ANGOLA

Angola to host DR Congo's Kabila

Angolan President João Lourenço will Monday host his DR Congo counterpart Joseph Kabila at Benguela Province's Lobito municipality, media confirmed. According to the Angolan private OPAÍS daily, the leaders will analyse the current situation in DRC, particularly the elections scheduled for December 23. THE EAST AFRICAN

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopian parliament approves amnesty for political prisoners

Ethiopia's parliament has passed an amnesty for thousands of political prisoners, thousands of whom have been freed in recent months. From April, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed introduced a series of unprecedented reforms to oversee the release of jailed dissidents. Thousands of prisoners, including several senior opposition leaders accused of charges such as incitement to topple the government, have overall been pardoned since January. The law is expected to enable hundreds of exiled opposition activists and groups to return home from countries such as Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia and the United States and pursue peaceful political careers in Ethiopia. ALJAZEERA

KENYA

Will Kenya heed IGAD call to disarm its pastoralists?

Politicians in Uganda and South Sudan have warned that the free movement of pastoralists and their livestock may not be possible if Kenya does not disarm the Turkana. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is awaiting approval from members for a protocol on transhumance (the seasonal movement of herders and their livestock in search of water and pasture), to be signed by early 2019. Japheth Kasimbu, a transhumance expert at Igad, said that the protocol is not introducing anything new in the region – he added that there are IGAD states that don’t allow free movement people and property like Kenya and Somalia; Eritrea-Ethiopia. THE EAST AFRICAN
RWANDA

Rwanda prepares for visit by China’s Xi

Chinese President Xi Jinping visit to Rwanda on Sunday for a two-day state bearing gifts, as search for natural resources and political influence increase its engagements in sub-Saharan Africa. The visit aim at signing several agreements with President Paul Kagame, who also serves as the chair of the African Union. The leaders are expected to follow up on a number of agreements on trade, investment, infrastructure and defence, which they had discussed during President Kagame’s visit to China last year. China is one of Rwanda’s largest trading partners. Trade volumes between Rwanda and China registered $157 million in 2017, an increase of 11 per cent compared with 2016. As early as 2010, most of the military equipment that Rwanda’s army used in peacekeeping missions was from China.

THE EAST AFRICAN

Rwanda says borders secure from ‘rebel’ attacks

Rwanda has declared its borders secure days after a rebel group, National Liberation Forces (NLF), claimed responsibility for the recent attacks on July 16 in Nyaruguru in the Southern Province bordering Burundi. Over the past few weeks, a gang armed with guns and machetes attacked villages in Nyabimata and Kivu Sectors in Nyaruguru District bordering the Nyungwe Forest, killing two people, kidnapping several others and injuring dozens, including a local leader. Although Rwanda has been largely peaceful for the past 24 years, it remains cautious, and considers Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo as possible sources of security threats.

THE EAST AFRICAN

SOMALIA

Somalia on stability path as donors pledge support

After a two-day, July 17-18 meeting, high-level meeting, co-convened by Federica Mogherini, European Union Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallstrom, on Somalia in Brussels, representatives of 58 countries and six international organisations are convinced that the Horn of Africa country is on the path to recovery. The participants, who took stock of political, economic and security reforms undertaken since the last Partnership Forum held in London in 2017, said all these are milestones that augur well for Somalia’s future. The delegates also set priorities that need to be addressed over the next six to 12 months.

THE EAST AFRICAN

SOUTH SUDAN

Kiir tells state mediators team to ink peace deal

South Sudanese President Salva Kiir has directed the team representing his government to sign the peace agreement with rebels. The Presidential Press Unit told the team in
Khartoum to discuss and reach a consensus with rebel groups on key issues, particularly the power sharing. Last week, the two parties differed over the recent Khartoum power sharing proposal. President Kiir said in Juba on Saturday that he could accept the five vice-presidents formula for the sake of peace. The South Sudanese President, however, told the Juba delegation to insist on 32 states, against a proposal to retain the 21 colonial units. **THE EAST AFRICAN**

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**11 killed in attack on taxi drivers in South Africa: police**

Eleven taxi drivers have been shot dead in South Africa after gunmen opened fire on a minibus carrying members of a taxi drivers' association, police have said. Police spokesman Jay Naicker said on Sunday the drivers were on their way home from the funeral of a colleague on Saturday evening when their vehicle was ambushed in KwaZulu-Natal province. **AL JAZEERA**

**Why KwaZulu-Natal will still be giving Ramaphosa’s sleepless nights**

There is no unity in the KwaZulu-Natal ANC and the election of a “united” provincial executive committee is a false deal meant to appease President Cyril Ramaphosa’s opponents to stop them from boycotting the party in the 2019 elections, a political analyst says. The analyst, Zakhele Ndlovu, from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, said the unanimous election of Jacob Zuma’s leading man, Sihle Zikalala, as provincial chairperson and Mike Mabuyakhulu, a former Ramaphosa’s campaigner, as his deputy, gave a false impression that unity had been achieved in the province. **THE CITIZEN**

