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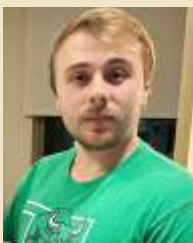


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We didn't endorse El-Rufai, Obi 2027 presidential ticket – PDP govs

By Dave Oludare Oso

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governors have denied speculations that five of their members were in support of an El-Rufai/ Obi 2027 Presidential ticket.

The PDP Governors Forum (PDPGF) Chairman, Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State, in a statement signed on his behalf by the forum's Director-General, Dr. Emmanuel Agbo, on Saturday denounced publications supporting these claims.

He said, "It is incumbent on the PDP Governors' Forum through its leadership anchored by the Governor of Bauchi State, Senator Bala Mohammed, to openly denounce and in very strong terms, the unpleasant and provoking publications and rumours being peddled ad nauseam by negative forces and their agents who cannot absorb the temerity of this Forum to question their incapacities in leadership by performing above the limits imposed by their failed economic policies and programs, which have left the ordinary Nigerian with nothing other than poverty and financial hardship down to the remote locations.

"Unsatisfied with the results their clones have gotten in the low-willed factions they keep financing within our party structure, they have proceeded with direct confrontation on the Governors towards creating a one-party entrapment, with intention to split the opposition and thereby cripple democratic institutions and values through questionable adoptions and misinterpretation of the law, all to strangle the lifeline of our nation to enforce dictatorship



and one-party rule.

"The PDP Governors' Forum is not in consonance with these actors, neither does it enjoy any ambience of political space to discuss nor seal the auction of the PDP through lowlife grifters who are allegedly working behind the scenes to support a "potential Nasir El-Rufai/Peter Obi presidential ticket in the 2027 election".

"As a formidable party, all organs of the party have continually been engaged in attaining reconciliation across the board and reconsolidation of progressive development made in our Subnational to ameliorate the lives of our people.

"It is obvious that these mischief makers and detractors, who are bewildered at the way and manner PDP Governors are daily performing to pull the people out of economic hardship despite the intimidation by the ruling APC, are only intimidated and can only throw mud at our good works.

"In the world of politics, rumors and speculations are common, as such, we will not allow these 'Enemies of Progress' and 'Agents of Confusion' to gaslight the Nigerian people to draw wrong and erroneous conclusions.

"Our principles are for equity, social justice, sincerity of purpose, accountability, enthronement of undefiled electoral process, enhancement of the lives of the people, and propagation of humanity.

"Suffice it for us to irrevocably state here that in 2027, PDP Governors as disciplined leaders and stakeholders will exemplify this by wholeheartedly supporting whoever emerges as the flag-bearer of our great party in the battle to wrestle power from the non-performers at the centre.

"As a creed we all share, the dreams of the founding fathers of our great party will not be in vain."

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8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
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6X2	52,499.50
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FG converts TASUED to federal university

By Friday Omosola

The Federal Government (FG) has adopted the Tai Solarin University of Education (TASUED), Ijagun, Ogun State, as a federal university.

This transition makes TASUED the first federally owned tertiary institution in Ogun East Senatorial District.

TASUED, established by the Ogun State Government in 2005, holds the distinction of being Nigeria's first specialised university of education.

It was named after Tai Solarin, a renowned educationist and activist best known for founding the Mayflower School in Ikenne.

President Bola Tinubu approved the takeover during the week, acknowledging Ogun State's invitation to the FG to assume control of one of its top educational assets.

The transition is expected to require minimal federal investment due to TASUED's existing infrastructure and well-structured academic programmes.

Speaking on the development,



President Tinubu highlighted the move as a tribute to Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Tai Solarin for their contributions to education in Nigeria.

“It is an opportunity for the Federal Government to honour Chief Obafemi Awolowo, who pioneered the revolutionary free education programme in Western Nigeria, and Dr Tai Solarin, who dedicated his life to educating our children and instilling patriotic and leadership values at Mayflower School in Ikenne,” the President stated.

He also acknowledged the role of the Awujale of Ijebuland in ensuring the university's survival when it faced the threat of closure in 2012, just seven years after its establishment.

With TASUED's conversion, the FG now manages seven universities of education across the country.

These include Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education in Owerri, Adeyemi Federal University of Education in Ondo, and the Federal University of Education in Kano.

Others are the Federal University of Education in Zaria, the Federal University of Education in Pankshin, Plateau State, and the Federal University of Education in Kontagora, Niger State.

President Tinubu reaffirmed that TASUED's transformation aligns with the government's commitment to strengthening teacher education and improving learning quality at all levels.

NATASHA: Saraki fires back at Akpabio, insists on due process

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former President of the Senate, Dr. Bukola Saraki has described as “cheap politics and trivialising of a serious issue” the claim by Senate President, Godswill Akpabio that the call on him to ensure that transparent and open process is instituted to investigate the accusation levelled against him by Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan is an attempt to remove a Niger Delta person from office.

In a statement signed by Yusuph Olaniyonu, the head of his media office in Abuja, the former senate helmsman urged Akpabio to read his press statement dated March 1st, 2025 very well to understand that there was nowhere he suggested the resignation of the Senate President.

“Rather, he advised that Akpabio should act in the best interest of the legislative institution by ensuring that no reasonable person is left with any doubt about the fact that the allegations raised by the Senator were investigated and justifiably dispensed with.

“The attention of the Abubakar Bukola Saraki Media Office has been drawn to the statement made by Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio while addressing the leaders of some “youth ethnic groups” on Friday that certain individuals from Kwara and Adamawa states want him removed because he is from the Niger Delta region.

“Ordinarily, Dr. Saraki would have ignored the statement as a sign of the times in which we now live. However, its underlying motive of politicising and trivialising a serious issue that threatens the integrity, credibility, and importance of the legislature is the reason why we think we should not allow the Senate President to create a misleading impression of the issue at stake in the all-



important institution that the National Assembly represents in our democracy.

“Dr. Saraki in his last comment on the Akpabio-Natasha Akpoti Uduaghan crisis never called on the Senate President to resign or step aside. Rather, he urged the Senate President to be conscious of the fact that perception is reality and therefore he should avoid treating the allegations by the Senator in a manner that will create the perception that the Senate as an institution is trying to cover up issues bothering on sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and abuse of office.

“Also, Dr. Saraki made it clear that his intervention was neither about Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan nor whether her claim was right or not. He stated that since the Senator has gone public with such serious allegations against the presiding officer, the image of the institution should be saved through an honest, sincere, open, transparent, and unbiased investigation.

“In that press statement, he also pointed out that there are already existing processes recommended in the Constitution, laws of the land, Senate rules, conventions, and precedents to be followed in carrying out such

investigation.

“Again, Dr. Saraki is of the firm belief that his suggestions are for the benefit of the legislative institution. So, he will repeat the same suggestion no matter where the Senate President comes from and whichever party he belongs to. It is not because the incumbent is a member of the APC, that the former Senate President is from the PDP or that the former is from the South-South zone while the latter is from the North Central zone. Far from it. It is disingenuous and crude to describe Dr. Saraki’s comment along those primordial lines.

“This issue is definitely not one in which Akpabio should exploit ethnic sentiments, political division, or regional proclivity. This will neither be in his own interest or that of the institution over which he is presiding. He should face the reality on ground and do what is right.

“The former Senate President believes that when a sensitive matter suggesting sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and mistreatment of women comes up anywhere, it evokes the pains that thousands of women across the nooks and crannies of our society experience daily.

RIVERS: Fubara budes, invites 27 pro-Wike lawmakers to meeting

By Dave Oludare Oso

Governor Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers State has invited members of the Martin Amaewhule-led House of Assembly to a crucial meeting following recent legal and political battles that have engulfed the state.

