

Canadian PM, Trudeau meets with Trump at Mar-a-Lago PAGE 22



Lagos 2027: Obasa, Seyi Tinubu, Ambode, Jandor, others eye Sanwo-Olu's seat PAGE 12



The New Daily Prime

I begged Abacha to spare Obasanjo's life in midnight letter – Gowon PAGE 5



22 bodies recovered, over 30 missing in Niger boat mishap

PAGE 8

SPORTS

Real reason managers are attracted to Super Eagles PAGE 25

Court dismisses Bobrisky's N200m suit against EFCC PAGE 9



IPOB declares supporters of Ekpa's faction as criminals PAGE 3

Four deadly London men jailed 76 years for murder PAGE 23

Tinubu advocates for education, food security in France

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to education and economic growth during a high-profile meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Palais des Élysée.

Accompanied by First Lady Oluremi Tinubu, the Nigerian leader emphasised critical sectors such as education, food security, energy, and solid minerals while seeking enhanced bilateral ties.

During his dialogue with President Macron, Tinubu highlighted his administration's dedication to reducing the number of out-of-school children through innovative re-enrollment and skills development programs.

He cited insecurity as a significant challenge but noted progress in creating a stable and supportive environment for children to return to classrooms.

"In order to bridge the gap for some who are of age and have been out of school for a while, we will encourage skills development," Tinubu stated.

He further stressed the role of motivation and practical training in ensuring that school-age children not only return to classrooms but also acquire valuable life skills.

President Macron lauded the initiative, emphasising the importance of education in unlocking Nigeria's vast potential and recalling his own experiences in the country during his time at the French Embassy.



At a joint press conference, Tinubu called for increased international investment in Nigeria's agricultural sector, stressing its untapped potential.

"Nigeria's financial sector is evolving and flourishing, creating opportunities for foreign investments, especially in food security," he said.

He underscored the need for a robust food security program, citing it as a prerequisite for economic stability.

"A starved nation will not care about the environment. In the 21st century, no child should go to bed hungry," he emphasised, adding that providing simple incentives, like milk for schoolchildren, could encourage educational participation.

Tinubu also advocated for stronger cooperation in the solid minerals and energy sectors, calling on France to partner with Nigeria in de-risking investment opportunities. "We have the potentials, and we have agreed on a deeper relationship to unlock

them," he said.

On security, Tinubu underscored the importance of collective responsibility in tackling terrorism and migration challenges. He highlighted ongoing peace-building efforts in Nigeria, adding that the blue economy, particularly in fishery, offers unexplored investment opportunities.

President Macron acknowledged the visit as a pivotal moment in France-Nigeria relations.

He praised Tinubu's visionary leadership and expressed confidence in Nigeria's ability to spearhead regional development under ECOWAS.

"We appreciate your energy in transforming Nigeria's economy and will work with you for collective success," Macron said, committing to increased investments in Nigeria's solid minerals and creative industries.

IPOB declares supporters of Ekpa's faction as criminals

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) has disassociated itself from the recent proclamation of the "United States of Biafra," made at a convention in Lahti, Finland, organized by Simon Ekpa's supporters.

In a statement on Saturday, IPOB spokesperson Emma Powerful dismissed any affiliation with the event, labeling those backing Ekpa as "criminals engaging in illegal activities to harm their homeland."

The declaration occurred during a convention led by Dr. Ngozi Orabueze, who identified herself as the Chief of Staff of the United States of Biafra and the organizer of the "Biafra Declaration of the Restoration of the United States of Biafra Convention 2024."

Videos from the event, widely shared on social media, showed participants displaying Biafran flags and chanting slogans.

IPOB reiterated its detachment from the declaration and stated that it does not recognize the activities of Ekpa's faction.

Powerful stated, "IPOB has no involvement in any conference. Those people (Ekpa's faction) are criminals supporting illegal activities to destroy our land.



There is no such thing as a declaration of Biafra from our side.

"Any claim that IPOB is hosting a conference is false. When IPOB decides to make such an important announcement, the whole world will know. Those making such statements are fake."

MASSOB reacts

Meanwhile, the spokesperson for the Movement for Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), Sunday Edeson, in his reaction to the report, stated that if IPOB succeeded in the realisation of Biafra through its declaration, MASSOB would accept and

rejoice with them.

He added that the British government would never support the freedom of Biafra.

Edeson said, "Everyone has the right to declare. They declared their freedom in Finland, but we know that we're still under Nigerian leadership. We support them.

"Declaring independence in Finland doesn't mean we're free from the Nigerian government. We still use Nigerian currency, and security agencies are still from Nigeria. So, we're still under Nigeria's control.

What I expect from new NUJ President – Tinubu

By Dave Oludare Oso



The Nigerian President, Bola Tinubu have departed Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, after attending the 2024 G-20 leaders' summit.

President Tinubu, who attended the summit with his wife and his wife, Oluremi, engaged in bilateral discussions to advance Nigeria's socio-economic reforms at the summit, which held from Monday, November 18, to Tuesday, November 19, 2024.

Hosted by the Brazilian President, Lula da Silva, the G20 summit focused on the theme, "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet."

Discussions addressed sustainable development in economic, social, and environmental dimensions, global governance reforms, climate change, and the digital economy.

The meeting brought together leaders from the world's top 20 economies, including the European Union, the African Union, and multilateral financial institutions, among others.

The G20 comprises 19 member countries, including Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, Russia,

Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Türkiye, the UK, and the US, along with the European Union.

Tinubu's participation in the meeting was at the instance of the Brazilian president and the president was accompanied by top government officials, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar; Ministers of Livestock Development, Idi Maiha; Minister of Art, Tourism, Culture and Creativity, Hannatu Musawa; Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Dr. Aliyu Abdullahi; and the Director General of the National Intelligence Agency, Mohammed Mohammed.

I begged Abacha to spare Obasanjo's life in midnight letter – Gowon

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former Head of State, General Yakubu Gowon (retd.) has revealed that he pleaded with late General Sani Abacha not to execute former President Olusegun Obasanjo for an alleged coup plot in 1995.

Gowon said this at the maiden edition of the Interdenominational Unity Christmas Carol and Praise Festival organized by the Plateau Government, which also had Obasanjo in attendance.

NEW DAILY PRIME reports that Obasanjo was arrested in 1995 by Abacha and convicted of being part of a planned coup to overthrow his government.

Obasanjo, in spite of pleading innocent to the coup, was sentenced to death.

He spent three years in prison before he was released in 1998 following the death of Gen. Abacha on June 8 of that year.

While Gowon was the Special Guest of Honour at the event, Obasanjo was the Guest of Honour, respectively.



“I wrote a letter to Abacha, I pleaded with him that God made him a leader to do good and not evil.

“I sent my wife with the letter in the middle of the night to Abacha in Abuja; I pleaded with him that such a thing should not happen.

“I’m glad that soon after that, things changed, and not only that Obasanjo left prison, he became our president in 1999.

“This is something that only prayers and sincerity can do; I’m happy that today myself and Obasanjo are here to celebrate

the unity of Plateau,” he said.

Gowon also thanked the state government for organising the carol, adding that it would further unite the citizens of the state.

The former head of state said the state had gone through myriad of security challenges, hence the carol provided suitable avenue for the people to commune.

He commended Governor Caleb Mutfwang for the various initiatives aimed at promoting peaceful coexistence among the people.

Report cash withdrawal problems at ATMs from December, CBN tells Nigerians

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has told bank customers to report difficulties experienced with withdrawing cash from bank branches or ATMs from December 1.

The CBN governor, Olayemi Cardoso, spoke on Friday during the 2024 annual bankers dinner organized by the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) in Lagos.

The bank chief urged customers to make reports through the regulator's designated phone numbers and email addresses.

He said, "Effective December 1, 2024, customers are encouraged to report any difficulties withdrawing cash from bank branches or ATMs directly to the CBN through designated phone numbers and email addresses for their respective states.

"I repeat, financial institutions found engaging in malpractices or deliberate sabotage will face stringent penalties."

Cardoso further said the CBN will continue to maintain a robust cash buffer to meet the country's needs, particularly during high-demand periods such as the festive season and year-end.

He said the focus is to ensure seamless cash flow for Nigerians while fostering trust and stability in the financial system.

The economist said the payment system vision initiative for 2025 will further enhance confidence in the nation's payment system.

