



**Tinubu mocks critics, says APC is driving Nigeria's aspirations** **Pg 2**

**INEC creates AI division to strengthen electoral credibility** **Pg 6**



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# Tinubu mocks critics, says APC is driving Nigeria's aspirations

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has dismissed growing concerns from the opposition that Nigeria is drifting toward a one-party state under his leadership, stating that political affiliation remains a matter of free will in a constitutional democracy.

Speaking during the All Progressives Congress (APC) National Summit held at the Presidential Villa in Abuja, President Tinubu taunted critics who accuse his administration of consolidating power unfairly, noting that the mass defections to the ruling party are driven by personal choice, not coercion.

“It is only one party that is ruling, and that party is driving the aspiration of Nigeria,” Tinubu declared to a cheering audience. “You don’t blame people for abandoning a shrinking ship when they have no life jackets.”

The President’s remarks came in response to opposition leaders who have raised alarm over the increasing number of defections to the APC, arguing that it undermines democratic diversity and risks transforming Nigeria into a de facto one-party system.



Tinubu, however, waved off those concerns, saying the APC has become a magnet for Nigerians seeking stability, direction, and leadership.

“We didn’t force anyone to join the APC. If people believe in our vision and are willing to come on board, we welcome them. Nobody should be forced to stay where they don’t want to be,” he added.

He acknowledged that some party loyalists may feel overlooked or politically sidelined, but urged them to remain patient, assuring them of inclusion and rewards for their dedication.

“To those I cannot offer political

positions, be patient. You will be happy to belong to this party. We are the Progressives, and we will continue to soldier on,” Tinubu said.

He also reaffirmed his administration’s broader vision for Nigeria and the African continent, encouraging APC members to remain focused and resilient. “We have an opportunity to make Africa great again. Stay the course. I listen to you, not them,” he told party members.

The summit, attended by top APC chieftains, lawmakers, and party supporters, is expected to outline new strategies for governance and party consolidation ahead of the next electoral cycle.



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8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
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8X3	98,500.00
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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
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# FG insists anti-graft war unshaken by defections to APC

By Friday Omosola



**T**he Federal Government (FG) has declared that switching allegiance to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) will not shield political office holders, including governors, from prosecution for alleged corruption.

This position was made clear by the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi in response to allegations raised by Paul Ibe, spokesperson to former Vice President and PDP presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar.

In a statement issued by his media aide, Kamarudeen Ogundele, Fagbemi dismissed the claim that top officials of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Ministry of Justice had met with two South-South governors 48 hours before their defection to the APC.

He criticised the allegation as baseless and defamatory.

“The discerning members of the public know those he could have been referring to,” he noted.

However, he firmly rejected the narrative, saying, “We wish to state categorically that the allegation is from the pit of hell, and at best, a figment of imagination of Mr Ibe.”

He added that neither the EFCC chairman nor the Solicitor General held any such meeting, urging Nigerians to disregard what he described as an attempt to malign the anti-corruption efforts of President Tinubu’s administration.

“President Bola Tinubu’s administration will continue to uphold the rule of law and will not falter in the

fight against corruption no matter whose ox is gored,” the AGF reiterated.

The EFCC also issued a rebuttal through its spokesperson, Dele Oyewale, describing Ibe’s allegations as fictitious and politically motivated.

According to the agency, Ibe’s comments during a recent television appearance were riddled with “theories, conjectures and assumptions.”

The Commission stressed that its Chairman, Ola Olukoyede, remains neutral and committed to non-partisan enforcement of the law.

“The public is enjoined to disregard the alleged meeting with the unnamed governor as it only exists in the imagination of Ibe,” the EFCC’s statement read.

# DSS, Police nab 20 for allegedly hacking 2025 UTME results

By New Daily Prime



**T**wenty suspects have been arrested for hacking the 2025 Computer-based test examinations conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB).

The suspects were nabbed by operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) and the Nigerian Police Force, in Abuja,

The suspects are part of a syndicate believed to have over 100 persons, who specialize in hacking the computer servers of examination bodies like JAMB and the National Examinations Council (NECO).

According to security sources, the suspects have confessed to sabotaging the CBT system in order

to discredit JAMB and discourage students from using CBT for future examinations to be conducted by NECO and the West African Examination Council, WAEC.

The entire hacking process was to influence high scores for special candidates who paid between ₦700,000 and ₦2 million.

It was gathered that several members of the syndicate own private schools and colleges, and make huge sums of money from their special centres.

This comes two weeks after JAMB released the 2025 UTME results.

An analysis showed that more than 78 per cent of candidates scored less

than 200 points out of the 400 maximum points obtainable.

On May 14, Ishaq Oloyede, JAMB registrar, said that the results of 379,997 candidates across 157 centres in its Lagos and south-east zones were affected.

He cited faulty server updates that prevented candidate responses from being uploaded during the first three days of the exam.

Oloyede said the problem, which was caused by one of its technical service providers, went undetected before the results were released.

The board conducted a resit examination, starting from May 16 and extending beyond May 19.



# INEC creates AI division to strengthen electoral credibility

By New Daily Prime



**T**he Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has announced the creation of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Division under the ICT Department.

The Commission made this known in a statement signed by its National Commissioner and Chairman Information and Voter Education Committee, Sam Olumekun, on Thursday.

He said that the approval for the creation of the new division is to continue to harness the positive aspects of AI and mitigate its negative impact on elections.

According to Olumekun, the division will enable the commission to better coordinate

and maximise existing technology investments through centralised AI governance.

He added that it will also enhance decision-making through data-driven insights, risk management and voter engagement.

“Furthermore, it will strengthen electoral credibility through predictive analytics, automation and intelligent safeguards.

“This initiative puts the Commission in the forefront of institutionalising AI capabilities within our ICT infrastructure.

“It is also an important step in our ongoing reform of the electoral process in areas that only require administrative action by the

Commission.”

INEC disclosed that it attended several conferences with colleagues around the continent on the impact of AI on elections.

These interactions, the commission said, were not only motivated by the concern over the use of AI to spread fake news or manipulate content online but also to utilise its benefits for data-driven decision-making, risk detection and mitigation, deepening voter services automation and geo-spatial intelligence in support of logistic optimisation for better material distribution and polling unit allocation.

# Tinubu rules out one-party state, says APC's growth driven by performance

By Friday Omosola

**P**resident Bola Tinubu has said Nigeria is not drifting towards a one-party system.

Speaking at the APC Renewed Hope Agenda Summit held at the State House Conference Centre in Abuja, he said the All Progressives Congress (APC) is gaining widespread support due to its achievements since assuming office nearly two years ago.

Tinubu told party leaders, governors, and lawmakers that the country remains a multi-party democracy, but only one party is currently 'making a difference.'

"A one-party system is not ideal for democracy. But we are the party in power, and we are delivering on the expectations of Nigerians," Tinubu said.

"People won't stay on a sinking ship. They'll go where there's hope, and we are that hope."

The summit, which reviewed the administration's performance in critical sectors such as the economy, infrastructure, and security, also served as a platform for the APC to unanimously endorse Tinubu for re-election in 2027.

Tinubu highlighted the administration's "hard but necessary" economic reforms.

These he said include the removal of the petrol subsidy, unification of exchange rates, and pending tax reforms aimed at driving growth and reducing corruption.

He argued that continuing with the previous policies would have mortgaged the future of Nigerian children.



"Today, we're seeing the results. Foreign investors are returning, the naira is stabilising, and we're creating conditions that will boost job creation and improve living standards," Tinubu said.

He credited the Federal Executive Council (FEC), National Assembly, and party leaders for backing the administration's reform agenda despite political risks.