According to reports, the meeting, which is set for Monday, March 10, 2025 at the Government House in Port Harcourt, aims to address pressing issues, including the 2025 budget, unpaid entitlements, and the provision of a proper venue for the Assembly's sittings.

This was conveyed in an official letter from the Rivers State Government, signed by the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Dr. Tammy Wenike Danagogo, and addressed to Speaker Martins Amaewhule.

The letter is titled, 'Meeting Between The Governor Of Rivers State And The Honourable Members Rivers State House Of Assembly.'

It states, "I hereby write in furtherance of His Excellency's promise stated in my letter dated 5 March, 2025 to notify you that His Excellency has received the Supreme Court Judgment, and has therefore directed me to invite you and your colleagues – the Honourable members of Rivers State House of Assembly, to a meeting to discuss:-

"Provision of a befitting space for the Assembly's sittings; payment of all outstanding remuneration or allowances of the Honourable members; presentation of Budget and sundry matters; and any other matter(s), as may be necessary, to chart the way forward in the best interest of the state.

"Sequel to the above, I hereby humbly invite the Rt. Hon. Speaker and all the members of the Rivers State House of



Assembly to a meeting with the Governor as follows:- Date: Monday, 10th March, 2025 ; Time: 10 am; Venue: Office of the Governor, Government House, Port Harcourt."

The invitation follows a recent Supreme Court ruling affirming Amaewhule as the legitimate Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly, a verdict that further escalated political tensions in the state.

NEW DAILY PRIME earlier reported that the Assembly had been locked in a heated legal battle with Fubara's administration, particularly over the nullification of the governor's appointment of 19 commissioners.

The commissioners, whose appointments were ratified by four pro-Fubara lawmakers, have also filed a lawsuit seeking to block the Assembly from declaring their appointments illegal.

They are also seeking a court injunction to prevent the lawmakers from interfering in their duties as members of the state executive council.

Adding to the political uncertainty, the Chairman of the Rivers State

Independent Electoral Commission (RISIEC), Justice Adolphus Enebeli (retired), and his commissioners have challenged the Assembly's authority to summon them over the annulment of the October 2024 local government elections.

Despite repeated invitations, RISIEC officials have refused to appear before the lawmakers, prompting the Assembly to threaten constitutional action under Section 129(1)(d).

During its recent plenary session, the Assembly insisted that RISIEC must account for the funding of the nullified local government elections and the planned expenditure for a fresh poll scheduled for August 9, 2025.

The lawmakers loyal to former governor of the state, Nyesom Wike, also accused Governor Fubara of deliberately stalling the 2025 budget presentation, warning that they would take necessary legislative action if he continued to delay.

2027: Atiku denies defection rumour, seeks coalition to dislodge APC

By Dave Oludare Oso



The presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2023 general elections, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar has denied reports of defecting from the party.

The former Nigerian vice president said reports of his defecting from the PDP were part of efforts to confuse the coalition in process.

There have been reports of the former vice president finalising plans to defect from the PDP to the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

However, Atiku's media office on Saturday insisted that the former Vice President is a bonafide member of the PDP, and he is not leaving the party now or in the

forseeable future.

A statement by his media office said: "We have observed that some news platforms are peddling unverified information that former Vice President Atiku Abubakar is abandoning the Peoples Democratic Party.

"We wish to clarify that the so-called news of Atiku defecting to another party is a total fallacy that holds no merit in logic."

Abubakar stressed that a coalition would accommodate all opposition parties, including the PDP.

It added: "Hence, it is fallacious and unfounded to allege that the

Waziri Adamawa is jumping the PDP ship. Such an allegation is antithetical to the objective of the grand coalition, which the former Vice President is currently driving alongside other prominent political leaders in the country.

"We, therefore, wish to state unequivocally that Atiku remains a principal bonafide member of the PDP, the main opposition party."

The statement stressed that the defection claims were an attempt to "confuse Nigerians about the magnitude of the grand coalition that is at work to rescue Nigeria from the grip of the APC."

SERAP demands reversal of Natasha's suspension, threatens legal action

By Friday Omosola

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has called on Senate President Godswill Akpabio to reverse the suspension of Kogi Central Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan.

In an open letter dated March 8, 2025, and signed by its deputy director, Kolawole Oluwadare, SERAP described the suspension as unlawful and a violation of her right to freedom of expression.

SERAP warned that failure to reinstate the senator within 48 hours would result in legal action against the Senate leadership.

Akpoti-Uduaghan was suspended for six months last week over allegations of "speaking without permission" and refusing to accept her newly assigned seat in the upper legislative chamber.

The suspension also bars her from receiving salaries and allowances and from representing herself as a senator.

SERAP, however, insists that her suspension is based solely on her peaceful exercise of free speech, which is protected under both Nigerian and international law.

The organisation argues that suspending a senator for expressing her views contradicts Nigeria's constitutional and international obligations to uphold freedom of speech and political participation.

SERAP emphasised that the



suspension of Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan violates Section 39 of the Nigerian Constitution (1999, as amended), which guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of expression, including the right to hold opinions and receive and impart information without interference.

The organisation also referenced Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which explicitly protects individuals' rights to receive information and freely express their opinions.

Furthermore, SERAP cited Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which mandates that any restrictions on free speech must serve a legitimate purpose and must not jeopardize the right itself.

SERAP also warns that the suspension undermines the rights of Akpoti-Uduaghan's constituents in Kogi Central, effectively denying them political representation.

"The Senate should be setting an example by upholding the rule of law, not suppressing fundamental human rights," SERAP stated.

READ ALSO: Senate suspension: FG intervenes, groups root for Natasha, Akpabio

"Punishing a senator for peacefully expressing her views is unlawful, unnecessary, and disproportionate."

The rights group urged the Senate to revise its parliamentary rules to ensure they do not unduly restrict lawmakers' rights.

It emphasised that higher tolerance is expected for political speech, particularly when directed at government institutions.

Oyebanji reaffirms commitment to youth entrepreneurship, innovation

By Friday Omosola

Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, has reiterated his administration's dedication to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among youths.

He emphasised the importance of equipping them with the skills and mindset necessary for self-reliance, job creation, and economic independence.

Speaking yesterday at the first convocation ceremony of Bamidele Olumilua University of Science and Technology, Ikere-Ekiti (BOUESTI), Governor Oyebanji highlighted his government's investment in entrepreneurial and innovation centres across the state.

These initiatives, he said, aim to position graduates not just as employees but as employers, innovators, and solution providers.

The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, including the Senate Leader, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele.

The governor commended the university's achievements in less than five years, applauding its efforts in producing graduates equipped with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to the institution's growth, promising continued investment in infrastructure, resources, and support to ensure its advancement as a centre of excellence.

"Our government recognizes the need to equip youths with not just academic knowledge but also practical skills that prepare them for the demands of a rapidly evolving world," Oyebanji stated.



"This is why we prioritize entrepreneurial skills development and have established entrepreneurial and innovation centres across the state. These centres are designed to empower students and young professionals with the tools and mindset necessary for economic independence."

The governor congratulated the graduating students, urging them to apply their acquired knowledge toward service, innovation, and excellence.

In his address, the Chancellor of the university, Chief Wole Olanipekun (SAN), praised Governor Oyebanji for his unwavering support in developing the institution.

He noted that the governor's commitment to education has been instrumental in positioning BOUESTI as a hub for academic excellence and skill development.

Similarly, the university's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Olufemi Adeoluwa, highlighted BOUESTI's notable achievements, including being named the Best University of Education in Sub-Saharan Africa by the University of Rwanda, Kigali, in 2022.

