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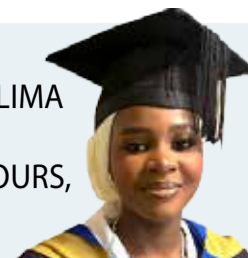
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# Neptune Prime WEEKEND

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**POLICE FILE 16 FRESH CHARGES AGAINST FAROTIMI AS DEFAMATION CASE INVOLVING AFE BABALOLA INTENSIFY**

By Gift Luckson

Dele Farotimi, a human rights lawyer, was arrested on Monday by police from Ekiti State in Lagos State and brought to Ado Ekiti for arraignment for defamation of character emanating from his book, "Nigeria and its Criminal Justice System".

In the book, Farotimi alleged, among other things, that prominent lawyer and founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Aare Afe Babalola, SAN, compromised the Supreme Court.

During the court session, Farotimi pleaded not guilty to the charges.

**Court denied Farotimi bail**  
After the arrest, police prayed to the court to remand Farotimi to a correctional facility.

Contd on page 3

## Nigeria, 753 Duplexes, And Corruption In High Places

By Sakinat Musa Abubakar

The fight against corruption in Nigeria has taken a dramatic turn with the recent announcement by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) of seizing 753 duplexes in Abuja. The exotic duplexes, linked to public officeholders and private collaborators, spotlight the depth of illicit wealth accumulation in the nation's

capital. This massive haul is part of a long line of EFCC operations that have exposed shocking levels of corruption, implicating several high-profile individuals and institutions.

**753 Duplexes in Abuja: A Deep Dive**

The confiscation of 753 duplexes marks a new milestone in the EFCC's efforts. These properties, often located in high-brow neighbourhoods, were allegedly acquired with funds siphoned from public coffers.

Investigations revealed that the stolen money was laundered through elaborate real estate transactions, often using proxies and shell companies.

Godwin Emeziele, 753 duplexes and other corruption trials Embattled former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emeziele, has been linked to the 753 duplexes and other apartments seized by the EFCC.

According to court papers filed by the agency, Emeziele

allegedly received kickbacks from some contractors who were awarded contracts by the CBN.

Emeziele is embroiled in a corruption investigation that saw EFCC agents seizing substantial assets linked to him, including vast amounts of cash, luxury vehicles, and properties. After his suspension from office in June 2023 and subsequent sack as the nation's chief banker, Emeziele appeared before Justice Hamza Mu'azu,

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MASTER BLACKSMITHS, CUSTODIANS OF REMARKABLE CULTURE



OLDIES >>16

HOW NIGERIAN YOUTHS CAN SURVIVE IN THESE TOUGH TIMES - EX-NIGER SSG, HON. SAIDU KPAKI

# Neptune World

It is not the strongest of the species or the most intelligent who will survive, but those who can best manage change.

- CHARLES DARWIN

I know from experience that criticisms, even apparently destructive criticisms, are helpful to government.

- LATEEF JAKANDE

## PICTURE OF THE DAY

Traffic gridlock at Mararaba-Nyanya/ Keffi expressway in Abuja

PHOTO CREDIT: Google



## UP&DOWN



### Civil servants receive N150,000 bonus for Christmas celebration

Ebonyi State Governor, Francis Nwifuru, has announced a Christmas bonus of 150,000 for each civil servant in the state.

The Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Monday Uzor, made this known in a Facebook post on Thursday night.

Uzor disclosed that the state workers would receive the bonus before 1 pm on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

"Every Worker in Ebonyi State service will receive 150,000 as a Christmas Bonus before 1 pm on Tuesday... Gov. Rt. Hon. Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru," the post read.

On October 27, the governor approved the payment of N75,000 minimum wage to civil servants in the state.



### 30-year-old woman kills 8-month-old daughter with rat poison

A 30-year-old woman, Mercy Michael, has been remanded in a correctional facility by a Chief Magistrates' Court in Kafanchan, Kaduna State, for allegedly killing her eight-month-old daughter with rat poison.

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) charged Ms Michael with culpable homicide, an offence under Section 189 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law.

According to NSCDC prosecutor Marcus Audu, the case was reported on December 11 by Godfrey Sunday, a resident of Fadia Bakut, Zonkwa. Audu stated that on December 10, Michael allegedly fed her infant daughter rat poison. Despite being rushed to the General Hospital, Zonkwa, the child tragically died the following day.

The case was initially reported to the Salama Sexual Assault Referral Centre, Kafanchan, before being handed over to the NSCDC for investigation.

Presiding Judge Samson Kwasu declined to take the defendant's plea, citing lack of jurisdiction. The prosecutor was instructed to forward the case file to the State Director of Public Prosecution for legal advice.

## ANCIENT FACTS

- After her parents' death around 1566, Queen Amina of Zazzau became a leading warrior in her brother's cavalry. She is celebrated in Hausa praise songs as "Amina, daughter of Nikatau, a woman as capable as a man in war".
- The pyramids of Giza are the only ancient wonders still standing today. The Great Pyramid is the tallest of the three pyramids.
- To popularise potatoes in 18th-century France, Antoine-Augustin Parmentier placed armed guards around his fields, instructing them to accept bribes and let people "steal" the crop.
- Leonardo Da Vinci lacked formal education, teaching himself Latin and math after 40. He didn't study the classics, which made traditional scholars to dismiss his observational scientific method.
- When buttons were invented in the 13th century, wealthy women had maids dress them. Since most people are right-handed, buttons were placed on the left for easier fastening, leading to the difference in button placement on men's and women's clothing.
- Timothy Dexter, a late 1700s American businessman, faked his death. At his funeral, he revealed himself and caned his wife for not grieving enough.
- In the Medieval Era, people shared their bed with the entire family and even the occasional overnight visitor. Only the wealthy could afford multiple beds, while the poor slept on piles of clothes or hay on the floor.
- In 1846, a "dead" Egyptian snail was displayed at the British Museum. Four years later, the snail awoke. After a warm bath, the snail went on to live for a few more years in the museum, kept in a glass jar and fed cabbage leaves.
- The world's oldest continuously operating business is a hot springs hotel in Japan, established in 705 A.D.



# FUN PUZZLE

Find The Hidden Words

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
H	E	L	O	K	T	R	Q	N	
S	T	A	Y	M	Q	O	U	N	S
S	T	R	O	N	G	S	V	H	P
S	T	A	Y	P	W	F	L	X	U
P	O	S	I	T	I	V	E	B	C
A	N	D	R	X	C	V	Y	G	D
N	E	V	E	R	B	W	Z	E	T
G	I	V	E	U	P	D	I	G	E
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J

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## COVER

## ... 753 Duplexes, And Corruption In High Places

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for procurement fraud, and forgery of former President Muhammadu Buhari's signature, among others.

Later on, he was charged with alleged fraud involving \$4.5 billion and N2.8 billion before Justice Rahman Oshodi at the Special Offences Court in Ikeja, Lagos.

Before Justice Maryann Anenih of the FCT High Court in Abuja, Emiefele stands trial for allegedly printing N684.5 million notes at the whopping cost of N18.96 billion. The EFCC's investigation into suspicious financial dealings connected to Emiefele began when reports of his involvement in shady transactions surfaced. Further inquiries revealed massive fraudulent activities, including illegal foreign exchange practices and the illegal use of CBN funds for personal gain.

#### High-Profile Corruption Cases by Former Government Officials

Before the 753 duplexes seizure, there had been recurring allegations that top government officials, using cronies and rogue elements, had been engaged in assisting government officials to launder funds in the real estate business. Further explaining why thousands of properties remain unoccupied in Abuja. It is very common to see properties in highbrow areas unoccupied for decades in the nation's capital, with only gatemen securing the entrance of such mansions.

Over the years, the EFCC has tackled numerous corruption scandals, recovering billions in looted funds and properties.

Below are some notable notable busts carried out by the agency.

#### Hadi Sirika – Nigeria Air Controversy

Former Aviation Minister Hadi Sirika faced scrutiny over the mismanagement of funds during the launch of Nigeria Air, where rented planes were falsely presented as assets of the national carrier. Public outcry and

investigative audits revealed fraudulent procurement processes. The EFCC uncovered embezzlement linked to private accounts and shell companies.

#### Diezani Alison-Madueke – Lavish Real Estate Portfolio

Properties worth billions of naira in Abuja and other locations were linked to the former Petroleum Minister, who faced charges of bribery and embezzlement.

Investigators traced her illicit wealth to kickbacks from oil contracts, leading to the seizure of multiple luxury apartments.

#### Abdulrasheed Maina – Pension Fund Scandal

The former Pension Reform Task Team chairman was accused of diverting billions in pension funds, leading to the seizure of properties and luxury cars.

Bank records and testimonies exposed his role in fraudulent transfers, resulting in court-ordered confiscations.

#### Ayo Fayose – N1.2 Billion Diversion

The EFCC seized properties in Abuja and Lagos from the former Ekiti State Governor, accused of diverting funds meant for security projects.

Investigators followed trails from bank accounts to property deeds, exposing his misuse of funds from the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA).

#### Tafa Balogun – Former IGP's Loot

Properties and funds worth over N5 billion were seized from the former Inspector-General of Police, who misappropriated police funds.

A forensic audit revealed unaccounted funds diverted into private investments, including high-value Abuja properties.

#### Farouk Lawan – Fuel Subsidy Scam

The former lawmaker was convicted for accepting bribes from oil marketers, with properties confiscated as part of his punishment. A sting operation caught



him red-handed, leading to further investigations and asset recoveries.

#### Cybercrime Syndicates and Real Estate

The EFCC uncovered numerous properties in Abuja linked to online fraudsters who laundered proceeds through real estate.

Targeted operations, especially in urban centres, exposed how

cybercriminals laundered illicit funds by acquiring properties under false names.

#### P&ID Bribery Scandal

Properties and funds linked to officials involved in the fraudulent Process & Industrial Development (P&ID) contract were seized. Investigators uncovered bribes paid to officials, leading to the seizure of luxury properties in Abuja

and other cities.

#### A Path Forward: From Seizures to Public Benefit

The confiscation of 753 duplexes, alongside other high-profile seizures, raises pressing questions about the utilisation of these recovered assets. Activists argue that these properties should be repurposed for public good, such as housing projects, schools, or health centres, to directly benefit Nigerians.

As the EFCC continues its mission, the public must hold leaders accountable to ensure that recoveries lead to meaningful reforms. The battle against corruption may be long and arduous, but each victory—like these major busts—brings Nigeria closer to restoring integrity and justice in governance. This is more than a fight for assets; it's a fight for Nigeria's future.

## ...FRESH CHARGES AGAINST FAROTIMI AS DEFAMATION CASE INVOLVING AFE BABALOLA INTENSIFY

*Contd from page 1*

However, Farotimi's lawyer pleaded for bail for his client Citing the defendant's ongoing health issues and arguing that Farotimi posed no threat to national security and emphasised the presumption of innocence.

But the Chief Magistrate, Abayomi Adeosun, ordered Farotimi's remand in a correctional centre in Ado Ekiti.

At the resumed sitting, presiding magistrate Adeosun denied Dele Farotimi bail after Samson Osobu proved that the bail

application submitted by the defendant was incompetent and irregular.

The magistrate adjourned the application of bail to December 20.

Police file fresh charges against Farotimi

Meanwhile, the police have filed fresh charges against Farotimi at a Federal High Court in Ado-Ekiti.

The new charges centred on cybercrime allegations picked from the activist's online interviews.

According to the police, Farotimi appeared on Mic On Podcast hosted by popular broadcast

journalist, Seun Okinbaloye, where he accused Babalola of corrupting the judiciary.

Afe Babalola defends Farotimi's arrest, and remand

On his part, Babalola said he petitioned the police to investigate the defamatory allegations made by Farotimi in the book titled, 'Nigeria and its Criminal Justice System,' he explained that charging the activist to court by the law enforcement agency was for the law to take its due cause on the matter.

In the petition dated 9 November, Mr Babalola itemised 31 defamatory

excerpts from the book, which he said had aroused the anger of right-thinking members of the society, particularly members of the legal profession, against him, his law firm and his lawyers.

He insisted that the activist was out to denigrate his reputation which he had built following many years of hard work and diligent toil.

The senior advocate is represented by prominent lawyers like Owoseni Ajayi, Olakanmi Falade and Lawrence Fasanmi, who are former chairmen of the Nigerian Bar Association, Ado Ekiti

*Contd on page 4*

# COVER

## ...FRESH CHARGES AGAINST FAROTIMI AS DEFAMATION CASE INVOLVING AFE BABALOLA INTENSIFY

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Branch. Babalola's lawyer urged Nigerians to verify facts before picking sides. Babalola's lead lawyer, Ajayi, a former commissioner for Justice and Attorney General in Ekiti State, disclosed intent to correct the various misleading publications about the ongoing matter between the Nigerian Police and Farotimi over the issue of defaming Babalola. He said, "All facts are verifiable. I urge Nigerians

to verify and find out what the truth is first before picking a side."

"Aare Afe Babalola, in his petition, urged the police to "use your good offices to invite Mr Dele Farotimi to show proof of the truthfulness of his publication, failing of which he should be prosecuted for criminal defamation by the requirement of the extant laws of Nigeria."

