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Musk becomes \$300bn man after Trump win

• As Tesla hits \$1 trillion market cap

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Tesla's market value eclipsed \$1 trillion Friday for the first time since early 2022, as the electric vehicle maker led by the world's richest man, Elon Musk enjoys a massive rally after the Musk-backed Donald Trump secured a second presidential term.

Shares of the Musk-led Tesla are up 24% since Tuesday.

Shares of Tesla jumped as much as 7.6% to \$319.44 by late morning, extending its three-day rally to 24%, captaining the broader stock market gains following Trump's election.

That pushed Tesla's market value to over \$1 trillion for the first time since April 2022, according to YCharts data, with the automaker's valuation nearly doubling over the last six months.

Forbes Valuation

Musk's net worth topped \$300 billion Friday for the first time in more than two years. The 53-year-old got \$10 billion richer Friday during the Tesla stock rally, and he's \$70 billion wealthier than the next closest competitor, Oracle chairman Larry Ellison.



Frequent grid collapses: Minister orders TCN to replace aged equipment

By Dave Oludare Oso

As part of the recommendations to stop the incessant collapse of the national grid, the Minister for Power, Adebayo Adelaye, has ordered the immediate replacement of aged equipment, assuring that the replacement would be achieved in six months.

The minister also directed the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and all other relevant agencies of the ministry to begin the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the inter-agency committee set up to address the incessant grid collapses in the power sector.

This comes on the heels of the latest breakdown of the national grid at approximately 11:29 am, on Thursday, November 7, 2024, which was caused by a sudden rise in frequency from 50.33Hz to 51.44Hz.

Bolaji Tunji, the Special Adviser to the Minister on Strategic Communications and Media, in a statement, quoted the Minister as saying that all relevant agencies in the ministry must brace up for the immediate implementation of the recommendations of the committee, which was submitted on Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

Bolaji said, "The recommendations of the committee are far-reaching and will proffer lasting solutions to the incessant power grid collapses that we have embarrassingly witnessed in the country in the immediate and long term."

On Wednesday, the investigative panel revealed that a poor maintenance culture and inadequate and aged equipment, among other challenges, are the underlying reasons for the incessant multiple



collapses of the national power grid witnessed in recent months.

It also outlined recommendations to be achieved in one month, six months and one year.

The short-term (one month) recommendations include; a review of relaying philosophy and settings, particularly at critical nodes, capacity development for maintenance/System Operation staff, Testing existing equipment at the critical nodes to establish reliability, developing framework and adopting reliability-centred maintenance and Identifying critical ongoing projects for speedy completion (low-hanging fruits).

The recommended objectives to be achieved in six months include strengthening relay coordination, replacement of aged and obsolete equipment, enhancing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and telecommunication tools, developing a framework to attract private investment across the value chain, deploying IoT devices on generating units and transmission lines, and secure firm gas contracts.

Other recommendations include developing and implementing measures to combat vandalism and energy theft, developing measures to reduce transmission loss factor and aggregate technical, commercial and collection loss, human capacity development, Installation of harmonics filters by DisCo and GenCo customers, Decentralisation of TCN central store, enforcement of Free Governor Mode of Operation and the removal of ad-lash taped optic fibre.

In its one-year target, the committee recommended enhancing the distribution network and capacity, promoting decentralized grid management, implementing full SCADA and Telecommunication upgrades across the network, modernising grid infrastructure (Smart Grid), promoting and adopting the use of the ringfenced network, Replaciof aged and obsolete equipment, integration of renewable energy resources, replacement of ad-lash taped with OPGW and intense human Capacity Development.

However, the Transmission Company of Nigeria has indicated that the latest national grid collapse, which occurred twice within 72 hours, may not be the last, as such failures are likely to persist.

A statement by the General Manager of Public Affairs, Ndidi Mbah, noted that this is due to the ongoing repair of critical infrastructure to enhance the overall stability and resilience of the grid.

On Thursday, the national grid collapsed again, marking the 11th of such incidents since January 2024.

Our correspondents confirmed that as of 11am, the 22 power plants were only able to generate 2,323 megawatts of electricity, with generation dropping to 0.00MW.

Minors' arraignment within confines of law – AGF

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Lateef Fagbemi, has addressed the heated controversy surrounding the arraignment of young #EndBadGovernance protesters for treason.

Speaking during the commissioning of Law Corridor's new office complex and the presentation of a book on the modern Nigerian legal system in Abuja on Thursday, the AGF said in his address that the arraignment of the younger protesters was within the confines of Nigerian law.

Fagbemi said, "Let me seize this opportunity to clarify something. There is a misconception that because these are children and minors (the arraigned #EndBadGovernance protesters),



The trial of 119 protesters, including minors aged between 14-17 years, had been condemned by Nigerians and international organisations demanding their immediate release.

The minors had since been released and reunited with their families following the order by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The attorney general insisted the matter was serious and commended the president for ordering the release of the protesters.

He said Tinubu was compassionate, hence his order on the release of the minors despite "facts" that security agencies possess on the protest.

Fagbemi said, "The president was very compassionate; he is a father and a grandfather. If you look at the facts in the possession of the security agency, you would marvel, but the president said, despite all this, 'I have children, grandchildren,' and that motivated his passion to release them and also enable them in some ways.

Interior Ministry discusses strengthening security, efficiency with UK Home Secretary

By Friday Omosola

The UK Home Secretary and Nigeria's Ministry of Interior engaged in discussions focused on strengthening security, enhancing efficiency, and improving service delivery.

