

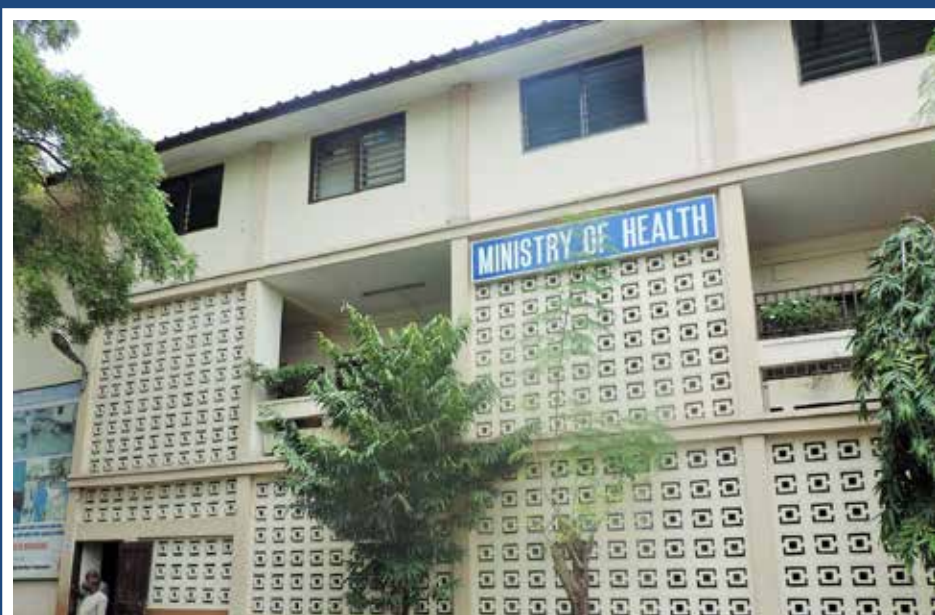


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General News

Legon-Madina overpass under maintenance, motorists advised to use alternative routes

By **Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey**

The Ghana Highway Authority (GHA), on behalf of the Ministry of Roads and Highways, has commenced maintenance work on the Legon-Madina overpass, locally known as the Atomic Bridge, as part of ongoing efforts to ensure road safety and preserve infrastructure integrity.

The 21-day renovation project, which focuses on repairing the expansion joints of the bridge, began on Thursday, October 3, 2024, and is expected to be completed by Tuesday, October 22, 2024. The coverings of the expansion joints at the Atomic Junction Flyover, which connects Adenta, Madina to Legon on the N4 highway have come off, creating discomfort and fear when driving on that part of the stretch.

According to the GHA, the project is necessary to prevent further deterioration of the overpass, which plays a key role in facilitating traffic flow between the Legon and Madina areas. The maintenance work is anticipated to improve the safety and lifespan of the bridge, which is critical for daily commuters.

During the renovation period, motorists will experience traffic disruptions due to the ongoing

work. A traffic management system has been put in place by the bridge maintenance unit to ease congestion. Drivers are urged to adhere strictly to the new system to avoid delays and ensure smooth travel.

Motorists are also encouraged

to use alternative routes where possible, to alleviate the pressure on the Legon-Madina overpass during the maintenance period. The Ghana Highway Authority has assured the public that the measures are in place to minimize inconvenience to road users.

In a statement, the GHA urged citizens to contact its Public Affairs Division for any inquiries or concerns related to the ongoing project, ensuring that the public remains informed throughout the maintenance process.



Legon-Madina overpass

Dry spell: Govt to distribute food grants, inputs to farmers; vaccines and feed to poultry farmers

By **Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo**

The government has announced plans to distribute food grants, farm inputs, and poultry support to help farmers affected by the prolonged dry spell that hit the country from June to August 2024. The measures aim to alleviate the hardships faced by farmers in eight drought-affected regions.

Speaking at a press briefing on October 1, 2024, Minister for Food and Agriculture, Dr.

Bryan Acheampong, outlined the government's intervention, which includes food grants for 800,000 farmers who suffered significant crop losses. These grants will be distributed to farmers in the Northern, Upper East, North East, Savannah, Upper West, Bono, Bono East, and Oti regions.

