



Nigerian politicians steal, kill to remain in power – Amaechi

Pg 10



‘Obidients’ executed #EndSARS protest to stop Tinubu – Bisi Akande

Pg 11

The New Daily Prime

f @new_daily_prime x @prime_dai1149 @ @new_daily_prime

...your prime source for excellence in journalism

US plane crash: No survivors found, 30 bodies recovered **Pg 27**



Vicious kidnapper, Evans begs for mercy, says I've repented

Pg 13

Meta to pay \$25m for Trump's Facebook, X ban **Pg 32**



5,000 repentant Boko Haram fighters reunite with families

Pg 12



Blackface urges 2Face, Annie to divorce peacefully **Pg 22**

IPOB remains banned as terrorist group – Appeal Court **Pg 2**



IPOB remains banned as terrorist group – Appeal Court

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja, has upheld the proscription of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), as a terrorist organisation.

In a unanimous decision by a three-member panel led by Justice Hamma Barka on Thursday, January 30, 2025, the appellate court affirmed the judgement of the Federal High Court in Abuja, which outlawed IPOB.

The court held that it found no reason to set aside the order the Federal Government got against the group.

According to the court, the government acted lawfully by proscribing the organization whose activities threaten the nation's security and continued existence.

It resolved all the issues against IPOB and dismissed its appeal for want of merit.

It will be recalled that the late former Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice Abdul Abdu-Kafarati, had in a ruling he delivered on September 15, 2017, outlawed the activities of the IPOB in Nigeria.

The proscription order followed an ex-parte motion the former Attorney-General of Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr.



Abubakar Malami, SAN, filed on behalf of the Federal Government.

Specifically, Justice Kafafati declared as illegal, all activities of the group, particularly in the South-east and South-South regions of the country.

He further restrained “any person or group of persons from participating in any of the group’s activities.”

The Judge directed the AGF to ensure that he published the proscription order in the official gazette, as well as in two national dailies.

In a follow-up ruling on January 22, 2018, the court dismissed a motion IPOB filed to challenge the legal validity of the proscription order which it said was

surreptitiously obtained by the AGF.

Dissatisfied with the decisions, IPOB approached the appellate court to set them aside.

The organization, in its appeal marked: FHC/CA/A/214/2018, which it filed through its team of lawyers led by a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN, Mr. Chukwuma-Machukwu Umeh, urged the appellate court to set aside in its entirety, the ruling/final decision of the high court.

It alleged that the then AGF suppressed and misrepresented facts in the affidavit evidence he tendered before the court, maintaining that the proscription order was tantamount to declaring over 30 million Nigerians of Igbo extraction as terrorists.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

**EFFECTIVE FROM
DECEMBER 1, 2024**

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	372,500.00
HALF PAGE	213,000.00
QUARTER PAGE	106,500.00
14X2	118,000.00
10X6	261,585.50
10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
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
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
1X1	4,400.00

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	329,868.50
HALF PAGE	192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	100,000.00
14X2	109,500.00
10X6	242,500.00
10X5	237,500.00
10X4	192,500.00
10X3	171,000.00
9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
5X4	61,500.00
5X3	57,819.00
5X2	40,379.50
4X4	55,000.00
4X3	31,000.00
4X2	22,003.50
3X2	17,260.00
2X2	12,945.00
2X1	8,630.00
1X1	4,315.00

POLITICAL COLOUR

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,200,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	885,000.00
FULL PAGE	420,000.00
HALF PAGE	213,250.00
QUARTER PAGE	115,012.50

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,050,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	745,000.00
FULL PAGE	315,777.50
HALF PAGE	184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	95,222.50

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	254,533.50
HALF PAGE	142,787.50
QUARTER PAGE	80,706.50
14X2	78,222.50
10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
10X3	121,355.50
9X6	192,305.50
9X3	107,757.50
8X6	170,725.00
8X3	70,390.00
7X4	58,666.50
6X4	67,048.00
6X3	53,361.50
6X2	37,694.00
5X6	83,850.00
5X4	55,900.00
5X3	43,705.00
5X2	27,938.00
4X4	44,493.00
4X3	33,524.00
4X2	22,350.00
3X2	16,763.00
2X2	10,877.00
2X1	5,588.50
1X1	2,795.50

PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	280,690.00
HALF PAGE	164,178.00
QUARTER PAGE	84,641.50
10X6	228,000.00
10X5	201,600.00
10X4	149,440.00
10X3	127,108.00
9X6	201,600.00
9X5	169,050.00
9X4	137,875.00
9X3	112,875.00
8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
5X2	32,916.50
4X4	52,666.50
4X3	39,499.50
4X2	26,333.50
3X2	19,750.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	210,795.50
HALF PAGE	124,236.00
QUARTER PAGE	70,950.00
14X2	76,128.35
10X6	194,961.00
10X5	162,222.445
10X4	103,963.00
10X3	N/A
9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
7X4	72,676.00
6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
6X2	29,858.00
5X6	71,378.00
5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
4x4	N/A
4X3	N/A
4X2	17,737.50
3x3	23,458.00
3X2	14,923.00
2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
1X1	2,700.00

SPECIAL POSITIONS

2X6 FRONT PAGE	700,000.00
2X6 BACK PAGE	300,000.00
2X6 INSIDE PAGE	155,000.00
3X6 FRONT PAGE	1,200,000.00
4X6 FRONT PAGE	2,250,000.00
5X6 FRONT PAGE	3,350,000.00
10X6 FRONT PAGE	8,250,000.00
EARPIECE FRONT PAGE(1.5X2)	246,500.00
EARPIECE INSIDE PAGE(1.5X2)	117,875.00
EARPIECE BACK PAGE	236,796.50
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PUBLIC NOTICE)	1,027,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT)	929,000.00
CENTRESPREAD B&W	800,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	575,000.00
CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR	191,668.50
DOUBLE SPREAD COLOUR	721,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	144,294.00
CENTRE SPREAD B&W	835,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	425,000.00
FULL WRAP AROUND	15,000,000.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

ALLURE RATE

SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
CENTRESPREAD		967,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD		806,250.00
ALLURE COVER		750,000.00
(IBC) Inside Back Cover		376,250.00
(IFC) Inside Front Cover		430,000.00
(BC) Back Cover		483,750.00
Full Page		430,000.00
10X5		295,625.00
Half Page		225,000.00
EVENT		250,000.00

PICTURE & CAPTION

SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL
PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00

GENERAL INFORMATION

SERIES DISCOUNT
5 PAGES 2.5%
10 PAGES 5%
15 PAGES & ABOVE 7.5%

SURCHARGE
PAGE 3 (100%)
PAGE 4, 5, 7 AND 8 (50%)
PAGE 2 (75%)

LOOSE INSERT
LEAFLET, POSTERS 1,000 COPIES
SPECIAL INSERTS (8 PAGES) COPIES
SPECIAL INSERTS (4 PAGES) 1,000 COPIES
HANDLING CHARGES FOR LESS THAN 35,000 COPIES
HANDLING CHARGES MORE THAN 35,000 COPIES

CLASSIFIED ADVERT RATES
CHANGE OF NAME
GUIDE BLACK & WHITE
GUIDE COLOUR

25,000.00
45,000.00
30,000.00
75,000.00
100,000.00

2,000.00
3,750.00
4,250.00

CONTACT US

Correspondent Address:
Real Group Plaza, No.1 Junaid Dosumu
Street, CBD, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos
Call the Editor on: 07025014298, 09014323792

E-mail Address:
info@newdailyprime.news
Terms and Conditions apply

ALL RATES ARE VAT INCLUSIVE

Tinubu mourns US plane crash victims, says Nigeria stands with America

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has expressed sadness over the death of at least 18 persons in an air accident in Washington DC, United States.

President Tinubu, in a statement on Thursday, said he is deeply saddened by the incident which occurred in Washington D.C.

Intel Region that a tragic mid-air collision that occurred near Washington, D.C., involving an American Airlines commercial jet and a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter, left 67 people unaccounted for.

The American Eagle Flight 5342, carrying 60 passengers and four crew members, was approaching Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport on Wednesday night when it collided with the military helicopter, which had three crew members onboard.

In a post via his verified X handle on Thursday, Tinubu commiserated with the families of the victims, the people of the United States, and all affected by the sad incident.

He added that Nigeria stands in solidarity with the USA in their time of grief.

“I am deeply saddened by the tragic incident in Washington, D.C.

“On behalf of Nigeria, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the families



of the victims, the people of the United States, and all affected by this profound loss. I commend the courageous efforts of first responders and emergency teams for their selfless work in harsh conditions.

“Nigeria stands in solidarity with the United States Government and its People, united in grief and hopeful for a new day,” the statement read.

Meanwhile, US Donald Trump believes the crash between an American Airlines regional passenger jet and a military helicopter ‘should have been prevented.’

The president initially delivered a statement hoping that God would bless the souls of the victims as emergency services search the Potomac River near the airport for survivors following the incident.

In a post to the Trump-owned Truth

Social later in the evening, Trump raised several questions about the crash, which took place at 8.48pm on Wednesday.

‘The airplane was on a perfect and routine line of approach to the airport. The helicopter was going straight at the airplane for an extended period of time. It is a CLEAR NIGHT, the lights on the plane were blazing, why didn’t the helicopter go up or down, or turn,’ he asked.

Trump continued: ‘Why didn’t the control tower tell the helicopter what to do instead of asking if they saw the plane. This is a bad situation that looks like it should have been prevented. NOTGOOD!!!’

He wrote a short follow-up post on Truth Social saying: ‘What a terrible night this has been. God bless you all!’

Shettima launches project #SheIsIncluded to bridge gender gaps

By Friday Omosola

Vice President Kashim Shettima has reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to gender equality, declaring that women will lead Africa's projected \$29 trillion economic transformation.

He made this statement while launching Project #SheIsIncluded during the opening of the 2025 Gender Inclusion Conference in Abuja on Thursday.

The initiative aims to bridge gender gaps in finance and the economy, further emphasizing Nigeria's dedication to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 5: gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The conference, themed "Breaking Barriers, Building Resilience for Sustainable Women's Economic and Financial Inclusion," follows the 2024 Aso Accord for Economic and Financial Inclusion, reinforcing Nigeria's broader development agenda.

"We cannot build the Nigeria or Africa we envision without fully integrating women into our economic systems. Women are not just participants; they are leaders, innovators, and the bedrock of sustainable development," Shettima stated.

Project #SheIsIncluded will focus on four key pillars: education and financial literacy, maternal healthcare, gender-sensitive policies, and expanded economic opportunities for women.

The initiative will span all 774 local government areas across Nigeria, ensuring that no woman is left behind.

