

Renewed crackdown: Edo Govt hits hide out of suspected cultists, ritualists

● **Demolished one building, sealed off another**

RICHARD EWEKA

BENIN CITY

The Edo State Government has demolished a building allegedly linked to cultism and ritual activities, while sealing another property in Uromi, Esan North-East Lo-

cal Government Area, in a renewed crackdown on crime and criminal networks in the state.

The operation, carried out under "Operation Flush Out Kidnappers and Cultists," involved the Edo State Security Corp (ESSC), the Nigeria Police Force, and other security agencies under

the supervision of senior security officials attached to Governor Monday Okpebholo.

Speaking during the exercise, the Secretary of the Edo State Security Squad, Barr. John Izegaegbe, said the intervention followed intelligence and field findings in the area.

He stated: "We are here on the marching order of Governor Monday Okpebholo and getting here we discovered that it's a ritual and a murder case."

According to him, one of the sealed buildings at Ebohojie-Uromi was linked to a disturbing discovery in June. "It was further discovered according to medical experts that the body

found in the building, which is the body of their gateman identified as Mildah Dalandi, has been decomposing for about one month in the apartment," he said.

Security operatives confirmed that the decomposed body of the gateman was found inside the apartment on June 2, 2026, after residents raised alarm over a strong odour in the area.

Izegaegbe added that the suspects identified as Eweh Favour and Eweh Bright are currently at large. He said: "The suspects are on the run, but we are giving them 72 hours to report themselves at the Uromi Police Divisional Headquarters or Area Command to clear

CONTINUES ON PG 4

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That The People May Know

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#200

Tinubu hails troops for eliminating bandits' kingpin, rescuing late General's widow

ABUJA

President Bola Tinubu has commended the Nigerian Armed Forces and other security agencies for a successful operation in Kogi that led to the elimination of notorious bandit kingpin, Ibrahim Bastuji.

The president described the operation as a major setback for

criminal networks responsible for terrorising communities in Kogi and neighbouring states.

This is contained in a statement issued by the Presidential Spokesperson, Mr Bayo Onanuga, on Tuesday in Abuja.

Tinubu said Bastuji's reign of violence, kidnappings and attacks on innocent citizens had inflicted untold hardship on residents.

He said that his neutralisation would restore confidence and bring relief to affected communities.

"I congratulate our gallant troops on this decisive milestone. Nigeria will not surrender any part of its territory to criminals.

"Those who choose the path of violence against innocent citizens will find no hiding place. This success reflects the renewed

determination of our security forces to secure every inch of our land," the president said.

Tinubu also praised the troops for another successful operation that secured the rescue of Hajija Amina Rabe Abubakar, widow of the late former Chief of Defence Information, retired Maj.-Gen. Rabe Abubakar.

He said the rescue demonstrated a high level of profes-

sionalism, courage and determination by security personnel in confronting criminal elements.

"The safe return of Hajija Amina Rabe Abubakar is a source of relief to her family and all Nigerians.

"I commend the intelligence coordination and bravery of the officers and men who executed the rescue operation. We owe a debt of gratitude to our troops who risk their lives daily to keep us safe," he said.

The president reassured Nigerians that his administration would continue to provide the Armed Forces and security agencies with the resources, training and support required to defeat banditry, kidnapping and other violent crimes.

He also urged citizens to continue supporting security agencies with timely and credible information to enhance efforts at securing lives and property across the country.



HIDE OUT DEMOLITION:

The Edo State Security Corps (ESSC), and other security agencies, demolishing cultists' hide out in Uromi, Esan North East Local Government Area, recently.

Appeal court orders stay of execution of judgment deregistering 5 political parties

ABUJA

The Court of Appeal in Abuja has ordered a stay of execution of the judgment of the Federal High Court, Abuja, which directed the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to deregister five political parties.

Ruling on the matter on Tuesday, a three member panel of the appellate court berated Justice Peter Lifu of the Federal High Court for proceeding to hear the matter and issuing the order.

This they said was in spite of an earlier order of the Court of Appeal and the pendency of the case before it.

The Appeal Court said Justice Lifu exhibited judicial rashness by going ahead to hear

and make the order.

The appellate court subsequently ordered a stay of execution of the judgment of Justice Lifu that ordered the deregistration of five political parties.

The parties are the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Action People's Party (APP), Action Alliance (AA), Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) and Accord Party (AP).

In his judgment, Justice Lifu held that the parties did not meet the constitutional threshold stipulated under Section 225 of the 1999 Constitution.

Section 225 of the Constitution empowers the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to deregister political parties that fail to meet the constitutional requirements.

Benin residents groan as cooking gas prices sky rocket
—Pg 3

Deregistering ADC, 4 others capable of heating up polity, Anambra stakeholders
—Pg 5

DR Congo's Ebola outbreak tops 800 cases as death toll reaches 192
—Pg 9

Wrestling: Team Nigeria win 5 gold in Brazzaville, Congo
—Pg 11

NEWS

FG seeks stronger regional cooperation to secure Nigeria's borders

CAROLINE AMEH

ABUJA

The Federal Government has called for deeper regional collaboration and intelligence sharing among neighbouring countries as part of renewed efforts to strengthen border security and tackle transnational crimes threatening Nigeria and the West African sub-region.

The call was made at a one-day national workshop on "Border Security, Resilience and Cross-Border Cooperation" organised by the National Boundary Commission (NBC) in Abuja, where stakeholders stressed the need for collective action to address growing security challenges along Nigeria's international borders.

Representing the Minister of Defence, General Christopher Musa, the Special Adviser to the Minister, Rear Admiral Olusanya Bankole (rtd), said Nigeria's borders remain critical to national security, economic development and regional integration.

He noted that while the

country's borders facilitate trade, cultural exchanges and movement of people, they also serve as entry points for criminal activities such as smuggling, human trafficking, arms proliferation and irregular migration.

According to him, addressing these challenges requires stronger cooperation between Nigeria and its neighbours, supported by technology-driven surveillance systems, intelligence sharing and early warning mechanisms.

"Resilient borders are not only secured, they are adaptive, inclusive and capable of withstanding security threats, climate change and economic disruptions," he said.

The Defence Ministry representative stressed that border security should no longer be viewed solely from a military perspective but as a shared responsibility involving governments, security agencies, traditional institutions and local communities.

Earlier, the Director-General of the National Boundary Commission, Surveyor Adamu Adaji, said Nigeria's extensive borders make cooperation indispensable in maintaining peace and stability.

He disclosed that the country

shares approximately 4,454 kilometres of land boundaries with Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroon, alongside an 853-kilometre coastline, creating both opportunities and security concerns.

Adaji said the Commission has established several cross-border cooperation platforms that bring together border communities, traditional rulers,

local authorities, security agencies and civil society groups to promote dialogue, information sharing and conflict prevention.

He noted that the initiative has strengthened trust among border populations and enhanced efforts to address security concerns before they escalate.

The workshop featured technical sessions on maritime gov-

ernance and the blue economy, drone technology for border monitoring, border resilience strategies and peacebuilding initiatives aimed at strengthening national and regional security.

Also speaking, the Commandant of the National Defence College, Rear Admiral Abdullahi Ahmed, underscored the importance of regional partner-

ships, insisting that no nation can effectively confront modern border challenges alone.

Deputy governors and chairmen of state boundary committees from Nigeria's border states commended the National Boundary Commission for its sustained advocacy and pledged greater collaboration to curb transboundary crimes.



COURTESY VISIT:

L-R: Deputy National President, Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN), Muhammad Bishara; Executive President, RTEAN, Dr. Musa Muhammed, and Vice President, Kashim Shettima, during a courtesy visit by Transporters for Tinubu and Shettima 2027 at the Presidential Villa in Abuja.

International Debate Competition: Team Edo back from Indonesia with trophy

KELECHI UGWUADU

BENIN CITY

The Edo State Ministry of Education, led by the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Enodolomwanyi Otamere, commended the team for the feat. He congratulated the students and thanked the Executive Governor of Edo State, His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, for his commitment to transforming the education sector in the state. He also congratulated the Ministry of Education and expressed optimism that more laurels are on the way for Edo students.

In her remarks, the leader of the delegation to Indonesia and SUBEB Chairman, Mrs. Omonzane, congratulated the students and Governor Okpebholo. She said the victory is a testament of the governor's commitment towards positioning every Edo child for success. She concluded that the award is not just for the students, but for Edo State and Nigeria at large.

parts to emerge overall best

Speaking at the reception, the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Enodolomwanyi Otamere, commended the team for the feat. He congratulated the students and thanked the Executive Governor of Edo State, His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, for his commitment to transforming the education sector in the state. He also congratulated the Ministry of Education and expressed optimism that more laurels are on the way for Edo students.

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First Lady urges transparency, accountability in constituency projects implementation

ABUJA

The First Lady, Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, has called for greater transparency, accountability and collaboration in the implementation of constituency and intervention projects across the country.

She made the call on Tuesday in Abuja during the unveiling of a compendium titled "Actualising President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda through Implementation of Zonal Intervention/Constituency Projects."

The programme was organised by the Federal Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs to showcase intervention projects and strengthen accountability mechanisms in public service

delivery nationwide.

Represented by the Wife of the Vice-President, Hajiya Nana Shettima, the first lady described the event as a significant milestone in promoting transparency and effective project implementation.

According to her, the initiative reflects shared commitment to ensuring public resources are utilised efficiently and directed towards improving the lives of citizens across communities nationwide.

She said "intervention projects are vital in bridging the gap between government and the people. They ensure development remains visible, accessible and responsive to the needs of our communities."

Tinubu said her experience

as a former senator representing Lagos Central Senatorial District reinforced her belief in constituency-based development initiatives tailored to address the needs of constituents.

She noted that properly implemented constituency projects remained effective tools for delivering development, improving living conditions and promoting inclusive growth at the grassroots nationwide.

"My experience in the legislature further reinforces my belief in the importance of constituency-based development initiatives that are properly aligned with the needs of the people," she said.

The First Lady said the compendium reflected policy implementation, institutional

collaboration and the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu across sectors and regions nationwide.

According to her, the publication captures ongoing efforts by government institutions to translate policies and programmes into measurable outcomes that positively impact the lives of Nigerians.

She added that "the compendium being unveiled today is a reflection of policy implementation, institutional collaboration and the Renewed Hope Agenda. It captures efforts to translate vision into measurable outcomes."

Tinubu commended the ministry for documenting intervention projects being implemented in communities across the country, describing the initiative as important for transparency and public accountability.

Recognise police sacrifice, DIG charges Nigerians

DAMATURU

Mr Zachariah Fera, the Deputy Inspector-General (DIG) of Police in-charge of Force Intelligent Department (FID), has called on Nigerians to recognise the sacrifices of the police to keep the country safe.

Fera stated this in Damaturu on Tuesday while addressing

officers and men of the Police Command in Yobe.

He noted that many police personnel suffered from life threatening injuries or even died in defence of their fatherland.

The DIG said he was touring the North East on the directive of the Inspector-General of Police, Olatunji Disu, to assess the operational readiness of the

police and their interactions with the general public.

"We want to ensure that the Command is policing Yobe with dignity," Fera said.

He said intelligence-led policing was invoked by the Disu-led administration to gather more information to help in crime management in the country.

"We will take the battle

to the criminals. We will no longer be reactive; we will be proactive," the DIG said.

Fera assured the personnel that the headquarters was aware of their challenges and would do everything possible to ameliorate them.

He solicited for maximum cooperation from the state government and other critical stakeholders to tackle kid-

napping and other emerging crimes.

In his remarks, the state Police Commissioner, Usman Jibrin, said the command was doing its best to maintain peace and security in the state.

He, however, requested for more equipment and manpower, saying that some divisions and area commands were manned by only 15 police personnel,

which was grossly inadequate.

