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50 terrorists killed, 25 injured as troops bombard Zamfara fortress

By Dave Oludare Oso

A major blow has been dealt on terrorism in Zamfara State as Nigerian troops under Operation FANSAR YAN BINDIGA have successfully taken control of the notorious Tungan Fulani Hills, killing more than 50 terrorists and inflicting a heavy toll on criminal networks in the region.

The intense operation also left at least 25 insurgents critically injured, with several top commanders loyal to bandit leaders, Bello Turji and Sani Mai Nasara (also known as Sani Black) among those killed.

According to counter-insurgency expert, Zagazola Makama, the slain terrorists include Kachallah Sanni Bammuwa, Kachallah Auta, Audu Gajere, Kabiru Jangeru, Dan-Gajere (son of Audu Jabbi), and Bako Malaika, a notorious figure operating around Tungan Dan Musa.

This marks the first time in years that the military has successfully breached and secured Tungan



Fulani Hills, an area previously considered an impenetrable stronghold for terrorists operating along the Zurmi-Shinkafi corridor.

Previous military attempts to seize control of the valley had met fierce resistance, resulting in casualties and damage to military equipment. Five separate operations had previously failed due to the overwhelming firepower of the insurgents.

The region became infamous after a deadly ambush in 2019, when fighters loyal to Bello Turji and Sani Black killed a Major and 16 soldiers on their way to relieve

colleagues stationed in Mashema village.

That attack forced the military to retreat, allowing terrorists to dominate the area. More recently, on August 30, 2024, the same terror groups attacked Nigerian troops in Kwashebawa village, destroying Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles and killing two soldiers.

With the successful capture of Tungan Fulani Hills, the Nigerian Army has sent a strong message in its ongoing fight against banditry and terrorism in the northwest.

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10X4	=		206,890.50
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9X4	=		193,500.00
9X3	=		166,223.50
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8X3	=		106,934.50
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6X3	=		82,750.00
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DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	=		144,294.00
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PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
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Bullying in schools unacceptable, destructive – FG

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Federal Government has stated that it would, henceforth, take a very hard and punitive stand against bullying in all schools across the country.

The Minister of State for Education, Suwaiba Said Ahmad, stated this while delivering a speech at a stakeholders' engagement meeting to develop the National Policy on Anti-Bullying and implementation guidelines in Nigerian schools in Abuja on Friday.

Professor Ahmad explained that engagement was aimed at reshaping children's mindsets and fostering safer school environments.

The Minister explained that bullying, intimidation and extortion in schools were destructive behaviours with long-lasting effects.

“Acts of bullying, intimidation, and extortion in schools are destructive behaviours with



long-lasting effects, and are unacceptable,” she said.

She stressed the urgent need to dispel the myth that bullying was a normal part of growing up.

“This phenomenon creates tension, anxiety, and fear, affecting not just the victims but entire communities,” she stated.

According to her, bullying could affect the government's efforts to address the challenges of out-of-school children.

“Unchecked bullying could

undermine efforts to address out-of-school children, a key part of President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda,” she added.

Ahmad urged the participants to ensure the policy was practical, realistic, and fully implemented, fostering compassion and empathy in students.

She further expressed her gratitude to the partners for their unwavering support and called for continued collaboration.

Over 6,000 Niger Republic nationals have NIN – FG

By Dave Oludare Oso

The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) has said it has identified over 6,000 Niger Republic nationals registered on its database with the National Identification Number (NIN).

This development comes as President Bola Tinubu directed an inter-ministerial committee to ensure comprehensive data for the National Social Register for the Federal Government's social investment programmes.

NEW DAILY PRIME learnt that the Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, briefed the Federal Executive Council on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, on the activities of NIMC, an agency under his purview.

The minister reportedly affirmed that the NINs were withdrawn from the illegal holders in an ongoing database clean-up.

On October 13, 2022, the Defence Headquarters in Abuja said troops in conjunction with the Nigeria Police and operatives of the Nigeria Immigration Service intercepted two suspected fake NIMC officials.

The Director of Defence Media Operations at the time, Maj.-Gen. Musa Danmadami, in a statement, said, "It was revealed that the suspects had visited the Gagamari IDP camp in the Niger Republic to register non-Nigerians in the IDP camp.

"Items recovered from the suspects include National Identification Number



registration machine, printing machine, laminating machine, a computer tracking machine and a generator set among other items."

The fake agents were reportedly charging non-Nigerian citizens, primarily from neighbouring countries such as Niger Republic, to obtain Nigerian NIN.

Investigations revealed that such fraudulent registrations occurred in border communities, further heightening the risk of unauthorised access to Nigerian identity credentials.

The NIMC enrolls citizens and legal residents, assigning them a unique NIN.

The 11-digit number is tied to an individual's biometric and demographic data, providing a centralised system to verify personal identity for various governmental and private transactions.

Sources at the Presidency said that President Tinubu wanted the existing database to reflect the details of the most vulnerable Nigerians who needed social

interventions such as conditional cash transfers and student loans.

A source said, "It was the Minister of Interior that gave that briefing because, you know, NIMC is under him.

"The interior minister said NIMC is tidying up the database because they found over 6,000 people from Niger Republic who obtained NIN. But they have been wiped from the database.

"The humanitarian ministry needs the data for its social register to perform its function. Also, the education ministry needs that data for student loans.

"The President doesn't want to disburse money to people they cannot identify. They (NIMC) are ensuring that they verify the data. They are also registering more Nigerians and fine-tuning the data. So, the President wants it done quickly."

The source revealed that after the briefing, the President asked the national security adviser and the interior minister to join an existing panel overseeing the humanitarian ministry.

Beneficiaries to start repaying NELFUND loan 2 years after NYSC – Sawyerr

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Managing Director/CEO of Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), Mr. Akintunde Sawyerr, has said that Nigerian students currently benefitting from the loan are not obligated to start repayment until two years after their National Youth Service Corp (NYSC).

Sawyerr stated this on Saturday while featuring on a TVC news programme.

According to him, this applies to those who have managed to secure a job and the repayment requirements are on their employers.

He added that the employer is to be deducting 10% of the employee's salary and remitting to the Fund monthly.

The process of repayment

Explaining the process of repayment and the duty of employers of Nigerians who have collected loans to study, Sawyerr said, "Two years after completion of their NYSC, there is a requirement for the loans to be paid back, but the requirement to pay the loan back is on the employer.

"For those who have managed to secure jobs, the employer goes to a database, he or she checks the name and the NIN number of the person who they're about to employ.

"Then they contact NELFUND and say we're about to employ this person and we're going to start making deductions from their salary to the NELFUND.

"That deduction is 10% of that individual's salary. At no point is the obligation on the individual to pay back themselves."



·He further clarified that those who are self-employed would repay the loans themselves.

·Sawyer also pointed out that anyone unemployed after NYSC is under no obligation to repay the loans.

Consideration for students in private schools

While noting that the law that established NELFUND does not allow it to provide loans for Nigerian students in private higher institutions, he said President Bola Tinubu is considering extending it to them in the future.

"For now, we only give loans to students of public institutions because the law doesn't allow us to give loans to private institutions.

"However, I'm very aware that His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has indicated that he would like, at some point in the future, to capture all," he said.

