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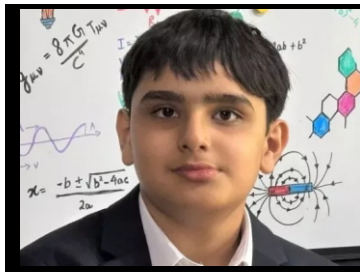


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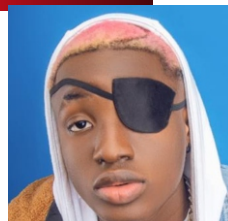
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Tinubu to co-chair 11th Nigeria-South Africa bi-national commission

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu is set to co-chair the 11th session of the Nigeria-South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC) with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu's Special Adviser on Information and Strategy disclosed this in a statement on Sunday.

The high-level meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, in Cape Town, South Africa, following a ministerial meeting scheduled for Monday, December 2, at the South African Parliament Building.

The BNC serves as a platform for advancing bilateral cooperation in areas such as diplomacy, trade, security, and economic development.

This year's meeting, which marks the 25th anniversary of the Commission, underscores the longstanding partnership between the two nations.

The upcoming session will review progress made since the 10th BNC, held in Abuja from November 29 to December 1, 2021, and build on commitments made during President Tinubu's meeting with President Ramaphosa on June 20, 2024, in Johannesburg.



Key issues to be addressed include bilateral relations, regional and international matters, and agreements to further strengthen ties.

Discussions will take place across eight working groups focusing on critical areas such as political consultations, consular and migration matters, banking and finance, defence and security, manufacturing, social development, mining and energy, and trade and investments.

The session will culminate in the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and

agreements.

Established in 1999, the Bi-National Commission has been instrumental in fostering high-level dialogue and cooperation between Nigeria and South Africa.

Its inaugural session at the Heads of State level was held in Pretoria in October 2019.

President Tinubu will be accompanied by a delegation of state governors, ministers, and senior government officials. He is expected to return to Nigeria upon the conclusion of the meeting.

Atiku faults Tinubu's tax reform bills, warns National Assembly

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has voiced his opposition to the contentious tax reform bills proposed by President Bola Tinubu, echoing the National Economic Council's (NEC) recommendation for their withdrawal.

In a statement released on Sunday, Atiku emphasized the need for a fiscal system rooted in justice, fairness, and equity. He highlighted that Nigerians are united in their demand for policies that do not worsen the existing disparities among the country's federating units.

Atiku also urged transparency and objectivity in the public hearing process being organized by the National Assembly, stressing that such principles are crucial for fostering accountability, good governance, and public trust in policy-making.

Additionally, he called on the National Assembly to revisit and publicly disclose the NEC's resolutions, emphasizing the council's critical advisory role in shaping the nation's economic policies.

His words, "I have followed the intense public discourse on the Tax Reform Bills with keen interest.

"Nigerians are united in their call for a fiscal system that promotes justice, fairness, and equity. They are loud and clear that the fiscal system we seek to promote must not exacerbate the uneven development of the federating units by enhancing the status of a few states while unduly penalising others.



"I call for objectivity and transparency in the conduct of the public hearing being organised by our representatives in the National Assembly. As a concerned stakeholder, I firmly believe that transparency and objectivity are essential for promoting accountability, good governance, and public trust in policy-making. The public hearing process must facilitate open and inclusive participation by all stakeholders, including Civil Society Organizations, traditional institutions, politicians, public officials, and subject matter experts.

"In this wise, I call on the NASS to revisit and make public the resolutions of the National Economic Council, a key stakeholder and an important organ of the state with the constitutional power to advise the President

concerning the economic affairs of the Federation.

"The NASS must be appropriately guided and ensure that in the final analysis, the contents of the Bills align with the interests of the vast majority of Nigerians."

The Senate recently passed the bills for second reading, despite opposition from some lawmakers. The bills have been referred to the Committee on Finance, which has been asked to revert in not more than six weeks.

The tax reform bills propose several key changes to Nigeria's tax system, including an increase in Value Added Tax (VAT) from 7.5% to 10% by 2025. The bills also propose a 5% excise duty on telecommunications services and a 5% excise tax on lottery and gaming income.

IGP orders investigation into Kogi State boat tragedy

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, has ordered an immediate investigation into the tragic boat mishap that occurred on November 29 along the Dambo-Ebuchi waterways of the River Niger in Kupa Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The incident involved over 160 passengers, with 24 rescued and many others still unaccounted for.

In a statement released by police spokesperson, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, the IGP expressed heartfelt condolences to the government and people of Kogi State, especially the affected families.

Mr Egbetokun tasked the Force Marine Officer to lead the investigation to uncover the causes of the mishap and recommend measures to prevent future occurrences.

The IGP emphasised the police's commitment to ensuring the safety of waterways and coordinating



with relevant agencies for swift rescue operations.

Operational resources have been deployed to intensify search and rescue efforts for the missing passengers.

Mr Egbetokun also urged waterway operators and boat owners to collaborate with the Force Marine Department in implementing critical safety measures to protect lives and prevent such tragedies.

He reiterated police dedication to enhancing water transport safety, ensuring justice for victims, and mitigating future risks through strengthened collaboration with stakeholders and proactive safety strategies.