The CBN governor also assured that payment gateways in settling



financial transactions will become better in 2025 as delays will be addressed.

Cardoso said trust is fundamental to fostering digital transactions, stressing the CBN will take every necessary step to preserve that trust in payment systems.

He also said delays often disproportionately affect vulnerable segments of the population, adding that apex bank would apply penalties on non-compliant institutions to safeguard consumer trust and ensure swift redress mechanisms.

The CBN governor said, "In 2025, CBN would prioritise initiatives including implementing an open banking framework, advancing contactless payment systems, and expanding its regulatory sandbox.

"Additionally, we will issue revised guidelines for agency banking and continue to strengthen electronic payment channels."

Cardoso said Nigeria would exit the grey list on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) by second quarter (Q2) of 2025, adding that enforcement plans against money laundering,

cybercrime, fraud, corruption, among others are being put in place.

On his part, Pius Olanrewaju, president and chairman of the CIBN, said 2024 had been an eventful year for the banking industry and the economy.

Olanrewaju said various policies and regulations of the apex bank and the federal government had begun to yield fruit.

"For example, the Nigerian economy continues to be more resilient and agile as shown in the steady growth from 2.98 per cent in Q1 to 3.19 percent in Q2 and now 3.46 percent in Q3 of 2024," he said.

"Likewise, the Nigerian banking industry has also shown resilience this year despite the macroeconomic pressures such as rising inflation, and exchange rate fluctuations, amongst others.

"The bank recapitalisation exercise also attests to the fact that we are well on our way towards not only strengthening the financial sector but also supporting a \$1 trillion economy envisaged by 2030."

Tinubu okays funds for UNESCO media institute

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President Bola Tinubu has approved funds for the immediate take-off of the UNESCO Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Institute.

Information Minister, Mohammed Idris, made the announcement in France, during a meeting with Tawfik Jelassi, the Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The meeting held on the sidelines of Tinubu's visit to France.

Idris said, "President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has been very supportive of the take-off process, and has approved the release of all funds required for the immediate operationalization of the Institute, which will be located in the Federal Capital Territory."

The minister thanked UNESCO for



the honour of hosting a category 2 MIL institute, the only one of its kind in the world.

Responding, Jelassi expressed enthusiasm for the take-off of the Institute in Nigeria, emphasizing its relevance in addressing global challenges of misinformation, disinformation, and hate speech.

He also highlighted the importance of

fostering a safer and more reliable internet, which he said aligns with UNESCO's key priorities.

He explained that the goal of UNESCO's new Guidelines for the Governance of Digital Platforms is to promote critical thinking and platform transparency, whilst also safeguarding freedom of expression.

The assistant DG told Idris about the UNESCO MIL cities initiative, which seeks to integrate and embed the concept of media and information literacy into the design and daily operations of cities around the world, including transport systems, community activities, culture, and billboards.

Idris welcomed the initiative and pledged to ensure that Nigeria takes full advantage, and presents a city that will be among the world's inaugural set of MIL cities.

Atiku, Peter Obi parley in Adamawa

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar has hosted Labour Party (LP) presidential candidate in the 2023 general elections, Peter Obi to a breakfast meeting at his residence in Adamawa State.

In a video posted on his X handle on Saturday, Abubakar is seen with Obi walking into a dining area of his house.

Atiku hosted Obi at his residence in Abuja in May, sparking rumours of a possible alliance between both politicians ahead of the 2027 election.

The Turakin Adamawa was vice-president between 1999 and 2007, with Chief Olusegun Obasanjo as the President.

Atiku was Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) standard-bearer in the 2019 and 2023 presidential elections, losing out in both polls.



Obi was his running mate in 2019.

Obi, who was a member of PDP, joined the LP in 2022 — about seven months before the 2023 elections.

In May, Atiku said he will "keep contesting" for the Nigerian presidency as long as he is hale and hearty.

The politician, who is 78-years-old, will be 81 by the time the next presidential election comes around in 2027.

Abubakar has run for the number one office six times, but has been on the ballot as a presidential candidate on three occasions — 2007, 2019, and 2023.

22 bodies recovered, over 30 missing in Niger boat mishap

By Dave Oludare Oso

About 22 people have been confirmed dead in the boat accident that occurred in Agaie LGA of Niger State on Friday morning.

After a boat carrying over 50 people capsized on Friday along the Dambo-Ebuchi section of the River Niger, many people were feared to have drowned.

Director-general of the Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA), Abdullahi Baba-Arah, in a statement on Friday, said the incident occurred around 2am.

According to Baba-Arah, the boat, which was sailing from Kogi State to Katcha market in Niger, had about 50 passengers — mostly women — on board.

He said 22 bodies have been recovered so far, while eight persons were rescued alive.



Baba-Arah added that 18 of the deceased passengers were from Kogi, while four were residents of Akwanu community in Agaie LGA.

Search and rescue operations are ongoing, the director-general said.

None of the passengers reportedly wore life jackets.

The incident is the latest in a series of boat mishaps to hit Niger State.

In September, a boat accident claimed the lives of 42 persons in Gbajibo community, Mokwa LGA of Niger State.

On October 1, a boat conveying more than 200 persons went missing, with 150 passengers reportedly rescued.

About 701 citizens lost their lives in 53 boat accidents that occurred across Nigeria's waterways in 34 months — spanning January 2020 to October 2022.

Former Aviation Minister, Chidoka dumps PDP

By Dave Oludare Oso

Osita Chidoka, former Minister of Aviation and ex-Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), has officially resigned from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

He announced his decision during an interview on Channels Television's Politics Today on Friday.

Chidoka stated that his departure from active politics will allow him to focus on his non-profit organization, the Athena Centre, dedicated to reforming Nigeria's political landscape.

"I believe the time has come to work from outside the political system," Chidoka remarked, emphasizing his commitment to collaborating with like-minded Nigerians to drive systemic change.

"Earlier today, I sent a letter to my ward in Anambra State resigning officially from the PDP. I am leaving the PDP, I am leaving politic for some time, I am focusing on the Athena Centre," Chidoka said on the programme.

"I will work in concert with other Nigerians who want us to reform the political system to bring evidence-based governance and to support it. So, effective today, I am no longer a member of the Peoples Democratic Party."

Athena Centre founded by Chidoka conducted a review of the recently concluded governorship election in Edo State where the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate, Monday Okpebholo, was declared winner by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), defeating closest challenger, Asue Ighodalo of the PDP

The Athena Centre indicted INEC, stating that the election was compromised.

According to Chidoka, who presented the Centre's findings on the Edo State election, there was substantial evidence of systemic rigging.

"The evidence of systemic rigging observed in this election is so substantial that we cannot call the results.

"The evidence of systemic rigging is so substantial that we think that this election should not be allowed to stand. If this stands, then there is no election in 2027."

He said he is shocked that an institution like INEC will put its reputation at stake for the purpose of an election.

Court dismisses Bobrisky's N200m suit against EFCC

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Isaac Fayose, a social media commentator and younger brother of former Ekiti State governor, Ayo Fayose, has publicly challenged the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Nyesom Wike, to join the All Progressives Congress (APC) if he believes he possesses significant political power.

Fayose's remarks, made in a video circulating widely on social media included a strong assertion that Wike's political clout would see an 80 percent reduction if he were to decamp to the ruling party.

Fayose's comments underscore an ongoing debate regarding Wike's shifting political affiliations and the extent of his influence.



Wike, a former governor of Rivers State and an influential figure within the People's Democratic Party (PDP) until his recent role with the APC-led government, has maintained a prominent stance in Nigerian politics. He assured the delegation that

under President Bola Tinubu's administration, efforts are underway to address pressing healthcare issues, including the recent appointment of Professor Ali Pate as the Coordinating Minister for Health and Social Welfare.

Electricity subsidy will hit N2.4 trillion by year-end – NERC

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) says the cumulative electricity subsidy for 2024 will increase to N2.4 trillion.

The Commissioner of Planning, Research, and Strategy of the NERC, Dr Yusuf Alli, disclosed this at the PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PwC) annual power and utilities roundtable, held in Lagos on Thursday, November 28, with the theme, 'Reigniting Hope in Nigeria's Electric Power Sector.'

Alli attributed the increase in the subsidy figures to challenges with foreign exchange and adjustments to tariffs.

