



Saudi Arabia slams visa restrictions on Nigeria, 13 others Pg 2

US ends dropbox visa renewals for Nigerian applicants Pg 6



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Nigerians react as older sister says Portable under spiritual attack



Saudi Arabia slams visa restrictions on Nigeria, 13 others

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has announced new visa rules affecting travelers from Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Tunisia, and Yemen.

According to the new schedule, visitors from these countries can now only get single-entry visas valid for 30 days with no option for extension.

The policy affects tourists, business travelers, and family visitors but does not apply to Hajj, Umrah, diplomatic, or residency visas.

Saudi authorities say the change is to prevent visa misuse, as some travelers used multiple-entry visas to stay illegally or attend Hajj without proper authorization.



The government is taking this step to manage overcrowding after over 1,200 unauthorized pilgrims died in 2024 due to extreme heat and congestion.

Though officials describe the restriction as temporary, they have not set a date for review. Travelers are advised to apply early and follow the new rules to avoid travel issues.

The Saudi government enforces a strict Hajj attendance quota system for each country to manage the annual pilgrimage and prevent overcrowding.

Saudi authorities emphasised the importance of complying with the new guidelines to avoid penalties.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also advised travellers to stay updated on visa policies through official government channels and ensure they follow all entry requirements.

These new regulations are expected to significantly affect travel plans for thousands of individuals, especially business travelers and those with family in Saudi Arabia, who may need to adjust their travel schedules accordingly.



THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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DECEMBER 1, 2024**

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| 9X3 | = | | 166,223.50 |
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| 8X3 | = | | 106,934.50 |
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| 6X4 | = | | 100,434.50 |
| 6X3 | = | | 82,750.00 |
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SERAP sues Tinubu over unexecuted N167bn MDAs contracts

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has filed a lawsuit against President Bola Tinubu over his administration's failure to prosecute contractors who allegedly collected over N167 billion from 31 ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) without executing any projects.

The lawsuit, filed at the Federal High Court, Lagos, under suit number FHC/L/MISC/121/2025, also named the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), as a respondent.

Filed on behalf of SERAP by its legal representatives Kolawole Oluwadare and Oluwakemi Agunbiade, the lawsuit asserted that granting the reliefs sought would help restore transparency and accountability in the management of public funds by MDAs.

SERAP is asking the court to compel Tinubu to direct the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Olawale Edun, to disclose the names of the contractors and companies that received the public funds but failed to execute the projects.

The organisation is also urging the court to mandate the government to prosecute those involved and recover the misappropriated funds.

Additionally, SERAP is demanding that Edun publish details of the projects, including their specific locations, the amount received by each contractor, and the names of the shareholders of the implicated companies.

According to SERAP, these demands are based on the findings in the 2021 Audited Report by the Auditor-General of the Federation, which revealed that numerous contractors and companies were paid for projects that were either abandoned or never initiated.

The report highlighted that the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc. (NBET)



alone disbursed N100 billion to contractors for projects that were not executed.

Other affected MDAs include the Nigerian Correctional Service, National Pension Commission, Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Federal Medical Centre Bida, National Centre for Women Development, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution, and the Federal University of Gasua, among others.

SERAP argued that the failure to act on these allegations has severely impacted governance and the delivery of essential public goods and services, ultimately harming ordinary Nigerians.

The organisation insisted that holding the contractors accountable would help combat fraud, corruption, and wasteful spending in MDAs, ensuring that public funds are properly utilised for national development.

The organisation further maintained that the allegations constituted a gross violation of the Nigerian Constitution, the country's anti-corruption laws, and international obligations, including the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

SERAP argued that ignoring these violations allowed corruption to thrive and places an additional financial burden on citizens, who are forced to pay out-of-pocket for critical services such as healthcare, education, and administration.

The organisation insisted that the government must impose effective and dissuasive sanctions on individuals and companies found guilty of corruption in line with international best practices.

SERAP maintained that ensuring the recovery of the diverted public funds and prosecuting those responsible would significantly improve public trust in governance and reinforce the rule of law.

The organisation stressed that transparency is fundamental to democratic governance, as it allows citizens to actively monitor government performance, assess policy effectiveness, and demand accountability from public officials.

As of now, the court has not fixed a date for the hearing of the case.

I went to understudy Indonesia's progress – Peter Obi

By Dave Oludare Oso

A former governor of Anambra State, Mr. Peter Obi has revealed the motive behind his recent trip to Indonesia.

The former Labour Party (LP) presidential candidate in the 2023 elections, said the trip was to understudy the progress made so far by the Asian country and compare with Nigeria's as a wake-up call.

The opposition politician revealed this on his X handle on Sunday.

Obi wrote, "Driven by my firm conviction that what is imperatively required now is to learn from and strictly apply the successful lessons that other comparable nations have used to achieve progress, as I had expressly and severally tweeted earlier this year, I embarked on my first planned trip to Indonesia.

"I arrived in Indonesia on the 2nd of February and spent five days — Monday to Friday—engaging in several hours of meetings with highly placed stakeholders on various issues of development.



"These discussions covered critical areas such as security, education, healthcare, and poverty alleviation."

He revealed some amazing progress recorded by Indonesia within a relatively short time.

Obi said: "In 2004, Indonesia's per capita income was \$1,136, while Nigeria's was \$963. At that time, Indonesia's overall development, as measured by the Human Development Index (HDI), was categorized as medium, whereas Nigeria's was low.

"By 2024, Indonesia's per capita income has risen to approximately \$5,000, while Nigeria's remains

around \$1,000. Indonesia's HDI has improved from the medium to the high category, whereas Nigeria remains in the low category. For example, using health, the number one HDI indicator, Indonesia now has 98% health insurance coverage, whereas Nigeria has less than 10%."

He promised to share snippets from the trip which he believed would be helpful to Nigeria.

"I have already noted some key insights which align with my firm belief that learning from proven models is the panacea for sustainable growth and development," Obi concluded.

US ends dropbox visa renewals for Nigerian applicants

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In a significant change in the US visa renewal procedure, the dropbox visa processing option has been discontinued for United States visa applicants in Nigeria.

Though the US Embassy in Nigeria was yet to issue an official statement on the change, sources have confirmed that the service, which previously allowed eligible applicants to renew their visas without an in-person interview, has been quietly removed from the appointment booking system.

Applicants attempting to schedule visa renewals have reported that the Dropbox feature was no longer an option on the appointment booking platform, suggesting that it may be due to a slew of executive orders from President Donald Trump.



The development came amid a backlog of visa applications, with many applicants waiting for months to secure dropbox appointments before the removal.

Applicants have expressed frustration over the lengthy wait for physical

appointments, which has reportedly taken nearly a year.

With the Dropbox option removed and unavailable slots in Lagos since January, applicants may now be required to travel to Abuja for in-person interviews, reverting to the pre-2020 process.

Mobile police officer commits suicide in Niger

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

An Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Shafi'u Bawa, attached to the 61 Police Mobile Force (PMF), in Kontagora town in Niger State was found dead in what was suspected to be a case of suicide.

According to reports, the incident reportedly occurred on Saturday afternoon, with sources confirming that the officer's lifeless body was discovered hanging from the ceiling of his room.

The reports said the deceased father, Mallam Usman Bawa, was the first to raise the alarm before reporting the



matter to the Kontagora Police Division.

Confirming the incident, the

Spokesperson for the Niger State Police Command, SP Wasiu Abiodun, stated, "On 8/2/2025 at about 2pm, it was reported that one ASP Shafi'u Bawa of 61 PMF Kontagora committed suicide by hanging himself on the ceiling due to a yet-to-be-ascertained reason."

