Central African Republic

**Foiled peace bids, greedy gangs dog Central African Republic**

"This road isn't safe," warns a UN soldier at the edge of a jungle where the latest militia to darken hopes for peace in the Central African Republic has surfaced. Huddled with assault rifles in a pickup truck that slides across the thick red mud, the Tanzanian peacekeepers keep watch on the Mambere-Kadei forest, home to a small but violent group that came to the fore last September. Known as Siriri, the force is drawn mainly from Fulani cattle herders, who say they took up arms to deal with rustlers. Cattle theft is frequent in the west of the country, where seasonal migration of livestock is common practice. *Daily Nation*

Democratic Republic of Congo

**Eight killed in rebel attack on DR Congo army base: sources**

Eight people were killed on Monday during an attack attributed to Ugandan Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels in the restive eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, according to sources. The attack targeted an army position in Kabasewa, 60km east of Beni in North Kivu province. *Daily Nation*.

Ethiopia

**Renewed Ethiopia, Eritrea bilateral ties usher in better times for region**

The recent exchange of high level visits between the two countries is a turning point in the diplomatic history of nations and an incentive for our region and the international community to see to it that conflicts should be solved for every one's interest. the renewed deal has resulted to : introduction of flights for the Ethiopian airlines to Asmara, using Eritrean ports by Ethiopia, free movement of people between the two countries and opening embassies in Addis and Asmara. leaders in the region including President Uhuru Kenyatta and AU Chairman and Rwanda’s President Paul Kagame said they welcome the latest development as they signal a stable continent. *Daily Nation*

**Eritrea reopens embassy in Ethiopia amid thaw in relations**

Eritrea has reopened its embassy in Ethiopia after two decades of military stalemate over a border war in which tens of thousands died. In a brief ceremony on Monday, Ethiopia’s
Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki jointly raised the Eritrean flag inside a newly refurbished embassy as a military band played Eritrea's anthem. Ethiopia and Eritrea expelled each other's envoys at the start of a 1998-2000 border war that killed around 80,000 people. Aljazeera

Kenya

Why travelers are keeping off Machakos Country Bus terminal
Deteriorating security and upsurge in crime at the Machakos Country Bus terminal in Nairobi's city centre has turned into brutality, harassment and outright theft. Victims of the unruly and brutal bus agents have vowed never to use the traveling point, preferring the more organized and formal passenger service vehicles away from the up country bus station. Mr James Omae, a ticket-cashier at Galaxy Express noted that travelers are resolving to use the other bus stages, largely due to insecurity, harassment and unclear programmes for the buses at the Machakos Country Bus terminal. Formal passenger services buses are expanding their reach and services they offer with the sole aim of attracting even more travelers to their companies. Daily Nation.

Chinese to work at Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway till 2027
Transport Cabinet Secretary James Macharia has said that the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) will still have Chinese workers until 2027, however the percentage of Chinese workers will reduce yearly thereafter local staff are expected to take over 100 per cent. The Transport ministry has defended the Sh1.7 billion-a-month cost of running SGR stating that it was making profit and will by 2020 pay back its loan. Daily Nation

Fraudsters' device new ways to swap SIM cards
SIM swapping is the latest vice through which customers are losing their savings in banks and mobile wallets. Sim swapping was a big problem especially in Nigeria since 2016. According to estimates, banks and telcos could be losing up between Sh15 billion and Sh20 billion annually through fraud. A Central Bank official recently told directors of savings and credit societies that the amount lost through cybercrime in 2016 was in the range of Sh600 million. The financial sector in Kenya spent Sh21.2 billion last year on systems to combat the vice. Daily nation

South Sudan

S. Sudan foes to sign 'preliminary' power pact this week
South Sudanese President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar have agreed to sign a "preliminary" power-sharing deal this week on Thursday, followed by a final one later in the month, on July 26 in the presence of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir and other East African leaders. They have also agreed on a permanent ceasefire and withdrawing of their forces from urban areas. DAILY NATION; THE EAST AFRICAN
**Tanzania**

**John Magufuli says his party will rule 'forever'**
Tanzania's President John Magufuli who has come under fire for his authoritarian leadership style has vowed that his ruling party will be "in power forever, for eternity". This comes after another controversial comments that suggested that prisoners be made to work "day and night" and receive kicks if they are lazy. Magufuli, who came to power in 2015, has previously angered rights groups with his campaigns against homosexuality and calls to bar pregnant girls from schools. *Daily Nation*

**South Africa**

**Obama delivers Mandela Annual Lecture in Johannesburg**
Ex-US President Barack Obama on 17 July delivered the 2018 Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture in Johannesburg, on his first return to Africa since leaving office in early 2017. The Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture is one of the Foundation's flagship programmes to honour its founder, Nelson Mandela. Every year since 2003, global leaders have used the lecture to raise topical issues affecting South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world. To honour the centennial of Madiba's birth, the lecture's theme was “Renewing the Mandela Legacy and Promoting Active Citizenship in a Changing World”. *Africa News*

**Mandela lecture: Five things Barack Obama said**
Barack Obama has used his first high-profile speech since stepping down as US president to take swipes at "strongman politics" and politicians' disregard for the facts. His comments are seen as thinly veiled criticism of the current US administration's use of what has been described as "alternative facts". Here are five key points from his Nelson Mandela lecture, made to the world's media and an audience of some 15,000 people in South Africa's main city, Johannesburg.

1. **Facts are sacred**
"You have to believe in facts," said Mr. Obama, "without facts there is no basis for cooperation."

2. **Immigration is a strength**
Barack Obama said striving towards equality ensures a society can draw on the talents and the energy of all of its people. "Just look at the French football team," he said to wild cheers, referring to France's World Cup win days before. "Not all of those folks looked like Gaul's to me, but they are French - they are French."

3. **Business titans are 'isolated from ordinary people'**
Barack Obama said the world's elite were out of touch with the lives of the poor. "In their business dealings, many titans of industry... are increasingly detached from any nation state" and they "live lives more and more isolated from ordinary people", he said.

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.
4. **Viva democracy!**

Politicians using "politics of fear, resentment, retrenchment" were rising "at a pace unimaginable just a few years ago," Barack Obama warned. Democracy is messy, he said, "but the efficiency of an autocrat is a false promise".

5. **Keep hope alive**

"Keep believing. Keep marching. Keep building. Keep raising your voice. Every generation has the opportunity to remake the world," Mr. Obama said, ending his speech on a positive note. *Daily nation*

**Zimbabwe**

*Can Zimbabwe finally ditch a history of violence and media repression?*

Zimbabwe’s governing ZANU-PF is earnestly courting international legitimacy as the country approaches its first post-independence elections without Robert Mugabe. The party frequently uses clichés like “fresh start”, “new dispensation”, and “open for business” to signal its willingness to engage with the West. The talk has been matched by some action. The government has repudiated most of its indigenization legislation, and recently applied to re-join The Commonwealth. Additionally, 46 countries and 15 regional bodies have been invited to observe the elections. This includes many Western nations that had been excluded in recent years. *News 24*