He said, "As of November, the subsidy amount stood at N1.9 trillion, but with current trends, the monthly

subsidy for electricity is expected to reach N260 billion in December.

"When the action was taken in April to increase tariff for band A, that reduced it by over N100 billion, but unfortunately, there has been some level of backsliding in the macroeconomic environment.

"So right now, the best estimate that we have for 2024 is that the cumulative subsidy for the year will be N2.4 trillion.

"The implication is that the Federal Government, Ministry of Finance, would have to find the money to pay the generating companies because they are the ones right now that are not getting their full money arising from the shortfalls."

Electricity subsidy removal led to

tariff hike

In its report for the second (Q2) of 2024, the NERC said the Federal Government's electricity subsidy obligation stood at N380 billion, a 40 per cent decline from the N633.3 billion recorded in Q1 2024.

The Federal Government halted electricity subsidy payments for electricity feeders categorised as Band A in April 2024, with the subsidy at N140.7 billion.

As of September 2024, the monthly electricity tariff subsidy paid by the Federal Government stood at N181.63 billion, increasing from N173.88 billion in August, N163.87 billion in July and N102.30 billion in May 2024, raising concerns that another electricity tariff hike may be in the offing.

FG raises loan access for small businesses to N5m

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Federal Government has announced a significant increase in the amount small businesses can access through its loan scheme, raising the limit to N5 million for eligible Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). This move is part of the government's efforts to foster inclusive economic growth across the country.

Dr. Olasupo Olusi, Managing Director and CEO of the Bank of Industry (BoI), made the announcement on Friday, November 29, during a town hall meeting in Lagos.

The event, organised by the Federal Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, the Presidency, and the Bank of Industry, aimed to raise awareness about the Federal Government Grant and Loan Scheme.

Represented by Umar Shekarau, BoI's Executive Director for MSMEs, Olusi commended President Bola Tinubu for the introduction of a N200 billion Presidential Intervention Fund, which includes N75 billion specifically for MSMEs. Olusi emphasised that the initiative is expected to create thousands of jobs across the country and help boost the Nigerian economy.

The funds, which are already available at the Bank of Industry, will be disbursed to qualifying businesses at a low interest rate of nine per cent. Olusi encouraged business owners to approach the BoI directly or register online without

intermediaries to access the loans and grants.

He also highlighted that over 800,000 Nigerians have already benefited from the scheme, with opportunities still available for more, including youths, women, and people with disabilities.

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Job Creation, Temitola Adekunle-Johnson, announced that successful applicants could now receive loans of up to N5 million, a significant increase from the previous limit of N1 million. The loans come with a three-year tenure at the same nine per cent interest rate.

Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, who was represented by Ahmed Gazalli, said the event was an important step towards fostering an inclusive and thriving economy. Edun reiterated the government's commitment to

supporting MSMEs, recognising them as the backbone of Nigeria's economy.

Minister of State for Industry, Trade, and Investment, Sen. John Eno, also expressed the government's dedication to creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. He called for continued collaboration among agencies to remove barriers to MSME growth.

The event was held simultaneously in six states, with various beneficiaries sharing their success stories. These included vegetable farmer Akor Goddy, nanny Angela Christopher, and food vendor William Asuquo, all of whom have benefited from the programme.

As the loan scheme continues to roll out, the Federal Government is focused on creating an ecosystem that supports small businesses, driving economic empowerment and long-term growth across the nation.



Lagos Taskforce sacks two officers caught stealing phones

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Two members of the Lagos State Task Force have been dismissed for allegedly stealing mobile handsets during a raid.

Announcing the development, the task force spokesperson, Abdulraheem Gbadeyan, identified the two dismissed officers as Fatai Yusuf (42) and Hammed Garuba (38).

Gbadeyan said the officials stole phones during an operation conducted at a hotel in Gowon Estate.

He said the integrity of the raid was compromised by the actions of the two officials whose misconduct was captured on closed circuit television (CCTV).

He said, "Both individuals, serving as paramilitary officers within the agency, were subjected to a meticulous investigation by the agency's disciplinary committee.

"Upon confirmation of their guilt, they were summarily dismissed from



service and will face immediate prosecution for theft."

Gbadeyan said Adetayo Akerele, chairman of the agency, denounced the actions of the dismissed officers and reaffirmed the agency's commitment to integrity and accountability.

"Akerele has issued a stern admonition to all personnel,

emphasising that any breach of ethical conduct would attract severe consequences," he said.

Gbadeyan added that the task force is guided by principles of discipline, equity, and justice, and any act that compromises the agency's credibility would be addressed decisively and without hesitation.

Gov Adeleke sets December for new minimum wage implementation

By Friday Omosola

Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, has announced that the newly approved minimum wage for workers in the state will take effect from December 1, 2024.

This follows the governor's approval of a monthly minimum wage of ₦75,000 for workers, exceeding the ₦70,000 benchmark agreed upon by the Federal Government and labor unions.

In a statement shared on his official X (formerly Twitter) account on Friday, Governor Adeleke revealed that the first payment will include one month's arrears for all public servants in the state.

He further announced a ₦25,000

pension increase across the board for all pensioners, describing the decision as a gesture to support senior citizens during challenging economic times.

"The improved minimum wage and pension adjustments reflect our commitment to the welfare of our workers and retirees, especially in these economically challenging times," the governor stated.

The statement read: "Sequel to the earlier announced new minimum wage for public workers in Osun State, I am elated to announce 1st of December, 2024, as the date for the implementation of the payment of ₦75,554.28 to all categories of workers, including local government employees across the State. This

includes payment of one month arrears to all public servants in the State.



Lagos 2027: Obasa, Seyi Tinubu, Ambode, Jandor, others eye Sanwo-Olu's seat

By Dave Oludare Oso

With 30 months left in his tenure, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State remains firmly in office.

However, the political stage is already brimming with activity as ambitious contenders begin their campaigns for the 2027 gubernatorial race.

Both ruling and opposition parties are setting the groundwork, and key players are positioning themselves for the Alausa Round House.

APC's Frontline Aspirants

In the All Progressives Congress (APC), heavyweights are lining up for a chance to lead Lagos. The list of rumored aspirants includes Seyi Tinubu, the son of President Bola Tinubu; Lagos State House of Assembly Speaker, Mudashiru Obasa; former governor, Akinwunmi Ambode; and Senator Tokunbo Abiru.

The decision on the APC candidate is expected to be influenced by factors such as religion, zoning, indigeneship, and endorsements from influential stakeholders like the Governor's Advisory Council (GAC) and President Tinubu himself.

Seyi Tinubu, a rising political figure, has received endorsements from various groups, while Speaker Obasa has declared his capability to govern the state, citing his extensive legislative experience.

Former Governor Ambode is also in the spotlight, with some party members advocating for his return to balance the 16-year religious leadership cycle between Christians and Muslims.

Opposition Gearing Up



Some stakeholders argue that this is a time to maintain the balance by returning power to a Muslim candidate, while others insist on completing a 16-year Christian leadership cycle to match the tenure of Bola Tinubu and Babatunde Fashola, both Muslims.

Sanwo-Olu's Journey and Power Dynamics

Governor Sanwo-Olu's emergence in 2019 marked a turning point in Lagos politics. The incumbent, Akinwunmi Ambode, was ousted by the APC power bloc led by Bola Tinubu, paving the way for Sanwo-Olu's candidacy as a consensus choice.

His second-term ambition faced initial challenges, with rumors suggesting other candidates such as Femi Gbajabiamila, now Chief of Staff to the President, and Hakeem Muri-Okunola, the Lagos Head of Service, were being considered.

However, public endorsements by Gbajabiamila and Muri-Okunola, coupled with widespread support from party members, solidified Sanwo-Olu's position, enabling him to secure re-election.

Some APC chieftains were of the opinion that Tinubu is a master planner and can spring surprises at any given time.

Lagos Deputy Governor, Babafemi Hamzat also came into the picture as having plans to succeed Sanwo-Olu but a source told NEW DAILY PRIME that the inner caucus has plans for him to relocate to Epe in order to make a case for the Lagos East Senatorial slot and complete what ought to be Akinwunmi Ambode's card.

On the other side, opposition parties are not left behind. Abdulaziz Olajide Adediran (Jandor) of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour of the Labour Party (LP) are reportedly preparing to renew their ambitions.

