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Tinubu assures on reuniting Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso into ECOWAS

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has assured that the reintegration of Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger into the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will be guided by diplomacy and wisdom, prioritising the welfare of their citizens.

This was disclosed by Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu's Special Adviser on Information and Strategy in a statement on Wednesday.

He added that President Tinubu spoke during a state visit by German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Tinubu emphasised that ECOWAS remains committed to fostering democracy and safeguarding the interests of innocent civilians in the affected countries.

"The leadership of these countries has been reluctant in presenting transition programmes with clear dates.

"What I can assure is that we will not give tolerance to unconstitutional governments. However, we will explore diplomatic channels to ensure that innocent citizens are not punished for the actions of their leaders," Tinubu said.

As Chairman of ECOWAS, Tinubu reiterated the regional body's commitment to keeping its doors open for dialogue and collaboration.

He stressed that ECOWAS would uphold free movement and trade across the region while encouraging the three nations to embrace democratic norms.

"This is what ECOWAS stands for. Whatever is happening in these countries, we remain mindful of the wellbeing of their citizens. We will not abandon them," the president said.

Meanwhile, President Steinmeier acknowledged the critical role of ECOWAS in promoting stability in West Africa.

He highlighted the economic and security implications of the ongoing crisis in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso, urging continued diplomatic efforts to resolve the impasse.

"Reintegration of these countries will have a significant impact on the region's economy and security. We understand why ECOWAS is insisting on diplomacy, and while it is not an easy task, we believe it is necessary to keep the region united," Steinmeier said.

The German president also suggested the need for contingency plans to ensure economic cooperation during the transitional period.

The visit underscored the shared commitment of Nigeria and Germany to regional stability and democratic governance in West Africa.



THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	372,500.00
HALF PAGE	213,000.00
QUARTER PAGE	106,500.00
14X2	118,000.00
10X6	261,585.50
10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
9X6	254,977.00
9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.5
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
1X1	4,400.00

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FULL PAGE	329,868.50
HALF PAGE	192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	100,000.00
14X2	109,500.00
10X6	242,500.00
10X5	237,500.00
10X4	192,500.00
10X3	171,000.00
9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
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6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
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POLITICAL COLOUR

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10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
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9X3	107,757.50
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4X3	N/A
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3X2	14,923.00
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CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT)	929,000.00
CENTRESPREAD B&W	800,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	575,000.00
CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR	191,668.50
DOUBLE SPREAD COLOUR	721,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
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CENTRE SPREAD B&W	835,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	425,000.00
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PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
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National grid down again

By Dave Oludare Oso

Nigeria's power grid has once again collapsed, making it the 12th time in 2024.

A message by Head of Corporate Communication of Transmission Commission of Nigeria (TCN), Dr Friday Adakole Elijah on Wednesday announced that the national grid, for the umpteenth time, has collapsed.

A grid collapse, which is the breakdown of transmission lines due to over or under-frequency, is said to be responsible for this outage.

Electricity distribution companies announced a system outage around 1:32 p.m. on Wednesday.

The latest development is coming a month after the national grid collapsed in November.

Confirming the development, Jos

Electricity Distribution Company (Jos DisCos) in a statement by its Head, Corporate Communication, Friday Elijah said: "Dear esteemed customers, The current outage being experienced within our franchise states is a result of loss of power supply from the national grid.

"The loss of power supply from the national grid occurred this afternoon at about 13:33 hours of today, 11 Wednesday, December 2024, hence the loss of power supply on all our feeders.

"We hope to restore normal power supply to our esteemed customers as soon as the grid supply is restored back to normalcy. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we strive to serve you better."

Eko Electricity Distribution

Company (EKEDC) said: "Dear valued customer, Kindly be informed there was a reported case of system disturbance on 11 December 2024 at 13:32 hrs which has resulted in a loss of power supply across our network.

"We are currently working with our partners as we hope for speedy restoration of the grid. We will keep you updated as soon as power is restored. Kindly bear with us," it said.

The Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC), in a statement posted on its X handle, said: "Dear valued customer, please be informed that a system disturbance occurred on the national grid at 1:32 p.m. today, causing a power outage across our franchise areas.



Yuletide: Bode George urges Tinubu to reduce petrol price

By Agency Reporter

A former Deputy National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Bode George, has urged President Bola Tinubu to reduce the price of petrol to N300 per litre, to make things easy for Nigerians during the festive season.

George, the Atona Oodua of Yorubaland, made this plea at an interactive session with newsmen on Wednesday in Lagos.

The price of Premium Motor Spirit, popularly known as petrol, is currently above N1,000 per litre.

According to the elder statesman, Nigerians are going through hardship, the President should give an order to reduce fuel price, specifying time frame the people will enjoy such window of relief.

He said that the federal government as well as well-meaning individuals and businesses could bear the cost of such price slash, to bring happiness to all Nigerians.

The PDP leader, who noted that December and January are special months, said that such gesture could start from the middle of December and run through January.

“I have been thinking, as a Nigerian, what can we do because the anger and the hunger are almost equal on the streets of Nigeria.

“What am I suggesting is that Mr President should sit down with his



managers and give an order that from the middle of December to the end of January, the cost of petrol will be N300 per litre.

“The government can absorb the losses in the interest of the suffering people.

“If they (government) want others to contribute, let us know how much that is going to cost and ask people to donate, to bear the cost.

“We will be sending a lot of messages of happiness across the tribes and homes.

“Everybody in Nigeria will be happy because it will positively impact on this period of the year. It is a challenge and he (Tinubu) can do it.

“We need this in this December and January to put smiles on the faces of Nigerians,” George, a PDP Board of

Trustees (BOT) life member, said.

Advising the President to take further measures to bring relief to the people, he said that the gesture would crash prices of essential commodities and services for the benefit of all.

He said that government’s efforts should be concentrated on reducing high inflation rate, unemployment, poverty and youth restlessness in order to create a better future for Nigerians.

Speaking on the recent presidential election in Ghana, George noted that Nigeria’s electoral system needed reforms to guard against electoral frauds and manipulations.

According to him, the nation will continue to grope for development if the system fails to encourage best candidates to emerge.

Senate, House of Assembly declare Okpebholo, Idahosa seats vacant

By Friday Omosola



Following their elections as Edo State Governor and Deputy, the Senate and the State's House of Assembly, yesterday declared Monday Okpebholo and Dennis Idahosa's seats vacant respectively.

The Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, declared the Edo Central Senatorial seat formerly occupied by Okpebholo vacant following a formal request by the Minority Leader, Abba Moro.

