

Why President Tinubu made Wike minister — Akpabio **PAGE 5**



Tinubu secures €1bn German investment for minerals, renewable energy **PAGE 6**

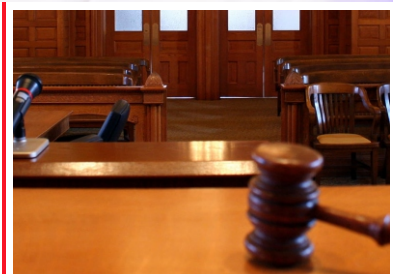


The New Daily Prime

I identify more as Yoruba than Nigerian, Kemi Badenoch speaks at last **PAGE 21**
• Says she has “nothing in common with Northern Nigeria”



Appeal Court nullifies judgement stopping Rivers allocation **PAGE 2**



WORLD

Florida man stabs ex-girlfriend 70 times, dies in crash fleeing murder scene **PAGE 22**

ENTERTAINMENT

PAGE 17

Burna Boy teases new single ‘Bundle By Bundle’, out Dec 17



Kaduna court remands woman for allegedly killing daughter with rat poison **PAGE 10**

Explosion kills suspected terrorists testing IEDs in Zamfara **PAGE 10**

Appeal Court nullifies judgement stopping Rivers allocation

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja on Friday nullified a judgment by the Federal High Court seeking to seize Rivers State's statutory allocation / revenue from federation purse.

The appellate court in a judgement delivered by Justice Hamma Barka said the High Court lacked the jurisdiction to entertain the suit, and that mere listing of federal agencies does not confer unrestricted jurisdiction on the Federal High Court.

Justice Barka in his verdict ruled that the subject matter which is the appropriation issue of a state should not have been entertained.

The Court upheld the submissions of Counsel to the Rivers State Government, Chris Uche (SAN), that the Federal High Court lacked jurisdiction to entertain issues relating to the revenue of Rivers State.

Reacting to the judgment, the opposition lawmakers coalition said it is a victory for constitutional democracy and restoring the judiciary's image.

The group described it as a triumph of the rule of law, the principle of federalism, and an end to one's desperation to destroy the image of the judiciary.

It added that the Appeal Court has averted anarchy and constitutional disorder planned against the people.

Their position was corroborated by pro-democracy groups including Human Rights Writers Association (HURIWA), Joint Action for Democracy, and Lawyers in Defence of Democracy, described the Appeal Court's Judgment as a historic



decision that has preserved the principle of federalism and constitutional democracy.

The opposition lawmakers coalition in the statement signed by its Spokesperson, Ikenga Ugochinyere said, "The State House of Assembly has a legitimate issue because of the illegal defections from PDP to APC which is currently before the court, and the sacked lawmakers have been seeking for anarchy to be unleashed on the state and putting pressure on our courts in a desperate bid to undermine democracy in Rivers State.

"According to the Supreme Court judgement, the 4-man House of Assembly is recognized by law and until the Supreme court decides on the issue of their illegal decampment, they don't have the right to make law for the state.

"Until an election is held to fill those vacant seats, the remaining members can preside.

"The decision of the Appeal Court to nullify the judgement of the Federal High Court to order for the seizure of allocation of Rivers State government is a welcome development and a triumph for rule of law, victory for true federalism and constitutional governance and should be applauded by all Nigerians that these eminent Judges have interpreted already established judicial principle by the Supreme Court.

"They have asserted the sacred principle of our constitutional governance and democracy, that there's a difference between fund disbursement, funding federation account and state appropriation act which is an internal affairs of the state, which falls under the powers and jurisdiction of the state high courts which the federal high court has no business.

You can understand when people are political sadists, when all they see is anarchy, inflicting pain on innocent people."

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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9X3	166,223.50
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Tinubu secures €1bn German investment for minerals, renewable energy

By Dave Oludare Oso

President Bola Tinubu reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to creating a business-friendly environment, particularly in the energy and solid minerals sectors, during a meeting with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier at the State House on Wednesday.

In a session focused on fostering bilateral trade and investment, Tinubu assured German investors of Nigeria's readiness to remove administrative bottlenecks and leverage its abundant natural resources to drive industrialization and economic growth.

President Tinubu described Nigeria's economic reforms as designed to ensure long-term prosperity through sustainable frameworks, emphasizing that the nation is poised for industrialization through its rich resources.

"We must enhance the possibility of becoming highly industrialized by exploring opportunities in our natural resources. With Germany's industrial expertise and technology, especially in renewable energy, we can achieve a mutually beneficial partnership," Tinubu stated.

He highlighted the ongoing transformation in Nigeria's energy and natural gas sectors, emphasizing the exploration of critical minerals such as lithium and cobalt. These are vital for global energy transition and renewable energy technologies.

Tinubu also pointed to Nigeria's dynamic youth population, trained



professionals, and a renewed focus on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as critical drivers for economic growth.

President Steinmeier praised Nigeria's ambitious reforms and affirmed Germany's readiness to support these efforts. He noted a growing interest among German companies in expanding their presence in Nigeria, particularly in renewable energy.

"Beyond the big players like Siemens, other specialized companies are exploring opportunities in Nigeria, especially in renewable energy and solid minerals," Steinmeier said.

The Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dele Alake, highlighted Germany's €1 billion fund for diversifying renewable energy supply chains. He noted that modifying fund conditions could

make Nigeria's solid minerals sector a viable destination for German investments.

Alake detailed tax incentives, enhanced security, and joint venture opportunities as part of Nigeria's Renewed Hope Agenda to attract investors to the country.

The business delegations from both countries commended President Tinubu's vision for economic transformation, particularly efforts to improve Nigeria's ease of doing business, streamline foreign exchange, and create globally competitive investment opportunities.

This dialogue underscores Nigeria's commitment to harnessing its resources, fostering partnerships, and achieving economic renewal through visionary reforms and international collaboration.

Why President Tinubu made Wike minister — Akpabio

By Dave Oludare Oso

The President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, on Friday gave an insight into why former governor of Rivers State, Nyesom Wike, was nominated into the Federal Executive Council by President Bola Tinubu.

He said this at a book launch to mark the 57th birthday of the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Senator Akpabio described the celebrant as a workaholic public officer and someone who gives his best in any office he finds himself, saying: “Let me tell you why you were nominated into the FEC by President Tinubu despite being an opposition politician.

“Your performance, as a local government chairman, Chief of Staff to the Rivers State Government, Minister and two-term governor gave you the job.

“You have made us proud as the FCT minister.

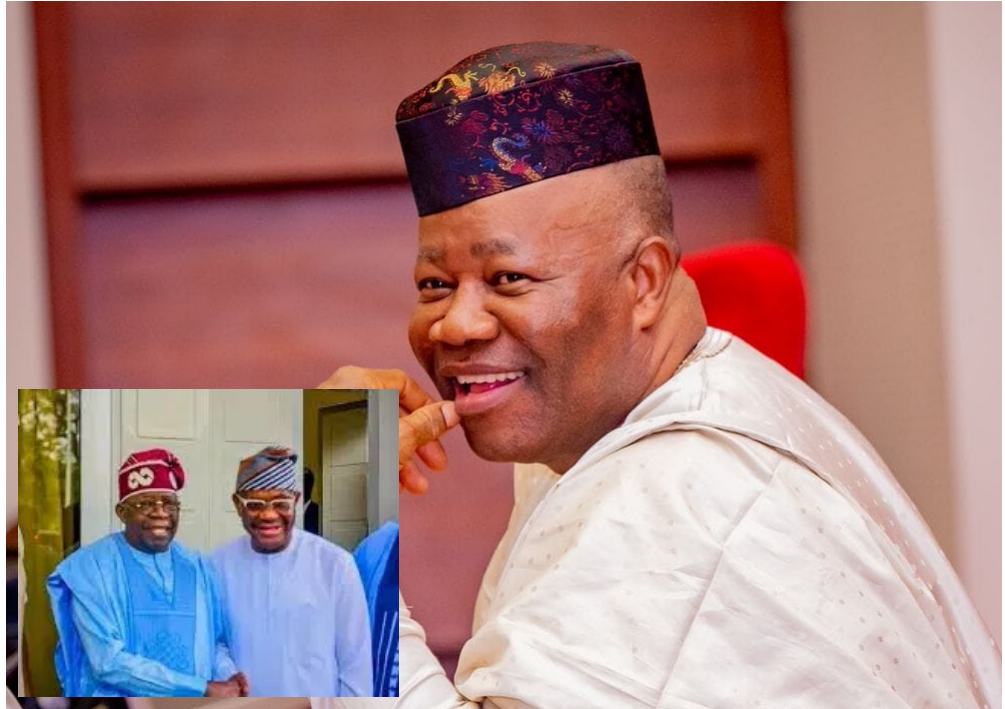
“You have turned Abuja into a model city befitting the capital of a country.