Both figures made notable impacts during the 2023 elections and are now working to realign with their party structures to increase their chances in 2027.

Both figures made notable impacts during the 2023 elections and are now working to realign with their party structures to increase their chances in 2027.

Jandor, who spearheads the Lagos4Lagos movement, continues to rally support among PDP founding members, while Rhodes-Vivour remains a popular figure among Lagos' younger electorate, particularly in urban centres.

Religious Dynamics in Focus

Religion is poised to play a significant role in determining the next Lagos governor. Sanwo-Olu, a Christian, succeeded Akinwunmi Ambode, also a Christian, bringing the total duration of Christian leadership to 12 years by 2027.

Gov Aiyedatiwa commends FUTA's contributions to technology, innovation

By Friday Omosola

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, has praised the Federal University of Technology Akure (FUTA) for its significant contributions to academic excellence, technological innovation, and nation-building.

The governor made the commendation during the combined 34th and 35th convocation ceremonies held at the institution on Saturday.

In his goodwill message, he celebrated the resilience and hard work of the graduands, whose dedication had culminated in their academic achievements.

Lauding FUTA's Vice Chancellor, Professor Adenike T. Oladiji, and the university's management team, Aiyedatiwa highlighted the institution's transformation into a global centre of excellence.

Lucky Aiyedatiwa [PHOTO CREDIT: Facebook]

"The calibre of graduates this university consistently produces is a testament to your resilience and commitment to excellence," the governor stated.

He encouraged the graduands to embody integrity, hard work, and resilience as they step into the competitive global landscape. He further urged them to leverage their knowledge and skills to create positive impacts within their communities and beyond.

Governor Aiyedatiwa assured FUTA of the state government's unwavering support in fostering academic development and innovation.



"We share a collective vision and mission towards nation-building in support of the RENEWED HOPE Agenda of President Asiwaju Bola Tinubu. Our government will continue to provide an enabling atmosphere for flourishing academic development, innovation, enterprise, and knowledge," he added.

He also reaffirmed his administration's commitment to his development agenda, "OUR EASE," which prioritizes security, urban and rural development, industrialization, healthcare, education, and sustainable agriculture.

In her welcome address, Professor Oladiji reiterated FUTA's dedication to advancing education, research, and technological innovation.

She congratulated the graduands for their perseverance and described them as the pride of the institution.

Highlighting the university's

milestones, the VC disclosed that 1,280 postgraduate degrees were awarded, comprising 344 postgraduate diplomas, 756 master's degrees, and 180 doctoral degrees.

Additionally, 6,500 undergraduate degrees were conferred, with 519 students earning first-class honours, 3,408 securing second-class upper, 2,139 obtaining second-class lower, and 339 graduating with third-class honours.

Professor Oladiji expressed gratitude to the Ondo State Government for its consistent support, emphasising that FUTA remains steadfast in its mission to advance education through innovation in science, technology, and engineering.

I'm not worried about my second term – Gov Oyebanji

By Friday Omosola

Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, has expressed confidence in God's plan for his political future, declaring that he has no concerns about the 2026 governorship election.

Speaking at the monthly Evening of Praise and Worship held at Jibowu Hall, Government House Grounds, Ado Ekiti, on Friday night, the governor emphasised that his fate rests in God's hands.

Governor Oyebanji stated that the God who ensured his victory in 2022 would do it again in 2026 if it was His will. He dismissed anxieties expressed by politicians and supporters, who frequently send him messages about the next election.

"God's plan supersedes any human



agenda. What God does not give a man, he cannot have. When God makes up His mind, nobody can stop Him," Oyebanji remarked, assuring his supporters that he remains at peace and focused on governance.

Reflecting on his administration's achievements, the governor credited divine intervention for the progress recorded across critical sectors despite prevailing economic challenges.

He noted that since dedicating Ekiti State to God, the state has enjoyed peace, progress, and prosperity.

"For those worried about 2026 and sending me text messages every day, don't bother yourself. God who did it last time will do it again. Let us concentrate on the work at hand and do it well," he added.

Governor Oyebanji maintained that he prioritizes fulfilling his promises to the people of Ekiti, insisting that governance, not politics, is his primary focus.

Edo state gov approves automatic employment for first-class graduates

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

Edo State Governor, Mr. Monday Okpembolo, has approved a new initiative that guarantees automatic employment for first-class graduates from both Nigerian and foreign universities into the state's Civil and Public Service. This move is part of efforts to enhance the quality of manpower within the state's workforce.

The announcement was made by the state's Head of Service, Anthony Okungbowa, who issued a statement on Friday, November 29, detailing the Graduate Development Programme.

According to Okungbowa, the programme aims to integrate top-tier graduates into the state's civil service to drive effective and efficient service delivery.

Okungbowa explained that the Governor's decision to approve the programme is aimed at motivating



workers and encouraging them to perform at their best.

"The Graduate Development Programme is designed to bring together first-class graduates and those with high-grade degrees to develop and enhance the quality of manpower within the service," he stated.

The Governor's initiative is not only about recruitment but also focuses on the retention of these highly skilled

individuals.

"The Governor is committed to bringing first-class graduates into the Edo State Civil and Public Service. He believes this policy will help the state attract top talent. It's not just about bringing them in; it's also about retaining them, which is one of the major challenges facing the programme," Okungbowa added.

The programme is open to all first-class graduates from universities, both within Nigeria and abroad. Although it initially targets graduates from 2020 onwards, there is potential for the Governor to extend the initiative in the future.

Graduates selected for the programme will undergo rotations across various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) of the state.

24, 000 beneficiaries get N1.2bn FG loan in Delta

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Federal Government has announced the disbursal of over N1.2 billion to 24,104 beneficiaries of its grants and loan scheme across Delta State.

Disclosed this on Friday at a townhall sensitization in Asaba, the Delta State capital, the state focal person for the Presidential Grant and Loan Scheme, Dr Isioma Okonta, thanked the Federal Government for the initiative, saying it had impacted many people in the state.

Okonta said, "The programme is working, and many people from across the state have received their N50,000 grants.

"I want to thank the government for the town hall sensitisation and to advise those who have not received their grants to wait for it, and it will come.

"Out of the N200 billion approved by the Federal Government for the presidential grant and loan scheme, N1, 205, 150,000 has been disbursed to 24,103 beneficiaries across Delta."



Also speaking, the representative of the Bank of Industry in Delta, Mr Moses Nega, collaborated that of the N200 billion approved by the Federal Government for the presidential grant and loan scheme, N1,205,150,000 has been disbursed to 24,103 beneficiaries across Delta.

He said though application windows are closed for the N50,000 support grant for nano businesses, the application was ongoing for the N75

billion MSMES and another N75 billion Manufacturing sector fund to support them at a nine per cent interest rate.

In his remarks, Governor Sheriff Oborevwori of Delta State lauded the Federal Government for disbursing over N1.2 billion to beneficiaries of its grants and loan scheme across the state.

Oborevwori, represented by the State Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs, Community Support Service and Girl Child Development, Orode Uduaghan, said the scheme would transform the economy of the state and the country at large.

He, however, said that the state government's collaboration with the Federal Government on grant and loan schemes has impacted over 24,103 persons.

The governor "called for more sensitisation at the grassroots using a more friendly communications system that would enable the people to understand the programmes better."

Herbalist seriously injured while testing self-made 'bulletproof' charm

By Agency Reporter

Ismail Usman, a self-proclaimed herbalist, sustained life-threatening injuries while testing a self-made "bulletproof" charm. The incident, which occurred in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), left him critically wounded after his experiment with the charm went awry.

According to reports, Usman allegedly fired a gun at himself to prove the efficacy of the charm. Unfortunately, the charm failed to protect him, and he suffered severe injuries.



The FCT Police Command swiftly responded to the scene and transported him to the hospital, where doctors are

currently battling to save his life.

The police have placed Usman under watch.

The Brazilian party in Buenos Aires: Copa Libertadores final preview

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

The stage is set for an all-Brazilian showdown in Buenos Aires as Atlético Mineiro and Botafogo clash in the Copa Libertadores final at River Plate's historic Monumental Stadium. The match, kicking off at 20:00 GMT, marks the sixth consecutive time a Brazilian club will lift South America's most coveted trophy.

