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EDITOR'S NOTE

This edition of the newsletter includes the News Track, a commentary on South Sudan, a review of the book "Politics in Africa" by Nana K Poku and Anna Mdee, and a profile of Somalia.

In Algeria, the National Election Monitoring Commission has described the recent elections as not "credible." At the same time in Egypt, the Islamist Muslim brotherhood's presidential candidate Mohamad Morsy has won the presidential elections. In Tunisia, in an outcry against authorities, the hardline Islamists attacked police stations and alcohol vendors. In Libya, while tribal clashes continue, US officials fear that the weapons used by the rebels may fall in the hands of the Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). In Sudan, after much persuasion by the African Union High Level Panel, talks between Sudan and South Sudan on security issues commenced in Ethiopia.

In Southern Africa, South Africa's use of anti-dumping measures on shipment of Brazil poultry meat has led to Brazil taking legal action at the WTO. Around 1,200 Indian workers were allegedly held captive in a cement factory in Angola; the Indian government has intervened to resolve the crisis. In Central Africa, the largest military communications exercise on the African continent was organised in Cameroon. Meanwhile, the DRC government has accused Rwanda of training rebels in eastern Congo. In an interesting development, the Gabonese President has called for the return of Morocco to the African Union. Morocco had left the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the precursor to the AU, in 1984.

In Western Africa, the first Arab Azawad congress was held in Mauritania to discuss developments in Mali and to develop a strategy to combat Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). In Mali, the situation continues to be grim with ECOWAS deliberating military intervention. In a bid to restore peace in the country, the Nigerian government has invited the Boko Haram terrorist group for dialogue. In Eastern Africa, terrorist attacks in Nairobi and riots in Zanzibar heightened the insecurity in the region. Further, there are reports that 600,000 arms are circulating within Kenya. In northern Uganda, there is a rise in resource-based conflicts particularly relating to land and forests. However, a recent study suggests that Mozambique remains among the top 50 peaceful nations. Meanwhile, the Puntland government is upset for not being included in recent talks held in London to discuss the future of Somalia.

India and China continue to boost their trade and investment in Africa. India has sought to increase cooperation with Botswana and South Africa in various sectors. The Indian firm Infosys signed an MoU with an Ethiopian Bank. At the same time, Indian companies KEC International and Siemens of India got contracts for power grid projects in Kenya. On the other hand, China- Africa agricultural trade has grown at a very fast pace during the last year. The EXIM bank of China formalised an agreement to provide credit to build a bridge in Mozambique.

COMMENTARY

SOUTH SUDAN: A YEAR OLD AND 'A GLOBAL PROBLEM CHILD'¹*Keerthi S Kumar*

The Sudan of the last century was a land ridden by inter-tribal conflicts and civil wars, divided on religious lines and its politics was embroiled in a constant struggle for control over the country's resources. Today, nothing much has changed except for the secession of South Sudan from Sudan and the discord continues across the border. After decades of civil war what is now observable is that the two Sudans are at the tipping point of an international armed conflict. Though some analysts rule out a full-fledged war between the two countries owing to the international attention the conflict has garnered, lasting peace is still a distant dream. Before elaborating on the contentious issues between the two countries, let us look at the internal challenges that South Sudan, the world's newest country has to cope with.

The Woes of South Sudan: One Year After Independence

For a country that is still in the nascent stages of development, South Sudan is facing a multitude of problems. A major threat to state-building is corruption that permeates all levels of governance. In an economy that is underdeveloped and fragile, the Salva Kiir government is steeped in corruption. According to a recent South Sudan's Auditor-General's report, over \$1 billion of oil revenues were unaccounted for between 2005 and 2006. There are also allegations that millions of dollars were smuggled out of South Sudan in bags to unreported destinations. In a move to fight this menace, President Kiir addressed a letter to 75 current and former senior government staff in May 2012, demanding the return of \$4 billion that was stolen from the state coffers. However, critics are of the view that Kiir's rhetoric has not been backed by action, for instance, the South Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission has not been granted the power to prosecute officials suspected of corruption² and Salva Kiir himself is accused of embezzling funds intended for development.

Due to the prolonged neglect of southern Sudan by the Khartoum government and close to zero investment in the region, the infrastructure and development of the country has been restricted to the capital city of Juba. Furthermore, the lack of proper administration makes the task of state-building complicated. Poor infrastructure has also meant the dependence of the south, especially

¹ Term borrowed from "South Sudan, still in infancy, already a global problem child", *McClatchy*, June 13, 2012, at <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2012/06/13/152231/south-sudan-still-in-infancy-already.html>

² "President Kiir demands South Sudan officials return stolen money", *Sudan Tribune*, June 2, 2012, at http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?iframe&page=imprimable&id_article=42785

the border areas, on the north for supplies. But given the volatility of the regions surrounding the border and the blockade of most roads that lead to the north, the south finds itself in a dire situation.

To add to its existing woes, South Sudan shut down its oil production (around 350,000 barrels per day) earlier this year, after talks with Sudan on fees for the export of oil broke down. South Sudan being a landlocked nation could export only through Sudan's territories. Oil export is the only source of foreign currency and accounts for 98 per cent of South Sudan's revenue. But with the shut down, the country is on the way to collapse.³ The annual inflation shot up to nearly 80 per cent in May and though there is no lack of food, the economic crisis has led to food insecurity amongst a vast majority of the population. It is also ominously forecast that even if South Sudan takes the drastic measure of cutting monthly expenditure by 77 per cent, the current oil reserves will last only till December 2013. The population living in poverty is predicted to rise from the current 51 per cent to 83 per cent in 2013. Over the same period, the under-five child mortality will double to 20 per cent and school enrolment is likely to drop from 50 per cent to 20 per cent.⁴ Another major problem confronting the world's newest nation is the increasing influx of refugees. Every day, on an average, 4000 Sudanese refugees arrive in Upper Nile State from Blue Nile state and the border provinces of South Sudan currently host around 160,000 people who arrive in extremely poor conditions.⁵ Owing to the insecurity in the province of Northern Bahr El Ghazal, access to people in need is restricted and the security situation remains volatile with over 3000 people displaced in this region.

The country is also mired in inter-tribal clashes. The repeated deadly clashes between the Lou Nuer and Murle communities over cattle and grazing lands in the state of Jonglei displaced thousands of civilians. The border regions between Sudan and South Sudan that are rich in resources are not only battlegrounds for the two nations but also a matter of dispute among the tribes. Given the sophistication and quantity of weaponry used in these clashes, the government is burdened with the additional task of disarming, demobilising and reintegrating the former rebels across the country.

South Sudan – Sudan: Unresolved Issues

Compounding the problems of South Sudan are the ceaseless hostilities between the two Sudans. Three contentious issues that are yet to be resolved include the border dispute over Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile (shown in map); division of oil revenues and the issue of citizenship. These problems began to crop up even before South Sudan became independent. Constant tension and distrust between the two countries manifested as violence in the border regions of Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile in Sudan and in Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile provinces of South Sudan.

³ According to a confidential report by World Bank, cited in "EXCLUSIVE: South Sudan economy on the verge of collapse, World Bank warns", *Sudan Tribune*, May 7, 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/EXCLUSIVE-South-Sudan-economy-on,42512>

⁴ Ibid

⁵ South Sudan, Humanitarian Bulletin, 28 May -3 June 2012, OCHA at <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA%20South%20Sudan%20Weekly%20Humanitarian%20Bulletin%2028%20May%20-%203%20June%202012.pdf>



Issues that were delineated in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005 remain unresolved. The disputed region of Abyei (in South Kordofan) was seized by al- Bashir's Sudan Armed Forces in May, 2011 which resulted in the displacement of thousands of people in the region. Though hostilities ceased after an agreement was signed between the two countries, the violence soon spread across South Kordofan and neighbouring Blue Nile state, thus posing massive threats to human life and security in both the countries. Thus far, both countries have not been able to agree on a *quid pro quo*.

When South Sudan shut down its oil production, it also cut itself off from 70 per cent of the food supplies that came from Sudan. Despite the signing of a non-aggression pact between the two countries, disagreements over oil fields continue. When South Sudan seized Heglig in March 2012, Sudan branded it as its 'enemy' and the two countries came almost to the point of a war. South Sudan released a new map this May proclaiming that the Heglig oil fields (which were previously considered undisputedly within Sudan and central to its economy) were part of its territory. Khartoum

has accused Juba of stoking tensions by making these claims. Both sides accuse the other of supporting rebels, the government of Sudan has accused South Sudan of supporting the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North and fuelling the fighting while Salva Kiir's government has arraigned Sudan for supporting insurgent groups in South Sudan. Incursions from both sides into each other's territory have led to heightened tensions between both the parties. Thus far, resolution of the dispute over oil resources remains elusive. And lastly, the issue of allotment of citizenship is yet to be settled. The north revoked the citizenship of the southerners and denied them jobs. South Sudan is still in the process of conferring citizenship rights to its people and the future of these Sudanese remains uncertain. Though in mid-March this year the Four Freedoms Agreement⁶ was signed, progress has not been made on the ground. Soon after, South Sudan captured the Heglig oil fields and since then the peace talks have deteriorated.

Recent Developments

The African Union (AU) proposed a roadmap⁷ to ease the current tensions and set a time frame for negotiations on outstanding issues. The United Nations (UN) too through UN Security Council

⁶ The agreement granted people from both the countries the freedom to move, reside, work, and buy properties.

⁷ Included immediate cessation of hostilities, withdrawal of armed forces from either side of the border among others. Available at "African Union's position on Sudan-South Sudan", *Sudan Tribune*, April 26, 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/African-Union-s-position-on-Sudan,42402>

resolution 2046 threatened to take 'appropriate measures' if both the parties did not resume negotiations. Due to international pressure, over the last few days, the security situation in Abyei has improved with the withdrawal of Sudan and South Sudan security forces. Violence too has been reduced in the border areas. However, both the countries have failed to honour prior agreements including the CPA and this demonstrates a lack of trust between both parties. It is also contended that keeping the feud alive between the two countries allows the governments to ignore domestic problems.⁸

Moreover, repeated efforts by the UN and AU to bring the parties to the negotiating table and enable agreement on the unresolved issues have been in vain. The latest AU effort to broker peace between the two countries, the first direct talks to take place since the border clashes, has also failed. The talks that spanned ten days in the first half of June saw no agreement on any of the issues. They were unable to agree on where to have a demilitarised buffer zone along the 1,800km-long border (because each party came up with a different map) nor did the talks on future status of Abyei see any progress. The two Sudans are still at loggerheads on the issue of oil payments. Given the interminable nature of the conflict between the two countries, a sense of 'Sudan fatigue' is setting in the international community. At the moment, despite external help not much progress has been made due to the intractable positions of either side. However, on the brighter side, talks between the two countries have resumed under the auspices of the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel and it is crucial that at this stage neither the UN nor the AU should discontinue their efforts to broker peace between the two Sudans.

⁸ Mariam al-Sadiq al Mahdi, leading opposition politician in Khartoum quoted in "Status Quo Between 2 Sudans Is Not Quite War, Not Quite Peace", *The New York Times*, May 31, 2012, at http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/01/world/africa/sudans-caught-in-tense-cycle.html?_r=1

COUNTRY PROFILE: SOMALIA⁹

Saurabh Mishra

Area¹⁰

Total 637,657 sq km

Population¹¹

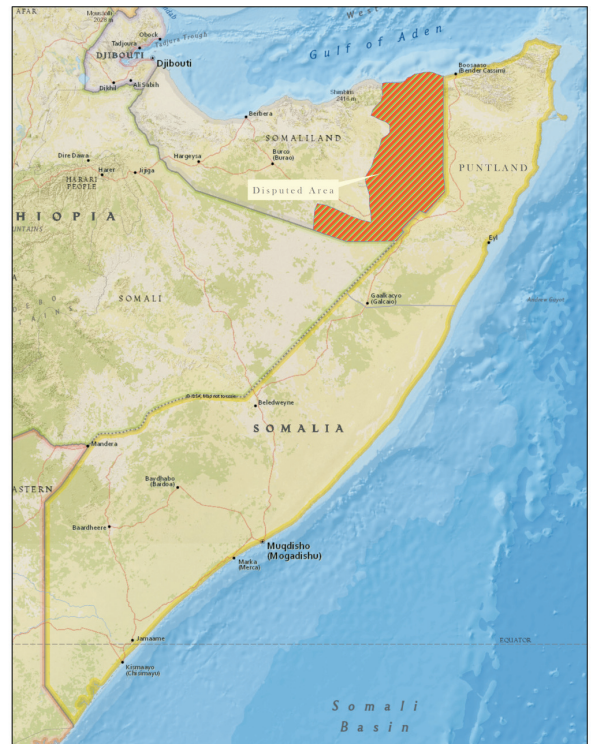
10,085,638 (July 2012 estimate)

Economy¹²

GDP (purchasing power parity): US \$5.896 billion
(2010 estimate)

Politics

Somalia refers to the territory (see map)¹³ formed after the unification and independence of the British Somaliland in the north and the Italian Somaliland in the south in 1960. It has been without an effective central government since President Siad Barre was overthrown by opposing clans in



⁹ Note: A state of anarchy throughout the country and severe civil war are responsible for non-availability of correct data about Somalia. The data given in the profile are estimates based on older statistics.

¹⁰ Somalia, The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/so.html>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ This map is a rough sketch of Somalia and not to scale. The old political and administrative boundaries of the erstwhile Somali Democratic Republic have lost their relevance as the result of the prevailing anarchy. Somaliland, Puntland, Galmudug, areas ruled by the ASWJ in Central Somalia, areas under Harkatul Mujahidin al-Shabab, Ximan and Xeeb and the Jubaland in the Southern Azania region are the autonomous political units in current Somalia. Somaliland and Puntland are the most stable political units with properly functioning governments. They have varying claims over some of the area between them. The political boundaries in southern Somalia keep changing due to the ongoing civil war and the fight between the AMISOM forces and the al-Shabab.

