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Court strikes out charges against 119 #EndBadgovernance protesters

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE



The Federal High Court in Abuja struck out all charges against 119 #EndBadGovernance protesters on Tuesday, November 5.

The protesters had been facing serious allegations, including treason felony and incitement to mutiny, following their participation in nationwide protests against perceived corruption and poor governance in the country.

The defendants were initially arraigned on Friday, November 1, in two separate batches.

The first batch consisted of 76 individuals, including 32 minors, while the second batch comprised 43 protesters.

The charges levied against them were in connection with their involvement

in the ongoing #EndBadGovernance movement, which has gained significant traction across the country.

The trial judge, Justice Obiora Egwuatu, struck out the case following an application by the Attorney General of the Federation's counsel, M. D. Abubakar, to discontinue the proceedings.

This move has been widely seen as a reprieve for the activists and has sparked a range of reactions from legal experts, human rights advocates, and political observers.

The decision to drop the charges comes amid mounting pressure from both domestic and international human rights organisations, which had condemned the arrest and detention of the protesters as politically motivated.

The #EndBadGovernance protests, which have been taking place across various

officials.

Details of the court's ruling and the motivations behind the decision to discontinue the case are still emerging.

However, the legal team representing the protesters welcomed the court's decision, which they described as a victory for free speech and the right to peaceful assembly.

The case had drawn significant attention, with many seeing the charges as an overreach by the government in stifling dissent.

It remains to be seen whether the #EndBadGovernance movement will gain further momentum following this legal victory, or whether the government will continue to take a hard stance against protests.

IGP to investigate, address concerns over detained minors

By Friday Omosola

Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Kayode Egbetokun has pledged a thorough review and necessary action to address any procedural lapses concerning the detention of minors involved in the EndBadGovernance protest.

After the recent remand and subsequent arraignment of several young individuals on November 1, Mr Egbetokun, who was attending the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation committee meeting in Algiers, Algeria, ordered an investigation into the care and welfare of these youths while held in Police detention facilities.



The IGP received the investigative report on Monday while in Glasgow, where he is currently participating in the Interpol General Assembly.

To further promote professionalism in investigations, with a focus on child-friendly approaches, the IGP has summoned all Deputy Commissioners of the Criminal Investigation Department (DCs CID) and Heads of Investigation Units to a conference and workshop on November 7 at the Police Resource Center, Jabi.

The Nigeria Police Force reaffirms its dedication to upholding legal standards, ensuring fairness, and maintaining accountability, particularly in the treatment of vulnerable groups.

Police rescue 14 kidnapped victims, arrest five suspects

By Helen Okechukwu

Nasarawa State Police Command has announced the arrest of five alleged kidnappers and the rescue of fourteen victims held captive in Achido village in the forest bordering Abuja and Kogi State.

The document shared with The New Daily Prime on November 5 noted that with the collaboration of Toto Division security operatives, five arrested suspects in connection to the evil activity have confessed to partake in the crime.

The suspects apprehended are Shuaibu Garba, Umar Mohammed, Yakubu Kasim, Mustapha Adamu and Abdul Mohammed.

According to the notice shared by the force spokesman, Ramhan Nansel, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), the suspect confessed to be supplying food to the kidnappers in the forest.



Nansel stated, "Police operatives attached to Toto Division, in collaboration with community youths on 4/11/2024, burst a kidnappers hideout located at Achido village, a deeply forested terrain bordering FCT and Kogi state."

The names of the rescued victims in Kuje FCT, Rubuchi area, and Tanshi village in Kuje Area Council, Abuja, include Adamu Abdullahi, Musa Ahmed, Auwal Tashai, Kabiru Iliya, Sabo Yakubu, Sagir Iliya, and Yunusa Danladi.

Hussaini Yakubu, Haruna Usman, Jibrin Bature, Isyaka Yakubu, Sule Bello, and Yusuf Yusuf, all males, were rescued from Lapai, Niger State.

Addressing this situation, the Commissioner of Police (CP), Umar Nadada, reaffirms his commitment to working together with the residents of the community with the aim to eradicate evil crime.

Also, he pleaded with the members of the public to report suspected movement notices around their neighbourhood to the security force.

Petrol Price: Marketers set to import cheaper products

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Petroleum Products Retail Outlets Owners Association of Nigeria (PETROAN) has confirmed plans to import premium motor spirit (PMS), commonly known as petrol, at a price lower than the current market rate in Nigeria.

In a statement issued on Monday, November 4, PETROAN emphasised that the move is part of its commitment to fostering competition in Nigeria's deregulated petroleum market.

Dr. Joseph Obele, PETROAN's National Public Relations Officer, stated that the group has set up a business unit that will facilitate the importation of cheaper petrol before December.

He stressed that competition is vital for ensuring fair pricing and enhancing the value consumers receive for their money.

"Intensive or aggressive competition in any market brings the best value for money exchange for a commodity. Consumers get the best value for pricing when competition is at its peak," Obele said.

He added that any attempt to limit competition leads to exploitative pricing and profiteering.

The announcement comes as the association faces allegations from Dangote Refinery regarding the quality of products PETROAN plans to import.

Dangote Refinery had accused the marketers of intending to import substandard petrol at a cheaper rate, a claim that PETROAN strongly disputed. Obele dismissed these allegations as "typical" of the refinery's strategy to maintain its market monopoly.

"The publication by Dangote Refinery that PETROAN will import



substandard petroleum products is not coming as a surprise to stakeholders, because such is his usual gimmick for maintaining a monopoly," Obele continued.

"PETROAN has concluded plans with its foreign refinery counterparts and financial partners to import the best quality of PMS and sell it at a far lower price than the current market rate."