"We inherited an economy in crisis in May 2023. But through bold decisions, we're laying the foundation for a better Nigeria. These changes are not easy, but they are necessary," he added.

Tinubu also described the arbitrage in the old foreign exchange regime as a major source of corruption and praised efforts by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to recover assets.

"Imagine EFCC recovering over 750 properties from a single individual. That is what corruption has cost us," he said.

The summit brought together top APC figures, including the National Working

Committee, governors from 22 states, federal ministers, and lawmakers, who reviewed the administration's achievements across various sectors under the Renewed Hope Agenda.

Imo State Governor and Chairman of the Progressive Governors Forum, Hope Uzodinma, moved a motion of confidence in the President and declared support for a second term, a move seconded by Kaduna State Governor Uba Sani.

Senate President Godswill Akpabio and Speaker of the House of Representatives Tajudeen Abbas also praised Tinubu's leadership and backed the motion for his return.

APC National Chairman Abdullahi Ganduje formalised the endorsement, declaring Tinubu the party's sole presidential candidate for the 2027 elections.

"Let us stand united. Reject internal sabotage, listen to the people, and build structures that last beyond elections," Ganduje urged party members.



# El-Rufai son backs Tinubu's second term, defies father's exit from APC

By Friday Omosola

A deep political rift has emerged within the El-Rufai family as Mohammed Bello El-Rufai, the first son of former Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai, publicly declared his support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's second-term bid—openly defying his father's recent departure from the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Bello El-Rufai, who currently serves as a member of the House of Representatives for Kaduna North Federal Constituency, attended the APC National Summit in Abuja this week where Tinubu was officially endorsed as the party's sole candidate for the 2027 presidential election.

**Family Tensions Spill Into Public View**  
The endorsement comes just two months after Nasir El-Rufai quit the APC, citing a betrayal of values, and joined the Social Democratic Party (SDP) with a vow to build a strong opposition coalition to unseat the APC government in 2027.

Bello's open support for Tinubu has ignited widespread reactions, exposing a family increasingly split along political lines.

"If El-Rufai can't convince his son to leave Tinubu, how will he convince Nigerians?" — Reno Omokri, political analyst and former presidential aide

**A Politician in His Own Right**

Despite the controversy, Mohammed Bello El-Rufai is forging an independent political path. A rising figure within the APC, he entered elective politics in February 2023 and won the House of Representatives seat for Kaduna North



with 51,052 votes. In the 10th National Assembly, he was appointed Chairman of the House Committee on Banking Regulations.

His decision to remain in the APC and endorse Tinubu, analysts say, may reflect not just personal political convictions but a strategic alignment with the party's national structure.

**Not the First Family Rift**

This isn't the first sign of discord within the El-Rufai household. In 2024, Bello's younger brother, Bashir El-Rufai, made headlines for fiercely criticizing President Tinubu and Kaduna State Governor Uba Sani over what he described as a politically motivated probe into alleged mismanagement of ₦423 billion during their father's tenure.

In a pointed social media post, Bashir warned:

"Nobody is too big to be elected out of office... It will happen, and wallahi, nothing will happen."

His remarks fueled speculation of a brewing political realignment among northern elites disillusioned with Tinubu's leadership.

**2027: APC vs SDP—And El-Rufai vs El-Rufai?**

As preparations for the 2027 general election accelerate, the contrasting political loyalties of father and son present a compelling subplot in Nigeria's evolving democratic narrative.

While Nasir El-Rufai attempts to rally a national opposition movement under the SDP, Bello's loyalty to the APC and Tinubu could either split local allegiances or neutralize his father's political influence in Kaduna and beyond.

As Nigeria inches closer to 2027, the El-Rufai family's division may become symbolic of the broader ideological and generational fractures shaping the nation's political future.



# Edo Police arrest driver over alleged sexual assault of 15-year-old girl

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



A 50-year-old man, Mohammed Ihuenuma, has been arrested by operatives of the Edo State Police Command for allegedly sexually assaulting an 15-year-old girl in Benin City.

Ihuenuma, who serves as a driver attached to one of the Special Advisers to the Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, was taken into custody after the victim's father reported the matter to authorities.

Sources close to the family disclosed that the suspect repeatedly took advantage of his visits to the girl's home—usually while running errands for his employer—to behave

inappropriately toward her. He allegedly touched the teenager inappropriately on several occasions in what has been described as persistent indecent advances.

Following a series of disturbing encounters, the victim confided in her mother. The matter was subsequently relayed to her father, who acted promptly by alerting the police. His report led to the swift arrest of the suspect.

Confirming the incident, the spokesperson for the Edo State Police Command, CSP Moses Yamu, stated that the suspect is currently in custody and will face thorough investigation.

“The suspect will be diligently investigated and charged to court. The Edo State Police Command remains committed to addressing all forms of abuse and indecent assault,” CSP Yamu said.

He further urged members of the public to report any instances of rape, sexual harassment, or indecent conduct to the police, emphasizing that timely intervention can protect victims and prevent further abuse.

The incident has reignited public concern over abuse of trust by individuals in positions of responsibility, particularly those linked to public officials.

# Cancer in Nigeria: Where survival comes at cost

By Helen Okechukwu

In Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, a silent war is being waged—not just against cancer, but also against the soaring costs and systemic challenges that threaten the lives of those battling the disease.

In 2020, Nigeria recorded 124,815 new cancer cases, with 51,398 in males and 73,417 in females. By 2022, the country recorded an average of 127,000 new cases and 79,000 cancer-related deaths. Breast cancer represents 27% of all cases, while cervical cancer accounts for 14%, liver cancer for 12%, prostate cancer for 12%, and colorectal cancer for 4.1%.

According to the National Cancer Institute (NIH) recent data in 2024, cancer incidence increases with age. It rises from fewer than 25 cases per 100,000 people under 20 years old to about 350 per 100,000 at ages 45–49, exceeding 1,000 per 100,000 for those aged 60 and above; cancer is no longer an isolated affliction—it's a national crisis.

“Many people feel it's a death sentence,” said Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka, who shared his own cancer survival story in 2014. However, he emphasised that, “Cancer is not a death sentence; it is a labour of willpower. Some hard labour is involved, but ultimately, you can be victorious.”

## The Human Cost of Delay

After speaking with Adepoju Adewale, a 30-year-old Lagos resident, it became clear how deeply personal Nigeria's cancer crisis can become. Following a routine hospital visit in March 2024, Adewale was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer.

He faced not only a physical battle but also a financial one—marked by a cascade of costs: ₦214,000 (\$142) for an initial colonoscopy and biopsy, ₦1.2 million (\$800) for surgery, and ₦3 million (\$2,000) for six months of targeted therapy.



“How will I do this?” he asked, eyes hollow with worry. “Every round of chemotherapy came with blood transfusions. I became anaemic. At one point, I couldn't keep going.” stated by him.

Three sessions of chemotherapy left him vomiting for days. A resulting intestinal obstruction meant even more time in the hospital. Eventually, Adewale paused treatment, relying on self-medication as the financial strain became overwhelming

## When Treatment Is a Privilege

Nigeria's public healthcare system remains woefully under-resourced. Patients like Adewale are often referred to private hospitals with limited transparency and skyrocketing costs.

Across the country, hospitals lack functioning diagnostic equipment, radiotherapy machines, and trained oncologists.

“We're moving from one facility to another just to get basic tests. It's draining—financially, emotionally, physically,” Adewale said.

## Psychological Impact of Cancer

Like Adewale, many cancer patients experience stress and anxiety as a direct result of their diagnosis and treatment.

Over 78% of cancer patients in Nigeria report experiencing psychological distress. This, paired with the social stigma surrounding cancer, has left patients isolated and unsupported.