"This is not a cosmetic performance to placate progressives; it is a fundamental pillar of our national development agenda," Shettima emphasised.

The project will be led by the Presidential Committee on Economic and Financial Inclusion in collaboration with the



Ministry of Women's Affairs.

Shettima urged both public and private sector stakeholders to use the conference as a platform for outlining actionable steps towards gender inclusion.

Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, underscored the importance of gender inclusion in sustainable development, emphasising its role in addressing poverty and fostering economic growth.

She affirmed that the judiciary would collaborate with stakeholders to protect women's rights, ensuring they have access to economic resources and property ownership.

In a recorded message, UN Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed celebrated the conference as a significant milestone in Nigeria's journey towards gender inclusion, urging global investments in women's empowerment.

She stressed that empowering women leads to prosperous communities and growing economies.

Senator Ibrahim Hadejia, Deputy Chief of

Staff to the President, praised Shettima's leadership in promoting inclusive growth, noting that the conference would serve as a model for gender equity in Nigeria.

Similarly, Hajiya Sulaiman Ibrahim, Minister of Women Affairs, highlighted the conference as an opportunity to strengthen frameworks for dismantling barriers to women's empowerment.

Governors from various states, including Uba Sani of Kaduna, Umar Namadi of Jigawa, and Monday Okpebholo of Edo, voiced their support for gender inclusion policies at the state level.

They outlined ongoing programs to support women in agriculture, commerce, and other sectors.

The event also saw participation from key figures such as Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, CEO of the National Information Technology Development Agency, as well as first ladies and CEOs from various financial institutions.

Nigeria unveils \$23.2bn energy access programme to close power gap

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

In a bold move to address Nigeria's significant electricity shortfall, the Federal Government has launched a transformative energy access programme aimed at revolutionising the nation's power sector.

The ambitious initiative, which has a target funding of \$23.2 billion, seeks to drastically improve electricity access across the country and boost the share of renewable energy in the national power mix.

According to a statement from the spokesman for the Minister of Power, Bolaji Tunji, the programme, led by Minister Adebayo Adelabu, is designed to tackle Nigeria's energy challenges and bring about sector-wide reforms.

A significant portion of the funds—\$15.5 billion—will be sourced from private sector investments, marking a crucial step towards collaborative development in the energy sector.

Tunji explained that the programme, named the National Energy Compact, aligns with the objectives of the recently concluded Mission 300 Africa Energy Summit held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The summit, attended by African leaders, business executives, and international development partners, focused on accelerating energy access for 300 million Africans by 2030.

The National Energy Compact aims to achieve several key goals, including increasing electricity access from 4% to 9% annually, boosting access to clean cooking solutions from 22% to 25%, and expanding renewable energy's share in power generation from 22% to 50%.

The programme will also mobilise \$15.5 billion in private investment for last-mile electrification efforts, contributing to the



global drive for universal access to modern energy services under the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 7.

Unveiling the programme, Minister Adelabu emphasised that the government remains committed to achieving universal energy access by 2030.

He pointed out that while 150 million Nigerians are currently electrified, the path to nationwide access will require overcoming numerous challenges, including the persistent issue of infrastructure vandalism.

Adelabu expressed particular concern over the increasing attacks on transmission towers, pipelines, and distribution equipment, which have severely disrupted power supply and discouraged potential investors.

To combat this, the government is ramping up efforts to secure power assets, including enhanced security measures, stricter penalties for vandals, and the adoption of advanced surveillance technologies.

“Protecting power assets is essential to ensuring a steady electricity supply and

fostering investor confidence,” Adelabu said, underscoring the importance of security in maintaining the momentum of Nigeria's electrification efforts.

The programme also calls for substantial investment in expanding power generation capacity, fortifying transmission and distribution networks, and incorporating renewable energy solutions across the country.

The \$23.2 billion funding target will play a critical role in strengthening Nigeria's energy infrastructure and accelerating the country's transition to cleaner, more sustainable power sources.

Recognising the scale of the challenge, the government is appealing to development partners, philanthropies, and private sector stakeholders to join the initiative and contribute to the nation's energy transformation.

“By implementing the National Energy Compact, Nigeria is positioning itself as a leader in Africa's energy transition, creating opportunities for economic growth, job creation, and industrialisation,” Adelabu stated.

Tinubu urges unified approach to Lake Chad security crisis

By Friday Omosola

At the opening of the 5th meeting of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum in Maiduguri yesterday President Bola Tinubu called for a multifaceted approach to the growing security challenges in the region, which has been plagued by terrorism, insurgency, and poverty.

Represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, the Nigerian leader emphasised the need for not just military action.

He also addressed the root causes of insecurity, including poverty, inequality, and the lack of opportunities for young people in the region.

"While military power is indispensable, it must be complemented by strategies that tackle poverty, inequality, and unemployment," President Tinubu said.

"We must transform our demographic dividend into a force for good, not allow our youth to become cannon fodder for destructive ideologies."

The meeting, hosted by the Yobe State government, brought together eight governors from Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, as well as various international and local stakeholders.

The forum aimed to address the myriad challenges facing the Lake Chad Basin region and explore sustainable solutions for peace and stability.

President Tinubu stressed the importance of diplomacy and cooperation among the nations of the Lake Chad Basin, noting that hard power if detached from diplomacy and justice, risks widening the divide it seeks to bridge.

He also warned against allowing global geopolitical tensions to divide the region and urged leaders to remain committed to their shared goals for peace and development.

Yobe State Governor Mala Buni, the host of the event, reflected on the progress made since the inception of the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery, and



Resilience six years ago.

Governor Borno State, Babagana Zulum, praised the collaborative efforts of the forum's strategic partners, emphasizing that the platform serves as a vital tool for fostering political cohesion and regional development.

The forum also highlighted the environmental challenges facing the region.

Governor of Adamawa State, Umaru Fintri, pointed to the dramatic shrinkage of Lake Chad, which has decreased by 90 per cent over the past six years due to climate change, population growth, and agricultural activities.

During the meeting, the Executive Secretary of the Lake Chad Basin Commission, Ambassador Mamman Nuhu, emphasised that the forum's theme, "Rebuilding the Lake Chad Basin: Consolidating Gains, Commitment to Peace, Cross-Border Cooperation, Security, and Sustainable Development for a Resilient Community," reflects the region's progress as well as the significant work

still required.

Representatives from international organizations, including the British High Commission's Development Director Cynthia Rowe, also pledged continued support to the region, highlighting the return of displaced people to their homes as a sign of hope, though challenges like poverty, climate change, and complex crises persist.

The meeting was attended by several dignitaries, including the Chair of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum, Ildjima Abdraman, and key Nigerian government officials, such as Senate President Ahmad Lawan, as well as military leaders and traditional rulers.

At the forum, participants were urged to enhance cooperation, continue supporting peace-building efforts, and tackle the region's challenges through collective action.

FG gifts family of Nigeria's flag designer, Akinkunmi N30m

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



In a show of appreciation, the Federal Government on Thursday donated N30 million to the family of the designer of Nigeria's national flag, late Taiwo Akinkunmi.

The Director General of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Lanre Issa-Onilu, along with the Oyo State Director of the agency, Olukemi Afolayan presented the donation to the family at his residence in Elebu, Ibadan, on Thursday.

Issa-Onilu clarified that the N30 million donation was not intended to compensate for the late Akinkunmi's services but to support his family in recognition of his monumental contributions to Nigeria.

"I am aware, even though I wasn't appointed Director General of the NOA at that time, that the President gave a directive that this place should

be visited and that the government must commiserate with this great Nigerian, and the Minister of Information with the then Director General of NOA came to commiserate with the family.

"The transition which led to my appointment and resumption, delayed the process of finalising the effort at showing appreciation to the family.

"Donation of N30m to the family of the renowned national flag designer was not to pay for the services of the late legend but to support his family in appreciation of his contributions to the country," Issa-Onilu said.

One of the patriot's sons, Akinwunmi Akinkunmi, expressed deep gratitude to President Bola Tinubu for the gesture.

The late flag designer, Akinkunmi

died on August 29, 2023, at the age of 87.

Following his death, President Tinubu sent a government delegation, led by the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Malagi, to offer condolences.

Akinkunmi was buried in Ibadan, Oyo State capital in September 2024 after one year of waiting for the government to organise a befitting burial.

The funeral service was held at the Obafemi Awolowo Stadium, Liberty Road, Ibadan.

Akinwunmi, while speaking at the service, said the family was open to any manner the Federal Government deemed fit to immortalise the flag designer.

Oluremi Tinubu donates N350m for movie promoting Kwara's culture

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu's wife, Oluremi, has made a significant donation of N350 million for the production of a movie aimed at promoting the rich culture and traditions of Kwara State.

The First Lady of Nigeria made the donation during her three-day working visit to Ilorin, the state capital, where she expressed excitement over the world-class facilities at the Sugar Factory Film Studio and the warm reception from the people of Kwara.

Mrs Tinubu, who landed in Ilorin on Tuesday, took the opportunity to commission several key legacy projects initiated by Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq.

These include two monumental flyovers, named after the Emir of Ilorin, Ibrahim Kolapo Sulu-Gambari, and the late General Tunde Idiagbon.

During her visit, Mrs Tinubu also



toured other notable projects by the state government, such as the Innovation Hub, Visual Arts Centre, Garment Factory, and the Sugar Factory Film Studio.

It was at the Sugar Factory Film Studio where she announced her N350 million donation to fund the production of a film that would showcase Kwara's cultural heritage to a global audience.

Her donation has been widely praised by the Kwara State Government and citizens alike, who see it as a powerful step toward elevating the state's

creative industry.

The state government expressed its appreciation, noting that this contribution will play a key role in promoting the state's traditions and arts, with hopes of making a significant impact in Nigeria's entertainment sector.

The gesture also underscored the First Lady's commitment to supporting Kwara's growth and development. Observers believe that her efforts will help position Kwara as a major player in the country's cultural and creative landscape.

Nigerian politicians steal, kill to remain in power – Amaechi

By Friday Omosola

Former Minister of Transport, Rotimi Amaechi, has cautioned Nigerians that political leaders will not easily relinquish power, warning that many are willing to go to extreme lengths to remain in office.

Speaking at a national conference on strengthening democracy in Nigeria—organised by the African Centre for Leadership, Strategy, and Development in Abuja—Amaechi stated that President Bola Tinubu would not hand over power to the younger generation without a struggle.

The former Rivers State Governor stressed that Nigerian politicians are deeply entrenched in power and will do whatever it takes to hold onto it, regardless of public demand for change.

Citing historical examples from Nigeria and Ghana, he emphasised that true political transitions have often come at a high cost, urging citizens to remain vigilant in the fight for democratic governance.