1991. But, the opposition, embroiled in clan wars, could not bring stability to the country, resulting in anarchy. The UN intervention in the country from 1992-1995 either through United Nations Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM) I and II or through the US led UN sanctioned Unified Task Force (UNITAF) was not successful. Years of clan fighting and an inability to deal with famine and disease have led to up to one million deaths. A transitional government was set up following a conference in Djibouti in 2000 but it could do little for reconciliation. Later, a federal parliament was established in 2004 with a transitional government.¹⁴

After the collapse of the Siad Barre regime, the northwest part of Somalia unilaterally declared itself as the independent Republic of Somaliland. It is still not recognised by international bodies but has enjoyed relative stability. Later, Puntland also declared itself as an autonomous region of Somalia with a separate government. Some of the central part of Somalia is controlled by a well-organised Sufi militia called Ahlu-Sunna-Wal-Jamaa (ASWJ), which is fighting against the al-Shabab. Galmudug in central Somalia and Jubaland in the southern Azania region are the other autonomous or pseudo-states. The old administrative boundaries of the Somali Democratic Republic have no meaning in the current context. The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) with the help of the UN, the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) are trying to reinstate a legitimate and regular state of Somalia. The current mandate of the TFG ends on August 20, 2012 and the external powers involved in the peace mission are unwilling to extend it further.

In 2006, fundamentalist Islamist groups, Islamic Courts Union (ICU) gained control of much of the south, including the capital. But Ethiopian forces along with forces loyal to the interim government pushed them back by the end of the year. After the defeat ICU splintered into various factions. In 2007, the UNSC authorised AU peacekeeping mission, African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was deployed in Mogadishu. However, one of the breakaway group, the al-Shabab, which has links with al-Qaeda, fought back, regaining control of most of southern Somalia by late 2008. Ethiopia pulled its troops out in January 2009. Soon, al-Shabab fighters took control of Baidoa, formerly a key stronghold of the transitional government. Somalia's parliament met in neighbouring Djibouti in late January 2009 and swore in 149 new members from the main opposition movement, the Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia. The mandate of the TFG was extended. Al-Shabab consolidated its position as the most powerful insurgent group by driving out its main rival, Hizbul Islam, in October 2009. The government's military position weakened and in May 2009, the insurgents launched an attack on Mogadishu, prompting President Ahmad to appeal for help from abroad. After a series of offensives by government forces and African Union peacekeepers, and a Kenyan army incursion, the al-Shabab withdrew from Mogadishu in August 2011, the port of Baidoa in February 2012, and the key town of Afgoye in May 2012. Government forces are currently pushing southwards.¹⁵

Economic Overview

Despite a state of anarchy in the government, Somalia has miraculously maintained an informal economy based on livestock, remittance/money transfer companies, and telecommunications.

¹⁴ "Somalia Profile", *BBC News Africa*, May 29, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14094503>

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

Agriculture is the most important sector with livestock normally accounting for about 40 per cent of GDP and more than 50 percent of export earnings. Somalia's small industrial sector has largely been looted. However, Somalia's service sector has grown. A formal banking sector is absent and money transfer services have emerged throughout the country. Hotels continue to operate and are supported with private security militias. Somalia's arrears to the IMF have continued to grow.¹⁶ In 2011, the Somali conditions were worsened by the deadliest drought in six decades, which left millions of people on the verge of starvation and caused tens of thousands to flee to Kenya and Ethiopia. Now, the UN says the famine is over but the humanitarian conditions are still poor and fragile.

India and Somalia

Somalia is important as the maritime neighbour of India, separated by the waters of the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean. The major portion of India's maritime trade passes through the Gulf of Aden along the coast of Somalia.

Political Relations

India established diplomatic relations with Somalia in 1961. Abdirashid Ali Shermarke visited India as the Prime Minister and President in 1963 and 1968 respectively. There were several high level visits from Somalia in 1979, 1986 and 1989. But, the Indian Embassy in Mogadishu was closed after the outbreak of the civil war. India's Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro visited Somalia in 1992 and provided relief supplies worth Rs. 20 lakh. Somalia maintains an embassy in India and the Indian mission remains in touch with the senior leadership of Somalia. Somalian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Planning and International Cooperation Dr. Abdiweli Mohamed Ali visited India in March 2011 to attend the 7th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership. During his visit to India in April 2011, he pledged full support of Somalia and the TFG in extending assistance to India to fight the menace of piracy. Though a diplomatic mission within Somalia is not there due to the prevailing adverse conditions, Sibabrata Tripathi, presently High Commissioner of India to Kenya, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Somalia with residence in Nairobi.¹⁷

Trade and Development Cooperation

During 2011-12 India-Somalia trade showed substantial increase reaching a figure of more than US\$ 181 million after a sharp decline in figures from US\$129.1 million in 2007-08 to US\$21.5 million in 2009-10.¹⁸ India is one of the important trade partners of Somalia with 13.7 percent share in its imports next only to Djibouti.¹⁹ India mainly exports sugar to Somalia and imports oil seeds and fruits from it. In 1985, Somalia was among the recipient countries of 100,000 tonnes of wheat

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ "Shri Sibabrata Tripathi concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Somalia", Ministry of External Affairs, India, January 5, 2011, at <http://meaindia.nic.in/mystart.php?id=100516985>

¹⁸ "India-Somalia Relations", Ministry of External Affairs, India, January 2012, at <http://meaindia.nic.in/meaxpsite/foreignrelation/03fr02.pdf>

¹⁹ "Somalia", CIA World Factbook as on July 24, 2012, at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/so.html>

offered by the Indian government to countries in the Horn of Africa. India also offers Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training scholarships to Somalia. During 2011-12, all the three ICCR scholarship programmes offered to Somalia were utilised. Somalia is among the partner countries of the Pan African e-Network project initiated by India. In September 2011, India announced a contribution of US\$ 8 million towards humanitarian assistance for countries in the Horn of Africa region (Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti) to be distributed through the World Food Programme. Somalis also travel to India for studies and medical attention.

Peacekeeping and Maritime Security

India has given support to the peacekeeping efforts in Somalia. UNOSOM II (1993-94) had a participation of 4,600 Indian peacekeepers. It included armour and helicopters. The Indian troops also engaged in reconstruction and humanitarian work. The Indian Navy played a major part in the Indian contribution to the UN task force in Somalia. India has also been the Chair of the United Nations Security Council Eritrea-Somalia Sanctions Committee. At the Second Africa India Forum Summit held in Addis Ababa in May 2011, India provided US\$ 2 million to the African Union Mission for Somalia (AMISOM).²⁰

Somalian pirates have been reported very close to India's coasts and have held many Indian sailors for ransom. Being a major stakeholder in the security of the region, India has deployed its navy against the pirates and is a part of the International Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. The Indian Navy has been involved in anti-piracy patrolling in the Gulf of Aden since 2008.

²⁰ "India-Somalia Relations", January 2012

BOOK REVIEW

Poku, Nana K. and Mdee, Anna, Politics in Africa: A New Introduction, Zed Books, London and New York, 2011, pp. 150, 978-1-84277-982-8

Princy Marin George

Most African countries have followed similar paths of political and economic development post colonialism. Locked into a pattern of corruption, stagnation, and conflict, the painful reality has been that the early optimism of the promise of self-government, nation-building and development has not materialised. Analyses and forecasts of the continent are most often marked by 'dubious' political analyses and tend to serve as a reminder of the failures of indigenous rule. *Politics in Africa: A New Introduction* by Nana K. Poku and Anna Mdee is a collection of a series of interpretative essays that examine modern political developments on the African continent. Rather than being a chronology of the history of contemporary events, it offers a framework for understanding contemporary issues in order to help illuminate their complexities. The key feature of the authors' analysis is the exploration of the interplay between 'contingency' (the unintended effects of colonial legacies); 'choice' (the corrosive effects of post-colonial policies, leadership and governance); and the 'structural influences' on development (Africa in the global economic system). The authors are explicit in their intention to analyse the failings of Africa's political elites, rather than blaming everything on the colonial past. They are also cautious to point out that the size and variety of the continent make generalisation in analysis difficult, though this is a necessary starting point.

The book contains five chapters. The first examines some of the debates surrounding Africa's colonial history, and its legacies, which are relevant for understanding contemporary Africa. Poku and Mdee highlight two factors – impact and continuity; the impact of the years of imperial rule along with the element of continuity (a degree of initiative and autonomy) on the subjects of colonial rule. These two factors created the environment for the politics of newly independent states. In the succeeding chapter, Poku and Mdee point out that the political models inherited at the time of independence were European imports and imposed on societies that were radically different from those that the models were prepared for. The two dominant theories of modernisation and industrialisation, that held that new nations should focus on exporting raw material to industrialised countries to finance their own industrialisation programmes, were embraced by post-colonial African leaders. However, the strategy of rapid industrialisation proved deeply flawed as the new governments struggled to establish themselves as nations and create effective governmental structures. Africa's economic decline demonstrates how these imported systems proved untenable in the new states. The domestic problems of these states have compounded with time; in addition, foreign investments have flowed in, debt burdens persist, and dependence on external resources have increased. The Millennium Development Goals were envisioned to accelerate the eradication of poverty and hunger. It is unlikely that the goals will be met by the target year of 2015; the authors indicate that this can only be achieved by a more robust global strategy to create sustainable livelihoods.

While discussing food insecurity and vulnerability, and the politics associated with rural livelihoods, Poku and Mdee argue that development strategies in Africa have suffered from an 'urban' bias, even though much of the continent is still rural. Crucial investments in rural

infrastructure, education, and health have not been political priorities. Although small-scale and subsistence agriculture is a highly vulnerable enterprise, it is a crucial component of rural as well as urban livelihoods in Africa. The authors explore the case of Malawi that challenged the assumptions of donors and international financial institutions on this issue.

The politics of gender in Africa is another important area of discussion. In the book's fourth chapter, Poku and Mdee argue that the vulnerability of productive livelihoods and lack of access to basic services is more significant than the structural gender inequality. While not denying that there are considerable areas of structural inequality between men and women on the continent, the authors suggest that this is not as institutionalised through religion and politics as in other parts of the world. The authors also focus on HIV/AIDS and the politics of health in Africa. The burden of poor health is a marked characteristic of the continent, and one of the starkest indicators of political failure. Africa is the global epicentre of the HIV pandemic, while also accounting for a large percentage of global deaths due to malaria, other water-borne infectious diseases and parasitic infections. Evidence clearly links ill health with chronic poverty, and hence, the authors argue, health is fundamentally a political question; "it is a key signifier (more so than economic growth) of the state of a nation and of the provision of basic services."

In contrast to generalised, simplified analyses of the continent that focus on the failures of post-colonial Africa, this book is insightful in its examination of the legacies of colonialism and deeply embedded feelings - of "failed dreams of modernity", "of frustration at the incompleteness of the nation-state project", "of an uncaring and xenophobic ... world ... that alienates the majority of Africans from their rightful place at the table of human and social development" - that are revealed in Africa's lack of pride, trust and confidence in its own institutions. The state in Africa, while being immensely strong (it is the major source of employment, finance and a partner in most economic enterprises) is also weak in many senses. Hence, while the state has not been very effective in ensuring economic and social development, the authors believe it is the right and the most promising tool for catalysing such development. Overall, the book provides honest and bold insights while also pointing to, obvious but often overlooked, choices to improve political and economic governance in Africa. For the general reader, the book will prove useful in gaining an informed perspective on the political history of Africa. Scholars and analysts will find this an engaging read since the book is geared towards providing a holistic analysis of Africa's history and contemporary political challenges, and addressing the reasons for many of Africa's failings.