The NELFUND MD said students of 150 public institutions comprising

federal and state-owned schools have benefitted from the loans.

What you should know

Earlier this month, NELFUND disclosed in a statement that it had disbursed a total of N20 billion for institutional fees, benefiting no fewer than 192,906 students across various tertiary institutions in the country as of February 3, 2025.

·NELFUND added that approximately 169,114 students had benefitted from the Fund's monthly stipend disbursement, amounting to N12.8 billion with each student receiving N20,000.

·The bill establishing NELFUND was signed into law on April 3, 2024, marking a historic step towards ensuring sustainable higher education and functional skill development for Nigerian students.

·The primary objective is to provide financial support to qualified Nigerians for tuition, fees, and living expenses at approved tertiary and vocational institutions within Nigeria.

Court orders Nnamdi Kanu to appear for trial Feb 10

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Federal High Court in Abuja has scheduled Monday, February 10, 2025, for the continuation of the trial of Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

The trial will be overseen by Binta Nyako (Justice) who had previously recused herself from the case.

A hearing notice dated January 22, 2025, and addressed to Kanu's lead counsel, Aloy Ejimakor, confirmed the development.

Reacting to the notice, Ejimakor described the decision as "shocking" but assured that the defence team would attend "with bated breath."

Kanu's trial has been on hold since



September 24, 2024, when he openly declared in court that he had lost confidence in Justice Nyako's handling of the case. This led to her recusal.

However, John Tsoho Chief Judge of

the Federal High Court, later reassigned the case to Nyako, ruling that Kanu's objection must be formally presented through a motion on notice.

Subsequently, on December 5, 2024, prosecution counsel Adegboyega Awomolo requested the court to fix a trial date.

Ejimakor opposed the move in a December 9 letter, maintaining that Nyako's recusal remained valid and suggesting the case be transferred to a Federal High Court in the South-East if no judge in Abuja was available to hear it.

Kanu is facing terrorism-related charges, a case that has sparked widespread public and political debate.

Ooni welcomes Olori Ashley, newborn son to palace from UK

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi, has officially welcomed his wife, Olori Ashley Ogunwusi, and their newborn son, Prince Ademakinwa to the palace in Ile-Ife, Osun State.

A grand homecoming ceremony was held on Friday, with traditional rulers, dignitaries, and well-wishers in attendance to celebrate the occasion.

Prince Ademakinwa was born on September 3, 2024, at Princess Royal Hospital in London, United Kingdom.

The monarch announced the birth on Instagram, stating: "...Hearty congratulations to the entire House of Oduduwa and Olori Folashade, who today birthed a Prince from the mother



side of Ooni Adagba Royal Compound of Lafogido Ruling House and father side of Ooni Agbedegbede Royal Compound of Giesi Ruling house combined to the Royal throne of Oduduwa."

Olori Ashley also shared her emotional

journey to motherhood, revealing that she suffered a miscarriage of twins at 14 weeks in 2023.

In an Instagram post, she wrote: "Even though the enemies tried in our relationship for about a decade, but Olodumare has remained faithful in our lives. Last year was a little dark as our set of twins gained their wings at 14 weeks, but Olodumare remained faithful, he said what you need is a son to carry your forebears lineage, a double CROWN PRINCE, now he has blessed us with our gorgeous son, who is not just only a prince of the source, but our CROWN PRINCE from both sides of his parents."

Oba Ogunwusi married Olori Ashley as his fourth wife in October 2022.

Sanwo-Olu signs MoU with Summa Group for Lekki-Epe International Airport construction

By Friday Omosola



Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the internationally renowned construction company, Summa Group, for the development and construction of the much-anticipated Lekki-Epe International Airport.

The governor announced this in a statement posted on his X (formerly Twitter) account on Saturday.

Sanwo-Olu described the MoU

signing as a groundbreaking initiative and a crucial step in the state's vision to enhance connectivity in Lagos, stimulate economic growth, and attract global investments.

He stated that the Lekki-Epe International Airport would facilitate travel and create new opportunities for businesses and residents across the state.

“We signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the internationally acclaimed construction company, Summa

Group, to develop and construct the much-awaited Lekki-Epe International Airport.

“This groundbreaking initiative is an essential part of our vision to improve connectivity in Lagos, stimulate economic growth, and draw in global investments. The Lekki-Epe International Airport will facilitate travel and create new opportunities for businesses and residents throughout the state. Lagos leads, always”, Sanwo-Olu wrote.

Police arrest Anambra man for alleged murder of elder brother

By Helen Okechukwu

A 37-year-old man, Anthony Okafor, has been apprehended by police operatives attached to Abagana Police Division Headquarters and AVG operatives for the alleged murder of Mr Emmanuel Okafor, 45, his elder brother.

The tragic incident, which fuels widespread reactions from citizens, occurred on 7 February after a heated argument erupted between the suspect and his elder brother.

The both brothers hail from Adegbe Village in the Njikoka Local Government Area (LGA) of Anambra State.

Tochukwu Ikenga, the police spokesperson, made this known on Saturday via a shared statement on Facebook, stated that argument erupted over a food item meant for the house.

Read Also: Police rearrest



Tiktoker Seaking in court

consequences.

He disclosed that the suspect has confessed to having stabbed his late elder brother in the chest with a stick during a heated argument.

The doctors on duty declared Mr Okafor dead upon arrival at the health facility.

Ikenga, while addressing domestic violence and conflict among family members, highlighted the need to manage conflict and emotions to avoid irreparable

He noted, "This incident is quite disturbing and highlights the importance of addressing domestic violence and conflicts among family members.

The case has been transferred to the Homicide Section of the State Criminal Investigation Department, Akwa.

It was disclosed that the suspect shall be charged in court after the completion of the investigation.

El-Rufai, Tinubu's feud: Is 2027 polls the main issue? By Friday Omosola

It is trite to say that the once cosy ties between former Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai and President Bola Tinubu have now gone sour.

The two former political allies are now in the trenches, with the ex-governor faulting the Tinubu-led administration while the presidency fires back, accusing El-Rufai of witch-hunting and betrayal.

In this report, The New Daily Prime examines the undercurrents behind the lingering frosty relationship between the duo

It is a verified truism that, as the saying goes, 'in Politics, there are no permanent friends or enemies, but permanent interests.'

However, the ambition of once-close allies—whether within the same political party or not—often transforms them into rivals in their quest to be elected into public offices.

While these political rivalries may eventually subside, oftentimes, they leave lasting impacts on the political space.

This political dynamic has been evident in Nigeria's political landscape, particularly in the relationship between former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and Nyesom Wike, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Wike, a two-term governor of Rivers



State under the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), had a cordial relationship with Atiku, frequently inviting him for project inaugurations and political engagements.

However, their political camaraderie ended when Wike worked against Atiku's presidential bid in support of President Tinubu.

In return for his efforts, Wike was appointed as a minister in the Tinubu-led administration, fueling further political animosity between Atiku and Wike.

Tinubu vs El-Rufai: A growing rift

Now, a similar political feud is unfolding between President Tinubu and former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir El-Rufai.

El-Rufai and Tinubu were once close allies, with Tinubu visiting and commissioning projects in Kaduna

State during El-Rufai's tenure as governor.

