

Tinubu committed to alleviating suffering of Nigerians
– Minister

PAGE 3



How I would have tackled Nigeria's problems – Atiku

PAGE 4



The New Daily Prime

Control of state resources cause of Rivers crisis – Fubara

PAGE 2

• **Donates N200m to OPM**



NDLEA intercepts N4.4bn cocaine inside aircraft at Lagos airport

PAGE 9

Femi Adebayo wins best supporting actor at AMAA

PAGE 15



Gunmen kill man, two sons in Ebonyi

PAGE 5

Policeman shoots man dead over N100 in Anambra

PAGE 3

NASU, SSANU suspend strike for one month

PAGE 6

Control of state resources cause of Rivers crisis – Fubara

By Dave Oludare Oso

Governor Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers State has disclosed that the current political crisis rocking the state is for the sole control of the state resources.

This is as the governor has assured Rivers people that he will continue to utilize the state resources judiciously for the betterment and overall interest of the people.

Fubara made the revelation while addressing the congregation of Omega Power Ministries (OPM) Worldwide during the 51st birthday of the general overseer, Apostle Chibuzor Gift Chinyere, and the 18th anniversary celebration of the church at the headquarters, Mbodo, Aluu, near Port Harcourt on Sunday.

Fubara, however, sued for continuous prayers from the church in order for his administration to remain focused with a view to achieving the purpose of governance in the state.

The governor said, “There is a reason for this crisis, and that reason is the control of the resources of Rivers State. Rivers State resources belong to you, and we will make sure that the resources are applied judiciously for the betterment of Rivers State.

“What you owe us is just one thing: Continue to pray for us. Let us not lose focus because we know the devil is always at war to derail people in governance. Continue to pray for us because what is most important is the interest of the people here, and I believe that with your prayers, we will not lose focus, and the purpose of governance will be achieved in Rivers State.”

Governor Fubara lauded the general overseer of OPM Worldwide, Apostle Chinyere, for his philanthropic works and contributions to humanity.



L-R: General Overseer of Omega Power Ministries Apostle Chibuzor Gift Chinyere, Governor Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers State

The governor, who noted the decay of public amenities met on assumption of office, commended the general overseer of OPM Worldwide for the various educational programmes in the ministry aimed at providing children with the requisite vocational and technical knowledge needed for future employment.

He said, “I want to commend you for what you are doing. Life is not about taking. What is important in life is giving, and anybody who believes that it is only taking, the person won’t go far in life.

“For all you are doing for humanity, God will continue to strengthen you. You don’t know what you are doing, but those of us who are outside understand your contributions to humanity.

“Look at what you just showed me here. How many of our schools are still functioning to provide that level of training? They are no longer there! We met a dead system which we are trying to revive. But you are doing it as a private person. Why won’t God bless you?”

The governor further thanked Apostle Chinyere and the congregation for the support to his administration, particularly the prayers, which he noted have kept the

government alive, in spite of all the challenges, urging them to continue to pray for the progress of Rivers State and the defence of humanity. He also donated the sum of N200 million to the church to support its ongoing infrastructure development projects.

“Let me say congratulations to this church because the GO “Power” will not succeed without your support. So, I want to thank you for supporting power.

“I am happy to be here, especially to celebrate this birthday with him. He has been a very strong supporter of our cause. Right from the time we started this journey, he has kept faith with me in his prayers.

“I strongly believe his prayer and the prayers of the church are one of the reasons that while in the face of all our troubles, we are still standing. There is nothing God cannot do. So, I know that with your continuous prayers, we will overcome this present challenge.

“I am aware that there is a building for your TV station, and one of the dreams for that place is when you finish it, guests will be staying there when they come for programmes. Let me, on behalf of the government and every one of you here, and the good people of Rivers State, donate the sum of N200 million to support the project.

Tinubu committed to alleviating suffering of Nigerians – Minister

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris has said President Bola Tinubu is committed to alleviating the suffering of Nigerians.

The minister spoke on Sunday in Kaduna when he featured in a live phone-in programme of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN), Hausa Service, Kaduna, “Hannu Da Yawa.”

Speaking on the hardship caused by the fuel subsidy removal, Idris said the subsidy was only benefiting a few people at the expense of all Nigerians.

He assured that the economy would be stable, adding that no government would want backwardness in its administration.

The minister emphasized that what needed to be fixed in the country did not only lie with the National Assembly, elected representatives, or executive arms of the government, but also all Nigerians.



He said Tinubu had recently directed the ministers to cut the cost of governance by limiting the number of their official vehicles when going around their official duties and the number of their personnel during trips.

“President Tinubu is pointing out the need to change from the old ways of doing things in Nigeria.

”Whenever we sit for FEC meetings, what the president is emphasising is the need to cut out many expenses which are not necessary in governance.

“Tinubu even came out with a circular on the cost of travelling and the number of vehicles. This might be seen as little, but they actually count” he said.

Idris disclosed that the president said the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development was renamed the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to tackle the issues of agriculture from various angles.

The minister said the insecurity issues were being tackled head-on by Mr Tinubu, adding that the issues were on ground even before his administration.

Policeman shoots man dead over N100 in Anambra

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In what has become an almost-daily occurrence, a policeman attached to Otuocha Area Command, Anambra East Local Government Area of Anambra State has shot dead a youth in the area.

Daily Post reports that the youth had a disagreement with the policemen at a checkpoint over N100, during which one of them quickly pulled the trigger and shot him dead.

A source from Aguleri in Anambra East Local Government Area, who shared a gory video of the youth’s dead



body, said the police squad involved was led by one Onyebuchi.

The incident happened on Saturday and has greatly unsettled the area as youths protested the action of the police.

It was, however, not clear if the argument that led to the killing of the youth was

payment of N100 bribe or collection of balance for bribe already paid, but police authorities confirmed the incident.

When contacted, the state police command’s spokesperson, SP Tochukwu Ikenga said the command was aware of it and had taken control.

He said: “The Police Officer involved has been identified as Inspector Sani Suleiman.

“He has been disarmed and detained for further investigations and internal disciplinary procedures.”

How I would have tackled Nigeria's problems – Atiku

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, has outlined what he would have done differently from President Bola Tinubu if he was the president.

Atiku, who was the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2023 election, highlighted many measures he would have put in place to tackle the numerous socio-economic problems confronting Nigeria.

The Nigeria's former number 2 man said this in a statement titled: "What We would Have Done Differently", which he signed and made available to newsmen in Abuja, on Sunday.

According to him, he wrote the piece in response to inquiries by a cross section of Nigerians on what he would have done differently from President Tinubu if he were to be President.

Atiku said, In general, "We would have planned better and more robustly: My journey of reforms would have benefited from more adequate preparations; more sufficient diagnostic assessment of the country's conditions; more consultations with key stakeholders; and better ideas for the final destination.