Dr. Acheampong explained that the affected farmers will receive essential food supplies to mitigate the impact of the drought. "Eight

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Dr. Bryan Acheampong, Minister for Food and Agriculture

General News

Dry spell: Govt to distribute food grants, inputs to farmers; vaccines and feed to poultry farmers

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hundred thousand farmers from the eight affected regions will, from October 10th, be receiving food grants. Each farmer will receive 25kg bags of rice and 100kg bags of maize," the minister stated.

In addition to food grants, the government will provide nationwide support to farmers by distributing fertilisers, seeds, and other farm inputs to boost agricultural production. This

intervention aims to help farmers recover from the dry conditions and prepare for the next farming season.

Poultry farmers, who have also been impacted by the rising costs of feed, will receive 30,000 metric tonnes of poultry feed and vaccines. Dr. Acheampong highlighted that the government would work through poultry farmers' associations to ensure the distribution reaches all

corners of the country. "We need to do something for farmers as well, and that is exactly what we are seeking to do, and this will start on October 10th," he said.

The prolonged dry period, worsened by unexpected conditions nearing drought levels, has led to widespread crop losses and raised concerns over food security in the country. In response, the government

imposed a temporary ban on grain exports and allocated GH¢8 billion (approximately \$500 million) to support affected farmers and stabilise the food supply.

To further ensure food security, the government has tapped into the ECOWAS Grain Reserve and partnered with private sector suppliers to bring additional grains into the domestic market.

Madina 'shadow boy' threatens to stab 'trotro mate', passengers over GHC5

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

A heated altercation at the Madina bus terminal on Wednesday, October 2, saw a "shadow boy"—an unofficial loading assistant—threatening to stab a commercial bus conductor (trotro mate) over a GHC 5 fee dispute. The incident, which occurred in the presence of passengers, sparked widespread alarm among commuters.

The confrontation began when the bus conductor refused to pay the loading assistant, who was demanding a fee for each passenger

that boarded the vehicle. The driver of the bus had informed the loading assistants that payment would be made after completing a few trips. However, the assistants rejected this arrangement and continued to insist on immediate payment.

As tensions escalated, the loading assistants blocked the vehicle from moving, leading to a physical confrontation between one of the assistants and the driver. An officer from the Motor Transport and Traffic Directorate (MTTD) stepped in to de-escalate the situation.

While this was happening, a second loading assistant, armed with a sharp object, climbed into the bus and threatened to stab the conductor. Some male passengers attempted to intervene in defense of the conductor but were also threatened. Eventually, the armed assistant disembarked the bus after continued appeals, but not before making further demands for the fee.

The role of 'shadow boys' in Ghana's transport system remains contentious, as they demand payments from drivers despite their unofficial status. While they

assist in loading passengers, many trotro conductors and passengers view their presence as redundant, often leading to unnecessary conflict.

Concerns about the disruptive actions of shadow boys have grown, with calls for the Ghana Private Road Transport Union (GPRTU) and other stakeholders to step in and restore order. The safety of passengers, drivers, and conductors hangs in the balance as disputes like these continue to occur in the capital's busy terminals.



Madina station

General News

Ghana Health Service confirms new mpox case as nation remains on alert

By **Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo**

The Ghana Health Service (GHS) has confirmed a case of mpox in the Bia West District of the Western North Region, raising fresh concerns about the virus's spread.

The infection was detected after a 15-year-old boy sought treatment at a local hospital on September 25, 2024, presenting symptoms including fever, body aches, sore throat, and a rash on his palms and face.

Following the confirmed case, health officials have placed 25 people who had contact with the boy under close observation. In a statement, the GHS revealed that there have been 230 suspected mpox cases across 88 districts nationwide.

The GHS has launched a public health investigation and will report the case to the World Health Organization (WHO) as part of their coordinated response to the outbreak. Authorities are advising the public to stay alert and follow recommended health measures to curb the spread of the virus.

Mpox outbreaks have been a concern in Ghana, with significant spikes in 2022 and 2023. In 2022

alone, 116 cases were confirmed across 14 of the country's 16 regions, resulting in four deaths. The virus predominantly affected individuals between the ages of 16 and 39, though children were also impacted, including a tragic case

involving a 13-day-old infant.

Mpox is a contagious disease caused by the monkeypox virus (MPXV), part of the Orthopoxvirus genus, which includes viruses such as smallpox and cowpox.