SP Abiodun added that the officer's body was removed and handed over to the family for burial.

He also noted that an investigation was ongoing to determine the circumstances that led to the tragic incident.

Fayemi calls for increased investment in education on 60th birthday

By Friday Omosola



Former Minister of Solid Minerals Kayode Fayemi has urged the federal government to prioritize investment in education.

He emphasised its role in equipping the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities needed to build a better future.

The former Ekiti State Governor stated that education has always been central to his vision for development, stressing his long-held belief that children represent both the hope and the pathway to

achieving greater societal progress.

He made this remark while inaugurating a newly constructed quadrangle of classrooms at Command School, Isan-Ekiti, as part of activities marking his 60th birthday.

Reaffirming his commitment to education, Fayemi described the classrooms as a symbol of hope, accessibility, and the promise of a brighter future for the young minds who will learn within them.

“I am deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making this

project a reality, especially the successive Chiefs of Army Staff, from Lt. General Buratai to Attahiru to Yahaya to Late Lt. General Lagbaja to Lt. General Femi Oluyede, as well as the two CDSs – Generals Yomi Olonisakin and Leo Irabor, alongside their officers and the team on the ground, led by the Lt Colonel Anifowoshe, for their partnership in advancing quality education.

“Our children deserve the best, and we must continue to create an enabling environment where they can learn, grow, and thrive”, he said.

Mutfwang calls for collective action against illegal mining

By Friday Omosola

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to curbing illegal mining, which he identified as a major factor contributing to the rising school dropout rates in mining communities across the state.

Speaking during a church service at the COCIN Headquarters Church in Jos, the governor called on community and religious leaders, as well as all well-meaning citizens, to support government efforts in tackling the menace.

He described illegal mining as a serious threat to the state's values, education, and future.

"Last week, I ordered a raid on all illegal mining camps across the state. I urge you to help our people understand that we are not trying to deprive them of their livelihoods. The devastating consequences of illegal mining are beyond imagination," Governor Mutfwang stated.

Accompanied by his wife, Helen Mutfwang, the governor expressed deep concern over the alarming rate of school dropouts in mining areas such as Bassa, Riyom, Jos South, and Barkin Ladi.

He cited recent findings that revealed a drastic decline in school enrollment, with many classrooms virtually empty.

"We conducted research and discovered that school dropout rates in these areas are distressingly high. Just last month, we uncovered cases where parents in Bassa were sending their children out for child labour. We are tracking them," he said.

To address the issue, the governor urged community leaders to take



responsibility for sensitizing their people.

He also announced that the government, in collaboration with religious institutions, would launch an intensive enlightenment campaign to promote school enrollment and discourage child labour.

"I appeal to all of you, as leaders in your communities, to take up this cause. May God burden your hearts with the urgency of this struggle so that you will rise above all affiliations and address your people. The church will play a pivotal role, and we will stand by our religious leaders in this effort," he added.

Governor Mutfwang also highlighted the environmental dangers of illegal mining, including land degradation, the destabilization of residential areas, and threats to government institutions.

On security, he reassured Plateau residents of his administration's determination to resist any attempt to destabilize the state.

He emphasised that while the people of Plateau are hospitable and accommodating, they expect their

traditions, values, and institutions to be respected.

"All Plateau people seek is recognition and respect for their cultural values and traditional institutions. We will not allow any deliberate attempt to undermine our state," he warned.

The governor stressed that unity within the church is crucial to achieving these goals, assuring the people that his administration will continue working closely with religious and community leaders to build lasting peace and progress in Plateau.

In his sermon, the Guest Preacher, Rev. Agwom Azi Magaji, drew from John 11:25, speaking on the theme "I Am the Resurrection and the Life."

He emphasised that God has the power to restore anything that seems lost or dead, urging believers to maintain steadfast faith.

"The power of resurrection is in Christ Jesus. Every believer must acknowledge God's power in their lives to remain strong in faith," Magaji said.

Adeboye calls for release of TikToker, SeaKing

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Pastor Enoch Adeboye, has called for the release of popular TikToker, Olumide Ogunsanwo, aka 'SeaKing', who was arrested on Thursday, February 6, for allegedly bullying the pastor online.

While preaching at a programme in his church on Friday, February 7, the cleric said he has nothing to do with the arrest of the TikToker. He said some persons who were annoyed by SeaKing's defamatory remarks against him took matters into their hands.

"I heard that there was someone who lambasted me thoroughly. What is my offence? Because I asked my people to fast for 100 days. I didn't ask him oh! I



didn't even ask anybody who isn't a member of the Redeemed Christian Church of God to fast. Only my children! God said that it would happen.

"I was told that some people got angry and went to arrest the fellow. Release him. He is fulfilling prophecy," he said

Media personality and activist, Omoyele Sowore had on Friday disclosed that SeaKing was arrested over a petition written against him by one Paul James Adama for allegedly cyberbullying Pastor Adeboye.

Black-clad gunmen kidnap Ohanaeze Youth Council President, Igboayaka

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Black-clad gunmen numbering up to seven abducted the President of the Ohanaeze Youth Council (OYC), Igboayaka O. Igboayaka, in Owerri, the Imo State capital on Saturday.

President of the Igbo National Council (INC), Chilos Godsent, disclosed this in a statement issued on Sunday morning, February 9, 2025.

According to Godsent, Igboayaka was whisked away at Works Layout, Owerri, Imo State to an unknown location by the yet-to-be-identified black-clad gunmen.

The assailants, who used a Sienna and a Lexus SUV, carried out the



abduction at around 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2025.

He stated that Igboayaka's family is still in shock over the incident.

Godsent urged the Nigeria Police Force, Imo State Command, to take

immediate action to rescue Igboayaka and bring the perpetrators to justice.

The statement partly reads, "The Igbo National Council (INC) wishes to call on the leadership of the Nigerian Police Force, Imo State Command, to immediately swing into action to determine the identity of the gunmen who forcefully took the President of the Ohanaeze Youth Council (OYC), Comrade Igboayaka O. Igboayaka captive on the evening of Saturday, February 8, 2025, in Owerri Metropolis, and to make the findings public."

The Imo Police Command has yet to react to the development as of the time of filing this report.

Two drug kingpins excrete 125 heroin wraps at PH, Lagos airports

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) operatives have foiled attempts by two drug kingpins to smuggle consignments of heroin through the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), and the Port Harcourt International Airport into Nigeria.

The Director, Media and Advocacy, NDLEA headquarters, Abuja, Femi Babafemi, in a statement on Sunday, said one of the kingpins, who uses dual identities to aid his cross-border movements, has a Nigerian passport with his original name: Onyekwonike Elochuckwu.

The suspect is also said to have a Sierra Leonean identity with a different name, Kargbo Mohamed.

The NDLEA spokesman said Elochuckwu was intercepted by NDLEA officers with his Sierra Leonean passport on Sunday 2nd February, 2025 at the Port Harcourt airport, Rivers State during the inward clearance of passengers on Qatar Airways flight from Doha through Abuja to Port Harcourt.

He was subsequently taken for body scan which confirmed he ingested illicit drugs and thereafter placed under excretion observation during which he expelled a total of 62 wraps of heroin in five excretions, weighing 1.348 kilograms.

Babafemi said, "Investigation reveals Elochuckwu, (alias Kargbo Mohamed Foday) alternates his two identities for different drug trafficking missions between Thailand, Pakistan, Iran and West African countries.

"The suspect confessed that he went into the full time into the illicit drug trade in 2017 when his clothing and shoe business went down."