“People can't relate. They just judge online. I didn't even make any videos,” Adewale said, referring to the social media backlash he received. “Ranting won't change anything.”

## A National Pattern of Suffering

Adewale's story is not unique. Across TikTok and Instagram, young Nigerians are sharing heart-wrenching accounts of losing parents and siblings to cancer.

A TikTok user identified as Tshine has sparked widespread conversation after revealing that her mother is battling skin cancer. In her post, she questioned the government's payment structure, highlighting the stark contrast between the national minimum wage and the exorbitant cost of chemotherapy. “₦5 million for chemotherapy. How much is minimum wage?” she asked, referring to her mother's struggle with skin cancer after 50 years of outdoor labour.

**Continue reading  
on next page**



## Cont from page 10

Another user, Omotola, wrote: “We spent our last kobo trying to save her,” mourning her mother, who died of colon cancer in 2023. With Nigeria’s minimum wage at just ₦70,000 per month, the cost of a single chemotherapy cycle can exceed a full year’s income—making life-saving treatment unaffordable for many.

Document showing Adewale health status  
Document showing Adewale health status  
A Government Trying to Respond

In 2024, the Nigerian government announced a ₦37.4 billion oncology initiative to develop six cancer centres across the country. The centres, set to be constructed in teaching hospitals in Lagos, Benin, Jos, Nsukka, Katsina, and

Zaria, aim to decentralize treatment and increase accessibility.

“This is a step in the right direction,” says Dr. Femi Adeyemi, a clinical oncologist in Abuja. “But without subsidized treatment or universal healthcare, many will still die silently because they cannot pay.”

Nigeria currently lacks a comprehensive national health insurance system capable of absorbing the burden of long-term cancer care. Patients often rely on crowdfunding or international donors to stay alive.

What Lies Ahead

Cancer remains the second leading cause

of death globally, and in Nigeria, its rise is compounded by poor regulation, economic hardship, and cultural taboos. While breast, cervical, prostate, and liver cancers dominate the charts, colorectal cancer—the type affecting Adewale—is silently gaining ground, particularly among young adults.

“If nothing changes, cancer will overwhelm us,” Adewale warns. “It already is.”

His plea—like those of thousands of others—is not just for survival, but for a system that doesn’t force people to choose between life and bankruptcy.

## NICRAT urges Nigeria govt to fight cancer, cut treatment costs

By Helen Okechukwu

The Director General of the National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (NICRAT), Prof. Usman Aliyu, has urged all state governments to invest more in cancer prevention, control, and treatment to ease the burden on patients.

Speaking during a visit by the Kebbi State Cancer Control Programme delegation, led by Health Commissioner Comrade Yunusa Musa Ismail and representing the Governor’s Wife, Dr. Nafisa Nasiru Idris, Prof. Malami reaffirmed NICRAT’s readiness to partner with all 36 states and the FCT.

He praised Kebbi State’s efforts, noting its early establishment of a cancer control program, a 5-year strategic plan, and partnerships with local and



international bodies.

He announced an upcoming Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state to enhance cooperation.

Prof. Malami also disclosed that the National Cancer Health Fund is undergoing reforms to better assist low-income patients and that NICRAT is partnering with herbal practitioners

to explore alternative treatments.

Representing the Governor’s wife, Hajiya Salamatu Bala Tafida assured NICRAT of continued support from the Nafisa Nasir Charity Development foundation (NANAS) and the state government.

Dr. Shehu Nuhu Koko, Permanent Secretary of the Kebbi Health Ministry, reaffirmed the state’s commitment to sustaining cancer care structures, including a chemotherapy center, cancer registries, and free treatment initiatives.

Kebbi’s anti-cancer efforts, initiated by former Governor Abubakar Atiku Bagudu and his wife, Dr. Zainab Shinkafi Bagudu, continue under the current administration.

# NDLEA, US DEA enhance partnership to tackle drug trafficking, abuse

By Helen Okechukwu



**T**he National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) have agreed to deepen their cooperation in the fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

This was the key highlight of a meeting held on 23 May, at the NDLEA National Headquarters in Abuja between NDLEA Chairman, Brig Gen Mohamed Marwa (Rtd), and the new US DEA Country Attaché to Nigeria, Ms. Daphne Morrison.

Femi Babafemi, the Director, Media & Advocacy in document shared on Friday said during the meeting, Ms. Morrison, who recently assumed duty in Nigeria, expressed her readiness to continue the strong relationship

between the two agencies.

“I wanted to make this one of my priorities to come meet with you so we can continue to collaborate and work together. And thank you so much for your support over the years,” she said.

She also disclosed plans to organize more training sessions for NDLEA officers and pursue joint operations in key areas.

In response, Gen. Marwa praised the positive relationship with previous DEA officials and welcomed Ms. Morrison with optimism.

“They’ve been very, very supportive, and I have absolutely no doubt in my mind that it will be the same, if not better, with you,” he said.

He highlighted NDLEA’s progress in increasing its workforce, expanding operations, and achieving success in reducing both drug supply and demand.

Marwa also appreciated the continued support from the DEA in terms of equipment, training, and joint missions.

“I’m not going to bring out a long list of demands or requests, but just to acknowledge that we appreciate all the support we’ve been receiving,” he added.

Both agencies reaffirmed their commitment to working closely to curb the drug menace in Nigeria and beyond.



# Lagos advances EMR rollout in primary healthcare centres

By Helen Okechukwu

The Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its dedication to modernising healthcare delivery through technology, as it reviewed the progress of its electronic medical records (EMR) rollout at a high-level workshop held in Ikeja.

The state government yesterday convened key stakeholders to assess Phase II of its Primary Health Care (PHC) Digitisation Project at a two-day Progress Review Workshop.

The initiative, which has already seen EMRs deployed in 100 PHC facilities, is being spearheaded by the Lagos State Primary Health Care Board (LSPHCB) in partnership with the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and supported by the Gates Foundation.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's Special on Health, Kemi Ogunyemi—represented by the governor's Senior Special Assistant on Health, Oluwatoni Adeyemi—said the digital transformation was part of the state's commitment to building a smarter and more sustainable healthcare system.

"We're laying the foundation for a future where over 20 million Lagosians can access equitable, efficient healthcare at the primary level," Ogunyemi said.

She highlighted the value of electronic health records (EHRs) in improving patient care, enabling referrals, tracking outcomes, and driving data-based public health interventions.

She disclosed plans to fund digital health infrastructure through a dedicated budget line and integrate EMRs with the Lagos State Health Insurance Scheme.

"We want these systems to become sustainable, co-financed solutions—not temporary donor-funded projects," she added.

Ogunyemi also identified challenges to



be addressed, including infrastructure, workforce readiness, and fragmented systems.

She noted the launch of a Digital Health Champions Programme to build provider capacity for digital adoption.

Also, Permanent Secretary of the LSPHCB, Ibrahim Mustafa, described the workshop as a strategic milestone.

"This is more than just a review. It's a collective moment to reflect, learn, and plan for scale," he said.

He praised the impact of EMR deployment across 100 PHCs, noting improved data integrity and efficiency.

According to him, plans are underway to expand the rollout to all 326 PHC facilities statewide.

He also announced the upcoming launch of the Lagos Smart Health Information Platform (SHIP), which will integrate patient data across primary, secondary, and tertiary care.

Ojodu LCDA Chairman, Hon. David Odunmbaku, echoed the commitment to digital transformation at the local level.

He said his administration had begun piloting a Local Electronic Medical Records (LEMR) system at Ogba PHC, with upgraded infrastructure and fibre-optic internet access.

"We're phasing out outdated manual systems and embracing smart governance," he said.

