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General News

We aren't to blame for death of woman found in a bush - Trauma and Specialist Hospital

The Trauma and Specialist Hospital in Winneba has filed a detailed incident report concerning the tragic death of an elderly woman who was allegedly abandoned by the hospital, leading to her demise due to administrative issues.

The hospital clarified that the woman was admitted for six days before being discharged on June 3, 2024.

The hospital's Medical Director, Dr. Prah George Kwame, revealed that the woman was a victim of a hit-and-run accident, contrary to initial reports.

The elderly woman, involved in the accident, was reportedly left in a bush because her family could not be located, resulting in her passing away after three days.

Dr. Prah George Kwame (PhD), Medical Director of the facility, submitted and signed a comprehensive report providing detailed insights into the incident.

The victim was brought to the hospital by the National Ambulance Service, accompanied by the Social Welfare Officer of

Gomoa Ojobi.

Treatment began immediately, with Plaster of Paris (POP) casts applied to both lower limbs due to fractures in the tibia bones. The hospital took full responsibility for the patient's feeding, medication, and housekeeping.

After six days of treatment, the patient was discharged on June 3, 2024, having been declared well. Medical records were tendered as evidence. It was established that the patient was from the Gomoa Ojobi community, where she was initially picked up by the National Ambulance Service.

During treatment, the patient exhibited disorientation and some violent behaviour. However, she calmed down after regaining strength and expressed a desire to return to where she was found.

A consensus was reached by two social welfare officers to transport the patient back to Gomoa Ojobi.

The hospital ambulance, accompanied by the social welfare officer and a staff member, transported her to her preferred destination after clothing her and

providing a wheelchair.

Before departure, the Social Welfare Officer coordinated with their counterpart in Ojobi, who assured that the patient would be taken over upon arrival.

The hospital emphasized that it had fulfilled its responsibilities by providing necessary care and support to the patient.

"Sincerely speaking, if one should objectively analyse the situation at hand, one would realize that the hospital had played its role as expected of it by taking care of the patient, empathize with her but unfortunately the inevitable occurred," the report noted.

Dr. Prah George Kwame stressed that the Trauma and Specialist Hospital in Winneba operates with well-trained health professionals

committed to maintaining the highest standards of care.

"Management would like to appreciate the sentiments expressed by the public regarding this unfortunate incident. This is a learning curve and a bitter lesson to learn, and we promise not to repeat it again in the life history of the hospital," the report added.

Meanwhile, responding to the incident, Director-General of the Ghana Health Service, Dr. Patrick Kuma-Aboagye, has temporarily relieved the facility's Director of duties and established a five-member committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the abandonment of the patient in Gomoa Ojobi.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tetty



File Photo

Call off strike, return to the negotiation table – Health Ministry to Medical laboratory workers

The Ministry of Health has called on the Medical Laboratory Professional Workers' Union (MELPWU) to end its strike and return to negotiations.

This appeal comes amidst ongoing talks aimed at addressing the union's demands for better working conditions.

In a press release issued by the Public Relations department, the Ministry acknowledged the validity of MELPWU's concerns and reiterated its commitment to resolving them through dialogue.

The statement emphasized that significant progress had already

been made in the negotiations.

"The Ministry can confirm that negotiations are ongoing and therefore appeal to MELPWU leadership to reconsider its decision to strike and return to the negotiation table with the Government Negotiation Teams, which include the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations, and the Fair Wages and Salaries Commission," the release read.

The Ministry also urged MELPWU to exercise patience, assuring them of the government's dedication to expedite the negotiation process and address their grievances promptly. The government

expressed its "utmost cooperation and respect for your dedication to your members' welfare."

The strike, announced by MELPWU on June 3, 2024, is set to commence nationwide on June 17, 2024. The union warned that the strike would disrupt services in medical laboratories, blood banks, pathology laboratories, and selected mortuary facilities across Ghana.

MELPWU's decision to strike stems from frustrations over prolonged delays by the Fair Wages and Salaries Commission and the Ministry of Finance in concluding negotiations.

The union has called for more

decisive action to improve the working conditions of its members.

The Ministry of Health remains hopeful that ongoing negotiations will lead to a swift resolution, urging MELPWU to call off the strike and continue discussions in the interest of maintaining essential health services for Ghanaians.

