

**I'm a lesbian, famous Nigerian singer, Bloody Civilian discloses** Pg 19



**Mexico blocks illegal migrant deportation flight from landing,** Pg 25 **risks Trump's wrath**



# The New Daily Prime

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## UK govt targets student visa abuse: New immigration rules coming soon

Pg 17 & 18

STUDENT VISA



**Senate confirms** Pg 24 **Kristi Noem as Trump's Secretary of Homeland Security**

**Hamas releases 4 Israeli soldiers** Pg 26



**EPL: Haaland on target as** Pg 27 **Manchester City beat Chelsea 3-1**



**Tinubu to attend Africa Heads of State energy summit in Tanzania** Pg 4

**Obasa dismisses ₦16 billion gate allegation as baseless** Pg 2



# Obasa dismisses ₦16 billion gate allegation as baseless

By Agency Reporter

Former Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, has refuted allegations of corruption leveled against him, labeling them as baseless and politically motivated. Speaking at a welcome event held in his honor in Ikeja GRA on Saturday, Obasa addressed his supporters from Agege, Alimosho, and Kosofe local government areas, emphasizing his commitment to integrity and service.



Obasa's removal on January 13, as reported by the New Daily Prime, followed allegations of misconduct and financial mismanagement. He was replaced by his former deputy, Rt. Hon. Mojisola Lawal-Meranda. However, Obasa dismissed the allegations, including claims that he spent ₦16 billion on constructing a gate for the Assembly and ₦47 billion on purchasing 45 Hilux vehicles at inflated costs.

"Is it possible to construct an ordinary gate with ₦16 billion? It is not the wall of Jericho or the wall that separates the United States and Mexico," Obasa remarked. "How can they claim we bought one Hilux vehicle for ₦1 billion each and that we purchased 45 for ₦47 billion? It's completely unrealistic."

Obasa described the allegations as an attempt to discredit his leadership and integrity. "I have been a lawmaker for over two decades and am the longest-serving lawmaker in the House. I will address these allegations head-on and prove my

innocence," he asserted.

## Removal Process Lacked Due Legislative Procedure

Addressing his removal, Obasa insisted there was no proper impeachment process, stating that the attempt to unseat him did not follow the Assembly's standing rules. "I am not afraid of being removed. After all, it is not my father's chieftaincy title. I represent my people, and they have returned me six times. If you want to do anything, do it properly," he said.

Obasa highlighted past leadership changes in the Assembly, noting that these transitions were conducted peacefully and in line with due process. "When former Speaker Rt. Hon. Jokotola Pelumi was removed, he was in the Assembly, and there was no police interference. When my sister, former Deputy Speaker Hon. Adefunmilayo Tejuosho, was removed, we followed due process without external interference," he said.

Obasa stressed that his tenure as

Speaker was marked by dedication and respect for his colleagues. "The Lagos State House of Assembly is above the common standard of excellence. I have served as Speaker for ten years and as a member of the Assembly since 2003. What else am I looking for? Nothing. But due process must be followed," he stated.

The former Speaker called on stakeholders and lawmakers to protect the integrity of the Lagos State House of Assembly. "They should not discredit an innocent person. Let them prove their allegations against me," he said.

Obasa expressed gratitude to his supporters and party leaders for their continued backing. He vowed to continue working for the betterment of Lagos State while defending his integrity and reputation.

"For me, I am not disturbed, perturbed, or afraid. I will continue to serve Lagos State and ensure that the values of the Assembly remain intact," he concluded.



# THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

## PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

## PRODUCT COLOUR

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10X3	179,608.00
9X6	254,977.00
9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
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5X2	42,916.50
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8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
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# Tinubu to attend Africa Heads of State energy summit in Tanzania

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu is set to depart Abuja on Sunday for Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to participate in the Africa Heads of State Energy Summit scheduled for January 27–28.

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

The Summit, jointly organised by the government of Tanzania, the African Development Bank Group, and the World Bank, is focused on advancing "Mission 300," an ambitious initiative aimed at providing electricity access to 300 million people across Africa by 2030.

In Dar es Salaam, African leaders, private sector stakeholders, development partners, and civil society groups will converge to strategize on accelerating energy access across the continent.

The event will serve as a platform to exchange ideas, expertise, and resources to tackle Africa's pressing energy challenges.

Key discussions will revolve around enhancing energy access in underserved regions, promoting



renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and encouraging private sector investment in the sector.

On the first day, ministerial representatives, including Nigeria, will present national energy strategies, known as "compacts," detailing their approaches to achieving universal energy access within the next five years.

On the second day, Heads of State will formally adopt the Dar es Salaam Energy Declaration, a unified roadmap to drive Africa's progress toward the Mission 300 targets.

President Tinubu is expected to deliver a national statement reiterating Nigeria's dedication to

universal energy access and its leadership role in Africa's energy transformation.

He will also outline Nigeria's ongoing clean energy initiatives and strategies to foster integrated energy delivery across the continent.

Accompanying the President on this important trip will be Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, Minister of Power Adebayo Adelabu, Special Adviser to the President on Energy Olu Verheijen, and other senior government officials.

President Tinubu will return to Abuja after the summit.

# Police summons Sowore for disobeying police order

By Helen Okechukwu

**O**moyele Sowore, an activist, has revealed that the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has summoned him for allegedly disobeying the order of police officers at a checkpoint located along Lagos Airport Road.

The letter read that Sowore has been asked to be present along with his legal team at the Force Intelligence Department (FID) in Abuja on 27 January by 10 am.

Recalled that on 9 January, Sowore posted a video on X that showed him confronting the police officers at a checkpoint, alleging they were causing a traffic jam, and when asked to pull over, he refused to comply but was allowed to leave after much pressure.

New Daily Prime reports that this invitation came days after the publication of the viral video.

The invitation letter was shared on Friday via his X page with the caption, “The [@PoliceNG](#) invitation has arrived; I will be



there on Monday as requested. #RevolutionNow.”

The letter displayed, dated 23, 2025, signed by Ibitoye Alajide, Commissioner of Police (CP), summoned him for allegedly “resisting and obstructing public officers, disobedience to lawful order, acts intended to cause grievous harm or prevent arrest, compelling action by intimidation, reckless & negligent acts, refusal to assist public servant, and cyberstalking.”

“You are requested to report for an interview with the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Force Intelligence Department (FID), through the undersigned, at

SPO’s Room 212, 2nd Floor, Force Intelligence Department (FID) Complex, Shehu Shagari Way, opposite Force Headquarters Area 11, Garki, Abuja, on Monday, 27th January, 2025, at 10 am.

Alajide added, “This request is made pursuant to the investigative powers conferred on the police by the combined effect of Section 214 and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and Section 4 of the Police Act and Regulations, 2020.”

