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FG will fix economy, security, end corruption – Shettima

By Dave Oludare Oso



The vice president, Kashim Shettima has expressed the determination of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) administration to fight corruption and fix the economy.

Shettima also stated that the government is on the path of enthroning national cohesion and strengthening the independence of the judiciary.

The vice president spoke at the national conference on strengthening democracy in Nigeria on Monday in Abuja.

The conference themed, ‘Strengthening Nigeria’s democracy: Pathways to good governance and political integrity’, was organised by the African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development.

Shettima, who was represented by his Special Adviser on Political Issues, Hakeem Baba-Ahmed, admitted that while democracy is not a perfect

system, compared to others, it is the best form of government.

The statement read, “We will listen and adjust where necessary, and we will account for our stewardship in all matters our challenging democratic systems demand.

“I am convinced that Nigeria shall rise again, answer to its full potential and lead the way to a future that has learnt lessons from a difficult past into a world in which our country will be a key player, and our young will be active champions of a democratic system because it speaks to them.

“It has been said many times that democracy is an imperfect system, yet superior to all others.

“We will continue to seek to provide evidence of the values of the democratic systems by, among others, fixing major weaknesses of our economy, securing our communities,

fighting corruption, supporting free and fair elections, strengthening the independence of the judiciary and improving national cohesion.”

Shettima urged Nigerians to support the current administration in this challenging but ultimately rewarding journey, stressing that the Bola Tinubu administration has a major interest in the quality of the democratic system.

Recruitment into federal civil service begins

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Federal Civil Service Commission has begun a recruitment exercise for various positions within the Federal Civil Service.

The Commission made this known on Monday in a statement by its Head of Press and Public Relations, Taiwo Hassan.

The statement said that those who are eligible and interested should visit the commission’s recruitment portal to apply for any position they choose.

The statement said, “The Federal Civil Service Commission is receiving applications for various vacancies in the Federal Civil Service. The vacancy announcement is published on the commission’s website: www.fedcivilservice.gov.ng and in national newspapers.

“Eligible applicants are to apply for

only one position via the application link:

<https://recruitment.fedcivilservice.gov.ng>.

“Applicants who are physically challenged should state the nature of their disability.

“Applicants are to upload the following documents as applicable:

- I) Curriculum Vitae,
- II) Ph.D/Master’s Degree Certificate,
- III) Degree/HND/NCE Certificate,
- IV) WAEC/NECO/NABTEB Certificate,
- V) Primary School Certificate,



FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

VI) NYSC discharge/exemption/exclusion certificate,

VII) Birth Certificate/Declaration of Age,

VIII) Local Government Identification,

IX) Recent Passport photograph,

“All applications are to be submitted on or before Monday, 10th March, 2025.”

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
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QUARTER PAGE	100,000.00
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9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
5X4	61,500.00
5X3	57,819.00
5X2	40,379.50
4X4	55,000.00
4X3	31,000.00
4X2	22,003.50
3X2	17,260.00
2X2	12,945.00
2X1	8,630.00
1X1	4,315.00

POLITICAL COLOUR

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QUARTER PAGE	80,706.50
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10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
10X3	121,355.50
9X6	192,305.50
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2X2	10,877.00
2X1	5,588.50
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10X4	149,440.00
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9X5	169,050.00
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8X4	93,500.00
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6X2	40,000.00
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5X3	49,375.00
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2X1	6,500.00
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PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

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10X4	103,963.00
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9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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5X6	71,378.00
5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
4x4	N/A
4X3	N/A
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3X2	14,923.00
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PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
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Ooni, monarchs dealbreakers as Afe Babalola withdraws suits against Farotimi

By Dave Oludare Oso

Beleaguered activist and lawyer, Dele Farotimi has received a reprieve after Aare Afe Babalola (SAN) agreed to withdraw the cases instituted against him in the early hours of Monday following Afe's meeting with top Yoruba monarchs who came to plead for the embattled lawyer.

Recall that one of the doyens of the legal profession in the country and the founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti (ABUAD), filed a petition to the police commissioner in Ekiti State claiming that Farotimi defamed him in a book titled 'Nigeria and its Criminal Justice System'. This prompted the police to arrest and arraign the activist lawyer before two courts in Ekiti.

Following that, Farotimi was arraigned before an Ekiti State Magistrate Court, Ado Ekiti District for alleged criminal defamation and alleged cyber-bullying before the Ado Ekiti Division of Federal High Court.

However, Babalola, who spoke at ABUAD after the intervention of the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi, and other top traditional rulers at the midnight meeting agreed to withdraw the criminal case, saying, "I will tell my lawyers to withdraw the case."

Following the passionate reactions generated by the case, with some accusing the legal giant of using his weight to oppress and bully his younger colleague, no doubt the new development will come as a big relief for Nigerians, who would want the case to be done with. Also in attendance were the Chairman, Ekiti State Council of Traditional Rulers and the Olojudo of Ido Ekiti, Oba Ayorinde Ilori-Faboro; the Ewi of Ado Ekiti, Oba Adeyemo Adejugbe; the Ajero of Ijero Ekiti, Oba Joseph Adewole; the Ogoga of Ikere Ekiti, Oba Adejimi Adu; the Oloye of Oye Ekiti, Oba Michael Ademolaju; and the Alaaye of Efon-Alaaye Ekiti, Oba Emmanuel Aladejare.

Babalola, who restated the importance of the Yoruba traditional institution and the influence it wielded, said, "The monarchs are here, they have appealed to me over a criminal charge involving somebody who said I was corrupt."

The senior advocate said that he felt so bad that Farotimi accused him of winning all his cases through



corruption; hence, he rejected all earlier appeals to him to take the cases out of court. Babalola listed those who had appealed to him to take the matter out of court, to include former President Olusegun Obasanjo; the Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Mathew Kukah; and the Ewi of Ado Ekiti, Oba Adejugbe.

He said, "If you go through the pamphlet (Farotimi's book), you will find that he attacked many judges by names, he attacked Supreme Court judges, and none is bothered, but I am bothered. I am bothered because of where and how I started life, from the farm to where I am."

"There is nothing I am going to gain from his imprisonment. There is nothing I am going to gain from so-called damages. I am not in quest of more wealth, rather how to spend what I have for the benefit of others. The only time I am happy is when I give."

"The request is simple, take away this criminal case in court. When Obasanjo wrote, he came here, I said no. when Kukah phoned and came, I said no, but on this occasion, I say yes. Thank you Kabiyesis. I will speak to my lawyers to withdraw it." The Ooni, who spoke on behalf of Yoruba monarchs, had requested Babalola to withdraw the case in court, assuring him that "nobody can tarnish your name. Your name is more than silver and gold and you have stood for your name with the message that nobody can joke with your name."

Ogunwusi, who acknowledged Babalola's contributions to the development of Yoruba, Nigeria and the world, said, "We (monarchs) came here to discuss the matter with him and he gave full respect to the obas and agreed.

"We, the obas, can attest to the hard work of Aare Afe Babalola and how he has invested so hard to build his name. The name cannot be tarnished or rubbished by anyone. Aare Afe Babalola has proven to the world that he cherishes his name and the world has heard him clearly."

"Baba, we want to appeal and also use our race to instruct you. Dele Farotimi is your son, you may not know him, we give birth to different children in this world, some are tough, some are soft, some are hard. Why we are here is our ethos as a race." The Ooni added, "We are using our race because some of our elders in Yorubaland and even beyond Yorubaland have spoken, but combining forces with the traditional institution, we have heard you, enough, enough and enough. Your name is intact. We have resolved the matter in our own way, we have done the needful."

In a petition dated November 19, 2024, addressed to the Ekiti State Commissioner of Police, Adeniran Akinwale, Afe Babalola alleged that defamatory content in Dele Farotimi's book, 'Nigeria and Its Criminal Justice System', tarnished his reputation.

Farotimi was arrested in Lagos by officers of the Ekiti State Police Command and transported to Ado-Ekiti, where he faced a 16-count charge of criminal defamation and cyberbullying. Following his arraignment in a magistrate court, he was remanded in custody. The allegations stem from claims in the book accusing Babalola and other Senior Advocates of Nigeria of influencing Supreme Court justices through corruption.

EFCC official found dead on Lagos road

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Less than two weeks after an operative of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), was killed in Anambra State, the lifeless body of another official of the commission was discovered on a Lagos road.

According to a video by SaharaReporters on Monday, the deceased operative, who was identified as Sylvanus, was found dead in Lagos, clad in a traditional attire.

Onlookers were able to identify him as an official of the anti-corruption agency before his demise by his identity card.

“Where e dey work nah EFCC. His ID card dey there,” voices, including that of a policeman, said in the video.

The circumstances surrounding Sylvanus’ death are still unclear. However, it was learned that EFCC is aware of his death.

This was confirmed by the agency’s spokesperson, Dele Oyewale in a terse text message on Monday afternoon.

Oyewale said: “The death is being investigated.”

Sylvanus’s death comes less than two weeks after NEW DAILY PRIME reported the death of another EFCC officer, Aminu Sahabi Salisu, after being shot by a suspected fraudster in Awka, the Anambra State capital.

The suspect in the incident is identified as Joshua Chukwubueze Ikechukwu, an alleged internet fraudster.

The suspect attacked EFCC operatives during an operation in Awka and shot Salisu.

NEW DAILY PRIME gathered from senior police sources that Nnamdi was apprehended while hiding in the ceiling of his neighbour’s room following the crime.

Salisu was later flown to Sokoto State for burial.

Meanwhile, the EFCC has named the administrative block of its Academy in Karu, Abuja after Salisu.

EFCC Chairman Ola Olukoyede disclosed in Abuja on Saturday, January 25, 2025, that the gesture was made to immortalize the slain officer.

He said this while addressing staff of the Commission at the Annual



Rewards and Recognition Ceremony held at the EFCC’s Academy.

According to him, Salisu paid the supreme price in the service of the nation and his memory should be kept alive.

“We are saddened by the loss of our officer while on official assignment. He was a gallant officer and to this effect, the administrative block of the Academy is hereby named after him,” he said.

Security operatives launches rescue operation for abducted Abuja residents

By Helen Okechukwu

After the abduction of five residents and a family in Abuja by bandits, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Police Command says it has launched a rescue operation for the victims.

The attack occurred on Sunday at around 11 p.m. when an armed group numbering 20 arrived at the Health Centre extension area of Chikakore, a community in Kubwa, FCT.

The victims whose homes were targeted and abducted include a resident named Adesiyan Akinropo, his wife, his son, a visitor, and a neighbour.

The Hope Newspaper reported that a victim who sustained a head injury after she was struck with the butt of a gun has been taken to an undisclosed hospital.

The Byzahin division was said to have arrived at the crime scene late after the



bandit had escaped with the victims.

Through the police spokesperson, Josephine Ade confirmed the attack via a statement, stating that the FCT command received a distress call at around 1:00 am on Monday; immediately, security operatives were deployed.

“Preliminary investigations revealed that seven unknown men, disguised as

vigilante members and armed with machetes and sticks, attacked the residence of the victim.

“The suspects deceived him into opening his gate, after which they abducted him and three members of his family. A neighbour who attempted to intervene sustained injuries during the attack and was promptly rushed to Kubwa General Hospital for medical attention.”

Suspected 'one chance' driver nabbed in Rivers

By Helen Okechukwu

A swift response by vigilant community members at Artillery Junction in Port Harcourt led to the arrest of a minibus driver, Kelechi accused of collaborating with armed robbers to rob passengers.

'One chance drivers' is a popular Nigerian slang commonly used for commercial vehicle robbers who usually disguise as commercial drivers

The incident unfolded late Sunday night when two women raised an alarm, claiming they had been attacked by a group of robbers working in conjunction with the driver.

The women, who had fled the scene of the robbery, spotted the driver at a nearby fuel station and alerted bystanders.

Kelvin Nwachukwu, a local resident and one of the individuals who assisted in apprehending the driver, recounted how the community came together.