Source: Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



File Photo

General News

NPP govt has no 'brains' that is why it sold Trade Fair Center - Joseph Nunoo-Mensah

Former National Security Advisor Brigadier General (Rtd) Joseph Nunoo-Mensah criticized the government for demolishing and selling the iconic Trade Fair Center, arguing that a visionary leadership would preserve such a landmark.

In an interview with TV3, Brigadier General Nunoo-Mensah lamented that the demolition of the Trade Fair Center has left many Ghanaians jobless, as they relied on it for their livelihoods.

He noted that the overcrowding in Accra's busiest markets, such as Makola, with traders selling on pavements, is partly due to the displacement caused by the Trade Fair Center's closure.

He emphasized that the Trade Fair Center provided a vital trading space that eased pressure and

reduced traffic congestion in the city.

Mr Nunoo-Mensah warned that Ghana might face significant losses if leaders continue to sell off national assets.

He expressed concern for future generations, fearing they would inherit nothing if current practices persist.

"What is happening to Ghana is that we are prepared to sell our assets and destroy them. This is what saddens me sometimes at my age. In a few years I am gone. I don't know what I am leaving behind for my grandchildren.

On February 16, 2020, the Ghana Trade Fair Company Limited (GTFCL) demolished properties of tenants at the Trade Fair Centre to pave the way for

redevelopment.

This action affected businesses such as Universal Labels & Packaging Co. Ltd, Colour Planet (owned by journalist Raymond Archer), and the Fantasy Dome.

GTFCL explained that since 2017, it has collaborated with key stakeholders to redevelop the site.

A Master plan, approved by the Board and Cabinet, and a

horizontal developer secured with PPA approval on June 28, 2019, aim to provide necessary infrastructure.

This redevelopment is intended to lease the site to private developers to build facilities supporting the Ghana Trade Fair Company's Convention and Exhibition Facilities.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



Rtd. Joseph Nunoo-Mensah, Former National Security Advisor Brigadier General

Stop intimidating my supporters if you want unity - Ken Agyapong 'warns' Bawumia's supporters

Assin Central Member of Parliament, Kennedy Agyapong, has issued a warning to supporters of Vice President Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia, urging them to cease intimidating his supporters if they seek unity within the party.

Mr Agyapong's statement comes in the wake of his recent visit to Kumasi to support Dr. Bawumia's campaign in the Ashanti Region.

During his 64th birthday celebration, Mr Agyapong acknowledged that his decision to join the campaign without prior notice to his supporters may have caused discontent.

However, he emphasized that his actions were not indicative of any departure from the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and reiterated his commitment to the party.

Mr Agyapong called for mutual respect between supporters of both factions within the NPP, urging them to unite for the party's success in the upcoming

elections.

"It didn't go well with some of you. Let me apologise for not informing you before I went there," he said.

He added, "what I want the party people to know is that I have not resigned from the party. I am not going independent. I am still an NPP member. As I am a party member, no matter what happened during the primaries, I think we are all party people, and it will be best for us to come together, so I am pleading with my supporters. Let's use my birthday to reconcile.

He continued, "I am also appealing to the Vice President's supporters, I know they are intimidating my supporters. If they want us to come together and unite, then they should also reciprocate the same favours I am rendering, on behalf of my supporters. So I am pleading with both sides. There is no Kennedy Agyapong supporters, there is no Vice President supporters, we have

NPP supporters."

"I am not selfish. People have come to me to go independent, but that is not the wise thing to do, and therefore I have refused to do that," he further stated.

Meanwhile, well-known musician and media personality, Blakk Rasta openly criticized Kennedy Agyapong for endorsing Dr. Mahamudu Bawumia as the NPP flagbearer.

Rasta pointed out that Agyapong had previously vowed not to support Bawumia due to unresolved issues, making

his current endorsement confusing.

Blakk Rasta feels that Agyapong's decision to publicly support Bawumia ahead of the 2024 elections could damage his political career, considering the party's internal dynamics.

