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Borno gov urges vigilance as suicide bombers remains at large

By Jeremiah Aminu



Borno State Governor, Babagana Zulum, has warned Maiduguri residents to remain vigilant as two suicide bombers who are still on the run.

According to him, of all the five suicide bombers who were said to have infiltrated the state, three have detonated their Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), leaving only two who are still on the loose.

In an exclusive interview with BBC News Pidgin, Zulum noted that military operatives were already tracking the bombers. He said the government, together with the

military, is doing the best it can to prevent the recurrence of another catastrophic event from claiming the lives of people in the state:

“We’ve got solid intelligence that five suicide bombers made it into Maiduguri. Three have already detonated their devices.

We’re tracking the remaining two right now. I won’t say more than that, but we’re on it. By God’s grace, we’ll stop those last two before they can strike”, he stated.

He further sympathised with the victims of the prior triple-blast bomb

attack on Monday evening which claimed dozens of lives and left hundreds injured

“As the governor and chief security officer of Borno, it hit me hard. My prayers are with the victims and their families. I just want to reassure the people of Maiduguri and the whole state that this madness will end”, he remarked.

Following his return from Saudi Arabia, Zulum has been engaged in meetings with the military and other security officials to discuss strategies aimed at bringing the situation under control.

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	100,434.5
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
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DOUBLE SPREAD	745,000.00
FULL PAGE	315,777.50
HALF PAGE	184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	95,222.50

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

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HALF PAGE	142,787.50
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10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
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PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

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10X4	103,963.00
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9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
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8X3	N/A
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6X3	41,124.50
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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
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CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR	191,668.50
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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	
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Returnees' property safeguarded in Nigeria-UK deal

By Iqrom Teslim



The Nigerian government has given assurances that the personal property of returnees under the Nigeria-UK migration partnership will be protected during the repatriation process.

This assurance was made by Bayo Onanuga, Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, in a statement issued on Saturday.

According to Onanuga, the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during President Bola Tinubu's state visit to the United Kingdom provides a framework for safe and regulated migration flows, while ensuring that returnees are treated with dignity and respect.

The agreement stipulates that returnees can carry their legally acquired personal belongings, marking a departure from past practices where property was sometimes left behind or confiscated.

The MoU also outlines multiple levels of

identification and verification to ensure that only verified Nigerian nationals are repatriated.

Any errors discovered will result in the individual being returned to the requesting country at its expense. Furthermore, the agreement provides for reintegration assistance, including airport reception, accommodation, transportation, family reunification, and support for education, vocational training, or entrepreneurship through the Returnee Education and Entrepreneurship Fund.

Onanuga emphasized that the Nigerian government will maintain full control over verification and property handling during repatriation, with all documentation remaining the sole responsibility of the Nigeria Immigration Service.

The agreement also considers the human rights and humanitarian circumstances of returnees, allowing for appeals in cases

where individuals have been lawfully resident in the requesting country for most of their lives or face significant obstacles to integration in the country to which they are being deported.

The MoU is seen as a significant step towards ensuring the safe and dignified return of Nigerian nationals, while also strengthening cooperation between Nigeria and the UK on migration issues.

As the implementation of the agreement moves forward, the Nigerian government is expected to work closely with UK authorities to ensure its successful execution.

The visit, he added, forms part of ongoing engagements with federal authorities to secure improved infrastructure for the state.

Police nabs gunman in Nassarawa By Yunusa Umar



The Police operatives in Nassarawa State have arrested Sale Hassan, of Rugan Hassan in Adudu community, Awe Local Government Area, and recovered an AK-47 rifle from him.

This development was contained in a statement by police spokesman, SP Ramhan Nansel, saying the arrest of the gunman was due to a credible intelligence report received by the police.

He said acting on the information,

operatives moved swiftly to the scene and apprehended the suspect.

On March 20, 2026, at about 5pm, the command received a report from the Unit Commander, 38 PMF Akwanga, indicating that a suspected kidnapper was sighted in possession of a firearm within the area,” he said.

“A team of Mobile Police operatives was deployed and successfully arrested one Sale Hassan, a 32-year-old male from Rugan Hassan, Adudu community in Awe Local Government

Area.”

Nansel added that one AK-47 rifle and four rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition were recovered from the suspect.

The police spokesman said the Commissioner of Police, CP Shetima Jauro Mohammed, reaffirmed the command’s commitment to safeguarding lives and property, and urged residents to continue providing timely and credible information to aid security operations.

Airstrike killed scores of terrorists in Sambisa forest

By Yunusa Umar



Scores of terrorists were killed in a military airstrike carried out by the Air Component of Operation HADIN Kai in Sambisa forest area of Borno State.

Zagazola Makama, a counter insurgent publication quoted a source that the mission, was based on credible intelligence indicating the presence of insurgents around Parisu axis within the forest.

Troops repel ISWAP attack in Borno, kill 61 terrorists

According to the source, at about 9:00 p.m. on March 20, an air asset was deployed to carry out an armed reconnaissance and air interdiction mission over the suspected location.

“Upon arrival overhead, the platform established visual contact with suspected Boko Haram terrorists engaging in active movements within

the area,” the source said.

The surveillance revealed insurgents moving tactically before converging on a concealed structure hidden under dense foliage.

The source said the aircrew maintained persistent surveillance and trailed the suspects to the hideout before executing a precision strike on the target.

“The strike was accurately delivered, resulting in the destruction of the structure and neutralisation of multiple terrorists within the location,” he said.

The sources said that Battle Damage Assessment (BDA) conducted after the strike indicated that several insurgents fled from adjoining hideouts in disarray, seeking cover within the forest.

The source added that the air platform continued tracking the fleeing terrorists and conducted a follow-up strike on another identified hideout.

“The second strike further degraded the terrorists’ capability, with additional targets destroyed. BDA confirmed significant impact, with surviving observed attempting to escape,” he added.

He noted that the sustained air presence and precision engagement demonstrated growing dominance in the airspace and its ability to deny terrorists freedom of action in their enclaves.

The successful operation, according to the source, forms part of ongoing coordinated air and ground offensives aimed at dismantling terrorist strongholds in Sambisa Forest and adjoining areas.