"We would have been guided by my robust reform agenda as encapsulated in 'My Covenant With Nigerians', my policy document that sought to, among others, protect our fragile economy against much deeper crisis by preventing business collapse; our document had spelt out policies that were consistent and coherent.

"We would have sequenced my reforms to achieve fiscal and monetary congruence. Unleashing reforms to determine an appropriate exchange rate, cost-reflective electricity tariff, and PMS price at one and the same time is certainly



an overkill. Add CBN's bullish money tightening spree. As importer of PMS and other petroleum products, removing subsidy on these products without a stable exchange rate would be counterproductive.

"We would have been more strategic in our response to reform fallout. We would not over-estimate the efficacy of the reform measures or underestimate the potential costs of reforms. I would recognise that reforms could sometimes fail. I would not underestimate the numerous delivery challenges, including the weaknesses of our institutions, and would work assiduously to correct the same. I would, as a responsible leader, pause, reflect, and where necessary, review implementation.

"I would have led by example. Any fiscal reform to improve liquidity and the management of our fiscal resources must first eliminate revenue leakages arising from governance, including the cost of running the government and the government procurement process. I (and members of my team) would not have lived in luxury while the citizens wallow in misery.

"We would have communicated more effectively with the people, with civility, tact, and diplomacy.

"Transparent communication with the public is essential to build public trust, which in turn is important to ensure that the public understands what the government is doing.

We would have consulted more with all stakeholders to learn, negotiate, adapt, and modify, among other policy goals.

"We would have demonstrated more empathy. My Reforms would wear a human face.

"We would have been more strategic in the design and implementation of reform fallout mitigating measures. I would not run a 'palliative economy' yet, we would have a robust social protection programme that will offer genuine support to the poor and vulnerable and provide immediate comfort and security to enable them to navigate the stormy seas.

We would have planned better and more robustly.

I would have led by example.

– Atiku

Anyone who claims to receive credit alert from prayer is a thief – Peter Obi

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Labour Party's 2023 presidential candidate, Peter Obi has said that anyone who claims to receive unexpected credit alerts through prayer alone should be scrutinized for potential financial misconduct.

In a recent appearance on the Honest Bunch podcast, Peter Obi emphasized the importance of productivity, saying that hard work, rather than miracles, is the path to success.

“God cannot bless someone who is sleeping,” he noted, emphasizing that genuine achievement comes from dedication and effort rather than relying solely on faith for financial gain.

He said, “God can bless hard work; God can bless productivity; God can bless an industry, but God cannot bless someone who is sleeping.

“Anyone who tells you that he got an alert from praying should be arrested. He has



stolen someone's money. Simple!”

Addressing the controversy surrounding tithing, Obi suggested that charitable works are forms of tithing.

“If you go to the hospital, it's tithing. If

you help poor people, it's tithing,” he said.

Additionally, Obi urged political leaders who prioritize financial gain to reconsider their career path, stating that leadership should focus on serving the people, not on personal gain.

He said, “Being a leader is not a money-making venture. You're not competing with Dangote. Dangote is a businessman. You should focus on what you were elected for.

“You must choose your lane; if you want to be in government, be in government and serve the people. If you want to be a businessman, go and trade.”

Obi had reportedly sparked mixed reactions among Nigerians with his recent suggestion to convert church vigils into night shifts to enhance productivity.

Gunmen kill man, two sons in Ebonyi

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Suspected gunmen have reportedly killed a man and his two sons on a farm in Amaeze, Ishiagu in the Ivo local government area of Ebonyi State.

According to Vanguard, the dead bodies were found at the farm in the early hours of yesterday following an intensive search when they did not return after the day farm.

The three unidentified family members were found dead with serious cuts and blood stains indicating brutal killing.

Ebonyi State Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Joshua Ukandu, when contacted, said that he was yet to confirm the incident from Ivo police division but the Chairman of Ivo local government, Chief Emmanuel Ajah, who confirmed the incident, said that he has beefed up security in the area.



Also, the member representing Ohaozara, Onicha and Ivo federal constituency in the House of Representatives, Nkemkanma Kama confirmed the killings.

He said: “I received with great shock news of the recent killings of some farmers in Amaeze community by some unscrupulous individuals, agents of evil, who delight in causing havoc and destruction in the society.

“I condemn in the strongest possible terms the lawless actions of these reckless individuals. Life is sacred.

“I call upon the security agencies, especially the Army and the Police, to fish out the perpetrators of this dastardly act and bring them to justice. I also call on the security agencies to beef up security around our communities, to enable our people to return to their farms, which are our main source of livelihood.

“Let me also plead with my people, not to take the law into their own hands, but allow the security agencies to handle this.

“While we stand united in this time of grief, the only way we can honour their memory is for justice to be served and for us to work toward lasting peace and security for all.”

Gov Oyebanji restates ban on use of school premises for social events

By Friday Omosola

Ekiti State Governor Biodun Oyebanji has reaffirmed the state government's ban on using public school premises for social functions, warning that any school head who violates this directive will face severe penalties.

In a statement posted on the government's Facebook page on Sunday, the governor emphasised that the ban aims to preserve and protect public school facilities, ensuring they remain conducive to learning.

Oyebanji lamented the damage inflicted on school facilities by individuals renting them for social events, such as burial ceremonies and wedding receptions.

He cautioned that allowing this trend to continue unchecked could undermine the functionality of public schools.

The governor made these remarks at his hometown of Ikogosi Ekiti on Saturday during the 2024 Ikogosi Day celebrations and the launch of an N1 billion Development Fund, which



attracted numerous high-profile dignitaries from across the nation.

In his address to the gathering, Governor Oyebanji stressed that his administration bears the critical responsibility of safeguarding the public's investment in education and infrastructure.

He stated that this measure is necessary to ensure that education is not sacrificed for the sake of political patronage.

Oyebanji also pointed out that the Ikogosi Day celebrations were held at a private venue rather than in a school setting, in

a school setting, in compliance with the ban on using public school premises.

He said: "We were to hold this function within the premises of Baptist Primary School, Ikogosi, which is a public primary school, but I said no, that this place, which is a private place should be used.

This is a signal to those who will be calling me and sending text messages that they want to use government schools for social functions that there is a ban on it and I am restating this here today.

"We must make our schools safe and well protected. I want to charge all the chairmen of the local governments and heads of schools to enforce this. You must make sure that the use of public schools for burial, weddings and other social functions is stopped."

NASU, SSANU suspend strike for one month

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The striking university unions, Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) and the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) have suspended their nationwide indefinite strike.

Last week, the two unions embarked on a nationwide strike for a month over withheld salaries.