A Tale of Two Clubs

For Atlético Mineiro, this is a chance to recapture the glory of their 2013 Libertadores triumph. The Belo Horizonte giants, known for their passionate black-and-white-clad fans, have struggled in recent weeks, going 10 games without a win. Despite their dip in form, Atlético boasts a squad laden with experience, including veteran striker Hulk, who has been pivotal to their recent successes.

In contrast, Botafogo's rise is nothing short of remarkable. Once relegation fodder, the Rio de Janeiro club is now a powerhouse under the ownership of U.S. businessman John Textor. Botafogo's blend of shrewd scouting and star power, including rising star Igor Jesus and World Cup winner Thiago Almada, has propelled them to the brink of glory.

Key Players to Watch

Botafogo's attack features the electrifying Luiz Henrique, a powerful left-footed winger who has recently broken into Brazil's national team. Thiago Almada pulls the strings in midfield, offering creativity and vision, while Igor Jesus leads the line with Premier League clubs reportedly circling.

For Atlético, Hulk remains the talisman, combining strength, skill, and a knack for crucial goals. His partnership with the lively Paulinho and showman Deyverson, a previous



Libertadores winner, will be key. Gustavo Scarpa, once of Nottingham Forest, and former Southampton defender Lyanco provide additional firepower and stability.

Tactical Battle

Botafogo enters as favorites, brimming with confidence after a stunning midweek win over Palmeiras. Their pacey, attacking style, led by Henrique and Almada, has been a joy to watch. However, Atlético coach Gabriel Milito faces a dilemma: stick with an attacking lineup or adopt a cautious approach to exploit Botafogo's potential fatigue.

Botafogo's high-flying season contrasts sharply with Atlético's struggles, but finals often defy expectations. The longer the game stays level, the more pressure Botafogo could face as they chase their first Libertadores title.

The Stakes

A win for Botafogo would complete their extraordinary transformation, making them the last of Brazil's big 12 clubs to conquer South America. For

Atlético, it's a chance to salvage their season and reaffirm their status as one of Brazil's giants.

As fans tune in to the BBC's live coverage, all eyes will be on Buenos Aires to see if Botafogo can deliver on their potential or if Atlético can defy the odds. One thing is certain: South American football's biggest night promises drama, passion, and unforgettable moments.

As Toriola reflected on her struggles, she acknowledged the impact this experience has had on her. "How do we bring more to entertain you?" she asked her followers. The question, which carries both a sense of desperation and a commitment to growth, encapsulates the internal conflict many content creators experience when faced with the uncertainty of how to capture the public's attention in an increasingly crowded digital space.

Despite her disappointment, Toriola made it clear that her passion for filmmaking remains unwavering. She has always been dedicated to producing films that are both engaging and entertaining.

Is beer really good for you?

By Helen Okechukwu

Many individuals have the belief that drinking beer frequently causes health damage in humans, whereas some are of the opinion that consuming a little beer has health benefits for consumers.

Beer is one of the most popular alcoholic beverages consumed globally and this question is usually asked around us: Is beer good for you?

Most studies have suggested that a light-to-moderate approach is recommended for consumers because of the health implications for humans when highly consumed.

Excessive intake has been attributed to health diseases and complications among women and men, such as cancer, fertility issues, liver failure, etc.

While some studies acknowledge the benefits of consuming beer at its minimum level, leading to a reduction of the risk of dementia in individuals aged 55 or older, it decreases diabetes among other health-threatening enemies.

What is beer made of?

Beer is an alcoholic beverage produced by extracting raw materials with water, boiling (usually with hops), and fermenting. All beers are said to be made with four ingredients: barley, water, hops, and yeast, which undergo eight stages during production.

No beneficial effect

Research revealed that when alcoholic drinks like beer are highly consumed, it leads to an increase in blood pressure in humans, leaving scientists surprised to have found out that low consumption increases high blood pressure.

Effect of beer consumption on the



human heart

A former associate medical director of the British Heart Foundation, Dr. Mike Knapton, said excessive alcohol causes damage to the heart. It makes the heart incapable of functioning properly. Knapton acknowledged that a glass of red wine a night is good but should not go beyond one glass for consumption.

This means that non-drinkers are at low risk of heart disease, but moderate consumers are at lower risk of having heart-related sickness.

There is risk tied to pregnant women risking their unborn children when they consume beer.

Is beer good for the bone?

Most research has challenged the idea that drinking alcohol is good for bone health and has the potential to reduce the risk of having osteoporosis, which causes weakness of bone.

Interestingly, moderate beer consumption may also have a positive impact on bone health, particularly in women.

Beer contains dietary silicon, a mineral that plays a role in the formation of

collagen and the strength of bones. Silicon has been linked to a lower risk of osteoporosis and bone fractures in older adults.

Risks of Beer Consumption

While there are some potential benefits to drinking beer in moderation, excessive consumption can lead to numerous health problems.

A) Alcoholism and Addiction

One of the most significant risks associated with beer is the potential for addiction. Like any alcoholic beverage, beer has the potential to be abused, and over-consumption can lead to alcohol dependence or alcoholism.

This condition can have devastating physical, mental, and social consequences, including liver disease, heart disease, and relationship problems.

B) Weight Gain and Obesity

Beer is relatively high in calories, and its alcohol content can reduce inhibitions, leading to over-consumption of both beer and high-calorie foods.

Wumi Toriola: Nollywood Viewership Drops

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Actress Wumi Toriola laments poor reception of latest film

Actress Wumi Toriola expresses frustration over the lack of engagement with her new film *Love Intentional* on YouTube, sharing her disappointment on Instagram.

Toriola, known for her commitment to producing quality entertainment, expressed her shock at how poorly *Love Intentional* has been received. Despite her best efforts to create a captivating and high-quality movie, the response has been underwhelming.

Viewers, according to Toriola, have found it difficult to locate the film on YouTube, despite her clear instructions on how to find it. The actress, who had high hopes for the movie's success, admitted that the lack of audience engagement has left her feeling heartbroken.

In her post, Toriola explained that *Love Intentional* is her first English-language film to be featured on her YouTube channel, Wumi Toriola TV. She had expected the movie to be well-received, especially given the excitement surrounding its release.

However, instead of the enthusiastic response she anticipated, the film has struggled to attract viewers. This has led her to question whether her efforts were in vain and



whether she should remove the film altogether.

“Good morning lovers,” Toriola began her Instagram message, her voice tinged with sadness. “I am in pain typing this,” she continued. She went on to express that despite all the work and energy that went into creating *Love Intentional*, the film has not gained the traction she had hoped for.

“We made a good movie,” she reiterated, emphasizing her belief that the film has quality, but the audience has been indifferent. She continued, “It’s our first English movie on Wumi Toriola TV, and yet, you all refused to see it.”

Toriola revealed that she had done everything she could to ensure the film would be easy to find. She provided clear instructions, encouraging her followers to search for the title,

Love Intentional by Wumi Toriola, on YouTube. Despite this, the film’s visibility remained an issue.

“Some say they can’t find it,” Toriola explained. “I offered a solution: search ‘Love Intentional by Wumi Toriola,’ but still, nothing changed.” This lack of progress, she said, left her feeling “tired” and “heartbroken.”

The actress’s frustration highlights the challenges many content creators face in the digital age, where even well-produced work can go unnoticed without the proper exposure. For Toriola, this film was a significant step in expanding her portfolio and diversifying her content.

Yet, despite her efforts to reach a wider audience, the film has not garnered the attention it deserves.

‘Proud of you brother-man’, Allwell Ademola praises Rotimi Salami on birthday

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Sultry Nollywood actress, Allwell Ademola has celebrated her close friend and colleague, Salami Rotimi, on his birthday, showering him with love.

Taking to Instagram, the plus-size actress shared a message alongside a photo of Rotimi, expressing pride in his achievements and the man he has become.

Ademola, known for her cheerful personality and genuine friendships in the entertainment industry, referred to Rotimi as her “brother-man” and wished him all the joys of life in his new age.

“Happy Birthday, brother-man @salamirotimi,” Ademola wrote. “I am proud of the man you have become.... You deserve all the good wishes of life and I love you. Enjoy



your new age, Adisa.”

The birthday post notes the strong bond the two actors share, which has often been evident in their public interactions.

Meanwhile, Salami Rotimi marked his special day with a series of dashing

photos on his Instagram page. The actor shared a powerful message reflecting on his life journey, hinting at the challenges he has overcome.

“HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME,” he wrote. “If you know my story, you will never pray for my downfall.”

‘He never liked me’ – Skales on rift with Wizkid

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Nigerian singer Skales has opened up about his strained relationship with his former record label mate, Wizkid, claiming that the global superstar never liked him.

Speaking on the “Listen” podcast, the ‘Shake Body’ crooner shared his perspective, alleging that he has always felt “repelling energy” from Wizkid.

Skales revisited their public fallout on social media years ago, which began when he jokingly responded during a Q&A session on Twitter.

“Somebody asked, ‘What’s up with your guy Wiz?’ And I jokingly said, ‘My brother Wiz does not have my time anymore.’ From there, Wizkid started insulting me, my father, and my mother,” Skales recounted.



that his ex-girlfriend had replied on his behalf at the time.

Reflecting on the incident, Skales expressed frustration over the public’s perception of him during the fallout, which painted him as envious of Wizkid’s success.

He said, “I pick my battles. People would say I’m jealous or envious of Wizkid’s success. That was the narrative going around.”

Skales disclosed his attempts to reconcile with Wizkid, but his efforts were reportedly met with resistance. “I have tried to make peace with him, but he was adamant. He didn’t like me, I can tell you for a fact,” Skales said.

The singer revealed that the heated exchange included accusations from Wizkid, who claimed Skales wore fake jewelry. Skales noted

Davido: 'I have 14 presidents' numbers

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Davido reveals he holds phone numbers of 14 world leaders, showcasing music's power to create opportunities for himself, his family, and Nigeria.

The Nigerian sensation emphasized the unparalleled connections his artistry has brought him. "Forget the money," he declared passionately. "I have 14 presidents' phone numbers. I can call them directly." His statement, met with awe from the audience, underscored the unique position he occupies as not only an entertainer but also an ambassador of African culture.

Beyond entertainment

Davido's career transcends the stage and studio. His music, which has earned him global accolades and millions of fans, has also opened doors in the corridors of power. Reflecting on his journey, he highlighted the role his craft has played in elevating his family's standing on the world stage.



"Besides my dad's businesses and wealth," he noted, "it's my music that has opened doors for my family. Presidents want to meet us wherever we go. That's not just success; it's cultural promotion."

The artist's words underline the growing impact of African music on

the global scene. His ability to connect with influential figures is emblematic of how Afrobeat, a genre he champions, continues to bridge cultural divides and foster mutual respect across continents.

Cultural ambassador

Davido's encounters with presidents are not just about fame; they signify the respect African talent commands worldwide. "In every country we go to, the president wants to meet us," he said with a mix of pride and humility. "It's an amazing feeling."

The artist's words underline the growing impact of African music on the global scene. His ability to connect with influential figures is emblematic of how Afrobeat, a genre he champions, continues to bridge cultural divides and foster mutual respect across continents.

Laide Bakare awarded U.S. doctorate

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Laide Bakare receives an Honorary Doctorate from AUPG, USA, to be conferred at UNILAG's Doctoral Fellow Investiture Ceremony, on Nov 30.

The actress announced the milestone on her Instagram page, sharing her excitement and gratitude with her fans and followers. "It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge this remarkable honor to be bestowed upon me," she wrote, expressing deep appreciation for the recognition.

The recognition

This honor underscores Bakare's influence and contributions, not only in Nollywood but also as an individual who has inspired many through her work and public engagements. Her career, spanning decades, has seen her star in numerous films, earning her a reputation as one of Nigeria's leading actresses.



In her heartfelt post, Bakare extended special thanks to Ambassador Dr. Jonathan Ojadah, who played a pivotal role in nominating her for the

award. "Special thanks to H.E. Amb. Dr. Jonathan Ojadah for his nomination for this great honor. I look forward to this august occasion," she stated.

Ceremony at UNILAG

The investiture ceremony, set to take place at the iconic University of Lagos, marks a significant event in Bakare's career. AUPG's decision to confer the honorary degree reflects its commitment to recognizing individuals who exemplify excellence and contribute positively to society.

The American University of Peace and Governance, known for its emphasis on fostering leadership and promoting peace, selects its honorees carefully. This selection process, combined with the prominence of the event, speaks volumes about Bakare's standing in both the entertainment industry and beyond.

Non- English foreign Netflix series 2024 you can watch this weekend

By **Eyitayo Jemimah Ajayi**

Are you the kind that explores watching movies? Then, I have got you. This year, I watched quite a handful of non-English foreign movies on Netflix.

Some of them blew my mind because of the plot structure and acting prowess of the actors. Some of the movies that are going to be on this list are either German or French. Don't doubt these folks, they make good movie releases!

Alright! My movie lovers, let's dive right in.

Furies

Here's something from France that's on our list. Watching this movie inspired me to learn more about the language, and I admire the way the French speak.

Furies is a French action series that explores diverse events. It's one show that features a woman, La Furie, as an action legend. The series is characterized by suspenseful moments that will keep you hooked, making you want to binge-watch the entire season over the weekend.

Overall, whether or not you'll enjoy Furies depends on your personal taste in action dramas. If you're a fan of fast-paced, intense sequences and don't mind some plot inconsistencies, you might enjoy this series.

Go ahead, Brother

Polish movies are good! Go Ahead, Brother is a testifier. This movie has its plot around the concept of PTSD, crime, family as well as other delicate concepts. It is also a psychological thriller that features an untouchable hero.

Joe Keller for the Decider described it as the "a new Polish crime drama on Netflix seems to have a complex plot,



but in reality it doesn't. There is just a lot of stuff going on while the actual simple plot plays out."

There are not a lot of plot twists but it has got action that will have you warped in for the entire ride

The Cage

Just like how Ted Lasso made me love football, I think The Cage has just brewed my love for boxing. The Cage is like the Gen- Z's Rocky in 2024. It follows the regular plot story of a sports star rising amidst all odds.

Netflix's "The Cage" is a French sports drama that has garnered mixed reviews. While some praise the series for its gritty storytelling and engaging premise, others have criticized it for its inauthentic portrayal of mixed martial arts.

The Cage features veterans of French cinema, young talent, and real-world fighters in equal measure. It's that blend of specialties that makes The Cage so compelling, and the series' cast had a big part in making it one of the best shows on Netflix.

Shadow Strays

This movie is one of the gory action movies you can ever watch but the action is of utmost quality that leaves you empathetic for the actors.

Netflix's Shadow Strays is an

adrenaline-fueled action film that will keep you on the edge of your seat. **Murder Mindfully**

I loved the narrative approach to this movie and also the mindfulness theory the movie teaches.

Murder Mindfully is a thought-provoking and engaging documentary series that explores the intersection of mindfulness and true crime. The show delves into the world of meditation and mindfulness, examining how these practices can be used to cope with the darker aspects of human nature.

Murder Mindfully is a unique and captivating documentary series that will appeal to fans of true crime and mindfulness alike. By exploring the complexities of the human mind and the power of mindfulness, the show offers a thought-provoking and engaging viewing experience.

However, Toriola's commitment to her craft and her willingness to listen to her audience could lead to a better understanding of how to succeed in this ever-evolving space.

As Toriola moves forward, it remains to be seen how her next projects will fare. For now, though, she remains resolute in her belief that her work has value, and she will continue to push forward with her filmmaking career, no matter the obstacles that come her way.

Canadian PM, Trudeau meets with Trump at Mar-a-Lago

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

...After speaking against tariffs

Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau flew to Florida to meet with President-elect Donald Trump at his Mar-a-Lago estate, where they held a “very productive meeting.”

It came in the wake of Trump’s threat to impose tariffs on goods coming from Canada.

Trudeau dined with Trump at Mar-a-largo Friday night, according to senior sources who spoke to CBC News on condition they not be named due to the sensitivity of the trip.

The sources said the meeting was pushed for by Canadian officials, the Canadian broadcaster said.

Trudeau’s plane landed at Palm Beach International Airport at about 5:30 p.m. local time. A smiling Trudeau declined comment upon returning to his West Palm Beach hotel late Friday from Mar-a-Lago. The Trump transition team did not comment on the meeting when reached by CBS News.

Trudeau arrived at Mar-a-Lago for an unannounced visit with Trump after the president-elect threatened to impose sweeping tariffs on Canadian products.

