

British proposal on asylum seekers rejected

Botswana has rejected a proposal to accept asylum seekers from the UK that is similar to the deal struck by Rwanda. Civil society organisations had called on the government to reject the UK's proposals to send thousands of migrants to the African country.

Patriarchate of Alexandria ordains first woman deaconess

Archbishop Serafim of Zimbabwe ordained Angelic Molen as a deacon in Harare; before that, there were only subdeaconesses in Congo. Molen is involved in St Nektarios in Harare; she is studying geography and environmental sciences. As a deacon, she will be responsible for ecological initiatives in the parishes of Zimbabwe. The Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and the whole of Africa had already decided in 2016 to admit women to the diaconate, as was customary in the early church. St Mark the Evangelist is regarded as the founder of the Patriarchate of Alexandria. With around 250,000 believers in Egypt and other African states, it represents a minority and is led by Patriarch Theodoros II.

Co-operation and co-ordination

Tunisian, Algerian and Libyan leaders emphasised the need to unify their positions and visions in order to improve the conditions for security, stability and development in the entire region and increase its resilience. They strongly condemned the war crimes and genocide against the Palestinian people and support the right of the Palestinian people for an independent state with Al-Quds as its capital. The Heads of State and Government of the three countries warned of the danger of foreign interference in the Sahel-Sahara region, while emphasising the need for Arab and African states to assume their responsibilities and roles in the United Nations' efforts to end the suffering of the Sudanese people.

Investigation proceedings against Cardinal Ambongo

Prosecutors have launched a judicial investigation against Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo of Kinshasa for "seditious remarks". Cardinal Ambongo was accused of "incitement" after speaking out against the insecurity in the east of the country, where the army is fighting the M23 rebels, during his Easter mass. The ongoing violence in North Kivu province has forced nearly two million people to flee their homes since the end of 2021. Opposition leaders say the case against the cardinal sets a dangerous precedent for anyone who wants to criticize the government. The Catholic Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been a vocal critic of corruption, human rights abuses and poor governance for decades. The cardinal is considered one of Pope Francis' most important advisors; the Vatican says he is monitoring the situation closely.

Togo: Ruling party wins a broad majority

The ruling Union for the Republic (UNIR) party won an overwhelming majority in the parliamentary elections in Togo on April 29. The preliminary results published by the electoral commission show that the party won 108 of the 113 seats in parliament. The results pave the way for President Faure Gnassingbé to extend his 19-year rule under the new charter. Regional observers expressed overall satisfaction with the way the election went, but opposition parties denounced irregularities in the vote.

#USAfricaBizSummit2024

The 16th U.S.-Africa Business Summit, hosted by the Corporate Council on Africa from May 6-9 in Dallas, will feature a number of African heads of government and other high-level government officials, as well as representatives from large and small businesses. Under the theme "U.S.-Africa Business: Partnering for Sustainable Success", the summit promises to strengthen relations between the United States and Africa and promote economic growth.

"Re-engineering African Media.."

The AllAfrica Media Leaders Summit 2024, taking place in Nairobi from May 8-10, will bring together more than 300 African media owners and operators, government representatives, business leaders, academics, civil society representatives and development partners to discuss the business of media and the critical role it plays in shaping Africa's future. The theme of the 2024 Summit is "Re-engineering African Media in Times of Critical Transformation. Economic and human development, social progress, peace, security and good, effective governance cannot thrive without fair, accurate and reliable information dissemination in the digital age. The summit will look at innovations to harness the ever-changing media landscape that is being revolutionized by new technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality.

Kenya: First female air force chief appointed

President William Ruto has appointed Major General Fatuma Gaiti Ahmed as the first female commander of the Air Force. The move follows last month's tragic helicopter crash that killed the military chief and others, necessitating new leadership. Her military career began in 1983 when she joined the Women Service Corps, a separate unit from the main force that focused on support roles such as administration, logistics, medicine and communications. When the unit was disbanded in 1999, women were integrated into the main forces, giving them more opportunities to distinguish themselves.

Lake Tanganyika floods parts of Burundi

Thousands of people have been displaced by the floods caused by the overflow of Lake Tanganyika, the second largest freshwater lake in the world by volume. The capital Bujumbura, which lies on the north-eastern edge of the lake, was badly hit, as were other coastal towns. Hundreds of buildings, including hospitals and schools, have been abandoned, roads and bridges have been destroyed and residents have to use boats to get around. Lake Tanganyika reached a record high of 777.2 m on April 23, 2024. This broke the previous record set in May 1964, when the lake experienced a flood of the century. The Burundian government reports that over 200,000 people in Burundi have been affected by the torrential rains and nearly 100,000 people have been displaced in the last 6-7 months. The incessant rains have destroyed 40,000 hectares of crops and 306,000 people in the world's poorest country (in terms of GDP per capita), according to the World Bank, are in need of humanitarian aid.

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

Liberia: Establishment of a war crimes court