

Burkina Faso: Russia supplies all weapons

Burkina Faso's coup leader, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, 34, said his country relied on Russia, Iran, Turkey, South Korea and China because the United States, France and their allies refused to sell them lethal weapons and even blocked the supply of arms bought elsewhere. He argued that Burkina Faso needed the weapons to fight the terrorists of Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, Ansaroul Islam and ISIS. In November last year, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger joined forces to form the Sahel Alliance amid coup-related sanctions and strained relations with their neighbours. 01.02.2024

Zambia: Cholera keeps the country on its toes

Since the start of the rainy season in October, more than 15,000 cases of cholera and almost 600 deaths have been recorded, mainly in the crisis area of Lusaka. The 60,000-capacity Heroes Stadium, normally a football arena, has been converted into a treatment centre where around 800 doctors are treating patients from all over the country. Cholera has broken out at least 30 times in Zambia since 1977; the latest outbreak is the worst since 2017. A study published in 2019 showed that an alarmingly high number of Zambians - 40% - live without adequate clean water, while 85% do not have access to adequate waste disposal. 31.01.2024

Ethiopia: First "Tsehai" aircraft returned

The first aircraft built in Ethiopia in 1935 was stolen during the Italian occupation of what was then Abyssinia and exhibited in the Italian Aviation Museum in Rome. It was officially presented to Prime Minister Aby Ahmed at a ceremony in Rome. He said it was "a day of great pride" for the country. 31.01.2024

Kenya: Visa-free entry tricky

President William Ruto was celebrated last year when he announced that his country would become visa-free for African visitors, but many were surprised by the new requirements, which for some will bring new costs and paperwork. Under the new regulations, travellers must obtain an **Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)** each time they enter Kenya, which is valid for 90 days, costs \$30 and has a processing time of up to 3 days. Proof of flight details and a hotel booking must be provided. Only citizens from East African Community (EAC) countries are currently exempt from this requirement. 31.01.2024

Guinea: Eager student overwhelmed by luck

Driven by the dream of studying Islamic Studies at the best university - Al-Azhar - but with no money for a flight to Cairo, 26-year-old Mamadou Safayou Barry got on his bike and cycled 4,000 kilometres through 6 countries for 4 months until sponsors in Chad financed a plane ticket for him. In Cairo, he not only received a place at university, but also a full scholarship. When Will Smith, the leading actor in many blockbusters, heard about the epic journey, he was "deeply moved" and gave Barry a new bike and a laptop as well as vouchers for plane tickets so that he could visit his family in Guinea, or they could visit him in Cairo. 31.01.2024

Congo DRC: More deaths on Lake Kivu

Dozens of people are believed to have lost their lives when a boat capsized. The wooden boat had 50 passengers and 20 bags of cement on board and probably sank due to overloading. 10 people were

rescued, 3 bodies were recovered and the search for 37 is continuing. Boat accidents in the Congo are frequent because shipping regulations are often not observed.

Kenya: Protest: Against violence against women

Demonstrations were held in all major cities in Kenya to protest against the increasing cases of femicide and other violence against women. Placards with the names of those killed were carried in Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa, Nyeri and Lodwar. The anti-femicide demonstration was the largest event against sexual and gender-based violence ever held in the country. A survey conducted in 2022 found that at least one in three Kenyan women have experienced physical violence at some point in their lives.

South Africa: Solar energy - less municipal income

South Africans struggled to avoid record-breaking blackouts and an increase in electricity tariffs. The capacity of solar power plants not owned by Eskom has now overtaken that of the largest coal-fired power stations. The almost four-fold increase in rooftop solar power generation in South Africa over the past year has created a big hole in the pockets of Eskom and the municipalities that distribute the electricity. The municipalities generate a large part of their income from the sale of electricity. 29.01.2024

South Sudan: "Makuei Gin" banned

The authorities in the South Sudanese state of Central Equatoria have banned the sale of a popular "Makuei Gin" after several people died after drinking the local gin, which is said to be particularly addictive to young people. The Anglican Church in Juba has urged the governor to ensure that the ban is enforced. The gin was named after Information Minister Michael Makuei in 2019, who is considered the most talkative minister in South Sudan. Last year, the minister called for the gin to be banned and demanded the closure of the factory that produces it.

Withdrawal from ECOWAS

The military juntas of the West African states of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger jointly announced their immediate withdrawal from the **Economic Community of West African States** on Sunday. The Juntas accused the regional economic bloc of imposing inhumane sanctions to reverse the recent coups in their countries. The Foreign Minister of Sierra Leone, Timothy Musa Kabba, has denied accusations by the junta-led regimes of Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso that the West African regional bloc Ecowas is under foreign influence. ECOWAS, which was founded in 1975 to promote the economic integration of member states, is regarded as the supreme political and regional authority in West Africa. 29.01.2024

"Mattei Plan" - Italy-Africa summit

Over 50 delegations, mainly from African countries, as well as leading representatives of the EU and international organisations are meeting in Rome for the Italy-Africa Summit, which aims to strengthen relations between Africa and the European nation. The two-day summit is intended to present a "new approach" to cooperation with African countries that is "not predatory, not paternalistic, but not charitable either", according to Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. 29.01.2024

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>