Joining Trump and Trudeau at dinner were Howard Lutnick, Trump’s nominee for commerce secretary, North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Trump’s pick to lead the Interior Department, Mike Waltz, Trump’s choice to be his national security adviser, and the three men’s wives, a person familiar with the dinner plans who was not authorized to speak publicly and did so on condition of anonymity told the Associated Press.

Also attending the dinner, the person



told the AP, were Republican Senator-elect David McCormick of Pennsylvania, and his wife Dina Powell, a former deputy national security adviser under Trump, as well as Katie Telford, Trudeau’s chief of staff.

On Saturday, while leaving a hotel in West Palm, Trudeau told reporters that “it was an excellent conversation” with Trump the night before. He did not elaborate further and would not comment on questions about whether the tariffs were part of the conversation or about his relationship with the president-elect.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump said he had a “very productive meeting” with Trudeau during which they discussed “many important topics that will require both Countries to work together to address.”

For issues in need of such cooperation, Trump cited fentanyl and the “Drug Crisis that has decimated so many lives as a result of Illegal

Immigration,” fair trade deals “that do not jeopardize American Workers” and the U.S. trade deficit with its ally to the north.

“I made it very clear that the United States will no longer sit idly by as our citizens become victims to the scourge of this drug epidemic caused mainly by the drug cartels, and Fentanyl pouring in from China. Too much death and hardship!” Trump said.

“Prime Minister Trudeau has made a commitment to work with us to end this terrible devastation of U.S. Families. We also spoke about many other important topics like Energy, Trade, and the Arctic. All are vital issues that I will be addressing on my first days back in Office, and before.”

The meeting also came after Trudeau earlier Friday cautioned that if Trump follows through on this threat to impose sweeping tariffs on Canadian products, he would be raising prices for Americans and hurting American businesses.

Four deadly London men jailed 76 years for murder

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Four men have been sentenced to a combined 76 years in prison for their roles in the fatal stabbing of 43-year-old Naython Muir in Hounslow.

The attack occurred on 13 October 2023, outside a residence on Parkside Road, Tw3.

Following an extensive investigation by the Metropolitan Police, the Old Bailey handed down the sentences on Thursday.

One of the men, Mahdi Mumin, 24, of Lever Street, Islington was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 24 years, while Khalfani Sinclair, 23, of Maple Road, Hayes was also sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 22 years, plus 16 months for possession of a bladed article, to run concurrently.

Phillip Jones, 47, of Cygnet Avenue,



Feltham was jailed for life with a minimum term of 20 years while Christian Braimah, 24, of Elruge Close, West Drayton was jailed for 10 years for manslaughter.

According to the Met Police, the trial of the men commenced on 2 September, with the jury reaching verdicts by 22 October.

Mumin and Sinclair were convicted of murder unanimously, while Jones was

found guilty by a majority verdict.

Sinclair had also admitted to possessing the “Zombie knife” used in the attack. Braimah was acquitted of murder but convicted of manslaughter.

Detective Chief Inspector Brian Howie, who led the investigation, described the incident as a “sudden, unprovoked, and violent assault.”

US okays proposed \$385m arms sales to Taiwan

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Defence Security Cooperation Agency has announced that the government of the United States (US) has given approval to the proposed sale of spare parts for fighter jets and radar systems, as well as communications equipment, to Taiwan in deals valued at \$385 million, a US agency said Friday.

According to the report, though the government does not have official diplomatic relations with Taipei, it remains the island’s most important backer and biggest arms supplier.

The proposed sale of the F-16 and radar system parts consists of equipment in existing US military stocks and was worth an estimated \$320 million, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said in a statement, with deliveries estimated to start in 2025.



“This proposed sale serves US national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient’s continuing efforts to modernise its armed forces and to maintain credible defensive capability,” the DSCA said.

“The proposed sale will improve the recipient’s ability to meet current and future threats by maintaining the operational readiness of the recipient’s fleet of F-16 aircraft.”

support and equipment for a tactical communications system was worth \$65 million, the DSCA said.

The deals were approved by the State Department, with the DSCA providing the required notification to Congress on Friday.

China insists self-ruled Taiwan is part of its territory and has long opposed US arms sales to the island.

A separate sale involving follow-on

Dabiri-Erewa lauds Shokunbi for revolutionary scientific invention

By Friday Omosola

The Chairman/CEO of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), Abike Dabiri-Erewa, has lauded the groundbreaking achievements of Eniola Shokunbi, a 12-year-old Nigerian-American, who has made waves in the scientific community with her innovative invention.

Shokunbi designed a low-cost air purifier priced at just \$60, capable of removing 99 per cent of airborne viruses.

The invention, which began as a school science project, underwent rigorous testing by the University of Connecticut and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Its effectiveness has led to a \$11.5 million grant from the Connecticut State Bond Commission to mass-produce and install the air purifiers in schools across the state.

Eniola Shokunbi, a 12-year-old Nigerian-American, who has made waves in the scientific community with her innovative invention.

Describing Shokunbi as “a shining example of the incredible potential of young Nigerians,” Dabiri-Erewa commended her for embodying the resilience, ingenuity, and excellence synonymous with the Nigerian spirit.

“Eniola Shokunbi has etched her name in the annals of science and medicine. Her invention will not only improve lives but also create jobs and offer innovative solutions to global healthcare challenges,” Dabiri-Erewa said.

She expressed hope that Shokunbi’s achievement would inspire young Nigerians both at home and abroad,



as well as youths worldwide, to dream big and pursue excellence.

A fifth-grade student at Commodore MacDonough STEM Academy in Middletown, Connecticut, Shokunbi’s journey began with a school science project aimed at addressing air quality challenges during pandemics.

What started as a simple classroom assignment has now evolved into a

breakthrough innovation with international recognition and life-changing potential.

NiDCOM’s leader emphasised that Shokunbi’s success underscores the importance of nurturing young talent and providing platforms for creativity and innovation, urging other Nigerian youths to follow in her footsteps and reach for greatness.



Real reason managers are attracted to Super Eagles

By Dave Oludare Oso

Following the departure, in February 2024, of Portuguese tactician, José Peseiro, who guided the team to a runner-up finish at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), the head coach position for Nigeria's Super Eagles has remained uncertain.

Despite his success, Peseiro chose not to renew his contract with the three-time African champions.

After his departure, a former winger for the national team, Finidi George briefly held interim duties but resigned in June after a string of poor results.

Another Super Eagles legend, Austin Eguavoen stepped in as the second interim coach and has since achieved three wins, one loss, and a draw, successfully steering the team to qualify for the 2025 AFCON.

However, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) remains unconvinced of Eguavoen's long-term capabilities, prompting their pursuit of a foreign manager.

High-profile names linked to the role include Herve Renard, Antonio Conceição, Tom Saintfiet, Fabio Cannavaro, and Jonathan Hill.

Renard, in particular, has reportedly shown enthusiasm about leading the Super Eagles.

However, financial constraints remain a significant hurdle. NFF President Ibrahim Gusau recently disclosed that the federation is turning to corporate sponsors, including Dangote Group, MTN, and Baba Ijebu, to fund the hiring of a foreign coach.

Gusau acknowledged Eguavoen's commendable performance but reaffirmed the NFF's commitment to



securing a foreign manager once the financial issues are resolved.

He continued: "Though, Eguavoen is doing well, but if we must engage a coach, we must make sure that the issue of payment is sorted," Gusau emphasised. From Gusau's statement, it is clear that the NFF is still determined to go for a foreign coach and Eguavoen's mandate as interim coach will soon end.

It is also on record that the vacant position in the Super Eagles setup still attracts some high profile coaches. Why does the role hold such appeal? Here are three key reasons.

Player quality in the Super Eagles

The Super Eagles boast a squad filled with players competing in Europe's top five leagues.

Victor Osimhen, who finished 8th in the 2023 Ballon d'Or rankings, and Ademola Lookman, who secured 14th place in 2024, headline a talented

roster that also includes Victor Boniface, Alex Iwobi, Wilfred Ndidi, and Maduka Okoye.

Additionally, Nigeria's player pool is deep. There are promising talents from the domestic league, youth teams and others eligible to switch allegiance from European nations.

The allure of working with such quality players is a major draw for top managers seeking success on the international stage.

