

I'll re-present budget whenever they call me - Fubara **Pg 2**



Nigerian bags life jail for raping, killing 61-yr-old Italian woman **Pg 23**



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## Canada announces retaliatory tariffs on nearly \$30bn worth of US imports **Pg 24**



**Mark Carney**  
Canada Prime Ministers

**Donald Trump**  
US President



**Amaju Pinnick loses FIFA Council re-election bid **Pg 31****



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**Trump threatens to devastate Russian economy if Putin refuses peace deal**



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**Beyoncé said she's done with acting - Mother, Tina Knowles reveals**



# S'Court verdict: Wike calls Fubara's letter to Rivers Assembly 'useless'

By Dave Oludare Oso



**G**overnor Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers State, has faulted the Rivers State House of Assembly for barring him from entering the legislative quarters on Wednesday.

The embattled governor, who spoke during the commissioning of some health facilities in Khana Local Government Area of the state shortly after the drama at the Assembly quarters told residents that he communicated his intention to visit the lawmakers to Speaker Martins Amaewhule before showing up at the quarters to re-represent the 2025 budget as demanded by the Assembly following the verdict of the Supreme Court on February 28, 2025.

The governor said, "I still believe, maybe, they might be instructed later. If they are instructed, I'm still ready to come any day to get this particular issue sorted out."

Also, the Rivers State Government shared a letter notifying the House of

the governor's visit.

The Supreme Court, on Friday, February 28, 2025, handed a raft of decisions on the protracted political situation in the oil-rich South-South state.

The five-man panel of the court, in the judgment delivered by Justice Emmanuel Akomaye, unanimously dismissed the cross-appeal filed by Fubara challenging the validity of the House of Assembly presided over by Amaewhule as the Speaker.

In dismissing Fubara's appeal, the court ordered Amaewhule to resume sitting immediately with other elected members of the Rivers State House of Assembly.

The apex court barred the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Accountant General of the Federation, and other agencies from releasing funds to the Government of Rivers State until it purges itself of what the court described as flagrant disobedience to court orders.

Also, the apex court declared the local government election conducted in the state on October 5, 2024, as invalid.

Fubara subsequently said he would fully implement the judgments of the apex court and directed the Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission (RSIEC) to come up with modalities for the fresh election.

The electoral commission fixed August 9, 2025, to conduct a fresh local government poll in the state. The Assembly later issued an arrest warrant against RSIEC Chief, Justice Adolphus Enebeli (retd), over failure to appear before the House.

Furthermore, the Secretary to the State Government, Tammy Danagogo, in a letter dated March 7, 2025, sought a meeting with the lawmakers for March 10, 2025 to discuss the re-representation of the 2025 budget and a peace talk but the Assembly asked the governor to channel his invitation properly and not via social media.

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9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
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# Tinubu intervenes, restores calm in Lagos Assembly leadership dispute

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has mediated the leadership conflict in the Lagos State House of Assembly, urging lawmakers to align with Mudashiru Obasa's leadership and put their differences aside.

This resolution marks the end of a two-month-long political standoff that had threatened the Assembly's stability.

Obasa was removed as Speaker on January 13, 2025, when 35 out of 40 lawmakers voted him out over allegations of authoritarianism, financial misconduct, and poor

leadership.

His deputy, Mojisola Meranda, was then installed as Speaker.

However, following intense negotiations and pressure from key figures within the All Progressives Congress (APC), Meranda stepped down on March 3, paving the way for Obasa's reinstatement.

She subsequently resumed her former role as Deputy Speaker.

A source confirmed that all 40 lawmakers met with President Tinubu in Abuja on Wednesday,

where a consensus was reached to restore unity in the House and ensure smooth governance in Lagos State.

After the closed-door meeting Obasa, who exited alongside James Faleke, declined media inquiries.

Faleke simply stated, "It went well."

The agenda of the meeting, held on Wednesday at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, was not disclosed to State House correspondents.

# El-Rufai's defection: Crisis rocks SDP over leadership

By **Damilola Olufemi**

Less than 48 hours after former Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai joined the Social Democratic Party (SDP), crises have erupted within the party over leadership struggles and strategic direction.

The current National Secretary of the SDP, Dr. Olu Agunloye, has officially petitioned the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, over an alleged conspiracy to forcibly remove him from office.

According to information gathered by New Daily Prime from members of the party's National Executive Committee (NEC), some SDP members loyal to El-Rufai are reportedly pressuring Agunloye to step down. A party insider who spoke to New Daily Prime under the condition of anonymity revealed that the alleged scheme is not unanimously supported within the party and, if mishandled, could spark internal discord.

Confirming the alleged plot, The Cable reported that Agunloye formally stated:

"I petitioned the IG about a person who forged letterhead paper and is threatening me to resign,"

**Kogi State SDP Chairman Warns Against Unauthorized Congress**

Kogi State SDP Chairman Moses Peter Oricha urges the public, security agencies, and INEC to ignore a supposedly fraudulent congress claimed by individuals posing as SDP members.

Oricha raised concerns just 24 hours after El-Rufai's defection to the party. He emphasized that the congress of the current party executive, held on April 9,



2022, remains valid under the SDP constitution.

"Any plan to conduct an SDP congress in Kogi State cannot hold. We urge SDP supporters to disregard any such purported plan by this group of disgruntled elements who are enemies of our party."

He further warned:

"To me, these are ghost individuals who are not members of the SDP. We urge INEC and security agencies to be on high alert. As far as the SDP is concerned, there is no congress taking place later this week or this year until April 2026, in accordance with our party's constitution."

On Monday, El-Rufai officially left the All Progressives Congress (APC) for the SDP, a move that sent shockwaves across the political landscape.

Explaining his decision, he stated:

"At this point in my political journey, I have come to the conclusion that I must seek another political platform for the pursuit of the progressive values I

cherish."

He cited a "growing misalignment" between his personal values and the APC's current direction as the primary reason for his defection.

Adewole Adebayo, the SDP's 2023 presidential candidate, welcomed El-Rufai's entry into the party, describing him as "an asset with a verifiable and measurable track record of public performance."

El-Rufai is widely regarded as a key political figure, particularly in Northern Nigeria. His presence in the SDP is expected to attract former governors, senators, and other influential politicians, strengthening the party's foothold in the region.

As internal disputes unfold, the question remains: How will El-Rufai navigate these challenges and assert his influence within the SDP? His defection has undoubtedly generated both enthusiasm and friction within the party, setting the stage for potential power struggles in the coming weeks.

# S'Court verdict: Wike calls Fubara's letter to Rivers Assembly 'useless'

By Dave Oludare Oso



The letter written last week to the Rivers State House of Assembly by Governor Siminalayi Fubara seeking an audience with the lawmakers over the implementation of the verdict of the Supreme Court on the political affairs of the state, has been described as “useless” by the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike.

The former governor of the oil-rich South-South state, made this known during a chat with journalists in Abuja on Wednesday.

Wike contended that the Speaker, Martins Amaewhule and other lawmakers in the Rivers Assembly are not Fubara's boys and should be accorded some respect.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) powerbroker said instead of inviting members of the House through a public letter, Fubara should have called Amaewhule and his team via the phone and agreed on a date and time for

a meeting.

NEW DAILY PIME earlier reported that on Friday, February 28, 2025, the Supreme Court handed a raft of decisions on the political situation in the oil-rich South-South state.

In the judgment delivered by Justice Emmanuel Akomaye, the five-man panel of the court unanimously dismissed the cross-appeal filed by Fubara challenging the validity of the House of Assembly presided over by Martin Amaewhule as the Speaker.

In dismissing Fubara's appeal, the court ordered Martin Amaewhule to resume sitting immediately with other elected members of the Rivers State House of Assembly.

The apex court also barred the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Accountant General of the Federation, and other agencies from releasing funds to the government of Rivers State until it

purges itself of what the court described as flagrant disobedience to court orders.

Also, the apex court declared the local government election conducted in the state on October 5, 2024, as invalid.

Fubara subsequently said he would fully implement the judgments of the apex court and directed the Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission (RSIEC) to come up with modalities for a fresh election.

The electoral commission fixed August 9, 2025, to conduct a fresh local government poll in the state.

Furthermore, the Secretary to the State Government, Tammy Danagogo, in a letter dated March 7, 2025, sought a meeting with the lawmakers for March 10, 2025 to discuss the re-presentation of the 2025 budget and a peace talk, a request the lawmakers rejected, saying the letter was not addressed to them properly but via social media.

# El-Rufai's son deletes post threatening bloodshed against Southern Kaduna Christians

By Dave Oludare Oso

One of the sons of Nasir El-Rufai, the immediate past governor of Kaduna State, Bashir, in a now-deleted tweet, threatened increased bloodshed in the Christian-dominated Southern Kaduna if the people continue to attack the Fulani.

Bashir El-Rufai tweeted this on Tuesday in response to an X user, @qykali, who berated his father, accusing him of supervising ethnic cleansing of Southern Kaduna people for eight years as Kaduna State governor.

“Look at this Giraffe neck calling the president Pablo whereas your midget dad is a Fulani irredentist who engaged in industrial scale ethnic cleansing of people of southern Kaduna for the eight years he was Governor,” @qykali tweeted.

Incensed by @qykali's tweet, Bashir responded saying, “It is your stupid mother that is an elephant. And Southern Kaduna residents will keep seeing shege if they continue to attack indigenous Fulani herdsmen. Oloshi.”