“You are a very committed public officer who is has no room for excuses on any given task.

“In less than two years, you have turned Abuja into a huge construction site.

“Today we gather to celebrate not just the years in your life, but the life in your years.

“We have come to honour not just the duration of your life, but the donation of your life and the countless ways you’ve enriched the lives of the people around you.



“Born in the tumultuous year of 1967, when the fabric of our nation was being tested in the fires of conflict, you emerged, my dear Wike, not in the safety of calm waters, but amid the storm itself.

“You might have chosen to arrive in more tranquil times, but instead, you bravely came forth into the fray.

“It is perhaps this very fortitude that has shaped your character, allowing you to rise like an eagle, soaring high above the tempests that beset us.

“As a two-term governor, you have been a leader of the people, a visionary who acts with purpose, and a friend whose care for others knows no bounds.

“Your dedication to uplifting communities, as a Governor and now as an Honourable Minister, has left an indelible mark upon our nation’s history.

“The bridges you have constructed – both of steel and of spirit – stand as testaments to your commitment to

progress and unity.

“I recognised the fire within you long before you stepped into the public arena; you were, indeed, a secret waiting to be unveiled for the nation to behold.

“Your contributions to the political landscape of Nigeria, particularly during your governorship, shine like a beacon of hope.

“Your charismatic leadership and staunch advocacy for the rights of your constituents have focused on the pillars of infrastructure, education, and healthcare.

“Your passion for sports, particularly football, and your commitment to nurturing the talents of our youth reflect your unwavering belief in the potential of the next generation.

“You have earned a reputation as a leader of uncompromising integrity, speaking truth in every circumstance even when the winds of injustice howl around you like a tempest.”

Tinubu names Nwakuiche Ndid as NCoS acting CG

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President Bola Tinubu has approved the appointment of Nwakuiche Sylvester Ndid as Acting Controller-General of the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS), following the retirement of Haliru Nababa from the service.

Haliru Nababa served as Comptroller General for three years and seven months.

He was appointed as Comptroller General by former President Muhammadu Buhari and his tenure would end on 15th of December.

Haliru was pulled out of the Service in a colourful ceremony on Friday.

According to a statement signed by Ahmed Ja'afaru, the Secretary of the Board of Civil Defence, Correctional, Fire and Immigration Services, the appointment of Mr Nwakuiche Ndid takes effect from 15th December, 2024.

Nwakuiche, born on 26th November, 1966, hails from Oguta in Imo State. Until his appointment, he was the Deputy Controller-General in charge of Training and Staff Development Directorate.

He is a fellow of the prestigious National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) and holds the national honour of Member of the Federal Republic, MFR.

Meanwhile the Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo has lauded the retiring Controller General, Nababa for his "visionary leadership, and a steadfast commitment to the transformative ideals of the Nigerian Correctional



Service (NCoS)."

Tunji-Ojo, who described Nababa tenure as exceptional at the pulling out parade said his stewardship witnessed significant "strides in advancing its core mandate of reforming, rehabilitating and reintegrating inmates into the society in line with our government's vision to ensure public safety while upholding the principles of justice."

The Minister, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Dr Magdalene Ajani, commended Nababa on behalf of President Bola Tinubu and wished him a fulfilling and joyful retirement.

Nababa, who in his valedictory address listed some of his achievements, commended President Bola Tinubu and the Minister for the opportunity given him to serve the nation.

He said: "The journey which began in the year 1990 when I enlisted into the then Nigerian Prisons Service, climaxed in the year 2021, on the 10th of May to be precise when I

was appointed the Controller-General of the NCoS.

"Now, with profound gratitude to God Almighty, the journey has finally come to a happy end.

"It has been quite a memorable experience for me and from inception, I knew that the responsibilities thrust on my shoulders were huge.

"Therefore, I adopted an all-inclusive management approach, constructively engaging relevant stakeholders either to build on the legacies of past leaders or design new strategies to address emerging challenges.

"I must say that the support and cooperation I received from my management team and field officers remained unwavering and qualitative. Thus, the Service was not only able to weather storms but significantly made progress in many fronts such as security, logistics, healthcare services, capacity building for staff, inmates' welfare and training, staff promotion and a host of others."

Shettima departs for Dubai to represent Tinubu at Nigerian owned oil facility launch

By Friday Omosola



Vice President Kashim Shettima on Friday departed Abuja for Dubai, United Arab Emirates, (UAE), to represent President Bola Tinubu at the commissioning of a Nigerian owned \$315 million oil production and storage facility.

In a statement, Stanley Nkwocha, the Vice President spokesperson, said the project, owned by Oriental Energy Limited, a Nigerian oil and gas company, will be commissioned tomorrow.

Following the Dubai event, Shettima will travel to Saudi Arabia to perform the Lesser Hajj (Umrah) in the holy cities of Madinah and Makkah from December 16 to 19, 2024.

While in Jeddah, he will also meet

with the President of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) on December 20, 2024, to discuss co-financing for Nigeria's Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ Phase II) and to strengthen the coordination of IsDB-supported projects in Nigeria.

The Vice President is expected to return to Nigeria on or before December 21, 2024.

Meanwhile, before his departure, Shettima participated in the wedding of Fatiha Bagudu, son of the Minister for Budget and Economic Planning, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, and his bride, Amina Tatari Ali. The ceremony was held at the Sultan Bello Mosque in Kaduna.

Upon arrival in Kaduna, the Vice President was welcomed by

Governor Uba Sani. He also observed Juma'at prayers at the Sultan Bello Mosque before attending the wedding.

He was accompanied by prominent figures, including Nasarawa State Governor Abdullahi Sule, Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum, and Special Adviser to the President on General Duties, Aliyu Modibbo Umar.

Other notable attendees included Ogun State Governor Dapo Abiodun, Jigawa State Governor Umar Namadi, Gombe State Governor Muhammadu Yahaya, Kebbi State Governor Nasir Idris, Sokoto State Governor Ahmad Aliyu, and business magnate Aliko Dangote, among others.

My comment on refineries earned me enemies – Adeboye

By Dave Oludare Oso

The General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye, disclosed on Friday that his call urging Nigerians to pray for divine intervention against efforts by powerful cabals working to hinder the success of private refineries in Nigeria earned him the wrath of some individuals in the country.

Adeboye said this during the ongoing annual Holy Ghost Congress themed ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’ at the Redemption City, along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

While the cleric did not directly name those involved, he referenced a statement he made weeks ago during the church’s annual Abuja Special Holy Ghost Service, which he said nearly got him into trouble.

He said, “I said something during the Abuja Holy Ghost Service which I am not going to repeat because I nearly got into trouble because of telling the truth. Certain things happened, at least in my nation Nigeria, that force you to wonder: Are we under a curse? There are nations that didn’t have all the resources we have, and yet, they seem to be doing better than we are doing. Hmmm, let me leave that out.”

He said some people called him, intimating that he had ruffled not a few feathers after his comment.