Symptoms of mpox include painful rashes, swollen lymph nodes, fever, headaches, muscle aches, back pain, and fatigue. While many patients recover fully, severe cases can occur.



Mpox vaccination

Tricycle, 'pragya' operators demand State of Emergency to address galamsey

By **Phoebe Martekie Doku**

Tricycle operators and okada riders from New Abirem have urged the government to declare a state of emergency on illegal mining activities, commonly known as galamsey.

Speaking to the media on Thursday, the operators voiced their concerns over the detrimental effects of galamsey on public health and the environment during a recent community meeting.

"The galamsey situation is no joke; it's causing serious health issues

for us and our families," one of the operators stated.

"The contaminated water from galamsey activities is being used to irrigate the food we consume. This is a crisis that cannot be ignored," they said.

Participants at the meeting emphasised that the repercussions of galamsey extend beyond mining communities, warning that urban residents, including those in Accra, are not exempt from its harmful effects.

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Tricycle operators and okada riders from New Abirem



General News

Tricycle, 'pragya' operators demand State of Emergency to address galamsey

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"We need to unite against galamsey activities. The government has shown reluctance in addressing this issue, and it's high time we stand together as Ghanaians to put an end to it," another operator urged.

The operators expressed their frustration with the government's perceived inaction and called for immediate measures to combat illegal mining.

They argue that without urgent intervention, the health and safety of countless Ghanaians are at risk.

The operators' appeal adds to the growing chorus of voices across the nation advocating for a more robust response to galamsey, which has become a significant challenge for the country's environmental and public health landscape.

Presently, there is mounting pressure on the government to fire all Municipal and District Chief Executives under whose watch the practice of illegal mining is taking place. One of the individuals leading such calls is the Convener of the Media Coalition against

Galamsey, Kenneth Ashigbey.

Illegal mining has emerged as a significant challenge in the country, particularly due to its detrimental impact on Ghana's water bodies.

Despite a series of government interventions ranging from deploying security forces to arresting offenders, the problem of galamsey continues unabated.

Recently, President Akufo-Addo directed the set up of a five-member ad hoc ministerial committee to engage stakeholders to assess the

government's efforts to deal with illegal mining activities.

While the reassessment continues, there are also growing calls for the government to ban small-scale mining and declare a state of emergency to protect water bodies and the country's vegetation cover.

Government's representatives in the sector in question have however shot down such calls, citing the economic benefit the country derives from gold production by small-scale miners.

Swiftly conclude investigations into 'violent' Democracy hub protest - A-G charges Police

By Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Godfred Dame, has called on the Ghana Police Service to expedite investigations into the recent Democracy Hub protest that turned violent in Accra. His appeal was made during the Annual Conference of the Association of Magistrates and Judges of Ghana (AMJG), held at the La Beach Hotel in Accra on October 2, 2024.

Addressing the theme "Improving the Security and Welfare of the Judiciary for Effective Justice Delivery," Mr. Dame emphasized the need for swift conclusions to the investigation, particularly before the next adjournment of court cases involving arrested protestors.

The Democracy Hub protest, which aimed to address illegal mining in Ghana, resulted in the arrest of 50 demonstrators, 11 of whom were remanded after facing charges in court.

"I urge the Police Service to swiftly conclude investigations by the next adjourned dates of the cases involving the prosecution of excesses from recent protests in Accra so as to exclude by that date, all those against whom sufficient evidence cannot be found to proceed further," the Attorney-General stated.

Mr. Dame also advised the prosecution to consider relevant bail applications during the next court hearing. "I will also advise the prosecution to consider relevant bail applications made at the next adjourned dates of the cases," he added.

The protest, which focused on ending illegal mining, or galamsey, erupted into chaos, with demonstrators facing multiple charges, including conspiracy to commit a crime, unlawful assembly, offensive conduct conducive to the breach of peace, and assault on a public officer. Despite their not-guilty pleas, concerns were raised, including by former President John Dramani Mahama, who criticized the two-week remand as an abuse of the protestors' rights.

In his remarks, the Attorney-General referenced international incidents to draw parallels on how violent protests are handled in other democracies. He pointed to a July 2024 case in the United Kingdom, where five "Just Stop Oil" climate protestors were sentenced to lengthy prison terms for causing traffic disruptions. He also mentioned the prosecution of rioters in the UK following a violent incident in Southport.