African Military Games: Tinubu vows to eradicate insecurity

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to combating insecurity and stabilizing the West African sub-region during the closing ceremony of the 2024 African Military Games in Abuja.

Represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, the President emphasised the importance of fostering unity among African militaries to address the continent's security challenges.

Speaking on Saturday, President Tinubu outlined his vision for a secure and prosperous Africa, stating, "Let me use this opportunity to declare the resolve and unflinching commitment of my administration to rid the nation of security threats and violent crimes. Moreover, as the ECOWAS Chairman, I want to emphasize my determination to stabilize the sub-region and indeed the entire African continent to ensure its prosperity."

The President praised the camaraderie displayed during the games, noting that such solidarity is vital for enhanced cooperation among Africa's armed forces.

"The spirit of comradeship and friendship awakened here is crucial to addressing the rising spate of insecurity across the continent," he added.

The second edition of the African Military Games, held two decades after its inaugural event, brought together armed forces from across the continent.

The event underscored the importance



Vice President Kashim Shettima representing President Bola Tinubu [PHOTO CREDIT: X]

of physical fitness and teamwork in military operations. General Christopher Musa, Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff, highlighted the unifying power of sports, stating that the games exemplified resilience, discipline, and unity among the participating nations.

Maj. Gen. Maikano Abdullahi, President of the Organisation of Military Sports in Africa (OSMA), praised the event as a milestone in promoting collaboration among African militaries.

"This platform goes beyond competition; it is a celebration of shared values and unity," he said.

Team Nigeria dominated the medal tally, winning 114 gold, 65 silver, and 55 bronze medals for a total of 234. Algeria secured second place with 96 medals, while Kenya came third with 50 medals.

President Tinubu congratulated the participants for their professionalism and sportsmanship, declaring the event a resounding success.

"Given the professionalism you all displayed from start to finish, you are not only military personnel but also great sportsmen and women," he said.

The President and other dignitaries, including the Minister of Defence and the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, were commended for their roles in ensuring the success of the games. Maj. Gen. Abdullahi expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, noting that the achievements in Abuja would resonate across Africa.

The African Military Games 2024 have concluded as a beacon of unity, resilience, and cooperation, setting the stage for continued collaboration among Africa's armed forces.

CBN new website to go live today

By Agency Reporter

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has launched its newly redesigned website, www.cbn.gov.ng, scheduled to go live on Dec. 2.

Acting Director, Corporate Communications, CBN, Mrs Hakama Sidi Ali, made this known in a statement on Sunday in Lagos.

“We are pleased to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website (www.cbn.gov.ng), which will be operational on Monday, December 2, 2024.

“The redesigned website introduces a variety of new content, which encompasses a broader spectrum of information regarding the bank’s mandate.

“Additionally, the website is responsive to mobile devices, facilitating navigation across various web browsers and devices.

“The bank is grateful for the feedback



provided by the public, which served as a valuable guide for our redesign endeavours,” she said.

Sidi Ali said the apex bank is committed to developing and enhancing the website to facilitate communication.

“Please follow our different social media channels linked on the website’s home page for more updates,” she said.

FG lauds FGA Suleja alumni for transformative projects

By Friday Omosola

The Federal Government Academy (FGA) Suleja has reached a significant milestone with the commissioning of transformative projects worth 200 million Naira, courtesy of its alumni.

The Federal Government (FG) through the Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Nasir Sani-Gwarzo, applauded the alumni for their dedication, which has greatly enhanced the school’s learning environment.

“The alumni’s efforts have not only improved the facilities but have instilled a renewed sense of pride among students,” said Sani-Gwarzo, highlighting the power of collective vision and unity demonstrated by the alumni.

Principal of the academy, Asamau Abdullah, expressed profound gratitude, stating that the projects would have a lasting positive impact



on both students and the school community.

The projects include modernised classrooms and upgraded facilities, showcasing the alumni’s dedication to giving back to their alma mater.

Dapo Adeshina, Alumni President and a 1997 graduate, celebrated the collective efforts of the alumni,

describing the projects as a testament to the power of unity and shared vision.

The head boy, Abdul Afeez Abdulganiyu, also extended thanks on behalf of the students, pledging to maintain the facilities while praying for divine blessings on the benefactors.

NAUS passes vote of confidence in FUYOYE VC

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The National Association of University Students (NAUS) National Headquarters has expressed unwavering support for Professor Abayomi Sunday Fashina, the Vice Chancellor of Federal University Oye Ekiti (FUYOYE), with a resounding vote of confidence.

Comrade Ologe John Oluwatobiloba, the National Director of Campus Interventions for NAUS, praised Professor Fashina as the best Vice Chancellor FUYOYE has ever had. He commended Fashina for his remarkable efforts in transforming the university into an internationally recognised institution while prioritising the welfare of both staff and students.

NAUS strongly condemned the unfounded allegations and accusations against Professor Fashina, describing those behind them as “enemies of the university”



who are envious of his progress and achievements.

The association dismissed these claims as baseless, reaffirming their belief that the Vice Chancellor’s leadership has been key to the university’s progress.