"I was at Artillery junction, some girls were complaining that they were robbed by a 'one chance' driver. Unfortunately for the driver, as he was turning at

Artillery to go and buy fuel at the filling station, the girls quickly identified the driver, so I mobilized the people around to apprehend the driver," Nwachukwu explained.

He explained further, "We went to the filling station, the girls identified him, we saw some of the girls property inside the bus. We carried the driver with the girls to Mini-Okoro Police station."

"His minibus is there. His name is Kelechi, He is from Anambra State. We made an entry at Mini-Okoro Police station. For now he is still at Mini-Okoro Police station."

According to the victims, Gloria Ephraim and her friend, the ordeal began when they boarded the minibus at Obigbo Express, intending to head to Market Junction.

After agreeing to a fare of N500, the



driver diverted to an isolated location near Oil Mill Flyover under the pretense of refueling in an undisclosed filling station. There, they were attacked by four men armed with knives.

"First of all, when we were sitting because me and my girlfriend sat at the back side with one guy, so the guy was sitting close to the window, so when those four guys attacked us and asked for our phones, the guy sitting at the window side jumped out, run and crossed to another lane of the road. They did not succeed in robbing him," Ephraim narrated.

Lagos govt signs MoU with FG to launch Green Line project

By Friday Omosola

The Lagos State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federal Government's Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) to initiate exploratory work on the ambitious Green Line project.

The state Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso, made the announcement during a recent Citizen/Media Stakeholders forum organized by the Ministry.

He revealed that the 68 km Green Line, once completed, will connect Marina to the Lekki Free Trade Zone, traversing one of the fastest-growing industrial corridors in Africa.

Omotoso highlighted the state government's commitment to infrastructural development, recalling that in 2024, the government completed 36 road projects, including bridges, link bridges, and pedestrian infrastructure.

Additionally, over 51 more road

projects are currently underway across the state, spanning all five divisions.

Key projects include the Arowojobe Link Bridge and Approach Road, Mende, Maryland; Sand Zero Road, Oyingbo; Platinum Road, Igbokusu; and Babafemi Dada Bridge, among others.

The administration is also advancing its Bus Reform Initiative (BRI), with ongoing work on new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) terminals, such as the Abule Egba and Iyana Ipaja Bus Terminals.

Progress is also being made on the Ajah Bus Terminals and Depots, as well as infrastructure improvements along the Lagos-Badagry Expressway.

Omotoso further emphasised the historic completion of the first phase of the 27-kilometer Red Line rail



project, which began passenger operations on October 15, 2024.

The Red Line is expected to serve up to 500,000 passengers daily, covering key areas including Agbado, Ikeja, Oshodi, and Yaba, and integrating with key bus terminals.

Looking ahead, Omotoso shared the administration's plan to connect the Red Line with the Blue Line, with the second phase of the Blue Line already under development, extending from Mile 2 to Okokomaiko.

Marketers may abandon Dangote for less-costly imported petrol

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



Oil marketers in Nigeria have revealed a significant reduction in the landing cost of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) as of Friday, with the price dropping to N922.65 per litre, down N32.35 from the N955 per litre at the Dangote Petroleum Refinery.

This decrease has sparked fresh debates about the ongoing price structure of petrol in the country and the role of oil imports in Nigeria's energy market.

Marketers say the drop in landing cost reflects a reduction in expenses like shipping, import duties, and exchange rates, which could help drive the profitability of petrol imports.

Despite the decrease in the cost of importing the fuel, the retail price of petrol remains high in Nigeria, with major marketers selling it between N990 and N1,010 per litre in the Federal Capital Territory.

A key aspect of the price reduction is the drop in the cost of Brent crude oil, which was quoted at \$78.29 per barrel on Friday.

This, coupled with an exchange rate of N1,550 per dollar, has helped to

make imported petrol more affordable. However, despite this relief, the retail prices remain elevated, and marketers have expressed interest in returning to petrol imports due to the lower cost of sourcing the product.

There has been criticism regarding the continuation of high retail prices despite the decrease in landing costs.

A major marketer, who wished to remain anonymous, explained that the reduction in cost provides an opportunity for profitability, but it hasn't yet translated to lower consumer prices.

In addition to the cost fluctuations, new data revealed that oil marketers imported 57,301 metric tonnes of fuel in just two days between January 21 and January 22, 2025, equating to approximately 76.84 million litres of petrol.

This increase in imports has raised concerns, especially as there had been an informal agreement within the industry to stop petrol imports while the Dangote refinery ramps up production.

The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) had suggested a 180-day period for Dangote's refinery to prove its production capacity.

However, despite this, some marketers

continue to import petrol, as evidenced by the recent shipment activity.

Billy Gillis-Harry, National President of the Petroleum Products Retail Outlets Owners Association of Nigeria, expressed surprise at the importation of petrol, stating that the NMDPRA had not issued licenses for imports under the current arrangement.

Meanwhile, the National Publicity Secretary of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria, Chinedu Ukadike, clarified that the decision to limit imports was not legally binding but rather a mutual understanding, citing cheaper prices from Dangote's refinery as a motivating factor.

As discussions continue about the importation of refined petroleum products, stakeholders are closely monitoring the situation, with debates surrounding the pricing, the role of local production, and the market dynamics between Dangote's refinery and the ongoing importation of petrol.

US-based Nigerian woman returns \$5700 found in workplace

By **Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**



A Nigerian-American woman, Victoria Ogunremi, has returned the sum of \$5,700 (equivalent to N8.8 million at the exchange rate of N1558/\$) she found in the toilet at her workplace in New Jersey, U.S.A.

The gesture has been described as one of the remarkable acts of honesty and kindness by most Nigerians living abroad.

Speaking with NAN in a telephone interview on Monday, Ogunremi said the gesture had earned widespread praise from her employer, colleagues and the person who lost the money.

According to her, the decision to return the money was made with concern for the person who had lost the money.

Ogunremi said, “The thought of the pain or trauma it could cause inspired me.

“I did not hesitate to return it because of my Christian faith and beliefs. Honesty brings peace of mind, and it is the key virtue I cherish.”

She said that she had found the owner of the money before informing her employer’s organisation management.

Ogunremi said that her co-workers

also admired her gesture, and many were not surprised by her act of kindness.

“The management was very pleased and proud of me. The owner was incredibly grateful and showered me with praise.

“They told me that it could only have been an act of kindness by a woman with the fear of God to do something like this,” she recounted.

The Nigerian-American attributed her kind nature to her late father’s teachings on moral upbringing, adding “he taught us never to take what does not belong to us.

“Such principles have guided me throughout my life, knowing that honesty is a principle I hope to instill in my children and grandchildren.

“Whether someone is watching or not, doing the right thing matters. A good name is priceless, and peace of mind is golden.

“No matter how tough your situation is, always return what does not belong to you. Doing the right thing brings rewards far greater than anything material.”

Ogunremi’s gesture is a shining example of integrity and compassion, of doing what is right even when it is not the easiest path.

Police arrest suspected criminals, recover exhibits in Rivers

By Helen Okechukwu

The Rivers State Police Command, through the operatives from the Hawk Unit, has announced the arrest of a suspected group of criminals at Blessing Street, Kom-Kom, in the Oyigbo Local Government Area.

The spokesperson of Police Command, Grace Iringe-Koko, on Monday in a document shared with journalists, said this arrest came following a successful raid at their hideouts on 25 January.

The Iringe-Koko highlighted that under the leadership of Commissioner of Police (CP) Olugbenga Adepoju, the force has witnessed significant results in two separate operations conducted as the fight against crime continues.

The suspects are Peter Victor, aged 38, a native of Una Eket in Akwa Ibom State; Joshua Ibe, aged 25, a native of Amadugba in Orlu LGA, Imo State; Shedrack David, aged 22, a native of Ikotumoesen, Eseni Udim LGA, Akwa Ibom State; and Joseph Acholam, aged 23, a native of Arochukwu LGA, Abia State.

Items recovered during the raid include One round of 7.62×51mm live ammunition and suspected hard drugs concealed in containers along with liquid substances.

Iringe-Koko stated that, “During interrogation, the suspects admitted to being part of a criminal syndicate responsible for various acts of terror in Oyigbo and its surrounding areas. They are currently providing valuable information to aid further investigations, including efforts to apprehend other members of the syndicate and recover additional weapons.”

In a separate operation that occurred the same day, the police spokesperson said that while conducting a stop and search operation by the operatives from the Rumuji Division at approximately 01:00 hours along East-West Road, they intercepted a black Toyota Sienna with registration number ABIA, APR 455 HW.

“The vehicle was driven by one Frank



Ukpebitere, a male suspect,” the statement read.

“Upon inspection, officers discovered that the vehicle was transporting 2,000 tonnes of 48 VDC power system cabinets, identified as the property of Airtel Telecommunications Company. The suspect failed to provide a satisfactory explanation or documentation for the transportation of these items, which are suspected to have been stolen.”

“Both the suspect and the recovered

exhibits are now in police custody as investigations continue.”

While reassuring the force commitment, the document added, “The Rivers State Police Command reassures the public of its unwavering commitment to maintaining law and order in the state. Members of the public are encouraged to provide timely information to assist the police in ensuring the safety of all residents.”

Tinubu condoles with Gov Makinde over brother's death

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

President Bola Tinubu has expressed his heartfelt condolences to the Governor of Oyo State, Seyi Makinde, following the death of his elder brother, Engineer Sunday Makinde.

In a statement issued on Monday, the President conveyed his deep sorrow, describing the loss as a “profound sorrow” and offered his sympathy to the Makinde family and the people of Oyo State.

With a heavy heart, President Tinubu wrote, “I extend my deepest sympathies to you, your family, and the people of Oyo State on the passing of your beloved elder brother, Engineer Sunday Makinde.”

Recognising the pain of losing a loved one, particularly an elder brother, the President noted, “The loss of a loved one, especially a cherished elder brother, is a

profound sorrow. In this time of mourning, I want you to know that I, along with many others, stand with you and your family.”

The President also prayed for strength and comfort for Governor Makinde and his family during this difficult period. He underscored the importance of family values and unity, which he said the Makinde family has always embodied.

“This moment reminds us of the importance of family, unity, and love—values that your family has always exemplified and that we all hold dear. May these values strengthen you and your loved ones in this time of grief,” Tinubu added.

Concluding his message, President Tinubu prayed for the peaceful repose of the soul of Engineer Sunday



Makinde and reassured Governor Makinde of his continued support, stating, “I pray for the peaceful repose of Engineer Sunday Makinde’s soul and for the Almighty to grant you and your family the strength to navigate this challenging time. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and that you are not alone in this period.”

‘I feel healthier now than when I was President’, says Buhari

By Friday Omosola

Former President Muhammadu Buhari has stated that he feels much better and healthier now than he did during his time in office.

Buhari transferred power to the current President, Bola Tinubu, on May 29, 2023.

He made this revelation in Hausa during his address at the All Progressives Congress (APC) caucus meeting, which took place at the Presidential Banquet Hall of the Government House in Katsina State, ahead of the upcoming local government elections in the state.

“I look much better and healthier now than when I was the president of the country. Anybody that sees me now acknowledges that I look better than before”, Buhari said.

Furthermore, he stated that he has been living off the money earned from renting out one of his two houses in Kaduna State, urging leaders to uphold transparency and accountability as core principles while in office.

Buhari emphasised that he did not corruptly enrich himself during his

presidency, insisting that Nigeria was a challenging country to govern due to its complexities.

The former president pointed out that most Nigerians were unaware of the administrative difficulties involved in governing the country, often blaming their leaders during and after their tenures.

Buhari also noted that he owned only three houses—located in his hometown of Daura, Katsina State, and Kaduna State—asserting that no one could blackmail him for illicit enrichment during his time in office.

“Nigeria is a challenging country to govern, but most Nigerians remain unaware of this. The complexities of leadership and the country itself become truly apparent only when you find yourself in an administrative position of power.