In a joint statement on Sunday, the bodies said the suspended strike would take effect on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

The unions, in a statement signed by Prince Peters Adeyemi, General Secretary of NASU and Mohammed Ibrahim, National President of

SSANU, said, "The national leadership of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of NASU and SSANU acknowledges and commends our members in the universities and inter-university centres for their unwavering resolve, unrelenting determination and steadfast support for the ongoing strike action.

"You will recall that the ongoing strike action foisted on us commenced on Monday, October 28, 2024, as a result of government's insensitivity to the plights of our members in respect of our legitimate demands.

"During this industrial struggle, we have had several extensive and exhaustive deliberations with the officials of the Federal Government of Nigeria, including the new Minister of Education,

the outgoing Minister of State for Education, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education, the Accountant-General of the Federation and the leadership of the Department of State Services.

"These high-level engagements culminated in extracting an irrevocable commitment from the Federal Government that the two months of the four months withheld salaries would be paid in staggered form, one month by the end of October 2024 (which has largely been done), then the second month is to be paid by the end of November 2024.

Nigerians blast Dangote refinery over fuel price

By Dave Oludare Oso

Condemnations have continued to come the way of Dangote Refinery over its refusal to reveal the price of its Premium Motor Spirit (Petrol) price months after the company began fuel distribution.

This comes after Dangote Group on Saturday, through its official X account, denied claims by petroleum marketers that Dangote PMS is sold between N1,115 and N1,028 per litre.

National Assistant Secretary of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), Yakubu Suleiman, said on Friday, during an interview with Arise Television, that the price of Dangote Petrol was higher than alternative sources.

Suleiman said that the Dangote petrol price is between N1,115 and N1,028 per litre.

However, Dangote described petrol marketers' claims as 'fake news'.

In reaction Nigerians have demanded transparency and openness on the refinery's fuel price template.

Reacting on Saturday, Nigerians on X told Dangote Refinery to reveal its fuel price rather than operating in secrecy.

@Olurunwababs: "It is laughable to debunk a claim as fake, then refuse to disclose how much it is to buy from Dangote



"Dangote Refinery should be transparent about its fuel price.

"What DR needs to do is tell us how much they sell fuel. That way, we will have a full picture of what is going on!"

@Abdul_A_Bello: "Just tell us how much you are selling from your depot."

@Abbaaudu: "Dangote's reluctance to publicly disclose the price of his petroleum products raises questions. If his refinery produces at a lower cost, why not transparently announce prices to attract local buyers and reduce imports? The secrecy fuels speculation about potential market dominance or unseen factors at play.

"Just tell us the price! A simple and straightforward question, he wrote on his X account."

Recall that upon the lifting of Dangote Petrol on September 15 2024, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited had disclosed that it bought fuel at the 650,000 barrels per day Lagos-based refinery at N898 per litre, however Dangote refuted the claim, though it failed to disclose the exact figure.

This comes as Nigerians struggle to buy petrol at between N1025 and N1300 per litre nationwide amid incessant petrol price hikes in the last few months.

Kwara Govt inspects ongoing water projects in Idi-ogede, others

By Friday Omosola

The Kwara State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to adhering to specifications and ensuring the timely completion of forty water and simple smart toilet projects across various communities in the state.

During visits to the communities benefiting from these recently approved rural water and sanitation initiatives, the Senior Special Assistant on Community Development to the Kwara State Governor, Lawal Olohungbebe, offered this reassurance.

Among the communities visited were Idi-Ogede, Idi-Ose Aribidesi, Ganmo, and Osunte, spanning the Ilorin West, Ilorin South, Ifelodun, and Offa local government areas.

Olohungbebe was welcomed at Idi-Ogede by the Magaji of Idi-Ogede, Alhaji AbdulRazaq AbdulKareem, along with the Chairman of the Community Project Management Committee (CPMC).

He characterised the water and smart toilet projects as crucial interventions designed to tackle rural water supply



challenges and combat open defecation.

He stated, “The administration led by AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq is dedicated to enhancing community engagement through community-based organizations (CBOs) and ensuring that the benefits of infrastructural development reach every community.”

“Community engagement is very important in achieving an all-inclusive and sustainable development. Therefore, the present administration is mindful of the fact that projects are better appreciated and adequately maintained when people in the community are involved at every

stage. Given this, the government is assuring you of its continued partnership with the CBOs while addressing community needs”, he added.

In response, Salaudeen Abubakar, a member of the Community Project Monitoring Committee (CPMC) from Idi-Ogede, emphasised that the water project was strategically located and praised the government for responding to the community’s needs.

At Ganmo, the installation of a solar-powered motorized borehole and smart toilet was strategically placed near the market.

Azeez Feyishara, the CPMC representative, explained that this decision aimed to tackle the community’s lack of functional public toilets with running water.

“I inspected the dualisation and overhead bridges privately this week. With opinions from the Nigerian Society of Engineers and experts who have worked on similar flyovers all over the world, I am proud of the quality of the job done by our local engineers”, the state governor noted.

Troops capture most wanted terrorist, Dogo, IPOB commanders

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

One of the most wanted terrorist leaders in the North-West known as Abubakar Bawa Ibrahim, better known as Habu Dogo who is responsible for killings and kidnappings in Sokoto State have been captured by troops conducting counter-insurgency operations.

The Defence Headquarters (DHQ), disclosed through the Director of Defence Media Operations, Major-General Edward Buba yesterday that Habu Dogo was arrested in Rumji Village, Illela Local Government Area, LGA, of the state.

Buba said: “He (Habu Dogo) is a

wanted terrorist on the watchlist of security agencies both in Nigeria and in the Niger Republic because of the cross-border nature of his activities.”

The media officer added that troops in the South-East arrested seven IPOB /ESN commanders and operatives during the week.

Those arrested were identified as Dr Nnamdi Chukwudoze and Chigozie Ezetoha (aka Chapet) arrested in Ihiala LGA of Anambra State, Mrs Ngozi Chukwuka and Mr Oyekachi Ohia arrested in Umuahia South LGA of Abia State.

Others are Mr Ifeanyi Eze, Mr Augustine

Udemba, Mr Onyedikachi Udemba and Elijah Mmaduiepeya Obumneke.

Major-General Buba disclosed that during operations across the country, 187 terrorists were neutralized while 311 other criminal elements including perpetrators of oil theft were arrested.

Also, 147 kidnapped victims were said to have been rescued.



NDLEA intercepts N4.4bn cocaine inside aircraft at Lagos airport

By Dave Oludare Oso

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency have busted an international drug syndicate operating between Brazil Ethiopia and Nigeria by thwarting a bid to smuggle 845 wraps of cocaine weighing 18.72 kilograms into Lagos.

The agency disclosed that the consignments were recovered in an operation at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Ikeja.

Femi Babafemi, spokesman of NDLEA said, “The drug consignments worth four billion four hundred and ninety-two million eight hundred thousand Naira (N4,492,800,000) in street value were recovered from two lavatories of an Ethiopian Airlines aircraft during the post landing cleaning of the cabin of flight ET900 from Addis Ababa to Lagos on Tuesday 29th October 2024.