In a display of unity, NAUS urged all

stakeholders and staff to continue supporting Fashina’s vision for the university, emphasising the importance of focusing on the positive strides made under his leadership.

The association expressed confidence that by standing behind Fashina, FUYOYE would continue its path of academic excellence and global recognition.

With this official vote of confidence, NAUS has solidified its commitment to promoting good leadership and supporting individuals who contribute positively to the development of the university community.

The association remains steadfast in its support of Professor Fashina’s continued leadership at FUYOYE.

Police repel terrorists’ attack in Borno

By Agency Reporter

The Nigeria Police Force said its operatives in Borno have repelled an attack on Jakana Divisional Police Headquarters by a group of terrorists.

The Force Public Relations Officer, ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi said this in a statement on Sunday in Abuja.

The police spokesman said the attempted attack occurred on Nov. 28 at about 1:00am, but added that the attempt was met with strong resistance from police operatives.

Adejobi said the resistance left many of the attackers with varying degrees of bullet wounds, with a police officer, left with injury and currently responding to treatment.

He also said that operatives attached to the Police Command in Sokoto State in collaboration with other security



agencies on Nov. 25 conducted raids on several black spots and bandits camps in the state.

Adejobi said the operation targeted at clearing the camps led to the recovering of some AK47 rifles and several magazines, loaded with 30 rounds of live ammunition each.

He said occupants of the camp had

taken to their heels upon noticing the presence of the operatives, but added that efforts were ongoing to apprehend the fleeing members of the camp.

Adejobi said operatives from the Police Command in Delta on Nov. 28 intercepted and engaged suspected kidnappers in a gun duel.

He said police operatives had overpowered the suspected kidnappers in the gun duel, forcing them to flee into a nearby bush with sustained bullet injuries.

Adejobi said the operatives had swung into action, giving the suspects a hot chase following a report of attempted kidnapping in Asaba.

Holcim to exit Nigeria, sells 83% stake in Lafarge to Chinese firm

By Agency Reporter

Holcim, a Swiss building materials company, has agreed to sell its Nigerian business to Huaxin Cement Ltd., a Chinese firm.

The deal, valued at \$1 billion, would lead to the sale of Holcim's 83 percent stake in Lafarge Africa, according to a statement on Sunday.

Lafarge Africa Plc is a member of the Holcim Group — a maker of roofing and other housing products, such as cement, aggregates for construction and ready-mix concrete.

The company said the agreement has been signed, noting that the transaction is



expected to close next year.

“Holcim has signed an agreement with Huaxin Cement Ltd to sell its entire 83.81% shareholding in Lafarge Africa Plc, at an equity value of \$1 billion on a 100% basis,” the statement reads.

“The transaction is expected to close in 2025, subject to

customary and regulatory approvals.”

Holcim, however, did not give reasons for its exit.

Over 100 lives have been lost to boat mishaps in 2024.

More than 300 people also died in boat incidents across the country in 2023.

Olajengbesi honored with prominent people's award by cornerstone media

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

Barrister Pelumi Olajengbesi, a renowned human rights activist and legal practitioner in Abuja, on Tuesday, November 26, was awarded the prestigious Prominent People's Award by Cornerstone Media.

The award was presented in recognition of Olajengbesi's significant contributions to the development of the legal profession in Nigeria.

In his address, Mr. Ajibola Afolayan, the Executive Director of Cornerstone Media, praised Olajengbesi for his outstanding work and dedication to the legal sector.

Afolayan emphasised the importance of acknowledging individuals who

have made substantial strides in their professions, stating that such recognition serves as an inspiration for them to continue their efforts for the greater good of humanity and national development.

“The essence of this award is to highlight the achievements of individuals who have excelled in their field. It encourages them to do more for the collective advancement of our society,” Afolayan said.

The award ceremony, which took place in Abuja, was a momentous occasion for Olajengbesi, who is also the Principal Partner at Law Corridor, a leading law firm in Nigeria.

Afolayan highlighted that

Olajengbesi's reputation as a lawyer of high repute, known for his activism and passionate advocacy, was a key factor in the selection process.



Ex-NBA President, Musa hail Oyebanji as a model leader

By Friday Omosola

Former President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Wole Olanipekun and the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, Mohamed Sanni Musa, have praised Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, for his exemplary leadership and ability to unify diverse segments of society.

The commendations were made on Saturday during the 28th edition of the Wole Olanipekun Foundation's scholarship and empowerment programme in Ikere-Ekiti.

Chief Olanipekun, the foundation's founder, lauded Governor Oyebanji for fostering unity across political, cultural, and social divides, describing him as a rare example of harmonious and inclusive governance.

He highlighted how the Governor has gained the support of political groups, traditional rulers, civil society, and artisans through his humility and inclusive approach to leadership.

"Two days ago, the Minister of Education described him as the best Governor in Nigeria. This is perhaps the only Governor in Nigeria today who has achieved true consensus among all sections of society," Olanipekun



said, addressing Mr Musa, who chaired the occasion.

Olanipekun emphasised the importance of giving back to society and urged privileged individuals to emulate the Governor's spirit of service and humanity.

Mr Musa echoed Olanipekun's sentiments, describing Oyebanji as a "blessing" to Ekiti State and the country at large.