“Be informed that you are at liberty to come along with your attorney, please.”



# Sanwo-Olu charges new police constables to uphold integrity, serve with distinction

By Friday Omosola

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has called on 1,130 newly graduated police constables to uphold integrity, professionalism, and the highest ethical standards as they commence their duties in the Nigeria Police Force.

The governor gave this charge during the 2022 Constable Passing-Out Parade held at the Police College in Ikeja yesterday.

Represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, Governor Sanwo-Olu congratulated the constables for their dedication and hard work during the rigorous six-month training program.

He emphasised the importance of treating citizens with respect and maintaining integrity, even in challenging situations.

“You have made your State, Country, and Families very proud. The oath you have taken today is a solemn commitment to uphold the law, protect lives and property, and serve the public with integrity, courage, and compassion. The challenges ahead will be demanding, but your training and values will guide you,” the Governor said.



He also urged the recruits to pursue continuous professional development to stay updated on modern policing techniques and best practices.

The governor commended the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, CP Idowu Owohunwa, and the faculty of the Police College for their dedication to nurturing the recruits.

He also acknowledged the sacrifices of the parents and guardians whose support contributed to this milestone.

In his address, the Review Officer and Inspector General of Police, IGP, Kayode Egbetokun, represented by Assistant Inspector General of Police, Zone 2, Adegoke Fayoadé, urged

the constables to prioritise the safety and security of the nation.

He encouraged them to be calm yet firm in exercising their authority to protect lives and enforce the law.

Of the 1,130 graduating constables, 717 are male and 313 female, with 266 being indigenes of Lagos State.

The passing-out ceremony in Lagos was part of a nationwide event, with similar graduations taking place in four other police colleges and 12 training schools across Nigeria, totalling 10,000 new constables.

The event's highlight was the presentation of awards to the best-performing constables in various training categories.

# Nigerian convicted of defrauding over 400 Americans \$6m

By Friday Omosola

**A** U.S. District Court in Florida has convicted Okezie Ogbata, a 36-year-old Nigerian, for defrauding more than 400 elderly and vulnerable individuals of over \$6 million.

The Southern District of Florida found Ogbata guilty last Wednesday of orchestrating a transnational inheritance fraud scheme.

The U.S. Department of Justice revealed that Ogbata and his co-conspirators deceived victims into making payments under false pretences.

They manipulated their targets by claiming the funds were necessary to cover delivery fees, taxes, and other charges to avoid supposed legal complications.

The perpetrators sent fraudulent letters purporting to



be from a Spanish bank, falsely informing recipients that they were heirs to a multimillion-dollar inheritance left by a deceased overseas relative.

Victims were coerced into sending money to secure the alleged inheritance.

In his guilty plea, Ogbata admitted to stealing more than \$6 million through this scheme, which targeted many elderly and vulnerable individuals.

Reacting to the conviction, General Brian Boynton, Head

of the Justice Department's Civil Division, emphasized the importance of international cooperation in combating transnational crimes.

"This case underscores the critical role of global collaboration in addressing such criminal activities," he stated.

Ogbata is scheduled for sentencing on April 14, 2025, by U.S. District Judge Roy Altman. He faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.



# Lagos assembly drama: Obasa insists he is a speaker until due process followed By Agency Reporter



**F**ormer Lagos Speaker Obasa insists he remains in office, citing constitutional rights, despite impeachment over misconduct allegations on January 13, 2025

The former Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, has asserted that he remains the legitimate speaker of the assembly, citing constitutional provisions as the basis for his claim.

Speaking on Saturday during a welcome event held in Ikeja GRA, Obasa addressed supporters from Agege, Alimosho, and Kosofe local government areas who gathered to show their solidarity.

Obasa's remarks come in the wake of his removal by colleagues in the House, who accused him of gross misconduct and financial mismanagement. The Nation reported that his ouster was the result of mounting allegations against him.

In response to his removal, Obasa maintained that the process lacked adherence to constitutional guidelines, rendering it invalid. "I remain the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly until due process is followed," he said firmly.

While defending his stance, Obasa acknowledged that he would accept the decision if his

removal was conducted in full compliance with constitutional procedures.

The event reflected significant support for Obasa, as loyalists expressed their belief in his leadership and urged a fair resolution to the unfolding political drama.

This development underscores the ongoing tensions within the Lagos Assembly and raises questions about procedural integrity in legislative processes. If you recall, the New Daily Prime reported that Obasa was impeached on January 13, 2025 and subsequently replaced by his deputy, Mojisola Meranda.



# Fuel tanker explosion kills 15, destroys vehicles in Enugu

By **Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**

At least 15 people tragically lost their lives in a fuel tanker explosion at Ugwu Onyeama, Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Also, several others were reportedly injured in the inferno which destroyed several vehicles.

The explosion occurred around 11:30 AM on Saturday, January 24, 2025, when a fuel-laden tanker exploded while navigating the busy expressway.

Witnesses described the blast as devastating as it destroyed nearby vehicles and caused widespread panic.

One of the eyewitness, a tanker driver, who gave his name as Eziechina said those injured have been taken to nearby hospitals.

He said; “Yes, there was a big tragedy this afternoon at Ugwu Onyama Federal Highway. A



tanker carrying premium motor spirit (PMS), otherwise known as petrol, fell at the hilly road and spilled the product down the road. Unfortunately, it caught fire and all the vehicles plying the road at the time caught fire and burned people beyond recognition.

“As I am speaking with you, over 10 people including children have been burnt beyond recognition. Some have just been loaded in a pick-up van to the morgue now. So many others have been loaded in a vehicle and taken to a morgue earlier. As we speak, there’s no road through Ugwu Onyama.

“I am trapped somewhere in Ngwo. The situation is tragic. The second lane of the road is impassable. The fire raged along the road leading to Agu-abor.”

The Enugu incident comes exactly a week scores of people including a pregnant woman were killed in a tanker explosion at Dikko in Niger State, near Abuja, the nation’s capital.

The tragic incident occurred last Saturday morning near Dikko Junction along Minna Road, killing at least 98 people injuring scores of others.

# Ekiti residents fear growing Muslim influence after Sharia panel controversy

By Friday Omosola

In a decisive move to maintain harmony in the community, the Ewi of Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria, Oba Adeyemo Adejugbe, has ordered the dissolution of the Sharia panel set up at the Central Mosque in Ado Ekiti.

The announcement was made on Saturday during a meeting convened by the monarch with chiefs, community leaders, and prominent Muslim figures, including Sheik Jamiu Kewulere, President of the League of Imams and Alfas in the Southwest, Edo, and Delta States.

The move comes amid rising concerns and tensions within the state regarding the establishment of the panel, which had reportedly resolved two marriage disputes before being dissolved.