He said: “None of you here can defend the votes. If you have complained, complain, Nigerians have been clapping for you. The only way Ibrahim Shekarau became governor was because people lined up.

“It happened in Ghana before the election of the last president. Two days, many of us were called to intervene. Why? Because the people were ready to die. You are talking and abusing everybody. Nobody has power and will give it to you—not even me. If you want a pastor as president, go and get one.

“The politician in Nigeria is there to steal, maim, and kill to remain in power. If you



think Tinubu will give it to you, you are wasting your time.”

Amaechi also shared his experience during the 2015 presidential election.

He attributed the APC’s victory to the party leaders’ unwavering determination to go above and beyond.

Amaechi, a lawyer further explained that President Goodluck Jonathan accepted defeat because the APC was fully prepared to defend its mandate.

This newspaper learned that this isn’t the first time Amaechi has spoken harshly about politicians, particularly the administration of President Bola Tinubu.

In October 2024, Amaechi, who was one of the aspirants vying for the APC presidential ticket, expressed his disappointment with Nigerians for not taking action as the economic hardship deepened under Tinubu’s leadership.

He criticised citizens for remaining passive as the country endured soaring

fuel prices and escalating food inflation.

He urged Nigerians not to have allowed politicians to continue their electioneering campaigns while the nation suffered.

In an interview published by ABN TV, the former governor lamented the high cost of living in Nigeria, noting that even he could no longer afford diesel due to the prevailing economic struggles.

“I’m angry with the citizens. I’ve said it several times. You can see a group of people stealing your money, impoverishing you, and you cannot even buy fuel. The people should be angry. There should be protests—not against anyone specifically, but against the politicians, saying ‘we won’t vote.’”

Amaechi emphasised the dire situation, noting that if people like him couldn’t afford basic necessities, the hardships faced by others without children would be unimaginable.

‘Obidients’ executed #EndSARS protest to stop Tinubu – Bisi Akande

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former national chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Chief Bisi Akande, has declared that the #EndSARS protest of 2020 was “manufactured” by the ‘Obidient’ movement to stop the presidential ambition of Bola Tinubu.

‘Obidients’ are supporters of Peter Obi, presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP) in the 2023 election.

A former governor of Osun State, Akande spoke in an interview with Edmund Obilo, which was posted on YouTube.

Chief Akande also claimed that the #EndSARS protest was conceived in and funded from the United States.

The former governor said, “EndSARS was aimed and designed to be the end of Tinubu. Those behind the EndSARS knew what they were doing.

“The Obidients were behind the EndSARS. It was manufactured from America just to stop Tinubu.

“The Obidients came from America to do EndSARS, which later became a movement. They could not form a party so they joined whichever party.

“It was well-planned and



organised with a lot of money from America.”

The APC chieftain narrated how he persuaded Tinubu to contest the 2023 presidential election amid a paucity of funds.

He said Tinubu was reluctant to join the race ab initio.

“They called me and said, ‘come, there is trouble. Anybody that talks to him about the presidency, he was quarrelling with them.’

“I was in Lagos so I met him. He said, ‘Baba, do you have money? If I had the kind of money that people have to be president, I would rank with Dangote’.”

The former governor said he told

Tinubu that he would not be running for the presidency for himself but for the Yoruba ethnic group.

In October 2020, Nigerians protested against police brutality — under the #EndSARS banner.

The #EndSARS protest sprung from decades-old brutality and extortion of young Nigerians at the hands of a notorious police unit called SARS — an acronym for the Special Anti-Robbery Squad.

SARS was disbanded as the protest gained momentum across the country.

5,000 repentant Boko Haram fighters reunite with families

By Dave Oludare Oso



About 5,000 repentant Boko Haram fighters have reunited with their families.

Disclosing this at the second-day session of the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum on Thursday, Head of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), Amb. Mairo Musa Abbas stated that none of the former combatants returned to the battleground after six months of the deradicalisation programme.

Mairo, who spoke at the Third Penal with the theme, "Managing Boko Haram Exits and Demobilisation of Armed Groups," said harmonised strategy would help the governors of Lake Chad region to address their common issues.

She said deradicalisation, rehabilitation and reintegration

programme for ex-Boko Haram fighters, known as Operation Safe Corridor, had reintegrated over 5,000 repented Boko Haram into the society.

"Under Operation Safe Corridor programme, we have deradicalised over 5,000 ex-combatants of Boko Haram and reunited them with their families.

"They are using the skills they have acquired in the six months of deradicalisation programme in the camp to sustain themselves within the communities.

"Our collaborators from the National Orientation Agency (NOA) are within 774 local governments in Nigeria and traditional and religious leaders within the community they have monitoring mechanism where are able to monitor this mechanism and see

their progress after the reintegration within the community," she said.

Amb. Abbas added that the "Borno Model" a state-led strategy, which aimed at reintegrating individuals who left extremist groups like Boko Haram, had complemented the efforts of the federal government to promote peace in the country.

"We always said 'Borno Model' is a model of necessity but we have recorded a lot of success with the Model because many repented fighters, have been reunited with families," she added.

She, however, called on the governors in the Lake Chad region and stakeholders to harmonise their strategy to ensure that they work on the same level.

Vicious kidnapper, Evans begs for mercy, says I've repented

By Dave Oludare Oso

The most murderous kidnapper, who instilled fear into millions of Nigerians during his three-year reign of terror, Chukwudimeme Onwuamadike, popularly known as Evans, made a passionate appeal for leniency to the Lagos State High Court in Ikeja, stressing that he has repented from his criminal activities.

The merciless and most vicious scoundrel, who was known to collect foreign currencies as ransom from his captives, told the court on Thursday, that he has applied to the Lagos State Government for mercy.

Evans, who addressed the court through his lawyer, Emefo Etudo, stated this after taking his plea on the amended five counts bordering on murder, attempt to murder, and conspiracy to commit kidnapping preferred against him by the Lagos State Government.

When the matter was called, the state prosecuting counsel, Sule Yusuf, informed the court that the matter was starting de novo and prayed the court to re-arraign the defendants.

Counsel who appeared on his behalf, Etudo, and his co-defendants, C.N Udeh, did not object to the request.

The prosecution alleged that on or about August 27, 2013, at about 10pm, along 3rd Avenue, FESTAC Town, in Lagos, Evans and Joseph Emeka killed one Peter Nweke.

They were also accused of allegedly killing one Chijioke Ngozi on the same day.



Evans and his co-defendant, Emeka, pleaded not guilty to the charges against them.

Following their not-guilty plea, Sule asked the court to further remand the defendants.

However, he informed the court that the first defendant (Evans) had applied for plea bargaining through Etudo, while the second defendant did the same through his counsel.

Etudo told Justice Adenike Coker that despite the amended charge and the plea of his client, he has applied to the Lagos State Government through the Attorney-General's office for a plea bargain.

He said: "Our focus in this matter is the plea bargain which we have submitted to the state government.

"My client is now a repentant person. He was a young man consumed by crime, but he is now remorseful. Presently, he is a 200-level student of the National Open

University.

"In fact, he made A1 in all his papers in NECO while in prison. All this was made possible through a scholarship given to him by the Federal Government.

"My Lord, we have asked the Lagos State Government to give him the opportunity to go around schools in the state to talk to youths about the dangers of crime."

Sule confirmed Evans' application for a plea bargain, saying that the appropriate committee will consider it.

He said, "My Lord, I can confirm that the first defendant (Evans) has indeed applied for a plea bargain, and it was served on us. We shall be examining it. The second defendant has also made a similar application."

Following the submission of the lawyer, Justice Coker adjourned the matter to March 20, 2025, for possible trial.

PHOTOS: Sowore joins 'Egbetokun Must Go' protesters in Abuja

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Fresh from being granted a N10 million bail over a case of alleged cybercrimes, former presidential candidate of African Action Congress (AAC) and activist, Omoyele Sowore, was on Thursday spotted among protesters at the front of the Federal High Court in Abuja.

According to the placards they were bearing, the protesters were demanding for the exit of the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kayode Egbetokun.

NEW DAILY PRIME reports that Justice Musa Suleiman Liman of the Federal High Court in Abuja granted Sowore bail in the amount of N10 million with one surety of the same amount.

The publisher of Sahara Reporters was reportedly ordered to also deposit his international passport with the court and was given 24 hours to meet the bail



conditions or be remanded in police custody.

In a post on Facebook, Sowore commented about the bail, saying, "They granted the 'bail,' but I am not going to be bailed out by a corrupt civil servant at level 17 or 16; they got the memo and took the condition off their table. Even then, they still targeted my

international passport, but that too they will never have!"

The accompanying pictures and video showed that Sowore briefly joined the demonstrators, singing and holding a "Egbetokun Must Go" placard, before leaving.



Sanwo-Olu reaffirms commitment to strengthening grassroots governance

By Friday Omosola

The Lagos State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening grassroots governance and enhancing service delivery across Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs).

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, represented by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, made this declaration at the Lagos State Local Government Service Commission Summit.

The summit was themed “Strengthening Grassroots Governance and Service Delivery in Local Government and Local Council Development Areas.”

He emphasised the administration’s ongoing efforts to empower local government institutions for more effective governance.

Governor Sanwo-Olu pointed out that since the beginning of the current administration, Lagos State has made grassroots governance a priority, believing it to be the foundation of sustainable development.

Under the THEMES Plus Agenda, the state has focused on improving infrastructure, building capacity, and reforming governance structures, ensuring that LGAs and LCDAs can better serve their communities.

“Lagos State has consistently set the



pace in grassroots development by championing initiatives that improve the quality of life for residents.

“From road rehabilitation and healthcare delivery to waste management, education, and community empowerment programmes, our local government institutions have proven that governance is most effective when it is localized and participatory,” Governor Sanwo-Olu said.

Ahead of the upcoming local government elections, the governor reiterated the administration’s commitment to free, fair, and credible electoral processes, underscoring that these elections must reflect democratic principles, equity, and good governance.

“Our vision is a Lagos where grassroots governance is synonymous with transparency, accountability, and

inclusivity – a Lagos where every citizen, regardless of background, has access to quality services and opportunities,” he added.

The governor commended the Honourable Commissioner for Local Government and Community Affairs, the Chairman of the Lagos State Local Government Service Commission, and the chairpersons of all LGAs and LCDAs for their dedication to advancing grassroots development.

He urged participants at the summit to engage in constructive discussions that would lead to actionable reforms, further strengthen local governance, and enhance service delivery at the grassroots level.

“Stronger grassroots governance means stronger communities and stronger communities mean a more prosperous and inclusive Lagos for all of us,” Governor Sanwo-Olu noted.

