I urge you to harness the vast potential of our nation. With a tech-savvy, youthful population and a growing number of African unicorns based in Nigeria, the future is here."

Johansson, in his remarks, expressed Ericsson's desire to strengthen its collaboration with Nigeria, focusing on grassroots innovation and entrepreneurship.

He emphasised that Nigeria holds a special place in the company's global footprint.

Also speaking, Vice President and Head of Customer Units for West and South Africa at Ericsson Middle East & Africa, Majda Lahlou Kassi, reaffirmed the company's belief in Nigeria's future and the opportunities it presents for expanding digital culture and market growth.

Other members of the visiting team included Mr Efosa Aigbe, Ericsson's Director of Public Affairs, Government and Industry Relations, and a Senior Solutions Architect at the company.

# 2027: APC govs hold closed-door meeting with Buhari

By Dave Oludare Oso

The All Progressives Congress (APC) governors held a closed-door meeting with former President Muhammadu Buhari at his residence in Kaduna State on Monday.

The governors elected on the platform of the ruling party were led by the Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State, who is the Chairman of the All Progressives Governors Forum.

Uzodimma, who fielded questions from journalists after the meeting, said they were in Kaduna to look after Buhari's well-being, describing him as the father of the nation and APC.

However, the meeting comes amid the defection of some of Buhari's loyalists from the APC to the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

The immediate past governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai was the first to defect.

The former FCT minister claimed to have obtained Buhari's blessing to dump the APC.

It was reported that some former ministers who served in Buhari's cabinet were perfecting plans to move en masse to the SDP last month.

Some members of the APC have defected to the SDP in Buhari's Katsina home state.

However, Uzodimma said Monday's visit by the APC



governors to Buhari signified a show of unity and strength within the ruling party.

He described Buhari as a father in politics and expressed gratitude to God for the opportunity to meet him in good health.

He said after the Ramadan, Lent and Eid-el-fitr celebrations, they deemed it necessary to pay homage to the former president who served eight years under the APC.

Uzodimma said, "We came to pay former President Muhammadu Buhari a courtesy visit. You know former President Muhammadu Buhari is the only former President produced by the APC.

"We came and saw him in good health. We fraternised with him; we stayed with him and are ready to go back to our various businesses.

"We met with him and he is well pleased with our party. He expressed surprise about our visit. We are happy and thankful to Almighty God because we met him

in good health. He is our father in politics. He is well pleased with our party and all of us, his children.

"He (Buhari) is well pleased with our visit. Members of our forum are pleased with him. We met him in good health because you know that our party, APC is the largest party in Africa and is the ruling party. The only party with 21 Governors. The party is strong, and we will continue to work hard to make it stronger."

Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State commended Buhari for supporting President Bola Tinubu and the APC.

He said, "We are here along with other APC governors to visit former President Muhammadu Buhari. We are happy the way former President Buhari is supporting our party and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu."

# Nigeria's external debt servicing hits \$1.08bn in Q4 2024

By Damilola Olufemi

**N**igeria's external debt servicing surged to \$1.08 billion in the final quarter of 2024, a sharp rise that underscores mounting concerns about the country's debt sustainability and foreign exchange pressures.

The figure, released by the Debt Management Office (DMO), reflects a growing burden compared to the previous quarter when total debt service across all categories hit N3.57 trillion—up 1.71% from Q2 2024.

A breakdown of the Q4 data reveals that multilateral creditors claimed the largest share of external debt servicing, accounting for 55.7% or \$600.71 million. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was the top beneficiary, receiving \$407.97 million—more than any other lender.

Other multilateral repayments included:

International Development Association (IDA): \$116.48 million

African Development Bank (AfDB): \$43.89 million

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD): \$14.48 million

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB): \$5.83 million

Commercial loans made up the second-largest share, absorbing



\$430.53 million or 39.9% of total external debt payments. Within this category, Eurobond holders were paid \$148.57 million, while \$280.16 million went toward syndicated loan repayments.

Additional payments to commercial lenders included:

UniCredit S.P.A: \$1.54 million

Standard Chartered Bank: \$144,000

Deutsche Bank AG: \$108,000

Bilateral creditors were paid a total of \$46.85 million, which represents 4.3% of the total. France's development agency, AFD, received the lion's share at \$33.13 million, followed by:

Germany (KfW): \$11.84 million

China Development Bank: \$1.88 million

However,, there were no recorded

payments to Japan, China Exim Bank, or India Exim Bank in the quarter.

With the bulk of external payments going to multilateral and commercial lenders, especially the IMF and Eurobond holders, analysts warn this reliance on costlier, non-concessional financing poses long-term risks.

“These policies create significant trade barriers that lead to lost revenue for U.S. businesses looking to expand in the Nigerian market,” the USTR recently noted in a related context, underscoring how global economic headwinds and internal policy choices are converging on Nigeria's fiscal landscape.

As Nigeria grapples with exchange rate volatility and strained foreign reserves, the rising debt service cost adds another layer of pressure, prompting urgent calls for a more sustainable financing strategy.

# Resign as petroleum minister, Kila tells Tinubu

By Damilola Olufemi

**R**enowned political economist and Commonwealth Institute Director, Prof. Anthony Kila, has urged President Bola Tinubu to resign as Minister and take further action beyond simply changing the management and board of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

The NNPC, the government-owned company responsible for harnessing Nigeria's oil and gas reserves for sustainable national development, recently underwent a significant board overhaul.

The Chairman, Chief Pius Akinyelure, and the Group Chief Executive Officer, Mallam Mele Kolo Kyari, were replaced.

Commenting on the overhaul, the popular public affairs analyst and Prof of Strategy and Development noted that "changing the board is not enough and might not yield results if the NNPC does not undergo a proper rebirth built on accountability, transparency, and around a clear mandate of ensuring more refineries work in the country".

The Don also criticised the amount of information disclosed regarding the board change, describing it as scant. According to Prof Kila, "When changing the board of a company that belongs to all Nigerians, it would make more sense to provide full details to the public about why the President is



changing the board and what we can expect from the new board. The details of this overhaul seem too scant to me."

Speaking on a popular TV programme, Professor Anthony Kila made a direct appeal to President Tinubu to take steps to ensure he stops acting as or being perceived as the substantive Minister for Petroleum.

"In a country of over 200 million people, it does not make sense that one person should simultaneously be President and Minister of Oil or Minister of anything. I appeal to President Tinubu to recuse himself from this role and appoint a visible, dynamic Minister to act on his behalf or give more power to the ones we currently minister," noted the popular analyst.

On April 3, 2025, the NNPC increased the price of premium

motor spirit, also known as petrol, to N950 per litre in Abuja and N925 per litre in Lagos. The new pricing structure took effect on April 2, 2025.

This adjustment marks an increase of N65 from the previous price of N860 per litre in Lagos and N70 from the N880 per litre rate in the North. The latest hike follows recent price changes by independent marketers, including MRS, which raised petrol prices to N930 per litre in Lagos and N960 per litre in northern Nigeria.

Industry analysts attribute the price hike to changes in Nigeria's deregulated fuel market, particularly the decision by Dangote Refinery to cease selling petroleum products in naira. This shift has influenced market competition, supply costs, and global oil price fluctuations.

# Naira under pressure amid tariffs, oil slump, soaring FX demand

By Damilola Olufemi

The Nigerian naira continued its downward slide in March, depreciating by 2.4% at the Nigerian Autonomous Foreign Exchange Market (NAFEM) and 2.6% at the parallel market, as mounting demand pressures and global economic uncertainty weighed on the local currency.

According to Afrinvest's Monthly Market Report titled 'Analysing Global and Nigerian Economies & Financial Markets', the naira fell to N1,536.82/\$ at the NAFEM window and N1,530.00/\$ at the parallel market. This trend was confirmed by AIICO Capital, which attributed the sharp depreciation to rising demand, despite significant intervention by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

"The naira experienced significant depreciation in March 2025 due to persistent demand pressure in the (Nigerian) foreign exchange market," AIICO stated in its March report.

"Despite the Central Bank of Nigeria intervening with substantial dollar sales totalling \$668.8m, the naira weakened by 2.97 per cent m/m, closing at N1,536.82/\$ from N1,492.49/\$ at the start of the month."

The report noted that demand was especially high from foreign portfolio investors and domestic corporates, pushing the parallel market rate down by N43.50/\$. Even with CBN interventions mid-month that temporarily improved liquidity, supply failed to keep up with the surge in demand.

"In the final week, despite continued CBN dollar sales and a slight appreciation of 0.5 bps, the naira remained under pressure. On a quarterly basis, the naira depreciated by 7 bps q/q at the NFEM window. Meanwhile, external reserves fell by c.\$110m to \$38.31bn," AIICO Capital added.

Looking ahead, AIICO projects continued intervention by the CBN, though it warned of heightened risk from ongoing global tensions.

"However, global risks—like US tariffs and retaliatory measures—may spur volatility and capital flight," the report concluded.

Indeed, the Central Bank has acknowledged the influence of recent U.S. tariff measures introduced by President Donald Trump, which



have rattled global markets and dampened investor confidence. In a statement signed by Omolara Duke, Director of the CBN's Financial Markets Department, the bank announced a \$197.71 million injection into the FX market on April 4.

"In line with its commitment to ensuring adequate liquidity and supporting orderly market functioning, the CBN facilitated market activity on Friday, April 4, 2025, with the provision of \$197.71m through sales to authorised dealers," the statement read. "This measured step aligns with the Bank's broader objective of fostering a stable, transparent, and efficient foreign exchange market."

The CBN also reaffirmed its confidence in Nigeria's FX framework, saying it is "designed to adjust appropriately to evolving fundamentals." It reminded authorized dealers to strictly adhere to the Nigeria FX Market Code and maintain high standards in client dealings.

Despite interventions, the naira faced notable volatility in the first week of April. Initially trading between N1,525–N1,535/\$, the rate weakened midweek as offshore demand surged. Following an OPEC+ supply hike, weakened oil prices and global investor jitters over U.S. trade policy contributed to the currency pressure. By Friday, the naira had slid to N1,567.02/\$, down 1.97% week-on-week, while foreign reserves dropped by \$149 million to \$38.15 billion.