Olumide Sojirin, Medical Director at Randle General Hospital, Surulere, described EMRs as an essential global healthcare tool.

He emphasised that digital records enhance accuracy, confidentiality, and coordination, while also supporting real-time decision-making and disease surveillance.

During a technical presentation, Tayo Owolabi, Digital Health Officer at LSPHCB, outlined objectives of the second phase of the EMR project.

He said the state was aiming to optimise its Talamus EMR platform, foster data-driven decision-making, and set a roadmap for wider adoption.

A key highlight of the workshop was the visit to Coker Aguda PHC, one of the digitised facilities.

Medical Officer of Health, Duyile Akintomide, reported significant reductions in waiting times and better service coordination since EMR deployment.

He said the facility had achieved full digitalisation, with work ongoing to extend the system to Orile Iganmu PHC.

# Health org calls on blood donors to book appointments as UK falls short of blood reserves

By Helen Okechukwu



In a determination to save millions of lives, a health organisation in the United Kingdom (UK) has raised concern over the risk of running out of blood in its bank within a few days, as many hospitals' blood reserves run low, signalling a critical level.

In response, the body responsible for donations, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), is left with no option but may activate a red alert, signalling urgency as hospitals are left with a maximum of three days to restock their blood banks, especially O-negative blood.

Looking at the immediate concern, in a notice shared on a Wednesday, the health organisation urged blood donors to book appointments by visiting the nearest centre to avert the implications that come with the shortage.

According to The Independent publication, NHSBT said:

"Regrettably, despite active hospital support and the work of our donation teams, our stock of O D negative red cells is reducing, and we have some concern that, without increased intervention, we are at risk of having to declare a Red Alert."

Describing the situation, NHSBT said the outcome would lead to "severe and prolonged shortages," leaving hospitals with dire consequences and under pressure to limit their operations.

The NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) service has issued an urgent appeal for blood donors, particularly those with O-negative blood, after stocks dropped below safe levels. The decline follows four closely spaced bank holidays between April and May, a period when donations typically fall.

NHSBT aims to maintain a six-day stock of all red blood cell types, but current supplies for several,

including the universal O-negative type, are critically low. The organisation emphasized the need for immediate action, stating:

"We urgently need more appointments to be booked and attended to help boost stocks and maintain supply to hospitals."

Earlier in May, NHSBT called on the public to fill 50,000 donation appointments to avert worsening shortages. Hospitals across the UK require more than 5,000 blood donations every day to meet patient needs.

O blood group stocks have remained at "amber" alert status for the past year, with warnings in October that a shift to "red alert" was imminent without increased donations.

Those eligible to donate are encouraged to book an appointment via [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) or by calling 03001232323.



# Police arrest Ruggedman over alleged dispute with PMAN

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**P**opular Nigerian rapper Ruggedman has been arrested and is currently being held at the Lagos State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) in Pantli.

The arrest, which took place earlier this week, is linked to an ongoing dispute involving the Performing Musicians Employers Association of Nigeria (PMAN).

Activist raises alarm over alleged police abuse

The news was first made public on Thursday by human rights activist Harrison Gwamnishu. In a post shared on Instagram, he accused police officers of detaining Ruggedman without carrying out a proper investigation.

“No proper investigation has been concluded. He and others are being maltreated. I wish to draw Nigerians’ attention to what is going on,” Gwamnishu wrote.

PMAN suspended Ruggedman in August 2024

The arrest appears to be related to internal issues within PMAN. In August 2024, the association suspended Ruggedman along with three other prominent members: JFO Baba Ojonugwa, Sunny Neji, and Zaaki Azzay. The suspension was based on allegations of misconduct and disobedience to the body’s leadership.

Although the full details of the misconduct allegations were never made public, the suspension deepened existing cracks within the association. PMAN has long struggled with internal disputes and disagreements over leadership, direction, and member rights.

Industry infighting escalates into police action

Sources familiar with the matter suggest that Ruggedman and the other suspended members had challenged several decisions taken by PMAN’s leadership. Their opposition reportedly led to tension within



the group, which has now escalated into a full-blown legal conflict.

This development has raised eyebrows, as many question why a professional disagreement within a musicians’ union would result in police involvement. Critics argue that what should have been a civil matter is now being handled as a criminal case.

No official charges filed yet

As of Friday morning, there has been no official statement from the Lagos State Police Command. It also remains unclear whether any formal charges have been filed against Ruggedman or the others involved. Human rights advocates insist the police must explain why the rapper is being held and on what legal grounds.

Supporters demand justice and transparency

Ruggedman’s fans and fellow musicians have taken to social media to call for his release. They describe him as a long-time advocate for justice and fairness in the Nigerian music scene. He is known for speaking out against industry exploitation and for standing up for fellow artists.

This latest development has sparked widespread concern about the way entertainers and public figures are treated when they challenge authority. Civil

society groups have called for the immediate release of Ruggedman and a thorough, transparent investigation.

Wider questions about PMAN’s role and credibility

The situation has also reignited questions about the role of PMAN. Is the association truly protecting the interests of musicians, or is it using its influence to silence dissenting voices? The arrest of Ruggedman, a former member who dared to speak out, adds weight to the argument that the body may not be living up to its original purpose.

What comes next?

The nation is watching closely as the story unfolds. For now, Ruggedman remains in detention. His supporters are hopeful that public pressure will lead to his release and that the truth behind the arrest will soon come to light.

In the meantime, the controversy has sparked renewed calls for reform, not only within PMAN but in the broader Nigerian music industry. Many say it’s time for unions and authorities to prioritise transparency, fairness, and the rule of law.

As one supporter put it, “This is not just about Ruggedman. It’s about every artist who refuses to be silenced.”

# American reality star Kim Kardashian completes law school without degree

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**K**im Kardashian has reached a major milestone. The American reality TV star and business mogul has completed California's Law Office Study Program, a rare legal path that does not require law school.

At 44, Kardashian can now sit for the California Bar Exam.

The program, offered only in a few U.S. states, allows students to study law through an apprenticeship model. Rather than attend law school, participants learn under the supervision of licensed attorneys. This method, often called "reading the law," dates back centuries.

No law degree, but a real education

Because she did not attend a traditional law school, Kardashian did not earn a law degree. Still, the program is fully recognised by the California State Bar and leads to the same final exam as a J.D. program.

Kardashian explained the route she took on her Instagram page. "I chose a rigorous program registered with the California State Bar," she wrote. "Building on 75 college credits, I completed a four-year curriculum that stretched to six."

Six years of hard work

Though the standard time frame for the program is four years, Kardashian's journey took longer. COVID-19 and her busy career extended the timeline to six years.

She admitted it wasn't easy. Studying for law exams while running businesses, raising children, and managing a public image required discipline. "The journey was real, and so is the accomplishment," she said.

Not just a hobby

Kardashian's legal interest began years ago. She became deeply involved in



criminal justice reform and has since worked on several cases involving wrongful convictions. Her efforts have brought attention to harsh prison sentences and the unjust treatment of inmates.

In 2018, she helped secure clemency for Alice Marie Johnson, a woman serving a life sentence for a nonviolent drug offence. That experience inspired her to learn the law herself and take a more hands-on approach.

Balancing fame and books

Balancing law studies with her career in entertainment and fashion wasn't easy. Kardashian's days were packed with meetings, shoots, and parenting duties. Still, she made time to study legal textbooks and meet with her mentors.

She often studied late into the night, and she shared her progress publicly, encouraging fans to follow their paths, no matter how unconventional.

A message of perseverance

Kardashian's story is one of determination. She failed the "baby bar" exam, a key hurdle in the Law Office Study Program, multiple times before passing. She didn't give up.

