1. Burkina Faso

**General strike in Burkina Faso over fuel prices hike**

Several thousand people took the streets of Burkina Faso’s capital Ouagadougou on Thursday as workers downed tools in a nationwide strike over higher fuel prices. Petrol and diesel prices have shot up by 12% over the past three weeks, sparking a wave of protest. A grassroots group, the National Coalition against Costly Living (CCVC), called the strike and protest, with a march from the chamber of commerce to the trade ministry in the heart of the capital of this West African country. “No to the impoverishment of the citizens” read one of the slogans alongside others reading: “Bread and freedom for the people”. *News 24*

2. Cameroon

**Cameroon Activates Village Militias**

Cameroon has reactivated village militias on its northern border with Nigeria after twin suicide bombings Wednesday wounded 29 people. Authorities say the bombers were Boko Haram terrorists who crossed over from Nigeria. It is hoped the armed locals can prevent further attacks. A group of 200 young men, drawn from 20 villages around the town of Amchide, sing a song about initiation into the local militia. In the lyrics, they vow to defend their communities from all intruders who would disturb the peace they had enjoyed for the past five months. *Voice of America*

3. Central African Republic

**Armed groups threaten every child in Central African Republic, UNICEF warns**

The report, “Crisis in the Central African Republic: In a neglected emergency, children need aid, protection – and a future”, finds that life has become harsher and more dangerous for children: thousands are trapped within armed groups, with thousands more, subject to sexual violence. Beyond the direct threats associated with the conflict, the country is suffering from a severe humanitarian crisis: 1.5 million children now require humanitarian assistance, an increase of 300,000 since 2016; over 43,000 children below five years old are projected to face an extremely high risk of death due to severe acute malnutrition next year; and one in four children is either displaced or a refugee. *UN News*
4. Chad

**Chad international meeting against Boko Haram**

Members of the Lake Chad Basin Commission are strategizing on how to curtail attacks of Islamist militant group, Boko Haram, which have intensified in the Lake Chad region. Chadian President Idriss Déby Itno received Muhammadu Buhari, Mahamadou Issoufou and Philemon Yang who arrived in N’Djamena on Thursday. The Presidents of Nigeria and Niger, as well as the Prime Minister of Cameroon, are participating in the meeting discussing ways to defeat Boko Haram. *Africa News*

5. Democratic Republic of Congo

**Congo Ebola outbreak is 2nd largest, 2nd deadliest**

The current Ebola epidemic in the Democratic Republic of Congo -- with 426 total cases, including 245 deaths -- is now the second largest and second deadliest in history, according to Thursday’s report from the nation's Ministry of Health. A 2000-01 outbreak in Uganda included 425 cases and caused 224 deaths, according to the World Health Organization. The deadliest outbreak occurred in West Africa in 2014, when the disease killed more than 11,000 people. "This is a milestone nobody wanted to hit," WHO spokesman Tarik Jasarevic wrote in an email. On average, Ebola -- which causes fever, severe headache and in some cases hemorrhaging -- kills about half of those infected, but case fatality rates in individual outbreaks have varied. *CNN*

6. Egypt

**Egypt launches human rights committee, critics forecast no change**

Egypt is forming a committee tasked with responding to censure of its human rights record: but critics say it will do nothing to improve human rights in the country. International human rights organisations have frequently condemned Egypt's record under President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, saying political repression is at its worst for decades. *Channel News Asia*

7. Ethiopia

**Ethiopia overtakes Dubai as top feeder of air traffic to Africa**

Ethiopia has overtaken Dubai as a conduit for long-haul passengers to Africa, highlighting the success of the state airline’s expansion drive and the reforms of its new prime minister. Travel consultancy Forward Keys said on Wednesday Addis Ababa airport had increased the number of international transfer passengers to sub-Saharan Africa for five years in a row, and in 2018 had surpassed Dubai, one of the world’s busiest airports, as the transfer hub for long-haul travel to the region. *Standard Media*
**U.S. top diplomat in Ethiopia, first stop of Horn of Africa trip**

Tibor Nagy, the United States’ Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of African Affairs has started an official visit to the Horn of Africa region. His first stop was in Ethiopia where he arrived on Wednesday. The Foreign Affairs Ministry said he was scheduled to meet FM Workneh Gebeyehu and other top government officials during his trip. He has held talks with the African Union Commission chairman, Moussa Faki Mahamat. The AU chief said their exchanges bordered on matters of mutual interest including peace and security.