“After serving eight years as the president, I own only three houses—one in Daura and two in Kaduna. I have rented out one of them to generate income for my living expenses,” he added.

Tinubu to launch five LNG projects in Kogi on Thursday

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu is set to inaugurate the construction of five mini-liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Ajaokuta, Kogi State, on January 30.

In a statement released yesterday, Olufemi Soneye, the chief corporate communications officer of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, announced that the projects include Highland LNG, LNG Arete, NNPC Prime LNG, NGML/Gasnexus LNG, and BUA LNG. Describing the launch as a groundbreaking event, Soneye remarked, "This is unprecedented in Nigeria's history—it has never happened before." "Under the theme "From Gas to Prosperity: Catalysing Nigeria's Economic Growth", the epic ceremony will see Mr. President performing the groundbreaking for brand new five mini-LNG projects namely: NNPC Prime LNG, NGML/Gasnexus LNG, BUA LNG, Highland LNG and LNG Arete.

"Why am I referring to it as unprecedented? This is because it is virtually the first time such engagements would be held. Imagine taking five Final Investment Decisions (FIDs) and holding groundbreaking milestones on these multi-million-dollar projects.

"The NNPC Ltd is proud to have led this development, with significant private sector participation," Soneye said.

Soneye stated that this reflects the private sector's positive reception of the president's and NNPC's vision for gas development, aimed at driving gas-powered economic growth while making energy more accessible and affordable for Nigerians.

He explained that the NNPC Prime LNG project, a small-scale LNG (SSLNG) initiative, aligns with the federal government's gas policy and spans 33 hectares of land in Ajaokuta.

The NNPC spokesperson revealed that the project is being executed through a special purpose vehicle (SPV) jointly owned by NNPC Trading Limited (NTL), a subsidiary of NNPC, and Silver Peaks Limited, with a 90:10 equity



distribution.

"The NGML/Gasnexus LNG project involves the phased construction of a 20MMSCFD Mini-LNG plant with phase 1 being the development of a 7.5MMSCFD plant," he added.

"Natural gas supplied via the existing Oben-Ajaokuta pipeline will be liquefied at the LNG facility, transported via CNG-fuelled trucks (fitted with cryogenic tanks) and regasified at each customer location for use.

"The project aims to deliver a cost-effective, long-term, dedicated, secure and reliable natural gas solution to industrial and commercial customers.

"BUA LNG is a partnership between the NGML and BUA Industries Limited (BUA) to develop a 700TPD (using 35MMSCFD) Mini-LNG plant in Ajaokuta, Kogi State. Natural gas supplied via the existing Oben-Ajaokuta pipeline will be liquefied at the LNG facility, transported via CNG-fuelled cryogenic trucks and regasified at BUA's Sokoto Cement plant."

Soneye announced that Highland LNG, a new SSLNG facility, is set to supply gas to industrial and commercial customers who lack access to Nigeria's pipeline network.

He added that the plant will also support off-grid power generation and contribute to the government's Presidential CNG Initiative (PCNGi) by enabling the conversion of LNG to CNG.

Highlighting the contributions of LNG Arete Ltd, Soneye noted that the

fully Nigerian-owned company is leveraging its oil and gas expertise to deliver secure and affordable LNG as an alternative energy source.

He reiterated the NNPC's dedication to utilizing Nigeria's gas resources to provide cost-effective energy solutions for citizens.

"We have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs)

and project development agreements for floating LNG projects, a first in the country. More benefits from gas initiatives are on the way," he stated.

Soneye explained that these initiatives are designed to deliver gas solutions across the industrial, commercial, power generation, and transportation sectors.

He further revealed plans by NNPC to expand the country's compressed natural gas (CNG) infrastructure, aiming to promote cleaner energy options and reduce transportation costs.

He emphasised that CNG usage in vehicles is 40 per cent more affordable than petrol and also effective for power generation.

"Last year, we commissioned the 5.2mmscuf/d Ilasamaja CNG mother station in Lagos. Additionally, NNPC Retail Ltd launched 11 CNG stations across various locations in Abuja and Lagos," Soneye said.

He added, "This year, we are collaborating with our partners to establish 100 more CNG stations nationwide. These stations signify a bold step in expanding our CNG footprint across the country and reinforcing our commitment to diversifying Nigeria's energy mix."

Soneye stated that additional final investment decisions (FIDs) will be made this year to roll out more CNG mother stations nationwide, further supporting economic growth and development.

M23 rebels enter Goma, DR Congo after claiming control

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

M23 rebels say they have taken control of Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, although the government has denied this. Residents shared videos of M23 rebels patrolling Goma's main streets following a lightning advance against the Congolese army on Sunday that saw tens of thousands of people fleeing neighbouring towns.

After hours of gunfire and explosions, the streets of Goma – home to more than a million people – are now quiet, according to local media. It comes hours after DR Congo's foreign minister accused neighbouring Rwanda of declaring war by sending its troops over the border to support the M23.

Rwanda does not deny backing the M23 but accuses the Congolese authorities of supporting militias trying to topple the



government in Kigali.

Kenya has called for a ceasefire and announced that the DR Congo and Rwandan presidents will attend an emergency regional summit in the next two days.

Kenyan President William Ruto, the current chair of the East African Community, said it was incumbent on regional leaders to help facilitate a

peaceful solution to the conflict.

The M23 group has taken control of vast parts of mineral-rich eastern DR Congo since 2021. In the past few weeks, the group has been advancing swiftly toward Goma amid intense fighting. Since the start of 2025, more than 400,000 people have been forced from their

homes in the provinces of North and South Kivu, near the border with Rwanda, according to the UN's refugee agency.

The UN has said that key roads surrounding Goma are blocked, and the city's airport can no longer be used for evacuation and humanitarian efforts.

Lagos Assembly: New speaker moves into Obasa's former office amid tight security

By Dave Oludare Oso

Newly-elected Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mojisola Meranda has moved into office of the speaker at the assembly complex amid fears of a looming showdown with her predecessor, Mudashiru Obasa, who is still laying claim to the seat.

To avert the breakdown of law and order which could arise at the resumption of plenary on Monday, security measures were beefed up at the assembly as she moved to the office.

The ousted Speaker, Obasa, at the weekend, returned to the state two weeks after his removal by 32 of the 39 Assembly. Obasa, who received a "heroic welcome" from supporters at his residence in Ikeja on his return, insisted that he remained the speaker "until the right thing has been done", claiming that



he was illegally removed.

This created an atmosphere of apprehension and fear of a potential showdown should Obasa grace the plenary session on Monday (today), leading to the deployment of heavy security apparatus around the Assembly complex to forestall any eventuality.

Monday's plenary makes it the third session presided over by Meranda since Obasa's removal, with the former speaker absent at the last two

sittings.

Meanwhile, security personnel screened journalists and other individuals at the entrance before being allowed access into the Assembly complex on Monday.

At least three police vehicles are stationed at the assembly's main gate with other security vehicles sighted inside

the complex as the lawmakers prepare to hold a plenary.

A policeman told NEW DAILY PRIME that the heightened security measures were part of the move to prevent a breakdown of law and order at the assembly. Meranda on Monday arrived the assembly complex into hands of lawmakers who showed solidarity and posed for some photographs amid cheering of "Madam Speaker."

Time to end tanker explosions is now, says Shettima

By Friday Omosola

Vice President Kashim Shettima has expressed his condolences to the people and government of Enugu following a tragic fuel tanker fire that claimed lives after an accident in the state.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Stanley Nkwocha, Shettima emphasised that it is time to end avoidable tanker accidents and explosions.

The fuel tanker, which crashed on Saturday, veered off course and erupted in flames along the Ugwu-Onyeama section of the Enugu-Onitsha Expressway.

Offering his condolences to the families of the victims and those injured, the Vice President acknowledged that President Bola Tinubu is deeply concerned and disturbed by the incident, as well as by the rising frequency of tanker explosions in recent times.

“It was with a heart full of sadness that I received news of the fuel tanker explosion that occurred on Saturday, January 25, 2025, in Ugwu Onyeama

local government area of Enugu State. I am deeply saddened that another tanker accident would lead to the loss of lives of Nigerians, leaving others injured in the gory incident.

“His Excellency, President Bola Tinubu is seriously worried by the frequency of these tanker explosion incidents on public roads and residential areas, which are ordinarily avoidable.

“Just as he has directed the relevant agencies in his message of condolence on Sunday, I want to reassure Nigerians that the government will stop at nothing to put an end to tanker accidents on our roads,” he said.

Shettima assured that, following the directive from the President, the government would engage relevant agencies, including the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), to explore ways in which road traffic authorities.

He said federal and state Ministries of Transportation, could collaborate urgently to prevent further tanker



accidents and explosions across the country.

While commiserating with the families of the victims, Shettima expressed, “I extend my profound condolences to the government of Peter Mbah and the people of Enugu State, particularly to the families who have lost their loved ones and those receiving treatment for various degrees of injuries in the hospitals.

“While my thoughts and prayers are with you, I pray that Almighty God grants eternal rest to the souls of the departed and a swift recovery for the injured.”

Police grants Sowore bail; activist rejects ‘unreasonable conditions’

By Dave Oludare Oso

Publisher of Sahara Reporters and human rights advocate, Omoyele Sowore has been granted bail following an engagement with the Force Intelligence Department of the Nigeria Police Force in Abuja on Monday.

Announcing the bail, the former presidential candidate, however, stated he would refuse any bail conditions that he deems compromising to his “innocence, dignity, and integrity.”

NEW DAILY PRIME reports that the activist was summoned to address several allegations, including resisting and obstructing public officers, disobedience to lawful orders, cyberstalking, and acts allegedly intended to prevent arrests.

In a statement on X.com on Monday, the activist, however, alleged that he is being targeted for his public criticism of Inspector-General of Police Kayode

Egbetokun’s tenure extension.

He also alleged that the plan of the police “is to detain me and take me to Lagos for a kangaroo trial.”

Sowore, in a subsequent post, stated that the Deputy Inspector-General of the FID, Dasuki Galandachi, informed him of the bail offer pending the conclusion of an “investigation.”

He wrote, “The DIG of FID, Dasuki Galandachi, at the Nigeria Police Force in Abuja had just informed me that he has instructed his personnel to grant me bail, pending the conclusion of the “investigation.”

“I have also advised the DIG that in accepting “bail”, I will not agree to conditions that compromise my innocence, dignity, and integrity.



“If such unreasonable conditions are imposed, I will choose to remain in detention until I am charged to court, even then I know that there is no crime defined or to be investigated it is just the impunity that has become the hallmark of the PoliceNG hierarchy.”

Makinde reaffirms commitment to advancing technological innovation By Friday Omosola

Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to fostering a conducive environment for technological innovation in Oyo State.

In a statement released yesterday by his Special Adviser on Media, Sulaimon Olanrewaju, Makinde highlighted efforts to position the state as a hub for technology-driven initiatives.

The release followed remarks delivered on his behalf by the Senior Special Assistant on Information Communication Technology, Bayo Akande, at the Robotics and Artificial Intelligence Nigeria (RAIN) Summit 1.0, held in Ibadan.

The summit, themed "The Rain of Transformation Is Upon Us: CEOs Arise," was attended by the Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Bosun Tijani.

Makinde stated, "Our administration remains committed to creating an enabling environment for technology-focused companies like RAIN to thrive. We've established initiatives like the Seyi Makinde Innovation and

Technology Hub (SMITH), which provides training in robotics and artificial intelligence to empower our youths."

He also noted the integration of digital tools in the state's tertiary institutions to enhance information management and foster partnerships with organizations like RAIN to expand access to cutting-edge tech education for Oyo State residents.

Furthermore, Makinde highlighted the state's proactive measures in reducing the cost of doing business, citing the implementation of the NCC-recommended rate of N145 per linear meter for infrastructure development. The summit convener, Olusola Ayoola, emphasised the event's purpose of bringing together innovators, entrepreneurs, and youths to catalyze technological progress.

