1. CAMEROON

Refugees flee violence in Cameroon into neighbouring Nigeria

Since separatists declared an independent 'Ambazonia' state in south Cameroon - in October, tens of thousands have fled violence into Nigeria and relief workers are struggling to cope with a new wave of refugees. ALJAZEERA

Rubber firm Sudcam 'decimating' Cameroon forest

Sudcam, a subsidiary of Singapore rubber firm, Halcyon Agri, is responsible for devastating forest clearance in Cameroon - more than 10,000 hectares of dense equatorial forest in the past seven years, resulting in dispossession of community lands and other impacts on human rights, a new report has said. The Sudcam Cameroon concessions overlap with the customary land of forest-dependent communities, including the indigenous Baka people and its acquisition amounts to land grabbing. “Sudcam’s land acquisition and operation is a typical example of land grabbing in Cameroon. THE EAST AFRICAN

2. CONGO

Joseph Kabila’s half-brother calls for his ousting

A half-brother of President Joseph Kabila, Emmanuel Masirika Kabila, has joined the crusade to remove him from office, accusing him of staying beyond his constitutional mandate. He is also demanding the removal of the chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), Corneille Nangaa, accusing him of being part of President Kabila’s schemes to remain in power. Presidential candidates include - former vice-president Jean-Pierre Bemba; Moise Katumbi former governor of Katanga; Felix Tshisekedi and Vital Kamerhe. DAILY NATION
3. KENYA

We have all horns of 10 dead rhinos, says KWS

The Kenya Wildlife Service head of communications Paul Udoto has allayed fears that the horns totalling 20, of 10 rhinos that died in Tsavo National Park this month were missing. He said the identity of the rhinos from which each pair was extracted had been documented, adding that a microchip implanted in each rhino had made it easy to match the horns. Tourism Cabinet Secretary Najib Balala has put in place a multi-agency team - comprises Prof Peter Gathumbi, a senior veterinary pathologist from the University of Nairobi, Dr Markus Hoffmeyer, a rhino veterinarian and translocation expert from South Africa, and experts from the ministry of Livestock, Tourism and Environment - to investigate the death of the 10 rhinos after translocation from Nakuru to Tsavo National Park two weeks ago. DAILY NATION

Sony Sugar on the spot over alleged theft of Sh335m

The South Nyanza Sugar Company (Sony Sugar) is on the spot over alleged misappropriation of a Sh335million loan secured from the Commodities Fund last year - the agricultural sector financier. The company has not done the intended Annual Planned Maintenance of the factory and its auxiliary facilities, and has only Sh607,007 remaining as balance, where part of the money was diverted to fund other activities. The company has also not started servicing the loan, which has accrued interests. The monitoring and evaluation team, in its audit report, stated that the company made 12 bulk withdrawals totaling Sh238,652,378 to its bank accounts, on diverse dates between November 2017 and March 2018. A review of the bank statements showed that not all the purchase orders indicated in the procurement status report were reflected in the bank statement and vice-versa. DAILY NATION

MPs praise new House committee rules, say they will bring sanity

Chairpersons of various parliamentary departmental committees said the measures. by National Assembly Speaker Justin Muturi on the operation of House committees, will improve the oversight role of the House. Some of the strict guidelines are limiting contact between MPs and witnesses, limiting the number of members who attend hearings as friends of a committee, and declaration of interest by MPs before starting any investigations. Chairman of the Public Accounts committee, Mr Opiyo Wandayi, while supporting the Speaker, said Parliament must, at all times be seen as the champion of public interest and, more critically, the public must be assured that Parliament is playing its watchdog role. DAILY NATION
4. SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan government critic detained

South Sudanese government critic Peter Dr. Biar Ajak has been arrested by the National Security Service (NSS) officers at the Juba International Airport on Friday, family sources confirmed. Dr Biar was on his way to attend the Red Army Anniversary. The motive for his arrest is not known. President Salva Kiir had earlier reportedly ordered NSS to crackdown on government critics to protect his administration's image. THE EAST AFRICAN

5. RWANDA

Why Asian giants have eyes on resource rich East Africa

Last week's visits of Chinese President Xi Jinping and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Rwanda and Uganda signalled the Asian giants' growing interest in East Africa. In Rwanda, President Xi signed 15 bilateral agreements and concessional loans, as he reiterated China's endeavour to have a “mutual understanding” with Africa on equal terms. Indian PM Modi, donated 200 cows towards Rwanda’s One Cow per Family poverty eradication initiative, on top of a $200 million loan from India’s Exim Bank for the development of industrial parks, irrigation schemes and expansion of the Kigali Special Economic Zone, with the message that India and Africa are looking to work together towards development. Experts say that Mr Kagame’s strong leadership at the AU is now a point of reference, ensuring that world leaders pay tribute to Kigali while on tour in Africa. THE EAST AFRICAN

6. ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe elections: Voters cast ballots in landmark polls

Millions of Zimbabweans are heading to the polls to vote in the country's first elections since independence in 1980 without the name of long-time leader Robert Mugabe on the ballot. Polling stations opened at 7am (05:00 GMT) on Monday and will close at 7pm (17:00 GMT). A total of 10,985 polling stations have been set up across the country. Twenty-three candidates, 19 men and four women, are running for the presidency - all for the first time. President Emmerson Mnangagwa, of the ruling ZANU-PF party, and Nelson Chamisa, of the opposition MDC Alliance, are seen as the top two contenders. Official results are expected to be released by Saturday. Mugabe said he would vote for 40-year-old Chamisa. ALJAZEERA; BBC; NEWS24

'The Crocodile': Emmerson Mnangagwa, Mugabe's nemesis

Zimbabwe goes to the polls Monday in its first election since authoritarian leader Robert Mugabe was ousted last year. Monday's election offers Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, a military-backed veteran hardliner — nicknamed "The
Crocodile" — the precious chance of legitimacy after he was appointed president with the generals' support when Mugabe was ousted from power last November 24, 2017. Mnangagwawas sworn in as president after ZANU-PF lawmakers swung behind him. His "Crocodile" nickname can be traced back to his ferocious "Crocodile Gang" guerrilla unit in the conflict. Zimbabwe, has 5.6 million registered voters and the results of the presidential, parliamentary and local elections are expected by August 4. DAILY NATION

Zimbabwe's tainted election authority under fire again

Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), which was synonymous with fraud, secrecy and bias under Mugabe rule has again been engulfed by allegations of malpractice that threaten the credibility of Monday's vote. In 2013, it was accused of allowing the ruling ZANU-PF party to oversee voter registration and of delaying the release of an electoral roll full of ghost names, dead people and duplicates. ZEC commissioner Qhubani Moyo strongly defended its conduct to AFP, saying it has been following "the letter of the law". The head of the ZEC Priscilla Chigumba is a respected high court judge but, with both parties promising certain victory, she may face tough days ahead with the election results due by August 4. DAILY NATION