Okpebholo signs anti-cultism law, imposes stiffer penalties By Friday Omosola

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, has taken a firm and uncompromising stance against cultism with the passage and signing of the Secret Cult and Similar Activities (Prohibition) Law, 2025.

In a statement issued on Thursday by his Chief Press Secretary, Fred Itua, the governor emphasised that this move underscores his administration's commitment to restoring peace, security, and order in Edo State.

He stated that cultism has held communities hostage for too long. He noted that what was once confined to academic institutions has escalated into a dangerous social menace, threatening lives, disrupting businesses, and undermining the state's progress.

The governor explained that after studying the devastating impact of cult-related violence, his administration took urgent and necessary steps to enact a law that imposes stiffer penalties on anyone involved in, sponsoring, or facilitating cult activities.

According to him, the new law prescribes 21 years imprisonment for individuals who financially or materially sponsor cultism. It also provides for 10 years of imprisonment and property demolition for those who harbour cultists or allow their property to be used for cult-related activities.

Additionally, the law stipulates 21 years imprisonment for cultists involved in assault, injury, or property destruction.

It further imposes the death penalty for those responsible for killings in furtherance of cult activities.

Okpebholo stressed that these measures are not intended to intimidate law-abiding citizens but rather to serve as a strong deterrent to those who threaten the peace and security of Edo State.

"This law is not just about



punishment—it is about protecting lives and securing the future of Edo State. Cult activities have robbed many young people of their potential, turning them into instruments of violence rather than contributors to society.

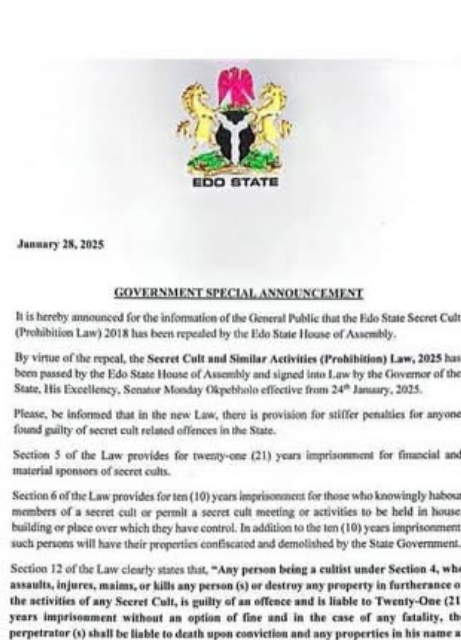
"With this legislation, Edo people are taking Edo State back from the hands of criminals and ensuring that families, businesses, and communities can thrive without fear", he noted.

He stated that the demolition and confiscation of properties linked to cult activities are deliberate measures to ensure that crime does not pay.

He further emphasised that those who aid and abet cultism will no longer find refuge in Edo State, declaring that the government is sending a clear message: "Edo State is for law-abiding citizens, not for criminals."

According to him, the success of the law depends not only on enforcement but also on public cooperation.

He urged all residents to report cult-related activities to law enforcement agencies and to discourage youth involvement in cultism by promoting positive alternatives such as education,



skills acquisition, and legitimate career paths.

He also called on citizens to support the government's efforts to make the state safe and prosperous for all.

The governor reaffirmed Edo State's commitment to justice and fairness in enforcing the law.

"While the Government will deal decisively with criminal elements, we also recognize the need for rehabilitation and social reintegration for those willing to renounce cultism. As part of Governor Okpebholo's broader security strategy, the Government will continue to invest in youth empowerment programs, education, and employment opportunities to provide alternatives for young people at risk of being lured into cultism.

"This is a historic moment in the fight against crime and insecurity in Edo State. His Excellency, Governor Monday Okpebholo, and the Edo State House of Assembly have demonstrated strong leadership in taking this decisive action. Now, it is up to all of us—Government agencies, security operatives, community leaders, parents, and citizens—to work together to ensure the full implementation of this new law.

Shehu Sani rips into El-Rufai, calls him jobless midget professor

By Dave Oludare Oso

Senator Shehu Sani has attacked ex-governor Nasir El-Rufai, saying he's a midget professor and frustrated jobless ex-governor seeking attention.

Sani's outburst came on the heels of El-Rufai's recent criticism of the All Progressives Congress (APC), claiming President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's government is pushing to destroy opposition parties.

El-Rufai also accused APC of deviating from its founding principles.

The ex-senator representing Kaduna Central in a post on his official X handle on Thursday, Sani accused El-rufai of hypocrisy, practising "tyranny" and unleashing evil while the governor of Kaduna.

Sani insisted that the former governor can't advise anybody on how to govern.

Sani also accused the former Kaduna governor of leaving behind a legacy of debt and division in the state.

He said, "When in power in Kaduna, he practised tyranny and unleashed evil; out of power, he is sanctimoniously preaching democracy to the country he helped to wreck, plundered, and persecuted.

"He demonised the opposition when in the palace and now embraces them when in the wilderness.

"He is like a man who is turned down



by a woman and resorted to speaking ill of her. Tinubu was his angel until when he was 'evicted from the house,' now telling the world he is a demon.

"The government is led by illiterates because they refused to hire Professor midget.

If he is in a Keke Napep, he will call it a Lamborghini; if he is thrown out of the Lamborghini, he will call it a Keke Napep.

"The man with a history of undisguised intolerance to opposition and hypersensitive allergy to criticisms has no moral and saintly feet to stand on the pulpit of democracy to preach about good governance.

"He left a heap of garbage in Kaduna and is now preaching hygiene to a country that has not forgotten the history of his dirt.

"The man who looted Kaduna State, piled up debt for our people, used religion to divide the people of the state, enriched and shared lands with friends and family members, disobeyed court orders, persecuted journalists, arrested people for criticising him on social media, and monetised banditry is now telling others how to govern.

"If this man was admitted into Tinubu's government, no critic of the government in the North or South would have been spared from his toxicity.

"He thought he would have a puppet governor in Kaduna State; now it's the opposite, and he is frustrated."

"He is now jobless, most times seeking to be invited to northern public events where he will whip up sectional sentiments," he added.

Kaduna monarch slumps, dies during public event

By Dave Oludare Oso

Sarkin Yakin Zazzau, Alhaji Rilwan Yahaya Pate, a district head in the Zazzau emirate council of Kaduna State, is dead.

NEW DAILY PRIME learnt that Pate, the Sarkin Yakin Zazzau, Pate, who slumped while attending an occasion along with the Emir of Zazzau, Mallam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, later died at the Gambo Sawaba General Hospital, Kofar gayan, Zaria. Abdullahi Aliyu Kwarbai, the Media and Publicity officer of the Zazzau confirmed the sad incident in a statement on Thursday night.

The statement read, "It is with great sadness that the Zazzau Emirate Council announces the passing of Sarkin Yakin Zazzau Alhaji Rilwanu Yahaya Pate, a Council Member of the Emirate.



"Alhaji Rilwanu Yahaya, who also served as Councillor in charge of Health Related Matters, passed away while attending a program alongside His Highness, the Emir of Zazzau, Malam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, CFR, at Hajiya Gambo Sawaba General Hospital, Kofan Gayan, Zaria this morning." The statement added.

The remains of the late Sarkin Yakin Zazzau, Alhaji Rilwan Yahaya Pate has since been buried at Rimin Dodo later in the evening, Thursday.

In his condolence message, the Emir of Zazzau, Mallam Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli described the death as "the will of Allah" stating that "death is inevitable and can come whenever Allah destined."

The Emir who consoled the family of the deceased described the late Sarkin Yakin Zazzau as hardworking, dedicated and very religious whose vacuum will not easily be replaced.

He prayed for the soul to have an eternal life rest.

Suspected herdsmen kill five farmers in Ondo community

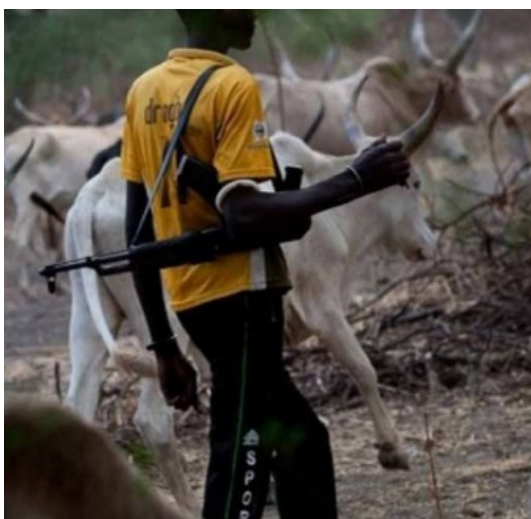
By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Gunmen suspected to be herdsmen have killed five people in the Ajegunle-powerline community, Akure North LGA of Ondo State.

According to an eyewitness and a member of the community, Akin Olowolafe, the suspected herders attacked a farm in the community with guns.

Olowolafe identified the victims of the attack as farm labourers hired from Plateau and Kaduna states, saying, "The incident happened around 3pm on Tuesday. They shot sporadically, killing five of our workers. This is how they usually come to disturb and destroy our crops.

"On several occasions, we've reported



them to the state government and even to security agencies but no positive actions were taken to curb their illegality."

Olowolafe said the incessant attacks in the area have made life unbearable for members of the community. He added

that many farmers have deserted their farms for fear of being killed.

Funmilayo Odunlami-Omisanya, spokesperson of the police command in Ondo, confirmed the incident, disclosing that the police have commenced an investigation.

"There was an attack on the community, and police are still investigating. But I cannot confirm the number of people that were killed," she said.

Men of the hunters and vigilantes association in Akure north LGA have deposited the bodies of the victims at the morgue of the University of Medical Sciences Teaching Hospital (UNIMETH) in Akure.

Makinde mandates Oyo workers to wear Aso Oke every Thursday

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State has directed all civil and public servants in the state to wear native attires with a touch of traditional 'Aso Oke' every Thursday, in addition to the existing native Friday tradition.

The announcement of the approval of the new dress code was contained in a circular issued by the Office of the Head of Service to heads of ministries and agencies on January 27, 2025.

The directive stated, "Every Thursday and Friday, our workforce will become ambassadors of tradition and catalysts for economic transformation."

According to the circular, the policy "is not just about dressing; it's a strategic effort to validate our cultural identity while uplifting grassroots economies."

It is also aimed at preserving the Yoruba culture, empowering local artisans, boosting the informal economy, as well as showcasing and preserving the state's vibrant cultural heritage.

The governor also stated that the directive will support local weavers, dyers, and tailors, thereby "sustaining livelihoods, reducing



unemployment, and increasing income streams for artisans."