Oba Adejugbe emphasized that the panel's creation, while well-intentioned, could disrupt the delicate balance of peaceful



coexistence among various religious and ethnic groups in Ekiti State.

“Based on this Sharia issue, I summoned the Chief Imam and his lieutenants, members of the Ewi-in-Council, the president of Ado Progressives Union, and Ado sons and daughters to deliberate on this matter,” the monarch stated.

“We discovered that the committee was an internal arrangement within the mosque to handle disputes, but given the mood of the nation, such panels cannot be allowed now.”

Oba Adejugbe further noted, “If we allow such committees, Christians and traditional worshippers might also seek to establish similar panels, leading to unnecessary conflicts. Therefore, the panel stands dissolved, and disputes should return to being handled as they were by the mosque’s founding fathers.”

Ekiti State Government’s Stand  
The dissolution aligns with the stance of the Ekiti State Government, which earlier reiterated that the state’s judicial

**Continue reading  
on next page**



## Cont from page 10

framework does not recognize Sharia courts or arbitration panels.

In a statement issued by the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Dayo Apata (SAN), the government emphasized that existing legal structures—including Customary Courts, Customary Court of Appeal, and the High Court—are sufficient to handle all disputes, including those related to Islamic, Christian, and traditional marriages.

“The government will not compromise on any action that may disrupt the prevailing peace in the state,” Apata warned. “Religious leaders must be cautious and avoid being used as tools by politicians or groups seeking to exploit sensitive issues for political gain.”

The Commissioner also clarified that the Sharia courts in northern Nigeria are equivalent to Customary Courts in the southern states. He urged

residents to rely on the



established judicial system to address disputes, ensuring compliance with the Constitution and state laws.

Sheik Jamiu Kewulere, the Chief Imam of Ado Ekiti, acknowledged the establishment of the panel, explaining that it aimed to provide arbitration based on Islamic jurisprudence.

He dismissed allegations of ulterior motives, stating that the committee had only resolved one dispute and adjourned another before the dissolution.

“Muslims and adherents of other religions have coexisted peacefully in Ekiti State for years,” Kewulere said. “The panel was purely an internal effort to address disputes

amicably, but we respect the decision of the Ewi-in-Council.”

The controversy surrounding the Sharia panel has sparked broader political and social concerns. Observers note that the issue has become a talking point ahead of the 2026 governorship election, with accusations that opposition groups are using it to create divisions. The government has warned against any actions that could jeopardize peace and coexistence in the state.

This development mirrors a similar incident in Oyo State, where plans to establish a Sharia court in Oyo town faced public outcry, prompting Governor Seyi Makinde to clarify that such courts would only be allowed if consistent with the Constitution.

Oba Adejugbe’s swift intervention underscores the need for leadership in maintaining religious and cultural harmony in Ekiti State. As the state continues to navigate its diversity, the emphasis remains on unity and adherence to constitutional provisions. The dissolution of the Sharia panel serves as a reminder of the delicate balance required to foster peace in a multicultural society.

# Bayelsa govt explores Angola collaboration in maritime, agriculture

By Friday Omosola



**B**ayelsa State Governor, Douye Diri, has taken a significant step in strengthening bilateral relations during a meeting with Governor of Namibe State, Angola, Archer Manguera, along with Vice-Governors Ema Samali Henriques da Silva and Abel do Rosário Kapitango.

Governor Diri, who disclosed this in a statement on his X page on Saturday, revealed that discussions centred on exploring collaborative opportunities in the maritime sector, agricultural development, potential oil and gas ventures, and cultural exchanges.

He highlighted that Namibe State, with a coastal terrain similar to Bayelsa and bordering the Atlantic Ocean, has advanced its marine economy to become the fisheries hub of Angola and the southern African sub-region.

Governor Diri also emphasised the importance of African economic cooperation, urging sub-national and national governments to maximize opportunities within the continent and its regions.

“I do appreciate the Namibe Provincial Governor, for the warm reception and for hosting us to a state dinner at his residence where

he was joined by the two young Administrators (Local Government Chairmen) of Tômbua and Moçâmedes, Adilson Hache and Abelardo Lemba.

“On my delegation was a member of the House of Assembly, Hon. Ebizi Ndiomu Brown, the Secretary to the State Government, Prof. Nimibofa Ayawei, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Government House, Mr. Irerodamie Komonibo, Security Consultant, Major Lancelot Anyanya (rtd), his son, Joshua, who was a facilitator, and my Chief Press Secretary, Mr Daniel Alabrah”, he said.



# Edo partners with Italian govt to combat irregular migration

By Friday Omosola

The Edo State Government has announced its readiness to collaborate with the Italian Government to address the challenges of irregular migration and human trafficking in the state.

This was disclosed by Edesili Anani, Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady, during a meeting yesterday at the Government House, Benin City, with a delegation led by Alberto Cilala, a consultant to the European Union and President of Mattei Africa for Humanitarian Aids Initiative in Italy.

Welcoming the delegation, Mrs Anani emphasised the significance of the partnership in tackling unemployment and providing opportunities for Edo youths.

She expressed optimism about the transformative impact the initiative would bring to the state.

“This initiative will reduce unemployment, create job opportunities, and address human trafficking and irregular migration. It will also enhance education, skills acquisition, agricultural investment, and infrastructural development for our people,” she said.

Cilala outlined the objectives of the Mattei Plan, an Italian Government program aimed at promoting



integrated development across Africa.

He highlighted the program’s focus on six key sectors: education and training, health, security, agriculture, and renewable energy.

“The Mattei Plan will provide valuable skills to Edo State residents, including tailoring, furniture-making, shoemaking, and more. These projects will be fully funded by the Italian Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Labour,” Dr Cilala stated.

Former Senior Special Assistant to the Edo State Government on Anti-Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration, Solomon Okoduwa, stressed the importance of Edo State’s participation in the initiative, describing it as a strategic

partnership.

“Although nine African countries are involved in this initiative, Edo State is a crucial partner for Italy. This partnership will strengthen bilateral relations under the leadership of His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo,” Okoduwa noted.

Olorogun John Paul, known as Daddy Showkey and Brand Ambassador of the Mattei Plan, also commended the initiative, highlighting its potential to equip Edo youths with sustainable skills.

“This programme provides an opportunity for Edo State beneficiaries to gain training in various skills, equipping them for sustainable livelihoods,” Daddy Showkey remarked.

# Police neutralise 3 ESN terrorist leaders, others

By Helen Okechukwu

After a gun duel, the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has successfully neutralised three leaders of the suspected Eastern Security Network (ESN) with an additional three terrorist members, bringing the number to six.

According to the document released on Saturday, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, the police spokesperson, said a successful attack was carried out following credible information.