“Shege,” an Hausa word, used by Mr El-Rufai suggested Southern Kaduna, a hotbed of violent killings by Fulani herdsmen and bandits in recent times, will not know peace, a threat many on X condemned, forcing Mr El-Rufai to delete the offensive tweet.

An X user, @EmmyPromise71, said Dear @BashirElRufai, are Southern Kaduna residents not dead enough?



To even say that your father hasn't come out to condemn this senseless comment of yours shows the kind of person he is. WHAT? Like really?”

“If Bashir El Rufai can confidently say this about Southern Kaduna with his full chest. Do you think your people down west or south will be safe from the Fulani herdsmen,” @timmonsion said.

A former Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission and critic of Mr El-Rufai, Prof. Chidi Odinkalu, in a tweet, said “So, get this: #VileLittleMan, @elrufai, is now officially opposition and his son is already threatening the people of #SouthernKaduna with #MassMurder. Guess what will happen when they get into the @NGRPresident. These people are sociopaths; #Genocidaires.”

This tweet followed another vile and controversial tweet from Mr El-Rufai, who once said the mysterious disappearance of Abubakar ‘Dadiyatta’ Idris, a critic of his father, was a good consequence for lying to the public.

Amid trending #WhereisDadiyatta on X in December 2019, Mr El-Rufai described Nigerians pushing the campaign on X as clowns, claiming that Dadiyatta was suffering for the consequences of lying.

“The same clowns who encouraged him when he was creating false stories and capitalising on lies that could endanger lives solely for political ends are the same individuals trending hashtags asking #WhereisDadiyatta. Dangerous lies in the public space have consequences,” Mr El-Rufai had said.

# Edo govt accuses PDP of sponsoring insecurity, calls for investigation

By Friday Omosola

The Edo State Government has accused leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) of sponsoring violent crimes, including kidnappings and targeted attacks, to destabilize the administration of Governor Monday Okpebholo.

In a statement issued by the Chief Press Secretary to the governor, Fred Itua, the government claimed that intelligence reports have linked key PDP figures to the recent surge in criminal activities across the state.

It alleged that these acts were part of a broader strategy to create chaos, discredit the current administration, and undermine public confidence in governance.

“The resilience of Edo State is being tested by evil merchants—individuals who are funding violent crimes, particularly kidnappings,” the statement read.

“Security sources indicate that certain PDP leaders are not only financing these acts of terror but are also using them as political tools to paint the government in a bad light.”



The government further accused the opposition party of flooding the state with illegal arms during the 2024 governorship election and failing to retrieve them afterwards.

This, it claimed, has contributed to the proliferation of weapons and the rise in criminal activities.

“Instead of playing the role of a responsible opposition, PDP leaders have resorted to misinformation campaigns and tacit support for violent actors, eroding public trust in governance,” the statement continued.

Governor Okpebholo’s administration called on the Nigeria Police and other security agencies

to conduct a full-scale investigation into the alleged involvement of PDP leaders in the security crisis.

It insisted that those found culpable must face the full weight of the law.

“The security and stability of Edo State must come before partisan interests. Insecurity thrives when perpetrators believe they are above the law. Now is the time for authorities to prove otherwise,” Itua stated.

The government also urged Edo residents to remain vigilant, reject false narratives, and support ongoing efforts to restore peace and order.

# Political crisis deepens in Rivers as lawmakers loyal to Wike shut out Governor

By New Daily Prime



On Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Rivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara was denied access to the official quarters of the State House of Assembly along Aba Road, Port Harcourt. This development occurred as Fubara attempted to present the 2025 budget, following a Supreme Court judgment mandating such action.

Governor Fubara arrived at the complex accompanied by top government officials, including the Secretary to the State Government, Dr. Tammy Danagogo, and his Chief of Staff, Edison Ehie. However, they were met with locked gates, preventing their entry. Addressing journalists at the scene, Fubara expressed his

frustration, stating that prior to his arrival, he had made several attempts to contact Speaker Martin Amaewhule, including phone calls and a formal letter, but received no response.

The governor emphasized that his actions were in the interest of the people and reaffirmed his commitment to fulfilling his constitutional duties. He noted the absence of any signs indicating that the Assembly was prepared to convene that day and expressed hope for communication from the legislators following the incident.

This incident underscores the ongoing political tensions in Rivers State, particularly between factions loyal to

Governor Fubara and those aligned with his predecessor, Nyesom Wike. The refusal to grant the governor access to the Assembly complex highlights the deepening rift within the state's political landscape.

In related developments, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has called for strict adherence to the rule of law to achieve lasting peace and prosperity in Rivers State. He emphasized that respect for judicial rulings is essential to sustaining democracy and stability.

The situation remains fluid, and it is anticipated that further discussions and interventions will be necessary to resolve the impasse between the executive and legislative branches in Rivers State.

# Aiyedatiwa pledges stronger support for security agencies

By Friday Omosola

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to enhancing security, assuring residents that more resources will be provided to security agencies to combat emerging challenges.

Speaking upon his return to Akure from Abuja yesterday, the governor emphasised that the safety of lives and property remains a top priority for his administration.

He highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen security agencies, including the police, Amotekun Corps, and other outfits, through improved intelligence gathering, surveillance, and logistics support.

“We have been working tirelessly with all security agencies to ensure that Ondo State remains safe. Our government has continued to invest in security infrastructure, and we will not relent in providing the necessary tools and support to enhance their effectiveness,” Aiyedatiwa stated.

He further disclosed that plans are underway to procure advanced security gadgets and equipment to bolster security operations across the



state.

Governor Aiyedatiwa also welcomed the Supreme Court's decision affirming his candidacy in the last gubernatorial election.

Aiyedatiwa

The apex court dismissed an appeal filed by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate, Agboola Ajayi, thereby upholding the legitimacy of Aiyedatiwa and his deputy, Olayide Adelami, as the valid candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The governor lauded the judiciary for its commitment to upholding justice, describing the ruling as a testament to the courts' adherence to facts and the rule of law.

“The Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal have once again demonstrated their dedication to ensuring that democracy thrives.

“Their judgments have been based on clear legal principles, and this verdict reaffirms the mandate given to us by the people of Ondo State,” he said.

READ ALSO: Abiodun seeks Air Force base, school in Ogun

Aiyedatiwa reassured residents of his administration's dedication to governance, security, and development.

He urged them to continue supporting government efforts in building a safer and more prosperous Ondo State.

# Tensions rise ahead of Anambra's November 2025 governorship election

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

With just months to go before the November 8, 2025, governorship election in Anambra State, the political scene is heating up, with significant battles brewing between the ruling All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) and opposition parties, including the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Labour Party (LP).

However, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) could be facing a crisis, with no aspirants reportedly stepping forward to contest under its banner.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has set the primaries for March 20 to April 10, 2025, ahead of the election. As of now, 12 out of 19 registered parties have submitted their schedules, with INEC emphasising the need for timely submissions to ensure transparent candidate selection.

The battle for the governorship seat is expected to be a three-way race between APGA, APC, and LP. Despite a relatively quiet period leading to the primaries, LP, which had enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2023, may struggle due to internal disorganisation and defections, particularly that of former ally Val Ozigbo, now in the APC.

The APC, meanwhile, has cleared seven aspirants, including prominent figures like Chukuma Umeoji, Obiora Okonkwo, and Nicholas Ukachukwu, with the primary election scheduled for April 5.

At the same time, APGA appears



confident, with incumbent Governor Chukwuma Soludo, who is seeking re-election, standing as the sole candidate for the party's ticket.

His position is virtually uncontested, and political observers predict his dominance will continue, given the lack of viable opposition. Soludo's supporters point to his security initiatives, such as the formation of the 'Operation Udo-ga-chi' and 'Agunchemba' to tackle rising insecurity, as a key achievement in his administration.

In contrast, the PDP's prospects seem dim, with reports that no one has purchased the party's N40 million nomination form. Chief Onyeka Ike, a PDP stakeholder, expressed concerns that the party's once-stronghold in the state is now in disarray, with many former candidates and key members defecting to other parties.

As primaries approach, all eyes are on the outcome of the APC and LP contests, which could determine the main challengers to Soludo's rule.

While Soludo's critics, such as LP aspirant John Nwosu, argue that his administration has failed to address security and infrastructure issues, the incumbent's supporters maintain that APGA remains the party to beat.

INEC's Anambra Resident Commissioner, Dr Elizabeth Agwu, has reassured voters that the commission is impartial and will ensure a fair process in the run-up to November's election.

However, with tensions mounting and party divisions deepening, Anambra's political landscape promises to remain volatile in the coming months.

# 30 killed as herdsmen go on rampage in Ondo, Benue, Nasarawa

By Dave Oludare Oso

**S**uspected armed herders went on rampage unleashing unprecedented killing spree in several communities in Ondo, Benue, Nasarawa and Edo states.

According to reports, not less than 30 people were killed in the series of attacks across the three states, with communities calling for urgent government intervention.

The development has sparked widespread outrage and protests, with many residents agonizing over the deadly attacks.

For instance, nine surveyors were reportedly kidnapped in Ondo, while two residents were abducted, and four others suffered gun and machete wounds in Edo.

Also, enraged women took to the streets of Akure, the Ondo State capital on Monday, following the abduction of the nine surveyors and the killings of villagers in Akure North Local Government Area.

Reports say armed assailants stormed the Aba Alajido, Aba Sunday, Aba Pastor, and Ademekun communities in the Akure North Local Government Area, at the weekend, leaving death and destruction and bloodshed in their wake.

Search parties and government authorities have so far recovered at least 14 bodies, while search efforts continued, with a report that 20 villagers were killed.