"In Geidam, only 15 personnel and Geidam is a frontline local government.

"Without manpower nothing can be done," Jibrin said.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the DIG and his team are billed to have an interactive session with critical stakeholders in the state on Wednesday.

Parties deregistration: Reactions trail court ruling on ADC, 4 others

● Atiku, Obi, Adeleke, others flay court order

KELECHI UGWUADU

ABUJA

Reactions of political and other stakeholders in the polity have continued to trail the ruling by Justice Peter Lifu ordering INEC to deregister ADC and four(4) other political parties.

The affected political parties include Action Alliance(AA), Accord(A), Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), Action Peoples Party(APP)

Expectedly, former Vice President and presidential candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Atiku Abubakar, strongly criticised the judgment seeking to deregister the party and four other political parties, describing it as a direct attack on Nigeria democracy.

Atiku, who described the ruling as troubling and part of

a wider plot to weaken opposition parties ahead of the 2027 general election.

He said the development is sad considering the fact that there is a subsisting order of the Court of Appeal staying further proceeding on the matter.

Atiku further explained that on May 22, 2026, the Court of Appeal in Abuja granted an application staying proceedings in suit No.FHC/ABJ/CS/2637/2025 pending the hearing and determination of an appeal before it.

Also, the ADC publicity Secretary, Mr Bolaji Abdullahi, while speaking on the ruling, said the ADC remain undeterred by the judgment, describing the party as one that had consistently overcome political adversities since its inception.

"I can assure you by tomor-

row morning we are court," Abdullah declared.

Peter Obi, the presidential flag bearer of NDC, in his official X handle, hit out the Federal High Court judgement over the verdict, he dismissed as "just one of those activities

that further reduces the common man's trust in our legal systems. It should be reversed".

He also described the judgment as one that damages public trust as he called on the lawyers and judges to redeem the country.

"Take back your country, "Obi tells lawyers, judges"

On his part, Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, has described the court order as an abuse of court process and direct violation of a subsisting order of the Court of Appeal.

In a statement issued by his Spokesperson, Mallam Olawale Rasheed, in response to the ruling, the governor said the Ap-

peal Court had made an order for the stay of proceedings by the Federal High Court, more particularly the said judgment that was delivered.

He expressed surprise that the lower court still proceeded to deliver a ruling on a matter already acted upon by the Court of Appeal

3 persons to stay behind bars over armed robbery

OLIVER IJIOGBE

BENIN CITY

A High Court sitting in Benin has remanded three persons in correctional facility for alleged conspiracy and armed robbery.

The defendants, Taman Nammen 28 years, Gambo Renan 32 years, Godfrey Ayuba 31 years, and others still at large, according to the prosecution, conspired among themselves to commit armed robbery.

The prosecution also alleged that the defendants and others now at large while armed with a gun, Cutlass and other dangerous weapons robbed their victim of his Access Bank ATM

card, 2 HP Elite book Laptops valued one million naira, one Dell laptop and other valuables.

The prosecution further alleged that the defendants while still armed with a gun, Cutlass and other dangerous weapons robbed another person of his iPhone 16 pro Max, Samsung S25 ULTRA, iPhone 12 pro Max, one HP laptop and other valuables valued over eight million naira.

Before Adjourning the case, the court ordered that the three defendants be remanded in correctional facility after taking their they pleaded not guilty in all the charges preferred against them.

How Lagos DCP died in hospital

LAGOS

The Lagos State Police Command was thrown into mourning on Monday as the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Administration and Finance, Khan Salihu, reportedly died shortly after leaving his office at the command headquarters in Ikeja.

It was gathered that the senior officer complained of fatigue and he subsequently asked for permission to go home and rest.

Findings revealed that his condition reportedly worsen after he got home and he was being taken to the hospital when he passed away.

The statement of the Public Relations Officer of the command, Abimbola Adebisi, confirmed this while announcing the passing of the Deputy Commissioner of Police.

According to him, the com-

mand lost a highly dedicated, disciplined and committed senior police officer who served the Nigeria Police Force with exceptional professionalism, loyalty and integrity.

The command also praised his legacy of service, noting that he would be remembered for discipline and humility.

"Throughout his distinguished career, DCP Khan Salihu, exemplified diligence, exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to duty," the command noted.

Describing the incident as a painful loss to its entire officers and men, the command extended heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, colleagues and loved ones of the deceased during this difficult time.

The command praised his legacy of service, adding that his commitment will continue to inspire officers and men in Lagos State and beyond.

**TWO-DAY PUBLIC HEARING:**

Cross-section of military personnel, during a two-day public hearing on five critical bills aimed at strengthening Nigeria's military institutions, enhancing veterans' welfare, promoting food security, and advancing gender inclusion in the Armed Forces by the House of Representatives Committee on Defence, at the National Assembly in Abuja on Tuesday.

Iduseri, best choice for Oredo chairmanship —APC leaders

BENEDICT OKATE

BENIN CITY

Leaders and stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oredo Local Government Area have described the party's chairmanship candidate, Gabriel Iduseri, as the most suitable candidate for the forthcoming local government council election scheduled for July.

The endorsement was made during the party's ongoing ward-to-ward campaign tour across Oredo Local Government Area, where party leaders, grassroots mobilizers, women groups, youths and other stakeholders expressed confidence in Iduseri's capacity to lead the council and

sustain developmental initiatives at the grassroots level.

According to the party leaders, Iduseri's emergence as the APC candidate was based on his track record of service, accessibility to the people and commitment to community development.

They noted that his understanding of the needs of Oredo residents places him in a strong position to effectively manage the affairs of the council if elected.

Speaking during the campaign tour, several APC leaders said Iduseri has demonstrated leadership qualities that have endeared him to party faithful and residents across the various wards.

They maintained that his experience in local governance and dedication to the welfare of

the people distinguish him from other contenders in the race.

The leaders also commended the enthusiasm displayed by residents during the campaign engagements, describing it as a reflection of growing support for the APC ahead of the election.

They urged eligible voters to come out en masse on election day and support the party's candidates.

They further highlighted the achievements of the APC-led administration in Edo State under Governor Monday Okpebholo, stressing that electing APC candidates at the local government level would strengthen collaboration between the state government and the councils for accelerated

grassroots development.

Addressing supporters during the campaign, Gabriel Iduseri expressed appreciation for the confidence reposed in him by party leaders and members.

He assured residents that, if elected, his administration would continue to prioritize infrastructure development, environmental sanitation, youth empowerment, job creation and improved service delivery across the local government area.

Iduseri also pledged to run an inclusive administration that would carry along all segments of society, irrespective of political affiliation, while focusing on policies and programmes aimed at improving the living standards of residents.

Benin residents groan as cooking gas prices sky rocket

BENEDICT OKATE

BENIN CITY

Residents of Benin City, the Edo State capital, have expressed frustration and concern over the rising cost of cooking gas, with the product now selling for nearly ₦2,000 per kilogram in many retail outlets.

A cross-section of residents who spoke with our correspondent in Benin City said the situation was forcing many families to cut down on gas usage, adjust meal plans and explore alternative cooking methods.

Mrs. Grace Ehiagwina, a mother of four living in Ugbowo, described the increase as

unbearable.

"Not long ago, I could refill my cylinder without much worry, but now the cost is becoming too much for ordinary families. We have started avoiding meals that require long hours of cooking because of the amount of gas they consume," she said.

Another resident, Mr. Osaze Igbino, lamented that the soaring price of cooking gas was worsening the economic hardship faced by many households.

"Everything is expensive. Food prices are high, transportation costs have gone up, and now cooking gas is almost ₦2,000 per kilogram. Many families can no longer cope," he stated.

Small-scale business operators

are also feeling the impact. Mrs. Faith Omoregie, who operates a roadside food outlet in the city, said the rising cost of gas was eroding her profit margin.

"I depend on gas every day for my business. Whenever the price increases, it affects the cost of preparing food. Customers complain when prices go up, but they do not know what we go through," she said.

Some residents revealed that they were considering reverting to charcoal and firewood despite the health and environmental risks associated with such alternatives.

Investigation revealed that similar increase is experienced in some other parts of

the country which indicates that cooking gas prices have climbed to between ₦1,700 and ₦2,400 per kilogram, depending on location and retailer.

Industry stakeholders have attributed the persistent rise in cooking gas prices to supply challenges, foreign exchange pressures, transportation costs and broader market uncertainties.

Energy experts also point to global energy market fluctuations and logistics challenges affecting distribution across the country.

Many Benin residents are therefore calling on the Federal Government and relevant regulatory agencies to take urgent measures to stabilize the market and make cooking gas more affordable.

NEWS

Tinubu inaugurates 10 roads in Makurdi, praises Alia's infrastructure drive

MARKURDI

The First Lady of Nigeria, Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, on Tuesday inaugurated 10 new roads built by Gov. Hyacinth Ali'a administration in Makurdi.

Mrs Tinubu commended Ali'a's commitment to infrastructure development and delivery of democratic dividends.

The first lady said the pro-

jects demonstrated the practical implementation of President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda through investments that directly impact citizens' lives and livelihoods.

She said the roads, with a combined length of 11.5 kilometres, would promote economic growth, improve mobility, enhance security and improve the quality of life of residents.

The projects include the

Ishaya Bakut Road dual carriageway, Abu King Shuluwa Road, Mama Mbateren Alia Street, Dabo Plaza-Fashion Hub Road, Sir James Iorpuu Street, Tega Bar Street, Jato Aka Road and connecting spurs.

"These roads are pathways to economic growth, improved mobility, enhanced security and a better quality of life for the people of Makurdi and beyond," she said.

She praised Ali'a for his vi-

sionary leadership and dedication to improving the welfare of the people through strategic infrastructure investments.

Mrs Tinubu urged residents of the state to support the governor's development efforts and take ownership of the public assets by ensuring their proper use and maintenance.

The first lady also expressed appreciation to the governor for naming one of the roads after her, describing the gesture as a great honour.

She disclosed that her late uncle, popularly known as Dele

Bookshop, had deep ties with Benue and was passionately attached to the state throughout his lifetime.

According to her, she initially suggested that the road be named after her late uncle because of his love for Benue but eventually accepted the honour bestowed on her by the governor.

Earlier, Gov. Ali'a described the event as a celebration of progress, purposeful leadership and the collective determination to build a better Benue.

He said the 10 roads formed part of 45 road projects completed by his administration, adding that they reflected the government's commitment to infra-

structure development, urban renewal and economic growth.

The governor said the projects had opened up previously inaccessible areas, reduced travel time, improved connectivity among communities and enhanced the aesthetic appeal of Makurdi, the state capital.

He added that the projects had created employment opportunities during construction and would continue to stimulate economic activities for years to come.

He also acknowledged President Bola Tinubu's support for sub-national governments and his commitment to infrastructure development across the country.

**THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE:**

Pastor Obby Okeke, General Overseer, Christian Brethren Church (L); Special Adviser to Edo State Governor on Religious Affairs and Chaplain of Government House Chapel, Apostle Sule Azekhumen (2nd L); Pastor Emmanuel Ibiwoye (3rd R) and Apostle Faraday Awom, Guest Speaker at the 2026 Mid-Year Thanksgiving and Praise held in Benin City, Edo State, on Monday.

Customs, partners intercept N126.4m wildlife contraband, arrest 4

LAGOS

Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Federal Operations Unit (FOU), Zone A, Lagos, in collaboration with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) and the Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC), has intercepted wildlife contraband valued at N126.3 million and arrested four suspects. The Comptroller of FOU Zone A, Mr Gambo Aliyu, disclosed this in a statement issued by the unit's Public Relations Officer, Chief Superintendent of Customs Hussaini Abdullahi, on Monday in Lagos.

Aliyu said the operation led to the seizure of 22 pieces of

elephant tusks weighing 130.84 kilograms and one vehicle allegedly used in the trafficking activity.