Pinnacle Oil Responds to Allegations of Blending Substandard Petrol

Meanwhile, Pinnacle Oil and Gas Limited, a key player in Nigeria's downstream petroleum sector, has issued a response to accusations from Dangote Refinery that it, along with other entities, is involved in blending substandard petrol.

Anthony Chiejina, Group Chief Branding and Communications Officer at Dangote Group, recently claimed that an international trading company had hired a depot facility near the Dangote Refinery

with plans to blend lower-quality products and flood the market with them to compete against Dangote's higher-quality output.

He argued that this move could harm the growth of domestic refining in Nigeria.

In response, Pinnacle Oil, which operates a facility near Dangote Refinery, categorically denied these allegations. Bob Dickerman, CEO of Pinnacle Oil, stressed that his company does not engage in the blending of substandard products.

Gov Aiyedatiwa signs N96b 2024 supplementary budget into law

By Friday Omosola

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, has signed the 2024 supplementary budget into law to address the state government's new financial commitments.

In a statement, Chief Press Secretary Ebenezer Adeniyani announced that the N96.788 billion supplementary budget, approved by the State House of Assembly, was signed by the Governor on Tuesday at the Executive Council Chambers of the Governor's Office.

With this addition, the total budget for 2024 stands at N492.045 billion, comprising a recurrent expenditure of N246.728 billion and a capital expenditure of N245.317 billion.

The supplementary budget includes provisions for the recently approved N73,000 minimum wage for workers and the salaries of newly recruited employees across various sectors.

Governor Aiyedatiwa stated that the supplementary budget underscores his administration's commitment to employee welfare and the state's overall development.

Additionally, he signed a bill expanding the board of the Ondo State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (OSOPADEC), aimed at



fostering inclusivity and enhancing equitable representation for mandate areas.

The governor also signed an amendment to the Ondo State House of Assembly Service Commission Law, expressing appreciation to the Assembly's leadership and members for their dedication to these legislative efforts.

Speaking at the event, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Olamide Oladiji, praised the governor's leadership and recognised the numerous achievements he has realized since assuming office.

Oladiji said: "These giant strides have not only transformed the State in all facets but have demonstrated your vision, capacity, intellectual ability, zeal, passion, direction and a clear understanding of the enormous job ahead.

"I want to on behalf of my colleagues assure Mr. Governor of our continuous support and cooperation to ensure the success of this administration. It is therefore hoped that the implementation of these Laws will impact meaningfully on the lives of the good people of the State."

Kwara State Government demolishes LGEA Primary School for reconstruction

By Helen Okechukwu

The Kwara State Government has taken a bold step to reconstruct the dilapidated Adeta B- Local Government Education (LGEA) Primary School in Adeta into a standard structure.

Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, in a statement signed by his Senior Special Assistant (SSA) and New Media, Olayinka Fafoluyi, said the demolished school is set to join the ranks of well-structured educational facilities in Kwara State.

Describing the state of the school, Fafoluyi revealed that most of the classrooms at primary school have “fallen into disrepair, failing to provide a conducive learning environment for students.”

He further noted in the document that severely affected classrooms have been pulled down for upgrading.

Acknowledging the move as the first of



its kind, the state government aims to prioritise education, along with other investments across the state.

Recounting his achievement, Governor Abdulrazaq has focused on constructing and renovating hundreds of dilapidated school facilities and recruited more than 5,000 qualified teachers.

Additionally, he announced that the e-learning platform known as the KwaraLearn initiative has equipped teachers with tablets with educational programme noting the drastic improvement among Kwara students.

Highlighting the benefit of the e-learning platform, Fafoluyi said most students have benefitted from the platform and participated in international competitions.

“The KwaraLearn initiative which equips teachers with tablets containing standardized curricula, along with other educational programs, has not only enhanced the state’s educational system but has also led to Kwara students representing the country in international competitions,” Fafoluyi said.

Ekiti CJ, Justice Adeyeye dies at age 64

By Helen Okechukwu

Justice Oyewole Adeyeye, the Chief Judge of Ekiti State passes on at age 64 after a brief illness.

It was gathered that the late Adeyeye died on 4 November 2024 at tertiary hospital in Ekiti State.

Information relating to his passing away was not made known to the public, however the Hope Newspaper reported that a close source revealed that the deceased died after a short stay in the hospital.

Confirming his death, the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) in Ekiti State extended their condolences messages to his family, praying that late Justice Adeyeye “finds rest with his maker” for the irreparable loss.

“With deep sorrow in our hearts and in total submission to the will of God, FIDA Ekiti consoles with the family of



the Chief Judge of Ekiti State, Hon Adeyeye on his call to glory. May He find rest with his maker. I pray that God grants the family, the Judiciary and the people of Ekiti State, the grace to bear this irreparable loss. Adieu, great one,” the statement read.

Chairperson Oyinade Olatunbosun of FIDA Ekiti noted that further official notice would be disclosed in due time.

However, as of press time, the late Adeyeye family is yet to disclose the

cause of his death.

Biography of Justice Adeyeye

Mr Adeyeye was born in 1960 in Araromi Ugbesi, Ekiti East Local Government Area. In 1986, the deceased began practicing after being called to the bar.

He became one of the members of the state counsel in the civil service of the former Ondo State as he kicked started his career. As he began to develop himself and gain experience, in 1996, after the establishment of Ekiti State, he joined the Judiciary Service Commission.

In 2002, he was promoted as judge in the Ekiti State High Court after showing commitment and dedication. Then on 11 October 2021, Mr Adeyeye was appointed as the Chief Judge by then Governor Kayode Fayemi.

Gov. Sanwo-Olu to partner with investors to enhance tourism ecosystem

By Helen Okechukwu

To improve and sustain the tourism ecosystem in Lagos State, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has sought collaboration with investors.