Adejobi said the operatives from the Imo State Command's tactical unit on Friday launched an attack within the forest of Ihube, Okigwe Local Government Area (LGA) with the aim to dislodge their hideouts.

Adejobi stated, "Upon approach, the operatives came under heavy fire from suspected IPOB/ESN terrorists but demonstrated exceptional courage and engaged the attackers in a fierce gun battle."

The three leaders of the suspected ESN are Ifeanyi Anayo a.k.a. Zuma De Rock, aged 28; Chukwuemeka Odionyenfe a.k.a.



Nmimi, aged 22; and Kingsley Sunday, aged 21, all are natives of Ogube, Ihube, in Okigwe LGA.

## Recovered Items from the Raid

Items recovered during the raid include five AK-47 rifles, 552 rounds of live ammunition, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), several pieces of communication equipment, and 8 operational motorcycles.

It was gathered that the group was linked to several high-profile crimes, such as the attack launched on April 5, 2021 at the Owerri Correctional Centre, the killing of five policemen in Umunna, Okigwe, on December 12, 2022, and the burning of Arondizuogu Police Station on February 8, 2022.

"The group was also involved in multiple kidnappings, including those of WAEC staff on June 5, 2023; four reverend sisters on August 21, 2022; and four Chinese nationals on December 6, 2023," Adejobi noted.

While charging the officers of NPF in flushing out enemies of the country across the state, the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Kayode Egbetokun, commended the efforts of the officers for successful service delivery.

Reaffirming their commitment as the fight against crime continues, members of the public are encouraged to remain vigilant and collaborate with the police team to promote a conducive environment for all citizens.



# Edo governorship tribunal relocates to Abuja

By Friday Omosola

**T**he Edo State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal has announced its relocation from Benin City, the state capital, to Abuja.

In a notice dated yesterday and signed by the Tribunal Secretary, Mu'azu Bagudu, all parties involved in the case were informed about the move.

The notice read in part, "I am directed to notify all parties that the Governorship Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Benin City, Edo State, has been relocated to Abuja at the National Judicial Institute (NJI), Airport Road, Abuja, effective from Monday, 27th January 2025."

No reason was provided for the relocation.

The tribunal proceedings, which commenced on January 15 in Benin City, were disrupted by gunshots.



The chaotic scene saw hoodlums reportedly gathering near the venue, further heightening tension and causing attendees to flee for safety.

The tribunal began hearing petitions contesting the outcome of the September 21, 2024, Edo governorship election, in which the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) declared Monday Okpebholo of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as the winner.

Okpebholo secured 291,667 votes, defeating his closest rival, Asue Ighodalo of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who garnered 247,274 votes. Olumide Akpata of the Labour Party (LP) finished third with 22,763 votes.

The PDP and APC have since traded accusations over the shooting incident, intensifying the already charged political atmosphere in the state.

# Nigeria signs pact to join Global Activator Network

By **Helen Okechukwu**

In a significant milestone, the Nigerian government has signed a pact with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to join the Global Activator Network (GAN) to enhance healthcare delivery.

On behalf of Nigeria, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Pate, signed the deal, and the Managing Director of the WEF, Jeremy Jurgens, signed on behalf of the global economic body at Davos, Switzerland.

Prof. Pate said, “The well-being of our population, especially women, children, and those who are vulnerable, is a key part of the

Renewed Hope Agenda of our President. So, by signing this memorandum, joining the Global Activator Network for Women’s Health will accelerate together with our partners, healthcare within Nigeria.”

“They will improve the effort of the federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private sector, to reduce maternal mortality and improve the health of women and children, especially primary healthcare services.”

Explaining the benefit of the signing, he said, “This partnership will bring together experiences, knowledge, capacity, and

opportunities to innovate and financing prospects over, that we will deploy to accelerate the pace of progress that we are making in Nigeria, and what we learnt in Nigeria is relevant for the rest of the world.”

Jurgens expressed their excitement as Nigeria joined GAN to improve women’s health; he said, “This will be of huge benefit to all the other members of the network.”

“Nigeria’s knowledge, experience, and leadership will be utilised, and that will also improve the lives of your citizens.”





# UK govt targets student visa abuse: New immigration rules coming soon

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

The UK government has acknowledged a growing issue with immigration loopholes and signalled its intention to take decisive measures to prevent the misuse of student visas as a backdoor route into the labour market.

This comes amid a sharp rise in the number of foreign students transitioning to work-related visas, a trend that has sparked comparisons to the firm stance on immigration policies championed by US President Donald Trump.

New figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reveal a significant shift in migration patterns.

Nearly 38% of individuals who entered the UK on student visas in the year ending June 2021 switched to work-related visas within three years—compared to just 11% three years earlier and other OECD countries.

The data highlights a growing concern about the exploitation of the student visa system, which some fear is undermining the integrity of the UK's immigration controls.



The UK Telegraph documented that Neil O'Brien, a former health minister obtained the figures, expressed alarm over the trend.

“These are very striking statistics showing a big change in migration patterns. While no one has a problem with people coming here to study at a British university, we need to make sure this is not used as a backdoor way into low-wage work,” he said.

According to the Telegraph, the shadow home secretary, Chris Philp, described the figures as “far too high” and called for an urgent overhaul of the system. “Student visas cannot become a parallel immigration system,” he said.

“The Government needs to urgently review the quality of the courses and the institutions giving out these visas.

We should also introduce a hard cap on the number of students and other visas being issued each year. This simply cannot continue.”

The ONS cautioned against drawing premature conclusions but acknowledged the trends. “Despite these early patterns, it is too early to say whether these students and their dependents will remain in the UK permanently or whether they are just staying longer,” a spokesperson said.

**Continue reading  
on next page**

# Cont from page 18

The findings also reflect a surge in transitions to ‘worker’ visas, including routes for skilled workers and the health and care sector.

The government appears poised to take action. A Home Office spokesperson, as outlined by The Telegraph, reiterated the importance of overseas students while emphasizing the need for stricter oversight: “Overseas students deliver real benefits to Britain, but it’s vital the system isn’t exploited and that the rules are followed and enforced.”