Relatedly, in Benue, violent protests erupted in Naka, headquarters of Gwer West Local Government after three members of the state's Civil Protection Guards were ambushed and killed by suspected herders.



The discovery of their bodies early Tuesday sparked a rampage by angry youths, who torched the palace of the local traditional ruler and parts of the local government secretariat.

Lamenting the incidents, the state governor, Hyacinth Alia condemned the killings, urging security agencies to bring the perpetrators to justice while calling for restraint among residents.

In Nasarawa State, a communal clash in the Farin Dutse community escalated into a full-blown crisis, leaving at least seven people dead, including a pregnant woman.

The conflict, which began as a dispute between local farmers and herders, quickly spiralled out of control, with houses, shops, and vehicles set ablaze.

The police have, however, arrested two suspects in connection with the violence, with security patrols in the area to prevent further bloodshed.

On Tuesday, Akure, the Ondo State capital, was brought to a standstill as

hundreds of women took to the streets to protest the alleged kidnapping of nine surveyors in the Ilu Abo community, Akure North Local Government Area.

According to the protesters, the surveyors were abducted by gunmen who allegedly attacked them while working at a site in the local government.

The women, with leaves in their hands, converged on the Ijemikin area of the state capital and marched to the Government Secretariat at Alagbaka, chanting solidarity songs to express their dissatisfaction over the spate of insecurity in the state.

One of the protesters, Mrs Oluwatoyin Arowosafe, who spoke with journalists during the protest, stated that some of them were relatives of the kidnapped surveyors.

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She said the kidnapers had contacted the families and demanded a sum of N100 million for their release.

“We are calling on Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa to come to our rescue. Our men have been kidnapped since last Tuesday and the kidnapers are demanding N100 million to release them, which we could not afford,” she said.

Addressing the women on behalf of the governor, the Special Adviser on Union Matters and Special Duties, Mr Bola Taiwo, blamed the surveyors for going to the site without security protection.

Taiwo said, “We shall speak with your leaders if they have reported the incident to the police. If they have not, they should go there and report, that’s when the government would act.

“Nowadays, surveyors going to the site should go with police escorts. If they do, no gunmen would abduct them. No one can kidnap anyone without internal collaborators.”

He asked the women to return to Ilu-Abo and continue to demand the release of the surveyors.

“You shall now go back to Ilu-Abo and cry out that those who abducted the surveyors should release them.

“No Hausa or Fulani man can come to Ilu-Abo and kidnap without the connivance of one of the natives.

“It is your people that kidnapped the nine surveyors. We will meet with your leaders and discuss with them,” he said.

The Ondo State governor and the regent of one of the affected communities in the weekend killing, Ademekun Community, Princess Kemisola Adelowo, disagreed over the killing in the border communities on Saturday.

The government, in a statement on Monday signed by the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Security Matters, Gbenga Atiba, described the media report on the killings as fake news meant to create panic among the residents of the state.

On Tuesday, Atiba, on a radio programme in Akure, also dismissed the statement of the

regent, insisting that the incident never happened as reported.

He said: “Security is everybody’s business. Our people want the government to come and build a police station in their homes. What are the farmers doing to protect themselves before calling on the government?”

“The government’s role is to provide police stations and put officers there. The government gives money to all security agencies in this state every month for them to perform their roles.

“All the reported cases which happened in Oba-Ile are fake. The kidnapping of students of Federal College of Agriculture, Akure, didn’t happen in Ondo State but in Ekiti State.”

Responding, the regent said, “When I called my people about what the government officials were saying that the incident didn’t happen, they were cursing, lamenting that it was unfortunate.

“I’m the regent of that community, and I came to town last Tuesday. I was told that someone called ‘Iron Body’ and some boys came to the community on Thursday.

“He introduced his team as ‘Commissioner Boys’ and was immediately confronted. He claimed he only came to seek their collaboration on how to prevent herdsmen and their cattle from entering the community.

“Not long after, the same ‘Iron Body’ and his boys went to the next village, started firing gunshots, and killed about a hundred cows. We became scared over the development.

“At midnight on Saturday, Fulani herdsmen invaded the communities, shooting and attacking anyone in sight in retaliation for the cows that were killed.

“They assumed we were responsible. Most of those killed were farmers from Taraba and Oyo states. They spared no one – they killed both old and young and also set buildings on fire.”

In a statement on Tuesday, the Ondo State Police Public Relations Officer, Mrs Funmilayo Odunlami, said the ongoing “covert operation” of the command would be intensified to flush criminals out of the state.

“The command is aware of the attack on Sunday Camp and the Commissioner of Police, CP Wilfred Afolabi, has directed that the ongoing ‘covert operation’ being carried out across the state to rid the command of bad elements be intensified,” the statement read.

A police source confirmed that policemen were deployed in the area on Sunday, adding that no fewer than 14 dead bodies had so far been recovered.

Irate youths thronged the major streets of Naka, headquarters of Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State on Tuesday over the killing of three personnel of the state security operatives, codenamed Civil Protection Guards.

In their anger, they set fire to the palace of the traditional ruler of Naka, Ter Naka, parts of the local government secretariat, and properties belonging to private individuals.

Their anger arose after the bodies of the three operatives were brought to the council headquarters early Tuesday.

Sources from Naka said that as soon as the youth spotted the bodies of the personnel reportedly killed by suspected armed herdsmen, a violent protest erupted.

The Chairman of the local government, Victor Omirin, confirmed the violent protest.

He said, “Yes, they razed the secretariat and the Ter Naka palace. Three protection guards were killed in Garuwa, so when their bodies were brought to Naka, it sparked protest from the youth and it’s now being taken over by hoodlums.”

Speaking to journalists, the traditional ruler of Naka, Daniel Abomtse, confirmed the burning of his palace.

He said, “I was in Makurdi for a medical check-up only to be called early this morning that some hoodlums had burnt down my palace.

“I have to rush back only to discover that three vehicles and motorcycles as well as other valuables were burnt down.”

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The spokesperson for the state command, Catherine Anene, confirmed the protest.

She said the Commissioner of Police, Hassan Yabanet, had left for Naka to assess the situation and promised to give details later.

Governor Hyacinth Alia has condemned the killing of the three personnel of Civil Protection Guards and the protest that followed.

According to the statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Kula Tersoo and made available to journalists in Makurdi, on Tuesday, Alia decried the attack and murder of three operatives who he said “were on duty to protect our locals at On-MbaAondo, Tsambe-Mbesev ward of Gwer-West Local Government.”

He described the attack by suspected marauding armed herders as a flagrant affront to the peace and security of the communities.

The statement quoted the governor as saying, “We appreciate the deep rage and frustration that has led to the anxiety at Naka, the headquarters of Gwer-West, including the regrettable burning of the LG secretariat and the palace of Ter Nagi by protesters.

“While we empathise with the sentiments of our people, we advocate restraint and foresight in funnelling this anger.

“Destruction of our valuables simply serves to frustrate the intentions of our government, which is devoted to building up peace and security in the state.”

The governor called on all security agencies to intensify efforts in capturing the perpetrators of the heinous atrocity.

“It is essential that these marauding herdsmen be brought to justice and made to face the full wrath of the law,” the governor said.

He emphasised that his government was committed to enhancing security efforts to protect “our communities from further attacks.

“We implore all citizens to remain vigilant and collaborate with security agencies in reporting any unusual activities.

“In these trying moments, let us stand united against violence and strive for peace and justice in Benue State. Together, we can overcome these challenges and build a safer environment for all.”

The clash between farmers and herders in the Farin Dutse community of Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State claimed the life of a pregnant woman, Azumi Allah Gaba and her unborn child.

A statement made available to journalists in Lafia on Tuesday by the state PPRO, Ramhan Nansel, said the crisis began among some youths and a herder in a bush located in the area.

It stated that the crisis later resulted in the tragic killing of one Friday Danladi Jike by a suspect identified as Sani Allah Gaba.

The police spokesman said, “On March 9, 2025, at about 1430hrs, one Yakubu Kaka of Farin Dutse reported the dispute to the Nasarawa State Police Command, and upon receiving the report, the Commissioner of Police, Shetima Jauro Mohammed, swiftly deployed mobile police operatives in the scene, where they encountered a violent mob attempting to

kill one Isa Alhaji.”

He further narrated that the victim was successfully rescued and taken to the General Hospital, Nasarawa, where his health situation was promptly brought under control.

“However, in the course of the intervention, the mob vandalised a police patrol vehicle and later set fire to a nearby Ruga settlement where the suspect, Sani, resided.

“This led to the unfortunate death of one Azumi Allah Gaba and her unborn child.

“To restore peace, a stakeholders’ meeting was held with leaders from both communities.

“Consequently, two suspects, Usman Magaji, alongside one Hon Ibrahim Usman Kaka, who participated during the attack on the police and the attempted killing of the rescued victim, have been arrested for further investigation,” he added.

In a related development involving the same Farin Dutse community, the PPRO said on March 10, 2025, at about 0647 hrs, the District Head of Kurudu, a community in the area, placed a distress call, reporting an attack on the village by suspected herders.

He further noted that a swift response team led by the Divisional Police Officer of Nasarawa in the Nasarawa LG was deployed to the scene, adding that upon the arrival of officers of the command, the assailants were dislodged.

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He said, "During the operation, three injured victims, Samaniya Wa'azu, Vincent Ezekiel, and Johnson Maikasawa, were rescued and taken to a medical centre for treatment.