He stated that his administration projects that the directive will increase demand for the fabrics, enhance growth in the informal sector, bolster tourism, and foster inclusive development.

Aso-Oke, meaning "top cloth" in Yoruba, has long been a symbol of prestige, traditionally woven from cotton or silk and worn for significant ceremonies such as weddings and chieftaincy titles. However, in recent years, it has gained global recognition, with luxury fashion designers incorporating it into high-end clothing lines and accessories.

Beyond its cultural significance, Aso-Oke is also a sustainable fabric,

made from natural materials with minimal industrial waste.

The Aso-Oke industry currently supports over 50,000 artisans across key weaving hubs like Iseyin, Oyo, and Ilorin. The intricate handwoven process, which can take up to three weeks depending on the design's complexity, continues to drive economic growth.

In 2023 alone, Aso-Oke exports rose by 15%, generating approximately \$120 million in foreign exchange revenue.

As the sustainable fashion industry is projected to reach \$12 billion by 2028, Aso-Oke has the potential to become Nigeria's next major export success.

Gov Mutfwang seeks German collaboration on healthcare, agriculture

By Friday Omosola

Governor of Plateau State, Caleb Mutfwang, visited the German Ambassador to Nigeria, Annette Günther, on Thursday to explore potential collaborations in key sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, renewable energy, and peacebuilding.

Governor Mutfwang, who visited the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Abuja, expressed his gratitude for Germany's ongoing cooperation with Plateau State, particularly in supporting capacity-building programs for women and youth in modern agriculture.

He reaffirmed Plateau State's commitment to engaging in the upcoming Nigeria-Germany Cultural Exchange Program, which is set to take place later this year.

The governor highlighted the programme as an opportunity to strengthen ties between Plateau State and the German community, opening avenues for further collaboration.

The governor also addressed the reconstruction of the Luka Bentu Indoor Theatre, stating that the project would receive considerable attention in the coming year.

This initiative is expected to serve as a significant cultural partnership between the state and Germany.

Governor Mutfwang further outlined his administration's focus on improving the state's healthcare system by leveraging Germany's advanced medical expertise.

He sought assistance in training healthcare personnel and deploying renewable energy solutions in health facilities, which could help reduce



maternal mortality rates and strengthen disease prevention efforts.

Additionally, the governor announced plans, in collaboration with the Federal Government, to expand the runway of Yakubu Gowon Airport, to transform it into a cargo hub for exporting vegetables and other agricultural products to Europe and beyond.

On the topic of digital innovation, Governor Mutfwang revealed that his administration is working with the Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy to enhance ICT infrastructure in Plateau State.

He requested Germany's support in accelerating efforts to create a more robust digital ecosystem.

Ambassador Günther commended Governor Mutfwang for his visionary leadership and development initiatives in Plateau State.

She assured him of Germany's continued support, particularly in agriculture, peacebuilding, capacity development, and the digital economy.

Ambassador Günther highlighted the

positive impact of German-funded training programs, noting that over 4,000 farmers in Plateau State, including 40% women, have benefitted from initiatives aimed at improving agricultural efficiency, inclusivity, and sustainability.

The Ambassador also spoke on Germany's strong commitment to student exchange programs, revealing that Nigeria remains the largest recipient of German scholarships.

She encouraged the Plateau State to explore these opportunities for human capital development.

Karin Jansen, First Secretary and Head of Cooperation at the German Embassy, added that the German Development Agency (GIZ) is funding the Peace Corps Project to enhance conflict resolution mechanisms and peacebuilding efforts in Plateau State.

Governor Mutfwang's visit marks a significant step towards enhancing bilateral ties between Plateau State and Germany, with the potential for continued collaboration in multiple sectors critical to the state's development.

Naira climbs up against dollar with 0.78% at official market

By Eytayo Jemimah Ajayi

The Nigerian Naira experienced a notable appreciation against the US dollar in official trading on Wednesday.

Naira against dollar

The currency closed at N1,510.72 to \$1, a gain of N11.96, or 0.78%, compared to Tuesday's closing rate of N1,522.68. Data from the FMDQ Security Exchange, the official platform for forex trading, confirmed this positive movement.

Within the Investors and Exporters (I&E) forex window, trading fluctuated between a high of N1,514.00 and a low of N1,504.00 throughout the day.

This strengthening of the Naira builds upon a period of relative stability observed since December 2024. This period of steadiness followed the implementation of a series of sweeping reforms by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The CBN has continued its efforts to bolster the local currency. The financial institution also introduced further measures on Tuesday in Abuja. Among the newly introduced initiatives are waivers on the 2025 annual license renewal fees for all existing Bureau De Change (BDC) operators.



This move is intended to ease the operational burden on these businesses. Furthermore, the CBN unveiled the Nigeria Foreign Exchange (FX) Code.

This code is a key component of the CBN's ongoing reform efforts and is designed to instill greater transparency and ethical conduct within the banking industry, bringing practices in line with international standards.

Dr. Aminu Gwadabe, President of the Association of Bureau De Change Operators of Nigeria (ABC ON), expressed his appreciation for the CBN's recent actions. He also specifically highlighted the positive impact of the license fee waiver for BDC operators.

He emphasized the importance of

collective support and adherence to the CBN's ongoing reforms to ensure the continued stability of the Naira.

Gwadabe also lauded the introduction of the Nigeria FX Code, believing it will be instrumental in addressing persistent challenges in the forex market.

He pointed out that the code has the potential to mitigate issues such as a lack of transparency in transactions, destabilizing rate wars among market participants, and delays in the submission of required reports on spot transactions.

He anticipates that these measures will contribute to a more orderly and efficient foreign exchange market.

Blackface urges 2Face, Annie to divorce peacefully

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Blackface has stepped into the ongoing divorce controversy between music legend 2Face Idibia and his wife, Annie Macaulay.

In an open letter, he urged the estranged couple to remain civil and handle their separation with decorum.

2Face announces divorce

On Sunday, 2Face shocked fans when he announced his separation from Annie via Instagram. The news spread quickly, sparking a wave of reactions on social media. Fans, celebrities, and industry insiders shared mixed opinions, with some offering support and others speculating about the reasons behind the split.

Blackface weighs in

Reacting to the situation, Blackface took to Instagram on Wednesday to share his thoughts. In a heartfelt message, he reminded the couple of their social influence and urged them to set a positive example.

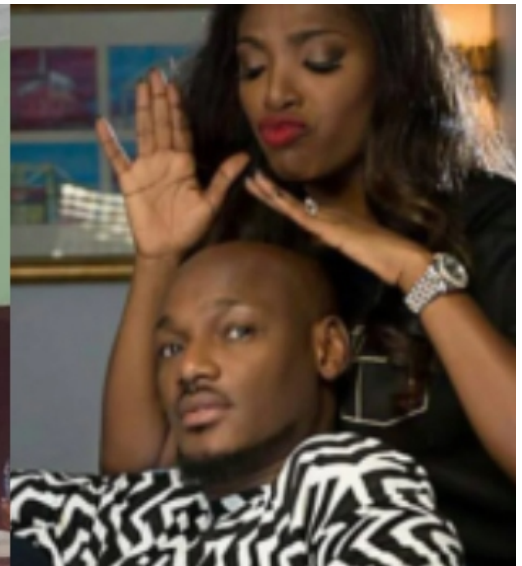
He acknowledged the difficulties that come with relationships but emphasized the need for maturity and respect during challenging times.

Open letter to 2Face and Annie

Blackface, a former member of the defunct music group Plantashun Boiz alongside 2Face, addressed his letter directly to the couple. He began with words of encouragement, offering them “good tidings” and extending his best wishes.

“I’m reaching out at this time to remind us to show decorum and be civil with whatever proceedings you may be going through,” he wrote.

He stressed that as public figures, their



actions influence younger generations. According to him, celebrities should always strive to be role models, demonstrating strength and composure even in personal struggles.

“As role models, we should always set good examples for this generation to emulate and for older generations to be proud,” he added.

A plea for strength and unity

Blackface further reminded 2Face and Annie that no relationship is without challenges. While breakups are painful, he encouraged them to navigate their separation with dignity. He also offered a prayer, asking for divine strength to help them cope with this difficult phase.

“I pray that God gives both of you the strength to scale through this,” he wrote, extending his love and regards to their families and children.

Public reactions

Blackface’s message resonated with many fans. Some praised him for offering wisdom and support, while others speculated about his motivation for speaking up. Many social media users agreed that 2Face and Annie should

handle their divorce privately to protect their children and maintain their dignity.

However, some critics questioned whether Blackface was the right person to give advice, citing past controversies between him and 2Face. Over the years, their relationship has been rocky, with Blackface accusing 2Face of intellectual property theft over the hit song African Queen.

The bigger picture

Despite their past differences, Blackface’s call for civility highlights a broader conversation about celebrity relationships. With social media amplifying personal issues, many believe public figures should set boundaries and resolve conflicts privately.

While 2Face and Annie have not responded to Blackface’s message, the unfolding drama continues to attract attention. Fans hope the couple can find an amicable resolution, whether through reconciliation or a respectful separation.

As the situation develops, the music industry and the public will be watching closely, hoping that 2Face and Annie can part ways peacefully, if reconciliation is no longer possible.

I used to be scared of losing people – Adekunle Gold

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music sensation, Adekunle Gold recently opened up about a personal struggle—his past fear of losing people close to him.

On Wednesday, he shared his journey toward self-assurance in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

From fear to self-security

The award-winning singer admitted that he once dreaded the thought of losing relationships. However, everything changed when he discovered the power of inner security. He realized that true stability comes from within, not from clinging to others.

“I used to fear losing people,” he wrote. “But I discovered the power of finding security within myself after I shifted my mindset from scarcity to abundance.”

A shift in perspective

Adekunle Gold explained that this change in mindset freed him from unnecessary worries. He realized that life offers endless opportunities for growth, learning, and connection. Instead of seeing relationships as irreplaceable, he embraced the idea that new experiences and meaningful bonds are always ahead.



“Life is vast and full of possibilities,” he continued. “There’s always more people to meet, more lessons to learn, more connections to forge, and more happiness waiting on the other side of growth.”

Fans praise his insight

His message resonated with many fans, who praised him for sharing his wisdom. Some related to his journey, while others expressed appreciation for his perspective. Many social media users echoed his sentiments, emphasizing the importance of self-worth and personal development.

A story of growth and confidence

Adekunle Gold, known for his hit songs and unique Afro-fusion sound, has always been vocal about personal growth. Over the years, he

has evolved not only as an artist but also as a person. His journey from self-doubt to self-confidence reflects in his music, inspiring millions worldwide.

