1. BURUNDI

**Burundi diaspora week kicks off in Bujumbura**

President Pierre Nkurunziza on Tuesday launched the 2018 Burundi Diaspora Week in Bujumbura urging citizens living outside the country to contribute to development. Now in its third edition, the annual event seeks to strengthen social cohesion and unity. “Burundians in diaspora should be the ambassadors of Burundi and also take part in developing projects in the country,” President Nkurunziza said. The East African

2. CAMEROON

**Biya poised to win...and become president for life**

Cameroon's President Paul Biya is poised to win a seventh term of office come October 7, which will see him extend his 36 years rule and become a life president. Like in 2011, the 85-year-old president said his decision to run again was a nod to overwhelming calls for him to do so. His supporters already see victory for the incumbent. The East African

3. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**WHO: How Ebola was contained in DRC**

The World Health Organisation has a message for those trying to understand how the latest Ebola outbreak was contained so quickly: don't give the new vaccine all the credit. Compared to the 2013-2015 West African outbreak, which exploded into an epidemic that killed more than 11,300 people, the response to the latest flareup of the virus in the Democratic Republic of Congo was a clear success. Daily nation

**DR Congo officially declares end to Ebola outbreak**

DR Congo on Tuesday officially declared the end of an outbreak of Ebola, bringing the curtain down on a 10-week re-emergence of the disease which claimed 33 lives. "After an observation period of 42 days during which no new confirmed cases have been observed, and in conformity with international health regulations, I declare today, July 24 2018, that the epidemic of Ebola virus disease in province in the Democratic Republic of Congo has come to an end," Health Minister Oly Ilunga said in a statement. Daily nation

**Bemba 'to return to DR Congo next week'**
A former vice-president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jean-Pierre Bemba, is to return to the country next week following the quashing of his conviction for war crimes. Mr. Bemba's party says he will arrive on 1 August to submit his candidacy for the presidential poll due in December. Candidates have until 8 August to register. The long-delayed election is meant to choose a successor to Joseph Kabila. His second and final term in office ended in 2017 but he has so far refused to stand down, sparking deadly protests. BBC

4. ETHIOPIA

Rival Ethiopian synods agree to unite

Two rival synods of Ethiopia’s largest faith group, the Orthodox Church, have agreed to unite ending more than two decades of acrimony. The two church councils have long been accused of mirroring the country’s political extremes aligning themselves one with the government and the other with the opposition in the diaspora. Some say the union is indicative of Ethiopia’s new political atmosphere. BBC

Ethiopia and Eritrea leaders get medal for peace efforts

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Eritrea's President Isaias Afwerki have been awarded the United Arab Emirates' highest honour. The two men are in the UAE after their dramatic steps towards reconciliation since the beginning of the month. Advisers to the two leaders have been tweeting from the UAE. BBC

Ethiopia PM to engage diaspora community on first U.S. visit

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed will leave Addis Ababa on Thursday as he heads to the United States for his first visit since taking office in early April. The six-day trip will be spent between Washington DC and Los Angeles, his chief of staff, Fitsum Arega, confirmed on Twitter. According to organizers of the event dubbed: “Tear down barriers, and build bridges!” the sole purpose of the visit is to engage Ethiopia's vast diaspora community. They said the open nature of it was to break off traditional meetings that usually involved “community leaders and luminaries tucked as an aside to diplomatic trips. “Such commitment reinforces the concern the PM has already shown with regard to the welfare and dignity of Ethiopians around the globe. Concrete steps and actions taken subsequent to such engagements show the PM’s capacity to back up his words with action,” they added. The organizers are drawn from a broad cross section of the Ethiopian diaspora holding different views – be they political, religious or ethnic. ‘The platform is open to all, with no need to stand on ceremony or awaiting formal invitations,’ they noted in a press release. Africa News

5. KENYA

Silent war in Cabinet as war against graft bites

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.
The renewed purge against corruption has sparked off a cold war within the Cabinet, as Cabinet Secretaries engage in a blame game that was not common in President Uhuru Kenyatta’s first term in office. The infighting is evident, as Cabinet Secretaries have openly – though at times in diplomatic language – blamed each other in recent investigations touching on contaminated sugar, Ruaraka land, maize scandal and influx of counterfeit goods, property. Cabinet Secretaries Fred Matiang’i, Henry Rotich, Farida Karoney, Adan Mohammed, Mwangi Kiunjuri and Amina Mohammed, in particular, have found themselves engaged in buck passing. The Standard

Kenya’s aviation safety up ahead of direct us flights

Kenya has significantly improved its aviation safety standard, solidifying its Category 1 status that allows for direct flights between Nairobi and New York, US. The country scored 78 per cent on the safety audit conducted between July 2 and July 12 by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). This was an improvement from the previous score of 66 per cent in 2008. The East African