Nigerian actress calls for self defence amidst Ozoro rape festival

By Ridwanullah Sakariyah

Nollywood actress Kate Henshaw has called for urgent action and self-defence following outrage over alleged assaults on women during the Aluwe Do Festival in Ozoro, Delta State.

Recall that New Daily Prime on 20 March reported how women in the Oruamudhu community, Ozoro, in Isoko North Local Government Area of Delta State were sexual assault after multiple videos allegedly showed some women being dragged.

Speaking in a video shared on her Instagram page on Saturday, Henshaw condemned the incident, describing it as “wanton act of unrestrained violence against women.” She said the actions of some youths and men during the festival showed a deep failure in society.

According to her, organisers had earlier explained that the festival is a fertility rite, where women without children are “playfully dragged and sand poured on them.” However, she alleged that the practice was abused.

“You all saw the video... they rushed like rabid dogs,” she said, referring to clips showing women being attacked and their clothes torn.

The 54-year-old actress criticised the culture of blaming women in fertility matters and accused perpetrators of disrespecting women despite recent global events like International Women’s Day and Mother’s Day.

Henshaw, the award winning actress also called on the police to take firm action,



saying, “There must be arrests... the law must take its course.”

The Nollywood actress said this gender-based violence would not stop until women started taking actions against it.

Henshaw raised similar concerns, noting that some people still defend offenders.

“Maybe self defense should be the focus of women going forward!!!,” She added while responding to a user who gave emphasis on women raising the maral of the male children.

The one time political figure said, “Some will still side with the perpetrators.”

The actress urged affected communities to apologise and make amends, adding that the incident had exposed deeper problems.

She said, “It is a shame... shame should cover the whole kingdom.”

Nitezens reacts

Reacting online, some users expressed anger and frustration over the alleged rape festival.

One Instagram user, Leonzora Naturals expressed her frustration, stating, “I think we as women are NOT angry enough.”

A user, identified as chichi_ihe while responding to the Nigerian actress’s video, echoed in the same self-defence voice, expressing her belief in self-defence and encouraging parents to register their daughters in martial arts classes, especially children above age 5, after enrolling her daughter.

“I’m currently considering adding jujitsu with karate classes for my daughter but still stalling a bit because jujitsu is so intense.

One the user, Ms Joyce, wrote, “It was so traumatising, dear @k8henshaw. I had to stop watching to protect my mental health...”

Another user, with the username barbie_deizi, added, “Playfully dragging and pouring sand on women who are yet to give birth.” Okay, so what if it’s the man she is married to who is infertile?????? Rubbish traditions and cultures that should be abolished.”

Sylvia, another user while adding her voice, said, “Why’s the woman always to blame for fertility issues? Do they have a festival where men are playfully dragged and sand is poured on them too? It’s got to be balanced. Shameful lots, shameful rulers.

NBA condemns Ozoro assault, demands swift action

By Clement Abayomi

The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) on March 21, 2026, condemned reported sexual assaults on women during a festival in Ozoro, describing the incident as a national disgrace and calling for urgent government action in Delta State.

In a statement signed by the NBA President, Mazi Osigwe, and the NBA Women Forum Chairperson, Huwaila Muhammad, the association said the reports from the festival were “deeply disturbing” and “horrifying.”

It stated that women were allegedly attacked during the day, stripped of their clothes, and sexually assaulted by groups of young men while others watched and recorded the acts.

The statement read, “A society reveals its true character in how it treats its women. Where women are chased, stripped, groped, violated, and publicly humiliated... it is not culture. It is barbarity.”

The NBA stressed that the incident was not a cultural event but “lawlessness” and “gender-based violence in its most primitive and shameful form.”

It added that such acts violate the rights to dignity, personal liberty, and security under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of



Nigeria, as well as other human rights laws.

The NBA also said the actions amount to serious criminal offences, including assault and public indecency.

It warned that no tradition or custom can justify such abuse, stating clearly, “Any practice that permits such cruelty is not a culture. It is criminality.”

The NBA called on the Delta State Government and law enforcement agencies to act quickly.

It demanded that all offenders be identified, arrested, and prosecuted. It also said those who supported or failed to stop the acts must be held accountable.

The NBA urged community leaders and festival organisers to take responsibility and ensure safety at public events.

They added that protecting women is both a legal duty and a moral obligation, warning that silence and excuses only encourage further abuse.

Two die as gas explosion destroys shops on Lekki-Epe expressway

By Ridwanullah Sakariyah



Image posted on X by @urwatulwusqauk

Two persons have been confirmed dead after a gas truck explosion on the Lekki-Epe Expressway in Lagos in the early hours of Saturday.

The Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service said the incident happened around 2:36 a.m. after a speeding 20-tonne tipper truck rammed into a stationary 30-tonne gas tanker that had stopped on the road.

According to the agency, the impact triggered a fire outbreak which quickly spread to nearby buildings, destroying three warehouses and about 10 roadside

shops, including a gym and a generator house.

The Controller General of the agency, Margaret Adeseye, said fire crews from Lekki Phase II, Oniru and Epe II stations responded to the emergency and later brought the situation under control.

She added that the driver of the tipper and his assistant were burnt beyond recognition, while the driver of the gas truck escaped unhurt.

The fire service also confirmed that a

nearby filling station and a 33,000-litre petrol tanker were saved from the flames, preventing further damage.

Vehicles recovered from the scene included three Sienna buses, a Toyota Corolla and a forklift.

Authorities said efforts were ongoing to remove the wreckage of both trucks from the road, adding that normal activities had resumed in the area.

Eid al-Fitr: Tinubu urges unity, says security is everyone's duty

By Helen Okechukwu



President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Friday called on Nigerians to embrace peace and take shared responsibility for the country's security, as Muslims marked this year's Eid al-Fitr.

The President, who returned to Lagos after a two-day visit to the United Kingdom, joined worshippers at the Dodan Barracks Eid Ground, where he urged citizens to sustain the values of Ramadan beyond the festive period.