NEWS TRACK

NORTHERN AFRICA

ALGERIA

MPs Stage Parliamentary Walkout over 'Poll Fraud'; Algeria and Iran Reaffirm their Bilateral Relationship; National Monitoring Commission Doubts Credibility of Algeria's Elections; Algeria and Australia Sign MoU on Political Consultations

More than 60 lawmakers walked out of the inaugural session of the new National Assembly in Algeria in protest against alleged fraud in recent elections. The MPs, mostly from the Green Algeria alliance, a grouping of moderate Islamist parties with links to the ruling establishment, waved banners that said "Say 'no' to fraud", before leaving after a roll call of new members. The party alleges the polls were fixed in favour of the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) party and its coalition partners. However, the session continued despite the walkout, with the rest of the 462-seat house- dominated by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's ruling FLN - going ahead to elect a new speaker.²¹

The Algerian ambassador to Tehran, Sofiane Mimouni, reaffirmed that Iran and Algeria enjoy a "very good" relationship in various spheres and are making efforts to strengthen ties. He stated that over the past years, bilateral relations have developed in an atmosphere of trust, mutual respect, and equality of interests of the two countries. On economic cooperation, he added that the common goal set was to make economic cooperation between the two countries more stable. He also stated that efforts are underway to develop cultural ties between the two countries.²²

In similar tone, Algerian foreign minister Mourad Medelci underlined strengthening economic relations between Iran and Algeria, particularly between their private sectors, during his meeting with Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Reza Mir-Tajeddini. Mir-Tajeddini, for his part, asked for the expansion of relations between the two countries, noting that Iran is ready to transfer its experience in all fields, including science and industry, to Algeria. Mir-Tajeddini also submitted an invitation to President Abdelaziz Bouteflika to attend the Non-Aligned Movement Summit in Tehran in September 2012.²³

A multi-party national monitoring commission alleged that Algeria's May 10 elections were neither credible nor transparent. "The polls were marred by numerous excesses and breaches from the beginning of the operation to the end, which have tarnished its probity and transparency," alleged

²¹ "Algeria MPs stage parliamentary walkout over 'poll fraud'", BBC News, May 26, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18224000>

²² "Iran, Algeria enjoy 'very good' relations: ambassador", Tehran Times, May 29, 2012, at <http://www.tehrantimes.com/politics/98365-iran-algeria-enjoy-very-good-relations-ambassador->

²³ "Algerian FM Calls for Bolstering Economic Ties with Iran", Fars News Agency, June 7, 2012, at <http://english.farsnews.com/newstext.php?nn=9103081192>

the report read out by Mohamed Seddiki, president of the National Elections Monitoring Commission. Seddiki, however, fell short of using the word “fraud” to describe the polls, saying rather that it was simply “not credible”.²⁴

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on political consultations was signed between the Algerian and Australian ministries of foreign affairs. Algerian Foreign Minister Mourad Medelci said the MoU will enable the two countries to work on strengthening their bilateral and diplomatic relations. On his part, the Australian Foreign Minister, Bob Carr, said, “We seek to strengthen our relations with Arab League’s member states and we will strengthen our commitment in Africa.” The two ministers also discussed cooperation in the fields of economy, training and fight against terrorism.²⁵

EGYPT

Egypt Receives US\$ 1 Billion from Saudi Arabia; Egypt’s Emergency Law Expires after 31 Years; Egypt and Algeria Discuss Cooperation in Construction and Housing; Muslim Brotherhood Claims Victory in Egypt Presidential Vote; Al Qaeda Urges Egypt to Cancel Peace Treaty with Israel; US Warns Egypt’s Military Leaders to Hand over Power; Egypt Military Rejects Calls for Reinstating Parliament

Saudi Arabia provided US\$ 1 billion to Egypt’s central bank, which will give the government some time to secure a loan from the International Monetary Fund. Egyptian and Saudi officials have been “coordinating” to implement the rest of a Saudi aid package to the North African country, which includes US\$ 500 million to finance high-priority development projects, US\$ 250 million for buying petroleum products and a US\$ 200 million grant for small and medium-sized projects and industries. It was opined that the Saudi aid might also give a boost to Egypt’s efforts to obtain the US\$ 3.2 billion loan it requested from the IMF.²⁶

Ending 31 years of broad powers to detain and arrest for a police force accused of severely abusing its far-reaching authority, Egypt’s notorious emergency law finally expired on May 31. Since former President Anwar Sadat’s 1981 assassination, the security forces were empowered to detain and arrest people without charge, keep them locked up despite court releases and extract confessions under torture. At one point under Hosni Mubarak’s regime, there were more than 10,000 people in detention, many of them disappearing in Egyptian prisons. US State Department spokesman Mark Toner welcomed the end of the emergency law, saying it was a step “in the right direction.” Human Rights Watch has urged the Egyptian parliament to investigate human rights violations that flourished because of the law.²⁷

²⁴ “Algeria’s elections not credible: monitoring commission”, AFP, June 2, 2012, at http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iINTivlhWvUlfvxGlp03_jNfqA?docId=CNG.45aa828a72fa6e04ac99ea3d19692843.871

²⁵ “Algeria, Australia Sign MoU On Political Consultations”, Bernama, June 19, 2012, at <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsworld.php?id=673989>

²⁶ “Egypt Gets \$1 Billion from Saudi Arabia, Minister Says”, *Bloomberg*, May 10, 2012, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-05-10/egypt-gets-1-billion-from-saudi-arabia-minister-says.html>

²⁷ “Egypt’s 31-year emergency law ends”, *Mercury News*, May 31, 2012, at http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_20750146/egypts-notorious-emergency-law-lapses

Housing, Utilities and Urban Development Minister of Egypt, Fathi el-Baradei, held talks with his Algerian counterpart Noureddine Moussa on ways to boost cooperation between the two countries in the housing field. During the meeting, Baradei reviewed Egypt's successful experiment in setting up new cities since the mid-1970s and the possibility of Egyptian companies' participation in implementing projects in Algeria. The two countries also discussed ways of organising training courses in the housing field between experts of the two countries.²⁸

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood claimed victory for its Presidential candidate Mohamed Morsy who contested against Ahmad Shafiq in a runoff that took place in the midst of an assertion of political power by the military council, marked by the dissolution of an elected lower house of parliament and an attack on civil liberties. Later, Mr. Morsy pledged inclusivity and called for unity. During his interaction with the media, he promised "to build a democratic and modern state with a constitution". The Brotherhood claimed that Mr. Morsy had won 52.5 per cent of votes.²⁹

Ayman al-Zawahri, Al Qaeda's leader has urged Egypt to cancel its peace treaty with Israel and to establish Islamic rule. Zawahri said the goal was to stop Israel from turning Jerusalem into a Jewish city. He opined that the continued crimes of the Zionists reveal the truth that these crimes could not have reached this level without taking Egypt out of the battlefield by the peace treaty signed by late president Anwar Sadat in 1979. He also charged that Egypt's ruling military council takes orders from the United States. Further, he praised militants in Egypt's Sinai desert who repeatedly blew up Egypt's pipeline carrying gas to Israel.³⁰

The Obama Administration warned Egypt's military leaders to speedily hand over power or risk losing billions of dollars in US military and economic aid to the country. As Egypt's Islamist candidate claimed victory in a presidential run-off, Pentagon and State Department officials expressed concern with a last-minute decree by Egypt's ruling military council giving itself sweeping authority to maintain its grip on power and subordinate the nominal head of state. The military council pledged to hand over power to the new civilian authorities by the end of June. However, the new military powers and the recent collapse of Egypt's first freely and fairly elected parliament have Washington concerned about the perilous state of Egypt's democratic transition. The Obama Administration has sought to safeguard its interests while championing change in Egypt.³¹

Egypt's ruling military council rebuffed calls for reinstating the Parliament dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood and blamed the Islamists for raising tensions by releasing incorrect

²⁸ "Egypt: Country, Algeria Discuss Cooperation in Construction, Housing Domains", *allAfrica*, May 31, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206010287.html>

²⁹ Atul Aneja (2012), "Brotherhood claims victory in Egypt Presidential vote", *The Hindu*, June 18, 2012, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article3541658.ece>

³⁰ "Al-Qaida urges Egypt to cancel treaty with Israel", *The Times of India*, June 18, 2012, at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-06-18/middle-east/32298524_1_egypt-s-sinai-al-zawahri-hosni-mubarak

³¹ "Obama administration warns Egypt's military leaders to hand over power or risk losing US aid", *The Washington Post*, June 18, 2012, at http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/pentagon-is-concerned-about-egyptian-militarys-latest-moves-but-hopeful-of-transition/2012/06/18/gJQAFAvZIV_story.html

presidential election results. This reaction came as thousands of protesters gathered at Tahrir Square to denounce what they see as a power grab by interim rulers by stripping the next leader of much of his authority.³²

LIBYA

Libya Warns Italy on Illegal Immigration into Europe; Tunisia-Libya Border Closed Amid Clashes; Libya Postpones National Election until July; India Partially Lifts Ban on Emigration to Libya; US Concern over Libyan Weapons Falling into Somali Al Qaeda's Hands; Libya Seeks US Investment in Areas from Oil to Tourism

During a visit to Rome, Libyan Foreign Minister Ashour bin Khayyal opined that a deteriorating security situation in southern Libya threatens to increase illegal immigration into Europe from Africa. Bin Khayyal said unrest in the Sahel desert region of Libya's south, as well as violence by armed factions or former fighters who mounted the 2011 insurrection that toppled Muammar Gaddafi, were raising concern ahead of elections. In response, Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi said Italy was stepping up cooperation to improve monitoring and border controls and would seek a bigger contribution from European Union partners.³³

Tunisia's main border crossing with Libya has been closed after clashes between Libyan armed forces and former rebels over control of the frontier. The clashes broke out when Libyan soldiers tried to take control of the Ras Jdir border post from former rebels. The border was also blocked on the Tunisian side by demonstrators calling for the liberation of 12 Tunisians who had been arrested during clashes on the Libyan side and prevented from returning to their home country.³⁴

Libya's transitional government has postponed the first national election since the ouster of Muammar Gaddafi; the elections will now take place on July 7, instead of June 19. This was announced as Libya's transitional authorities have not yet completed the list of candidates or other arrangements for the election, voter registration is behind schedule, and officials of the interim government have hinted that they could not fulfill their promise of a vote by June 19. Voters will choose a national assembly, whose members will govern while drafting a new constitution.³⁵

India partially lifted the ban on emigration to Libya more than a year after the country was hit by violence and internal strife. Overseas Indian Affairs Minister Vayalar Ravi announced that the ban on going to Libya for employment was imposed on February 21, 2011 after violence rocked the country. However, the situation has improved after an interim government has taken over and it has been noticed that there is growing demand for manpower in Libya in various sectors.

³² "Egypt military rejects calls for reinstating Parliament", *Daily News & Analysis*, June 22, 2012, at http://www.dnaindia.com/world/report_egypt-military-rejects-calls-for-reinstating-parliament_1705514

³³ "Libya minister warns Italy on clandestine immigration", *Reuters*, May 12, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/12/us-libya-italy-idUSBRE84B06S20120512>

³⁴ "Main Tunisia-Libya border closed amid clashes", *AFP*, June 10, 2012, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jwn0IVEDaqiauNDHFHcNFABDAteQ?docId=CNG.513ecbbdc61bd72d49cc4662537f4cc3.301>

³⁵ "Libya Postpones National Election Until July, as Preparations Lag", *The New York Times*, June 11, 2012, at <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/11/world/africa/libya-to-delay-national-election.html>

Doctors and para-medical staff will be permitted to emigrate to Libya as the Libyan Health Ministry has approached the Indian mission in Tripoli in this regard.³⁶

According to Amanda Dory, a top Defense Department policy official on Africa, the Arab Spring has given rise to a new “summer of concern” in North Africa. While Muammar Gaddafi is gone, the weapons used by the rebels who overthrew him are now a threat to the whole region. Many of those weapons, the Pentagon fears, are ending up with the Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), the branch of the terrorist network in North Africa, especially in Mali, which in recent months has seen a coup and a separatist effort.³⁷

Libyan ambassador to Washington Ali Aujali said that Libya is seeking to boost its oil production by a third, to 2 million barrels a day by end-2012, surpassing 2011’s pre-conflict level. He added that beyond oil, Libya is eager for American investment in tourism, health care and education. Earlier, Oil Minister Abdul-Rahman Ben Yezza said that Libya plans to spend about US\$ 10 billion to develop long-term oil and natural gas projects and increase its crude production capacity. He said the country also has a five-year plan to increase production to about 2.2 million barrels a day.³⁸

MOROCCO

World Bank Approves Two New Projects for Morocco; Vietnam and Morocco Sign Investment Agreement

Two new projects for Morocco – the US\$ 100 million First Skills and Employment Development Policy Loan (DPL) and the US\$ 15.8 million Justice Sector Reform Investment loan were approved by the World Bank’s Board of Directors. The first project aims to help the government of Morocco implement its programme of improving skills, productivity and quality of employment, thereby increasing employment in Morocco by matching vocational skills and higher education systems with the needs of the labour market. The second project will be piloted in 12 courts and aims to strengthen the justice sector to deliver efficient and transparent services to citizens and businesses. The two projects are in line with the objectives of the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) that articulates the cooperation framework and strategic orientation of the World Bank’s support to Morocco for the period 2010-2013.³⁹

Vietnam and Morocco have signed an agreement on investment encouragement and protection in the Moroccan capital city of Rabat. During the meeting, Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son said the Vietnamese Government was determined to strengthen cooperation with Morocco through boosting investment. In response, Moroccan Minister of Economy and Finance

³⁶ “India partially lifts ban on emigration to Libya”, *The Economic Times*, June 15, 2012, at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-06-15/news/32254598_1_emigration-tripoli-ban

³⁷ “Libyan weapons falling into Somali al Qaeda’s hands, U.S. official warns”, *CNN*, June 18, 2012, at <http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2012/06/18/libyan-weapons-falling-into-somali-al-qaedas-hands-u-s-official-warns/>

³⁸ “Libya Seeks U.S. Investment in Areas from Oil to Tourism”, *Bloomberg*, June 21, 2012, at www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-06-21/libya-seeks-u-s-investment-in-areas-from-oil-to-tourism.html

³⁹ “Morocco: The World Bank Supports Employment and Judicial Reforms in Morocco”, *allAfrica*, June 12, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206131240.html>

Nizar Baraka said the agreement would help increase the flow of trade and investment between the two countries.⁴⁰

SUDAN

African Union Press for Peace Talks between Sudan and South Sudan; Sudan and Libya Discuss Joint Military Cooperation; African Union Urge Sudans to accept its Proposal for Demilitarised Zone; Sudan and South Sudan Resume Security Talks

African Union mediator Thabo Mbeki left for Khartoum after Sudan and South Sudan missed a UN Security Council deadline to resume peace talks intended to resolve their disputes over oil transit fees, border and other issues. The peace effort came at a time when the UN and aid agencies warned of a growing humanitarian catastrophe due to the conflict. Separately, Johnnie Carson, US Assistant Secretary of State on Africa, called on both sides to return to the negotiating table.⁴¹

Sudan's defense minister Abdel Rahim Hussein and chief of staff of the Libyan Air Force Saggat Adam Hamad Jeroshi discussed military cooperation between the two countries. Abdel Rahim expressed hope that combined efforts of the two countries contribute to ensure security of their shared border, stressing that success of the Libyan Revolution is beneficial to Sudan. The minister expressed Sudan's willingness to provide cooperation to Libya in the field of military training and formation.⁴²