He further stated that the institution had

secured accreditation for 78 programs from the National Universities Commission, seen an increase in student enrollment, and developed a well-equipped library with free internet access.

Prof. Adeoluwa also announced that a total of 1,109 students graduated this year, with 37 earning First Class honours, 426 in the Second Class Upper Division, 586 in the Second Class Lower Division, and 60 in the Third Class category.

A major highlight of the convocation was the conferment of honorary degrees to four distinguished personalities.

The honorees included: Peter Mbah, Governor of Enugu State – Doctor of Humane Letters, Senator Mohammed Sanni Musa, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance – Doctor of Public Policy—Tunji Olowolafe, Chancellor, Ekiti State University – Doctor of Business Administration and Oba Adu Alagbado, Ogoga of Ikere-Ekiti – Doctor of Public Administration

Speaking on behalf of the awardees, Governor Mbah expressed gratitude to Governor Oyebanji and BOUESTI for recognizing their contributions to national development.

LGBT: Oluwo lauds Trump for 'restoring sanctity of humanity'

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A foremost traditional ruler in Nigeria, the Oluwo of Iwoland, Oba Abdulrasheed Adewale Akanbi, has commended President Donald Trump of the United States of America for ending policies protecting Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) rights by recognising only the male and female genders.

The monarch in a statement by his press secretary, Alli Ibraheem commended Trump for his stand in the Executive Order issued that, sexes cannot be changed and projected a ban on transgender people from serving in the US military.

Trump also assured that government funds would not be used to promote gender identity. He has also said that a waiver for life-saving HIV care and treatment will not be applied to gay and bisexual men or transwomen accessing the preventive medicine.

However, in the statement, Oluwo said, the orders will restore the sanctity of humanity and bring sanity to the world's moral practice, affirming that "With the executive pronouncement, Trump is restoring the moral trust the world has in the US.



"I commend the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump for putting an end to immorality by restoring the sanctity and dignity of human persons.

"The LGBT executive orders must be given every needed support to prevail. I learned that some pro-LGBT organisations are instituting legal action. They will fail. It's a contest between morality and immorality.

"As a natural paramount ruler with authority and voice of note, I drum my support for the order and will promote the new policy in respect of human honour and dignity."

Oba Akanbi faulted the old practices of gay and lesbianism challenging the natural and fundamental reality, saying individual natural sexual attachment should be a source of pride.

He said the new order issued by Trump will renew people's trust in the moral consciousness of the US.

"The moral consciousness of the world is raised by the suspension of policies protecting LGTB rights by recognizing two sexes only -male and female. Ending such policies deserves the commendation of every reasonable individual in respect of sound moral standard, " he submitted.

Lagos crisis: How Aregbesola's absence in APC saved Obasa

By Alade Adisa

Reinstated Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Mudasiru Obasa, was able to reclaim his position due to his ability to fill the void left by the withdrawal of former Osun State Governor, Mr. Rauf Aregbesola, from the All Progressives Congress (APC), investigations by New Daily Prime have revealed.



It was gathered that since Aregbesola, who was also the de facto leader of the party in Alimosho Local Government Area, abandoned the party a few years ago, Obasa, who is from Agege, has stepped in and subsequently emerged as the leader of the APC in Alimosho.

“Obasa has been the Speaker for about 10 years now, and no doubt, he has amassed some wealth. When Rauf Aregbesola was in the party, he was the leader in Alimosho, even while serving as Osun State Governor. Matters relating to Alimosho were always referred to him.

However, since Aregbesola left the party, Obasa has stepped in to consolidate his hold on the area.

Alimosho is the largest and most populous local government in the state, if not in the country. Since Obasa is also nurturing a governorship ambition, he has extended his influence over that axis.

If Aregbesola were still in the party, Obasa might have faced stronger opposition. Apart from President Bola Tinubu, who is the father of all, who else is an influential APC leader in Alimosho or even in Lagos West Senatorial District, apart from Obasa?” An APC leader confidentially explained.

Meanwhile, the legal battle between Obasa and the 34 lawmakers who removed him from office continues on Monday before Justice Yetunde Pinheiro of the Ikeja High Court.

Last week, the court adjourned proceedings to Monday, March 10, 2025, to consider all applications, including Obasa's originating summons.

Obasa's counsel, Afolabi Fasanu, SAN, argued that despite his reinstatement, the case remains relevant, as he seeks to challenge allegations of fraud, high-handedness, abuse of office, and gross misconduct leveled against him.

The Speaker is contesting these allegations out of fear that they may be used against him when the race for the APC's governorship ticket begins in 2027.

Welfare promises for teachers: FG, states fail to act

By Alade Adisa

Almost five years after several welfare packages were announced for teachers in the country, the federal and state governments have only made limited progress, as most of the promises remain unfulfilled.

Investigations by New Daily Prime revealed that the federal government (FG) has only increased the retirement age for teachers from 60 to 65 years and extended the years of service from 35 to 40 years.

Some states have implemented this change, but notably, Lagos State has yet to adopt it or approve any of the promised welfare packages for teachers in its employment.

Among the promised packages were establishment of a Special Salary Scale, retirement age extended to 65 years or retirement by service at 40 years. Other benefits included: rural and science allowances, peculiar allowance, automatic admission and tuition-free education for teachers' children at their workplaces, automatic recruitment of Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) graduates, stipends or special allowances for B.Ed students, bursary awards for education students in colleges and universities



Additionally, the government pledged to fund teaching practices through TETFund, enhance employment opportunities for graduating students in the education sector, and establish a special Teachers' Pension Scheme.

However, the promises made by the then Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, during the 2020 Teachers' Day celebration, have largely remained unfulfilled. He made these commitments on behalf of the former President, Muhammadu Buhari.

Commenting on the situation, the Lagos State Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Comrade Akinteye Hassan, urged the Lagos State government to honour its promises.

“We know that education is on the concurrent list in the constitution, and all tiers of government have a role to play. These packages will undoubtedly enhance the welfare of teachers and motivate them to put more effort into their work. Some states and the FG have approved the new retirement age, and others should follow suit. We understand the economic challenges, but failing to implement these schemes is not in the best interest of teachers or society at large,” he said.

The immediate past Registrar of the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), Prof. Josiah Ajiboye, expressed optimism that the efforts made by all stakeholders to secure these promises from the FG would not be in vain.

NAFDAC seizes, destroys N100bn worth fake drugs in Ibadan

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Ramping up its anti-fake products war, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has destroyed counterfeit drugs at the Moniya dump site in Akinyele Local Government Area of Oyo State.

The Director General of NAFDAC, Prof. Mojisola Adeyeye, said the counterfeit drugs worth a hundred billion naira were confiscated from pharmaceutical drug marketers in Idumota market, Lagos.

The anti-fake drug czar noted that the step became necessary to prevent the reintroduction of expired, fake, substandard, and falsified drugs into circulation.

Speaking during the burning exercise, Adeyeye said NAFDAC as the lead agency and chair of the Federal Task Force on Fake and Counterfeit Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods is firmly committed to ensuring that food, drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, chemicals, packaged water, and drinks are safe, wholesome, and effective for human consumption.

According to her, NAFDAC has established stringent guidelines for licensing, sale, and distribution of drug products as part of its commitment to ensuring safe and quality medicine.

Adeyeye, who was represented at the event by NAFDAC Director of Narcotics and Controlled Substances, Yedunni Adenuga, said NAFDAC's recent enforcement activities at the Idumota, Onitsha, Ariara, and Ezeuku



open drug markets were mind-boggling.