Speaking after prayers, Tinubu said national stability requires collective effort, asking Nigerians to report suspicious movements.

He said, "The stability, peace, and security

of the nation is not just one man's responsibility. We are all involved."

He also stressed the need for unity across religious lines, noting that faith should unite rather than divide. According to him, lessons of charity, kindness and compassion learnt during Ramadan must continue in daily life.

Tinubu described his recent UK trip as significant, saying Nigeria's engagement with King Charles III and Queen Camilla reflected the country's diversity and commitment to tolerance.

In Maiduguri, Vice President Kashim Shettima also called for unity while addressing worshippers at Ramat Square.

He said peace remains key to national development and warned that progress cannot be achieved without stability.

Shettima expressed confidence that ongoing security efforts would yield results and urged Nigerians to work together to tackle insecurity and economic challenges.

Clerics in both Lagos and Borno echoed similar messages, called for discipline, restraint, and peaceful coexistence, as well as encouraged citizens to uphold the moral lessons of Ramadan in their daily conduct.

FG, states grant freedom to 8,300 inmates amid prison congestion

By Ridwanullah Sakariyah



No fewer than 8,300 inmates have been released or had their jail terms reduced across Nigeria between January 2022 and March 2026, as authorities move to reduce congestion in correctional centres.

Findings show that the releases were carried out by federal and state governments through the Prerogative of Mercy process, following recommendations by advisory committees.

Data compiled from the Nigerian Correctional Service and state records indicate that 707 inmates benefited in 2022. The figure rose sharply to 4,678 in 2023, largely due to a nationwide

intervention in November when over 4,000 inmates were freed after fines were paid through a Federal Government-backed scheme supported by private donors.

The number dropped to 1,843 in 2024, while over 850 inmates were granted relief in 2025. In 2026, more than 240 inmates have so far benefited.

Despite these efforts, overcrowding remains a major concern, with over 50,000 inmates still awaiting trial nationwide. Many of them face serious charges, including armed robbery and murder, leading to long delays in court proceedings.

Meanwhile, the Federal Government

says it is pursuing reforms to reduce pressure on custodial facilities.

The Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, represented by the ministry's Permanent Secretary, Magdalene Ajani, said the government plans to convert correctional centres into centres for skills and production.

He said, "Correctional centres are no longer just places of custody; they are platforms for transformation and rehabilitation."

He added that expanding agricultural and vocational programmes would help inmates gain skills, support reintegration, and reduce repeat offences.

Rivers police nab suspects in connection of abducted girls

By Yunusa Umar



The Rivers State Police Command says it has rescued two abducted teenage girls and arrested several suspects in connection with the incident in Yenagoa.

According to the police, the victims, identified as Beauty Effiong Edem, 15, and Joy Ekpe Effiong, 16, both from Akwa Ibom State, were abducted on March 16 by an unknown woman.

Following intelligence reports, police conducted a raid at Honey City Hotel, leading to the arrest of Obot Sandy Okorie, 42, the hotel manager; Emma Monday, 33, the Chief Security Officer; and Glory Obot Okorie, 32, the wife of the hotel owner, along with 17 other females suspected to be involved in prostitution.

During the operation, authorities also discovered a 10-year-old girl, Gift Etim, who had allegedly been forced

into prostitution.

The rescued victims are now receiving care, while the arrested suspects remain in police custody for further investigation.

The Rivers State Police Command confirmed that investigation into the case is ongoing and urged the public to provide information to assist in identifying other perpetrators.

Terrorism financiers known but not publicly named — Ex-COAS, Buratai

By Damilola



A former Chief of Army Staff, Tukur Buratai, has said he should not be held accountable for the non-disclosure of individuals allegedly financing terrorism in Nigeria.

Speaking on Channels Television's Politics Today programme on Friday, the retired lieutenant general maintained that while the financiers are known within relevant circles, there are reasons authorities have not made their identities public.

“You cannot say I should be responsible for naming the financiers of terror.

“It's not just about mentioning names; those agencies know why the names are not released. Action should be taken; these individuals are still within society today, and they are known. I take responsibility for certain things that are strictly the Nigerian Army's

responsibility,” he said.

Buratai also clarified that the policy of rehabilitating repentant members of Boko Haram was a government initiative rather than a military decision.

“The initial concept that we had was that we gave them a timeline to surrender in 2016, and if they surrendered, we gave them a free passage and handed them over to appropriate agencies to rehabilitate them,” he added.

Buratai laments over insecurity
The former ambassador expressed concern over the country's security challenges, calling for improved intelligence gathering and increased recruitment into security agencies to better tackle terrorism.

Demands for the public identification of terrorism financiers have persisted

over the years, especially after the federal government announced in 2021 that it had identified several individuals and entities linked to funding insurgent groups.

Agencies such as the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit have also reported tracking suspicious financial flows tied to terrorism.

However, the identities of those allegedly involved have largely remained undisclosed, drawing criticism from civil society groups and security experts who argue that transparency is key to addressing impunity.

Nigeria has faced a prolonged insurgency in its North-East region, with Boko Haram and its splinter factions responsible for thousands of deaths and widespread displacement over the past decade.

I was banned from Nollywood – Omotola Jalade Ekeinde

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Omotola Jalade Ekeinde opened up about the circumstances that led to her alleged ban from the Nigerian film industry several years ago.

She spoke candidly about the challenges she and some of her colleagues faced during a period of tension between actors and film marketers.

According to the actress, she was not alone in the experience. She revealed that other prominent figures, including Genevieve Nnaji, Ramsey Nouah, Jim Iyke, Stella Damasus, Richard Mofe-Damijo, and Nkem Owoh, were also affected.

The actress explained that marketers sidelined them after they began advocating for improved standards and better structure within the industry.

Furthermore, she said their efforts to promote professionalism were not well-received at the time. Instead of support, they faced resistance from key stakeholders who viewed their actions as disruptive.

Omotola made these remarks during a recent interview while promoting her new movie, *Mother's Love*. During the interview, she reflected on the situation and the reasons behind the fallout.

“They said we were too troublesome because we were trying to better the industry,” she said. “They said we were bad influences because we were pushing for standards.”