Speaking on the Urban Blend show on 3FM, Rasta condemned the advisers who pushed Mr Agyapong to endorse Bawumia, calling it an ill-advised decision with potentially negative repercussions.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey



Kennedy Agyapong, MP, Assin Central

General News

GN Bank didn't engage in illegal foreign currency transfers, it had over GHC30m – Dr Nduom fights BoG

Groupe Nduom (GN) has contested the Bank of Ghana's (BoG) statements from August 16, 2019, regarding the revocation of GN Bank's license.

The BoG, on June 14, defended its decision to revoke GN Bank's license, asserting that the revocation was due to significant regulatory violations.

The Central Bank claimed that GN Bank's failure to adhere to critical financial regulations and banking standards jeopardized its operational stability.

The BoG highlighted issues related to capital adequacy, liquidity, governance, and risk management, stating that these deficiencies necessitated the revocation of GN Bank's license.

Furthermore, the BoG implied that restoring GN Bank's license, as demanded by the bank's management, was not feasible.

In a release on Sunday, June 16, Groupe Nduom argued that the

BoG's declaration of GN Savings' insolvency was based on "wildly inaccurate" information.

The group demanded the restoration and upgrade of GN Savings' license, asserting that the BoG's claim of insufficient funds was incorrect. Groupe Nduom stated that GN Savings had more than the GHS30.33 million cited by the BoG in its decision.

The group emphasized that GN Savings complied with all regulatory requirements and that the BoG was aware of this.

"The statements Bank of Ghana (BoG) issued on August 16, 2019, regarding GN Savings are wildly inaccurate. BoG was aware that GN Savings had available to it more than the GHS30.33 million that it relied upon to declare it insolvent; GN Savings was not allowed by regulation and GN Bank did not engage in illegal foreign currency transfers; GN Savings complied with all requirements laid down by BoG as a savings and loans company and wrote a detailed

report in June 2019 to prove that its business was moving positively forward," the statement read.

Groupe Nduom asserted that the BoG's decision was a mistake that must be admitted and corrected. They also highlighted that the Government of Ghana, its agencies, and contractors owe Groupe Nduom companies over GHS7.1 billion.

They argued that with these funds, GN Savings could pay its customers and have enough capital to be restored as a universal bank.

"These facts are indisputable. BoG made a mistake that it must admit to and correct. Today, the Government of Ghana, its agencies and contractors owe Groupe Nduom companies over GHS7.1 billion.

With this money, customers will be paid, and GN Savings will have enough capital to become a universal bank once again," the statement concluded.

Source: Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



Dr Papa Kwesi Nduom, CEO, GN Bank

We don't condone bullying of small states by big powers – Akufo-Addo at Ukraine Peace Summit

President Akufo-Addo has noted that the repercussions of the conflict extend well beyond Europe and have significantly affected African countries.

Speaking at the Ukraine Peace Summit, he emphasized the significant impact of Russia's invasion on food security in poorer nations.

President Akufo-Addo called for a more inclusive dialogue involving major global powers to address the ongoing conflict.

"The consequences of the invasion go far beyond the confines of Europe. Indeed, in many ways, Africa has been the greatest victim," he added.

He called for Russia and China to engage in the peace talks, stating "great power hegemony and the

bullying of small states by big powers. It is in this context that we view and continue to view Russia's invasion and acts of aggression."

Akufo-Addo also expressed Ghana's stance against "great power hegemony and the bullying of small states by big powers," and condemned Russia's invasion and acts of aggression.

At the Switzerland peace summit on June 16, 80 countries, including Ukraine, and four European institutions signed the final joint communiqué, as reported by a journalist from the Kyiv Independent.

The presidency noted that over 100 countries and organizations participated in the summit.

However, several notable countries were absent from the

list of signatories, including India, Armenia, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Indonesia, Bahrain, Colombia, South Africa, Thailand, Mexico, and the United Arab Emirates. China did not send representatives.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky urged China to participate in the development of peace proposals, stating, "China could help us."

He acknowledged China's close ties with the Kremlin but emphasized, "China could help us," Zelensky told reporters, adding that though it had close ties with the Kremlin, "Ukraine never said that China is our enemy. I always say that Ukraine has only one enemy: Putin."

