1. Central African Republic

Three Russian journalists killed in Central African Republic

Three Russian journalists have been killed in the Central African Republic (CAR), Russia's foreign ministry and their news outlet have said, in what local authorities said was an ambush by unidentified attackers. Russian online news organisation Investigation Control Centre (TsUR) said in a Facebook post on Tuesday the three reporters - identified as Orhan Dzhemal, Alexander Rastorguyev and Kirill Radchenko - were in the country on assignment. Al Jazeera

2. Comoros

Comoros passes contentious referendum

The authorities in Comoros are reported to have declared that an overwhelming majority has backed constitutional changes that could keep the current president in power for a further decade. The system of rotating the presidency between the three main islands would be abolished and Islam declared as the state religion. The French news agency AFP says the official result concluded that almost 93% of voters backed the changes. The opposition, which called for a boycott, said Monday's referendum was nothing short of a power grab by President Azali Assoumani. The opposition leader, Ahmed El Barwane, has reportedly been arrested. BBC

3. Democratic Republic of Congo

Bemba to run for DR Congo presidency

The former vice-president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Jean-Pierre Bemba, has said he intends to stand for the presidency in elections due this December. Mr. Bemba told the BBC that as long as the election was transparent, he would abide by the result, rather than taking up arms as he did before. He plans to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo this week from Belgium after spending a decade in jail. He was freed after his war crimes conviction was quashed on appeal at the International Criminal Court. President Joseph Kabila's government argues that Mr. Bemba is not eligible to run for president.
because of a former corruption conviction but the ex-warlord is challenging this in court.

BBC

**Kabila trails opponents in latest opinion poll ahead of December elections**

A new opinion poll released on Tuesday shows Congolese president, Joseph Kabila trailing his opponents ahead of the December election that he is constitutionally barred from contesting. Kabila is barred by term limits from standing for a fresh term in the election but has yet to publicly commit to stepping down. Some of his allies are pushing a legal argument they say allows him to run again. The deadline to declare candidacies is Aug. 8. The United States and France as well as other countries including neighbor Angola have expressed fears that a Kabila candidacy could plunge Democratic Republic of Congo into chaos. *Africa news*

**Congo lifts arrest warrant against rebel leader Pastor Ntumi**

The Republic of Congo has lifted arrest warrants for former rebel leader Frederic Bintsamou - widely known as Pastor Ntumi - who led a violent campaign against the army in the oil-producing south, officials said on Tuesday. The move is in line with a peace accord signed on December 23 between the government and Ntumi's Ninja militia which operated in the southern Pool region, where the capital Brazzaville is located. *News 24*

4. Ethiopia

**Ethiopian forces 'hold armed men near major airport**

Regional forces in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region have detained 40 armed men who arrived at the airport in the regional capital, Mekelle, two days ago aboard an Antonov plane, the BBC's Tigirinya service is reporting. The report says the men are Ethiopian citizens who are being held in a camp near Alula Aba Nega International Airport. An official, who asked to remain anonymous, told BBC Tigrinya that the group arrived from Sudan. Though their mission is unclear, they told authorities they landed at the airport in Mekelle by mistake. Regional security officials, who don't want to be named, told the BBC's Girmay Gebru that Tigray police forces have tightened security around the detained men. Mekelle residents have been gripped by the incident and are speculating about the men's mission. *BBC*

**Ethiopia working to resolve Eritrea-Djibouti impasse**

Ethiopia is working to restore relations between two of its neighbors, Djibouti and Eritrea, its envoy to the United Nations told the Security Council on Monday. According to ambassador Takeda Alemu, Addis Ababa was doing so in the prevailing spirit of embracing and all-inclusive progress and development of the wider Horn of Africa region. He reiterated how dynamics of security and cooperation in the region was fast changing especially after the Ethio – Eritrea peace agreement, and more recently the Eritrea – Somalia normalization of relations. *Africa news*
5. Egypt

**Egypt says police kill 5 militants north of Cairo**

Egypt says police have killed five suspected militants in a shootout north of Cairo. The Interior Ministry says Monday the militants were killed in an exchange of fire as security forces raided their hideout in the el-Obour district. It says another five militants were arrested. The ministry says the militants were members of Hasm, which authorities say is a breakaway faction of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. Egypt has been battling Islamic militants for years, but the insurgency gained strength after the 2013 overthrow of an elected but divisive Islamist president. The militants have mainly targeted security forces and Christians. News 24

6. Kenya

**Kenya police raid controversial rehabilitation centre**

Kenyan police have raided a rehabilitation centre in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, that featured in a BBC Africa Eye documentary on Monday. Undercover footage of Darushifa drug rehabilitation centre in Eastleigh area showed guards at the centre violently whipping patients and forcing them to drink a potentially deadly concoction called harmala. Police are checking the health of patients and releasing those who are fit to go home. Nacada – the Kenyan government regulator of rehabilitation centres – has also confirmed that the raid is ongoing. Earlier, Nacada released a statement saying this centre was not accredited in the country and condemned the cruelty and torture of patients. The owner of the centre has condemned the accusations. BBC

**Raila Odinga: Why I'm not comfortable with William Ruto**

Raila Odinga has explained why his Orange Democratic Movement is not comfortable with Deputy President William Ruto. While the Orange party has been warming up to President Uhuru Kenyatta since the March 9 handshake and unity deal, its leaders have been shunning and attacking the DP. And now Mr. Odinga says only one thing has been making him and his troops not like Mr. Ruto, the self-declared 'hustler', very much: early campaigns for 2022. ODM says the "premature" vote chase, sometimes disguised as development tours and project launches, is a mockery of the efforts being made by Mr. Odinga and Mr. Kenyatta to address the 2017 election debacle. The early vote hunt, Mr. Odinga said, is contrary to the agreement he entered into with Mr. Kenyatta. Daily nation