6. MALAWI

Malawi President Muthalika to lead Global Fund conference in France

Malawian President Peter Mutharika has been asked by the Global Fund to champion and lead next year’s conference in France to fight HIV and Aids, tuberculosis and malaria. Global Fund executive director Peter Sands said in a letter dated June 18 that the organisations has chosen President Mutharika because Malawi is thriving in the fight of the three pandemics. “The Global Fund would be honoured if agreed to be our Champion in the lead up to our next Replenishment and as such express your support to our partnership and our Replenishment Conference, to be hosted by France in 2019, during the upcoming African Union Heads of State summit,” reads the letter in part as seen by this reporter. State House spokesman Mgeme Kalilani confirmed that the letter has been received by President Mutharika. According to Kalilani, the President has accepted the Global Fund request “with humility”, saying he commit to discharging the responsibility “with the highest possible of integrity and diligence.” The Global Fund (GF) is an international financing organization, designed to accelerate the end of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics by providing support to countries in the response to the three diseases

7. MOROCCO

Morocco and EU in fishing deal

Morocco and the European Union have signed a new fishing agreement at the end of four rounds of talks. Morocco will receive more than 50m euros ($58m, £44m) a year, up from 40m euros, in return for allowing 128 fishing vessels from EU countries to fish in Moroccan waters. The number of Moroccan sailors working on board these trawlers will also
increase. The agreement excludes fishing off the coast of the disputed Western Sahara region. BBC

8. NIGERIA

Nigeria's Buhari wishes defectors very best; could his re-election be affected? [The Morning Call]

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari’s party has been hit by a second wave of defections. First the news emerged on Tuesday that more than 30 members of the house of representatives had left the governing All Progressives Congress APC. And then it was news that 15 senators in the upper house of parliament, the Senate, had defected. Though later, a few persons reported to have defected denied leaving. In any case, the defections could make it more difficult for President Muhammadu Buhari to get legislation passed and it does signify all is not well with President Buhari’s party. But he does appear not to be troubled. In a tweet, Buhari said the APC has done its best to stop the defections, and wished the defectors the very best. Africa News

9. SUDAN

African editors condemn seizure of newspapers in Sudan

African editors have condemned the confiscation of newspapers in Sudan. In a press statement, The African Editors Forum (TAEF) on Tuesday condemned the Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) for the seizure of three entire print runs of the Al-Jareeda newspaper. “TAEF calls on the Sudanese government to cease forthwith, the arbitrary confiscation of newspapers and the intimidation of journalists,” read the statement. The Sudanese government banned the newspaper after it reported and took photos of people queueing for bread and public transport as well as motorists queueing for fuel. Daily nation

10. SOUTH AFRICA

China pledges $14bn in investment for South Africa

South Africa President Cyril Ramaphosa’s has said that China has made investment commitments worth $14bn (£10.7bn). The announcement came at the end of a meeting between Mr. Ramaphosa’s and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping. BBC

Xi wants to work with Africa to reform global system

The presidents of China and South Africa have been speaking after their meeting in Pretoria. President Xi Jinping has called for closer relations between China and Africa according to this tweet from South Africa's government news agency. BBC

11. UGANDA

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Inside Narendra Modi’s bag of goodies for Yoweri Museveni

Kampala- Indian prime minister Narendra Modi jets in Uganda on Tuesday for a two-day State visit en route to South Africa for the 10th Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) Summit. Uganda’s Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Patrick Mugoya, said top on Mr. Modi’s visit are discussions on bilateral relations, including signing of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in areas of cooperation between Uganda and India. The MoUs cover energy, visa waiver for holders of diplomatic and official passports, cultural cooperation and exchange programmes, film production, defence, ICT and establishment of a regional materials testing laboratory in Uganda. Daily nation

Why Uganda's opposition is condemned to stay forever broke

The results of the recent election of village leaders in Uganda, a few hundred thousand in all, are now out. True to the party’s pre-election predictions, across the country, President Yoweri Museveni’s National Resistance Movement won an overwhelming majority of the positions up for grabs. Not the most restrained of boasters, some NRM officials are crowing about how their “thunderous victory” has put the opposition, whose leaders they are now dismissing as opportunists, to shame. There is more than just a little bit of truth in this. The East African

Uganda seeks health investment from India

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has called for investment from India into his country’s healthcare sector. Mr. Museveni wants to stem the flow of Ugandans seeking treatment in India as part of a series of measures reduce the trade deficit with India he announcement came after the Ugandan president met India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kampala. The prime minister also pledged $200m in credit for Uganda, Mr. Museveni has tweeted: BBC

12. ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe election: UN body warns of voter intimidation

This includes people being forced to attend rallies in rural areas, the UN human rights office said. It did not blame any party, but the ruling Zanu-PF has been accused of violence in previous elections. Monday's elections will be the first since long-serving ruler Robert Mugabe was forced to resign in November. A survey published last week predicted a tight race between his successor, Emmerson Mnangagwa, and main opposition leader Nelson Chamisa. The survey, by South Africa-based Afro barometer, gave Mr. Mnangagwa 40% of the vote and Mr. Chamisa 37%, raising the possibility of a run-off. BBC