“The discoveries made of the presence of unregistered products, banned products such as Analgin, controlled substances such as Tramadol 225mg, amongst others, are part of the things making our country unsafe in terms of security.

“This operation could not have been made possible without the support of the National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, who graciously approved the use of over 1,000 security personnel, including operatives from the Military, Police and Department of State Services (DSS).

“Today, you are witnessing the destruction of expired, falsified, controlled, unregistered, and banned medicines removed from Idumota Open Drug outlets.

“The estimated street value of these products being destroyed stands at One Hundred Billion Naira (N100,000,000,000). During the three weeks exercise, several suspects were apprehended. Further investigation is being carried out; those found culpable will be sanctioned.

“I want to reiterate NAFDAC'S commitment to ensuring that Maternal and Child Care are upheld, and this was demonstrated during the recent operation, as large amounts of poorly stored vaccines and products were evacuated.

“The general public, community leaders, health practitioners, religious leaders, members of the press, I want to appeal for your assistance in the fight against falsified and fake medicines. NAFDAC cannot do it alone. It is a fight for all.”

Ogun govt commends Tinubu for upgrading TASUED to federal university

By Friday Omosola

The Ogun State Government has applauded President Bola Tinubu and the Federal Government (FG) for upgrading Tai Solarin University of Education (TASUED) to a federal institution.

Governor Dapo Abiodun, through his Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Kayode Akinmade said the move is expected to strengthen its growth and sustainability.

Abiodun described the transition as a significant milestone for Nigeria's first specialized university of education.

He reiterated his administration's commitment to advancing education and ensuring TASUED remains a centre of excellence in teacher training.

The New Daily Prime reported that President Tinubu approved the transition following an appeal from the Ogun State Government, recognising



TASUED's critical role in teacher education.

He also acknowledged the historical contributions of Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Tai Solarin, as well as the intervention of the Awujale of Ijebuland, who played a pivotal role in preventing the university's closure in 2012.

With this upgrade, TASUED joins Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education and Adeyemi Federal University of Education as one of only three universities of education in Nigeria.

The move aligns with the Federal Government's vision to strengthen teacher training and improve educational standards.

TASUED is now among seven newly designated Federal Universities of Education, alongside institutions in Kano, Zaria, Ondo, Owerri, Pankshin, and Kontagora.

The transition is expected to enhance funding, improve infrastructure, and elevate TASUED's national recognition, further reinforcing Ogun State's status as an academic hub.

I once paid Asake with rice and coke – Yemi Elesho

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian actor and content creator Yemi Elesho has opened up about his long-standing friendship with Grammy-winning singer Asake.

In a recent interview with streamer Jigan, Elesho shared details of their relationship, which dates back to their university days.

Elesho revealed that he and Asake first met as undergraduates at Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) in Ile-Ife.

Their bond grew through creative collaborations and shared experiences on campus. He described Asake as a “day-one” friend and recalled how they worked together before fame found them.

Early collaborations and humble beginnings

During the interview, Elesho explained that he often featured Asake in his movies and skits while they were students. At the time, he compensated the singer in a modest but meaningful way.

“I used to give Asake a ₦700 plate of rice and a bottle of Coca-Cola as performance fees for acting in my productions,” he recalled. “Back then, we were all just trying to find our way, and he was always willing to participate.”

More than just work



Beyond their professional collaborations, Elesho emphasized the strong friendship they shared. He mentioned that they spent a lot of time together, both on and off the set.

“I have pictures and videos of our time at OAU,” he said. “We used to play celebrity football matches together. Those were good times.”

From campus to global fame

Elesho’s revelation sheds light on Asake’s journey before he became a household name in the Nigerian music industry. It also highlights the importance of early connections and the role of collaboration in creative growth.

Today, Asake is recognized globally for his unique sound and musical success. Despite his rise to fame, Elesho’s words suggest that their

friendship remains strong. His story serves as a reminder that many successful entertainers started from humble beginnings, relying on passion, talent, and supportive networks.

Fans react to Elesho’s story

The interview has sparked reactions from fans, with many expressing admiration for Asake’s journey. Some praised Elesho for believing in Asake’s talent long before the world recognized him. Others reflected on how small beginnings often lead to great achievements.

Elesho’s account offers a glimpse into the early days of a star and the friendships that shape an artist’s rise to fame. His words resonate with those who believe in hard work, perseverance, and the power of genuine connections.

Nigerian singer Ayra Starr joins Hollywood

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music sensation Ayra Starr is boldly moving into Hollywood, joining the cast of the highly anticipated film *Children of Blood and Bone*.

The award-winning singer has been cast in the upcoming film adaptation of *Children of Blood and Bone*, a bestselling fantasy novel by Nigerian American author Tomi Adeyemi.

This marks a significant milestone in Ayra Starr's career, as she transitions from the world of music to the big screen.

She will star alongside some of Hollywood's biggest names, including Oscar-winning actress Viola Davis, acclaimed actress Cynthia Erivo, and Golden Globe nominee Idris Elba.

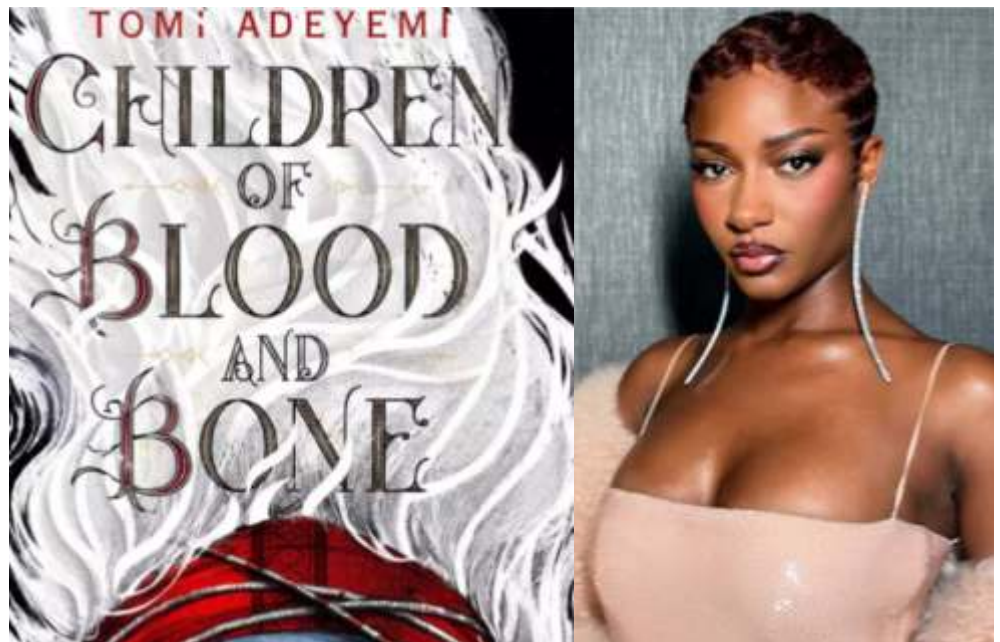
The news comes just months after Ayra Starr made her debut in Nigeria's film industry, Nollywood. Her growing interest in acting has now taken her to an even bigger stage—Hollywood.

A rising star expands her horizon

Ayra Starr, known for hit songs like *Rush* and *Bloody Samaritan*, has quickly become one of Nigeria's most successful young artists. Since breaking into the music industry under Mavin Records, she has gained international recognition with her Afrobeats sound and distinct style.

Her move to Hollywood follows a growing trend of Nigerian entertainers crossing over into international film and television. Music stars like Tiwa Savage, Yemi Alade, Simi, and Falz have also explored acting, proving that Nigerian talent is making waves beyond the music industry.