Ajayi queried, "Is it wrong for Aare Afe Babalola to seek justice for these false utterances against him? Should justice only be available to Mr Dele Farotimi because Aare Afe Babalola is a global icon?"

"Once Mr Dele Farotimi can show proof that his assertions in the book are true, then he will be free. The law allows free speech, but not one that is calculated to injure the good reputation of another."

Mounting calls for Farotimi's release. Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and the pan-Yoruba sociopolitical organisation, Afenifere, have strongly condemned the arrest and remand of Farotimi.

Atiku vilified Farotimi's arrest, likening it to the oppressive tactics of the military dictatorship era. He described the police's involvement as an overreach and an attempt to stifle free expression.

On its part, Afenifere expressed outrage at Farotimi's remand in prison.

The group's General Secretary, Chief Sola Ebiseni, who is also a lawyer, argued that Farotimi was entitled to bail for a bailable offence such as defamation.

Ebiseni questioned the court's ruling, stating that the judge had no discretion to deny bail, especially considering Farotimi's health challenges.

Similarly, the King's College, London, in the United Kingdom, has come under intense global pressure to cancel its Afe Babalola Centre for Transnational Education, named after legal luminary, Afe Babalola, and return his donation to the institution.

International writers, human rights groups and Nigerians globally are mounting pressure on the foremost UK College to act on Babalola's alleged abuse of powers.

According to reports, King's College London is currently worried over its Afe Babalola Centre for Transnational Education, named after the Nigerian lawyer, who is currently facing backlash.

Top sources in the know of the matter had told SaharaReporters that the King's College London reached out to Amnesty International, a global human rights organisation, for advice on what to do.

"Afe Babalola gave them 10 million pounds to set up the centre. So, the King's College was responding to public pressure from Nigerians all over the world to cancel the Afe Babalola's Center for Transnational Education, following his role in arresting Dele Farotimi," one of the top sources revealed.

**Farotimi's book becomes a best seller on Amazon**  
While the activist lawyer remains in detention, his book, 'Nigeria and its Criminal Justice System,' a raw and unfiltered account of his views about the Nigerian justice system, has become an Amazon bestseller.

Independently published on 2 July 2024, the book, which had experienced low sales until the author's arrest, quickly gained traction, becoming an Amazon bestseller in less than 24 hours and claiming the top spot in the elections category.

It ranked ahead of 'War', a nonfiction book by journalist Bob Woodward, and Hilary Clinton's 'Something Lost, Something Gained'.

To be considered an "Amazon bestseller", a book must have sold more copies than the other books in its category at this particular time based on recent sales data.

The surge in sales and orders can be attributed to the public's intense curiosity, particularly among the younger generation, who have only recently discovered Mr Farotimi's name and book.

**Babalola Gets Court Order To Ban Farotimi's Book**  
The Federal High Court in Abuja has issued an ex-parte order stopping the production and distribution of "Nigeria and Its Criminal Justice System", by Farotimi.

The court order was requested and obtained by Mr Babalola, demanding that all sales and distribution of the book, both physical and digital copies, be stopped immediately.

The court granted an interlocutory injunction restraining Farotimi and all affiliated parties from distributing the book.

The legal move to block the book's sale and distribution may be connected to its soaring global popularity, with critics and readers alike praising its bold exposé of Nigeria's criminal justice system.



## Old N1000, N500, N200 notes remain valid, CBN reiterates

BY JANE AISO

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has reaffirmed that all versions of the naira currency, including the old and redesigned N1000, N500, and N200 notes, as well as the commemorative and earlier designs of the N100 note, remain valid and continue to serve as legal tender indefinitely. In a statement signed by the Acting Director of Corporate Communications, Mrs Sidi Ali Hakama, the apex bank dismissed claims suggesting the old series of these denominations would cease to be legal tender by December 31, 2024.

"The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has observed the misinformation regarding the validity of the old 1000, 500, and 200 banknotes currently in circulation," the statement read.

The CBN clarified that the Supreme Court ruling of November 29, 2023, allows for the concurrent circulation of all versions of the naira indefinitely, ensuring a seamless financial system for Nigerians. The bank urged Nigerians to ignore false information

about any deadlines for the old naira notes, advising the public to continue using all versions for transactions. "For the avoidance of doubt, all versions of the naira, including the old and new designs of 1000, 500, and 200

denominations, as well as the commemorative and previous designs of the N100 denomination, remain valid and continue to be legal tender without any deadline," the statement reiterated. The CBN further encouraged Nigerians

to adopt alternative payment methods such as e-channels to reduce dependence on physical cash while stressing the importance of handling banknotes with care to ensure their longevity. This clarification follows previous public confusion and speculation regarding the validity of the old naira notes, especially after the redesign process introduced last year.



# EDITORIAL

## Emefiele's 753 Houses: Height of obscenity in treasury looting

**E**ven before the shocking revelation of the identity of Godwin Emefiele as the hitherto unnamed, "former top shot of the federal government", who owned the 753 duplexes forfeited to the government on the orders of a court, the erstwhile Governor of the Central Bank, CBN, had already gained notoriety as an outstanding contender for a conspicuous place in the annals of Nigeria's foremost treasury looters of all time.

As it is, Godwin Emefiele appears to be bracing for the gold medal ahead of the likes of Deziani Alison Madueke, a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Ahmed Idris, former Accountant General of the Federation, Yahaya Bello, immediate past governor of Kogi State, and the horde of others, convicted or, undergoing trial for the crimes of mindless looting of the public tills.

In a celebratory statement, an excited spokesperson of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, described the forfeiture as the single largest recovery by the agency since its establishment in 2003. The Lokogoma, Abuja property is merely one of the litany of the amazing acts of malfeasance levelled against Emefiele, since his sack from office in June 2023.

Meanwhile, Emefiele is currently being tried on charges of similar offences in courts between Abuja and Lagos. These include a case of procurement fraud and forgery of the signature of former President Muhammadu Buhari; approving the printing of 684.5 Million Naira at the cost of 18.9 Billion Naira, and stealing of the sums of 4.5 Billion Dollars and, 2.8 Billion Naira from the coffers of the nation's apex bank.

Godwin Emefiele at the height of his debauchery while holding sway at the CBN, dreamed and frantically, schemed to succeed Muhammadu Buhari as Nigeria's President. What kind of President would he have been? Given his demonstrated avarice and gregarious appetite for money, while superintending the CBN, we can imagine the fate of the entire national

assets under a President Godwin Emefiele!

The EFCC deserves very huge commendations for recording several milestones in its gallant fight against the malaise of corruption and related financial crimes. The snag however, is that the judiciary, a critical component to the success of the EFCC, has not been very forthcoming in the discharge of its statutory obligations in the crusade against financial crimes. It appears to have inherent institutional loopholes that make it susceptible to the manipulations of unscrupulous legal practitioners as

well as, compromised persons in the temple of justice.

Such is the situation that, people arraigned for looting stupendous sums of money from the public treasury, often walk away as free men or women, after dubious, long winding trials deliberately contrived to obfuscate the general public. In some rare cases, the accused get away with laughable light sentences not commensurate with the weight of the crimes for which they went through the motion of trial.

Nigerians should not, therefore, be surprised if at the end of the day, Godwin Emefiele is given a few months of jail time, with the option of paying a paltry sum. Or, as with Cecelia Ibru, Lucky Igbinedion and many others, the now bible-clutching, somber-looking former CBN governor, might, after a "plea bargain", be asked to, "go home and sin no more." All these are tantamount in our view, to a travesty of justice.

We at *Neptune Prime* are simply, advocating for the application of justice in a way that a convicted felon is given the legally appropriate dose of punishment. We are against a discriminatory justice system based on the social status of citizens.

In our view, the person whose atrocities resulted in the paucity of drugs in our hospitals should be given a heavier dose of punishment than what is meted to an armed robber. While the latter's crime might have impacted a handful, the treasury looter is, by his or her action, the remote cause of the death of several number of people who might have lived but for the absence of drugs in the hospital.

While waiting with bated breath for the final verdicts of the courts in the intriguing cases of Godwin Emefiele, we cannot but ponder on the advice of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo that, persons being considered for certain public positions should, first, be examined to ascertain their mental health. That way, we believe, the number of kleptomaniacs in strategic positions would have been drastically reduced.

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# NORTH-EAST



Gov. Buni

## Gov. Buni donates N32m to Nigerian legion, salutes fallen heroes

Governor Mai Mala Buni of Yobe State has donated N32 million to the Nigerian Legion to improve the welfare of fallen heroes and veterans in the state.

Speaking at the launch of the Emblem Appeal Week in Damaturu on Wednesday, part of the 2025 Armed Forces Remembrance Day activities, Governor Buni explained that N30 million was contributed by the state government, while he personally added N2 million.

The governor expressed deep appreciation for the sacrifices of the veterans in defending the nation's territorial integrity and maintaining its unity.

"In the course of their tour of duty, some paid the supreme price, others were maimed and remain incapacitated for the future of our dear country in particular and humanity in general.

"Here in Yobe State, we are indebted to the huge contributions made by the Nigeria armed forces, some of whom are now members of the Nigeria

Legion, the police, and other security agencies in the fight against insurgency and kidnapping.

"We salute your loyalty, courage and selfless devotion to our great country and in defence of justice, liberty, unity and human dignity," the governor said.

The governor pledged continued support for veterans and their families while urging the public to contribute financially to the legion by purchasing emblems.

He also directed the Secretary to the State Government (SSG) and the Head of Service (HoS) to include the children and dependents of veterans and fallen heroes in future recruitment processes at both state and federal levels.

Retired Capt. Ibrahim Gadine, Chairman of the Yobe State Chapter of the Nigerian Legion, expressed gratitude for the governor's consistent support and dedication to the welfare of the veterans.

## Two Borno University students die in deadly auto crash, Zulum mourns

Borno State Governor, Babagana Zulum, has expressed sorrow over the auto accident that claimed the lives of two students and left 16 critically injured along the Maiduguri-Damaturu Road on Wednesday.

In a statement released on Thursday by his spokesperson, Dauda Illiya, Governor Zulum expressed his heartfelt condolences to the Borno State University community, as well as the families and guardians of those affected.

Two unidentified Borno State University students died and many others were injured in a road accident involving the school staff bus and a truck on Njimitilo Road.

I extend my deepest sympathies to the families of the affected students, the management, staff, and students of Borno State University over this unfortunate incident.

"I am deeply touched by this tragic accident involving a students' bus and a trailer, which occurred as the students were returning after completing their examinations," Zulum said.

The accident, which occurred in the Njimitilo area, involved a truck belonging to the Dangote Group and a university bus conveying students.

While eight of the injured students have been discharged and are recuperating, others remain hospitalised.

To prevent future occurrences, Zulum directed the Ministry of Works to fast-track the completion of the ongoing Maiduguri Trailer Park project.

"I have instructed the Ministry of Works to ensure the immediate completion of the trailer park. Once operational, trailers will no longer be permitted into

the city centre, a move aimed at reducing intra-city road accidents within the metropolis," the governor announced.

He further assured all that the state government is committed to taking "deliberate and decisive measures to prevent a recurrence of such a tragic incident."

In addition to these measures, Zulum pledged that the state government would cover all medical expenses for the injured students and personally visit them in the hospital to extend his sympathy.

He wished the injured students a swift recovery and reaffirmed the government's commitment to enhancing road safety measures across the state.



Governor Babagana Zulum

## Troops foil terrorist attack in Taraba, arrest 2 suspects with illegal weapons

The Nigerian Army has successfully prevented a major banditry attack in southern Taraba State through the proactive actions of troops from the 6 Brigade, Sector 3, Operation Whirl Stroke (OPWS).

According to Captain Olubodunde Oni, Acting Assistant Director of the 6 Brigade Army Public Relations, intelligence reports revealed plans for a coordinated terrorist assault on villages in the area.

Acting swiftly on December 11, 2024, troops conducted intensive patrols, ambushes, and covert missions to disrupt the operation.

Their efforts led to the arrest of two suspected terrorists, Terry Waapara and Tobaya Tekura, at Adu village. The suspects were intercepted while trying to enter the Chachanji market, allegedly intending to carry out kidnapping activities.

Seized during the operation were two AK-47 rifles, two magazines, and 26 rounds of 7.62mm special ammunition. The suspects are now in custody as investigations continue to uncover the extent of their network.

Commending the troops, Brigadier General Kingsley Chidiebere Uwa, Commander of 6 Brigade, praised their professionalism and commitment. He assured Taraba residents that the Army remains determined to eradicate terrorism, banditry, and other forms of criminality.

"The Nigerian Army appreciates the support and cooperation of law-abiding citizens in providing credible intelligence,"

Brigadier Uwa added, emphasising the importance of community involvement in achieving lasting security.



Troops in Taraba



Prisoner playing chess

## Borno prisoner wins N1m in maiden chess competition

An inmate at the Maiduguri Maximum Custodial Centre in Borno State has won a ₦1 million prize at the inaugural Chess in Prison Championship, organised by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The competition, held on Tuesday within the correctional facility's premises, brought together 42 participants from the State Medium and Maximum Correctional Centres, competing across various award categories.

Commending the initiative, Mr Babatunde Ogundare, highlighted the benefits of the programme in fostering critical thinking skills and enhancing relationships between inmates and custodial personnel.