The announcement was made during plenary after Akpabio read Moro's letter, which called for the seat to be declared vacant due to its occupant's inauguration as governor.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly Abbas Tajudeen today declared the Idahosa's vacant.

In his letter, Moro, representing Benue South Senatorial District, urged the Senate leadership to act per Paragraph D of Section 68 of the Nigerian Constitution, which mandates the declaration of a legislative seat vacant when its occupant assumes an executive role.

The Minority Leader urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to promptly organise a by-election for the Edo Central Senatorial District to fill the vacant seat.

"In line with your letter and constitutional provisions, the seat of the Edo Central Senatorial District is hereby declared vacant. INEC is hereby invited to conduct fresh elections to fill the position previously occupied by Senator Monday Okpebholo," Akpabio declared.

Reacting, Okpebholo, in a statement on his X page today, described it as an honour to serve as a Senator and a privilege to work alongside exceptional colleagues in the chamber.

He expressed deep gratitude for the support and camaraderie of his colleagues, the guidance of their leaders, and the trust of the people who made it all possible.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly Abbas Tajudeen today declared the seat of Dennis Idahosa vacant.

Idahosa represented Ovia North East/Ovia South West Federal Constituency of Edo State before he was sworn in as deputy governor.

Court orders halt to distribution of Farotimi's book

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Federal High Court in Abuja has issued an order halting the production and distribution of *Nigeria and Its Criminal Justice System*, a book authored by embattled human rights lawyer Dele Farotimi.

The book, which has sparked heated debates due to its controversial allegations of judicial manipulation, was recently ranked as a global bestseller in the politics category on Amazon.

The order, sought by prominent legal figure Afe Babalola, demands the cessation of both physical and digital sales and distribution of the book.

Additionally, the court's injunction includes a directive for the seizure of royalties generated from the book's sales.

The application, filed under suit number CV/5372/24 by Kehinde Ogunwumiju, SAN, the Head of Afe Babalola's law firm, was dated December 6, 2024. The court granted an interlocutory injunction, restraining Farotimi and all parties associated with the book from further distribution.

This includes publishers, distributors, sellers, and various bookstores such as Amazon Online Bookstore, Rovingheights Bookstore, Jazzhole Lagos Bookstore, Glendora Bookshop, Quintessence Lagos Bookstore, and Patabah Books Limited.

The injunction reads: "An order of interlocutory injunction restraining



the defendant/respondent, whether acting by himself, his staff, employees, servants, privies, representatives, agents, publishers, distributors, sellers, re-publishers, re-sellers, or any other person however described including Amazon Online Bookstore, Rovingheights Bookstore, Booksellers Bookstore, Jazzhole Lagos Bookstore, Glendora Bookshop, Quintessence Lagos Bookstore and Patabah Books Limited from further publishing, selling, circulating, advertising, or distributing the physical/hard/digital/soft copies of the book authored by the defendant/respondent titled: 'Nigeria and Its Criminal Justice System', online."

The book accuses Afe Babalola of manipulating the judiciary to secure favorable rulings for his clients. These allegations have caused a stir, bringing Babalola, a respected legal icon, into the public eye.

The legal move to block the book's distribution comes amidst its global

rise in popularity.

Critics and readers have lauded Farotimi for his bold exposé on Nigeria's criminal justice system, with many considering it a critical work in uncovering the flaws and corruption within the legal and judicial systems of the country.

However, Farotimi's supporters argue that the injunction represents an attack on free speech, with some viewing it as an attempt to suppress accountability within the judiciary.

As the legal battle continues, the issue of freedom of expression and the limits of judicial authority in Nigeria remains a central point of contention.

This case has ignited broader debates about censorship, accountability, and the role of the judiciary in upholding democratic principles and the right to free expression.

5 ways to hedge your Naira against inflation

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) recently released the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which revealed that Nigeria's inflation rate reached 33.88 per cent in October 2024.

According to the NBS, the rate is a 1.18 per cent increase from the 32.7 per cent recorded in September 2024, attributed to the increase in transportation costs and higher food prices.

5 ways to safeguard your finances against inflation

1. Diversify your investment portfolio

One way to safeguard your finances in an economy with high inflation is to diversify your investment portfolio. This strategy means investing in various asset classes, allowing you to make up for losses in one class with gains in another.

You can diversify your portfolio by investing in bonds, stocks, mutual funds, dollar-denominated investments, Real Estate Investment Funds, Treasury bills, and commercial papers. These assets are recommended because they tend to appreciate or maintain the same value over time.

2. Invest in real assets

Real assets include tangible products or commodities whose values tend to appreciate over time. Real assets investment offers you the opportunity to hedge your finances against inflation while making profits.

Some real assets you may consider investing in are precious metals, real estate, and commodities.

Buying precious metals such as gold



and silver is one way to stay ahead of the inflation curve because of their intrinsic value, which is driven by demand and global appreciation.

Investing in real estate gives you ownership of land and other fixtures. It includes residential, commercial, industrial, or special-purpose property. Investing in real estate allows you to earn interest and profit with the appreciation of the value of the property or from renting and leasing.

Also, buying commodities like energy commodities, natural resources, and agricultural products are valuable ways of getting ahead of inflation. Buying and storing, especially agricultural commodities like sorghum, millet, and soybeans, helps you make more profits as they tend to be in high demand during inflation.

3. Invest in securities

Securities, such as the Federal Government of Nigeria's Sukuk Bonds, are often inflation-protected as their principal value is adjusted based on changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This way, your investment maintains its purchasing power over time.

4. Consider savings accounts with high-yield

High-yield savings accounts are different from traditional ones, are managed by reputable financial institutions, and provide better returns. They offer interest rates that are significantly higher than the national average, helping your money grow faster and keeping it ahead of inflation.

5. Invest in yourself

The choice of looking inward and investing in yourself when considering options that potentially keep your finances ahead of inflation is rarely considered.

Investing in yourself means enhancing your skills and education through relevant professional certifications, specialised training, advanced or higher degrees, entrepreneurship, and business skills development.

Considering this option positions you for higher earnings and pay as a worker or as a consultant or advisor in your field of expertise.

Bills to amend UBEC, ICPC Acts pass 2nd reading in N' Assembly

• House to probe Customs officials

By Friday Omosola

Bills seeking amendments to the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Act and the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act (ICPC), 2000, have scaled second reading in the National Assembly.

The amendments aim to strengthen basic education and introduce mandatory counselling and training for corruption-related offenders.

The UBEC amendment bill, sponsored by Senator Adamu Usman (Kaduna Central), passed its second reading in the Senate.

Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives, the bill to amend the ICPC passed its second reading.

Similarly, the lawmakers have agreed to investigate the alleged smuggling activities of some Customs officials at the Badagry axis.

The proposed changes, affecting Sections 2, 3, 7, 9, 11, and 16 of the Act, focus on improving early

childhood education, regulating the appointment of commission members, and ensuring adherence to implementation guidelines.

Moreover, the bill proposes an increase in UBEC funding from two to five per cent and mandates the direct allocation of intervention funds to local government education sectors.

The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Secondary and Basic Education for further review.

Sponsored by Moshood Kayode (Lagos Island), the bill seeks to amend Section 67 of the Principal Act to include mandatory counselling and training for individuals convicted of corruption-related offences.

Leading the debate during plenary, Kayode explained that the proposed amendment recognises the link between mental disposition and the tendency for wealth accumulation through corrupt practices.

The bill mandates that magistrates and

judges, in addition to imposing prison sentences or fines, must include anti-corruption counselling and training in the sentencing of convicts.

The House's decision followed a motion of urgent public importance raised by Hon. Oluwaseun Whingan, representing Badagry Federal Constituency in Lagos State.

Whingan highlighted an incident earlier this month where a journalist in Badagry was allegedly assaulted while attempting to record activities at a location he described as a 'smuggling zone.'

The lawmaker expressed concerns over the conduct of Customs officers and called for an investigation into the legal framework and operational activities of the NCS.

The motion has been referred to the Committee on Customs and Excise for further legislative action.



Benue to build 534km of rural roads to boost agriculture

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Rural Access and Mobility Project, a World Bank-funded initiative, is set to construct 534 kilometers of rural roads across Benue State to enhance the transportation of agricultural produce.

Mr. Stephen Numbeve, the State Project Coordinator, provided these details in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday in Makurdi.

Numbeve explained that the project would prioritize the construction of roads that connect farms to markets, thereby making it easier for farmers to transport their produce.

He also revealed plans to build warehouses across the state for the secure storage of both fresh and dry agricultural products.

He further clarified that the roads would span all local governments in the state, with no specific sequence for construction.

These roads are categorized as trunk C or D roads, which are designed to provide direct access for farmers to markets, unlike trunk A or B roads,



which are federal and state highways, respectively.

The project has made significant progress, including the completion of engineering road designs, surveys, and geophysical studies. However, Numbeve acknowledged a slight delay due to the non-payment of counterpart funding by the previous administration.

While other states had already made their payments, Benue's new administration has since addressed the issue, allowing progress to resume.

Numbeve also mentioned the challenges of accessing funds from both the World Bank and

the European Investment Bank, noting that such international funding requires meeting certain statutory prerequisites, including the payment of counterpart funds.

Once the funds are available, the focus will be on building the roads and markets to support agricultural growth in the region.

Additionally, Numbeve shared that there were initial issues with office accommodation when he assumed office, as the previous setup did not meet the standards required by the International Technological Association, necessitating a dedicated office space to avoid political interference.

Kwara gov receives CNG buses, tricycles, lauds FG's initiative

By Friday Omosola



In a giant strides towards cleaner energy and better public transportation, the Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq yesterday took delivery of 20 compressed natural gas (CNG)-powered buses and 20 tricycles from the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (PCNGI).

The handover ceremony, held in Ilorin, the state capital underscored a strategic partnership between the federal government, the state, and private sector players to ease the effects of fuel subsidy removal on the populace.

The governor described the initiative as part of efforts to ensure affordable and clean transportation for Kwarans.

and tricycles will be deployed to support the public transport system at a discounted cost to the people," he said.

He also expressed gratitude to President Bola Tinubu and the leadership of PCNGI for their commitment to a sustainable energy transition. He also highlighted the socio-economic benefits of the initiative, including job creation and poverty reduction.

In collaboration with B-One Mobility Limited, Kwara State is also set to establish an assembly plant for gas-powered tricycles.

The plant will serve as a hub for manufacturing and create direct and indirect employment opportunities, further boosting the state's economy.

Toyin Zubair, emphasised the federal government's commitment to converting one million vehicles from petrol to CNG as part of its clean energy agenda.

He praised AbdulRazaq for supporting President Tinubu's transformative policies and for positioning Kwara as a leader in energy innovation.

Atul Saraf, CEO of B-One Mobility Limited, announced plans to expand the initiative to include other CNG-powered vehicles, such as ambulances, garbage tippers, and tractors.

He commended the President's forward-thinking approach, which he said has created an enabling environment for transformative investments in sustainable transportation.

"These 18-seater shuttle buses

Also, Vice Chairman of PCNGI,

Brewers, FRSC, NURTW hold safety campaign, caution against drunk driving

By Nwagboniwe Emmanuel

Ahead of the Yudetide season, the Beer Sectoral Group of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) and the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) have cautioned against drunk driving in the country.

The call was made yesterday in Lagos during the Beer Sectoral Group (BSG) of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria For the Don't Drink and Drive Campaign.

Speaking during the campaign, Hans Essaadi, Managing Director, Nigerian Breweries Plc & Chairman, BSG, said: "It is both an honour and a privilege to address you today as we unite for a cause that transcends industries and touches the very fabric of our society—promoting responsible drinking, enhancing road safety, and preventing drunk driving.

He added that the BSG as a subsector of the Food & Beverages Sector of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, representing Nigerian Breweries Plc, Guinness Nigeria Plc, and International Breweries Plc, has always been committed to meaningful social responsibility initiatives. Among these, our Don't Drink and Drive campaign stands out as a key focus area.

"Today, we reaffirm our collective commitment to promoting responsible drinking and increasing awareness of the dangers of drunk driving."

The BSG boss also lamented that yearly, many lives are tragically lost due to accidents caused by impaired driving entirely preventable losses.

He added: "This campaign focuses on three key pillars: Education, Enforcement, and the Encouragement of responsible behaviour.



He further explained that driving under the influence of alcohol can cause road accidents and fatalities, stressing that as manufacturers of alcoholic beverages, we recognize the critical role we play in advocating for the responsible consumption of our products.

"Our message is simple yet essential: 'If you drink, don't drive.'"

We believe celebrations and enjoyment should never come at the cost of lives. We urge all Nigerians to make responsible choices, such as appointing designated drivers or utilizing ride-hailing services and taxis after consuming alcohol," he added.

He commended its collaboration with the FRSC, echoing that the initiative had been central in sustaining the campaign.

