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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 COVID-19 and the situation in Nigeria.

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Covid-19: Not-For-Profit Group Advocates Joint Efforts to Tackle Pandemic

The Nigeria Solidarity Support Fund (NSSF), a not-for-profit organization, has expressed desire to raise resources to effectively complement the national Covid-19 pandemic response in the country. It explained that the private sector needed to ramp up efforts to complement the government's efforts and help coordinate the response. The NSSF noted that it is leading and coordinating efforts to drive vaccine equity, tackle vaccine hesitancy, and create awareness about the urgency, adding that it seeks the support of all Nigerians, but especially the private sector. [This day News \(1st November\)](#) reports.

FG Disburses 6 Billion Naira on Consultancy for National Flight Carrier, Pledges to Cut Carbon Emission by 2060

According to the Guardian News, there is "fresh optimism" to establish a National Carrier, Nigeria Air, stemming from a recent search for technical partners and financial backings from the federal government. Aviation stakeholders who have been waiting for the project are reportedly divided on its prospects. Questions on its sustainability in the post-Buhari era, its uphill take-off in the pandemic age, and official indifference to a transparent process are fielded. Meanwhile, an official, who is privy to the charge, led by Aviation Minister, Hadi Sirika, has said, "Nigeria is most likely to have the new airline by 2022 Q1". Wole Oyebade, [The Guardian News \(3rd November\)](#) reports.

Meanwhile, President Muhammad Buhari attended the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, where he disclosed the country's commitment to cut its carbon emission to net zero by 2060. President Buhari said he did not think any Nigerian needs to be convinced that climate change is not about the problem of the future but about what is already facing the country today. He added that his government was looking for partners, technology, and finance to make cleaner and efficient use of all available resources for a more stable transition in energy markets. Babatunde Akintunde, [Premium Times News \(2nd November\)](#) reports.

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo Charges Youths to Build the Future, PDP Elects New National Working Committee, National Chairman Says Party Committed to Revive Nigeria

Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, at the maiden National Youth Conference marking the 2021 African Youth Day in Abuja has charged Nigerian youths to look past the challenges the country is currently facing and build the future they desire by focusing on what is right. Vice President Osinbajo, who represented President Muhammadu Buhari at the event, said building a nation is an inter-generational endeavor that requires the input of all, hence the need for youths to be innovative. He further advised the youths to promote the unity of the country and engage the government constructively on national issues. Terhemba Daka, Adamu Abuh and Kehinde Olatunji, [The Guardian News \(2nd November\)](#) reports.

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has elected a new set of members into its National Working Committee (NWC) to take over the leadership of the party. Twenty-one people from various parts of the country were elected at the PDP national convention, which began on Saturday, October 30, and lasted till Sunday, October 31, at the Eagle Square, Abuja. The full list of the newly-elected national officials can be found on [The Channels News \(31st October\)](#).

The newly elected National Chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, has said the mission of the party under his leadership was to rescue the country from the "current mess", as he described it, meaning the misrule of the All Progressives Congress (APC)-led government since 2015. Ayu was declared National Chairman after 3,426 delegates affirmed his unopposed position. Deji Elumoye and Chuks Okocha, [This Day News \(1st November\)](#) writes.

Insecurity: Defence Minister States Reason for Non-Declaration of Bandits as Terrorists, FG Begins Vulnerability Audit to Review Prisons Security, Renews Plans to Safeguard Digital Economy, Army Restates Apolitical Stance, Death Toll Reaches 36 at Collapsed 21-Storey Building in Lagos State

The Minister of Defence, Bashir Magashi, on Friday 29, was in Maiduguri with the Chief of Defence Staff, Lucky Irabor, and service chiefs to assess the fight against insurgency in the North-east. While

speaking to journalists, Magashi described the need to follow due process as the reason for the delay in declaring bandits as terrorist. He said his team had met with the Theatre Commander and other component commanders to deliberate on the next phase of operations. [Premium Times News \(30th October\)](#) reports.

The Federal Ministry of Interior has inaugurated a “vulnerability audit” of prisons in the country to identify the fault lines in the security setup and penetration levels of the custodial centers. A spokesperson said the Minister of Interior, Rauf Aregbesola, while inaugurating the audit, said the audit report would identify the weaknesses in the country’s security setup and help to put in place an effective structure to assist in better securing facilities against future external aggression. The Controller General of Correctional Services, Haliru Nababa, however, noted that the audit exercise would within a week produce an interim report from each geo-political zone in the country and a complete report in eight weeks. Oge Udegbonam, [The Premium Times News \(30th October\)](#) reports.

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) in conjunction with the Office of National Security Adviser (ONSA) organized a strategic stakeholder meeting to discuss cybersecurity issues in Abuja on Wednesday 3. The conference was aiming at building trust in the digital economy through cybersecurity and sensitization on the implementation of the National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy (NCPS) 2021 with a plan to address issues that would enhance, protect, and boost Nigeria’s digital economy. According to the Executive Vice Chairman of the NCC, Umar Danbatta, trust and confi-

dentiality will promote a healthy digital environment, as enshrined in global best practices to guarantee the privacy and integrity of digital data. [News Agency of Nigeria \(4th November\)](#) reports.

The Director Army Public Relations, Onyema Nwachukwu, reacting to allegations that soldiers were escorting buses conveying fake voters to Anambra on Thursday 4, disclosed that the Nigerian Army would remain apolitical whenever called upon by civil authorities to provide internal security. According to him, contrary to the misleading information, the buses in question were conveying permanent and ad-hoc staff of the Independent National Electoral Commission for the upcoming election tasks in the state. Nwachukwu also advised the “political gladiators” to refrain from dragging the Nigerian Army and indeed the armed-forces of Nigeria into the murky waters of politics. [News Agency of Nigeria \(5th November\)](#) reports.

A 21-storey building under construction in the Ikoyi district of Lagos crumbled on Monday afternoon, trapping dozens of people working on the site. The death toll from the collapse of the high-rise building had climbed to 36, as rescue operations enter the fourth day, “So far, 36 people – 33 males and three female – have been confirmed dead, while there were nine survivors”, Femi Oke-Osanyintolu, general manager of Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, told the AFP news agency on Thursday. Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said on Wednesday the incident was a “terrible national disaster”, admitting that “mistakes were made”. [Al Jazeera News \(4th November\)](#) reports.

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