According to the NDLEA spokesman, the second kingpin, named James Chinoso, 48, was arrested by NDLEA operatives at the Lagos airport on Saturday, 1st



February upon his arrival from Madagascar via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on an Ethiopian Airlines flight.

He said, "After a body scan confirmed illicit drug in his system, he was placed under excretion observation during which he egested 63 wraps of heroin with a total weight of 909 grams.

"Chinoso had left Lagos to Madagascar on 26th January 2025 and returned via Addis Ababa after spending a week. He claimed to have gone into the criminal trade after his phone accessories business in Liberia collapsed."

The NDLEA operatives equally intercepted two parcels of 2.82 kilograms of Loud, a synthetic strain of cannabis imported from the United States with Lagos as destination, during the period.

The drugs were intercepted by the operatives of the Directorate of Operations and General Investigation (DOGI) at a courier firm in Lagos on Thursday, 6th February.

In another interdiction operation same day but in a different logistics company in Lagos, anti-narcotics officers intercepted 80 ampoules of pentazocine injection 225grams concealed in cartons heading to Canada.

The statement said, "In Kano, NDLEA operatives on Monday 3rd February arrested the duo of Usaini Salisu and Yahaya Mu'azu, both 23 years old, at Gadar Tamburawa along Zaria road, where 15,396 pills of tramadol were recovered from a gas cylinder used to conceal the consignment.

"In another operation same day, operatives nabbed a female suspect, Choima Okeke, 35, with 27 blocks of skunk, a strain of cannabis weighing 15kg, at Sabon Gari area of Kano."

The anti-narcotics agency's efforts to tackle the menace of illicit drugs also paid off as consignment of 12,800 pills of tramadol 250mg going to Shuwarin in Jigawa state, was intercepted by NDLEA officers on patrol along Kabba-Obajana highway in Kogi state on Saturday 8th February, with a suspect, Salisu Basiru, 33, arrested.

Similarly, the agency said no fewer than 65 parcels of Colorado, a strong synthetic strain of cannabis with a total weight of 1.600kg also heading to Jigawa State, were recovered from another suspect, Rufai Hassan, 32 at the same check point same day.

10-yr-old boy defiles girl, 3 in Akwa Ibom

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



A 10-year-old boy identified as Bright James has been arrested by the Akwa Ibom State Police Command following an allegation that he defiled a three-year-old girl.

Following reports that James was illegally detained, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Timfon John, in a statement on Saturday in Uyo, the state capital, disclosed that the suspect voluntarily admitted to the offence without coercion.

She added that the suspect would be charged to court on Monday, February 10, 2025.

The police spokesperson said, "The attention of the Akwa Ibom

State Police Command has been drawn to a viral report alleging the illegal detention of a 10-year-old boy, Bright Okon James.

"To set the records straight, the command wishes to clarify that the said minor was taken into custody following allegations of defilement of a three-year-old girl (name withheld).

"The case is currently under investigation, and findings, including a medical report, have provided evidence of the incident.

"Additionally, the suspect voluntarily admitted to the offence without coercion.

"He will be charged to court accordingly on the 10th of

February, 2025. Furthermore, the command categorically states that there was no trial by ordeal in this matter.

"Such practices are criminal under Nigerian law, and the police strongly condemn any form of extrajudicial actions."

The PPRO added that the command, under the leadership of the Commissioner of Police, Baba Azare, remains steadfast in upholding the rule of law and ensuring that justice is served in line with due process.

"We urge members of the public to refrain from spreading misinformation and allow the investigation to take its legal course," she appealed.

Sam Nujoma, first Namibian president dies at 95

By Dave Oludare Oso

The first president of independent Namibia, Sam Nujoma, has died at the age of 95 in the capital Windhoek, the country's current leader has announced.

Nujoma led the long fight for independence from South Africa in 1990 after helping found Namibia's liberation movement known as the South West Peoples' Organisation (Swapo) in the 1960s.

After independence, Nujoma became president in 1990 and led the country until 2005.

Nujoma had been hospitalised over the past three weeks with an illness from which he "could not recover", Namibian President Nangolo Mbumba said in a statement announcing the death with "utmost sorrow and sadness."

He "inspired us to rise to our feet and to become masters of this vast land of our ancestors," President Mbumba said.

He added: "Our founding father lived a long and consequential life during which he exceptionally served the people of his beloved country."

Nujoma retired as head of state in 2005, but continued to lead the party before stepping down in 2007 as president of the ruling Swapo party after 47 years at the helm.



Many Namibians have reacted to his death with sadness, fondly remembering him as "father of the nation", says the BBC's Frauke Jensen in Namibia's capital, Windhoek.

He is widely credited for ensuring peace and stability after independence from South Africa, which was then under white-minority rule, in 1990.

Nujoma's policy of national reconciliation encouraged the country's white community to remain, and they still play a major role in farming and other sectors of the economy.

He also championed the rights of women and children, including making fathers pay for the maintenance of children born out of wedlock.

Namibia's Vice-President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, who is due to be inaugurated as president in March after leading Swapo to victory in elections, said his "visionary leadership and dedication to liberation and nation-building laid the foundation for our free, united nation."

African leaders have joined in paying tribute to Nujoma, with African Union Commission chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat describing him as "the epitome of courage, never wavering from his vision for a free Namibia and a unified Africa."

Kenya's President William Ruto said he was a "visionary leader who dedicated his life to the liberation and development of his country."

NCDC reports high diphtheria cases in children at 61% By Helen Okechukwu

With a significant number of reported cases, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) acknowledged a trend—diphtheria is primarily affecting children aged 1 to 14.

The agency's recent revelation noted that out of 41,336 confirmed diphtheria cases in the country, about 15,845 children are significantly affected.

Diphtheria, which spreads when an infected person coughs or sneezes, has led to a 61% rise in cases among children.

During reporting week 4 (January 26), out of eight suspected cases recorded, six were confirmed and distributed across five Local Government Areas (LGAs) in two states, with zero mortality, while two cases remained unknown.

Of the six confirmed cases, 75% were described as clinically compatible with diphtheria.

Across 350 LGAs, suspected diphtheria cases were reported between Epidemiological Week 19, 2022, and Epidemiological Week 4, 2025, in 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Out of the 41,336 reported cases, about 24,846 (60.1%) were confirmed, 7,769 (18.8%) were discarded, 3,546 (8.6%) remain pending, and 5,175 (12.5%) are unknown.

Read Also: NCDC DG assured Nigeria Ebola-free, heightened surveillance



The confirmed cases were distributed across 187 LGAs in 26 states.

As the bacterial infection outbreak surges, Kano leads with 23,784 suspected cases, followed by Yobe (5,302), Katsina (3,708), Bauchi (3,066), Borno (2,902), Kaduna (777), and Jigawa (364).

These seven states account for 96.5% of all suspected cases.

Kano takes the lead in number of confirmed cases (17,770), followed by Bauchi (2,334), Yobe (2,380), Katsina (1,088), Borno (1,036), Jigawa (53), Plateau (31), and Kaduna (44), making up 99.4% of all confirmed cases.

The report noted, "Only 4,963 (20%) of the confirmed cases were fully vaccinated with a diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine."

The health agency also reported a total of 1,262 deaths, reflecting a Case Fatality Rate (CFR) of 5.1% among confirmed cases.

Highlighting the importance of vaccination in combating the rising surge, the NCDC noted, "With the majority of cases occurring in children, strengthening immunization efforts remains critical."

"Public health campaigns, improved surveillance, and rapid response initiatives are being deployed, particularly in the hardest-hit states."

The agency acknowledged that the diphtheria outbreak highlights the urgent need for stronger vaccination efforts, especially in northern Nigeria, where most cases are reported. Closing the vaccination gap is crucial to controlling the spread and lowering the fatality rate.