"Together, we have taken proactive steps, including donating breathalyzers to support enforcement efforts, and ensuring that drivers on our roads are sober and fit to drive. This partnership exemplifies the power of public-private collaboration to create meaningful social impact.

In the same vein, the FRSC Lagos State Commander Kehinde G. Hamzat, stated that if they are telling the people not to drink and drive it means they value your life and they don't want you to die. He said that part

of FRSC's responsibility is to make sure the driver is not drinking or under any alcoholic influence while driving.

He said that passengers should always speak up against dangerous driving because dangerous driving kills passengers a lot. A scene where a drunk driver is driving a passenger bus and is involved in a deadly accident and kills all of them, causing the driver to use his drunkenness to take the lives of all his passengers. That is the reason why the FRSC has been working hard to stop the habit of drink and driving.

He stated that a professional driver uses his professionalism to drive and doesn't drink because drinking while driving can put your life in danger. DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE because your family loves you.

The Lagos State Chapter Secretary of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Alhaji Tajudeen Badiru Agbede, explained that the union always caution their drivers not to drink while driving, adding; "it is also stated in all their parks, that's why they have people they call marshals who are in charge of vehicle movement to check if the vehicle is okay to drive or if the driver is not drunk before driving.

He called on governments at all levels, stakeholders and the transport sectors to unite and halt drunk driving.

Opposition parties blast INEC chair over praise for Ghana's election

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Labour Party (LP) have sharply criticised the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, following his recent comments on the conduct of Ghana's presidential election.

Yakubu had praised the peaceful and transparent nature of the Ghanaian election, advising Nigerian politicians to learn from it.

In the Ghanaian election, former President John Mahama, the opposition candidate, defeated the ruling party's candidate, Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia. Yakubu, in a video message, commended Ghana's electoral process, emphasising its smooth and rancor-free nature, and suggested that Nigeria could draw valuable lessons from it.

However, opposition parties in Nigeria, particularly the LP and PDP, were quick to criticise Yakubu's remarks, accusing him of poor handling of the 2023 presidential election in Nigeria.

In particular, the LP, whose candidate Peter Obi came third in the race, alleged that Yakubu had manipulated the election in favor of President Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

They called on Yakubu to apologise to Nigerians for his role in what they claimed was a flawed electoral process.

The LP, through its National Publicity Secretary, Obiora Ifoh, reacted by condemning Yakubu's praise of the Ghanaian election. Ifoh stated that although the LP had moved on from the events of the 2023 election, it was "shameful" for Yakubu to be offering advice on electoral conduct when, in



their view, he was responsible for the electoral issues that Nigeria was still grappling with.

"It is a shame that the INEC Chairman should be talking when, in this case, he should be the one to learn from Ghana. He was the architect of exactly what Nigerians are suffering today," Ifoh said, adding that Yakubu owed Nigerians an apology.

The Labour Party spokesman also pointed out the absence of electoral violence, ballot box snatching, and technical glitches in Ghana's election, contrasting it with what they described as a chaotic and flawed process in Nigeria in 2023.

He noted that in Ghana, the people's votes were counted fairly, and the process reflected the true will of the electorate.

The PDP also weighed in, with its Deputy National Youth Leader, Timothy Osadolor, calling Yakubu's praise of Ghana's election an "aberration."

Osadolor emphasised that Yakubu had mishandled the 2023 elections and owed Nigerians not only an apology but also a resignation. He suggested that Yakubu's actions in Nigeria's elections made him unfit to comment

on or praise other countries' processes.

"If I were to be him, I would apologize to Nigerians and resign. Let him borrow a leaf from people of integrity. And when the issues of credibility are being discussed, he should keep quiet and listen," Osadolor said.

He also questioned whether Yakubu could, in good conscience, support the way the 2023 presidential elections were handled, particularly in states like Edo and Ondo.

The criticisms come in the wake of ongoing disputes over the legitimacy of the 2023 presidential elections, where both Obi and PDP candidate Atiku Abubakar contested the outcome in court, though they were unsuccessful.

Despite the court ruling, opposition parties continue to insist that the election was marred by irregularities.

In their statements, both the PDP and the LP implied that Yakubu should refrain from making public remarks about electoral processes in other countries while Nigerians continue to question the integrity of their own elections.

Codix group gets WHO approval for HIV test kit packaging

By Olamilekan Botti

Codix Group, a subsidiary of Colexa Biosensor Ltd, has achieved a groundbreaking milestone by securing approval from the World Health Organisation (WHO) to package a WHO Prequalified Rapid Diagnostic Test (RDT) kit at its facility in Nigeria. This development marks a significant leap forward for the country's healthcare production capabilities and efforts to combat HIV.

The approval enables Colexa Biosensor to locally package the WHO Prequalified HIV Rapid Diagnostic Test, known as the Standard Q HIV 1/2 Ab 3-Line Test. According to a statement released by Codix Group on Wednesday, this is the first WHO Prequalified HIV RDT to be packaged within Africa, heralding a historic achievement for the continent.

"This milestone positions Nigeria as a key player in advancing healthcare production and improving access to life-saving diagnostics," the statement read.

The accomplishment underscores Codix Group's dedication to strengthening Nigeria's healthcare infrastructure and aligns with the federal government's vision to bolster local manufacturing and innovation. Since its commissioning in December 2023, Colexa Biosensor has garnered recognition from prominent global health organizations, including WHO, Global Fund, UNITAID, FIND, and PEPFAR.

The company emphasized that this approval represents a significant step toward reducing reliance on imports, improving access to high-quality In-Vitro Diagnostics

(IVDs), and enhancing Nigeria's healthcare value chain. The statement also highlighted the potential for increased procurement opportunities by Nigeria and international donors, reinforcing efforts to combat HIV locally and globally.

Codix Group expressed pride in this achievement, reaffirming its commitment to elevating healthcare standards across Nigeria and beyond. The company anticipates that this success will inspire further investment in local healthcare production, signalling a promising future for the industry in Africa.

With this approval, Nigeria is set to become a major hub for innovative healthcare solutions, paving the way for a more self-reliant and efficient healthcare system.



Commissioner confirms outbreak of suspected sleeping sickness in C'River community

By Helen Okechukwu



The Cross River State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Henry Ayuk, has confirmed the outbreak of suspected human African trypanosomiasis, popularly known as sleeping sickness, at Ebom Community in the Abi Local Government Area of the State

He disclosed this yesterday at a Town Hall meeting held in yesterday in Calabar in company of the State's Director of Public Health, Dr. Goddy Effah.

According to him, health professionals, multiple patients have been admitted to the Primary Healthcare Centre in

Ebom and the General Hospital in Ugep in connection with illness.