"This is a unique initiative. A correctional centre is not a punitive home; it is designed to reform and help you become a better person. Use this knowledge to evaluate your life, reflect, and uncover your hidden potential," he urged.

Addressing the inmates, he said, "Being free outside does not make anyone better than you. Let the lessons from today shape your behaviour and future."

He also assured the inmates of plans to improve infrastructure at correctional centres nationwide, stating: "We are working towards replicating the standards of the Kuje Correctional Centre across the country."

The Chairman of the House Committee on Reformation, Honourable Chinedu Ogah, announced a ₦1 million reward for the competition winner, to be presented upon completing the inmate's remaining six-month sentence.

"I am pledging ₦1 million as support. This will be handed over to you after serving your term," he said. He also promised to address the water challenges faced by the inmates, stating: "You will see contractors on site next week to tackle this issue."

Similarly, Guinness World Record (GWR) holder and Chess in Slums Africa convener, Tunde Onakoya, announced an additional donation of ₦100,000 for the contestants who finished in the first, second, and third positions.

UNODC Project Coordinator for Prisons and Penal Reforms explained the initiative's purpose, stating: "The project aims to equip inmates with critical life skills, improve mental health, and provide a constructive outlet for their energy, enhancing their reintegration prospects post-release."

In November, UNODC collaborated with Chess in Slums Africa to train over 100 prisoners and correctional officers in Maiduguri. The training culminated in a series of knockout chess sessions, culminating in the Annual Chess in Prisons Championship on 10 December, coinciding with International Human Rights Day.

## NEWS

# How 18-year-old panel beater murdered former Perm Sec after conspiring with victim's workers

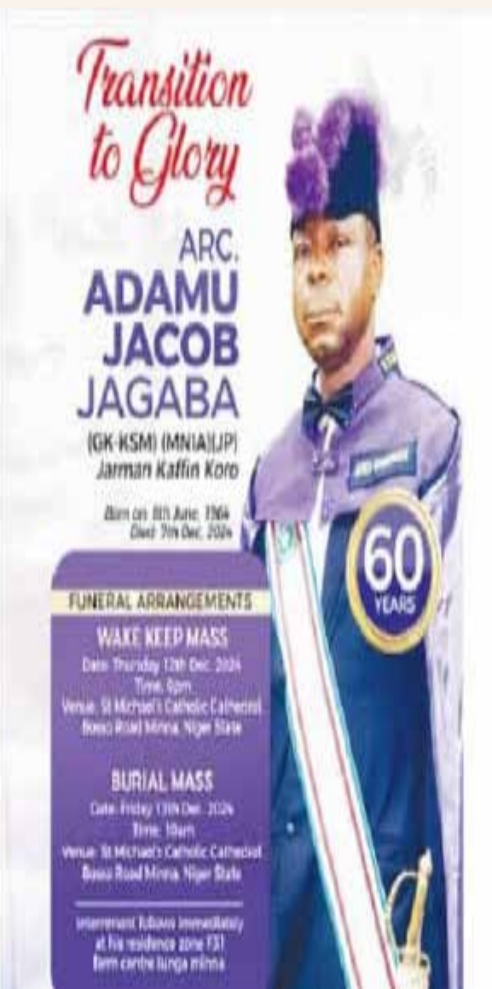
Stories By Maryam Sulaiman

Horrifying details have emerged on how an 18-year-old panel beater and murder suspect, Fatiyah Abdulhakeem, gruesomely killed a former Permanent Secretary in the Niger State civil service, Adamu Jagaba. It was gathered from sources that Jagaba, who also owns a block moulding industry, had invited Abdulhakeem to his office at his block industry last Saturday to assess and determine the extent of bodywork he would need to undertake on his Toyota Camry car. Not long after they entered the office, the 18-year-old suspect brought out a dagger which he had earlier hidden in his long flowing 'babanriga' and stabbed the former Permanent Secretary on his head and neck. Sources disclosed further that the block seller was shocked over the sudden attack by the suspect and seeing his blood gushing out from his head and neck grabbed Abdulhakeem's right hand and bit him twice on the wrist, hoping his assailant would free him. But Abdulhakeem wouldn't do that. Rather, he went for the kill. When Jagaba realised that Abdulhakeem was determined to give him more stabs, he entreated his assailant to spare his life, promising to give him money if that was what he wanted. More sources quoted various versions of how the deceased pleaded with his assailant, pleading for his life and crying, "Why do you want to take my life? If it is money you want, I will give you, but do not kill me." Again, the pleas fell on deaf ears as the

suspect finally dealt him a heavy blow by hitting him with a stapling machine he found in the office, which sent him to his early grave. Arewa PUNCH also learnt that the previous day, being a Friday, a customer had come to the block industry and paid the former Permanent Secretary a huge amount of money, which some of his workers were privy to. One of the workers was alleged to have conspired with Abdulhakeem to rob Jagaba of the money, which led to the attack and his eventual murder. It was further gathered that when the panel beater saw that Jagaba was lifeless, he searched the office for the car keys, opened the door, and frantically drove off. Sources disclosed that Abdulhakeem first drove the car to his grandmother's residence along Bosso road. When the grandmother asked him who owned the car, the suspect told her that it belonged to a customer who paid him to wash the car. Abdulhakeem later drove off with the car and was said to have sold the Toyota Camry car for N2 million. Later, when Adamu's body was found and security agents started looking for Abdulhakeem as the prime suspect in the murder, they trailed him to his grandmother's residence. When she heard of the incident, the grandmother was said to have pleaded that Abdulhakeem was just a small boy who could not muster the guts for such a heinous act, let alone execute it. Thus, she begged that the investigating police officers should leave her grandson.

The murder suspect, according to sources who confided in Arewa PUNCH, confessed that he had been involved in similar activities several times, and each time, he had driven the car to his grandmother's house. Meanwhile, the Saint Michael Catholic Church, where the late Jagaba was a Knight of St. Mulumba was preparing for a major church programme when news of the death of one of their ardent member filtered into the congregation. Expectedly, everyone at the church gathering expressed dismay, disgust, disbelief, and horror at the news and prayed that the long arms of the law would catch up with the murderer. The following day, the congregation observed a one-minute silence for the repose of the soul of the deceased. The former Permanent Secretary was buried on Friday, December 13, just as members of his church and his Niger State community members described him as a "committed member of the church and the community. He was also said to be a very generous man, readily giving to the cause of God." Meanwhile, sympathisers have continued to troop to his residence to condole with his wife and children. Nemesis soon caught up with Abdulhakeem, who did not get to freedom with his alleged crime before vigilant police operatives of the Niger State Police Command arrested him. The spokesman of the command, Wasiu Abiodun, disclosed in a statement that Abdulhakeem had been arrested with the car. According to Abiodun, "the

18-year-old suspect, Abdulhakeem, was arrested on Sunday." He revealed that "Abdulhakeem had already confessed to the killing of Jagaba and also confessed that he conspired with some of Jagaba's workers to perpetuate the evil act," Abiodun said, "Fortunately, on the local circulation of the vehicle details to all police points and formation within the state, on the same date at about 7:pm, the Crack Squad of the Command intercepted the vehicle along Bosso Estate road, Minna with the suspect, who hail from Tayi village, via Bosso, Minna. "During interrogation, the suspect confessed to being the victim's car painter and visited him at his block industry located at his Eastern Bye-pass, via Maitumbi, opposite the People's Democratic Party secretariat in Minna. He said after discussing the issue about changing the vehicle bumper, he deliberately stabbed the deceased severally on the head and neck and also hit him multiple times with a stapler on his head in the office before he made away with his Toyota Camry vehicle with registration number MNA 61 AE. "He confessed further that he conspired with some of the deceased workers, who gave him the target and more information in carrying out the crime, he said he has other gang members involved in such heinous acts with him. He has mentioned their names for investigations," Abiodun disclosed. "Efforts are ongoing to apprehend other members of the gang and the suspect will be charged to court for prosecution, immediately after investigations are concluded," the police image maker said.



that the woman was later found along Yandev-Ugbema Road, where she was rushed to Primary Healthcare Clinic, Ameladu, for treatment. According to the PPRO, the victim, after she regained consciousness, narrated how she saw her husband's colleague close to where she was abducted and beckoned on him to save her life, but the lecturer turned his back away from her. The PPRO said in a statement, "She stated that while she was driving from NNPC mega fuel station, Kanshio, where she went to collect money from her customer, she was flagged down at Otukpo Road by persons who claimed to be in need, and she stopped to render help. "They quickly jumped into her car and pointed a gun at her, ordering her to drive towards the Wurukum area. "Immediately, she looked outside the car and saw her husband's colleague; Dr. Ichor Tersagh Smart of JOSTUM standing by the car, she beckoned on him for help but he turned his back and walked away." The statement added, "While moving in the vehicle, her abductors received a call from Dr Ichor ordering that she should be killed, and she became agitated. "When they sighted a police checkpoint ahead that was checking vehicles, they decided to reverse to a hidden place. "They parked the car, brought her out, collected the sum of N1,350,000 she had in the car, opened the car boot, and took a vehicle jack, which they used to hit the back of her neck, and she fell." Anene said the lecturer had been arrested in connection with the case, and the investigation is ongoing. When contacted on Friday, the husband of the victim, who confirmed the incident, said he was currently at the police command headquarters over the case and promised to provide further details later.

## Police arrest Benue lecturer for alleged kidnap of colleague's wife

Police in Benue State have arrested a lecturer at the Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Dr Ichor Tersagh, for allegedly masterminding the abduction of the wife of his colleague, Mrs Susan Anyagh.

Her husband, Paul Anyagh, is the chairman of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, JOSTUM chapter. It was gathered that the woman was ambushed and kidnapped by some men along Otukpo Road, Makurdi, last Saturday.

The kidnappers were said to have collected the N1.3 million found in her car, assaulted and abandoned her on a bush path. The state command spokesperson, Catherine Anene, who confirmed the incident in a statement on Friday, said

# CUSTOMS & NEMA

## N6 Trillion Customs Revenue Target: Potential Impact on Nigeria's Economy

BY VICTOR ITODO ABUH

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) recently raised its 2024 revenue target to N6 trillion, a significant increase from the initial N5 trillion. While this ambitious target aligns with the government's goal of enhancing fiscal sustainability, it poses substantial challenges that merit critical examination.

One of the primary concerns of the Customs revenue target is the potential impact on trade and the broader economy.

Higher revenue targets often translate to increased tariffs, stricter enforcement of customs regulations, and escalated import duty rates, as seen in the recent 43% hike on certain goods.

Such measures can strain businesses, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that depend on imported raw materials. Increased costs may force these businesses to either raise prices—further exacerbating inflation—or operate at a loss, leading to potential closures and job losses.

Moreover, these customs revenue generation targets risk creating a disproportionate reliance on revenue collection rather than addressing systemic inefficiencies within the customs framework. For example, the Nigeria Customs Service has acknowledged issues such as uncollected duties on goods stuck at ports and losses from concession agreements.

While these areas present opportunities for reform, focusing solely on revenue maximization without tackling inefficiencies might lead to short-term gains but long-term stagnation.

Another concern lies in the potential for overzealous enforcement. Customs officers, who are under serious pressure to meet targets, might adopt punitive measures and can create an adversarial relationship with importers and exporters. This could harm Nigeria's reputation as a trade-friendly destination, particularly at a time when global competition for foreign investment is fierce.

Additionally, the emphasis on customs revenue can overshadow the need for broader economic diversification. Nigeria's overreliance on non-oil revenues from imports is unsustainable. Instead, policy shifts should encourage domestic production, reduce dependence on imports, and stimulate value addition in local industries.



## Nigeria Customs hails effectiveness of new trade platform, B'Odogwu, registers 25 banks

November 2024.

The Port Terminal Multi-services Limited (PTML) Area Command of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has announced the onboarding of 25 banks to its new Unified Customs Management System, B'Odogwu, as part of efforts to enhance trade facilitation and revenue generation.

Speaking at a press conference, Comptroller Tenny Daniyan, Customs Area Controller of PTML Command, debunked claims that four vessels were stranded at sea due to issues with the platform. Daniyan clarified that vessel turnaround time has improved since the system's launch.

"The allegation that vessels are stranded due to B'Odogwu's failure is completely false. Vessels have been discharging and departing efficiently. The first transaction on this platform saw a payment of over ₦2.55 billion," he said.

According to him, the new platform has significantly boosted revenue, with PTML Command recording its highest-ever monthly revenue of N44.9 billion in

November 2024. Daniyan attributed this success to increased transactions and diversification of imports.

"We've never had it this good. B'Odogwu has brought additional streams of revenue by facilitating shipments from China and the East. This is a game-changer for us," he added.

While acknowledging some teething challenges with the system, Daniyan confirmed that 25 banks are now on board, ensuring smoother transactions for importers and agents. The system is expected to be rolled out to other commands, including Tin Can Island and Apapa Ports, once the pilot phase is perfected.

"We are committed to getting it right here at PTML before expanding to other ports. This is a Nigerian-designed system, and we must make it work," Daniyan emphasised.

The Customs boss addressed reports of difficulties experienced by some agents, attributing them to a lack of registration on the platform.