"Technology is not just a tool; it is the backbone of our progress," Ayoola



said, calling for stronger partnerships among stakeholders to harness technology for national development. He stressed the role of entrepreneurs in driving economic growth and urged young people to leverage their potential to develop transformative solutions.

Ayoola added, "We must collectively turn challenges into opportunities and ensure that technology bridges the gap to opportunities for our youth."

LASU Senate elects new deputy Vice Chancellor By New Daily Prime

The Senate of the Lagos State University, LASU, will today elect a new Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics. The person so elected will replace Prof. Funso Omobitan, whose tenure has expired.

The two contestants for the position are Prof. Oseni Taiwo Afisi of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts; and Prof. Maruf Suraqat Animashaun of the Department of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Arts.

Two were cleared by the Senate of the university to contest the position following the submission of their names by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello.

New Daily Prime will keep you updated on the development.



Obanikoro's son, others for N1.3bn fraud trial Feb 27

By Dave Oludare Oso



The arraignment of Gbolahan Obanikoro, the son of Senator Musiliu Obanikoro, and four others for alleged N1,356,057,330.43 fraud was on Friday fixed for February 27, 2025 by the Federal High Court in Lagos

The police charged Obanikoro, Adejare Adegbenro, 51; Balmoral International Limited; M.O.B. Integrated Limited; and DDSS International Company Limited with five counts bordering on conspiracy, obtaining by false pretenses, false representation, and fraud.

The presiding Justice Ambrose Lewis-Allagoa set the date on Friday after the defendants failed to appear for their scheduled arraignment.

When the case was called, the prosecution counsel, Momoh Bello informed the court that the matter was scheduled for the arraignment of the defendants.

Following the absence of the defendants, Bello then asked the court for a bench warrant against them, saying that they had all been served.

But counsel for the fourth defendant (M.O.B. Integrated Limited), Joshua Abel opposed the bench warrant prayer.

He told the court that the fourth defendant is a company and that the fourth defendant received service late on Wednesday and he was informed of the

case late on Thursday.

Abel also told the court that most of the defendants, who are directors of the firm, were not in the country.

"I have not had the opportunity to go through the case before the directors can be arraigned," he said.

Justice Lewis-Allagoa then asked the prosecutor for the proof of service and date of service.

He said, "I want proof of service and the date of service. The record of this court shows that service was effected on the third and fourth defendants. It's less than 48 hours that they have been served; one of them was served yesterday. The first and second defendants are natural persons and there is no proof of service on them.

"The law says personal service. You can go and regularise service on the defendants. There is no proof that the first and second defendants have been served. However, there is proof that the third and fourth defendants have been served. The prosecution is directed to serve the first and second defendants," the judge ruled and then adjourned till February 27, 2025, for the arraignment of all the defendants.

The Inspector General of Police, through the Special Fraud Unit in Ikoyi, Lagos, accused the defendants and others at large of conspiring

amongst themselves between May and September 2013 to fraudulently obtain the sum of N1,356,057,330.43 from Access Bank Plc (formerly Diamond Bank).

They were accused of allegedly misrepresenting themselves to the bank's staff and officers, claiming they were involved in the business of importing cars from Dubai for sale in Nigeria, and that the money was needed to finance the importation of a set of brand-new cars for resale.

The defendants are also being accused of converting, transferring, retaining, or taking possession of the funds, knowing or having reason to know that such funds were proceeds of unlawful activity.

The police further alleged that they unlawfully converted the sum of N1bn belonging to the bank for personal use.

According to the police, the offences committed contravened Section 8(i)(a) and punishable under Section 1(3), 1(i)(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud-Related Offences Act, No. 14 of 2006, and Section 18(2)(b) and (d) and 18(3) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022.

\$1.82bn foreign tuition fees, indictment of our varsity education – ASUU, CONUA

By New Daily Prime



The Academic Staff Union of Universities, the Congress of University Academics, CONUA, and the National Parent Teacher Association of Nigeria, NAPTAN, have described the over \$1.82 billion spent by Nigerians to pay tuition fees in foreign universities in the first nine months of last year as a national embarrassment and an indictment of the university education system in the country.

They also called for an investigation into the sources of the incomes of those who paid such money.

The leaders of the groups spoke in chats with New Daily Prime through their National Presidents.

They were reacting to the data from the Central Bank of Nigeria that the humongous amount was spent on foreign tuition fees in the first nine months of last year.

The National President of ASUU, Prof. Emmanuel Osodeke, said, "It is a very unfortunate situation. More people are now sending their children abroad. Just last year, I learned that Nigerians spent about £600 million on tuition fees in Britain. We are busy funding other universities while ours are dying.

Don't be surprised that the money being spent is not from private coffers, but from public sources. Most of the people involved are public officers.

Prof. Osodeke, ASUU President (L), Dr

Sunmonu, CONUA President @

"A senator earns over N30 million monthly a Special Adviser earns over N3 million monthly and a professor earns about N400,000 monthly. We are yet to get our priorities right. Nigerians must insist that the children of their leaders must attend schools here, then we may see some positive differences. If Nigerians care to observe, our universities are gradually going the way of our public primary and secondary schools. Abandoned and derelict.

"In 2023, the government said N300 billion was budgeted to revitalize our public universities, but not a single kobo was released. We pursued the release of the money in 2024, but it was not released and what we heard at the end of the day is that the money has been mopped up.

In his part, the National President of CONUA, Dr Niyi Sunmonu, noted, "It is a sad commentary and an indication of total indictment of our university education system. If the foreign exchange was floated leading to a high devaluation of the naira and we see this much being spent on foreign education. It is a lack of confidence on our system.

"Let government stem the tide, the kind of money being spent on foreign

education is too huge. If half of that is spent on the schools here, things would be better. If the trend continues, the university education system would collapse. It is lack of trust in the system. When every parent is now desperate to get their wards and children out of Nigeria, who would then build this place for us?"

The National President of NAPTAN, Haruna Danjuma, was of the view that such parents must be investigated.

"It is a minus to us and the education system to have had Nigerian parents spending so much on tuition fees for their children studying abroad. Are we doing justice to our country and fair to the system? It is an indictment. It is good for the government to think of the way out of the menace. Government should find means to upgrade facilities in our institutions. Nigerian leaders should also let their children attend schools here.

"People should only go abroad for courses that are not available here or else Nigerians would go abroad to study Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba Languages. Those spending such huge sum on foreign education should be investigated. Their sources of income should be known."

Leadership Crisis: Ex-Lagos speaker resumes session today

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



The Lagos State House of Assembly finds itself at the centre of a potential leadership crisis as two lawmakers lay claim to the Speaker's position. Security around the Assembly Complex is likely to be tightened today amid speculation of a showdown. This follows former Speaker Mudashiru Obasa's declaration on Saturday that he remains the rightful Speaker, despite being removed on January 13, 2025, over allegations of misconduct and financial misappropriation.

Obasa, who was replaced by Deputy Speaker Mojisola Meranda, has been absent from the last two plenary sessions presided over by Meranda. Speaking to supporters in Lagos, Obasa denied all allegations of financial misconduct, calling them baseless. He insisted that due legislative procedure was not followed in his removal, stating, "I believe strongly I am still the Speaker until

the right thing has been done."

Security measures, including ID verification at the Assembly Complex, have been enforced to maintain order. The Lagos State Police Command assured the public of calm, with Commissioner Ishola Olawale pledging to prevent disruptions outside the Assembly.

The Commissioner also dismissed allegations by Obasa that over 200 policemen invaded his residence on the day of his removal, calling the claims exaggerated. "Investigations can easily verify these allegations," Olawale said.

Meanwhile, efforts are reportedly underway to reconcile Obasa with his colleagues and the Lagos State Governor's Advisory Council (GAC). Reports indicate that Obasa, along with loyalists from the GAC members, is lobbying

for a meeting with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Wednesday. The same source also indicated that Obasa has been advised not to return to the Assembly until after the meeting with President Tinubu and the GAC to resolve the crisis.

A source familiar with the developments stated that the former Speaker has no plans to challenge the impeachment in court, adding that the focus is on finding a political solution to the matter.

As the political standoff continues, observers await the outcome of these reconciliation efforts, which could shape the future leadership of the Lagos State House of Assembly.

National progress hinges on unity, Tinubu to political leaders

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has reiterated the need for unity as a cornerstone of Nigeria's national progress, urging leaders to prioritise collaboration and dialogue in addressing the country's challenges.

Speaking through Vice President Kashim Shettima on Monday at the Kogi Dialogue, an event marking Governor Usman Ododo's first year in office, the President likened the natural confluence of Rivers Niger and Benue in Lokoja to the strength derived from unity.

"The confluence of these rivers is not just a geographical event; it is a divine lesson in strength and continuity," Tinubu stated.

"Just as water merging with water becomes stronger, so must we as leaders and citizens merge our efforts to build a united and prosperous Nigeria."

The President commended Governor Ododo for initiating the Kogi Dialogue, describing it as a visionary step towards fostering reconciliation and progress.

He urged leaders at all levels to build bridges, prioritise dialogue, and reject

division, emphasising that unity is the only path to achieving national development.

"Dialogue is not just an opportunity to air grievances; it is the true path to justice, reconciliation, and understanding. Without dialogue, history will pass us by, leaving us abandoned by time and forgotten by progress," he said.

Acknowledging the economic and security challenges facing the nation, President Tinubu highlighted the need for selfless leadership during turbulent times.

He called on Nigerians to see themselves as integral threads in the fabric of national progress, urging leaders to rise above personal ambitions and prioritize the welfare of the people.

In his remarks, Governor Ododo appreciated President Tinubu and the people of Kogi State for their support over the past year.

He highlighted the state's rich natural resources and cultural diversity,

calling for their effective management to drive prosperity and transformation.

The governor also outlined key achievements of his administration, including improvements in healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

The event also featured remarks from prominent figures, including APC National Chairman, Abdullahi Ganduje, who praised the cordial relationship between Governor Ododo and his predecessor, Yahaya Bello, as a model for other states.

The high point of the Vice President's visit was the commissioning of road projects completed by the Ododo administration.

The event was attended by top political and community leaders, including former Kogi State governors, senators, and APC officials.

Nurse secures legal right to refer Transgender Doctor a male in tribunal case

By Agency Reporter

In a landmark legal ruling, a tribunal has determined that a nurse, Sandie Peggie, is not obligated to use female pronouns for a transgender doctor, Beth Upton, in the context of an ongoing legal dispute. The case centers on Ms. Peggie's claim that she was forced to change in front of Dr. Upton, whom she considers to be male, in the female changing rooms of Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy.

Key Tribunal Decision
Employment Judge Sandy Kemp rejected an application by NHS Fife that sought to compel Ms. Peggie and her legal team to use female pronouns or terms for Dr. Upton. The judge ruled that enforcing such terms would be unfair, as Ms. Peggie and her representatives view these terms as inaccurate.

Despite NHS Fife's assertion that "misgendering" Dr. Upton would constitute unlawful harassment, the tribunal ruled that using male pronouns does not amount to harassment in itself. Judge Kemp emphasized that such language would only cross the line into harassment if it were used gratuitously, offensively, and repeatedly.

The judge also directed that the tribunal refer to Dr. Upton using "neutral" terms as standard practice, to avoid any perception of bias. However, this direction is not binding, and pronouns may be used when deemed appropriate.

Wider Implications

The case has drawn significant attention due to its implications for transgender access to female single-sex spaces in



the workplace. Ms. Peggie has filed legal action against both NHS Fife and Dr. Upton personally, alleging that Dr. Upton's presence in the female changing rooms on three occasions violated her rights.

Sex Matters, a campaign group supporting Ms. Peggie, criticized NHS Fife for its efforts to suppress public scrutiny of the case. Fiona McAnena, the group's director of campaigns, said, "NHS Fife has tried hard to keep the case out of the news. They also tried to prevent Sandie from giving her evidence clearly and truthfully."