He described the arrests and seizure as a significant breakthrough in the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking and transnational environmental crimes.

According to him, the success of the operation was driven by coordinated intelligence gathering, surveillance and investigations into an organised wildlife trafficking network operating within and beyond Nigeria.

Aliyu said officers of the Federal Operations Unit and the Customs Special Intervention Squad (SIS), working with personnel from the Customs Intelligence Unit, carried out

the operation with support from NESREA and the WJC.

"The seizure was made at about 4:30 p.m. on June 13, 2026, in Ofada, Mowe, Ogun State, while additional suspects were apprehended simultaneously in Lagos.

"The 22 elephant tusks have an estimated black-market value of N126.3 million in Asian markets, and all exhibits have been secured as evidence.

"The recovered wildlife specimens and four male suspects are currently in custody pending further investigation and prosecution in accordance with Nigerian and international laws," he said.

Aliyu said the seizure underscored the service's commitment to enforcing wildlife protection laws and international conventions, including the Convention

on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to which Nigeria is a signatory.

He noted that Section 55(1)(i) of the Nigeria Customs Service Act, 2023, prohibits illegal trade in endangered species and provides legal backing for enforcement actions against offenders.

According to him, the operation reflects ongoing efforts by the service and its partners to combat illegal wildlife trade, protect biodiversity and disrupt criminal trafficking networks.

The comptroller commended NESREA and the Wildlife Justice Commission for their collaboration and support in the operation.

He urged members of the public to report suspicious shipments and wildlife trafficking activities to relevant authorities.

Equities market sheds N782bn amid sell-off

LAGOS

Trading on the Nigerian stock market extended its negative trend on Tuesday, with investors losing N782 billion, marking the third consecutive trading session of losses.

The decline was driven by broad-based profit-taking, with losses recorded across insurance, banking, consumer goods, industrial and technology stocks.

The market capitalisation depreciated by 0.50 per cent to N155.203 trillion from N155.985 trillion recorded in the previous session.

Similarly, the All-Share Index fell by 1,219.93 points, or 0.50 per cent, to close at 241,984.80, compared with 243,204.73 in the previous session.

The market's Year-to-Date (YtD) return moderated to 55.50 per cent, while market breadth closed negative with 37 losers and 20 gainers.

Leading the losers' chart, Vitafoam and International Energy Insurance declined by 10 per cent each, closing at N189 and N5.76 per share respectively.

Austinlaz fell by 9.93 per

cent, ending the session at N3.90, Sunu Assurances went down by 9.82 per cent, finishing at N3.58 and Sovereign Trust Insurance depreciated by 8.37 per cent, closing at N2.30 per share.

On the other hand, Conoil and Prestige Assurance increased by 9.79 per cent each, settling at N213 and N1.57 per share respectively.

Similarly, Neimeth Pharmaceuticals grew by 9.74 per cent, closing at N8.45, E-Tranzact soared by 9.40 per cent, settling at N16.30 while Cornerstone Insurance rose by 9.09 per cent, finishing at N5.40 per share.

Meanwhile, market activity declined, with total traded volume falling by 28.11 per cent to 535.53 million shares valued at N36.84 billion in 55,123 deals.

Sterling Nigeria emerged as the most traded stock by volume, with 100.90 million shares exchanged, representing 18.84 per cent of the day's total volume.

UAC of Nigeria led in value terms, recording transactions worth N9.12 billion, which accounted for 24.74 per cent of the total value traded during the session.

Renewed crackdown: Edo Govt hits...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

themselves and enable further investigation into the matter."

Following the discovery, security forces demolished a bungalow on Dr. Ebason Street, Uromi, allegedly linked to the suspects. Izegaegbe said the decision was taken after further findings on the property.

"This house will certainly be brought down as the government will not tolerate criminal elements in the state," he said.

He further alleged that evidence recovered from the building pointed to cult-related activities. "Information brought us here as the property belongs to the same suspects and evidence has shown that this building is used as an initiation ground for new members into the cult confraternity," he added.

According to him, items re-

covered from the premises included laptops, machetes, battle axes, native pots, candles, a red-coloured liquid suspected to be used for rituals, identity documents, and photographs, one of which reportedly carried the inscription "Singapore ritualist."

Izegaegbe said the demolition was intended as a warning. "This building is going down to serve as a deterrent to other criminal elements who are engaged in criminal activities in Edo State. We are warning them to leave the state or have themselves to be blamed as the Governor Monday Okpebholo-led administration will not tolerate them causing havoc in the state," he said.

The Edo State Government reiterated that investigations are ongoing and assured residents that efforts to dismantle criminal networks across communities will continue.

37 vessels to arrive Lagos ports with petroleum products, food, others

LAGOS

June 16, 2026 (NAN) The Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) has said that 37 ships with petroleum products, food items and other goods are expected at Apapa, Lekki Deep Sea Port and Tincan Island port in Lagos on Tuesday.

The NPA disclosed this on its Daily Shipping Position, adding that the vessels are expected from June 16 till June 23.

It stated that 13 of the expected ships were carrying containers of different goods, while 24 ships contain frozen fish, bulk urea, petrol, conden-

sate, petrol, bulk sugar, delivery, general cargos, aviation fuel, bulk wheat diesel and crude oil.

The authority noted that eight ships and tanker vessels had arrived at the three ports waiting to berth with containers, general cargo, gasoline, aviation fuel, petrol, bulk fer-

tiliser, diesel, containers and crude oil.

It also stated that 19 ships are presently discharging bulk urea, containers, petrol, frozen fish, bulk urea, bulk gypsum, bulk sugar, bulk wheat, rug boat, containers and bulk gas at the Lekki Deep Sea Port, Apapa and Tincan Island Port.

Road construction won't stop despite challenging rain falls —EDSG

BENIN CITY

Edo State government has restated its commitment to sustaining road construction works despite high level of rainfalls in the state.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of works Edo State Dr John Obanor reassured of the preparedness of the ministry to sustain its tempo of activities even as the rains pour.

Dr Obanor said the sustained work clearly demonstrate Governor Monday Okpebholo's commitment to upgrading road infrastructure and other critical public assets across the state.

He spoke during an inspection tour of ongoing projects in parts of Edo South Senatorial District, including Ikpoba-Okha Oredo and Egor Local Government Areas.

He said the inspection, carried out alongside supervising engineers from the ministry, was aimed at ensuring strict compliance with approved specifications by contractors handling the projects.

Among the sites visited were the 14.8 kilometres Old Sapele Road with several spurs, the Egbukhu-Iyanomo road and a major hydrology structure designed to channel storm water from the Benin-Sapele road corridor near the by-pass, directly into a nearby river.

One of the spurs on the Old Sapele road projects which already had both side drains constructed, was seen being

sand filled in readiness for stone base laying.

Also, the inspection team visited the ongoing 9.40 kilometers Mechanic Road project, Upper Siluko Road, with several spurs fitted with concrete drains, is currently at an advanced stage.

The mechanic road is a strategic artery designed to open up Okhokhugbo community and environs which for decades had borne the burden of lack of access to the areas.

Jubilant residents could not hold back their excitement as they commended Governor Monday Okpebholo for wiping their tears after many years of neglect.

At every site visited, a flurry of activities was witnessed, with full mobilisation of workers and equipment, particularly at the Adesuwa Fly-over bridge on Sapele Road, Benin City where heavy equipments were deployed.

Road users praised Governor Okpebholo for the massive approach to road construction, describing the Old Sapele Road reconstruction as a strategic move to decongest traffic along the ever busy Sapele Warri road.

Some residents expressed confidence that the drainage system would help ensure the durability of the road when completed.

Other project sites inspected included the several kilometres Palace Road, Utteh, with spurs leading to Temboga along Upper Mission Extension, the re-

construction of failed sections of the Benin-Sapele-Warri Road, and Uhie Road, off Benin-Sapele Road.

The team also visited the two flyover bridges under construction at Sapele Road and Ramat Park, Ikpoba Hill, where the permanent secretary expressed satisfaction with the

pace and quality of work done.

Project Engineer, Erick Lee had informed that the Ramat Park Fly-over bridge was 95 percent completed with only lightings and road markings left.

He assured that the bridge would be delivered latest August.

He said the company would soon be through also with the

1.8 metres deep storm water channel designed to take care of the perennial flooding on the Appeal Court area, Auchu Road, Aduwawa through Obaseki street to Ikpoba River, including the reclamation/construction work on the road. He expressed confidence the projects would be delivered on schedule.

At the end of the tour, Dr Obanor expressed confidence that all the projects would be completed on schedule, citing the prompt release of funds to contractors by the state government.

He assured that the current pace of infrastructure development would be sustained across all parts of the State.



OPENING MEETING:

L-R: Team Lead, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)/Head of Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Follow-up Mission to Nigeria, Dr Bouwa Drop; Chief Veterinary Officer of Nigeria, Dr Samuel Anzaku, and representative of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Dr Otto Muhinda, during the opening meeting of the Nigeria PVS Evaluation, in Abuja on Tuesday.

Farmer demands justice over killing of 18-month-old daughter

AKURE

A farmer, Mr Bright Kalu, has demanded for justice over the killing of his 18-month-old daughter on a farmland at Agoti Settlement in Idanre Local Government Area of Ondo State.

Kalu, who spoke with newsmen in Akure on Tuesday, said the incident occurred on June 8.

The farmer explained that the deceased was left in the care of her mother at the family's farm camp while he was working on another farm some distance from the settlement.

"On Monday, June 8, 2026, I was returning from a nearby camp where I had gone to buy food items when I met my wife looking troubled and distressed.

"When I asked what had happened, she told me that someone had come to the camp and attacked her, and that she was able to rescue three of our children, but one was missing.

"My elder brother, Mr Ifeanyi Kalu, and I immediately followed her to the camp and searched the area.

"We did not find anyone, but we later discovered the lifeless body of my daughter behind our house. Her head had been

severed," he said.

Kalu, who hails from Abia State, called on the government, security agencies and human rights organisations to ensure that the perpetrator of the crime is brought to justice.

He said the matter was reported at the Olofin Police Station in Idanre before being transferred to the State Police Headquarters in Akure for further investigation.

According to him, an arrest has been made in connection with the case.

Also speaking, Mr Dave Nwokolo, a pro bono lawyer with the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria in Ondo State, stressed the need for a thorough investigation to ensure justice for the victim and her family.

Nwokolo condemned the killing, urging the police to diligently pursue the case and ensure successful prosecution of anyone found culpable to serve as deterrent to others.

Confirming the incident, DSP Abayomi Jimoh, the spokesperson for the Police Command in Ondo State, said that an arrest had been made and investigation is ongoing.

Jimoh said that the suspect would be charged to court upon completion of the investigation.

Porous borders fueling terrorism, other crimes —NSA warns

ABUJA

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Malam Nuhu Ribadu, has identified porous borders as a major factor fueling terrorism, arms trafficking, smuggling, human trafficking and irregular migration in Nigeria.

Ribadu stated this on Tuesday in Abuja at the opening of the 15th National Security Seminar organised by the Alumni Association of the National Defence College (AANDEC), in collaboration with ONSA and NDC.

He was represented by the Director of Policy and Strategy at ONSA, Amb. Yazid Gbemudu, at the seminar with theme: "Strengthening Nige-

ria's Border Security Architecture for National Stability".

The NSA said Nigeria's territorial integrity and national stability remained closely linked to the effectiveness of its border security architecture.

According to him, while Nigeria's extensive land and maritime borders provide opportunities for trade, regional integration and socio-economic development, they also expose the country to a range of transnational security threats.

"These borders facilitate trade, regional integration and socio-economic development, but they also expose the country to threats such as terrorism, arms trafficking, smuggling, human trafficking, irregular

migration and other forms of transnational organised crime.