He assured stakeholders that an implementation team is on the ground to

assist users, urging agents to familiarize themselves with the platform.

"B'Odogwu is a Nigerian innovation that requires our collective support. We are not going back to the old NICIS II system. While challenges exist, we are solving them as they arise, ensuring a seamless process for all stakeholders," he said.

Daniyan noted that PTML Command has taken proactive steps, including manual processing of shipments and collaboration with terminal operators, to minimise disruptions and maintain trade facilitation.

The CAC reiterated the command's dedication to maintaining a balance between trade facilitation and national security.

He disclosed that 292 bills of lading were captured in November, while 375 remain pending. Over 98 importers have paid duties via the B'Odogwu platform so far, with more banks joining to enhance payment options.

"Our turnaround time for properly declared Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) cargo remains two hours, provided compliance is ensured. However, national security and revenue will not be sacrificed," Daniyan concluded.

## NEMA deploys rescue team at Abuja Airport accident scene

By Fa'izatu Aliyu Doma

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has deployed a rescue team in response to the incident at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja, involving a cargo plane operated by Allied Air.

The aircraft, with registration number 5N-JRT, suffered tyre bursts upon landing on runway 22 at approximately 11:10 a.m.

The incident, which involved six crew members onboard, prompted an

immediate response from the airport emergency services and NEMA reinforcements. All six crew members were safely rescued and transported to the 063 Nigerian Air Force Hospital for medical evaluation. There was no immediate casualty or significant damage to the aircraft.

The crash site has been secured, and the Nigerian Safety Investigation Board (NSIB) has initiated an investigation into the cause of the incident.

Following a brief closure, the airport runway has been reopened and normal flight operations have resumed.





# PRIME PHOTOS

Prime Photos  
By Sa'adatu Maina



Swearing in ceremony of newly elected executive members of FIDA Nigeria, Yobe State Branch. L - R: Hauwa Hardo (Treasurer), Hadiza Nasidi Gaidam (Assistant Secretary), Hafsat Sabo (Assistant Publicity Secretary), Kaltume Aliyu (Financial Secretary) and Fatima Adam Nguru (Welfare Secretary) being sworn into office by Her Lordship, Chief Magistrate Amina Abubakar Bashir.



Neptune Prime's interview with Salma Musa, the 11-year-old poet whose talent and creativity impressed Festus Keyamo, and the entire nation.

Aisha Musa Auyo and Salma Musa



Nursery/Primary closing day at Hafsat Gimba Ahmed Memorial School (HGA) Potiskum, Yobe State, December 2024.

Nursery 1 Back Row:  
Muhammad Idriss Ali  
Umar Muhammad Chillariye

Aliyu Mohammed Modu  
Halima Mustapha Ali  
Zainab Umar Dala

Front Row: Muhammad Rabiyyu Utai  
Zainab Mustapha Ali  
Khadija Muhammad Ibrahim  
Fatima Hamza

# PRIME10MENT

## “I will not leave a man because of infidelity” — Tiwa Savage

BY GIFT LUCKSON

Afrobeats star Tiwa Savage, popularly known as Tiwa Savage, has revealed that infidelity is not a deal breaker for her, stating that she has never ended a relationship solely because of cheating.

In an interview on The Receipts Podcast, hosted by Tolly T and Audrey and shared on Thursday, the 44-year-old singer explained that her real dealbreakers include issues like drug abuse,

emotional neglect, and ghosting.

“I have been cheated on before. I found out and forgave every time,” Savage said.

“Every man I have ever been with has cheated, and I’ve never left them because of it. I’ve left for other reasons, but not because they cheated. Cheating is not my hill.”

Tiwa clarified that while infidelity itself doesn’t prompt her to end relationships, the disrespect surrounding it, particularly when others are aware of the betrayal, can cause deeper hurt.

“What hurts is the lies about it, though. Maybe other people had known, and then I kind of felt stupid about it, or they’d known for a long time, or if it’s close to home. The disrespect of it is why I could leave, but the actual act of it?”

“I’ve never left a man because of it,” she said.

“I’ve left for so many other reasons, like drug abuse, emotional abuse, being ghosted, stealing, and financial things. But that cheating thing? Nah,” Tiwa Savage added.



## PRIME10MENT

## MARKET SURVEY



## Prices Of Essential Foodstuffs Drop As Groceries, Others Increase Across Yobe Markets

BY SA'ADATU MAINA, DAMATURU

In Yobe State, the costs of essential foodstuffs have recorded a small drop as the harvest season sets in. The prices are not categorically the same everywhere as some are higher and other items maintained previous prices in markets across Buni Yadi of Gujba and Damaturu Local Government Areas.

A survey conducted by Neptune Prime revealed how the prices of some foodstuffs started reducing in November compared to what was obtainable in September and October 2024.

For instance, in Buni Yadi market, a bag of 100kg of white beans dropped from N110,000 in the last few months to N80,000, while a 100kg bag of red beans goes for N90,000 in November as against N150,000 in the last few months.

But on the other hand, other food items skyrocketed in price where a 100kg bag of maize, which sold at the cost of N55,000 in October is now sold at the cost of N63,000 and a 100kg bag of Guinea Corn has also increased from N44,000 in October to N47,000.

In Damaturu, a survey at the Sunday Market also indicated that a 100kg bag of maize which sold at the cost of N56,000 in October is now N65,000, while a 100kg bag of Guinea Corn has also increased from N46,000 to N48,000, N49,000 respectively.

A grain seller, Malam Ado Garba, in Damaturu, revealed that the hike in the prices of commodities can be attributed to fuel price increments nationwide making transportation expenses for loading commodities higher.

A survey in Damaturu indicated that the prices of a 100kg bag of local rice go higher from N110,000 to N112,000, and a 25-litre Jerry Can of cooking oil goes from N73,000 to N85,000.

However, at the grocery market in Damaturu, a basket of onions that sold for N80,000 last few months has skyrocketed to N130,000 and N140,000 per 100kg sized bag.

Similarly, a basket of tomatoes that sold for N10,000 to N13,000 in October has increased to N27,000, while a sack of attarugu (pepper) has also skyrocketed from N30,000 to N55,000.

The secretary of Zumunta Group Danyan Kayan Miya grocery at the market in Damaturu, Kadai Mohammed, attributed the rising prices of the groceries to seasonal farming and a lack of modern storage facilities.

Going round the Bayan Tasha Market in Damaturu, the survey also indicated that sugar, which is among the essential foodstuffs maintained its price, where a 50kg bag is sold at the cost of N85,000.



PHOTO  
CAPTION  
HERE:

## Revelations On Postgraduate Courses And Thesis Defence In Nigerian Universities

"We had to pay hotel bills for the members of the panel. You could also offer sex if your supervisor is the devil's apprentice. Transport money inclusive."

- *Erdoon N.*

"I decided I'd never have anything else to do with Nigerian universities the day I saw people defending their master's dissertation presenting coolers of rice, garden eggs and crates of drinks to their supervisors. I thought someone was getting married."

- *Bibian U.*

"We were told we'd pay 60k each, for both entertainment and logistics of external supervisor."

- *Chiamaka O.*

"We spent the night before my mother's defence at the University of Ilorin, cooking coolers of rice with assorted meat for the lecturers."

- *Omekagu.*

We fed the whole department. Paid a prior fee of 2k. Still gave the supervisor a gift. This same supervisor then came on one of my Facebook posts to say how I'm too opinionated to get married. I blocked him for my peace of mind. I don't have strength."

- *Sylvia E.*

"My husband was so frustrated by his UniUyo supervisor for this, that he abandoned his

MBA and finally got it from a UK university without any sort of bribery."

- *Uche N.*

"In ESUT, students have to buy brand new suits for their supervisors."

- *Udeh O.*

"Envelopes filled with money. Hotel bills. Payment to the school. External supervisor's fee. The mental stress.

Ah! The only reason I'm still doing it is because I've come too far to stop. After my Masters, I'll never do anything school in this country again. Never!"

- *Bello A.*

"Some departments will even provide you with a menu and list of people you'll feed on the day of your thesis defence.

I nearly wept for my friend, when one non-teaching staff started dragging her because meat had finished."

- *Esther A.*

"Ordinary B.Sc project I defended, my supervisor collected a bag of rice. On the defence day, we went to an eatery and bought food and drinks for all the supervisors in the hall."

- *Harrison P.*

"The money I spent on my supervisor was enough to buy a piece of land in GRA.

- A bottle of special nonalcoholic

wine and MTN airtime worth 1.5k for "consultation" before he approved my topic.

- Two months DSTV premium subscription...

- N5000 for every chapter I took to him for vetting. Except for Chapter 4 - he made me pay 20k for it because "all my project students know I do it better."

- The day of defence, we (a group of about 15 students) paid 2k each for food and transport fare."

- *Odichi R.*

"We paid 40k each for 'refreshment' and 'honorarium' during internal defence. We are also going to replicate that amount, if not more, during external defence."

- *Hnanya A.*

"For BSc project defense we contributed money to feed the supervisors."

- *Oreva E.*

"My project topic was originally on aquatic snails. My supervisor said I should bring some snails to his house, not even the aquatic snails that I was supposed to be working on. I bought half a bag of land snails for him. A week later, he changed my topic to Catfish and demanded that I buy some catfish and bring them to his house for inspection. I had to do it. I wish he'd asked for rice and drinks like my colleagues were asked. I would have spent less money."

- *Ruth D.*

# MILESTONE

## Brilliant Nigerian Lady, Halima Abba Isah, Graduates Uk University With Flying Colours, Wins Prestigious Prize

BY MUHAMMAD KUKURI

**N**igerian lady, Halima Abba Isah, has graduated from Coventry University London with a 2.1 in Business Law, winning the prestigious Course Tutor Prize as well.



Halima with her proud mother, Hajjiya Jummai Birmah, a manager with NNPC.



Engr. Buba Jajere

## Engr. Buba Jajere honoured for remarkable contributions to solar technology

STORY BY MUHAMMAD KUKURI

The Solar Energy Society of Nigeria (SESON) has recognised Engineer Muhammad Buba Jajere, M NSE, for his outstanding contributions to the solar energy sector in Nigeria. This recognition comes in light of his commitment to advocating for renewable energy solutions, which are crucial for sustainable development and energy security in the nation.

As a prominent member of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Engineer Jajere serves the Fika/Fune Federal Constituency, where he has been a strong proponent of various initiatives aimed at enhancing solar energy adoption and addressing the pressing issue of energy poverty. His unwavering dedication to advancing solar technology has not only improved energy access within his constituency but has also played a significant role in

Nigeria's broader efforts to transition toward cleaner energy sources. Engr. Jajere's exemplary leadership and dedication to public service have made him a source of inspiration for many. The recognition from SESON highlights the critical importance of collaborative efforts in promoting renewable energy and acknowledges the significant impact that politicians and stakeholders can have in shaping a sustainable energy future for Nigeria.

## Lt Changfe Maigari becomes 1st Nigerian Navy female aircraft pilot



Lt. Changfe Maigari becomes 1st Lt. Changfe Maigari has etched her name in history as the first female pilot in the Nigerian Navy since its establishment in 1964. This remarkable achievement not only signifies a personal triumph but also serves as a beacon of inspiration for countless women aspiring to break barriers in male-dominated fields. Born in Kaduna but hailing from Langtang North Local Government Area of Plateau State, Maigari grew up in a military environment, with her father serving as an officer in the Nigerian Air Force. This early exposure ignited her dream of becoming a military pilot. In 2016, she turned her aspirations into reality by graduating from the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) as part of the first cohort

of 20 female regular cadets. She was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant and later served aboard the Nigerian Navy Ship Unity. Her journey to becoming a pilot culminated in her receiving the prestigious 'Pilot Wing' award during the Nigerian Navy's 2024 Ceremonial Sunset held at the Naval Training Command Headquarters (HQ NAVTRAC) in Ebube-Elleme, Rivers State. Reflecting on her achievement, Maigari shared, "Becoming the first female pilot in the Nigerian Navy feels surreal. This milestone is not just for me but for all women who can draw inspiration from my journey." Maigari's career has been marked by numerous accolades. She graduated as the Best Cadet in Academics at the NDA, earning the Gold Medal Navy award. In 2019, she completed her Sub-Lieutenant Technical Course as

the overall best. Despite facing challenges during her training, she persevered, driven by an unwavering belief in her dream. "During my training, there were moments when I doubted my ability to succeed, but I pushed through," Maigari recalled. "I hope my success inspires young girls, both civilian and military, to pursue their dreams with resilience and determination." The Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Emmanuel Ogalla, commended Maigari's exceptional achievements during the award presentation. He noted that her accomplishment is a testament to the Nigerian Navy's commitment to fostering excellence and inclusivity. As Maigari continues to soar, her story serves as a powerful reminder that dreams are attainable through hard work, resilience, and a relentless pursuit of excellence.

# HERITAGE

BY: SAKINAT MUSA  
ABUBAKAR & GIFT LUCKSON



## THE KANURI PEOPLE OF NORTH-EAST NIGERIA:

# Master Blacksmiths, Custodians Of Remarkable Culture



The Kanuri tribe of North-East Nigeria is embedded with cultural treasures, dazzling traditions and captivating customs with spellbinding stories. Nestled in the historic heart of Africa, these guardians of the ancient Kanem-Bornu Empire boast a heritage so rich, extraordinary and fascinating.