Tinubu even praised El-Rufai's leadership acumen, describing him as a visionary and creative thinker whose qualities were necessary for Nigeria's transformation.

During the build-up to the 2023 presidential election, El-Rufai played a crucial role in mobilizing support for the Tinubu presidential race.

In November 2022, he inaugurated the Kaduna State All Progressives Congress (APC) Campaign Council and pledged total support for Tinubu's presidential bid, declaring that a vote for APC was a vote for progress and development.

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However, cracks in their relationship began to appear when the Tinubu Support Organisation initially endorsed El-Rufai as a potential vice-presidential candidate, only for Tinubu to go for Kashim Shettima, the former Borno State governor.

Further tensions escalated when El-Rufai, despite downplaying speculations that he was lobbying for the position of Chief of Staff, was later nominated as a minister but failed to secure the Senate's confirmation due to alleged security concerns.

El-Rufai's inability to become a minister was a major turning point in his cosy relationship with Tinubu. Reports suggested that he had initially planned to leave the country after his tenure as governor, but reconsidered after Tinubu promised to appoint him Minister of Power and Gas.

However, following a series of security-related allegations, the Senate withheld his confirmation, leaving many political observers stunned that an ally as influential as El-Rufai was among the rejected ministerial nominees.

Despite being a key figure in Tinubu's campaign, El-Rufai's exclusion from the cabinet was perceived as a political betrayal, reigniting tensions between the two

political soulmates.

While he assured Tinubu that he no longer sought a ministerial position, instead opting to focus on his doctorate programme in the Netherlands, his actions have continued to spark speculations. He even recommended Jafaru Ibrahim Sani as a ministerial replacement for Kaduna State.

Nevertheless, their once-mended ties appear to have gone awry again, with El-Rufai voicing critical statements against the Tinubu-led administration.

Many believe this renewed hostility stems from his rumoured 2027 presidential ambition.

Is El-Rufai eyeing the 2027 presidency?

Although El-Rufai has not officially declared his own intention to run in 2027, his growing rift with Tinubu and recent engagements with the opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) have continued to fuel speculations.

His criticisms of Tinubu and the APC, despite being a staunch supporter of the president and the party in the 2023 polls, suggest a potential shift in political allegiance.

Speculations also heightened after he and Atiku's allies held a private

meeting with SDP leaders at the party's national secretariat in Abuja.

The closed-door meeting, attended by figures like Maj. Hamza Al-Mustapha, a former presidential candidate and ex-chief Security Officer to Gen. Sani Abacha, and Atiku's former spokesman, Otunba Segun Showunmi, has been described as part of a broader strategy to build a formidable opposition ahead of the 2027 elections.

While El-Rufai has not formally announced a presidential bid, his recent political manoeuvres indicate he may be positioning himself as a challenger to Tinubu.

His snide remarks about Tinubu's administration, coupled with speculations that he was sidelined from a ministerial appointment due to internal power struggles, suggest he may be feeling politically alienated.

If he and other disenchanted politicians believe they have the numbers, they could mount a serious challenge in 2027.

For now, El-Rufai remains a political enigma—one whose next move will determine whether he remains an influential behind-the-scenes strategist or emerges as a direct contender for Nigeria's highest office.

IPOB heads to Supreme Court over proscription

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) has taken its legal battle to the Supreme Court, seeking to overturn the Court of Appeal's recent judgment affirming the proscription of the group.

On January 30, the Court of Appeal in Abuja upheld the federal government's 2017 decision to ban IPOB, ruling that the proscription was lawful. A three-member panel, led by Justice Hamma Barka, dismissed IPOB's appeal, labelling it "unmeritorious."

The proscription dates back to 2017 when a Federal High Court in Abuja declared IPOB's activities as acts of terrorism.

The ruling, delivered by Justice Abdul Kafarati, cited the group's actions—particularly in the South-East and South-South regions—as justification for the ban. This decision was later reinforced by a presidential proclamation signed by former President Muhammadu Buhari.

In its appeal dated February 7, IPOB, through its lead counsel, Aloy Ejimakor, asked the Supreme Court to dismiss the Court of Appeal's ruling. The appeal is based on five legal grounds, including claims that the lower court wrongly prioritized national security over IPOB's right to



a fair hearing.

IPOB argues in its appeal made available to TheNiche on Saturday that the appellate court erred when "it interpreted 'Judge in Chambers' as is provided in the Terrorism Prevention (Amendment) Act 2013 to mean that the appellant had no right to be put on notice or to be heard before the trial court."

"The court below erred in law when it affirmed a decision that breached a non-derogable provision of the Constitution that prohibits subjecting the Appellant (and its members thereof) to disabilities or restrictions on the basis of their ethnic group, place of origin or political opinion, even when any threat to national security is alleged," the appeal reads.

"The court below erred in law when it held that the proceedings or procedure

by which the Appellant was proscribed and declared a terrorist organization, being 'propelled by civil procedure' does not require proof beyond reasonable doubt but by preponderance of the evidence, especially when the allegations of terrorism, murder, bomb-making, threats to life and indeed all the allegations made against the Appellant by the Respondent are all allegations of crime that require proof beyond reasonable doubt.

"The court below erred in law when it arrogated to itself the power to proclaim a state of emergency (even though termed threat to national security/emergency by the court below) when such power is — by the Constitution — reserved to the President of Nigeria who also must take such step in accordance with the provisions set out in the Constitution."

Why some gospel artists exited Christ Embassy – Oyakhilome

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome, founder of LoveWorld, also known as Christ Embassy, has shed light on why several gospel musicians left his church.

He revealed that many artists prioritized fame and financial gain over their commitment to serving God.

According to Oyakhilome, the church's music ministry had veered off course. Instead of focusing on worship, it became increasingly centred on entertainment and personal success.

He expressed disappointment that some musicians neglected spiritual duties, skipping prayer sessions but staying to lead praise and worship.

Music in the church became too worldly. The well-known cleric stated that at first, he supported and celebrated the musicians. However, he later noticed a troubling trend—worship was becoming more about performance than devotion.

When he tried to address the issue and redirect them, they refused to change and eventually chose to leave the church.

Oyakhilome explained, "The church was turning into a place of entertainment rather than a house of prayer where God's word is honoured. These artists were not winning souls. They would lead praise sessions, but when it was time for prayers, they disappeared."

He stressed that the spiritual essence of worship had been lost. Instead of singing for God, the musicians focused on themselves.

He criticized how they celebrated their talent rather than using it as a tool for



ministry. He also pointed out that they began charging money for their services, treating their roles as professional careers rather than sacred callings.

The influence of the world in the church

The pastor voiced concerns about how secular influences crept into gospel music. He stated that many church leaders failed to recognize this shift.

"They didn't realize that the world was coming into the church," he said. "At first, I celebrated these musicians, but when I tried to correct them, they refused to change. So, I had to let them go."

According to Oyakhilome, God urged him to take a stand and return to true worship. He expressed disappointment that some artists had allowed money and popularity to drive their decisions.

"They became too famous, and even though they were only making a little money, it was enough to distract them," he said. "They thought they had achieved financial success, but do they even understand what true wealth is?"

A call for repentance

Despite his disappointment, Oyakhilome said he hopes those who left will reflect on their actions and return to genuine worship. "I hope they repent," he said. "They are not worship leaders."

