1. Algeria

Algeria deported 37,000 Nigeriens since 2014

Algerian authorities have deported 37,000 Nigeriens who had illegally entered Algeria including women and children, over the past four years, APS reported a government official as saying. The director of immigration at the Algerian interior ministry, Hassan Qasimi said “as many as 37,000 Nigerien have been deported between December, 2014 and November, 2018 after reaching an agreement with the government of Niger”. According to Qasimi, the deportees included 1095 women and children who were caught begging in Algeria on behalf of Nigerien criminal networks that used the money for illegal purposes. Middle East Monitor

2. Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso seeks help on global warming

The President of the West African country of Burkina Faso has called on the international community to help save his people from famine caused by global warming. Countries near the Sahara Desert are facing serious food shortages due to drought and desertification. President Roch Marc Kabore said in an interview with NHK in Tokyo on Tuesday that his country is suffering from the impacts of global warming, and that nearly 1 million people were affected by famine last year. He spoke about serious damage to agriculture due to desertification, and called on the international community for assistance. NHK-Japan

3. Cameroon

Cameroon gunmen seize students from school

Twenty students have been kidnapped by gunmen from a school in the restive English-speaking part of Cameroon. The abduction in Kumba comes almost a fortnight after nearly 80 students were safely returned after being taken from a school in the neighbouring region. Cameroon’s North-West and South-West provinces have been hit by a separatist rebellion since last year. Armed groups have called on local residents to boycott schools until a referendum on independence is held. Protests against
marginalisation by the country's French-speaking majority have been met with a crackdown.

4. Egypt

**Rights group: Egypt tortures, disappears children**

An international rights group said on Tuesday that Egypt has committed "shocking violations" against children, including torture and enforced disappearances. Amnesty International said it has documented at least six children, including a 12-year-old and a 14-year-old, who were tortured in custody, and 12 who were subjected to enforced disappearances since 2015. It did not give the ages of the other children.

**Egypt to host 12th round of Egyptian-Russian joint committee in April**

Egypt will host on mid-April the 12th round of the Egyptian-Russian joint committee for trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, Minister of Trade and Industry Amr Nassar said. The meetings will be held under trade ministers of both countries and will take up means of bolstering cooperation between Egypt and Russia in the fields of trade, industry, health, tourism, education, information technology, customs, agriculture, transport, energy and investment.

5. Eritrea

**Eritrea must be pushed on urgent rights reforms: US Congressmen**

The United States Congress’ Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission is asking the government to push Eritrea to undertake urgent human rights reforms. The co-chairs of the commission, Congressmen Randy Hultgren and James P. McGovern in a letter to the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, said any resetting of relations between Asmara and Washington needed to be hinged to human rights reforms. In a press release issued on November 19, 2018; the lawmakers also outlined four benchmarks Eritrea needed to adhere to in the wake of the warming of ties with neighbours in the Horn of Africa region.

6. Ethiopia

**Ethiopia PM conducting political, ethnic witch-hunt - Tigray chair**

The chairman of the Tigray party in Ethiopia's ruling coalition has described recent arrests of senior military officials as being politically motivated and implemented along ethnic lines. He said the arrests of more than 60 senior military and intelligence officers in recent weeks was an attack on ethnic Tigrayans, a group that has long held disproportionate power in government and the security services.

7. Ghana

**Ghana to Complete Merger of Two State Lenders by Year-End**

Ghana will complete the merger of Agricultural Development Bank Ltd. and National Investment Bank Ltd. before the end of the year as the central bank’s Dec. 31 deadline.

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for lenders to meet a new minimum-capital requirement approach. The government will inject 400 million cedis ($82 million) to bolster the merged entity, Minister of Finance Ken Ofori-Atta said Monday in an interview in the capital, Accra. Bringing the two lenders together will save government money because it would have had to pay 700 million cedis to recapitalize them separately, he said. Bloomberg

8. Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea security forces attack parliament in row over Apec pay

Papua New Guinea’s national parliament was in lockdown on Tuesday after hundreds of soldiers and police officers attacked the building, smashing vehicles and entryways. The officers are believed to have attacked the parliament in protest against unpaid allowances from the Apec conference at the weekend, before blocking surrounding streets. The parliamentarian Allan Bird told Guardian Australia that he and other opposition MPs had been in a locked conference room when they heard the group. The Guardian