Nigerians react as older sister says Portable under spiritual attack

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The older sister of Nigerian singer, songwriter, and rapper, Habeeb Okikiola Badmus, popularly known as Portable, has publicly apologized to Nigerians for his controversial behaviour, alleging that a family member is spiritually influencing his actions.

In a viral video circulating on X, formerly known as Twitter, the woman identified herself as Portable's elder sister and expressed gratitude to the singer for his generosity. She revealed that he had supported her during a critical health challenge, ensuring her treatment and recovery.

She accused a certain family member, identified as Akeem, of being responsible for Portable's erratic behavior. According to her, Akeem has also been targeting her, and she urged the public to hold him accountable if anything happened to her or the singer.

She said, "People of Nigeria, I greet you. Regarding my younger brother, I am his elder sister, the first child of his mother. She gave birth to three children.

"Portable has never stolen. No one helped us in the past, but when he started making money, he took care of us.

"I've never spoken out like this before, and he hasn't even posted me despite being his sister. When I had health issues, Portable sent money



for my treatment, even while he was in London.

"Portable is the one taking care of the family. If not for him, I would have died.

"If anything happens to me, Akeem is responsible. He is the one influencing Portable, making him misbehave and offend Nigerians."

Following the video's circulation, Nigerians took to the comment section to express their opinions:

@smdd150: "She urges Nigerians to understand that Portable is not inherently a bad person and that his actions are being influenced by external forces."

@ndictmedia: "Portable's elder sister has just stated the obvious here. We don't forgive Portable already, the family member should calm down with the superficial powers first."

@yalawoman: "After una no train am well, una go de blame village people."

@Talk2MaRa: "I know sey that Portable boy dey under a spell. How can you fight the finger that fed you!"

@fobecyril: "Na lie, na wetin d boy dey, una go just dey blame juju for everything. Tell the poor boy to stop sm0king."

@Ihunanya_chi: "Omg, ever since Portable blew, the internet never rest one day. Every week, Portable must surface... ikeguru."

@etzsylva: "Lol, someone that publicly baths with antiseptic soap is being controlled?"

@MHAQ_CHELSEA: "When your brother dey do like mad person una no dey call am to order.....ko gba fvcking station lo report ara e."

Zicsaloma reveals new look after nose surgery

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian skit maker Aloma Isaac Junior, known as Zicsaloma, has revealed his new look after undergoing rhinoplasty in Turkey.

The comedian shared a video on Instagram detailing his recovery process, sparking widespread reactions online.

Mixed reactions follow surgery
Zicsaloma's decision to alter his natural appearance has drawn mixed responses from fans and critics. While some supporters appreciate his choice, others criticize him for undergoing cosmetic surgery. Despite the backlash, he remains confident in his decision and assures his followers that the final result will take time to show.

Zicsaloma shares recovery progress

In the video posted on Instagram, Zicsaloma provided a detailed update on his healing journey. He explained that the footage was taken just five days after the procedure, emphasizing that his face was still swollen.

“So guys, this is day five after my rhinoplasty. I went to take my cast off. Keep in mind that it's just five days post-surgery, so I'm still swollen. This is not the final result,” he stated.

He reassured fans that the swelling would gradually subside and that his nose would look more natural in the coming weeks.

Doctor removes nasal packing

Zicsaloma's doctor also appeared in the video, carefully removing the nasal packing from his nostrils. This material was placed inside his nose to control post-surgery bleeding. The skit maker



described the removal process as uncomfortable but not painful.

The doctor then proceeded to take off the initial cast from his nose. Zicsaloma noted that, despite the swelling, his side profile was already showing improvement. “It's still swollen, but it's coming out well. It will look more normal soon, so you guys should calm down,” he said.

Fans react to the transformation

While some fans showed concern about the swelling, others speculated about his final appearance. Some social media users even mocked his decision, wishing for an undesirable outcome. Responding to critics, Zicsaloma said, “I know some of you pray it looks bad, but God pass man.”

Retainer and one-month healing process

After removing the cast, the doctor fitted a new one, which Zicsaloma will need to replace over the next month. The doctor also introduced him to a nasal retainer. This small device helps maintain nostril shape during recovery.

“This thing my doctor is showing me is called a retainer. It ensures that the nostrils remain even. I'll be wearing this retainer every night for the next month,” he explained.

Final reveal still to come

Zicsaloma assured fans that his face would continue to improve as the swelling reduces. He urged them to be patient, as the final results will only be visible after full recovery.

Despite the ongoing debate surrounding his decision, the comedian remains optimistic about his transformation. He continues to share updates, giving fans a glimpse into his post-surgery experience.

As the weeks go by, the public will finally see Zicsaloma's complete transformation. Until then, he remains focused on healing and embracing his new look.

Nigerian Idol winner K-Peace demands prize after decade

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Kunle Ogunrombi, popularly known as K-Peace, has accused the organizers of Nigerian Idol of failing to pay his prize money.

The singer, who won Season 5 of the talent show in 2015, made these allegations during an interview on the Honest Bunch Podcast with Nedu Wazobia.

Speaking nearly a decade after his victory, K-Peace claimed he never received the cash prize or other rewards promised to him. In a viral video circulating on social media, he expressed his frustration and disappointment, stating that he left the competition empty-handed.

“I won, but I got nothing”

According to K-Peace, Nigerian Idol had publicly announced that he won ₦7.5 million, a brand-new car, and a two-week trip to Dubai. However, he said none of these prizes materialized.

“I walked out of Nigerian Idol with zero naira in my account,” he revealed. “They said I won ₦7.5 million, but when I asked about the money, they told me they were still branding the car.”

The singer also described the hardships he faced after winning the competition. Despite being crowned the winner, he struggled financially and had no means to support himself.

Surviving without support

K-Peace explained that he had to



navigate Lagos without money for food or transportation. He attended interviews and public appearances, all while battling financial difficulties.

“As a Nigerian Idol winner, I had to walk all over Lagos for interviews with no food in my stomach,” he recalled. “They made a big announcement on national television, but I received nothing. I went through hell after winning the show.”

His revelation has sparked discussions online, with many questioning the integrity of reality shows in Nigeria. Fans and industry insiders have expressed their concerns over how talent competitions treat their winners.

Nigerian Idol’s controversies

Nigerian Idol, a popular music reality show, has faced criticism in the past over prize-related disputes. While the show provides a platform for emerging artists, controversies surrounding prize fulfillment have raised doubts about its credibility.

K-Peace’s claims have reignited concerns about transparency in talent

shows. Many are now calling on the organizers to clarify the situation and ensure that winners receive their promised rewards.

As of now, Nigerian Idol organizers have not responded to the allegations. The silence has only fueled speculation, with many awaiting their official statement.

Calls for accountability

Fans and music lovers are urging organizers of Nigerian Idol to address the issue and uphold their promises. Some have suggested that past winners should come forward to share their experiences, while others believe regulatory bodies should step in to prevent similar cases in the future.

For K-Peace, the disappointment lingers. Winning a national competition should have been a life-changing moment, but instead, he found himself struggling to survive. His story serves as a cautionary tale for aspiring contestants, highlighting the need for greater transparency in talent competitions.

Guitarist Fiokee's sister dies amid domestic abuse claims

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Renowned Nigerian guitarist Fiokee has shared the heartbreaking news of his sister Ememe Effang's tragic passing, revealing she was a victim of domestic abuse.

In an emotional Instagram post, he revealed that she died due to domestic abuse inflicted by her partner.

