1. CAMEROON

**Cameroon cities of Douala, Limbe hit by floods**

Local media portals in Cameroon are reporting of floods in parts of the country. On Tuesday, the city of Limbe in the country’s South West was hit by floods. While in Douala, the country’s largest city and economic capital located in the littoral region, heavy rains accompanied by landslides are said to have left scores stranded. Videos and photos shared on social media showed streets submerged as flood waters have risen to knee-level of people who attempted wading through. Some journalists are also reporting that in the case of Limbe, as the waters receded, people are counting their loses. There are no official account of loss of lives but local media are putting it at ten. Floods continue to cause havoc across parts of Africa where high rain patterns have resulted in loss of lives and destruction to properties. The most recent was in the capital of ivory Coast, Abidjan where government was forced to evacuate close to 200 families. *Africa News*

2. DR CONGO

**Bemba to ask for opposition leaders for 'joint candidate' mandate**

Considering that the opposition in DR Congo has agreed in principle to field a joint candidate, former vice president Jean-Pierre Bemba said he believed he would be the best candidate in December’s presidential election but that he was open to supporting another candidate. In his first in-depth public remarks since being acquitted in May on appeal for war crimes at The Hague, Bemba told a news conference in Brussels that standing for president was not an obsession but touted his experience and leadership qualities. Candidate registration opened on Wednesday. President Joseph Kabila, who has governed since 2001, is barred by term limits from running but has refused to commit publicly to not standing. That and rising militia violence in Democratic Republic of Congo’s eastern borderlands have raised fears the country could be dragged back to the civil wars of the turn of the century that killed millions, most from hunger and disease. *Africa News*. 
3. KENYA

Appeals court upholds election of John Oyioka as Bonchari MP

The Court of Appeal, on Wednesday, upheld the election of Bonchari MP John Ooro Oyioka, stating that the magnitude of errors that Mr Opore complained about were negligible, thus they did not affect the final results. Mr Opore was ordered to pay Sh1.5 million to the Independent Electoral and Boundary Commission and Bonchari Returning Officer David Cherop and a similar amount to Mr Oyioka. Mr Opore had vied for the seat on a Jubilee ticket while Mr Oyioka vied on the People’s Democratic Party. DAILY NATION

US gas roadmap to power and light sub-Saharan Africa

Kenya and Tanzania are among nine African countries set to benefit from an ambitious US-led initiative to invest in gas-powered power plants. The Gas Roadmap for sub-Saharan Africa, launched in June 2016 at the World Gas Conference in Washington, DC, by the US Agency for International Development's Power Africa co-ordinator, is an initiative that seeks to add some 16,000MW of gas-fired power in nine countries and 60 million new connections by 2030. According to the roadmap, US companies supported by Washington will invest $175 billion in gas power projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Angola, Mozambique and South Africa. THE EAST AFRICAN

4. MALI

Mali 2018 presidential election: Top 10 facts

Malians go to the polls on Sunday in a vote that marks an important step forward for Mali, a landlocked country in western Africa that is home to almost 19 million people. Mali has been in turmoil since Tuareg rebels and loosely allied jihadists seized its desert north in 2012, prompting French forces to intervene to push them back the following year. A 2013 poll won by president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita marked a return to democratic rule, with Keita, but the security situation in the country has since deteriorated, especially in the North. As part of our coverage of the process in our Africa Elections slot online, Africa news presents ten top facts as relates to the elections.

5. SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan foes sign preliminary power-sharing deal

South Sudanese arch-foes on Wednesday signed a "preliminary" power-sharing deal aimed at ending the civil war, with a Sudanese minister saying it sees rebel leader Riek Machar reinstated as first vice-president. Khartoum hosted a round of peace talks since June between South Sudan's warring leaders President Salva Kiir and rebel chief Macharto end the conflict in the world’s youngest country. The peace deal was signed it will gave the foes three months to form a transitional government under the new format, which will then hold power for a further 36 months. THE EASTAFRICAN; ALJAZEERA
Mob attacks South Sudan UN base

Angry mobs Monday attacked a UN compound in South Sudan's Upper Nile State, alleging discrimination against the locals in employment. They complained that most of the aid workers at Maban were from Equatoria, in the south of the country. Mobs damaged vehicles, ransacked offices and set some buildings ablaze at the Maban camp. The Upper Nile base that borders the Blue Nile State in Sudan, hosts an estimated 170,000 refugees and returnees from Sudan. A comment from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were unsuccessful as multiple telephone calls to their offices were not answered. THE EAST AFRICAN