A powerful message on inner peace His recent revelation highlights an important lesson—inner peace comes from within. While relationships are valuable, true happiness does not depend on others. By shifting his mindset, Adekunle Gold embraced a more fulfilling and fearless way of living.

As his words continue to gain traction online, fans and followers are reminded that life is full of new beginnings. Growth, connection, and happiness are always within reach for those willing to change their perspective.

Seun Kuti criticises crypto market after sister's N50m loss

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian musician Seun Kuti has launched a scathing attack on the cryptocurrency market, calling it a “scam” that preys on the vulnerable.

In a viral video, he accused crypto promoters of exploiting the poor while enriching the wealthy.

Kuti shared a personal story to back his claims. He revealed that his sister lost over N50 million in a cryptocurrency investment. Her experience, he argued, proves that crypto is nothing more than a tool for financial deception.

“Crypto is a wealth transfer to the rich”

The outspoken artist did not hold back. He described crypto as a fraudulent scheme that benefits the rich while draining the pockets of the less fortunate. He compared it to gambling, stating that both industries operate on the same principle—taking money from the poor and handing it to the wealthy.

“Crypto is a lie,” Kuti declared in his video. “You people are criminals trying to steal from poor people. It’s nothing but a wealth transfer from the poorest to the richest, just like gambling.”

He went on to call out crypto promoters, accusing them of deliberately misleading the public. According to him, they hype digital



currencies to lure in unsuspecting investors, only for these individuals to suffer devastating losses.

Harsh words for crypto promoters

Kuti’s criticism extended to those who actively promote cryptocurrency. He accused them of being complicit in a grand financial scheme designed to strip the poor of their hard-earned money.

“You all promote it, you push it, but it’s all about wealth transfer,” he said. “You’re all part of this plan to shift wealth from the poor to the pockets of the rich.”

His words reflect a growing skepticism about digital currencies, especially in regions where many people have suffered losses due to scams and volatile markets.

A broader debate on crypto

Kuti’s remarks add to the ongoing debate about cryptocurrency. Supporters argue that digital currencies provide financial freedom and investment opportunities. However, critics, including Kuti, believe the system favors the rich while exposing ordinary people to high risks.

His comments have sparked mixed reactions online. Some agreed, sharing their own bad experiences with crypto investments. Others defended digital currencies, saying they offer opportunities when used wisely.

While crypto remains a controversial topic, one thing is clear—Seun Kuti is not afraid to speak his mind. His words have reignited discussions about the risks and ethics of cryptocurrency, especially in Nigeria, where many have fallen victim to scams.

Boy Alinco urges parents to choose traditional names for children

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian comic actor Bayo Bankole, widely known as Boy Alinco, has urged parents to embrace traditional names to preserve cultural heritage.

Speaking on the Teju Babyface Podcast, he emphasized the significance of indigenous names in maintaining identity and history.

Encouraging parents to choose Yoruba names

Bankole expressed concern over the growing trend of African parents choosing foreign names for their children.

He encouraged them to prioritize traditional Yoruba names like Oluwaseun, Oluwapamilerinayo, and Oluwasoromidayo instead of popular Western names such as Jayden or Biden.

According to him, African names carry deep meanings and cultural significance, which should not be discarded.

He warned that abandoning indigenous names could lead to a loss of identity. "Names are more than just words. They tell a story about our origins, our values, and our heritage. When we replace them with foreign names, we erase a part of who we are," he said.

Debunking pronunciation concerns

Many parents worry that African names may be difficult for non-Africans to pronounce. Bankole dismissed this argument, stating that people around the world pronounce complex names from other cultures without hesitation.

He pointed out that Dutch, Russian, and Indian names, some of which are lengthy and unfamiliar, are commonly used in



schools and workplaces.

"If schools can pronounce names from other countries, why should ours be an exception?" he questioned. "Indian names are long, yet Indians hold on to them proudly. The same goes for Russians and the Dutch. Why should we feel the need to change our names?"

The importance of names in cultural identity

Alinco highlighted the struggles many African Americans face in tracing their ancestral roots. He compared this to Indian and Jewish communities, who maintain strong ties to their heritage through their names.

Alinco noted that Jewish surnames often link individuals to their ancestry, while Indian names like Patel represent entire communities and retain their historical significance.

"Our names connect us to our past," he explained. "African Americans often struggle to trace their lineage because their names were changed. But look at the Jews and Indians. Their names are their identity, and they carry them with pride."

A call to preserve tradition

For Bankole, keeping traditional names is not just about preserving the past; it is about securing the future.

He stressed that names serve as a bridge between generations and ensure that cultural heritage remains intact.

"If my name is the reason my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren can trace their roots back home, then I consider it a blessing," Alinco said. "Our names should not disappear. They should live on, just as our culture does."

Conclusion

Bankole's passionate plea highlights the importance of names in preserving cultural identity. Alinco encourages parents to rethink their choices and embrace the beauty of indigenous names.

By doing so, he believes they will protect their heritage and ensure that future generations remain connected to their roots.

Headies Awards return to Nigeria for 2025 ceremony

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The Headies, Nigeria's top music awards, will return to its roots in 2025 with two separate editions in the same year, organizers confirm.

This announcement was made through a video shared on The Headies' X page by Ayo Animashuan, the founder of the prestigious award.

17th edition scheduled for April 2025

In the video, Animashuan revealed that the 17th edition of The Headies would be held on April 5, 2025.

This ceremony will honour outstanding achievements in music for the year 2024. He also confirmed that the nominations for this event will be announced on February 12, 2025, adding excitement for music fans eager to see which artists will be in the running for the coveted awards.

Postponement of the 17th edition

The 17th edition of The Headies was initially planned for 2024 but was postponed for various reasons. Animashuan explained, "This award, which is happening in April, was meant to take place last year.

However, due to unforeseen circumstances, it didn't happen. We did not want to miss a calendar year, so we decided to host the event in April."

The 18th edition in December 2025

Looking ahead, the 18th edition will take place in December 2025. This event will celebrate the best of Nigerian music from both 2024 and 2025, bringing together the highlights of two years.

Animashuan also mentioned that the December edition would be in line with the popular "Dettu December" tradition, a festive period that attracts both local and international attention.

A legacy of excellence in Nigerian music

The Headies has grown to become a symbol of excellence in the Nigerian music industry. Established in 2006, the award recognizes outstanding achievements



across various categories, from artist of the year to best producer.

Its mission has always been to spotlight the talent and creativity driving the Nigerian music scene.

The first edition and early success

The very first edition of The Headies was held at the Shell Hall of the MUSON Center in Onikan, Lagos.

Hosted by Darry Art Alade, the inaugural event saw several notable artists take home awards, including Don Jazzy, P-Square, Jude Okoye, Mode 9, DJ Jimmy Jatt, Keke Ogungbe, and Dayo.

These pioneers laid the groundwork for what has since become a global event, showcasing the best of Nigerian music to audiences worldwide.

Global expansion with the 16th edition

In recent years, The Headies expanded its reach internationally. The 16th edition, held in 2023, marked a significant milestone in the history of the awards.

It took place at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 3. The show, which attracted a global audience, saw Rema and Burna Boy emerge as the biggest winners, each taking home three awards.

Other prominent winners that night included Wizkid, Davido, Ayra Starr,

Asake, and Omah Lay, further solidifying their places as top figures in the global music scene.

Honouring legends: Angelique Kidjo's induction

The 16th edition also featured a historic moment—the induction of Angelique Kidjo into The Headies Hall of Fame.

Kidjo, a legendary African musician, was honoured for her contributions to the global music industry and her role in elevating African music on the world stage.

Return to Nigeria for the 17th edition

In February 2024, the organizers confirmed that the 17th edition of The Headies would return to Nigeria.

This decision follows the two consecutive years of hosting the event in the United States, in 2022 and 2023.

The return to Nigeria is expected to generate even more excitement and anticipation, as fans eagerly await the recognition of local talent that has dominated the music scene over the past year.

The future of the Headies

The Headies continues to play an essential role in shaping the future of Nigerian music, providing a platform for emerging artists to gain recognition while celebrating the achievements of established stars.

US plane crash: No survivors found, 30 bodies recovered

By Dave Oludare Oso

About 30 bodies have been removed from the wreckage caused by a mid-air crash between a passenger plane and a helicopter in Washington.

The American Airlines regional jetliner was carrying 60 passengers and four crew when it collided with a US Army Black Hawk helicopter near Reagan Washington National Airport, plunging the aircraft into the Potomac River, Press TV reported.

Washington, DC Fire and EMS Chief, John Donnelly said at a press conference on Thursday that a huge rescue operation had been launched, but no survivors are expected from the crash.

He said first responders worked throughout the night to recover bodies and search for survivors despite the tough working conditions due to the plane falling into the Potomac River.

However, till now the rescue workers had not found any survivors and were able to only recover 30 dead bodies, one of which was from the helicopter.

He said the responders' operation moved from "rescue" to "recovery" as it became clear that "no one onboard the plane was likely to survive the crash."

"At this point, we don't believe there are any survivors from this accident."

News agencies reported that a renowned Russian figure skating couple, who worked as coaches in the US and were traveling with a group of young skaters, had been aboard the American Airlines plane.

The US authorities said the plane broke into three pieces and fell into about 7ft of



water in the river alongside the helicopter.

Trump furious, says US in mourning

In his reaction, President Donald Trump said the mid-air collision could have been prevented.

Speculating the cause of the crash, he said, "The helicopter was going straight at the airplane for an extended period of time."

According to him, the passenger aeroplane had been on a perfect and routine line of approach to the airport before the crash.

"It is a CLEAR NIGHT, the lights on the plane were blazing, why didn't the helicopter go up or down, or turn? Why didn't the control tower tell the helicopter what to do instead of asking if they saw the plane? This is a bad situation that looks like it should have been prevented. NOT GOOD!!!" Trump posted on Truth Social early Thursday morning.

President Trump addressing the nation Thursday afternoon AFP

However, American Airlines' chief executive, Robert Eisen, said the cause of the collision is still unknown.

"At this point we do not know why the military aircraft came into the path of the PSA aircraft," he said, adding that the pilot was "experienced", with six years at the airline.

The Ronald Reagan airport was closed following the crash.

Meanwhile, experts say numerous safety defects leading to crashes in American-made airliners indicate a decline in production standards in US airplane manufacturing plants.

Boeing, the flagship American manufacturer of commercial airliners, posted a fourth-quarter loss of \$3.8 billion on Tuesday amid continued machinists' strikes and other problems at its plants.

Whistle-blowers' mysterious deaths

Two Boeing whistle-blowers, who warned about manufacturing defects in its planes, have been found dead in the US after making their revelations.