"Tragically, six corpses were recovered and identified as Simeon Madaki, Ayawu Senior, Sunday Wa'azu, Vincent Sunday, Taimako Senior, and Filibus Jatau Mai'anguwa.

"Some houses, shops, motorcycles, and a car were also vandalised during the attack."

Nansel added that to ensure law and order, the area had been reinforced with personnel from the Mobile Police of 69 PMF Toto, alongside other police operatives and the military, currently patrolling the vicinity.

He asked the people to remain calm, adding that efforts were ongoing to arrest the perpetrators of the unfortunate incident.

Two residents were abducted, and four others suffered gun and machete wounds as herders invaded the Dantata Life Camp in Aviele, Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State at about 8 pm on Sunday.

An eyewitness who gave his name as Abu said the armed herders opened fire on the residents when they were about to break their fast.

He noted that one Mutairu Dauda who rebuffed the attack was hacked with a machete and shot.

He said, "I can confirm to you that killer herdsmen invaded the Dantata Life camp in Aviele, Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State on Sunday night at about 8 pm.

"They opened fire on residents. A particular man who stood and fought with them as they were trying to either kill or kidnap him sustained various degrees of machete injury and they also shot him.

"His wife, daughter and mother-in-law also suffered machete wounds. Dauda, a

furniture maker, is currently at Irrua Specialist Hospital receiving treatment."

It was gathered that local vigilantes who went in search of the two abductees arrested two kidnappers and handed them over to the police.

Abu said some of the residents had been forced to abandon their homes after a series of similar attacks by the invaders in the past.

When contacted, the spokesperson of the Edo State Police Command, Moses Yamu, in a message, simply said, "Will revert sir."

The Nigeria Army has assured of a more enhanced security and safety in Ekiti State, with the advent of an Army formation – the 148 Battalion, in the state.

The outgoing Commander of 12 Brigade, Lokoja, Maj Gen Oluremi Fadairo, said the new formation would bring remarkable improvement to the security architecture of the state and the contiguous areas with Kogi and Ondo states.

Fadairo spoke in Ado Ekiti on Tuesday, when he led other senior army officers, including the new Brigade Commander, 12 Brigade, Lokoja, Brig Gen Kasim Umar Sidi and the Commanding Officer of the new battalion and the Garrison Commander, 32 Brigade, Col Kyari Babakura, on a visit to Ekiti State governor, Biodun Oyeibanji.

They were in the state to assess the new barracks of the Nigeria Army in Ikere Ekiti, ahead of the deployment of personnel and equipment to the state.

The military chiefs expressed satisfaction with the location of the Army barracks in Ikere Ekiti and assured the governor that the deployment of personnel would commence at the temporary base immediately.

They also requested a bigger space to serve as a temporary abode for the deployed personnel.

Fadairo urged residents of the state "to

give the military the required maximum support and cooperation to enable it to achieve its desired objective of curtailing all forms of insecurity in the state."

He said the new formation was billed to take off in Ikere Ekiti with the commencement of deployment of personnel and materials to the state.

Oyeibanji thanked the Nigerian Army for the new development, which he said would "further enhance safety and security in the state and further confirm Ekiti as the number one choice for people looking for where to live, work, relax and invest."

The governor assured the army authorities of effective collaboration with the military to strengthen security and stamp out criminal elements from the state.

He said his government had been making frantic and conscious efforts to partner with all relevant security agencies to ensure the safety and security of lives and properties in the state.

Oyeibanji said, "We are grateful to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces for the approval to establish this battalion in Ekiti State.

"We are grateful to the Army command, under the leadership of the Chief of Army Staff, for doing this for us in the state.

"What you have done for us in Ekiti State is so dear to us. Ekiti State is peaceful, but we also have our own pockets of criminalities and the area where the battalion is cited is one of the most security-challenged places in the state.

"This is an effort that we will give maximum support to in a bid to ensure its early takeoff.

"You also see that immediately it was announced, we got the land from the community and so the people have taken ownership of the project."

# Nine kidnapped Ondo surveyors freed after N20m ransom payment

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The nine surveyors who were kidnapped in the Akure North council area of Ondo State last week have regained their freedom after the payment of a ransom of N20 million to their abductors.

The kidnapers had initially demanded N100 million for their release and efforts by market women to negotiate the ransom down to N50 million were initially rejected before an agreement was eventually reached.

Confirming their release in Akure, the state capital on Wednesday, Pastor Ajibade Owolanke, brother to the



Ejemikin of Akure, High Chief Oluwole Omotayo, stated that the victims have

now reunited with their families.

Reports say the victims were taken to different hospitals for medical evaluation after they were released by their abductors.

Recall that the victims were kidnapped a week ago while on site at Ilu-Abo, in Akure North council area of the state.

Irked by the state of insecurity in the state, market women and other youths in the Akure metropolis staged a protest on Tuesday and appealed to the governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa and security chiefs in the state to halt the ugly development.

# LASU graduate's shallow grave found, Police arrest main suspect

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Police Command in Lagos State has discovered the location where the remains of the missing Lagos State University (LASU) graduate, Adedamola Ogunbode were buried, following the arrest of the primary suspect, Olaoluwa Ajisomo.

Ajisomo, who was initially rumored to have fled to the Benin Republic, is now in police custody and assisting detectives in pinpointing the exact site where Ogunbode was buried.

The command's spokesperson, Chief Superintendent of Police Benjamin Hundeyin, who confirmed the development, stated that both the arrest and ongoing investigation had been verified.

Ogunbode, a Political Science Education graduate, had been missing since January 16, 2025, with unconfirmed reports suggesting that his mutilated remains had been found.

Last Friday, the Lagos State Police Command announced the arrest of three suspects and the ongoing search for five others connected to the murder of a 2024 graduate.

Among those arrested were Whepetoji Sunday, a pastor who allegedly received N70,000 from the victim's account, and Sheriff Adebayo, a church member accused of receiving N300,000.



NEW DAILY PRIME reported that the mother of the prime suspect, Omolara Ajisomo, was also arrested for assisting her children, Teniola and Olaoluwa Ajisomo, in fleeing after each reportedly received N300,000 from the victim's account.

The Lagos State Commissioner of Police, Olohundare Jimoh, had directed the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) to take over the case after the students' union threatened to organise a statewide protest.

Regarding the arrest of the prime suspect, Hundeyin revealed that he was apprehended on Monday morning in the Alakuko area of the state.

Hundeyin further stated that the suspect was responsible for emptying Ogunbode's bank account using the victim's mobile phone.

"The principal suspect, Olaoluwa Ajisomo, was arrested yesterday (Monday) morning at the Alakuko area. He was the one who cleared the victim's bank account through the victim's mobile phone," he said.

However, Hundeyin clarified that the grave was not located within the church premises, contrary to speculation on social media.

He added that the church where the arrested cleric worshipped had been sealed off by the police following intelligence reports of a planned arson in retaliation.

The PPRO stated, "The shallow grave is not around the church premises, but it is there in the community. The church was sealed following intelligence reports that some people planned to burn it out of vengeance, and we do not want that to happen."

Meanwhile, a source involved in the investigation said police detectives were en route to exhume the victim from the shallow grave.

The source said, "I just received information that the newly arrested suspect has confessed to killing the LASU graduate, and the police are on their way to the burial site."

# Rivers' residents reiterate support for Fubara amid Wike, Amaewhule's alleged impeachment threats

By Friday Omosola

Amid the political crisis in Rivers State, The New Daily Prime made an effort to speak with some random residents of Obio/Akpor Local Government Area (LGA) to get their views on the matter, all of whom expressed their support for Governor Siminalayi Fubara.

More than two years after the political dispute between Rivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara and his predecessor-turned-rival, Nyesom Wike, the crisis remains unresolved, prompting citizens to voice their concerns over the ongoing tensions.

The rift between Governor Fubara and Mr Wike, who now serves as the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), began in December 2023 when the governor severed ties with 27 lawmakers, including Martins Amaewhule, following their alleged defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Since then, the conflict has escalated—from the reinstatement of the pro-Wike lawmakers to disputes over state fund allocations and, most recently, impeachment attempts that have thrown the state into a heated political struggle.

Speaking exclusively to The New Daily Prime, residents expressed deep concern over the worsening crisis, stating that it has reached a critical point.

Amadi Francis, a resident of Obio/Akpor LGA, argued that Wike's ultimate goal in the power struggle is to maintain control over state resources for personal and political gains, without accountability.

However, he expressed confidence that Governor Fubara would prevail, adding that the ongoing conflict could ultimately work in the governor's favour.

"His actions are justified. Was he not elected as the Governor of Rivers State? Was he elected to be someone's puppet? He was chosen to carry out executive functions for the state. If Wike dislikes him simply because he brought him in as a godfather, then the best thing to do is to remain silent and wait for the next election," Francis noted.

READ ALSO: Fubara appeals to Wike to allow him govern River

He further criticized Wike's alleged attempts to control Fubara, stating:

"He wants to weaken him and turn the state into a political battleground where resources are mismanaged. This is unacceptable."

Francis emphasized that the governor's actions were both democratic and constitutional, asserting that those opposing him lacked a proper understanding of governance.

According to him, those criticizing the governor are, in reality, supporting Minister Wike. However, he clarified: "My loyalty is neither with Fubara nor Wike."



He also lamented that the political crisis was affecting infrastructure development in areas such as Onelga and Obimma.

"The funds meant for building infrastructure are being wasted on political struggles. Without peace, there will be no development," he added.