Fiokee, known for his soulful melodies and mastery of the guitar, expressed deep sorrow over her passing. He admitted he was unaware of the abuse she endured and regretted not being able to help her escape the suffering.

His message resonated with thousands, as he used the moment to speak out against domestic violence and urge victims to seek help before it is too late.

A Painful Revelation

In his post, Fiokee described his grief and disbelief. He wrote, "My heart is shattered. I can't believe I'm writing this, but my sister is gone. She was taken from us by someone who claimed to love her." His words painted a picture of anguish, frustration, and helplessness.

The guitarist admitted he had no idea about the abuse his sister endured. "She never spoke about it, and now it's too late," he lamented. His statement underscored the painful reality that many victims suffer in silence, afraid to share their struggles or seek support.

A Call for Victims to Speak Out

Fiokee's message was not just one of grief but also a plea for awareness. He urged victims of domestic abuse to break the silence and seek help. "If you are in an abusive relationship, please, I beg you—speak up," he wrote. "I know it's not easy. I know fear can make you stay



quiet. But silence can be deadly."

He reminded victims that they are not alone. "There are people who care, people who will help you. Please don't wait until it's too late," he pleaded. His heartfelt message emphasized the importance of seeking support from friends, family, or organizations that can offer help.

Justice and a Mission to Save Lives

Although Fiokee called for justice, he acknowledged that no punishment could bring his sister back. "Justice will take its course, but no amount of punishment will bring my sister back," he wrote. His words reflected the painful reality that legal action, while necessary, cannot undo the tragedy.

However, Fiokee hoped that sharing his sister's story would save lives. "If this message can save even one life, then her death will not be in vain," he concluded. His words carried a powerful message—raising awareness could prevent another tragic loss.

The Growing Problem of Domestic Abuse

Fiokee's revelation has reignited conversations about domestic violence, a

growing issue in many societies. Victims often stay silent due to fear, shame, or lack of support. His message serves as a reminder that speaking up can save lives.

Domestic violence organizations continue to advocate for better protection and support for victims. They emphasize the need for early intervention and legal action to prevent further tragedies. Fiokee's plea adds to the growing call for immediate action against domestic abuse.

A Community in Mourning

Following Fiokee's announcement, fans, celebrities, and fellow musicians flooded his social media with messages of condolence. Many expressed shock and sorrow over Ememe Effang's tragic death. Others shared their own experiences and pledged to spread awareness about domestic abuse.

Fiokee's loss is a painful reminder of the hidden struggles many face. His message, though filled with grief, serves as a beacon of hope for those still trapped in abusive relationships. By speaking out, he has turned personal pain into a powerful movement against domestic violence.

UK health minister, Gwynne sacked over vile WhatsApp chat

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Andrew Gwynne is alleged to have written a series of racist and sexist comments in a WhatsApp group with other local Labour Party figures.

A Labour minister has been sacked and suspended from the party after messages were exposed in which he said he hoped pensioners who did not support him would die before the next set of elections.

Andrew Gwynne, who was a health minister, was also accused of writing a series of other messages containing racist and sexist comments. They included apparent antisemitic remarks and demeaning comments about Angela Rayner, the deputy prime minister.

United Kingdom Prime Minister, Keir Starmer sacked Gwynne on Sunday over the vile and offensive WhatsApp group chat.

Gwynne, who was parliament member for Gorton and Denton was sacked after The Mail reported his WhatsApp message wishing death for pensioners who did not vote Labour Party before next election.

The erring PM was also suspended from the Labour Party for his offensive WhatsApp message.

A government spokesperson said Prime Minister Starmer frowned at Gwynne's vile comments and was "determined to uphold high standards of those in public office."

"Mr Starmer will not hesitate to take action against any minister who fails to meet these standards."

Gwynne, in a post on X, apologised for his distasteful remarks that sparked calls for his sack among Brits.

He wrote, "I deeply regret my badly misjudged comments and apologise for any offence I've caused. I've served the Labour Party all my life and it was a huge honour to be appointed a minister by Keir Starmer.

"I entirely understand the decisions the PM and the party have taken and, while very sad to have been suspended, will support them in any way I can."

TRUCE DEAL: Israeli forces withdraw from key Gaza corridor ...As part of ceasefire deal with Hamas

By Dave Oludare Oso

Israeli forces began withdrawing from a key Gaza corridor on Sunday, Israeli officials said, part of Israel's commitments under a tenuous ceasefire deal with Hamas that is moving ahead but faces a major test over whether the sides can negotiate its planned extension.

Israel agreed as part of the truce to remove its forces from the 4-mile (6-kilometer) Netzarim corridor, a strip of land that bisects northern Gaza from the south that Israel used as a military zone during the war.

At the start of the ceasefire last month, Israel began allowing Palestinians to cross Netzarim to head to their homes in the war-battered north, sending hundreds of thousands streaming across Gaza on foot and by car.

The withdrawal of forces from the area will fulfill another commitment to the deal, which paused the 15-month war.

However, the sides appear to have made little progress on negotiating the deal's second phase, which is meant to extend the truce and lead to the release of more Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was sending a delegation to Qatar, a key mediator in talks between the sides, but the mission included low-level officials, sparking speculation that it won't lead to a breakthrough in extending the truce. Netanyahu is also expected to convene a meeting of key Cabinet ministers this week on the second phase of the deal.



Separately on Sunday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said that a 23-year-old Palestinian woman who was eight months pregnant was fatally shot by Israeli gunfire in the northern occupied West Bank, where Israeli troops have been carrying out a broad operation.

Fragile ceasefire facing many obstacles

Since it began on Jan. 19, the ceasefire deal has faced repeated obstacles and disagreements between the sides, underscoring its fragility. But it has held, raising hopes that the devastating war that led to seismic shifts in the Middle East may be headed toward an end.

On Sunday, cars heaped with belongings, including water tanks and suitcases, were seen heading north through a road that crosses Netzarim. Under the deal, Israel is supposed to allow the cars to cross through uninspected, and there did not appear to be troops in the vicinity of the road.

Hamas spokesperson Abdel Latif Al-Qanoua said the withdrawal showed

Hamas had "forced the enemy to submit to our demands" and that it thwarted "Netanyahu's illusion of achieving total victory."

The Israeli officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss troop movement with the media, did not disclose how many soldiers were withdrawing.

Troops currently remain along Gaza's borders with Israel and Egypt and a full withdrawal is expected to be negotiated in a later stage of the truce.

During the first 42-day phase of the ceasefire, Hamas is gradually releasing 33 Israeli hostages captured during its Oct. 7, 2023, attack in exchange for a pause in fighting, freedom for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and a flood of humanitarian aid to war-battered Gaza.

The deal also stipulates that Israeli troops will pull back from populated areas of Gaza as well as the Netzarim corridor.

US, China teeter on edge of trade war as tariff deadline looms

By Joe Leahy and Demetri Sevastopulo

Donald Trump's shock tactics may have pushed Beijing away from negotiating table, experts say

China and the US risk renewing a full-blown trade war unless the two largest economies can defuse the dispute before Chinese tariffs on \$14bn of American exports take effect on Monday, analysts warned.

President Donald Trump last week unveiled an extra 10 per cent tariff on Chinese goods to force Beijing to do more to tackle fentanyl-related exports to the US and Mexico and threatened more if China retaliated.

When the US duties took effect three days later, Beijing immediately hit back, announcing additional 10 to 15 per cent duties on US energy exports and farm equipment. China's duties are due to take effect on Monday.

"This could be just the beginning of this phase of the trade war," said Zhang Yanshen, an expert at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges. "This could become a very, very bad situation."