“The illicit drug consignments were wrapped in nine polythene bags and hidden in the waste collectors in the two rear lavatories of the aircraft, from where they were recovered after the MMIA Strategic Command of NDLEA was alerted about the strange objects.

“No fewer than 30 suspects have so far been grilled in connection with the seizure.

“Investigations revealed that the seized drugs were conveyed from Brazil to Ethiopia through ingestion and excreted in Addis Ababa by a set of couriers while some other traffickers picked them up and attempted to smuggle them into Nigeria through the Lagos airport before their attempt was frustrated with the cooperation of the airline’s authorities and other airport stakeholders.

“In the same vein, attempts by some drug trafficking syndicates to export 2.928kg cocaine, cannabis and



and tramadol 225mg concealed in body cream containers, and pieces of art work to Australia, United Arab Emirate and United Kingdom through some courier companies in Lagos were also blocked by NDLEA officers of the Directorate of Operations and General Investigation, DOGI, on Monday 28th October.

“At the Apapa seaport in Lagos, NDLEA operatives on Tuesday 29th October intercepted 754,000 pills of tapentadol and acetaminophen 225mg worth five hundred and twenty-five million Naira (N525,000,000) in a targeted and watch-listed container from India during a joint examination with men of Customs Service and other security agencies.”

In the FCT, a suspect Mujahid Hamisu, 24, was arrested with 147,000 pills of tramadol concealed in black nylon bags containing plumbing materials along Kwali-Gwagwalada Abuja expressway on his way from Onitsha, Anambra State on Saturday 2nd November, 2024.

Another suspect, Seun Abimbola, 47, was nabbed by NDLEA operatives same day with 512 grams of methamphetamine during a raid operation at Giri junction area of the FCT.

NDLEA officers on patrol along Kabba- Obajana highway arrested Mercy Ameh, 28, in a commercial bus travelling from Lagos to Abuja while a search of her luggage led to the recovery of fake Naira notes worth four million, three hundred and fifty-three thousand, two hundred Naira (₦4,353,200).

Another suspect Shaibu Dahiru, 27, was nabbed in a vehicle coming from Lagos to Katsina along Lokoja- Okene- Abuja road on Thursday 30th October with 68 blocks of cannabis weighing 27.400kg.

A notorious drug dealer Usman Abba (alias Timaya) who has been on the watchlist of the Katsina state command of NDLEA was on Wednesday 30th October arrested at Liberty Hotel, Kofar Kaura with consignments of Arizona, a strain of cannabis.

Same day, NDLEA operatives in Adamawa arrested a suspect Augustine Dike, 31, with 50.3 grams of methamphetamine at Quarisa Hotel, Jimeta.

Abure joins world leaders to observe US presidential election

By Friday Omosola

Labour Party National Chairman Julius Abure has joined other global political leaders, at the invitation of the United States government, to observe the U.S. presidential election.

This information was disclosed by Obiora Ifoh, the party's National Publicity Secretary, in a statement.

The stage is set for the November 5, 2024, election, with Vice President Kamala Harris, representing the Democratic Party, and former President Donald Trump, representing the Republican Party, locked in a close race to the finish.

In a message shared on his verified Twitter handle, Abure announced, "I have just arrived in Washington, D.C., at the invitation of the U.S. Government to join other political parties and world leaders in participating in a series of activities leading up to the election, as well as to observe the election itself.

"Hopefully, the experience gathered will help shape and reshape election processes in Nigeria. I'll keep all my

followers and Labour Party members informed of developments."

Additionally, Ifoh stated that Seray Jah, the Country Director for The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Nigeria, had previously sent an invitation letter to Abure.

Ifoh said the letter read: "I am writing to invite you to participate in the 2024 IFES United States Election Program (USEP), which will take place from Sunday, November 3 to Wednesday, November 6 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, DC.

"Every U.S. Presidential Election, IFES hosts its U.S. Election Program, gathering electoral stakeholders from around the world to learn firsthand about the American election process and discuss democracy and elections from comparative international perspectives—the 2016 Election Program — the last in-person Program — featured 550 participants from 90 countries.

"The Program features a series of exchanges ahead of election day on key concepts and issues impacting elections

and germane to elections in every country, specifically focusing on the U.S. case.

Participants learn about the decentralized U.S. election experience, election dispute resolution and the role of the Federal Election Commission, the rights of states to conduct elections per their systems and regulations, and the relationship between campaigns, election authorities, candidates, media, and the voters.

"On election day, participants tour polling Stations across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia to see how neighbouring territories conduct their elections using different technology and procedures.

"The event is capped off by an election night event and a post-election day debrief.

"IFES strongly believes that the U.S. Election Program represents a valuable opportunity for you to gain knowledge and insights on effective party governance, campaign strategies, internal party democracy, inter/intra-party dispute resolutions, and develop skills to improve their parties' electoral performance and engagement with voters.

"Through this Program, you will explore these vital topics, fostering a deeper understanding of the U.S. electoral system and its comparative experiences while interacting with peers worldwide."



Suspected killer of three family members in our custody – DCI Kenya

By **Helen Okechukwu**

The Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Kenya has announced that the suspected killer of a mother, her daughter, and her 12-year-old niece has been apprehended and is awaiting charges in court tomorrow.

This development follows an appeal from homicide detectives to the public to keep a watch over the alleged killer, identified as Hashim Dagane Muhumed.

The team of detectives describes the suspect's actions as monstrous, labeling him the prime suspect.

The identities of the three murder suspects were not disclosed

Investigations revealed that the 24-year-old alleged killer was captured on CCTV as he picked up the victims on

October 21 in a Nissan Note vehicle with the registration number KDQ 718Y, before their bodies were discovered.

Further details indicated that the vehicle was left abandoned at Wakulima Market near the ENA Coach stage and was later moved to the DCI Headquarters for forensic examination.

Once the forensic examination was completed, evidence was linked to the suspect, Muhumed.

The DCI stated, "With one suspect in custody and assisting in the investigation, we appeal to anyone who may have information that could assist in the arrest of Hashim Dagane Muhumed to #FichuakwaDCI by calling our toll-free hotline at 0800 722 203 or reporting to any police station."

The New Daily Prime learned that a manhunt was launched for the suspect following the announcement of his arrest.

The DCI stated, "Muhumed is currently in police custody, where he is undergoing processing ahead of his arraignment scheduled for tomorrow at the Makadara Chief Magistrates Court."

Security personnel emphasized their commitment to ensuring that justice is served for the victims and their grieving families.



Police arrest 130 Chinese, Malaysians, others in Abuja

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Nigeria Police Force has arrested 130 suspects comprising 113 foreign nationals for their alleged involvement in high-level cybercrimes, hacking, and activities that threaten national security.