His comments highlight a long-standing debate in gospel music—whether artists should see their craft as a ministry or a profession.

Many churches face similar challenges as gospel music becomes more commercialized. Some argue that artists deserve financial compensation, while others believe worship should remain free from monetary influence.

A broader issue in gospel music

The departure of musicians from the Christ Embassy reflects a wider trend within the gospel industry.

Over the years, many gospel artists have transitioned from church-based singing to full-time professional careers. Some find success in mainstream music, while others remain within the gospel genre but operate independently.

Foreign Office 'to open talks on slavery reparations'

By Craig Simpson

Officials from David Lammy's department set to meet Caribbean delegation demanding trillions of pounds, sources claim

Sources said David Lammy's department will meet members of the Reparations Commission of the Caribbean Community Credit: Jordan Pettitt/PA Wire

The Foreign Office is to open talks on slavery reparations with Caribbean officials demanding trillions of pounds from the UK, sources have claimed.

Members of the Reparations Commission of the Caribbean Community (Caricom), a political grouping of 15 states that has long demanded compensation from former colonial powers, are planning to come to Britain in April.

According to Caribbean sources, a meeting has been planned as part of a Caricom delegation of officials and political leaders who will restate demands that Britain pay for its role in the slave trade.

It will be the first delegation of its kind, with Caricom never attempting to hold such a meeting in 14 years of Tory government because calls for reparations were repeatedly rebuffed by successive prime ministers.

The trip has been overseen by Mia Mottley, Barbados's prime minister, who previously put Sir Keir Starmer under pressure by pushing for reparations to be on the agenda at the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit in Samoa last year.

Ms Mottley has stated that Britain owes her country £3.9 trillion, while a 2023 report put the figure owed to former Caribbean colonies overall at £18



trillion.

Mia Mottley, the prime minister of Barbados, spoke to Sir Keir Starmer last year at the UN's Climate Change Conference Credit: Alexander Nemenov/AFP via Getty Images

This report was overseen by Patrick Robinson, an International Court of Justice judge, who has argued that reparations should be enshrined in international law and that Britain is "obliged to pay".

Caribbean sources suggested that the details of the trip would be formally confirmed in the coming weeks. A Foreign Office source insisted it was normal for diplomats to meet regularly. The Foreign Office said there was no plan for a ministerial meeting and that no date had been set for a UK-Caricom meeting. The spokesman said the UK does not pay reparations and the government position has not changed.

Mr Lammy has voiced support for reparations before, saying in 2020 that there was a need for a "reckoning" with Britain's colonial past, and a process of "repairing".

In an interview with a Boston radio station, he added that the process was "to some extent... obviously financial,

and involves endowments".

In 2018, he said it was vital that the UK government "hears and listens" to Caribbean demands for reparations.

At an event at the Guyana High Commission that year, he said "no reparations were ever given to any slaves" and spoke of a "different dialogue that is about our economic improvement and really starts to recognise some of the legacies that we were left with".

Mr Lammy was in attendance at the Commonwealth summit in Samoa, where the 56 member states signed an agreement stating that the time had come to seriously discuss reparations.

Following this summit, he said that reparation need not be a "cash transfer", but could include "other forms of non-financial reparatory justice too".

Lord Hermer, the Attorney General, has also voiced his support for reparations. In a 2020 podcast for Matrix Chambers, where he served as head of chambers, he said that "there was a moral and legal" case for reparations, and a "certainly moral" argument for it.

Mofe-Damijo visits Shettima, lauds FG for supporting creative industry

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Legendary Nollywood actor and filmmaker, Richard Mofe-Damijo (RMD), has applauded the federal government for supporting the creative industry.

The thespian gave the commendation when he paid a courtesy visit to the Vice President Kashim Shettima, to discuss his solo production, 'Revelation', and to extend a personal invitation to the premiere of his upcoming movie, 'Radio Voice', set to debut in Lagos in April 2025.

During the meeting, RMD expressed his gratitude to the Vice President for being a driving force behind the Creative and Digital Economy, recognising his unwavering support for the industry.

In response, Vice President Shettima commended RMD's remarkable contributions to the creative sector, highlighting his pivotal role in shaping Nigeria's film and entertainment landscape.

The vice president graciously committed to attending the movie premiere in Lagos and reaffirmed his dedication to supporting Nigeria's thriving creative space.

The Special Assistant to the President on Creative and Digital Economy, Fegho Umunubo, along with other senior government officials, witnessed the inspiring engagement, which strengthens the bridge between the government and the entertainment industry.

The upcoming film, 'Radio Voice', features a stellar cast, including Nancy Isime, Deyemi Okanlawon, Timini Egbuson, Nse Ikpe-Etim, Damilola Adegbite, Blessing Nze, Blossom Chukwujekwu, and RMD himself.

The film delves into themes of redemption, second chances, and the resilience of the human spirit.

As the premiere approaches, the nation eagerly anticipates the continued impact of storytelling in shaping narratives.

The collaboration between the government and the creative industry signifies a promising future for Nigeria's cultural and economic growth.

Celebrities fete Iyabo Ojo as daughter weds Tanzanian fiancé

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Priscilla Ojo, daughter of Nollywood star Iyabo Ojo, weds Tanzanian singer Juma Jux in a grand ceremony, uniting love and cultures.

The glamorous wedding took place on Friday in Tanzania, the groom's home country, bringing together friends, family, and well-wishers from both Nigeria and Tanzania.

The ceremony was a blend of cultures, showcasing rich traditions from both nations. Guests witnessed heartfelt moments, from emotional vows to joyful dances, making it a wedding to remember.

The couple, beaming with happiness, expressed their gratitude to everyone who joined them on their special day.

Nigerian celebrities celebrate the couple. The wedding has sparked excitement among Nigerian celebrities, who took to social media to share their joy and best wishes for the newlyweds.

Actress Mercy Aigbe celebrated the union, posting, "My baby is taken! Congratulations, my love. To God be the glory!" She expressed her excitement, hinting at the deep bond she shares with Priscilla.

Toyin Abraham also joined in, writing, "My Prisykoko." Though brief, her message was filled with warmth and affection for the young bride.

Actress Bimbo Afolayan shared her emotions, saying, "This night, I won't eat! I am all mushy mushy. I love seeing people in love. Don't worry about me, I'm a complete lover girl!"



Congratulations, mama @iyaboojofespris. JP 2025, we are ready! Your home is blessed, dear Priscilla." Her excitement showed just how much the wedding meant to her.

Nkechi Blessing added, "Congratulations @its.priscy, this is the Lord's doing, and it's marvelous in our sight. Queen mother @iyaboojofespris, you raised a queen, maami." Her message praised Iyabo Ojo for raising a strong and elegant daughter.

A wedding in four phases

This grand celebration is only the beginning. Earlier in 2024, Iyabo Ojo revealed that her daughter's wedding would take place in four phases. The ceremonies will be hosted in both Tanzania and Nigeria, allowing loved ones from both countries to partake in the joyous occasion.

Sources close to the family hinted that the next phase of the wedding would be even more spectacular, featuring elaborate traditional rites and a star-studded guest list. Fans eagerly await

more updates, curious about what surprises the Ojo family has in store.