The African Union urged Sudan and South Sudan to accept its proposal for a demilitarised zone in order to help end a dispute that threatens regional stability. Earlier, the two countries broke off talks after failing to resolve a disagreement over territory. Sudan rejects southern claims to areas including the disputed oil-rich region of Heglig. On the other hand, South Sudan proposed that the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague help resolve the issue.⁴³

Post-partition direct talks between Sudan and South Sudan on security issues recommenced under the mediation of the African Union High Level Panel (AUHIP) in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The talks recommenced weeks after unfruitful round of talks on how to implement agreements on security arrangements along the 2000 km of the common border. Talks on a buffer zone are deadlocked as the parties failed to endorse a map to line the demilitarised zone.⁴⁴

⁴⁰ "Viet Nam, Morocco sign investment agreement", *Vietnam News*, June 18, 2012, at <http://vietnamnews.vnagency.com.vn/politics-laws/226240/viet-nam-morocco-sign-investment-agreement.html>

⁴¹ "African Union to press Sudan and South Sudan on peace talks", *The Los Angeles Times*, May 17, 2012, at http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/05/african-union-sudan-south-sudan.html

⁴² "North Africa: Sudan and Libya Discuss Joint Military Cooperation", *allAfrica*, May 30, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201205301224.html>

⁴³ William Davison (2012), "African Union Urges Sudan, South Sudan to Accept Border Proposal", *Bloomberg*, June 12, 2012, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-06-12/african-union-urges-sudan-south-sudan-to-accept-border-proposal.html>

⁴⁴ "East Africa: Sudan and South Sudan Resume Security Talks With No Tangible Progress", *allAfrica*, June 22, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206230496.html>

TUNISIA

Tunisia Sacks 81 Magistrates over Graft and Ben Ali Links; Salafists Stage Rampage in Tunisia; Iran and Tunisia Discuss Cultural Relations; Tunisia Urges Switzerland to Restitute Funds; Turkey Pledges \$100m Aid to Stave off Tunisian Crisis

The Tunisian justice ministry has sacked 81 magistrates over suspicions of graft and their links to the ousted regime of president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Justice Minister Nourredine Bhiri clarified that the magistrates were accused of having “obeyed orders and dabbled in embezzlements, while handing down rulings in violation of the law to protect personal interests”. He added that those affected were a minority and that most of the country’s 2,000 magistrates were upright.⁴⁵

Sparking an outcry against the authorities for their lax attitude in stemming the violence, hardline Islamists have been running rampage in Tunisian towns, torching police stations and attacking bars. The ultra-conservative Salafists have been intensifying their attacks, even burning down shops of alcohol vendors who refused to close. In response, the interior ministry said that it had arrested about 15 people who torched police stations and attacked bars in the northwestern towns of Jendouba and Ghardimaou. National army units had been deployed after the violence to protect public buildings.⁴⁶

During a meeting in Tehran, the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Hosseini and the Tunisian Ambassador Mohammad al-Hasayeri discussed expansion of art and cultural relations. Hosseini pointed to the cultural commonalities and the historical cultural relations between the two countries. He also talked about the wave of Islamic Awakening rolling across Tunisia and expressed hope that it will end to the benefit of Muslim nations in the region. In response, ambassador al-Hasayeri praised Iran’s cultural activities and described bilateral cultural relations as satisfactory.⁴⁷

Tunisian President Moncef Marzouki urged Switzerland to accelerate the restitution of frozen assets belonging to ousted president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to his country as Tunisia is in pressing need of funds. On January 19, 2011, Switzerland froze assets belonging to the Ben Ali regime amid authorities’ repression of peaceful demonstrations.⁴⁸

Tunisia’s Economy Minister Ridha Saidi announced that Turkey would give US\$ 100 million in aid to Tunisia to help it overcome its social and economic difficulties. An accord in this regard was signed between the two countries during the World Economic Forum held in Turkey. The deal also includes a US\$ 400 million low interest loan. Saidi said that a total of US\$ 600 million in

⁴⁵ “Tunisia fires 81 magistrates over graft, Ben Ali links”, *AFP*, May 27, 2012, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gipaoM-MDwDIRa7PCGWoQc1buS8A?docId=CNG.49cbb747cb51f2b3497840b48c6e0510.541>

⁴⁶ “Tunisia on edge as Salafists stage new rampage”, *AFP*, May 27, 2012, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gk02GW681N0maXFtQM7RR2A9WtgA?docId=CNG.aa7cf14f0b17e29c0af7bab7328282f2.611>

⁴⁷ “Iran, Tunisia to expand cultural relations”, *Tehran Times*, May 29, 2012, at <http://tehrantimes.com/arts-and-culture/98342-iran-tunisia-to-expand-cultural-relations->

⁴⁸ “Tunisian president urges Swiss to restitute funds”, *IOL News*, May 29, 2012, at http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/tunisian-president-urges-swiss-to-restitute-funds-1.1306819#.T-mZxHlc6_0

aid has been pledged by a number of countries, which would help Tunisia meet its financial obligations. He added that another US\$ 100 million aid grant is also expected from the US⁴⁹

WESTERN SAHARA

Javier Bardem Advocates for Western Sahara at the European Parliament

Helping to raise awareness about the issue of Western Sahara, Oscar-winning actor Javier Bardem spoke at the European Parliament on behalf of those whose rights are being violated in Western Sahara. He said that there were three things to do - bring attention to the problem, monitor the human rights situation on the occupied territories and finish as soon as possible the process of decolonisation from Spain of Sahara.⁵⁰

SOUTHERN AFRICA

BOTSWANA

India and Botswana Agree to Collaborate in Housing Sector

India and Botswana have agreed to collaborate and share experiences in the area of human settlements, including slum development. The decision was taken at a meeting of Botswana's Minister of Presidential Affairs and Public Administration, Mokgwetsi Masisi, and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Minister Kumari Selja. The ministers also discussed common areas of interest like slum upgradation, affordable housing, skill development and monitoring of training programmes for the beneficiaries through biometrics tracking system and community involvement in government programmes.⁵¹

LESOTHO

Lesotho Holds Peaceful Election; Opposition Leader Thabane named Prime Minister of Lesotho; Commonwealth Welcomes Peaceful Transition in Lesotho

After a number of setbacks, with disputed elections leading to civil war, the African kingdom of Lesotho held an election that boots the incumbent. It got international recognition for carrying out a peaceful election with a likely transfer of power. After elections, a majority of Basotho voters turned against the 14-year rule of Prime Minister Pakalitha Mosisili, expressing frustration

⁴⁹ "Turkey giving Tunisia \$100M to stave off crisis", *Business Week*, June 7, 2012, at <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-06/D9V8H7M04.htm>

⁵⁰ "Javier Bardem Advocates for Western Sahara at the European Parliament", *NTD Television*, May 30, 2012, at http://english.ntdtv.com/ntdtv_en/news_europe/2012-05-30/javier-bardem-advocates-for-western-sahara-at-the-european-parliament.html

⁵¹ "India, Botswana agree to collaborate in housing sector", *The Economic Times*, June 18, 2012, at http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-06-18/news/32299528_1_affordable-housing-housing-sector-slum-development

with empty promises. With no party enjoying a convincing majority, five opposition parties cobbled together Lesotho's first-ever coalition government and claimed at least 61 seats of the 120-member parliament.⁵²

Lesotho's King Letsie III named opposition leader Tom Thabane as prime minister after the May polls that saw the ruling party crash to defeat. The appointment, which came after outgoing premier Pakalitha Mosisili, who had held the job since 1998, accepted defeat, marked the first time in Lesotho's history that regime change came through the ballot box.⁵³

Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma has welcomed the peaceful democratic transition in Lesotho and congratulated Prime Minister Motsoahae Tom Thabane on assuming the leadership of the country. Sharma said he looked forward to working with Prime Minister Thabane in continuing the practical partnership with the Commonwealth, aimed at advancing its values and principles, including democracy, development and respect for diversity.⁵⁴

NAMIBIA

Namibia Emphasizes Historical Ties with Angola; US Wants Better Trade with Namibia; UK Doubles Trade with Namibia; EU Launches Water Project in Namibia

After his arrival in Luanda to attend the Summit of the heads of State and Government of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the vice-president of the ruling SWAPO party in Namibia, Hage Geingob, opined that historical ties link Angola and Namibia. He stressed that both countries have much in common, "hence the need to increasingly strengthen cooperation existing between the two parties". He added that the two countries must seize the opportunity to share development opportunities, such as the joint exploitation of water resources, agriculture, flora and fauna, among others. He also recognised the Angolan people's contribution to the national liberation process that put an end to the apartheid regime in Namibia.⁵⁵

Senior advisor to the US government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Cassandra Butts, opined that with the multibillion-dollar investments by the US government through the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), Namibia should be able to increase trade with the US, with the full participation of the private sector. She said that the US wants to see greater trade with Namibia and hopes that this would be part of the continuing bilateral relations between the two countries after the end of the MCA grant in late 2014. Through the MCC, the US government channels assistance to low-income and lower middle-income countries in support of policies and

⁵² "Democracy 101: Tiny Lesotho holds peaceful election", *The Christian Science Monitor*, June 1, 2012, at <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Africa/2012/0601/Democracy-101-tiny-Lesotho-holds-peaceful-election>

⁵³ "Lesotho king names opposition leader Thabane prime minister", *AFP*, June 7, 2012, at <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jyUviOd0sGoJmzjiVcMEvIbPk7gQ?docId=CNG.2617a5813d3cd45e9f090ff4722280ef.7d1>

⁵⁴ "Lesotho: Commonwealth Secretary-General Welcomes Peaceful Transition in the Country", *allAfrica*, June 8, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206090182.html>

⁵⁵ "Angola and Namibia joined by historical ties", *Angop*, May 31, 2012, at http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2012/4/22/Angola-and-Namibia-joined-historical-ties,56df7e84-317d-42eb-9f0c-541559e22a74.html

programmes that advance the prospects of such countries in achieving lasting economic growth and poverty reduction.⁵⁶

British High Commissioner to Namibia, Marianne Young, said that the United Kingdom doubled bilateral trade in goods with Namibia in 2011 to reach an estimated N\$ 6 billion. She said that there were many British companies represented in Namibia and she hoped this would meet both governments' ambitious targets. Further, she mentioned that British companies remained significant contributors to the health of the Namibian economy in a range of sectors from mining, oil and gas to marine services and tourism.⁵⁷

The EU Delegation to Namibia, the Polytechnic of Namibia, the Keetmanshoop Municipality and the Kangasala Municipality of Finland have launched a N\$ 3.5 million water project in Keetmanshoop. The aim of the project is to reduce the volume of water lost through leakages in the water supply system of the town, and to improve the operation and management of the system through improved staff competence. The project, building upon cooperation between Finnish municipalities and universities, and the municipality of Keetmanshoop, is the first of its kind in Namibia aiming to improve efficiency of water distribution in the town.⁵⁸

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa Seeks Indian Cooperation for ICT Skills; South Africa Plans to Build a Nuclear Plant for Energy; South Africa Reduces Oil Imports from Iran; South Africa looks to Source Oil from Nigeria and Angola; South Africa to Host First World Hindi Conference; South Africa Commits US\$ 2 Billion in IMF Firewall Fund; Somali Pirates free South African Couple after 20 Months; Brazil Takes South Africa's Use of anti-Dumping Measures to WTO

Following a meeting with Indian President Pratibha Devisingh Patil, South African President Jacob Zuma said that South Africa needs to enhance skills in the areas of engineering, information and communication technology, computer science, finance, economics, and accounting to boost the country's infrastructure programme. Zuma said that South Africa will be seeking cooperation with India on the acquisition of some of these skills. He also praised the existing development partnership between the two countries.⁵⁹

Stressing the need to replace coal with other energy sources, particularly nuclear energy, South African Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe said that the country would build a large nuclear plant. Currently, South Africa relies heavily on coal, which constitutes about 90 per cent of the country's energy sources. He also highlighted the need to produce electricity in other parts of the country to spread the electricity production points around the national grid. Further, he noted

⁵⁶ "Namibia: U.S Wants Better Trade With the Country", *allAfrica*, May 31, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201205310890.html>

⁵⁷ "Namibia Doubles Trade With UK", *allAfrica*, June 15, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206151315.html>

⁵⁸ "Namibia: EU Launches Water Project in Keetmanshoop", *allAfrica*, June 22, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206230104.html>

⁵⁹ "South Africa looking to India for ICT skills", *Business Tech*, May 9, 2012, at <http://businesstech.co.za/news/government/11380/south-africa-looking-to-india-for-ict-skills/>

that while developing nuclear energy, safety assurance was most important for public acceptance of the nuclear power industry.⁶⁰

South Africa has been reducing oil imports from Iran before the US' July deadline to impose sanctions against the Middle Eastern nation over its nuclear development programme. The South African Revenue Service said that South Africa received shipments of crude worth 1.8 billion rand (\$211 million) from Iran in April 2012, down from 2.93 billion rand in April 2011. In March 2012, oil imports from Iran totaled 3.37 billion rand, 63 per cent more than in the same period a year earlier.⁶¹

According to Nelisiwe Magubane, Director General at the energy department, South Africa is looking to source oil from Angola, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia to replace supplies from Iran, which is facing sanctions over its nuclear programme. Africa's biggest economy used to import a quarter of its crude from Iran, but has come under Western pressure to cut the shipments as part of sanctions designed to halt Tehran's suspected pursuit of nuclear weapons. Of late, the United States granted South Africa an exemption from financial sanctions after the cuts in Iranian imports, but Pretoria still face problems because of sanctions from the European Union, which does not provide any waivers.⁶²

Indian High Commissioner Virendra Gupta announced that South Africa will hold the first World Hindi Conference in September 2012. He said that South Africa's largest city will see a unique confluence of Hindi speakers from around the world as they gather for the first of its kind summit that will spotlight the uniquely different dialects that have developed over the past century. Mr. Gupta said that a large delegation from India comprising around 500 to 600 participants, in addition to about 300 from South Africa, will join various other international delegates.⁶³