Her comments highlighted a period when the Nigerian film industry struggled with internal disagreements

over quality, structure, and control. At the time, marketers played a dominant role in production and distribution, which often led to clashes with actors seeking reform.

In addition, the actress revealed that efforts were later made to resolve the conflict. According to her, stakeholders organised a reconciliation meeting to address the issues and restore unity within the industry. However, she chose not to attend the meeting.

“They called for a reconciliation meeting, and I refused to go,” she said.

Although she did not give detailed reasons for her decision, her statement suggested lingering dissatisfaction with how the situation was handled. Her refusal to participate underscored the depth of the disagreement at the time.

Meanwhile, Omotola also addressed long-standing public curiosity about her relationship with fellow actress Genevieve Nnaji. Over the years, rumours had circulated about a possible rivalry between the two stars, who were among the most influential faces in Nollywood.

Clarifying the situation, she explained that there was no animosity between them. However, she noted that their relationship was not particularly close.

“People don’t need to be best friends, but we talk,” she said.

Her remarks aimed to dispel



speculation and present a more balanced view of their relationship. She suggested that mutual respect could exist without close personal ties.

Overall, Omotola’s revelations shed light on a critical period in Nollywood’s development. The dispute between actors and marketers reflected broader struggles within the industry as it worked toward higher standards and global recognition.

In retrospect, many observers believe that the push for better structure and professionalism contributed to the growth Nollywood enjoys today. Despite the challenges they faced, actors like Omotola and her colleagues played a key role in shaping the industry’s evolution.

As discussions around industry standards continue, her comments serve as a reminder of the sacrifices and resistance that often accompany change.

Actor Jide Kosoko speaks on movie promotion trends

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Veteran Nollywood actor Jide Kosoko acknowledged the growing use of unconventional promotional strategies in Nigeria's film industry, noting that methods such as dancing to market movies have proven effective, despite not aligning with global standards.

He made this known while speaking on the TVC Breakfast Show on Friday. During the program, the respected actor shared his thoughts on the evolving nature of film promotion in Nollywood and the factors driving these changes.

Kosoko stated that although such promotional tactics may not represent the most professional approach, they have delivered visible results.

He pointed to the success of actress and filmmaker Funke Akindele as a clear example of how unconventional methods can generate attention and boost audience engagement.

"There is nothing bad about that style for her," he said. "But I'm telling you, it is not the best. There should be a more organised way of promoting our movies."

Furthermore, he explained that the primary goal of any promotional effort in the entertainment industry is to achieve financial returns.

In that context, he admitted that strategies that attract attention, regardless of form, remain valid within the Nigerian market.

According to him, Funke Akindele adopted a method that resonated with the local audience, and the outcome has justified her approach. He noted that her strategy has not only worked for her but has also influenced others in the industry.

"Funke thought it was wise to do something that could bring attention, and she did it," he said. "And it's working for her and a lot of us, too. At the end of the day, what you are looking for is returns."



In addition, Kosoko highlighted the differences between Nigeria's entertainment environment and global practices.

Drawing from his international experience, he explained that actors in other parts of the world rarely engage in such promotional displays.

"I've travelled a lot," he said. "And I know that people elsewhere, even actors, don't dance about their movies. That is not the standard."

However, he stressed that the Nigerian context presents unique challenges and realities. These differences, he noted, often shape how films are marketed and consumed locally.

As a result, strategies that may appear unconventional by global standards can still thrive within the country.

"But unfortunately, our environment is different," he added.

His remarks reflected the broader conversation about professionalism and innovation in Nollywood. While some

industry stakeholders continue to advocate for more structured and globally aligned marketing approaches, others embrace creative methods that connect more directly with local audiences.

Moreover, the rise of social media has played a major role in shaping these trends. Platforms such as Instagram and TikTok have encouraged more interactive and entertaining forms of promotion, including dance challenges and viral content. These tools have helped filmmakers reach wider audiences quickly and at relatively low cost.

Despite acknowledging the effectiveness of such methods, Kosoko maintained that the industry would benefit from more organised and strategic promotional frameworks.

He suggested that a balance between creativity and professionalism could help Nollywood compete more strongly on the global stage.

Overall, his comments underscored the need for continuous growth and adaptation within the Nigerian film industry.

Comedian Mr Jollof reacts to viral Ozoro festival

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Comedian and actor Freedom Atsepoi, widely known as Mr. Jollof, expressed strong disappointment over the alleged “rape festival” incident that took place in Ozoro, Delta State.

He spoke amid growing public anger and concern over the disturbing reports linked to the event.

Earlier, New Daily Prime reported that a video circulating online had raised a serious alarm. The footage appeared to show the assault and harassment of women during a local festival in Ozoro.

In the video, several women struggled to break free from groups of men. Some victims were heard crying and calling for help.