Hollywood's growing interest in



African stories

Children of Blood and Bone is a highly anticipated film adaptation of Tomi Adeyemi's novel, which blends West African mythology with fantasy adventure. The book has been compared to major franchises like *Harry Potter* and *Game of Thrones* and has received global praise for its rich storytelling.

Hollywood's increasing interest in African stories has opened doors for Nigerian actors and musicians. With the success of films like *Black Panther*, African narratives are gaining more recognition in mainstream entertainment. Ayra Starr's inclusion in this film signals yet another step toward global representation.

From music to movies

The transition from music to acting is not uncommon in the entertainment industry. Many musicians have successfully made the switch, using their stage presence and storytelling skills to captivate audiences on screen.

For Ayra Starr, this new venture is both an opportunity and a challenge. While she has conquered the music industry

with chart-topping hits, acting will test her ability to take on a new form of artistic expression.

Fans are eager to see how she performs in her first Hollywood role. Will she bring the same energy and charisma that made her a household name in music? Only time will tell.

Nigerian entertainers breaking boundaries

Ayra Starr is not the first Nigerian artist to explore acting. Several musicians have appeared in Nollywood films, including Banky W, Reminisce, and Falz. Some have even gone on to become full-time actors.

With Hollywood now embracing more African talent, Nigerian entertainers have a growing platform to showcase their skills on a global scale. Ayra Starr's latest move is proof that Nigerian artists are ready to take on the world.

As she embarks on this new journey, one thing is clear: Ayra Starr is not just a singer—she is a star in every sense of the word.

'My name is Regina Daniels' – Actress drops 'Nwoko' amid separation rumours

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nollywood actress Regina Daniels has sparked speculation about her marriage after introducing herself without her husband's name.

The actress, who is married to billionaire politician Senator Ned Nwoko, recently referred to herself using only her maiden name, intensifying rumors of a marital crisis.

Social media sparks controversy

Fans noticed the change in a new Instagram video where Daniels greeted her followers while embracing her Anioma heritage. "My people, I greet you all. My name is Regina Daniels. I'm from Anioma," she said. Notably, she omitted "Nwoko," her husband's surname.

This subtle change has fueled online discussions. Many social media users believe it confirms speculation that the actress and her husband are facing challenges. The rumors first surfaced when Regina removed "Nwoko" from her Instagram profile. She also deleted several photos of herself with her husband.

A history of speculation

This is not the first time Regina and Ned Nwoko's marriage has been the subject of public debate. Since their wedding in 2019, the couple has often faced scrutiny



due to their significant age difference. While they have frequently shared moments of their family life online, rumors of tension have emerged over the years.

Recent events have reignited those speculations. Observers point out that Regina, who previously showcased her marriage on social media, has become more reserved about her personal life.

Silence from the couple

Despite the growing speculation, neither Regina nor Ned Nwoko has directly addressed the rumors. The senator, known for his political engagements and philanthropic work, has remained silent. Regina, on the other hand, has continued posting about her work and culture but has not commented on the status of her marriage.

While some believe the actress is simply rebranding her image, others argue that her decision to drop "Nwoko" from her name and Instagram bio signals a deeper issue.

What's next?

For now, fans and the media are left to guess what is happening behind the scenes. If there is trouble in their marriage, neither party has chosen to confirm or deny it. Until they speak out, the rumors will likely continue to spread.

One thing remains certain—Regina Daniels has caught public attention once again, and all eyes are on her next move.

Autopsies show Gene Hackman died of heart disease; wife died of hantavirus

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Oscar-winning actor Gene Hackman was in an advanced state of Alzheimer's and died of heart disease and other factors likely days after his wife, Betsy Arakawa, died of a rare virus spread by mice, according to autopsy results released Friday in New Mexico.

Hackman, 95, Arakawa, 64, and one of their dogs were found dead Feb. 26 in separate rooms of the couple's Santa Fe home.

Hackman's heart disease and the hantavirus pulmonary syndrome that caused Arakawa's death were announced at a press conference at the Santa Fe sheriff's office.

Hackman's wife died a week before he did, results showed. A reporter asked Sheriff Adan Mendoza if Hackman's advanced Alzheimer's had hindered him from perceiving her death.

"I would assume that is the case," Mendoza told reporters.

"He was in an advanced state of Alzheimer's, and it is quite possible he was not aware she was deceased," Heather Jarrell, chief medical investigator at the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator, told reporters.

Arakawa is believed to have died around Feb. 11, authorities said Friday, citing the date of her last email.

Jarrell determined Hackman died on Feb. 18, based on his pacemaker activity.

Hantavirus is a rare disease in the U.S., with most cases concentrated in the western states of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and Utah. In northern New Mexico, the virus is predominantly spread through the droppings and urine of



deer mice.

The virus is often transmitted through the air when people sweep out sheds or clean closets where mice have been living. It begins with flu-like symptoms and can lead to heart and lung failure, with around 38% to 50% of cases resulting in death.

New Mexico has experienced between one and seven cases annually in recent years, according to health data.

State health inspectors found no particular sign of rodents inside Hackman's home but did detect rodent activity in structures outside the house, State Veterinarian Erin Phipps told reporters.

Hackman and Arakawa, a pianist, had called Santa Fe home since the 1980s and were active in the city's art community and culinary scene. In recent years, the couple were seen less often in town as Hackman's health deteriorated. They lived a very private life before their deaths, Mendoza said.

A caretaker at their gated community discovered the couple dead. Sheriff's deputies found Hackman in the kitchen. Arakawa and a dog were found in a

bathroom.

Both Hackman and Arakawa appeared to have suddenly fallen to the floor, and neither showed signs of blunt force trauma.

Arakawa had picked up one of her dogs in a crate on Feb. 9 from a Santa Fe veterinarian, which may explain why the animal was found dead in the crate in the couple's home on Feb. 26, Mendoza said. Phipps said the dog may have died of starvation.

Hackman, a former Marine known for his raspy voice, appeared in more than 80 films, as well as on television and the stage during a lengthy career that started in the early 1960s.

He earned his first Oscar nomination for his breakout role as the brother of bank robber Clyde Barrow in 1967's "Bonnie and Clyde." He won an Oscar for best actor in 1972 for his portrayal of detective Popeye Doyle in "The French Connection," and in 1993 won an Oscar for best supporting actor for "Unforgiven."

Wall Street Journal launches astonishing attack on Trump

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Wall Street Journal has called for Donald Trump to be sued to prevent tariffs being imposed on Canada and Mexico.

The newspaper's editorial board wrote in very blunt terms that Trump did not have the power to order the tariffs without Congressional approval.

'He's treating the North American economy as a personal plaything, as markets gyrate with each presidential whim,' the WSJ board wrote.

'It's doubtful Mr Trump even has the power to impose these tariffs, and we hope his afflatus gets a legal challenge.'

The WSJ, published by Rupert Murdoch (pictured) who also owns Fox News, is usually sympathetic to Republicans but has staunchly opposed Trump's tariffs. The WSJ, published by Rupert Murdoch (pictured) who also owns Fox News, is usually sympathetic to Republicans but has staunchly opposed Trump's tariffs.

The paper called them the 'dumbest tariff plunge' and Trump's plan the 'dumbest trade war in history' as several editorials struck out against them in recent weeks.

This week's attack warned consumer prices would rise as a result of imposing the 25 percent duties on the country's two neighbors.

WSJ argued Trump's use of a 48-year-old law that includes an emergency provision was not justified and he should require approval from Congress.