The Presidency said that along with other members of the G20 in Los Cabos, South Africa announced that it is committed to supporting the International Monetary Fund (IMF's) firewall fund, and will be investing US\$ 2 billion of its reserves towards this effort. The funds used for this purpose would be considered part of South Africa's foreign reserves. The resources could be used by all members of the IMF to stave off the risk of another financial crisis, which would likely lead to a sharp global slowdown and rising unemployment. The resources would be channelled through temporary bilateral loans and note purchase agreements to the IMF's General Resources Account.⁶⁴

⁶⁰ "South Africa to Build Big Nuclear Plant", *Daiji World*, May 30, 2012, at http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=139180

⁶¹ "South African Oil Imports From Iran Drop as Sanctions Loom", *Bloomberg*, May 31, 2012, at <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-05-31/south-african-oil-imports-from-iran-drop-to-1-8-billion-rand.html>

⁶² Wendell Roelf (2012), "South Africa looks to Nigeria, Angola to replace Iran oil", *Reuters*, June 15, 2012, at <http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/06/15/safrica-iran-oil-idINL5E8HF3VE20120615>

⁶³ "South Africa to host first World Hindi Conference", *The Hindu*, June 18, 2012, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article3542847.ece>

⁶⁴ "South Africa to Invest U.S.\$2 Billion in IMF", *allAfrica*, June 19, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206191122.html>

The two South African nationals, Deborah Calitz and Bruno Pelizzari, held hostage by Somali pirates for 20 months, have been freed. Ms Calitz and Mr Pelizzari were kidnapped in October 2010 while they were sailing in the Indian Ocean off east Africa. Somalia's defence minister Hussein Arab Isse said that the Somali army and security forces had started the rescue of Calitz and Pelizzari. He did not say whether a ransom had been paid. The pirates had originally demanded US\$ 10m in return for the release of Ms Calitz and Mr Pelizzari.⁶⁵

Brazil has taken the first legal step at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to challenge South Africa's use of anti-dumping measures on shipments of Brazilian poultry meat. The WTO said that Brazil has "requested consultations" with South Africa over South Africa's accusation that Brazilian imports were "dumped", or sold at an unfairly low price that damaged South Africa's own poultry sales. As per the procedure, if the consultations fail to resolve the issue, in 60 days' time, Brazil could ask the WTO to set up a panel to adjudicate. The dispute is the first between Brazil and any African country and only the fourth brought against South Africa at the WTO.⁶⁶

SWAZILAND

AfDB Quashes R800m in Aid for Swaziland

Swazi Finance Minister Majozi Sithole said that the African Development Bank (AfDB) would not be providing R800 million in budgetary assistance to Swaziland because the government had failed to meet its own promises of financial reform. He explained that when the team met the AfDB, they said that Swaziland was good for R833 million a year for the next three years. However, in order to give the money, they required a letter of comfort from the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The IMF, before giving that letter, wanted to go through a staff monitoring programme. Later, the IMF team of advisers departed Swaziland in May 2012, terminating their advisory assistance to the country because they concluded that the government was not serious about implementing fiscal reforms or rethinking spending priorities.⁶⁷

CENTRAL AFRICA

ANGOLA

Indian workers held captive in cement factory; EU acquires joint control over LNG company; China and Portugal boost trade with Angola; Angola ends mission in Guinea-Bissau; Security forces accused of raping migrants; Angola elected to UN General Assembly as vice-president

In the month of May, 1,200 Indians working in Angola were allegedly held captive in a cement

⁶⁵ "South Africa couple freed from Somali pirates", *BBC News*, June 21, 2012, at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18532305>

⁶⁶ "Brazil challenges South Africa over poultry at WTO", *Reuters*, June 22, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/22/us-trade-brazil-safrica-poultry-idUSBRE85L0I920120622>

⁶⁷ "AfDB quashes R800m in aid for Swaziland", *IOL News*, May 31, 2012, at http://www.iol.co.za/business/business-news/afdb-quashes-r800m-in-aid-for-swaziland-1.1308366#.T-qYRnlc6_0

factory near Sumbe city. The workers had been on strike since April 16 demanding payment of overtime dues in US dollars instead of the local currency. When the company refused to accept their demands, the labourers turned violent.⁶⁸ Thereafter, according to media reports, the Indian government maintained that it was making all efforts to find an “amicable” solution.⁶⁹ India’s Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that the government was ready to bear the fine imposed on 22 Indians who were produced in the local court after the incident. The government also added that the majority of the Indians had refused to come back.⁷⁰

In other developments, the European Commission earlier in May, cleared under the EU Merger Regulation the proposed acquisition of joint control over the Angolan company LNG (the joint venture) by BP of the UK, Chevron Global Energy of the US, Eni of Italy, Sonangol of Angola and Total of France. The partnership will transform natural gas collected from the oil production process and carried along gas to lad-based liquefaction unit, into liquid natural gas.⁷¹

With growing economic activity in Angola, Portugal and China are boosting their position as the country’s main trading partners. China currently imports 45 per cent of Angola’s total exports. The increase in oil reserves has replaced Angola’s international reserves to levels above US\$ 25 billion.⁷²

Ending a year-long mission in Guinea-Bissau, Angola began withdrawing its troops and military equipment from the country. The removal of the military force is expected to ease tensions in the country following a coup in April this year. Guinea-Bissau has accused Angola of having had a secret pact with the ousted government to destroy its military.⁷³

According to reports, Angolan security and immigration forces have been accused of raping and torturing migrants during deportations of hundreds of people to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Angolan authorities have also been accused of failing to investigate the allegations properly. The UN Secretary General for Human Rights warned Angola to respect human rights of

⁶⁸ “Indians in Angola not paid in US dollars as promised”, *Khaleej Times*, May 15, 2012, at http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/international/2012/May/international_May481.xml§ion=international

⁶⁹ “Angolan ambassador summoned by MEA”, *IBNLive*, May 17, 2012, at <http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/angolan-ambassador-summoned-by-mea/999804.html>

⁷⁰ “Indians stranded in Angola don’t want to come back: Govt”, *The Times of India*, May 17, 2012, at http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-05-17/india/31748177_1_indian-embassy-emergency-certificates-angola

⁷¹ “European Commission approves partnership in Angola LNG”, *Macauhub*, May 18, 2012, at <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/2012/05/18/european-commission-approves-partnership-in-angola-lng/>

⁷² “Portugal and China boost their position as Angola’s main trading partners”, *Macauhub*, May 14, 2012, at <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/2012/05/14/portugal-and-china-boost-their-position-as-angolas-main-trading-partners/>

⁷³ “Angolan troops begin withdrawal from Guinea-Bissau”, *Reuters*, June 06, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/06/us-bissau-crisis-angola-idUSBRE85515E20120606>

Congolese during expulsions.⁷⁴ Separately, Angola was elected as one among the twenty other vice presidents of the UN General Assembly.⁷⁵

CAMEROON

Trade with US only under improved business climate; Cameroon and Nigeria take steps to demarcate boundary; Mbalam iron ore project to develop with help from China; Largest African military communications exercise held in Cameroon

On a visit to Cameroon, the US ambassador to the country stressed the need for Cameroon to maintain its eligibility in the American trade initiative known as the African Growth and Opportunity Act. It was also indicated that increase in trade between the US and Cameroon within the Act shall be facilitated only if the business climate in Cameroon improved.⁷⁶

Cameroon and Nigeria are taking final steps to beacon their boundary in 2012. A joint field team comprising UN, Cameroon and Nigeria surveyors was working to ensure speedy and positive results to be achieved within this year. The team aims to ensure speedy demarcation and provision of pillars at the boundary.⁷⁷

In other developments, Prime Minister M Philemon Yan of Cameroon reiterated the country's desire to develop the Mbalam iron ore project along with China's Hanlong Mining. Hanlong has to seek the approval of China's National Development and Reform Commission to take over Australia's Sundance Resources, which owns the Mbalam iron ore project.⁷⁸ The agreement will serve to promote extensive development of rail and port infrastructure in the country and may eventually encourage investment into the region.⁷⁹

Meanwhile, the largest military communications exercise on the African continent, Africa Endeavour, on the interoperability of equipment and information sharing among military representatives throughout the African Union was organised in Cameroon. The aim of the exercise was to allow partner nations to successfully conduct multinational peacekeeping, humanitarian and disaster relief operations in the future.⁸⁰

⁷⁴ "Angola accused of rape, torture in DR Congo expulsions", *CapitalFM*, May 21, 2012, at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2012/05/angola-accused-of-rape-torture-in-dr-congo-expulsions/>

⁷⁵ "Angola elected vice president of UN general assembly", *Angola Press*, June 10, 2012, at <http://www.macaub.com.mo/en/2012/05/14/portugal-and-china-boost-their-position-as-angolas-main-trading-partners/>

⁷⁶ "Diplomacy: Cameroon and the US talk development", *Crtv*, June 01, 2012, at http://www.crtv.cm/cont/nouvelles/nouvelles_sola_fr.php?idField=11266&table=nouvelles&sub=national

⁷⁷ "Nigeria, Cameroon to beacon boundary by year-end", *Businessday*, May 13, 2012, at <http://www.businessdayonline.com/NG/index.php/news/latest/37586-nigeria-cameroon-to-beacon-boundary-by-year-end>

⁷⁸ "Cameroon reiterates need for China help develop Mbalam iron ore project", *Platts.com*, June 05, 2012, at <http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Metals/7693831>

⁷⁹ "Crucial iron-ore pact paves way for development of mining infrastructure in Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville", *Miningweekly*, June 08, 2012, at <http://www.miningweekly.com/article/crucial-agreement-paves-way-for-development-of-mining-infrastructure-in-cameroon-2012-06-08>

⁸⁰ "Cameroon: Largest Military Communications Exercise in Africa Kicks Off in Cameroon", *allAfrica*, June 20, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206201202.html>

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

CAR at crucial juncture of peace; Country faces major food crisis

According to the UN, the Central African Republic is at a very 'crucial juncture' as the 'dynamic of peace' between the government and the politico-military groups and the dialogue called by the country's president offered a real chance for the stabilisation of the country. The UN Security Council called upon the Government to investigate the human rights violations committed by defence and security forces and bring the perpetrators of the crimes to justice.⁸¹

More than 45,000 people in the northeastern region of the country face a major food crisis. The malnutrition rates are far exceeding emergency levels with 21 per cent of the population suffering from global acute malnutrition.⁸²

CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE

World Bank approves credit to Congo

The World Bank approved a US\$ 10 million credit from the International Development Association for Forest and Economic Diversification project in the country. The credit is aimed to help diversify the Congolese economy and create new jobs, which is the current priority for the government.⁸³

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

DRC accuses Rwanda of lack of action in dealing with training of rebels

The government of DRC has accused Rwanda of 'passivity' in dealing with the issue of rebels being trained in the country and fighting Congo's army. A joint verification taskforce has been set up by the two countries to jointly investigate these issues in Eastern Congo. The latest reports of Congolese rebels receiving backing from Rwanda have emerged after three years of improved relations and cooperation between the two nations.⁸⁴

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

President Teodor promotes son for the post of vice-president

Following the resignation of the Prime Minister Ignacio Milam Tang and as part of a cabinet

⁸¹ "Central African Republic at 'crucial' juncture, UN envoy tells Security Council", *UN News Centre*, June 6, 2012, at <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=42165&Cr=central+african+republic&Cr1=>

⁸² "Major food crisis in Central African Republic (CAR), with malnutrition rates far above emergency levels, International Medical Corps Launched Emergency Response", *AlertNet*, June 15, 2012, at <http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/major-food-crisis-in-central-african-republic-car-with-malnutrition-rates-far-above-emergency-levels-international-medical-corps-launches-emergency-response>

⁸³ "Congo-Brazzaville: World Bank Credit to Create Jobs and Diversify Economy", *Financial*, June 5, 2012, at http://www.finchannel.com/news_flash/Banks/110238_Congo_Brazzaville%3A_World_Bank_Credit_to_Create_Jobs_and_Diversify_Economy/

⁸⁴ "Congo says hundreds of rebels trained in Rwanda", *Moneycontrol.com*, June 11, 2012, at http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/wire-news/congo-says-hundredsrebels-trainedrwanda_715850.html

reshuffle and constitutional reform, the Equatorial Guinea President Teodor Obiang Nguema is promoting his son to the post of vice-president in charge of national defence and state security. According to analysts, this move allows the President to increase his son's standing and experience in the government and could prove to be a stepping stone for him to assume the presidency in the future.⁸⁵

GABON

Gabon wants Morocco back in the AU

Gabonese President Ali Bongo expressed his desire for Morocco to return to the African Union. Morocco's ties with pan-African organisations have remained deadlocked following its exit from the Organisation of African Unity in 1984.⁸⁶

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

IMF grants fund to the country

The government and the IMF reached an agreement on the country's economic programme for 2012-2015, which will amount to US\$ 3.97 million.⁸⁷

WESTERN AFRICA

COTE D'IVOIRE

ECOWAS Commission urged to expand

A meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Council of Ministers in Cote d'Ivoire ended with a call for an increase in the number of commissioners on the organisation's commission, so as to give member states a sense of belonging. The ECOWAS transformed from an Executive Secretariat to a Commission in 2007 with the creation of a President, Vice President, and seven Commissioners. The ECOWAS Commission President has called on the political leadership of member states to offer sustained support for all ECOWAS programmes.⁸⁸

⁸⁵ "Equatorial Guinea leader promotes son in reshuffle", *Reuters*, May 22, 2012, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/22/us-guinea-equatorial-idUSBRE84L0ZC20120522>