Criticism of NHS Fife's Approach
NHS Fife faced backlash for attempting to hold the proceedings in secret and for seeking to limit Ms. Peggie's ability to present her case. Joanna Cherry, a lawyer and former SNP MP, called the health board's actions "a shocking waste of public money," emphasizing that "we don't

have compelled speech in Scotland."

The tribunal also rejected NHS Fife's request to ban Tribunal Tweets, a social media platform that provides live updates on gender-related cases. NHS Fife had raised concerns about the platform, claiming it could lead to partisan and offensive commentary on other sites like Mumsnet. Judge Kemp ruled that Tribunal Tweets could continue reporting updates, provided they are "fair and accurate."

Broader Debate on Misgendering

Judge Kemp acknowledged that "misgendering" could cause "pain and distress" to Dr. Upton, but ruled that such language does not inherently amount to unlawful harassment in an employment tribunal setting. He suggested, however, that Ms. Peggie and her team reflect on whether using male pronouns for Dr. Upton is "necessary or appropriate."

This ruling sets a significant precedent for how gender-related disputes are handled in employment tribunals and how speech and pronouns are regulated in legal proceedings. The hearings are ongoing, and the outcome of the case may have far-reaching implications for policies governing transgender rights and single-sex spaces in the workplace.

United Airlines faces scrutiny after second incident on Lagos-D.C route

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



A United Airlines flight from Lagos, Nigeria, to Washington, D.C., was forced to make an emergency return after experiencing an unexpected aircraft movement midair. The incident, involving a Boeing 787-8, left 38 people injured, with six requiring hospitalization.

The flight, United Airlines Flight 613, departed from Murtala Muhammed International Airport at 11:59 p.m. local time Thursday but returned to Lagos at 3:22 a.m. Friday following the emergency, according to the Federal

Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).

Video footage from the cabin verified by NBC News shows significant disarray, with meal trays and food scattered across the floor and some parts of the aircraft's ceiling appearing damaged.

United Airlines confirmed in a statement on Saturday that the flight carried 245 passengers, eight crew members, and three pilots. The airline attributed the emergency to a "technical issue and an unexpected

aircraft movement."

Injuries and Response

The six hospitalized individuals included four passengers and two flight attendants, all of whom sustained what United described as "minor injuries." However, Nigerian authorities categorized the injuries as "serious" and stated that the affected individuals were stabilized at local medical facilities before being transferred to Duchess Hospital in Ikeja for further treatment.

An additional 27 passengers and five crew members suffered minor injuries and were treated with first aid at the scene before being released.

FAAN officials reported that their medical team, led by senior staff, maintained communication with the flight crew prior to the aircraft's landing. Firefighters and medical personnel were on standby when the flight returned to Lagos.

Flight History and Investigation

The flight spent 3 hours and 36 minutes in the air before returning to Lagos. This marks the second reported incident involving the same aircraft on the same route within three days, raising concerns about recurring issues.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) deferred inquiries to the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) and United Airlines. Both Nigerian and U.S. aviation authorities, along with United Airlines, are investigating the cause of the incident.

Despite the midair emergency, FAAN stated that the aircraft did not sustain significant damage. United Airlines reaffirmed its commitment to cooperating with authorities to determine what led to the technical issues.

The incident highlights the importance of safety and preparedness in aviation, as FAAN's swift response ensured the safety of passengers and crew during the emergency landing.



U.S. women surpass men in college completion across all racial and ethnic groups

By Agency Reporter



According to the Pew Research Center, women aged 25 to 34 are more likely than men in the same age group to hold a bachelor's degree. This gender gap in degree completion is evident across all major racial and ethnic groups, though the extent of the gap varies significantly.

A line chart showing that U.S. women have outpaced men in bachelor's degree completion for decades.

In 1995, young men and women were equally likely to hold a bachelor's degree (25% each). Since then, there has been a growing gap between men and women in college completion.

Today, 47% of U.S. women ages 25 to 34 have a bachelor's degree, compared with 37% of men.

The share of young women with a bachelor's degree has increased by 22 percentage points since 1995, from 25% to 47%. Over the same period, men have seen a smaller increase (12 points, from 25% to 37%).

How we did this

A 2021 Pew Research Center survey asked Americans without a bachelor's degree why they chose not to seek one – and found some gender differences in the responses. For example, men without a bachelor's degree were more likely than women to say they just didn't want to get one. In turn, women without a bachelor's degree were more likely than men to say they couldn't afford a four-year degree.

Gender gaps in college completion by race and ethnicity

White, Black, Hispanic and Asian women between the ages of 25 and 34 are all more likely than their male counterparts to have a bachelor's degree. But some groups have made more gains over time than others.

Line charts showing that the gender gap in college completion varies by race and ethnicity in the U.S.

White, Black and Hispanic women have outpaced men in college completion in recent decades. For example, in 1995, young White

women and men were equally likely to have a bachelor's degree (29% each). The gap has increased to 10 points today (52% of White women vs. 42% of White men).

Similarly, in 1995, young Black women and men were about equally likely to have a bachelor's degree (14% vs. 16%). Today, Black women are 12 points more likely than Black men to have one (38% of Black women vs. 26% of Black men).

There is also a growing gender gap between Hispanic men and women in college completion. In 1995, similar shares of Hispanic women and men had a bachelor's degree (10% vs. 9%), but today the gap between groups is 9 points (31% vs. 22%).

The pattern is different for Asian adults, with women and men making comparable gains over the last few decades. In 1995, 42% of young Asian women and men had a bachelor's degree. Today, 77% of young Asian women have one, as do 71% of young Asian men.

20 most stylish Nollywood actors

By **Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi**

Nollywood actors shine not only for their acting talent but also for their unique sense of style, enhancing their influence in the entertainment industry.

They have become trendsetters, making bold fashion choices that influence the industry and inspire fans worldwide.

From dazzling red carpet looks to carefully curated social media posts, these stars consistently raise the bar for fashion. Their outfits are more than clothes; they're statements that merge creativity with individuality. Whether it's a sleek suit, a glamorous gown, or a casual streetwear ensemble, these actors command attention with their wardrobe choices.

What sets Nollywood actors apart is their ability to blend tradition with modern trends. They skillfully incorporate elements of traditional Nigerian attire into contemporary fashion, creating looks that celebrate culture while staying ahead of global trends.

These style icons are more than just actors; they are fashion ambassadors, pushing boundaries and setting new standards for style both on and off the screen. With every public appearance, they continue to redefine what it means to be fashionable in Nollywood.

Here's a closer look at some of the most stylish Nollywood stars whose fashion sense matches their top-notch acting performances. Their influence is undeniable, making them leaders in both the entertainment and fashion industries.

Richard Mofe-Damijo (RMD)

Leading the list is Richard Mofe-Damijo, widely celebrated as RMD. Renowned for his iconic roles and ageless charm, RMD embodies a perfect blend of sophistication and style.

His fashion choices consistently reflect his refined taste and commanding presence. Whether he's donning a sleek tailored suit or embracing cultural heritage in traditional attire, RMD effortlessly exudes confidence and elegance.

Beyond his on-screen talent, his impeccable style has made him a source of inspiration for many, earning him a reputation as a true fashion icon. His ability to merge timeless pieces with modern trends showcases his versatility and keeps him at the forefront of Nollywood's style scene.

RMD's influence goes beyond just acting, as his charisma and fashion choices continue to inspire fans and fashion enthusiasts alike. He remains a shining example of how to pair charm with sophistication, both on and off the screen.

Ramsey Noah

Ramsey Nouah's style exudes charm and sophistication, mirroring the allure he brings to his acting roles.

Renowned for his performances in romantic films, he effortlessly translates that same elegance into his fashion choices. His wardrobe often features impeccably tailored suits that radiate confidence, paired with casual wear that is both stylish and relaxed.

Nouah's approach to fashion is a blend of simplicity and refinement, showcasing a keen eye for detail and an appreciation for timeless designs. Whether gracing red carpets or appearing in casual settings, his outfits consistently reflect his polished demeanor and effortless charisma.

This seamless blend of style and substance has not only made him a celebrated actor but also a fashion icon admired by enthusiasts across the board. Nouah's ability to embody sophistication in both his craft and his wardrobe ensures his place as a trendsetter in the entertainment industry.

Jim Iyke

Jim Iyke's bold and adventurous fashion sense cements his status as a style icon in Nollywood. Renowned for his ability to seamlessly blend casual wear with luxurious, avant-garde pieces, he consistently stands out as a trendsetter.

His fearless approach to fashion

mirrors his dynamic and charismatic personality, making him a standout figure in the industry. Whether rocking edgy streetwear or high-end designer ensembles, Jim's wardrobe choices reflect his individuality and love for pushing boundaries.

This unique blend of confidence and creativity has earned him a well-deserved place in style conversations and solidified his reputation as a fashion trailblazer.

Ikechukwu Ogbonna

Ik Ogbonna's style is a perfect blend of bold statements and sleek sophistication. Known for playing charming leading roles, his off-screen fashion is just as captivating and refined.

A trendsetter with a modern edge, Ik masterfully balances contemporary fashion with elements of traditional Nigerian attire, reflecting his cultural heritage with pride. His wardrobe often features sharp silhouettes and vibrant accents, making his looks both striking and memorable.

Ik's ability to effortlessly combine trendsetting designs with cultural elegance has earned him recognition as a true fashion icon, consistently turning heads and inspiring style enthusiasts across the board.

Alexx Ekubo

Alexx Ekubo embodies the essence of a modern Nollywood gentleman, exuding sophistication and charm through his impeccable style. Whether gracing a red-carpet event or stepping out for a casual outing, his fashion choices are always polished and on point.

What sets Alexx apart is his remarkable attention to detail and versatility. He effortlessly transitions between traditional Nigerian attire and sleek Western outfits, showcasing a unique blend of cultural pride and contemporary flair.

With his sharp, refined aesthetic and ability to make every look memorable, Alexx has firmly established himself as a standout figure in the world of fashion.

Ebuka Obi-Uchendu

Though not an actor by profession, Ebuka Obi-Uchendu has earned a place among Nollywood's fashion elite through his dynamic hosting roles and presence in entertainment circles.

Renowned for his groundbreaking traditional attire, particularly his iconic Agbada ensembles, Ebuka's style is a masterclass in innovation and cultural pride. His ability to elevate traditional Nigerian fashion with modern twists has made him a trendsetter and a source of inspiration.

Effortlessly blending sophistication with creativity, Ebuka's influence extends beyond the red carpet, solidifying his reputation as one of the most stylish and influential figures in the entertainment industry.

Bolanle Ninalowo

Bolanle Ninalowo, fondly known as Nino, effortlessly combines rugged charm with refined elegance in his fashion choices.

His striking physique gives him the versatility to embrace a wide array of styles, from edgy streetwear to impeccably tailored suits. This adaptability has solidified his reputation as one of Nollywood's most dynamic fashion icons.

Whether he's sporting laid-back casuals or exuding sophistication in formal wear, Nino's style reflects his confidence and charisma.

His ability to seamlessly navigate diverse looks makes him a standout figure, continually inspiring fans and setting trends in the world of Nollywood fashion.

Timini Egbuson

Timini Egbuson perfectly embodies the vibrant and youthful energy of Nollywood's younger generation.

His fashion choices are bold, trendy, and effortlessly reflect the latest global style movements, showcasing his flair for staying ahead of the curve. Timini's ability to balance daring looks with everyday appeal makes his style both relatable and aspirational to his large fanbase of young admirers.

Whether he's rocking casual streetwear or making a statement on the red carpet, Timini's fresh approach to fashion consistently turns heads. His dynamic sense of style cements his position as a fashion-forward icon for Nollywood's emerging generation.

Odunlade Adekola

Odunlade Adekola, a beloved actor celebrated for his comedic talent and magnetic presence, brings a unique charm to his style.

He seamlessly blends traditional Yoruba attire with casual modern fashion, creating a wardrobe that honors his cultural heritage while embracing contemporary trends. This fusion of styles mirrors his versatile acting range, effortlessly shifting between traditional and modern roles.