The suspects consist of 87 males and 26 females, primarily of Chinese and Malaysian origin, and their 17 Nigerian collaborators, made up of four males and 13 females.

Disclosing this in Abuja on Sunday, Force Public Relations Officer, ACP Muiyiwa Adejobi, in a statement said the operation was conducted at the Police Zonal Command headquarters, Zone 7 led by AIG Benneth Igweh and the CP in charge NPF National Cybercrimes Centre, CP Ifeanyi Henry Uche.

The statement said, "This strategic operation was conducted through a



coordinated raid on a building at the Next Cash and Carry area of Jahi, Abuja, where the suspects were reportedly using computers and other sophisticated devices to facilitate criminal activities.

"The operation which was led by the Assistant Inspector-General of Police for Zone 7 Headquarters, Abuja, AIG Benneth Igweh, on Saturday, 3rd November 2024, comprised officers of the Nigeria Police Force Zone 7 Command Abuja and the National Cyber Crime Centre (NPF-NCCC).

"We are investigating the matter and scientifically analysing the exhibits recovered from them.

"The suspects will be charged to court upon conclusion of our investigations.

"We will update the public on the outcomes of our investigations as and when due."

Ondo Poll: PDP members defect to APC

Three members of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Ondo State have defected to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) ahead of the November 16 governorship election.

Ebenezer Adeniyani, Chief Press Secretary to Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday.

He revealed that the trio joined the APC during Governor Aiyedatiwa's campaign tour in Ikare Akoko and other communities on Saturday.

According to the statement, Stephen Olemija, a former House of Representatives member for Akoko North East/North West Federal Constituency; Lekan Bada, former Chairman of Akoko North East and the PDP candidate in the recent House of Reps by-election for the constituency; and PDP leader Momoh Mufu, popularly known as Apongan, defected to the APC.

The governor, who is the APC flagbearer in the upcoming election, personally received the defectors.

By Friday Omosola



Meanwhile, Governor Aiyedatiwa, along with his deputy and running mate, Dr. Olayide Adelami, visited Iboropa, Akunnu, and Ikare Akoko, where they addressed residents and engaged with traditional rulers.

The governor emphasised the overwhelming support from these communities as a testament to the positive impact of his administration in Ondo State.

At Ikare Akoko, the local government headquarters, Governor Aiyedatiwa received royal blessings from the

Olukare of Ikare, Oba Akadiri Momoh, and the Owa-Ale of Iyometa, Ikare, Oba Adeleke Adegbite.

Expressing gratitude for the warm reception and royal blessings, Governor Aiyedatiwa acknowledged the monarchs' role in his emergence as the APC flagbearer, attributing his success in the primaries to their prayers and support.

In response to the royal fathers' requests, the governor assured them that their needs would be integrated into the 2025 budget, reaffirming the government's commitment to equitable development across the state.

"I am truly humbled by the incredible show of support from the people of Ikare. Your commitment to our vision for a better Ondo State fills me with immense pride. Ikare has always been a beacon of progress, and your loyalty reassures us that our efforts are being recognised and valued."

Army honours 26 officers at 2024 TRADOC Merit Award

By Helen Okechukwu



The Nigerian Army has honoured 26 officers with excellence at the fourth annual Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) merit award held in November 1 for passing their promotional examination.

The event aims to celebrate and recognise academic excellence and outstanding performance among its officers.

In a notice shared on Sunday, the Nigerian Army said the event was held at the newly inaugurated Lieutenant General TA Lagbaja Multipurpose Hall at the Minna Military Cantonment.

Also, the Nigerian Army Division was awarded for showcasing exceptional performance in its division training schools.

The Acting Chief of Army Staff (Ag COAS), Major General Olufemi Oluyede was represented by Major General Obinna Ajunwa, Director-General of the Nigerian Army Heritage

and Future Centre (NAHFC), who noted the significance of the Merit Award.

Ajunwa commended the outstanding officers, stating that the initiative aims to enhance professionalism across the Nigerian Army.

Expressing gratitude to President Bola Tinubu, Major Ajunwa thanked him for his continued support and commended Major General Kevin Aligbe, Commander of TRADOC NA, for the programme's success.

During the welcome speech, Major General Aligbe reflected on the significance of the initiative introduced in 2021, which focuses on promoting administrative efficiency and operational effectiveness in the Nigerian Army.

In the notices signed by Sani Uba, Lieutenant Colonel and Acting Deputy Director Army Public Relations, Major General Aligbe said, "TRADOC NA's rigorous evaluations and assessments have led to significant improvements in

training quality across Nigerian Army schools, formations, and units. The ceremony also served as an opportunity to recognise distinguished individuals who have contributed to the development of the command."

He hailed the COAS for the successful completion of the multi-purpose hall used during the programme including the provision of material and financial contributions to TRADOC NA.

Uba added, "The Nigerian Army's commitment to community welfare and civil-military cooperation was also underscored through the TRADOC NA Educational Support Programme. As part of this initiative, over 33,000 educational materials, including exercise books and writing supplies, were distributed to more than 7,000 children across four schools within the Minna Military Cantonment."

CAF ruling: Libyan govt move against Nigerian workers

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The recent ruling by the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Disciplinary Board against the Libya Football Federation (LFF), has heightened tensions between Libyans and Nigerians, with several Libyan media platforms calling for punitive measures against Nigerian workers in the country.

The LFF was fined \$50,000 by the CAF Disciplinary Board, who also awarded a 3-0 forfeit victory to Nigeria.

This decision stemmed from an incident in which the Nigerian team, the Super Eagles, faced prolonged detainment at Al Abraq Airport, delaying their AFCON 2025 qualifying match.

Citing the LFF's failure to meet security and logistical obligations, CAF granted Nigeria three points in their qualification campaign.

In response, Libyan media outlets have voiced frustration, urging the

government to act against undocumented Nigerian workers.

On Sunday, the Libyan blog Libya News Today 1 published a post advocating for the arrest of Nigerian workers without proper documentation, proposing a \$500 fine and additional taxes from those without residence permits.

Another Libyan media outlet, Libya INF.TV, echoed these sentiments, also urging the arrest of undocumented Nigerians and suggesting that fines should be deducted from their earnings.

Amid the growing tension, a Nigerian worker who goes by the name Omo Oba Legba described an escalation of the situation.

In a Facebook video on Wednesday, he stated, "My Arab master, who is a policeman, just called me now and told me not to go out to buy anything because they have started arresting Nigerians in Libya. I asked him, 'What about those

with Libyan passports?' But he said they aren't considering passports and that anyone who is Nigerian will be arrested. That's why I decided to alert our people so they know how far this issue has gone."