The senator applauded the governor's humility and his ability to connect with the people, noting that these qualities had earned him widespread admiration.

"Governor Oyebanji's leadership is not just a beacon of hope for Ekiti but for Nigeria as a whole. His humility and

commitment to the nation's sovereignty are highly commendable," Musa stated.

Governor Oyebanji, in his response, expressed gratitude to Olanipekun for his unwavering support for Ekiti State and his philanthropic initiatives.

He described Olanipekun as a "legend" and a "beacon of hope," noting that the foundation had awarded scholarships to over 3,019 students and empowered hundreds of youth, widows, and the elderly.

"You are a gift not only to Ikere or Ekiti State but to humanity. Your work reflects a man who loves God and shares his blessings with the less privileged," Oyebanji said, urging others to emulate Olanipekun's example.

Fisayo Soyombo: Army's statement linking me to oil bunkering deliberately compromised my security

By Agency Reporter

Investigative journalist Fisayo Soyombo has accused the Nigerian Army of deliberately compromising his safety after being detained for three days in Port Harcourt while conducting an undercover investigation into illegal oil bunkering.

“I will be honest, it is the first time I have genuinely felt my security compromised. I believe the army deliberately – the acting spokesman of the Nigerian army deliberately compromised my security by releasing that statement and linking me to oil bunkerers. I was in detention, I made no mention of oil bunkering, now you’ve gone to tell illegal bunkerers that ‘look, this guy was on your trail,’” he stated.

Speaking in an interview with Arise News on Saturday, Soyombo described his experience and the challenges faced by journalists in Nigeria.

“I am an investigative and undercover journalist. I was investigating illegal oil bunkering. It happened that someone in the security setup was offended that he didn’t get bribed because the illegal bunkerers would bribe people in security. One got annoyed and tipped off others,” Soyombo explained.

He clarified that he was not arrested with oil thieves but had approached the military personnel, thinking they were there to facilitate a settlement. “There was no arrest, the Nigerian army did not arrest me. They spotted me, flashed their torch, and I came



out and wanted to open a conversation. I didn’t show them my ID because the illegal bunkerers had said they had settled everyone and the guys who came were the ones that were not settled, and a conversation was going to settle them, so I just thought it was a settlement conversation and I came forward,” he added.

Soyombo admitted that he did not inform the Nigerian Army about his investigation due to mistrust.

“The real growls of the army were that, one, I didn’t carry them along. I won’t deny that I have low trust for Nigerian public institutions – I didn’t trust the army, I didn’t carry them along, but also known illegal oil bunkerers were bribing different people with various security formations and I would endanger my life by carrying them along if I didn’t know who was who.”

He revealed that after being detained in a military camp, he maintained his cover as an illegal oil bunkerer until

he was taken to the Sixth Division headquarters.

“They all felt I was an illegal oil bunkerer, and I played along until they took me to 6th Div. And I thought from then I was speaking with people in offices who were investigating the case; that is when I said I was an undercover journalist and showed them proof,” Soyombo said.

Reflecting on his experience, Soyombo criticised the state of press freedom in Nigeria, especially concerning investigative journalism.

“Of course, the press is not free in a number of ways, and one of them is that, especially people in security, don’t want to hear the word ‘investigation’. Every encounter I have had with the police, the military, once I say ‘I was investigating’, something just changes in them. They don’t want the press to do any form of independent work,” he said.

Tinubu's proposed tax reforms will alleviate burden on poor Nigerians— Agbese

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Deputy Spokesman of the House of Representatives, Philip Agbese, has emphasised that President Bola Tinubu's proposed tax reform bills will ease the financial burden on Nigeria's poor and small businesses once enacted into law.

The four executive bills, which have sparked widespread debate, have led to tensions between the 36 state governors and the Federal Government. The governors have expressed concerns and called for the withdrawal of the bills in order to allow for more consultation. Despite this, some state leaders are beginning to reconsider their stance.

Borno State Governor, Prof Babagana Zulum, remains a staunch critic of the proposals, urging his northern counterparts to reject the bills. He argues that their implementation could cause severe damage to the region's economy.

Speaking to journalists in Abuja on Saturday, November 30, Agbese rallied support for the bills, calling on Nigerians to unite behind the proposed reforms. He underscored that



the interests of the nation should always outweigh individual or sectional concerns.

“We hope to debate these bills on Tuesday and anticipate a robust discussion that will ultimately lead to their passage,” Agbese said.

“Most of our colleagues have read the bills, and as a result, many are now shifting their positions. Those who were initially opposed are now advocating for their speedy consideration and passage.”

He added that the growing support for the bills reflects the wider public interest. “When we meet next week, we expect even more supporters to join us. But it is important to note that this is not just about

lawmakers; it's about Nigerians, from the top company executive to the farmer in a rural village. Public policy affects everyone, and if these bills become law, they will invigorate the economy and pave the way for the development of critical infrastructure.”

Agbese also praised President Tinubu for leading the charge on tax reform, stating that the country is moving towards a system of progressive taxation. “What this means is that if implemented, we will have a new tax regime that lifts the burden from poor Nigerians and small businesses. This is a shift in thinking that will ultimately benefit the country,” he concluded.