6. SOUTH AFRICA

Suspected arson attack at South African mosque

A fire broke out early this morning at a mosque in a residential area in South Africa's coastal city of Durban, in a suspected arson attack, local media report. The fire has been extinguished and the police explosives unit has arrived at the Masjid-e-Mukhtar mosque in Croftdene, declaring it a crime scene. Saleem Adam, a local Muslim leader, told South Africa's Times Live news site that those first at the scene had spotted three men jumping over a wall and fleeing. BBC

7. ZIMBABWE

Why Zimbabwe's election is historic

Zimbabweans are going to the polls on 30 July - and it will be the first time in 38 years without Robert Mugabe in power. The cash-strapped and impoverished country, which has known decades of repressive rule, faces severe challenges. BBC

Zimbabwe poll: A chance for Chamisa to show his strength

Few had expected Zimbabwe's main opposition group, the MDC Alliance, to pull out of Monday's general election, despite speculation to the contrary. There is so much at stake - the first opportunity for its presidential candidate, Nelson Chamisa, to test his strength. He emerged as the main opposition candidate following the death of Morgan Tsvangirai in February. At the press conference Mr. Chamisa held in the capital, Harare, he hinted at differences within the seven-party opposition alliance. Mr. Chamisa told journalists that if the decision had been his alone, he would have opted to boycott the elections. “Who am I to say no to the will of the people,” he added. BBC

Zimbabwe opposition blasts electoral commission

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.
Zimbabwe's main opposition presidential candidate Nelson Chamisa has said he was confident of victory, despite the "machinations and shenanigans" of the electoral commission to help President Emmerson Mnangagwa and his Zanu-PF party to stay in power. Zimbabwe's electoral commission was biased, and it had "thrown away the whistle" to join Mr. Mnangagwa's team, Mr. Chamisa added. "We will defeat the referee and player. We will not allow them to get away with murder, literally and metaphorically," he said at a press conference. The electoral commission was "stubborn and "arrogant" and had violated the law in its preparations for Monday's poll. BBC

Mugabe successor warns he will not tolerate anarchy

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa has warned that he will not tolerate anarchy, as tensions mount ahead of Monday's elections - the first since long-serving ruler Robert Mugabe was forced to resign. His comments came as police banned an opposition demonstration due to take place on Wednesday against the electoral commission in the capital, Harare. Police said they were too busy making final preparations for the elections to provide security at the march. BBC

Zim politician 'reclaims seized farm from Mugabe's daughter Bona' – report

A Zimbabwean politician has reportedly reclaimed his farm from former president Robert Mugabe's daughter Bona and her in-laws after they allegedly seized it from him four years ago. According to Newsday, Zanu-PF Mashonaland east political commissar, Herbert Shumbamhini said he had returned to his 350-hectare sub-division of Divonia Farm and was reviving some of the farm's damaged infrastructure. NEWS 24

The 23 candidates aiming to replace Mugabe

Zimbabweans will have a ‘tall list’ literally to pick from when they head to the polls on July 30 to elect a new president. The historic nature of the poll is not only in the fact that Mugabe will for the first time in over three decades be absent on the ballot paper but also that there are a record number of candidates in the race. The roll of 19 men added plus four women brings the figure to twenty three. But as has usually been the case, there are two main front runners. Incumbent Emmerson Mnangagwa and main opposition Nelson Chamisa. Other notable candidates in the race are former vice-president Joice Mujuru (leader of the People’s Rainbow Coalition) and another woman in the person of Khope Thokozani, who leads a faction of the main opposition party. Two other women are in the race – Dzapasi Melbah of #1980 Freedom Movement Zimbabwe and Mariyacha Violet of United Democratic Movement. This review looks at the two main candidates in the race as part of our Africa Elections umbrella and special coverage of the Zimbabwe harmonized elections. AFRICA NEWS

GLOBAL NEWS:

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U.S. expresses concern over prevailing insecurity within Ethiopia

The United States has expressed concern over the prevailing state of insecurity and violence within Ethiopia, that has led to the displacement of over one million people. The US Ambassador to Ethiopia, Michael Raynor, who was speaking at the “Our Ethiopia” Video Challenge Awards Ceremony in the capital, Addis Ababa commended the sweeping reforms that have been implemented by the country’s prime minister, Abiy Ahmed. 41 year old Abiy has taken Ethiopia and the broader Horn of Africa by storm since taking office in April by doing the unthinkable. Africa News