Mr. Dame underscored that while freedom of expression is fundamental, it must be exercised within the boundaries of the

law. "Respectfully, the lesson to be drawn from the treatment of unlawful or violent expression of free speech in the United States and the United Kingdom is that the legitimacy of the declared object of specific protests does not matter," he noted.

The Attorney-General stressed that maintaining law and order, especially as Ghana approaches the 2024 elections, is essential to safeguarding the country's democratic progress. He called

on the Judiciary to act firmly in addressing any violent incidents that threaten peace and security.

"The peace and territorial integrity of our nation at this time... is far greater than the pursuit of any parochial political goals, just as the right to free expression is no more paramount than the right of others to access essential services and the duty of the Police to maintain the peace of Ghana," Mr. Dame concluded.



Godfred Dame, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

General News

Health Ministry refers Winneba Hospital staff to CID, AG over abandonment of patient at Ojobi

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

The Ministry of Health has referred the case of the abandoned patient at Gomoa Ojobi to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Attorney General's Department for further action. This follows the findings of a damning report by a committee investigating the incident, which uncovered serious misconduct by staff at Winneba Trauma Hospital.

The investigation began after a patient, who had been treated for multiple fractures, was found dead in a bush near Ojobi in June 2024. The Ministry's report pointed to inappropriate actions by hospital staff in handling the patient's discharge and transportation, raising concerns about possible criminal negligence.

The patient, diagnosed with bilateral tibiae and fibulae fractures and a possible mental health disorder, was prematurely discharged despite being in a critical condition. The report highlighted that the patient had low haemoglobin levels and was immobile due to the fractures. Yet, she was discharged without proper documentation or a follow-up care plan.

According to the committee's

findings, the patient was abandoned in a wheelchair approximately 200 metres from the Ojobi Health Centre, left exposed to harsh weather conditions without any medication or post-discharge arrangements. The hospital staff reportedly viewed the patient as a "nuisance" due to her mental health condition, leading to an early and improper discharge.

"The patient was quietly abandoned in a wheelchair at a place outside of town, off the main road, about 200 metres from the Ojobi Health Centre in an open space and was therefore exposed to the conditions of the weather," the committee report detailed.

In light of these findings, the Ministry of Health has taken the matter to the CID and the Attorney General's Department to explore potential criminal charges against the staff involved. The Ministry's actions signal a strong response to the misconduct and a commitment to holding those responsible accountable.

The report also revealed dishonesty among staff, with several employees allegedly fabricating stories to conceal their involvement. As a result, the committee recommended

disciplinary measures against those implicated, alongside initiatives to strengthen hospital staff's adherence to medical protocols and improve clinical documentation.

Other issues identified include inadequate psychiatric care, poor management of the patient's haemoglobin levels, and a lack of a formal referral process by the district social worker. Financial constraints at the hospital were also cited as a factor that may have influenced the poor care provided.

In addition to seeking

accountability, the Ministry is pushing for structural reforms. This includes calls for dedicated funds for pauper patients and the inclusion of mental health services in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to reduce financial barriers to care.

The Ministry has requested police assistance in identifying the driver involved in the patient's initial accident and verifying her identity through missing persons records. An autopsy has been commissioned to establish the exact cause of death.



Ministry of health

Hundreds show up for anti-galamsey, #FreeTheCitizen demo; protest continues today

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

Hundreds of Ghanaians joined forces with the Concerned Citizens Against Galamsey movement in day one of the three-day protest aimed against illegal mining (galamsey) and its environmental devastation, while also advocating for the release of detained Democracy Hub protestors.

The peaceful demonstration which took place on Thursday, October 3, garnered widespread support from various groups and public figures, and culminated in the successful

submission of a petition to the Office of the Attorney General, the prosecutor in the case involving the Democracy Hub protestors.

The first day of the protest observed heightened police presence meant to ensure the responsibilities of the demonstrators under the Public Order Act, 1994 (Act 491) including being held liable for any damage caused to any public property during the demonstration and obeying the directions of the Police safeguarding the proper movement of other persons and

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Protectors at the anti-galamsey, FreeTheCitizens demonstration

General News

Hundreds show up for anti-galamsey, #FreeTheCitizen demo; protest continues today

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vehicles and generally maintain order.