Tiwa Savage: Musicians struggle to connect

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Tiwa Savage stresses the power of fan connections

Tiwa Savage urges artists to build deeper fan connections, stressing their role in shaping an artist's brand beyond music, on the Shopping the Sneakers podcast.

In her remarks, the globally celebrated singer highlighted how fellow Nigerian stars—Wizkid, Davido, and Burna Boy—have mastered this approach, contributing significantly to their sustained relevance and success.

Artists must be more than music
Savage argued that an artist's journey isn't solely about churning out hit songs. "It's not just about the music; it's your fanbase and your brand. You've got to think of your fashion. You've got to be relatable," she explained.

She observed that many artists make the mistake of focusing exclusively on their craft while neglecting their audience. According to Savage, this disconnect can hinder long-term success.

"Artists are just putting out music, but they're not really connecting with their fans," she noted. "I think it's really important to connect with the fans."

Wizkid, Davido, and Burna Boy set the example

Using her colleagues Wizkid, Davido, and Burna Boy as examples, Savage shed light on the importance of fan relationships. She pointed out how these superstars have created lasting bonds with their audiences, which keeps them in the spotlight, even during quiet periods when no new music is released.

"If you look at Wizkid, Davido, and Burna Boy, they have established relationships with their fanbases. They love their lifestyles. Whether they are



dropping a song or not, they are in the conversation," she said.

This connection, Savage explained, is a significant factor in their ability to trend consistently on social media and in public discourse. Their appeal transcends their music, influencing fashion, pop culture, and everyday conversations.

The role of branding in longevity
Savage didn't stop at fan relationships; she also delved into the broader aspects of branding. She encouraged artists to view themselves as more than performers, urging them to take charge of their image and relatability.

"Building a fanbase is not just about having people listen to your songs. It's about how they see you as a person. They should want to know your story, your lifestyle, and what makes you unique," she added.

A strong team equals a strong artist
While addressing the demands of a competitive industry, Savage underscored the value of teamwork. She reminded listeners that no artist thrives alone.

"You are only as good as the strength

of your team," she said. This statement reinforced the idea that an artist's success is a collective effort involving managers, stylists, publicists, and others who contribute to building the brand.

Why artists should care

Savage's insights resonate in a rapidly evolving music industry where fans crave more than just music. They want to feel connected to their favorite stars, whether through social media, live performances, or other creative avenues.

This approach, she believes, not only solidifies an artist's place in the industry but also opens doors to diverse opportunities beyond music, such as fashion collaborations, endorsements, and global recognition.

Call to action

As Tiwa Savage continues to inspire through her music and words, her message serves as a wake-up call for artists to invest in their relationships with fans. Her advice highlights a simple truth: music is powerful, but connections are unforgettable.

Ruger speaks on relationship

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Ruger opens up: Relationships, career, and life's struggles

Ruger shares struggles with relationships, prioritizing well-being and music over personal life challenges in a candid Naija FM interview.

Relationships are not for me, Ruger admitted that while he is naturally drawn to the idea of serious relationships, they often don't work out as he initially hopes.

Speaking with a mix of vulnerability and self-awareness, he said, "I am a loverboy, but I've come to understand that relationships don't work for me. When I see a girl, my first instinct is to think about how I can get serious with her, but eventually, I just become unserious all of a sudden."

The artist explained that his disinterest in maintaining long-term relationships stems from a desire to prioritize his happiness and mental health. For him, personal peace outweighs the complexities and expectations of romantic commitments.

Setting boundaries with fans

Ruger also touched on his interactions with fans, particularly female admirers. He made it clear that he keeps things strictly professional, ensuring that his engagement doesn't cross personal boundaries.

"Honestly, no! The most I can give my female fan on stage is a flower. It's like we're working together; that's how it is for me. I don't take it beyond the stage. We work together," he said.

This strict line between his personal and professional life highlights Ruger's dedication to his craft and respect for his supporters without blurring boundaries.

Reflecting on career growth



Shifting the focus to his career, Ruger expressed deep gratitude for the blessings and opportunities he has received. However, he did not shy away from discussing the challenges that come with success. From his humble beginnings to his current responsibilities, the singer reflected on how far he has come.

"I don't want to go back to the streets; I have to take care of my family. It wasn't easy when I started, and it's still not easy now. I pay people's salaries now. I pay for a lot of things, and I'm planning a lot of things by myself. God has just been blessing my efforts," he said.

These words reflect not only his determination to succeed but also the weight of the responsibilities he now carries. Ruger, who once struggled to make ends meet, now provides for his family and team, a reality he takes very seriously.

Balancing success

The interview revealed a deeply reflective side of Ruger, showing that success often comes with its own set of challenges. Despite his rising fame, the artist remains grounded, balancing the pressures of stardom with his commitment to his family and team.

The journey hasn't been easy, and

Ruger made it clear that staying afloat requires constant effort. He acknowledged that his music career demands not just creativity but also financial discipline and strategic planning.

For fans, this glimpse into Ruger's life paints a picture of an artist who is not just focused on creating hits but also deeply invested in securing a stable future for himself and those who depend on him.

A glimpse into future

As Ruger continues to climb the ladder of success, his reflections on relationships and life's challenges serve as a reminder of the human side of fame. While many may see only the glamour of his music career, his words reveal a man determined to stay true to himself, protect his peace, and provide for his loved ones.