Among the things he said during the Abuja crusade, Adeboye had earlier expressed frustration over the



billions of naira spent on repairing the nation’s four government-owned refineries, which still failed to function optimally.

The revered cleric, speaking on the importance of divine light to individuals, families, communities, and nations, declared, “Let me just say tonight, in the name above every other name, there will be light in our nations.”

He urged believers to cultivate a genuine relationship with God, emphasizing that such a connection would end all forms of emptiness, storms, and challenges in their lives.

He said, “The power of a soldier is determined by who is behind him. If you stick with your Commander-in-Chief, you will soon become like Him. The first time it was recorded that our Commander-in-Chief spoke, He said, ‘Let there be light,’

and there was light.”

Explaining the authority of God’s voice, he said, “When He said it, He didn’t whisper; it was a command, loud and clear. He called forth Lazarus from the grave in a loud voice (John 11:39-44).

“When there’s going to be an earthquake on the earth, one way we know is that we hear a sound before the eruption. When an airplane is about to take off, there is noise. Before God spoke and brought light, certain conditions were there. There was formlessness and emptiness on the earth. ‘Without form’ means confusion. Wherever darkness is, there is bound to be confusion.”

Nababa bows out as CG correctional service, thanks colleagues

By Friday Omosola

The Controller-General of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Haliru Nababa, officially retired from service on Friday, December 13, after reaching the statutory retirement age.

His departure was marked by a Pulling Out Parade held in Abuja, where he reflected on his tenure and contributions to the service.

During the event, Nababa described his 34 years of service as a memorable journey shaped by collaboration and inclusivity.

He noted that his leadership approach focused on engaging stakeholders to build on the legacies of his predecessors and develop new strategies for emerging challenges.

Under his stewardship, the service made significant progress in areas such as security, logistics, healthcare, staff capacity building, and inmate welfare.

“I must say that the support and cooperation I received from my management team and field officers remained unwavering and qualitative.

Thus, the service was not only able to weather storms but made significant progress on many fronts, such as security, logistics, healthcare services, capacity building for staff, inmates’ welfare and training, staff promotion, and a host of others,” he stated.

Nababa expressed gratitude for the support from his team and urged his colleagues to remain committed to the service’s mission while resisting actions that could compromise its integrity.

He was appointed as CG on 10th May 2021.

Following Nababa’s retirement, President Bola Tinubu has approved

the appointment of Nwakuche Ndidi as Acting Comptroller-General, effective 15th December 2024.

Ndidi, who previously served as Deputy Controller-General in charge of Training and Staff Development, hails from Oguta in Imo State and was born on 26th November 1966.

A fellow of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies and a recipient of the Member of the Federal Republic honour, he brings extensive experience and expertise to his new role.

The Secretary of the Civil Defence, Correctional, Fire, and Immigration Services Board, Ja’afaru Ahmed, praised Ndidi’s credentials, expressing confidence in his ability to build on Nababa’s achievements.



Kaduna court remands woman for allegedly killing daughter with rat poison

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A Chief Magistrates' Court in Kafanchan, Kaduna State, on Thursday ordered the remand of a 30-year-old woman, Mercy Michael in a correctional facility over allegations of killing her eight-month-old daughter with rat poison.

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) charged Michael with culpable homicide, an offence that contravenes Section 189 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law.

According to the NSCDC prosecutor, Marcus Audu, the case was reported on December 11 by a resident of Fadia Bakut, Zonkwa, identified as Godfrey Sunday.

Audu stated that on December 10, Michael allegedly fed her baby with rat poison for reasons yet to be determined.



The baby was rushed to the General Hospital in Zonkwa but tragically passed away the following day.

Audu further revealed that the matter was initially reported to the Salama Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Kafanchan before being referred to the NSCDC for investigation.

Presiding over the case, Magistrate

Samson Kwasi declined to take the plea of the accused, citing the court's lack of jurisdiction over such matters.

He directed the prosecutor to forward the case file to the State Director of Public Prosecution for legal advice.

The magistrate subsequently adjourned the case to December 17 for further mention.

Explosion kills suspected terrorists testing IEDs in Zamfara

By Dave Oludare Oso

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) exploded and killed two suspected terrorists in Barikin Daji village of Talata Marafa Local Government while testing the devices in an established camp of extremists leader, Bello Turji, in Zamfara State, Northwest of Nigeria.

According to Zagazola, a security analyst and counterinsurgency expert in Lake Chad, the incident occurred in Barikin Daji Village and Dan Bagudu Hills, both located in Talata Mafara Local Government Area.

"The explosion is said to have resulted from an IED mishap during a high-risk testing exercise conducted by the bandits under the supervision of a key lieutenant of Turji, identified as Dogo Auta," he said.



He quoted his source as saying, "Extremist groups had recently received a consignment of weapons, ammunition, and IED-making materials transported via camels to the camp. The materials were reportedly intended to facilitate increased attacks in the area as directed by

Turji."

His statement further reads, "The explosion caused panic among residents of nearby communities, including Garin Gwale Village, forcing many to flee their homes out of fear of further attacks."

Zagalola noted that extremist groups in the northwest are increasingly adopting IEDs to target military bases, patrol teams, and civilian areas.

He warned that the abundance of explosives from illegal mining activities in the region could further exacerbate the situation, leading to heightened security threats.

Varsity lecturer arrested for alleged kidnap of colleague's wife

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Operatives of the Benue State Police Command have arrested a lecturer at the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Dr Ichor Tersagh, for allegedly masterminding the abduction of the wife of his colleague, Mrs Susan Anyagh.

According to reports, the woman was ambushed and kidnapped by some men along Otukpo Road, Makurdi, last Saturday.

It was learnt that the kidnapers reportedly collected the N1.3 million found in her car, beat her to a coma and abandoned her on a bush path.

Confirming the incident on Friday, the state command spokesperson, Catherine Anene, said that the woman was later found along Yandev-Ugbema Road, where she was rushed to Primary Healthcare Clinic, Ameladu, for treatment.

Anene stated that the victim, after she regained consciousness, narrated how she saw her husband's colleague close to where she was abducted and beckoned on him to save her life, but the lecturer turned his back away from her.

"She stated that while she was driving from NNPC mega fuel station, Kanshio, where she went to collect money from her customer, she was flagged down at Otukpo Road by persons who claimed to be in need, and she



stopped to render help.

"They quickly jumped into her car and pointed a gun at her, ordering her to drive towards the Wurukum area.

"Immediately, she looked outside the car and saw her husband's colleague; Dr. Ichor Tersagh Smart of JOSTUM standing by the car, she beckoned on him for help but he turned his back and walked away," the PPRO said in a statement.

She continued, "While moving in the vehicle, her abductors received a call from Dr Ichor Tersagh ordering that she should be killed, and she became agitated.

"When they sighted a police checkpoint ahead that was checking vehicles, they decided to reverse to a hidden place.

"They parked the car, brought her out, collected the sum of N1,350,000 she had in the car, opened the car boot, and took a vehicle jack, which they used to hit the back of her neck, and she fell."

Anene added that the lecturer had been arrested in connection with the case, and the investigation is ongoing.

When contacted on Friday, the victim's husband, Paul Anyagh, confirmed the incident.

Paul Anyagh, who is the chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, JOSTUM chapter, said he was currently at the police command headquarters over the case and promised to provide further details later.

Truck crushes two female students in Kogi

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In a tragic incident that occurred in Lokoja on Friday morning, two female students from the Federal University Lokoja (FUL) and Kogi State Polytechnic lost their lives in a ghastly motor crash along the Felele axis of the state capital.

According to reports, the accident involved a heavily loaded articulated vehicle heading toward Abuja, which lost control and rammed into a tricycle (commonly known as Keke NAPEP) carrying passengers toward the main town.

Sources confirmed that the victims were among four passengers in the tricycle. While the other two passengers sustained severe injuries, the two students succumbed to the impact of the collision.