⁸⁶ "Gabonese president calls for return of Morocco into AU", *Afriquejet*, June 2, 2012, at <http://www.afriquejet.com/gabonese-president-calls-for-return-of-morocco-into-au-2012060239699.html>

⁸⁷ "IMF approves loan of US \$3.97 million to Sao Tome and Principe", *Macauhub*, May 18, 2012, at <http://www.mcauhub.com.mo/en/2012/05/18/imf-approves-loan-of-us3-97-million-to-sao-tome-and-principe/>

⁸⁸ "West African bloc urged to expand to give member states "sense of belonging"", *Daily Trust*, June 15, 2012

MAURITANIA

Mauritania, Gambia discuss threats to Sahel-Sahara security; First Arab Azawad congress held in Mauritania

Following a three-day visit by the Gambian President to Mauritania, the presidents of the two countries have expressed their “deep concern” over the security of the Sahel-Sahara region in the wake of the Libyan crisis. The two leaders called for the restoration of constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau and Mali, in accordance with decisions negotiated by the ECOWAS, and stressed the need for greater regional integration through promotion of commercial and economic activities between countries in this region.⁸⁹

The first Arab Azawad congress opened on June 3 in a Mauritanian city 30 km from the Malian border. The congress was attended by hundreds of tribal elders, military men and others from the Azawad region, and was held in an attempt to unify the ranks of the group, and discuss the situation involving the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) and other armed groups in northern Mali. The congress also aimed to prepare a strategy to combat armed movements affiliated with the Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).⁹⁰ Reports suggested that the congress witnessed heated debates between supporters of separation from Mali and those who demanded a reversion to the situation prior to declaration of independence of northern Mali.⁹¹

MALI

MUJAO demands Euro 15m for release of Algerian diplomats; ECOWAS continues negotiations with rebel groups in northern Mali; New rebel group formed in northern Mali; MNLA, Ansar Dine reach preliminary agreement on “independent Islamic state”; Threat of terror attacks on Western nations; ECOWAS, AU discuss military intervention in Mali

Members of the group Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) has demanded •15 million and the release of prisoners held in Algeria and Mauritania in exchange for the seven Algerian diplomats who have been held in northern Mali since April 5. The group has threatened to carry out attacks against Algeria if their demands are not met. In contradictory statements released by members of the group, they also demanded Euro 30 million for the release of two Western hostages. Recently formed, the MUJAO is being considered one of the most dangerous armed groups in the region.⁹²

A few weeks following a declaration of independence of northern Mali by Tuareg and other armed groups, the Burkina Faso President, Blaise Compaore, in his capacity as regional mediator, held negotiations with Tuareg separatist rebels and later in June with Ansar Dine and members of other armed groups that share control of northern Mali. The negotiations were an attempt to reach a politically negotiated settlement between the Malian transitional government and the

⁸⁹ “Mauritanian, Gambian leaders concerned about “threats” to Sahel-Sahara security”, *Al-Akhbar*, May 29, 2012

⁹⁰ “Arab Azawad meeting opens in Mauritania, aims to confront armed groups”, *Al-Akhbar*, June 3, 2012

⁹¹ “Malian Azawad reject intervention, call for national unity - Algerian report”, *El-Khabar*, June 6, 2012

⁹² “Abductors of Algerian diplomats in Mali demand 15m euros”, *El Watan*, May 3, 2012

⁹³ “Burkina Faso president holds talks with Mali rebels, Islamists”, *Africa No 1 radio*, May 18, 2012

groups.⁹³ ECOWAS' objectives in these negotiations remain: "Mali's territorial integrity, preserving the liberty and human rights of the people, and creating a setting in which the region can manage the "humanitarian crisis" in Mali."⁹⁴

Meanwhile, reports suggest that a new rebel group has been formed in northern Mali by the former head of the Kidal garrison, Col Elhadj Ag Gamou. The armed group is named the Republican Movement for the Reconstruction of the Azawad (MARRA), and represents many of the main ethnic groups in northern Mali. The group has declared its aim as rejection of Islamic groups and the AQIM, and striving for greater autonomy in the northern regions within the framework of Mali's territorial integrity.⁹⁵

In the last week of May, reports emerged that the MNLA and Ansar Dine had agreed to merge and create an "independent Islamic state" in northern Mali. This is a significant development considering that the MNLA is a nationalist, secular movement as opposed to the Ansar Dine and the AQIM (both groups may be allied) that seek to establish an Islamic state based on Shariah law, and does not seek international legitimacy. Analysts say the deal may be a reflection of ground realities in northern Mali where Islamist groups may be imposing, to a large extent, their own agenda, principles, and vision. The deal is likely to face difficulties in implementation, taking into view the groups' differing aspirations.⁹⁶ The MNLA has separately stressed its rejection of foreign interference in the Azawad issue and has urged to be allowed the opportunity to resolve internal issues. The group has also stated that the preliminary agreement signed with Ansar Dine is still under consideration by a committee.⁹⁷

Amidst the increasingly complex situation in Mali, a report published by the Algerian newspaper *Echourouk El Youmi* corresponds to remarks made by Nigerien President, Mahamadou Issoufou, that jihadists from Afghanistan and Pakistan are training terrorist groups in Mali. A video interview by an *Echourouk* correspondent revealed that a large number of European, Pakistani and Afghan jihadists have recently arrived in Mali, and have expressed their "readiness to prepare for military bombing operations in the heart of the capitals of European states", in the US and the UK. President Issoufou has said that this is a threat not only for the sub-region but also for world security, and has urged an international response to the situation.⁹⁸

ECOWAS and possibly the African Union (AU) are expected to refer a draft resolution on the northern Mali situation to the UN Security Council (UNSC). ECOWAS has also been discussing deployment of a military force in Mali given UNSC approval.⁹⁹ Niger and Guinea have openly favoured military intervention while Algeria has rejected the idea of direct military intervention on the Azawad issue since 2009.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁴ "Mali's Ansar Dine Meets With ECOWAS Mediators, *Voice of America*," June 18, 2012, at <http://www.voanews.com/content/malis-ansar-dine-meets-with-ecowas-mediators/1212591.html>

⁹⁵ "New rebel group formed in northern Mali", *Misna news agency*, May 18, 2012

⁹⁶ "Mali rebel groups merge to establish Islamic state in north", *Al-Jazeera TV*, May 27, 2012

⁹⁷ "Malian Azawad reject intervention, call for national unity - Algerian report", *El-Khabar*, June 6, 2012

⁹⁸ Afghani, Pakistani jihadists said to be in Mali to train "terrorists", *republicoftogo.com*, June 11, 2012

⁹⁹ "Female suicide bombers ready to attack Europe, US - Algerian report", *Echourouk El Youmi*, June 9, 2012

¹⁰⁰ "France reportedly helps West Africa plan military operation against Mali rebels", *Liberation*, June 13, 2012; "Algeria reaffirms rejection of direct military involvement in Mali", *El-Khabar*, June 17, 2012

NIGER

Morocco-Niger joint higher committee calls for strategic partnership

The third round of the Morocco-Niger joint higher committee, chaired by the foreign ministers of both countries, concluded on May 4 with a call for the establishment of a strategic partnership between the two countries. Among the issues discussed were the security situation in the Sahel region, and the Western Sahara question. (Niger has reiterated its support for the UN's efforts to find a political solution to the issue). The two countries have also pledged to enhance security cooperation in the region to address weapons smuggling and drugs trafficking.¹⁰¹

NIGERIA

Nigerian Vice President calls on Boko Haram for dialogue; Government to amend anti-terrorism law; Nigerian Army boosts capacity building to tackle Boko Haram; Nigerian industrialists point to crippling of businesses amidst violence

Amidst the continuing violence in the country, the Nigerian Vice President has called on Boko Haram to participate in dialogue with the government so that peace is restored in the country.¹⁰² Following this, a separate report has suggested that Boko Haram is ready to negotiate truce terms directly with President Goodluck Jonathan. The message was relayed by a caller to a television station who claimed to be speaking on behalf of the group; the caller laid out specific conditions under which the negotiations should take place.¹⁰³

The Nigerian government has recommended an amendment to the Anti-Terrorism Act 2011, which if passed by the National Assembly will allow trial of terror suspects, their sponsors, and others suspected of aiding and abetting terror suspects, under military law. The proposed amendment is aimed to hasten trial of terror suspects and prevent exploitation of loopholes in the current law. A presidential office spokesman said that the passage of the bill means "a full declaration of war by the federal government on the unlawful combatant forces."¹⁰⁴

The Nigerian Army has intensified capacity building among its officers in order to tackle the Boko Haram threat and improve the security situation in the country. The military has also been promoting civil-military cooperation, which it views as a key weapon in the fight against terrorism in Nigeria.¹⁰⁵

A Chairman of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria has said that the continued violence perpetrated by Boko Haram was crippling businesses in Nigeria. He pointed out that manufactured goods are wearing away in warehouses, while shops in the northern region have been burnt down or abandoned by traders fleeing the region.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰¹ "Morocco-Niger joint committee calls for strategic partnership", *MAP news agency*, May 4, 2012

¹⁰² "Nigeria: Vice president calls on Boko Haram for dialogue", *Daily Trust*, May 1, 2012

¹⁰³ "Nigeria's Boko Haram reportedly prepared to negotiate truce terms with Jonathan", *Vanguard*, May 5, 2012

¹⁰⁴ "Nigerian government reportedly to amend anti-terrorism act", *This Day*, May 6, 2012

¹⁰⁵ "Nigerian army boosts capacity building of officers to tackle Boko Haram", *This Day*, June 2, 2012

¹⁰⁶ "Nigerian industrialists say Boko Haram violence crippling businesses", *The Guardian*, June 20, 2012

TOGO

China cancels Togo debt worth US\$ 16.4m

China has cancelled Togolese debt worth US\$ 16.4 million following an agreement signed between the Togolese Finance Minister and the Chinese ambassador to Togo on May 24. China has said that the cancellation is an indication of its desire to support Togo's sustainable development. The Togolese Finance Minister stated that the agreement would reinforce Togo's capacity to address priority areas in its economic development.¹⁰⁷

EASTERN AFRICA

BURUNDI

Burundi, Uganda compete for EALA leadership; Rwanda partners with Burundi to fight crime

Rwanda will not field a candidate to contest for Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), according to the Minister in charge of EAC Affairs, Monique Mukaruliza.

She was responding to reports that Burundi has fronted Hasfa Moshi to face it off with Uganda's Dora Byamukama, a second-term representative to the regional assembly.¹⁰⁸

Police forces of Rwanda and Burundi have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation as a way of eliminating threats of emerging cross-border crimes. During the signing of an agreement at the police headquarters, the Inspector General of Police, Emmanuel Gasana and his counterpart, Fabien Ndayishimye, concurred that there was need for adoption of joint strategies to fight crime. The pact contained mutual assistance, legal harmonisation and other activities that would enhance combating cross-border crime.¹⁰⁹

DJIBOUTI

Djibouti Peacekeepers Arrive in Somalia

The first Djibouti peacekeepers have arrived in Beledweyne town in central Somalia to replace Ethiopian troops and help bring stability in the troubled Hiiraan region. Regional and tribal leaders welcomed one hundred soldiers as a part of a planned deployment by the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) to expand peacekeeping to central Somalia. Djibouti plans to deploy about 850 troops in the war-torn nation.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁷ "China cancels Togo's debt worth 16.4m US dollars", *Xinhua news agency*, May 24, 2012

¹⁰⁸ "Burundi, Uganda compete for EALA leadership", *The New Times*, June 5, 2012, at <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?a=54442&i=15014>

¹⁰⁹ "Rwanda partners with Burundi to fight crime", *The New Times*, May 8, 2012, at <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?a=53362&i=14986>

¹¹⁰ "First Djibouti Peacekeepers Arrive in Somalia", *Bahrain News Agency*, June 3, 2012, at <http://www.bna.bh/portal/en/news/511325>

ERITREA

South Sudan solicits Eritrea to advise Bashir; President Isaias holds talks with EU Special Envoy on Horn of Africa Affairs; Presidents Isaias and Museveni hold talks on bilateral relations and regional, international issues

The South Sudan government has urged the government of the Republic of Eritrea to advise President Bashir on the importance of the ongoing talks in Addis Ababa. The minister for Information and Broadcasting Dr Barnaba Marial Benjamin made this appeal last week while briefing the Eritrean delegation on the current situation of the country.¹¹¹

President Isaias Afwerki today held talks with Mr. Alexandros Rondos, Special Envoy of the European Union on Horn of Africa affairs. In the meeting at the State House, the two sides exchanged views on creating a conducive atmosphere for the prevalence of peace and stability in the Horn region.¹¹²

Presidents Isaias Afwerki and Yoweri Museveni held talks at the State House in a cordial spirit of fraternal cooperation and understanding on bilateral cooperation, regional peace and security, regional integration as well as other issues, including the revitalisation of the African Union. They agreed to work together to resolve conflicts, prioritise economic and social development, as well as promote trade and infrastructural links among the countries of the region.¹¹³

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia denies banning Skype and other internet communication services; Bunna Signs MoU with Infosys for Core Banking; Presence of Ethiopia Contradicts Goal of G-8 Talks; South Sudanese in Ethiopia reject appointment of Arop Deng Kuol as Ambassador to Ethiopia

The Ethiopian government has dismissed allegations that it has banned *Skype* and other Voice-over-Internet-Protocol (VoIP) services that offer audio and video related communications over the internet.¹¹⁴

Indian technology firm, Infosys, may finally get a centralised, online, real-time, electronic (CORE) banking deal in Ethiopia, with Bunna International Bank (BIB), after failing in six earlier tenders

¹¹¹ "South Sudan solicits Eritrea to advise Bashir", *The Government of the Republic of South Sudan*, June 17, 2012, at <http://www.goss-online.org/>