In an opening ceremony of the Global Tourism Investment Summit titled “The Evolving Landscape of the Hospitality Sector: Embracing Green and Sustainable Investments,” Governor Sanwo-Olu made the call.

The government publication shared on their Facebook page noted that the event was held on Monday and organised by the International Tourism and Investment Conference (ITIC) at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre, Westminster, London.

The event aims to sustain global tourism and provide diverse ideas and insights on the future of environmentally friendly investments.

The Lagos State Commissioner for Tourism, Arts, and Culture, Mrs. Toke Benson-Awoyinka, represented Governor Sanwo-Olu at



the event.

Other sectors present at the gathering are tourism ministers, industry leaders, and developers from the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors.

On behalf of Governor Sanwo-Olu, the key speaker, Mrs. Benson-Awoyinka, spoke during the session titled “Tourism Perspectives in the Evolving Global Economic Context,” highlighting his administration’s efforts and pivotal role played in promoting the state globally.

However, the boss of ITIC Ltd. and former Secretary-General of UNWTO, Dr. Taleb Rifai, and the group CEO and Managing Director of International Tourism Investment Corporation Ltd., Ibrahim Ayoub, described that Governor Sanwo-Olu’s invitation was based on his unwavering developmental commitment seen in the state.

Gov Oyebanji appoints Justice Ogunmoye as Acting Chief Judge

By Friday Omosola

Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, has appointed Justice Lekan Ogunmoye as Acting Chief Judge of the state.

Yinka Oyebode, the Special Adviser on Media to the Governor disclosed this in a statement on Tuesday.

Earlier, The New Daily Prime reported that the state Chief Judge, Justice John Adeyeye appointed on 11 October 2021 died on Monday at the age of 64.

Oyebode said the appointment of Ogunmoye was in furtherance of the powers conferred on the Governor

by Section 271 (4) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

The appointment of Hon Justice Ogunmoye takes effect from 5 November.

Born on 6 November 1963, Justice Ogunmoye was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1987, and was appointed a judge on 1 April 2010.

Governor Oyebanji wishes the new Acting Chief Judge a successful tenure.



Governor Aiyedatiwa announces dualisation of Akure-Idanre road

By Dave Oludare Oso

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, has identified the dualisation of the Akure-Idanre road as a top priority for his administration.

The governor highlighted that this project is crucial for enhancing transportation, particularly for investors eager to explore tourism opportunities in the Idanre Local Government Area.

Governor Aiyedatiwa made this announcement during his campaign visit to Idanre on Tuesday, where he assured residents of comprehensive development initiatives across the council area.

He indicated that construction will commence at the Oke Aro junction in Akure, extending to Idanre, with the contracting documentation already in progress.

The governor reaffirmed his administration's commitment to improving critical infrastructure, boosting economic activities, and ensuring the welfare of residents through sustained and strategic investments.

During a visit to the palace of the Owa of Idanre, High Chief Emmanuel Aladetuyi, the Odunwo of Idanre kingdom, praised the governor's numerous developmental achievements across the state.

The chief pledged the community's full support for the governor, while also expressing the need for improvements in healthcare facilities, tourism potential, road networks, access to potable water, and resolution of boundary disputes.

At the palace of Oba Olakunle Ogunlowo, the Awosunye of Atosin-Idanre, the monarch passionately



called for the proper channelisation of the Owena Dam to benefit local residents and advocated for the revitalisation of the Idanre Golf Course, which has the potential to enhance tourism and the local economy.

Governor Aiyedatiwa assured the community that their requests would be taken into consideration, reinforcing his administration's dedication to developmental projects that will uplift the entire state.

Earlier, at Aponmu Lona-Idanre, the Olu of Aponmu Lona, Oba Akinadeju Babatola Bajulaye, underscored the necessity of providing fertilizers for farmers and enhancing security, noting that agriculture is the primary livelihood of the community.

In his address, the State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Ade Adetimehin, pledged that the government would seriously consider all requests, stating, "Governor Aiyedatiwa is a leader who prioritises the welfare of all citizens, and you can trust that your needs will be addressed."

The governor reassured the people of Aponmu Lona of his administration's commitment to their safety, specifically addressing the urgent need to tackle incidents of indiscriminate clearing of cocoa farms, underscoring his focus on protecting farmers' livelihoods.

Novak Djokovic withdraws from ATP Finals due to injury, ending era of big three at year-end event

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

In a surprising development, tennis icon and defending champion Novak Djokovic has withdrawn from the ATP Finals, citing an “ongoing injury.” The 37-year-old Serbian star, who holds a record seven titles at the event, shared his disappointment in a heartfelt message to fans on social media.

“I was really looking forward to being there, but due to ongoing injury I won’t be playing next week,” Djokovic wrote. “Apologies to those who were planning to see me. Wishing all the players a great tournament. See you soon.”

Djokovic’s absence from the tournament marks a significant shift in the tennis world, as it will be the first time since 2001 that the prestigious year-end event will take place without at least one of tennis’s celebrated “Big Three”—Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, and Djokovic himself. The absence of these legends signals a new era for the ATP Finals and opens the field for rising stars and other top players who have qualified.

The Serbian, currently ranked sixth on the ATP Tour, had expressed in recent weeks that his focus has shifted away from the year-end rankings and tournament qualification. His priority, he said, remains the Grand Slams, as he continues to pursue his goal of cementing his legacy with more major titles. Djokovic currently holds a historic 24 Grand Slam singles titles, the most in the men’s game, and he appears to be prioritizing his career longevity as he aims for a record 25th Grand Slam title.