In a statement on his X page, Nigeria's Interior Minister, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, highlighted that the meeting with UK Home Secretary Yvette Cooper underscored his administration's commitment to sustainable development through cooperation and shared goals.

He noted that the meeting aligns with his Ministry's initiative to expand its contactless biometric solutions to the UK, following a successful launch in Canada with impressive results.



Tunji-Ojo said: "Our commitment to building strategic partnerships that enhance security and public service delivery was reinforced in a recent meeting with the Home Secretary of the United Kingdom, Rt Hon Yvette Cooper, joined by key Nigerian officials, including the

Tunji-Ojo said: "Our commitment to building strategic partnerships that enhance security and public service delivery was reinforced in a recent meeting with the Home Secretary of the United Kingdom, Rt Hon Yvette Cooper, joined by key Nigerian officials, including the Comptroller General of Immigration, Kemi Nanna Nandap, and the Controller General of Fire Service, Engr. Abdulganiyu Olola Jaji.

"I also led senior officials, including the Permanent Secretary, DrMagdalene Ajani, on an oversight visit to the Nigeria High Commission. This visit reaffirms our support for the attachés working to improve our services to Nigerians abroad."

Oluremi Tinubu calls for enhanced engagement of youth in agriculture

By Friday Omosola

First Lady Oluremi Tinubu has called for greater youth involvement in agriculture to strengthen food security efforts across Nigeria.

Mrs Tinubu made these remarks at a meeting with State First Ladies, who also serve as State Coordinators for the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI).

She emphasised the importance of channelling young people's energy into productive ventures, highlighting agriculture as a valuable pathway.

Mrs Tinubu explained that involving youth in farming would positively impact the nation's food supply and overall security.



She also stressed the importance of women growing food at home, noting that this practice not only promotes healthy eating for families but also ensures food availability.

Sharing her own experience with home farming, Mrs Tinubu noted significant benefits, particularly the organic produce she harvests.

Sharing her own experience with home farming, Mrs Tinubu noted significant benefits, particularly the organic produce she harvests.

She encouraged the governors' wives to spread awareness about the value of home-grown food to their communities.

The First Lady also announced a partnership between RHI and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to further promote home farming.

Mrs Tinubu mentioned the RHI #Every Home a Garden competition, which has reached its final stage, with three entries shortlisted from various states.

133.1m Nigerians face severe hunger by 2025 – Report

By Dave Oludare Oso

An alarming forecast by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has projected that no fewer than 133.1 million Nigerians will face a global hunger crisis by 2025.

In a statement issued on Thursday, FAO said the Cadre Harmonisé report on food and nutrition insecurity was developed through a collaborative effort involving the federal government and key partners, including the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), among others.

The statement noted that the report highlights the urgency of addressing food and nutrition challenges to avert a looming crisis.

The statement read: "The food and nutrition insecurity analysis, Cadre Harmonisé, led by the government of Nigeria and supported by partners,



alerts on the deterioration of food security in Nigeria, with 133.1 million people expected to face high levels of food insecurity in the next lean season (June-August).

"It is an alarming seven million people increase from the same period last year, driven by

by economic hardship, coupled with record high inflation, impacts of climate change and persistent violence in the northeastern states.

"Nationally, the number of people experiencing emergency levels (Phase 4) of food insecurity is projected to increase. While no populations have been classified as catastrophe (Phase 5), populations experiencing emergency (Phase 4) are anticipated to increase from 1 million people in the peak of the 2024 lean season to 1.8 million people at the same period in 2025, representing an 80 per cent increase.

"Approximately 5.4 million children and nearly 800,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are at risk of acute malnutrition or wasting from six of the most affected states of Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe in the northeast, as well as Sokoto, Katsina and Zamfara in the northwest.

Teenager jailed six months for stealing 282 chickens, other items

By Olusegun Joel

An Abeokuta, Ogun State Magistrates' Court on Friday sentenced a 19-year-old boy, Ibrahim Abubakar, to six months in prison for stealing 282 chickens and other valuable items worth over N2.2 million.

Abubakar, whose address was not provided, was convicted on a one-count charge of stealing.

The Magistrate, B.O Ilo, held that evidence presented by the prosecution had proven beyond reasonable doubt that the convict was guilty of an offence as charged.

He then sentenced Abubakar to six months in prison without an option of fine.

Earlier, the Prosecutor, Inspector Lawrence Olu-Balogun, told the court that the convict committed the offence between May and October at Number



44 Iyana Cele in the Sabo Area of Abeokuta.

Mr Olu-Balogun said the defendant entered into a poultry farm and stole 282 live chickens valued at N2.115 million, belonging to one Ademide Yusuf. He also said the convict entered the compound beside the poultry farm and stole valuable items worth N70,500.

The prosecutor said, "The items stolen include one iron bed frame, valued at N25,000, electric wires valued at N20,000, one change-over switch valued at N5,000 and electric switch valued at N2,000.

Stop evil prophecies against Nigeria, Tinubu, Mahara Ji warns Primate Ayodele

By Dave Oludare Oso

Satguru Maharaj Ji, the founder of One Love Family, has warned Primate Elijah Ayodele of INRI Evangelical Spiritual Church to desist forthwith from further prophecies of doom against President Bola Tinubu.

He equally warned Ayodele against predicting the downfall of Nigeria, saying Ayodele's doom and disaster prophecies will not materialize.