Africa News

8. Gabon

**Gabon president in Morocco to convalesce**

Gabon's President Ali Bongo arrived in Morocco on Thursday to convalesce after a month's treatment at a Saudi hospital for an illness that has not been officially revealed. The 59-year-old leader of the oil-rich West African state had been in hospital in Saudi Arabia since October 24 when he fell ill at an economic forum.

News24

9. Ghana

**It takes a woman: Ghana's ex-First Lady publishes first memoir**

Nana Konadu Agyemang Rawlings, Ghana’s former first lady of two decades, earlier this week published a book detailing her journey through life. The book titled ‘It takes a woman,’ is the first of a four-part series Mrs Rawlings is set to publish. It has received top reviews among others by the late United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan. The launch was attended by Ghana’s sitting vice-president Mahamoudou Bawumia and the First Lady, Rebecca Akufo-Addo.

Africa News

10. Guinea

**Guinea police use tear gas to break up opposition demo**

Policemen fired tear gas and used batons on Thursday to break up an anti-government protest by hundreds of opposition supporters in the heart of the Guinean capital Conakry. The political opposition has been demonstrating against what it considers a violation by the authorities of an agreement reached in August over the appointment of local government officials elected in a hotly disputed vote on February 4.

Africa News

11. Kenya

**Kenya seeks nuclear watchdog's help on cancer centres**

Kenya sought the assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to step up cancer treatment at its two referral hospitals and extend the services to three other
major towns. This came as Energy Cabinet Secretary Charles Keter outlined the country’s progress towards setting up a nuclear power plant. **Daily Nations**

**Kenya, Israel sign pact that will promote trade between states**

Kenya and Israel on Wednesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will see the two countries improve on economic and commercial networks. The deal which was agreed upon during the second Kenya-Israel Joint Trade Committee (JTC) that was held at the Israel Embassy will enable Kenyan traders with their Israel counterparts in doing business well as fostering economic growth. **Standard Media**

**UNIDO ranks Kenya global leader in use of geothermal to generate power**

The UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) said that while Kenya was ranked at position eight in geothermal potential, its utilization of the resource to generate energy was unmatched in the world. “Kenya is ranked Number Eight in geothermal resources nut Number One in the utilization of geothermal resources,” UNIDO’s director general Li Yong said at the agency’s offices in Vienna, Austria as he met Energy Cabinet Secretary Charles Keter on the sidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency ministerial conference. **Capital News**

12. **Madagascar**

**UN chief commends nation on first round of peaceful elections**

Secretary-General António Guterres praised the institutions of the island nation, which lies off the south-east coast of Africa, particularly the National Independent Electoral Commission and the High Constitutional Court, “for their leadership and professionalism throughout the electoral process”. He also welcomed the Government’s role in ensuring “an environment conducive to holding of the poll.”On 7 September, then-president HeryRajaonarimampianina resigned in a message to the nation and RivoRakotovao, President of the Senate, was appointed acting president of the country. **UN News**

13. **Morocco**

**Gabon president in Morocco to convalesce**

Gabon's President Ali Bongo arrived in Morocco on Thursday to convalesce after a month's treatment at a Saudi hospital for an illness that has not been officially revealed. The 59-year-old leader of the oil-rich West African state had been in hospital in Saudi Arabia since October 24 when he fell ill at an economic forum. **News24**