Throughout the invasion, Russia's sales of oil and other hydrocarbons to China and India have been the

primary source of funds for its state budget and war effort.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



Nana Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana

General News

National Security to probe source of leaked audio recording of A-G, Richard Jakpa

The trial judge in the case involving Dr. Cassiel Ato Forson has directed the National Security to investigate the source of an audio recording of court proceedings that has been widely circulated.

The recording features an exchange between Attorney-General Godfred Dame and Richard Jakpa, the third accused in the case.

The court proceedings were paused after Deputy Attorney-General Alfred Tuah Yeboah raised concerns about the unauthorized recording of last week's cross-examination of Jakpa.

The recording was allegedly shared on various WhatsApp

platforms, prompting Justice Efi Serwah Asare-Botwey to summon all parties, including the accused, for a meeting in chambers.

Following the meeting, Justice Asare-Botwey issued a stern warning: "If it's repeated, I'll clear the court and hold the case in-camera. Only prosecution, lawyers, and the accused persons will be allowed in."

Despite the controversy, Mr. Tuah Yeboah stated that the prosecution was not particularly concerned about the contents of the audio recording.

Speaking to journalists after court proceedings on Thursday, June 13, he said, "Not at all, because this audio is nothing that you have

heard. In terms of the content, we are not minded about that because it is something that is in the public domain."

The High Court admitted the audio recording into evidence on the same day. This followed a previous ruling on June 6, where Justice Asare-Botwey dismissed an application for mistrial filed by Dr. Ato Forson's lawyers, concluding that the tape did not reveal any instruction from Godfred Dame for Mr. Jakpa to implicate Dr. Forson.

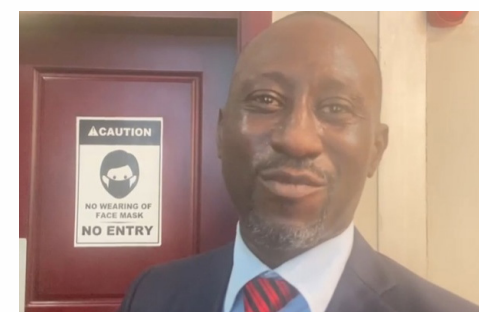
Lawyers for Dr. Forson, who is also the Minority Leader, have since filed a supplementary affidavit supporting a motion for an order of mistrial, injunction, and a stay of proceedings in the ongoing

ambulance case.

The defence's claims of direct manipulation by the Attorney-General to influence Jakpa's testimony were undermined by the court's decision.

As the investigation by National Security unfolds, the court and the public await further developments in this high-profile case.

Source: The Independent Ghana



Richard Jakpa, Businessman

Special voting applications open for Ghana's 2024 elections – deadline July 1

The Electoral Commission (EC) has announced the opening of applications for special voting rights to ensure individuals who cannot vote at their designated polling stations due to official duties can still exercise their voting rights on Monday, December 2, 2024.

Eligible voters, including personnel from the military, police, Immigration Service, Customs Division of the Ghana Revenue Authority, Prisons Service, Fire Service, polling officers, permanent staff of the EC, and members of the media, must apply for special voting rights by July 1. This provision is not automatically conferred.

Applicants must be registered voters in the constituencies where they wish to cast their votes. Those granted special voting rights will have their names excluded from the regular voting list for the December 7 polls. The exercise will take place nationwide across all 276 constituencies, with each voter expected to cast their vote in their registered constituency as indicated on their Voter ID

card.

The special voting procedure is guaranteed under Regulation 3(1) of Constitutional Instrument (CI) 127, allowing voters on election duties to apply to their constituency's returning officer to be listed as special voters if they cannot be present at their registered polling station on election day.

"The intention is to prevent double-voting," EC Chairperson Jean Mensa said, emphasising that the commission had put in place stringent measures to prevent the public from undermining the special voting process.

Mrs. Mensa stated that district police headquarters were designated as special voting centres in each constituency. She added that where the number of voters allocated to a special voting centre exceeded the 750 threshold set by the EC, "another voting centre is designated as a special voting centre to facilitate the voting process within the same centre."

To ensure a seamless application and voting process for all

applicants of Special Voting, all applicants should apply directly to the Returning Officer of the constituency where they are registered voters.