In addition to reviewing educational institutions and courses issuing visas, policymakers are exploring the possibility of capping the number of student visas issued annually. Labour has criticized

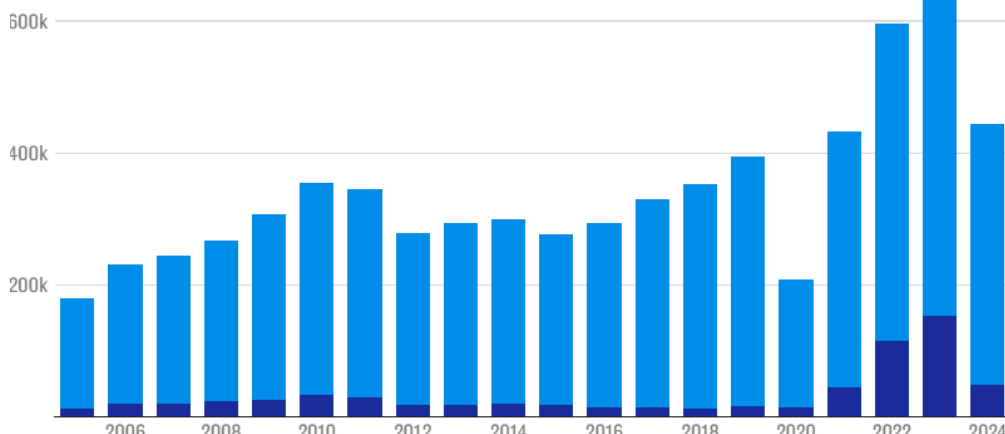
the Conservative government

immigration pathways are used

Student visas have risen in recent years

Annual number of student visas

■ Dependent ■ Main applicant



for allowing net migration to spiral to nearly a million and is pushing for a revamped immigration strategy that links the skills system with migration routes.

appropriately.”

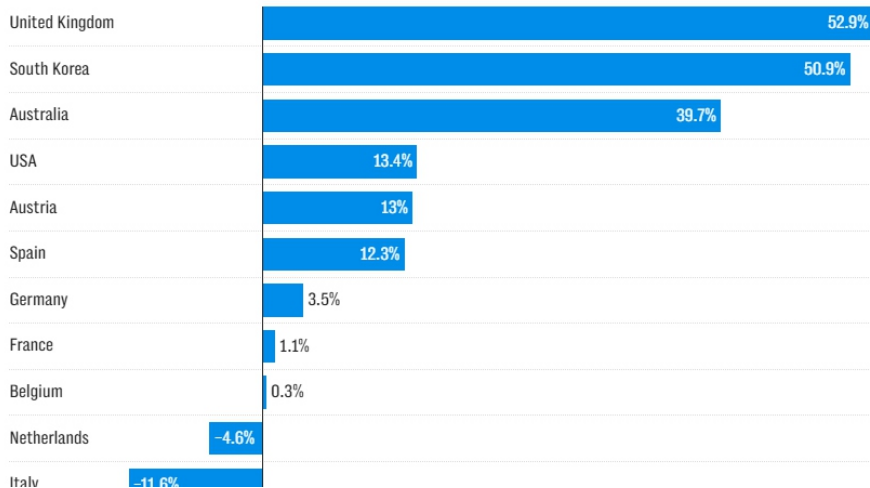
“These revelations show that the government has lost control of the immigration system,” said a Labour spokesperson. “We need stronger rules and enforcement to ensure that

With the government preparing its immigration white paper, it is clear that tighter regulations and a renewed focus on enforcement will be central to future reforms. Public pressure and political scrutiny are mounting, with the government under increasing pressure to restore confidence in the immigration system and address what critics have labeled a critical policy failure.

The debate underscores the delicate balance the UK must strike between attracting international talent and ensuring the integrity of its borders, a challenge that will undoubtedly shape the political agenda in the months to come.

Immigration to Britain has surged

Change in permanent migrant arrivals, 2023 vs 2022





# I'm a lesbian, famous Nigerian singer, Bloody Civilian discloses

By Friday Omosola



**F**amous Nigerian singer and songwriter Emoseh Khamofu known professionally as Bloody Civilian in a latest post on social media made it known to all and sundry that she is a lesbian.

Bloody Civilian made this known today, January 25th 2025 via her verified page on the popular microblogging platform X formerly called Twitter.

Bloody Civilian in the X post said that she is neither a male

nor female and by extension she is tired of hiding the fact that she is a lesbian and practice lesbianism.

Bloody Civilian is signed to 0207 Def Jam, the UK branch of Def Jam Records, alongside rapper Odumodublvck.

Originally from Taraba State, Emoseh grew up in Northern Nigeria, moving between Kaduna, Jos, and Abuja—an experience that influenced her artistry. Raised in a conservative household, her parents restricted her

movement.

**Bloody Civilian retracts tweet**

However, just an hour later, the Blood on the Dance Floor crooner backtracked with a new tweet and a teaser video promoting her upcoming YouTube content.

In the follow-up post, she clarified, “I’m not a lesbian. I was on a game show. But still hold your woman tight sha. Drops February 7th. See you thereeee.”

# Mo' Bimpe powers my career success – Lateef Adedimeji

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Veteran actor and producer Lateef Adedimeji recently opened up about his career journey and his wife, Mo' Bimpe's vital role in his success.

In an exclusive interview, the star shared his thoughts on challenges, growth, and the inspiration behind his latest projects.

**Mo' Bimpe:** The pillar behind the success Adedimeji revealed that his wife has been a key figure in his career development. "She's the engine room, the ginger," he said, recalling moments when he felt exhausted during film production. "Whenever I got tired, she would encourage me. She'd say, 'You can't give up. You're a star. Look at me—I'm here. We'll get through this together.'"

He also highlighted her involvement in his work, noting that while he focused on being the executive producer of his latest film, she took on the role of producer. The couple's mutual support extends to making strategic career choices, a move that has significantly shaped their success.

**The journey to "Lisabi"**

Adedimeji's most recent work, *Lisabi*, is a standout in his career. He explained how the first part of the story captivated audiences, leaving them curious for more.

"People didn't even know there was a second part to the story," he said. "This sequel will answer many questions, and I'm confident people will love it."

Netflix confirmed the success of the first installment, which became one of the most-viewed and searched films of 2024.

Adedimeji described it as a significant milestone, saying, "It's my first big-screen project, and the attention it has received is a big deal for me. This story resonates with love and is entirely original."

Overcoming fear and doubt



Adedimeji admitted he faced doubts before embarking on such an ambitious project. "I was scared because I had never done anything this big. Questions like 'Can he do it?' kept coming up," he said. However, his determination pushed him forward. "Even if it flopped, I knew I had taken a bold step. You can't grow if you don't try."

He also shared his approach to challenges. "When I'm told I can't do something, I become stubborn. I don't mind failing as long as I try. That's how you grow."

**Strategic career moves**

Adedimeji discussed the shift in his and his wife's approach to choosing roles. "She didn't step down; she just became more selective," he explained. "We now focus on scripts that challenge us and help us grow as actors. Being in every film is different from being in strategic films."

Reflecting on his career, Adedimeji shared how a deliberate break in 2020 helped him redefine his path. He staged a one-man, twelve-character play on his birthday, inviting key industry players. "That effort paid off," he said. "After the play, brands started reaching out. It was a turning point for me."