As observed on Day One of the protest, the subsequent demonstrations will commence daily at 6 AM from Okponglo, near the University of Ghana Sports Stadium, and will proceed to Independence Square in Accra. The agreed route includes several key points, starting from Okponglo, proceeding through Okponglo Traffic Light, passing by Shiashe/Standard Authority Traffic Light, and moving towards Airport Traffic Light.

The route will then take a right

turn to Association International School, continue through the National Service Secretariat, and merge onto the Kawukudi Traffic Intersection.

The march will also traverse Kanda Highway, passing the Accra High School Junction, the Electoral Commission Office, and Ridge Hospital, before moving on to the AU Roundabout, and finally culminating at the Accra Sports Stadium car park.

Meanwhile, the Concerned Citizens Against Galamsey movement has called on all and sundry to hit the streets on Friday and Saturday to

register their displeasure against the government's actions to protect the country's water bodies and forest reserves from illegal miners.

Democracy hub protest

The 3-day Democracy Hub protest in the country descended into chaos, leading to the arrest of 53 demonstrators. Among the detainees are Oliver Barker Vormawor, Grace Asantewaa, Felicity Nelson and Elorm Ama Ababio, popularly known as Ama Governor.

They face charges including conspiracy to commit a crime, unlawful assembly, causing

unlawful damage, offensive conduct conducive to the breach of peace, and assault on a public officer. Despite pleading not guilty, the court remanded them, prompting concerns from various groups, including former President John Dramani Mahama, who described the two-week remand as an abuse of their rights.

An Associate Professor at the School of Law, University of Ghana, Professor Kwadwo Appiagyei-Tuah questioned the nature of the offence that would warrant the denial of bail to the arrested protesters.

Scholarship Secretariat disburses GHS50m to aid Ghanaian students stranded abroad

By Phoebe Martekie Doku

The Ghana Scholarship Secretariat has disbursed GHS 50 million to support Ghanaian students stranded abroad, with an additional GHS 100 million expected in the coming weeks to settle all outstanding allowances owed to students studying under the Government of Ghana scholarships.

Richard Gyamfi, Head of International Relations and Partnerships at the Scholarship Secretariat, made the announcement during a media engagement. He stated, "Due to the uproar and cries of Ghanaians, it encouraged others, and I am happy to report that the Ministry of Finance has released GHS 50 million, which has been dispatched to these students."

He further added, "As we speak, we are waiting for the GHS 100 million to hit our account, and then we will start the dispatch. But for GHS 50 million, it has already been sent."

The announcement comes in the wake of complaints from Ghanaian students abroad due to a lack of government support. Some of these students, sent to Morocco on government scholarships, have been facing dire conditions, lacking

access to basic necessities such as food and shelter.

In addition to the situation in Morocco, a group of Ghanaian students studying at the University of Birmingham, UK, are facing the risk of deportation after their student visas were revoked. The UK Visas and Immigration office cited the students' inability to pay their tuition fees as the reason for this action. Most of these students are on the Government of Ghana Scholarship Scheme, but delays in receiving funds from the government have hindered them from meeting their financial obligations.

A letter from the UK Visa and Immigration Office addressed to the affected students, outlined their limited options: they must either leave the country voluntarily or face legal action, including possible detention and prosecution. The students are now at risk of deportation unless the issue is resolved soon.

The letter stated, "You still have permission until 09 November 2024, and the current conditions of your stay will continue to apply until then. Please ensure that you comply with these conditions. You now have until 09 November 2024 to either leave the United Kingdom

(UK) or make another application to stay here. You do not have a right of appeal or administrative review against the decision to cancel your permission."

It further explained, "If you leave or are already outside the Common Travel Area (the UK, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, and the Republic of Ireland) before 09 November 2024, your permission will end immediately, and you will have to make a new application to re-enter the UK."

In September 2024, the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat announced plans to secure GHS 50 million to

relieve the financial burden on Ghanaian students abroad. This followed numerous reports of hardships faced by these students due to unpaid stipends and tuition fees.

While acknowledging that the GHS 50 million falls short of covering all outstanding tuition fees and stipends, Richard Gyamfi assured that the Secretariat would prioritize tuition payments to prevent students from being expelled. "We are going to prioritise the tuition because we don't want students to be kicked out of their courses," Gyamfi affirmed.