Application Requirements

Mrs. Mensa outlined the requirements for special voting applications, stating that applicants must provide a letter from their institutions indicating they are staff members. "Members from institutions who desire to apply as a group may submit a list of their officers to the Returning Officer to serve as a register to facilitate the process. The list must contain the names of each applicant, the Voter ID number, and the Polling Station Code as it appears on the Voter ID Card."

These particulars will enable the Returning Officer to verify if the applicant is a registered voter in the constituency. "Note that all applicants must apply in person to the Returning Officer," Mrs. Mensa emphasised.

She also encouraged applicants who have lost their Voter ID cards to obtain replacements during the exercise to provide accurate information required for their applications.

The EC's initiative aims to ensure all eligible voters, especially those on official duties, can participate in the electoral process while maintaining the integrity and fairness of the elections.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



Jean Adukwei Mensa, EC Chairperson

General News

Ablakwa presents petition to Akufo-Addo over sale of SSNIT hotels

Member of Parliament (MP) for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, has successfully petitioned President Akufo-Addo over the controversial sale of Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) hotels to Ghana's Minister of Agriculture, Bryan Acheampong.

The petition was received by representatives of the President at the Jubilee House.

The petition outlines seven key demands from the #HandsOffOurHotel protestors to President Akufo-Addo:

Halt the sale of the SSNIT hotels, as it is not in the country's interest.

Ensure that state assets deemed profitable are never sold.

Do not sell workers' properties without their permission and consent.

Prevent Ministers from buying state assets.

Prevent the Blay family from any further illegal encroachment and get off Labadi Hotel's beach front.

Ensure state assets are not deliberately run down, so politicians can successfully sell them to themselves.

Prevent Bryan Acheampong and all politicians and politically exposed persons from buying state assets.

The protest, organized by Ablakwa, saw tensions escalate when police used pepper spray and tear gas to disperse the demonstrators. Several individuals were hospitalized as a result.

Speaking to the media, Ablakwa confirmed that some of the injured protesters have been transported to health facilities for treatment. "Some protestors collapsed after being pepper-sprayed without provocation," he stated. Ablakwa was unable to specify the exact hospitals but noted that he would

visit the victims.

The demonstration aimed to halt the sale of four SSNIT hotels to Rock City Hotel Limited, owned by Bryan Acheampong. In a fervent address, Ablakwa expressed his determination to prevent the sale.

"It has become the whole of Ghana versus the few lootocrats who are determined to continue with their state capture, and I am clear in my

mind that they will have no choice but to listen," he said. "Even if you don't listen and you try to sell this hotel, how are they going to have access to the hotel? How? Because we will block that access. These are our assets, and we are saying you haven't consulted us."

He further emphasized, "Rest assured, we are confident these hotels will not be sold."

Source: The Independent Ghana / Amanda Cartey



Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, MP for North Tongu

Police probe death of 2 in Wa

The Ghana Police Service has initiated an investigation into the mysterious deaths of two individuals in the Wa Municipality.

The incidents, which occurred on Tuesday, have sent shockwaves through the community, prompting authorities to assure residents of their safety.

The first incident was reported at the Wa East Education Service office, while the second occurred at the Wa Model JHS School. Both events have raised serious concerns among the local populace.

In a statement, the Police Service urged the public, particularly the residents of Wa, to remain calm as they work diligently to apprehend those responsible.

"We would like to assure the public, especially the residents of Wa, to

remain calm as the Police work to get those involved arrested to face justice," the statement read.

Upper West Regional Minister Stephen Yakubu provided additional details after visiting one of the crime scenes. He revealed that one of the victims was rendered unconscious by a blow from a stone before the assailants slit his throat.

"So far, nothing shows that a human part was taken but of course, further investigation will uncover more information," Yakubu stated.

The minister emphasized the importance of maintaining calm and trust in the security services as they thoroughly investigate the matter.

"The Regional Security Council will go back and strategize, but we want to assure the Wa people

that the security services will be patrolling and doing what they need to do to make sure everyone is safe," he added.

Residents of Wa have been urged to cooperate with law enforcement officials and provide any information that could assist

in the investigation.