'The president invokes a law that doesn't give him power to impose sweeping tariffs. Someone should sue,' it wrote.

The editorial explained the history of the law, the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act, and the way it was supposed to work.

The law allowed the executive branch to investigate, block, prohibit or regulate any imports and exports with foreign countries in the case of an 'unusual or extraordinary threat' if he declared a



national emergency.

Trump justified using the IEEPA to impose tariffs by claiming fentanyl and other drugs crossing the border was a national emergency.

This is why Trump so frequently sounded the alarm on the issue, despite there being no evidence of increased traffic of drugs compared to past decades.

WSJ argued even under the intentionally vague language of the law, designed to give the president wide latitude, Trump's tariffs went too far.

'Mr Trump's tariffs arguably constitute a "fundamental revision of the statute, changing it from [one sort of] scheme of... regulation" into an entirely different kind,' it wrote, quote the relevant Supreme Court ruling.

'Under that ruling, Congress must expressly authorize economically and politically significant executive actions, which Mr Trump's tariffs undeniably are.

But the paper argued that wasn't even the biggest problem with Trump's interpretation: The law doesn't even clearly authorize tariffs.

Instead it only allows the president to 'investigate, block, prohibit or regulate' imports, exports or transactions that foreign countries or people have an interest in or 'any property, subject to the

jurisdiction of the US'.

'Presidents have used the law to freeze assets of foreign governments and nationals, restrict US companies from doing business with them, limit export of technologies and ban imports from adversaries,' the WSJ noted.

Biden used the law as part of sanctions against Russia when it invaded Ukraine in March 2022, banning imports of Russian energy, seafood and alcohol.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau threatened to tax \$107 billion worth of US goods, including beer, wine and bourbon, in retaliation.

But he didn't use it to impose tariffs – instead he asked Congress for the authority to do so the next month, and only followed through when it was approved.

'This suggests that neither Congress nor Mr Biden believed IEEPA provided tariff authority. No President has used IEEPA to impose tariffs,' the WSJ wrote.

'The High Court has said that a "lack of historical precedent" is a "telling indication" that a broad exercise of power is illegal.'

The only president to successfully impose sweeping tariffs without Congress was Richard Nixon, who in 1971 brought in at 10 per cent duty across the board to counteract a growing trade deficit.

Elon Musk loses \$132bn in 2025 but remains world's richest

By Dave Oludare Oso

- *Elon Musk's net worth dropped by \$132 billion between January 1 and March 7, 2025, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.*
- *The decline is largely attributed to Tesla's stock slump, which fell 13.4% since the beginning of 2025 and 27% from its December 2024 peak due to weak global sales and a softening EV market*
- *Musk's wealth is primarily tied to his stakes in Tesla, SpaceX, X Corp, and other ventures, with SpaceX valued at nearly \$350 billion as of December 2024*



Elon Musk, the billionaire behind Tesla, SpaceX, and X Corp, has seen his fortune take a dramatic hit in the first two months of 2025.

According to the latest estimates from the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Musk has seen his net worth drop by \$132 billion between Jan 1, 2025, and March 7.

Why has Elon Musk's wealth dipped?

The sharp drop in Musk's wealth comes amid a turbulent start to the year for Tesla, the world's most valuable carmaker.

Economic Times reported that Tesla's stock has slumped 13.4% since January 1, 2025, and a staggering 27% from its

December 2024 peak, when Musk's net worth briefly soared to \$486 billion.

Analysts point to disappointing global sales figures and a softening market for electric vehicles as key drivers of the decline, pushing Tesla's market capitalization to \$942.37 billion by late February.

Musk's wealth is largely tied to his stakes in SpaceX, X Corp (formerly Twitter), and other ventures. SpaceX was valued at nearly \$350 billion in a December 2024 tender offer, with Musk owning 42% through a trust.

He controls about 79% of X Corp, which has lost 68% of its value since his \$44 billion acquisition in

2022, according to Fidelity's December 2024 filing. His holdings in Neuralink and xAI round up his net worth.

Who is the richest man in the world?

Despite the steep decline, Musk retains his title as the world's richest individual, with a net worth pegged at \$330 billion as of March 8.

Even with this setback, Musk's lead atop the global wealth rankings remains unchallenged. Mark Zuckerberg, buoyed by Meta's AI-driven resurgence, sat at \$221 billion, while Amazon founder Jeff Bezos trailed at \$220 billion according to Bloomberg's March 8 snapshot.

South Korea's President Yoon released from prison

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol walked out of a detention centre in Seoul on Saturday after prosecutors decided not to appeal a court decision to cancel the impeached leader's arrest warrant on insurrection charges.

Yoon, 64, remains suspended from his duties, and his criminal and impeachment trials continue over his short-lived imposition of martial law on December 3.

The Seoul Central District Court canceled Yoon's arrest warrant on Friday, citing the timing of his indictment and "questions about the legality" of the investigation process.

"I would like to thank the Central District Court for their courage and determination in correcting the illegality," Yoon said in a statement.

As he left the facility, a relaxed and smiling Yoon, in a dark suit with no necktie and his hair showing some grey, stepped out of his car, waved, raised his fist and bowed to cheering supporters waving South Korean and U.S. flags.

His lawyers said the court decision "confirmed that the president's



detainment was problematic in both procedural and substantive aspects," calling the ruling the "beginning of a journey to restore rule of law."

Prosecutors could not immediately be reached for comment.

The main opposition Democratic Party criticized the prosecutors' decision for "throwing the country and people into crisis" and urged the Constitutional Court to remove Yoon from office as soon as possible.

In his impeachment trial, the Constitutional Court is expected to decide in the coming days whether to reinstate or remove Yoon.

On Saturday, some 55,000 Yoon

supporters rallied in Seoul's main districts, while 32,500 people demonstrated against him near the Constitutional Court, Yonhap news agency reported, citing unofficial police estimates.

The public, however, remains largely anti-Yoon, with 60% of respondents saying he should be removed from office and 35% opposing removal, according to a Gallup Korea poll on Friday.

Before the prosecutors' decision, hundreds of Yoon supporters also protested in front of the Supreme Prosecutors' Office.

Yoon, the first South Korean president to be arrested while in office, has been in custody since Jan. 15.

Mark Carney becomes Canada's Prime Minister as trade war with Trump heats up

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Former Bank of England and Canada Governor, Mark Carney, has been elected as the new leader of the Liberal Party and Prime Minister of Canada, setting the stage for a high-stakes showdown with U.S. President Donald Trump over trade and diplomatic relations.

On Sunday afternoon, the Liberal Party of Canada announced that Carney secured a decisive victory, winning 86% of the votes (131,674) against his closest competitor, former Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, who garnered 11,134 votes. Carney replaces Justin Trudeau, who stepped down in January after internal party divisions and declining public support.

Who is Mark Carney?

Carney, 59, is widely recognized for his economic expertise and crisis management skills, having played a key role in stabilizing global markets during the 2008 financial crisis and managing the economic fallout of Brexit. Despite his lack of electoral experience, he is now tasked with leading Canada through one of its most challenging economic and political periods in decades.

“My pledge to all Canadians is to build a stronger, more prosperous, and more united Canada,” Carney said in his victory speech.

He has vowed to eliminate the carbon tax and capital gains tax, prioritize fiscal responsibility and social justice, and establish new trade relationships with reliable partners in response to Trump's threats of tariffs and economic pressure on Canada.

Carney's leadership comes at a time when Canada's relationship with its largest trading partner, the U.S., is under immense strain. Trump has repeatedly threatened to impose sweeping tariffs on Canadian imports, particularly on lumber, dairy, and steel, while controversially suggesting that Canada should become the 51st U.S. state.