### Where the Earth Meets Art: The Magic of Kanuri Pottery

The Kanuris are prominent for their prowess in pottery, walking into a Kanuri village, you will be intrigued by the beautiful scenery of women gracefully shaping clay into stunning pots that could rival any sophisticated museum piece. These aren't just pots—they're masterpieces! Each swirl and stroke tells a story, and when the pots are baked under the blazing sun, they emerge as radiant works of art. Used for cooking, storing water, or even as part of sacred rituals, these pots are a testament to the Kanuris' artistic flair and their deep connection to nature.

### Royalty Fit for a Movie Scene

Have you ever wondered what it's like to visit a royal court steeped in centuries of tradition? The Shehu of Borno's palace is nothing short of magical. Visitors bow in awe, present gifts, and follow age-old rituals, all while basking in the grandeur of Kanuri royalty. It's a scene straight out of a historical epic, where every gesture speaks of respect, hierarchy, and an unbroken chain of cultural pride.

### Henna Dreams: The Secret Language of Kanuri Brides

Kanuri weddings are a kaleidoscope of colours, laughter, and... henna! But not just any henna—these intricate patterns are works of art, whispered onto the hands and feet of brides with ancient precision. Each design tells a story: love, prosperity, and blessings. As the bride walks, her henna-clad feet seem to dance, carrying centuries of tradition into her new life.

### The Spellbinding Dance of Heroes

When the drums begin to rumble, and the long kakaki trumpets call, the Kanuri Kanem Dance bursts to life. Warriors in dazzling costumes, with fierce, yet graceful movements re-enacting the heroic tales of the Kanem-Bornu Empire. The rhythm is hypnotic, the energy electric—this isn't just a dance; it's history brought to life in the most thrilling way imaginable.

### Tales That Time Can't Erase

The Kanuris are master storytellers, and their Ngumari poetry is nothing short of spellbinding. Imagine sitting under a starlit sky, listening to a voice weave tales of ancient battles, spiritual

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE >>

# HISTORICITI

## Master Blacksmiths, Custodians Of Remarkable Culture



journeys, and the wisdom of ancestors. These poetic verses aren't just words; they're windows into a world where history, spirituality, and imagination collide.

### Blacksmiths of Legend

Kanuri blacksmiths are like alchemists of old—transforming raw metal into breathtaking creations. From elegant jewellery to formidable swords, their work is a blend of art and engineering. The clang of hammer on anvil echoes through time, a reminder of their unmatched skill and the timeless beauty they forge with fire and steel.

### Festivals That Dazzle the Soul

Kanuri festivals are nothing short of spectacular. The Kuji harvest festival, for instance, is a riot of music, dance, and feasting. Picture an entire community dressed in their finest, swaying to hypnotic beats, sharing laughter, and savouring delicious traditional dishes. These celebrations are more than parties—they're living, breathing expressions of gratitude and joy.

### Healing Secrets of the Ancients

Kanuri herbalists are like the wizards of wellness. Armed with an encyclopaedic knowledge of herbs and spiritual rituals, they can conjure up remedies that seem almost magical. Need a cure for an ailment or protection from unseen forces? The Kanuri herbalist's toolkit is as extraordinary as it is effective.

### The Whisper of Sacred Waters

Life near Lake Chad comes with its extraordinary rituals. Kanuri fishermen don't just cast their nets—they begin with prayers and offerings, invoking blessings for a fruitful catch. It's a mystical dance of



faith and nature, a tradition that adds a touch of the divine to everyday life.

### A Legacy That Enchants the World

The Kanuri people aren't just preserving their culture—they're inviting the world to marvel at it. Each tradition, from their royal customs to their breathtaking artistry, is a piece of living history, a glimpse into a world where life is a celebration of beauty, bravery, and boundless imagination.

So, next time you think of extraordinary cultures, remember the Kanuri people—keepers of secrets, tellers of tales, and masters of traditions that amuse, inspire, and enchant.

The Kanuri people aren't just preserving their culture—they're inviting the world to marvel at it

# ROOTS

BY: SAKINAT MUSA  
ABUBAKAR & GIFT LUCKSON

## Saartjie Baartman: Sad Tale Of African Woman Exhibited In Europe For Amusement



Saartjie “Sarah” Baartman was the most famous of at least two Khoikhoi women who were exhibited as freak show attractions in 19th-century Europe under the name Hottentot Venus—“Hottentot” as the then-current name for the Khoi people, now considered an offensive term and “Venus” in reference to the Roman

goddess of love. The Hottentot Venus may be famous but Sarah Baartman is far less so. There is no attempt to learn anything about the main figure behind the icon.

### Summary of Life

According to popular history, Baartman (before 1790 – 29 December 1815, also spelt Bartman, Bartmann, Baartmen)

was born in 1789 in the Gamtoos Valley of South Africa. When she was barely in her 20s, she was spirited away to London by an enterprising Scottish doctor named Alexander Dunlop, accompanied by a showman named Hendrik Cesars. She spent four years in Britain being exhibited. Her treatment caught the attention of British

abolitionists, who tried to rescue her, but she claimed that she had come to London on her own accord. In 1814, after Dunlop’s death, she travelled to Paris. With two consecutive showmen, Henry Taylor and S. Reaux, she amused onlookers who frequented the Palais-Royal. She was subjected to examination by George Cuvier, a professor of comparative anatomy at the Museum of Natural History. In post-Waterloo France, sideshows like the Hottentot Venus lost their appeal. Baartman lived on in poverty and died in Paris of illness in December 1815. After her death, Cuvier dissected her body and then displayed her remains. For more than a century and a half, visitors to the “Museum of Man” in Paris could view her brain and skeleton until she was peacefully laid to rest.

### Southern Africa

Sarah Baartman was born to a Khoisan family in the vicinity of the Gamtoos River in what is now the Eastern Cape of South Africa. She was orphaned in a commando raid. Saartjie, pronounced “Sahr-kee”, is the diminutive form of her name; in Afrikaans, the use of the diminutive form commonly indicates familiarity, endearment or contempt. Her birth name is unknown.

Baartman was a slave of a Dutch farmer named Peter Cezar near Cape Town, which had recently come under British control. Alexander Dunlop, a military surgeon with a side-line in supplying showmen in Britain with animal specimens, suggested

she travel to England for an exhibition. Lord Caledon, governor of the Cape, permitted the trip but later regretted it after he fully learned the purpose of the trip. She left for London in 1810.

### Great Britain

Baartman was exhibited first in London, entertaining people because of her “exotic” origin and by showing what was thought of as highly unusual bodily features. Peter Cezar was the one who brought her to London in 1810, where he put her on exhibition in the Egyptian Hall of Piccadilly Circus. She had large buttocks (steatopygia) and also the elongated labia of some Khoisan women. To quote historian of science Stephen Jay Gould, “The labia minora, or inner lips, of the ordinary female genitalia, are greatly enlarged in Khoisan women, and may hang down three or four inches below the vulva when women stand, thus giving the impression of a separate and enveloping curtain of skin”. Baartman never allowed this trait to be exhibited while she was alive, and an account of her appearance in London in 1810 makes it clear that she was wearing a garment, although a tight-fitting one.

Her exhibition in London, scant years after the passing of the Slave Trade Act 1807, created a scandal. An abolitionist benevolent society called the African Association – the equivalent of a charity or pressure group – conducted a newspaper campaign for her release. The showman associated with her exhibition, Hendrick Cezar in an

answer protested that Baartman was entitled to earn her living by this means: “...has she not as good a right to exhibit herself as an Irish Giant or a Dwarf?” In defence, he also presented a contract written in Dutch, since that was the only language Baartman understood, in which she “agreed” to perform domestic duties for her master as well as be viewed in public in England and Ireland “just as she was.” In return, she was promised twelve guineas a year. The African Association took the matter to court and on 24 November 1810 at the Court of King’s Bench the Attorney-General began the attempt ‘to give her liberty to say whether she was exhibited by her consent’. In support, they produced two affidavits in court. The first, from a Mr Bullock of Liverpool Museum, was intended to show Baartman had been brought to Britain by persons who referred to her as if she were property. The second, by the Secretary of the African Association, described the degrading conditions under which she was exhibited and also gave evidence of coercion. Baartman was then questioned before an attorney in Dutch, in which she was fluent, via interpreters. She stated that she was not under restraint, did not get sexually abused, and that she came to London of her own free will. She did not wish to return to her family and understood perfectly that she was guaranteed half of the profits. The case was therefore dismissed.

She was questioned

TO CONTINUE NEXT WEEK

# OLDIES

## How Nigerian Youths Can Survive In These Tough Times – Ex-Niger SSG, Hon. Saidu Kpaki



Hon. Saidu Kpaki

BY HAFSAT ALIYU MUYE, ESQ.

This week, we bring you an interactive session with Honourable Saidu Idris Kpaki, the former Secretary to the State Government (SSG) of Niger State 2013-2015, under the administration of Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu; former member and speaker, Niger State House of Assembly, and a former council chairman of Mokwa Local Government.

In this lighter, yet informative and interesting conversation with Neptune Prime correspondent, Hafsat Aleeyu Muye esq, Honourable Sadiq talks about previous and current Nigerian governments, the ideal pathway for the typical youth and other unique knowledge.

### May we know you?

I am Honourable Saidu Idris Kpaki, I hail from Mokwa local government area of Niger State.

### How can you compare present Nigerian governments to previous ones?

As a member of a previous leadership, the last administration was very unwise socially, but to start comparing your successors' administration, it's like blowing a trumpet. I also believe everyone is doing well. As a staff member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), I will say in terms of democracy, the PDP stands to do better, the coming of the All

Progressives Congress (APC) seems to be ruling out democracy and presently threatening it. With the situation in the country, Nigerians are experiencing the worst inflation in history, insecurity keeps rising at an alarming rate, this is the time for the government to make crucial decisions and stop these calamities.

In 2015, citizens said things were bad, not knowing we were at the best of times because what had been happening before the coming of the present government of APC is unbelievable, and too much negativity. Nigeria should have been a better country. The truth is politically, Nigeria is stable, but socially, it's sad, it's also bad religiously

and there is corruption everywhere.

### What do you think the future holds for Nigerians?

Well, we're supposed to have a very bright future, but honestly, when you say yesterday was bad, from history and also from an average person, every new year brings bad things and worse situations, the scenario is always worse than the past, and I hope that things will change, but the real commander from the future messed up things and make the country to be hopeless.

Our young people have turned to thugs, led by some government officials. As a former administrator, it'll sound like I am singing praises, honestly, Nigeria may need a political revolution. We are so weak that we can't fight for our rights, and right now, everyone is fighting for what to eat.

### Any substantial advice for the Nigerian youth

Youths, many young people continue to fly their certificate, the 21st century is for skills and mastery. Everyone is blessed with a talent, instead of developing their skills and talents, many have turned to manipulation, students are lazy, they just order and purchase certificates. The best students are no longer those graduating with First Class, but those who have sufficient money to pay. Everyone should work hard, some of the courses we study in Nigeria today, are the courses we read on our Instagram and Twitter apps.

As a youth, always rediscover yourself and be productive.

### On a softer tune Honourable, what is the meal you enjoy?

As a villager and a local man from Kpaki, my best meal is swallow, I prefer natural delicacies, and I don't like any food that has been processed. I'm approaching my 70s and know that some of these foods are being manipulated, we grew up very energetic and healthy despite being raised by parents who are not educated, but today, we shifted from such lives and made things completely different.

### As an elder, what do you think is the best manner of relaxation?

By watching football, either live or old matches. Internationally, I am an Arsenal fan, for Laliga, I support Real Madrid, and generally, I am a strong supporter of Nigeria.

### What is your favourite colour?

My best colour is blue.

Everyone is blessed with a talent, instead of developing their skills and talents, many have turned to manipulation, students are lazy, they just order and purchase certificates



# HUMANIST

## Bedridden for two years, man appeals for financial support to undergo surgery

BY VICTOR ITODO ABUH

A 38-year-old man, Mr Olaleye Rasheed Olanrewaju, has been bedridden for two years following a motorcycle accident and is now seeking financial support from kind-hearted Nigerians, philanthropists and the general public for urgent surgery to repair his broken leg. Narrating his ordeal, Olanrewaju shared that the accident occurred

while on his way home from work at Ile-Epo Market in Lagos. He was struck from behind by a hit-and-run dispatch rider in Agege. "I was hit from the back and fell. The rider didn't stop, but kind-hearted people nearby helped me up, and I managed to walk home despite the pain," Olanrewaju recounted. However, the situation worsened over time. "I started feeling unbearable pain in my leg and eventually couldn't use it anymore. My family first took me to a native bone-setter, but after six months of treatment, there was no significant improvement. We then went to a General Hospital, which referred me to the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi, Yaba," he said. At the orthopaedic hospital, doctors confirmed he required surgery to fix the leg. The estimated cost of the procedure is ₦3,112,220, a sum that has proven difficult for Olanrewaju to raise despite all efforts.

"I'm appealing to kind-hearted Nigerians to help me. I've been unable to work, and my family is struggling to raise the money for the surgery," he pleaded.