Afrinvest warned that the situation could worsen following the government's halt of the naira-for-crude swap initiative. With the end of this program, analysts expect more refineries and petroleum marketers to enter the FX market, raising demand further.

"Against this backdrop, we expect the naira to remain pressured near-term, barring any unforeseen shocks," the report said.

CardinalStone, in a macroeconomic update released Monday, added that the FX market continues to suffer from capital flight and increased domestic demand. The naira posted a -8.6% return in one month and -5.8% year-to-date.

"Some of the concerns relate to the risk of the government not meeting its revenue target and the higher deficit that could imply," CardinalStone noted.

"Speaking to this risk, crude production declined to c. 1.67 mbpd in February (vs. 1.74 mbpd in January) amidst the material contraction in oil price (down by 14.2% YtD)."

Weighing the broader implications, Marcel Okeke, former Chief Economist at Zenith Bank, warned of potential global inflation triggered by the Trump administration's trade war.

"We're likely to see an uptick in imported inflation," Okeke said, adding that Nigeria's dependence on imports makes it particularly vulnerable to external shocks.

# Diamond Bank founder, Pascal Dozie dies at 85

By Dave Oludare Oso

**P**ascal Dozie, a former chairman of MTN Nigeria and founder of the defunct Diamond Bank Plc, has passed away.

He was aged 85 and would have turned 86 on Wednesday.

The former banking legend died in the early hours of Tuesday, a statement issued by the family said.

His son, Uzoma Dozie, also a banker said in a statement, “With deep sorrow, but with gratitude to God for a life well spent, we announce the passing of our beloved father, Pascal Gabriel Dozie, on 8th April 2025.

“He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a man of unwavering Catholic faith. His life was marked by service to God, his family, and his country.

“He is survived by his loving wife, Chinyere, his children, grandchildren, and all who were blessed to know him.

“We thank God for the gift of his life and the legacy he leaves behind. May his soul rest in perfect peace.”

The former banking guru was born on April 9, 1939, in Egbu, Owerri, Imo State.



He was raised in a Catholic home by his catechist father, Charles Dozie.

Dozie schooled in Our Lady's School in Emekuku, Holy Ghost Juniorate Seminary, and Holy Ghost College, Owerri, where he obtained his West African Senior School Certificate Examination.

He later proceeded to the London School of Economics, where he studied economics and earned a master's degree in administrative science.

He furthered his studies in Operational Research and Industrial Engineering before obtaining a Master's degree in Administrative Science from City University in London.

Dozie played a critical role in

Nigeria's banking and telecom industries. In 1990, he founded Diamond Bank, which became one of Nigeria's most respected financial institutions before its eventual merger with Access Bank. He later handed the reins to his son, Uzoma.

Dozie was also instrumental to the launching of MTN Nigeria, serving as its pioneer chairman and helping to lead the telecom revolution in the country. His leadership style marked by humility, integrity, and long-term vision earned him widespread recognition, including the national honour of Commander of the Order of the Niger.

His contributions to the country's economic growth earned him widespread respect. Dozie is survived by his wife, Chinyere, and five children.

# HAJJ: Saudi Arabia places visa restriction on Nigeria, 13 others

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

As part of new travel restrictions ahead of the 2025 Hajj pilgrimage, Saudi Arabia has slammed a temporary suspension of specific visa categories on 14 countries, including Nigeria, India, and Pakistan.

Saudi authorities are reportedly suspending the issuance of Umrah, family visits, and business visas for citizens from the listed countries beginning in April 2025.

The report said the ban is expected to remain in effect through June, when the Hajj season concludes.

However, officials clarified that the suspension does not affect pilgrims properly registered for the Hajj.

Nigerians and others intending to perform the religious rites in Makkah and Madinah through official Hajj channels will still



be allowed entry into the Kingdom.

However, the restrictions aim to curb the increasing number of unauthorized individuals who exploit Umrah or visit visas to participate in the Hajj without due registration, often resulting in overcrowding and logistical strain.

The visa suspension comes in response to concerns about illegal overstays and unregulated pilgrim movement, particularly following the tragic events of the 2024 Hajj, where thousands of lives were lost due to overcrowding and extreme heat.

From April 13, visit visa issuance for affected countries will be halted as part of the initiative.

Only those with approved Hajj registrations through designated authorities will be granted access during the pilgrimage period.

All the other countries affected by the visa suspension are India, Egypt, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iraq, Sudan, Jordan, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Yemen, Algeria, Bangladesh and Morocco.

# Sowore rejects coalition with Atiku, Obi, SDP ahea of 2027 election

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

**O**moyele Sowore, the convener of the Take-It-Back movement, has firmly rejected any plans to join a proposed coalition of former presidential candidates, Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi, ahead of the 2027 general election.

Sowore made his position clear in an interview with Arise TV's Politics Today, stating that he would not align with the Social Democratic Party (SDP) or participate in the coalition being discussed by opposition figures.

Sowore expressed his discontent with such coalitions, arguing that they are essentially repeating the same mistakes that led to the formation of the All Progressives Congress (APC) coalition in 2013 and 2015.

He emphasised that he would only support a coalition of the oppressed, distancing himself from what he described as political alliances formed by individuals who, in his view, have contributed to Nigeria's current challenges.

"I'm not joining any coalition. The coalition that they joined in 2013 and 2015 is what brought about the



APC, so joining another coalition in 2025 is doing the same thing all over again, the coalition that needs to be built is that of the oppressed. Joining another coalition made up of the same people who created the coalition that ruined Nigeria is an injustice and an injury to the people of Nigeria," Sowore remarked.

He further added, "You can never see me in their coalition, and I will never be part of it. I'm not joining the SDP, and I'm not part of those playing chess with the destiny of Nigerians."

Meanwhile, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, along with Obi and ex-Kaduna State governor Nasir El-Rufai, has been involved in discussions about forming a united opposition front aimed at unseating President Bola Tinubu in 2027.

Atiku shared this in a recent press conference organised by Concerned Leaders and Political Stakeholders in Nigeria.

Atiku also raised concerns over the future of Nigeria's democracy, warning the current government against undermining federalism, democracy, and constitutional governance.

He stressed that this matter extends beyond just Rivers State, highlighting its potential impact on the nation's democratic future.

Sowore's decision to reject both the SDP and the broader coalition signals his continued stance on challenging the established political order and advocating for a different vision for Nigeria's future.

# Tinubu's aide: Nigeria's poverty rooted in history, minimum wage violations persist

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

**P**resident Bola Tinubu's Special Adviser on Economic Affairs, Tope Fasua, has stated that the current levels of poverty in Nigeria are deeply rooted in the country's history, dating back to the pre-Independence era.

Fasua made these comments on Tuesday, April 8, during an appearance on Arise TV's Morning Show, where he also acknowledged the ongoing surge in hunger across the nation.

Fasua pointed out that poverty in Nigeria is not a new phenomenon, but rather an inherited issue that has persisted for generations. He noted that while poverty is a global issue, Nigeria's unique historical context has made it particularly difficult to address.

"We inherited a problem in this country right from Independence, even pre-Independence, people have always struggled with poverty," Fasua said, adding that tackling poverty is a complex issue that requires more than just importing foreign solutions.

Fasua further discussed the issue of hunger, acknowledging that the surge in food insecurity is a pressing concern.

However, he was quick to clarify that the broader context of Nigeria's economic challenges should not be reduced solely to hunger, which, he argued, does not define the country.

"I agree that there is hunger, but those things don't define Nigeria," Fasua remarked.

A significant portion of the discussion centred around Nigeria's minimum wage law, which Fasua said has been violated in



some instances.

read also: I don't enjoy inflicting pain on Nigerians – Tinubu

According to him, it is illegal to pay full-time workers less than N70,000 monthly.

"I have met people who said they are still being paid N40,000 for a full-time job. In fact, it is against the law because there is a law that says you can't pay someone in full employment less than N70,000," he stated.

Fasua pointed out that paying such low wages is in violation of the new minimum wage law, which he noted has been introduced to help combat rising inflation and poverty levels.

Fasua explained that part of the government's strategy to mitigate inflation and poverty has been the implementation of the N70,000 minimum wage, with some states taking it further by setting the wage at N75,000 or N80,000.

However, he also highlighted that only 16 states had fully implemented the new



wage as of the latest reports.

"We can't expect people to continue to survive on the same salaries they were earning two years ago, while inflation in some critical goods like food has gone up by 200 percent," he added.

The presidential aide emphasised the need for Nigeria to develop its own frameworks for addressing poverty, suggesting that the global standard of using a \$2-per-day poverty line may not be the most accurate measure for the country's unique challenges.

He argued that Nigeria's people, culture, and economic realities require more tailored solutions.

"When we are talking about poverty, I said perhaps we need our own indices beyond the two dollars a day recommended. And the fact that they are recommended does not mean that we should take it hook, line, and sinker because we know our country, people, and culture more than the people recommending," Fasua explained.

# Renewed Boko Haram attacks, kidnappings crushing Borno – Zulum

By Dave Oludare Oso

**B**orno State governor, Prof. Babagana Zulum has lamented that the renewed Boko Haram attacks and kidnappings in many communities almost on daily basis without confrontation signalled that Borno State is losing ground.

The governor spoke on Tuesday at a Special Expanded Security Meeting (ESM) attended by the General Officer Commanding 7 Div, Major General Abubakar Haruna, Sector Commanders, Commissioner of Police, heads of other security agencies, Shehu of Borno, Alh. Dr. Abubakar Garbai Al-Amin El-Kanemi, Shehu of Bama, Emirs of Biu, Uba, Askira, Gwoza, while Shehu of Dikwa- and Emir of Shani were in absentia.

He said his administration has been very supportive of the military in the fight against Boko Haram and other terrorists, leading to relative peace in the last three years.

Zulum, however, lamented that the recent attacks and dislodgement of military formations in Wajirko, Sabon Gari in Damboa local government, Wulgo in Gamboru Ngala, Izge in Gwoza local government areas among other related killings of innocent civilians and security agencies calls for serious concern and a set back in the fragile state of Borno and the North East region.