"These challenges underscore the urgent need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach to border management.

"Weak border governance creates vulnerabilities that can be exploited by criminal and terrorist networks, thereby undermining national security and development efforts," he said.

Ribadu said the National Border Management Strategy remained a major pillar of Nigeria's contemporary border security framework, promoting an integrated border management approach.

He said the strategy was designed to enhance intelligence collaboration, strengthen border

infrastructure, improve surveillance capabilities and modernise border management processes.

According to him, the deployment of Border Management Information Systems and other technological solutions at key entry and exit points has improved data collection, traveler screening and migration monitoring.

The NSA called for the full implementation of an integrated border management system to improve coordination among security, intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

He said effective intelligence sharing, joint operations and harmonised border procedures were essential for addressing contemporary security threats.

Deregistering ADC, 4 others capable of heating up polity, Anambra stakeholders

AWKA

Some stakeholders in Awka, Anambra capital, have expressed worry over the court order deregistering African Democratic Congress (ADC) and four other political parties, saying the judgment is capable of heating up the polity.

A Federal High Court in Abuja had on Monday ordered Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to deregister ADC and four other political parties.

The Presiding Judge, Justice Peter Lifu, while delivering the judgment, held that the affected parties failed to meet the constitutional requirements outlined

in Section 225 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

Aside ADC, other affected parties are Action People's Party (APP), Action Alliance (AA), Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) and Accord.

However, while speaking with our Correspondent in Awka on Tuesday, the stakeholders queried the timing of the judgment, saying it was coming few months to the 2027 general elections.

They said that the development might result in massive protests and constitute a clog in the wheel of democratic process in the country.

Chief Chris Elumunoh, a veteran journalist and former Chairman of Ohanaeze Ndig-

bo in Anambra, described the judgment as sensitive, calling for caution in its enforcement.

Elumunoh said that the court verdict which was based on the poor electoral performance of the political parties and their failure to meet constitutional vote could create confusion.

He noted that the judgment was coming few months to the off-cycle Osun governorship election.

The former Ohanaeze Ndigbo chairman called on the judiciary to live up to its billing as the last hope of a common man rather than creating political tension in the country.

He, however, said that there was no cause for worry, as the af-

ected parties still have the constitutional right to challenge the judgment at the appellate court.

A legal practitioner and public affairs analyst, Mr Maxwell Ede, described the court decision as unfortunate.

Ede advised the affected political parties to seek redress at the Court of Appeal, expressing the hope that justice would be served.

To Mrs Tochi Ifejirika, a civil servant, deregistering the five political parties may create unnecessary political unrest.

Ifejirika said that the beauty of democracy was having a good number of political parties contesting for elective positions, with the electorate having choices.

NEWS**Cooking gas prices could crash to N900/kg by end of 2026 —NALPGAM****LAGOS**

The Nigerian Association of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Marketers (NALPGAM) says retail cooking gas prices could fall to between N900 and N1,100 per kilogram by end-2026 if the Federal Government implements reforms to boost supply and cut costs.

The President of NALPGAM, Mr Edu Inyang, made the projection in an interview with newsmen on Tuesday in Lagos.

According to him, although Nigeria has recorded signifi-

cant growth in local Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) production, rising demand and persistent supply chain challenges continue to keep prices high.

Cooking gas, which sold for between N900 and N1,000 per kilogram in April, now costs between N2,000 and N2,500 per kilogram in many parts of Lagos metropolis.

Inyang said Dangote Refinery and Nigeria LNG (NLNG) supplied about 87 per cent of Nigeria's domestic LPG market in 2025.

He, however, noted that Dangote Refinery later clarified that

its LPG output was primarily intended for the production of higher-value products rather than the local cooking gas market.

"As a result, the refinery significantly reduced its allocation to the domestic LPG market, creating supply disruptions that the industry was not prepared for," he said.

He explained that while local LPG production had increased, many producers were still operating below installed capacity, leaving growing consumer demand unmet.

According to Inyang, inad-

equated storage facilities, high transportation costs, foreign exchange challenges and multiple handling charges within the supply chain are major factors driving up retail prices.

He noted that LPG storage infrastructure remained concentrated in Lagos, the Edo/Delta axis and Port Harcourt, with limited facilities in Northern Nigeria, increasing distribution costs nationwide.

"Local production growth is encouraging, but consumers will not fully benefit unless bottlenecks in logistics, depot

capacity, trucking and market access are addressed," he said.

The NALPGAM president also blamed market inefficiencies such as speculative trading, excessive intermediary margins and temporary product hoarding for occasional price distortions and artificial scarcity.

To improve affordability, he urged regulators to strengthen market surveillance, improve transparency in product allocation and pricing, and enforce fair competition across the LPG value chain.

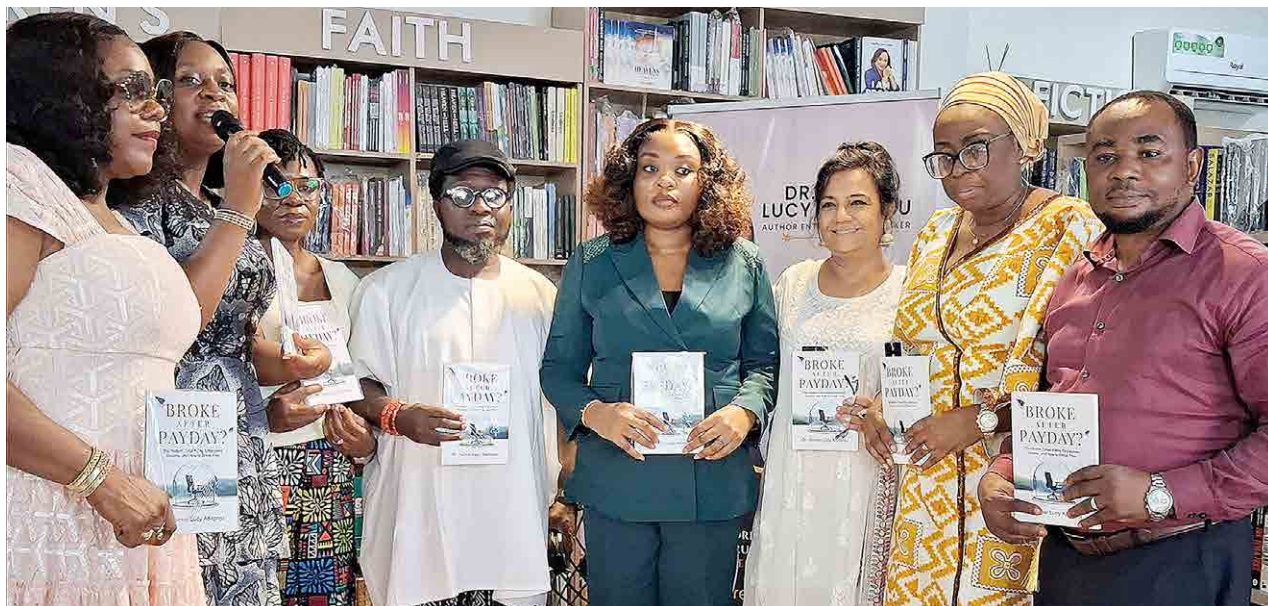
For short-term price stability, Inyang recommended prioritising domestic LPG supply ahead of exports, improving access to foreign exchange, reducing regulatory bottlenecks and expanding clean

cooking support programmes for low-income households.

He also called for sustained investment in storage facilities, gas processing plants, LPG terminals, transportation networks, strategic reserves and cylinder distribution systems.

Among the reforms proposed by NALPGAM are a domestic LPG supply obligation framework, tax incentives for infrastructure investment and the elimination of overlapping regulatory charges.

"With adequate domestic supply, improved infrastructure, exchange-rate stability and supportive government policies, the industry can achieve a more affordable and stable pricing environment," Inyang said.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION:**

L-R: Book reviewers, Dr Dolapo Muiyiwa-Koku; Mrs. Aderonke Oluseye-Adegbam; Olamide Alao-Akala; Author of the book, Dr Yemisi Adepoju; Administrator, American Christian Academy, Mrs. Anjali Bhagwanani; guest, Mrs. Oreoluwa Johnson, during the public presentation of a book entitled: "Broke After Payday" in Ibadan on Monday.

Drug war: Senate committee assures NDLEA of support**ABUJA**

The Senate Committee on Drugs and Narcotics has assured the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) of its full support in its ongoing offensive against substance abuse and illicit drug trafficking.

This is contained in a statement by the NDLEA Director of Media and Advocacy, Mr Femi Babafemi, and made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) Abuja on Tuesday.

Babafemi said that the newly appointed Chairman of the committee, Sen. Joseph Ikpea gave the assurance when he paid the NDLEA Chair-

man, retired, Brig.-Gen. Buba Marwa a courtesy visit at the NDLEA national headquarters in Abuja.

Ikpea said that his visit to the agency was to learn and partner with the agency, adding that he would be happy to work with the chairman given his record of achievements as military governor of the old Borno, military administrator of Lagos State and of recent chairman of the NDLEA.

According to the lawmaker who represents Edo Central Senatorial District, I have heard so many positive things about your sincerity, straightforwardness, passion and commitment.

"So I am here to learn and partner with you so that we can pull out our children who have gone into drug abuse and rescue them through rehabilitation, and to also prevent others from falling into the drug trap through massive awareness creation and sensitisation programmes aimed at prevention.

"So, we will partner with you through legislative support and necessary laws to subdue the drug problem in our country."

In his response, Marwa thanked the lawmaker for the visit and assured him of the preparedness of the Agency to work with him and the committee.

He congratulated him on

his recent appointment as the chairman, Senate Committee on Drugs and Narcotics, adding that such could only have happened because of his track record as an upright person.

"The drug problem is a major challenge that is at the root of some other social issues, not only in Nigeria but globally.

"However, I must say that we're doing our level best to curb the scourge and we are getting impressive results.

"This includes the dismantling of major transnational drug cartels, arrest of high profile barons and weakening their financial base through the seizure and forfeiture of their assets.

Delta LG begins disbursement of N50,000 bursary to students**ASABA**

The Ika South Local Government Area of Delta has begun the disbursement of bursaries to 430 students of the area, with each beneficiary receiving N50,000.

The Chairman of the council, Mr Jerry Ehiwarior, said on Tuesday that the bursary scheme underscored his administration's commitment to education, youth empowerment and human capital development.

According to him, the pro-

gramme coordinated through the Ika South students bursary scheme, is targeted at supporting students in higher institutions and encouraging them to remain focused on their academic pursuits.

"Education remains a critical tool for development and nation-building, my administration will continue to invest in programmes that empower young people and provide them with opportunities to achieve their full potential.

He said the bursary pro-

gramme is designed to reduce the financial burden on students and their families, while fostering a culture of excellence among beneficiaries.

"We officially commenced online disbursement of Ika South student bursaries today, 430 students that applied met the criteria hence the online disbursement.

"We are reaffirming our commitment to supporting education and investing in the future of our young people.

"This initiative is aimed at

easing the financial burden on students and encouraging academic excellence across our communities," he said.

The council chairman, who congratulated all successful applicants, urged them to remain diligent in their studies.

He said the knowledge and skills they acquired would prepare them for responsible leadership and contributions to society.

"Building a better future through education remains a key priority of this administration."

Fighting spirit key to victory, not weapons alone —COAS**JAJI (KADUNA)**

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lt.-Gen. Waidi Shaibu, says superior weapons and advanced technologies alone do not guarantee victory on the battlefield without the needed fighting spirit.

Shaibu said that fighting spirit, collective resolve and a shared sense of purpose among soldiers ultimately determine military success.