With his withdrawal, the eight-man field for the Turin-based ATP Finals is now complete. Norway’s Casper Ruud, Australia’s Alex de Minaur, and Russia’s Andrey Rublev have secured the final spots, joining Italy’s Jannik Sinner, Spain’s Carlos Alcaraz, Germany’s Alexander Zverev, Russia’s Daniil Medvedev, and Taylor Fritz of the United States.

This year’s tournament, taking place from November 10 to 17, promises a dynamic lineup of rising stars and established competitors. The field’s youthfulness represents a generational shift, and fans

will be watching closely to see which player might seize the title in Djokovic’s absence.

While Djokovic’s next tournament appearance is expected to be the Australian Open in January, his decision to prioritize recovery signals his dedication to maintaining peak performance in Grand Slam events. In Melbourne, Djokovic will aim for an unprecedented 25th major singles title, a record that would separate him from Australia’s Margaret Court, and mark his 100th tour-level trophy.

The tournament’s eight-man roster is stacked with promising talents, including current world number one Jannik Sinner, a formidable opponent on his home soil, and Carlos Alcaraz, whose youthful energy has electrified fans worldwide. Each player in the field will see this opportunity as a golden chance to step out from the shadow of the Big Three.



Mourinho regrets not signing Nigeria star

By Kayode Akinwumi

José Mourinho has revealed that he had the opportunity to sign in-form Nigerian star Ademola Lookman.

The Fenerbahce manager recounted how he was prevented from recruiting the Atalanta forward during his tenure at Italian side AS Roma in 2022.

The Nigerian international was recently voted 14th in the Ballon d'Or and remains the favorite in the race for the African Player of the Year Award.

According to Mourinho, the head scout at Roma during the period José Fontes, recommended that Lookman, then at RB Leipzig, not be signed by the Roman side.

Fontes' report painted a negative outlook on Lookman, criticizing his positional sense and decision-making ability on the ball.

He stated further in the report, "In the defensive phase, he is elementary



in terms of understanding the game. A player I have reservations about about his competitive mentality, his confidence and ability to perform under pressure. He is very inconsistent in his performances. There are better solutions available to us and I would not recommend hiring him."

Roma, newly crowned Europa Conference League champions at the time, passed on the opportunity to sign the Nigerian as recommended by their chief scout. The forward then went on to join Atalanta under manager Gian Piero Gasperini.

His record at the Bergamo side has served to prove Fontes wrong, much to Mourinho's regret. Lookman has netted 39 goals for Gasperini's side while providing 23 assists in 90 games. He also reached an iconic status among the club's faithfuls with his performance at the 2024 Europa League final where he scored a hat-trick in Atalanta's three-nil battering of German champions Bayer Leverkusen.

Guardiola retains belief in his team despite dip in form

By Kayode Akinwumi

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has acknowledge the recent struggles of his team, following their 2-1 loss over the weekend at Bournemouth.

He maintained, however, that they will contest for trophies by the end of the season. Several injuries have hit the City squad, compounding their woes as they suffered their first Premier League loss of the season over the weekend, ending their unbeaten streak from last season.

Notwithstanding, they remain in the title race, with only two points separating them from league leaders Liverpool.

The Spanish coach conceded the fact that his team's injury challenge will affect their performance this term, but



will not stop them from challenging for titles. He cited the example of Ballon d'Or winner Rodri who he described as "the best player in the world," ruing his season-long absence as a major setback for the team.

Other notable absences, according to the former Barcelona coach, are Oscar Bobb and Jack Grealish.

In addition to the injuries, Guardiola noted that there's a marked improvement in the competitive quality of Premier League sides this season, making the campaign more difficult.

He pointed out the challenge of playing teams like Fulham and Brentford, added to the existing powerhouses like Arsenal, Liverpool, and Manchester United.

The manager finds it impressive that his side remains in ahead in the contention for trophies despite these challenges.

Arsenal Captain Martin Ødegaard returns to training ahead of Champions League clash with Inter Milan

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Arsenal captain Martin Ødegaard has returned to training after a two-month injury layoff, providing a significant boost for the Gunners as they prepare to face Inter Milan in the Champions League on Wednesday. The Norwegian midfielder's absence has been felt in recent weeks, with his leadership and creativity missed as Arsenal navigated a challenging fixture schedule.

Ødegaard's return could not come at a better time for Arsenal, who are aiming to strengthen their position in Group B with a key victory over the Serie A giants. The 25-year-old playmaker has been instrumental in Arsenal's resurgence over the past two seasons, with his vision, passing accuracy, and ability to control the tempo of games making him one of the Premier League's standout midfielders.



Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta expressed his optimism about Ødegaard's recovery, emphasizing the positive impact his presence has on the squad. "Martin brings so much to this team, both on and off the pitch," Arteta noted. "Having him back for such an important match is a big lift for us."

Ødegaard's comeback will also help bolster an Arsenal midfield that has faced recent injuries and rotations, giving Arteta more options as the Gunners push for success on multiple fronts this season. Arsenal fans will be hopeful that Ødegaard's return can help guide the team to a strong result in Milan as they look to advance in Europe's elite competition.

The match against Inter promises to be a pivotal one, with Arsenal aiming to secure qualification to the knockout stages and continue their impressive Champions League campaign.

Neymar Injured Again in Return for Al Hilal

By Kayode Akinwumi

Brazilian star Neymar Jr has picked up another injury following his recent return from a knee injury that sidelined him for more than a year.

The former Barcelona man was brought on for Abdullah Al Hamdan in the 57th minute of Al Hilal's three-nil victory over Esteghlal in the AFC Champions League. He was forced to leave the game after playing for less than 30 minutes, however.