Some analysts had expected the US and China to hold talks to avert major trade hostilities. Trump initially said he expected to talk to President Xi Jinping, but after China retaliated, he said he was in "no rush" and the tariffs were an "opening salvo" with "very substantial" measures to come.

Asked if the Trump team was engaging with China in the same way that it did with Canada and Mexico, which were subject to higher tariffs before Trump granted them a one-month reprieve, a White House official said the US was "in constant contact with our counterparts, both in Beijing and here in Washington".



A Chinese embassy spokesperson in Washington said there had been "no new development" since China announced retaliatory tariffs.

Experts in Beijing said Trump's shock tactics, aimed at forcing Xi to reach a deal quickly, might have backfired. The US president provided only two days between announcing and implementing the tariffs — a timeline that was probably unacceptable to Xi.

"China doesn't want a deal like that," said Ma Wei, a researcher at the Chinese government-affiliated CASS Institute of American Studies. "You have to have equal talks and an equal agreement, not one in which you first put a high tariff on me, and then you say we have to make a deal."

Ma said the US tactics had echoes of a Chinese idiom "cheng xia zhi meng" — dealing with your enemy under duress when it is at your castle gates.

China's share of US imports has continued falling since the first Trump administration

But analysts noted that the limited scope of China's retaliation — which included antitrust investigations into Google and Nvidia but hit a narrower range of goods than the US levies — suggested room for negotiations.

Trump administration officials stressed that the US president wanted China to stem the flow of fentanyl, a deadly opioid that has become the leading killer of Americans aged 18 to 45.

But experts in Beijing said talks might have stalled because Trump was demanding co-operation on other fronts, such as pressuring on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine and or ceding ownership of short video platform TikTok to an American buyer.

"Fentanyl is an issue that can easily be addressed — China has already been co-operating with the US side on this," said John Gong, professor at the University of International Business and Economics. "So Trump probably wants something more that they cannot publicly talk about."

Trump on Friday said he would unveil "reciprocal tariffs" on countries next week

Farage, Boris plot Tory-Reform mega alliance to crush Labour

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

A potential political realignment is brewing on the British right as Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson explore a Tory-Reform alliance to oust Labour in the next general election, sources close to Reform UK have revealed.

According to insider reports, Farage is open to working with Johnson “in the national interest”—a move that could reshape the UK’s political landscape. The discussions come as Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer’s government faces a dramatic collapse in public support, leading to an urgent recalibration of strategy among conservative factions.

Nigel Farage is prepared to work with Boris Johnson to defeat Labour
With the Conservatives trailing in third place in some polls, and wealthy donors shifting their backing to Reform UK, speculation is mounting over a possible Farage-Boris electoral pact. According to recent polling, Reform is at 24%, with Labour and the Tories tied at 23%. If an alliance is formed, it could secure 353 seats—a commanding position in Parliament.

Despite Kemi Badenoch’s Conservatives publicly rejecting talks with Reform UK, insiders confirm that key allies of Farage and former Tory leadership contender Robert Jenrick recently held informal discussions at an exclusive Mayfair club about ‘uniting the right’. While neither Farage nor Jenrick sanctioned the discussions, the idea of consolidating the Right to prevent Labour from holding power is gaining momentum.



Sources close to Farage suggest that if Reform maintains its polling lead, he will demand key policy concessions before agreeing to any pact. These include scrapping the UK’s net zero targets and mirroring Trump’s governance model, with high-profile figures like Elon Musk-style technocrats appointed to lead government departments.

Farage’s previous electoral concessions in 2019, when he stood down candidates to support Johnson’s Brexit deal, ended in disappointment—making him more cautious about future arrangements. “Nigel is convinced the Tories can’t win alone,” a source told New Daily Prime. “The future of the Right is being decided now. He proved in 2016 he can put ego aside, but Boris would have to guarantee clear agreements this time.”

Despite being out of Parliament, Boris Johnson remains a dominant figure within the Conservative Party. His allies believe the Tories must re-establish their identity and policies instead of simply mimicking Reform’s populist appeal.

However, insiders suggest Johnson is weighing a return to Parliament, a move that could complicate relations with Badenoch’s leadership if she refuses to step aside.

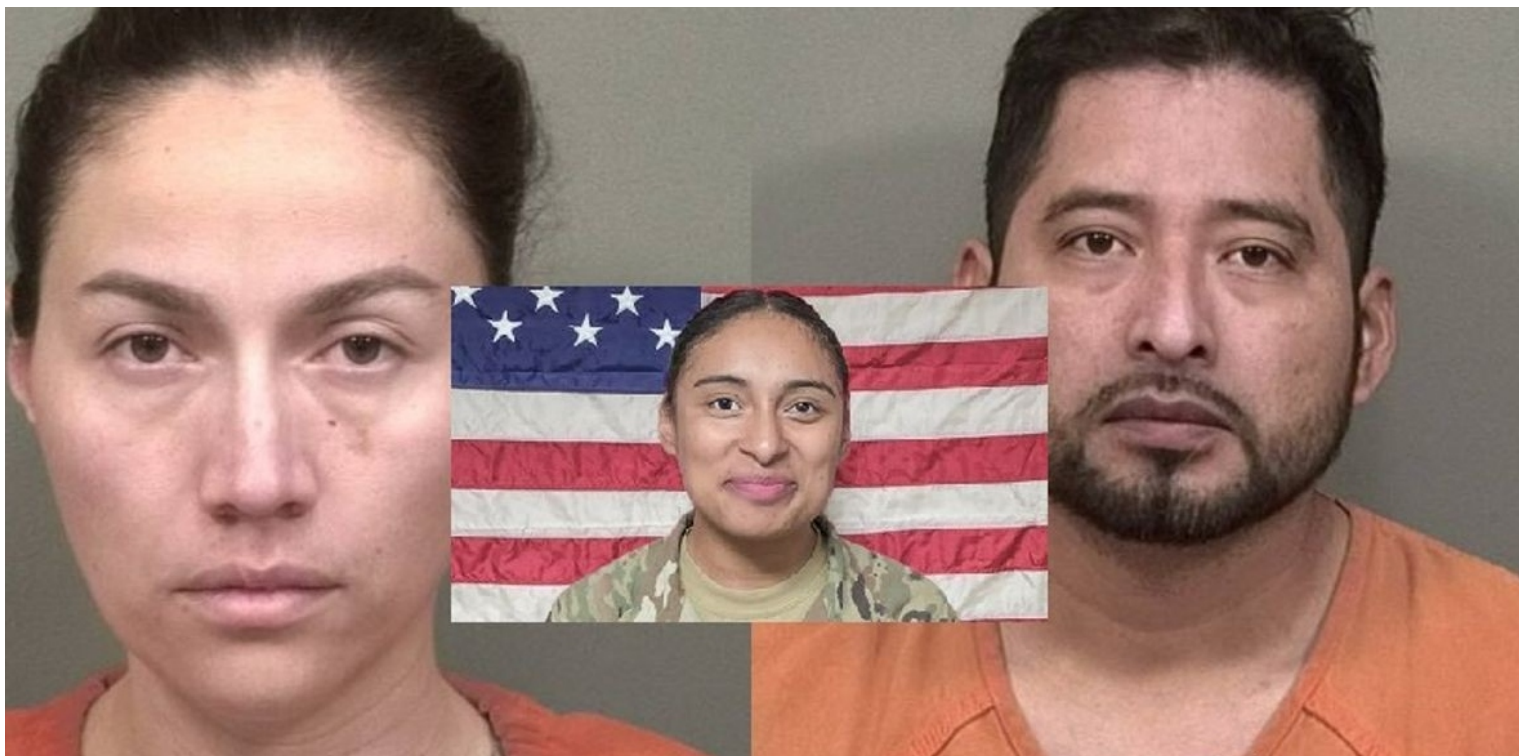
“Boris would never defect from the Conservatives,” a source confirmed. “But if the Tories’ fortunes don’t improve, a Brexit-style collaboration could be the way forward.”