Whether dressed in elegant native wear or relaxed everyday outfits, Odunlade's fashion choices exude confidence and authenticity.

His ability to represent both culture and modernity makes him not only a Nollywood favorite but also a style icon admired by fans across generations.

Stan Nze

Stan Nze is rapidly establishing himself as a style icon in Nollywood, celebrated for his seamless blend of contemporary fashion with traditional influences.

His ability to experiment with various looks—from modern streetwear to sophisticated traditional ensembles—shows his versatility and eye for detail. Whether on the red carpet or in everyday settings, Stan maintains an effortless sophistication that sets him apart.

His distinctive fashion sense, characterized by a balance of bold choices and refined elegance, has earned him recognition as one of the most stylish and influential actors in the Nollywood industry today.

Lateef Adedimeji

Lateef Adedimeji's style is a true reflection of his artistic flair, seamlessly blending bold patterns,

sharp tailoring, and traditional attire. His fashion choices are both innovative and daring, showcasing his unique ability to experiment with different styles while maintaining a sophisticated edge.

Known for making bold sartorial statements, Lateef consistently brings a fresh and dynamic approach to fashion, pushing boundaries and inspiring others.

Whether embracing contemporary trends or honouring his cultural heritage, his wardrobe choices are a perfect mix of creativity and elegance, solidifying his place as one of Nollywood's most stylish and influential actors.

Tobi Bakare

Tobi Bakare adds a fresh, contemporary vibe to Nollywood's fashion scene with his bold and dynamic style.

Known for effortlessly blending casual and formal wear, Tobi has a unique ability to balance sophistication with relaxed flair. His adventurous use of colors, patterns, and textures sets him apart as a fashion-forward actor.

Whether he's sporting sharp suits or casual streetwear, Tobi's wardrobe choices are always eye-catching and reflective of his individual style.

His fearless approach to fashion and knack for experimentation make him one of Nollywood's most stylish and influential figures, inspiring fans and industry peers alike.

Frederick Leonard

Frederick Leonard is renowned for his impeccable and refined style, effortlessly blending timeless elegance with a modern edge. His wardrobe choices favor classic pieces, but he masterfully adds contemporary twists, creating a look that is both sophisticated and current.

Whether dressed in sharp suits or tailored casual wear, Frederick's style exudes a quiet confidence and attention to detail that elevates every outfit.

Speed Darlington narrowly escapes assassination after prison release

By **Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi**

Nigerian rapper Speed Darlington narrowly escaped death in a terrifying incident that is believed to have been an assassination attempt on his life.

The shocking incident took place just days after his release from a long stint in Kuje prison.

Details of the attack

The rapper, who has been in the headlines for both his music and controversial statements, shared details of the attack in a viral video on social media.

In the footage, Darlington explained that his car was sprayed with bullets by unknown assailants, leaving visible damage.

The scene he described sounded chilling. His vehicle had multiple bullet holes, especially on the rear, an image he posted on his Instagram Monday morning.

A close call in Lagos

According to Darlington, the attack occurred in the early hours of Monday, as he was leaving a nightclub in Victoria Island, Lagos.

He recounted the frightening moments, with a clear tone of disbelief and fear. "Long face sent killers my way," he said, alluding to a person he believes is responsible for sending the shooters. "I haven't posted anything. Bro, is this necessary? You tried to take my life. Really?" he questioned, his voice trembling with concern.

The timing raises questions

The rapper, visibly shaken but unharmed, questioned the motives behind the attack. He had just regained his freedom after being held for an extended period in Kuje prison, adding a layer of complexity to the incident.

The timing of the attack raised more questions, as it came so soon after his release. Could there be a connection between his time in prison and this near-death experience?



Public reaction to the incident

Darlington's statement on social media painted a picture of a man who had narrowly escaped a life-threatening situation.

His words resonated with fans and followers, who expressed concern for his safety. The video quickly went viral, sparking a flood of reactions from the public.

Many fans expressed relief that he had survived the attack but also voiced outrage over the violence that continues to plague many Nigerian artists.

Cryptic comments and unclear motives

The rapper's reference to the person with the "long face" seemed to hint at a deeper conflict, one that could be rooted in personal or professional disputes.

However, Darlington did not provide any further specifics about the individual or the reasons behind the attempt on his life. His cryptic comments only fueled speculation among followers, who were eager for answers.

Law enforcement yet to comment

As of now, there have been no official statements from law enforcement

regarding the attack. Darlington's claims about the "killers" and the person behind the plot have not been verified.

Still, the incident highlights the ongoing dangers faced by many celebrities in Nigeria, who often find themselves caught in violent struggles, whether personal or business-related.

A call for better security

Darlington's close call has also raised important questions about security in the entertainment industry.

Many celebrities are now calling for improved protection, as such incidents are not isolated. Nigerian artists, particularly those in the rap and hip-hop scenes, are often exposed to threats from unknown adversaries.

A harrowing reminder of the dangers faced by celebrities

While the rapper has survived this harrowing experience, the situation is far from resolved. It serves as a reminder of the harsh realities faced by public figures in Nigeria.

Speed Darlington's life has been spared, but the question remains: who is behind the attack, and why?

Annie Idibia reportedly admitted to rehab after split from 2Face

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Actress Annie Idibia has been reportedly admitted to a rehabilitation centre following the public announcement of her separation from her husband, legendary musician 2Baba.

This update was shared by controversial journalist, Stella Dimoko Korkus, who revealed that Annie is currently in a “very bad state.”

According to the journalist, the actress is being cared for by her close friends and co-stars, singer Tiwa Savage and media personality Toke Makinwa.

Dimoko-Korkus wrote in the post: Actress Annie Idibia is in a very bad state and allegedly currently in rehab. Insiders reveal that it is very very bad, and the two people

allegedly currently taking care of her are Singer Tiwa Savage and Media Girl Toke Makinwa... May God heal her.

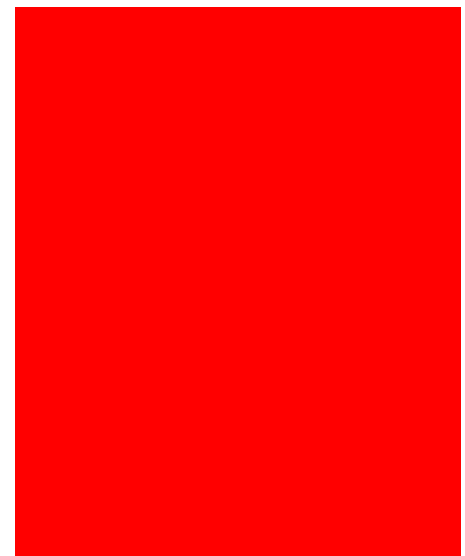
The news comes shortly after 2Baba publicly confirmed their separation, with the finalization of their divorce reportedly underway.

The announcement sent shock waves across social media, as the couple, who have faced public scrutiny in the past, had been regarded as one of the most iconic celebrity unions in Nigeria.

Fans and well-wishers have since taken to social media to express their concern for Annie, wishing her strength and recovery during this challenging

time. Neither Annie Idibia nor her representatives have made an official statement about the reports.

This development marks another chapter in the turbulent relationship between the actress and the star musician, whose marriage has often been plagued by public controversies.



Muyiwa Ademola announces remake of 'Ori: The Rebirth'

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Actor and producer Muyiwa Ademola has revealed plans to remake his groundbreaking 2004 film, Ori, as part of his birthday celebration.

The announcement has sparked widespread excitement among fans and movie enthusiasts alike.

A sneak peek of the upcoming film Ademola shared the news via an Instagram post, where he included a sneak peek of the upcoming film.

The post featured a captivating compilation of clips that gave fans a glimpse of what to expect from the remake, titled Ori: The Rebirth. The film, which originally earned a beloved spot in Nigerian cinema, will be released in theatres on May 1, 2025.

Reflecting on the legacy of Ori In his heartfelt message, Ademola expressed his deep appreciation for the lasting impact Ori has had over the years. "Happy Birthday to me," he began, setting the tone for the celebratory post. He reminisced about the cultural significance of the original film, which has continued to resonate with audiences for over two decades.

"Ori has grown beyond just a film; it's become a phenomenon," Ademola wrote. He continued, noting that even after 22 years, the film still holds a special place in the hearts of many. "Every day, someone approaches me asking if I'll ever remake the film. And now, it's happening."

The enduring appeal of Ori's story The actor's words reflect the lasting connection Ori has had with its audience since its initial release. The film's themes of fate, destiny, and personal growth have not only made it a favorite but have helped it remain relevant in the cultural landscape. A personal request from Ademola to his fans Ademola also shared his excitement about the new project, emphasizing that the remake, Ori: The Rebirth, is ready to



make its mark in theatres.

"The world must see Ori: The Rebirth," he urged his fans. With a sense of gratitude and anticipation, he invited his followers to join him on this new journey, making the request a personal one. "Please, journey with me again, guys. This is all I request from you for my birthday," he added, underlining the significance of the moment.

Building anticipation for the May 2025 release

Fans of the original film have eagerly awaited the chance to revisit the story, and now, with the remake set to debut in May 2025, the excitement is palpable.

The upcoming release is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the iconic tale, with updated visuals and modern storytelling techniques. However, it will still stay true to the essence that made Ori a hit two decades ago.

Industry support and fans' enthusiasm The announcement has been met with a wave of support from fans and industry professionals, many of whom have praised Ademola for his dedication to his craft and his ability to create timeless works.

The actor's decision to revisit Ori in the form of a remake is not only a gift to his fans but also a testament to the film's enduring relevance.

The countdown to Ori: The Rebirth begins

As Ori: The Rebirth prepares for its May 2025 release, anticipation continues to build. The upcoming film is set to capture the magic of the original while introducing a new generation of moviegoers to its captivating narrative.

A legacy continues

For now, all eyes will remain on Ademola as he leads this new chapter in the Ori saga. The actor's birthday message has left fans eagerly counting down the days until the film's premiere.

As the excitement grows, one thing is clear: Ori will continue to shine as one of the most iconic films in Nigerian cinema, with Ori: The Rebirth poised to cement its place in history.

Ademola's journey with Ori has come full circle, and as he celebrates his birthday, he also celebrates a legacy that has touched countless lives.

With the release of Ori: The Rebirth, fans old and new will have the chance to experience the magic once again.

It's because of Davido – Cubana Chief Priest' gives reason for feud with Burna Boy

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Pascal Okechukwu, aka Cubana Chief Priest, has opened up about his ongoing feud with Nigerian Afropop star Burna Boy "Damini Ogulu."

Speaking on Channels Television's *Rubbin Minds* on Sunday, the socialite attributed their clash to jealousy over his close relationship with award-winning singer David Adeleke, popularly called Davido.

The dispute between Chief Priest and Burna Boy has escalated over the past weeks, fueled by heated exchanges on social media. A significant turning point in the feud occurred recently when Burna Boy allegedly influenced the arrest of fellow artist Speed Darlington.

Burna Boy wanted to work together. According to Chief Priest, Burna Boy's resentment stems from his desire to collaborate. "My whole issue with Burna Boy started because he was jealous of my relationship with Davido," Chief Priest revealed during the interview. "He wanted Cubana Chief Priest by his side, but I chose to work with Davido instead."

He emphasized that his bond with Davido has never involved conversations about Burna Boy. "Me and Davido have never discussed anything about Burna Boy," he explained. "Davido isn't the kind of person who would use his time to discuss his colleagues. It's always them imagining things and trying to drag us."

Social media drama intensifies

The rivalry took a more personal turn when Speed Darlington, another controversial figure in the Nigerian music scene, was reportedly arrested. Darlington's arrest followed his claim that Burna Boy engaged in questionable behaviour with American music executive Diddy to secure a Grammy award.

While the details of Darlington's allegations remain unclear, the incident added fuel to the already simmering tension between Burna Boy and Chief Priest.



