1. Democratic republic of Congo

**Kabila move in DR Congo triggers relief, but uncertainty remains**

By announcing he is formally stepping aside after 17 years in power, President Joseph Kabila has eased tensions in DR Congo but the volatile country remains gripped by uncertainty ahead of scheduled elections. Domestic, regional and international pressures are likely to have played a role in the president's eagerly-awaited decision to pick a successor instead of naming himself. *The East African*

2. Ethiopia

**Ethiopian Airlines in deal with Chad to launch new carrier**

Ethiopian Airlines will acquire a 49 per cent stake in the new Chadian Airlines that is set to be launched in October. The Ethiopian flag carrier has been in talks with Chad to establish the joint venture with the government retaining a 51 per cent stake. *The East African*

**Ethio-Somali leaders to meet in Addis, Abdi Illey still in custody**

Top officials of Ethiopia's Somali region are due to hold a meeting in Addis Ababa on Friday, according to the local Addis Standard news portal. The portal reports that regional parliamentarians, council and executive members of the ruling party (Ethiopia Somali Peoples Democratic Party, ESPDP) are part of the delegation expected in the capital. Meanwhile, the party's leader and former regional president Mohamoud Omar a.k.a. Abdi Illey remains under federal custody. He has been held since Tuesday after resigning from the post he has held since 2005. There are no clear indications what the agenda of the said meeting will be but it is likely to be with federal authorities and Illey’s detention is likely to be on the table. *Africa news*

3. Kenya

**Nema bulldozer descends on Ukay mall in Westland’s, Nairobi**

A bulldozer has descended on Ukay Centre in Westland’s as the national environment watchdog, Nema, steps up reclamation of occupied wetlands in the capital Nairobi. The
iconic mall, estimated to have cost Sh900 million, comes down a day after its owners failed to secure an injunction against its demolition from the High Court. **Daily nation**

**It’s back to square one as MPs throw out sugar report**

The National Assembly Thursday shot down a committee report on the contraband sugar in a move that will severely dent the government’s efforts to fight sugar smuggling in the country. The rejection of the report now leaves Kenyans with an expenditure of over Sh10 million gone to waste. The amount was paid to the 38 members of the joint committee in sitting allowances as they conducted the investigations. **Daily nation**

4. **Mali**

**Blow for Cisse as opposition leaders decline runoff support**

The third and fourth-place finishers in the first round of Mali's presidential election have declined to endorse neither frontrunner in Sunday's runoff vote, dealing a blow to opposition leader Soumaila Cisse's hopes of defeating President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. Keita, who is seeking a second term, came in first in the July 29 poll with over 41 percent of the vote. **Al Jazeera**

**11 killed in Mali ethnic attack**

Eleven Fulani civilians were kidnapped and killed in the latest bout of ethnic violence to hit Mali, local groups said on Thursday, while an official put the toll at 14. The attack, which occurred in the restive central region of Mopti on Tuesday, was attributed to hunters from the Dogon community. "11 Fulani civilians were kidnapped on Tuesday by the Bani river as they were going to the market in Sofara by Dogon militiamen who arrived on motorbikes," Abdoul Aziz Diallo, who heads the country's main Fulani association Tabital Pulaaku, told AFP. **News 24**

**Mali opposition loses election challenge at top court**

Mali's Constitutional Court on Wednesday rejected a legal challenge to the first round of voting in presidential elections, confirming August 12 as the date for the runoff between President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and opposition leader Soumaila Cisse. The president of the court, Manassa Danioko, also delivered the definitive results of the July 29 first round. **Daily nation**

5. **Uganda**

**Uganda leads Africa push for presidents’ immunity at UN**

Uganda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Adonia Ayebare has been selected to canvass continent-wide consensus on a proposal to seek advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) about immunity for presidents. The choice of Mr. Adonia by African diplomats accredited to the UN headquarters in New York, follows a

6. South Sudan

South Sudan's Kiir grants rebel leader Machar, others amnesty

South Sudan President Salva Kiir offered amnesty to all those involved in the nation's bloody five-year civil war as part of a recent agreement to end the fighting. Rebel leader Riek Machar was among those granted a pardon by Kiir. Those who "waged war against the government" were granted a general amnesty, Kiir stated late Wednesday. The president also reiterated a call for his forces to observe a ceasefire agreed in June by both the government and Machar's rebels. Al Jazeera

7. Somalia

Somalia sees increase in Islamic State activity

The Islamic State (IS) group has been mounting noticeably more attacks in Somalia in recent months, following the group's loss of its "caliphate" heartlands in Syria and Iraq late last year. In a major claim on 25 July, IS said it had killed or wounded 14 Somali soldiers in a bomb attack in Lower Shabelle in southern Somalia. Most of the attacks that IS has claimed in Somalia were labelled as targeted "assassinations" against Somali intelligence and security personnel, with some of them filmed taking place in broad daylight in public. BBC

8. Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe opposition's Tendai Biti charged after asylum bid fails

Zimbabwe's former finance minister and leading opposition figure Tendai Biti has been charged with inciting public violence and declaring unofficial election results as fears grew about a government crackdown following the country's recent elections. The court appearance on Thursday followed events in which Biti fled to Zambia, was denied asylum and was handed over to Zimbabwean security forces in defiance of a Zambian court order. Al Jazeera

Zimbabwe opposition figure arrested after deportation from Zambia

Zimbabwean police detained a former finance minister and now an opposition figure, Tendai Biti, after Zambian authorities rejected his bid for asylum and deported him. "An hour ago, Biti was handed over to Zimbabwean law enforcement officers and as we speak he is on Zimbabwean soil," his Zambian lawyer Gilbert Phiri told the Reuters news agency by phone. Al Jazeera

We'll keep on fighting,' says Zim opposition leader after asylum bid fails

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.
Senior Zimbabwean opposition figure Tendai Biti on Thursday was charged with inciting public violence and declaring unofficial election results as fears grew about a government crackdown following the disputed July 30 election. The court appearance followed dramatic events in which Biti fled to Zambia, was denied asylum and was handed over to Zimbabwean security forces in defiance of a Zambian court order. Western diplomats, including the United States, and the UN refugee agency quickly expressed concern. "We will keep on fighting," Biti said as he arrived at court in the capital, Harare. The charge of inciting public violence could bring up to a decade in prison, while the charge of declaring unofficial election results carries a maximum six-month sentence. He was granted $5,000 bail but must surrender his passport, report to authorities twice a day and not address political rallies. News 24

**Zimbabwe president helps top opponent 'get bail'**

Zimbabwe president Emmerson Mnangagwa has disclosed that he intervened to have a leading opposition figure Tendai Biti bailed. According to Mnangagwa, the move was to foster unity, peace and dialogue in the country. In a tweet thread hours after Biti was granted bail on charges of inciting violence and breaching electoral laws, the president spoke about his intervention but said all charges were going to be followed through. Biti was refused asylum in neighboring Zambia and was subsequently deported despite a court order against the move. The United Nations and a number of western governments have commented on the issue stressing that due process is adhered to. Africa news

9. Zambia

**Zambia deports Tendai Biti, defying court order**

Zambian authorities on Thursday deported top Zimbabwe opposition figure Tendai Biti in defiance of a court order after he tried to claim asylum, his lawyer said. "They have defied the court order to allow him to seek asylum and as I am speaking to you right now he has been handed over to the Zimbabwean police," lawyer Gilbert Phiri told AFP. Daily nation