Reform UK has been making inroads into Labour’s traditional working-class heartlands, posing a threat to both major parties. With local elections approaching, Reform strategists plan to warn voters that “a vote for the Tories is a vote for Labour,” signaling their push to become the dominant right-wing force.

Jacob Rees-Mogg, a longtime Johnson ally, recently echoed concerns about a three-party race, saying: “If we enter the next election in this three-horse race without a pact, we may well see Labour keep its majority—and just look how badly they’re governing.”

Two charged over 2024 death of Fort Campbell soldier

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Two people, including the husband of the victim, have been charged in connection with the death of a Fort Campbell soldier, officials said Saturday.

Sofia Rodas, 35, was charged with murder and tampering with evidence, and Reynaldo Salinas Cruz, 40, was charged with tampering with evidence in connection with the death of Pfc. Katia Dueñas-Aguilar, the Clarksville, Tennessee, police department announced in a social media statement.

Cruz was Dueñas-Aguilar's husband, authorities said. He and Rodas were already in federal custody on charges "not directly associated" with the investigation into Dueñas-Aguilar's death, officials said.

Dueñas-Aguilar, 23, was found

dead inside her Clarksville home on May 18, 2024.

She had been stationed at Fort Campbell in Kentucky since 2019, where she worked as an information technology specialist and was a member of the 101st Airborne Division's Combat Aviation Brigade.

Local police said at the time that they were investigating her death as a homicide.

Cruz and Rodas were indicted by the Montgomery County Grand Jury, authorities said. They were extradited to Clarksville on Friday and are being held at the Montgomery County Jail.

A representative for the jail confirmed both remained in custody Saturday night, and said Cruz will be arraigned Monday.

Rodas will be given a court date in three to four weeks and will be arraigned then, the representative said.

Neither defendant has a lawyer listed, the jail representative said, noting that if they do not already have representation, they will be assigned a public defender following their arraignments.

The Clarksville Police Department said the case remains open and the investigation is active.

"The successful progression of this case highlights the critical partnership between local law enforcement and military authorities in addressing severe crimes that impact service members and their families," the department said.

Give me all info about attempted assassins, Trump orders Secret Service

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President Donald Trump has directed the United States Secret Service to provide him “every bit of information” known about his two attempted assassins last summer during the presidential campaign.

The president said he was convinced the Secret Service had been holding back such information because of former President Joe Biden.

Speaking to the New York Post, Trump said, “I’m entitled to know,

“I want to find out about the two assassins. . . . Why did the one guy have six cell phones and why did the other guy have foreign apps?”

“No more holding back because of Biden. . . . I’m entitled to know. And they [Secret Service] held it back long enough. No excuses.”

NEW DAILY PRIME recalls that on July 13, 2024, Trump, the then-former president of the United States and then-presumptive nominee of the Republican Party in the 2024 presidential election, survived an assassination attempt while speaking at an open-air campaign rally near Butler, Pennsylvania.

Trump was shot and wounded in his upper right ear by 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, who fired eight rounds from an AR-15–style rifle from the roof of a nearby building.

Crooks also killed one audience member and critically injured two others.

A member of the Butler County



Emergency Services Unit then shot at Crooks and hit his rifle, stopping his shots. Ten seconds later, Crooks was shot and killed by the Counter Sniper Team of the United States Secret Service.

As shots were fired, Trump clasped his ear and took cover behind his lectern, where Secret Service agents shielded him until the shooter was killed.

Evan Vucci, a photojournalist for the Associated Press, captured photographs of Trump with blood on his face and ear, pumping his fist in the air and saying “Fight!” as agents escorted him offstage; the images went viral on social media.

Trump was taken to a hospital, treated, and released later that day. He made his first public appearance after the shooting two days later at the 2024 Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, wearing a bandage on his ear.

Also, on September 15, 2024, Trump survived an assassination attempt

while golfing at Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida.

A suspect, later identified as 58-year-old Ryan Wesley Routh, was spotted hiding in nearby shrubbery while aiming a rifle at a member of Trump’s security detail.

A Secret Service agent fired upon Routh, who fled the scene and was later captured in Martin County. No injuries were reported.

Officials say that Routh intended to shoot Trump, and Routh had been indicted on five federal charges by September 24, including attempting to assassinate a presidential candidate.

The incident occurred two months after Trump survived a previous assassination attempt while speaking at a campaign rally near Butler, Pennsylvania.

Routh has pleaded not guilty to the charges, and a preliminary trial date has been set for September 8, 2025. He could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted.

Woman dies after lightning bolt explodes tree in Australia

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



A woman has died after being hit by debris from a tree which exploded when it was struck by lightning in a town south-west of Sydney on Saturday afternoon.

Paramedics and a medical team rushed to the address in Cawdor about 5.30pm Saturday. New South Wales Ambulance said one woman had been fatally injured by shrapnel from the tree.

A local cat grooming business posted statements online identifying the victim as Rosanna Hashem, a 43-year-old mother of four.

A statement on the website for The Groomery, whose street address matches where the lightning strike occurred, paid tribute to Rosanna as

“the heart and foundation of The Groomery but also a beloved mother of four boys, a devoted wife, a cherished sister, and a dear friend to so many.”

“Over the past five years, she and her team poured their hearts into building a warm and trusted community, and her absence leaves an immeasurable void. Rose’s care, laughter, and kindness brought people together, creating a family – one that will forever carry her memory forward,” the statement said.

On a Go Fund Me webpage, started by Jemma Powell, a colleague of Hashem’s, in honour of her, Powell wrote: “On the 8th of February 2025, just one day before her 44th birthday, our beloved Rosanna Hashem was

tragically taken from us in an unforeseen lightning incident on her property in Cawdor, NSW. This devastating loss has left a profound void in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.”

Powell wrote that Hashem’s “sudden passing has left her husband and children facing an unimaginable loss.”

Guardian Australia has reached out to Powell and the Groomery to independently confirm Hashem’s identity as the lightning strike victim.

A second woman in her 40s was taken to Liverpool hospital with injuries to her hands and face. NSW Ambulance said she remained in hospital in a serious but stable condition.

Magnitude 7.6 earthquake strikes in the western Caribbean

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A magnitude 7.6 earthquake struck in the western Caribbean on Saturday night, prompting a tsunami advisory for the Cayman Islands as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands were cleared of the threat.

The temblor struck at 6:23 p.m. ET at a depth of about 6 miles below ground, about 130 miles south-southwest of George Town, Cayman Islands, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

Following an alert saying its islands were under the threat of a possible tsunami, the Cayman Islands government's hazard management agency said late Saturday that an "all clear" had been issued for its land — Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

No tsunami was observed, it said in a statement.

"This was a large earthquake and [we] are thankful that no major damage has been reported across our Islands," Danielle Coleman, director of Hazard Management Cayman Islands, said in a statement.

In the minutes after the quake, the agency said a tsunami was possible, and it urged people along Cayman Islands coastlines to move inland.

The Cayman Islands hazard management agency described tsunamis as deceptively powerful, sometimes measuring only 1.5 feet but moving water in a wave that can be 50-60 miles wide. Such a wave's crushing flow of water is its most damaging element, the agency said, with a telltale sign of a tsunami in progress being a rapidly receding sea ahead of the sea's rush.

