1. DRC

**Fire breaks out in DR Congo election commission building**

A fire broke out in an electoral commission building in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo in early hours of Thursday, officials said, and 10 days ahead of presidential elections that have been foreshadowed by violence. The blaze came after three people were killed on Wednesday in clashes with police on the sidelines of an opposition rally in eastern DR Congo. The fire broke out around 2am in a building where election materials were being kept, the head of the Independent National Election Commission (CENI) said. A thick cloud of black smoke was still visible above the city by early morning, AFP reporters said. The East African

**France arrests Central Africa Republic war crimes suspect**

French authorities have arrested a man suspected of committing war crimes in the Central African Republic and he will face extradition to The Hague, the International Criminal Court (ICC) said on Tuesday. Prosecutors say Patrice-Edouard Ngaissaona was the “senior leader” of the Anti-Balaka militia that carried out systematic attacks on the country’s Muslim population in 2013-2014. Ngaissaona, who denies wrongdoing, was elected in February to the executive committee of the Confederation of African Football despite objections from groups including Human Rights Watch. It named had him as a leader of the Anti-Balaka in a report in 2016. Citizen

2. Egypt

**U.S. Supports Sustainable Tourism in Egypt’s Red Sea Governorate**

In support of Egypt’s economic development and the prosperity of the hundreds of thousands of Egyptians that work in Egypt’s tourism industry, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) on December 13 participated in the inauguration of an interpretive center, an ecotourism enterprise, and a refrigeration facility to conclude a successful project in the Red Sea Governorate to establish sustainable tourism activities. Africa News
3. Ethiopia

**Ethiopians drum for unity**

Drummers came out in force in Ethiopia to celebrate the diversity of the country’s more than 100 million people. The celebration, officially called the Nations and Nationalities Day, is supposed to highlight Ethiopia's more than 80 nationalities and ethnic groups. Troupes from across the country came to the main stadium in the capital, Addis Ababa, in traditional dress playing their cultural instruments.

4. Kenya

**WHO: Kenya road deaths four times higher than NTSA reported**

The World Health Organization’s new global survey of road safety reports that 13,463 Kenyans died last year in crashes on the country’s roads — a toll more than four times higher than the government’s figure of 2,965 deaths. The rate of road traffic deaths in Kenya far exceeds the global rate and is somewhat higher than the average for Africa, WHO notes. *Daily Nation*

5. Sierra Leone

**Sierra Leone’s sick suffer untreated as doctor’s strike**

Seven-year-old Carlos Kamara needs urgent surgery on a collapsed lung after he swallowed a toy whistle. Instead, all he can do is lying in pain in a half-empty hospital ward waiting to be seen. A doctors' strike in Sierra Leone has paralyzed an already threadbare health system in one of the world's poorest countries, leaving its biggest and busiest hospitals in disarray, the sick unattended. *Channel News Asia*

6. Somalia

**Former Somalia extremist now running for office is arrested**

A Somali official says Ethiopian troops arrested a former extremist leader who is now a candidate in a regional election in the southwest. Nur Ahmed, an electoral official in Somalia's Southwest state, told The Associated Press that Sheikh Mukhtar Robow, previously the number two leader of the rebel group al-Shabaab, was arrested on Thursday by Ethiopian troops that are part of the African Union forces supporting the Somali government. *News24*

7. Tanzania

**Tanzania government set to resolve tax row with mining firm**

Barrick Gold Corp has made progress in talks with the Tanzanian government to resolve a nearly 2-year-long tax dispute, but it is premature to say a deal has been reached, a person familiar in the matter told Reuters on Wednesday. Government officials met last
week with executives from Toronto-based Barrick and Randgold Resources Ltd, which Barrick is acquiring, to discuss the issue, said the source, which declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the talks. **Standard Media**

### 8. Tunisia

**Tunisia doctors protest against wage disclosure**

Hundreds of lawyers and doctors in Tunisia protested on Wednesday against a new law that will force them to disclose their salaries as part of a government bid to raise taxes. The North African country is under pressure from foreign donors to increase tax revenues to cut a budget deficit. **Reuters**

**Tunisia's parliament rejects bill on lifting retirement age**

Tunisia's parliament rejected on Thursday a bill to rise the retirement age by two years to 62, in a severe blow to Prime Minister Youssef Chahed, whose government is under pressure from international lenders to cut state spending. The draft law, which also proposed imposing a 1 percent social security tax on employees and a 2 percent tax on employers. **Reuters**

### 9. Uganda

**Uganda says oil investors requesting for higher pay**

Uganda said on Wednesday investors in its planned crude oil pipeline want a higher tariff than originally agreed, raising doubts over its targeted date for production to start. In 2016 landlocked Uganda picked a route through Tanzania to the country’s Indian Ocean port of Tanga for the pipeline to transport crude reserves from fields in its west near the border with Democratic Republic of Congo. **Standard Media**

**Ugandan Opposition Vents Concerns about Repression**

Heads of Uganda’s political parties have gathered to address growing criticism among opponents of longtime President Yoweri Museveni and growing political repression in the country. The roundtable discussion – known as the Inter Party Organization for Dialogue – served as a forum for leaders who are voicing concerns on whether Uganda’s 2021 elections will be free and fair. **VOA News**
10. Malawi

**Malawi Parliament passes bill allowing dual citizenship**

Malawi Parliament has passed a bill that allows Malawians to have dual citizenship. The Malawi Citizenship Act Amendment Bill which was passed in the House on Wednesday among other things recognises dual citizenship. *Malawi 24*

**UN Delegation Commends Malawi for Commitment to Peace Keeping Efforts**

United Nations Under-Secretary General for Peace-keeping Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix has expressed deep sadness and strongly condemned the killing of the six Malawian soldiers who were shot while fighting armed militia called the Allied Democratic Forces in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). *All Africa News*

11. Mali

**Gunmen kill more than 40 people in ongoing Mali violence**

Gunmen on motorbikes have killed more than 40 Tuareg civilians this week in north Mali, where clashes over land and scarce water are common, an official said on Thursday. The violence compounds an already dire security situation in the desert region used by jihadist groups to launch attacks in Mali and across West Africa. *Citizen ; Aljazeera*

12. Niger

**Several dozen killed near Mali's border with Niger**

Several dozen civilians have been shot dead by gunmen who raided an area in northeastern Mali near the border with Niger, local officials and a Touareg self-defence group told AFP Thursday. *News24*

13. Rwanda

**Rwanda appeals acquittal of Kagame critic Diane Rwigara**

Rwanda's chief prosecutor on Wednesday said he would appeal after dissident politician Diane Rwigara was acquitted in a high-profile trial. On December 6, the High Court found Ms Rwigara not guilty of forgery and inciting insurrection – charges that had seen her imprisoned for more than a year and highlighted a crackdown on opposition in the East African country. *Daily Nation*