The police have intensified patrols and are committed to ensuring the safety and security of all residents.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo



File Photo



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Business

Ghana's economy progresses by 4.7% in 2024 Q1

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) reported a 4.7% increase in the country's GDP during the first quarter of 2024, compared to a 1.2% growth in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Leading the growth were sectors like mining and quarrying (12.9%), information and communication (17.9%), crops (4.3%), construction (8.2%), and accommodation and food service activities (9.4%).

However, some sectors experienced contractions, including health and social work (-8.8%), electricity (-7.5%), public administration, defence, and social security (-5.3%), education (-4.9%), other personal service activities (-2.9%), and forestry and logging (-1.2%).

The recent robust economic growth data benefits the ruling New Patriotic Party, whose economic management has been

criticized by the main opposition, the National Democratic Congress, ahead of the upcoming presidential elections on December 7.

The cedi is trading relatively steady at GHC15.0513 per dollar. Ghana's bonds maturing in 2032 saw an increase of 0.44 cent, reaching 52.57 cents on the dollar, according to Bloomberg.

The industrial sector experienced a significant annual growth of 6.8% in this period, following a 1.6% expansion in the last quarter of 2023.

In contrast, the agriculture and services sectors saw slower growth rates of 4.1% and 3.3%, respectively, compared to previous rates of 4.5% and 5.1%.

The agriculture sector's performance was hindered by adverse weather conditions, while the services sector faced contractions in health, social work, public administration, defence,

and social security due to reduced government spending aimed at controlling debt.

This reduction in spending is part of a \$3 billion International Monetary Fund rescue program.

As part of this program, Ghana is

restructuring nearly all of its \$44 billion debt and is in talks with private creditors to reorganize \$13 billion in bonds.

Source : Independent Ghana / Sebastian Akaho-Tay



File Photo

Galamsey, poor weather and smuggling contribute to \$500m decline in Ghana's cocoa revenue

Illegal mining, adverse weather conditions, the Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus Disease (CSSVD), and rampant smuggling have collectively led to a significant decline in Ghana's cocoa revenue for the first quarter of 2024.

Head of Public Affairs at COCOBOD, Fiifi Boafo, detailed these pivotal factors during an interview with the media.

He cited their contribution to a staggering reduction of over \$500 million in cocoa revenue reported by the Bank of Ghana.

"Illegal mining activities are cutting off farmers from their farms," he stated, highlighting the detrimental impact of these illicit activities on cocoa production.

He added that the Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus Disease (CSSVD) has exacerbated the situation, resulting in the loss of more than 500,000 hectares of cocoa farms.

"Over \$200 million was spent

to rehabilitate farms affected by Cocoa Swollen Shoot Virus Disease," Boafo explained, underscoring the scale of the problem.

To tackle these issues, COCOBOD has implemented various strategies. Legal actions against smugglers and illegal miners are underway, with "five individuals already imprisoned and numerous cases pending in court".

COCOBOD is also providing financial assistance to cocoa farmers.

"We are motivating cocoa farmers by paying them more for their produce," Mr Boafo stated.

Additionally, COCOBOD's legal team is supporting farmers in prosecuting miners who encroach on their lands.

The environmental impact of illegal mining has also been severe, with contaminated water bodies adversely affecting irrigation.

"Our legal team is assisting farmers in prosecuting miners who disrupt the use of their farms," he said.

Despite the production setbacks, Boafo expressed confidence in COCOBOD's ability to secure necessary funding.

"Our production challenges will not hinder our access to the cocoa syndicated loan," he assured, highlighting the organization's commitment to maintaining financial stability.

Source: The Independent Ghana / Phoebe Martekie Doku



Cocoa farm

International

Dollar pares gains after US retail sales miss expectations in May

The dollar pared gains against the euro on Tuesday after retail sales data indicated signs of exhaustion among U.S. consumers, boosting the case for Federal Reserve rate cuts later this year.

U.S. retail sales increased less than expected in May as lower prices for gasoline and motor vehicles weighed on receipts at service stations and auto dealerships.

The trend in sales growth has been slowing as higher prices and interest rates force households to prioritize essentials and cut back on discretionary spending.

"It may have come later than initially expected, but the tight financial conditions engineered by the Fed finally appear to be straining household budgets this year," Stuart Cole, chief economist at Equiti Capital.

