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Welcome to Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Nigeria Weekly Press Review

The weekly press review seeks to explore and keep you informed on selected issues relating to politics, business and economy, insecurity, infrastructure and development, health related issues, new trends and matters bothering on the overall situation in Nigeria.

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Nigeria Pursues USD 25 Billion Gas Pipeline Project, Many Stranded After Niger State Floods, President Tinubu Confers National Honor on Bill Gates

Nigeria is actively pursuing a USD 25 billion under-sea gas pipeline project aimed at supplying natural gas to Europe, positioning the country as a leading player in global energy markets. This was disclosed by vice president Kashim Shettima at a meeting with executives of Vitol Group, a large commodity trader. He described Nigeria's energy sector as a prime investment destination under the president Bola Tinubu administration. The vice president described Nigeria as a "gas economy", noting that it holds the eighth-largest gas reserves in the world. He urged Vitol to deepen its engagement with Nigeria, leveraging its global reach and technical expertise to advance infrastructure and export capacity. Vitol's chief financial officer, Jeffrey Dellapina, reaffirmed the company's long-standing commitment to Nigeria. Terhemba Daka, [The Guardian News \(June 2nd\)](#) reports.

At least 200 people are now known to have died from major floods in Niger state. Hundreds more are feared missing. In Mokwa, the worst-hit area, aid from the federal government has yet to reach most of those affected while the area is a key local hub for traders from Nigeria's south and farmers from the north. Abubakar Hussaini from Humanity First, an international organization, confirmed that a lot of people are stranded. "There's no food. There is no shelter. Some people are just hanging around. Some do not even have clothing," he said. This is despite assurances by president Bola Tinubu on his X handle that "Relief materials and temporary shelter assistance are being deployed without delay". Following the appeal by Niger state governor Mohammed Bago for donations to assist flood victims, many have raised questions as to why the governor was seeking assistance barely 6 months after he announced a USD 10 million World Bank grant to be directed to address flooding in the state. Privilege Musvanhiri, [DW News \(June 2nd\)](#) reports.

President Bola Tinubu conferred the national honor of Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic on American billionaire philanthropist and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates in Lagos. This was confirmed in a post on X by the special adviser to the president on information and strategy.

Tinubu, in a social media post on Tuesday, revealed that he honored Bill Gates for his long-standing efforts in global health, polio eradication, education, innovation and agriculture, especially in Nigeria and Africa. The president also disclosed they discussed collaboration on health systems, innovation, and youth development. Samuel Omotere, [Punch News \(June 3rd\)](#) reports.

Labour Party Chairman Accused of Orchestrating Party Crisis, Deputy Speaker and Majority Leader of Ondo State House of Assembly Resign

The Labour Party (LP) national caretaker committee, led by senator Nenadi Usman, has accused the LP factional chairman Julius Abure of orchestrating the ongoing crisis within the party. The committee alleged that both Abure and key figures within the presidency were working to destabilize the LP and weaken Peter Obi's 2027 presidential prospects. Despite recent defections of prominent LP members to the All Progressives Congress (APC), the committee insisted that Obi remained the strongest contender and would triumph in the next elections. The special adviser to the president on media and policy, Daniel Bwala, claimed that several of Obi's close associates had either joined the APC or were in advanced talks. The spokesperson for the committee, Tony Akeni, dismissed these claims, while stating that the aim was to demoralize Obi, derail the Obidient movement supporting him and diminish the LP's prospects for the 2027 elections. Adebayo Folorunsho-Francis, [Punch News \(June 2nd\)](#) reports.

The deputy speaker of the Ondo State House of Assembly, Abayomi Akinruntan, on Tuesday voluntarily resigned his position, citing the need to align with the conventional arrangement of elective positions in the state. Also, the majority leader of the house, Oluwole Ogunmolasuyi, stepped down from his position without stating the reasons for his decision. The lawmakers, however, elected Ololade Gbegudu as the new deputy speaker. Olatunji Oshati was announced as the new majority leader. A source in the House disclosed that the change of the positions of the principal officers became imperative to balance the unwritten elective political arrangements in the state. Hakeem Gbadamosi, [Nigerian Tribune \(June 3rd\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: Bomb Explosion Kills 9 at Bus Stop in Borno State, Catholic Parishes Shut down in Benue State Over Repeated Herdsmen Attacks, Police Ban Durbar Activities in Kano State,

At least nine persons have been feared dead and several injured following the explosion of an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) at a bus stop in Borno state. The blast occurred at 11am last Saturday. Abdulkarim Lawan, speaker of the Borno State House of Assembly, confirmed the incident which he described as unfortunate. It was gathered that most of the victims were returnees and displaced persons who had gone back to the area to engage in farming activities. Lawan had stated that the village had been resettled twice with civil authority but has once again been deserted because of Boko Haram and ISWAP attacks. "Unfortunately, terrorists who have been monitoring their movements planted IEDs at the local bus stop, which exploded while they were waiting to board commercial vehicles back to their destinations." He extended condolences to the bereaved families. Monsuroh Abdulsemiu, [The Cable News \(June 1st\)](#) reports.

No fewer than 15 parishes under the Makurdi catholic diocese in Benue state have been shut down due to repeated attacks on host communities by suspected armed herdsmen. This was disclosed in a press briefing by Rev. Fr. Joseph Beba, chairman of the Nigerian Catholic Diocesan Priests Association (NCDPA) Makurdi diocese. He stated

that the affected communities have witnessed coordinated violence in the past two weeks, resulting in the deaths of over 50 residents. The priest alleged that the escalation in violence followed the testimony of the bishop of Makurdi diocese, Msgr. Rev. Wilfred Anagbe, in the United States and Europe on the persecution of Christians in Benue state and Nigeria. "These attacks are not random. They are a direct response to Bishop Anagbe's international testimony on the systematic persecution of Christians. The Church is under siege," Beba declared. He called on president Bola Tinubu and Benue state governor Hyacinth Alia to declare war on the armed herdsmen. Winner James, [Daily Post News \(June 2nd\)](#) reports.

The Kano state police command issued a fresh restriction on all Durbar activities across the state during celebrations. The command, in a statement by Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, cited security concerns and the need to ensure law and order as reason for the renewed ban. This order comes a few hours after the Kano Emirate Council issued a circular inviting traditional leaders, including the district heads and their horsemen, to participate in the annual Sallah Durbar festivities. The police noted that following credible intelligence and prior security assessments, all forms of Durbar activities remained banned throughout the state, a measure earlier announced during the last Eid-el-Fitr and still considered necessary due to ongoing threats. Murtala Adewale, [The Guardian News \(June 3rd\)](#) reports.

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