Fans shower the couple with love. Beyond celebrities, fans of Priscilla and Juma Jux have also flooded social media with congratulatory messages. Many have praised the couple's beautiful love story and wished them a lifetime of happiness.

Some admirers pointed out how well Priscilla and Juma complement each other, calling them a "perfect match." Others noted how Iyabo Ojo, a proud mother, has been vocal about her support for her daughter's happiness.

As the newlyweds embark on their journey together, well-wishers continue to send messages of love and encouragement. Their wedding has not only united two hearts but also strengthened the cultural bond between Nigeria and Tanzania.

With more celebrations ahead, the love story of Priscilla Ojo and Juma Jux promises to remain in the spotlight, capturing the hearts of many.

Tems earns four RIAA certifications in US

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian R&B sensation Tems continues to make waves in the global music industry, breaking records, earning top awards, and solidifying her superstar status.

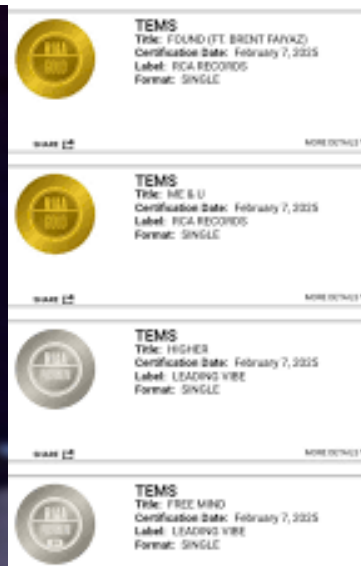
Her hit single “Free Mind” has been certified 2X platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) after surpassing two million units in sales across the United States.

Released in 2020 as part of her debut EP “For Broken Ears,” the song became an anthem for fans worldwide. It also achieved commercial success, peaking at No. 46 on the Billboard Hot 100 and spending 26 weeks on the prestigious chart. This milestone highlights Tems’ growing influence beyond the African music scene.

More hits earn platinum and gold certifications

Tems’ impressive run does not stop with “Free Mind.” Another track from her breakout EP, “Higher,” has now sold one million units, earning an RIAA platinum certification. The song, known for its soulful delivery and emotional depth, has resonated deeply with listeners.

Additionally, two more of her songs have earned gold certifications from the RIAA. Her collaboration with American singer Brent Faiyaz, “Found,” and her BET-winning single “Me & U” from her debut album “Born In The Wild” have each sold over 500,000 units in the U.S. These achievements reinforce her status as one of the most exciting artists in contemporary R&B.



Historic Grammy win for best African music performance

Tems’ impact extends far beyond sales and chart success. At the 67th Grammy Awards, she made history by winning the Best African Music Performance category. This victory makes her the first Nigerian artist ever to claim the award.

This marks her second Grammy win, solidifying her place among the elite in the global music industry. The Grammy recognition reflects her talent, versatility, and ability to push the boundaries of African music on the world stage.

More Grammy nominations highlight her versatility

Tems’ Grammy journey did not stop at her historic win. She also received two additional nominations—one for Best Global Music Album and another for Best R&B Song. These nods underscore her ability to blend genres, making music that appeals to both Afrobeats lovers and R&B fans worldwide.

Her nomination for Best Global Music Album speaks to her ability to represent African sounds on an international level. Meanwhile, her Best R&B Song nomination highlights her growing dominance in the genre, putting her alongside some of the biggest names in the industry.

A global superstar on the rise

Tems’ journey from a rising Nigerian artist to a global music icon is nothing short of remarkable. With multiple RIAA certifications, Grammy wins, and chart-topping records, she continues to break barriers and inspire millions.

Her unique sound, heartfelt lyrics, and ability to connect with audiences have positioned her as one of the most important voices in modern music. As she achieves more milestones, fans eagerly anticipate her next moves—whether it’s new music, international collaborations, or more groundbreaking performances.

One thing is certain: Tems is not just a rising star—she is a global powerhouse, shaping the future of R&B and Afrobeats.

I no longer listen to rap music – Kanye West

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Kanye West, the outspoken billionaire rapper and fashion mogul, has shocked fans once again. This time, he declared that he no longer listens to rap music.

In a blunt statement on his X account, the 47-year-old artist dismissed the genre that made him famous. He claimed that today's rap lacks valuable content and offers nothing that could help him grow his wealth.

"I don't listen to rap," West wrote. "I don't even know who the fck is rapping anymore. Yuno Miles is likely my favorite artist." He then added, "I'm a 47-year-old billionaire. Why the fck would I listen to rap? There's not one piece of information in rap that benefits my agendas or helps me get money."

His comments sparked immediate reactions across social media. Some fans expressed disappointment, pointing out that rap played a crucial role in his rise to fame. Others defended his stance, arguing that mainstream rap has lost its depth and originality.

A Career Built on Rap

West's statement surprised many, considering his legendary status in the industry. He has been one of the most influential figures in hip-hop for over two decades. His debut album, *The College Dropout*, released in 2004, was widely praised for its deep storytelling and innovative production.

Since then, he has released multiple groundbreaking albums, including *Graduation*, *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, and *Donda*. His influence shaped the sound of modern hip-hop, inspiring countless artists.

Despite his success, West has been vocal about his discontent with the music



industry. In recent years, he has shifted his focus to fashion, business, and other ventures. His billion-dollar empire includes his Yeezy brand, real estate, and various other investments.

Is Rap Losing Its Meaning?

West's criticism of modern rap reflects a growing sentiment among longtime hip-hop fans. Many argue that today's rap focuses too much on materialism, violence, and repetitive themes. They believe the genre has moved away from meaningful storytelling and social commentary.

However, others disagree. They argue that rap continues to evolve, with newer artists bringing fresh perspectives. Some point to rising stars who are pushing creative boundaries and addressing important issues.

Still, West's words carry weight. As a key figure in hip-hop history, his rejection of rap raises questions about its current direction.

A Pattern of Controversy

This is not the first time Kanye West has made headlines with bold statements. Over the years, he has been known for his

unpredictable behaviour and controversial opinions. From his support of political figures to his outspoken remarks on culture and business, West remains a polarizing figure.

Some see him as a visionary unafraid to speak his mind. Others believe he thrives on controversy to stay relevant. Whatever the case, his latest comments add another chapter to his ever-evolving public persona.

What's Next for Kanye?

With his focus shifting away from music, West continues to explore new business ventures. He remains one of the most talked-about celebrities, whether through his fashion empire, social media outbursts, or unexpected career moves.

For now, fans can only wonder if he will ever return to rap or if his departure from the genre is permanent. One thing is certain—Kanye West will continue making headlines, whether the world agrees with him or not.

California allocates \$50m to fight Trump administration, deportation efforts

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The governor of California, Gavin Newsom signed laws weekend setting aside \$50 million to help the state protect its policies from challenges by the Donald Trump administration and defend immigrants amid the president's mass-deportation plans.

One of the laws allocates \$25 million for the state's department of justice to fight legal battles against the federal government, and another sets aside \$25 million in part for legal groups to defend immigrants facing possible deportation.

During his first presidency, Trump sparred with California over climate laws, water policy, immigrant rights and more, and the state filed or joined more than 100 legal actions against the administration. The same fights are re-emerging in the early days of Trump's second term.