At the accident scene, an identification card belonging to Covenant Omolola Isaac, a student of the Department of Geology at the Federal University Lokoja, was recovered.

The second victim, Taiwo Abimbola, was identified by her colleagues as a Higher National Diploma (HND) student in Science Laboratory Technology at Kogi State Polytechnic.

Officers of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) rushed the injured survivors to the State Specialist Hospital in Lokoja for urgent medical attention.



The Kogi State Chapter of the National Association of Science Laboratory Technology confirmed the death of Taiwo Abimbola in a condolence statement issued by its President, Akor Kelvin:

“It is with heavy hearts that we announce the untimely passing of our cherished member, ABU TAIWO ABIMBOLA, 2023/HSLT/MCB/087, who tragically lost her life earlier today in a road accident along Felele Road, Lokoja.

“ABIMBOLA was more than just a member of our association; she was a beacon of hope and inspiration to everyone around her. Her kindness, dedication, and passion for education made her an exceptional part of our community, leaving behind a legacy of love and excellence.

“As we mourn this heartbreaking loss, we extend our deepest sympathies to her family, friends, and loved ones. We pray for strength and comfort for them during this incredibly difficult time.

“In honor of her memory, the association will be organizing a tribute and memorial service to celebrate her remarkable life. Details of the event will be shared in due course, and we encourage everyone to join us in paying our final respects.

“TAIWO ABIMBOLA will forever remain in our hearts. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in perfect peace. Amen,” the statement read.

Ondo guber: Tribunal receives five petitions against Aiyedatiwa's victory

By Dave Oludare Oso

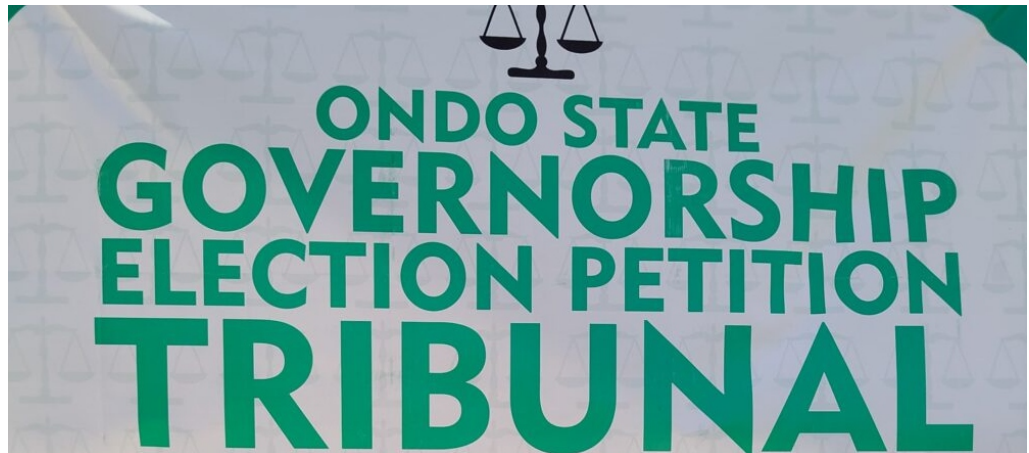
The Ondo State 2024 Governorship Election Petitions Tribunal has received five petitions challenging the declaration of Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa of All Progressives Congress (APC) as the winner of the November election.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had, on November 17, declared Aiyedatiwa the winner of the election, having polled a total of 366,781 to defeat his closest rival, Agboola Ajayi of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who scored 117,846 votes.

APC and its candidate won in all 18 local government areas of the state.

Other respondents in the petitions are: APC, Aiyedatiwa and his running mate, Mr Olayide Adelami.

The five petitions challenging Aiyedatiwa's victory were filed by Action Alliance and its candidate, Mr



Abdullahi Olowokere, as well as the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and its candidate, Chief Bamidele Akingboye.

Others are: PDP and its candidate, Mr Agboola Ajayi, a former deputy governor of the state; Allied Peoples Movement (APM) and its candidate, Kolawole Ogunfeyimi, and African Democratic Congress (ADC) and its candidate, Mr Adeyemi Nejo.

The petitioners are all seeking that the election held by INEC in the state on November 16 should be declared invalid

on the grounds of non-compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act.

Secretary of the tribunal, Mrs Nancy Zakayo, told NAN in an interview on Thursday that the petitions were filed on December 7 and December 8.

Zakayo said the provisions of the Electoral Act required that the petitions be served on the respondents, who, after receipt of it, are to file their defence within the time frame provided.

Court grants injunction to halt appointment of Owa Obokun Adimula

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The High Court sitting in Ilesa, Osun State, has granted an injunction restraining the state government from taking further steps to fill the vacant stool of the Owa Obokun Adimula of Ijesaland.

The case was brought forward by the Contestants, Head, and Principal Members of the Ofokutu Royal Family of the Bilaro Oluodo Ruling House.

Justice A.A. Aderibigbe, who presided over the case, issued a restraining order against the Ilesa West Local Government, the Governor of Osun State, the Commissioner for Local Government



and Chieftaincy Affairs, and the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice.

The injunction prevents them from taking any further steps regarding the presentation, nomination, selection,

election, installation, or appointment of Prince Clement Adesuyi Haastrup, or any other individual, as the Owa of Ijesaland or Owa Obokun Adimula.

The judge directed that no actions should be taken by the defendants concerning the matter pending the determination and hearing of the application.

The claimants argue that members of the Haastrup Royal Family do not have the right to contest the vacant stool, as they have already produced two Owas in 1896 and 1942.

The claimants assert that it is the turn of the Bilaro Oluodo Ruling House to

Ex-gov Bello pleads not guilty to fresh charges

By Helen Okechukwu

Former governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, on Friday, pleaded not guilty to a fresh 19-count charge preferred against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) before the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja.

The former governor, who was brought before the court from Kuje prison, denied his alleged complicity in an N80.2 billion fraud.

Specifically, the EFCC alleged that the defendant, who piloted the affairs of Kogi State from 2016 to 2024, used five proxies to acquire choice properties in highbrow areas of Abuja and Dubai.

The anti-graft agency told the court that the properties were acquired with proceeds of crime.

Besides, the anti-graft agency alleged that the former governor attempted to conceal over N3 billion by handing the same to proxies to keep for him.

It further told the court that the defendant wired over \$700,000 to an account he maintained with a bank in the United States of America in breach of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act.

Among those that were fingered in the alleged fraud were the former governor's nephew, Ali Bello, and four others: Dauda Suleiman, Shehu Bello, Rabi'u Musa, and Abdulsalam Hudu, who is currently at large.

According to the EFCC, the defendant, by his action, committed public breach of trust, contrary to sections 18(a) and (c) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, and punishable under section 15 of the same Act.



Meanwhile, Bello, through his team of lawyers led by a former president of the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, Mr. J. B. Daudu, SAN, pleaded with the court to admit him to bail, pending the determination of the charge against him.

Pleading that he would not escape from the country if granted bail, the defendant drew the attention of the court to the fact that he was a two-term governor of Kogi State.

He pledged to provide reasonable persons that would stand surety for him.

More so, Bello begged Justice Emeka Nwite over his initial failure to make himself available for trial, saying he was only exploring legal avenues to challenge the jurisdiction of the court to try him on the allegations the EFCC levelled against him.

“I want to plead and to correct any impression that may have been created that the defendant did not wish to appear before your lordship for his arraignment.

“What he did, which is not an anathema in law, was to direct his counsel to challenge the jurisdiction of the court.

“I was not a wilful disrespect. He acted with the belief that he was trying to defend himself as best as possible. He holds this court and, by extension, my lord, in very high esteem.

“What transpired then was an episode that could have been avoided. It has come and passed, and we mean no harm to this court. Things are clearer now.

