1. Egypt

**Egypt says plane hijacker to face terror charges**

Egypt's chief prosecutor says a man who hijacked a plane and diverted it to Cyprus in 2016 will face trial on terror-related charges. Seif Eddin Mustafa, 60, was extradited to Egypt in August after a drawn-out legal battle in Cyprus. Egyptian prosecutor Nabil Sadek says he will face trial on charges of hijacking a civilian plane and taking passenger's hostage. news24

2. Djibouti

**Djibouti port eyes Rwanda and Burundi, to resume services to South Sudan**

Djibouti will resume providing port services to South Sudan following the restoration of peace in the latter, official said. The chief executive of Djibouti's Duraleh Multipurpose Port (DMP), Mr Wahib Daher Aden, said they would also provide services to Burundi and Rwanda. “Just before the war in South Sudan broke, we were serving the country. Unfortunately, the war broke and we were forced to stop,” Mr Aden said. "Now, as peace is being restored in the country, we are going to restart that service for South Sudan,” added Mr Aden, who briefed visiting journalists on Tuesday. Business Daily

3. Ethiopia

**Ethiopia aims blast economy forward with satellite launch**

Ethiopia plans next year to join an exclusive club of African nations: those with their own national satellites. The country’s first satellite, due to be launched in September with China's help and backing, is being put in place in part to track environmental concerns, said the head of the Ethiopian Space Science and Technology Institute. Reuters
4. Gabon

**Top govt officials visit 'recovering' Gabon president in Morocco**

Gabonese Prime Minister has said President Ali Bongo Ondimba is doing well. Emmanuel Issoze Ngondet said on Tuesday that Bongo’s rehabilitation is progressing. He met with the Head of State in a hospital in Moroccan Capital, Rabat, on Tuesday. Prime Minister Ngondet was accompanied by the Vice-President, Pierre-Claver Maganga Moussavou, and the President of the Constitutional Court, Marie-Madeleine Mborantsuo. *Africa News*

5. Kenya

**Kenya beaches voted among world’s best**

Five of the country's beaches Diani, Mombasa, Watamu, Chale Island and Shela — featured in the Top 50 African Beaches Category by Flightnetwork.com, an online travel publication. The publication ranked 400 of the world’s top beaches with the help of 1,000 of the industry's leading travel professionals. *Daily Nation*

**France’s Macron to visit Kenya in March**

French President Emmanuel Macron is set to visit Kenya in March 2019 to co-host a global environment event with President Uhuru Kenyatta. Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Monica Juma told Capital FM News on Wednesday, the French leader will co-lead discussions on pertinent issues in ongoing efforts to safeguard the environment. President Macron will be attending the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly tagged UNEA-4 scheduled to take place from 11 – 15 March, 2019. *Capital News*

**Chinese organization undertakes to promote Kenyan products abroad**

A non-governmental organization from China is eager to boost Kenya’s exports abroad while at the same time reinvigorating investments by foreign companies locally. The Council for Promoting South-South Cooperation (CPSSC) says the undertaking is part of a master plan to boost China-Kenya relations. Speaking during a meeting between Kenyan authorities and Chinese investors in Nairobi, Lyu Xinhua, the CPSSC chair and former Chinese foreign Minister disclosed that his organization is ready to address the challenge of trade imbalance between Nairobi and Beijing so that Kenya can reap tangible benefits for being a strong partner of the far east nation. *KBC*

6. Liberia

**Liberia electricity crisis: 'About 60% of power stolen'**

People are stealing about 60% of the electricity generated in Liberia annually by making illegal connections to their homes and businesses, the state-owned power utility has said. The theft caused annual losses of about $35m (£27m), Liberia Electricity Corporation officials told state radio. This was robbing the utility of cash for extending power supply, they said. Liberia is trying to rebuild its power sector, destroyed during a civil war which lasted from 1989 to 2003. *BBC Africa*
7. Libya

15 migrant's dead after boat capsizes off Libya: survivors

Fifteen migrants died and 10 others survived 11 days at sea after their boat capsized off the coast of Libya, the Libyan Red Crescent said on Tuesday, citing the survivors. The migrants had set off for Italy from the city of Sabratha, west of Tripoli, but their vessel overturned and they came ashore in Misrata some 270km east of their departure point. News 24

8. Malawi

Malawi anti-corruption force swoops on president's ally

Malawi's Anti-Corruption Bureau arrested a top police commander and a businessman with ties to President Peter Mutharika on Wednesday over a graft scandal that has embarrassed his government ahead of polls. Mutharika has previously faced questions over whether he profited from the award of a $3.9 million contract to supply rations to the police force. News 24