Anyone willing to assist can make donations to the account details below:  
Account Name: Olaleye Rashed Olanrewaju  
Bank: First Bank

Account Number: 3034320821  
Your support will go a long way in helping Mr. Olanrewaju regain his mobility and rebuild his life.



# FEATURES

## The Fall of the Assad Dynasty, Who did What!!!

BY USMAN SHEHU

Reasons for the Army's Collapse

The Syrian soldiers' swift retreat and lack of resistance can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, the timing of the attack played a crucial role. Assad's allies, such as Hezbollah, Russia, and Iran, were preoccupied with pressing issues of their own. Hezbollah, for instance, had just endured a grueling conflict with Israel, resulting in the loss of key leaders. Similarly, Russia was focused on the situation in Ukraine and navigating the uncertainties brought by the Trump second term. Iran, too, was facing internal challenges, with a new moderate president struggling to assert himself against hardline elements. The Syrian army, already weakened by internal and external pressures, was further destabilized by Assad's mismanagement

of public funds and the country's isolation due to US sanctions. Additionally, the presence of US special forces controlling Syrian oil fields and Israeli airstrikes on military infrastructure compounded Syria's difficulties.

Syria's Geopolitical Significance

Syria's strategic importance as a geopolitical linchpin cannot be overstated. It serves as a buffer between regional powers, bordering Turkey and Iran while standing at the crossroads of NATO, Israel, and Jordan. The country holds immense historical and religious significance for both Christians and Muslims, with numerous sacred sites scattered throughout its territory. Syria's geopolitical position has made it a battleground for competing interests and ideologies, further complicating the regional landscape.

*Erdogan pulling the strings?*

The downfall of the Assad regime has taken many by surprise, both insiders and outsiders alike. The rapid success of the anti-Syrian forces in toppling Assad has left many stunned. Sources close to the situation revealed that the initial plan was for the rebels to advance as far as Aleppo, a crucial economic center in Syria. Capturing Aleppo would significantly bolster Erdogan's and the rebels' influence, potentially pressuring Bashar Al-Assad to negotiate with the Turkish government. Surprisingly, the Syrian military, already weakened by various factors, began to crumble from their positions. The well-trained and heavily armed forces, supported by Recep Tayyip Erdogan, seized the opportunity to bring about a regime change and fulfill Erdogan's ambitions of

having a Syria under his influence rather than Iran's from afar.

*Skepticism Surrounding the New Order*

The sudden regime change in Syria has left various regional actors wary and uncertain about the future. Israel, for instance would have been happy for the fall of Assad because Syria was not only the center of resistance but also the major supply routes for Hezbollah and Hamas, but now Israel faces the prospect of dealing with a new faction that may not align with its interests. The United States, a key player in the region, must navigate the complexities of supporting a group that includes elements linked to Al-Qaeda. Regional monarchs and dictators are grappling with the implications of the Syrian regime change, with Saudi Arabia and its allies facing a dilemma after having normalized diplomatic relations with Syria. Amidst

these uncertainties, Turkish President Erdogan emerges as a central figure, skillfully maneuvering regional dynamics to consolidate his power and influence in the region.

In conclusion, the fall of the Assad dynasty marks a significant turning point in the Middle East's geopolitical landscape, with far-reaching implications for regional stability and power dynamics.

*Assessing Assad's Legacy*

Despite the Assad regime's controversial legacy, it maintained religious freedom for major and minority groups, fostering a degree of coexistence between different faiths. Notably, Syria refrained from retaliating against Israeli provocations, opting for a de-escalatory approach. While the anti-Assad forces promise an inclusive government, questions remain about their ability to uphold this commitment and protect minority

groups. The Orthodox Christians, in particular, await clarity on the rebels' plans for governance and community protection.

By Usman Shehu,  
Journalist & Founder of  
Koode Media.



Usman Shehu

## Deepening Professionalism in Nigeria's Police Force

BY GRACE AKPAN

Concerns about the unprofessional conduct of police officers over the years have led to worrisome levels of distrust between the people and the Nigerian Police Force (NPF).

Established in 1943, the NPF has the constitutional and statutory mandate of maintaining and securing public safety, law and order in Nigeria. However, corruption, poor funding, and inadequate training impede the NPF's capacity to discharge these roles efficiently and professionally. Over the years, declining investigative capacity and efficiency, and an uptick in policing abuses have eroded public trust in the police.

Professionalism is the cornerstone for effective policing, and it serves as the foundation for winning public trust, ensuring efficiency in law enforcement, and complementing the protection of human rights.

Public frustration over police abuses boiled over in October 2020 when Nigerian youths, under the #EndSARS, demanded the scrapping

of the Special Anti-Robber Squad (SARS), a special unit of the Police that had become notorious for unlawful arrests and detention, torture and extralegal killings. They also demanded wholesale reform of the Nigerian Police Force. The #ENDSARS protest could be summed up in one brief statement: professionalize the police force.

SARS got dissolved. In its place, the Anti-Violence Unit was created. But more importantly, a collaboration between the NPF and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) Programme emerged. This collaboration focuses on instating policy and practice changes, such as the Standards of Practice (SOPs) that lays down human rights-compliant policing procedures, as well as on training police officers to uphold human rights.

In addition to this, the NPF tried to strengthen their internal disciplinary processes by making sure that citizens' complaints received via the police Complaints Response Unit were more interactive and receptive and conducting a proper investigation of

all complaints, which has led to the dismissal and demotion of several erring officers. A typical instance of instilling discipline in the force is the dismissal of three policemen from Special Protection Unit (SPU) Base 1, Kano over the misuse of firearms in 2023. To further deepen these reforms and help improve the performance of the NPF the Nigeria Police Act of 2020 was enacted. The Act, which was passed and signed into law on 16th September 2020, seeks to provide and promote effectiveness, competence, transparency, and accountability in the police force.

The Act adequately provides for the structure of the force, appointments, promotions, and discipline, all of which are pivotal to fostering a professional and accountable police service.

While the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun is working to rebuild trust through transparency, accountability, and community engagements, the General Public, Civil Societies, and the Media must actively play their watchdog roles for the NPF. They need to ensure objectivity in reporting police activities accurately

and fairly, highlighting both successes and failures. The role of investigative journalism in exposing police misconduct cannot be overstated, as it often catalyzes reforms.

The private sector and donor agencies should strengthen their collaboration with the NPF. It is also pertinent that the Federal Government takes a second look at the remuneration of officers and men of the Nigeria Police. A pay rise with fringe benefits, as well as prioritizing the funding to the force, should be considered and given swift attention.

Also, depoliticizing the police by enforcing political neutrality and conducting regular and sustainable training will equip the officers with modern policing skills while underscoring the protection of human rights and ethical conduct and strengthening accountability mechanisms. Professionalism in policing is not just an ideal, but a necessity for ensuring the safety, security, and human rights of every Nigerian.

It is important to sustain these reforms. They are necessary to create the professional police force that Nigerians desire. The private sector and donor

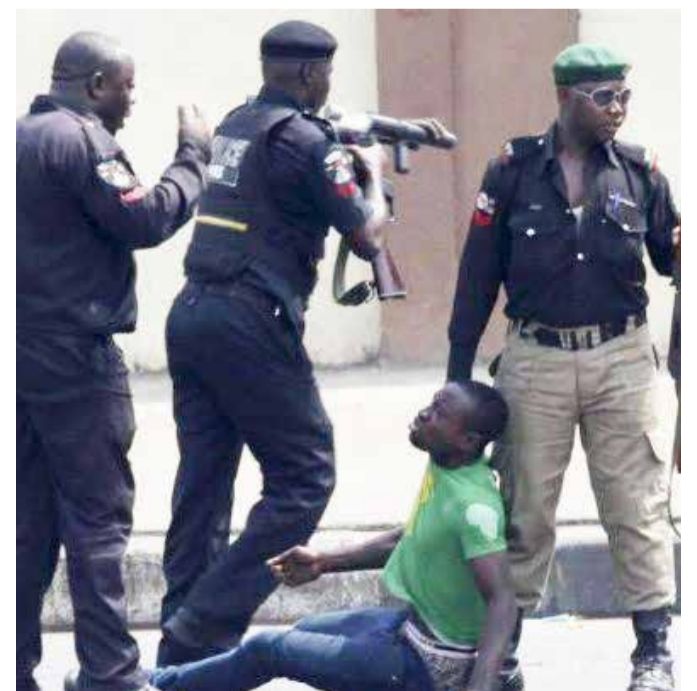
agencies should strengthen their support and partnership with the NPF. It is also pertinent that the Federal Government takes a second look at the remuneration of officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police. A pay rise, improved fringe benefits, and adequate funding to the police should be prioritized and given swift attention.

Urgent, sustained efforts to implement this reform will be key to transforming

the Nigerian Police Force into a competent, trusted, and effective institution.

Akpan is the Communication Assistant  
International IDEA

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in this commentary are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the institutional position of International IDEA, its Board of Advisers or its Council of Member States.



# SPORTS

## NO MORE 'PROJECT MBAPPÉ,' ALLOW YOUR KIDS TO FOLLOW THEIR DREAMS - MADRID STAR WARNS PARENTS



Mbappe

'Project Mbappe' has become a popular word among football-obsessed parents who dream of their kids following the footsteps of Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe. This isn't surprising, given the extraordinary success the 25-year-old has achieved, having won one World Cup, seven Ligue 1 titles, finished as a runner-up in the Champions League,

and seven Ballon d'Or nominations. However, Mbappé has cautioned parents not to force children into demanding training in hopes of crafting the next football icon. "My parents never put pressure on me. My father never forced me to run laps around the pitch at 6 in the morning," he said during an interview with Clique TV in France. "They let me enjoy

myself. I argued with my parents. I chose it, not my father. My parents put pressure on me at school; football must have come from them. Maybe the boy only wants to play for one year. Leave the boy alone. "Young people should not have to dream about being me. Because the meaning of a dream is to have no limits. I didn't dream about anyone. I dreamed about being great." Mbappé also revealed that he would have extended his contract at Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and given up his dream of playing for Real Madrid to support his brother, Ethan, in his career.



## Saudi Arabia to host FIFA World Cup for the first time in history

stories By Maryam Sulaiman & Muhammad Kukuri

For the first time in football history, FIFA is set to confirm Saudi Arabia as the host of the 2034 World Cup. Meanwhile, a joint bid from Morocco, Spain, and Portugal, which includes matches in South America, will be awarded for the 2030 tournament. Both hosting decisions are expected to be approved in a vote during a virtual FIFA Congress, with no competing bids in contention. For the 2034 World Cup, FIFA applied its principle of rotating the tournament between continents, allowing bids only from Asia or Oceania. The 2026 World Cup, the first to feature 48 teams, will be hosted across North America. Controversially, FIFA gave potential bidders less than a month last year to submit their candidacies, leading Australia and Indonesia to quickly withdraw their interest. This left Saudi Arabia as the only candidate, paving the way for the World Cup to return to the Gulf region just two years after Qatar hosted in 2022. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's de facto ruler, used his influence to improve

Saudi Arabia's global image. However, critics argue that he is engaging in "sportswashing" to divert attention from the country's human rights record. Saudi Arabia already hosts several high-profile events, including a Formula One Grand Prix, heavyweight boxing matches, the LIV Golf circuit funded by the kingdom's sovereign wealth fund, and the WTA Finals tennis. Securing the 2034 World Cup will be a crowning achievement for Saudi Arabia, although it currently has only two stadiums with a capacity of 40,000, while 14 are required. In addition to this logistical challenge, the extreme summer temperatures in the northern hemisphere may force the tournament to be moved to a later date, similar to the schedule change made for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. The fact that Ramadan will take place in December adds another complication for Saudi Arabia, which is set to host the World Cup that year. Additionally, the awarding of the World Cup to Saudi Arabia will once again bring human rights concerns to the forefront, just as it did two years ago. The 2030 tournament will mark the centenary of the first World

Cup in Uruguay, and as part of this historic occasion, the South American nation will be granted a game, along with Argentina and Paraguay. This creates an unprecedented bid involving three different continental confederations. FIFA confirmed over a year ago that the joint proposal led by Morocco, Spain, and Portugal was the only contender for 2030, with all other potential bids falling through. A joint British and Irish bid was abandoned when the countries chose to focus on hosting Euro 2028. There were also discussions of a bid from South Korea, China, Japan, and North Korea. In 2019, four South American countries launched a bid, believing the centenary World Cup should be held entirely in the continent where it all began. In late 2022, UEFA backed a bid uniting Spain and Portugal with Ukraine, in a show of "solidarity" following Russia's invasion. However, Ukraine was quietly removed from the proposal last year, as Morocco joined forces with Spain and Portugal, while South America agreed to step aside in exchange for hosting three games, one each in Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina.

### Sports

#### Saturday, December 14:

- Arsenal Vs Everton 4 p.m.
- Wolves Vs Ipswich Town 4 p.m.
- Newcastle United Vs Leicester City 4 p.m.
- Liverpool Vs Fulham 4 p.m.
- Nottingham Forest Vs Aston Villa 5:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, December 15

- Brighton Vs Crystal Palace 3 p.m.
- Manchester City Vs Manchester United 5:30 p.m.
- Southampton Vs Tottenham 8 p.m.
- Chelsea Vs Brentford 8 p.m.