“The defendant, being a two-term governor of Kogi State who travelled only twice throughout his tenure, I can assure my lord that he will be available for his trial. There should be no apprehension that he will jump bail,” Daudu added.

On his part, counsel to the EFCC, Mr Kemi Pinheiro, SAN, said he was not opposed to the defendant's request for bail.

He, however, urged the court to impose conditions that would compel his attendance at his trial.

It will be recalled that Justice Maryann Anenih of an Abuja High Court at Maitama had earlier remanded the former governor in Kuje prison after he was docked on a separate 16-count charge.

How to get rid of stubborn belly fat

By **Helen Okechukwu**

Have you ever wondered why you have a protruding stomach lately? Some persons have been complaining of their stomachs growing bigger, looking like pregnant women.

Most of these persons have been thinking lately on how to get rid of this concern. Anyways, to get your desired-sized stomach, you have to watch out what you consume as food, because it might be the reason why you are having a protruding stomach lately.

Tips to cut for a flatter stomach and better health:

Highly contained sugary beverages

Some of the beverages you consume contain additional sugar, which contributes to your belly fat, such as sodas, fruit juices, and energy drinks.

Why not exchange these loaded sugars with water, herbal teas, or black coffee to reduce the sugar you consume? (Food for thought)

Avoid Processed foods/pastries

The already fast-made foods, chips, and packaged snacks largely contain carbohydrates and trans fat. This can store unhealthy fats, sugars, and calories, while pastries like white bread and baked foods raise your sugar level and promote fat storage.

Let your focus be on unprocessed foods like fruits, whole grains, vegetables, and lean proteins to support fat loss.

Reduce alcohol intake

The consumption of alcoholic drinks, mostly beer and sugary cocktails, can contribute to belly fat. When you reduce the intake of alcohol, it helps to improve fat situation and reduce calories.

Limit consumption of candies and sweets

The frequent consumption of candies, chocolate, and other sweets leads to weight gain, and they contain a lot of sugar and calories. Replace your intake with fresh fruits or small amounts of dark chocolate instead.

Fried foods

Consuming fried foods like chicken, French fries, and onion rings can increase belly fat; instead, replace fries with baked, grilled, or steamed options to slow

down fat in your body system.

Ways to burn belly fat

It is advisable to practice stress-reducing activities like meditation or deep breathing exercises.

When you don't get enough sleep, it can lead to weight gain and increased belly fat; this is why it is advisable to target 7-9 hours of sleep each night.

Get engaged in regular exercise practice like running, cycling, or swimming to help burn stubborn belly fat.

Plan your eating menu for a healthy balanced diet. Focus on fruits and avoid sugary substances. With these, you can burn down stubborn belly fat.



Healthcare: EU to install solar powered equipment Abia, A'lbom, Enugu, others

By Helen Okechukwu



To strengthen Nigeria's public healthcare system, the European Union (EU) Delegation said it will procure solar powered equipment in five Nigerian states.

The states are ,:Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Enugu, Ogun, and Plateau.

The initiative to provide technical support for the Nigeria Solar for Health Project (NISHP) and the NISHP programme spans four years (2024–2027)

The Head of Co-operation, EU Delegation, Massimo De Luca, disclosed this yesterday during the 2nd Steering Committee meeting of the Technical Assistance for the NISHP held in Abuja.

He further explained that the EU is

committed to providing quality projects for efficient energy supply.

Also, Mr Sunday Owolabi, Director of Renewable Energy and Rural Access at the Ministry, who was represented by Ibrahim Shehu, noted that the development was significant given the fact that some health centres would be empowered , particularly Primary Healthcare Centres.

Owolabi acknowledged that sustainability is a major concern as he called for strong commitments towards achieving the set goals.

He added that, "Solar projects are capital-intensive, so it's important to identify viable sites with active business environments, rather than focusing solely on Primary

Healthcare Centers, to ensure long-term success."

Similarly,,the Manager , NTU International, Tinyan Ogiehor stressed the issue of sustainability and operations.

Ogiehor added, "We are channelling strategic discussions around how we can totally address the issue of sustainability and what private sector models are needed to deliver in each state and how they will ultimately operate within the states."

"Generally, we are here to rub minds with the EU, the Ministry of Power, and the Rural Electrification Agency at the national level to map out sustainability plans and how the project will be sustainable.,he added."

Burna Boy teases new single 'Bundle By Bundle', out Dec 17

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Grammy Award winner Burna Boy has ignited fervent anticipation among his global fanbase with a tantalizing teaser for his forthcoming single, "Bundle By Bundle."

In a recent social media post, the "Higher" hitmaker unveiled a captivating video snippet showcasing a taste of the track's lyrical prowess.

The teaser features the lines: "When I come to class, I be teacher/ Chop life make e no chop you my nigga/ I be million dollars when I smile for the picture/ That's why I no put no eyes on my liquor."

The highly anticipated single is poised for release on December 17, 2024, and is rumoured to be a precursor to Burna Boy's eagerly awaited new album.

Earlier this year, the enigmatic artist hinted at the imminent arrival of a new



musical offering.

On July 29th, he cryptically declared, "Album dropping by 12am," leading fans into a frenzy of excitement.

However, when the album failed to materialize as expected, Burna Boy clarified that he had not provided a concrete release date.

Damini Ogulu, the artist known to the world as Burna Boy, first catapulted to stardom with "Like to Party," the lead single from his debut album, "L.I.F.E.," released in 2013. Since then, he has consistently delivered a string of critically acclaimed albums, including "On a Spaceship" (2015), "Outside" (2018), "African Giant" (2019), "Twice As Tall" (2020), "Love, Damini" (2022), and "I Told Them" (2023).

Burna Boy's impact on the global music scene is undeniable.

In 2021, he achieved a historic milestone by winning the prestigious Grammy Award for "Best World Music Album" for his groundbreaking work, "Twice As Tall." Furthermore, in 2024, he garnered worldwide recognition by being included in Time Magazine's esteemed list of the 100 most influential people.

Runtown returns to music with new single "Flow"

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian Afrobeats star Runtown has made a triumphant return to the music scene with his highly anticipated new single, "Flow."

This track marks a continuation of Runtown's signature laid-back sound while blending infectious Afrobeats grooves.

Listeners are drawn into a relaxing musical journey, thanks to Runtown's smooth vocals and mellow rhythms.

"Flow" highlights Runtown's unique talent for merging genres, seamlessly

blending Afrobeats with hip-hop, R&B, and reggae.

This fusion has helped him build a reputation as a genre-defying artist, pushing boundaries and redefining Afrobeats.

Runtown's earlier hits, like "Gallardo" (2014) and "Mad Over You" (2016), elevated him to global stardom.

His ability to craft music that resonates both locally and internationally continues to set him apart.



"Flow" reinforces Runtown's distinct place within the Afrobeats scene, rooted in his Lagos upbringing yet enriched by global influences.

With each release, he pushes the limits of the genre, creating a unique sound that appeals to a diverse audience.

12 High profile entertainment stories that dominated headlines in 2024

By New Daily Prime

The Nigerian entertainment industry experienced an admixture of emotions in 2024, marked by front page grabbing headlines, major controversies, and heartbreaking losses.

This year, from drama and tragedies to inspiring comebacks, underlines the inherent pulsative energy the creative space is imbued with and its frailties.

Notable events that stood out in the entertainment scene in 2024

Bobrisky's prison drama

Controversial social media personality Bobrisky made headlines for her naira mutilation offence, which saw her in and out of prison. The trouble began in March after she won "Most Dressed Female" at Eniola Ajao's movie premiere, causing debates on morality and the law.

Khaid's Health challenges

Music star Khaid faced a tough year battling an undisclosed illness. His state became public after skit maker and label boss, Sydney Talker posted the news, leading fans to rally support for the young artist's recovery.