"Californians are being threatened by an out-of-control administration that doesn't care about the constitution and thinks there are no limits to its power," said Democratic assembly speaker Robert Rivas, in a statement earlier this week.

"That is why we are delivering legislation that will allocate resources to defend Californians from this urgent threat."

The move comes a day after the Democratic governor returned from Washington, where he met with Trump and members of Congress to try to secure federal disaster aid for the devastating Los Angeles-area wildfires that ripped through neighborhoods in January, killing more than two dozen people.



Newsom signed a \$2.5bn package for fire relief into law last month to help fund the state's disaster response including evacuations, sheltering survivors and removing household hazardous waste. His administration has said they expect the federal government to reimburse the state.

Republican lawmakers have criticized the funding for lawsuits, saying the focus on Trump is distracting as the Los Angeles area recovers from the fires.

"This slush fund isn't about solving any real problems – it's a political stunt designed to distract from the urgent issues our state faces and it won't bode well for fire victims," the Republican state senate minority leader Brian Jones said in a statement earlier this week.

Critics have also said the legislation doesn't ensure that funding wouldn't be used to defend immigrants without legal status who have been convicted of serious felonies.

After signing the funding into law, Newsom said the money wasn't intended to be used for that purpose and he encouraged lawmakers to pass subsequent legislation if clarifying that is needed. He said in a statement that the funding will assist legal groups in "safeguarding the civil rights of California's most vulnerable residents."

Newsom announced the plan to safeguard the state's policies days after Trump's election in November. He convened the legislature in a special session to pass the bills.

The state is used to taking the federal government to court over Trump actions.

California sued the Republican president's administration more than 120 times during his first term, according to the attorney general's office.

The state spent about \$42m overall on legal battles against the federal government, ranging from around \$2m to nearly \$13m a year.

Japanese PM, Trump parley on US Steel, tariffs, security

By Dave Oludare Oso

President Donald Trump held a press conference with Japanese Prime Minister, Shigeru Ishiba, following a meeting with him at the White House Friday afternoon.

“After our meeting today, I’m confident that the cherished alliances between our two countries and others also will continue to flourish long and into the future,” Trump said in his opening remarks. “The military cooperation between the United States and Japan is one of our closest security partnerships, and it’s one of the closest we have anywhere in the world.”

Trump said the two leaders spoke “long and hard” about their economic and trade relationship and noted Japan’s outsized investments in the U.S.

The US president said Japan will have some “competition,” because other countries are also eager to invest in the U.S.

Earlier in the day, during the meeting with Ishiba, Trump did not rule out imposing tariffs on Japan.

The president announced Japan would be taking in new shipments of American liquified natural gas or LNG “in record numbers.”

Before the news conference, among the top issues to come up during Trump’s meeting with the Japanese prime minister was Nippon Steel’s deal to acquire U.S. Steel, despite former President Joe Biden’s rejection of the merger and Trump’s previous pledge to block the deal.

Trump told reporters Friday he hasn’t changed his mind on U.S. Steel, but multiple sources said he is considering allowing Japan’s Nippon Steel to complete its \$14.1 billion acquisition of U.S. Steel.

Approval of the transaction isn’t definite,



and Trump has not made a final decision, sources say. Trump told reporters Friday that he and the Japanese prime minister would be discussing the U.S. steel deal.

Earlier on Thursday, Trump met with the CEO of U.S. Steel, David Burritt, at the White House. Biden administration blocked the sale of U.S. Steel to Nippon Steel last month. U.S. Steel and Nippon Steel have filed lawsuits over the Biden administration’s decision to stop Nippon Steel from taking over its Pittsburgh-based rival company.

“The United States is proud of our long and close alliance with Japan, and it’s time for a new age of U.S. Japan relations to bring peace and prosperity to the Indo-Pacific,” a senior administration official told reporters on a phone call. “Our two nations will continue to work together to ensure we deter threats in the region through our full range of military capabilities.”

Friday was Trump’s first in-person meeting with Ishiba.

Trump’s appearance with the Japanese prime minister is his second meeting and

joint press conference with a foreign leader this week. On Tuesday, Trump hosted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and said the U.S. wants to take control of and “own” the Gaza Strip.

Ishiba will likely look to persuade Trump from placing any tariffs on Japanese goods, as Trump exercises his authority to slap tariffs on nations that he believes aren’t treating the U.S. fairly.

The U.S. and Japan have close financial ties, and Japan is the largest source of direct foreign investment into the U.S.

A senior administration official said topics of their discussion will include training exercises and increasing cooperation on defense equipment and technology, foreign investment in the U.S., energy exports, and ways to increase cooperation in space ventures, among other things.

Trump grew close to Japan’s former prime minister, Shinzo Abe, who was assassinated in 2022. Trump hosted Abe’s widow at his Mar-a-Lago estate in December.

Musk's DOGE blocked from accessing sensitive Treasury Department materials

By Dave Oludare Oso

A federal judge early Saturday blocked Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) from accessing Treasury Department records that contain sensitive personal data such as Social Security and bank account numbers for millions of Americans.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer issued the preliminary injunction after 19 Democratic attorneys general sued President Donald Trump.

The case, filed in federal court in New York City, alleges the Trump administration allowed Musk's team access to the Treasury Department's central payment system in violation of federal law.

The payment system handles tax refunds, Social Security benefits, veterans' benefits and much more, sending out trillions of dollars every year while containing an expansive network of Americans' personal and financial data.

Engelmayer, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, also said anyone prohibited from having access to the sensitive information since Jan. 20 must immediately destroy all copies of material downloaded from Treasury Department systems.

He set a hearing for Feb. 14.

The White House previously did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit being filed.

Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, also known as DOGE, was created to discover and eliminate what the Trump administration has deemed to be wasteful government spending.



DOGE's access to Treasury records, as well as its inspection of various government agencies, has ignited widespread concern among critics over the increasing power of Musk, while supporters have cheered at the idea of reining in bloated government finances.

Musk has made fun of criticism of DOGE on his X social media platform while saying it is saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

New York Attorney General Letitia James, whose office filed the lawsuit, said DOGE's access to the Treasury Department's data raises security problems and the possibility for an illegal freeze in federal funds.

"This unelected group, led by the world's richest man, is not authorized to have this information, and they explicitly sought this unauthorized access to illegally block payments that millions of Americans rely on, payments for health care, child care and other essential programs," James said in a video message released by her office Friday.

James, a Democrat who has been one of

Trump's chief antagonists, said the president does not have the power to give away American's private information to anyone he chooses, and he cannot cut federal payments approved by Congress.

Also on the lawsuit are Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

The suit alleges that DOGE's access to the Treasury records could interfere with funding already appropriated by Congress, which would exceed the Treasury Department's statutory authority. The case also argues that the DOGE access violates federal administrative law and the U.S. Constitution's separation of powers doctrine.

It also accuses Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent of changing the department's longstanding policy for protecting sensitive personally identifiable information and financial information to allow Musk's DOGE team access to its payment systems.

Trump revokes Biden's access to classified info, intel briefings

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President of the United States (POTUS), Donald Trump has vowed to revoke Joe Biden's security clearance and access to daily intelligence briefings, after his predecessor did the same to him four years ago.

On a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump wrote, "There is no need for Joe Biden to continue receiving access to classified information."