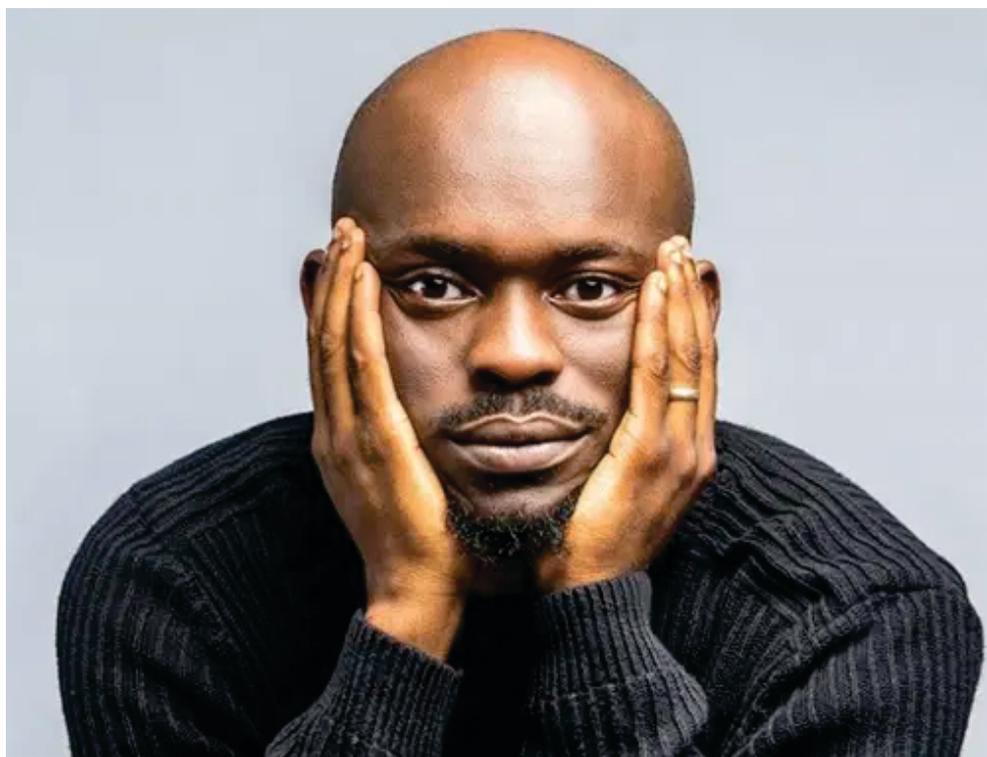
The scenes shocked viewers and sparked widespread condemnation from different quarters. Many people described the incident as unacceptable and demanded immediate action from authorities.

Following the public outcry, the Delta State Police Command confirmed that it had taken swift action. Police authorities announced the arrest of the alleged organiser of the event, Chief Omorede Sunday. In addition, four other suspects were also taken into custody in connection with the incident.

VIDEO

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police in Delta State, Aina Adesola, strongly condemned the act. She described the incident as a clear case of sexual violence.

According to her, such behaviour remained criminal, inhumane, and a serious violation of fundamental



human rights. She stressed that the police would not tolerate such acts and would ensure that justice was served.

Furthermore, she assured the public that investigations were ongoing. She added that anyone found guilty would face the full weight of the law.

Her statement aimed to calm public fears and show that law enforcement authorities were taking the matter seriously.

Reacting to the incident, Mr. Jollof shared his views through his Instagram page on Friday. He said he felt ashamed as a Deltan that such actions still occurred in 2026. He expressed concern over the continued disrespect for women in society.

“This is even women’s month,” he said. “We celebrate International Women’s Day and Mother’s Day, yet something like this is happening. That is barbaric.”

His comments quickly drew attention

online, with many users agreeing with his position. Others also used the opportunity to call for stronger protection for women and stricter punishment for offenders.

In addition, Mr. Jollof called on the Delta State Government to act without delay. He urged state authorities to speak out clearly on the issue and ensure that those responsible were held accountable.

“I am calling on the Delta State Government to speak up and hold those responsible accountable,” he stated.

He also raised concerns about the safety of residents, especially young girls in the community. According to him, incidents like this could create fear among parents and guardians.

“Children go to school in Ozoro,” he added. “How can parents feel safe sending their daughters there if this is what is happening under the guise of a festival?”

Qing Madi speaks on music money

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Qing Madi has described the financial rewards in the music industry as extremely lucrative, likening it to “drug money.”

The 19-year-old remarked while speaking on the Tea With Tay podcast, where she reflected on her experience as a rising artist.

According to Qing Madi, musicians can earn in a single performance what many Nigerians make over months or even years in regular employment.

“Music money is not normal, it is like drug money. I don’t think people know how...,” she said.

She explained that despite the financial success she has achieved through music, she deliberately avoids flaunting her wealth on social media.

“I’m not the person who would buy stuff and put it on the media because I do think that would change the narrative of what I am to the media. And I don’t like people looking at me and seeing money. But I am rich,” she added.

The singer further illustrated the disparity in earnings by comparing a typical salary structure to performance fees in the entertainment industry.



“The average Nigerian works 9-5 and earns maybe N500,000 at the end of the month, while as an artist, you do one show and get N20 million. Music money is huge,” she noted.

Beyond finances, Qing Madi also shared her thoughts on why music holds such strong appeal in Nigeria, suggesting it may be tied to limited access to therapy and mental health support.

She explained that many people turn to music as a form of emotional relief and escapism.

Her comments have since sparked conversations online about the

economics of the music industry and the role of entertainment in everyday life.

As reactions continued to pour in, many Nigerians echoed similar concerns. They called for urgent reforms, better security at public events, and increased awareness about gender-based violence.

Overall, the incident in Ozoro triggered a national conversation about the safety of women and the need for stronger enforcement of laws. It also highlighted the role of community leaders and government officials in preventing such occurrences in the future.

Jehovah's Witnesses make U-turn on blood doctrine, permits personal choice on own blood use

By Damilola



Members of Jehovah's Witnesses have been granted greater personal discretion on the use of their own blood during medical procedures, following a doctrinal clarification announced by the group's leadership.

The new guidance maintains the long-standing prohibition on transfusions involving another person's blood but allows individuals to decide whether their own blood can be stored and reused during surgery or treatment.

In a video statement released on Friday, Gerrit Lösch, a member of the Governing Body, said the clarification is intended to give believers more autonomy in medical decisions.

"Regarding the use of one's own blood...a Christian must decide for himself how his own blood will be handled in the course of a surgical procedure, medical test, or current therapy," he said.

Lösch explained that while the doctrine requiring Christians to abstain from blood remains unchanged, the Bible does not explicitly address the use of one's own blood in medical care.

"Some Christians may decide that they would allow their blood to be stored and then be given back to them. Others may object. Each Christian must make his personal decision on all matters involving the use of his own blood with regard to medical or surgical care," he added.

He noted that many members already accept procedures involving their own blood, including tests, dialysis, and the use of medical devices such as heart-lung machines and cell salvage systems.

The issue has drawn renewed attention in Nigeria following the death of Mensah Omolola, popularly known as Auntie Esther, a cancer

patient who declined a blood transfusion on religious grounds before her passing in December 2025. Her case sparked widespread debate on the balance between faith and medical advice.

Jehovah's Witnesses emphasised that their stance on blood is rooted in biblical teachings, citing passages such as Genesis 9:4 and Acts 15:28–29, which instruct believers to abstain from blood.