9. Kenya

28km long highway to address Mombasa Road traffic jams on the way

Engineers have been deployed to the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) to assess the ground ahead of the planned construction of a bridge that will connect to Kangemi in Nairobi. Transport Cabinet Secretary James Macharia yesterday said the engineers are also working to finalize the design of the bridge. Daily Nation

President Kenyatta tells off leaders in salary rise

President Kenyatta has rebuked leaders who always push for salary increases at the expense of Kenyans. Speaking when he opened the Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani blue economy and agribusiness conference in Mombasa, Mr Kenyatta urged all leaders to prioritise the plight of Kenyans and not focus on their financial interests. “With all due respect, everyone wants to live a good life, but before we as leaders live a good life, we should make sure that our people get the best,” he said. Daily Nation

National assembly begin debate on two third gender rule

The National Assembly today began debate on the controversial bill seeking to enforce the constitutional Two-thirds gender requirement in parliament. The debate on the bill begun even as some legislators pronounced their objection to it despite immense lobbying from National leadership including President Uhuru Kenyatta and opposition chief Raila Odinga. Standard Media

10. Libya

Nearly 80 rescued migrants forced off cargo ship in Libya

Nearly 80 rescued migrants have been forced off a cargo ship after it docked at a Libya port following an eleven-day standoff. The standoff began on November 10, when dozens of migrants and refugees, who tried to reach Italy on a rubber boat, were
rescued and returned to Libya by the Nivin, a cargo ship with a Panamanian flag. Many refused to leave the ship after it docked at the Libyan port city of Misrata. Some of them told CNN they would rather die than go back to Libya where they said they had been tortured. They want to be taken to a safe country. CNN

**Madagascar presidential hopeful sues over poll conduct**

Presidential hopeful Marc Ravalomanana has lodged over 50 complaints at Madagascar’s top court about the conduct of presidential polls to "correct irregularities," sources close to his campaign said on Tuesday. News24

11. **Malawi**

**Malawi gold rush pulls in villagers as excitement swells**

Malawians are rushing to exploit the gold discovered last year on the outskirts of the capital Lilongwe, and small-scale gold miners are hoping to get rich quick before big companies take over. Bwenzi Nkalima left his job as a watchman after a new gold rush in Malawi promised to bring in more money to look after his family. Now he spends his days in Nathenje, on the outskirts of the capital Malawi, sifting through soil in search of small gold deposits. Africa News

**WFP seeks $4.2 mln to feed refugees, asylum seekers in Malawi**

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) on Monday made a passionate appealing to the international community for $4.2 million to feed 35,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Malawi. Beneficiaries are based in Dzaleka refugee camp, approximately 50 km from the capital, Lilongwe. “For 2019, we need $ 4.2 million to cover the needs of the 35,000 refugees with their daily food rations”, said WFP Country Director to Malawi, Benoit Thiry. Africa News

12. **Mali**

**Central Mali Is Now the Nation’s Deadliest Region, Group Says**

A mix of rising jihadist violence, communal conflict and suspected army abuse have rendered central Mali the country’s deadliest region as the influence of Islamist insurgents and separatist rebels in the north are spreading, according to a human-rights group. More than 500 people have been killed in attacks or mass executions in the West African nation’s central parts during the first six months of the year, according to testimonies by civilians and local leaders, the International Federation for Human Rights said in a report published Tuesday. Bloomberg

13. **Mozambique**

**Mozambique banking outage wreaks revenue havoc for business**

Mozambican companies are facing a collapse in revenue because of an interbank-payments system outage that began last week, according to the country’s biggest business association. Retailers are seeing daily sales fall by as much as 90%, with restaurants and hotels suffering reductions of as much as 70%, Bernado Cumaio, director
for financial policy at the Confederation of Business Associations of Mozambique, told reporters on Monday. fin24