The COAS spoke on Tuesday while addressing officers and soldiers at the Infantry Corps Centre during a seminar on "Warrior Ethos: A Tool for Building Unit Cohesion and a Combat-Ready Force" in Jaji, Kaduna State for officers and soldiers attending course at the Nigerian Army School of Infantry (NASI).

Shaibu, represented by the Commander Infantry Corps, Maj.-Gen. Godwin Mutkut, de-

scribed the warrior ethos as a foundation of military professionalism and combat effectiveness.

He said the seminar was designed to rejuvenate the fighting spirit of officers and soldiers for greater operational success nationwide.

According to him, operational readiness remains a key pillar of his command philosophy aimed at building a professional and resilient army.

Shaibu said courage, discipline, selfless service, resilience and loyalty were essential values that define the warrior ethos.

He noted that cultivating such values would strengthen trust, enhance unit cohesion and develop the mental toughness needed for modern security challenges.

The army chief expressed concern over the growing influence of illicit drug use among some personnel.

LASEPA seals 13 establishments over noise, air pollution violations**LAGOS**

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), in collaboration with the Lagos Environmental Sanitation Corps, has sealed 13 establishments across the state for violating environmental regulations.

The enforcement exercise was carried out on Monday following reports of non-compliance with Lagos State air and noise pollution laws.

LASEPA disclosed this in a statement posted on its X handle on Tuesday.

According to the agency, the operation was conducted

on the directive of the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr Tokunbo Wahab.

LASEPA said Westgate Arena Club, located at Apostolic Church Close, Olowora, was sealed for persistent noise pollution.

It said Golden Click Hotel on Cados Road, Baruwa, was shut for non-compliance with the agency's directives.

The agency also sealed the 14:02 Lounge and Bar along Command Road, Aralamo Bus Stop, Ipaja, over noise pollution.

Similarly, the Cherubim and Seraphim Church on Olumuyiwa Jacobs Street, Aguda, Surulere, was shut for noise pollution.

LASEPA said Kilo Hotel on Adeniyi Adefioye Street, Kilo, Surulere, was sealed for non-compliance with regulatory directives.

It added that Max Lounge on Bode Thomas Street, Surulere, was shut for noise and air pollution offences.

ADDITION OF NAME

The general public is here by notified that **MRS. BELLO EITUAJIE GLORIA**, and **EHIMEN**, are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be called **MRS. BELLO EHIMEN EITUAJIE GLORIA**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

JUDICIARY**NEWS**

Court revokes Sowore's bail, orders his arrest

ABUJA

The Federal High Court in Abuja on Tuesday revoked a bail granted to Omoyele Sowore, the publisher of Sahara Reporters, over his absence in court for his trial.

Justice Mohammed Umar, in a ruling on an oral application made by the lawyer to the Department of State Services (DSS), Akinkolu Kehinde, SAN, also issued a bench warrant for his arrest.

The DSS is prosecuting Sowore for allegedly making false claims against the person of President Bola Tinubu by referring to him as "a criminal" in a post he made on his "X"

and Facebook accounts.

Justice Umar had, on June 5, fixed today for ruling on application by Sowore, through his lawyer, Marshall Abubakar, seeking the judge's recusal from the case.

Sowore had also, on the last adjourned date, opted to appear for himself in the case pending when he was able to reconstitute another legal team.

However, when the case was called on Tuesday, Sowore was not in court and no lawyer appeared for him.

Kehinde then informed the court that the matter was set down for ruling in respect of the defendant's application.

The lawyer said that despite the fact that Sowore was in court on Monday and the registrar informed parties that the matter would be coming up today, he was not in court for reason best known to him.

He said Sowore, instead, sent a letter asking for an adjournment.

"I will be applying for a bench warrant to be issued against the defendant also for the revocation of his bail.

"I have seen a letter dated June 15th, 2026

"The letter is of no moment.

There is no reason advanced as to why he is not in court today.

"It is a criminal trial and must be given all the serious-

ness it deserves," he said.

Justice Umar, in his ruling, agreed that he directed the registrar of the court to inform all parties in the cases scheduled for yesterday, including Sowore's matter, that all the cases would be heard today.

He said this was due to the fact that the court had just moved to another location on the 4th floor of the high-rise building and not yet composed of the clerical staff.

"The defendant is not in court today but sent a letter dated 15th of June, 2026.

"The defendant applied that matter that is for ruling be set down for delivery on either the 2nd, 3rd, 14th, 15th, 17th,

of July or September 8th, 9th, 10th, or any date subsequently as the court may deem convenient.

"There is no reason at all why the adjournment should be made in favour of the defendant.

"The defendant is also very much aware that this matter has been ordered to be heard day by day as enjoined by Section 39 (2) of Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015.

"The prosecution counsel, A. T. Kehinde, SAN, applied that the bail of the defendant be revoked and bench warrant be issued," the judge said.

Justice Umar, therefore, said that he was inclined to grant the prosecution's application.

According to him, the defendant did not take the trial in this court serious as it has reached a defence stage since the 16th of March, 2026.

"The defendant has been delaying this case through

one tactic or the other as all adjournments were at the instance of the defendant.

"The defendant who is on bail is in clear disobedience of the order of this court to appear today without any reason,

"Therefore, the bail of the defendant is hereby revoked and a bench warrant is hereby ordered to be issued against the defendant to compel him to appear in court on the next adjourned date," the judge ruled.

He adjourned the matter until June 22 for ruling.

Sowore had, on June 5, indicated his readiness to represent himself in court pending reconstitution of a new legal team.

He had told the judge that his lawyer, Abubakar and his team, who were not in court on that same day, told him that they would no longer appear in court because of the humiliation they suffered before the court.

**CAPACITY-BUILDING:**

Members, NIQS, in a group photograph with the Managing Director, Edo State Public Building and Maintenance Agency Arc. Emmanuel Fashanu, during capacity-buildig programme inn Beninn City.

EDPUBMA to partner NIQS on staff capacity building, employment

BENIN CITY

The Edo State Public Building and Maintenance Agency, EDPUBMA, has pledged to collaborate with professional bodies to strengthen staff capacity for timely and efficient project management.

The Managing Director of the Agency, Arc. Emmanuel Fashanu, gave the assurance on Tuesday while receiving members of the Nigerian In-

stitute of Quantity Surveyors, NIQS, Edo State Chapter, who paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

Arc. Fashanu said infrastructure management in the present era is dynamic and requires professionals to be abreast of modern practices. He disclosed that EDPUBMA places premium on staff training to build the capacity of professional staff across all disciplines, for greater efficiency not limited to quantity surveyors alone.

"We are committed to building the capacity of our team.

The agency will support and sponsor staff participation in your programmes. NIQS will also remain the first port of call for employment whenever the need arises," the MD stated.

In his remarks, the Chairman of NIQS, Edo State Chapter, Prof. Paul Ogbu, expressed appreciation to the MD for opening doors for collaboration. He said the Institute is ready to work with EDPUBMA to improve cost management, financial prudence, contract valuation and contract administration in building projects.

"There is a need to synergise

and collaborate to strengthen budget performance. Building contracts thrive on serious financial discipline, and quantity surveyors are central to achieving that," Prof. Ogbu said.

The NIQS chairman was accompanied on the visit by members of his Executive Council and other members of the Institute.

The highlight of the visit was a group photograph of the Institute's members with the Managing Director of the Edo State Public Building and Maintenance Agency.

Army officer sued for alleged land grabbing, threat to life

MASAKA (NASARAWA)

A businessman, Mr Ibrahim Bauko, has dragged an Army officer, Maj. Mamza I.J., to court over alleged criminal conspiracy, trespass, mischief and threat to life involving 3.2 hectares of land.

The case, brought before the Chief Magistrates' Court, Masaka, Nasarawa State, had Hamza, who resides at New Karu, Karu LGA and other defendants, accused of criminal conspiracy and trespass of the

land.

In a direct criminal complaint filed pursuant to Sections 88 and 109 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Nasarawa State 2018, the complainant, Bauko, claimed possession of the land.

He averred that the plot of land, measuring 3.2 hectares, and situated at Ruga Madaki, Mararaba, Karu LGA, had been his exclusive possession since purchase.

He further averred that the defendants, on May 15, 2026, entered the property without

lawful reason, destroyed his beacons and buildings with armed thugs, and threatened to kill him.

Bauko also alleged that the defendants placed a signboard on the land with the inscription "Military Zone Keep Off" in order to scare him away from his land.

He said as a result of the threat by the defendants, he could no longer access his land.

The complainant stated that the acts of the defendants constitute offences of criminal conspiracy, criminal trespass,

mischief and intimidation, contrary and punishable under Sections 97, 348, 327 and 397 of the Penal Code Law of Nasarawa State.

He, therefore, sought an order of the court to stop the defendants from parading themselves as owners of the land.

The defendants were not present in court when the matter was called for mention.

The Chief Magistrate, Godiya Bawa, adjourned the matter until June 26, for further mention.

Court remands two in advance fee fraud case

OLIVER IJIOGBE

BENIN CITY

A Benin High Court, Criminal Division has remanded one Omorodion Gregory 54 years for offences bordering on advance fee fraud.

Police prosecution while briefing the court, alleged that the defendant and others now at large conspired among themselves to commit felony to wit advance fee fraud, an offence punishable under the law.

The prosecution further alleged that the defendant and others now at large obtained the sum of six million naira from their victim, an offence the prosecution said is pun-

ishable under the advance fee fraud and other fraud related offences Act, laws of the federation of Nigeria 2006.

In a related development, A Benin High Court, Criminal Division has ordered a 32 year old Giwa Aminat to be remanded in custodial centre for advance fee fraud.

The defendant and others now at large allegedly conspired among themselves under false pretence of being wholesale dealers in rice with the intent to defraud, and obtained the sum of thirty million naira from their victim, an offence punishable under the law.

Both defendants were ordered to stay behind bars after they pleaded not guilty to the charges preferred against them.

Three persons to stay behind bars in armed robbery case

OLIVER IJIOGBE

BENIN CITY

A High Court sitting in Benin has remanded three persons in correctional facility for alleged conspiracy and armed robbery...

The defendants are Taman Namen 28 years, Gambo Renan 32 years and Godfrey Ayuba 31 years.

According to the prosecution, the defendants and others now at large at Ogunmwenyin Community conspired among themselves to commit the offence of armed robbery, an offence punishable under the law.

The prosecution alleged that the defendants and others now at large while armed with a gun, cutlass and other dangerous weapons robbed their vic-

tim of his Access Bank ATM card, 2 HP Elite book Laptops valued at one million Naira, one Dell laptop and other valuables, an offence that is also punishable under the law.

The prosecution further alleged that the defendants while still armed with a gun, cutlass and other dangerous weapons robbed another person of his iPhone 16 pro Max, Samsung S25 ULTRA, iPhone 12 pro Max, one HP laptop and other valuables valued over eight million Naira, an offence the prosecution told the court is punishable under the law.

Before Adjourning the case, the court ordered that the three accused persons be remanded in correctional facility after taking their pleas of not guilty in all the charges preferred against them.

NEWS**Foreign**

MoD investigating reports Russian warship fired warning shots near yacht in Channel

The Ministry of Defence is investigating reports a Russian warship fired warning shots near a UK-registered yacht in the English Channel.

The incident, which happened at around 11:40am BST on Tuesday between the Isle of Wight and Normandy, reportedly involved the Russian frigate Admiral Grigorovich.

It is understood there were no injuries or damage to the yacht.

A Ministry of Defence spokesperson said: "We are

investigating reports of an incident in the Channel."

British authorities received reports from a UK-registered yacht that the Russian vessel had fired warning shots from around 500 yards (457 meters) away - a relatively near distance by the standards of sea travel.

The incident reportedly happened around 20 nautical miles south of the Isle of Wight, outside UK territorial waters.