Francis further questioned Wike's choice of Fubara as his successor:

"Wike ruled for eight years and had many political allies from the riverine areas. If he wanted a successor he could control, why didn't he choose one of them? Why didn't he pick a civil servant instead of someone with a political background?"

## Path to Resolution

When asked about a possible resolution to the dispute, Francis stated:

\*\*\*"First, they must strengthen their networks, including their political allies. They should prioritize peace and convene a roundtable discussion."

If they can resolve their differences peacefully, they should do so. However, if peace is not an option, they may resort to other strategies to bring the conflict to a decisive end."\*\*\*

He also warned of the economic impact the crisis could have on Rivers State:

"Rivers is the most valuable state after Lagos. If this crisis continues, businesses will relocate, taxes will be paid elsewhere, and Rivers State's economy will suffer."

## Development Hindrance

Innocent Ajilo, a resident of Ahoada LGA, argued that the ongoing political turmoil is hindering the state's development.

"The impeachment of local government chairmen will only worsen the situation," he

observed.

Ajilo criticized the politicians involved, stating:

"They are causing unnecessary chaos and neglecting the needs of the people. Instead of focusing on development, they are fixated on holding onto power."

He emphasized that whether impeachment proceedings continue, the state's progress is already being affected.

"We initially felt relieved when Fubara became governor. But now, with this crisis, things are getting worse," he added.

On Governor Fubara's invitation to Speaker Martins Amaewhule, Ajilo asserted that it was a strategic move toward resolving the dispute rather than a mere formality.

"Politics requires dialogue. The governor understands what he is doing. He has legal advisers, and the system will not collapse. I believe Fubara is standing for the truth, and the truth will eventually prevail," he said.

READ ALSO: Appeal Court nullifies judgement stopping Rivers allocation

## Godfatherism in Rivers Politics

Alex Ejiro, another resident, described the conflict as a result of godfatherism, predicting that it could hinder Fubara's ability to govern effectively.

"Every decision Fubara makes is overturned. The Supreme Court even ruled that he should undo certain actions. And now, he is saying that Rivers people should allow things to be. At worst, he might resign. This is not how governance should work," Ejiro stated.

He also recalled that during Wike's tenure, such power struggles did not occur, highlighting the influence of godfatherism in the crisis.

"No progress is being made in Rivers State. The politicians are either stuck in one place or regressing," he added.

## Wike's Influence and Possible Impeachment

Chukwuka Emmanuel, a resident of Ogba Egbema-Ndoni (ONELGA), urged Wike and his allies to allow Fubara to govern without interference.

"Wike enjoys being in the spotlight, which has contributed to this crisis. He backed Fubara in the election, expecting to control him as governor," he remarked.

He also speculated on a possible impeachment attempt:

"If the funds are not flowing to certain individuals, impeachment could happen. Looking at it from a political perspective, it remains a possibility."

# Blaqbonez responds to Reps' order to shut down porn sites

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**N**igerian rapper Blaqbonez has voiced his disapproval of the House of Reps' recent decision to block access to adult websites across the country.

The directive, issued on Tuesday, instructs the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) to implement a nationwide ban on pornographic content.

According to reports from New Daily Prime, lawmakers argue that such a move is necessary to curb the negative effects of adult content on society.

However, critics, including Blaqbonez, believe the government is focusing on the wrong issues while more pressing concerns remain unaddressed.

<https://twitter.com/BlaqBonez/status/1899541732477276577>

Blaqbonez reacts on social media

Taking to social media platform X (formerly Twitter), the rapper expressed frustration over the decision. He suggested that the ban reflects misplaced priorities, highlighting how adult content provides an escape for many Nigerians facing difficult times.

He used the example of popular adult film star Destiny Mira to emphasize his point. He argued that her content, and that of others in the industry, offers relief to individuals dealing with stress.



“This country is funny. Destiny Mira, who helps us through tough times, and they want to ban her,” he wrote.

Public reactions are divided

His remarks quickly sparked debates online, with social media users taking sides on the issue. Some agreed with him, questioning why the government was prioritizing internet censorship over pressing issues like unemployment, inflation, and insecurity. Others supported the ban, citing concerns about morality and the potential harm of unrestricted adult content.

The House of Representatives has yet to respond to the backlash. However, this decision aligns with past government efforts to regulate internet content in Nigeria.

Lawmakers have previously discussed measures to control social media and online platforms, arguing that such steps are necessary to protect public values.

Ongoing debate over internet freedom Blaqbonez, known for his outspoken nature, has frequently addressed social and political issues through his music and online presence. His latest comments add to an ongoing conversation about personal freedom, government control, and societal values in Nigeria.

As discussions continue, it remains unclear how and when the NCC will enforce the directive. For now, Nigerians remain divided on whether the move represents necessary regulation or a step toward broader internet restrictions.

# Why I ditched jeans forever – Kevin Hart

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



**K**evin Hart, the famous American comedian, is making major changes to his wardrobe as he ages, opting for comfort over style as he redefines his fashion choices.

During a recent appearance on *The Jennifer Hudson Show*, the 45-year-old entertainer admitted that he no longer wears jeans. He explained that they are simply too uncomfortable for him now.

Hart shared that his fashion choices have become simpler with age. He emphasized that as he moves closer to 50, his style will continue to evolve toward even more comfort.

Why he no longer wears jeans  
 “I don’t wear jeans anymore because I’m getting older,” Hart said. “It’s all about pants and slacks now. I mean, once you hit 40, a good pair of pants is necessary.”

The comedian expressed strong opinions about jeans, saying they no longer suit his needs. He pointed out that they are restrictive and cause discomfort.

“Jeans just don’t feel the same. They hurt. They are not comfortable. I need a good pair of slacks, something I can move in, something soft,” he explained.

Jeans are too uncomfortable  
 Hart also noted that jeans put pressure on certain parts of his body, making them an impractical choice for him now.

“I don’t like how jeans feel on my knees. They hurt my waist when I sit down. I don’t like how they dig into my skin,” he added.

A shift toward simplicity  
 His fashion transformation started when he turned 40, and he expects

it to continue in the coming years.

“My dress sense changed at 40. I’m 45 now, almost 46, and it keeps evolving. When I hit 50, I’m switching to all sweatpants,” he joked.

Fans react to Hart’s fashion choices  
 Hart’s comments sparked discussions among fans, with many agreeing that comfort becomes a priority as people get older. Others, however, said they still enjoy wearing jeans, regardless of age.

While he may have stepped away from denim, Hart remains one of the most stylish figures in Hollywood. Whether on stage, at events, or just relaxing, he embraces a look that matches his personality—confident, relaxed, and true to himself.

# Popular Korean singer Wheesung found dead at home

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

South Korean singer Wheesung has been found dead in his apartment, his management agency, Tajoy Entertainment, announced on Tuesday.

The 43-year-old artist was discovered unconscious on Monday evening.

Emergency responders called to the scene

Emergency responders arrived at Wheesung's residence at 6:29 p.m. after receiving a distress call from his mother. Paramedics attempted to revive him, but he was already unresponsive. Authorities later confirmed that he had passed away before help arrived.

Official statement from his agency

Tajoy Entertainment released a statement expressing deep sorrow. "Artist Wheesung has left us," the agency wrote. "Our staff and colleagues are mourning his sudden passing." Fans and fellow musicians also took to social media to express their grief and pay tribute to the beloved artist.

Police investigation and autopsy request

Police are investigating the circumstances of Wheesung's death. In a statement to local media, officers reported that "a significant amount of time" had



passed before he was found. They have requested an autopsy to determine the exact cause of death. Authorities have not yet released further details regarding the incident.

Upcoming concert and final social media post

Wheesung was scheduled to perform in Daegu this Saturday alongside singer KCM. Just days before his death, he shared a message with fans online. "Weight loss completed. See you on March 15," he wrote. The post now serves as his final words to his supporters.

A celebrated career in music

Wheesung, known for his powerful vocals and emotional ballads, was one of South Korea's

most respected R&B singers. He rose to fame in the early 2000s and gained a loyal fanbase with hits like "With Me" and "Insomnia." Over the years, he worked with top artists and continued to influence the music industry.

Fans and industry mourn his loss

News of his passing has shocked fans, colleagues, and industry professionals. Many have shared heartfelt messages, recalling his contributions to Korean music. Tributes continue to pour in, honoring his legacy and impact.

Authorities have not yet confirmed the details of his funeral arrangements. More information is expected in the coming days as investigations proceed.

# Actor Aaron Goodwin's wife arrested for allegedly hiring hitman to kill him

By **Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi**

**V**ictoria Goodwin, the wife of American actor Aaron Goodwin, has been arrested for allegedly plotting to have her husband killed.

Authorities took her into custody on March 6, charging her with solicitation to commit murder and conspiracy to commit murder. The arrest followed an investigation into an alleged scheme she devised less than two years after their wedding.

According to a report by TMZ, law enforcement uncovered the plot after intercepting suspicious messages exchanged between Victoria and an inmate at a Florida prison. Police believe she conspired with the inmate to arrange the killing of her husband, known for his role in the paranormal investigation series GhostAdventures.

An arrest report obtained by the outlet revealed that Victoria Goodwin has denied any wrongdoing. However, investigators cited an incriminating text message she allegedly sent to the inmate. In the message, she reportedly wrote:

“Am I a bad person? Because I chose to end his existence. Not divorce.”

Authorities discover alleged murder plot  
Investigators said the plot was set in motion in October 2024. However, it only came to light after correctional officers at the Florida prison confiscated a contraband phone belonging to the inmate. Upon searching the device, authorities found a series of messages implicating Victoria in the scheme.