¹¹² "President Isaias holds talks with EU Special Envoy on Horn of Africa affairs", *Shabait.com*, June 7, 2012, at <http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/9777-president-isaias-holds-talks-with-eu-special-envoy-on-horn-of-africa-affairs>

¹¹³ "Presidents Isaias and Museveni hold talks on bilateral relations and regional, as well as international issues", *Shabait.com*, May 30, 2012, at <http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/9679-presidents-isaias-and-museveni-hold-talks-on-bilateral-relations-and-regional-as-well-as-international-issues>

¹¹⁴ "Ethiopia denies banning Skype and other internet communication services", *Sudan Tribune*, June 24, 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Ethiopia-denies-banning-Skype-and,43031>

with other local banks; the two parties signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on May 30.¹¹⁵

G-8 leaders will begin a summit at Camp David on May 19 with discussions focusing on the global economic recovery and food security in the developing world, with President Obama having invited the leaders of Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana and Tanzania to discuss food security. However, the presence of Ethiopia's Prime Minister Meles Zenawi is causing growing concern because of the land grab issue in his country and unaddressed human rights abuses there.¹¹⁶

After wider consultation, South Sudan citizens in Ethiopia collectively rejected the appointment of Arop Deng Kuol as South Sudan's ambassador to Ethiopia. They opposed his appointment not only for national security reasons but also because of the principles of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.¹¹⁷

KENYA

600,000 illicit arms circulating within Kenya, reveals survey; Illegal Kenyan Immigrants 'fuel conflicts in Tarime'; Kenya Power contracts Indian Firms for Grid Projects; Kenyan minister, assistant killed in chopper crash; China reports spike in agricultural trade with Africa

About 600,000 illicit arms are in circulation in the country, reveals a recent survey conducted jointly by the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms KNFP and the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey SAS. The majority of the arms are concentrated in the hands of pastoralists from north and north eastern regions as well as in major urban centres such as Nairobi and Mombasa where they are used in committing crimes.¹¹⁸

There has been an influx of illegal immigrants to Ikoma and Nyabirongo villages in Tarime District of Tanzania from neighbouring Kenya. Rorya MP, Mr Lameck Okambo Airo (CCM), told the House that the illegal immigrants were of Kurya tribe which is also spoken in Tarime, making it difficult to differentiate them from local people. Airo further said the immigrants have caused extensive destruction to property and environment, and also participated in recent riots in the area in which many people lost lives.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁵ "Bunna Signs MoU With Infosys for Core Banking", *allAfrica*, June 6, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206060120.html>

¹¹⁶ "Presence of Ethiopia Contradicts Goal of G-8 Talks", *Ethiopiaforums*, May 20, 2012, at <http://ethiopiaforums.com/presence-of-ethiopia-contradicts-goal-of-g-8-talks-by-rep-christopher-h-smith/11080/>

¹¹⁷ "South Sudanese in Ethiopia reject the appointment of Arop Deng Kuol as Ambassador to Ethiopia", *South Sudan News Agency*, May 20, 2012, at <http://www.southsudannewsagency.com/news/press-releases/south-sudanese-in-ethiopia-reject-the-appointment-of-arop-deng-kuol-as-ambassador-to-ethiopia>

¹¹⁸ "600,000 illicit arms circulating within Kenya, reveals survey", *The Star*, June 13, 2012, at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/national/national/80132-600000-illicit-arms-circulating-within-kenya-reveals-survey>

¹¹⁹ "Illegal Kenyan Immigrants 'fuel conflicts in Tarime'", *Daily News Online*, June 19, 2012, at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/parliament-news/6417-illegal-kenyan-immigrants-fuel-conflicts-in-tarime>

The companies, KEC International and Siemens of India have been tasked to install various substations and transformers in Nairobi, Mount Kenya and western regions under the Kenya Electricity Expansion Programme (KEEP). The projects are funded from the Sh8.5 billion received from the World Bank in 2009 to increase electricity reach and enhance reliability.¹²⁰

Cabinet Minister George Saitoti and his assistant Orwa Ojode were killed in a helicopter crash in Kibiku forest within Ngong. Those on board were heading to Homa Bay for a church service. They told reporters that the bodies of the two government officials and four others on board the police helicopter were charred beyond recognition. In his message of condolences, President Mwai Kibaki said he learnt of the news with shock.¹²¹

China-Africa trade in agricultural products grew to US\$ 4.78 billion in 2011. The figure marked a 40.2 per cent rise from the trade volume of the previous year and was 7.7 times that of 2001, said Wang Ying, the director of the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Agriculture.¹²²

MADAGASCAR

South Africa to put Madagascar ex-chief in hot seat

Over three years since a peaceful protest became a bloodbath in Madagascar's capital, former president Marc Ravalomanana – a South African resident since fleeing his island country in March 2009 – faces charges of crimes against humanity. Earlier this year, a court ruled that the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa must investigate foreign nationals accused of such crimes.¹²³

MALAWI

Border Demarcation to Resume in July; Malawi President not to attend AU Summit; Malawi gives up AU summit over pressure to host Sudan's President; Zimbabwe offers to pay off Malawi debt with fuel

Mozambique and Malawi are expected to resume the delimiting of their joint border in July, after a six-month suspension due to conflicting interpretations. A consensus was reached at a meeting in the city of Tete, in western Mozambique, during which both countries agreed to resume the demarcation exercise which started in 2009. The Mozambican delegation was headed by Jose Elias Mucombo, the Director of Borders at the National Institute for Sea and Border Affairs.¹²⁴

¹²⁰ "Kenya Power Contracts Indian Firms for Grid Projects", *The Star*, June 15, 2012, at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/business/local/80424-kenya-power-contracts-indian-firms-for-grid-projects>

¹²¹ "Kenyan minister, assistant killed in chopper crash", *Capital FM News*, June 10, 2012, at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2012/06/4-dead-in-kenya-police-helicopter-crash/>

¹²² "China Reports Spike in Agricultural Trade with Africa", *Capital FM News*, May 21, 2012, at <http://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2012/05/china-reports-spike-in-agricultural-trade-with-africa/>

¹²³ "South Africa to put Madagascar ex-chief in hot seat", *Radio Netherlands*, May 31, 2012, at <http://www.rnw.nl/africa/article/south-africa-put-madagascar-ex-chief-hot-seat>

¹²⁴ "Border Demarcation to Resume in July", *allAfrica*, June 13, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206140217.html>

Malawi president Joyce Banda on June 14, said she would not attend the AU Summit to be held in Addis Ababa, saying she would delegate her vice-president, Khumbo Kachali, instead. She could not give reasons for her failure to attend the summit which until June 8 was scheduled to take place in Malawi's capital, Lilongwe.¹²⁵ Earlier, Malawi was forced to cancel hosting of the African Union summit in the month of July after the continental body insisted that the South African nation allow Sudan's President Omer Al-Bashir to attend. Al-Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide he allegedly masterminded in his country's western region of Darfur.¹²⁶

Zimbabwe has proposed to pay its US\$ 23 million debt to Malawi in fuel, a move that could see Zimbabweans facing fuel shortages. New Malawian President Joyce Banda sent a delegation to Zimbabwe, which returned to the country with news that the country would receive fuel for a corresponding value.¹²⁷

MAURITIUS

Puntland agrees for Mauritius to temporarily imprison pirates

The Puntland government signed an agreement with Mauritius to temporarily hold inmates convicted of piracy until Puntland detention facilities meet the international standard. After a long closed door meeting with the Prime Minister of Mauritius, both sides reached an agreement for tried and convicted pirates to be jailed in Mauritius until the facilities reach the UN standard.¹²⁸

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique among World's Top 50 Peaceful Countries; Japan Increases Support for Demining in Mozambique; US Naval Ship Visits Maputo; ZPC Signs US\$ 230m Power Deal With Indian Company; China Formalises Credit for Maputo-Catembe Bridge; Mozambique-Zimbabwe Joint Commission Calls for Lifting of Sanctions

Mozambique remains among the world's top 50 most peaceful nations, taking the 48th position, for the second consecutive year, on the 2012 Global Peace Index (GPI) released in London. The GPI is the world's leading measure of global peacefulness produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).¹²⁹

¹²⁵ "Malawi President not to attend AU Summit", *The Herald Online*, June 16, 2012, at http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44437:malawi-president-not-to-attend-au-summit&catid=45:international-news&Itemid=137

¹²⁶ "Malawi gives up AU summit over pressure to host Sudan's President", *Sudan Tribune*, June 8, 2012, at <http://www.sudantribune.com/Malawi-gives-up-AU-summit-over,42868>

¹²⁷ "Zimbabwe offers to pay off Malawi debt with fuel", *The Standard*, May 27, 2012, at <http://www.thestandard.co.zw/local/35589-zimbabwe-offers-to-pay-off-malawi-debt-with-fuel.html>

¹²⁸ "Puntland agrees for Mauritius to temporarily imprison pirates", *Garowe Online*, May 26, 2012, at http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Puntland_agrees_for_Mauritius_to_temporarily_imprison_pirates.shtml

¹²⁹ "Mozambique among World's Top 50 Peaceful Countries", *allAfrica*, June 17, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206170214.html>

The Japanese government is to donate US\$ 2 million to support training and capacity building at Mozambique's National Demining Institute (IND). The funds will also be used to speed up demining operations currently underway in the provinces of Inhambane, Manica and Sofala.¹³⁰

The United States naval ship Swift is visiting Maputo on a seven-day stay in support of the Africa Partnership Station (APS). After the ship arrived, senior officers met with the head of Mozambique's navy, Rear Admiral Lazaro Menete. The meeting focused on Mozambique's role in the multinational security cooperation initiative known as APS.¹³¹

Zimbabwe Power Company has signed a US\$ 230 million Memorandum of Understanding with Indian power company Wapco Ltd to refurbish the country's three thermal stations. In its newsletter, "Megawatt Bulletin", the power-generating unit of Zesa said Bulawayo, Hwange and Munyati power stations would be renovated under the agreement.¹³²

The Exim Bank of China in Beijing formalised an agreement to provide US\$ 72.5 million in credit to finance the building of a bridge across Maputo Bay linking the centre of the capital city with the district of Catembe. The credit was formalised through the signing of an agreement by the Mozambican Minister of Finance, Manuel Chang, and the vice-president of the Exim Bank of China, Zhu Xinqulanga.¹³³

The Mozambique-Zimbabwe Permanent Joint Commission for Defence and Security on May 17, in Maputo reiterated its call for the lifting of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by Western countries.¹³⁴

RWANDA

US Accused of Blocking UN Report on 'Rwanda Fueling Congo Violence'; RDF to set up peacekeeping base; More Congolese refugees enter Rwanda; UN: No Evidence Rwanda Supported M23 Rebels in Congo

The United States has been accused of blocking a UN report which examines claims that Rwanda is fuelling a violent rebellion in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. According to the leaked report, rebel soldiers told United Nations officials that Rwandans were sent across the border to fight in a mutiny in eastern Congo that has displaced tens of thousands of civilians. The report says the Rwandan authorities have been complicit in recruiting soldiers for Congolese

¹³⁰ "Japan Increases Support for Demining", *allAfrica*, June 15, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206160010.html>

¹³¹ "U.S Naval Ship Visits Maputo", *allAfrica*, June 14, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206150106.html>

¹³² "ZPC Signs U.S.\$230 Million Power Deal", *The Herald Online*, June 6, 2012, online at http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=43565:zpc-signs-us230m-power-deal&catid=41:business&Itemid=133

¹³³ "China Formalises Credit for Maputo - Catembe Bridge", *allAfrica*, May 31, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206010184.html>

¹³⁴ "Mozambique-Zimbabwe Joint Commission Calls for Lifting of Sanctions", *allAfrica*, May 18, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201205210029.html>

rebel leader, General Bosco Ntaganda, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity.¹³⁵

The Danish Government signed a MoU with the Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF) to construct a base to train and facilitate Rwandan troops deployed in peacekeeping missions. The Minister of Defence, Gen. James Kabarebe and Major General Kurt Mosgaard, the Head of International Security Cooperation at the Danish Chief of Defence Headquarters, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective governments.¹³⁶

An additional 260 Congolese refugees were received at the Nkamira Transit Centre in Rubavu District of Rwanda according to Fredric Ntawukuriryayo, MIDIMAR's Public Relations Officer. Ntawukuriryayo told *The New Times* that up to 150 refugees are transferred daily to Kigeme camp in Nyamagabe District but many others keep coming in.¹³⁷

The BBC and the *New York Times* had claimed that Rwanda is secretly supporting the M23 rebel movement in Eastern Congo; neither publication quoted sources. Rwanda's Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo, denied the reports and said that claims that Rwandans were transferred to eastern Congo to fight for the rebels are "categorically false and dangerous." The latest comment from the UN says the BBC got it wrong.¹³⁸

SEYCHELLES

EU Naval Force Warship ITS Scirocco Enhances EU Cooperation with Seychelles

On May 16, Italian EU NAVFOR warship ITS SCIROCCO provided a one-day training session for the Seychelles Coast Guard and later welcomed the Principal Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of Investments, Natural Resources and Industry of the Republic of Seychelles, and the Italian Consul to the Seychelles. These activities are part of the EU's efforts to maintain effective counter-piracy cooperation with states in the region.¹³⁹

SOMALIA

Puntland left out of talks while Somaliland Keen on Independence; Roadmap Signatories Meet in Neighbouring Kenyan Capital; No consensus on way ahead for world's biggest refugee camp; Kenyan troops integrated into AU Somalia mission; Selection process of

¹³⁵ "U.S. Accused of Blocking UN Report on 'Rwanda Fueling Congo Violence'", *allAfrica*, June 21, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206210682.html>

