

13th African Games in Ghana

On March 8, the postponed 13th African Games were opened in Accra. 52 countries are taking part in the All-African Games. Around 5,000 athletes will compete for medals in 30 disciplines. The games will take place in Accra, Cape Coast and Kumasi. Egypt (65 gold 115 in total) leads the medal table so far, followed by South Africa (22, 77), Nigeria (22, 55), Algeria (21, 81) and Tunisia (7.46). The Games end on March 23 2024.

Nigeria: Ramadan and Hisbah

In the northern state of Kano, 11 Muslims were arrested after they were seen eating during the fasting month of Ramadan. Kano has a majority Muslim population, where an Islamic legal system - Sharia law - applies alongside secular law. The Hisbah (Islamic police) carry out searches in restaurants and markets every year during Ramadan. Hisbah spokesman Lawal Fagge says: "We don't arrest non-Muslims because it doesn't affect them and they could only be guilty of a crime if we find out that they are cooking food to sell to Muslims who are supposed to be fasting." 14.03.2024

Mozambique: "Filipo" devastates the south

Tropical Storm Filipo has hit Mozambique, leaving hundreds of thousands of people in urgent need of humanitarian aid. The storm, which made landfall in Mozambique's Inhambane province, came just a year after Cyclone Freddy devastated several parts of Mozambique and Malawi, leaving millions of people without food, water or shelter. The successive disasters have made it almost impossible for the affected communities to recover and rebuild their lives. What little people have grown this growing season has been destroyed either by the six-week drought caused by El Nino or now by the tropical storm. 13.03.2024

Oral cholera vaccine out of stock

Global supplies of oral cholera vaccine have been depleted, while 16 countries, most of them in Africa, are affected by outbreaks of the waterborne disease. The shortage of vaccines has led the International Coordination Group to propose a one-dose vaccine instead of two. Ethiopia, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe are experiencing an exceptional number of cholera outbreaks. According to Save the Children, cholera cases in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique have more than quadrupled between 2022 and 2023. Cholera is also endemic in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Burundi, Cameroon, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique and Nigeria. 12.03.2024

Nigeria: Shell must clean up environment before sale

Environmental organizations are pushing for Nigeria to ensure Shell safely dismantles its old infrastructure or pays to have it removed from the Niger Delta before it pulls out. Shell is set to pull out of Nigeria's onshore oil and gas business after agreeing in January to sell the business to a consortium of five mostly local companies for \$2.4 billion. The people of the delta are also demanding that Shell restore the environment or compensate them for land damaged by previous oil spills.

Zimbabwe: El Niño causes Kariba Dam to dry up

Zimbabwe and Zambia, which are already struggling with food shortages, are now suffering from low power generation at the Kariba power plant. El Niño is

responsible for both. The weather system has led to below-average rainfall, which farmers initially had to contend with. Now the water reserved for power generation is running out, with the water level at 15% of total capacity and dropping further. At full capacity, the Kariba Dam generates about 30% of Zambia's total power generation capacity (3 400 MW) and about 50% of Zimbabwe's capacity (2 300 MW). If the dam fails, both countries will be dependent on imports. South Africa - the literal powerhouse of the region - has little electricity available itself. 11.03.2024

Concrete barriers to keep Mozambicans out

Concrete barriers are being erected along a section of the South African-Mozambican border to prevent people from crossing the border to steal and smuggle vehicles. The authorities have budgeted almost 2.7 million dollars for the construction of the wall. It consists of three sections: an 8 km long barrier near the Tembe Elephant Park; an 8 km long section near the iSimangaliso Wetland Park; a 9 km long wall from the western border of the Tembe Elephant Park towards the Pongolo River.

New anti-jihadist force

Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali have agreed to set up a joint force to combat security threats in their territories. Moussa Salaou Barmou, the head of the Nigerien armed forces, said: "The force will be operational as soon as possible to meet the security challenges", but did not specify the size or remit of the force. He also said: "We are convinced that with the joint efforts of our three countries, we will succeed in creating the conditions for common security". 08.03.2024

Mauritania: Agreement to stop migrants

Mauritania and the European Union have signed a migration agreement that provides for 230 million dollars to manage migration and combat people smuggling. According to Spain, almost 12,000 migrants and refugees reached the islands in the Atlantic, which lie around 100 kilometers off the African coast, in the first two months of the year. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), at least 191 migrants have been reported dead or missing while trying to reach the Canary Islands so far in 2024. The route from Mauritania to the Canary Islands is one of the deadliest and most dangerous. 08.03.2024

Ethiopia: Women's athletics icon on stamps

Africa's first black female athlete to win gold at the Olympic Games, Derartu Tulu, will be featured on stamps in her home country of Ethiopia. The stamps were unveiled in the capital Addis Ababa to mark International Women's Day. She won gold in the 10,000 m at the 1992 Olympic Games, gold in Sydney in 2000 and bronze in Athens in 2004. She is the youngest Ethiopian athlete to be honored with a stamp in the East African country - previously it was Abebe Bikila and Haile Gebrselassie.

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

Nigeria: Kuriga kidnapping

Senegal: Election campaign launched

Sudan: Army achieves "great victory".

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