**Financial and personal growth**

Discussing the budget for "*Lisabi*,"

Adedimeji revealed that it initially stood at ₦200 million but exceeded ₦300 million by the time production wrapped. Despite the financial pressure, he stayed focused. "At that time, I didn't know if Netflix would accept it or if it would even go to cinemas. But I was determined to do a great job."

He also acknowledged the importance of cultural stories, touching on themes of pre-colonial traditions. "The truth is, Christianity and Islam were introduced to us. But what did we have before then? Those who fought for our history used the power of words."

**Looking ahead**

Adedimeji's journey is one of resilience, creativity, and teamwork. "*Lisabi* gave me strength I didn't know I had," he said. "I've always believed in producing something meaningful, not just any film. This project has affirmed that vision."

The actor's story is a testament to the power of perseverance, partnership, and purpose. His rise to prominence, bolstered by the unwavering support of his wife, offers inspiration to those pursuing their dreams.



# I find entertainment industry overwhelming – Olumide Oworu

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**N**igerian actor Olumide Oworu shares his journey in entertainment, entry into politics, and future ambitions, reflecting on challenges and aspirations.

In an exclusive interview, Oworu shared insights into the challenges he has faced, the role of family in his career, and his aspirations for both his professional and personal life.

**A challenging yet fulfilling career**  
Reflecting on his acting journey, Oworu expressed gratitude for the opportunities that have come his way. “Everyday People,” a popular television show, marked his debut in the industry. He recalled the thrill of growing into his character over an extended period. For him, television is special because it allows actors to nurture and layer their characters over time.

“TV lets you develop your character, unlike films, where you wrap up in a few weeks,” he explained. “I love that growth and transformation process.”

While Oworu appreciates the opportunities in entertainment, he also highlights the challenges. Balancing a public career with personal privacy is tough. “The industry demands a lot of time and space,” he noted. Despite the challenges, he remains committed to preserving his private life and easing his partner into the spotlight gradually.

## Political aspirations

In 2023, Oworu surprised many by running for office at the age of 28. Competing against his senior colleague Desmond Elliot, a fellow actor-turned-politician, was both challenging and rewarding.

“We haven’t seen each other since the election,” he admitted, reflecting on their



relationship. “But I have great respect for him. He’s known me since I was six, and he’s accomplished so much.”

Oworu described his decision to enter politics as a bold step driven by a desire to contribute to Nigeria’s growth. “I want to live in a Nigeria that is full of opportunities,” he said. He lamented the country’s decline, particularly in sectors outside entertainment and sports, and emphasized the need for young people to participate in governance.

## The role of family

The family has played a pivotal role in Oworu’s career. His mother, who has been his manager since the beginning, was instrumental in introducing him to acting.

From radio jingles at just 18 months old to modelling and auditions, she guided him every step of the way.

“My mom is my biggest supporter and critic,” Oworu said. “She has a discerning spirit, and I trust her judgment completely.” He added that even if he hires another manager in the future, his mother will always have the final say.

**Navigating uncertainty in Nollywood**  
Oworu admitted there were moments when he considered leaving acting due to

the unpredictability of Nollywood.

Before the advent of streaming platforms, the industry lacked structure, leaving actors unsure of their next project.

“There was a time when every month felt uncertain,” he recalled. “COVID-19 was especially tough. I didn’t work for almost a year.”

However, the industry’s recent growth has renewed his passion. Streaming platforms have brought global attention to Nollywood, and Oworu is excited about the future.

**Looking ahead: Directing and marriage**  
At 30, Oworu is entering a new phase of life. He plans to direct and produce his films someday, but he’s taking the time to learn the business side of filmmaking. “Timing is everything,” he said. “I want to understand how to make movies, distribute them, and ensure they’re profitable.”

On the personal front, Oworu is eager to marry. He described his partner as someone who has transformed his outlook on life. “I can’t wait to give her my last name,” he said with a smile. However, he’s committed to ensuring their future together is stable and comfortable.

**Memorable moments and collaborations**  
Oworu also shared anecdotes from his time on set. One of his favourite projects was “Ijakumo,” where he played the younger version of Kunle Remi’s character. Fans often comment on their resemblance, and Oworu is eager to collaborate with Remi as brothers in a future film.

# Why I ignore social media trolls

## – Josh2Funny By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Comedian Chibuiké Alfred, aka Josh2Funny, opens up about social media trolling, balancing family life, and overcoming challenges in his career.

Speaking candidly in an exclusive interview, Josh2Funny reflected on the challenges and triumphs of his career, which spans over a decade.

### Facing social media trolls

Josh2Funny admitted that, like many public figures, he has faced his fair share of criticism and cyberbullying. However, he chooses to focus on the positives. “I don’t see those negative comments from people saying it doesn’t make sense,” he said. “I only see people enjoying my comedy. When I read the comments, I see people laughing, and that’s what drives me.”

While some critics have taken their disapproval directly to his private messages, he remains unfazed. “There have been times when people came to my DM and badmouthed some of my jokes. But it’s okay. Not everybody will like my jokes,” he added.

Despite the occasional negativity, Josh2Funny remains steadfast in his mission to bring happiness to his audience. “I choose to make people happy. I’ve been doing this for more than 10 years, and it’s all about spreading joy,” he emphasized.

### Balancing comedy and family life

The comedian also spoke about juggling his responsibilities as a



father, husband, and performer. He acknowledged that being a father comes with its challenges but reframes them as opportunities. “I don’t like to call them challenges,” he explained. “Being a father comes with a lot of responsibilities, but I just try to be responsible.”

Josh2Funny shared how he switches roles seamlessly. “When I’m home, I’m a father and husband. When I go out to work, I focus on work. It’s a beautiful experience being a father. I always try to see the positive side. It’s beautiful.”

His love for fatherhood shines through in his approach to parenting. He prioritizes spending quality time with his children and ensures that his work doesn’t create unnecessary stress for his family. “I’m not doing anything that will stress my children. I’m responsible for keeping my comedy clean, and I’m happy to be a proud father,” he stated.

### Clean comedy for all ages

Josh2Funny is known for his

commitment to creating content that appeals to audiences of all ages.

He takes pride in crafting jokes that even his children can enjoy. Sharing a personal anecdote, he revealed, “My two-year-old loves my jokes. He even mimics them.”

This dedication to clean comedy not only sets him apart but also reflects his values as a family man. By avoiding controversial or offensive material, he ensures that his comedy remains accessible to a wide audience.

### A decade of spreading happiness

Reflecting on his journey, Josh2Funny expressed gratitude for his career and the joy it brings to others. Over the past ten years, he has built a loyal fan base, thanks to his unique style and relatable humour. For him, comedy is more than just a job—it’s a way to make the world a little brighter.