According to police, Victoria provided details about her husband's location while he was filming Ghost Adventures in



California. She allegedly sent this information via text to the inmate, who was coordinating with an alleged hitman.

Authorities stated that Victoria had agreed to pay \$11,515 for the murder, with an initial down payment of \$2,500. The arrangement fell apart when prison officials intercepted the messages before any harm could be done.

Victoria Goodwin's response to allegations

Following her arrest, Victoria reportedly admitted that she and her husband were experiencing “marital problems.” However, she downplayed her involvement in the alleged plot. She claimed her messages were not serious and described them as “daydreaming or fantasizing about being without her husband.”

Despite her denial, authorities believe the messages show clear intent. The police have not disclosed whether the inmate or any other suspects involved in the case will face additional charges.

A fairytale wedding turns dark

Victoria and Aaron Goodwin tied the knot in 2022 at Disneyland's Haunted Mansion, a fitting venue given Aaron's involvement in paranormal investigations. Their wedding was celebrated as a dream come true for the couple, but their relationship appears to have unraveled in the years since.

For now, Victoria remains in custody as legal proceedings move forward. The case continues to develop, and authorities have not yet announced a trial date.

What's next?

If convicted, Victoria Goodwin could face significant prison time. Legal experts suggest that charges of solicitation and conspiracy to commit murder carry severe penalties. Meanwhile, Aaron Goodwin has not publicly commented on the arrest.

Law enforcement officials are expected to release more details in the coming days as the investigation unfolds.

# Beyoncé said she's done with acting – Mother, Tina Knowles reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**B**eyoncé, the global music icon, has no plans to return to acting, as confirmed by her mother, Tina Knowles, who shared the news on social media.

Tina recently confirmed the news on social media, saying that her daughter made a firm decision to step away from movies. She shared a clip from *Cadillac Records* (2008), in which Beyoncé played legendary singer Etta James. In her caption, Tina expressed how much she missed seeing her daughter on the big screen.

“*Cadillac Records* is still one of my favorite movies,” she wrote. “It makes me miss the fact that my child decided not to continue with movies. She killed it in this role. And she so unselfishly donated her salary to the Phoenix House.”

## Beyoncé’s Hollywood journey

Beyoncé first stepped into acting in the early 2000s. Her breakthrough role came in *Carmen: A Hip Hopera* (2001). She then starred in *Austin Powers in Goldmember* (2002), where she played Foxy Cleopatra.

Her biggest success in Hollywood came with *Dreamgirls* (2006), an Oscar-winning musical drama. In it, she portrayed Deena Jones, a character loosely based on Diana Ross. The film earned critical acclaim, and Beyoncé’s performance showed her talent beyond music. She continued her acting career with roles in *The Pink Panther* (2006) and *Obsessed* (2009).

Despite her success, she gradually moved away from traditional acting. Her last



live-action film role was in *Obsessed*. However, she returned to voice acting in Disney’s 2019 remake of *The Lion King*, playing Nala. In 2024, she reprised the role in *Mufasa: The Lion King*, where she was joined by her daughter, Blue Ivy.

## Why did Beyoncé quit acting?

Tina Knowles did not share the exact reason Beyoncé left acting, but fans have speculated for years. Some believe she prefers to focus on music, while others think she enjoys full creative control over her projects.

Unlike movies, where actors follow scripts and directors’ visions, music allows Beyoncé to take charge. She writes, produces, and directs her own content, giving her complete artistic freedom.

Her decision to donate her entire *Cadillac Records* salary to the Phoenix House, a rehabilitation center, also showed her deeper passion for philanthropy. It may

indicate that her acting career was more about storytelling than personal ambition.

## A legacy beyond film

Though Beyoncé is no longer acting, her impact on Hollywood remains. Her roles in *Dreamgirls* and *Cadillac Records* proved she could shine as both a musician and an actress.

Instead of movies, she has focused on creating groundbreaking albums, visually stunning music videos, and global tours. Her recent Renaissance era showcased her ability to reinvent herself while remaining a dominant force in entertainment.

While fans may hope for her return to film, Tina Knowles’ statement makes it clear—Beyoncé has moved on. Whether she ever changes her mind remains to be seen. But for now, her focus remains on music, creativity, and leaving a lasting legacy.

# Nigerian bags life jail for raping, killing 61-yr-old Italian woman

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A Nigerian, Chukwuka Nweke, has been sentenced to life imprisonment for raping and murdering a 61-year-old woman, Iris Setti, in Rovereto, Italy.

Nweke attacked the deceased in a public park in the northeastern Italian city of Rovereto in Trento on the evening of August 5, 2023.

ANSA Italy reported that Nweke was found guilty of aggravated murder, robbery, sexual violence and sentenced earlier in the week.

Witnesses claimed that Nweke, who is a known abuser of drugs and alcohol, viciously attacked the woman, threw her on the ground, hitting her face and head with his fists and a blunt object.

He fled the area but was caught a short



time later by members of the Carabinieri (police), who stopped him on the Via Maioliche and were forced to use their tasers to subdue and arrest him.

The victim was taken to a local hospital but due to the severity of the injuries she had suffered, she died several hours later.

# Trump threatens to devastate Russian economy if Putin refuses peace deal

By New Daily Prime

U.S. President Donald Trump has warned of severe economic consequences for Russia if President Vladimir Putin refuses to sign a ceasefire agreement with Ukraine. Speaking to reporters in the white house, Trump stated that the U.S. has powerful financial measures at its disposal that could cause significant damage to Russia's economy.

"We could do things very bad for Russia. It would be devastating. But I don't want to do that because I want to see peace," Trump declared.

The threat comes amid mounting pressure for Moscow to accept a U.S.-brokered 30-day ceasefire in Ukraine. Trump confirmed that American representatives are currently on their way to Russia, following reports that his Middle East envoy, Steve Witkoff, will travel to



Moscow this week for further negotiations.

"Hopefully, we can get a ceasefire," Trump told reporters. "It is up to Russia now."

Despite international pressure, President Putin appears reluctant to agree to a

ceasefire while Russian forces continue to gain ground on the battlefield. Russian troops have reportedly recaptured Sudzha, a key town in the Kursk region, further strengthening their position.

On Wednesday, Russia launched fresh attacks on Ukrainian territories, including small villages and towns, as well as the capital Kyiv and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's hometown of Kryvyi Rih.

As negotiations intensify, global leaders are keeping a close eye on Moscow's next move. While Trump has confirmed U.S. diplomatic efforts, Russia has yet to publicly commit to a ceasefire agreement.

With the stakes rising, the world waits to see whether Putin will yield to pressure or push ahead with his military campaign in Ukraine.

# Canada announces retaliatory tariffs on nearly \$30bn worth of US imports

By Dave Oludare Oso

Canada announced retaliatory tariffs on nearly \$30bn worth of American imports after US tariffs on steel and aluminum imports went into effect on Wednesday.

The Canadian government said it will be following a “dollar-by-dollar” approach and institute 25% tariffs on American imports, including steel, computers and sports equipment.

Donald Trump first announced the tariff on all steel and aluminum imports in February and scheduled them to go into effect on Wednesday. The tariffs going into effect has started a chain reaction of retaliatory tariffs as countries around the world decide how to respond to Trump’s policy.

Canada’s announcement comes after the EU announced its own tariffs on American imports, including products such as motorcycles and whiskey, totaling \$28bn.

Trump had doubled the steel and aluminum tariffs against Canada, in retaliation for Canada raising the prices on electricity exports to the US, to 50%. But the White House dropped the measure after Canada said it would hold off on its electricity tariff.

Meanwhile, the Mexican president, Claudia Sheinbaum, said the country would wait until 2 April to determine whether it will respond to the steel and aluminum tariffs.

Trump had initially announced 25% tariffs on all imports from Canada and Mexico, which were initially to take effect on 1 February, but paused the tariffs twice. The tariffs are now expected to go into effect on 2 April.

Canadian and EU leaders voiced regret over the impact the tariffs will have on domestic businesses, but argued countries need to respond appropriately to Trump’s actions

Mélanie Joly, the country’s minister of foreign affairs, said in a press conference on Wednesday that the country will “not



back down and we will not give into this coercion”, denouncing the chaos Trump has ensued on the global economy.

“The only constant in this unjustified and unjustifiable trade war seems to be President Trump’s talks of annexing our country’s through economic coercion,” Joly told a press conference.

Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, said that the steel and aluminum tariffs were “unjustified trade restrictions”. “Tariffs are taxes, they are bad for business and worse for consumers. They are disrupting supply chains. They bring uncertainty for the economy,” she said.

Despite the criticism from global leaders, Trump defended the tariffs after meeting with the Business Roundtable, a group of key US business leaders on Tuesday. “Markets are going to go up and they’re going to go down, but you know what? We have to rebuild our country,” Trump said on Tuesday.

After a week-long slump, US markets started making small gains on Tuesday morning after inflation figures that were better than projected.

Trump and members of his administration have spent the last week on the cable news circuit downplaying the impacts the

tariffs could have on the economy. When asked whether the US could experience a recession in an interview with Fox News on Sunday, Trump said the country was in a “period of transition”.

“What we’re doing is very big. We’re bringing wealth back to America. That’s a big thing. And there are always periods of, it takes a little time. It takes a little time, but I think it should be great for us,” Trump said.

Kevin Hassett, head of the national economic council, told CNBC on Monday that Trump’s economic policies were having their intended effect of “creating jobs in the US” and said there were lots of reason to be “bullish going forward”.