The Brazil captain appeared to have injured his left thigh as the game entered stoppage time, and got a quick medical attention on the sideline before returning to action. He wasn't able to continue, however, leaving the pitch visibly upset.



The midfielder's latest injury is a major setback blow for him and his club after recently returning to action following a surgery for a ruptured ACL.

The Saudi club are hoping to challenge for the AFC Champions League, needing his crucial presence to boost their chances of success.

Since Neymar has not been registered to play in the domestic league and will not be eligible until January, his presence in the Champions League has become important for the club which spent a fortune to bring him from PSG.

Al Hilal play next in the Champions League on November 16 when they travel to Qatar to face Al-Sadd. They currently lead their group with 12 points in four games, as they prepare to face Al Ettifaq in the Saudi League on Friday.

Viktor Gyökeres: From underrated talent to Sporting's star striker, defying the odds

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



As Sporting Lisbon prepares to face Manchester City in the Champions League, all eyes are on Viktor Gyökeres—the Swedish striker whose journey from unheralded youth to European sensation has captivated fans and analysts alike. Since joining Sporting in 2023, Gyökeres has scored an astounding 63 goals in 66 appearances, including 20 in 16 games this season. His meteoric rise has drawn interest from Premier League clubs, particularly Manchester United, as rumors swirl following Sporting manager Ruben Amorim's recent move to Old Trafford.

Yet, Gyökeres's path has been anything but easy. His journey began in Sweden with IF Brommapojkarna, where he was initially doubted. David Eklund, an academy scout at the club, recalls the challenges Gyökeres faced. "When I took him to Bromma, he was 14, and the head of the academy said he wasn't good enough," Eklund told BBC Sport. "But I told him, 'He will score goals.'"

Indeed, Gyökeres was no early prodigy,

yet he had the skills—shooting, heading, and finishing—that would later define his career. Despite skepticism, he broke into Brommapojkarna's first team as a teenager, scoring 20 goals in 56 games and impressing coaches with his physicality and perseverance.

Gyökeres moved to Brighton in 2017 but struggled to secure a regular spot, making only four appearances and spending time on loan at Swansea City, St. Pauli in Germany, and Coventry City. It was at Coventry, however, that Gyökeres finally found his stride. Joining the Sky Blues on loan in 2021, he went on to score 39 goals, earning a permanent transfer and emerging as one of the Championship's standout players.

BBC CWR's Clive Eakin notes how Gyökeres transformed Coventry's attack with his unique ability to "run at and through defenders," often surging forward from midfield to threaten the opposition. While some fans were initially hesitant about his return, manager Mark Robins saw Gyökeres's potential and helped him develop his confidence in front of goal.

In 2023, Sporting director Hugo Viana recognized the striker's promise and secured him for the Portuguese side, where he has since flourished. With Sporting, Gyökeres has become one of Europe's most prolific forwards, consistently delivering against top-tier competition.

David Eklund, who has tracked Gyökeres's career from its early days, attributes his success to mental resilience and a supportive family environment. "He had a strong mentality, a good family backing him, and he always wanted to prove people wrong," Eklund says. "We never thought he'd reach the highest level, but his work ethic is unmatched."

Gyökeres's rise is now celebrated back at Brommapojkarna, a club with a track record of developing top players like Dejan Kulusevski, John Guidetti, and Albin Ekdal.

#USElection 2024: Davido thrilled after voting for the first time in the US

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Afrobeat star David Adeleke, known to his fans as Davido, is filled with exuberance following a significant milestone in his life casting his vote for the very first time in an American election.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, the globally recognized artist has long celebrated his roots and has now embraced his civic duty with enthusiasm.

In a heartfelt social media post, Davido shared a snapshot of himself immediately after casting his ballot, accompanied by the exuberant caption: "First-time voter!!" This expression of joy highlights not only his excitement but also the importance of participating in the democratic process.

The decision to vote is a powerful one, and Davido understands its significance.

In a previous post on X, he encouraged his fellow Americans to exercise their right to vote peacefully.

He said, "Election Day y'all be safe as you perform your constitutional rights." His message resonated well with his followers, as he urged them to go out and make their voices heard.

Although Davido chose not to endorse any specific candidate publicly, his engagement in the electoral process serves as a reminder of the impact that celebrities can have on democratic participation.

With millions of followers across various social media platforms, his words can inspire a more significant turnout at the polls, particularly among younger voters who often look up to him as a role model.

Davido's participation in the U.S. elections reflects a broader narrative of young artists embracing their roles



not just as entertainers, but as active participants in society.

By voting, they signal to their fanbase that each voice holds weight in shaping the future. The American electoral system can often feel distant or complex to many, particularly to young voters who may be engaging with it for the first time.

As a prominent figure in the music industry, Davido's actions can encourage fans to educate themselves about the voting process, understand the issues at stake, and recognize the importance of their voices in the democratic process.

His celebrity status amplifies the message of civic engagement, and this moment serves as a significant reminder that yes, even those in the limelight have the responsibility and privilege to vote.

Although he did not publicly support a specific candidate, his participation alone sends a strong message about civic responsibility and the importance of voting.

The joy expressed by Davido mirrors a universal sentiment felt by many first-time voters across the United States: an exhilarating mix of empowerment and

and accountability.

By embracing this new chapter in his life as a voter, Davido exemplifies a committed citizen who not only entertains but also contributes to the societal landscape in which he operates.

As social media continues to evolve, the role of artists in shaping political discourse becomes increasingly vital.

Davido's willingness to engage with his audience about the importance of voting not only enriches the dialogue surrounding elections but also fosters a sense of community and involvement.

As the elections continue and results are tallied, Davido remains a shining example of how music, culture, and civic responsibility can intertwine to create a more informed and active citizenry.