In his opening remarks, the governor commended the Federal Government under the leadership of President Bola Tinubu and the security agencies for their unwavering support in the fight against Boko Haram.

He noted that more efforts have to be put in place through equipping and deploying of technological warfare to the military to stem the tide of all renewed attacks bedevilling parts of the Sahelian Borno which shares an international border with



three African countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroon.

“As I address this important gathering today, it is unfortunate that the renewed Boko Haram attacks and kidnappings in many communities almost on a daily basis without confrontation signalled that Borno State is losing ground,” he stated.

“As you are all aware my administration has been very supportive of the military and other security agencies in the fight against Boko Haram and other terrorists leading to relative peace in the last three years.

“It is disheartening to note the recent attacks and dislodgement of military formations in Wajirko, Sabon Gari in Damboa local government, Wulgo in Gamboru Ngala, Izge in Gwoza local government areas among other related killing of innocent civilians and security agencies calls for serious concern, and it is a set back in the fragile state of Borno and the North East region.

“In as much as Borno Government under my leadership commend the federal government under the leadership of

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the security agencies for their unwavering support in the fight against Boko Haram, more efforts have to be put in place through equipping and deploying of technological warfare to the military to stem the tide of all renewed attacks bedevilling parts of the sahelian Borno which shares international border with three African countries of Chad, Niger and Cameroon.”

Also contributing on behalf of the traditional rulers, the Shehu of Borno, hailed security agencies in the fight against terrorism, but emphasized that about three local government areas of Guzamala, Marte, Abbadam and some parts of Mobbar are still under the total control of Boko Haram, stressing that, most of these communities are without civil authority.

He also called on the Federal Government to reconstruct the dilapidated and deplorable Biu-Damboa-Maiduguri, Maiduguri-Dikwa-Ngala, Maiduguri-Monguno-Kukawa, and Biu-Damaturu federal roads, among others.

# Ndume accuses Tinubu of lopsided appointments, breaching constitution

By Dave Oludare Oso

Senator Ali Ndume has faulted President Bola Tinubu's recent political appointments, alleging that they breached the constitutional provision of the federal character principle and failed to reflect Nigeria's diversity.

The senator representing Borno South Senatorial District, spoke during a televised interview on Arise News PrimeTime show on Monday night.

He said the president's appointments have not reflected the diversity mandated by section 14(3) of the 1999 constitution.

Ndume said, "The figures are there. You can look at the figures. I sent you one. I sent you figures. It's not that I'm just making accusations.

"And it's not that I'm saying, well, the president has no right to do that kind of thing but it's a constitutional provision. Section 14 (3) of the constitution is very, very clear.

"When you look at it vis-a-vis the appointments made so far, and there are political appointments. The constitution is very clear. And it is because of avoiding such infractions that the constitution clearly states that appointments, especially political appointments should reflect the federal character, and that is not the case here.

"And all I am saying is to call the attention of Mr President to such infractions so that it can be corrected, otherwise, you know, these things can boomerang at a certain period of time."

Ndume, a ranking senator, insisted that his remarks were not an attack



on the president but a constitutional responsibility.

The senator said, "I know, as you rightly say, people look at me as somebody that is critical of the government. I have the right to do that in the first place. And in fact, that's why I'm in the national assembly in the first place.

"Collectively, we are supposed to oversight the acts of Mr President and point out some of these irregularities. That is what we swore to do. It's not personal."

He stated that he is not scared of being attacked for his latest take on the Tinubu administration.

He added, "Each one of us will stand before God and God will ask him to account for what he is responsible for.

"Besides, we are all in this government. What will we tell our people? When you have these figures out, it is already viral, it is already in circulation.

"But you know what, after this interview, those attack dogs will start attacking Ndume, not the message.

"It is not about Ndume or me being a senator. As a Nigerian, I have the right to voice out all these things. Not only that, I have the right to even protest. I have the right. That is guaranteed by the constitution.

"But from tomorrow, those so-called Tinubu boys or people will start attacking Ndume. These are the facts."

# Assault on Journalists: NUJ demands apology from Police, threatens media blackout

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), has issued a 14-day ultimatum to the Rivers State Police Command to tender an unreserved public apology over the assault on five journalists during a peaceful protest in Port Harcourt or risk a statewide media blackout.

In a statement jointly signed by the Council Chairman, Comrade Paul Bazia, and Secretary, Dr. Ijeoma Tubosia, the NUJ condemned the actions of police officers involved, demanding their immediate identification and prosecution.

“The NUJ, as a watchdog of society, will not sit idly by while media practitioners are subjected to barbarism and brutality. Enough is enough,” the statement warned, noting that any further attack on journalists in the state would be “vehemently resisted.”

The union described the incident as “unprovoked, barbaric, and inhuman,” saying it amounted to a gross violation of the rights of



the affected journalists.

Those assaulted include Charles Oporum of Channels TV, Allwell Ene of Naija FM, Soibelemari Oruwari of Nigeria Info, Ikezam Godswill of AIT, and Femi Ogunkhilede of Super FM.

The journalists were tear-gassed while covering the protest, with Oporum beaten, and detained by security operatives.

Expressing deep regret over the incident, the NUJ lamented that an institution tasked with safeguarding lives and property has turned its weapons on citizens, particularly journalists performing their lawful duties.

Despite the provocation, the union reaffirmed its commitment to constructive engagement and partnership with the police in the interest of peace and national development.

It, however, cautioned the police not to jeopardise the existing relationship with the media.

The NUJ also urged its members to remain calm and law-abiding, expressing hope that the police authorities would take decisive steps to address the matter and ensure a more respectful working relationship with journalists in Rivers State.

# Pregnant woman, four others killed as bus rams into Yobe market

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

**F**ive persons, including a pregnant woman, were killed as a commercial bus rammed into Damagum market in Yobe State.

Also, 19 others were injured in the accident caused by the 18-seater Toyota Hiace Bus with registration number KTG 283 XA.

The Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in the state, Livinus Yilzoom, confirmed the number of casualties on Tuesday, saying the incident happened when the pedestrian victims were closing from the market.

The statement said, "Note that five persons who died were not occupants of the vehicle, rather, they were pedestrians who were by the roadside waiting to cross.

"The driver, in trying to avoid the pedestrian ran into five persons who were killed as he lost control due to the speed he was travelling. So, far 19 persons were injured and five killed."

The Sector commander further revealed on receiving the information, the Unit Command at Dogon Kuka dispatched the crash investigation team to the scene and evacuated the victims



to Damagum General Hospital for medical attention.

He said investigation revealed that speed limit violation and loss control were the immediate causes of the crash.

Other eyewitnesses complained that the location of markets along the highway in most communities is increasing, especially on market days.

Relatedly, no fewer than four popular gospel ministers, including Evangelist Ayodeji David, popularly known as Kekere Jesu,

Evangelist Iyanu Joseph, Opeyemi Adesina and Monjolajesu Oluwapamilerin have been confirmed dead following an accident along the Ikorodu–Sagamu Road in Ogun State.

The Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, confirmed the unfortunate incident in a statement issued by Florence Okupe, Public Information Officer of the Ogun State Command.

The deceased were reportedly en route to a ministry assignment when the incident occurred.

According to the FRSC, the incident occurred when the vehicle conveying the ministers collided with another vehicle in a high-impact accident.

The accident involved multiple vehicles and reportedly claimed over 24 lives.

Preliminary investigations pointed to over speeding and poor visibility as contributing factors to the fatal crash.

# Gunmen kill six persons, abduct over 50 in Katsina

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

**G**unmen suspected to be bandits have killed at least six persons in Dandume Local Government Area of Katsina State.

According to SaharaReporters, Residents said the bandits stormed the village on Monday morning.

On arrival at the village on motorcycles, the gunmen reportedly started shooting indiscriminately, resulting in the death of the six victims.

The gunmen also reportedly abducted about 56 villagers.

“Bandits just kidnapped 56 persons at Dandume in Katsina State and killed six persons this morning; we’re on our way there now for reinforcement,” a security source confirmed the incident to SaharaReporters.

When the spokesperson for the state police command, ASP Abubakar Sodiq Aliyu, was contacted for confirmation and comment, he requested a text message, stating, “Can’t talk now. Please text me.”

However, he had not responded to



the message sent to him as of the time of filing this report.

Katsina has witnessed sporadic attacks by bandits and kidnappers that have claimed the lives of many.

According to SaharaReporters, Residents said the bandits stormed the village on Monday morning.

On arrival at the village on motorcycles, the gunmen reportedly started shooting indiscriminately, resulting in the death of the six victims.

The gunmen also reportedly abducted about 56 villagers.

“Bandits just kidnapped 56 persons at Dandume in Katsina

State and killed six persons this morning; we’re on our way there now for reinforcement,” a security source confirmed the incident to SaharaReporters.

When the spokesperson for the state police command, ASP Abubakar Sodiq Aliyu, was contacted for confirmation and comment, he requested a text message, stating, “Can’t talk now. Please text me.”

However, he had not responded to the message sent to him as of the time of filing this report.

Katsina has witnessed sporadic attacks by bandits and kidnappers that have claimed the lives of many.

# Osun targets increased UK investment through strategic MOU signing By Friday Omosola

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State has called for increased subnational investment focus from the United Kingdom, specifically highlighting the state as a prime destination for investment in Nigeria.

The governor made the appeal on Tuesday during an investment working visit at the House of Commons, hosted by the UK Prime Minister's Envoy to Nigeria on Trade and Investment, Rt. Hon Florence Eshalomi MP.

The event was attended by representatives from ESG Management Services UK Ltd. and other private sector stakeholders.

Governor Adeleke stressed the need for stronger bilateral ties between Nigeria and the UK, especially given the current global economic uncertainty.

"The uncertainty in the global economy calls for more partnerships between and among members of the Commonwealth of Nations," he noted, advocating for enhanced economic collaborations at both the national and subnational levels.

Highlighting Osun State's potential, Governor Adeleke remarked, "Osun presents a rare opportunity for such an economic partnership. With a population of approximately five million, Osun is the heartland of the Yoruba people, and it lies at the core of South West Nigeria, comprising six states."

