1. CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

**C. Africa rebels rearm after military gets Russia weapons: UN panel**

Russia's supply of weapons to the Central African Republic's military has sparked an arms race, with rebels turning to traffickers in Sudan for fresh gun shipments, according to a UN panel of experts. In a report released Tuesday, the panel said the UN-approved deliveries of military equipment to CAR's defence forces had "led to waves of rearmament" by some factions of the former Muslim Seleka alliance. The rebel factions "believe that the government is preparing for a war against them", said the report sent to the Security Council last week. DAILY NATION

2. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

**As Jean-Pierre Bemba returns, DRC opposition eyes a shot at power**

Former Democratic Republic of the Congo Vice President Jean-Pierre Bemba on Wednesday arrived in the capital Kinshasa for the first time in a decade to take part in the upcoming presidential elections. Bemba returned weeks after the International Criminal Court (ICC) overturned his war crimes convictions to submit his credentials to the electoral commission. AL JAZEERA

**DRC: New Ebola virus outbreak days after previous epidemic ends**

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has announced a new outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus, just days after a recent emergence of the disease, which killed 33 people, was declared over. Four cases of the virus were confirmed in northeastern North Kivu province, the DRC's health minister said in a statement on Wednesday, though there was no indication they were linked to the country's previous - and ninth - Ebola outbreak in northwestern Equateur Province. AL JAZEERA

**DR Congo ex-warlord Jean-Pierre Bemba welcomed home**

The ex-rebel leader had a war crimes conviction by the International Criminal Court overturned in June. Crowds of his supporters in T-shirts, hats and scarves bearing his face met him at the airport. He has declared his intention to contest the long-delayed presidential election in December. But President Joseph Kabila's government says he is not eligible because of a corruption conviction. Mr. Bemba is currently appealing against
that conviction, which relates to witness tampering during his trial at The Hague. No date has been fixed for the verdict. BBC

3. DJIBOUTI

Djibouti unhappy with Somalia over Eritrea sanctions

Djibouti is unhappy with Somalia’s calls for the lifting of the United Nations sanctions on Eritrea, which were imposed in 2009 due to Asmara’s refusal to withdraw troops from their disputed border and for its alleged support of Somalia-based Al Shabaab jihadist group. The Somali leader had paid Asmara a historic three-day visit where the two Horn of Africa nations agreed to restore diplomatic relations after nearly 15 years. Clashes erupted between Djibouti and Eritrea in June 2008 after the former accused the latter of occupying its territory -- the Dumeira mountain and Dumeira island. THE EAST AFRICAN

4. ERITREA

A cruel graduation: In Eritrea, school remains a one-way ticket to the army

The recent peace agreement with Ethiopia presents the Eritrean authorities with the opportunity to end the indefinite national service, introduced in 1995, that has robbed the country’s youth of their dreams, creating a generation of Eritrean refugees. By law, every high-school finalist undertakes 18 months of national service, which include six months of military training. The Ethiopia-Eritrea border conflict (1998-2000) was a convenient excuse for compulsory conscription and wide-ranging human rights violations in Eritrea. Now the authorities need to come up with a clear, time-bound plan to demobilize those trapped in endless national service, while ensuring new conscripts are not forced into national service. The government needs also to make provision for conscientious objection to military service. THE EAST AFRICAN

5. KENYA

2 ministers face the axe over bad sugar scandal

Two Cabinet Secretaries could be forced out of office after two parliamentary committees recommended the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to probe their actions leading into last year’s importation of contaminated sugar into the country. the report of the joint committees on Agriculture and Livestock, and Trade, Industry and Cooperatives that has recommended Cabinet Secretaries Henry Rotich (Treasury) and Adan Mohamed (East African Community) to be held culpable for endangering the lives of Kenyans. The report also wants former Agriculture Cabinet Secretary Willy Bett, now the Kenyan High Commissioner to India, to be investigated for aiding 14 companies to import the commodity without paying duty. DAILY NATION

Over 500 senior police officers transferred

The radical changes anticipated in the National Police Service have started taking effect, with the transfer of senior bosses being effected. Deputy Inspector-General in charge of
Kenya Police Edward Njoroge moved the 400 chief inspectors and 70 inspectors to different jurisdictions to undertake similar or different assignments. A circular sent to stations read, that the officers with immediate effect should be release the officers to report to their new stations by August 14, 2018 and confirm departure/arrival. The changes are set to affect both the regular and administration police units and structure of command in the service and the fate of the AP and the Anti-Stock Theft units. Daily Nation