The bearded cleric urged Ayodele to learn from Primate Olabayo and TB Joshua and others whose negative predictions caught up with them.

Maharaj Ji, while reacting to Ayodele's statement that Tinubu's government has no solution to Nigeria's economic problems, wondered how a man of God will be prophesying doom all the time.

It would be recalled that Ayodele, in a recent statement, described Nigeria's economic state as hypertensive, saying Nigerians will continue to experience hardship until there's an economic reset, which he said the current government may not be able to carry out.

Mahara Ji, in his reaction to Ayodele's statement, said men of God in the Bible and Holy Quran are known to follow the God of peace, unity, love and happiness.

He said Primate Ayodele's negative prophecies amount to treason.

Maharaj Ji said: "Even when such



negative things are revealed to them about their nation or individuals, they pray against such occurrences and anything to the contrary is deviant and ungodly because when light comes, darkness disappear.

"They ought to stand at sight as Divine intervention, through this and similar prophecies, Primate Ayodele tends to make people believe that he is a

Police detain 4 Inspectors for extorting N10m in Bayelsa

By Dave Oludare Oso

Four police officers who allegedly extorted N10 million from some young persons in Bayelsa State have been detained.

The force spokesperson, Muyiwa Adejobi, in a statement on Friday, identified the officers as Emmanuel Ubong, an assistant superintendent of police (ASP), and Nse Okon, Adiewere Collins, and Kuromare Marine — all police inspectors.

Adejobi said the money has been recovered through the efforts of Adebola Hamzat, the new assistant inspector-general of police (AIG), leading Zone 16 of the force.

The police spokesperson added that the officers will be subjected to orderly room trial.

He added that Kayode Egbetokun, the inspector-general of police (IGP), has ordered a “thorough” investigation into allegations of corruption and



and misconduct against the officers.

The statement reads, “The Inspector-General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun, Ph.D., NPM., has condemned alleged extortions by some officers of the force in some areas within the country, most especially the extant case involving the officers of the Zone 16 Zonal Headquarters, Yenegoa, identified as ASP Emmanuel Ubong, Inspector Nse Okon, Inspector Adiewere Collins, and

“The IGP has, however, reassured the general public that the force will continue to investigate all allegations levelled against erring officers of the force thoroughly.

”In pursuit of restorative justice, the Inspector-General of Police has mandated severe consequences for any officer, no matter how highly ranked, found culpable, acting as a

Lawyers dump Abuja Bolt driver over apology to lawmaker

By Dave Oludare Oso

Lawyers of the Abuja Bolt driver, Stephen Abuwatseye, who was assaulted by a House of Representative member from Abia State, Alex Ikwechegh, have withdrawn their legal representation.

Deji Adeyanju and Partners said they withdrew their legal representation of Abuwatseye to protect its professional integrity and maintain the highest ethical standard in the legal profession.

Abuwatseye was few weeks ago assaulted by the member representing Aba North/South of Abia State while delivering a food item. The incident happened at the lawmaker’s residence in Maitama area of Abuja.

Following the incident, the lawmaker

at a Kuje Magistrate Court in Abuja where he was later granted bail.

However, on Thursday, Abuwatseye had apologized to Ikwechegh while calling for unity among Nigerians.

Reacting, a statement by the law firm signed by Zainab Ortega reads: “We wish to formally announce the withdrawal of our legal representation in the case involving the alleged assault of Mr. Stephen Abuwatseye.

“On October 28, 2024, Mr. Stephen Abuwatseye walked into our law firm, visibly distressed, and sought redress over an alleged assault.

“Following his complaint, and having verified his claim, we took steps to protect Mr. Stephen Abuwatseye’s



rights, on pro bono basis, culminating in the arraignment of the alleged assaulter.

“However, in view of recent developments and after careful consideration, we have made the decision to withdraw our legal representation in order to protect our professional integrity and maintain the highest ethical standard in the legal profession.

2027 polls: Let's fix PDP to save Nigeria — Saraki, Makinde

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

As Nigeria approaches the 2027 general elections, two key figures within the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) former Senate President Bukola Saraki and Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State have called on PDP stakeholders to unite and revitalise the party in order to offer a clear, hopeful path for Nigeria's future.

The two leaders made the appeal on Wednesday during the inauguration and unveiling of the Board of Governors of the Peoples Democratic Institute (PDI) in Abuja.

The event marked a significant step towards rejuvenating the PDP's ideological direction ahead of the upcoming elections.

Governor Makinde, in his remarks, emphasised that Nigerians now have a clearer understanding of the stark differences between the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) and the PDP. He stressed that the party must offer more than just a political alternative; it must provide a robust vision and direction for the country.

“As we approach 2027, it is clear that the PDP has to provide real hope for Nigeria,” Makinde said.

“By revitalising the PDI, we are taking steps to provide that hope for our people.”

Makinde underscored that Nigeria is in dire need of a party with a strong ideological foundation that can offer direction.

He also acknowledged the legacy of the PDI, which was initially established by former Governor Okwesilieze Nwodo and other leaders, as a think tank that could help define the party's ideological future.

Reflecting on his own journey with the PDP, Governor Makinde noted the importance of offering real leadership and expressed his gratitude for the support he had received from the party, which allowed him to secure two consecutive mandates as governor.

He pledged to continue working towards strengthening the PDP, stressing that a strong party would eventually lead to a stronger, more prosperous Nigeria.