The group has consistently maintained that its members do not reject medical treatment but instead seek alternatives that align with their beliefs, including so-called "bloodless" medical techniques.

The latest clarification reflects an effort to reconcile long-held religious principles with evolving medical practices, while placing final decisions on the use of personal blood in the hands of individual members.

Nick Timothy criticised over public prayer remarks

By **Eniola Amadu**



The shadow justice secretary, Nick Timothy, has been criticised by a Conservative peer and former counter-extremism minister for creating fear among Muslims through his comments on public prayer.

According to Tariq Ahmad, British Muslims were openly discussing leaving the Conservative Party, and he had raised the issue with party leaders, expecting a response.

He said: “I have known Nick for a long time and am deeply disappointed by his divisive comments. He needs to reflect carefully on his own words.

“If he is aspiring to be lord chancellor, he has to stand up for the principles of equality and justice before the law for all that come with that responsibility.”

His statement comes after Kemi Badenoch backed Timothy.

Ahmad noted he had started facing anti-Muslim hostility in public, which he had believed had ended.

“It’s ironic that Nick has sought to defend what he said by referring to British values, because it is exactly the values of choice, of standing up for inclusion and freedoms, that have attracted people like me to the Conservative Party,” he said.

“Michael Howard was a great mentor to me, and he said the party has been and should always be one for all Britons. That is something that we always need to reflect, not just in our policies but also in how we present ourselves.

“Nick’s comments about the iftar, the call to prayer and Islam were ill-informed, and he, and others, need to educate themselves before they make pronouncements like he has,” he added.

Meanwhile, Timothy, through an article in the Daily Telegraph, defended

himself, arguing that Islamic prayer in Trafalgar Square was a rejection of other faiths.

He said: “In a pluralistic society like ours, people are free to believe in the unique truth of Islam if they choose. They are free to proclaim it at home, in mosques, and in communities that gather for that purpose.

“But when such declarations are projected into shared civic spaces – including monuments of national history and identity such as Trafalgar Square – the line between freedom of religion and the imposition of religious rituals blurs,” he added.

Nigel Farage also commented, as Muslim leaders criticised the Reform UK leader’s proposal to ban public Muslim prayer in the UK as bigoted and warned of a “growing tide of hate,” following comments by Kemi Badenoch about whether such events fit “within the norms of British culture.”

Iran Fires Missiles at US-UK Base on Diego Garcia

By Eniola Amadu



Iran has launched missiles towards a joint US-UK military facility on Diego Garcia, escalating tensions after warning that British lives were “in danger” following support from Keir Starmer for further US strikes from UK bases.

According to Iran’s Mehr News Agency, two intermediate-range ballistic missiles were fired at the Chagos Islands, although neither struck their target.

Reports by the The Wall Street Journal, citing multiple officials, indicated that one of the missiles was intercepted by a US warship, while the other failed mid-flight.

Diego Garcia, located about 3,800 kilometres from Iran, hosts a strategic airbase capable of accommodating long-range US bombers and remains a

key military installation in the region.

The development comes amid ongoing controversy over the UK’s agreement to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius while retaining access to the base under a lease arrangement.

UK ministers had earlier granted the United States approval to launch strikes on Iranian missile sites targeting the Strait of Hormuz from British bases, including Diego Garcia.

UK bases had earlier been limited to operations focused on defending British interests and allies in the Gulf region.

Reacting to the decision, Iran’s foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi,

said the country would “exercise its right to self-defence,” warning that the move placed British lives at risk.

“Ignoring his own People, Mr Starmer is putting British lives in danger by allowing UK bases to be used for aggression against Iran. Iran will exercise its right to self-defence” he wrote on his X page.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump criticised the UK’s initial delay in granting approval, while also increasing pressure on NATO allies over their response to the conflict.

The UK government had previously limited US access to British bases for what it described as “defensive” operations.

Two Nigerians jailed for reportedly raping teenage girl in UK

By Jeremiah Aminu



Two Nigerians have been jailed for a combined period of 21 years for reportedly raping a 15-year-old girl in Brixton, South London.

This incident was reported to have occurred last year on 8 February. The culprits, Fred Akinsanya, a 34-year-old man from South Croydon, and Daniel Raji, a 29-year-old man from Brixton, marked the teenage girl as a target after buying her drinks at Paddy's Yard pub in Brixton.

They then invited the girl and some of her friends to Raji's residence to smoke and dance.

In the event that followed, according to a report by Sahara Reporters: "The victim's friends tried to persuade her to leave with them as they felt uncomfortable but she started blacking out and collapsed, Inner London Crown Court heard.

The defendants then put the girl through a prolonged ordeal, with Raji filming her".

In a victim impact statement, the girl, who was in Year 10 at the time the

dismal event occurred, commented on how the rape incident had negatively impacted her school life and relationship with people.

"I was in year 10 at school when I was raped—my school life was affected a lot. I didn't want to go to my lessons. I find it hard to trust people. I'm in year 11 now, I still feel like my school life is being affected by the rape", she said.

She was asked to view the video footage Raji recorded of her being naked. However, she could not continue, stating that she "found it too stressful".

Both defendants, on the other hand, denied the charges. Irrespective of that, Akinsanya was convicted by the Jury for rape and sentenced to jail for 10 years. Raji was found guilty on two counts of rape, including taking an incident image of a child. He was sentenced to 11 years in prison.

During the trial, Raji's defence attorney, William Pope, requested that the judge, David Richards, take his client's past record of good character into account, noting that the

teenage girl and her friends claimed they were over 18. The judge, however, disagreed, remarking that the behaviour of the girls should have given a vivid impression that: "The whole tenor of that group is of school girls".

Akinsanya's defence counsel, on the other hand, Anna Faul, noted her client's partial paralysis which resulted from an attack, implying that he was unfit to survive the rigours of prison life.

Richards, the judge, underscored the effect of this incident on the victim: "She's lost her self-confidence. She can no longer go out. She will live with this for the rest of her life".