“My government will keep the tariffs in place until the Americans show us respect,” Carney declared, signaling a tough stance on negotiations with Washington.

During his campaign, he criticized Trudeau's handling of trade relations and vowed to seek new economic alliances to reduce Canada's dependence on the U.S.

Carney's election marks a turning point for the Liberal Party, which has struggled in the polls amid criticism of Trudeau's economic policies, immigration strategy, and cost-of-living crisis.

“Two months ago, being Liberal leader was seen as a political dead-end job. Thanks to Trump's hostility, Carney now has a serious chance of leading the Liberals to an unprecedented fourth consecutive election victory,” said David Coletto, CEO of Ottawa-based polling firm Abacus Data.

Despite stepping down, Trudeau remains a central figure in the party. Addressing supporters at the Liberal Party event, he acknowledged the challenges facing Canada under Trump's presidency:

“We are a country that chooses diplomacy when we can, but fights when we must,” he said, drawing applause from the crowd.

Trudeau will be remembered for key policy

achievements such as marijuana legalization, a strong COVID-19 response, and the expansion of Canada's social safety net, including the Canada Child Benefit and dental care programs. However, his immigration policies, inflation handling, and the federal carbon tax have drawn significant public criticism.

Carney's victory is expected to reshape the political landscape in Canada, as he is expected to call for an early election to secure a stronger mandate. His main opponent, Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre, was previously seen as a frontrunner for Canada's next prime minister, but polling now suggests that Carney could narrow the gap.

A recent Angus Reid Institute poll found that 43% of Canadians believe Carney is best suited to face off against Trump, compared to 34% supporting Poilievre.

If Carney successfully navigates trade tensions with Trump, strengthens Canada's economic resilience, and unites the Liberal Party, he may defy expectations and secure a historic fourth-term victory for the Liberals.

As Canada enters this new political era, all eyes will be on how Carney balances diplomacy, economic policy, and national unity in the face of mounting U.S. pressure.

Trump's Scottish golf resort vandalized with pro-Palestine graffiti

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

U.S. President Donald Trump's Turnberry golf resort in Scotland has been daubed with pro-Palestinian graffiti, with a protest group claiming responsibility.

Local media on Saturday showed images of red paint scrawled across walls at the course with the slogans "Free Gaza" and "Free Palestine" as well as insults against Trump.

"Gaza is not for sale" was also painted on one of the greens and holes dug up on the course.

Palestine Action said it caused the damage, posting on social media platform X: "Whilst Trump attempts to treat Gaza as his property, he should know his own property is within reach."

Last month, Trump enraged the Arab world by declaring unexpectedly that



the United States would take over Gaza, resettle its over 2-million Palestinian population and develop it into the "Riviera of the Middle East."

Police Scotland said it was investigating.

"Around 4:40 a.m. on Saturday, 8 March, 2025, we received a report of

damage to the golf course and a premises on Maidens Road, Turnberry," a Police Scotland spokesperson said, adding that enquiries were ongoing.

Separately on Saturday, a man waving a Palestinian flag climbed the Big Ben tower at London's Palace of Westminster.



Missing NY woman found dead in suitcase, ex-boyfriend in custody

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



A woman's ex-boyfriend is in police custody after she was found dead in a suitcase on Thursday in Yonkers, New York, law enforcement sources said on Sunday.

Pamela Alcantara, 26, was found dead in a marshy area by the side of Saw Mill River Parkway after going missing over the weekend, according to law enforcement sources.

The woman was pronounced dead at the scene, the NYPD said.

Pamela Alcantara was reported missing on Sunday.

While her 46-year-old ex-boyfriend remains in custody, no one has been charged yet in her death. He is not cooperating with police, sources said.

The couple had been dating for three

years before she recently broke it off, her family told New York ABC station WABC.

Alcantara lived with the man in her Bronx apartment. Detectives were looking to talk to him this week in connection to her disappearance, according to sources.

Her ex-boyfriend's licence plate pinged near the location the body was found at 9:50 a.m. on Thursday, according to WABC.

The NYPD searched an area along the roadway where his vehicle stopped and a drone spotted the red suitcase containing her body in the water, according to law enforcement sources.

The man was taken into custody soon after. He initially told detectives

Alcantara left her apartment in a hurry, wearing pajamas and carrying the red suitcase, sources said. Evidence recovered by detectives later revealed that was not accurate, and he requested a lawyer, according to sources.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death, according to the NYPD.

Alcantara was reported missing on Sunday after she did not show up to church. The circumstances surrounding her death remain under investigation, according to law enforcement sources.

Alcantara was last seen on surveillance video early Sunday at her residence, according to the NYPD.

Teen sets record for world's hairiest face — with 95% of it covered

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Lalit Patidar of India took home a world record for hairiest face on a man after it was determined he had a shocking 201.72 hairs per square centimeter of skin — meaning over 95% of his face is covered in hair, according to Guinness World Records.

Patidar, 18, was born with an extremely rare condition called hypertrichosis, known as werewolf syndrome, which causes excessive hair growth. Since the Middle Ages, only 50 cases have been documented, making the chance to get it one in a billion.

To assess him for the record, he traveled to Milan, Italy, where he

visited a trichologist, who shaved small portions of his hair and then measured to see if he had, in fact, established a new mark. While in Italy, he also appeared on a TV programme.

When he found out he would be awarded the record, Patidar said, “I am speechless, I don’t know what to say because I’m very happy to get this recognition.”

Patidar told the record book that his classmates were afraid of him when he started school, but then realized their initial impressions were wrong.

“They were scared of me, but when they started knowing me and talking

to me they understood I was not so different from them, and it was just on the outside that I looked different, but I’m not different inside,” he said.

He celebrates his unique look on social media, and has 265,000 followers on Instagram and 108,000 on YouTube.

And when people suggest he remove his facial hair, he explains that he is content with his appearance.

“There is not much to say to people about that. I tell them that I like how I am and I don’t want to change my look,” he said.

Rubio heads to Saudi Arabia for US-Ukraine talks; Canada for G7

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio will arrive in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Monday for U.S.-Ukraine talks as President Donald Trump pushes to broker a swift end to the Russia-Ukraine war.

While in Jeddah, Rubio will also meet with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud to discuss ways to advance shared interests in the region and strengthen the U.S.-Saudi relationship, said State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce.

According to the State Department, Rubio has “underscored President Trump’s determination to end the war as soon as possible and emphasized that all sides must take steps to secure a sustainable peace” in a Friday call with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha.

On Monday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will visit the Gulf kingdom for a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

Afterward, a Ukrainian diplomatic and military delegation led by Zelenskyy’s chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, will remain in Saudi Arabia for talks with U.S. officials. The Ukrainian team will also include Sybiha, Defence Minister Rustem Umerov, and military commander Pavlo Palisa.

Rubio will join U.S. National Security Adviser Mike Waltz and



Trump’s special envoy, Steve Witkoff, for the Jeddah talks with Ukrainian officials.

Witkoff has told reporters that “the idea is to get down a framework for a peace agreement and an initial ceasefire as well.”

The U.S.-Ukraine talks will take place three weeks after senior U.S. officials held talks with Russian officials in Riyadh.

Ukraine said it is “fully committed” to constructive dialogue with the U.S. and hopes to “discuss and agree on the necessary decisions and steps.”

“Ukraine has been seeking peace from the very first second of this war. Realistic proposals are on the table. The key is to move quickly and effectively,” Zelenskyy wrote in a post on X on Saturday.

G7 foreign ministers

Following his visit to Saudi Arabia, Rubio will travel to Charlevoix, Canada, for the Group of Seven (G7) foreign ministers’ meeting from March 12 to 14.