#### Monday, December 16

- Bournemouth Vs West Ham 9 p.m.

## FIFPro Men's World 11: Rüdiger, Mbappé, Haaland lead star-studded lineupa

BY MARYAM SULAIMAN & MUHAMMAD KUKURI

The FIFPro Men's World 11 has been unveiled, featuring a star-studded lineup of football's finest talents across the globe. The team, selected by players worldwide, celebrates those who delivered outstanding performances over the past year. Brazilian goalkeeper Ederson anchors the defence. Joining him in the backline are Dani Carvajal, Antonio Rüdiger, and Virgil van Dijk, a trio recognised for their consistency and leadership in

crucial matches. The midfield is a powerhouse of creativity and control, with Kevin De Bruyne, Rodri, Toni Kroos, and Jude Bellingham forming a formidable quartet. De Bruyne and Rodri were instrumental in Manchester City's title success last season, while Kroos and Bellingham shone brightly for Real Madrid in domestic and European competitions. Up front, the attack brims with electrifying talent. Kylian Mbappé, Erling Haaland, and Vinicius Jr. headline the forward line. Final fixtures for 2024-

2025 English Premier League matchday 16 across England our English Premier League matchday 16 fixtures will take place simultaneously on Saturday including the clash between Arsenal and Everton at the Emirates Stadium. The current table-toppers, Liverpool will also play against Fulham at Anfield at the same kick-off time as the Arsenal clash. The last game on Saturday will be against Aston Villa and Nottingham Forest who are currently on fire and pushing hard to break into the top four.



# FAMILY DYNAMICS & CUISINES

BY AISHA AUYO

## True Love Still Exists: A Journey of love, humility, and blessings

I have been a victim of numerous failed relationships, which I believe were caused by my sincerity. I am an honest and generous guy; when I enter a relationship, my intention is always marriage. Unfortunately, many ladies took advantage of this and ended up disappointing me.

I met my wife during my friend's wedding, Fatiha, in his wife's village. As part of the groom's friends, we were tasked with escorting the bride's friends. Three beautiful young ladies were in my car, and I noticed how other guys were rushing to connect with them.

We drove to Kaduna Town for the rest of the events. My two friends each selected a lady, leaving me with the third one: a black beauty who was very quiet, shy, and introverted. She seemed annoyed by my talkative and mischievous nature.

Despite this initial impression, three qualities stood out to me and made me want to pursue a relationship with her:

1. Shyness: When we took them to the Chicken Republic for dinner, the other girls were eating comfortably with their boyfriends, but my girl was too shy to even take a drink. I tactfully asked the restaurant to prepare a takeaway for her, understanding her discomfort.

2. Pragmatism: When I requested her phone number, she declined, saying it wasn't necessary since we would part ways soon and might never meet again. Her realistic approach intrigued me.

3. Modesty: After we dropped them off, while the other guys were chatting casually with their girls, she simply thanked me for the outing, said "Allah ya saka da alheri" (May Allah reward you with goodness), and bade me good night.

Initially, her behavior annoyed and embarrassed me, especially seeing my friends interact so freely with their girls. But upon reflection, I realized there was something special about her. I promised myself to be patient and try to connect with her.

Through her biological sister (who happened to be my friend's girlfriend), I got her contact. When I requested to visit her in Katsina, she agreed.

During my visit to Katsina, two things shocked and impressed me:

1. Warm hospitality: I was warmly received, which confirmed the generosity Katsinawa is known for.

2. Unexpected seriousness: The next day, when I returned to her house, I was taken to meet her uncles. To my surprise, they began asking questions related to marriage engagement—before I had even proposed! Though unexpected, I appreciated the gesture because I always approach relationships with sincerity and good intentions.

Impressed by her character and family, I gladly proceeded with the engagement process. My dad led a delegation to Katsina, and during that first meeting, we got engaged. My

family was happy and proud, noting that I had chosen a wife from a family of honor and decency.

While dating, she opened up to me about her humble background, mentioning that her father was late and asking me not to expect much from her family. I reassured her, saying I wasn't marrying her father or seeking material things. Her good character and upbringing were all I cared about.

My wife is so quiet and modest that she finds it hard to make financial demands. Before marriage, she never asked for a recharge card. Even during the Lefe preparations, she was very considerate. While I kept adding items, she kept reducing them to save costs.

When planning the wedding, I mentioned hiring a caterer to feed my people, but she vehemently opposed it, saying we were her guests and she would handle it. This decision saved me hundreds of thousands of naira, as her family took care of feeding the guests for two days.

Alhamdulillah, after our marriage, we were doing well financially because I was working with an NGO on a five-year contract. However, after the contract ended, my wife suggested we visit her uncle, who was a serving Minister, in Abuja.

When we met and greeted him, my wife shocked everyone by pulling

out an envelope from her handbag and handing it to her uncle. She said, "Baba, dan Allah a ba wa mijina aiki. Domin yana da Masters har biyu amma bai da babban aiki." ("Uncle, please help find a job for my husband. He has two master's degrees but no significant job.")

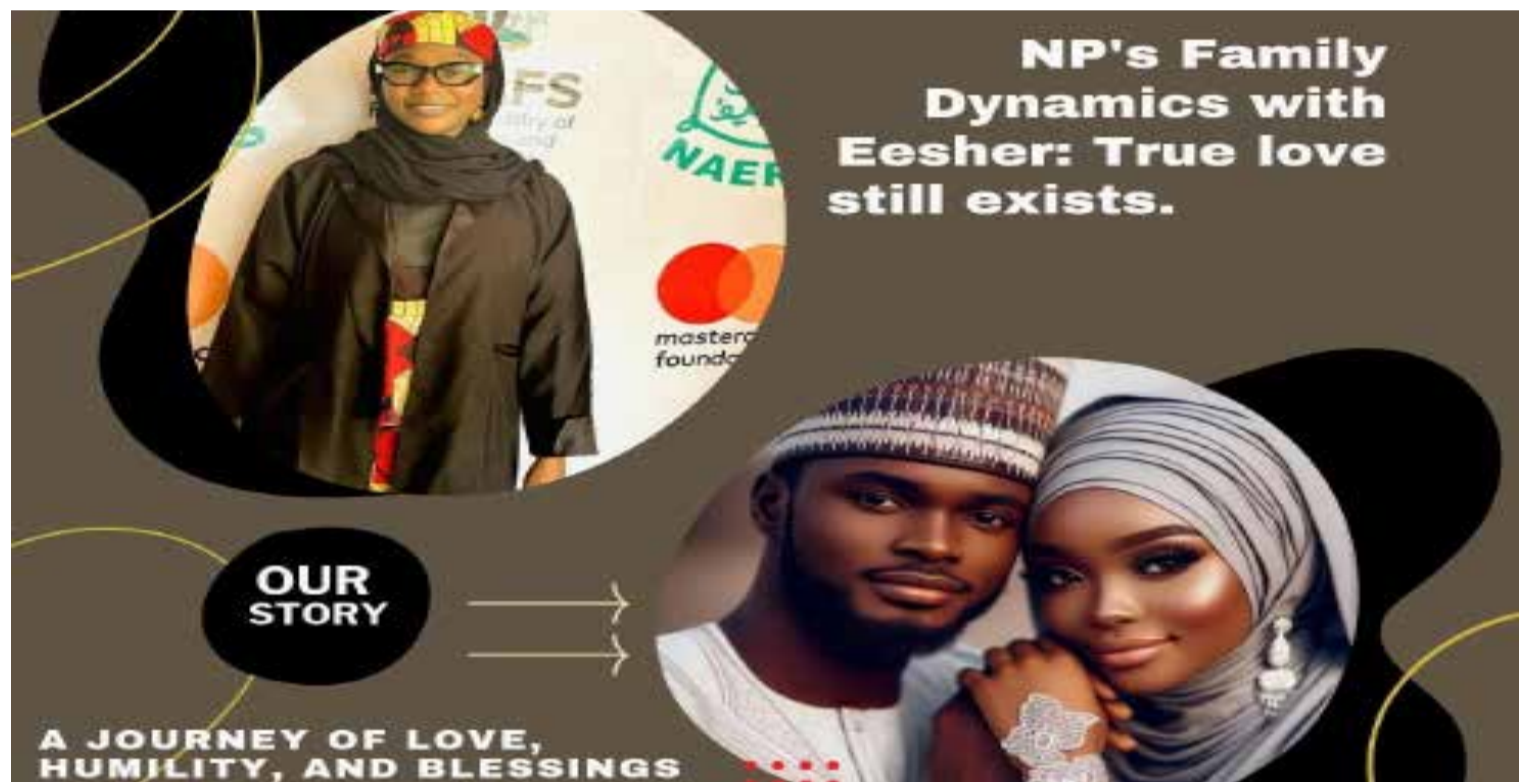
The shock wasn't just mine—it was visible on everyone's faces, including the Minister's. Her cousins, who worked as his Special Assistant, Personal Assistant, and Protocol Officer, jokingly said, "Gaskiya dan Kaduna ya iya soyayya" ("This Kaduna guy must know how to win hearts").

Baba collected the envelope (my CV), called the person in charge of appointments, and instructed, "Ayi abin da ya dace" ("Do the needful").

What amazed me most was that my wife hadn't told me her real intention for the trip to Abuja. She knew I might have declined, as I don't like pushing myself into situations where I may not be wanted or risk embarrassment.

To my surprise, Baba handed us four bundles of N100k notes to fuel the car, along with special gifts for my wife and baby from his wife.

Alhamdulillah, my darling wife secured me a white-collar job, and I am incredibly proud and grateful to her. I proudly share this story everywhere because she played a key role in shaping



### EASY STEPS TO MAKE NOURISHING TIGER NUT DRINK



Make a healthy tiger nut drink using these simple ingredients and procedures.

Ingredients:  
Tigernut, ginger, clove, sugar, milk

Procedure:  
De-stone tiger nut, soak it and wash thoroughly using a mortar and pestle to remove sand.

Add water, ginger, clove, coconut, and date (Optional) and grind into a smooth paste.

Use a muslin cloth to separate the tiger nut milk and chaff. Add water and filter again. Add sugar and milk to taste, (optional). Refrigerate.

Serve chilled and enjoy.

# SOCIALS/FASHION

Funke Akindele



Idia Aisien



Falz



## WEEKEND FLEXING: CELEBRITIES DAZZLE WITH ELEGANCE AT FUNKE AKINDELE'S EVERYBODY LOVES JENIFA MOVIE PREMIERE

Lagos was alive with glitz and glamour on Sunday, December 8, 2024, as Funke Akindele, aka Jenifa, unveiled her highly anticipated movie, Everybody Loves Jenifa.

Known for her creative storytelling and knack for setting trends, the filmmaker pulled out all the stops for the grand premiere, themed Lagos After Party.

The event wasn't just about celebrating another blockbuster; it was also a high-fashion affair. Celebrities graced the red carpet with outfits that blended tradition and modernity, each one striving to outshine the other. From sparkling gowns to creatively tailored suits, it was clear everyone came to slay.



Bisola, Falz and Funke



TO FEATURE ON OUR FASHION/SOCIAL PAGE!  
You can send your pictures to [agimbah@gmail.com](mailto:agimbah@gmail.com)  
Call: 0909966777

# TECHWORLD

## GAMESCIENE

Dubbed the 'sickest ever' video game because players only have one aim - to massacre as many people as possible in a 'genocide crusade', Hatred is the second game in history to get adults only rating.

## GADGETADDICT

Obviously inspired by the iPhone's glass touchscreen display, the Iconoclock, which is a wall clock that points out each hour with approximations of familiar app icons. Its crystal face delivers a similar jet black yet glossy background as the ubiquitous smartphone.

## web update

Airlines welcome luggage tracking feature using Apple AirTags



United Airlines is making it easier for travellers to locate lost luggage, thanks to a new feature leveraging Apple AirTags.

If a misplaced bag contains an AirTag, customers can now share its location directly with United's customer service team, the airline announced on Thursday.

The feature, called Share Item Location, allows users of Apple's Find My network accessories to provide precise location details to the airline, aiding in faster luggage recovery.

This capability is available with iOS 18.2, iPadOS 18.2, or macOS 15.2.

"Apple's new Share Item Location feature will help customers travel with even more confidence, knowing they have another way to access their bag's precise location with AirTag or their Find My accessory of choice," said David Kinzelman, United's chief customer officer.

United passengers who don't receive their luggage on arrival can file a delayed baggage report and share the location link through the United app or via text.

This allows agents to pinpoint the item's position on an interactive map with timestamps for updates.

The location-sharing link expires after seven days and can be disabled by customers at any time, ensuring privacy once the bag is recovered.

The demand for luggage tracking devices like AirTags has soared, particularly after the 2022 Southwest Airlines holiday travel meltdown, which left thousands of passengers and their belongings stranded.

United reports that more than 99% of its customers receive their luggage without issue, but the new feature is designed to speed up recovery for the rare cases of lost bags.

Other airlines, including Delta Air Lines, Air Canada, British Airways, and Qantas, are also integrating Apple's new Share Item Location feature into their systems.