“The PDP is the only party in Nigeria that has allowed youth to be part of a political institution, and I believe the PDI will only expand that space,” Makinde said.

“We can and will fix Nigeria. We'll fix the PDP, and then the PDP will fix Nigeria.”

“Build Ideas, Not Ambition” – Saraki
Former Senate President Bukola Saraki echoed Governor Makinde's sentiments, calling for the party to return to its ideological roots.

He reminded stakeholders that political parties are built on ideas, philosophies, and policies, not on individual ambition.

Saraki called for an end to the current focus on political positions and elections for 2027, urging PDP members to focus on the long-term vision of the party.

“We cannot have a party if we don't have ideas,” Saraki stressed.

“Let us move away from building ideas based on personal ambition. Let us focus on building a party based on principles and policies that will benefit Nigerians.”

Saraki also warned against the temptation to focus too early on the specifics of the 2027 race, including which candidates might run for president, governor, or other offices. Instead, he called for the party to prioritise its internal rebuilding and ideological development as the foundation for future success.



Shun flamboyant lifestyle, Osinbajo tells business owners

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

Former Vice President of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, has advised Nigerian business owners to reconsider their lavish lifestyles, which he says are unsustainable and detrimental to the long-term health of their businesses.

Osinbajo made the call during his keynote address at the 2024 Women in Management, Business and Public Service (WIMBIZ) conference, held in Lagos on Thursday, November 7.

The two-day event, now in its 23rd edition, is themed **“Dream, Dare, and Do”** and chaired by Professor Folasade Ogunsola, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos.

In his speech, Osinbajo expressed concern that many business owners in Nigeria are often under pressure to project an image of success that exceeds the actual capacity of their businesses.

This, he argued, leads to a situation where the money that could be reinvested into growing the business is instead spent on maintaining a perception of success.

Osinbajo pointed out that the desire to maintain a lavish lifestyle, often fuelled by unrealistic portrayals of wealth on social media, can become a significant challenge for Nigerian entrepreneurs.

“To maintain a perception of success that is usually above the means of the business... If the business cannot support your lifestyle, there is pressure to look and spend as though you are very successful even though your business is only a few years old,” Osinbajo stated.

He noted that this pressure is often worsened by the “unrealistic lifestyle of allegedly successful people” in society, which creates a false narrative that success must be demonstrated through excessive displays of wealth, such as buying expensive cars or traveling first class, even when the business may not be profitable enough to support such expenses.

According to Osinbajo, this behavior leads to many business owners investing more in appearances than in actual business growth.

“A lot of the investible resources are spent on maintaining appearances,” he said.

Osinbajo also urged the Nigerian elite to take on a more proactive role in addressing the issues facing the nation’s poor majority. He emphasized that the economic, political, and moral direction of a country is determined by its elite

class, whether they are political, business, or religious leaders.

“The elite must be the mediator for these people,” he said.

“They must fight for social welfare schemes, healthcare, and school feeding programmes for children in public schools.”

He added that the elite must take responsibility for advocating on behalf of those struggling with the basic challenges of life, such as access to affordable healthcare, education, and food.

Osinbajo also pointed out the severe education challenges in northern Nigeria, with over 67% illiteracy rates in the region. He stated that the elite should rally around efforts to address these issues, particularly the education of girls in the north, to ensure the country’s future development is not hindered by widespread illiteracy.



Ethiopian Airlines' state-of-the-art A350-1000 fleet arrives Lagos airport

By Olusegun Joel

Ethiopian Airline Thursday raised the bar in terms of comfort, style and aerodynamic innovation with the arrival of its state-of-the-art Airbus A350-1000 aircraft in Lagos.

Receiving the first commercial flight of the aircraft, the General Manager, Ethiopian Airlines Nigeria, Wondwossen Beyene, said that it was a significant milestone in Africa's aviation industry.

NEWDAILYPRIME reports that the aircraft, transporting 272 passengers with 15 in Business Class and 257 in Economy, took off from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and arrived the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

"This marks a significant milestone in African aviation as Ethiopian Airlines



becomes the first airline on the continent to introduce this cutting-edge aircraft.

"The flight we are receiving today is the first commercial flight of the Aircraft, underscoring the commitment of Ethiopian Airlines to the Nigerian market.

"The A350-1000 boasts a revolutionary design with innovative aerodynamics and a carbon-fiber fuselage, powered by the fuel-efficient Rolls-Royce Trent XWB engines, ensuring a quieter, smoother journey for long-haul travel.

"It is a game-changer in the aviation industry, boasting unparalleled comfort, efficiency, and technological advancements," he said.

According to the GM, passengers will experience unparalleled comfort aboard the aircraft, because it is the first Aircraft to feature Thales's AVANT Up inflight entertainment system and the HBC+ connectivity system.

Kaduna Police arrest 3 members of notorious kidnap syndicate

By Oluwatosin Ologun

The police in Kaduna State have arrested a three-member gang of suspected kidnapping syndicate terrorizing citizens in communities and recovered dangerous weapons from the culprits.

Spokesman of the Kaduna Police Command, ASP Mansir Hassan, stated that "On 5th November 2024, at about 18:35 hours, acting on a credible technical intelligence, the Operation Fushin Kada Tracking and Response Team, successfully arrested three members of a notorious kidnapping syndicate terrorizing Kaduna-Abuja highway and other neighboring states.