Remembering the Stars who passed in 2024

The year also brought the sad departure of several icons who left indelible marks on Nigeria's cultural landscape:

Junior Pope

In April, the industry was thrown into grieving when beloved actor, Junior Pope, tragically passed away in a boat mishap while filming on Adanna



Luke's movie set. The incident elicited conversations about the safety of actors on location

Mr. Ibu – The comic veteran brought joy to millions through his unforgettable roles in Nollywood.

Sisi Quadri – A huge figure in Yoruba cinema.

Aduke Gold – Known for her moving gospel music.

Onyeka Onwenu is a legendary singer, actress, politician and journalist whose influence spans decades.

Amaechi Muonagor – was an "A" class household Nollywood actor with never-to-be-forgotten performances.

Herbert Wigwe—Former Access Bank CEO, supporter of the arts, widely known for his contributions to financing creativity.

Adejumoke Aderounmu (Esther in Jenifa's Diary) – Her death on April 6 at age 40, sent shock waves to fans; her roles situate the complexities of

Nigerian youth.

Deji Aderemi (Baba Olofa Ina) – Respected for his uncompromising portrayal of traditional leaders, Aderemi succumbed to cancer on January 4 at age 73.

Ethel Ekpe – A Basi and Company star, she passed on February 7 after a prolonged bout with cancer.

Charles Olumo 'Agbako'—at 101, Charles Olumo is the oldest Nollywood actor. His passing on October 31 sounding the end of an era in Nigerian cinema.

Junior Pope – His sudden death on April 10 remains a cruel reminder of the unforetellable nature of life.

2024 may have been laden with challenges, yet it has also projected the never-say-die spirit of the Nigerian entertainment industry and its unwavering capacity to stay atop, reinventing itself for relevance and appeal.

Legalizing marijuana in U.S, Canada, a big mistake, says Elton John

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

British music icon Sir Elton John has reignited the marijuana legalization debate in North America with a sharp criticism of the current policies.

In a interview with a prominent magazine, the legendary musician shared his firm opposition, labelling marijuana legalization in the United States and Canada as “one of the greatest mistakes of all time.”

“I maintain that it’s addictive,” John said. “It leads to other drugs. And when you’re stoned – and I’ve been stoned – you don’t think normally.” His words have stirred both supporters and critics of marijuana reform.

Over the past decade, marijuana legalization has gained significant traction across North America. In the U.S, more than 20 states have approved marijuana for recreational use, with even more permitting it for medical purposes. While cannabis remains illegal at the federal level, recent proposals by the Justice Department suggest reclassifying the drug, signalling potential changes ahead.

In Canada, marijuana has been fully legalised for both recreational and medical use since October 2018. The policy shift was celebrated as a progressive step by advocates, but it has also drawn snide remarks from those who share John’s concerns.

John’s perspective on the issue stems from his battle with addiction. Since 1990, he has spoken openly about the toll substance abuse took on his life. “You make terrible decisions on drugs,” he admitted, recalling his struggles.

In the interview, he described how



addiction strained his relationships and clouded his judgment. “I wanted love so badly, I’d just take hostages. I’d see someone I liked, spend months together, and then they’d resent me because they had nothing in their life apart from me,” he shared. “It really upsets me, thinking back on how many people I probably hurt.”

John’s honesty about his past serves as a cautionary tale, reinforcing his belief in the dangers of marijuana and other substances.

John’s remarks have added fuel to an already polarizing debate. Supporters of legalization argue that marijuana can be regulated safely and provide medical benefits, while opponents worry about addiction and societal impact.

Critics of John’s stance point out that his experiences with addiction involved harder drugs, making marijuana a less comparable target. Meanwhile, his supporters applaud his willingness to speak candidly about his views and past struggles.

Despite the controversy, John remains a revered figure in the music world. Recently named Time’s Icon of the Year, he continues to inspire both fans and fellow artists.

Pop star Dua Lipa, who collaborated with John on the hit song Cold Heart, expressed admiration for his influence. “Singing alongside one of my musical heroes was a no-brainer,” she said. “His music has been a soundtrack to my life.”

Breakout artist Chappell Roan also praised John for his mentorship. Calling him “one of the original queens,” Roan recounted his advice during a career slump: “The songs will come. He just had to let them come to him. That’s a good reminder for all of us.”

As the debate over marijuana legalization continues, Sir Elton John’s voice adds a compelling dimension to the conversation. His candid reflections, shaped by decades of personal and professional experiences, highlight the complexities of drug policy and its far-reaching impact.

While opinions may differ, one thing remains clear: Elton John’s influence extends far beyond music, sparking discussions that challenge societal norms and encourage deeper reflection.

Tyla shines at Billboard Music Awards, tops afrobeats stars

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

South African music star Tyla secured a remarkable double victory at the 2024 Billboard Music Awards yesterday.

The prestigious event, held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, celebrated her rise to global fame in the Afrobeats genre.

Tyla claimed two significant titles in the Afrobeats categories, triumphing over Nigerian heavyweights like Burna Boy, Tems, Asake, and Rema.

She won “Top Afrobeats Song” for her international smash hit “Water” and also earned the coveted “Top Afrobeats Artist” award. These victories highlight her growing influence in the music industry.

The year 2024 has been a banner year for Tyla, marked by numerous accolades and achievements.

Her success at the Billboard Music Awards adds to an already impressive list of honours.

Earlier in September, she snagged the “Best Afrobeats Music Video” award at the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) for “Water,” beating strong competition from Burna Boy, Ayra Starr, and Tems.



Tyla’s global breakout single, “Water,” has become a defining moment in her career. In February, the song earned her the inaugural Grammy Award for Best African Music Performance, making her the first artist to achieve this milestone.

These accomplishments have solidified her as a powerhouse in the Afrobeats scene.

Since the start of the year, Tyla has consistently outshone many of Africa’s biggest musical talents.

Her eight Billboard nominations underscore her rapid rise and ability to connect with fans worldwide.

With her unique sound and relentless drive, she continues to push boundaries, bringing African music to a global stage.

While Tyla celebrated her triumphs, another music icon also made headlines.

Taylor Swift added to her storied legacy, collecting ten awards, including “Top Artist,” “Top Billboard 200 Album,” and “Top Hot 100 Songwriter.”

With these wins, Swifts further cemented her position as the most decorated artist in Billboard Music Awards history, a testament to her enduring influence and artistry.

Tyla’s achievements at the 2024 Billboard Music Awards mark a significant moment in her journey. As she continues to rise, her story inspires a new generation of artists aiming to make their mark on the world stage.

I identify more as Yoruba than Nigerian, Kemi Badenoch speaks at last

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The leader of the United Kingdom's Conservative Party, Kemi Badenoch, has stated that she identifies more with her Yoruba heritage than with Nigeria as a whole.

Badenoch spoke in an interview with *The Spectator*, where she expressed that she feels little connection to northern Nigeria, which she described as a "haven for Islamism and Boko Haram."

She said, "I find it interesting that everybody defines me as being Nigerian. I identify less with the country than with the specific ethnicity (Yoruba.)"

"I have nothing in common with the people from the north of the country, the Boko Haram where Islamism is."

Her comments have drawn significant backlash from many Nigerians, including high-profile figures.

Among her critics is Nigeria's vice-president, Kashim Shettima, who recently told Badenoch she could change her name if she wished to disassociate from Nigeria, calling it the "greatest black nation on earth."

Despite the criticism, Badenoch has doubled down on her stance, asserting that her true identity lies in her Yoruba roots.



She added, "Somebody once told me when I was very young that my surname was a name for people who were warriors. They protected the crown, and that's what I see myself as doing."

She further emphasised, "I am here to protect and I will die protecting this country because I know what's out there."

NEW DAILY PRIME reported that Vice President, Kashim Shettima accused Kemi of disparaging her country of origin, Nigeria.

He had made the statement during the 10th Annual Migration Dialogue at the State House in Abuja on Monday.

Shettima said, "Kemi Badenoch, the leader of the British Labour or

Conservative Party. We are proud of her in spite of her efforts at denigrating her nation of origin."