Despite the occasional challenges, Josh2Funny remains unwavering in his purpose. His resilience in the face of cyberbullying, dedication to his family, and commitment to clean comedy continue to inspire his fans and fellow comedians alike.

In his own words, “I choose to make people happy. That’s what I’ve been doing, and that’s what I’ll keep doing.”

With his unwavering positivity and humour, Josh2Funny proves that laughter truly is the best medicine.



# My kidney failure not from alcohol or smoking – DJ Jimmy Jatt

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Veteran disc jockey, DJ Jimmy Jatt, has opened up about his health struggles, clarifying misconceptions surrounding his recent kidney failure.

The iconic DJ, who has entertained audiences for over four decades, addressed rumors suggesting that smoking or excessive drinking caused his condition.

A non-smoker's truth

DJ Jimmy Jatt, firmly stated that he has never smoked. He also revealed that while he occasionally drank in the past, it was only for social purposes and never in excess. "I've never smoked in my life. Smoking has nothing to do with your kidney, though," he explained. "I stopped drinking a long time ago. Even when I drank, it was just to socialize."

The real cause: Diabetes and heredity  
The acclaimed entertainer revealed that his kidney failure was caused by diabetes, a condition he has managed since his 30s.

He further explained that the disease, which runs in his family, led to complications such as high blood pressure before culminating in kidney failure.

Diabetes, often inherited, is a chronic condition that affects how the body



processes sugar. When left uncontrolled, it can lead to severe complications, including damage to the kidneys, nerves, and other vital organs.

DJ Jimmy Jatt's revelation sheds light on the challenges faced by individuals managing long-term illnesses and the misconceptions that often surround their struggles.

Challenging misconceptions

The legendary DJ's honesty has sparked discussions about health awareness, particularly concerning lifestyle choices and hereditary conditions.

He emphasized the importance of regular health checks and proper management of pre-existing conditions to prevent severe complications.

"People are quick to judge when they hear about health issues like kidney

failure," he said. "They assume it's due to smoking or drinking. But sometimes, it's beyond lifestyle choices. In my case, it's hereditary."

A lesson in empathy

DJ Jimmy Jatt's openness about his journey offers a valuable lesson in understanding and empathy.

His story underscores the importance of addressing stigmas associated with chronic illnesses. By sharing his experience, he hopes to inspire others to take their health seriously and avoid jumping to conclusions about others' conditions.

An inspiring career despite challenges  
Over his 40-year career, DJ Jimmy Jatt has remained a trailblazer in the Nigerian music industry, earning respect for his talent and resilience.

Despite his health challenges, he continues to inspire fans and fellow artists alike with his passion and determination.

Advocating for health awareness

As DJ Jimmy Jatt battles his condition, he encourages everyone to adopt a proactive approach to their health.

He advocates for healthier lifestyles, regular medical check-ups, and an understanding of hereditary risks.

# Senate confirms Kristi Noem as Trump's Secretary of Homeland Security

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Senate confirmed South Dakota Governor, Kristi Noem on Saturday to serve as the Secretary of Homeland Security, putting her in charge of executing one of President Trump's biggest priorities in his second term: cracking down on immigration.

Noem, a Republican, won confirmation in a 59-34 vote. She becomes the fourth person confirmed in Trump's cabinet, following Secretary of State Marco Rubio, CIA Director John Ratcliffe, and Pete Hegseth, who was narrowly appointed Secretary of Defense on Friday night after Vice President J.D. Vance cast a tie-breaking vote.

Noem is set to lead the department poised to be at the center of President Trump's plans to crack down on immigration, including the various deportation efforts, visa changes and border security measures kicked off by the slew of executive actions signed by Trump since his return to office.

Noem, 53, has been a vocal advocate for Trump's immigration agenda, as she explained to senators during her confirmation hearing.

"The reason that I asked for it is because I knew it was the president's number one priority," Noem told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, about why she is best for the role.

"I knew that it would be needed to



have someone in the position, that would do what the president promised the American people and would be strong enough to do it," she said.

During her confirmation hearing, Noem said she would partner with Trump to reinstate the "Remain in Mexico" policy, also known as the Migrant Protection Protocols, which would require certain asylum seekers to wait in Mexico until their court hearing dates in the U.S., in an effort to limit the number of people waiting inside U.S. borders.

Noem also vowed to shut down the CPB One App, an app used by asylum seekers to petition for asylum with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. DHS cancelled all appointments within hours of Trump's inauguration.

She has expressed support for ending birthright citizenship, which President Trump is seeking to do through an executive action. Legal experts broadly agree the president does not have the authority to revoke birthright

citizenship through executive action, but rather doing so would require amending the Constitution. A U.S. judge has already temporarily blocked the order, calling it "blatantly unconstitutional."

Noem is expected to work to implement immigration policy set by Tom Homan, whom Trump has picked to serve as his "border czar," and Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff and a key architect of the president's immigration agenda. She is also likely to work with Hegseth, as several of Trump's executive actions involve military assistance to DHS for repatriation flights, building barriers at the southern border and more.

Noem will oversee more than 260,000 federal employees. In addition to overseeing agencies that deal with immigration and responding to natural disasters, Homeland Security works with the nation's intelligence agencies to prevent terrorist threats.



# Mexico blocks illegal migrant deportation flight from landing, risks Trump's wrath

By Dave Oludare Oso

**M**exican authorities denied a US military plane access to its planned runway on Thursday after President Trump's deportation crackdown began.

US officials told NBC News that a jet filled with illegal immigrants bound for Mexico never took off after authorities south of the border blocked the move.

The flight was one of three that took off on Thursday, alongside two Guatemala-bound Air Force C-17s carrying over 150 people, as part of what Trump has described as the largest mass deportation effort in US history.

It is not clear why Mexican authorities made the move to block the flight, which came hours after an American hiker was also shot by suspected Mexican cartel members in California a few hundred yards north of the border.

Trump's return to the White House quickly inflamed relations between the two nations, with the new president threatening imposing a 25 percent tariff on Mexican imports in retaliation for migrants crossing the southern border.

Deporting migrants to foreign countries requires permission from the incoming nation's government, which Mexico declined on Thursday.

As he toured natural disaster sites in North Carolina and California on



Friday, Trump issued a stern warning to illegal migrants with criminal records, saying 'we're taking them out first.'

Mexican authorities blocked a US military plane from deporting illegal migrants on Thursday amid rising tensions between the two nations.

While Mexican authorities have shown their disapproval for the deportations, Trump's administration has praised their own efforts this week, with new Secretary of State Marco Rubio also posting a video of migrants being marched onto the military aircraft to Guatemala on Thursday.

The deportation flights were part of a nationwide crackdown on illegal immigrants ordered by Trump in the early days of his presidency.