The crackdown continued to draw reactions, with Libya INF.TV sharing a video on Thursday in which a Nigerian man pleaded with Libyan authorities.

"Football has nothing to do with us. If you want to catch them, catch them when they come here. Leave us out of this. And to the Nigerian team, I don't know what you're thinking, coming here to play football with the Libyan people. You don't have sense. Please, Libyan police, please."



Femi Adebayo wins best supporting actor at AMAA

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Dr Raymond Anyiam-Osigwe, the Chief Executive Officer of the prestigious Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA), expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the team whose unwavering dedication and hard work brought the award ceremony to fruition.

Their efforts played a crucial role in celebrating the vibrant and dynamic world of African cinema during this momentous event.

The spotlight shone brightly on Nollywood actor Femi Adebayo, who was honoured with the accolade for Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his remarkable performance in the historical thriller, "Jagun Jagun."

The 20th edition of the Africa Movie Academy Awards took place on a splendid Saturday night in Lagos, and Adebayo's portrayal in this film captivated both audiences and critics alike.

"Jagun Jagun" not only earned Adebayo personal recognition but also stood out in the competition among the best of African cinema, garnering an impressive total of seven nominations.

This historical thriller reflects the depth and richness of African storytelling and showcases the incredible talent present within the industry.

In addition to Adebayo's win, the film also garnered accolades for its outstanding visual effects and makeup, securing the Achievement Award in these categories.

This recognition highlights the exceptional level of craftsmanship and creative ingenuity that went into the film's production, further solidifying its status as a significant contribution to Nollywood and the broader African film landscape.



The AMAA serves as a beacon for filmmakers, actors, and creatives across Africa, encouraging them to continue pushing boundaries and telling powerful stories that resonate with audiences.

As the curtain fell on this year's ceremony, the excitement around African cinema's future remained palpable, with Femi Adebayo and "Jagun Jagun" leading the charge toward even greater achievements.

Actress Elsie Abang won the 'Best Actress in Supporting Role' in "KIPKEMBOI", while Michell Lemuya emerged the 'Best Young Promising Actor' in "NAWI".

Also, Zolisa Xaluva won 'Best Actor in Leading Role' in "The Queenstown King", while Jackie Appiah Emery 'Best Actress in Leading Role' in "Red Carpet".

The award for best feature film by a director went to "Letters to Goddo", by Harry Bentil, and Jahmil X.T Qubeka won the best director in "The Queenstown Kings".

Souleymane Cissé from Mali, Nacer Khemir from Tunisia and Haile Gerima from Ethiopia bagged lifetime achievement awards.

Alain Gomis from Senegal and Gabon as well as Tsitsi Dangarembga from Zimbabwe won special recognition awards.

"The Weekend" bagged the AMAA Best Film award as it also clinched the Achievement Award in Screenplay, Achievement Award in Cinematography and the National Film and Video Censors Board Award for best Nigerian film.

"Out of Bound" won the achievement award in Production, "Boda Love" clinched the achievement award in Soundtrack, "Mai Martaba" bagged the achievement award in Costume Design while "Queenstown King" attracted the achievement award in sound.

Oluwadolarz proposes to girlfriend Ife Luv

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian content creator Oluwadolarz has taken a monumental step in his relationship by proposing to his longtime girlfriend, Ife Luv.

The memorable engagement unfolded late in the evening of November 1, 2024, marking a significant milestone for the couple and delighting their followers on social media.

The intimate moment, filled with love and excitement, was artistically captured by actor Abayomi Alvin, who shared a video of the enchanting proposal on his Instagram page.

The couple chose a vibrant location for this momentous occasion the Secret Palace nightclub in Lagos, a venue known for its lively atmosphere and electric ambience.

As the night progressed, the atmosphere inside the nightclub became charged with anticipation.

The celebratory vibe was amplified when the big screen in the venue displayed the question that many dream of hearing, "Will You Marry Me?" It was an unexpected yet romantic gesture that lit up the room and caught Ife Luv by surprise.

The emotional moment was palpable as friends and onlookers celebrated the couple's affection for one another.

With bated breath from the audience, Oluwadolarz knelt on one knee, presenting a stunning engagement ring that sparkled under the colourful lights of the nightclub.

The sheer joy of Ife Luv was unmistakable as tears of happiness welled up in her eyes. Her heartfelt reaction spoke volumes about the love and commitment they share, and it was a moment destined to be remembered for years to come.



Daily Post in its report, stated that Oluwadolarz took to his Instagram stories to share the joyous news with his legions of fans and followers.

He posted a captivating picture showcasing the ring adorning Ife Luv's finger, coupled with the heartfelt caption, "She accepted."

This simple yet profound statement resonated with many, further solidifying the public's admiration for the couple.

Their engagement has not only united them in the eyes of their friends and family but has also garnered a wave of congratulatory messages from fans who have followed their journey as a couple.

As influencers in the digital space, both Oluwadolarz and Ife Luv have cultivated a strong community online, leading to a flood of affectionate comments and reactions.

The proposal and engagement are undoubtedly a testament to their deep-rooted love and companionship, which have flourished over the years.

Many fans are now eagerly anticipating what the future holds for the couple, who have become a beloved pair within the Nigerian entertainment landscape.

As they embark on this new chapter of their lives together, both Oluwadolarz and Ife Luv have expressed their excitement for the journey ahead.

Their story serves as a reminder of love's enduring power, especially in an era where social media often showcases only the glittering highlights of relationships.

One can only imagine the beautiful moments that lie ahead as they plan their future together, and many are hopeful for a glimpse of their wedding festivities once they decide to take that next leap.

For now, fans and well-wishers can celebrate this joyous occasion and reflect on the bond that Oluwadolarz and Ife Luv share an inspiring love story that continues to unfold before our very eyes.

Their romance shines brightly, proving that true love remains a timeless force, bringing a little more sunshine into the lives of everyone who witnesses their journey.

BBNaija's Tacha Purchases New Football Club

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Anita Natacha Akide, widely recognized as Tacha, famed for her appearance on the Big Brother Naija (BBNaija) reality show has taken a significant step into the world of sports by becoming a football club owner in Nigeria.

This momentous announcement was made public by the Lagos Liga on Saturday, sparking celebrations among her fans and inspiring aspiring athletes.

The news, which has quickly gone viral across social media platforms, was shared via a post on Lagos Liga's official X handle.

The post read: "New Lagos Liga club owner alert: Anita Natacha Akide. In short, the inimitable TACHA! @Symply_Tacha. A formal announcement to follow. Tacha FC is here."

This statement reflects an electric enthusiasm for the latest addition to Nigeria's burgeoning football scene.

Tacha's entrance into the realm of sports club ownership not only highlights her entrepreneurial spirit but also reinforces the growing trend of celebrities owning football clubs in Nigeria.

The movement has gained considerable momentum recently, with prominent figures from the entertainment industry breaking into the sports domain.