He further added, "She is entitled to her own opinions; she has even every right to remove the Kemi from her name but that does not underscore the fact that the greatest black nation on earth is the nation called Nigeria."

The Vice President highlighted Nigeria's significance on the world stage, stating, "One out of every three, four black men is a Nigerian and by 2050, Nigeria will support the United States, and will be the third most populous nation on earth."

Florida man stabs ex-girlfriend 70 times, dies in crash fleeing murder scene

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A Florida (US) man is accused of killing his estranged girlfriend by stabbing her up to 70 times during a break-in Friday – exactly one month after he was nabbed for assaulting the victim and ordered to stay away from her.

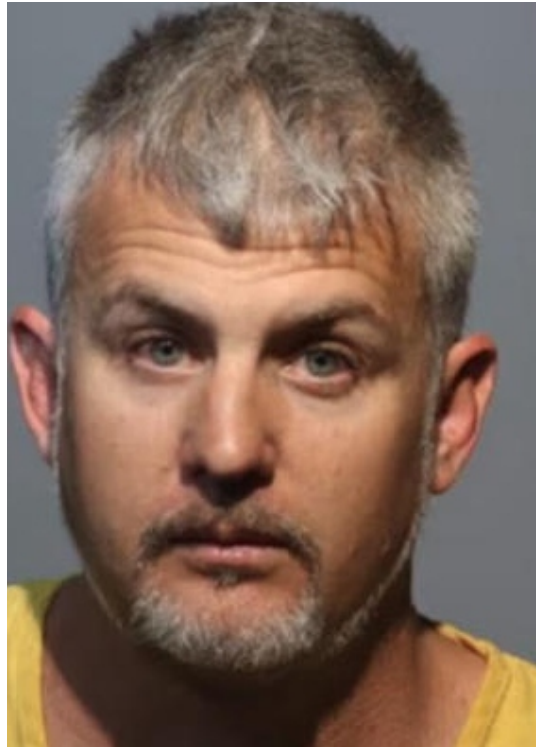
James Christopher Lindsey, 42, allegedly killed 40-year-old Kristin Stevens after breaking into her Chuluota home around 1 a.m. when he learned she went on a date with another man, according to the Seminole County Sheriff's Office.

The knife-wielding maniac – who was expected to be arraigned on a domestic violence battery charge against Stevens the same day of the vicious murder – was found dead in a rollover crash on Fort Christmas Road in Orange County hours after he fled the victim's home, police said.

The pair, who had a lengthy history of domestic violence incidents involving law enforcement, were in an 18-year off-and-on relationship and shared a 16-year-old son, who was home, but unharmed during the fatal home invasion, NBC 6 reported.

Kristin Stevens, 40, was found dead in her home with dozens of stab wounds.

"I am proud of our deputies' quick response to the scene and our detectives who have been working around the clock to put these cases together. Our thoughts are with the victims and their loved ones during this incredibly difficult time. Our team will continue to work diligently to uncover the full details surrounding the case."



Police responded to Stevens' home and found the victim dead with "up to 70" stab wounds from an apparent kitchen knife, Lemma told WFLA.

A second victim, an unidentified man, said the accused abuser pounced on the victim and stabbed her dozens of times after using a hammer to break into the home, police said, according to NBC 6.

The man was stabbed in the leg after he attempted to kick Lindsey off of the woman before escaping to a neighbor's home where he called the police.

The madman fled the house and was found dead about four hours later at the scene of the single-car wreck, police said. He had been driving 100 miles per hour and lost control of the car, local outlets reported.

Lindsey was last arrested on Nov. 6 for an attack on Stevens and charged with domestic violence battery. He was forced to relinquish 21 firearms and ammunition and released on a

\$1,000 bond with a no-contact order.

Police also requested the alleged offender wear an ankle monitor as a condition of his bond — in a plea a judge denied, officials said.

Kori Alvarez Resto, a close friend of the victim, launched a GoFundMe to raise money for the couple's surviving son and to help advocate for a new law that would require stricter monitoring of domestic violence offenders.

"No one should ever have to fear for their life in an abusive relationship," Resto wrote on the fundraising page, which has since raised more than \$6,000.

"And no child should have to lose their mother in such a senseless and violent way. Your donation will help us fight for justice for Kristin, help prevent future tragedies, and give her son a chance to heal and succeed."

RBI receives bomb threat in Russian email; Mumbai police launch probe

By Olamilekan Botti

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Mumbai office became the focus of a security scare on Friday after receiving a bomb threat via email.

The email, written in Russian, was sent to the official account of RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, warning of plans to target the central bank.

The Mumbai Police quickly sprang into action, registering a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and initiating an investigation.

The threat has raised concerns over cybersecurity and the safety of one of India's most vital financial institutions.

Confirming the incident, Zone 1 Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Mumbai Police, stated:

“A threatening email was received on the official website of the Reserve Bank of India. Written in Russian, the email warned of plans to blow up the bank.

“A case has been registered against unknown individuals



at the Mata Ramabai Ambedkar Marg (MRA Marg) police station, and investigations are underway.”

Authorities are working with cybercrime experts to trace the origin of the email and verify the credibility of the threat. Security has been heightened around the RBI headquarters in Mumbai as a precautionary measure.

The incident underscores the growing threat of cyber-based terrorism and highlights the importance of stringent measures to safeguard critical financial infrastructure.

Police officials assured the public that all necessary steps

are being taken to ensure the safety of the RBI premises and its employees.

This bomb threat has sparked national concern, emphasizing the need for robust cyber defense mechanisms in protecting the country's key institutions.

As the investigation continues, the authorities are leaving no stone unturned in identifying and apprehending the perpetrators behind this alarming act.

Japan, Italy, UK partner to develop new-gen fighter jet

By Olamilekan Botti

In a major development for the global aerospace and defense industry, the United Kingdom, Italy, and Japan have announced the launch of a groundbreaking joint venture aimed at creating a next-generation supersonic fighter jet.

The advanced aircraft is set to replace the Eurofighter Typhoon, one of the most prominent combat jets in the world, by 2035.

The venture brings together three industry leaders Britain's BAE Systems, Italy's Leonardo, and Japan's Aircraft Industrial Enhancement Co. Limited (JAIEC) with each partner holding an equal 33.3% stake in the new project.

The formation of this joint venture is a strategic collaboration that is poised to shape the future of military aviation. According to the press release issued by the three companies, the partnership marks a "pivotal moment" for the international aerospace and defense sector.

JAIEC, which is jointly funded by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries and the Society of Japanese Aerospace Companies, is a key player in this endeavor, adding significant expertise from Japan.

Charles Woodburn, CEO of BAE Systems, emphasized that the agreement is a product of several



months of intensive collaboration with partners, stating, "This strategic program is a testament to the hard work of everyone involved. Today's partnership will push the boundaries of innovation in combat air systems and ensure we lead the way in designing the future of fighter jets."

"Today's agreement is a culmination of many months working together with our industry partners and is a testament to the hard work of everyone involved in this strategically important programme," said BAE Systems Chief Executive Charles Woodburn.

The venture will "bring together the significant strengths and expertise of the companies involved to create an innovative organization that will lead the way

in developing a next-generation combat air system, creating long-term, high-value, and skilled jobs across the partner nations for decades to come," he added.

The three partners have agreed to form a new company under the Global Combat Air Programme, a multinational initiative established by the UK, Japan, and Italy in 2022 to develop a sixth-generation stealth fighter to replace the Typhoon and Japanese F-2.

The joint venture is expected to be established by mid-2025 and will undertake the design and development of the GCAP aircraft.

Manchester City announce Premier League record revenue of £715m

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Manchester City have posted a record-breaking revenue of £715m for the year ending 30 June 2024, marking the highest in Premier League history.

The figure surpasses their previous best of £712.8m despite a year that fell short of their historic 2023 Treble triumph.