"JOE, YOU'RE FIRED," the Republican added in a reference to his catchphrase on the reality TV show, *The Apprentice*.

Trump has already revoked the security clearance of more than four dozen former intelligence officials whom he accused of meddling in the 2020 election in Biden's favour.

Trump posted on Friday evening that Biden "set this precedent in 2021, when he instructed the Intelligence Community (IC) to stop the 45th President of the United States (ME!) from accessing details on National Security, a courtesy provided to former Presidents."

He said Biden "could not be trusted with sensitive information," citing a justice department inquiry into the Democrat's storage of classified files, which concluded that while there was no need to press criminal charges, Biden had a poor memory.

The investigation said Biden was unable to recall significant life events such as the year his son, Beau, died and when he served as vice-president to Barack Obama. Biden rejected that characterisation at the time.

The former president, who has taken some time away from the limelight since leaving his post last month, did not immediately respond to Trump's move on Friday.



The BBC contacted Biden's talent agency, which recently signed him, but no response was immediately forthcoming.

In 2021, Biden stopped Trump from receiving classified intelligence briefings, the first time an ex-president had ever been denied such information, which is traditionally given as a courtesy.

He justified the move by saying Trump could not be trusted because of his "erratic behaviour", even before the 2021 US Capitol riot, which Democrats accused Trump of inciting in the last days of his first term.

"What value is giving him an intelligence briefing?" Biden said at the time. "What impact does he have at all, other than the fact he might slip and say something?"

In 2022, federal agents discovered classified files in Trump's Florida home and he was charged with wilfully retaining defence information. He pleaded not guilty, and the case was ultimately dropped once he was re-elected.

Since returning to office, Trump has taken

steps to revoke the security clearances and protections of other top officials linked to the Biden administration.

Among those whose security clearance and detail has been retracted is former top US military commander Mark Milley, a vocal critic of Trump.

The new Defence Secretary, Pete Hegseth, has also ordered Milley's "conduct" to be investigated, and his military grade to be reviewed.

Trump has also revoked the security detail of former chief medical adviser to the president, Anthony Fauci, who led the US response to Covid-19.

Trump said at the time the decision was "very standard" and that it was not possible for everyone to have security protection for the rest of their life because they worked for the government.

He ended security protection for his own former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and Secret Service protection for his former National Security Adviser, John Bolton, last month.

Missing Alaska plane found, all 10 aboard dead

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A small commuter plane that crashed in western Alaska on its way to the hub community of Nome was located Friday on sea ice, and all 10 people on board were dead, authorities said.

The crash was one of the deadliest in the state in the last 25 years.

Rescuers were searching the aircraft's last known location by helicopter when the wreckage was spotted, said Mike Salerno, a spokesperson for the U.S. Coast Guard. Two rescue swimmers were lowered to investigate.

A photo provided by the Coast Guard showed the plane's splintered body and debris lying on the sea ice. Two people in brightly colored emergency gear circled the wreckage.

"It's hard to accept the reality of our loss," U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski said during an evening news conference.

Nome Mayor John Handeland choked up as he discussed the deaths and the response effort.

According to the US Coast Guard, the remains of the Bering Air Caravan were discovered about 34 miles (55 kilometers) from Nome.



"Three individuals were found inside and reported to be deceased," the Coast Guard stated on social media.

"The remaining seven people are believed to be inside the aircraft but are currently inaccessible due to the condition of the plane."

The Nome volunteer fire department, which was involved in the search, confirmed its participation in the recovery mission.

"The Nome Search and Rescue Team is spooling up with assistance from the Alaska Air National Guard with recovery efforts," the department posted on Facebook.

"From reports we have received, the crash was not survivable. Our thoughts are with the families at this time." The privately operated

plane, carrying nine passengers and one pilot, was reported overdue on Thursday while flying from Unalakleet to Nome, according to Alaska state police.

The two cities are located about 150 miles apart along the Norton Sound, on Alaska's western coast. Publicly available flight data indicated that the plane's last known position was over water approximately 40 minutes after takeoff.

This tragedy is the latest in a series of recent aviation disasters in the United States. On January 30, a passenger jet collided midair with a US Army helicopter in Washington, killing all 67 people aboard both aircraft. Shortly after, a medical plane crashed into a crowded neighborhood in Philadelphia, killing seven and injuring 19.

Trump says Musk will review ‘just about’ every federal agency

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President Donald Trump, in a news conference with the Japanese prime minister, Shigeru Ishiba, indicated that Elon Musk will have wide latitude to go into federal departments and agencies as he aims to slash federal spending by \$2 trillion.

He said he’s asked Musk to review “just about” every federal agency.

“Pentagon, Education, just about everything,” the president said. “We’re gonna go through everything.”

Trump said he tells Musk where to go, and he goes to that agency.

“I will pick out a target, and I say, ‘Go in,’” the president said.

In response to a reporter’s question about why DOGE needs access to Americans’ personal information, like bank accounts and Social Security numbers, the president appeared to support DOGE’s efforts while indicating that it did not need the data.

“Well, it doesn’t, but they get it very easily, I mean we don’t have very good security in our country,” Trump said. However, DOGE has obtained access to the information because of the president’s orders allowing it, not because of a lapse in security.

He added DOGE would be examining trillions in federal funds spent “perhaps illegally.” He said he’s



proud of the job “this group of young people” is doing.

The president weighed in on a DOGE staff member, Marco Elez, who resigned, according to the Wall Street Journal, which linked him to a now-defunct social media account expressing racist and eugenic views.

The Journal found a post from last July that read, “Just for the record, I was racist before it was cool.” In September, another post on X read, “You could not pay me to marry outside of my ethnicity. Normalize Indian hate.”

CBS News has not confirmed the existence of the account or posts. The Journal said that Elez did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

Vice President JD Vance, in response to a poll on X, said of Elez’s employment, “I obviously disagree with some of Elez’s posts, but I don’t

think stupid social media activity should ruin a kid’s life. We shouldn’t reward journalists who try to destroy people. Ever. So I say bring him back. If he’s a bad dude or a terrible member of the team, fire him for that.”

Trump said he wasn’t familiar with the details, but if Vance supported bringing the employee back, “I’m with the vice president.”

Soon after the news conference, Musk said Elez would be rehired. “He will be brought back,” he wrote on X. “To err is human, to forgive divine.”

The president was also asked whether he intended to fire the FBI agents who worked on the investigations into the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol.

“No, but I’ll fire some of them because some of them were corrupt,” he replied.

Trump not elected to 'rule the world' – Brazilian president

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Apparently angered by recent events, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has said that United States President Donald Trump was elected to govern the United States, not “to rule the world.”

“I respect the election of President Trump who was elected by the American people to govern the United States,” but “he was not elected to rule the world.”

Lula also said the U.S. president has to maintain “democratic and civilised” relations with the rest of the world, Lula noted, with reference to Trump’s intention to relocate Palestinians from the Gaza Strip.

The U.S. said on Tuesday at a news conference that the United States would take ownership of the Gaza Strip and redevelop it after Palestinians are relocated elsewhere. The Brazilian president also criticised the United States for promoting itself as “a symbol of democracy and ‘sheriff’ of the world.

He describe Trump’s statements on the occupation of certain countries and territories as “provocations.”