He added that Osun offers significant investment opportunities across various sectors including mining, agriculture, digital economy, free trade zones, and the creative economy.

"Osun boasts a well-trained labour force, a peaceful environment, and a favourable



investment climate," Governor Adeleke said.

"Our state is ranked highly for ease of doing business, with processes like Certificate of Occupancy taking just 45 days.

"We've eliminated multiple taxation through a unified tax system, and we operate a one-stop shop for investment facilitation. Most importantly, we ensure the protection of investments and investors."

The governor also highlighted that the state has significantly reduced its infrastructure deficit by over 50 per cent, with plans to reduce it by over 70 per cent by 2025.

In her response, Florence Eshalomi MP expressed her admiration for the progress made by Osun State in attracting foreign direct investment.

She pointed out that the current global challenges present an opportunity for renewed investment, with Osun's

regulatory environment, business-friendly policies, and investor protection mechanisms serving as key drivers for potential UK-based investment.

Eshalomi reaffirmed her mandate from the UK Prime Minister to foster closer investment ties between UK and Nigerian businesses, expressing her satisfaction that the Osun State Chamber of Commerce was well represented at the meeting.

She assured that the UK government would work closely with Osun to ensure positive outcomes from this engagement.

A major highlight of the visit was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Osun State Government and ESG Management Services UK Ltd.

The MoU aims to facilitate the sourcing and management of UK-based investments in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and solid minerals, among others.

# Oyo to vaccinate livestock against anthrax infection with 88,000 donated vaccines

By Helen Okechukwu

**T**o prevent the outbreak of anthrax in the state and ensure food security, the Oyo State Government has embarked on a free vaccination exercise for over 88,000 livestock animals within the state.

This vaccination exercise aims to improve livestock productivity and protect animals from being infected.

At the opening campaign exercise in Fasola Agribusiness Industrial Hub, the Chairman of the Steering Committee of Oyo L-PRES, Dr. Debo Akande, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Agency, Mr. Badmus Kolade, charged farmers to engage in the vaccination exercise.

While declaring it “not just a formal exercise,” the Chairman of Oyo L-PRES, who is also the Director General of the Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency (OYSADA), said it is a sign of the state government’s commitment to protecting livestock health, communities, and sustaining the economy.

He said, “Anthrax is a serious zoonotic disease that poses significant threats to animal health, human health, and the livelihoods of our livestock farmers. Left unchecked, it can cause sudden deaths in animals, contaminate the environment, and expose communities to grave risks. We cannot afford to be reactive, we must be proactive, and that is why we are gathered here today.

Read Also: Lagos, Bulgaria partner on agriculture, others

“This campaign will be rolled out across all high-risk areas, targeting cattle, sheep, and goats. The teams of trained veterinary officers and animal health technologists



will work hand-in-hand with community leaders, livestock owners, and other stakeholders to ensure that this exercise is a success.”

Meanwhile, the administration of Governor Seyi Makinde has continued to push for growth in agriculture and livestock farming in Oyo State since coming into office in 2019.

Through various programs and support schemes, the state is creating opportunities for farmers and protecting animal health.

One of the major initiatives is the Oyo State Agricultural Micro-Enterprise Scheme, which has registered over 10,000 smallholder farmers.

This scheme helped farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the Food Security in Emergency program.

Fasola Agribusiness Industrial Hub is a project that has attracted both local and international visitors, including the President of Sierra Leone and officials

from the African Development Bank.

To coordinate all agricultural activities, the government set up the Oyo State Agribusiness Development Agency (OYSADA).

This agency helps attract large investors and supports programs like the Start Them Early Program (STEP) in secondary schools and the Youth Agribusiness Incubation Centre in partnership with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

Over 100 young people have received hands-on training in animal production through these efforts, says the Independent report.

Other key projects include Oyo N-CARES and the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ), which aim to turn rural areas into thriving economic centers and promote commercial agriculture.

# FCTA enrolls 198,810 in health scheme, covers 10,065 pregnant women free

By Helen Okechukwu

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has enrolled 198,810 residents into its Health Insurance Scheme (FHIS) in the past year, surpassing its annual target by over 100%.

Among them, 10,065 vulnerable persons, including pregnant women, were registered at no cost.

According to a statement by Lere Olayinka, Senior Special Assistant on Public Communications and Social Media to the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, the free registration allows access to services under the Basic Minimum Package of Health Services (BMPHS) through Primary Health Care (PHC) centres across the six Area Councils.

These services include preventive care, antenatal consultations, routine drugs, lab

tests, ultrasound scans, and delivery—whether vaginal or via cesarean section—at any of the 14 General Hospitals in the FCT, all covered under the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHC PF).

Olayinka emphasized the FCTA's commitment to ending preventable maternal and infant deaths.

He added that several hospitals—including Gwarinpa, Nyanya, Abaji, and Kuje—have been upgraded to Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (CEONC) centers, offering free cesarean sections and emergency services.

Dr. Adedolapo Fasawe, Mandate Secretary for Health Services, reiterated this commitment during the 2025 World Health Day event, noting that the



initiative aligns with the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda and ensures zero tolerance for maternal and infant mortality.

Residents are encouraged to register for the scheme, while free enrollment for pregnant women remains ongoing.

# UK health secretary, Wes Streeting okays support for prostate cancer screening

By Helen Okechukwu

To better curb the increasing rate of prostate cancer among men, Wes Streeting, the UK Health Secretary, has shown his support for a national prostate cancer screening programme, acknowledging its importance.

Describing his sympathetic stance towards the argument centred around men getting screened, he noted the urgent need to offer tests due to the risk to high-risk men.

Those who have a history of prostate cancer, including Black men, will not be left out.

The Health Secretary gave his support following a landmark poll which showed 94 per cent of GPs back the Mail's campaign, with an initial target on high-risk men.

A study by Prostate Cancer Research revealed that undergoing tests could help diagnose about 775 cases early each year among men aged 45 to 69.

In 2023, a report disclosed that about 55,033 cases of prostate cancer were identified,



making it the most common form in England.

Early diagnosis is said to improve the chances of being cured, with the number of deaths at 10,200 men in England yearly, says Daily Mail.

The UK National Screening Committee is currently reviewing new developments in prostate cancer screening, with findings expected to be reported later this year.

Unlike breast, bowel, and cervical cancer,

there is currently no national screening programme for prostate cancer, despite it being one of the most common cancers among men in the UK.

Calls for a national screening programme have intensified following the deaths of high-profile figures such as Formula One boss Eddie Jordan, Strictly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman, and BBC News presenter Bill Turnbull from the disease.

Olympic cyclist Sir Chris Hoy, comedian Sir Stephen Fry, and chef Ken Hom have also publicly shared their diagnoses in an effort to raise awareness.

Speaking on BBC Breakfast, Health Secretary Wes Streeting acknowledged the growing pressure, stating, "The National Screening Committee is looking at this as we speak. I am, as you know, sympathetic to the arguments being made by Chris Hoy and I'm particularly sympathetic to the arguments that are being made about the need for screening for those men who are more susceptible to the risk of of this type of cancer."

# I'm most bashed artist in Nigeria's music history – Davido

By Helen Okechukwu

**T**he Nigerian award-winning artist David Adeleke, widely known as Davido, has revealed that he is the most bashed artist in Nigerian music history.

Davido made this revelation during a recent interview at "The Breakfast Club" show, stating that the orientation known as "OT", taught by his mother, changed his thinking ability to adapt to life challenges.

Davido also disclosed how he had helped young artists in his label to manoeuvre online trolls, as he constantly tells them to stop reading their comment sessions to avoid negative thoughts.

He said, "Even the new artist, I have a



label, so I have artists, and sometimes I see them operating their phones; I would be like What are you doing? I would say stop reading; these comments will finish you.

"I think in the history of Nigerian music,"

Davido noted. "I have been the most bashed and disrespected for what I have done.

"I got OT; there is something we call OTs, i.e., orientations. My mum met my dad rich. She gave me and my sister's, and I still have that orientation."

"That is why when I was going to school, although

I went to the most expensive high school in Nigeria, after school I went to the hood to be with my cousins. I feel like the OT has helped me to find a middle ground.

# Werner Herzog to receive lifetime achievement at Venice Film Festival

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

**C**elebrated German filmmaker Werner Herzog will be honored with the prestigious Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 82nd Venice Film Festival, organizers announced on Tuesday.

Known for his haunting, visionary style and fearless storytelling, Herzog, 81, has become one of cinema's most iconic voices. With a prolific career spanning over six decades, he has written, produced, and directed around 70 films — seamlessly navigating between narrative features and documentaries. His works such as *Fitzcarraldo* and *Grizzly Man* have garnered global acclaim, often blurring the line between fact and myth.

"I have always tried to be a good soldier of cinema, and this feels like a medal for my work. Thank you," Herzog said in a



statement. Defying any hint of retirement, he added, "I am not done yet."

Herzog is currently in Ireland shooting *Bucking Fastard* and recently wrapped production on the documentary *Ghost Elephants in Africa* — further proof that his creative fire still burns strong.

Alberto Barbera, the festival's artistic director, hailed Herzog as a "tireless

explorer" and praised his lifelong commitment to pushing the boundaries of film and narrative. "His body of work is a testament to a radical vision and an unrelenting passion for the unknown," Barbera said.

Herzog's influence also extends to acting, with over 30 film and television appearances to his name, including memorable roles in *Jack Reacher* and *The Mandalorian*.

The 82nd Venice Film Festival will take place from August 27 to September 6, 2025. The official competition line-up is expected to be unveiled in July. With Herzog's recognition, this year's edition already promises a celebration of cinematic daring and artistic legacy.

# Mercy Chinwo gets spotlight on CNN's African Voices Changemakers

By Eyitayo Jemimah Ajayi

The successful gospel artiste, Mercy Chinwo, was spotlighted on CNN's African Voice Changemakers where her story of impact, faith and music was reviewed. She came into fame when she won the second season on Nigerian Idol.