The commissioner equally urged residents to remain vigilant to put the disease under control.

Also, Effah, and the Director of Primary Healthcare in Abi Council, Christy Iwara, appealed to the state government to ensure speedy response in order to tackle the scourge.

Human African trypanosomiasis is a vector-borne parasitic disease transmitted through tsetse fly bites. This vector-borne

parasitic disease can be found near lakes and farmlands.

The symptoms include abnormal sleeping patterns, fever, muscle pain, and weakness; when left untreated, it can lead to complications.

However, residents of the community are advised to wear long-sleeved clothes to prevent further insect bites just as they directed to report to the nearest health facilities if any symptoms are observed.

Lagos health workers begin warning strike

By Helen Okechukwu

Citing the non-implementation of the Consolidated Health Salary Structure (CONHESS) salary adjustment, the coalition health sector unions has embarked on a three-day warning strike.

Oloruntoba Odumosi, Secretary, National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) Oloruntoba disclosed to reporters that the meeting held on December 9, 2024 ended in a deadlock despite various ultimatums issued by the unions.

Explaining the negligence of the communicate issued, Odumosu said, “the government officials couldn’t give us a clear timeline for the implementation of our demands, and there’s no governor’s approval for the payment.”

He acknowledged that the majority of the unionists in an in-house meeting held at the secretariat unanimously voted ‘No,’ insisting on proceeding with the strike.

Despite several attempts to address the lingering issue amicably, Odumosu stated that the government appears indifferent while emphasising the role the healthcare workers play.

He said, “However, it has become clear that the government does not accord the issue the seriousness it deserves.”

“Engagement on December 2, 2024 with the Ministry of Establishments and Training further reinforced our concerns as the meeting failed to provide clarity on the computation method for the adjustment.

“This is particularly concerning given that Lagos State does not operate the full CONHESS structure, nor did it yield a definite timeline for payment.

Explaining their frustration over the issue, the union’s scribe described the situation as disheartening adjustments that have already been implemented for doctors since October 2024.

“This approach, which prioritises some segments of the health workforce while neglecting others, is divisive and undermines the collective morale of health professionals in the state.

He added, “The handling of this matter has left us with no other choice but to resort to this warning strike, beginning from December 11 to 13, 2024.



Adedimeji hails Funke Akindele's professionalism, shares insights

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood star Lateef Adedimeji continues to shine as a favourite among movie fans. With his acting skills, versatility, and largely scandal-free career, Adedimeji remains a household name.

Recently, the award-winning actor shared his thoughts on the rise of epic movies in Nollywood, emphasizing their cultural importance and relevance in today's world.

New Daily Prime caught up with the actor at the premiere of *Everybody Loves Jenifa*, a highly anticipated movie by Funke Akindele.

During a brief but engaging conversation, Adedimeji offered his perspective on why epic films have gained so much attention in recent years.

Epic movies, often rooted in history and culture, have seen a surge in Nollywood.

Fans love the captivating storytelling, vibrant costumes, and rich cultural settings.

However, this trend has sparked debates about the reasons behind their growing popularity. Some observers link the boom to the establishment of film villages, which have provided authentic backdrops and better resources for such productions.

Adedimeji, known for his roles in movies like *Lisabi*, shared his views on the phenomenon. He firmly believes that epic stories serve a crucial purpose.

"It's our story," he said passionately. "We need to tell original stories about who we are. Over time, we've forgotten our traditions and culture, but these movies are bringing them back.

They remind people, especially the



younger generation, that we have a history worth knowing."

The actor highlighted the need for representation, pointing out how important it is for Nollywood to showcase its heritage.

"Telling epic stories is not wrong. It is who we are. Our stories matter, and they should be shared with the world," he added. His words reflected his deep respect for Nigeria's cultural roots and a commitment to preserving them through cinema.

Beyond sharing his thoughts on epic films, Adedimeji also addressed rumours surrounding Funke Akindele, the producer of *Everybody Loves Jenifa*.

Over the years, Akindele has faced claims of being difficult to work with, a reputation that has sparked conversations in Nollywood circles.

However, Adedimeji dismissed these allegations, praising her professionalism and dedication to her craft.

"She is amazing to work with," Adedimeji said with confidence. "Funke Akindele is one of the most

hardworking people in the industry. She knows her job and puts her all into it. It's always inspiring to be on set with her."

His remarks shed light on Akindele's strong work ethic and contradicted the negative rumours.

The conversation with Adedimeji revealed more than just insights about movies; it showed his passion for storytelling and his belief in Nollywood's potential.

As epic movies continue to gain traction, actors like Adedimeji are proving that cultural narratives can captivate global audiences.

In an era when many traditions are fading, the rise of epic Nollywood films is a refreshing reminder of Nigeria's rich heritage.

With stars like Lateef Adedimeji leading the way, the industry seems poised to tell more stories that resonate deeply with both local and international viewers.

Afrobeats isn't complete without me, says Davido

By **Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi**

Nigerian superstar Davido, whose real name is David Adeleke, has reaffirmed his significant role in the growth and popularity of Afrobeat.

Speaking in a recent feature for TheBeatJuice magazine, the artist explained that his contributions to the genre are undeniable.

"Afrobeats can't be brought up without my name. Impossible," he stated confidently.

Davido, known for chart-topping hits like "DODO," has become a household name in African music. He is often mentioned alongside Wizkid and Burna Boy as one of the "Big Three" shaping the genre.

However, Davido's journey has been marked by more than just accolades and recognition. The artist has also engaged in thoughtful discussions about the categorization of African music, often challenging the boundaries placed on it.

In a recent conversation on the Business Untitled Podcast, Davido addressed how African artists are frequently grouped under the Afrobeat label, regardless of their unique styles.

He expressed some reservations about the term, suggesting it can sometimes feel limiting.

"I don't get offended when we've been categorised as Afrobeats," he said. "I mean, we need a genre. It could be R&B or Afropop. But personally, I call my music Afrofusion."

Despite his preference for the term "African fusion," Davido acknowledged the importance of Afrobeat as a



unifying genre.

He stressed how the label has helped bring African music to a global stage, something that took years of effort and persistence from artists across the continent.

"I know how long it took for African music to become mainstream," he added.

Davido's music stands out because of its diversity. While Afrobeat heavily influences his work, his sound blends multiple styles, including pop, R&B, and traditional African rhythms.

This eclectic approach is why he identifies more with "African fusion" than a single genre.

His open-mindedness to different styles has earned him both critical acclaim and a loyal fan base worldwide.