"The suspects, identified as Muhammad Lawal Abubakar (40), Abubakar Isah (40), and Samaila



Saidu (65), were apprehended during a targeted intelligence-led operation. The police recovered an AK-47 rifle with an empty magazine from the suspects.

"During interrogation, all three suspects confessed to being part of a kidnapping syndicate known for terrorizing the Kaduna-Abuja Expressway. The syndicate have been linked to a string of violent incidents across the region, causing

distress among residents and travelers alike.

"The suspects are currently cooperating with the Police and have provided crucial information to assist in the possible arrest of other syndicate members at large and to facilitate the recovery of additional firearms in the group's possession.

"The Commissioner of Police CP Ibrahim Abdullahi.psc,mni commended the Police Operatives for their diligence and urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities, as the Command remains steadfast in its commitment to safeguarding the lives and property of citizens and will continue to deploy all resources necessary to dismantle criminal networks in the state."

Odegaard Available, Rice Remains Doubtful for Arsenal's Clash with Chelsea

By Kayode Akinwumi

Arsenal captain Martin Odegaard is fit and available for Sunday's Premier League match against Chelsea, manager Mikel Arteta has confirmed. Odegaard had been sidelined since September with an injury sustained on international duty. He made a late substitute appearance in Arsenal's midweek loss to Inter Milan. Arteta stated that all squad members are fit, but will make a late decision on whether Odegaard will start.

However, there is less certainty surrounding the availability of midfielder Declan Rice, who is nursing a toe injury. Arteta admitted that there is "no clarity if he's going to be fit on the weekend," as Rice has not yet trained.

Arsenal has grappled with several injuries this season, including absences



have presented but praised his team's adaptability.

Chelsea also faces an injury concern with Cole Palmer potentially missing the match due to an injury sustained in their draw with Manchester United. Blues manager Enzo Maresca was hesitant to confirm Palmer's availability, saying a decision will be

made after Saturday's training session.

Currently, both Chelsea and Arsenal are tied at 18 points in the Premier League standings after 10 matches, with Chelsea slightly ahead on goal difference. Chelsea is coming off a resounding 8-0 victory over FC Noah in European competition, while Arsenal suffered a narrow defeat against Inter Milan.

Arteta expressed admiration for his squad's mentality despite recent league defeats to Bournemouth and Newcastle, highlighting their hunger and desire to succeed heading into the international break.

Jota's Return Delayed Forcing Liverpool to Adapt

By Kayode Akinwumi

Liverpool striker Diogo Jota will be out for longer than initially anticipated, manager Arne Slot confirmed. Jota suffered an upper-body injury after a collision with Chelsea defender Tosin Adarabioyo during Liverpool's 2-1 victory on October 20.

The injury was expected to sideline Jota until after the upcoming international break, which would have allowed him to return for Liverpool's match against Southampton on November 24.

However, Slot revealed that Jota's recovery will take longer, and he is now expected to be back one to two weeks

after the international break. This means he will likely miss crucial matches against Real Madrid and Manchester City at the end of November.

Jota's absence has forced Slot to experiment with different attacking options. Darwin Nunez has started in the center forward position in recent games, scoring the winning goal against RB Leipzig.

Luis Diaz also impressed with a hat-trick when starting centrally in the 4-0 win against Bayer Leverkusen. Slot even opted to play without a recognized striker in Liverpool's League Cup

victory over Brighton.

In addition to Jota, Alisson Becker, Harvey Elliott, and Federico Chiesa are all expected to return after the international break, though no specific dates have been given for their comebacks.



Manchester United Coach Darren Fletcher Receives Three-Match Ban

By Kayode Akinwumi



Manchester United coach Darren Fletcher has been handed a three-match touchline ban and fined £7,500 by the Football Association (FA) for misconduct. The ban stems from a furious rant directed at officials during halftime of Manchester United's match against Brentford on October 19.

The FA alleged that Fletcher acted in an improper and confrontational manner, using abusive and insulting language towards the fourth official, referee, and assistant referees in the tunnel area. The FA's statement, released on Friday reads,

"An independent Regulatory Commission has imposed a three-match extended touchline ban and

£7,500 fine on Darren Fletcher for misconduct at Manchester United's Premier League match against Brentford on Saturday 19 October."

While Fletcher admitted to misconduct, he denied using abusive language. However, an independent Regulatory Commission found the FA's allegations to be true and imposed the sanctions.

The ban means Fletcher will miss Manchester United's upcoming Premier League matches against Leicester, Ipswich, and Everton. He will also be notably absent for incoming manager Ruben Amorim's first game in charge against Ipswich.

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Are Chelsea too big for Conference League?

By New Daily Prime

Chelsea broke a Conference League record with their demolition of Noah – and left observers wondering what they are even doing in the tournament.

The Blues have improved significantly under Enzo Maresca from the side which sneaked into Uefa's third tournament at the end of last season.

And even though they are playing their second string in the tournament – with star player Cole Palmer not even registered – they are blowing everyone away.

Thursday's 8-0 victory broke the previous Conference League record win – held jointly by three teams – by two goals.

After three games they have scored 16 goals, twice the total of the next-best team.

"Chelsea shouldn't be in this competition, but this is where they are," said former Blues midfielder Joe Cole on TNT Sport.

"This tournament doesn't start for Chelsea until the quarter-finals or semi-finals. They are massive favourites to win it and they should be."

Former England striker Peter Crouch felt just as strongly.

"Looking at some of the names, I just don't see how they can lose this tournament," he said.