With each vote cast, we are reminded that the power of democracy lies in the hands of the people, and every voice matters a lesson Davido embraces wholeheartedly.

Actress Ufoma McDermott reveals how painkillers damaged her kidney

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Ufoma McDermott has opened up about the debilitating kidney disease she has battled for over a decade, shedding light on a troubling yet common issue, the long-term abuse of painkillers.

In her latest interview with renowned media personality Chude Jideonwo, McDermott shared her harrowing experience, urging the public to prioritize their health and be more mindful of their medication habits.

The actress, who has become a household name in Nigeria's vibrant film industry, detailed her struggles with kidney disease, emphasizing the importance of understanding the serious implications of prolonged painkiller usage.

"I genuinely wish everyone would comprehend the significance of maintaining good health," McDermott stated passionately during the interview.

Her heart-wrenching account serves as a crucial reminder to many about the potential dangers lurking within seemingly harmless over-the-counter medications.

McDermott's journey into the complexities of kidney disease started with a stark family reality. "My brother was diagnosed quite late, at stage 4 of kidney disease, and almost immediately had to undergo dialysis. As a result, he now faces numerous complications," she recounted, illustrating the gravity of the situation familial connections can sometimes amplify.

Fortunately, McDermott's diagnosis was made much earlier in her life, allowing her to navigate her health challenges with greater awareness and assistance.



"I have been living on medication for nearly 12 years now," she revealed.

However, her proactive approach was prompted by her brother's more severe circumstances. "When my brother received his diagnosis, I ran to my cardiologist immediately. My parents were understandably terrified, asking themselves if this affliction was genetic," she added.

This moment marked a pivotal point in their family's fight against kidney disease.

Together, they soon learned that the root cause of McDermott's kidney struggles lay in her history of drug use, particularly painkillers.

"We traced the kidney disease and discovered it stemmed from my long-term drug abuse," she confessed, bringing to light a common issue that many might overlook. Reflecting on her past, McDermott shared her journey with migraines and persistent headaches, experiences that ultimately led her on the path to painkiller reliance.

"I grew up suffering from migraines, headaches, and eyelashes, but I avoided

wearing glasses because I feared they would make me look like a geek. Instead, I resorted to painkillers to alleviate the discomfort," she explained.

What she considered a harmless escape from pain quickly transformed into a dependency on increasingly powerful pharmaceuticals. "I would take strong painkillers, not just the ordinary ones because I was desperate for the pain to vanish."

This alarming trend of self-medication is a growing concern many face, often without considering the potential long-lasting effects on their health.

McDermott's narrative serves as a powerful cautionary tale, advocating for greater public awareness of the importance of health and responsible medication use.

I love my bullies – Tiwa Savage reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



Nigerian singer Tiwa Savage has opened up about the bullying she endured during her high school years.

The popular artist, known for beautiful songs, candidly shared her experiences, shedding light on the emotional struggles she faced as a young student at Clearmont High School.

In a recent interview with Capital Xtra in London, Savage recounted the challenges of her adolescence, a period marked by the harsh realities of bullying.

Despite the difficult memories, the songstress conveyed a powerful message of forgiveness and love towards her former bullies. “I went to Clearmont High School. I used to get bullied. I just want to say to the girls that used to bully me, I love you,” she stated, with genuine warmth in her voice.

Savage’s ability to forgive those who once made her life difficult speaks volumes about her character and resilience.

Now, as a celebrated figure in the music

industry, the 43-year-old artist has found both fame and fortune, allowing her to reflect on her past with a sense of empowerment rather than bitterness. “I mean it.

Because I’m popular and rich now, so there’s no point,” she added, emphasizing her mindset of moving forward in life and leaving negativity behind.

For many, the experience of being bullied is a formative one, often shaping the person they grow to become.

Tiwa Savage’s journey is no different. After overcoming the hurdles of her formative years, she has emerged as a prominent voice not only within Nigeria but across the globe.

Her rise to stardom has been marked by a string of successful albums, stellar performances, and collaborations with international artists, further solidifying her status as a multifaceted musician.

Savage’s story serves as an inspiration for many young individuals facing similar struggles.

By sharing her experiences openly, she

she encourages others to embrace their past, highlighting that it is possible to rise above adversity and achieve greatness.

Her message encourages resilience, reinforcing the idea that our past does not define us, but rather, it contributes to our strength.

Tiwa Savage’s perspective is a refreshing reminder of the power of love and forgiveness. It is essential to recognize that individuals who engage in bullying often come from places of pain and insecurity.

By extending compassion toward her bullies, Savage exemplifies a path grounded in understanding rather than animosity. Through her music and public persona, Tiwa Savage continues to advocate for self-love and acceptance.

As she engages with fans and listeners alike, her story resonates with many who may find themselves battling their demons from the past. With each song she releases, she carries the message that it is possible to thrive despite the challenges life throws our way.

Actor Charles Okocha ready to wed lover

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood star, Charles Okocha, is preparing to embark on the journey of matrimony with his beloved partner.

In an exciting announcement, the acclaimed actor took to Instagram on Tuesday to reveal the news of their forthcoming nuptials.

A series of enchanting pre-wedding photos accompanied his heartfelt post, capturing moments of joy and anticipation shared between the couple.

The actor also introduced a special wedding hashtag, “#MICHALES2024,” to commemorate their union and build excitement among fans and followers.

In his caption, Okocha expressed his enthusiasm for taking this significant step with his partner but chose to keep the specific date of the wedding under wraps.

However, he did indicate that the couple



plans to exchange vows before the year 2024 concludes, leaving many eager fans to speculate and await further details.

2024 concludes, leaving many eager fans to speculate and await further details.