In a joint statement following talks on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in February, G7 foreign ministers underscored their commitment to helping “achieve a durable peace” and “reaffirmed the need to develop robust security guarantees” for Ukraine.

“Any new, additional sanctions after February should be linked to whether the Russian Federation enters into real, good-faith efforts to bring an enduring end to the war against Ukraine,” the joint statement added.

Man delivers own baby on Oklahoma highway

'It was all instinct'

By **Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**



An Oklahoma man recently delivered his own baby on the side of a highway.

In a Facebook post, Guthrie Fire and EMS officials shared that Justin and Tessa of Guthrie, Oklahoma were on their way to Mercy Hospital on Feb. 26 to deliver their first child “when both realized they would not make it.”

Justin — who according to the department is a licensed paramedic with Guthrie Fire — “pulled his truck over to deliver their child on the side of the highway.”

The statement continued: “During the delivery, Justin noticed something was wrong, and the cord had become wrapped around the neck. Thankfully, he remained calm, relied on his training, and removed the cord from around the neck.”

Officials shared that the couple was able

to welcome a healthy baby boy — who they revealed is named Axton — “despite the craziness of the moment.”

The couple — whose full names are Justin Nelson and Latessa Dismuke — shared details of the harrowing experience while speaking with local news outlet KOKO 5 News, recalling that they were relaxing at home a mere 30 minutes before the birth when Tessa’s water broke.

“On the way [to the hospital], he [Justin] was like, ‘Do you feel the urge to push?’ and I was like, ‘Yes — I’m pushing!’” she said in a video posted by the outlet on March 4.

“We pulled over on the side of the road. I jumped out and as soon as I opened up the door I seen his head come out,” Justin said in the video. “I never expected to deliver on the side of the road unless I was in an ambulance,” he continued.

Justin said he could see that the baby was “really blue” and observed that the umbilical cord was wrapped around his neck. Justin says he used his fingers to disentangle the cord and told Tessa to continue pushing.

Once Axton was out of the birth canal, Justin said that the baby was “blue to the core and he wasn’t moving and he wasn’t crying.” He added: “So I flipped him over and started stimulating him. I was kind of patting and rubbing his back. He let out a real weak cry and seemed to kind of kick his leg.”

“There wasn’t any ‘Hang on, wait, I need to think,” he recalled. “It was all instinct.”

“It was kinda a chaotic, intense but exciting experience that we [...] have together,” Tessa added.

Axton’s full name is Axton Lee Nelson and he weighed 6 lbs., 13 oz at birth, according to KOKO 5.

Cucurella scores against Leicester, sends Chelsea into top four

By Oluwatosin Ologun

After a hard-fought win against Leicester City, Chelsea moved back into the Premier League top four as Marc Cucurella's goal secured the win against the Foxes at Stamford Bridge, on Sunday.

The Spaniard's 60th-minute goal was the left-back's fifth goal of the season and second in successive league games after netting during the 4-0 win over Southampton.

Cucurella's crucial goal came on the hour mark, beating visiting keeper Mads Hermansen with a left-footed effort from 25 yards.

Chelsea frustrated by Leicester

Chelsea had been frustrated until then, with Hermansen saving Cole Palmer's penalty midway through the first half following a trip on Jadon Sancho by Victor Kristiansen.

The miss ended Palmer's 100% record from the spot – having scored his previous 12 – and prolonged the playmaker's goalless run to nine matches in all competitions.

Leicester impressed during the first half and came close to opening the scoring in bizarre circumstances when Blues defender Tosin Adarabioyo headed against his own crossbar.

But that was as close as the Foxes came, with Enzo Maresca's men improving after the break and



claiming the winner to leapfrog Manchester City and take a two-point advantage over the reigning champions.

Defeat for Leicester left them second bottom in the table, behind 18th-placed Ipswich on goal difference and six points adrift of Wolves in 17th.

Penalty miss: Palmer's goal drought continues

While Chelsea might celebrate clinching the top-four spot, Palmer must be wondering what more he has to do to break his goal drought.

Despite being Chelsea's top scorer with 14 this term, the 22-year-old had failed to score or assist in the Blues' last eight matches – a run stretching back to mid-January.

The England player was presented with the perfect opportunity to end that run in the 22nd minute when Chelsea were awarded a penalty

after Kristiansen caught Sancho.

Palmer had a 100% penalty record, scoring all 12 of his previous spot-kicks in his career.

But his low, powerful effort to the corner was superbly kept out by Hermansen.

Palmer looked unmoved, immediately darting to retrieve the ball that had been tipped around the post for a corner.

But his struggles continue and he was replaced with 17 minutes left by Tyrique George, with Maresca keeping one eye on Thursday's Conference League last-16 second leg against Copenhagen at Stamford Bridge.

If Chelsea are to remain in the top four, it feels as though Palmer's luck will have to change in front of goal as they often found it difficult to break down the battling Foxes.

Thousands of Manchester Utd fans protest against owners

By Dave Oludare Oso

Thousands of Manchester United fans joined the biggest protest against the club's ownership since Sir Jim Ratcliffe took a near 30% stake last year before Sunday's Premier League fixture against Arsenal.

In scenes reminiscent of those in August 2022 before a home game against Liverpool, huge numbers joined a near mile-long march to Old Trafford.

Scores of flares were set off as fans sang pointed and abusive songs towards co-chairman Joel Glazer and Ratcliffe, who has spent £1.3bn for a 28.94% stake in the club.

As part of the deal, Ratcliffe has been allowed the freedom to make significant decisions over the running of the club.

Last month, it was confirmed there would be a second round of redundancies at the club, which will result in up to 200 people losing their jobs in addition to the 250 who departed last year.

Fans also sang about the mid-season decision to increase the price of matchday tickets to £66, with no concessions.

Ratcliffe says the decisions, which he accepts are unpopular, are necessary in order to slash losses, which last year exceeded £113m.

After the 1-1 draw with Arsenal, United manager Ruben Amorim said: "I think this club will never die, that is clear. You feel it in the streets, not just in the stadium.

"This is a big business and maybe all the fans around the league feel it's harder to go to the game and pay for



the tickets. In the Premier League we receive a lot of money and they have to address that."

Banners saying "we want our club back" and "£1bn stolen", referring to the amount spent on servicing the debt loaded on to United when the Glazer family bought the club in 2005, were on display at the protest.

United's current total debt, including £300m in outstanding transfer fees, is in excess of £1bn. In the last financial year they paid £37m in interest on the debt.

The noisy protest arrived at Old Trafford at 16:05 GMT, then made its way under the Munich Tunnel.

The scenes were the kind it was thought Ratcliffe, a self-confessed Manchester United fan brought up in nearby Failsworth, was going to solve when he bought into the club.

But Chris Haymes of The 1958 group that organised the protest, said Ratcliffe is being tainted by his association with the Glazer family.

Manchester United fans protesting holding a banner reading 'we want our club back. the 1958. some things are worth fighting for'

The protest was organised by fan group, The 1958. Image source, PA Media

"Sir Jim has to make some tough decisions but he seems to be a shield for the Glazers at the moment," he added.

"It seems to be a real issue. He had one chance to make a good impression and I am not sure that is what he has done.

"This [protest] has nothing to do with football and it hasn't been for 20 years. The way the Glazers bought the club has been a burden on our backs for 20 years. Jim Ratcliffe has been making people redundant but United also paid £37m to the Glazer debt.

"The solution is the Glazers leave the club. Jim Ratcliffe will never seal his legacy at this club unless he removes the Glazers. It is as simple as that."