The Blues, who would become the first team to win the Champions League, Europa League and Conference League should they go all the way, are ranked eighth in Uefa's club rankings.

Armenian side FC Noah – founded just seven years ago – are 311th in the list.



Transfermarkt puts the value of the entire Noah squad at £6.5m – compared to Chelsea's £800m-rated squad.

HOW DID CHELSEA END UP IN THE CONFERENCE LEAGUE?

Chelsea are fortunate to even be in Europe this season. They won their final five Premier League games under Mauricio Pochettino to finish sixth and get a Conference League play-off spot.

For much of the season it appeared they were going to finish mid-table.

And they only just came through their play-off to qualify for this phase, beating Servette 3-2 on aggregate with the Swiss side missing late chances to force extra-time.

Already favourites to win the tournament before it started, they opened with a 4-2 home win over Gent, before winning 4-1 at Panathinaikos.

Chelsea are now odds-on favourites to win the entire tournament with the bookmakers, a remarkable state of affairs at this early stage of the

competition.

They sit top of the table on nine points, three clear in the automatic qualification places – and already six points above the elimination spots with three games to go.

Joining them in the top eight are German side Heidenheim and Irish side Shamrock Rovers, who are among their three remaining opponents, alongside Astana.

WHICH OTHER BIG TEAMS HAVE BEEN IN IT BEFORE?

Chelsea are not the first big team in the tournament, far from it, but none of the three previous winners have won the European Cup.

Roma beat Feyenoord in the first season's final, with Fiorentina losing the other two finals – against West Ham in 2023 and Olympiakos last season.

AY and Basketmouth reflect on 18-year feud's damage

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Renowned comedians AY Makun and Basketmouth have opened up about their long-standing feud that has persisted for an astonishing 18 years.

The intricacies of their public rivalry have garnered significant attention since it began back in 2006, marking a chapter in the Nigerian comedy scene that has left fans and peers alike both intrigued and concerned.

New Daily Prime recalls the palpable tension that existed between the two comedy giants, highlighting how they have consistently opted to avoid one another during public appearances throughout the years.

Their rivalry was characterized by whispered rumours, social media speculation, and a noticeable absence of collaborative projects a stark contrast to the vibrant synergy typically found in the entertainment industry.

In a noteworthy turn of events, AY and Basketmouth finally reunited for their first public appearance together following their reconciliation in September 2024.

This moment marked a significant shift in their relationship, allowing both comedians to confront their past and reflect on the consequences of their discord.

During the latest episode of the popular podcast 'Glass House,' the duo candidly examined the impact of their feud on their personal and professional lives.

AY commenced the conversation by expressing his bewilderment regarding the origins of their conflict.

"I didn't know when the fight started. I just noticed it began," he shared thoughtfully.



AY elaborated, indicating that the rift seemed to take on a life of its own, spiralling out of control as time passed.

"Every day I wake up thinking boys will be boys, and like that, it grows into several years. People were spreading more rumours about it until it lasted that long," he lamented.

This candid admission underscores the complexities surrounding their rivalry, revealing an unanticipated cycle of **m i s c o m m u n i c a t i o n** and misunderstanding.

AY emphasized that the rift had broader consequences, stating, "Our feud caused some damages because in a way we were like providers for people."

This acknowledgement of their significance in the industry serves to illuminate the far-reaching effects of their disagreement not only for themselves but also for their fans and the comedic community at large.

Basketmouth, equally reflective, provided further insight into the

dynamics of their conflict. He remarked, "Most times people swear allegiance by default. So when we were not on good terms, some people made it their business."

His observation highlights how their feud inadvertently embroiled others, with fans and colleagues feeling the need to take sides.

This 'herd mentality' often resulted in painful divisions within their spheres of influence, complicating relationships beyond just their own.

He shared a personal anecdote, recalling an encounter with an individual who had picked a side during their heated rivalry.

"There was a guy that picked a side and came at me. Now that we are cool, he would be confused. It is a collaboration **o v e r c o m p e t i t i o n**."

“I’m Straight”- Desmond Elliot Responds to Gay Allegation

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actor-turned-politician Desmond Elliot has finally addressed the recent allegations regarding his sexuality.

The renowned actor, who has made a name for himself both on screen and in the political arena, found himself named in a controversial list that allegedly implicated several prominent Nigerian celebrities in homosexual activities.

This revelation sent shockwaves throughout social media, igniting a fierce backlash from netizens who vehemently expressed their opinions on the matter.

In light of the increasing speculation and public scrutiny, Desmond Elliot took to a viral video interview with TVC to set the record straight.

He firmly condemned the allegations as unfounded, emphasizing that he has more pressing matters to attend to than engage with what he categorized as malicious gossip.

Elliot articulated his perspective succinctly: “Why would I respond to allegations made against me when it did not reduce or increase my life?” He made it clear that he sees no merit in addressing such rumors, as they do not alter his reality or his mission.

He added, “Secondly, it is an opinion that is being conceived. And I don’t think it is necessary for me to come out and say it’s true or not true; as long as I’m affecting people positively, I’m good.”

The fallout from the allegations has not only affected Elliot but has also brought to light the societal attitudes towards sexuality in Nigeria a country known for its conservative values and strict laws against homosexuality.



As discussions about LGBTQ+ rights gain momentum globally, Nigeria remains contentious ground, where such accusations could severely impact the lives and careers of those involved.

Elliot’s statement, asserting his heterosexuality, may serve to quell the storm of rumors surrounding him.