This blend of entertainment and sports provides an intriguing dynamic that has caught the attention of both football fans and entertainment followers.

Joining Tacha in this exciting new venture are other influential personalities in Nigeria's music and entertainment industry, such as the



internationally acclaimed artist Burna Boy and renowned music producer Don Jazzy.

These individuals serve as a beacon of inspiration for many young talents, showcasing the potential that exists at the intersection of sports and entertainment.

For Tacha, this new chapter comes on the heels of her rising fame and influence since leaving the BBNaija house.

Known for her vibrant personality and unwavering determination, she has increasingly engaged with her fan base, affectionately referred to as the "Titans."

Her transition into football club ownership will likely further strengthen her connection to her followers, who undoubtedly will take immense pride in her achievements.

The establishment of Tacha FC is a testament to her ambition and desire to make a mark beyond reality television.

It represents not only an opportunity to nurture sporting talents but also a commitment to contributing positively to Nigeria's football landscape.

The league has witnessed a surge in popularity, and with Tacha's involvement, there is an expectation of heightened interest and support for the sport within the community.

As the formal announcement of Tacha FC looms on the horizon, anticipation builds among fans eager for details regarding the club's vision, objectives, and future endeavours.

The Nigerian football community is keen to see how Tacha, known for her strong personality, will navigate this new role and what innovative strategies she might implement to elevate her club's status.

Only time will tell what Tacha will bring to the table as a football club owner. However, one thing is certain: her passion for sports and her drive to succeed will play a vital role in her journey.

As she embarks on this promising venture, Tacha serves as an encouragement for countless young individuals to follow their dreams, regardless of the field they choose to pursue.

May Edochie reveals why she declined lucrative offers

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

May Edochie, the estranged wife of popular Nollywood actor Yul Edochie, has shared insightful details about her journey in the Nigerian film industry, particularly her reasons for declining numerous highly lucrative movie roles.

In a recent interview with renowned comedian and actor AY Makun, May opened up about her interactions with industry professionals, including the acclaimed actress and producer Omoni Oboli.

Despite the immense opportunities that have come her way, May has steadfastly chosen to walk away from acting, citing personal principles and a desire to carve her path away from the glitz and glamour of the film set.

Omoni Oboli, an established figure in the Nollywood scene, was among the individuals who encouraged May to take on a role, expressing her belief in May's talent.

Yet, in a display of conviction, May felt an unwavering need to stay true to herself. "Omoni said she doesn't know how I am going to do it, I can't tell her No," May recalled, illustrating the encouragement she received.

However, she countered, insisting that for the past three years, she has been receiving scripts and offers to participate in films, many of which came with enticing financial incentives.

May went on to divulge the steady stream of offers she has received from producers and directors in the industry. "You know, producers have been calling, directors have been calling, some familiar faces have called, and I have rejected everything," she stated with a resolute tone. "I said I didn't want to be an actor or actress." This emphatic stance reflects her strong commitment to pursuing her aspirations outside of acting.

The decision to decline these offers stems from her multifaceted ambitions. May articulated her perspective by stating, "I know that I am this kind of jack of all

master of all kinds, type of person. There are a whole lot of things I can do if I set my mind on it."

This statement underscores her belief that her talents and interests extend beyond acting—an acknowledgement of her diverse capabilities and ambitions.

In an industry often defined by its competitive nature and the allure of fame, May's refusal to conform to conventional expectations speaks volumes about her character and determination.

She emphasizes the importance of self-direction and authenticity in pursuing one's passion rather than succumbing to external pressures and expectations.

As a mother and a public figure, May Edochie's choice to prioritize her values over immediate financial gain serves as an inspiring narrative for many.

Moreover, Davido's journey exemplifies the transformative power of music as a bridge among various cultures.



'My Daddy' phrase for Pastors is a Red Flag- Leo DaSilva

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Leo DaSilva, a well-known personality from the world of reality television, has voiced his apprehensions regarding the use of familial descriptors such as "daddy," "spiritual father," and "father in the Lord" when addressing pastors.

DaSilva's remarks resonate with a growing sentiment among many who believe spiritual authority should be approached with a level of critical discernment.

DaSilva articulated his thoughts on the popular social media platform X, where he declared, "Referring to your pastor as 'My Daddy,' 'My Spiritual Daddy,' or 'My Father in the Lord' raises a red flag."

His emphatic statement highlights a concern that many religious leaders may enjoy undue reverence, potentially leading followers to unintentionally conflate spiritual guidance with personal relationships more akin to familial ties.

Drawing on his educational background, DaSilva pointed out the significance of educating oneself about faith and spirituality.

He revealed that he pursued a two-year theological education not to become a pastor, but rather to deepen his comprehension of the Word of God.

This insight into his journey underscores the importance of understanding the tenets of one's beliefs rather than merely accepting teachings at face value.

DaSilva elaborated in his post, saying, "If you claim to love God, it stands to reason that you should strive to learn about God independently."

This assertion invites reflection, suggesting that genuine affection for



one's faith necessitates active participation in one's spiritual journey.

"It's akin to claiming you love someone whom you barely know," he continued, encouraging people not to adopt a passive stance in their spiritual lives.

In an era marked by rapid dissemination of information, individuals must engage thoughtfully with their beliefs and question the sources of guidance they follow.

DaSilva's comments resonate deeply, particularly as they challenge the all-too-common reliance on charismatic leaders and teachings without scrutiny.

Moreover, the use of terms like "daddy" and "spiritual father" can lead to a concerning degree of reverence and unquestioning loyalty.

In some religious circles, this kind of language can create an environment

where critical thought and personal discernment are discouraged, fostering an atmosphere of blind faith rather than informed belief.

DaSilva's perspective underscores the necessity for individuals to maintain a sense of autonomy in their spiritual exploration.

His advocacy for personal responsibility in matters of faith serves as a crucial reminder that each individual's relationship with God should be nurtured through personal inquiry and a willingness to seek knowledge.

"Don't be a sheep to everything," he warned, emphasizing the importance of critical thinking and personal agency in spiritual matters.

UK Govt plans tourist tax for hotels, BnBs in England

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi
LONDON

The UK government is considering granting local councils the power to impose a tourist levy on hotels and Bed and Breakfast (BnB) stays. Under the proposed plan, councils would have the authority to charge staycation visitors between £1 and £2 per person, per night. This initiative, spearheaded by Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner and her Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government, reflects growing pressures from local leaders to address the impact of tourism on communities.

The anticipated measure, detailed in the government's upcoming devolution white paper, would be part of a broader effort to allow regional authorities more financial flexibility and autonomy. Proponents argue that this tax could help fund essential services, infrastructure improvements, and environmental conservation in areas heavily frequented by tourists. Although local councils in England currently lack the legal authority to enforce a tourism tax, some regions have managed to implement similar levies through creative legal solutions.