It comes days after Royal Marine Commandos intercept-

ed a Russian shadow fleet tanker carrying sanctioned oil in the Channel on Sunday, in the first operation of its kind carried out by the British military.

But it is understood British officials do not view this incident as being linked to Sunday's operation.

Russian warships regularly pass through the Channel and are routinely monitored by Royal Navy vessels.

The frigate thought to be involved in Tuesday's incident

was being shadowed by the HMS Mersey, it is understood.

On Monday, the Navy said the Admiral Grigorovich was being tracked by the HMS Tyne and HMS Mersey over the weekend, in what it described as a "routine operation" after it was spotted off the coast of Brest in France.

The warship has allegedly been operating in the Channel for a while, patrolling and also escorting some of the Russian shadow fleet that pass through the shipping lane.

Russian artist and Putin critic shot dead in Poland

Police in Poland are investigating the execution-style murder of a Russian artist and vocal critic of President Vladimir Putin.

Polish prosecutors said Robert K, known as the artist Semyon Skrepetsky, was shot dead on Monday morning in the Polish city of Biala Podlaska, about 40km (25 miles) from the Belarusian border.

The 44-year-old was shot five times in the head, chest and back in a car park in the city, located about 600m from the Belarusian consulate.

Semyon Skrepetsky was the pseudonym used by Robert Kuzovkov. He was known for his caricatures of politicians, including Putin, Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko and Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov.

Marcin Kozak, spokesman for the District Prosecutor's Office in Lublin, said the artist was approached by an unidentified gunman who fired two shots at him.

"When the victim fell to the ground, the perpetrator approached, fired three more shots and then quickly fled the scene. Robert K died at the

scene," he added.

Five shell casings and one Geco 9mm Luger bullet were recovered from the crime scene, Kozak said.

An autopsy has been scheduled for Wednesday.

Police detained two Belarusian citizens, aged 33 and 37, near the Belarusian consulate in the city. Their role in the incident was still being determined, Kozak said.

Media reports said Skrepetsky moved to Biala Podlaska in 2021.

"The victim engaged in public artistic activities and used among other things, the pseudonym Semyon Skrepetsky, under which he expressed criticism of the current policies of the Russian Federation authorities," Kozak said.

Video posted recently on social media showed Skrepetsky at a Russia Day protest outside the Russian embassy in Berlin on 12 June.

He had been carrying a painting caricaturing Putin and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, as well as a Russian flag tied to his trousers that had been dragging along the road.



RUSSIAN ARTIST AND VOCAL CRITIC:

Semyon Skrepetsky was not immediately identified by police in eastern Poland.

Tehran selling deal with US as victory, but for Iranians it was necessity

Iran's leadership is trying to present its emerging memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the US not as a retreat, but as the result of resistance and victory. That is not an easy argument to make.

The country has just gone through a damaging war, the economy is under severe pressure, and parts of the Islamic Republic's own support base have spent months denouncing any compromise with Washington.

There are also Iranians, both inside the country and abroad, who see the crisis not as a moment for diplomacy, but as an opportunity for regime change.

This is the divided political landscape in which Tehran is now trying to sell the deal.

Iran deal presents political nightmare for Netanyahu

Bowen: Iran deal ends Trump's war that revealed limit of US dominance

Senior Iranian officials have framed the deal as a win. Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the Speaker of parliament and the leading Iranian figure in the talks, said Iran had taken "a long step towards final victory".

President Masoud Pezeshkian has described the understanding as potentially transformative, saying that if fully implemented it could resolve many of Iran's problems and create "a different world" in Iran and the Middle East.

Qalibaf's role is significant because he is not identified with Pezeshkian's moderate camp; his public support suggests the deal has backing from more powerful parts of the system even within Islamic Republic Revolutionary Guards.

The leadership is also presenting the agreement as a victory because, in Tehran's argument, the US and Israel failed to achieve their main objectives.

They did not force Iran into surrender, did not remove the Islamic Republic from power, did not end Iran's nuclear programme through military action, and did not break Iran's links to Hezbollah.

Instead, Iran is still at the negotiating table, with Lebanon included in the framework and sanctions relief being discussed.

But this official narrative is contested inside Iran.

One hard-line MP, the deputy chair of parliament's National Security Committee, has reportedly described the draft deal as a document that would turn Iran into an American colony.

He also accused negotiators of ignoring the supreme leader's directive not to re-open the Strait of Hormuz to shipping.

That criticism matters because it does not come from outside the system. It comes from within one of the institutions meant to oversee national

security.

For months, hard-line voices in parliament, state-aligned media and nightly pro-government gatherings have argued that the US cannot be trusted.

They point to the fact that diplomacy was still taking place shortly before the war began, and say the Trump administration used negotiations as cover while Israel and the US prepared military action. For them, any deal with Washington risks looking like appeasement.

Eight dead after US Air Force B-52 bomber crashes in California

Eight people, including two Boeing employees, have been killed after a US Air Force B-52 bomber crashed immediately after take-off from Edwards Air Force Base in southern California.

The incident occurred at 11:20 local time (19:20 GMT) on Monday while the aircraft had been on a routine test mission. The crash sent a huge plume of black smoke into the air that could be seen for miles.

"Today, Edwards Air Force Base experienced a terrible tragedy, and we lost eight great Americans," Col James Hayes said, describing them as a "mixed crew of military, government civilians and government contractors".

The base earlier said that initial indications were that the crash "was not survivable".

The crew's next of kin were being notified, and they will be named 24 hours after that, Hayes said in an afternoon briefing.

The crash was "totally contained" within the Edwards Air Force Base on the runway, Hayes said, and the base has temporarily grounded operations.

The B-52 had been supporting the base's radar modernisation programme, he said, and crashed immediately after take-off and burst into flames.

After reviewing initial footage, the incident had been deemed "an unrecoverable crash and unsurvivable", Hayes said.

No cause has yet been determined and will not be until after a series of investigations, which could take up to 30 days. Further cause analysis investigations could take more than six months, Hayes said.

Boeing confirmed in a separate statement that two of its employees had been among those onboard and said the company was in contact with their families. The aerospace giant declined to comment further when contacted by the BBC.

France's oldest female detainee, 79, goes on trial for in-law's grisly murder

France's oldest female detainee has gone on trial for murder at a court in Versailles, in a cold case centring on a dismembered body found 31 years ago.

Marie-Thérèse Garcia, 79, is charged with the kidnap and murder of her former sister-in-law Corinne Di Dio.

Di Dio went missing in June 1995 when she was 37. Days later, a metal trunk bound with a metal chain was discovered

floating in the River Seine to the west of Paris.

Inside was the dismembered corpse of a woman - without head and hands. Only in 1997 was the body identified as Di Dio's, while the missing body parts have never been found.

Garcia early on came under suspicion, but twice the case was closed for lack of evidence.

Recently, though, DNA technology gave police a breakthrough. Two hairs found

inside the metal trunk were found to belong either to the defendant or to another woman in her matrilineal descent.

In 2023, Garcia was put in prison to await trial. Repeated pleas for conditional release on grounds of age and ill health have been turned down.

Dubbed Ma Dalton by the French press - after the redoubtable grandmother of the Lucky Luke comic strip - Garcia protests her innocence, telling Le Parisien newspaper recently that the case against

her was "built on sand".

"No-one knows what happened. And in law if you don't know, you can't convict," she said.

Her lawyer Najwa El Haïté argued: "The way [Di Dio] was killed - they were the methods of the underworld, of organised crime. No head, no hands - that's not the method of a Marie-Thérèse, a woman with no criminal record."

The complicating factor is that Garcia and Di Dio were both very much connected to the criminal underworld.

Foreign**NEWS****Central African Republic army denies coup rumours**

The Central African Republic's military has rejected reports circulating on social media that a plot was underway to overthrow the government, insisting that the country remains stable and that state institutions are functioning normally.

In a rare public statement, the armed forces' general staff dismissed claims of a coup attempt as false information aimed at creating confusion and undermining public confidence. Military officials urged citizens not to be influenced by rumours and to rely only on official sources for information.

The denial comes amid heightened sensitivity across Africa, where several countries have experienced military takeovers or alleged coup plots in recent years. As a result, unver-

fied reports of political instability often spread quickly online.

Authorities in Bangui say security forces remain fully operational and loyal to President Faustin-Archange Touadéra's government. The military leadership also warned against the dissemination of false information, saying such reports could threaten national security and public order.

The statement seeks to reassure both citizens and international partners at a time when the Central African Republic continues to face security challenges despite efforts to stabilize the country.

For now, officials insist there has been no attempt to overthrow the government, describing the rumours as unfounded speculation rather than a genuine threat to the state.

**QUIET IN LEBANON:**

One million people remain displaced across Lebanon, most of them Shia Muslims.

DR Congo's Ebola outbreak tops 800 cases as death toll reaches 192

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ebola outbreak continues to worsen, with confirmed infections climbing to 808 and the death toll reaching 192. Health authorities are battling the spread across three eastern provinces while isolation and response efforts remain underway.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has reported 808 confirmed Ebola cases, including 192 deaths, according to the latest figures released by the Ministry of Health.

The outbreak, officially declared on May 15, continues to affect communities in the eastern part of the country.

Health officials confirmed 26 new infections and 11 additional deaths on Sunday alone, underscoring the rapid pace of transmission.

Response efforts continue in affected provinces

Authorities are maintaining

emergency response operations in the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, where the outbreak remains concentrated.

As of Sunday, 363 patients were being treated in isolation facilities as medical teams work to contain the virus.

So far, 48 people have recovered since the beginning of the outbreak.

Bundibugyo strain poses ongoing challenge

The current epidemic is caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, a less common variant that has complicated containment efforts.

Based on official figures, the outbreak has recorded a case fatality rate of 23.8 percent.

Health authorities continue surveillance, patient isolation and community outreach campaigns in an effort to slow transmission and prevent the disease from spreading further.

Swedish man jailed for four years for coercing wife into sex with 120 men

A 61-year-old Swedish man has been sentenced to four years and five months in prison for coercing his wife into providing sexual services to more than 120 men.

The court found he had controlled her through threats of violence and security cameras. He was convicted of offences including attempted rape, aggravated pimping, assault and unlawful threats following a trial in Härnösand, on Sweden's eastern coast.

The court also convicted 28 other men of purchasing sexual acts and services.

The case drew international attention and has been compared by some to Dominique Pelicot in France who was found to have drugged his then-wife Gisèle and allowed other men to rape her over a

period of nine years.

The man from the Swedish province of Ångermanland consistently denied any wrongdoing and claimed he had only helped organise consensual encounters.

But the court sided with prosecutors, finding he had "ruthlessly exploited" the woman. Neither has been publicly identified.

This story contains details that some readers may find disturbing

Prosecutors said the man began forcing his wife into sex with the men, who travelled to their secluded farm in Kramfors from across the country, in exchange for payment in 2022 - and only ceased when she reported him to police in October 2025.

He plied her with drugs and used the remoteness of their home in eastern Sweden, her limited network of contacts

Fragile quiet in Lebanon as US-Iran truce leaves unanswered questions

An estimated 50,000 homes have been damaged or destroyed in Lebanon during the war

On Monday, hours after the announcement of a ceasefire agreement between the US and Iran, families that had been displaced because of the war began to return to communities in southern Lebanon, despite warnings from the authorities that it was not safe yet.

In a video widely shared online, some residents arrived by car in a village to find an Israeli armoured vehicle blocking a street.

Exhausted after more than three months of conflict, the people of Lebanon hoped the truce would also stop the fighting here between Israel and the Iranian-backed armed group Hezbollah.

A fragile quiet appears to

be holding, despite Israel and Hezbollah carrying out attacks over the past day, but many remain doubtful that this could finally mean the end of the war.