Songs like "Fall" and "If" have not only topped African charts but also resonated with audiences in Europe, the United States, and beyond.

Over the years, Davido has consistently pushed boundaries. He has collaborated with international stars such as Chris Brown, Nicki Minaj, and Lil Baby, further

solidifying Afrobeat's place on the world map.

His efforts have also inspired a new generation of artists to embrace their African identity while exploring global sounds.

Despite his earlier critiques, Davido remains proud of what Afrobeat represents. The genre has grown into a global movement, and he acknowledges his place in its evolution.

His ability to stay true to his roots while experimenting with new styles reflects the spirit of Afrobeat itself: dynamic, bold, and ever-evolving.

Davido's influence on African music is undeniable. As the debate around genres and labels continues, one thing remains clear: Davido's name will always be synonymous with the rise of Afrobeat.

His voice, talent, and innovation have helped shape a movement that celebrates African culture and creativity.

Through his music and message, Davido ensures that his legacy in the Afrobeat story is not just a chapter—it's a cornerstone.

Salo speaks on assassination attempt, asks police to unveil culprits

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular TikTok creator Ojesanmi Afeez, widely known as Oloba Salo, has reappeared in the spotlight following months of silence after an assassination attempt against him.

His return comes amid growing public interest in the shocking incident that nearly claimed his life.

New Daily Prime reported that on October 10, 2024, armed men shot the skit maker. The news quickly went viral, sparking concern among fans and fellow creators.

Despite initial updates, the circumstances surrounding the shooting remain unclear, leaving many unanswered questions.

During a live video with actress Toyin Abraham, Tunde Perry, Salo's closest friend, addressed the situation. The two sought to clarify rumours about a supposed N12 million deposit linked to the incident.

Perry dismissed claims of financial foul play, urging fans to focus on Salo's recovery rather than baseless accusations.

However, this explanation didn't satisfy everyone. The unresolved nature of the case, coupled with mounting frustration, prompted Salo to take matters into his own hands.

In a dramatic turn of events, Oloba Salo went live on TikTok to air his grievances against the Nigerian Police. He accused them of failing to make any progress in identifying or apprehending the shooters.

Speaking passionately, he recounted the harrowing experience. "I almost



lost my life that day," he said. He explained that he was simply trying to help people by giving out money when the attackers struck.

Salo expressed his disappointment with the law enforcement agencies, describing their inaction as unacceptable. He vowed to escalate the issue if the authorities did not take immediate steps to solve the problem.

"If they don't do the needful, I will cause trouble. I will rain curses on them," he declared, his frustration evident.

The TikTok live session sparked a wave of reactions from netizens. Comments flooded the platform, with opinions ranged from support to criticism.

One user, @dj_mighty01, wrote, "You have money and connections. Yet, you're not cautious. Be careful!" Another, @chiszzx22211, added humorously, "You're starting again. Don't let your words get you into trouble!"

Some comments took a lighter tone, focusing on Salo's appearance during the live session. @the_realchefsteph quipped, "Can you boys normalize cleaning your lips? Wash your mouth

and face properly!"

Beyond the drama and online chatter, Salo's case highlights a broader concern about public safety and the effectiveness of law enforcement in Nigeria. The lack of progress in his case underscores the challenges victims face when seeking justice.

Salo's willingness to speak out reflects the frustration of many Nigerians who feel abandoned by those meant to protect them. His story serves as a stark reminder of the need for reform in the country's security apparatus.

For now, Oloba Salo continues to heal, both physically and emotionally, from the traumatic event. His fans remain hopeful that justice will eventually be served.

In the meantime, his bold stance against inaction has reignited conversations about accountability and the role of social media in amplifying such issues.

As this story unfolds, one thing is certain: Oloba Salo's resilience and determination will keep the spotlight on his case, pushing for answers in a system that often leaves victims in the dark.

Teen stars, Emmanuella, Success exit Mark Angel comedy

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Teen comedians, Emmanuella and Success have officially parted ways with the popular brand, Mark Angel Comedy.

collaboration with the comedy platform.

He said: "I no longer manage Emmanuella and Success. They

are now being managed by a professional agency because I'm too busy to manage them. But I still work with them."

This development comes amidst a controversy sparked by former crew member, Denilson Igwe, who accused Mark Angel of financial exploitation during a viral podcast in August.

Addressing the situation during a TikTok live session on Tuesday, Mark Angel revealed that he is no longer managing the careers of the two teen stars, marking the end of their



US offers \$10M reward for Chinese hacker's arrest

By Olamilekan Botti

The United States has announced a \$10 million reward for information leading to the arrest of Guan Tianfeng, a 30-year-old Chinese national accused of orchestrating global cyberattacks. The U.S. Department of State revealed on Tuesday that Guan believed to be residing in China's Sichuan Province, is wanted for hacking computer firewalls and compromising critical systems worldwide.

An indictment unsealed the same day charges Guan with conspiracy to commit computer fraud and wire fraud. His alleged activities have also drawn sanctions from the U.S. Treasury Department against his employer, Sichuan Silence Information Technology Co. Limited.

According to the indictment, Guan and his co-conspirators exploited a vulnerability in firewalls manufactured by Sophos Limited, a UK-based cybersecurity firm. These firewalls are widely used by businesses and institutions to protect their networks. Deputy Attorney-General Lisa Monaco highlighted the scope of the attacks, stating, "The defendant and his co-conspirators exploited a vulnerability in tens of thousands of network security devices, infecting them with malware designed to steal information from victims around the world."

In April 2020, the hackers launched a massive coordinated attack on approximately 81,000 firewall devices worldwide. Their goal was to steal sensitive data, including usernames and passwords, while simultaneously attempting to install ransomware on the compromised systems.

The indictment revealed that more than 23,000 of the targeted firewalls



were located in the United States. Among these, 36 belonged to companies classified as critical infrastructure, underscoring the potential threat to national security. The U.S. Treasury Department emphasized that the attackers exploited a zero-day vulnerability, a previously unknown software flaw, to breach the systems.

Herbert Stapleton, an FBI cybersecurity expert, acknowledged Sophos' swift response in mitigating the damage. "If Sophos had not rapidly identified the vulnerability and deployed a comprehensive response, the damage could have been far more severe," he said.

The indictment further alleges that Sichuan Silence Information Technology Co. Limited, where Guan worked, monetized the stolen data by selling it to Chinese businesses and government entities, including the Ministry of Public Security. The company also allegedly offered hacking services to clients.

The U.S. government has since imposed sanctions on Sichuan Silence, restricting its ability to engage in international business and financial transactions.

