1. Democratic Republic of Congo

DRC Ebola deaths soar as outbreak rages

Two hundred and sixty people have died of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in four months in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The Congolese Ministry of Health reported on Tuesday that 444 cases had been registered since the beginning of the epidemic declared on August 1. 396 have been confirmed while 48 are probable. According to the Ministry of Health, 260 deaths have been recorded and 140 people cured. The Ministry also notes that “72 suspected cases are under investigation”. Congolese Minister of Health, Dr. Oly Ilunga Kalenga, said on Friday that the tenth epidemic in the DRC is the most serious in the world after the one that struck West Africa in 2014. The DRC has suffered nine Ebola epidemics since the disease first appeared on its soil in 1976. The North Kivu and Ituri provinces of eastern DRC hit by the Ebola epidemic are equally battling insecurity due to the presence of several national and foreign armed groups. Africa News

2. Djibouti

China’s Djibouti Base: A One Year Update

Since its construction, the Chinese People’s Liberation Army Support Base in Djibouti has become an increasingly important outpost in the Horn of Africa. The base’s geostrategic location yields insights into China’s machinations for the region. Roughly two years ago, China’s negotiations with Djibouti for the People’s Liberation Army Navy’s (PLAN) first overseas military base successfully concluded. On July 11, 2017, the PLAN deployed ships from the South Sea Fleet to officially open the base. The opening ceremony on August 1, 2017 was followed a month and a half later with live fire exercises. The Diplomat

3. Egypt

Italy Says 5 Egyptian Security Officials Are Suspects in Student’s Death

Italian prosecutors said Tuesday that five Egyptian security officials are suspects in the killing of an Italian student in Cairo nearly three years ago. The announcement signaled a major escalation of tensions over a meandering investigation that has vexed relations between Italy and Egypt since early 2016, when Giulio Regeni, a doctoral student at
Cambridge, was found dead on roadside bearing marks of extensive torture. *New York Times*

4. Eritrea

**Eritrea, United States to strengthen ties, pursue peace in Horn of Africa**

The United States and Eritrea have reiterated their commitment to building warm bilateral relations, and pursuing issues of mutual interest in the Horn of Africa region. The Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Tibor Nagy, who is on a tour of Eastern Africa, met with Eritrea’s President Isaias Afwerki on Tuesday. Eritrea’s information minister, Yemane Meskel, shared on Twitter, the commitments made by the two leaders. *Africa News*

5. Ethiopia

**Human Rights Watch cautions Ethiopia on hate speech law**

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has cautioned Ethiopia against plans to enact a new law to curb hate speech, following the rise in deadly ethnic tensions and clashes in the country. The Attorney General’s office last month said it was drafting a bill to curb the rising hate speech and irresponsible use of social media. The global human rights organization is now joining experts who expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the planned law. *Africa News*

6. Gabon

**Gabon's president makes 1st public appearance since illness**

Gabon's government has released a video showing President Ali Bongo Ondimba meeting with Morocco's king in his first public appearance since Bongo fell ill in October. The video shared late on Monday shows the men sitting and chatting in front of their national flags as King Mohammed VI visited Bongo, who is recovering at a Rabat hospital. *News24*

7. Guinea Bissau

**Guinea-Bissau Naturalizes Senegalese Refugees**

Senegalese refugees in Guinea-Bissau are getting identification cards after years and, for some, decades of living in a state of limbo. Ibrahima Ingo has lived in Pelundo, near Guinea-Bissau's border with Senegal, since 1992 when he fled southern Senegal due to unrest in the country's Casamance region. Today marks the first time he will register to receive his national identification card as a Guinea-Bissau citizen. *VOA NEWS*

8. Kenya

**Italy pledges to help Kenya achieve its development agenda**

Italy has pledged to help Kenya build capacity necessary to aid its development agenda. Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio said the rich experience Italy has in roads, energy, water and technical training is worth being replicated in Kenya “as it prepares for an
economic take-off”. Di Maio spoke on Monday in his office in Rome when he held bilateral talks with Deputy President William Ruto. **Capital News**

**Kenya on track to achieve full transition to renewable energy**

President Uhuru Kenyatta has said his government has added 1063 megawatts of electricity to the national grid since taking over leadership in 2013. The President announced that in the last three months, the government added 364 MW to the national grid, which included 310 MW from Lake Turkana wind farm, and 54 MW from Garissa solar plant. The President said his government is investing in these power projects to achieve full transition to renewable energy in the next two years. **KBC**

**UK's Khawar Qureshi to help DPP with high-level graft cases**

Director of the Public Prosecutions (DPP) Noordin Haji has appointed Queen's Counsel Khawar Qureshi to lead corruption cases against judicial and government officials. In a notice on Tuesday, Mr Haji said he picked the London-based professor through single-sourcing after failing to find a suitable candidate through advertisement. **Daily Nation**