On Thursday, it was revealed that his immigration force has arrested over 1,300 illegal migrants, with Border Czar Tom Homan pledging to continue ramping up the effort.

Homan told NewsNation on Thursday night that of the 1,300 migrants arrested so far, 'over 1,000 of them were criminals.'

He slammed sanctuary city policies for having allowed migrants with long rap sheets remain in US cities as they declined to alert ICE of their whereabouts during the Biden-era.

'I don't care if Republican or Democrat, Independent, why not let law enforcement go into a county jail, taxpayer county jail, to arrest the guy that you locked in a jail cell so obviously, the public safety threat that will solve a lot of this problem,' he said.

'And I hope the sanctuary cities come around.'

The updated ICE statistics come after federal authorities said Tuesday that a sweep of sanctuary cities led to the arrest of over 300 illegal migrants on Trump's first full day.

# Hamas releases 4 Israeli soldiers ...In exchange for 200 Palestinian prisoners

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



**H**amas militants on Saturday morning released four female Israeli soldiers they held captive for 15 months to the Red Cross in a planned exchange for 200 Palestinian prisoners or detainees in Israel.

It's the second exchange since a fragile ceasefire took effect last weekend, halting the fighting in Gaza for at least six weeks during which dozens of Israeli hostages and hundreds of Palestinian prisoners will be freed while more aid flows in.

In return for the four soldiers, Israel should free 200 Palestinian prisoners or detainees, including 120 militants serving life sentences after being convicted of deadly attacks.

The first exchange took place Sunday with the release of three Israeli hostages and 90 Palestinian prisoners.

Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza has killed more than 47,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities. The ministry doesn't distinguish between combatants and civilians. The war was sparked by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel, which killed around 1,200 people.

Meanwhile, there are cheers in Hostage Square, Tel Aviv as people watch a feed of the women being handed over to the Red Cross.

Some people are crying, and lots are holding up pictures of the

hostages that have been freed.

"It's amazing. They're amazing. Did you see them stand and smile?" one woman in the crowd says.

"Just excitement," another says when asked how she's feeling.

As the four hostages were handed over to the Red Cross in Gaza, joy erupted in a square in Tel Aviv where family and friends of the hostages have gathered today.

Large screens showed the exchange live and people in Tel Aviv can be seen crying, smiling and hugging each other as they hold up placards showing the names and photos of the hostages.



# EPL: Haaland on target as Manchester City beat Chelsea 3-1

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Erling Haaland was on target as Manchester City beat Chelsea 3-1 in the Premier League, giving Pep Guardiola two wins from two this season against his former assistant Enzo Maresca.

Chelsea winger, Noni Madueke opened the scoring for Chelsea in the third minute after an error from Man City debutant Abdulkodir Khusanov. Josko Gvardiol responded for the hosts in the 42nd minute, sliding home a rebound after Robert Sanchez denied Matheus Nunes.

Erling Haaland scored his 18th goal in the Premier League to give City their first lead of the match in the 68th minute, lifting a simple finish over Sanchez after the keeper came too far off his line. Phil Foden put the game beyond Chelsea's reach with a clinical finish in the 87th minute after strong hold-up play by Haaland.

What's next for Chelsea?

Chelsea aren't in action again until next Monday Feb. 3, when they host West Ham United in the Premier League. That match will be Graham Potter's first return to Stamford Bridge since he was let go as Chelsea manager in April 2023.



What's next for Man City?

Manchester City are back in action on Wednesday in the Champions League, hosting Club Brugge at the Etihad. Currently sitting just outside the play-off spots in 25th place, City need a victory to have any chance at avoiding a shock elimination from the tournament.

Robert Sanchez makes another error

Robert Sanchez's mistake that led to Erling Haaland's go-ahead goal in the second half was his fifth error of the season that led to a goal. No player in the Premier League has made more this season, nor has any Chelsea player made more in a single season dating back to 2007-08.

Sanchez has been under fire from Chelsea fans lately, also making an error that led to a goal against Wolves on Monday. Speaking yesterday, Enzo Maresca said that he wants him to remain his No 1 for the rest of the campaign, but offered no assurances about keeping his place beyond that.

He also declared that he expects more from him, saying, "He's getting better but he's still far, far, far from where I want him to be." His assessment today may be less positive.

With his game-sealing strike in the 87th minute, Phil Foden has now scored in four consecutive Premier League games for the first time in his career.

Foden leads all PL players with six goals in the calendar year 2025.

# Liverpool 4-1 Ipswich: We were “almost perfect” – Arne Slot

By **Oluwatosin Ologun**

Liverpool defeated Ipswich Town 4 – 1 on Saturday at Anfield to remain top of the Premier League table. Arne Slot’s side have picked 53 points from 22 games, with 16 wins, 5 draws and 1 loss.

Head coach Arne Slot was impressed with the “almost perfect” performance in the 4-1 win over Ipswich, which maintained their six-point lead at the top.

Cody Gakpo scored twice after Dominik Szoboszlai and Salah, with his 100th Premier League goal for the club at Anfield, scored in front of a new record league attendance of 60,420.

They were 3-0 up at half-time and coasting and had they not eased off they would have scored more, with the only blip being Jacob Greaves’ late consolation.

“It’s been a few times we have played a home game and conceded a goal at the start. Today is the way you want to start a game,” he said.

Read also: Liverpool secure Champions League Last-16 spot with hard-fought win over Lille

“We were aggressive, dominant for 85 minutes, they had hardly been in our half.

“It is a counter-attacking threat with the wingers they have but we managed to control that so because of the amount of work we put in.



“At the end, we are all disappointed conceding from a corner, the first one this season, but for 85 minutes it was almost a perfect performance against a team that plays a low block.

“That’s not always easy but the way we did it was really good.”

Salah reached yet another of his many landmarks with his 19th league goal of the season but it was off the ball which pleased Slot, with the Egypt international racing back over the halfway line in the second half to snuff out an attack.

“Mostly about Mo it’s his contract or his goals and now it’s his defensive work rate. I think that stood out,” added the Reds boss.

“But if you look at almost all the times we have lost the ball, I saw a reaction off many players.

“It’s so difficult to control a counter-attack and the only way to do so is

what Mo did in this moment and other players in different moments. That’s why I was pleased with the performance today.”

Ipswich boss Kieran McKenna was pleased with the way his team responded to being 3-0 down at the interval.

“A difficult game. A difficult position to be in at half-time and also a frustrating position,” he said.

“We started the game well but then from little we found ourselves a goal down and then a few goals down.

“We take a lot of positives from the second half. We managed the game pretty well and finished the game strong. We made some mistakes but if we take the lessons in the right way we can be stronger.”

“We have our fingers crossed but the knee looks swollen. We hope it is not as bad but it looks serious,” he added.