For now, relationships may not be on his priority list, but Ruger's dedication to his music and his values remains unwavering. His candid honesty during the interview offered fans a rare and relatable insight into the life of a rising star.

Whether on stage with his fans or behind the scenes with his family, Ruger is proving that authenticity and hard work are at the core of his journey.

Funny Bone: Friends stopped talking over Pastor Jerry Eze

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Comedian Funny Bone reflects on lost friendship over Pastor Jerry Eze contact dispute

Comedian Funny Bone recently shared on Instagram how a friendship ended abruptly due to a disagreement involving popular clergyman Pastor Jerry Eze.

Funny Bone recounted that the clash began when a former university mate demanded Pastor Jerry Eze's direct phone number. Despite repeatedly clarifying that he didn't have the pastor's contact details, his friend refused to believe him. The comedian described the situation as both frustrating and revealing.

"She stopped talking to me because I didn't give her Pastor Jerry Eze's number. A number I don't even have!" he said in his post. "And even if I had it, should I just give it out so casually? Some entitlement can be really annoying."

Rift born from misunderstanding

The comedian painted a picture of how entitlement and pettiness can harm relationships. Despite his explanation, his friend's insistence on receiving the phone number led to unnecessary tension. "It was like talking to a wall," Funny Bone shared. "No matter how much I tried to explain, she wasn't ready to listen."

The disagreement escalated to the point where the former friend stopped communicating with him entirely. Rather than dwelling on the loss, Funny Bone expressed relief. "Honestly, I'm happy we're no longer talking. The feeling is mutual," he wrote.

Broader commentary on entitlement

In his post, Funny Bone used the experience to reflect on broader issues within relationships. He pointed out how entitlement can create unnecessary strain between friends,



especially when expectations are unrealistic or unfair.

"Why should someone assume they're entitled to something I don't even have?" he questioned. "The whole situation made me realise how fragile some friendships can be."

The comedian also touched on how social media has amplified such behaviors. People often expect easy access to others through mutual connections, disregarding privacy or boundaries. "It's like people forget that some lines shouldn't be crossed, no matter how close you are," he added.

Fans reaction

The Instagram post quickly garnered attention, sparking discussions among his followers. Many supported his stance, agreeing that his friend's behavior was unreasonable.

One follower commented, "It's ridiculous to end a friendship over something so trivial. You're better off without that kind of energy." Another added, "Your response shows maturity. Not everyone can handle entitlement with such grace."

Others used the opportunity to share

similar stories of friendships ending over misunderstandings or unwarranted demands. "This happens more often than people realize," one fan noted. "Sometimes losing a friend is actually a blessing."

Comedian's takeaway

Funny Bone ended his post with a touch of humor, staying true to his comedic roots. "Man like Funny," he signed off, implying that he's moving forward without regret.

The episode has not only showcased his wit but also offered a relatable lesson about setting boundaries. As he reflected on the experience, Funny Bone's story became a reminder of the importance of mutual respect in any relationship.

Reminder for modern friendships

The incident underscores a growing trend of entitlement in personal relationships, fueled by unrealistic expectations and disregard for boundaries. Funny Bone's decision to address the issue publicly highlights the need for open conversations about respect and understanding among friends.

In today's interconnected world, it's easy to forget the value of genuine connections. Funny Bone's experience serves as a cautionary tale, urging individuals to reassess their expectations and approach relationships with empathy and respect.

Ultimately, the comedian's story offers a simple but powerful takeaway: true friendship is built on mutual understanding, not demands or entitlement.

Wofai Fada, husband welcome baby girl

By Eytayo Jemimah Ajayi

Actress Wofai Fada welcomes first child

Nigerian actress Wofai Fada and husband Taiwo Cole welcome their first child, a baby girl, sharing the joyful news on social media to fans' delight.

Wofai took to Instagram to introduce her newborn to the world. She shared a series of adorable photos featuring the baby girl, accompanied by a heartfelt message of gratitude. "We are forever grateful to God for this precious gift. Our princess is here. My joy is complete," she wrote, capturing the joy and significance of the moment.

The announcement comes just weeks after Wofai revealed her pregnancy in a similarly touching post. Last month, she shared photos of her baby bump, hinting that her family of two was about to grow into three. At the time, fans flooded her page with congratulatory messages, eagerly anticipating the big day.

Moment of joy

The actress's recent posts radiate happiness, showcasing her journey into motherhood. Her words reflect deep gratitude and excitement for the new chapter in her life. "Our princess is here," she declared, emphasizing the fulfillment she feels. The accompanying photos captured tender moments with the newborn, melting hearts across the internet.

Wofai's followers were quick to shower the couple with love and blessings. Many took to the comments section to celebrate the arrival of the baby girl, with messages like, "God bless your family," and "Welcome to the world, little princess!"

Wofai's journey



Wofai's pregnancy announcement last month marked a turning point in her public journey. The Instagram post, which featured elegant photos of her cradling her baby bump, hinted at her anticipation and readiness to embrace motherhood. Her caption spoke volumes about her excitement, subtly preparing her fans for this new chapter.