**Kenya eyes China, India with farm produces in trade drive**

Kenya is betting on its agricultural produce, such as tea, coffee, cut flowers, fruits and vegetables, to penetrate China and India in a new strategy that seeks to more than triple exports in four years. The Deputy President William Ruto said on Tuesday that it was alarming that Beijing and New Delhi on average account for four per cent of Kenyan exports despite controlling more than 40 per cent share of imports; adding that Kenya needs to devise ways to penetrate the export markets and expand our foreign trade footprint, especially in Asia. The Integrated National Exports Development and Promotion Strategy, developed through consultation with the private sector, seeks to grow the share of exports to Kenya’s gross domestic product from about eight per cent last year to 25 per cent by 2022 and will cost taxpayers an estimated Ksh800 billion ($8 billion) in five years. Business Daily

**Victoria Ngumi takes over at Jkuat as Romanus Otieno becomes Meru VC**

Professor Victoria Ngumi is the new Vice-Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Jkuat), replacing Prof Mabel Imbuga who has retired after serving the institution for the last 10 years. The new appointment, dated July 18, was made by Education Cabinet Secretary Amina Mohamed. VCs of public universities hold office for a term of five years and are eligible for a further term of five years. Daily Nation

**Erastus Odhiambo gets 20 years for murdering Linda Irungu**

Nairobi City businessman Erastus Ngura Odhiambo, alias Baba Billy, was been sentenced to 20 years in prison for murdering his girlfriend Linda Wanjiku Irungu four years ago. Mr. Odhiambo, shot the 27-year-old lawyer in the wee hours of December 11, 2014 in Buru Buru Phase 5 in Nairobi. The judge said when Odhiambo found Ms Irungu trying to drive out of her compound; he dragged her out of the car then shot her after a struggle as two guards watched. Daily Nation

6. **South Africa**

**South Africa moving to expropriate white farmers' land**

South Africa's president says the ruling African National Congress (ANC) will push ahead with plans for the expropriation of land from white farmers, without compensation. Cyril Ramaphosa says the ANC will try to amend the Constitution with the support of the left-wing Economic Freedom Fighters. Al Jazeera

*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.*
South African White Lobby Group Calls ANC Land Plan 'Catastrophic

South Africa’s white farmers on Wednesday criticized the ruling African National Congress’ (ANC) decision to endorse constitutional changes to allow the state to seize land without compensation, saying the move would be “catastrophic”. On Tuesday night, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the decision by the ANC’s top decision-making organ to push ahead with plans to amend the constitution to allow for the expropriation of land without compensation. More than two decades after the end of apartheid, whites still own most of South Africa’s land and ownership remains a highly emotive subject. Voa news

7. ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe election: International calls for restraint

The UN and former colonial power the UK both expressed concern about the violence, in which three people were killed after troops opened fire. Parliamentary results gave victory to the ruling Zanu-PF party in the first vote since the removal of former ruler Robert Mugabe. But the opposition says Zanu-PF rigged the election. BBC

Regional observers declare Zimbabwe election free and fair

Regional observer missions have endorsed Zimbabwe’s landmark elections saying they were orderly and within the law. The African Union, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) and the Commonwealth observers said on Wednesday that the voting process was largely free and fair. The Comesa mission said the election was “peaceful, transparent and adhered to regional and international standards.” The East African

Britain calls for ’restraint’ after Zimbabwe violence

Former colonial power Britain on Wednesday called for restraint in Zimbabwe after at least three people were killed when soldiers opened fire on crowds protesting alleged fraud in this week's election. Foreign office minister Harriett Baldwin said on Twitter that she was "deeply concerned" by the violence in Zimbabwe following the first nationwide vote since autocratic president Robert Mugabe was forced out by a brief military takeover in November. Daily nation

Zimbabwe president calls for peace as clashes erupt after poll

President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Wednesday called for peace as police fired water cannon and teargas at opposition supporters in Harare over alleged fraud in Zimbabwe's elections. "At this crucial time, I call on everyone to desist from provocative declarations and statements," he said on Twitter. "Now is the time for responsibility and above all, peace." One man was shot dead, AFP witnessed, after the Zimbabwean army opened fire in central Harare on Wednesday as protests erupted over alleged fraud in the country’s election. Daily nation

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.
Army opens fire on opposition protesters in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe police said three people were killed in Harare as soldiers dispersed stone-throwing opposition supporters who accused the ruling party of trying to rig Monday's presidential election. The deployment of soldiers and their beating of unarmed protesters set back President Emmerson Mnangagwa's efforts to shed Zimbabwe's pariah status after decades of repression under Robert Mugabe, who was ousted in a coup in November. Standard