**Kenyan minister under fire over rhino transfer fiasco**

Kenya's wildlife minister on Tuesday apologized for telling his critics to "go to hell" as he comes under mounting pressure over the death of 10 rhinos during a botched transfer. Tourism and Wildlife Minister Najib Balala had directed the comments to those calling for
his resignation over the fiasco during a press conference on Monday. "People need explanations about the rhinos... people are angry. I am also angry," Balala told lawmakers Tuesday. "I have emotions and I reacted. I feel let down by my system that did not act quickly to stop the death of the rhinos." Kenyans have been left stunned after 10 of 11 rhinos being transferred from Nairobi and Lake Nakuru national parks to Tsavo East died after the operation. The 11th was attacked by lions, and is recovering. The East African

7. Madagascar

Madagascar beefs up security to stem kidnapings

The Madagascar government has beefed up security following a rise in kidnappings across the country. “Officers and soldiers have been ordered to intensify the search for criminals,” said General Jean Christophe Randriamanarina, the State Secretary for the National Gendarmerie. His statement on Monday came in the wake of abduction of four employees of mining firm Kraoma from their Brieville Tsaratanana residence last week. The East African

8. Rwanda

Trump suspends clothes exports to Rwanda

Donald Trump's administration has suspended duty-free exports on clothes to Rwanda after the East African nation-imposed tariffs on US imports of second-hand clothing and footwear which it blames for harming the local textile industry. "The president's action does not affect the vast majority of Rwanda's exports to the US", a statement by the office of the US trade representative read. The clothes imports account for 3% of what Rwanda exports to the US under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa) and are valued at $1.5m (£1m). Rwanda's position had been widely adopted by East Africa's states but Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda dropped their stance fearing retaliatory action that would lead to loss of access to US markets via Agoa. Rwanda clothing imports have so far dropped by a third. BBC

9. South Africa

South Africa to amend constitution to allow land expropriation

In a recorded address, President Cyril Ramaphosa said the ruling ANC will "finalise a proposed amendment" allowing the move. He said the reform was "of critical importance" to the economy. Recent months have seen growing anger about the slow pace of land reform in South Africa. The country's white minority is believed to have a disproportionate hold over land, with a few thousand white commercial farmers possessing the most fertile lands. However, critics fear expropriation could lead to land grabs, as happened in neighboring Zimbabwe. BBC

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10. Uganda

Museveni rebukes judges for annulling MPs' term extension

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has criticised judges of the Constitutional Court for nullifying the amendment by Parliament to extend its term by two years from the current five, describing their decision as an “undemocratic” and “nonsense”. The President in a warning to the judiciary said the judges are not in charge of the country and that his NRM party lawmakers, who form the majority in parliament, will "harmonise and galvanise" their position on the matter. The East African

11. Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe ruling ZANU-PF party wins elections: Electoral body

Zimbabwe’s ruling ZANU-PF party has won the parliamentary election with 109 seats, gaining a clear majority, according to the Electoral Commission. The opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party managed to win only 41 seats with results for 58 seats still to be announced, the election body said on Wednesday. Al Jazeera

Opposition leader says he's winning as Zimbabwe awaits results

Harare, Zimbabwe - Zimbabwe's opposition leader Nelson Chamisa has said he was "winning resoundingly" but the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission said official results were yet to be announced. Chamisa, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), said on Tuesday that his party had the results from 10,000 polling stations. Al Jazeera

MDC Alliance alleges rigging

Zimbabwe's main opposition party MDC Alliance has been holding a press conference ahead of the electoral commission announcing the first set of parliamentary results. The BBC's Piers Scholfield has been tweeting comments by one of the alliance's top officials. Tendai Biti has said that the MDC Alliance candidate, Nelson Chamisa, had won the presidential vote and that there was an attempt to undermine his win. The declaration can only be made by the electoral commission. BBC

Zimbabwe opposition 'to go to court'

Zimbabwe's MDC Alliance is planning to go court to compel the electoral commission to release results of Monday's election, news agency Reuters reports quoting a top party official. Tendai Biti said that results that were supposed to be posted outside voting stations were missing. Mr. Biti held a press conference earlier where he said that the main opposition candidate Nelson Chamisa had won the election, and that there were attempts to undermine his win. Under Zimbabwean law the electoral commission has to declare the winner within five days. BBC

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Mnangagwa's Zanu-PF party takes early lead in Zim election first results

Zimbabwe's ruling Zanu-PF party has taken an early lead as results from the just ended harmonised elections rolled in on Tuesday. The state-owned Herald newspaper reported on Wednesday that Zanu-PF was "poised for a comfortable majority in parliament, as the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission continued to announce the results". News 24

Zimbabwe issues prosecution warning after opposition claims poll win

Zimbabwe's government warned election candidates on Tuesday they faced prosecution and jail for prematurely announcing results of landmark polls after the main opposition MDC party said it had won. "As a government we have noted with concern the actions and conduct of some political party leaders... who are openly declaring that they will announce results irrespective of provisions of the law," said Home Affairs Minister Obert Mpofu at a media briefing in Harare. News 24

EU to report on Zimbabwe election as country awaits results

EU observers are expected to give their report on Zimbabwe's presidential election Wednesday as the country waits impatiently for results of the first vote since Robert Mugabe was ousted after 37 years in power. The opposition MDC party Tuesday claimed victory for its candidate Nelson Chamisa in the historic ballot while the government threatened to jail leaders announcing results before the official tally. Electoral officials warned that gathering the results of Monday's poll, which President Emmerson Mnangagwa said looked "extremely positive" for him, was "nowhere near" complete and no announcement would be made until as late as Saturday. Daily nation