The uncertainty around Trump’s trade policies has made officials with the Federal Reserve all but confirm that they will not be changing interest rates at their meeting next week. The Fed chair, Jerome Powell, said in prepared remarks last week that there was “heightened uncertainty about the economic outlook” but said that the economy was stable for now.

“It remains to be seen how these developments might affect future spending and investment,” he said.

# Brazil declares new payroll-deductible loans for private-sector workers

By New Daily Prime

**B**razil's government has announced new regulations to expand payroll-deductible loans for private-sector workers through the country's digital work card app. This initiative aims to provide domestic and rural workers with access to lower-cost credit.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva stated that the measure comes at a time when his popularity has sharply declined in opinion polls and is expected to increase loan accessibility. The initiative seeks to extend payroll loans to workers under the Consolidation of Labor Laws (CLT) regime.

According to the government, the system will launch on March 21 and is designed to reduce excessive debt by offering a lower-cost credit line for refinancing more expensive obligations.

While payroll-deductible credit has previously existed in Brazil, the government's economic team argued that it failed to reach a significant portion of formal workers due to its reliance on



agreements between companies and banks.

The new system is expected to benefit up to 42 million people. Lula's plan aims to triple the current payroll loan volume for private-sector workers from R\$40 billion (\$6.45 billion) to R\$120 billion (\$19.35 billion).

Additionally, the government has proposed developing a digital platform to connect banks directly with workers' credit profiles through the eSocial system. This streamlined approach removes the need for company-bank

accessible.

Under the proposed system, workers can allocate up to 30% of their salary to loan repayments. They may also use 10% of their Severance Indemnity Fund (FGTS) balance as additional collateral.

However, estimates from the banking industry group Febraban, released by the government, suggest that the new system could generate up to 120 billion reais (\$20.6 billion) in loans over four years, potentially benefiting around 19 million formal workers out of a total of 47 million.

# Pakistani military kills 30 terrorists, rescues 200 passengers after train attack

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Security sources said Wednesday a Pakistani military operation rescued 200 passengers and killed 30 terrorists, a day after an attack on a train in Pakistan's restive southwestern Balochistan province.

The Jaffar Express, with roughly 450 people on board, was traveling north from Quetta, Balochistan, to Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, when it came under a bomb and gun attack Tuesday.

As the operation continues beyond 24 hours, the train remains blocked in a tunnel near Sibbi, Balochistan since Tuesday afternoon.

Authorities dispatched coffins from Quetta railway station Wednesday, fearing casualties.

Injured in the initial attack, the driver of the train has died. At least 37 injured people are in hospitals for treatment.

The Baloch Liberation Army, or BLA, quickly claimed responsibility for the brazen attack. In a statement to media, the banned separatist militant group claimed to be holding more than 200 hostages, which it said were security and intelligence personnel.

Without sharing details about the number of hostages or their background, security sources said Wednesday that potential suicide bombers were holding hostages in three different places.

Suicide bombers are wearing suicide jackets, security sources said, adding that suicide bombers were using innocent people as human shields.

Threatening to kill the hostages, BLA demanded the release of political prisoners, missing persons, and what it called resistance workers held in Balochistan prisons. In the statement released hours after the attack, the group gave authorities 48 hours to comply.

## Reaction

Officials have not publicly responded to BLA's demands.

"The attack on Jaffar Express is an attack on national security and will be responded to with full force," Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said, condemning the attack.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the Ramadan attack shows, "terrorists have no link with Islam, Pakistan or Balochistan."

Freed passengers shaken by the incident told media they heard a blast and gunfire soon after the train entered a tunnel.



"Don't look back," Shafiq-ul-Rehman said armed men who boarded the train told passengers, ordering them to leave with their families.

"We took cover under the seats," Ghulam Nabi, another freed passenger, told media about the moments soon after the attack.

Earlier, Imran Hayat, divisional superintendent railways in Quetta told VOA that 70 passengers had arrived at Paneer train station Tuesday evening, about 6 kilometers from the site of that attack.

Militants said they released dozens of women, children and Baloch passengers early on. However, security sources say the military rescued all the passengers freed so far.

## Difficult terrain

Although just around 150 kilometers from the provincial capital Quetta, the scene of the attack, located in barren mountains, is hard to reach.

"So far, it's no foot on the ground," railway official Hayat told VOA, noting the inability of railway staff to reach the scene.

"It's a no signal area. They [attackers] stopped the train at a spot where there is no signal support," Hayat said.

Provincial spokesperson Shahid Rind, earlier, told media that security forces, a rescue train and ambulances had been dispatched.

An emergency was declared at the government hospital in Sibbi, to facilitate receiving the injured.

The United States and Pakistan have both

designated BLA as a terrorist group.

According to the Global Terrorism Index 2025 released last week, Pakistan experienced a 45% increase in terrorism deaths last year, compared to 2023. That is the largest year-to-year rise in more than a decade. The BLA emerged as one of the top two militant groups driving the increase.

According to the report, the separatist group launched 504 attacks in 2024, compared to 116 in 2023. Deaths in the attacks surged from 88 in 2023 to 388 in 2024.

The separatist group has been fighting a deadly insurgency against the Pakistani state, accusing it of exploiting the rich natural resources of the impoverished province.

The group also opposes Chinese investment in Balochistan, which is home to the China-funded Gwadar port and the country's biggest, yet largely unused airport.

Both Pakistan and China reject the claims that their joint ventures are depriving ethnic Baloch from economic opportunities and their share in the province's mineral wealth.

Security sources have said those involved in Tuesday's attack are based in Afghanistan. Islamabad has blamed several recent attacks on militants present on Afghan soil. Afghan Taliban routinely deny providing sanctuary to anti-Pakistan fighters.

## Recent attacks

Since the beginning of the year, the BLA has ramped up attacks on security forces, settlers and workers, primarily from the eastern Punjab province.

Earlier this month, a female suicide bomber detonated her explosive devices near a military convoy in Balochistan's Kalat district, killing at least one security worker and injuring four others.

Last month, BLA insurgents ambushed a bus transporting a paramilitary force in Kalat and killed 18 of those on board.

Days later, a roadside bomb blast killed 11 coal miners in the city, while the BLA took credit for attacking a military vehicle securing a supply convoy for a mining company operated by China.

Pakistani authorities reported the convoy was passing through Kalat when it came under attack, resulting in injuries to eight security personnel.

# Indiana woman found alive after 6 days trapped in car following crash

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



**A** 41-year-old woman was found alive on Tuesday after being trapped in her car for six days following a crash in northwest Indiana, officials said.

Brieonna Cassell disappeared last Wednesday after leaving her mother's home to visit a friend near the towns of Wheatfield and DeMotte, Indiana, according to CNN affiliate WLS.

The mother of three reportedly fell asleep behind the wheel before veering off the road into a deep ditch in the small town of Brook, around 80 miles south of Chicago, WLS reported.

Cassell's car had crashed off the road, out of view from passing traffic, and no one could hear her calls for help, family and the Newton County sheriff's office said.

Cassell was also unable to move her legs after being injured in the

crash, her parents said in a news conference Tuesday.

Her phone also lost power, so to survive, Cassell used her sweater to retrieve water from a nearby creek — wringing it into water and drinking from it, her father, Delmar Caldwell, told reporters.

“She was in excruciating pain. She was screaming out for help,” Caldwell told WLS.

The Newton County Sheriff's Office said in a statement Tuesday that Cassell was found by Johnny Martinez, a passerby who was operating drainage equipment in the area.

Martinez contacted his supervisor, Jeremy Vanderwell, who is also a fire chief in the nearby town of Morocco.

The two later found Cassell alone in her car, “conscious and

speaking,” the Sheriff's Office said.

“Despite her injuries, Cassell had survived 6 days waiting to be rescued,” the statement read.

Cassell was rescued and flown to a Chicago hospital, the sheriff's office said. She was placed in the ICU and will undergo surgery on Wednesday after sustaining severe injuries to her legs, ribs and wrist, WLS reported.

“I could feel something was wrong in my gut and I started panicking,” Cassell's mother, Kim Brown, told reporters Tuesday.

“I just can't wait to hug her and kiss her, which I probably can't do,” Brown said.

“It's going to be a long road to recovery,” Caldwell told reporters

# Man lives for 100 days with artificial titanium heart in successful new trial

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

An Australian man lived for 100 days with an artificial titanium heart while he awaited a donor transplant, the longest period to date of someone with the technology.

The patient, a man in his 40s who declined to be identified, received the implant during surgery at St. Vincent's Hospital Sydney last November.

In February, he became the first person worldwide to leave hospital with the device, which kept him alive until a heart donor became available earlier this month.

According to a statement issued Wednesday by St Vincent's Hospital, Monash University and BiVACOR, the US-Australian company behind the device, the man, who had severe heart failure, was "recovering well."

The ability of the device to sustain him for so long is being celebrated as a sign the artificial heart could potentially offer a long-term option for people suffering heart failure. The device is still being trialed and has not yet been approved for general use.

The BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart has a single moving part – a levitated rotor that's held in place by magnets. The BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart has a single moving part – a levitated rotor that's held in place by magnets. BiVACOR

BiVACOR's founder, Australian bioengineer Daniel Timms, who invented the device following his father's death from heart disease, said it was "exhilarating to see decades of work come to fruition."

"The entire BiVACOR team is deeply grateful to the patient and his family for placing their trust in our Total



Artificial Heart," he said in the statement. "Their bravery will pave the way for countless more patients to receive this lifesaving technology."