The case of Guan Tianfeng underscores growing concerns about state-sponsored cybercrime and the role of private companies in facilitating such activities. By offering a significant financial reward, the United States aims to pressure Guan and his associates while sending a clear message about its commitment to combating global cyber threats.

The reward is part of the State Department's Rewards for Justice Program, which has been instrumental in tracking down international criminals. This case is expected to serve as a warning to other entities engaged in similar activities, with the United States signalling its determination to protect its digital infrastructure and hold perpetrators accountable.

Tears, hope as Syrians return home from Turkey

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Ala Jabeer cried as he prepared to cross from Turkey into Syria with his 10-year-old daughter on Tuesday, thirteen years after the war forced him to flee his home.

He returns without his wife and three of his children who died in devastating earthquakes that struck Turkey and Syria last year.

Father and daughter left days after Syrian rebels ousted Bashar al-Assad from Damascus, and a day after President Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey was opening its Yayladagi border gate to manage the return of some of the more than three million Syrian migrants it hosts.

“Just as I cried for the children I lost in the earthquake, I am crying today because I am leaving Hatay and Turkey behind,” said Jabeer, a former shipworker who arrived in Turkey’s Hatay province in 2011.

Dual earthquakes in early 2023 killed more than 50,000 people in southern Turkey, with the city of Antakya where Jabeer and his family lived among the hardest hit. The region is still recovering from the widespread destruction.

Over the weekend, rebels seized Damascus and Assad fled to Russia following 13 years of civil war. Turkey has said it gave no support and had no involvement in the offensive by the Syrian opposition forces it has backed for years against Assad.

Yet Syrians in Turkey have been excited by the prospect of returning



home since the rebellion.

Jabeer was hopeful for the future as he completed paperwork for him and his daughter Sirin at a mobile service unit at the border in Yayladagi, which was quiet despite Erdogan’s move to reopen it to ease pressure on another crossing in the area.

“God willing, things will be better than under Assad’s government. We’ve already seen that his oppression is over. We are going back because now we think that the ones who took over are already doing things to end oppression,” he said.

“The most important reason for me to return is that my mother lives in Latakia. She can take care of my daughter, so I can work,” Jabeer said, adding that he was grateful to Turkey for taking care of them with health services, shelter and jobs.

On Monday, Erdogan highlighted the goal of “voluntary, safe, dignified, and regular returns” as Syria stabilizes.

The Yayladagi crossing close to the northwest edge of Syria had been closed since 2013 due to nearby fighting.

NATO member Turkey controls swathes of land in northern Syria after several cross-border incursions against the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, which Ankara sees as a terrorist group tied to PKK militants who have fought the Turkish state for 40 years.

Turkey said on Sunday that it wanted the new Syrian administration to be inclusive and for Syrians to determine their own future.

Chelsea face travel challenge ahead of Conference League match and Premier League fixture

By **Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi**

Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca has expressed concerns about the demanding schedule his team faces, with a grueling 16-hour round trip to Kazakhstan followed by a Premier League match just days later.

The Blues will travel to Almaty for their UEFA Conference League clash with Astana on Thursday. Due to ongoing stadium renovations in Kazakhstan's capital, the team must make the 3,700-mile journey, which includes an eight-hour flight each way. The flight route has been altered to avoid conflict zones in Ukraine, Russia, and Syria, adding to the travel time.

Once they arrive in Almaty, temperatures are expected to plummet to -11°C , posing further challenges for the squad. Despite the extreme cold, Chelsea's players have been advised to prepare for the match by bringing extra layers and remaining mentally focused. Defender Axel Disasi summed up the situation, saying, "We just have to put on two pairs of gloves and be ready to compete."

Chelsea will return to London early Friday morning, leaving just over 48 hours to prepare for their Premier League match against Brentford on Sunday evening at 19:00 GMT. This compressed turnaround has led Maresca to rest several key players for the Conference League match,



including England winger Noni Madueke, while Portugal's Pedro Neto will be absent due to suspension.

In addition to first-team absences, a handful of youth players will be included in the travelling squad. Ato Ampah, Shumaira Mheuka, and Kaiden Wilson are among the promising talents set to travel, while 18-year-old Josh Acheampong is expected to make his first start in Kazakhstan. The young defender is also close to signing a new contract with the club.

Maresca acknowledged the immense toll this travel would take on his squad, admitting, "Eight hours [one way] is not a normal time [to travel] for a game, but we have to go there, we have to play and we want to try to do our best, thinking also about the next game."

Despite the challenges, Chelsea remain in a strong position. With a perfect record of four wins from four in the Conference League, they have already secured at least a place in the play-off stage. In the Premier League, they are currently second, just four points behind leaders Liverpool.

The Premier League has granted Chelsea a later kick-off time for the Brentford match due to the travel demands, but Maresca remains cautious about the potential strain on his players. "It's not normal for one of them, if they land at 6am on Friday, to play again on Sunday," he said. "But if we need them to, they are going to make the effort."

As Chelsea navigate this tough schedule, Maresca's tactical decisions and player management will be crucial in ensuring his team remains competitive across both

Fernando Alonso 'still dreaming' of third Formula 1 title

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

At 43 years old, Fernando Alonso refuses to let age dim his ambition for a third Formula 1 World Championship. The Spanish driver, who clinched his two titles with Renault in 2005 and 2006, remains steadfast in his belief that he can achieve the ultimate glory again. With an eye on the sweeping regulation changes set for the 2026 season, Alonso's dream is far from over.

Alonso's hopes have been bolstered by Aston Martin's strategic signing of Adrian Newey, the renowned Formula 1 designer, to lead the creation of their car for 2026. Widely considered one of the most influential figures in F1 engineering, Newey's expertise has raised expectations for a competitive package that could elevate Aston Martin to championship contention.

While Alonso acknowledges that the 2025 season may present challenges, he views 2026 as a pivotal year for his aspirations. His current contract with Aston Martin runs until the end of that season, by which time he will be 45 years old. Despite this, Alonso remains undeterred, attributing his longevity to disciplined training, a passion for racing, and a meticulous approach to his craft.

"I'm still dreaming of a third title," Alonso said in a recent interview. "I know it's been a long time since my last championship, but I feel as motivated as ever. The new



regulations in 2026 give us a fresh chance, and with Adrian Newey onboard, I'm optimistic about what we can achieve."

The 2026 regulations will introduce significant changes to Formula 1, including advancements in aerodynamics and power unit technology. Teams are already working to interpret and adapt to the new rules, with hopes of gaining an edge in what promises to be a highly competitive era.