Mercy Chinwo

Mercy is a very lively and jovial person and has even been featured in some skits. The gospel artist is also an unapologetic philanthropist. She stretches her hands of love through her Mercy is Blessed foundation.

Mercy Chinwo, the celebrated winner of Nigerian Idol season two, sat down with the CNN anchor to discuss her inspiring journey.

Even before her 2012 victory, Chinwo's heart was set on gospel music. "My desire has always been to connect with people beyond the stage, to truly engage with my fans."

She recalls a time when her passion was misunderstood: "In my community, many dismissed my singing as mere 'noise.' Little did they know that the 'noisemaker' would become a powerful voice.

"The release of 'Testimony' in



2015 marked the beginning of Chinwo's significant presence in gospel music, followed by 'Igwe' in 2016.

She attributes her clear direction to her formative years: "Coming from a humble background, my involvement in the children's choir, where I eventually became leader, was instrumental."

Her impactful artistry has been recognized with awards such as Best Gospel Artist at the 2018 Climax Awards and Gospel Artist of the Year at the 2020 AFRIMMA.

For Chinwo, her music is a source of personal blessing that she feels compelled to share: "When I

create music, I am deeply blessed, and I eagerly anticipate sharing that blessing with others.

"In 2023, Chinwo and her husband, Pastor Blessed Uzochikwa, extended their impact by establishing the Mercy is Blessed Foundation, dedicated to supporting the less privileged in Nigeria.

Reflecting on the mark she hopes to leave, she shared with CNN, "I aspire to be remembered as a resilient woman who never gave up on her dreams. I want my life to be a testament that inspires future generations to be grateful for my wholehearted service to Jesus Christ."

# 104% China tariffs take effect at midnight – White House

By Dave Oludare Oso

President Donald Trump is set to impose an astounding 104% in levies across all Chinese imports on Wednesday, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt announced on Tuesday.

This comes on top of Chinese tariffs that were in place prior to Trump's second term.

China was already set to see tariffs increase by 34% on Wednesday as part of Trump's "reciprocal" tariffs package. But the president tacked on another 50% after Beijing didn't back off its promise to impose 34% retaliatory tariffs on US goods by noon Tuesday, adding an additional 84% in duties.

"Additional 50% tariffs 'a mistake upon a mistake'"

Earlier Tuesday, China's Commerce Ministry said it "firmly opposes" the additional 50% tariffs on Chinese imports, calling it "a mistake upon a mistake." The ministry vowed to escalate its retaliation on US exports.

US stocks, which soared Tuesday morning, began moving lower off Leavitt's comments. The Nasdaq and S&P 500 dipped into negative territory, while the Dow remained positive around 2:30 p.m. ET.

"Countries like China, who have chosen to retaliate and try to double down on their mistreatment of American workers, are making a mistake," Leavitt told reporters on Tuesday. "President Trump has a spine of steel, and he will not break."



"The Chinese want to make a deal, they just don't know how to do it," she added. She declined to share what, if any, terms Trump would consider to lower tariffs on China.

Trump initially imposed a 10% tariff on all Chinese goods in February, with no exceptions, tying it to the country's alleged role in aiding illegal immigration and getting fentanyl into the US. Last month, he doubled those rates.

China was America's second largest source of imports last year, shipping a total of \$439 billion worth of goods to the US, while the US exported \$144 billion worth of goods to China. The mutual tariffs threaten to hurt domestic industries and are poised to result in layoffs.

China "wants to make a deal"

Just like Leavitt said, Trump also said China "wants to make a deal" as his deadline for steep new tariffs draws near, but adds that Beijing has not yet reached out to the United States.

"They don't know how to get it started.

We are waiting for their call. It will happen!" Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Trump also held what he described as a "great call" with South Korea's acting president, Han Duck-soo.

"We have the confines and probability of a great DEAL for both countries."

"China making a big mistake, playing with a 'losing hand'"

Meanwhile, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent says China is playing with a "losing hand" in the escalating tariff back-and-forth between the two countries.

"I think it was a big mistake, this Chinese escalation, because they're playing with a pair of twos," Bessent said on "Squawk Box."

Other countries appear to be more willing to negotiate than China, he said.

Continue reading  
on next page

## Cont from page 25

“If they come to the table with solid proposals, I think we can end up with some good deals,” he said, “and part of the calculus of that may be that some part of the tariffs stay on.”

Last night, members of the administration discussed which countries to prioritize for trade talks, he added.

Dozens of countries set to see higher tariffs soon, too

Dozens of other countries as well as the European Union also face a midnight deadline for new tariff rates. Those rates, which Trump laid out last week, range from 11% to 50%.

Leavitt told reporters that despite several conversations with world leaders aiming to negotiate lower tariff rates, Trump has little appetite to delay his plans.

Having spoken with Trump earlier on Tuesday, Leavitt said, “He expects that these tariffs are going to go into effect.”

At the same time, she said Trump instructed his trade team to make “tailor-made” deals with countries that want to negotiate.

Pressed further on whether the president had any timeline or deadline for the trade deals, Leavitt again reiterated that they won’t be “off-the-rack deals.”

However, Beijing vowed to “fight to the end” after Trump threatened to hit Chinese exports with additional 50% tariffs if the country proceeds with plans to retaliate against his initial vow to impose tariffs of 34% on its products. That would come on top of the existing 20% levy and take the total tariff on Chinese imports to 104%.

The White House confirmed that the higher US tariffs on China would, indeed, be imposed from Wednesday. “President Trump has a spine of steel and he will not break,” press secretary Karoline Leavitt said. “And America will not break under

his leadership.”

Musk tells Trump to reverse tariffs

The billionaire Trump adviser Elon Musk has also reportedly asked the president to reverse course and the conservative businessmen Leonard Leo and Charles Koch have filed a lawsuit against the “illegal” tariffs.

The latest tariffs are higher than the 10% flat rate imposed on all global imports to the US on Friday last week and are tailored to specific countries based on a formula that has been criticised by economists that divides trade in goods deficit by twice the total value of imports.

After days of turmoil since they were first unveiled last week, global markets recovered some ground on Tuesday as senior US officials attempted to reassure investors that the new tariffs – including rates of 20% on the European Union, 26% on India and 49% on Cambodia – could be temporary.

The FTSE 100 rallied by 2.7% in London, recovering some of the losses it has endured since Trump’s announcement – on what was dubbed “liberation day” by his aides – last week. On Wall Street, the benchmark S&P 500 gained 2.8% as the Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.9%.

They tracked Asian markets higher. The Nikkei 225 rallied 6% in Tokyo. The Hang Seng Index rose 1.5% in Hong Kong.

‘New tariffs are at ‘maximum’ levels’

Scott Bessent, the US treasury secretary, has insisted the new tariffs are at “maximum” levels, and expressed confidence that negotiations will bring them down.

“I think you are going to see some very large countries with large trade deficits [with the US] come forward very quickly,” he told CNBC, the financial news network, on Tuesday. “If they come

to the table with solid proposals, I think we can end up with some good deals.”

Trump was asked on Monday whether the tariffs set the stage for negotiations with countries, or were permanent. “Well, it can both be true,” he told reporters. “There can be permanent tariffs, and there can also be negotiations.”

But he again raised the prospect of agreements with countries on Tuesday, trailing a potential deal with South Korea.

“Their top TEAM is on a plane heading to the US, and things are looking good,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. “We are likewise dealing with many other countries, all of whom want to make a deal with the United States.”

The president added: “‘ONE STOP SHOPPING’ is a beautiful and efficient process!!! China also wants to make a deal, badly, but they don’t know how to get it started. We are waiting for their call. It will happen!”

“UK markets functioning effectively, banking system resilient”

Rachel Reeves, the UK chancellor, sought to ease concerns about market volatility, telling parliament she had spoken to Andrew Bailey, the governor of the Bank of England, who confirmed “markets are functioning effectively and that our banking system is resilient”.

A trade war “is in nobody’s interest”, Reeves argued, confirming that the UK was seeking to negotiate a new deal with the US. Trump has imposed a 10% tariff on UK exports, in line with the minimum benchmark introduced at the weekend.

She declined to back Liberal Democrat calls for the government to launch a “buy British” campaign. “In terms of buying British, I think everyone will make their own decisions,” Reeves said. “What we don’t want to see is a trade war, with Britain becoming inward-looking.”

# UK welcomes first baby born from womb transplant

By Damilola Olufemi

In a historic medical breakthrough, a baby girl named Amy has become the first child in the UK to be born from a womb transplant, after her mother received a donated uterus from her sister.

Amy was delivered on February 27 at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in London, two years after her mother, Grace Davidson, underwent a successful womb transplant. The life-changing procedure was made possible through the selfless donation of Grace's older sister, Amy Purdie.

"We have been given the greatest gift we could ever have asked for," said Grace, who was born without a functioning womb due to a rare condition known as Mayer-Rokitansky-Küster-Hauser (MRKH) syndrome.

Now 36, Grace had long faced the heartbreaking reality of being unable to carry her child—until her sister, a mother of two herself, stepped forward to give her that chance.

Expressing hope for others in similar situations, Grace added, "Going forward this could become a wonderful reality, and provide an additional option for women who would otherwise be unable to carry their child."

Her husband, Angus Davidson, reflected on the deeply emotional moment of their



daughter's birth: "The room was full of people who have helped us on the journey to actually having Amy," he told the Press Association. "We had been kind of suppressing emotion, probably for 10 years, and you don't know how that's going to come out—ugly crying it turns out."

The womb transplant was performed in February 2023 at the Oxford Transplant Centre, part of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. It marked the first procedure of its kind in the UK.

Professor Richard Smith, the consultant

gynaecological surgeon who co-leads the UK living donor womb transplant programme, hailed Amy's birth as a landmark moment in British medical history.

"It is the culmination of over 25 years of research," Smith said, underscoring the scientific dedication and human generosity that made the birth possible.

The groundbreaking case brings new hope to women with MRKH and other conditions that prevent pregnancy, opening a new chapter in fertility treatment and transplant medicine in the UK.

## Jackie Callaway named as new finance boss of Howdens

By Fatimah Idera

UK-based kitchen and joinery supplier Howden Joinery said on Tuesday that Jackie Callaway will succeed Paul Hayes as the company's new chief financial officer.