Her journey is also proof that success

doesn't always follow a straight line. She chose an uncommon path, stayed committed, and reached her goal.

Next stop: The bar exam

Now that she has finished the program, Kardashian is eligible to take the California Bar Exam, one of the toughest in the country. If she passes, she will be able to practice law in the state.

It's a move that could open new doors. Kardashian has said she wants to use her legal skills to help people, especially those who don't have access to fair representation.

Breaking the mould

Kim Kardashian's latest achievement is a reminder that people can change course at any time. Whether starting a business, raising awareness, or becoming a lawyer, she continues to surprise the public.

More importantly, she shows that hard work and persistence pay off, even for someone already in the spotlight.

As she prepares for the next step, many are watching closely. But Kardashian seems focused on the long game. "It's never too late to follow your dreams," she once said, and now she's proving it.



# 'I knew Combs was violent', Kid Cudi alleges Diddy burnt his Porsche for dating Cassie

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

On Thursday, rapper Kid Cudi delivered explosive testimony in the ongoing sex trafficking trial of hip-hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs.

Speaking under oath, Cudi accused Combs of breaking into his home and setting his Porsche on fire. The alleged motive? Cudi's brief relationship with Combs' ex-girlfriend, singer Cassie Ventura.

Now in its second week, the trial has featured testimony from 16 witnesses, including Cassie herself. Each day has brought new details of the disturbing allegations surrounding Combs. But Cudi's account of intimidation and violence shocked even seasoned observers.

## A relationship turns dangerous

Cudi, whose real name is Scott Mescudi, told the court that he dated Cassie briefly in 2011. At the time, he believed she had broken off her relationship with Combs.

Soon after, Cassie confided in Cudi, telling him that Combs had physically assaulted her. The situation escalated in December 2011 when Cassie called Cudi in a panic around 6 a.m. She claimed Combs had attacked her with a wine bottle opener after discovering her relationship with Cudi. She managed to escape and phoned him for help.

Fearing for their safety, the two fled to a nearby hotel. "She was terrified," Cudi recalled. "We didn't know what he might do next."

## Home break-in and firebombed porsche

When Cudi returned home later, he noticed clear signs of a break-in. His security cameras had been tampered with. Gifts in the house were ripped open. Even his dog had been locked in the bathroom.



Cudi immediately called the police to report the incident. However, despite the clear evidence of trespassing, no arrests were made.

The situation escalated again just a few weeks later. In January 2012, Cudi received a call: his Porsche had been set on fire outside his home. Investigators found the roof had been cut open and suspected a Molotov cocktail was used to start the blaze. Jurors were shown shocking photos of the damage.

## Face-to-face with Diddy

Cudi described a tense meeting with Combs that followed. The two met at the Soho House in Los Angeles. Cudi said Combs stood by the window, hands clasped behind his back, silent and intense. "He looked like a Marvel supervillain," Cudi told the court.

When Cudi asked him about the arson, Combs denied everything. "I don't know what you're talking about," he reportedly said.

They crossed paths again in 2015, again at Soho House. This time, Combs apologised. According to Cudi, he said: "Man, I just want to apologise for everything and all that bullsh\*t." Though shaken, Cudi said he accepted the apology and "found peace" with the situation.

## Questions from the defence

During cross-examination, Combs' defence attorney, Brian Steel, pressed Cudi on key details. He confirmed that DNA was collected from the burnt Porsche, but authorities never shared the results. No one was arrested.

Steel also suggested that Cassie may have manipulated Cudi into thinking Combs was more dangerous than he was. Cudi admitted that it was a possibility.

Still, he stood firm. "Our relationship ended because it wasn't safe. I knew Sean Combs was violent."

## Trial continues

The trial has already painted a troubling picture of Combs' alleged behaviour, but Kid Cudi's testimony could be among the most damaging. As witnesses continue to take the stand, all eyes remain on the courtroom.

Combs has denied all allegations and has not been charged with arson. His legal team insists that the claims are exaggerated or fabricated.

Still, with each day of testimony, the pressure mounts.

# Nearly 5,000 Nigerian students face expulsion from Harvard after Trump's overseas ban

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

**M**ore than 4,968 Nigerian students at Harvard University are at risk of expulsion following a sweeping new directive from President Donald Trump, banning American universities from recruiting international students.

The controversial policy, announced Thursday by the White House, revokes the right of higher institutions to admit new international applicants — a move seen as a significant escalation in Trump's ongoing ideological battle with elite academic institutions.

Under the new rules, currently enrolled international students, including thousands from Nigeria, may be forced to transfer or face deportation if universities cannot retain their international enrolment status.

**Nigeria: Africa's Top Contributor to U.S. Higher Education**

While precise demographic figures remain confidential, Nigeria is widely recognized as one of the leading sources of international students in the United States — and the top country of origin in Africa.

According to data from African academic monitoring bodies, Nigeria ranks 7th globally and 1st in Africa for students pursuing higher education in the U.S. and at Harvard specifically. At Harvard Business School, Nigerian students account for nearly 25% of the Black student body — a striking testament to the country's academic prominence.

In the 2023–2024 academic session, 56,780 students from Sub-Saharan Africa were enrolled across American institutions. Of those, approximately 19,873 gained admissions to Harvard. Based on regional estimates, around 4,968 are Nigerian, now caught in the crossfire of restrictive immigration policy.



**Global Backlash and Diplomatic Silence**  
The policy shift has drawn fierce criticism from educational leaders, rights organizations, and global observers, who accuse the Trump administration of targeting international students as political scapegoats.

“International students are not just economic contributors — they are the lifeblood of global research, innovation, and cultural exchange,” said a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Attempts by New Daily Prime to obtain comments from Nigerian embassy officials in Washington, D.C., or directly from affected students were unsuccessful as of the time of this report.

**A Legacy at Risk: Harvard's Distinguished Nigerian Alumni**

Nigerians have long played a transformative role in Harvard's academic landscape, with many graduates rising to positions of global leadership. Among them:

**Ijeoma Akunyili** – Elected to the Harvard Kennedy School Alumni Board in 2024. Daughter of the late Dr. Dora Akunyili, former Director-General of NAFDAC.  
**Lawrence Baraebibai Ekpebu** – The first

African to graduate from Harvard College in 1960. He later held senior diplomatic and public service roles in Nigeria.

**Adebayo Ogunlesi** – A 1979 graduate of Harvard Law and Business Schools (JD-MBA). Chairman of Global Infrastructure Partners and board member at Goldman Sachs and OpenAI.

**Okechukwu Enelamah** – Earned his MBA as a Baker Scholar at Harvard Business School in 1994. Served as Nigeria's Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment (2015–2019).

With diplomatic responses slow and students left in limbo, advocates warn the consequences could be devastating. Loss of access to world-class education, research funding, and global networks may set back entire generations of African scholars.

“Policies like this don't just close doors — they erase futures,” said an education policy expert at UNESCO.

As the academic world watches with growing concern, nearly 5,000 Nigerian students now face an uncertain fate, their dreams and degrees hanging in the balance.



# US treasury to stop producing pennies, citing cost concerns

By Fatimah Idera

The federal government is winding down production of the penny coin following a bipartisan effort to nix the lowest-denomination of U.S. currency over cost concerns.

The Treasury Department placed its final order for blank pennies in May and expects to stop putting new pennies into circulation by early 2026.

President Donald Trump directed Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to cease production of the coin in February, describing spending on penny minting as wasteful. This move is supported by both Republican and Democratic lawmakers who introduced separate bills in the House of Representatives and the Senate calling for an end to penny production.