Chief Priest stands by Davido

Throughout the controversy, Chief Priest has remained steadfast in his support for Davido, describing him as a loyal friend and professional artist. "Davido is one of the most genuine people I've ever worked with," he said. "He doesn't spend his time thinking about his colleagues or trying to compete with anyone. That's why I chose to align with him."

Chief Priest further noted that his choice to work with Davido was based on shared values and mutual respect, not on rivalry with Burna Boy.

Public reactions and industry implications

The ongoing feud has drawn significant attention from fans and industry insiders alike. Many have taken to social media to weigh in on the drama, with opinions divided over who is at fault. While some fans criticize Burna Boy for allegedly stirring up unnecessary drama, others question Chief Priest's decision to air their grievances publicly.

Observers note that such high-profile disputes often create divisions among fans and stakeholders in the entertainment industry. However, Chief Priest remains unapologetic about his stance, asserting that he

values loyalty and professionalism over popularity contests.

Jealousy and competition in Nigerian entertainment

The feud highlights a recurring theme in Nigeria's entertainment scene—rivalries fueled by competition and personal differences. In an industry where collaborations often pave the way for success, disputes like this can overshadow the achievements of those involved.

Chief Priest's comments suggest that jealousy and miscommunication play significant roles in such conflicts. "It's sad that some people let jealousy get in the way of building relationships," he said.

Moving forward

Despite the drama, Chief Priest expressed hope for a resolution. "I'm not the kind of person who holds grudges," he said. "I just want to focus on my work and the people who support me. Life is too short for unnecessary fights."

The unfolding drama between Chief Priest and Burna Boy serves as a reminder of the challenges that come with fame and the importance of maintaining professionalism in the spotlight. For now, fans can only watch and wait to see if these two

I won't apologise for remarks on Islamic clerics – K1 De Ultimate

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Fuji icon K1 De Ultimate has declined to apologize for his controversial statement about Islamic clerics, also known as Alfas.

The remark, which he made during the Fidau prayer for his late mother, quickly stirred up criticism across various communities.

Many people interpreted his words as suggesting that some religious leaders attend such events primarily for financial gain, sparking an outcry.

Sheikh Faruq Onikijipa addresses the controversy

The Fidau prayer, an important Islamic ceremony held to honour the deceased, saw Sheikh Faruq Onikijipa deliver a sermon during the service.

In his speech, Sheikh Onikijipa took the opportunity to address K1's comments directly. The respected cleric called for K1 to apologize to the Alfas, emphasizing the need for reconciliation and respect within the community.

According to the Sheikh, such remarks could damage the relationship between religious figures and the public, particularly when it comes to trust and mutual respect.

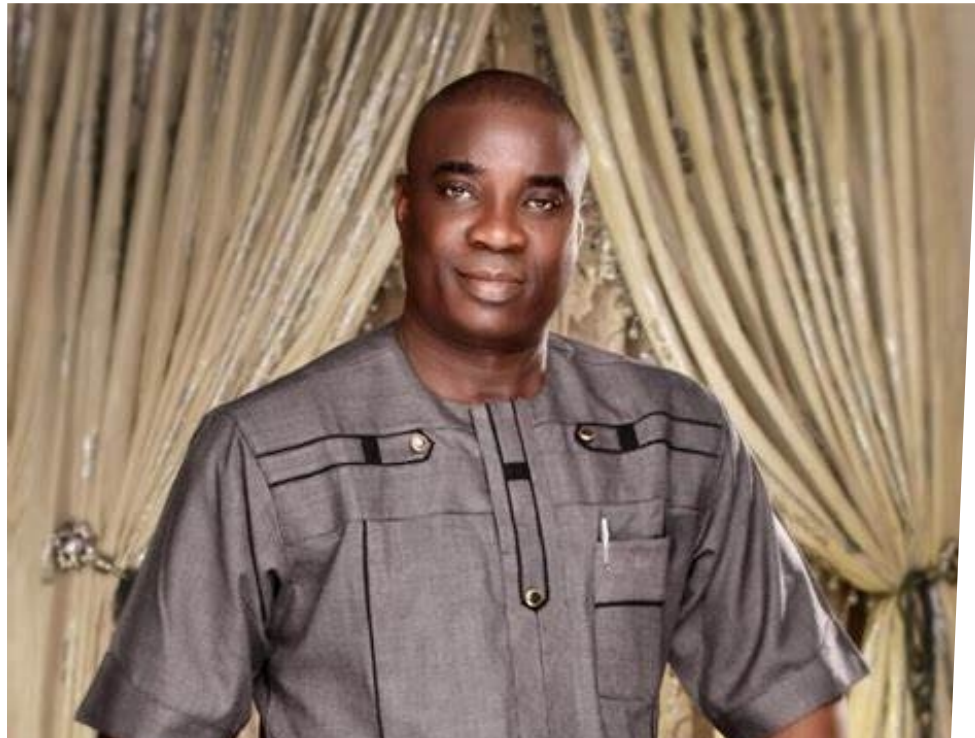
K1 Stands firm: No apology needed

However, despite the backlash, K1 De Ultimate has remained defiant. The musician, known for his powerful influence in the Fuji music genre, told reporters that he would not apologize, asserting that he had done nothing wrong. He dismissed the call for an apology, arguing that admitting guilt would be an acknowledgement of something he did not commit. According to K1, offering an apology would be tantamount to accepting false accusations.

"To apologize would mean admitting guilt," K1 said in a firm statement. "I am not guilty. I did nothing wrong. If I apologize, I am implying that the accusations made against me are true, but that is not the case. I will not accept something that isn't true."

The controversial remarks: A generalization of religious leaders?

The incident began to unravel during the Fidau prayer when K1, in a moment of reflection, made a comment that some found troubling.



While addressing the gathering, he spoke about the role of Alfas in religious events, suggesting that some may be motivated by financial benefits rather than spiritual duty.

The remark quickly drew sharp responses from many in the Muslim community, who felt that such a generalization was disrespectful to religious leaders who dedicate their lives to serving others.

Public outrage and debate

Social media platforms erupted with discussions over the issue. Many expressed their displeasure, accusing K1 of disrespecting the clergy.

Some went as far as questioning his credibility as a public figure, citing that someone in his position should be more mindful of the impact of their words.

K1's refusal to apologize, however, has only fueled further debate. Supporters of the musician argue that his comments may have been taken out of context or misinterpreted.

They contend that K1's statement might have been a general observation rather than an attack on the entire group of clerics.

These individuals argue that K1 should not be forced to apologize for

expressing his thoughts, especially if they were not intended to be malicious.

Criticism and accountability: The role of public figures

On the other hand, critics of the musician maintain that public figures, particularly those in the entertainment industry, have a responsibility to be careful with their words.

They believe that K1's comments were not only inappropriate but also hurtful to the Islamic community, which holds its religious leaders in high regard.

As the situation continues to unfold, it has sparked broader discussions about the role of public figures in shaping opinions and the impact their words can have on society.

It has also raised important questions about accountability and the need for sensitivity when addressing religious matters.

A line in the sand: K1's defiant stance
K1 De Ultimate's stance on the matter has drawn a clear line in the sand. Whether he will eventually reconsider his position remains to be seen.

Nollywood can't fix society — Charles Inojie

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Famous Nigerian actor Charles Inojie has defended the nation's film industry, Nollywood, against criticism that it promotes societal ills.

In an interview, he argued that the industry does not create these problems but instead reflects and exposes them. He urged parents to take a more active role in shaping the values of younger generations.

Inojie stressed the importance of family in building a better society. He highlighted that many societal problems, such as ritual killings, internet fraud, and organ harvesting, are already present in the community.

According to him, Nollywood merely portrays these realities to bring them to public attention. "The ills we see in movies are not products of Nollywood's imagination. They are a reflection of the society we live in," he said.

Critics vs. reality

The actor acknowledged that some people criticize Nollywood films for their themes, especially those involving rituals and crimes.

However, he questioned the fairness of such criticism. "Can we, in good faith, say that all Nollywood movies revolve around ritual themes?" he asked. He argued that these themes, though disturbing, highlight existing societal issues rather than glorifying them.

He pointed out that ritual killings, spiritual fortification, and other forms of exploitation are not fictional concepts created by filmmakers.

Instead, they are real problems rooted in society. Inojie emphasized that exposing these issues in movies is a form of education, not promotion. "We should applaud those movies for their expository qualities instead of condemning them," he stated.

Examples of societal hypocrisy

To strengthen his point, Inojie cited real-life examples of troubling behaviours. He mentioned instances of pastors engaging in dark practices for power and influential individuals performing bizarre rituals for wealth or status.



He questioned why these actions, when portrayed in films, draw so much public outrage.

"Have you not heard of pastors burying human bodies under their pulpits for spiritual powers? Or influential men hiding under the cover of night to sleep with mad women for ritual purposes?" he asked. For Inojie, the criticism Nollywood faces is misplaced. Instead of blaming filmmakers, he believes society should confront the root causes of these problems.

The role of parenting

Inojie emphasized that parents must play a more active role in teaching their children about morality, integrity, and the effects of poor choices.

He criticized a growing culture where parents turn a blind eye to questionable behaviours. "We have seen parents giving their underaged, unemployed children grand receptions for returning home with cars without asking how they got them," he said.

He stressed that values like hard work and honesty must be taught at home. According to him, Nollywood cannot bear the responsibility for instilling these principles in children. "We should return to instilling family values and start reorienting the younger generation to understand the true meaning of dignity in labour," he urged.

A call to action

The actor's statements are a wake-up call to those who look to blame the entertainment industry for societal problems.

While Nollywood has its flaws, Inojie believes it plays an important role in mirroring society and sparking conversations about critical issues.

He urged critics to take a closer look at the content and the messages within Nollywood films, which often warn against the dangers of quick fixes and immoral behaviour.

"Nollywood is not our problem," he

Mexico backtracks, accepts non-Mexican deportees from US

By Dave Oludare Oso

Mexico has been receiving non-Mexican deportees from the United States over the past week, President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Monday, reversing her previous opposition to doing so.

Sheinbaum said that Mexico had accepted over 4,000 deportees, of which a “large majority” were Mexican.

U.S. President Donald Trump took office last week, promising massive deportations of migrants who were in the U.S. illegally.

But in the days since, there has not yet been a “substantial” increase in deportees received by Mexico, Sheinbaum said.

The leftist leader had previously said that her administration had not agreed to the restart of the “Remain in Mexico” program by the Trump administration, which would send non-Mexican migrants back to Mexico while they awaited processing by the United States.

Sheinbaum said that deportations received from the U.S. had included people sent on four flights using civil aircraft.

Reuters reported on Friday, citing a U.S.

and Mexican official, that Mexico had refused a deportation flight operated by the U.S. military.

Such deportation flights have also caused an outcry from Brazil and Colombia in recent days.

Brazil accused the U.S. of “blatant disrespect” of deportees who were handcuffed on a flight, while Colombian President Gustavo Petro and Trump tussled on Sunday, nearly bringing the countries to the brink of a trade war over Petro’s refusal to accept U.S. military deportation flights. Petro later agreed to accept the flights.

According to Sheinbaum, who called the agreement between Trump and Petro “good,” the Mexican government and U.S. government were constantly in talks on immigration issues and other deals could be reached in coming days.



She said there was a precedent for Mexico receiving non-Mexican migrants from the U.S. Her predecessor, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, had agreed to the “Remain in Mexico” programme during Trump’s first term.

Kremlin awaits Putin-Trump meeting amid Ukraine conflict

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Kremlin stated on Monday that it was still awaiting “signals” from the United States regarding a possible meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump.

The announcement came after both leaders expressed their openness to talks last week, although neither side has provided details on when or how such a meeting would take place.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that Russia had not yet received any signals from the US, but reiterated that Russia remained ready for dialogue. He also noted that the same readiness had been communicated by the American side.

The ongoing conflict in Ukraine, which has persisted for nearly three years, has significantly strained relations between the two nuclear powers, plunging their

ties to their lowest point since the Cold War.