Callaway, currently serving as the CFO of British thread manufacturer Coats Group is also set to join Howden as its board director on June 2.



Hayes, who took on the role of Howden's

finance chief in late December 2020, will step down from both his position and his role as executive director on May 30.

In February, the company reported disappointing annual profit and outlined plans to reduce its cost base in order to achieve profitability amid challenging market conditions.

# Prince Harry in court ahead of appeal over UK security

By **Fatimah Idera**

Prince Harry, King Charles' younger son, arrived at the Court of Appeal around an hour before the hearing started and looked relaxed and smiled briefly, giving a small wave to some of those looking on along the side of the court building.

He entered the courtroom where the hearing was taking place shortly before 10:30 a.m. local time and was accompanied by one of his lawyers, Jenny Afia, and his security.

According to a Court of Appeal order issued on April 1 and seen by PEOPLE, most of the appeal will be heard in public, though portions will be held in private to protect "confidential evidence."

As at Last year, the High Court in London ruled that decision was lawful, dismissed Harry's case, and refused him permission to challenge that ruling in a higher court.

However, the Court of Appeal agreed to hear the case following a direct application from Harry's lawyers.

King Charles and his Harry's stepmother Queen Camilla are currently on a state visit to Italy where they will be celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary.

Harry's trip also comes amid a high-profile, bitter dispute with the chief executive of his charity Sentebale, which he founded in honour of his late mother, Princess Diana.

Sophie Chandauka has accused him of bullying and racism, while Harry, who stepped down from his role at the charity, has called what happened "heartbreaking".

In January, Harry sue News Group



Newspapers (NGN) over alleged unlawful activities carried out by journalists and private investigators working for its papers, The Sun and the now defunct News of the World, from 1996 until 2011.

The hearing is also set to take place on April 9. The Duke of Sussex traveled from his home in Montecito for the hearing. He and his wife, Meghan Markle, moved to the Duchess' home state of California in 2020 after stepping back from royal duties.

## The back story

The saga began in February 2020, when the Executive Committee for the Protection of Royalty and Public Figures (RAVEC) stripped Harry's automatic right to U.K. police security shortly after he and Meghan stepped back from royal duties. In a legal challenge last year, High Court judge Peter Lane upheld the government and RAVEC's decision to downgrade the Duke of Sussex's security.

The court has found that there has not been any unlawfulness in reaching the decision of 28 February 2020, Lane ruled in documents seen by PEOPLE when the news broke in February 2024. The decision was not irrational. The decision

was not marred by procedural unfairness.

"The court has also found that there has been no unlawfulness on the part of RAVEC in respect of its arrangements for certain of the claimant's visits to Great Britain," it continued.

In December 2023, Prince Harry's lawyers argued against the February 2020 decision to strip the prince's automatic right to U.K. police security. Although the Duke of Sussex had offered to cover the costs of security, the bid was rejected. His legal team has previously said that he does not feel safe bringing his children to the U.K. following the loss of taxpayer-funded police protection.

King Charles' younger son has been battling this issue in court for five years and is now appealing an initial decision lost in April 2024. According to sources close to Harry, the loss of taxpayer-funded security has remained a major point of contention — one that has deepened tensions between him and his father, 76.

Harry previously appeared in court in London during his case against Mirror Group Newspapers over alleged unlawful information gathering.

# Chinese manufacturers struggle to stay afloat amid Trump's steep tariffs

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In the wake of President Donald Trump's latest salvo in the ongoing U.S.-China trade war, Chinese manufacturers are scrambling to keep their heads above water. From tableware to flooring, companies across various sectors are warning investors of tumbling profits, while rapidly revising strategies and accelerating offshore expansion to survive the economic storm.

Trump's recent introduction of a staggering 34% tariff on Chinese goods—on top of earlier levies—has brought total tariffs on China to 54% this year alone, sending shockwaves through global markets. While some Chinese firms have downplayed the immediate impact, corporate filings reveal a different picture: emergency plans, supply chain pivots, and tense negotiations with price-conscious customers.

For many Chinese exporters, the blanket tariffs are threatening to unravel long-standing supply chains. Their typical counter-strategies—such as relocating production abroad or boosting sales to other international markets—are being severely challenged.

"It's like throwing darts blindfolded," said Larry Sloven, a veteran U.S. retail supplier who has worked with Chinese manufacturers for over three decades. "You don't know what direction you're going in. Once the hammer drops, you don't know where it's going to fall next."

Firms operating on thin margins are bearing the brunt of the crisis. Fuling (001356.SZ), a major supplier of eco-friendly tableware to fast-food giants KFC and McDonald's, admitted this week that tariffs will "further negatively impact the company's operations." Previously hailed as a "manufacturing champion" by Zhejiang authorities, Fuling is now fast-



tracking plans to set up a new production facility in Indonesia to offset its China-based losses. However, until the plant is operational, profitability is expected to suffer.

Earlier tariffs—such as a 20% duty imposed earlier this year—had already begun squeezing profits. U.S. clients reportedly asked the company to absorb part of the cost increase, further deepening its financial woes.

Electric vehicle component manufacturers are also reeling. Lopal (603906.SS), which supplies key materials for lithium batteries, has announced intentions to establish another overseas plant to mitigate the fallout.

Meanwhile, Tianzhen (301356.SZ), a flooring products company, flagged concerns about its U.S. factory plans. Despite targeting a capacity of 20 million square meters, its reliance on tariff-impacted foreign raw materials and equipment could derail expansion.

The U.S.-China economic standoff shows no sign of cooling. Beijing vowed to "fight to the end" after Trump threatened yet another round of tariffs—this time a 50% duty in retaliation for China's own

countermeasures.

In anticipation, some companies are turning to scenario planning. PXI Auto Components (301560.SZ) shared detailed projections with investors, estimating profit losses of 11 to 22 million yuan (around \$1.5 to \$3 million) if they absorb 5-10% tariffs based on last year's earnings. The firm is leaning on its overseas operations in Mexico, the U.S., and Spain to cushion the blow.

Other manufacturers are pursuing more traditional tactics. Hosemaker ZYfire has responded by stockpiling inventory and renegotiating pricing with customers to soften the blow of higher levies. Meanwhile, Ningbo Gangzetong, a logistics firm serving Amazon vendors, issued a stark warning: all previously quoted shipping prices are now void due to the new tariffs. Though its social media post on WeChat was later removed for "violating platform rules," the message was clear—this time, the company can no longer absorb the rising costs.

"As in previous rounds, we tried to shoulder the burden ourselves," the company wrote. "But this time, we are left with no choice but to make necessary adjustments."

# Arizona prisoner serving 16 life sentences kills 3 fellow inmates

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

An Arizona prisoner serving 16 life sentences killed three other inmates at a state prison in Tucson, according to officials.

Ricky Wassenaar is accused of killing Saul Alvarez, Thorne Harnage and Donald Lashley during the altercation on Friday at the Arizona State Prison Cimmarron Unit, according to KOLD.

Wassenaar is the only suspect in the incident, the outlet reported.

Prison officials say he acted with "intent to harm."

Alvarez was behind bars for a Maricopa County murder, Harnage was convicted in Pima County of sexual conduct with a minor and Lashley was serving a sentence for child molestation in Pima County.

Ricky Wassenaar is accused of killing three other inmates at a state prison in Tucson. Arizona Department of Corrections

Wassenaar was already serving 16 life sentences for his role in a prison standoff in 2004, according to KOLD.

He already had a criminal history before the



s a i d Wassenaar was moved to a prison in Florence after Friday's inmate deaths.

The incident remains under investigation.

standoff.

He and another man were convicted of taking two guards hostage for 15 days at Lewis Prison Complex in Buckeye, Arizona.

It was one of the longest prison hostage situations in US history.

Wassenaar allegedly used a kitchen guard's uniform to trick another guard into letting him into a prison watchtower.

He obtained the uniform by overpowering an officer with a handmade weapon.

The Arizona Department of Corrections

"ADCRR's Office of the Inspector General has begun an initial criminal investigation related to the inmate's deaths," prison officials said in a statement.

"All inmate deaths are investigated in consultation with the county medical examiner's office. The ADCRR takes situations involving violence seriously and will pursue prosecution against any suspects believed to be involved in the case."

Visitations at the prison were canceled for the rest of the day on Friday following the altercation.

## Serving Met Police officer charged with rape

By Fatimah Idera

A serving Metropolitan Police officer has been charged with multiple sex offences including rape.

Pc Dion Arnold was charged with four counts of rape, two counts of assault by penetration and one count of sexual assault following an investigation by Surrey Police.

The charges relate to a report made earlier this year and to offences that allegedly happened while Arnold, who is attached to South West



Command Unit, was off duty.

Arnold, who was arrested by the Surrey force on March 29, attended Guildford magistrates' court on March 31 and was remanded in custody to next appear at Guildford Crown

Court on May 1.

The Met said: "The charges relate to a report made earlier this year, and conduct while PC Dion Arnold was off duty.

"The Met's Directorate of Professional Standards has been informed.

"PC Dion Arnold is currently suspended from duty."

# Musk's DOGE using AI to spy on federal workers

By Dave Oludare Oso

**E**lon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE's) team of technologists is using artificial intelligence to surveil at least one federal agency's communications for hostility to President Donald Trump and his agenda.

Two Trump administration officials have told some U.S. government employees that the surveillance would mark an extraordinary use of technology to identify expressions of perceived disloyalty in a workforce already upended by widespread firings and severe cost cutting.

The DOGE team, which activities remain shrouded in secrecy is also using the Signal app to communicate, according to one other person with direct knowledge of the matter, potentially violating federal record-keeping rules because messages can be set to disappear after a period of time.

And they have "heavily" deployed Musk's Grok AI chatbot – an aspiring ChatGPT rival – as part of their work slashing the federal government, said that person. Reuters said it could not establish exactly how Grok was being used.

Reuters said the White House, DOGE and Musk did not respond to requests for comment.

The use of AI and Signal reinforces concerns among cybersecurity experts and government ethicists that DOGE is operating with limited transparency and that billionaire Musk or the Trump administration could use information gathered with AI to further their own interests, or to go after political targets.