A man called Abo Ali, who had been displaced from Jebchit in the Nabatieh area of southern Lebanon said his family "had returned, but with caution". Surrounded by heavily damaged buildings, he said: "All of this can be compensated for, and rebuilt."

Another man, Moustafa, was returning to the village of Aadshit, near Marjayoun, carrying only a suitcase. "For someone who's used to this area and has

lived here, to come back and see this destruction is extremely hard," he said.

But he too remained unsure if the lull in the conflict would hold. "Israel can't be trusted," he added.

The US-Iran agreement has not yet been made public, and it is unclear how it will apply to Lebanon. Both Iran and Pakistan, which acted as a mediator, said it included a ceasefire in the country - an Iranian demand that had become a key obstacle in the negotiations.

This round of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah started in March when Hezbol-

lah launched rockets into Israel in retaliation for the killing of the Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, at the start of the US-Israel war against Iran. Israel responded with a devastating bombing campaign across Lebanon and another invasion of the country's south.

For Iran, including Lebanon in the truce was crucial in strengthening its image among Hezbollah supporters, who have been deeply affected by the conflict, and in reinforcing Tehran's influence domestically. Iran has financed, trained and armed Hezbollah since its creation in the 1980s.

Venezuela signs deal with US energy giant to rebuild power grid

Venezuela's interim president has signed an agreement with US energy giant General Electric to rebuild the country's electricity grid.

Delcy Rodríguez, who was sworn in shortly after US forces seized Venezuela's leader, Nicolás Maduro, in January, announced the move at a televised event at the presidential palace on Monday.

The agreement is the latest sign that the interim leader - who was a fierce critic of the US before Maduro's ouster - is opening up Venezuela's economy to US investors and companies.

Critics of her government have warned that while Rodríguez appears to be loosening the state's control over the economy, many key institutions remain firmly under her party's control.

Venezuela suffers from frequent power cuts and its power system - which was nationalised in 2007 under Maduro's mentor, Hugo Chávez - is in dire need of repair and investment.

Rodríguez described the signing of the agreement with General Electric Vernova, the US company's local branch, as

"a historic step for Venezuela", which would allow the South American nation to restore what she called "an essential service".

Power cuts often last 10 hours or longer and have affected major cities, including the capital, Caracas.

The Maduro government had blamed a drought for the frequent outages, which meant that the Guri hydroelectric power dam - a key source of electricity - was not producing enough energy to meet demand.

But analysts have long warned that a lack of investment in and maintenance of the power grid, coupled with high consumption, have created an energy crisis which has been one of the blocks to Venezuela's economic recovery.

The deal with General Electric was struck under the leadership of Energy Minister Rolando Alcalá, an electrical engineer appointed to the job by Rodríguez three months ago.

His appointment was seen as a welcome change after six years in which the ministry was headed by senior members

of the military, who failed to fix the failing grid.

Rodríguez has closely cooperated with the Trump administration on a number of matters.

Last week, US forces carried out a military strike in which the leader of the Tren de Aragua criminal gang was killed.

US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth said that the operation had been carried out "in full co-operation with Venezuelan security forces", something which would have been unthinkable when Maduro was in power.

However, members of Venezuela's opposition have pointed out that there have been very few changes to the legislative, executive and judicial branches since Maduro's ouster and that the electoral council is also still dominated by Maduro loyalists.

Two weeks ago, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio told Congress that "ultimately the answer in Venezuela is a free and fair democratic election because it's not just the right thing, it's also necessary for them to attract the kind of investment that they want".

Sports

● Football ● Athletics ● Golf ● Basketball ● Tennis ● Boxing

APC candidate Hon. Ijegbai Congratulates Edo Queens, Enabulele on winning NWFL Title

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE

Hon. Andrew Ijegbai, the All Progressives Congress (APC) House of Representatives candidate for Owen Federal Constituency seat congratulates Edo Queens Football Club on emerging champions of the Nigeria Women Football League

(NWFL) Premiership. Hon Ijegbai described the victory as a well deserved one having worked hard, saying that winning the league title this season is another remarkable achievement to the historic title they won for the first time in 2024.

Edo Queens won the women premier league trophy on Sunday

after a goalless stalemate with the defending champions Bayelsa Queens, following their remarkable feat, thrashing FC Robo Queens, Abia Angels and Rivers Angels 4-1, 6-2 and 2-1 respectively before the final game to garner 10 points (+7) goals. They only lost their opening match to Nasarawa Amazon 1-0.

"It is with immense joy and pride that I extend my warmest congratulations to Hon Amadin Desmond Enabulele's incredible management team, dedicated coaching staff, and the phenomenal players of the Edo Queens Football Club on their historic victory, securing the Nigeria Women Premier Football League (NWPFL) title this past Sunday evening.

"This spectacular achievement is not just a win on the pitch; it is a powerful testament to the hard work, unrelenting resilience, and sheer discipline that this team has displayed

throughout the entire season and the Super Six tournament. You have proven that with dedication and teamwork, no goal is unattainable." Ijegbai said.

"Your spectacular run and ultimate victory beautifully embody the true spirit of the Edo person—a spirit defined by bravery, excellence, and an indomitable will to succeed against all odds. You have brought glory to our great state and reminded the nation that Edo remains the undisputed cradle of sports in Nigeria." He emphasized.

"As you celebrate this well-deserved championship, please know that you have inspired a new generation of young athletes across Edo State and beyond. We look forward to cheering you on as you carry this momentum into future competitions and continental campaigns." Congratulations once again, Champions!



EDO QUEENS CELEBRATE WINNING NWFL TITLE



MOHAMMED BABA ABDULLAHI

World Archery Commonwealth committee appoints Abdullahi

World World Archery confirms five appointments including Mohammed Baba Abdullahi of Nigeria Archery Federation to its Commonwealth Games Committee.

Tony Neziyana, Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, said the appointment signals push for greater Nigerian global representation ahead of competitions.

Neziyana said Mohammed Baba Abdullahi, also Deputy Secretary-General of Nigeria Olympic Committee, received appointment via letter dated May 15 to Robert Fiddym and Raul Calin.

World Archery Executive Board roster includes Abdullahi, Karl Balisch, Trina Roberts,

Ainsley Ward, and Virendra Sachdeva, representing different continents and expertise.

In addition, Juan Carlos Holgado will continue as federation liaison staff member for the committee.

World Archery Secretary General Raul Calin said the federation looks forward to members contributing to committee activities, stating "We look forward to their contributions".

NOC said appointments come at crucial time as federation advocates archery inclusion in Commonwealth Games programmes.

This will ensure top-tier technical oversight and governance from experienced global administrators, NOC added.

Oyelahan, Saleh, Ahube shine at Captain Ukaegbu's Inaugural Golf Tournament

Adebowale Oyelahan, Murtala Saleh, Lady Captain Nnenna Ahube and Abigail Ikuifisile emerged as top performers at Captain Michael Chidi (MC) Ukaegbu's Inaugural Golf Tournament and 50th Birthday Championship held at the Bonny Island Golf Club (BIGC).

The two-day tournament was organised in honour of Ukaegbu's inauguration as captain of the club and to celebrate his 50th birthday.

The event attracted more than 120 golfers, including club members and guests from across the country, who competed in various categories on the club's golf course.

Oyelahan won the Men's Division One title with a net score of 70, edging Wilson Sapele on countback, while Saleh claimed the Men's Best Gross prize and finished third overall with a net score of 71.

Speaking after his victory, Oyelahan expressed delight at emerging overall winner of the championship.

"It is a special feeling to win a tournament organised to celebrate Captain MC Ukaegbu's milestone birthday and inauguration as captain of the club," he said.

He attributed his success to discipline, preparation and consistency throughout the round.

"The course was challenging, but I remained focused on every shot and stayed committed to my game plan. I am honoured to emerge the overall

winner," Oyelahan said.

He commended the organisers for staging a successful tournament and providing participants with a memorable experience.

"The tournament was well organised and highly competitive. Credit goes to the captain, sponsors and committee members for a fantastic event," he said.

In the Men's Division Two category, Oludare Oyegbami won with 73 nett, ahead of Temitayo Ogunjoju with 75 nett and Sonny Fombo with 77 nett.



Adebowale Oyelahan, Murtala Saleh, Lady Captain Nnenna Ahube and Abigail Ikuifisile emerged as top performers at Captain Michael Chidi (MC) Ukaegbu's Inaugural Golf Tournament and 50th Birthday Championship held at the Bonny Island Golf Club (BIGC).

World Cup: Ex-international, Terry, confident ahead England opener against Croatia

As England prepare for their 2026 FIFA World Cup campaign against Croatia on Wednesday evening, former England captain, John Terry, has expressed confidence ahead of the match.

SuperSport Senior Manager, Communications and Part-

nerships, Sibusiso Mjikeliso, disclosed this in a statement issued yesterday and made available to newsmen in Lagos.

According to Mjikeliso, Terry, who will be working as an analyst with SuperSport, a MultiChoice/Canal+ franchise for the Mundial, be-

lieves the Three Lions have a genuine opportunity to end decades of hurt.

He quoted Terry as saying that, with the calibre of players in the squad, the team has the potential to bring football's greatest prize home this summer.

Terry, who is part of SuperSport's star-studded FIFA World Cup analyst team, has been closely following England's preparations and is optimistic about what lies ahead for his country.

The Chelsea legend believes England arrive at the tournament with one of the strongest squads in world football and a growing sense of belief that they can go all the way.

"I'm extremely excited to see England at this World Cup," Terry said.



JOHN TERRY

Kano Pillars release 8 players after contract expiration

Kano Pillars Football Club has announced the departure of eight players whose contracts expired at the conclusion of the 2025/2026 Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) season.

The players are Muhammad Galadima, Ugochukwu Gabriel, Zahraddeen Bello, Williams Ayuba, Bernard Ovoke, Christian Izuchukwu, Sudais Ali Baba, and Aliyu Yakubu.

In a statement issued by the club's Media and Communications Directorate, Pillars

expressed appreciation to the departing players for their professionalism, commitment, and contributions during their time with the club.

The management, technical crew, staff, and supporters extended heartfelt gratitude to the players, wishing them success in the next chapter of their careers.

The club noted that their efforts and services will always be remembered, adding that they remain valued members of the Kano Pillars family.



KANO PILLARS

Wrestling: Team Nigeria win 5 gold in Brazzaville, Congo



TEAM NIGERIA

Team Nigeria finished the Central African Wrestling Championship with five gold and one silver medal after competing in Brazzaville, Congo. The tournament featured Freestyle, Beach Wrestling, and Women's Wrestling categories, with Nigeria recording a strong performance.

Promise Otokoto, Media Assistant to the Nigeria Wrestling Federation (NWF), disclosed this on Monday in Lagos.

Otokoto said Team Nigeria opened the championship with three gold medals through outstanding performances.

"Team Nigeria started on the opening day by securing three gold medals," he said.

Terry Godfrey won gold in the Men's 65kg Freestyle category, while Andrew Woyinkorikiye triumphed in 53kg Women's Wrestling.

"Andrew displayed Nigeria's fighting spirit by clinching another gold medal," Otokoto stated.

He added that Precillia Archbone won gold in the 45kg category.

"Precillia added Nigeria's third gold medal, making it three victories from three events," he said.

Nigeria continued its impressive run in Beach Wrestling with two more gold medals.

"Andrew Woyinkorikiye and

Precillia Archbone won gold, while Terry Godfrey settled for silver," Otokoto added.

The federation's aide said Nigeria finished third overall, behind DR Congo and Congo Brazzaville.

He explained that the final ranking was influenced by the number of athletes registered.

Otokoto said Nigeria's participation reflected the NWF's renewed focus on talent development.

Meanwhile, NWF president, Adewale Adeniyi, said he prioritised grassroots growth through international competitions.

Adeniyi, who is also the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, reaffirmed his support for the initiative.