As the number of pennies in circulation dwindles, businesses will have to start rounding prices of cash transactions up or



down to the nearest five-cent nickel. The Treasury's penny phase-out plan is expected to save \$56 million annually, given the rising production costs from 1.3 cents per coin to 3.69 cents over the past decade.

The penny, first issued in 1793, features President Abraham Lincoln's profile on the obverse side, a design that has been in place since 1909. With around 114 billion pennies currently in circulation, the debate over the coin's utility has been

ongoing. Supporters argue it helps keep prices down and benefits charities, while critics see it as a nuisance often discarded in various places.

The plan to end penny production has sparked discussions about the future of American currency, with some arguing for its elimination and others for its preservation. Regardless, the Treasury Department's decision aims to reduce costs and streamline currency production.

# EU, US take down Global malware network, seize million in crypto

By Fatimah Idera

European and American authorities, along with their Canadian counterparts, have joined forces to disrupt a massive malware network.

Over 300 servers worldwide have been taken down, and international arrest warrants have been issued for 20 suspects. This operation, dubbed Operation Endgame, aims to tackle the world's most notorious malware variants.

German, French, Dutch, Danish, British, American, and Canadian agencies collaborated to identify over three dozen suspects, with 20 individuals facing criminal charges.

More than 650 domains have been neutralized, and approximately €3.5 million in cryptocurrency has been seized. This brings the total amount of



cryptocurrency seized during the operation to €21.2 million since its inception in 2024.

The targeted malware, known as "initial access malware," enables cybercriminals to secretly infiltrate victims' systems and deploy additional malware, including ransomware.

Operation Endgame will continue with further actions announced on the international coalition's dedicated website. Eighteen key suspects will be added to the EU Most Wanted list by German authorities, and several suspects are subject to international and public appeals.

# Trump threatens 50% EU tariffs, 25% on apple in trade escalation

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In a dramatic expansion of his protectionist trade agenda, President Donald Trump has announced plans to impose sweeping import tariffs—25% on Apple products and a 50% blanket tariff on all goods from the European Union, beginning June 1, 2025.

The threats, delivered via a series of posts on Trump's Truth Social platform, have already sent shockwaves through financial markets and raised fresh fears of global economic instability.

"If Apple wants to sell iPhones in the U.S., they should be made in the U.S.," Trump declared, threatening a tariff hike unless the tech giant shifts production out of countries like India.

## Apple in the Crosshairs

The tariff threat specifically targets Apple Inc., the world's most valuable technology company. Trump warned that unless Apple manufactures its iPhones domestically, all imported devices would face a 25% tax, an action that could raise U.S. retail prices by as much as \$275 per unit.

Apple shares dropped 3.5% in futures following the post, before partially recovering during early trading. Trump claimed he had informed CEO Tim Cook that production must shift to the United States to avoid tariffs.

The legality of such a targeted tariff is questionable, as U.S. law generally requires tariffs to be applied to classes of goods from specific countries, not individual companies. When pressed, Trump claimed similar duties would apply to other smartphone makers, such as Samsung, in order to ensure "fairness."

## EU Tariffs and Rising Consumer Costs

Trump's second and more expansive threat involves a 50% tariff on all goods imported from the European Union—excluding the United Kingdom. Citing a more than \$250 billion trade deficit, Trump accused the EU of unfair trade practices, VAT manipulation, and



what he described as "ridiculous corporate penalties and lawsuits against American companies." He falsely claimed the EU was created "to take advantage of the United States." If enacted, the tariffs could raise prices sharply on a wide range of goods including:

- Pharmaceuticals and medical equipment

- European automobiles
- Luxury goods and fashion (clothing, leather, shoes)
- Wine, spirits, coffee, and confectionery
- Cosmetics, tools, and consumer electronics

Analysts warn that U.S. consumers, not foreign exporters, would bear the cost. A \$100 product from France, for example, could now cost \$150 at checkout.

## Market Jitters and Economic Fallout

The tariff announcements rattled global markets and intensified concerns about a recession. Trump's trade moves, including an earlier 154% tariff on Chinese goods, have already disrupted global supply chains and eroded investor confidence.

Moody's, the global credit rating agency, downgraded the U.S. credit rating to Aa1 last week—the first such move in nearly a century—citing growing deficits, unsustainable debt levels, and long-term economic risks posed by erratic tariff policies.

"We see no serious attempt to address

rising debt," Moody's said. "Tariffs of this scale are likely to reduce long-term growth and raise inflation." With U.S. federal debt projected to hit 134% of GDP by 2035, analysts warn that the Trump administration's strategy of using tariffs as economic leverage could backfire, harming both U.S. credibility and household budgets.

## Political and Diplomatic Consequences

European leaders have yet to respond officially, but trade experts expect swift retaliatory measures. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is also expected to weigh in, particularly if the U.S. attempts to impose product-specific tariffs outside international trade norms.

Meanwhile, Apple's role in the U.S. economy—where it accounts for 44% of U.S. iPhone revenue and over \$200 billion globally—makes the company a focal point in an escalating war between the White House and global industry.

Trump said the tariffs could be enforced "by the end of June" unless companies comply with domestic manufacturing demands. While such policies may appeal to parts of his political base, economists warn the price will be paid by consumers, small businesses, and American credibility on the global stage.



# G7 nations agrees to address economic imbalances, sidestep tariffs issues

By Fatimah Idera

Finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven democracies papered over their differences on Thursday, pledging to tackle excessive imbalances in the global economy and saying they could increase sanctions on Russia.

There had been doubt before the meeting whether it would issue a final communique, in light of divisions over U.S. tariffs and Washington's reluctance to refer to Russia's war on Ukraine as illegal. But after three days of talks, participants signed on to a lengthy document devoid of previous language on fighting climate change and which also softened references to the Ukraine war.

"We found common ground on the most pressing global issues that we face," Canadian Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne told the closing press conference. "I think it sends a very clear signal to the world ... that the G7 is united in purpose and in action."

The officials, who met in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, called for a common understanding of how "non-market policies and practices" undermine international economic security. The document did not name China, but references by the United States and other G7 economies to non-market policies and practices are often targeted at its state subsidies and export-driven economic model.

The G7 statement omitted mention of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs that are disrupting global trade and supply chains and swelling economic uncertainty. Champagne downplayed the lack of communique language on tariffs, but said ministers were not skating around the issue and had discussed its impact.

Canada seeks a deal to eliminate Trump's tariffs of 25% on many goods, such as steel and aluminum. "We're trying to enhance growth and stability," he added. "And obviously tariffs are something in that context that you can't avoid discussing."

The gathering sets the stage for a summit of G7 leaders from June 15 to 17 in the nearby mountain resort area of Kananaskis. Trump will attend the summit, the White House confirmed on Thursday.

The G7 communique called for an analysis of market concentration and international supply chain resilience. "We agree on the importance of a level playing field and taking



a broadly coordinated approach to address the harm caused by those who do not abide by the same rules and lack transparency," the grouping said.

It also recognized an increase in low-value international de minimis package shipments that can overwhelm customs and tax collection systems and be used for smuggling drugs and other illicit goods.

The duty-free exemption for packages of value less than \$800 has been exploited by Chinese e-commerce companies, such as Shein and Temu. The Chinese embassy in Ottawa said it could not immediately comment on the G7 statement.

The G7 finance chiefs condemned what they called Russia's continued brutal war against Ukraine and said if ceasefire efforts failed, they would explore all possible options, including further ramping up sanctions.

The description of the Ukraine war was watered down from October's G7 statement, before Trump's re-election, calling it an "illegal, unjustifiable, and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine." Trump has diminished U.S. support for Ukraine and suggested that Kyiv was to blame for the conflict as he tries to coax Russia into peace talks.