Kathleen Clark, a government ethics expert at Washington University in St. Louis, said DOGE's use of privacy-focused Signal adds to growing concerns over data security practices after top Trump administration officials came under fire last month for the mistaken inclusion of a journalist in a group chat about high-level planning for military operations in Yemen.

"If they're using Signal and not backing up every message to federal files, then they are acting unlawfully," she said.

Reuters' interviews with nearly 20 people with knowledge of DOGE's operations – and an examination of hundreds of pages of court documents from lawsuits challenging DOGE's access to data – highlight its unorthodox usage of AI and other technology in federal government operations.

At the Environmental Protection Agency, for instance, some EPA managers were told by Trump appointees that Musk's team is rolling

out AI to monitor workers, including looking for language in communications considered hostile to Trump or Musk, the two people said.

The EPA, which enforces laws such as the Clean Air Act and works to protect the environment, has come under intense scrutiny by the Trump administration. Since January, it has put nearly 600 employees on leave and said it will eliminate 65% of its budget, which could require further staffing reductions.

Trump-appointed officials who had taken up EPA posts told managers that DOGE was using AI to monitor communication apps and software, including Microsoft Teams, which is widely used for virtual calls and chats, said the two sources familiar with these comments.

"We have been told they are looking for anti-Trump or anti-Musk language," a third source familiar with the EPA said. Reuters could not independently confirm if the AI was being implemented.

# US, Iran to resume nuclear talks amid rising tensions

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The United States and Iran are set to engage in a new round of nuclear talks on Saturday, marking a pivotal moment in their fraught diplomatic relationship.

While U.S. President Donald Trump declared the discussions would be direct, Iranian officials insist that the talks will be conducted indirectly, with Oman serving as a mediator.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi confirmed the meeting late Monday in a post on X (formerly Twitter). Representing the U.S. will be Steve Witkoff, Trump's envoy to the Middle East.

"It is as much an opportunity as it is a test. The ball is in America's court," Araghchi said, signaling cautious optimism tempered with skepticism.

The renewed dialogue comes after years of strained relations following Trump's unilateral withdrawal from the landmark 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) during his first term. The deal, signed in Vienna between Iran and the five



permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the U.S., U.K., France, China, and Russia — saw Iran agree to curb its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

Trump scrapped the agreement in 2018, citing Iran's ballistic missile development and growing influence in the region as unacceptable threats.

Subsequent efforts under former President Joe Biden to salvage the deal floundered amid disagreements over sequencing and mutual compliance.

Now, with Trump back in office, the administration is pursuing a broader, more stringent version of the original deal. According to White House insiders, the new terms would require deeper cuts to Iran's uranium enrichment and stricter monitoring by international inspectors.

Tensions have intensified in recent weeks, with Trump warning Tehran of severe consequences if it refuses U.S. demands. "There would be bombing," he declared last month, sparking global concern about a potential military escalation.

# Democratic US senators demand details of Google, Microsoft's AI deals

By Dave Oludare Oso



**U**.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Ron Wyden of Oregon, the ranking Democrats on the Senate banking and finance committees, respectively, have demanded information from Microsoft (MSFT.O) and Google (GOOGL.O) about their cloud computing partnerships with artificial intelligence companies, expressing concern the arrangements could stifle competition in the cutting-edge industry.

They have written a letter to ask Google for details about its partnership with AI startup Anthropic and Microsoft about its tie-up with ChatGPT creator OpenAI, according to the letters.

“We are concerned that corporate partnerships within the AI sector discourage competition, circumvent our antitrust laws, and result in fewer choices and higher prices for businesses and consumers using AI tools,” the senators wrote.

Spokespeople for the companies did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The letters seek to establish how much the AI companies have paid the cloud providers, whether the deals give Microsoft and Google exclusive rights to license AI models, and whether the Big Tech companies have any plans to acquire their AI partners.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission

issued a staff report in January, before U.S. President Donald Trump took office, on a study into partnerships between Microsoft and OpenAI, Amazon (AMZN.O) and Anthropic, and Google and Anthropic but withheld information specific to the companies.

The report raised the possibility that one cloud service provider could acquire its AI partner, and said that at least one of the AI providers gave its cloud service provider advance notice of important decisions.

At least one of the agreements would prevent the AI company from launching new models on its own without releasing it via the cloud provider, the FTC said.

# Trump to fine migrants \$998 daily for failing to leave after deportation order

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Trump administration is putting plans in place to fine migrants under deportation orders up to \$998 a day if they fail to leave the United States and to seize their property if they do not pay.

The fines stem from a 1996 law that was enforced for the first time in 2018, during President Donald Trump's first term in office.

The Trump administration plans to apply the penalties retroactively for up to five years, which could result in fines of more than \$1 million, a senior Trump official said, requesting anonymity to discuss non-public plans.

The Trump administration is also considering seizing the property of immigrants who do not pay the fines, according to government emails reviewed by Reuters.

In response to questions from Reuters, U.S. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that immigrants in the U.S. illegally should use a mobile app formerly known as CBP One – rebranded as CBP Home under Trump – to “self deport and leave the country now.”

“If they don’t, they will face the consequences,” McLaughlin said. “This includes a fine of \$998 per day for every day that the illegal alien overstayed their final deportation order.”

DHS warned of the fines in a March 31 social media post.

Emails reviewed by Reuters show the White House has pressed U.S. Customs and Border Protection to handle the issue of penalties, property seizures for migrants who don’t pay, and the sale of their assets.

The Department of Justice’s civil asset forfeiture division could be another option for the seizures, one email said.



President Donald Trump kicked off a sweeping immigration crackdown after taking office in January, testing the bounds of U.S. law to increase arrests and deportations.

The planned fines target the roughly 1.4 million migrants who have been ordered removed by an immigration judge.

Trump invoked the 1996 law during his first term to levy fines of hundreds of thousands of dollars against nine migrants seeking sanctuary in churches.

The administration withdrew the penalties, but then proceeded with smaller fines of about \$60,000 per person against at least four of the migrants, according to court records.

President Joe Biden stopped issuing the fines and rescinded related policies when he took office in 2021.

Scott Shuchart, a top ICE policy official under Biden, said migrants and their supporters could challenge the fines in court but that the threat alone could have a chilling effect.

“Their point isn’t really to enforce the law, it’s to project fear in communities,” he said.

DHS did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The proposed asset seizures against the migrants who fail to comply with final deportation orders could impact U.S. citizens or permanent residents in their households.

The immigration advocacy group FWD.us estimates that some 10 million migrants with no legal status or temporary protections are living with U.S. citizens or permanent residents in what are known as “mixed status households.”

The steep fines could hit lower-income immigrants. An analysis of 2019 Census data by the non-partisan Migration Policy Institute found, opens new tab 26% of households with unauthorized immigrants had incomes below the federal poverty line.

Trump has said people with final deportation orders should be a priority for removal although many have families, jobs and established ties in the U.S.

The White House National Security Council and Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff for policy, have been pressing CBP to administer the fines and handle seizures, a CBP official wrote in a March 31 email reviewed by Reuters.

# Three India-based Nigerians arrested for money laundering, drug offences

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Telangana Anti-Narcotics Bureau has arrested three Nigerians, alongside several accomplices for their alleged involvement in drug trafficking and money laundering in India.

The Indian anti-narcotics operatives also recovered cocaine and MDMA worth Rs 12.5 lakh from the suspects on Monday.

Per The Times of India, the arrests stemmed from an ongoing investigation that uncovered a sophisticated financial web used by drug cartels to launder proceeds from illegal drug sales.

The detectives identified multiple shell companies operating in Mumbai and Delhi, which were allegedly being used to funnel drug money into foreign accounts while tracing the financial transactions of known drug peddlers.

Investigators revealed that the arrested Nigerians, along with some Palestinian nationals, were instrumental in moving illicit funds.

These funds, the report stated, were “transferred through various Nigerians using fake companies.”

One of the key suspects identified is Igwe Obataobie, also known as Igwe Elvis, a Nigerian national reportedly residing in Bengaluru.

According to investigators, Elvis “played a crucial role in ensuring that drug earnings were safely transferred to various Nigerian bank accounts.”

The report quoted officials as saying, “Nigerian and Palestinian individuals were at the centre of this network, making transactions that ensure the illicit funds reach suppliers abroad.”

The investigation also uncovered a broader money-laundering operation



involving several foreign nationals.

“Investigators also stumbled upon a major racket involving foreign nationals, illegally diverting money to foreign countries,” the report noted.

The operation came to light during the investigation of Mohammed Osman, alias Faisal, a key drug peddler currently held in Goa’s Colvale Jail.

His interstate network led authorities to suspicious companies such as Mr X, King Enterprise, and Riya—firms that were registered as legitimate businesses but allegedly served as fronts for laundering drug proceeds.

“These firms opened current accounts in private banks, serving as conduits to launder money out of India,” officials said.

Faisal is believed to have expanded his operations in Mumbai with the help of an associate, Milan, who played a pivotal role in setting up the shell companies.

Another significant figure in the syndicate is Awni Hassan Abu Alkas, a Palestinian national living in Delhi. He allegedly led

a vast drug trafficking network involving Nigerian nationals and Indian collaborators.

His network included individuals like Faizal, Pappu, and Syed Alkafri—suspects from Hyderabad who are currently detained in Goa. The group reportedly supplied drugs in Bengaluru, Goa, and Hyderabad.

Explaining the modus operandi, a senior police officer reportedly told TOI, “Drug cartels must send money out of India to pay for shipments of cocaine, MDMA, and ecstasy.

“This is a well-established practice. Without disrupting this flow of illicit funds, it is nearly impossible to dismantle the foreign-controlled drug trade.”

He further explained that drug peddlers often accept payments through cash and online transactions using mule accounts.

“The funds are then routed through multiple shell companies before being sent overseas, making it difficult for authorities to track the final destination,” he added.

# USTR slams Nigeria's 25 items ban, says it hurts US exporters

By Damilola Olufemi

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has criticized Nigeria's long-standing ban on 25 categories of imported goods, arguing that the policy poses major obstacles for American exporters.