The transition from announcing her pregnancy to welcoming her baby has been seamless. Wofai's social media presence has kept fans engaged, offering glimpses into her personal milestones. From the initial reveal to this joyous announcement, she has brought her followers along for the ride.

Taiwo Cole shares his joy

While Wofai has been at the forefront of the announcements, her husband, Taiwo Cole, has also expressed his excitement. Although less active on social media, Taiwo has reportedly been a pillar of support for Wofai throughout her pregnancy. Friends and family close to the couple describe them as overjoyed and deeply grateful for their new addition.

Fans, Celebrities React

The news of Wofai's baby quickly became a trending topic. Fellow celebrities and influencers joined in the celebration, sending their congratulations. Popular actress Ini Edo commented, "So happy for you, sis! God bless your baby girl!" Comedian Basketmouth also chimed in, writing, "Big congrats! Parenthood is a blessing."

Wofai's fans, many of whom have followed her career since her early days as a content creator, expressed their admiration for how gracefully she has embraced this new role. Many shared their prayers and well-wishes for the baby's health and the family's happiness.

New chapter begins

The arrival of their daughter marks a new chapter for Wofai and Taiwo. Known for her vibrant personality and comedic talent, Wofai has now stepped into the heartwarming role of a mother. It's a role she seems ready to embrace wholeheartedly, judging by her glowing social media updates.

Her journey into motherhood adds a personal dimension to her public persona. Fans and followers are likely to see a more reflective and family-oriented side of Wofai in the coming months.

Gratitude

At the center of Wofai's announcement is gratitude. Her heartfelt expression of thanks to God resonates deeply, especially with her Nigerian audience, where faith often plays a significant role in personal milestones. Her words, "My joy is complete," encapsulate the fulfillment and happiness she feels at this moment.

Story of 10-year-old Krish Arora who has IQ higher than Einstein

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A 10-year-old London schoolboy, Krish Arora has been discovered to possess an IQ of 162, greater than that of the legendary theoretical physicist, Albert Einstein.

By age four, Krish, from Hounslow, could read fluently and do complex decimal division – although he still reportedly loves playing games and hanging out with his friends.

His parents, Mauli and Nischal, are said to possess engineering degrees – Krish’s mum admits her son can beat them at almost anything now.

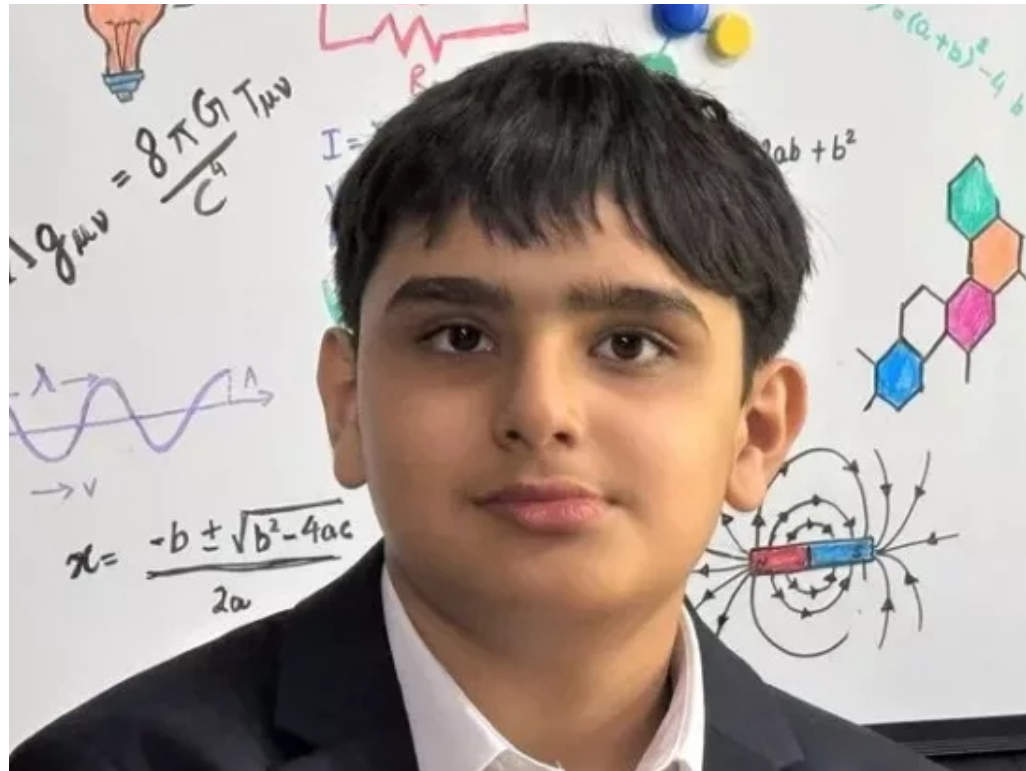
“He was doing things very early on which kids of his age would not do.

“He was reading very early, so when he was four he was fluently reading and was doing complex decimal divisions around that time. His spellings were also really good for his age. So we did see the sparks, his mother said.

While Einstein’s exact IQ isn’t known, estimates have placed this at around 160. Other bright sparks include Marie Curie, with an estimated score of 180-200, and Isaac Newton, with an estimated score of 190.