But the G7 ministers pledged to work together to ensure no countries that financed the Russian war would be eligible to benefit from the reconstruction of Ukraine. "That's a very big statement," said Champagne, calling it a fundamental pillar of the communique.

It did not name China or other countries the West has accused of supplying critical components to Russia in defiance of sanctions. Russia's sovereign assets in G7 jurisdictions would remain immobilized until Moscow ended the war and paid for the damage it has caused to Ukraine, the communique said.

European Commission Executive Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis said the G7 ministers discussed a proposal to lower the G7-led price cap of \$60 a barrel on Russian oil exports, since Russian crude is now selling below that. But the plan was not mentioned in the communique, partly because the U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent was not convinced it was needed, a European official said.

Brent crude currently trades around \$64 per barrel. A European official said the United States is "not convinced" about lowering the Russian oil price cap.

Bessent came to Banff to the relief of many participants after he skipped a G20 finance meeting in February in the South African city of Cape Town. G7 officials described his interactions as "constructive" and "flexible" and said some initial stiffness gave way to jokes over dinner.

"We had a feeling that it was a discussion between friends and allies," a French official said. But Bessent took an unusually low profile for a U.S. Treasury secretary at the G7 meeting, holding no news conference and largely operating out of sight of the press.



# Japan's auto supplier faces uncertainty as US tariffs impact Toyota, Nissan, Ford

By Fatimah Idera

**F**our decades ago, Hiroko Suzuki's father navigated the challenges of a U.S. trade war by shifting the family auto-parts business, Kyowa Industrial, into niche products. Now, tariffs imposed by the Trump administration threaten her own attempt to diversify the 78-year-old company into medical devices.

Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has labeled the U.S. tariffs, including 25% on automobiles, a national crisis for Japan, the world's fourth-largest economy.

Meanwhile, Japan's top trade negotiator, Ryosei Akazawa, is heading to Washington for a third round of talks to address the issue.

Kyowa Industrial, a maker of prototype parts and race-car components based in Takasaki, north of Tokyo, is among six auto suppliers concerned about withstanding the tariff pressure on Japan's car industry.

Suzuki, Kyowa's third-generation president, expressed her worries, recalling her thoughts when the tariffs were announced: "What in the world are we going to do? This is going to be bad."

The problems Kyowa faces illustrate Japan's decades-long shift from dominating global chip and consumer electronics markets to relying on its auto industry, which now faces intense competition from China. This marks a contrast with



the 1980s, when the U.S. imposed trade barriers on Japan's rising exports.

Kyowa started developing neurosurgery instruments in 2016, after Suzuki realized the rise of electric vehicles would impact demand for engine components.

However, Trump's tariffs on medical devices have complicated Kyowa's diversification efforts. Despite not exporting auto components to the U.S., Suzuki worries that automakers will force suppliers to cut prices to offset tariffs.

Major automakers like Toyota, Nissan, and Ford have sent letters to Japanese suppliers asking for cooperation in the face of tariffs.

Nissan told suppliers to stick to

previously agreed prices, while Toyota said it would work with suppliers in good faith. However, the lack of concrete support has left suppliers uncertain.

Analysts predict that the trade war will hasten consolidation in Japan's auto industry, forcing automakers to work together to survive. The risks for Japan are clear, with the economy shrinking in the first quarter and Tokyo compiling emergency economic measures to ease the pain of tariffs.

To mitigate the impact, Kyowa is exploring alternatives, including partnering with distributors in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Also, Suzuki hopes for a resolution, citing the long history of friendship between Japan and the U.S.

# Harvard sues Trump administration over foreign student ban

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Tensions between Donald Trump's administration and elite academic institutions escalated this week as Harvard University filed a federal lawsuit to challenge a sweeping ban on foreign student enrollment. The decision by the Department of Homeland Security, which revoked the university's certification to host international students starting in the 2025-2026 academic year, affects over 7,000 students — nearly 30% of Harvard's student body.

Simultaneously, Trump ramped up trade pressure on the European Union, threatening 50% tariffs on EU imports and a 25% levy on Apple products. The aggressive trade threats have already jolted global markets and rekindled fears of a new wave of protectionist economic policy under a potential second Trump presidency.

In its legal filing, Harvard described the student ban as a "campaign of retribution," asserting that the government was retaliating against the institution for resisting efforts to reshape its governance, hiring, and curriculum. The suit argues that the policy constitutes a direct violation of Harvard's First Amendment rights.

Dr. Alan M. Garber, Harvard's president, called the decision "unlawful and unwarranted," stating that it places the academic and personal futures of thousands of students at risk. "Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard," the complaint states.

On Friday, U.S. District Judge Allison



Burroughs issued a temporary restraining order halting the enforcement of the ban. The legal pushback underscores the growing rift between Trump's federal directives and institutional autonomy in the U.S. education sector.

The announcement came shortly after a previous dispute, in which the Trump administration froze \$2.2 billion in Harvard funding, accusing the university of failing to meet certain federal requirements. Critics have labeled these actions as politically motivated and part of a broader pattern of targeting liberal-leaning academic institutions.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem defended the revocation, citing allegations of antisemitism and claims that Harvard failed to prevent pro-Palestinian encampments and

protests. White House spokesperson Abigail Jackson called the lawsuit "frivolous," asserting that Harvard should focus on "creating a safe campus environment."

The controversy is set against a broader backdrop of U.S. universities, such as Columbia, also facing funding threats over how they manage campus activism and internal investigations into antisemitism.

As trade wars heat up abroad and legal battles intensify at home, Trump's policies continue to challenge the core pillars of globalization and institutional independence. The outcome of Harvard's lawsuit may have far-reaching consequences for academic freedom, immigration policy, and U.S. soft power on the global stage.



# Ancelotti says goodbye to Real Madrid for Brazil role

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Carlo Ancelotti has confirmed he will leave Real Madrid after Saturday's La Liga clash with Real Sociedad, bringing an end to a glittering second stint in charge of the Spanish giants before taking the reins of the Brazil national team.

The 65-year-old Italian manager, widely regarded as one of the most respected tacticians in football, is set to begin his new role as Brazil head coach on 26 May, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) confirmed earlier this month. The CBF had long been pursuing Ancelotti, and his departure from Madrid has now been officially announced by the club.

In an emotional farewell, Ancelotti described his connection with Real Madrid as "eternal," reflecting fondly on what he called an "incredible journey" filled with "emotions, titles, and magical nights."

"I carry with me in my heart every moment of this wonderful second stint as Real Madrid manager," Ancelotti posted on X (formerly Twitter). "The magical nights at the Bernabeu are now part of football history. What we've achieved together will forever remain in the memory of Real Madrid fans."

## Trophy-Laden Tenure

Ancelotti's return to Madrid in 2021, after a spell at Everton, was met with a mixture of surprise and optimism. But the seasoned coach quickly reminded the footballing world of his tactical nous and calm leadership.

Over two spells in charge of Los Blancos — first from 2013 to 2015, and then from 2021 to 2025 — Ancelotti has collected 15 major trophies, including two UEFA Champions League titles and two La Liga crowns. His most recent triumph came last season, as Madrid clinched both the domestic title and a record-extending 15th European crown.



Real Madrid president Florentino Perez paid tribute to Ancelotti's legacy, stating: "We feel incredibly honoured to have had the chance to enjoy a coach who has helped us achieve so much success, but who has also embodied our club's values in such exemplary fashion."

## Brazil Beckons

Ancelotti now steps into one of the most demanding roles in international football, taking charge of Brazil at a time of transition. The five-time World Cup winners sacked Dorival Junior in March following a 4-1 loss to arch-rivals Argentina in World Cup qualifying. The defeat left Brazil fourth in the South American standings, having lost five of 14 matches.