Jimoh advances as 2026 CBN Open Tennis Championship serves off

Joseph Jimoh has advanced to the second round of the men's singles at the ongoing 2026 CBN Open Tennis Championship after defeating Musa Mohammed 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 in a hard-fought opening-round encounter on Monday in Abuja.

The match, played at the Tennis Complex of Package B, Moshood Abiola National Stadium, saw both players battle through fluctuating momentum.

With Jimoh taking the first set 6-3 before Mohammed responded strongly to level the contest with a 6-4 second-set win.

The deciding set remained tightly contested, but Jimoh held his nerve in the closing stages to clinch a 7-5 victory and secure passage into the next round.

Jimoh will now face the winner of the second-round clash between Saidu Sani-Inabo and Samuel Akagha as the competition progresses.

In other men's singles first-round matches, Canice Abua defeated Nuhu Urenyang 6-2, 6-4. Abua will meet Musa Sani in the second round after Sani overcame Kater Kpum 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Dahiru Muhammed also progressed after a 6-3, 6-4 win over Ruby Toba, and will face the winner of the match between Charles Olom and Sunday Chinedu.

Chima Michael defeated Mathew Abamu 7-5, 7-6(0), while Yau Sani beat Elisha

Kwange 3-6, 6-1, 6-2. Mubarak Ganiyu also advanced after a 6-4, 7-5 win over David Edward. Michael will face Yau Sani in the second round.

Other results saw Yahaya Sani-Inabo defeating Ayomiposi Agboola 6-2, 6-2, while Thomas Otu beat Isaac Danjuma 6-0, 7-5 to set up a meeting with the winner between Abdulbasit Salami and Joshua Maxwell.

Emmanuel Michael recorded a 6-1, 6-1 win over Aminu Ibrahim, while John Otu defeated Abdulsalam Muhammed 6-2, 6-7(7), 6-1.

Abayomi Phillips overcame Rashet Mamud 6-3, 6-2, and Daniel Adeleye beat Yohanna Yakubu 6-1, 6-4.

Mevi Drimiya defeated Seyi Ogunsakin 6-7(2), 6-3, 6-1, while Paul Egena edged Alpha Ahli 6-2, 6-7(1), 6-4.



JOSEPH JIMOH (RIGHT)

Commonwealth Fencing Championships: Nigeria unveils logo, mascot

The Nigeria Fencing Federation (NFF) on Tuesday unveiled the official logo and mascot for the 2026 Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Lagos.



The event was held at Rugby School, Lagos.

NFF President, Adeyinka Samuel, said the unveiling marked the start of preparations for the historic championship.

The competition will be the first Commonwealth Fencing Championships to be hosted on African soil.

Samuel described the occasion as a proud moment for Nigerian sports and fencing development.

He said Nigeria defeated Australia to secure the hosting rights, reflecting global confidence in the country.

"Today is a proud moment for Nigerian sport as we officially launch the 2026 Commonwealth Fencing Championships.

Tunisia sacks coach after heavy World cup defeat

Tunisia have become the first team to sack their coach at the ongoing 2026 FIFA World Cup following the country's disappointing start to the tournament.

The Tunisian Football Federation announced the sack of coach Sabri Lamouchi, after the team's 5-1 defeat to Sweden in their opening Group F match on Sunday.

The heavy loss left Tunisia at the bottom of the group and raised concerns about the team's chances of progressing to the knockout stage.

Tunisia struggled throughout the match as Sweden dominated possession and created several scoring opportunities.

The North African side found it difficult to cope with the attacking strength of their opponents and conceded five goals.

Football analysts described the result as one of Tunisia's heaviest defeats in World Cup history,

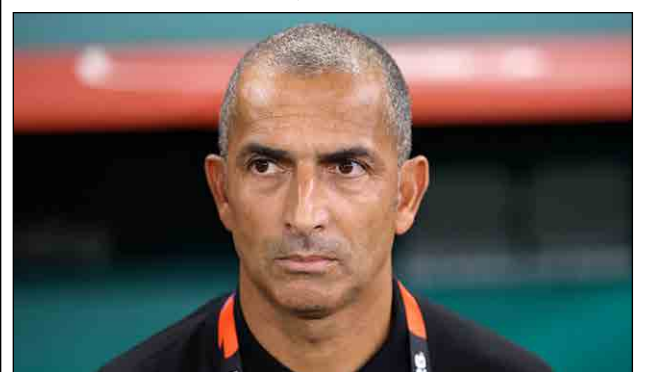
and a major setback for a team that arrived at the tournament hoping to make an impact.

In a statement, the Tunisian Football Federation thanked Lamouchi, for his service and commitment to the national team but said a change was necessary to improve the team's performance in the remaining matches.

"The federation appreciates the efforts of the coach and his technical crew. However, following recent results, a decision has been taken to appoint a new leadership for the team," it said.

Lamouchi, becomes the first coach to lose his job at the ongoing World Cup, highlighting the pressure national team managers face during major international competitions.

The former Tunisia international had guided the team through qualification and was expected to help the Eagles of Carthage challenge stronger opponents at the tournament.



COACH SABRI LAMOUCI

2026 Volleyball League: Vipers & Partners coach celebrates team's winning start



Francisca Ikhiede, Head Coach, Vipers and Partners Women's Volleyball Club, has described her team's opening victory in the ongoing 2026 National Premier Volleyball League as a "dream debut".

Ikhiede said that the performance reflected the team's thorough preparation, tactical discipline and mental strength ahead of their first-ever outing in the top-flight league.

"The straight-sets victory over Kada Emeralds has boost-

ed the confidence of my players," she said.

The Nigeria Volleyball Federation (NVBF) is organising the 2026 National Premier Volleyball League at the Indoor Sports Hall, Package B, Moshood Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.

"Marking our Premier League debut with a 3-0 win over Kada Emeralds (25-21, 25-22, 25-22) is a dream debut for us.

"This victory has boosted our confidence as we begin our first campaign in the top-flight league.

"My players were not intimidated. They showed composure, discipline and determination throughout the match," she Ikhiede.

The coach said starting the season with a win had set a positive tone for subsequent matches.

She added that the team's discipline and focus were crucial to securing the straight-sets victory in spite of their lack of experience at the elite level.

In another encounter, Life Camp VC secured a hard-fought 3-2 victory over NAF Rockets

(25-22, 25-21, 9-25, 19-25, 15-7).

Life Camp VC Head Coach, Bala Ibrahim, described the win as "payback", noting that his players showed resilience after losing momentum in the third and fourth sets.

Also, Federal Fire Service defeated Olalomi Royal Angels 3-1 (26-24, 27-25, 27-25, 25-16).

Nigeria Customs Service recorded a 3-0 victory over Benue Queens (25-13, 25-21, 25-10), while CNS Spikers defeated Excelsior VC 3-0 (25-10, 25-8, 25-18).



Deputy Gov., Hon. Dennis Idahosa, Celebrates Edo Queens' NWFL Premiership Victory

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE

Edo State Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa, has congratulated Edo Queens Football Club on their remarkable achievement of emerging champions of the Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership for the second time.

In a congratulatory message posted on his official Facebook account, Idahosa described the team's victory as a testament to the hard work, discipline, resilience, and determination of the players, coaching crew, management, and all stakeholders who contributed to the success

of the club.

He commended Edo Queens for making the state proud and for showcasing the excellence, talent, and winning spirit Edo State is known for.

The Deputy Governor also congratulated the team on securing qualification for continental competition, describing it as a well-deserved reward for their outstanding performance throughout the season.

He expressed confidence that Edo Queens would continue to represent Edo State and Nigeria with courage, professionalism, and competitive spirit as they prepare for their continental campaign.

According to Idahosa, the triumph serves as an inspiration to young girls and aspiring athletes across the state and the country, demonstrating that dedication and perseverance can lead to remarkable achievements.

He commended the players, technical team, supporters, and stakeholders for their collective efforts, assuring that the Edo State Government remains committed to supporting sports development and creating opportunities for athletes to excel.

The Deputy Governor further wished Edo Queens greater success in their future competitions, especially on the continental stage



Edo State Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa (middle) with Edo Queens Football Club, Edo State Sports Commission, Hon. Desmond Amadin Enabulele and the coaching crew, management, and all stakeholders.

Defending Champions return as AMAPRO unveils bigger 2026 Championship

The countdown to the 2026 AMAPRO Football Championship has started with 16 clubs confirmed for this year's tournament in Ilorin, Kwara State.

The annual competition, created to reduce the gap between professional and amateur football and speed up player development, will run from July 6 to July 12.

Defending champions, House of Prayers Football Academy, return with the target of holding on to their title against a fresh and competitive field.

Other clubs confirmed are Abrasports FC, Dickalo FA,

Discovery FA, Cornerstone FC, KFA, Excel FA, Da Faria SC, Araba FC, NPFL Allstars, Gaa Akanbi FA, Laycon FA, Na Royal FC, Easy Nter Global FC, DollyP FA and HMK FC.

Matches will be played across the Rashidi Yekini Main Bowl and the Kwara Football Academy Main Pitch.

Speaking ahead of the competition, Project Manager of the tournament, Abdulkareem Abdulazeez, said this year's edition will bring fresh energy and stronger competition.

"We have new faces coming in this year and that changes things. It raises the level and pushes everyone to compete



Belgium fight back to deny brave Egypt historic World Cup victory

Belgium escaped with a point in their opening FIFA World Cup Group G encounter after battling from behind to secure a 1-1 draw against a determined Egyptian side on Monday.

For much of the contest, Egypt looked poised to claim a famous victory. Despite Belgium dominating possession and creating the better chances, it was the Pharaohs who struck first in stunning fashion.

In the 19th minute, midfielder Emam Ashour silenced the Belgian supporters with a thunderous strike from outside the box. The goal, his first in international football, flew past the goalkeeper and into the net, sending Egyptian fans into celebration and giving their team an unexpected lead.

Belgium responded with

urgency but struggled to find a breakthrough. Jeremy Doku squandered a glorious opportunity before halftime, slicing his effort wide of the target. Shortly after, Kevin De Bruyne came agonizingly close to equalizing when his curling free kick crashed against the post.

As the clock ticked on, Egypt's confidence grew. The North Africans defended resolutely while continuing to threaten on the counterattack, raising hopes of securing their first-ever World Cup victory in four tournament appearances.

Belgium manager Domenico Tedesco then turned to his most prolific weapon. In the 66th minute, record goalscorer Romelu Lukaku was introduced after a season plagued by injuries at Napoli.



ROMELU LUKAKU

Edo SWAN congratulates Edo Queens on 2026 NWFL Premiership triumph, applauds Enabulele

The Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Edo State Chapter, has congratulated Edo Queens Football Club on their historic emergence as champions of the 2026 Nigeria Women Football League



EDO QUEENS AT THE FINAL OF NWFL

(NWFL) Premiership.

In a congratulatory message signed by the Edo SWAN Chairman, Comrade Kehinde Osagiede, the association commended the Executive Chairman of the Edo State Sports Commission, Hon. Desmond

Amadin Enabulele, the club's management, coaching crew, players, and supporters for their contributions to the remarkable achievement.

SWAN described the triumph as another glorious chapter in the history of Edo Queens, following the club's previous title success in 2024, noting that the victory was a reward for resilience, discipline, hard work, and commitment to excellence.

The association praised the team's journey to the championship, highlighting their ability to recover from an opening-day defeat in the Su-

per Six competition to produce outstanding performances that eventually secured the title.

According to SWAN Edo, Edo Queens' comeback reflected the true spirit of champions, proving that perseverance, self-belief, and determination remain key ingredients for success in sports.

The sports writers also acknowledged the role of visionary leadership, effective management, and sustained investment in sports development, saying Edo Queens' achievement demonstrates the potential of Nigerian clubs to excel when provided with the right support structure.