## YouTube introduces audio dubbing tool for alternative audio tracks in multiple languages



By Victor Itodo Abuh

YouTube has expanded its horizon for creators and viewers by introducing an innovative audio dubbing tool that generates alternative audio tracks in multiple languages.

This new feature automatically translates English audio into several languages, including French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish. Conversely,

videos in those languages will be dubbed in English. While the voice for English dubs may sound somewhat robotic, the audio remains clear and understandable.

For creators who have access to this tool, no additional steps are required. YouTube will automatically recognise the original language of the video and produce translated audio tracks. If you want to check your dubbed content, you can do so in the Languages section of

YouTube Studio, where you'll also have the option to listen to the dubs. If any of the dubs don't meet your expectations, you can easily remove them.

This tool is available only for channels focused on educational and informational content that are part of the YouTube Partner Programme. Eligible creators will find the feature under the advanced settings. YouTube has indicated plans to extend its availability to other channels soon.

To switch the audio on a video you're watching, look for the "auto-dubbed" label. Click on the settings gear and navigate to the "audio track" option. Here, you can listen to the video in its original language or with the translated audio.

YouTube said it is committed to collaborating with Google DeepMind and Google Translate to enhance the quality of the dubs, ensuring they are more accurate, expressive, and natural.

## WPScan uncovers critical flaw allowing hackers to exploit over 10,000 WordPress websites



Researchers from WPScan have uncovered a critical vulnerability in the Hunk Companion plugin, used by approximately 10,000 WordPress

websites, allowing hackers to exploit outdated plugins with known remote code execution (RCE) flaws. The flaw, tracked as CVE-2024-11972,

enables attackers to install other plugins directly from the WordPress plugin repository, including old and unpatched versions. These plugins can introduce severe vulnerabilities, such as SQL injection, cross-site scripting (XSS), and admin account creation, potentially compromising targeted websites.

WPScan discovered the flaw while investigating an active cyberattack, where threat actors abused it to install an outdated version of the WP Query Console plugin, which hasn't received updates in seven years.

This plugin harbours a critical RCE bug, tracked as CVE-2024-50498, allowing malicious PHP code execution on vulnerable websites.

Hunk Companion, designed to enhance ThemeHunk WordPress themes with additional widgets, customisation options, and demo content import features, became the unexpected gateway for these attacks. Despite addressing similar flaws in version 1.8.5 (CVE-2024-9707), the vulnerability persisted due to exploitable workarounds.

# WORLD NEWS

## Syrians celebrate exit of "brutal dictator" Bashar al-Assad

At Umayyad Square in central Damascus, tens of thousands of people had the party of a lifetime on Friday. Filling the roundabout to the brink, they partied late into the evening, celebrating the moment many thought would never come: the exit of their brutal dictator Bashar al-Assad.

"I always thought that I am going to die, and my children are going to die, and many more generations will die and he will still be here. I thought it would never end," Esraa Alsliman, a student, told CNN at the square.

"It's like a dream. I wake up every day thinking it was a dream, even today I woke up thinking it was a dream," she said.

Families brought little children to the square with flags painted on their cheeks. Young students were joined by the elderly. Women dressed in conservative Muslim fashion celebrated next to those wearing trendy Western clothes. Many said they travelled across the country to witness the jubilations.

Many were waving the three-starred flag of the Syrian Arab Republic – an opposition flag that had been used when the country was under French mandate and was replaced by a two-starred version during the Assad era.

"I really believe that at this time, we will support each other, stay with each other and get to the top. Syria will have a good name in the world," Alsliman said. "I always thought that to have a future, to have a successful life, I would have to go abroad. Now I can stay here, in my country."

For half a century, the Assad family had ruled over Syria with an iron fist, with long-documented reports of mass incarceration, torture, extra-judicial killings and atrocities against their own people.

On Sunday, after 13 years of civil war that fractured the country, the regime came crashing down. Rebel fighters declared Damascus "liberated" in a video statement on state television, sending Syrian President Bashar al-Assad fleeing to Russia.

Friday's huge crowds started gathering at the square after midday prayers at the historical Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, just days after the rebel leader Abu Mohammad al-Jolani declared a "victory for the entire Islamic nation" there.



## Iran launches heaviest space payload into orbit, nears nuclear bomb production

Stories By Sakinat Musa Abubakar

Iran said on Friday that it has successfully conducted a space launch with its heaviest payload ever, the latest development in a programme the West alleges improves Tehran's ballistic missile programme.

The launch of the Simorgh rocket comes as Iran's nuclear programme inches towards successfully enriching uranium to weapons-grade levels.

Iran maintains its programme is peaceful, however, government officials in the Islamic Republic have been threatening to potentially develop a nuclear bomb as well as an intercontinental ballistic missile. This would allow Iran to use the weapon against distant countries, for example in Europe and the United States.

Friday's launch took place at Iran's Imam Khomeini Spaceport in rural Semnan province, 220 km east of the capital Tehran. Iran's civilian space programme is being developed in the area, where it has repeatedly failed to launch Simorgh launches in the past.

Iran claims the Simorgh rocket carried an "orbital propulsion system", in addition to two research systems in a 400km orbit above the Earth. Tehran has long sought to develop a system that can change the orbit of a spacecraft, which would then allow it to geosynchronize the orbits of its satellites.

The rocket also carried the Fakhri-1 satellite, which is named after top Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrazadeh who was assassinated in Iran, reportedly by Israel. It is the first time Iran's civilian programme is known to have carried a military payload, which at 300 kg was heavier than all previous successful launches in the country.

Nevertheless, it has not independently been confirmed whether the launch was successful.

The launch comes at the same time as severe

instability reigns in the Middle East, with an ongoing conflict in Syria and Israel's lengthy war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip, in addition to the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The US has in the past told Iran to refrain from any actions that involve ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, and has said its satellite launches defy a UN Security Council resolution.

Previous UN sanctions against Iran due to its missile programme expired in October 2023.

Iran's recently-instated reformist president, Masoud Pezeshkian, has indicated he wants to negotiate the sanctions applied by the West but has yet to offer a concrete idea of Iran's ambitions in space.

The Simorgh launch was the first conducted by his administration for the country's civil space programme, while its paramilitary Revolutionary Guard conducted a successful launch of its own in September.

Since the collapse in talks between Iran and Western powers regarding its nuclear programme, Iran has come close to the production of uranium close to weapons-grade levels. Intercontinental ballistic missiles, meanwhile, can be used to transport nuclear weapons.

Tehran has enough enriched uranium for "several" nuclear weapons, if it chooses to produce them, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) repeatedly warned.

The country's government, however, has always insisted that both its space programme and nuclear activities are entirely for civilian purposes. This is despite US intelligence agencies and the IAEA claiming that Iran had an organised military nuclear programme until 2023.

Iran nearing nuclear bomb production  
"Iran dramatically accelerating uranium enrichment to near bomb-grade," IAEA says.



## Indian actor arrested after fan dies during movie premiere

Indian actor Allu Arjun, a prominent figure in the Telugu film industry, was arrested and later granted bail following a tragic crowd crush that claimed the life of a woman during the premiere of his film Pushpa 2 in Hyderabad.

The 39-year-old woman lost her life, and her nine-year-old son remains hospitalised after the incident, which unfolded when the actor made a surprise appearance at the screening last week.

Initially, a local court sentenced Arjun to 14 days in police custody. However, within hours, the high court overturned the ruling, granting him bail. Charges of culpable homicide were filed against Arjun, his security team, and the theatre's management. The theatre's owner and two staff members were also arrested earlier.

Police accused the actor's team of aggravating the chaos by pushing the already dense crowd upon his unannounced arrival at 9:30 PM local time. Hyderabad Police Chief CV Anand stated:

"There was no intimation from the theatre management or the actor's team about his visit."

Arjun's lawyer argued in court that the actor could not be held responsible, as the crush occurred on a different floor from where he was present.

Following the tragedy, Allu Arjun expressed his sorrow on social media, writing:

"My heartfelt condolences go out to the grieving family during this unimaginably

## Saudi Arabia executes at least 10 Nigerians in 2024

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has executed 10 Nigerians and some 79 nationals of other nations, most of them convicted of drug-related offences in 2024.

This is almost triple the figures for 2023 and 2022, when Saudi authorities put to death 34 foreigners each year, according to AFP tallies.

Apart from the Nigerians. Other foreigners executed this year have included 21 from Pakistan, 20 from Yemen, 14 from Syria, nine from Egypt, eight from Jordan and seven from Ethiopia.

The Berlin-based European-Saudi Organisation for Human Rights (ESOHR) said this year's executions had already broken a record.



ADVERTS  
**SPACE**  
AVAILABLE

## The Arbiter

BY HASSAN GIMBA



# Cry not, North; smell the coffee and act (1)

The topic on everybody's, well, almost everybody's, lips now is tax reform. Everybody has become an expert, so everyone is discussing it: the experts, the neophytes, and even those who do not give a hoot. Nigerians love to talk, dissipate energy, joke about it, and then move on as if nothing happened.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu knows his countrymen well; perhaps that is why he never loses sleep over our vituperations; he gets what he wants when he wants it. In faraway France, he promised to continue with his policies without losing focus. Did you not see that barely a few days after a supposed nationwide protest against hunger and bad governance, his government increased fuel prices and has done so two or three more times since then?

We used to have activists on and off campuses, with the academic staff unions holding the flag of justice for the people, the labour union leadership being altruistic, firebrand lawyers railing against bad governance, and our student unions being positively revolutionary. These days, almost all these classes of people are peopled by opportunists and scammers desperate to make money by all means. Our labour unions call strikes only to negotiate behind the backs of the unsuspecting workers; student union leaders have lent themselves as tools in the hands of politicians, even fighting their lecturers at the behest of those who have let education deteriorate, maybe because they have also realised that their tutors, who should guide them aright, had sold out and were running after the crumbs from the tables of those whose children are studying abroad while killing education here.

Our labour leaders, who should be proffering solutions to make the country industrialised and productive for more people to be gainfully employed and our currency to be stronger, are busy negotiating away our future with political leaders so that they would belong and own mansions and imported vehicles and clothes, enriching foreign businesses while killing local production. Opposition politicians who should keep the governments and their representatives on their toes are falling over themselves to get patronage from the government of the day.

Many of our lawyers have sucked in law knowledge but have not been grounded on morality. And so they can stand for thieves who can buy their services with the baseless claim that they "are innocent until proven otherwise." They pull every trick in and out of the law books to frustrate the case so that their thieving customers (better than clients) can never be found guilty.

Some of our judges are now impervious to shame and give judgements that are not only scandalous but can potentially destroy a nation. In passing their dollar-induced judgements, it is no longer news for a lower court judge to go against a precedent set by a higher court, sometimes even a Supreme Court judgment!

With all these, it becomes frustrating to talk about Nigeria. But we are stuck with it as we have none better and cannot all japa. Even if not for our sake, we must continue saying what is right for the sake of the country, our children, and the children of our children. The North, now fragmented along ethnic and religious lines, need not cry over the potential loss of revenue facing it now if we had not betrayed ourselves, become selfish and lazy.

To begin with, the North could be said to be relatively united and at peace with itself up to the Second Republic. In the First Republic, a Tiv Christian invited a Kanuri Muslim to his town to contest an election and he won. Alhaji Ibrahim Imam, a politician from Borno, was the Secretary of the Northern People's Congress (NPC) but later became a patron of the Borno Youth Movement (BYM). He was, however, denied the opportunity by the NPC when he wanted to contest for a seat in the Northern House of Assembly in 1961. Mr Joseph Sarwuan Tarka of the United Middle Belt Congress (UMBC) offered him a ticket to represent a Tiv district in present-day Benue State in 1961.

When then Prime Minister Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, the Sardauna of Sokoto, Ahmadu Bello, Colonels Maimalari, Apogu Largema, Kur Mohammed and a host of other northerners were killed in the 1966 coup, the northern Christians were as grieved as their Muslim counterparts because they saw themselves as one. They put not only their profession but life on the line in seeking revenge six months



later. The Sardauna was such a unifying figure who could travel hundreds of kilometres to go and celebrate with northern Christian minority kids – he did that when Sunday Awoniyi excelled in school. But over time, we started segregating in the North, backstabbing and marginalising others based on ethnicity or religion. This was a chink in the North's armour, and, with cracks like these, outside influence for long awed by, and envious of, the North's seeming oneness, put various wedges into the cracks and widened them. Now, many walls have fallen, perhaps irreparably. We have become more like the Arabs who cannot work together and, therefore, allow their enemies to use them against one another.

However, for the north crying because most headquarters of business concerns are located outside it, what did its leaders do to make the area conducive so that manufacturers and large businesses can be headquartered there? What did they do when President

Goodluck Jonathan disrupted the dredging of the River Niger that could have made Baro a business hub and all settlements along the coastline financially vibrant? When the government of Muhammadu Buhari, a Fulani Muslim leader, came, what did he do to remedy it?

What did they do when cotton farming was dealt a fatal blow during President Olusegun Obasanjo's term, thus turning the northern textile sector moribund, sending thousands into the labour market and denying the North revenue and tax by either derivation, consumption or both?



Opposition politicians who should keep the governments and their representatives on their toes are falling over themselves to get patronage from the government of the day

To be continued...  
Hassan Gimba, anipr, is the publisher and CEO of Neptune Prime