To the culprits, he said that: "The fact that you two abused her one after the other clearly aggravates the matter. The victim was harmed for a long time.

Alcohol was used to render her vulnerable, the effect of the alcohol was exploited by both of you. Whilst incapable, she was raped by both of you".

Elon Musk offers to cover TSA salaries amid funding standoff

By **Damilola**



Elon Musk, the tech billionaire, has stepped in to offer financial support to United State (U.S.) airport security personnel affected by a federal funding standoff.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees have been working without pay since mid-February due to a bitter political dispute in Congress over immigration enforcement tactics.

Musk announced on X that he's willing to cover the payroll for TSA

employees, citing the “negative impact” on workers and American travelers.

This move comes as the agency's 65,000-strong workforce faces an annual payroll of \$2.5 billion to \$3 billion.

The funding crisis stems from Democrats blocking Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding in protest of current immigration policies, including demands for reforms to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The prolonged lapse in funding has led to resignations, with over 300 TSA officers leaving since February 14, and unscheduled absences doubling, causing longer security lines at major hubs.

Musk's offer adds complexity to the debate over federal responsibility and private intervention in national security. Some officers have resorted to second jobs or food pantries to survive, highlighting the human impact of the funding standoff.

Israel warns of intensified attack on Iran next week

By **Iqrom Teslim**



Tensions escalated in the Middle East on Saturday as Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz warned of a significant increase in attacks against Iran, while Britain condemned Iran's targeting of a joint UK-US base in the Indian Ocean.

The Iranian attack on the Diego Garcia air base, approximately 4,000 kilometers from Iran, has raised concerns about Tehran's missile capabilities, suggesting they may be more advanced than previously thought.

The attack on Diego Garcia, a strategic US-UK military base, marks a significant expansion of the conflict. Iran's missiles, reportedly intermediate-range ballistic missiles, were intercepted by a US warship using an SM-3 interceptor, but it's unclear if the interception was successful.

Meanwhile, Iran's Natanz nuclear enrichment facility was hit by an airstrike, with no reported radiation leakage.

The Israeli military has not

commented on the attack, but Iran's official news agency reported the incident.

Katz's warning comes after fragments from an Iranian missile landed near Tel Aviv, causing no casualties. The Israeli army has posted videos of the incident, showing the kindergarten building was empty at the time.

The situation remains volatile, with heavy airstrikes reported in Iran's capital overnight. The international community is on high alert as the conflict shows no signs of abating.

Outrun and in decline - are Rosenior's Chelsea near crisis point

By NEW DAILY PRIME



MATCH OF THE DAY HIGHLIGHTS



Chelsea are in freefall after their latest defeat - 3-0 at Everton - and now have a two-week international break during which to stew on 10 damaging days.

After suffering an 8-2 aggregate loss to Paris St-Germain in the Champions League last 16, Chelsea's defeat at the hands of Beto and Iman Ndiaye on Saturday means back-to-back Premier League losses and no wins in four in all competitions.

This has led to increasing scrutiny of head coach Liam Rosenior and the club as a whole, not least from vice-captain Enzo Fernandez, who said Chelsea had lost "identity, structure and direction" since former boss Enzo Maresca left the club in January, adding the players did not understand why he left.

Although Fernandez went closest to scoring and embraced Rosenior after the match, his comments paint a worrying picture.

Once again on Saturday, Chelsea were outrun, error-prone and tactically open, as Everton played through them for a comfortable win at the Hill Dickinson Stadium.

The result leaves Chelsea sixth in the Premier League, still just one point behind fifth-placed Liverpool in the race for Champions League qualification.

However, Everton are now seventh and only two points behind Chelsea, part of a group of sides capable of leapfrogging the struggling giants with seven matches left to play this season.

"I don't focus on the noise," Rosenior told BBC Match of the Day. "I know the reality of where I'm at and where we are at as a club and what we can achieve, which is still some amazing things.

"It's been a really testing period for these lads. We've had a lot of setbacks and we have to dust ourselves down and make sure we come back fighting."

Former Chelsea winger Pat Nevin told BBC Radio 5 Live that Chelsea are "not getting the best" out of their players at present.

"You need to find out why that's happened," he said. "That can't be allowed to happen in the Premier

League."

Rosenior has faced criticism for his level of rotation, with no club having made more changes than Chelsea's 99 in the Premier League from match to match.

That rotation has increased under the 41-year-old, who says he does not have a recognised number one goalkeeper, with Robert Sanchez and Filip Jorgensen in rotation.