Despite their struggles, Brazil remains on track to qualify for the 2026 World Cup, and the hope is that Ancelotti's vast experience will inject stability and belief into the Selecao. His debut in the Brazil dugout will come in June, with qualifiers against Paraguay and Ecuador.

The Italian will be the first European to coach Brazil since the 1960s, a move that signals a bold shift from the CBF.

## Alonso Set for Return

Real Madrid are wasting no time in lining up Ancelotti's replacement. Former

midfielder Xabi Alonso, currently managing Bayer Leverkusen, is expected to take over. Alonso, 43, confirmed earlier this month that he would be stepping down from his role in Germany after leading Leverkusen to a Bundesliga title.

With the FIFA Club World Cup on the horizon next month, Madrid hope to have Alonso installed as manager in time to prepare the squad for the tournament.

Ancelotti offered his full support to his likely successor: "I wish him all the luck in the world, because he is a coach who has the characteristics to coach this club, this team — enjoy it."

## A Legacy Cemented

Carlo Ancelotti departs Real Madrid not only with an overflowing trophy cabinet but with the admiration of players, fans, and football institutions across the globe. His humility, strategic brilliance, and ability to manage egos in elite dressing rooms have made him a legend in the eyes of many.

As he embarks on a new chapter with Brazil, the football world will be watching closely. The Selecao's dreams of World Cup glory in 2026 may well rest on the steady shoulders of "Don Carlo."



# Toney returns as Tuchel names England squad for June matches

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Ivan Toney has been handed a surprise recall to the England squad as head coach Thomas Tuchel named a refreshed 26-man team for next month's fixtures against Andorra and Senegal.

The 29-year-old striker, who now plies his trade with Al-Ahli in Saudi Arabia, had not featured for the Three Lions since coming off the bench in the Euro 2024 final defeat to Spain. However, a blistering season in the Middle East — where Toney has notched 28 goals in 42 appearances and lifted the Asian Champions League — has earned him a return to the international fold.

"It's well deserved," said Tuchel. "He's been prolific, decisive in a major tournament, and offers a skillset similar to Harry Kane. I haven't seen him live this season but our team has tracked him closely. Now it's time to see him with us."

The call-up marks Toney's first under Tuchel, who omitted him from his initial squad in March but hinted at the time he would try to observe the striker in person.

England take on Andorra in a World Cup qualifier on June 7, followed by a friendly against Senegal at the City Ground on June 10 — a venue hosting its first men's international since 1991.

## Young Guns and Surprise Picks

Among the fresh faces in the squad is Chelsea defender Trevoh Chalobah, who earns his first senior cap. Tuchel, who coached the centre-back at Chelsea, has opted to give him an opportunity with regular starter Marc Guehi sidelined by an eye injury.

Arsenal teenager Myles Lewis-Skelly, enjoying a breakout season at left-back, is the only natural option in that role and retains his place after impressing in March.

Another talking point is the inclusion of veteran midfielder Jordan Henderson, now playing for Ajax, who continues to feature despite no longer competing in one of Europe's top five leagues.



Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham, despite an impending shoulder surgery after the Club World Cup, has also been included. "He will have surgery later," Tuchel clarified. "For now, he is available and remains crucial to us."

## Notable Omissions Raise Eyebrows

Phil Foden, Marcus Rashford, and Dominic Solanke headline the list of notable absentees. Foden, who revealed this week he has been struggling with an ankle injury and off-field issues, misses out, while Rashford is sidelined with a hamstring injury.

Solanke's exclusion, despite an excellent campaign with Tottenham that included a Europa League triumph, has prompted criticism. Tuchel, however, defended the decision, stating: "Dom has been in camp before. I know what he can do. It's time to get a closer look at others."

Also missing are Crystal Palace's Adam Wharton and in-form Newcastle winger Jacob Murphy. There are no Manchester United players in the squad — a stark reflection of the club's ongoing struggles.

Ben White Declines Recall Due to Family Arsenal's Ben White remains absent from international duty, but Tuchel revealed this was down to personal reasons. The defender, who last played for England in

2022, is expecting his first child in early June and opted out to focus on his family.

"We agreed this is not the right time," said Tuchel. "He was ready to come back but we want players fully focused — and understandably, his mind is elsewhere right now."

Full Squad Highlights Changing Guard England's latest selection continues to signal a new era under Tuchel. Eight players from clubs competing in the upcoming Club World Cup — including Chelsea, Bayern, Real Madrid, and Atletico Madrid — have been included, while emerging talents like Lewis-Skelly, Anthony Gordon, and Morgan Rogers reflect a bold, forward-thinking approach.

Yet, some fans and pundits believe a "closed-shop" culture may be forming. Critics argue that selections such as Henderson and Toney — from less competitive leagues — suggest Tuchel is leaning more on reputation than current merit in some areas.

Regardless, all eyes will be on how the reshaped England squad performs as preparations for the 2026 World Cup intensify.

# Joao Pedro out of Brighton finale after training incident

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

**B**righton & Hove Albion forward Joao Pedro will not feature in the club's final Premier League fixture of the season against Tottenham Hotspur following an incident during training, head coach Fabian Hürzeler has confirmed.

The 23-year-old Brazilian was absent from Monday's thrilling 3-2 win over Liverpool, and reports suggest his omission was due to a training ground altercation involving defender Jan Paul van Hecke.

Pedro, who has scored 10 league goals this season, has already missed Brighton's last four matches after receiving a red card in the 4-2 defeat to Brentford on April 19. Now, a fresh issue has ruled him out of the campaign's concluding fixture.

## 'A Small Issue'

Speaking ahead of Sunday's clash at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Hürzeler downplayed the severity of the incident but stressed that club discipline remains paramount.

"With Joao, we had a small issue in training — the type which isn't uncommon from time to time in all football clubs," Hürzeler said. "We dealt with it internally and the matter is closed."

He added: "Joao is an incredible football player, a match-winner for us. That's why we invested in him. But there are principles that are non-negotiable and count for everyone — we don't make any compromises there."

Hürzeler reaffirmed his faith in the young striker, expressing confidence in his development and eventual return to form.

"Joao is still a young player. He will



grow, and I'm sure he will learn from this and come back stronger next season. I'm really looking forward to seeing him renewed and reinvigorated at his highest peak," he said.

## Injuries and Absentees

Pedro is not the only absentee for the Seagulls ahead of their final-day trip to north London. French striker Georginio Rutter, also 23, will miss the match due to an ankle injury that has kept him out in recent weeks.

Rutter, who joined Brighton last summer, has had a promising debut season but has been plagued by injuries in the latter stages of the campaign.

## European Hopes Still Alive

Despite the internal distractions, Brighton still have a shot at European qualification. The Seagulls currently sit eighth in the Premier League table and could clinch a spot in continental competition depending on results elsewhere.

Crystal Palace's dramatic FA Cup triumph over Manchester City has opened up another European slot. For Brighton to qualify, they need either

Chelsea — currently in seventh — to beat Real Betis in the UEFA Conference League final, or for Newcastle United to slip out of the top six.

Hürzeler's men know a strong finish against Tottenham, recently crowned Europa League champions, is essential to keep their hopes alive.

## A Season of Progress

Regardless of how the final day unfolds, it has been a season of progress for Brighton. Under Hürzeler's leadership, the club has remained competitive in the top half of the Premier League and continued to show belief in a youthful, exciting squad.

While Pedro's absence is a disappointment, Brighton's resolve and unity have become a hallmark of their campaign. The club will now look to end the season on a high and potentially earn a spot in Europe for the second time in their history.

The focus will then turn to the summer — one that could be pivotal in shaping Brighton's next steps both domestically and on the European stage.