Nigeria's footballing pedigree

The Super Eagles' rich history in African football is another factor that makes the job attractive. Known as the "Giants of Africa," Nigeria has lived up to its billing with 15 AFCON medals: three gold, five silver, and eight bronze.

Beyond continental success, the Super Eagles also have an Olympic gold medal from 1996 and six FIFA World Cup appearances.

FIFA raises human rights red flags in Saudi Arabia's 2034 world cup bid

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

FIFA's evaluation report on Saudi Arabia's bid to host the 2034 World Cup has highlighted significant concerns over human rights, classifying the potential risks as "medium" while acknowledging the country's commitment to various reforms.

The report, released on 30th November, is set against the backdrop of FIFA's upcoming Congress on 11th December, where delegates will vote to determine the hosts for the 2030 and 2034 World Cups.

Saudi Arabia is the sole candidate for the 2034 tournament, with a bid that promises a "very strong all-round proposition", according to FIFA. The report praised the proposed infrastructure, both for sporting events and general facilities, as well as the commercial potential for the country.

However, FIFA also cautioned that achieving the necessary human rights reforms could take "significant time and effort," which contributed to the "medium risk" classification in the evaluation.

Although Saudi Arabia's bid scored an impressive 4.2 out of 5, surpassing the joint bid from the US, Canada, and Mexico for the 2026 World Cup, FIFA has raised concerns about the human rights challenges the country faces.

"The undertaking involved in implementing the various measures... particularly in certain areas, could involve significant effort and time," the report warned.

Despite these concerns, FIFA recognised the potential for positive human rights impacts, with the tournament seen as a possible catalyst for ongoing and future reforms.



"There is good potential that the tournament could serve as a catalyst for some of the ongoing and future reforms and contribute to positive human rights outcomes for people in Saudi Arabia and the region that go beyond the scope of the tournament itself," FIFA added.

One major hurdle in the bid is the construction of several proposed stadiums, as Saudi Arabia has yet to begin building these venues. The tournament could be held in winter, similar to the 2022 World Cup in neighbouring Qatar.

Human rights will likely be a central issue in discussions leading up to the vote, with critics pointing to Saudi Arabia's record on mass executions, allegations of torture, and severe restrictions on women's rights under the country's male guardianship system. The crackdown on free expression remains another concern, with individuals being jailed for critical social media posts.

Saudi Arabia's involvement in hosting major sporting events, including Formula One and the WTA tennis finals, has led to accusations of "sportswashing," with critics arguing that these events are used to divert attention from the country's human rights record.

The decision to award the 2034 World Cup to Saudi Arabia comes amid growing scrutiny of the role sport plays in political and human rights issues. The controversy surrounding the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, where similar human rights concerns were raised, is still fresh in the minds of many.

While Saudi Arabia's bid is seen as a strong contender in terms of infrastructure and commercial appeal, the international community will be watching closely as the FIFA Congress draws nearer, with the human rights situation likely to remain a significant factor in the final decision.

EPL: Huge task ahead for Van Nistelrooy as Brentford thrash Leicester 4-1

By Dave Oludare Oso

Van Nistelrooy, newly appointed as Leicester's manager, watched from the directors' box as his side's defensive frailties were ruthlessly exposed.

Leicester started brightly, taking the lead in the 22nd minute through Facundo Buonanotte, who finished a Jamie Vardy assist after capitalizing on a defensive lapse by Ethan Pinnock.

However, the Foxes' joy was short-lived. Just three minutes later, Brentford equalized when Schade set up Yoane Wissa to tap in unmarked.

Schade then turned scorer, pouncing on chaotic defending to give the Bees the lead.

His second goal came in first-half stoppage time, finishing a Mikkel Damsgaard pass from a tight angle to make it 3-1.



Leicester's defence, despite the inclusion of England international Conor Coady and Luke Thomas, struggled to cope with Brentford's attacking trio.

In the second half, Brentford remained dominant. Schade completed his hat-trick in the 58th minute, outpacing Leicester's defenders to fire past Mads Hermansen.

The hosts controlled possession, delighting their fans with fluid football and keeping Leicester at bay.

For Van Nistelrooy, the task of revitalizing Leicester is clear.

While the team boasts attacking potential, as evidenced by their consistent scoring record this season, defensive frailty remains their Achilles' heel.

Barcelona's anniversary marred by Las Palmas shock

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

La Liga leaders Barcelona suffered a surprising 2-1 home defeat to Las Palmas on Saturday, casting a shadow over their 125th anniversary celebrations.

Former Barca striker Sandro Ramirez opened the scoring for the visitors with a low strike that silenced the Camp Nou crowd. Although captain Raphinha leveled with a brilliant low drive, Wolves loanee Fabio Silva sealed the upset, converting Javi Munoz's exquisite pass to restore Las Palmas' lead.

Despite dominating with 26 shots—their season-high in La Liga—Barcelona failed to convert their chances, with Jasper Cillessen pulling off key saves to deny Raphinha, Ferran Torres, and Pablo Torre.

Adding to Barca's woes, left-back Alejandro Balde was stretchered off in



the 26th minute following a collision with Sandro, further disrupting Hansi Flick's plans.

The loss extends Barcelona's winless run in La Liga to three matches, while Las Palmas climbed to 14th. Real Madrid could narrow the gap at the top to a single point if they beat Getafe on Sunday.

Barcelona will look to regroup as their

celebrations off the pitch failed to inspire a fitting result on it.

The sales were announced as Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te was due to leave on Saturday for a trip to three Pacific island allies, with stopovers in Hawaii and the US territory of Guam.

Taiwan's defence ministry on Saturday "expressed gratitude" for the latest arms sales.

Kane injury overshadows Bayern's late comeback in Der Klassiker

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Bayern Munich salvaged a dramatic 1-1 draw against Borussia Dortmund in a thrilling Der Klassiker, but the spotlight was stolen by Harry Kane's early exit due to injury.

Jamie Gittens gave Dortmund the lead in the 27th minute with a sensational solo goal. Picking up a pass from Nico Schlotterbeck near the halfway line, the England Under-21 star breezed past Konrad Laimer and rifled a fierce strike past Manuel Neuer. Gittens became only the second Englishman to score in this fixture after Kane, who famously bagged a hat-trick in last season's matchup.

However, Bayern's struggles deepened moments later when Kane, the Bundesliga's top scorer, was forced off due to an apparent non-contact injury. The England captain limped off gingerly, raising concerns about his fitness.



Without their talisman, Bayern struggled to break Dortmund's defense until the second half. Thomas Müller, who replaced Kane, had a golden chance but was denied by Gregor Kobel's excellent save.

Bayern finally found their breakthrough with five minutes left on the clock. Jamal Musiala, brilliant

throughout, rose to head in a pinpoint cross from substitute Michael Olise, securing Bayern's unbeaten league record.

The draw keeps Bayern seven points clear at the top of the Bundesliga, but Eintracht Frankfurt could reduce the gap to four points with a win on Sunday. Dortmund, now fifth, will rue missing the chance to climb higher.

Kluivert's penalty hat-trick stuns Wolves, piling pressure on O'Neil

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Bournemouth's Justin Kluivert etched his name in Premier League history by scoring a hat-trick of penalties in a thrilling 4-2 victory over Wolves at Molineux, a feat not achieved in English top-flight football since 1957.

Kluivert's clinical display came in a dramatic match where Evanilson won all three spot-kicks, the first player in Premier League history to do so. The result sent Wolves into the relegation zone and intensified scrutiny on manager Gary O'Neil, whose side was booed off the pitch.

The game began with controversy as Evanilson was fouled by Toti Gomes after an apparent handball. VAR upheld the penalty, allowing Kluivert to convert. Wolves responded swiftly through Jorgen Strand Larsen's diving header, but Bournemouth retook the lead when Milos Kerkez smashed



home following a smart Marcus Tavernier assist.

More VAR drama unfolded when Jose Sa fouled Evanilson for Bournemouth's second penalty. Kluivert doubled his tally before completing his historic treble after another foul by Sa on the Brazilian striker. Strand Larsen's second goal briefly reignited Wolves' hopes, but

the Cherries held firm.

Tempers flared at halftime as Sa confronted a Wolves fan in an incident that led to the removal of two spectators by stewards. The tension mirrored a miserable day for the hosts, whose fans also mocked O'Neil, chanting, "you don't know what you're doing."