"But a softer pace of consumption may actually be welcomed by the Fed, as it makes the task of returning CPI back to target that much easier, especially given the

key role domestic consumption plays in driving U.S. economic activity," Cole said.

The euro was 0.07% lower at \$1.0727, having slipped as low as \$1.071 earlier in the session.

Against a basket of currencies, the dollar was up 0.1% at 105.40.

Fed Funds futures implied a 67% probability of at least one rate cut by the September Fed meeting, up from 63% a day ago.

Philadelphia Fed President Patrick Harker revealed on Monday that he backs only one interest rate cut this year, but left the door open to changing his view depending on incoming data.

A long list of Fed officials take to the podium at various venues later in the day, including the Boston Fed's Susan Collins and the Richmond Fed's Thomas Barkin.

Last week, mild U.S. inflation readings contrasted with an overall hawkish stance by Fed officials, who trimmed their previous median projection for

three quarter-point rate cuts this year to one.

Last week's rally in the dollar was mostly driven by a sharp euro selloff after French President Emmanuel Macron called a shock snap election in response to his ruling centrist party's trouncing by Marine Le Pen's eurosceptic National Rally in the European Parliament elections.

The euro has stabilised since.

"Over the weekend, France's Le Pen said that she would be ready to work with President Macron and would not seek him out," said Mohit Kumar, chief economist for Europe at Jefferies.

"A portion of the recent risk off moves have been driven by fears of 'Frexit' and euro area breakup," he said. "Those fears are overblown."

The dollar was little changed against the yen at 157.81 yen, holding below Friday's six-week high of 158.26.

Sterling slipped 0.06% to \$1.2697

as investors waited for inflation figures on Wednesday and the Bank of England's interest rate decision the day after that.

Meanwhile, the Aussie dollar was 0.3% higher after the Reserve Bank of Australia's held rates steady on Tuesday.

"The RBA's position was well-telegraphed: they're in wait-and-see mode until they get more inflation data," said NAB's Catril. In cryptocurrencies, bitcoin fell about 2% to \$64,906, a one-month low.

Source: Reuters



US Dollars

Kenya scraps bread tax as protesters tear-gassed

Kenya's government has scrapped some proposed taxes in this year's controversial finance bill, including a 16% levy on bread, after a public outcry.

The announcement by MPs came as police fired tear gas and used water cannon to try to disperse angry protesters in the capital, Nairobi.

Dozens of people have been arrested, and lawyers earlier joined chanting crowds at the city's main police station to demand that detainees be freed.

Since coming to office in 2022, President William Ruto has introduced several new and unpopular taxes with the aim of eliminating the country's national debt of nearly \$80bn (£63bn).

But critics of the latest proposals fear they will stifle economic growth and lead to job losses.

Some of the protesters marching through the capital called on the president to resign, shouting, "Ruto must go! Ruto must go!"

The U-turn over the new finance bill was announced by Kuria Kimani, chairman of the parliamentary finance committee, at a press briefing attended by President Ruto as well as other lawmakers in the ruling coalition.

His finance team has been collecting public views on the bill and he said the decision to drop some of the proposals had been made to protect Kenyans from the increasing cost of living.

Other proposed taxes that have been axed include ones on cooking oil, mobile money services and on motor vehicles, which critics said would have also hit the insurance industry.

Mr Kimani also announced a reversal on a proposed eco tax

that targeted products seen as having a negative impact on the environment, such as packaging, plastics and tyres.

It had faced a backlash with many arguing it would raise the cost of key goods such as nappies, sanitary towels, computers and mobile phones.

The levy would now only apply to imported goods, Mr Kimani said.

Mr Ruto did not speak or react during the briefing - but the move, which has been seen as succumbing to public pressure, will be a blow to his government.

He recently urged Kenyans to accept more taxation, arguing that they were in fact undertaxed, but he acknowledged it would be difficult.

Over the last two years, taxes on salaries, fuel and on gross sales have been hiked.

A housing levy of 1.5% of a worker's monthly pay, which goes towards the construction of affordable houses, has also been introduced.

A new higher health insurance levy is also due to come into effect soon.

Lawmakers are due to discuss the finance bill on Wednesday, which is why protests are being staged in the capital.

Police have arrested several people accused of organising the demonstrations.

Source: BBC



File photo

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