Trump freezes \$50m approved by Biden for 'condoms in Gaza'

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Trump Donald administration has put a freeze on federal funding, including \$50 million originally earmarked for condom distribution in Gaza.

White House Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt said the expenditure was discovered in Trump's first week, including by the new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) led by tech billionaire, Elon Musk.

Musk's initiative and the budget office "found that there was about to be 50 million taxpayer dollars that went out the door to fund condoms in Gaza," Leavitt told her debut press conference.

That is a preposterous waste of taxpayer money," she said.

She did not provide more details and it was not immediately possible to verify the account independently.

Condoms generally cost less than one dollar each in the United States and much less in bulk. Just over two million people live in Gaza, nearly all of which has been heavily damaged in the 15-month war with Israel.

Leavitt also said that the United States was about to dispense \$37 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) before Trump announced a pullout from the UN body.



Quickly after taking office, Trump ordered a 90-day freeze in foreign assistance.

He has vowed a review to ensure that aid conforms with policies of his administration, which opposes abortion, transgender rights and diversity programmes.

Unfortunately, what Leavitt said about the alleged condom shipment doesn't match what the government has said about its aid efforts in Gaza.

A September 2024 U.S. Agency for International Development report says not one dollar of the \$60.8 million used to fund condoms and contraceptives distributed by the agency worldwide was allocated to the Palestinian territory.

The same report shows that the only contraceptives sent to the Middle East were distributed to the Jordanian government in the form of \$45,680 worth of oral and

injectable medications — not condoms.

Andrew Miller, the ex-Biden administration State Department official who served as deputy assistant secretary for Israeli-Palestinian affairs, told The Times of Israel on Wednesday that Leavitt's claim was "outlandish" and "a feverish dream" on the part of the new administration.

"It's possible that \$50 million is put aside for sexual health or something of that nature, which would include gynecology and many other services, but definitely not condoms alone," he said.

Musk, who is also the owner of X, posted that the false condom expenditure was the "tip of the iceberg" for waste and claimed that "a lot of that money ended up in the pockets of Hamas."

There is no evidence to support either of those assertions.

American Airlines jet, Army helicopter collide, crash into Potomac River

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

A tragic mid-air collision between an American Airlines regional passenger jet and a U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopter sent both aircraft crashing into the Potomac River near Reagan Washington National Airport late Wednesday night, officials confirmed.

According to The Washington Post, multiple bodies have been recovered from the river. Reuter reported that Senator Ted Cruz of Texas stated on social media that “we know there are fatalities,” but the exact number remains undisclosed.

The PSA Airlines regional jet, operating as American Eagle Flight 5342, was en route from Wichita, Kansas (ICT) to Washington Reagan National Airport (DCA) when it collided with the helicopter mid-air. The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) confirmed that the collision occurred as the jet was making its approach to the airport.

The passenger jet had 60 passengers, along with two pilots and two crew members on board, an American Airlines source told Reuters. Meanwhile, the Black Hawk helicopter was carrying three soldiers, according to a U.S. defense official.

Emergency response teams swiftly mobilized as multiple agencies launched a search and rescue operation in the Potomac River. Live TV footage showed dozens of police, ambulance, and rescue boats with flashing lights combing the river for survivors.

According to Reuter, at least four people have been pulled alive from the wreckage. However, there is no official confirmation regarding their conditions.

A webcam shot from the Kennedy Center in Washington captured the moment of impact, showing a mid-air explosion at



8:47 PM ET, followed by a fireball as one of the aircraft plunged into the river according to the Reuter.

Reagan National Airport temporarily suspended all takeoffs and landings as emergency personnel responded to the crisis. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) stated that it is gathering further details on the crash.

American Airlines released a statement acknowledging reports of the incident and assured the public that it would provide updates as more information became available.

Read Also: 20 killed in South Sudan plane crash

This incident adds to a growing list of aviation accidents and near-miss events that have raised concerns about global air safety. Over the past 30 days alone, several major incidents have occurred worldwide:

United Airlines Flight 613 Incident (January 27, 2025) – A Boeing 787 experienced severe turbulence over Ivory Coast airspace, injuring several passengers and crew.

Jeju Air Flight 2216 Crash (December 29, 2024) – A Boeing 737-800 overran the runway in South Korea, killing 179 out of 181 passengers.

Azerbaijan Airlines Flight 8243 Crash (December 25, 2024) – An Embraer 190 crashed during an emergency landing in Kazakhstan, with reports suggesting it was hit by a Russian air defense system.

Swiss International Air Lines Flight 1885 Diversion (December 23, 2024) – A Bucharest-Zurich Airbus A220 made an emergency landing after cabin smoke filled the aircraft; one crew member later died from injuries.

Piper PA-42 Cheyenne Crash in Brazil (December 22, 2024) – A small aircraft crashed after takeoff from Canela Airport, killing 10 people and injuring 17 on the ground.

20 killed in South Sudan plane crash on Wednesday 29, January 2025

Authorities are now working to determine what caused the mid-air collision near Reagan Airport and whether air traffic control errors, mechanical failure, or pilot miscommunication played a role in the accident.

This developing story continues to highlight urgent concerns in aviation safety, reinforcing the need for rigorous maintenance, stricter safety protocols, and improved air traffic control measures to prevent future tragedies.

Stay tuned to New Daily Prime for updates as more details emerge.

Trump says U.S. will hold migrants at Guantánamo

By Erica L. Green contributed reporting from Washington

The president suggested 30,000 migrants could be housed on the base. It is unclear how the plan will take shape.

President Trump on Wednesday ordered his administration to prepare to house tens of thousands of “criminal aliens” at the Navy base at Guantánamo Bay, the latest prong in his widening crackdown on immigration.

Mr. Trump did not offer details on how the plan would take shape, but he instructed the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security to get the site ready.

“We have 30,000 beds in Guantánamo to detain the worst criminal illegal aliens threatening the American people,” he said. “Some of them are so bad we don’t even trust the countries to hold them, because we don’t want them coming back, so we’re going to send them out to Guantánamo.”

He said the move would “double our capacity immediately,” adding that Guantánamo was a “tough place to get out of.”

In recent weeks, about 40,000 immigrants have been held in private detention centers and local jails around the country as funding constraints have limited the number of detention sites.

Adding 30,000 beds would dramatically expand the government’s detention capacity. A site on the 45-square-mile base could hold those 30,000 deportees. That site is on the opposite side of the body of water called Guantánamo Bay from the Pentagon’s prison for terrorism suspects.

Successive administrations have prepared fields on a remote section, near the airfield but far from the population center, to accommodate tens of thousands of migrants in a sprawling tent city.



The infrastructure was set up starting in the mid-2000s to shelter Cubans and others from the region who had been intercepted while fleeing their country. The Clinton administration had tasked Guantánamo with the role in the 1990s. It was designed as a humanitarian relief operation.

It was not immediately clear how such an operation under Mr. Trump would be staffed, secured and what rights, if any, the deportees would have at Guantánamo Bay. Civil liberties groups expressed concerns.

Vincent Warren, executive director of the Center for Constitutional Rights, said Mr. Trump’s order sent a dark message that “migrants and asylum seekers are being cast as the new terrorist threat, deserving to be discarded in an island prison, removed from legal and social services and supports.”

Mr. Trump’s memo called for expanding the Migrant Operations Center, which currently occupies a small former barracks that has had capacity for up to 120 migrants but in recent years held at most dozens at a time. It is near empty fields that could be transformed into a tent city.

Tom Homan, Mr. Trump’s border czar, told reporters outside the White House on Wednesday that certain migrants could

be flown to the island, and that the operation would be run by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as ICE.

“The worst of the worst, the significant public safety threats we can fly them,” he said.

U.S. military and Homeland Security forces have periodically rehearsed how to handle a migrant crisis at the site.

In the 1990s, the base was overwhelmed by more than 45,000 people fleeing crises in both Haiti and Cuba. They were housed in crude tent cities on the populated side of the base, including on the current site of the Pentagon’s detention facility for detainees in the war against terrorism. Today, that facility houses 15 prisoners and is staffed by 800 troops and civilians.

Starting with the George W. Bush administration, the government created a new footprint for a future humanitarian relief operation on the mostly empty side of the base.

During semiannual drills for a humanitarian relief operation, the Southern Command typically flew in a few hundred soldiers from Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio to play different roles.

Porn star plunges to death while filming threesome with 2 men

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A porn star has plunged to her death from a Brazilian hotel balcony after she invited two men to take part in a filmed threesome.

Brazilian adult content creator, Anna Beatriz Pereira Alves, known online as Anna Polly, was found lifeless in a courtyard at an aparthotel in Nova Iguacu, roughly 25 miles northwest of Rio de Janeiro.

The OnlyFans model, whom local media reports was 23, is believed to have fallen as she was filming X-rated scenes with the two men for the adult content site.

Authorities have launched an investigation to determine the circumstances of Alves' death.

Reports indicate that the two individuals



present with her at the time provided conflicting accounts, and no arrests have been made.

Police are reviewing security footage from the hotel and have interviewed staff as part of their inquiries.

Alves' phone has been collected as evidence, and a post-mortem examination is underway to provide further clarity. Investigators are considering all possibilities, from an accidental fall to potential foul play.

A spokesperson for the Baixada Fluminense Homicide Unit emphasised the complexity of the case, stating, "We are conducting a thorough investigation to clarify what happened. All possibilities remain open at this stage."

Pedro Henrique, Alves' partner, expressed deep sorrow over her loss, stating, "She died in the fall. There was no time to save her. If someone is to blame, they will be held accountable."

In a social media post, Henrique shared his grief, writing, "It's so difficult without

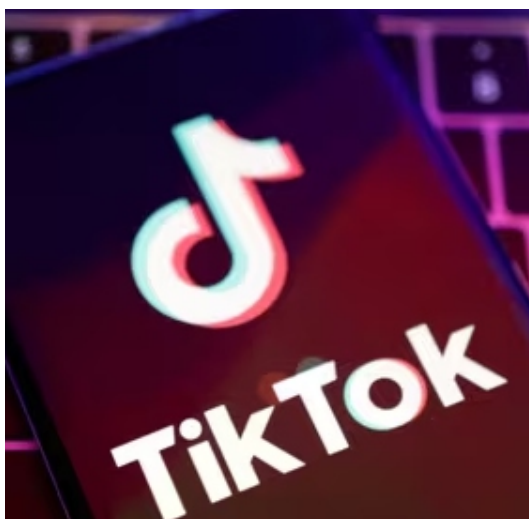
Pakistani father guns daughter down over TikTok videos

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A man has killed his teenage daughter after she uploaded what he considered to be inappropriate videos on the social media app, TikTok in Pakistan.