Trump, who assumed office on January 20, 2025, had previously stated that he was willing to meet with Putin “immediately” in an effort to negotiate an end to the war in Ukraine. Last week, the US president made his position clear, emphasizing that he wanted to reach a peace deal swiftly.

Putin responded positively to Trump’s offer, praising him as a “smart” and “pragmatic” individual. The Russian president also suggested that the Ukraine crisis might not have unfolded the way it did in 2022 had Trump been president at the time.

“I cannot but agree with him that if he had been president — if his victory hadn’t been stolen in 2020 — then maybe there would not have been the

crisis in Ukraine that emerged in 2022,” Putin said during his comments on Friday.

Kyiv, however, has expressed concerns over being left out of any potential peace talks between the two leaders, accusing Putin of seeking to manipulate Trump.

Despite these warnings, Trump has continued to push for an immediate resolution to the conflict, stressing his intent to fulfill his campaign promise of ending the war during his second term.

In a statement on Truth Social last Wednesday, Trump called for a rapid peace deal, claiming that the war would never have begun under his administration.

He also reiterated his stance on imposing stricter sanctions if the conflict does not come to a swift conclusion.

Divorcing Melinda my most regrettable mistake – Bill Gates

By **Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**

One-time richest man in the world, Bill Gates has admitted that his split from Melinda Gates after 27 years of marriage will always be the thing he regrets most in his life.

In an interview with the Times of London published Saturday, he said, “I’m more cheerful now,” but admitted that the unravelling of his marriage is “the mistake I most regret.”

Though he might have other failures, the Microsoft co-founder, 69, said the divorce is “at the top of the list.”

“There are others but none that matter,” he said. “The divorce thing was miserable for me and Melinda for at least two years.”

The pair — who are both dating other people now — have maintained a friendly relationship following their split.

“Melinda and I still see each other — we have three kids and two grandchildren so there are family events. The kids are doing well. They



children.

Bill and Melinda married in 1994 and share kids Jennifer, 28, Rory, 25, and Phoebe, 22. The couple confirmed their split in May 2021, though they’d been separated for a year before the announcement.

Melinda, 60, said that being separated

marriage.

“It gave us the privacy to do what needed to be done in private,” she said in a June 2024 interview.

Though, the philanthropist has also admitted that while their split was the “healthier choice,” it was the “lowest moment” in her life.

During a 2022 interview with Savannah Guthrie, Bill admitted he “caused pain” when she confronted him about a report that he’d had an affair with a Microsoft employee.

“I certainly made mistakes, and I take responsibility,” he replied, adding, “I don’t think delving into the particulars at this point is constructive, but yes, I caused pain, and I feel terrible about that.”

Melinda, meanwhile, said another factor that led to the end of the marriage was Bill’s relationship with convicted pedophile Jeffrey Epstein.

“I did not like that he had meetings with Jeffrey Epstein, no. I made that clear to him,” she told Gayle King in 2022. “He was abhorrent. He was evil personified.”

Melinda, 60, has been dating entrepreneur Philip Vaughn since 2024.



have good values,” Bill said. The former couple share three

during the Covid-19 pandemic helped give her clarity about the state of their

Colombia agrees to take deported migrants after Trump tariff showdown

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Colombia's leader, Gustavo Petro, backed down after a clash with President Trump, which started when Petro turned back U.S. military planes carrying deportees.

The White House claimed victory in a showdown with Colombia over accepting flights of deported migrants from the U.S. on Sunday, hours after President Donald Trump threatened steep tariffs on imports and other sanctions on the longtime U.S. partner.

Log close partners in anti-narcotics efforts, the U.S. and Colombia clashed Sunday over the deportation of migrants and imposed tariffs on each other's goods in a show of what other countries could face if they intervene in the Trump administration's crackdown on illegal immigration. The White House held up the episode as a warning to other nations who might seek to impede his plans.

Earlier, the U.S. president had ordered visa restrictions, 25% tariffs on all Colombian incoming goods, which would be raised to 50% in one week, and other retaliatory measures sparked by President Gustavo Petro's decision to reject two Colombia-bound U.S. military aircraft carrying migrants after Petro accused Trump of not treating immigrants with dignity during deportation.

Petro also announced a retaliatory 25% increase in Colombian tariffs on U.S. goods.

Trump said the measures were necessary because Petro's decision "jeopardized" national security in the U.S. by blocking the deportation flights.

"These measures are just the beginning," Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social. "We will not allow the Colombian Government to violate its legal obligations with regard to the



acceptance and return of the Criminals they forced into the United States."

Press secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a late Sunday statement that the "Government of Colombia has agreed to all of President Trump's terms, including the unrestricted acceptance of all illegal aliens from Colombia returned from the United States, including on U.S. military aircraft, without limitation or delay."

Leavitt said the tariff orders will be "held in reserve, and not signed." But Leavitt said Trump would maintain visa restrictions on Colombian officials and enhanced customs inspections of goods from the country, "until the first planeload of Colombian deportees is successfully returned."

The Colombian government late Sunday said it considered as "overcome" the episode with the Trump administration and Petro reposted the statement from the White House on X.

"We have overcome the impasse with the United States government," said Colombian Foreign Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo. "We will continue to receive Colombians who return as deportees, guaranteeing them decent conditions as citizens subject to rights."

Murillo added that the South American country's presidential aircraft is available to facilitate the return of migrants who were to arrive hours earlier on the U.S. military airplanes.

Earlier Sunday, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced he was authorizing the visa restrictions on Colombian government officials and their families "who were responsible for the interference of U.S. repatriation flight operations."

They were being imposed on top of the State Department's move to suspend the processing of visas at the U.S. Embassy in Colombia's capital, Bogota.

Petro had said earlier that his government would not accept flights carrying migrants deported from the U.S. until the Trump administration creates a protocol that treats them with "dignity." Petro made the announcement in two X posts, one of which included a news video of migrants reportedly deported to Brazil walking on a tarmac with restraints on their hands and feet.

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Belarus frees American woman detained last month “as goodwill gesture”

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso1



Belarus has “unilaterally” freed an American woman from detention, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced Sunday, as the Kremlin-allied country held an orchestrated election poised to give strongman President Alexander Lukashenko yet another term on top of his three decades in power.

Rubio’s post on the X social network identified the U.S. citizen as Anastassia Nuhfer. It said she was detained during former President Joe Biden’s tenure, but did not specify when or why.

Rubio’s statement came following waves of prisoner releases by Lukashenko, often dubbed “Europe’s last dictator.” Belarus’ oldest rights group, Viasna, says that over 1,250 people remain in detention over their opposition to the authorities.

Lukashenko’s opponents, many of whom are imprisoned or exiled abroad by his unrelenting crackdown on dissent and free speech, have called Sunday’s election a sham. The last election in

2020 triggered months of mass protests unprecedented in Belarusian history.

The U.S. State Department said later on Sunday that Nuhfer was detained in early December 2024. It said that earlier this month, a consular officer from Washington was granted rare access to an American detainee in Belarus.

A former high-ranking Belarusian diplomat told AP that Nuhfer’s arrest was linked to the 2020 protests, although he did not give details. The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to security concerns, said that Lukashenko himself offered to free the U.S. citizen “as a gesture of goodwill,” while declining to release any Belarusian opposition and rights activists.

Nuhfer’s release took the public and even Belarusian activists by surprise. Her name hadn’t been publicly released and hadn’t featured on lists of political prisoners.

Pavel Sapelka of the Viasna rights group, said that he and his colleagues had been unaware of her arrest or its circumstances.

Lukashenko’s support for the war in Ukraine has led to the rupture of Belarus’ ties with the U.S. and the EU, ending his gamesmanship of using the West to try to win more subsidies from the Kremlin.

But Artyom Shraybman, a Belarus expert with the Carnegie Russia and Eurasia Center, predicted that Minsk could try to ease its total dependence on Russia after the election, by again seeking to reach out to the West.

“Lukashenko’s interim goal is to use the election to confirm his legitimacy and try to overcome his isolation in order to at least start a conversation with the West about easing sanctions,” Shraybman said.

It was unclear what, if any, concessions Minsk has requested in exchange for releasing the U.S. citizen.

Radja Nainggolan arrested in cocaine trafficking probe

By **Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi**

Radja Nainggolan, the former Belgian international footballer, has been arrested in connection with a major cocaine trafficking investigation, according to a statement released by the Brussels prosecutor's office.



The 36-year-old midfielder was among several suspects apprehended on Monday morning as Belgian police executed multiple raids across the country. Authorities are investigating an alleged drug trafficking network that reportedly imported cocaine from South America to Europe, using the port of Antwerp as a key entry point before redistributing the substances within Belgium.

"The investigation concerns alleged facts of importation of cocaine from South America to Europe, via the port of

Antwerp, and its redistribution in Belgium," said the prosecutor's office. Further details remain undisclosed, as the investigation is ongoing.

The arrest marks a shocking development in Nainggolan's recent return to football. Just six days ago, the player came out of retirement to sign for Lokeren, a club in Belgium's second division. In his debut match, he showcased his enduring skill, scoring a crucial goal that secured a 1-1 draw

against K. Lierse.

Nainggolan, a native of Antwerp, is best known for his illustrious career in Italy, where he played for Serie A giants AS Roma and Inter Milan. Between 2009 and 2018, he earned 30 caps for the Belgian national team, gaining a reputation as a combative and dynamic midfielder.

The news of his arrest has sent shockwaves through the footballing world and raised questions about his involvement in the alleged trafficking operation. Fans, former teammates, and officials are awaiting further updates as the investigation unfolds.

Nainggolan has not yet issued a statement regarding the allegations. His club, Lokeren, has also refrained from commenting at this time.

Gift Orban scores first Hoffenheim goal in draw against Frankfurt

By **Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi**

Gift Orban celebrated his first goal for Hoffenheim in Sunday's Bundesliga clash, earning his side a 1-1 draw against Eintracht Frankfurt.

The Nigerian forward, who joined Hoffenheim from Lyon in the January transfer window, made his third appearance when he came on as a substitute in the 63rd minute. Just two minutes later, Orban struck to cancel out Hugo Ekitike's 26th-minute opener for Frankfurt.

Reflecting on his milestone, Orban expressed gratitude to his teammates on social media, posting:

"Good performance from the team, happy

to score my first goal for this wonderful Club."

Despite the crucial point, Hoffenheim remains in a precarious 15th position in the Bundesliga table with 18 points. The team will be looking to build on this result as they fight to climb away from the relegation zone.



Amorim questions Rashford as Man United edge Fulham 1-0

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim has made headlines by openly criticizing Marcus Rashford for what he described as a lack of effort and commitment. The England international has been out of the squad for six weeks and was again absent in United's 1-0 Premier League win over Fulham on Sunday.

Amorim did not hold back when asked about Rashford's exclusion, stating: "It's always the same reason—the training, the way I see a footballer should live. If things don't change, I won't change. I'd rather put my 63-year-old goalkeeping coach on the bench than a player who doesn't give the maximum every day."

Uncertain Future for Rashford

Rashford's future at the club remains unclear as the January transfer window approaches its close. Moves to AC Milan and Barcelona have stalled, leaving him in limbo.

Hard-Fought Win at Fulham

United's performance at Craven Cottage was unconvincing, but a deflected strike from Lisandro Martinez in the 78th minute secured a much-needed victory. This marked only United's fourth Premier League win since Amorim's appointment in November.

Transfer Concerns

With no signings yet in the transfer window, Amorim emphasized caution to avoid financial missteps. Winger

Antony has departed on loan to Real Betis, and speculation surrounds Alejandro Garnacho's future, though the young forward featured against Fulham.

Amorim remains determined to implement his vision at United despite challenges, saying:

"I have a clear idea of what I want to do. Sometimes it's frustrating, but we'll play differently in the future."

The win keeps United's faint hopes for a top-four finish alive, but the pressure on Amorim to deliver results continues to mount.