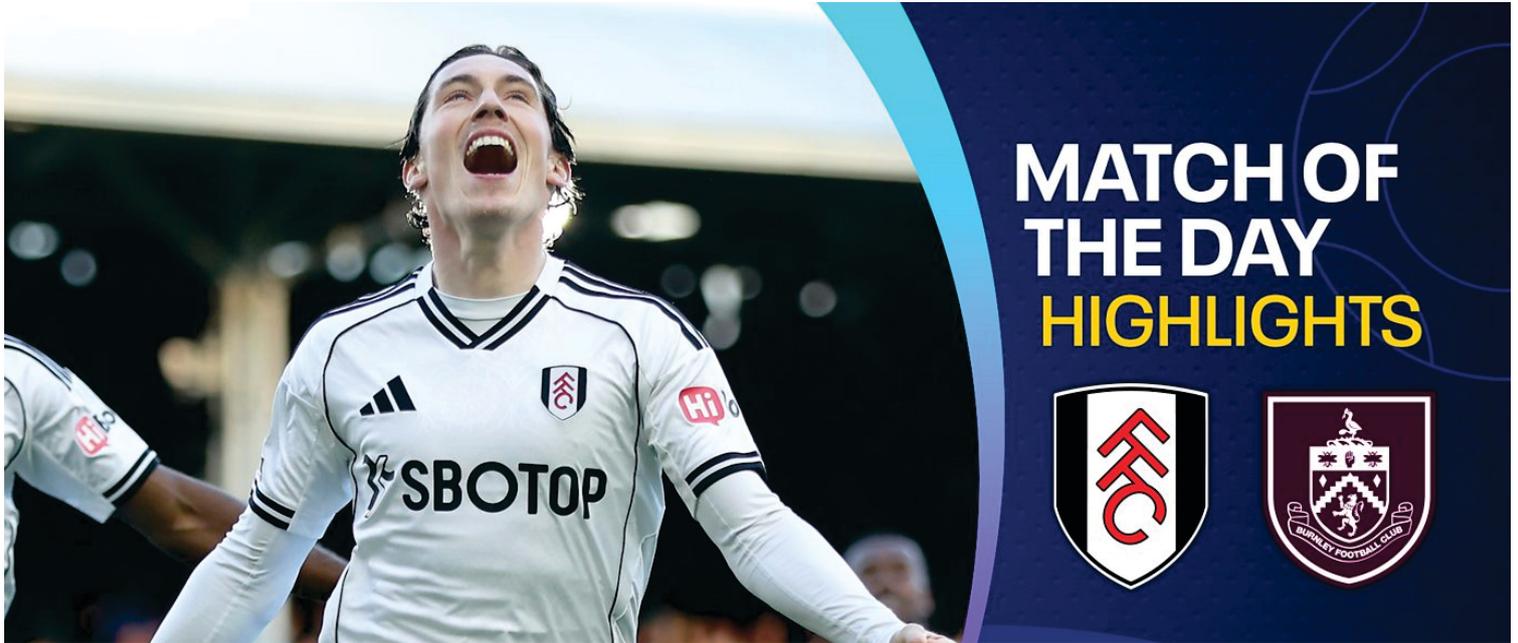
Sanchez's form has dipped as a result, with further mistakes against Everton. He was caught in possession early on by Beto but was rescued by defender Jorrel Hato, before allowing a shot from the striker to slip through his fingers in the second half.

There was further criticism for others, including defender Wesley Fofana, while even star attackers Cole Palmer and Joao Pedro struggled to create as Chelsea went goalless for a third consecutive match.

"What I need to do better is make better decisions in terms of team selections, how we freshen up the team and rotate the team to make sure we are competitive in these games,"

How Jimenez thrives from stuttering penalty style

By **NEW DAILY PRIME**



Raul Jimenez has scored all 14 of the penalties he has taken in the Premier League.

And his latest followed a well-rehearsed routine to round off the scoring in Fulham's 3-1 victory over relegation-threatened Burnley as he extended his own record for the best 100% conversion rate in the competition's history.

It also provided the Mexico international with a poignant moment as he dropped to his knees and pointed to the sky with both hands to celebrate his first goal since the death of his father, which was announced by his country's football federation on 13 March.

But while an emotional Jimenez was warmly embraced by his teammates, several Clarets players were directing their focus and ire towards referee Chris Kavanagh over the validity of his stuttering technique.

Speaking to BBC Match of the Day, Burnley boss Scott Parker said: "Initially I was questioning the actual penalty decision.

"But then someone said you can't step back[wards] on a penalty so I was questioning that - that you can't step back[wards] on the run-up. The fourth [official] told me that's not the case and that you can do that."

Raul Jimenez has only ever missed two penalties in 45 attempts

Placing the ball on the penalty spot, Jimenez takes around 10 paces backwards and stands with his hands on his hips.

After taking two or three steps to his left, he begins his run-up, stuttering on the way to the spot before stroking his effort into the back of the net.

It is a familiar method and since overtaking Yaya Toure, who scored 11 from 11 penalties - it is one that means he can lay a claim to being the best penalty taker in Premier League history.

"He knows how to do it and he's top. He's so cool, so precise and that is the reason why he has the record," Fulham manager Marco Silva told BBC Match of the Day.

"We are confident that when we get these moments he will score. He never stops completely, the last move when he decides to go, he goes and doesn't stop."

In truth it is not anything that we have not seen before.

John Aldridge, for example, scored 17 and missed one for Liverpool and a considerable number of the 52 out of 55 penalties (94.5%) he scored over his club and international career with the Republic of Ireland, were from a staggered run-up.

Mexico legend Hugo Sanchez has previously suggested that he deserves some credit for inventing the technique, external which forces the goalkeeper to make the first move and often hands the taker the advantage in their one-to-one duel.

Jimenez's overall record is a shade better, with an overall success rate of 95.5%. His only two misses from 45 spot-kicks came for Mexico in 2018 and for Wolves in the Europa League in 2020.

O'Sullivan beats Wu to reach World Open final

By **NEW DAILY PRIME**



Ronnie O'Sullivan won a tense deciding frame against China's Wu Yize at the World Open in Yushan to reach his 66th ranking final.

It came the day after he produced the sport's highest-ever professional break of 153 in his 5-0 quarter-final victory over Welshman Ryan Day.

The seven-time world champion will play Thepchaiya Un-Nooh, who beat world number one Judd Trump 6-4, in the final.

O'Sullivan was never behind against Wu but struggled to break clear of the world number 11 before finally completing a 6-5 victory.

Wu had the first chance in the decider, opening a decent lead with a break of

43 but 50-year-old O'Sullivan punished a poor safety shot by sinking a long red and then held his nerve with a clearance of 89.

"I like my bottle when I'm flowing," said O'Sullivan, who has signed up to compete in the World Seniors Championship for the first time this year. "I like my bottle anyway really.

"At 5-5 when he missed, I had a chance on the red and I had to go for it. The ball went in, which I couldn't believe, and I made a great clearance.

"I knew that if I got the red I fancied, I could clear up. In previous years I was begging my opponent to not miss because I didn't want to embarrass myself. That is different now.

"I feel a lot happier because I'm in that

frame of mind. Even if I miss, at least I fancy it."

The Englishman has not won a ranking event since beating Trump to claim victory at the World Grand Prix in January 2024.

Trump failed to set up another final against O'Sullivan as he was knocked out by Thailand's Un-Nooh.

Un-Nooh twice came back to level at 2-2 and took the lead with a 128 before Trump responded with a 97 to make it 3-3.

Two breaks of 134 helped Un-Nooh take a 5-4 lead and, despite missing an easy pink when clearing up the colours in the 10th frame, he recovered to win the frame by a point to secure victory.