The announcement has generated a wave of excitement within the Nollywood community and among

among Okocha's dedicated fanbase, who have flooded the comments section with congratulatory messages and well-wishes for the couple's future together.

Charles Okocha, known for his captivating performances and charismatic presence on screen, has won the hearts of many throughout his illustrious career.

This impending marriage marks a new chapter in his life, one that is sure to be filled with love and happiness.

As Okocha embraces this joyous moment, fans are left eagerly anticipating what the future holds for the couple and look forward to celebrating their union as they step into a beautiful shared journey of love and commitment.

#US2024 ELECTION: Adin Ross bets \$1 million on Trump's election win

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Renowned American streamer and social media sensation, Adin Ross, has made headlines by placing a staggering \$1 million bet on Donald Trump, the Republican Party's candidate, to emerge victorious in today's presidential election.

Ross, who has garnered a massive following for his entertaining online presence, took to Instagram on Monday to unveil the bet slip, expressing his unwavering support for Trump.

In his post, the influencer firmly articulated his belief that Trump represents the only viable choice for the nation.

He stated, “Put a million on President Trump, the only candidate for America that makes sense. Trump2024.”



This bold wager underscores not just Ross's convictions, but also highlights the significant influence that social media personalities wield in shaping political discourse today.

Ross's declaration comes at a critical juncture for American politics, as the nation is poised to make a pivotal decision between two distinct visions for the future.

In this heated race, Trump is set to face off against the Democratic Party's candidate, Kamala Harris.

The stakes have never been higher, as both candidates bring contrasting ideologies and strategies to the forefront of this electoral battle.

Harris secured her nomination as the Democratic contender after President Joe Biden opted to step back from the race in July, officially endorsing her as the party's representative.

This development has positioned Harris as a formidable opponent in what is anticipated to be a closely contested election.

US Election 2024: How the presidential voting process works

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

Americans are heading to the polls today to vote in the highly anticipated 2024 US presidential election, with Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump facing off in a battle for the White House.

The election, closely monitored around the world, not only determines the next president but also elects members of Congress, who will play a key role in shaping US law for the next several years.

The Candidates

In the Republican Party, former President Donald Trump emerged as the candidate after winning the nomination in a hard-fought contest against his party rivals.

His running mate is Ohio Senator JD Vance. Trump, who served as president from 2017 to 2021, seeks to return to office after losing to Joe Biden in 2020.

Kamala Harris, the current Vice President, is now leading the Democratic ticket after President Joe Biden chose not to run for a second term. Harris, who made history as the first woman, first Black woman, and first South Asian woman to serve as vice president, has selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her vice-presidential running mate.

While the major parties dominate the field, there are also independent candidates, such as Robert F. Kennedy Jr., though he withdrew from the race in August 2024 and endorsed Trump.

How the Election Works

The US presidential election follows an Electoral College system, meaning that a candidate does not need to win the national popular vote to become president. Instead, the election is determined by winning electoral votes, allocated to each state based on its representation in Congress.

There are 538 total electoral votes, and a



candidate needs at least 270 to win the presidency.

The system is largely a winner-takes-all approach, where the candidate with the most votes in a state wins all of its electoral votes except in Maine and Nebraska, which allocate their electoral votes based on individual congressional districts.

Battleground States

While many states consistently vote for either the Republican or Democratic candidate, some states known as swing or battleground states are more evenly divided and can swing either way.

These states are often crucial in determining the overall outcome of the election.

In the 2024 race, Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin are considered key battlegrounds by CBS News. Candidates focus much of their campaigning on these states, seeking to win over undecided voters and

and secure critical electoral votes.

The Electoral College and the Popular Vote

It's possible for a candidate to win the Electoral College but lose the national popular vote. This happened in 2016, when Donald Trump won the presidency despite Hillary Clinton receiving more votes nationwide. Since 1824, only five presidents have been elected without winning the popular vote.

Rare Scenarios: Faithless Electors and Contingent Elections

In rare instances, an elector a member of the Electoral College might choose to vote for someone other than the candidate who won the popular vote in their state. These individuals are called faithless electors, and while their votes rarely alter the outcome of an election, they represent an unpredictable element in the process.

UK to create 'smoke-free generation' with new tobacco law

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The UK is set to introduce a pioneering piece of public health legislation aimed at creating the world's first "smoke-free generation," with a new tobacco law to be presented in Parliament on Tuesday, November 5.

The move comes as part of the government's broader strategy to curb smoking rates and reduce the long-term health burden on the National Health Service (NHS).

Under the new proposals, anyone born after January 1, 2009, will be prohibited from purchasing tobacco products, effectively making them the first generation in the UK who will never legally be able to buy cigarettes.

This gradual increase in the legal age to buy tobacco is a cornerstone of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, which Health Secretary Wes Streeting described as a "groundbreaking" initiative.

"This is a groundbreaking piece of public health legislation," Streeting said.

"It will mean that we are creating the first-ever smoke-free generation in our country. Children growing up in our country today will never, never legally be able to buy cigarettes."

National and swing state polls have tightened in the weeks leading to the election, so there could be very narrow margins of victory in several places, which may require votes to be recounted.

The bill, which mirrors proposals from the previous Conservative administration, aims to reduce smoking rates across the UK, following the failure of New Zealand's similar plans to introduce a "generational smoking ban."

New Zealand's government reversed

its decision last year under the leadership of Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, citing other economic priorities.

In addition to the age restrictions on tobacco, the UK's Tobacco and Vapes Bill will introduce a series of measures aimed at curbing the appeal of e-cigarettes, particularly among young people.

The legislation will place strict limits on the advertising and sponsorship of vapes, as well as impose restrictions on vape packaging, flavours, and displays that may attract children and teenagers.