Krish, who has always attended state school, can solve Wordle puzzles in just one or two minutes. Despite playing chess for just four months, he can now beat his mentor, who has a high FIDE rating of 1600.

The schoolboy genius has now been accepted into the Mensa, a society for the top 2% of high IQ scorers. Prospective entrees must sit an exam, which Krish’s mum said he passed with flying colours.



His Mensa entry was inspired by the show *Young Sheldon*, which features a child genius with a high IQ. Krish says that watching the show made him decide he would like to have his IQ tested.

Twin sister, Keira, has also been gifted with the family’s intelligent genes. While the siblings like to compete, she prefers creative subjects like poetry and writing.

Krish’s mum, Mauli, says that bringing up such a clever child brings her “great pride”, although it’s not without its downfalls.

“It’s a challenge bringing up a child who is intellectually so smart, he’s always asking you questions, but then it’s a pure pleasure because when you see that a child that’s so young is able to do things so brilliantly you realise it’s god-gifted.”

But Krish is not just a maths whizz.

He is also a talented musician, reaching grade eight in piano after just one-and-a-half years. He also has a unique musical skill – absolute pitch – meaning he can recreate songs without a reference note.

“I could be a pianist or I could do something in maths, but I like maths a little bit more than piano so I’ll probably do something related to maths,” said the young musician.

What does he do to relax? “I feel really happy playing with my friends,” he told MyLondon.

Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico if the countries don’t stop what he called the flow of drugs and migrants across southern and northern borders.

He said he would impose a 25% tax on all products entering the U.S. from Canada and Mexico as one of his first executive orders.

Trump threatens BRICS countries with 100% tariff if they replace dollar

By Agency Reporter

US President-elect Donald Trump has threatened to impose 100 percent tariffs on imports from BRICS countries if they replace the dollar in global trade.

The BRICS is an inter-governmental organisation comprising nine countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

While the US dollar is the most-used currency in global business, tariffs are essentially a tax or fee on all imported goods by importers and the additional costs are typically passed on to consumers.

At a summit of BRIC nations in October, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the US of “weaponising” the dollar and described it as a “big mistake”.

The BRICS bloc is pushing for stronger financial cooperation, which involves the development of alternative frameworks to challenge the Western-dominated payment systems.

Reacting to the move, Trump, in a post on X on Sunday,



asked the BRICs to commit to halting their plan to jettison the US dollar in global trade.

“The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar while we stand by and watch is OVER,” Trump posted.

“We require a commitment from these Countries that they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other currency to replace the mighty U.S. dollar or, they will face 100% tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful U.S.

economy.

“They can go find another “sucker!” There is no chance that the BRICS will replace the U.S. Dollar in international trade, and any country that tries should wave goodbye to America.”

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the dollar represents roughly 58 percent of the world’s foreign exchange reserves and major commodities like oil are still primarily bought and sold using dollars.

Dakota Ditcheva makes history as first British woman to win Mma world title

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Manchester's Dakota Ditcheva became the first British woman to secure an MMA world title, stopping Taila Santos in the second round to claim the PFL flyweight crown in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The 26-year-old delivered a clinical performance, ending the bout with a series of devastating body shots to remain unbeaten in 14 professional fights, with 13 finishes. The victory also earned her a \$1m (£785,000) prize.

"I just beat the best girl out there. The world is mine," Ditcheva declared after her win, celebrating with her mother, former kickboxing world champion Lisa Howarth.



In contrast, fellow Mancunian Brendan Loughnane missed out on his second PFL featherweight title, losing by unanimous decision to Russia's Timur Khizriev. Loughnane struggled to find rhythm and succumbed to Khizriev's

superior striking and grappling.

Ditcheva's dominant victory solidifies her status as one of MMA's rising stars, with fans and pundits hailing her as a future superstar in the sport.

Leicester City players reprimanded over christmas party conduct, says caretaker boss Ben Dawson

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Leicester City's interim manager, Ben Dawson, has confirmed that the club has addressed players' "unacceptable" behavior during a recent Christmas party in Copenhagen. The incident came to light just days after the Foxes' 2-1 defeat to Chelsea and the subsequent sacking of manager Steve Cooper.

Videos circulating online, though unverified by BBC Sport, allegedly show players celebrating in a nightclub alongside a sign reading, "Enzo, I miss you," referencing former Leicester boss Enzo Maresca.

Dawson, who will oversee Leicester's Premier League clash with Brentford this weekend, revealed that the club swiftly dealt with the matter internally.

"Message Delivered, Focus Forward" Speaking at a press conference, Dawson outlined the club's response: "The players have received a clear



message from the club that their actions were not acceptable. We've handled the situation quickly, and the focus is now on training well and delivering a strong performance in the upcoming game."

Despite the controversy, Dawson defended the players' right to take scheduled time off, adding, "Every player needs time away. However, the incident in question crossed a line, and

that's why it was addressed internally. We've moved on."

Transition at the Helm

Dawson stepped into the role of caretaker manager following Cooper's dismissal, which came less than 24 hours after Leicester's defeat to Chelsea. Cooper's tenure ended with the club precariously placed 16th in the Premier League, just a point above the relegation zone.