9. Morocco

Gabon president Ali Bongo leaves Morocco hospital

Gabon's President Ali Bongo has left hospital in Rabat and will stay at a private residence in the Moroccan capital as he recovers from illness, a presidency source said Wednesday. Daily Nation

10. Rwanda

US congress members want Rwanda to drop Kagame rival charges

A group of US Congress members have called on the Rwandan government to drop charges against Diane Rwigara, a government critic who is facing up to 22 years in prison on charges of incitement and fraud. Supporters say the charges are politically motivated and arose from Rwigara's bid to run against President Paul Kagame in last year's election. The Star

11. Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone doctors strike over conditions, nurses may follow

Doctors in Sierra Leone's public hospitals were on strike on Wednesday to protest against low wages and poor working conditions, and nurses said they may follow suit. Sierra Leone is one of Africa's poorest countries and its public hospitals lack equipment. The 2014-2016 Ebola epidemics killed nearly 4000 people, including more than 250 medical staff. At Freetown's Connaught, the country's biggest hospital, some wards were nearly empty and at least a dozen people were sitting on the floor at the hospital entrance waiting to be seen, a Reuters witness said. Channel News Asia

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. Somalia

**US reopens 'permanent diplomatic mission' in Somalia**

The United States has re-established a permanent diplomatic presence in Somalia nearly three decades after it closed its Mogadishu embassy in January 1991, the State Department said. "This historic event reflects Somalia's progress in recent years and is another step forward in formalising US diplomatic engagement in Mogadishu since recognising the federal government of Somalia in 2013," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement. *Aljazeera*

13. South Sudan

**Wave of Sexual Assaults on South Sudanese Women, Girls Condemned**

The head of the U.N. mission in South Sudan has condemned a recent wave of rapes and sexual assaults on women and girls near the town of Bentiu. "These attacks on vulnerable civilians are absolutely abhorrent and must stop. The violent assaults happened in a government-controlled area and it has primary responsibility for the safety of civilians," said David Shearer, chief of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, UNMISS. *VOA*

14. Sudan

**Sudan pharmacies running out of life-saving medications**

Pharmacies in Sudan are running out of life-saving medicines. The government's financial woes and a shortage of hard currency have led to a lifting of subsidies on many consumer goods. The means that even if pharmacies are able to find the hard currency to buy imported drugs, many Sudanese people simply cannot afford them. *Aljazeera*

15. Tanzania

**Norway's Equinor to start talks with Tanzania over LNG project**

Norway's Equinor is ready to start talks with Tanzania on developing a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project based on a deepwater offshore discovery, the company said on Tuesday. Tanzanian President John Magufuli has asked his government to proceed with negotiations to set out the commercial and fiscal framework for the LNG project, Equinor, a majority state-owned energy company formerly known as Statoil, said. *Standard Media*

**Kenya, Tanzania banks exposed to sovereign risks**

Kenya and Tanzania are among the top 10 countries in Africa whose commercial banks are exposed to sovereign risks due to their heavy investment in Treasury bills and bonds. A new study of African banks by the global rating agency Moody's Investors Service shows that such banks which have invested heavily in government securities risk having their creditworthiness affected when the sovereign rating of their governments is reviewed. *The East Africa*
16. Tunisia

**Tunisia's inflation stable at 7.4 pct in November**

Tunisia’s inflation rate remained at 7.4 percent in November, the third consecutive month at that figure, official data showed on Wednesday. Inflation has fallen from 7.5 percent in August and 7.8 percent in June. In May, Tunisia’s central bank raised its key interest rate by 100 basis points to 6.75 percent, the second hike in three months, to tackle inflation. Reuters

17. Uganda

**Uganda central bank holds main lending rate at 10 pct**

Uganda's central bank held its benchmark lending rate at 10 percent on Wednesday saying the outlook for inflation had improved. "(The) 12-month ahead inflation forecast has improved slightly, relative to October forecasts,” Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile, the bank’s governor, told a news conference. (Reporting by Elias Biryabarema Writing by Duncan Miriri; Editing by Toby Chopra) Reuters

18. Zimbabwe

**Zimbabwe doctors down tools in demand for dollar salaries**

Zimbabwe’s major hospitals have been forced to significantly scale down operations after doctors went on strike demanding to be paid in foreign currency. The crisis-hit hospitals were releasing patients they considered stable and closing down outpatients departments as the strike spread countrywide on Tuesday. The East Africa