Still, it also underscores the societal pressures that public figures face regarding their personal lives and identities.

In a culture where misconceptions can lead to severe backlash, many celebrities often find themselves walking a tightrope between their public personas and private truths.

An increasing number of individuals, especially within the entertainment and political spheres, are beginning to grapple with these complex dynamics as they navigate their careers in the public eye.

For many, expressing their true selves can be both liberating and perilous, especially in a society that may not fully accept or understand them.

Elliot’s focus on the positive impact of his

work is crucial. He reiterated that his intention has always been to uplift and inspire through his various roles both in acting and in his political endeavors.

“As long as I’m affecting people positively, that’s what truly matters to me,” he emphasized during the interview. In the midst of all the noise and speculation, it becomes essential for public figures like Elliot to maintain clarity about their values and priorities.

The actor-turned-politician’s response is a reminder that, while rumors may swirl and opinions may vary, staying true to one’s mission and the positive impact they are making can ultimately be more significant than the chatter that surrounds them.

As this story unfolds, one can’t help but wonder what the future holds for Desmond Elliot and how the discourse around sexuality and public personas will continue to evolve in Nigeria.

TikTok banned my account over 'dangerous miracles' – Odumeje

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Controversial cleric, Chukwemekah Oghanaemere, popularly known as Prophet Odumeje, has announced that TikTok blocked his account due to what the platform described as “dangerous miracles.”

In a video circulating on social media, Odumeje addressed his congregation, sharing details of TikTok’s decision to ban him.

According to the cleric, his supernatural acts and miracles were considered beyond the platform’s guidelines, prompting TikTok to disconnect his account.



“Even Facebook and other social media platforms are rejecting my dangerous miracles,” he said in the now-viral video.

“They are not accepting it. Because of my dangerous miracles, TikTok rejected me.

They disconnected me. They said this miracle is beyond them,” he added.

TikTok’s community guidelines prohibit content that is harmful, illegal, or misleading. However, it’s yet to be determined if sharing videos showcasing “dangerous miracles” could result in the suspension of TikTok accounts.

Odumeje, known for his unconventional style and controversial teachings, has often attracted public attention, with many questioning the legitimacy of his claims.

Mohbad: I’ll stand by Wunmi until proven guilty by law- Iyabo Ojo claims

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian actress Iyabo Ojo has come forward to advocate for Omowunmi, the widow of the late singer Mohbad.

New Daily Prime recalls that Mohbad died untimely on September 12, 2023.

The circumstances surrounding the singer’s death have sparked numerous debates and speculations, with many individuals quick to point fingers at Omowunmi.

However, amid ongoing investigations and growing public scrutiny, Iyabo Ojo has taken a courageous stand, declaring that she will continue to support Omowunmi until the law proves her guilty.

During an illuminating Instagram live session, the actress addressed her audience, emphasizing the

importance of evidence in the pursuit of justice.

In her remarks, she challenged social media users to refrain from engaging in unfounded speculation and to present any evidence they might possess to the appropriate authorities.

“There is a lot of anger directed towards me for standing by Wunmi,” Ojo stated candidly.

“However, the truth is that there is no concrete evidence to suggest that she is guilty. Until the judicial system categorically proves her guilt, I will remain steadfast in my support for her.”

Ojo further shared her sentiments on the matter, urging people to consider the

implications of their words and actions.

“If they wish to criticize or defame me for my stance, that is their prerogative. My compassion for Omowunmi will not waver. I substantiated by overwhelming evidence, I will maintain my position.”



Reeling Democrats rage at Biden for Harris' loss

By Dave Oludare Oso

In the wake of former President Donald Trump's resounding defeat of Vice President Kamala Harris—in which he improved his 2020 margins in nearly every key demographic—Democrats are facing a reckoning about what went wrong, and many are openly pointing the finger at President Joe Biden.

Democratic strategists, pundits and lawmakers have publicly blamed the loss on Biden's refusal to exit the race until late July, even as his unpopularity in polls surged and an increasing number of Americans said he was too old to serve another term.

David Axelrod, former President Barack Obama's strategist, told Time magazine, "the story might have been different if" Biden "made a timely decision to step aside," but noted that any Democrat may have been doomed by his unpopularity, adding, "no incumbent party has ever won with a president with a 40% approval rating or under."

Andrew Yang, who ran against Biden for the 2020 Democratic nomination, told the Associated Press, "the biggest onus of this loss is on President Biden," noting party leaders who refused to speak out against Biden earlier were also at fault.

Veteran Democratic National Committee member John Zogby had a similar take, telling Politico Biden "hung on too long" and his aides "failed to see his inability to step up his game."

Biden biographer and Atlantic staff writer Franklin Foer wrote, "Biden cannot escape the fact that his four years in office paved the way for the return of Donald Trump. This is his legacy. Everything else is an asterisk."

Jim Manley, a top aide to former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, told Politico, "He's a good man who can be proud of his accomplishments. But his legacy is in tatters," adding the "country



is headed in a very dangerous direction and it's due in part to his arrogance."

Manley is reportedly among nearly a dozen officials and party operatives who pinned Harris' loss on Biden in interviews with Politico, including former adviser to Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., Mark Longabaugh, who told the outlet: "the truth of the matter is, Biden should have stepped aside earlier and let the party put together a longer game plan."

Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., the first congressional Democrat to publicly call on Biden to step down, told Politico, "it would have been better if we had a primary, even if Harris was the eventual victor."