## How it works

The BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart (TAH) has a single moving part, a levitated rotor that's held in place by magnets. As the name suggests, it's constructed from titanium and there are no valves or mechanical bearings that may be susceptible to wear.

It pumps blood to the body and the lungs, replacing both ventricles of a failing heart.

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death globally killing around 18 million people each year, according to the World Health Organization.

## Reducing the risk of heart disease

The long-term ambition is to use the device to save more people who languish on waiting lists for suitable donors. According to the US Health Department, about 3,500 people received heart transplants in 2024. Around 4,400 joined the waiting list the same year.

Professor Chris Hayward, from the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, said the BiVACOR heart ushered in "a whole new ball game for

heart transplants."

"Within the next decade we will see the artificial heart becoming the alternative for patients who are unable to wait for a donor heart or when a donor heart is simply not available," said Hayward, who is overseeing the Australian patient's recovery and was involved in preparing the device for clinical trials.

The device has already been tested in the Food and Drug Administration's Early Feasibility Study in the United States, which saw five patients successfully implanted with the device.

The first was last July, when a 58-year-old man suffering end-stage heart failure received the implant during surgery at Texas Medical Center. It kept him alive for eight days until a donor was available.

Four other patients followed in the study, which examined the safety and performance of the device, while they waited for a donor transplant. It's hoped the trial will expand to 15 patients.

The Australian implant was the first in a series planned by Monash University's Artificial Heart Frontiers Programme, a 50 million Australian dollar (\$31 million) programme to develop and commercialize three devices to treat heart failure.

# Arsenal cruise into UCL quarter-finals after 9-3 over PSV Eindhoven

By Oluwatosin Ologun



**A**rsenal completed an outstanding 9-3 aggregate victory over PSV Eindhoven in the knockout stage to set up a mouthwatering Champions League quarter-final against Real Madrid.

Holders Real beat capital rivals Atletico Madrid on penalties – and Arsenal will likely have to find top gear against the Spanish giants in the last eight after cruising past their Dutch opponents.

Leading 7-1 from the first leg in the Netherlands, the Gunners took the opportunity to make wholesale changes to their starting XI.

While there were also huge swathes of empty seats around a subdued Emirates Stadium, those in attendance were treated to a sumptuous opening goal from one of three left-backs selected by manager Mikel Arteta.

Oleksandr Zinchenko, who has found himself on the periphery at times, picked

up possession from Raheem Sterling's touch inside and whipped a superb effort into the left corner.

However, any thoughts of the floodgates opening and Arsenal eclipsing Bayern Munich's record 12-1 thrashing of Sporting over two legs at the same stage of the competition in 2008-09, did not come to fruition.

Instead, a distinct absence of jeopardy to the tie only appeared to contribute to a dip in Arsenal's intensity, with the overall outcome never in any doubt.

Former Tottenham winger Ivan Perisic expertly found the top-right corner from Guus Til's pass to give the visitors a deserved equaliser.

And while Myles Lewis-Skelly hit the post for the home side at 1-1 and a brilliant Sterling run and cross from the right allowed Declan Rice to head Arsenal back in front, they were unable to pull

clear.

PSV, who were backed by a spirited away following, restored some pride when Couhaib Driouech collected Isaac Babadi's incisive pass to chip over the oncoming home goalkeeper David Raya and ensure they left London with a merited draw.

While the low-key nature of the contest is unlikely to leave Arteta overly pleased, the Spaniard will take some satisfaction from guiding the Gunners into the last eight in successive seasons for the first time since 2010.

Arsenal were losing finalists in 2006 and have not won a European trophy since the now-defunct Cup Winners' Cup in 1994.

With his team trailing leaders Liverpool by 15 points in the Premier League, Arteta will be acutely aware the Champions League is the most realistic chance of lifting silverware this season – with Carlo Ancelotti's 15-time European Cup winners next up in the last eight.

# Pogba serves out doping ban, searches for new club

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former Manchester United and French national team player, Paul Pogba has served out his doping ban and is now free to return to competitive football.

The former Juventus midfielder's 18-month doping ban expired on Tuesday, but he presently has no club as Juventus terminated his contract last November. So, he needs to find a club.

The player is hoping to put three chaotic years behind him and is searching for a new employer with a view to playing in the 2026 World Cup, with David Beckham's MLS side Inter Miami among his possible options.

Pogba blamed a food supplement prescribed by a doctor he consulted in the United States for the positive test.

His last club, Juventus ended his contract in November 2024, but a member of his entourage insisted that Pogba "is training at 1,000 percent, he's in good spirits, and has received many offers."

His ultimate dream remains next year's World Cup, but a player who turns 32 this week would first have to convince France coach, Didier Deschamps.

Pogba is in regular contact with Deschamps, "one of his advisors for sporting decisions," according to one of the player's close friends.

But who could be interested in signing a player whose last match dates back to September 3, 2023 when he lined up for Juventus?



In January, Pogba said on social media he had received "proposals, not very interesting stuff," such as "going to play in Russia, but that's not the goal."

A contract, he admitted, "doesn't depend on me, but on a lot of other things."

Inter Miami could be a solution.

Pogba lives in Florida and was in the stands for Inter's first MLS match this season, against New York City on February 23. He is working on his physical condition with the fitness coach of Lionel Messi, the team's Argentinian superstar.

Pogba has been sharing photos of his intensive training sessions with his 62.7 million Instagram followers, along with fashion shots, his other passion.

French club, Marseille are also reported to be interested with football director, Medhi Benatia having played alongside Pogba at Juventus.

But Marseille may not want to take the risk of enlisting a player whose form will be uncertain after such a long absence.

Pogba's personal life has also been through a turbulent period — he was the victim of a kidnapping and extortion case in 2022 for which his brother Mathias and five of his childhood friends received prison terms.

"I can finally turn the page on this extremely painful period," Pogba said after the trial ended in December last year.

"This conclusion is an opportunity for everyone to focus on the future."

# Amaju Pinnick loses FIFA Council re-election bid

By Dave Oludare Oso



**F**ormer president of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Amaju Melvin Pinnick, on Wednesday failed in his bid for re-election into the FIFA Council, NEW DAILY PRIME reports.

The former Delta State Sports Council boss did not secure enough votes to retain his seat among the six electable African representatives on the council.

At the 14th CAF Extraordinary General Assembly held on Wednesday in Cairo, Egypt, Pinnick garnered 28 votes—just one vote short of Mauritania’s Ahmed Yahya and Djibouti’s Souleiman Waberi, who secured the final two available slots.

The six elected African members for the FIFA Council are:

Faouzi Lekjaa (Morocco)  
 Ahmed Yahya (Mauritania)  
 Kanizat Ibrahim (Comoros)  
 Souleiman Waberi (Djibouti)  
 Hamidou Djibrilla (Niger)  
 Hani Abo Rida (Egypt)

Pinnick’s History in FIFA and Nigerian Football

Pinnick made history as the third Nigerian to be elected into the FIFA Council, following Oyo Orok Oyo and Amos Adamu. He first secured his seat in March 2021 during the 43rd CAF Ordinary General Assembly in Rabat, Morocco.

Prior to his FIFA role, Pinnick served as the president of the NFF for two consecutive terms, from 2014 to 2022, before being succeeded by Ibrahim Gusau.

About the FIFA Council

The FIFA Council is the governing body responsible for making key decisions in the intervals between FIFA Congress meetings. It consists of 37 members elected for renewable four-year terms.

CAF Leadership

In a related development, Patrice Motsepe was re-elected as president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) for a second term.

# UCL: Real Madrid beat rivals Atletico in shootout, set up quarter-final tie with Arsenal

By Oluwatosin Ologun



**R**eal Madrid have reached a Champions League quarter-final tie with Arsenal after beating city rivals Atletico in a highly controversial penalty shootout.

Defender Antonio Rudiger scored the decisive spot-kick in a 4-2 shootout win after two Atletico players missed.

Marco Llorente's shot struck the bar after Julian Alvarez slipped and had his penalty strike disallowed after a VAR check ruled that the Argentine had touched the ball twice.

Former Manchester City forward Julian Alvarez fired home his kick, and Atletico's second, to make the score in the shootout 2-2, but he was judged to have touched the ball twice when officials scrutinised his shot, with suggestions that the sensor in the ball used for determining semi-automated offsides was able to detect that Alvarez had touched it twice.

Kylian Mbappe, Jude Bellingham, Federico Valverde and Antonio Rudiger all scored for Real, with the latter squeezing his effort beyond Jan Oblak to give his side the win.

Atletico had taken the lead on the night and levelled the tie on aggregate after just 27 seconds of the second leg thanks to a goal from Conor Gallagher, who set three records with one swing of his right foot.

Giuliano Simeone flicked on Rodrigo De Paul's centre from the right, and Gallagher came bursting in to fire the ball past Thibaut Courtois from close range and send the Wanda Metropolitano wild.

Gallagher's goal was the fastest ever scored by an Englishman in the Champions League, while it was also Atletico's fastest Champions League

goal as well as the England international's first in European competition.

At the other end, Vinicius Jr appealed for a penalty when he felt Simeone had handled in the box, but there was to be penalty pain for the Brazilian with 20 minutes of normal time remaining.

A swift Real Madrid move had seen Bellingham feed Mbappe, and the Frenchman cut inside two Atletico players before being felled by his compatriot Clement Lenglet.

Interestingly, Mbappe – who missed from the penalty spot against Liverpool in the league phase of the competition – left a spot kick to Vinicius, but the Brazilian blazed hopelessly high and wide over the crossbar to the delight of the home fans.