Ghanaian students studying abroad

General News

Govt promises to address Organised Labour's demands before planned nationwide strike over galamsey crisis

By Abigail Twumwaa Ampofo

Government is racing to prevent a nationwide strike set for October 10, 2024, after organised labour declared industrial action due to unmet demands.

Government spokesperson on Governance and Security, Dr. Palgrave Boakye-Danquah, shared optimism about upcoming discussions, which aim to address labour's concerns about illegal mining, or galamsey.

The strike, announced on October 1, was triggered after the government failed to meet a September 30 deadline for addressing their

concerns. Among their demands are the suspension of mining in forest reserves, establishment of special courts to handle illegal mining cases, and deploying military forces to seize mining equipment in affected areas.

Speaking on October 2, Dr. Boakye-Danquah stressed the importance of dialogue in averting the strike. "I am confident that organised labour will hear from the government before the 10th of October," he said. "I'm sure the strike will not need to happen, especially when the government is preparing to give some timing, some responses to their concerns."

He acknowledged the widespread frustration caused by galamsey and reiterated the government's commitment to addressing the crisis. "The choice of addressing galamsey affects every single Ghanaian. We are all under pressure to deal with this menace," Dr. Boakye-Danquah noted.

He also pointed to the government's historical commitment to tackling illegal mining, recalling President Nana Akufo-Addo's 2017 pledge to put his presidency on the line to combat the issue. Dr. Boakye-Danquah emphasised that the government remains focused on resolving the crisis but highlighted the complexities in managing

labour expectations during industrial unrest.

"These are difficult times for the government, and clearly, labour is asking for very decisive decisions to be made within the shortest possible time," he noted.

Organised labour has also called for legal reforms, including the potential declaration of a state of emergency in regions most affected by illegal mining. Dr. Boakye-Danquah confirmed that these requests, outlined in a letter sent by the unions in September, are being considered by the government.



Galamsey site



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Business

Ghana's annual gas production sees steady growth since commercial operation in 2014 - PIAC

By *Andy Ogbarmey-Tettey*

Ghana's gas production has seen notable growth since commercial operations began in 2014, although performance has varied across its major fields—Jubilee, TEN, and Sankofa Gye Nyame (SGN), according to the Public Interest and Accountability Committee (PIAC) in its 2023 Annual Report.

From 2014 to 2023, the country's total gas production reached an impressive 1,494,470.67 million standard cubic feet (MMSCF). The Jubilee field contributed 567,378.97 MMSCF, the TEN (Tweneboa-Enyenra-Ntomme) field added 349,762.38 MMSCF, while the SGN field provided 254,037.54 MMSCF of associated gas (AG) and 323,291.78 MMSCF of non-associated gas (NAG).

The report shows that Ghana's gas industry had a modest start, with the Jubilee field producing 55,758.04 MMSCF in 2014. Production from this field dropped slightly to 52,545.91 MMSCF in 2015 and then further declined to 38,420.63 MMSCF in

2016. However, the introduction of gas production from the TEN and SGN fields contributed significantly to overall output during this period.

Between 2016 and 2019, gas production increased steadily, driven by the contribution of all three major fields. By 2019, Ghana's total gas output reached 169,508.61 MMSCF, with both TEN and SGN strengthening the country's supply.

Production data for 2023 shows mixed results across the fields. The Jubilee field recorded a 13.8% increase, producing 77,900.05 MMSCF, up from 68,481.76 MMSCF in 2022. In contrast, production from the TEN field dropped by 10%, falling to 50,068.90 MMSCF from 55,678.63 MMSCF in 2022. The SGN field also saw a 1.7% decline, with output decreasing to 127,203.02 MMSCF from 129,394.66 MMSCF in the previous year.

Despite the challenges in the TEN and SGN fields, Ghana's overall gas production increased to 255,117.97 MMSCF in 2023, up from 237,962.82

MMSCF in 2022. This growth underscores the resilience of the industry.

PIAC's report further highlights the financial contribution of the oil and gas sector to the economy. In 2023, the

sector was projected to add GHS10.25 billion (approximately \$855.3 million) to Ghana's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), emphasizing the importance of ongoing investment and infrastructure development in the gas industry.



Ghana gas processing plant

Fuel prices likely to spike amid Israel-Hamas war - COPEC

By *Phoebe Martekie Doku*

The Chamber of Petroleum Consumers (COPEC) has cautioned that Ghana could see a steep rise in fuel prices by the close of 2024 if tensions in the Middle East worsen and the cedi continues its downward slide.