¹³⁶ "RDF to set up peacekeeping base", *The New Times*, June 20, 2012, at <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?a=55013&i=15029>

¹³⁷ "More Congolese refugees enter Rwanda", *The New Times*, June 16, 2012, at <http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/index.php?a=54898&i=15025>

¹³⁸ "UN: No Evidence Rwanda Supported M23 Rebels in Congo", *Rwanda Express*, June 7, 2012, at <http://rwandaexpress.blogspot.in/2012/06/rwanda-un-no-evidence-rwanda-supported.html>

¹³⁹ "EU Naval Force Warship ITS Scirocco Enhances EU Cooperation with Seychelles", *EUNAVFOR Somalia*, May 21, 2012, at <http://www.eunavfor.eu/2012/05/eu-naval-force-warship-its-scirocco-enhances-eu-cooperation-with-seychelles/>

Istanbul conference lacks transparency; EU Opposed To Extending Mandate of Somali Transitional Institutions

The Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and Somaliland talks that wrapped up in the UK excluded the Puntland government, which criticised the secluded meeting.¹⁴⁰ Officials from Somaliland and the southern Somali government met in London to discuss the future of Somalia and Somaliland. Officials from the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia and the breakaway region of Somaliland began talks in an undisclosed location in London.¹⁴¹

Signatories of the “Somalia End of Transition Roadmap”¹⁴² which is a detailed nine-page list of tasks designed to steer Somalia towards more permanent political institutions and greater national security and stability, met in Nairobi with officials from the Somali government, Puntland, Galmudug, Ahlu Sunna Waljama’a (ASWJ) and the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS). Delegates at the meeting talked about the progress of ending the Transitional Government of Somalia by the end of next August.¹⁴³

A key stakeholders meeting held on June 14 to discuss the future of Dadaab refugee camp in eastern Kenya acknowledged that there are tough choices ahead, but no agreed way forward. The panel discussion, entitled “Dadaab 20 years on: what next?”, was organized by the NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Nairobi, and included government officials, UN agencies, NGOs and representatives from Dadaab’s refugee community. Dadaab, originally built to house 90,000 refugees, currently hosts close to 500,000; management of the camp was handed over to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in the early 1990s.¹⁴⁴

Kenyan troops were integrated into the African Union’s peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM), with Kenya’s defence minister signing an agreement at AU headquarters. “We conclude the process of establishing a formal, legal framework for the integration of the Kenyan defence forces into AMISOM,” Defence Minister Yusuf Haji said at the signing in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.¹⁴⁵

The president of Somalia’s Galmudug state, Mohammed Ahmed Alin accused the Somali government of corrupting the selection process of the Istanbul conference on Somalia. “The Traditional Elders attending at the Somali Istanbul Conference were selected in a corrupt manner by Somali government authorities so that Galmudug state of Somalia has stay away from its

¹⁴⁰ “Puntland left out of Somaliland and TFG talks”, *Garowe Online*, June 23, 2012, at http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Puntland_left_out_of_Somaliland_and_TFG_talks.shtml

¹⁴¹ “Somaliland Keen on Independence at London Conference”, *Garowe Online*, June 20, 2012, at http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_Somaliland_keen_on_independence_at_London_conference.shtml

¹⁴² “Somalia’s Political Roadmap” *All Africa*, February 22, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201202221130.html>

¹⁴³ “Roadmap Signatories Meet in Neighboring Kenyan Capital”, *Shabelle News*, June 20, 2012, at <http://shabelle.net/2012/06/20/roadmap-signatories-meet-in-neighboring-kenyan-capital/>

¹⁴⁴ “No consensus on way ahead for world’s biggest refugee camp”, *IRIN*, June 15, 2012, at <http://www.irinnews.org/Report/95657/KENYA-SOMALIA-No-consensus-on-way-ahead-for-world-s-biggest-refugee-camp>

¹⁴⁵ “Kenyan troops integrated into AU Somalia mission”, *Shabelle News*, June 3, 2012, at <http://shabelle.net/2012/06/03/kenyan-troops-integrated-into-au-somalia-mission/>

participation,” said Alin. The Conference started from June 1 to solve Somalia’s security problems in the long term that aims to support Somalia in a transition process calling for a new constitution and parliament, and the election of a president, by August 20.¹⁴⁶

The European Union stated its opposition to extending the mandate of Somalia’s Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) beyond the August 20 deadline set by the international community for completing the political transition process in the troubled Horn of Africa nation.¹⁴⁷

UGANDA

Land conflicts are a threat to stability in the northern area; NRM Rebels form own Government; Uganda Hosting over 180,000 Refugees; No More Amnesty for Uganda’s LRA; Museveni assures Gulf investors of market

Resource-based conflicts relating to land, wildlife and forest products have been on the rise in northern Uganda recently. This has been partly attributed to the LRA war that destabilised the region. The Apaa and Lakang land conflict in Amuru, the Lendu Forest Reserve conflict in Zombo and the Abanga farm land in Zeu are but a few drops in the torrent of land disputes that are threatening the realisation of sustainable peace and full recovery in post-conflict northern Uganda.¹⁴⁸

The ruling National Resistance Movement looked headed for a major split at the weekend, after some of its members of Parliament announced a “government in waiting” as an alternative to President Museveni’s “failing” leadership.¹⁴⁹

Uganda is currently hosting 183,000 refugees. This makes it the country with the most refugees in the region. This was revealed during the World Refugee Day commemoration at Old Kampala playgrounds. The refugees are mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi and Central African Republic and Pakistan. The theme of the occasion was ‘One Family Torn apart by War is Too Many’.¹⁵⁰

In the month of May, the Ugandan government dropped its 12-year-old amnesty for rebel combatants who decide to lay down their arms and renounce violence. On May 23, Interior Minister

¹⁴⁶ “The selection process of Istanbul conference lacks transparency”, *Shabelle News*, May 29, 2012, at <http://shabelle.net/2012/05/29/galmudug-state-the-selection-process-of-istanbul-conference-lacks-transparency/>

¹⁴⁷ “EU Opposed To Extending Mandate of Somali Transitional Institutions”, *Shabelle News*, May 15, 2012, at <http://shabelle.net/2012/05/15/eu-opposed-to-extending-mandate-of-somali-transitional-institutions/>

¹⁴⁸ “Land conflicts are a threat to stability in the northern area”, *The Observer*, June 21, 2012, at http://www.observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19402:land-conflicts-are-a-threat-to-stability-in-the-northern-area&catid=37:guest-writers&Itemid=66

¹⁴⁹ “NRM Rebels for Own Government”, *The Observer*, June 20, 2012, at http://www.observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=19371&Itemid=116

¹⁵⁰ “Uganda Hosting Over 180,000 Refugees”, *New Vision*, June 22, 2012, at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/632201-uganda-hosting-over-180-00-refugees.html>

Hilary Onek extended the Amnesty Act for a further 12 months, but in a form that left out crucial clauses that have granted reprieve to former rebels coming out of the bush.¹⁵¹

President Yoweri Museveni has assured the countries under the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) that there is enough market for products produced in Uganda. Museveni was officially opening a two-day business forum organised by the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) in Kampala on May 28.¹⁵²

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Chana Wants Environment in 'Katiba'; Insecurity threatens regional integration agenda; Somalia President Sets Camp in Ngurdoto for Two Days

The Constitution and Legal Parliamentary Committee Chairperson, Ms Pindi Chana, has underscored the need to incorporate environmental conservation in the new constitution. Speaking in a seminar on climate change, Ms Chana said it was disappointing that the current constitution does not spell out environmental management issues despite being cross cutting, thus needing premeditated efforts.¹⁵³

The terrorist attack in Nairobi and riots in Zanzibar threw East Africa into another wave of insecurity, which is largely alien to the region. The attack in Nairobi had all the hallmarks of a terrorist attack although the blast had no shrapnel as experts explained.

However, that could only be a pointer to the changing nature of future terrorist attacks in crowded urban areas.¹⁵⁴

The President of the transition government of Somalia Sheikh Sharif Ahmed flew to Arusha and set camp in Meru District, where he held talks with the Tanzanian head of State, Dr Jakaya Kikwete asking the latter to help Somalia build a stable government. The nearly four-hour meeting between President Kikwete and President Sharif was held at the Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge in Meru District, immediately after the Somali head of state landed at the Kilimanjaro International Airport.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵¹ "No More Amnesty for Uganda's LRA", Institute for War and Peace Reporting, June 20, 2012, at <http://iwpr.net/report-news/no-more-amnesty-ugandas-lra>

¹⁵² "Museveni assures Gulf investors of market", *The Independent*, May 28, 2012, at <http://www.independent.co.ug/ugandatalks/2012/05/museveni-assures-gulf-investors-of-market/>

¹⁵³ "Chana Wants Environment in 'Katiba'", *Daily News Online*, June 25, 2012, at <http://dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/6653-chana-wants-environment-in-katiba>

¹⁵⁴ "Insecurity threatens regional integration agenda", *The Arusha Times*, June 23-29, 2012, at http://www.arushatimes.co.tz/society_7.html

¹⁵⁵ "Somalia President Sets Camp in Ngurdoto for Two Days", *allAfrica*, June 9, 2012, at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201206110839.html>

ZAMBIA

Hitachi unveils US\$ 15m project

Zambian Finance Minister Alexander Chikwanda has urged Japanese and other investors to take advantage of the Multi Facility Economic Zones and invest in various sectors of the Zambian economy. The US\$ 15 million project is the first ever investment into the Zambian manufacturing sector by the Japanese company. Hitachi is one of the largest manufacturers of construction, mining and earthmoving equipment in the world.¹⁵⁶

ZIMBABWE

Zimbabwe airline faces world ban; Chinese cream off US\$ 200m; Zuma team overstepping mandate: Legal experts; Zimbabwe delegation in US for KPCS meeting; The Hague must indict Bush and Blair, says Zanu PF; Zimbabwean president says EU might lift sanctions; UN insists Mugabe tourism honour not an official title

AIR Zimbabwe risks being banned from using international airports and air spaces of other countries if it fails to meet a 90-day International Air Transport Association deadline to comply with global safety standards. The airline also risks losing IATA membership.¹⁵⁷

The Chinese are creaming off millions in hard currency from Marange diamond fields through an agreement which allows them to milk 90 per cent of the revenue generated from the deal, depriving the country of more than US\$ 200 million to date. Deputy Mines Minister Gift Chimankire has disclosed that Anjin Investments, the biggest diamond company in Chiadzwa, is controlled by Chinese who own 50 per cent equity and the Zimbabwe Defence Industries (ZDI), which has 40 per cent. The remaining 10 per cent is supposed to be owned by the government through the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC).¹⁵⁸

The South African facilitation team is overstepping its mandate by engaging small political parties outside the inclusive Government, legal experts and political observers have said.

They said that the team was now operating outside the Global Political Agreement framework, an agreement between the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and the two movements for Democratic Change (MDC) formations, on resolving the challenges faced by Zimbabwe.¹⁵⁹

A Zimbabwean delegation led by Mines and Mining Development Minister Obert Mpofu is in

¹⁵⁶ "Hitachi unveils \$15m project", *Times of Zambia*, June 16, 2012, at <http://www.times.co.zm/?p=1434>

¹⁵⁷ "Airzim faces world ban", *The Herald Online*, June 23, 2012, at http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44919:airzim-faces-world-ban&catid=37:top-stories&Itemid=130

¹⁵⁸ "Chinese cream off US\$200 m", *Zimbabwe Independent*, June 23, 2012, at <http://www.theindependent.co.zw/local/36053-chinese-cream-off-us200m.html>

¹⁵⁹ "Zuma team overstepping mandate: legal experts", *The Herald Online*, June 14, 2012, at http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44284:zuma-team-overstepping-mandate-legal-experts&catid=37:top-stories&Itemid=130

the US for the intersessional meeting of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. The United States has been ratcheting up pressure to redefine conflict gems – in a bid to tarnish Zimbabwean gems–amid stiff opposition from African producers.¹⁶⁰

The Zanu PF Youth League has challenged the International Criminal Court to haul former US President George W Bush and former British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, before the court on war crimes charges as was the case with former Liberian President Charles Taylor.¹⁶¹

The European Union might lift its sanction against Zimbabwe, the African country's president, Robert Mugabe, announced in Luanda. Robert Mugabe was speaking to the press on arrival in Luanda for the extraordinary summit of heads of State and Government of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) between May 31 and June 1 in the Angolan capital.¹⁶²

The United Nations' tourism body has insisted that Robert Mugabe has not been awarded an official title, following reports that he and his Zambian counterpart were asked to be tourism ambassadors. Local and international media have both reported on the shocked and indignant reaction to the news that Mugabe and Zambia's Michael Sata had been selected as tourism leaders. This follows news that the two countries will jointly host the UN World Tourism Office (UNWTO) General Assembly next year.¹⁶³

¹⁶⁰ "Zimbabwe delegation in US for KPCS meeting", *The Herald Online*, June 4, 2012, at http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=43395:zim-delegation-in-us-for-kpcs-meeting&catid=37:top-stories&Itemid=130

¹⁶¹ "The Hague must indict Bush and Blair, says Zanu PF", *Zimbabwe Independent*, June 1, 2012, at <http://www.theindependent.co.zw/local/35751-the-hague-must-indict-bush-and-blair-says-zanu-pf.html>

¹⁶² "Zimbabwean president says EU might lift sanctions", *ANGOP*, May 31, 2012, at http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2012/4/22/Zimbabwean-president-says-might-lift-sanctions,ffaa1e3f-78a9-439e-865f-614a8ed4e592.html

¹⁶³ "UN insists Mugabe tourism honour not an official title", *SW Radio Africa*, May 30, 2012, at <http://www.swradioafrica.com/2012/05/30/un-insists-mugabe-tourism-honour-not-an-official-title/>

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