New York Times columnist Ezra Klein wrote in a post mortem for the paper, "President Biden, at 81 years old and hovering beneath 40 percent favorability in most polls, should never have run for re-election."

Thom Reilly, co-director of the Center for an Independent and Sustainable

Democracy at Arizona State University, told the Associated Press, "I don't know he escapes the legacy of being the president who beat Donald Trump only to usher in another Donald Trump administration four years later."

Democratic strategist Max Burns tweeted, "it seems short-sighted to heap blame on Kamala Harris for not running ahead of Joe Biden's 2020 numbers when even Joe Biden was trailing his own 2020 numbers before dropping out of the race entirely."

Atlantic columnist Tyler Austin Harper wrote in a piece bluntly titled "Blame Biden," that while Harris bears some responsibility, "she had an 81-year-old albatross hanging around her neck: Joe Biden."

15-year-old boy charged with murder in fatal stabbing of teenager

By Olamilekan Botti

A 15-year-old boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, has been charged with the murder of a 17-year-old boy in Marston Green.

A 17-year-old boy, identified locally as Reuben, was fatally stabbed just outside a vape shop located on Station Road on Tuesday evening. According to eyewitnesses, shop workers rushed to perform CPR on the youthful victim, who lay injured on the street after the violent altercation. Reports detail that emergency services arrived promptly on the scene, finding Reuben in critical condition.

Despite the valiant efforts of responders to save him, he succumbed to his life-threatening injuries. As the investigation unfolds, authorities have confirmed that a 15-year-old boy—whose identity cannot be disclosed for legal reasons—has been charged with Reuben's murder.

In acquisition to the murder charge, the accused has also been charged with possession of a knife. He is scheduled to appear before

magistrates in Birmingham for proceedings on Wednesday.

Detective Inspector Michelle Cordell has described this development as a “significant step” in the ongoing investigation. She has urged anyone with information regarding the circumstances surrounding the stabbing to step forward, emphasizing the necessity to understand the motives behind this tragic event.

In the wake of this loss, a GoFundMe campaign has been established by A Common Bond, a charity founded by Reuben's mother, Sarah. This organization focuses on supporting families who have faced shortcomings in children's services.

The message shared through the fundraiser portrays Reuben as a polite, humorous, and compassionate individual—an exceptional brother and son. “He and his mother shared an unbreakable bond,” the charity's message reads. “He was everything she could wish for and more. We want to rally support during this unimaginable time of grief.”

The GoFundMe appeal further highlights the aim of assisting Reuben's family with funeral expenses, as well as covering a period during which Sarah may need to take time off work to mourn and care for her other children. “We know she dedicates her life to helping others, and now we wish to return that support,” the message concludes.

The tragic stabbing occurred mere yards away from both a nursery and a junior school. The surrounding area is predominantly residential, punctuated by a series of local shops and a petrol station.

A staff member from a nearby hairdresser spoke about the significance of community spirit during this time, stating, “Many members of the public attempted to save him while he lay on the ground outside the vape shop.

They are heroes for their bravery and compassion, yet it's incredibly saddening.” Witnessing the chaos unfold was Osama Javaid, 24, a delivery driver at a local fast-food establishment. “The shop was bustling when the incident transpired,” he recalled.



Trump makes first cabinet pick, eyes Putin talks

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

President-elect Donald Trump has made his first official appointment after his surprise election victory, naming Susie Wiles, his campaign manager, as White House chief of staff.

This marks the first woman to hold the position in Trump's administration and underscores his intention to bring a fresh leadership style to the White House.

Wiles, a Florida native, is known for her tough, pragmatic approach and has earned widespread respect within Trump's team.

In a statement, Trump praised Wiles for her "smart, innovative" leadership, calling her "universally admired and respected."

Her appointment is seen as a significant move for Trump as he begins assembling his team for the next phase of his presidency.

The announcement comes just days after Trump's landslide victory over Democratic opponent Kamala Harris, which is already sending ripples through both U.S. politics and international relations.

With two and a half months remaining before his official return to the White House, Trump's victory is signaling a major shift from the policies of the outgoing Biden administration.

A Shift in Foreign Policy

Trump has also signaled a dramatic change in U.S. foreign policy, particularly concerning Russia. Despite the ongoing war in Ukraine and Russia's tense relations with



the West, Trump expressed a willingness to engage in direct talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The Russian leader, who has previously praised Trump's leadership, has called the president-elect "courageous" for his handling of an assassination attempt during a campaign rally in July.

Speaking with NBC News, Trump confirmed that although he had not yet spoken with Putin since his victory, he anticipated that the two would soon engage in discussions.

This contrasts sharply with the icy silence between Putin and President Joe Biden since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Trump has repeatedly criticized U.S. support for Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression, and has signaled his intention to seek a peace deal that would end the conflict.

In a broader foreign policy context, Chinese President Xi Jinping also congratulated Trump on his victory, continuing the pattern of diplomatic outreach from autocratic leaders.

However, Trump's stance on Russia and Ukraine has drawn criticism, particularly from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who called Trump's calls for a ceasefire "dangerous."

Hardline Immigration Policies
Trump also doubled down on his controversial immigration policies, telling NBC that he would push forward with mass deportations of undocumented migrants once in office.

"I have no choice," Trump said, adding that the price of implementing these policies would not deter him. This rhetoric signals that immigration will be a central issue for Trump in his second term, as he seeks to deliver on one of his key campaign promises.