The government has also pledged to ban disposable vapes starting in 2025, a move designed to reduce the accessibility and appeal of single-use vaping products, which have become increasingly popular in the UK.

The proposed bill will also extend smoking bans to more public spaces, including outdoor areas such as playgrounds and hospital grounds. However, one notable exclusion is smoking in pub gardens.

Despite earlier leaks suggesting a potential ban on smoking in outdoor hospitality areas, Streeting confirmed that the legislation will not include pub gardens, citing concerns over the impact on the hospitality industry.

"The UK hospitality sector has taken a battering in recent years, and we don't want to add to their pressure, so we're not proposing to go ahead with an outdoor hospitality ban at this time," Streeting said.



The UK government's new law marks a significant step in the global fight against tobacco-related diseases.

Smoking rates have steadily declined in the UK over the past few decades, following landmark bans on smoking in enclosed public spaces and workplaces in 2007.

Research has shown that the smoking ban in England led to a 2.4% reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks in the year following its implementation, saving the NHS millions of pounds.

The Tobacco and Vapes Bill is expected to play a key role in achieving the UK's ambition to reduce smoking rates even further, helping to prevent future generations from becoming addicted to nicotine and easing the long-term burden on the state healthcare system.

As the UK pushes ahead with its ambitious public health goals, it remains to be seen whether other countries, including New Zealand, will revisit similar measures in the future.

With the UK setting the pace, the idea of a "smoke-free generation" may soon be a reality elsewhere in the world.

Russian engineer jailed 16 years over spying for Ukraine

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

A Russian engineer has been sentenced to 16 years in prison after being convicted of high treason for allegedly providing military secrets to Ukraine, according to a court ruling on Tuesday, November 5.

Daniel Mukhametov, 32, an engineer employed at Uralvagonzavod, a major Russian tank manufacturer located in Nizhny Tagil in the Urals, was found guilty of passing sensitive military and technical information to Ukrainian intelligence services. The verdict was issued by a regional court in Sverdlovsk, Russia.

The case began in 2023 when Mukhametov and his wife, Viktoria Mukhametova, who also worked at Uralvagonzavod, were arrested by the FSB,

Russia's Federal Security Service. The couple was accused of supplying Ukrainian authorities with critical details about Russia's military capabilities.

Mukhametov reportedly "partially admitted his guilt" during the trial, which led to his conviction on charges of high treason.

He was sentenced to 16 years in prison, while his wife was sentenced earlier this month to 12.5 years on the same charges.

Uralvagonzavod is one of the world's largest tank manufacturers and a key player in Russia's military industry, producing advanced weaponry including the T-90 and T-14 Armata tanks.

The company's strategic importance has made it a target

for espionage cases, especially in the context of Russia's ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The Mukhametovs' case is one of several espionage-related prosecutions that have emerged in Russia since its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Since the war began, thousands of Russians have been detained, prosecuted, or fined for various forms of dissent, including opposition to the war. Russia has intensified crackdowns on perceived traitors and has prosecuted a number of individuals accused of aiding Ukraine.

Human rights groups and international observers have raised concerns about the fairness of trials in Russia, with many alleging that the legal system has been weaponized against those accused of opposing the government's actions or aiding the enemy.

Mukhametov's conviction highlights the growing tensions within Russia as the government continues to ramp up its efforts to suppress dissent and prevent the leakage of sensitive military information to Ukraine.



Equatorial Guinea restricts WhatsApp amid sex scandal

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

The Government of Equatorial Guinea has imposed new restrictions on WhatsApp, limiting citizens' ability to download and share multimedia files using mobile data.

This move follows a controversial sex scandal involving Baltasar Engonga, the Director General of the National Financial Investigation Agency (ANIF), which has sparked outrage and debate across the country.

According to local reports, the government has instructed telecommunications providers to implement measures that restrict access to inappropriate content, a decision believed to be linked to the scandal. Engonga, a 54-year-old economist, has found himself at the center of a high-profile fraud investigation, during which authorities uncovered hundreds of explicit videos on his office computer.

The footage allegedly depicts Engonga's sexual encounters with the wives of prominent individuals, including political figures and ministers.

Among the women involved are the wives of his brother, his cousin, the sister of President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, the Director General of Police's wife, and around 20 other ministers' wives.

The scandal has caused a media storm, especially after the videos, which were reportedly recorded with consent, leaked online.

The leaked content has sparked public outrage and has raised serious concerns about privacy and governance in the country.

In response to the scandal, the government of Equatorial Guinea has taken drastic steps to limit the dissemination of such content, including the restriction of multimedia file-sharing on WhatsApp over mobile data connections.



Citizens have been forced to rely exclusively on WiFi networks to share photos, videos, and audio, which many have criticised as a disproportionate response that curtails essential communication functions.

Local news platform Ahora EG reported that many users have expressed frustration over the measure, with some questioning the fairness of penalizing the entire population for the actions of a few.

"Should an entire country pay for the actions of a few?" one anonymous source told the platform.

"The likely decision to restrict access to essential communication functions seems disproportionate and punitive, affecting thousands of users who rely on WhatsApp for work, education, and personal communication."

Another source pointed out the growing dependence on digital platforms in today's world.

"In a world where digitalisation is becoming more and more important,

The report also noted that the government has yet to clarify the reasons behind the restriction or provide any details on how long the measure will last, further stoking public concern.

The WhatsApp restrictions are not the only significant government action being implemented in response to the scandal.

Earlier this week, Vice President Teddy Nguema announced plans to install surveillance cameras in all state offices as part of a broader initiative to ensure greater accountability and prevent misconduct among public officials.

This measure is seen as part of an ongoing push to tighten control over the public sector, but it has raised concerns about the erosion of privacy and the extent of government oversight.