**UN now enforces arms embargo on South Sudan**

The United Nations Security Council has finally imposed an arms embargo on South Sudan to stop the five-year-old civil war, days before the signing of final peace deal in Khartoum is set for July 26. The embargo imposed on July 12, requires all UN Member States to prevent the entry of arms and equipment of all types in South Sudan. President Salva Kiir's regime has already started lobbying neighboring countries to ignore the arms embargo, saying it is driven by the United States’ campaign against it. Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia are central to the successful implementation of the embargo because the four countries are either the source or offer passage to arms destined to South Sudan. Ethiopia has also opposed the embargo. Kenyan Principle Secretary in the ministry of Foreign Affairs Macharia Kamau said the embargo could not end the war, noting that the final solution is in the hands of South Sudanese people and leaders. **THE EAST AFRICAN**

**TANZANIA**

**China’s growing ties with Africa**
President Magufuli, on Tuesday, was the guest of honour at a special session of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in dialogue with world political parties with attendance from around the world. It was the second meeting after the inaugural meeting held in Beijing, China. THE CITIZEN

Tanzania launches two vessels on disputed, shared lake

Tanzania flagged off two ships, built by Songoro Marine Transport at a cost of Tsh27 billion ($12.3 million) with a capacity of 1,000 tonnes each, on Lake Nyasa/Malawi, amid a border dispute pitting Dar and one of its southern neighbours, Malawi. Malawi maintains that the entire northern half of the lake belongs to it and has threatened to approach the International Court of Justice in The Hague to seek resolution. Tanzania, as well, claims the lake. Tanzanian authorities claim that about 600,000 families depend on the lake. In the 1960s, Dr Kamuzu Banda, founding President of Malawi, first claimed the lake and the whole of area of Njombe in Mbeya, as part of Malawi, provoking Mwalimu Julius Nyerere to issue a counterargument. THE EAST AFRICAN

UGANDA

Irate villagers lynch three Ugandan soldiers

A mob killed three Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) soldiers attached to a Vurra Customs Army base in Arua District, on Saturday night at Pelele Village near the border with DR Congo, authorities confirmed. Eight people have been arrested and detained at Arua police station to help with the investigations. THE EAST AFRICAN

Korea aid to bridge need for refugees

With a huge funding gap for the refugee crisis in Uganda, as the refugee population in Uganda moves towards 1.5 million — the third largest in the world after Jordan and Turkey. The UN refugee agency raised concerns that as of April 2018, only 10 per cent had been funded. On July 13, the Republic of Korea came to the aid of refugees, with 5,000 tonnes of rice handed to the World Food Programme and the Uganda government, to cater for minimum food needs of some 420,000 refugees in seven settlements. THE EAST AFRICAN

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe elections: Observers appointed to oversee vote

Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan is keeping a close eye on the elections due at the end of July in Zimbabwe. They'll be the first held in decades without Robert Mugabe on the ballot. Annan is leading a team of observers known as the Elders, who are trying to reassure opposition leaders that the elections will be free and fair. AL JAZEERA

Zimbabwe's President Mnangagwa appeals for racial unity ahead of election

Please note: The news items presented here are for informational purposes only. The views expressed within them are those of the authors and/or individuals quoted, not those of the Africa Policy Institute.
Former President Robert Mugabe's government supported the seizure of hundreds of white-owned farms which they saw as unfairly taken by settlers. But Mr Mnangagwa, 75, told a crowd in Harare that the controversial policy was a thing of the past. "We should cease to talk about who owns the farm in terms of color," he said. "It is criminal talking about that. A farmer, a black farmer, a white farmer, is a Zimbabwean farmer." **BBC**

**Guess who's still a factor in Zimbabwe's election? Mugabe**

Zimbabwe's former leader Robert Mugabe has been forced out but he's hardly faded away. Ahead of this month's historic election, dozens of people in T-shirts with his image danced to anti-government songs while vowing revenge. **News 24**

**GLOBAL LEADERS – AFRICA NEWS:**

**Erdogan Scheduled To Attend South Africa BRICS Summit, Meet With Putin**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is scheduled to meet with counterparts and hold a bilateral meeting with Russia’s Vladimir Putin at the upcoming BRICS summit in South Africa. Members of the BRICS grouping -- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa -- are meeting in Johannesburg on July 25-27, as the emerging economies look to more closely coordinate economic policies in the face of a potential global trade war. Turkey is not a BRICS member, but Erdogan will attend in his role as chairman of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Turkish presidency announced. Russia and Turkey have been stepping up geopolitical cooperation, including in the Syrian conflict and in the sale of Russian S-400 air-defense systems to Ankara in a deal opposed by NATO, of which Turkey is a member. Erdogan, like Chinese President Xi Jinping -- who is also scheduled to attend the summit -- has been looking to increase ties with Africa and has made it a top policy goal of expanding Turkey's presence in both Muslim and non-Muslim countries on the continent. Erdogan has visited 20 African countries. Xi on July 22 arrived in Rwanda, becoming the first Chinese president to ever visit the East African country and the second stop on his latest tour of Africa. After the BRICS summit, Xi is slated to visit the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius. **AFP, AP, and TASS**