Local police chief, Babar Baloch, said on Thursday that the man, said to be in his 50s, recently brought his family back from the U.S. to settle in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta,

Baloch said the now-detained man confessed to having shot his daughter earlier this week after she refused to dress more modestly and stop uploading what the family considered to be "indecent" videos



on TikTok,

Police are treating the incident as a case of so-called honour killing.

Around 1,000 women are killed in Pakistan by close relatives, fathers,

brothers, and sons on the pretext of saving family honour, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP).

Human rights body, Amnesty International lamented that the killers in most cases, escape prosecution because of a controversial Islamic clause in laws that allows relatives of victims to pardon the perpetrator.

Pakistan approved a law in 2016 to partially do away with the controversial clause, but that has not proved enough to stop the practice, according to the HRCP.

Meta to pay \$25m for Trump's Facebook, X ban

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Mark Zuckerberg, the owner of Meta, formerly called Facebook and X has agreed to pay \$25 million in settlement of a lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump challenging the suspension of his (Trump) Facebook and X accounts.

Meta and X (then called Twitter) both banned Trump from both platforms following the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot.

Protesters had turned out in support of Trump at the US Capitol, to overturn former President Joe Biden's victory in the elections.

Meta banned him for at least two years, citing his posts as a catalyst for violence and a threat to public safety.

Likewise, X, formerly Twitter, barred Trump for similar reasons.

In response, Trump sued Meta and X in 2022, claiming their actions constituted "illegal, unconstitutional censorship" and violated his First Amendment rights.

He also sought to overturn Section 230 of the Communications



Decency Act, which shields social media companies from liability for content posted by users.

Prior to his ban, he had frequently criticised Meta as an "anti-Trump" platform.

Trump returned to Twitter in 2022 and regained access to Facebook in 2023.

In July 2024, Meta lifted the final restrictions on his accounts in the lead-up to the US presidential election.

According to The Wall Street Journal, a Meta spokesperson confirmed the \$25 million settlement, out of which \$22 million was allocated to Trump's presidential library and the

remaining sum covering legal fees and going to other plaintiffs who signed on to the lawsuit.

Trump's win in November 2024 seemed to mark the beginning of a more cooperative relationship between him and Mark Zuckerberg, the owner of Meta.

After the president's victory, Zuckerberg visited Mar-a-Lago, Trump's Florida resort.

Shortly after, Meta announced a policy shift, easing restrictions on political content across its platforms.

The company also donated \$1 million to Trump's inauguration fund, and Zuckerberg attended the ceremony on January 20.

Trump blames diversity hiring for Washington DC Plane crash

By New Daily Prime

President Donald Trump has linked the fatal mid-air collision between a military helicopter and a passenger jet in Washington, D.C., to what he called a diversity hiring spree in the aviation industry. The crash, which occurred near Ronald Reagan National Airport on Wednesday evening, resulted in 67 deaths, with no survivors.

During a press briefing, Trump criticized the Biden administration, alleging that FAA diversity hiring policies had compromised safety standards. He claimed that the agency had reduced qualification requirements in an effort to increase diversity, hiring employees with “severe intellectual and psychiatric disabilities” as air traffic controllers.

“I put safety first,” Trump stated. “Obama, Biden, and the Democrats put politics ahead of policy, and this was the lowest level of decision-making we’ve seen.”

The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter collided with American Airlines Flight 5342, which was on final approach to Runway 33 at Reagan National Airport around 8:47 PM (local time). The passenger jet, which had departed from Wichita, Kansas, and the military aircraft both plunged into the icy Potomac River, killing all 67 people on board. Recovery teams have since been working to retrieve the bodies of the victims, with no survivors found.

A preliminary FAA report obtained by The New York Times indicated that staffing at the air traffic control tower was “not normal” at the time of the crash. The report revealed that the controller



responsible for helicopters in the airport’s vicinity was also handling landing and departing planes, a task typically assigned to two separate controllers. This revelation has raised questions about whether controller workload and air traffic mismanagement played a role in the tragedy.

When asked why he linked the crash to diversity hiring, Trump responded: “Because I have common sense, and unfortunately, a lot of people don’t.”

The crash claimed the lives of all crew members and passengers on both aircraft. Among the victims were highly trained pilots and military personnel with years of aviation experience.

American Airlines Flight 5342 was piloted by Captain Jonathan Campos, 34, a seasoned pilot born in New York and raised in Florida. Campos was certified as an instructor in 2017 and became a commercial airline pilot in 2018 after attending the Epic Flight Academy. His first officer was Samuel Lilley, 29, a Savannah, Georgia native, who had

recently gotten engaged and was just months away from a promotion to captain. His father, Timothy Lilley, a former military pilot, confirmed his background and expressed deep grief over his loss.

The U.S. Army Black Hawk Helicopter was piloted by Andrew Eaves, a U.S. Army pilot with extensive military flight experience. Crew Chief Ryan O’Hara, a Georgia native, was also among the victims. Authorities have not publicly disclosed specific details regarding the ethnic or diversity backgrounds of the pilots involved.

Trump cited an FAA special emphasis recruitment program, which promoted the hiring of individuals with hearing and vision impairments, missing extremities, paralysis, epilepsy, intellectual disabilities, psychiatric conditions, and dwarfism. Reports indicate that these guidelines were updated in March 2022 under the Biden administration. Last week, Trump signed an executive order banning Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies and ordering a return to merit-based hiring within the FAA.

Trump announced that a “systematic and comprehensive investigation” into the crash would be conducted by the FAA, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the U.S. military. He also suggested that pilot error from the military helicopter may have played a role in the collision, stating that the Black Hawk had done “the opposite of what it was told” and questioning why both aircraft were at the same altitude. He praised the American Airlines pilot, saying they had followed all protocols.

Steven Gerrard departs Al-Ettifaq after 18 months in charge

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Steven Gerrard has stepped down as head coach of Al-Ettifaq by mutual consent after 18 months at the helm. The former Rangers and Aston Villa manager, who took over the Saudi Pro League side in July 2023, departs following a string of disappointing results that have left the team hovering five points above the relegation zone.

Despite signing a two-year contract extension in January 2024, which was set to keep him at the club until 2027, Gerrard's tenure has been cut short after managing only five wins in 17 league matches this season. Al-Ettifaq currently sits in 12th place in the 16-team league.

Reflecting on his departure, Gerrard expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work in Saudi Arabia.

"Football is unpredictable, and sometimes things don't go the way we want," he said. "However, I leave with great respect for the club and the country. I have no doubt that the work being done will bring success in the future, and I wish the team the very best for the rest of the season."

Gerrard also acknowledged the warm welcome he received and the learning experience he gained. "From the first day, I was warmly welcomed, and I have enjoyed the chance to work in a new country with a different culture. Overall, I have learned a lot, and it's



been a positive experience personally and for my family as well."

Club President Pays Tribute

Al-Ettifaq's club president, Same Al Misaal, praised Gerrard's impact on the team despite the challenges.

"Sometimes things don't go as planned, but the firm foundations he helped build will guarantee a bright future in the long term," Al Misaal stated. "He changed the club for the better, and that will never be forgotten. This decision, made with mutual respect and in agreement, is in the best interest of both Steven and the club as we move forward."

A Mixed Managerial Journey

Gerrard, 44, began his managerial career with Rangers in 2018, leading the club to its first Scottish Premiership title in a decade in the

2020-21 season. His success in Scotland earned him a move to Aston Villa in November 2021, but he was dismissed after just 11 months, securing only 13 wins in 40 matches.

In his first season with Al-Ettifaq, Gerrard guided the team to a respectable sixth-place finish. However, results have faltered this term, with only five victories from 17 matches. His overall record with the club stands at 23 wins in 59 games.

Gerrard was reportedly one of the highest-paid managers in the world during his stint in Saudi Arabia, earning an estimated £15 million per year.

As Al-Ettifaq seeks a new managerial direction, Gerrard now finds himself at a crossroads in his coaching career, with speculation likely to grow over his next move in football management.

Fifpro and Fifa discuss fixture congestion amid strike threats

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Fifpro and Fifa discuss fixture congestion amid strike threats.

Player representatives from Fifpro have met with Fifa to address growing concerns over fixture congestion, which has led to the threat of strike action from players.

The discussions centered on the expanded 32-team Club World Cup set to take place in 2025. While Fifa President Gianni Infantino expressed a willingness to collaborate, sources indicate that mounting pressure from players and unions pushed Fifa into negotiations.

Manchester City midfielder Rodri and other leading players have been vocal about the strain caused by the packed schedule. With clubs like Chelsea and Manchester City set to participate in the tournament, concerns over adequate rest periods and the ability to prepare for the 2025-26 season remain key issues.

The increased number of matches and tighter scheduling have raised fears over player welfare. Many top footballers already face a grueling season, competing in



domestic leagues, cup competitions, and international tournaments. The additional burden of a lengthened Club World Cup further limits opportunities for recovery and training, potentially impacting player performance and increasing injury risks.

Additionally, financial considerations play a crucial role in the dispute. Exact prize money for the Club World Cup has yet to be disclosed, but European clubs are expected to demand significant sums to compensate for their inability to conduct lucrative pre-season tours. Some club executives have expressed concerns that the tournament will

negatively affect their commercial revenue streams and preseason marketing opportunities.

Furthermore, the scheduling conflicts with domestic leagues have prompted questions regarding fixture rescheduling and workload management. Clubs are particularly concerned about the overlap with early domestic competitions, such as England's Community Shield, which is set to take place in early August 2025.

Fifpro has reiterated its stance that players should be granted adequate rest periods between seasons. Under current Fifa regulations, players are entitled to a minimum three-week break, yet the congested schedule may make that difficult to enforce.

Further talks are expected as players seek guarantees on scheduling reforms and compensation for additional commitments. The outcome of these discussions could have significant implications for the future of international club competitions and player welfare.

Hamilton crashes Ferrari in pre-season testing

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Lewis Hamilton has crashed his Ferrari during the team's pre-season testing in Spain. The seven-time world champion lost control of the 2023 car at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya but emerged unscathed.

Ferrari declined to comment on the incident, which occurred during Hamilton's second day of testing alongside teammate Charles Leclerc. The team views the crash as a normal part of Hamilton's adaptation process after 12 years with Mercedes.



Hamilton is limited to running older cars. He completed 30 laps at Fiorano before moving to Barcelona for a three-day session. Ferrari's priority is integrating Hamilton into their systems before the season opener at the Australian Grand Prix in March.

Ferrari will launch their 2025 car on 19 February at Fiorano, following a Pirelli-run tyre test next week. Hamilton will receive further testing miles to refine his understanding of the car and the team's operations.

With F1's strict testing restrictions,