The statement, shared Monday via the agency's official X (formerly Twitter) account, comes just days after U.S. President Donald Trump unveiled sweeping tariffs targeting imports—Nigeria accounting for 14 per cent of the new restrictions.

Highlighting what it called “unfair trade practices,” the USTR pointed out that American producers, especially in agriculture and consumer goods, are being shut out of Nigeria's market.

“Nigeria's import ban on 25 different product categories impacts U.S. exporters, particularly in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, beverages, and consumer goods,” the USTR stated.

“Restrictions on items like beef, pork, poultry, fruit juices, medicaments, and spirits limit U.S. market access and reduce export opportunities.”

The agency emphasized the economic toll of the policy, saying, “These policies create significant trade barriers that lead to lost revenue for U.S. businesses looking to expand in the Nigerian market.”

Originally introduced in 2016, Nigeria's import ban was part of broader efforts to reduce reliance on



foreign goods and boost local production. The restricted list includes frozen poultry, pork, beef, refined vegetable oil, cocoa products, spaghetti and noodles, fruit juices, soft drinks, beer, medicaments, and more.

More recently, on March 26, 2025, the federal government announced intentions to add solar panels to the restricted list as part of its strategy to promote domestic manufacturing and advance its clean energy agenda.

Despite these policies being framed as economic protectionism, they've drawn criticism from international trade partners like the U.S., who view them as counterproductive to open trade and market expansion.

President Donald Trump, on April 2, announced sweeping global tariffs on all imports into the US, imposing 14 per cent on Nigeria.

The approach described as “Liberation Day,” is intended to counteract what Trump's administration sees as unfair trade practices.

Trump on last Wednesday announced new blanket tariffs of 10 per cent on most imports to the U.S., with higher penalties based on trade deficits for many countries.

Meanwhile, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), disclosed that the recent tariffs announced by the US will have significant implications for global trade and economic growth prospects.

The drop in oil prices also follows an increase in oil production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies (OPEC+).

# Referees to wear bodycams at 2025 Club World Cup

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

In a groundbreaking move aimed at increasing transparency and fan engagement, referees will wear bodycams during matches at this summer's FIFA Club World Cup in the United States.

The decision, announced Tuesday, will see officials don the technology throughout the 32-team tournament, which runs from June 15 to July 13. For the first time in a FIFA competition, broadcasters will be granted access to footage captured directly from the referees' perspective.

Pierluigi Collina, chairman of the FIFA Referees Committee, described the initiative as a "new experience" for viewers. "It's a chance to offer images from an angle of vision which was never offered before," he said.

Referee bodycams have already made headlines in recent months. Premier League official Jarrod Gillett became the first to wear one in a top-flight English match during Crystal Palace's 4-0 victory over Manchester United in May 2024. The footage, captured for a special



program promoting referees, was permitted as a one-time event.

Bodycams were initially tested in English grassroots football, where trials showed a reduction in abuse towards match officials. The success of the pilot program led to broader implementation during the 2024-25 season. In February, a referee used one during a Bundesliga fixture, and a bodycam was also present during Borussia Dortmund's 1-1 draw with Bayern Munich last November.

Major League Soccer has also incorporated bodycams in recent seasons, further cementing the technology's place in the future of the game.

This summer's Club World Cup will feature Premier League representatives Chelsea and Manchester City. The use of referee bodycams is expected to enhance both officiating standards and the viewing experience, offering fans unprecedented insight into the on-pitch decision-making process.

# Depay slams Brazil FA over ban on signature skill move

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Corinthians forward Memphis Depay has hit out at the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) after it announced a ban on players standing on the ball during matches—a move the Dutch international recently performed.

The CBF stated players will now receive a yellow card and opponents an indirect free-kick if a player stands on the ball with both feet, a decision triggered by Depay's display in injury time of Corinthians' Paulista A1 final victory over Palmeiras on March 28.

Depay, 31, used the move near the corner flag, feigning a cross before stepping on the ball—an act that incited Palmeiras players and led to a mass brawl. Following a lengthy VAR review, two players were sent off, and over 18 minutes of added time were played.



In a letter to clubs, the CBF labelled the action a "provocation" that "disrespects the game." But Depay believes the ruling stifles the flair and freedom associated with Brazilian football.

"I really went to Brazil to experience Jogo Bonito firsthand," Depay wrote on X. "Now the CBF says no player can stand on the ball or they'll get a yellow card. I don't see the issue here."

Depay criticized the decision as out of touch, questioning the CBF's priorities. "Let's focus on what rules improve the sport and benefit fans, clubs, and players, instead of these silly announcements."

His sentiment found support from fellow Brazilian star Neymar, who posted on Instagram: "Football is getting more and more boring."

The debate now centers around the balance between respect in play and preserving the expressive style that defines Brazilian football.

# UCL: Arsenal stuns Real Madrid with 3-0 victory

By Damilola Olufemi



**D**eclan Rice scored two excellent second-half free-kicks as Arsenal stunned Real Madrid in the Champions League quarter-finals at Emirates Stadium, taking a three-goal advantage into the second leg.

Mikel Arteta had asked the Arsenal fans to arrive early to create an impressive atmosphere inside the stadium, and the team responded by starting the game quickly with a number of dangerous crosses into the Madrid penalty area.

## Match Highlights

The Gunners were the better side all evening and took the lead in the 58th minute when Rice curled the first of two excellent free-kicks round the Real Madrid wall into the corner of the net past Thibaut Courtois.

Rice scored his second of the night with a free-kick of equal quality 12 minutes later, bending another long-range effort into the top right-hand corner to leave Madrid stunned.

## Mikel Merino Seals the Win

Mikel Merino then made sure it was a memorable night for Arsenal when he curled a shot into the bottom corner from inside the area just five minutes later.

Things only got worse for Madrid when Eduardo Camavinga was sent off in stoppage time for picking up a second yellow card.

## Arsenal's Advantage

Arsenal have not reached the semi-finals stage of the Champions League

since the 2008-09 season, but they have given themselves a huge chance of progressing to the last four with this result. The win puts significant pressure on Real Madrid ahead of the second leg.

UEFA had launched an investigation into alleged indecent conduct by four Real Madrid players—Antonio Rudiger, Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Jr, and Dani Ceballos—following their Champions League last-16 victory over Atletico Madrid.

TV footage showed Rudiger making a throat-slitting gesture, while Mbappe appeared to make a crotch-grabbing motion towards Atletico fans. The Spanish club reported the incidents to UEFA, which confirmed an ethics and disciplinary inspector is handling the case.

# Man Utd to play in Hong Kong for first time since 2013

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

**M**anchester United are set to return to Hong Kong for the first time in 12 years as part of their post-season tour, the club announced on Tuesday.

The Red Devils will play two friendly matches in Asia just three days after concluding what has been a challenging Premier League campaign. Ruben Amorim's men will wrap up their domestic season at Old Trafford against Aston Villa on May 25 before heading east for a short tour that includes fixtures in Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong.

United will take on an ASEAN All-Star XI in the Malaysian capital on May 28, followed by a clash against a Hong Kong representative side on May 30. The Hong Kong team, currently ranked 153rd in the FIFA world rankings, is coached by former United academy player Ashley Westwood.

This marks the club's first visit to Asia since 2022, when they faced Liverpool in a high-



profile friendly in Thailand. Their last appearance in Hong Kong dates back to 2013, when they played as part of their pre-season preparations.

United, who sit 13th in the Premier League table, are aiming to bounce back from a disappointing season with renewed energy and global outreach. The club also confirmed its participation in the Premier League Summer Series in the United States ahead of the 2025–2026 season.

Club chief executive Omar Berrada emphasized the significance of the tour, stating, “Importantly, tour fixtures drive significant additional revenue which help make the club stronger, allowing us to keep investing in success on the pitch.”

Manchester United's return to Hong Kong adds to a growing list of Premier League sides heading to Asia this summer. Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur, and Liverpool have all confirmed their own Hong Kong visits for July.

The announcement has been met with enthusiasm from United fans in Asia, many of whom are eager for a rare chance to see their heroes up close. With international interest in the club still strong, these friendlies are expected to draw packed stadiums and widespread media attention.

As United look to regroup and rebuild, this tour provides an opportunity to reconnect with their global fanbase—and perhaps, turn the page on a tough season.

# Inter Milan beat Bayern 2-1 in Champions league first leg

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



Inter Milan stunned Bayern Munich with a dramatic 2-1 victory in the first leg of their UEFA Champions League quarter-final tie at the Allianz Arena. The result gives the Serie A leaders a vital advantage heading into next week's return leg at the San Siro.

Bayern started strongly, dominating possession and creating early chances. England captain Harry Kane came close to giving Bayern the lead, hitting the post with a curling effort. However, it was Inter who struck first in the 38th minute, capitalizing on a slick team move. Marcus Thuram flicked the ball into Lautaro Martínez's path, and the Argentine striker coolly fired into the roof of the net with the outside of his boot.

Bayern responded in the second half, and in the 85th minute, substitute Thomas Müller seemed to have salvaged a draw for the German giants. He finished from close range after Konrad Laimer's low cross, bringing the game level at 1-1.

Just when it seemed the match would end in a draw, Inter broke Bayern's hearts with a late, late goal. With just two minutes remaining, Carlos Augusto's cross was met by substitute Davide Frattesi, who slotted it home to give Inter a crucial 2-1 lead.

The defeat marked the end of Bayern's 22-match unbeaten home run in the Champions League, which had dated back to 2021. The loss also dealt a blow to their hopes of reaching the semi-finals in front of their home crowd, with

the return leg in Milan on April 16 now a must-win for Julian Nagelsmann's side.

Inter, who were runners-up in last year's final, were clinical in their moments, while Bayern will regret several missed opportunities, including multiple chances from Kane and winger Michael Olise. Despite Müller's late heroics, Inter's dramatic last-minute strike leaves them in a strong position to progress to the semi-finals.

The second leg promises to be a thrilling encounter, with Bayern needing at least two goals to force extra time and keep their hopes of a home final alive.