9. Libya

**At least 14 dead on refugee boat off Libya**

A Libyan official said at least 14 refugees died off the North African nation's coast while attempting to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe. On Tuesday a wooden boat was found off the Libyan port city with two bodies on board. He added that 12 others had been thrown into the sea and died. **Aljazeera**

10. Morocco

**Top Gabon officials join ailing President Bongo in Morocco**

Gabon's top government officials gathered Tuesday in Rabat where President Ali Bongo is recovering after treatment for an illness that has not been officially revealed. The 59-year-old leader, who fell ill on October 24 at an economic forum, arrived in Morocco last week following a month's treatment at a hospital in Saudi Arabia. **Daily Nation**

11. Somalia

**US reopens diplomatic mission in Somalia after 28-year closure**

The US has established its first diplomatic presence in Somalia for nearly 30 years. The state department said the "historic event" reflected the progress the east African nation had made. Ambassador Donald Yamamoto is heading the embassy in Mogadishu. Previously it had been based in Nairobi, Kenya. The US closed its embassy in Somalia in January 1991 amid fighting between rebels and the government and had to airlift out its ambassador and staff. **BBC**

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.
12. South Sudan

**UN says over 150 women, girls raped in 12 days**

More than 150 women and girls have come forward in the past 12 days to seek help in South Sudan after they were raped or suffered other forms of sexual violence, the heads of three UN agencies said on Monday. Armed men, many in uniform, carried out the attacks near the northern city of Bentiu, according to a joint statement from Henrietta Fore, who heads the UN children’s agency UNICEF, UN aid chief Mark Lowcock and the director of the UN Population Fund, Natalia Kanem. Aljazeera

13. Tanzania

**Tanzanian makes history with conservation award**

Tanzanian conservationist Gerald Bigurube was awarded this year’s German Africa Award. Mr Bigurube, who is the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) Tanzania Country Director, was presented with the prize, alongside Malagasy activist-cum-environmentalist, Clovis Razafimalala in Berlin, German. This is the first time the award is honouring individuals contributing to nature conservation, which demonstrates its impact on development. A renowned ecologist, Mr Bigurube has fervently spent over 44 years passionately dedicated to working in conserving Tanzania’s biodiversity. Daily Nation

**AfDB Avails $322m for Construction of Tanzania-Burundi Road**

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has released $322 million for the construction of two roads to link Tanzania and Burundi. Construction of the two transnational roads is expected to start next year, according to a senior bank official. The funds would also go towards construction of the One Stop Border Post (OSBP) at Manyovu-Mugina on the Tanzania-Burundi border. This was disclosed on Saturday by Gabriel Negatu, the director general of AfDB’s Eastern Africa Regional Hub during the official opening of the border facility there. The $322 million would finance the Rumonge-Gitaz and Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu road upgrading and the Manyovu-Mugina OSBP, he said. Separately, the bank announced it would finance the construction of the Bagamoyo- Tanga-Horororo-Mombasa-Malindi road that straddles Tanzania and Kenya also at the cost of $322 million. CGTN Africa

14. Uganda

**Uganda invites new oil exploration bids**

Ahead of the second competitive round for exploration licences in 2019, Uganda is lobbying for investors in its Albertine fields to prospect for oil. State Minister for Energy and Mineral Development, Peter Lokeris, told international oil firms, financing groups, oil lawyers and consultants gathered in Juba on November 21 that Uganda is an attractive destination for oil investments. “Out of 121 wells drilled, 106 had hydrocarbons,” he said, adding that out of the 6.5 billion barrels of oil so far discovered since 2006, some 1.4 to
1.7 billion barrels are recoverable. However, these discoveries, which include some 500,000 cubic feet of gas, cover only 40 per cent of the Albertine Graben, with two-thirds of the region yet to be explored. The East African

15. Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe doctors strike demanding better pay and conditions

Zimbabwean doctors at public hospitals went on strike for the second time this year to demand better pay and conditions, a union official said, as President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s government struggles with a deteriorating economy. The southern African nation is short of United States dollars, the currency it adopted in 2009, causing price spikes and shortages of basic goods, medicines, and fuel. MathabisiBebhe, secretary general of the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association, which represents more than 1,000 members, said on Monday that most junior doctors at the five major hospitals had downed tools to protest over pay, allowances and drugs’ shortages. More than half of public sector doctors joined the indefinite strike, he said. News24.

Post-Mugabe Zimbabwe stuck in the old ways

Veteran Zimbabwe opposition legislator Joel Gabbuza thought he was stating the obvious when he told mourners that President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s ruling Zanu-PF party was struggling to revive the economy. Mr Gabbuza, who has been representing the impoverished Binga South constituency for over a decade, was arrested for lamenting the fuel shortages that brought the country to a standstill a month ago. However, in a move that took human rights activists by surprise, the MP was charged with “undermining the authority of or insulting the president”. Prosecutors said the legislator told villagers that President Mnangagwa’s government was clueless in solving Zimbabwe’s economic problems that have, of late, spawned shortages of fuel and medicines. The East African