The club celebrated a fourth consecutive league title and victories in the Club World Cup and European Super Cup.

City reported a pre-tax profit of £73.8m, with wages dropping by £10.3m to £412.6m. Commercial revenue saw a slight rise to £344.7m.

Additionally, the club recorded a £92.8m net profit from transfer activities, including the sales of Julian Alvarez, Joao Cancelo, and Liam Delap.

This positions them strongly for reinforcements in the January transfer window, addressing a challenging period of just one win in 10 matches.



Club chairman Khaldoon al-Mubarak highlighted the organisation's ambition and meticulous planning, emphasizing a "shared belief in constant improvement."

Chief Executive Ferran Soriano reaffirmed the club's commitment to "beautiful football and operational excellence."

The accounts omit details about City's legal battles concerning 115 alleged breaches of Premier League financial rules but reiterate their stance of confidence in resolving the matter.

The ongoing £300m North Stand expansion at the Etihad Stadium is set to boost capacity to 60,000 by Euro 2028.

Plans for a new women's training facility during the 2025-26 season were also confirmed.

City's financial might contrasts their current on-field struggles, with a vital Manchester derby against United looming and the club fourth in the league, trailing leaders Liverpool by eight points.

Kyle Walker calls on Instagram to combat racism after online abuse

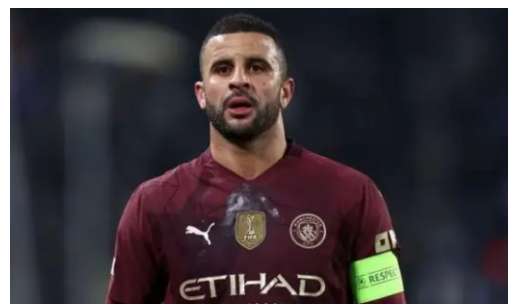
By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Manchester City defender Kyle Walker has urged Instagram and authorities to take stronger action against online racism after he was subjected to vile abuse following his team's 2-0 Champions League defeat to Juventus.

Walker, 34, shared a screenshot of the offensive message on Instagram, condemning the "vile, racist, and threatening abuse" and calling for immediate intervention to prevent such incidents.

"No one should ever experience this," Walker wrote, adding that he and his team remain committed to improving on the field and fostering unity.

Manchester City issued a statement strongly condemning the abuse, pledging their full support to Walker and reiterating their zero-tolerance stance on discrimination. The Premier League also emphasized its commitment to addressing hate, urging fans to report any discriminatory incidents.



This is not the first time Walker has faced such abuse. Similar incidents in 2021 highlighted the ongoing challenge of tackling racism online, despite Instagram's stated efforts to improve its measures.

Is Onana the problem or the solution for Amorim's United?

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

On a night when Manchester United secured a hard-fought Europa League victory against Viktoria Plzen, all eyes were on Andre Onana. The Cameroonian goalkeeper's error in the first half, leading to Matej Vydra's opener, added fuel to an ongoing debate: Is Onana a liability or an integral piece of Ruben Amorim's tactical puzzle?

A String of Errors

Onana's attempt to pass out to Matthijs de Ligt was intercepted by Pavel Sulc, setting up the opener for the Czech side. Although Rasmus Højlund's brace ensured United's eventual victory, Onana's mistake did not go unnoticed. This error came hot on the heels of a poor performance against Nottingham Forest, where he misjudged a shot from Morgan Gibbs-White, allowing the ball to slip past him.

Despite these mishaps, Bruno Fernandes was quick to defend his teammate, emphasizing the squad's collective mentality. "We have huge belief in him," Fernandes told TNT Sports. "Mistakes are part of football. He is a clever guy and will help us many times this season."

The Tactical Dilemma

Amorim's system of possession-based football demands a goalkeeper adept with the ball at his feet. Onana's passing ability has been a cornerstone of this approach, but it comes with inherent risks. Critics argue that United's defensive frailties exacerbate the issue, leaving Onana exposed.

Former Manchester United midfielder Owen Hargreaves pointed to a lack of



cohesion. "De Ligt doesn't really want the ball in that situation," he said. "It's a tough position for a goalkeeper trying to execute Amorim's vision." Karen Carney echoed this sentiment, highlighting the breakdown in communication between Lisandro Martinez, Onana, and De Ligt.

Onana vs. De Gea

The shadow of David de Gea looms large over Onana's tenure. De Gea, now excelling at Fiorentina, boasts a superior save percentage (80% vs. Onana's 67.1%) and has yet to commit an error leading to a goal this season. However, Onana surpasses his predecessor in passing accuracy and volume, reflecting the stylistic shift United sought under Erik ten Hag and now Amorim.

Onana's clean sheet tally in the Premier

League remains the highest this season, underscoring his ability to deliver solid performances. Yet his high-profile errors have sparked debates about his consistency.

The Road Ahead

With Manchester City looming on Sunday, Onana's ability to bounce back will be under scrutiny. Amorim's faith in a possession-based system remains steadfast, but the question persists: Can United's backline adapt to reduce the goalkeeper's exposure?

Ultimately, Onana's future at Old Trafford hinges on balancing his ball-playing prowess with the defensive stability required in high-stakes matches. As Fernandes aptly put it, "Mistakes are part of football," but how many more can United afford?

Former China football coach Li Tie jailed for bribery in sweeping crackdown

By **Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi**

Li Tie, the former head coach of China's national men's football team and a prominent figure in Chinese sports, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for bribery, according to state media reports.

His case has become a focal point of President Xi Jinping's intensified anti-corruption campaign, which has targeted various sectors including sports, banking, and the military.

Li, 47, was convicted of fixing matches, accepting over \$16 million in bribes, and offering bribes to secure coaching positions.

His offenses spanned from 2015, during his tenure as an assistant coach at Hebei China Fortune Club, to his role as national team head coach from January 2020 to December 2021.

A Tarnished Legacy

Once celebrated as a trailblazer for Chinese football, Li represented his country 92 times, including during China's sole World Cup appearance in 2002. He also played in the English Premier League for Everton. However, his downfall highlights a darker side of the sport in China.

In a televised apology aired earlier this year, Li expressed regret for his actions. "I should have kept my head down and followed the right path," he admitted, describing some practices in football as "common" during his career.

Broader Scandal in Chinese Football

Li's conviction is part of a broader crackdown on corruption within the Chinese Football Association



(CFA). Earlier this week, three former CFA officials were sentenced to prison for bribery. Chen Xuyuan, the former CFA president, was sentenced to life imprisonment earlier this year for accepting \$11 million in bribes. In total, over a dozen coaches and players are under investigation.

In exchange for bribes, Li reportedly influenced national team selections and club victories, tarnishing the integrity of the sport. His actions, along with those of other officials, have derailed China's ambitions to become a global football powerhouse.

Xi Jinping's Football Vision Undermined

President Xi has long championed football as a key element of China's international sporting ambitions. He articulated his "three wishes" for Chinese football in 2011: to qualify for the World Cup again, host the tournament, and eventually win the trophy. However, the corruption scandals have dealt a severe blow to these goals.

The current anti-corruption drive echoes a similar campaign a decade

ago, which also saw players, referees, and officials jailed. Despite significant investments in football infrastructure and talent development, systemic corruption has repeatedly hindered progress.

Commentary from Experts

Rowan Simons, author of *Bamboo Goalposts*, which chronicles grassroots football development in China, remarked on the cyclical nature of these scandals. "In many ways, [the current campaign] looks exactly the same as it was 10 years ago with a different set of characters," he told the BBC. "The difference now is the sheer amount of money involved."

A Cautionary Tale

Li Tie's conviction serves as a stark reminder of the challenges facing Chinese football. While the nation aspires to rise on the global stage, cleaning up the sport's governance will be critical to achieving these ambitions. For now, the sentence marks a turning point in a story that intertwines corruption, ambition, and the love of the beautiful game.