The U.S. Tsunami Warning System said Cuba had been under a similar



threat — a tsunami measuring between around 3 feet and 10 feet high. Overnight, it had no active warnings, advisories, watches or threats for the region that includes Cuba.

A since-canceled National Weather Service tsunami advisory urged residents of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to take action because a tsunami with dangerous waves or currents were expected or were happening, according to the agency.

Gov. Jenniffer González Colón of Puerto Rico advised residents to "get out of the water immediately, especially on the west and south coasts of the island" — as a precaution — according to a statement.

"Although no major impact event is anticipated, as a safety precaution no one should be in the water until further notice," she said.

The USGS initially measured the earthquake at a massive 8.0, but later reassessed its energy and determined it measured 7.6.

Because the temblor was located below an island surrounded by the

Caribbean, according to USGS mapping, the agency said "little or no population" was exposed to the shaking.

The USGS placed the quake at a strike slip fault near the boundary between the North America and Caribbean tectonic plates.

"Large earthquakes at this location of the plate boundary are not unexpected," the agency said in an analysis published on its website Saturday night.

It said 10 magnitude 6 or greater temblors have happened in the area in the last century. One of the most notable earthquakes in the region took place on Jan. 10, 2018, when a magnitude 7.5 temblor "caused some damage and a small tsunami," the USGS said.

"Luckily, the remote location of these earthquakes limits the potential for significant damage due to shaking," it said.

Babajide Sanwo-Olu Boxing Gymnasium commissioned in Lagos

By Friday Omosola



The Lagos State Government in collaboration with Yucateco Boxing Promotions, commissioned the Babajide Sanwo-Olu Boxing Gymnasium at Teslim Balogun Stadium, Surulere.

The development was part of Sanwo-Olu's administration's commitment to fostering youth engagement and sports development.

Speaking at the event, the Director-General of the Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC), Lekan Fatodu, emphasised that creating alternative opportunities for youths to channel their energy remains one of the best ways to promote empowerment and engagement.

He noted that sports, particularly

boxing, serve as a powerful tool for self-realization.

“Boxing is unique in our community because we have a vibrant youth population, represented here by the Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mobolaji Ogunlende. With this facility, we can produce champions,” he stated.

The Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mobolaji Ogunlende, acknowledged that while the government cannot reach all youths simultaneously, capturing them in groups makes it easier to take them off the streets.

According to him, the facility provides a well-structured space for them to train, burn energy, and prepare for global competitions for

youths passionate about boxing.

“As a government, we cannot do it alone, which is why we continue to seek partnerships. This gymnasium is a product of such collaborations. Our goal is to replicate this initiative across the five divisions of the state.

“By doing so, we can redirect groups of youths from the streets into the boxing arena, where they can channel their energy, hone their skills, and compete internationally,” he added.

Fatodu commended the donor and Chief Executive Officer of Yucateco Boxing Promotions, Imadu Omonleji Yakubu, for the remarkable initiative, which provides young boxers in the state with an opportunity to refine their skills and excel in the sporting industry.

Osimhen rejects Al-Ahli's €80m offer, remains at Galatasaray

By Dave Oludare Oso

Super Eagles striker, Victor Osimhen had reportedly rejected an €80 million offer from Saudi Arabian club, Al-Ahli to remain at Galatasaray.

According to Italian outlet, *Le Cronache di Napoli*, Osimhen, currently on loan at Galatasaray from Napoli, was not swayed by the lucrative deal, which exceeds his €75 million release clause for foreign clubs.

The Super Eagles forward has made it clear he wants to continue his career in Europe, despite multiple offers from Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, Juventus have also shown interest in signing the 26-year-old Nigerian striker, but negotiations with Napoli president Aurelio De Laurentiis could be complicated.

Unlike foreign clubs, Italian teams are not entitled to his release clause, meaning Juventus would need to negotiate a higher transfer fee.



With about six months remaining on his loan spell at Galatasaray, Osimhen's future remains a major talking point.

However, Osimhen is reportedly keen to stay in Turkey until the summer, believing in Galatasaray's chances of winning both the UEFA Europa League and the Turkish Süper Lig.

Galatasaray are eager to make his stay permanent but may struggle to meet his release clause. Manchester United are also keeping tabs on the situation as they explore alternatives to Joshua Zirkzee, while Juventus remain in

contention, with sporting director, Cristiano Giuntoli maintaining strong ties with Osimhen.

The former Lille striker has been in exceptional form this season, scoring 17 goals and providing five assists in 22 appearances across all competitions.

At 26, Osimhen remains one of the most sought-after forwards in Europe, with past interest from Chelsea, PSG, and Al-Ahli.

With the summer transfer window approaching, his next move will be closely watched.

GIANTS KILLERS! Championship's bottom club, Plymouth dump Liverpool out of FA Cup

By Dave Oludare Oso

...Struggling club who sacked Wayne Rooney beat EPL leaders 1:0

...3 Nigerians, Sorinola, Obafemi, Tijani star in victorious team

Plymouth Argyle produced a classic FA Cup giant-killing as the Championship's bottom club stunned Premier League leaders, Liverpool at a raucous Home Park.

Liverpool manager, Arne Slot made 10 changes from the side that swept Tottenham aside to reach the Carabao Cup final – and paid the price as Plymouth made the most of the opportunity to secure a place in the fifth round.

A scrappy tie came to life eight minutes after the interval when Plymouth were awarded a penalty after Harvey Elliott's handball, Ryan Hardie drilling home the spot-kick in emphatic fashion.

Hardie almost added a second shortly afterwards when his shot was turned on to the post by Liverpool keeper Caoimhin Kelleher.

Liverpool applied some pressure in the closing stages, keeper Conor Hazard saving superbly from Diogo Jota, then miraculously from substitute Darwin Nunez's header, but Plymouth closed out a landmark win under new manager, Miron Muslic.

Plymouth's atmospheric Home Park erupted with a deafening roar as the final whistle sounded on a victory they will recall forever in Devon.

The sinking of Liverpool was a triumph for Plymouth's charismatic manager, Muslic, who has won the hearts of the



'Green Army' since succeeding the sacked Wayne Rooney.

In a stunning atmosphere, Plymouth sensed their chance when Liverpool's teamsheet landed, with stellar names such as Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk not even on the bench.

Plymouth, as they had to, made the tie a scrap and then the decisive moment came when Elliott needlessly handled, allowing Hardie to assume the role of match-winner.

And they found a hero in keeper Hazard in those closing moments as he saved from Jota, then miraculously from Nunez's header.

Liverpool, Slot's FA Cup plan ends in embarrassment

Liverpool manager, Slot has known little other than praise and victory in a stellar start after succeeding Jurgen Klopp – but talk of a quadruple will now be shut down after a harrowing afternoon in Plymouth.

Slot has taken Liverpool to the top of the Premier League, the Carabao Cup final and into the last 16 of the Champions

League with barely a mis-step.

Here, however, he played a high-risk game with Liverpool's FA Cup ambitions and lost.

Only keeper Kelleher remained from the 4-0 win over Spurs in Thursday's Carabao Cup semi-final, with Van Dijk and Salah left at home.

How Slot must have wished he could call on Salah as Liverpool's desperation levels rose in the closing stages, Hazard keeping them out in a frantic finale.

Liverpool still had experienced internationals of the calibre of Luis Diaz, Jota and Federico Chiesa to call on, as well as Elliott, Wataru Endo and Kostas Tsimikas.

None rose to the occasion, while Liverpool's young brigade looked lost in this hostile environment.

Liverpool will now return to their Premier League title pursuit in the Merseyside derby at Everton on Wednesday – but this is the biggest disappointment of the Slot era so far.