Alonso's career has been marked by brilliance on the track but also by periods of frustration, often due to a lack of a consistently dominant car. His resilience, however, has never wavered. Having returned to the sport in 2021 after a two-year hiatus, he has proven he can still compete at

the highest level, securing podiums and challenging younger rivals.

"My focus is on enjoying every moment," Alonso reflected. "If the opportunity to keep racing beyond 2026 arises and I still feel competitive, who knows? But for now, my goal is clear."

As the 2024 season approaches, Alonso's determination and drive stand as a testament to his enduring passion for Formula 1. Whether or not a third title comes to fruition, his relentless pursuit of excellence continues to inspire fans and peers alike.

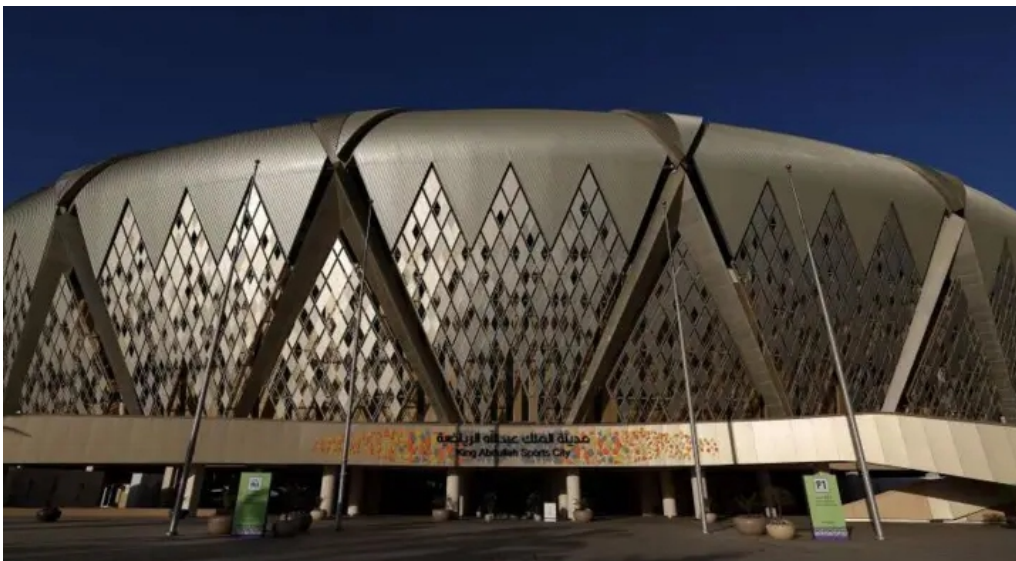
FA expected to back Saudi Arabia's 2034 World Cup Bid

By **Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi**

The Football Association (FA) is set to support Saudi Arabia's bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, alongside backing the multi-nation hosting of the 2030 tournament. The FA's stance is expected to be confirmed during Wednesday's online FIFA Congress, where both bids will likely be ratified.

Saudi Arabia is the sole contender for the 2034 World Cup, while the 2030 edition is poised to be awarded to unopposed co-hosts Spain, Morocco, and Portugal, with early matches in Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay.

Although Saudi Arabia's hosting appears certain, the FA's endorsement has sparked controversy due to the kingdom's human rights record. Critics have raised concerns about discriminatory laws, with some accusing the FA of hypocrisy for potentially endorsing the bid while advocating for inclusivity in football.



Rather than a traditional vote, FIFA plans to confirm the hosts via acclamation, where federations show support by applauding. Delegates must vote on both bids simultaneously, with no separate decision for each tournament.

Germany's DFB announced its support last Friday, emphasizing its

intention to engage in dialogue to address human rights concerns. Norway's football federation, however, plans to abstain, arguing the process undermines FIFA's governance reforms. The FA is expected to issue a statement following the Congress, explaining its position and commitment to addressing related issues.

Cyclist Rohan Dennis pleads guilty in wife Melissa Hoskins' death

By **Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi**

Former world champion cyclist Rohan Dennis has pleaded guilty in connection with the death of his wife, fellow Olympian Melissa Hoskins.

Hoskins, 31, was struck by a vehicle driven by Dennis outside their Adelaide home on 30 December 2023, and later died in hospital.

Dennis, who was initially charged with dangerous driving causing death and driving without due care, admitted to a lesser charge of aggravated dangerous driving, creating the likelihood of harm.



His plea means he acknowledged driving a vehicle in close proximity to Hoskins, knowing it was likely to cause harm or showing reckless disregard for her safety.

Dennis's lawyer clarified that the charge did not imply he intended to harm Hoskins or was responsible for her death.

Hoskins, a world champion in team pursuit in 2015 and two-time Olympian, tragically passed away, leading to tributes from around the world.

Dennis, a decorated cyclist, retired in 2023 after an illustrious career. The couple married in 2018 and had two children together. Dennis will be sentenced at a later date.

EPL: Man City my last club – Guardiola

By Dave Oludare Oso

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has announced that he will not manage another club after his time with the Premier League champions comes to an end.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday ahead of their Champions League clash against Juventus, Guardiola confirmed his decision, emphasizing his commitment to City.

The Spaniard, who joined Manchester City in 2016, extended his tenure with a new two-year contract in November.

Having previously managed Barcelona and Bayern Munich, Guardiola stated that he is not considering any other club for the future, solidifying his legacy at The



Etihad.

same thing as now.

“I’m not gonna manage any other club after City.

“Maybe a national team, but that’s different,” Guardiola said.

“I’m not talking about the long-term future but what I’m not going to do is leave, go to another country, do the

Uefa unconcerned about Euro 2025 clash with Club World Cup

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Uefa has played down concerns over potential scheduling conflicts between the 2025 Women’s European Championship and the expanded FIFA Men’s Club World Cup. The men’s tournament, taking place from 15 June to 13 July 2025 in the United States, will feature 32 teams, including Chelsea and Manchester City. Meanwhile, Euro 2025 is set to run from 2 to 27 July in Switzerland, meaning that some matches could overlap.

Despite this, Uefa managing director Nadine Kessler is not concerned, stating, “We’re talking about two tournaments, in two different countries, with two different timezones.” Kessler emphasized that Uefa’s broadcasting agreements



differ from FIFA’s, and while exclusivity for women’s football tournaments is ideal, it is increasingly challenging to secure.

consultation, defended the clash, stating the 2025-2030 match calendar was approved by its Council in 2023 as a balanced solution.

FIFA, which rejected claims from Fifpro and the World Leagues Association about lack of