This move would bring England more in line with Scotland, where tourism tax powers were introduced earlier this year. Wales, too, is planning a similar initiative. Devolved mayors and other regional leaders have reportedly lobbied hard for this change, viewing it as a necessary step to bolster local budgets and improve community resources. According to one official involved in the discussions, the proposal is less about "if" and more about "when" such a tax will be implemented.

While the notion of a tourist tax may sound like a deterrent for some, it's generally not designed to discourage tourism. Instead, the funds raised are



intended to support areas that experience high visitor traffic, which can place a strain on public facilities, roads, and environmental resources. Overcrowded tourist destinations might see a slight reduction in numbers as a result, but any decline would likely be minor and, in some cases, even welcomed.

Manchester has already set a precedent in England, introducing a £1 per night visitor levy in 2023 to bolster its marketing efforts and attract more tourists. The funds collected are reinvested into city events and promotional campaigns. Similarly, in Bournemouth, local officials have expressed interest in a tourism tax, with plans to reinvest the proceeds into events like the town's popular air show and initiatives aimed at enhancing its appeal as a tourist destination.

For some tourism hotspots, the ability to raise funds directly from visitors is seen as essential for sustaining the quality of life for residents and maintaining a

positive experience for future tourists. Over time, such funds could prove crucial in supporting public services, maintaining infrastructure, and protecting natural landscapes that are vulnerable to the wear and tear of high tourist volumes.

While the plan has yet to be formally announced, its inclusion in the government's upcoming white paper suggests it's on the horizon. When asked for comment, the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government did not deny the possibility of this new power for councils, signaling that the move could soon be reality.

Critics, however, argue that the addition of such levies could burden travelers and deter staycations within England.

Lil Wayne honoured with Key to the City at Lil Weezyana Fest 2024

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

New Orleans is set to roll out the red carpet this weekend for one of hip-hop's most influential figures, Lil Wayne, as he is honoured at the much-anticipated Lil Weezyana Fest 2024.

This annual event serves as a vibrant celebration of not only the artist's prolific career but also his deep-rooted contributions to the community of New Orleans.

Founded by Lil Wayne in 2015 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the festival was born out of a heartfelt desire to give back to a city that has shaped his life and artistry.

Over the past several years, Lil Weezyana Fest has transformed from a local gathering into a major cultural phenomenon, shining a spotlight on New Orleans' dynamic music scene and its indomitable community spirit.

The festival exemplifies the essence of what makes this city extraordinary: the rich tapestry of diverse musical genres and the unwavering resilience of its people, both of which are encapsulated in Lil Wayne's illustrious body of work. "Headlining the Festival" Lil Wayne,



affectionately known as "Weezy," has reached monumental heights in the realm of hip-hop over his two-decade career.

He has consistently pushed the boundaries of musical innovation, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.

This Saturday, he will take centre stage at the Smoothie King Center, where fans will gather to witness an electrifying performance from the artist.

This year's festival promises an unforgettable lineup, featuring a much-anticipated reunion of the legendary Hot Boys, including Juvenile, BG, and Turk, who have all made significant contributions to Southern hip-hop.

Their appearance not only adds excitement to the event but also serves as a nostalgic nod to the camaraderie and collaborative spirit that defined an era of hip-hop that many fans hold dear.

Additionally, audiences can look forward to guest performances from renowned artists Mannie Fresh and Rob49, both of whom are celebrated figures in the music scene.

This year's lineup is a testament to the festival's continued dedication to showcasing the talents of artists from New Orleans while highlighting the profound influence they have had on the cultural landscape of hip-hop. "An Honor Long Overdue" In a heartfelt tribute to his achievements and deep ties to the city, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell will present Lil Wayne with the prestigious Key to the City.

Former UK military base to be sold at auction

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A former army reserve centre and caretakers' house will go up for auction as potential residential properties.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is to sell the former military base in London Road, Camberley at an auction on 7 November, with a guide price of £850,000.

A MoD spokesperson said the army reserve centre, where reserve soldiers worked and trained, was "surplus to defence requirements" and was part of the ministry's strategy to reduce its estate.



Promoted as a potential development site for new homes, the main building is made up of a large hall, six rooms, a kitchen, two toilets and a mezzanine with two additional rooms.

The included caretakers' house also has four bedrooms, two reception rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom.

The centre has been on the MoD's list of "disposal" properties since at least 2018, according to a freedom of information request submitted that year.

In May 2023, the centre was registered on a website that allowed public bodies, such as councils, to register their interest in government property and land, called Electronic Property Information Mapping Service (ePIMS).

In June 2024, property consultants

Tornadoes injure 6, cause power outages in Oklahoma

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Severe storms and tornadoes battered Oklahoma early Sunday, tossing cars and ripping roofs off buildings in the middle of the night and leaving about 86,000 homes and businesses without power.

At least six people were injured, authorities said.

The scale of the damage came into clearer focus as daylight broke following the powerful overnight storms that marched through Oklahoma City, the state capital, and set off tornado warnings that extended toward the Arkansas border. Local television footage showed downed power lines, walls peeled off homes, overturned vehicles and neighborhood streets littered with debris.

At least six people were transported to hospitals with injuries that were not life-threatening, Oklahoma City Police Department Capt. Valerie Littlejohn said.

In the small town of Choctaw, just

outside Oklahoma City, authorities said a tornado hit one neighborhood shortly after midnight. Firefighters and police officers went door to door to ask about injuries and officials opened an elementary gym as a shelter, according to the Choctaw Police Department.

“There is significant damage to homes in the area,” the department posted on Facebook.

There was also flooding in some areas and one house caught fire after being struck by lightning.

In the small town of Choctaw, just outside Oklahoma City, authorities said a tornado hit one neighborhood shortly after midnight. Firefighters and police officers went door to door to ask about injuries and officials opened an elementary gym as a shelter, according to the Choctaw Police Department.

“There is significant damage to homes in the area,” the department posted on Facebook.

There was also flooding in some areas and one house caught fire after being struck by lightning.

A handful of shelters — including one opened at a casino by the American Red Cross — are available for displaced residents or those without power, the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management said.

Flooding caused by heavy rainfall occurred in some areas, and one house caught fire after being struck by lightning, the department said.

The Oklahoma Heart Hospital South also sustained damage, state health officials said.

The Oklahoma Fire Department said in a Facebook post early Saturday that crews had rescued two people trapped in an overturned mobile home.

At the University of Oklahoma, school officials had urged students and staff to seek shelter and move to the lowest floor as the storms approached campus after midnight. The National Weather Service office in Norman also issued urgent warnings, posting on social media that “If you’re in the path of this storm, take cover immediately!”

Parts of Oklahoma remained under risk for more heavy rainfall and thunderstorms later Sunday.