14. Namibia

Namibia, WFP to launch electronic system for better Food Bank program management

Namibia and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) will jointly launch a computer-based operating system in Windhoek on Wednesday to help the government better manage its Food Bank operations. The SCOPE (System for Cash Operations), a software program, will be used to register beneficiaries of Namibia's Food Bank social safety net program. The Food Bank was created in 2016 as part of the southern African nation's efforts to eradicate poverty and alleviate hunger. It delivers monthly food parcels to families in need. Esther Lusepani, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare, said Tuesday that the SCOPE, used to register and redeem benefits for the social program, is set to address challenges the ministry faced over the years in distributing food parcels. Xinhua

15. Rwanda

European zoos to send critically endangered rhinos to Rwanda

Wildlife parks from three European countries are joining forces to send critically endangered eastern black rhinos back to their natural habitat in Rwanda, where the entire rhino population was wiped out during the genocide in the 1990s. News24

16. Somalia

US: 2 airstrikes killed 37 al-Shabab militants in Somalia

The U.S. military says it killed a total of 37 Islamic extremists in two airstrikes in Somalia. U.S. Africa Command, which carries out counterterrorism missions in Somalia and elsewhere in Africa, said in a statement Tuesday that both airstrikes were conducted on Monday. It said 27 members of the al-Shabab extremist group were killed in the first strike and 10 in the second. It said it believes no civilians were killed or injured. Boston news

17. Tanzania

Bank of Tanzania freezes licensing of forex bureaus

The Bank of Tanzania (BoT) has placed a moratorium on licensing of forex bureaus as the regulator moves to crack down on illegal operations and money-laundering. “All applications have been suspended and new applications won't be accepted pending introduction of new rules and regulations,” BoT governor Florens Luoga said Tuesday. He added that those found to have flouted the law will have their licences revoked, while giving notice to traders who have obtained their permits illegally. “They will all receive a notice of revocation of licences and their shops will be closed,” he said. The governor said a six-month investigation had revealed the mushrooming of illegal forex traders that were involved in money laundering. The East African
18. Uganda

Clinical trial of injectable ARV drug starts in Uganda

Uganda has started recruiting women for trials of a long-lasting injectable antiretroviral drug for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. This is part of a large scale trial that will also be conducted in six other countries — Kenya, Malawi, Botswana, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Swaziland. A total of 3,200 individuals are expected to be recruited into the study across the seven countries. It will run over a five-year period. Known as HPTN084, the phase III clinical trial aims to assess if an injectable ARV called Cabotegravir, administered every two months is safe and can reduce an individual’s risk of acquiring HIV when they are exposed. Daily Monitor

Uganda to make new telecoms investors share fiber optic infrastructure

Uganda will force new investors in telecommunications services to rent capacity from existing fibre optic cables, rather than lay their own, to stem infrastructure duplication and lower internet access costs, the sector regulator said on Tuesday. The East African nation's telecoms sector has attracted foreign investors in recent years due to rapid economic growth, a young population and general political stability. The requirement for infrastructure sharing is part of a new national broadband policy that seeks to boost efficiency and extend high speed internet access to the population. "We need infrastructure sharing, if we already have cables in an area, don't put there another one so that we don't duplicate these things," Godfrey Mutabazi, CEO of regulator Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), told Reuters. Star

19. Zambia

Zambian police quiz opposition leader over attacks on Chinese

Zambian police on Tuesday questioned opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema for allegedly fuelling attacks on Chinese nationals, in a sign of growing political tension in the country. Mr Hichilema, of the United Party for National Development (UPND) party, was last year detained for four months for alleged treason in a case that many critics said was politically motivated. Daily Nation

20. Zimbabwe

Letter from Africa: Cremations 'threaten' Zimbabwe's ancestral spirits

Cremation is provoking a huge debate in Zimbabwe, bringing cultural and religious beliefs to the fore, journalist-turned-barrister Brian Hungwe writes from Harare. "For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return" - this verse from the Bible holds little sway with many Christians in Zimbabwe who oppose cremation. They want their bodies interred intact - and feel that nature should take its course, instead of hastening a return to dust. Cremation subjects a human body to intense heat ranging from between 500°C (930°F) and 800°C. It is the family's choice to then decide what to do with the ashes afterwards. The contentious topic of cremation is again in the headlines as the municipal
council of Zimbabwe’s second city, Bulawayo, has recommended mandatory cremation for those who die aged 25 and under. BBC