This outlook comes after Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) made recent increases to fuel prices in the first pricing window of October, following four straight weeks of reductions.

For example, Shell has raised the price of petrol from GH¢13.49 per litre at the end of September to GH¢13.79, while diesel has gone from GH¢13.99 to GH¢14.35 per litre.

These hikes have sparked concern among Ghanaians, who are already grappling with a high cost of living.

Speaking to Citi Business News on Wednesday, October 2, Duncan

Amoah, COPEC's Executive Secretary, explained that ongoing geopolitical tensions involving Israel, Hamas, and Hezbollah in Lebanon could heavily impact Ghana, making it more expensive for consumers to fuel their vehicles.

He further noted that Ghana's gold-for-oil policy would offer little relief amid these potential price surges.

"You might end up paying more than what you currently are, because the Cedi is still weakening. Any escalation in tensions involving Israel, Hezbollah, or Hamas will directly impact supply, and as demand surges—especially in manufacturing and aviation—international market prices will likely rise.

"Unfortunately for us in Ghana, there are no mechanisms in place to shield consumers from these fluctuations. Based on current trends, Ghanaians may find themselves paying more for fuel by year's end."



Fuel pump



International

Tinubu submits four tax reform bills to Parliament

Source: Arise News

President Bola Tinubu has submitted four tax reform bills to the House of Representatives for consideration and quick passage.

In a letter read at plenary by the Speaker House of Representatives Abbas Tajudeen on Thursday, the President said the bills were designed in line with the objectives of his administration.

The bills are the Nigeria Tax Bill 2024, which is expected to provide the fiscal work for tax in the country and tax administration

bill which will provide a clear and concise legal framework for all taxes in the country and reduce disputes.

The others are Nigeria Revenue Service establishment bill, which will repeal the Federal Inland Revenue Service Act and establish the Nigeria Revenue Service and the Joint Revenue Board establishment bill which will create a tax tribunal and a tax ombudsman.

He said the bills will strengthen fiscal institutions in the country and align with the objective of the government.



Bola Ahmed Adekunle Tinubu, President of Nigeria

Beirut targeted as Israel promises 'Very Strong' response to Iran

Source: The Independent Ghana

Israel has launched new airstrikes in southern Beirut, specifically targeting Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters. This latest assault follows a strike in central Beirut, marking Israel's first attack in that area since 2006, which resulted in the deaths of at least nine people early Thursday.

In a significant escalation, Israel has issued evacuation orders for additional villages in southern Lebanon, indicating an expansion of its ground operations. The ongoing conflict has led to over 1,000 fatalities in Lebanon and displaced nearly 1 million residents since Israel intensified its military actions against Hezbollah.

Reports indicate that Lebanon's foreign minister informed CNN that Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah had accepted a 21-day ceasefire shortly before his assassination by Israel.

As tensions rise, Israel's war cabinet is deliberating its response to a missile attack from Iran, with Israel's UN ambassador stating that retaliation "will be soon." His remarks come amid US President

Joe Biden's declaration that he does not endorse a potential Israeli strike on Iranian nuclear facilities but left the possibility open for attacks on Iran's oil reserves.

Conditions in Lebanon's emergency shelters are dire, with nearly half of the occupants being children, and many facilities operating beyond their capacity, according to a humanitarian agency director.

Aid workers are striving to provide shelter and medical assistance to those injured in the aerial campaign while distributing food and supplies. The agency reports thousands are fleeing various neighborhoods in search of safety.

On Wednesday, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed the death of an Israeli soldier, Ben Zion Falach, during combat in southern Lebanon. He is the ninth Israeli soldier to die since the ground offensive against Hezbollah commenced this week.

The IDF stated that several Hezbollah commanders were killed in a strike on a military structure in southern Lebanon, including those responsible for combat operations, engineering,

and fire coordination. The strike was part of a coordinated effort involving the Israeli Air Force and the Golani Brigade, which has been conducting ground operations in the region.

Additionally, the IDF has ordered the evacuation of villages and towns in southern Lebanon located

north of a United Nations-declared buffer zone established after the 2006 war, indicating a potential expansion of its military activities further into southern Lebanon, which has previously been limited to areas near the border.

This article is based on information from CNN and AP news reports.



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, Beirut, Lebanon



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