The Brazilian president caution comes on the heel of some



controversial and highly contentious moves and statements by POTUS Trump since he was inaugurated on January 20.

For instance, apart from Trump’s loud vow to occupy Gaza, he has also talked of plan to retake Panama Canal, sparking great anger from Panama and her leaders.

Also, most of his executive orders, especially that on forceful deportation of undocumented aliens have been highly criticised.

Only on Thursday, about 100 Indians were handcuffed and shackled in leg chains while being deported on a 40-hour journey back home.

The development so angered the whole world that, back home hundreds of lawmakers protested the

action, disrupting legislative sessions and mocking Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his so-called friendship with Trump.

Brazil and Guatemala are other countries who have protested against their citizens being deported in shackles, arguing that being undocumented does not make the migrants criminals and should be treated as humans.

Also, not less than 79 countries on Friday voiced their opposition to Trump’s plans to sanction the International Criminal Court (ICC) in a petition they signed.

At home in the US, most of his moves have been stopped by a barrage of lawsuits.

HOSTAGE SWAP: Hamas frees 3 Israelis for 183 Palestinians

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

As part of the fifth exchange under a fragile Gaza ceasefire, Hamas militants handed over three Israeli hostages on Saturday, with 183 prisoners held by Israel due to be released later in the day.

The development comes as US President Donald Trump proposed clearing out the Gaza Strip of its inhabitants and for the United States to take over the Palestinian territory — a plan that has sparked global uproar and been rejected by Hamas.

Jubilant crowds in Israel's commercial hub Tel Aviv cheered as they watched live footage of the three hostages, flanked by masked gunmen, brought on stage in Deir el-Balah before being handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The stage was festooned with a banner bearing images of destroyed Israeli armoured vehicles and a dejected-looking Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister.

Dozens of armed Hamas fighters had formed a cordon around the open area where the release took place, apparently to control crowds of onlookers.

The three hostages were identified as Eli Sharabi, Or Levy and Ohad Ben Ami.

Sharabi, 52, was at his home in kibbutz Beeri with his British-born wife and their two daughters when militants stormed it.

The armed men shot their dog, before locking the family in their safe room and setting it on fire. The bodies of his wife and two daughters were later identified.

Levy was abducted from the Nova music festival, where gunmen murdered his wife. Ben Ami, who has dual Israeli-German citizenship, turned 56 in captivity.

Former hostage Yarden Bibas, who was freed last week by Hamas militants in



Gaza, on Friday urged Netanyahu to help bring back his wife and two children from the Palestinian territory.

“Prime Minister Netanyahu, I’m now addressing you with my own words... bring my family back, bring my friends back, bring everyone home,” Bibas said in his first public message following his release.

Hamas previously said his wife, Shiri and his two sons, Ariel and Kfir — the youngest hostages — were dead, but Israel has not confirmed their deaths.

Netanyahu, who is in Washington, will “monitor this phase of the hostages’ release from the control centre of the delegation in the US”, the premier’s office said in a separate statement.

The Hostage and Missing Families Forum urged the government on Friday to stick with the Gaza truce, even as Trump’s comments sparked backlash across the Middle East and beyond.

“An entire nation demands to see the hostages return home,” the Israeli campaign group said in a statement.

“Now is the time to ensure the agreement is completed — until the very last one,” it added.

Israel and Hamas have completed four swaps under the first stage of the ceasefire agreement.

Palestinian militants, led by Hamas, have so far freed 18 hostages in exchange for around 600 mostly Palestinian prisoners released from Israeli jails.

The ceasefire, mediated by Qatar, Egypt and the United States, aims to secure the release of 33 hostages during the first 42-day phase of the agreement.

Negotiations on the second stage of the ceasefire were set to begin on Monday, but there have been no details on the status of the talks.

Netanyahu’s office said that after Saturday’s swap, an Israeli delegation will head to Doha for further negotiations on the ceasefire.

Trump fires archivist of the United States

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



President Donald Trump has sacked Archivist of the United States, Colleen J. Shogan, the government official responsible for preserving and providing access to government records.

Sergio Gor, Director of the Presidential Personnel Office, announced Shogan's dismissal Friday night.

Shogan has held the job since 2023.

"At the direction of @realDonaldTrump, the Archivist of the United States has been dismissed tonight," Gor wrote on X. "We thank Colleen Shogan for her service."

The move isn't unexpected. Trump told radio host Hugh Hewitt earlier this month that "we will have a new archivist."

On Thursday, however, a senior archivist official told CBS News there was "no word that anything is changing."

"The archivist looks forward to continuing her strong working relationship with the president and first lady," the official said at the time.

The archivist of the United States, who oversees the National Archives and Records Administration, is typically an apolitical role that receives little attention. But President Trump has expressed ire toward the

agency in the past, after it was a key player in the case about his mishandling of classified records.

When he left office in early 2021, Trump allegedly took dozens of boxes of presidential papers, including nearly 340 documents bearing classified markings, to his home in Florida.

The Republican president was eventually charged with 40 felonies, including for allegedly refusing to turn over some of the papers. But after Trump won the election in November, then-special counsel Jack Smith removed him from the case due to Justice Department policy against prosecuting a sitting president.

Chelsea duo make Super Eagles World Cup Qualifiers provisional list

By Dave Oludare Oso



The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) is in a race against time to complete the international switch of allegiance of on-loan Chelsea midfield duo, Carney Chukwuemeka and Lesley Ugochukwu, NEW DAILY PRIME reports.

Both players were named in the provisional list of 31 players called up by the newly appointed coach of the senior male national team of Nigeria Eric Chelle for

the world cup qualifiers games against Rwanda and Zimbabwe, respectively.

Ugochukwu, who is on loan to Southampton represented France at various youth levels, but is still eligible for Nigeria at senior international level and has already submitted his papers for a switch of nationality.

Likewise, Chukwuemeka, who is on loan to Borussia Dortmund have also applied for a switch of

nationality, spurning the option of continuing with England or representing Canada.

The only fear is if their papers will be ready before the games in the month of March. That of Ugochukwu is not expected to pose a big problem like that of Chukwuemeka due to the complex nature of the composition of the English FA that requires approval from all its affiliates under the United Kingdom.

Portuguese giants, Benfica sign 18-yr-old Nigerian from Abuja academy

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

Eighty-five times champions of Portugal, Benfica, have completed the signing of 18-year-old Nigerian forward, Peter Osayande Edokpolor from a Nigerian academy, N-Youth Sports, based in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), NEW DAILY PRIME reports.

Peter have been training with the team for a while and did enough to convince the hierarchy of the club to offer him a deal, which was made official by the club on Saturday.

According to OwngoalNigeria, he is expected to start from the lower division which is with the U23 of the club from where his performance will be monitored for a possible promotion to the main team.

The club sees his signing as a coup because they beat other comers to his signing, which was possibly by offering him a faster route to the first team of the team based on his performance.

The versatile footballer will also

be offered the chance to train with the main team once in a while.

In recent times, he is the second Nigerian to sign for the Portuguese giants following in the footsteps of Tyronne Ebuehi in 2018, but his (Ebuehi) stay at the club was jeopardised after picking up an ACL injury on the eve of their first league game, and subsequently missing two years due to the complications before his eventual departure two seasons ago.

