

## Seychelles: Flood + Explosion

A huge explosion of stored explosives took place in an industrial area on the main island of the Seychelles, Mahé. The blast was so large and so loud that it left a 13m deep hole in the ground and blew out the windows, doors and roofs of many commercial buildings. The explosion was caused by heavy rainfall, which led to severe flooding and landslides. 08.12.2023

## Côte d'Ivoire: Snail farming is booming

Weighing up to 500 grams and measuring up to 10 cm in length, these giant snails have fallen victim to deforestation and pesticides and are disappearing from the rainforest. In an effort to save the species and earn money at the same time, the locals are breeding them in flourishing farms. The simplicity, productivity and profitability of snail farming has led thousands of Ivorians to enter the trade after training: Progress has been impressive, with production rising from 25 to 250 tonnes of snails per month within five years, according to government figures. Today, there are around 1,500 farms in the humid south of Côte d'Ivoire. In addition to their excellent cosmetic properties, snails are above all a delicacy that can be found in many Ivorian dishes. 07.12

## Russian delegation visits Niger + Mali

In Niger, "documents within the framework of strengthening military cooperation between the Republic of Niger and the Russian Federation" were signed. In Mali, the most important ally in the region, the main focus was on "development projects in the field of renewable and nuclear energy" and "issues related to the supply of fertilisers, wheat and petroleum products to Mali". The construction of a railway and a tramway network, the establishment of a regional airline and research and mining projects were also discussed. The military regimes of Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, the countries most affected by jihadist violence in the Sahel region, whose relations with France are extremely poor, have joined forces in recent weeks to form an alliance of Sahel states. 06.12.2023

## Egypt: Pilgrimage again at last

For the first time since the end of the two-year civil war in the northern province of Tigray, which cost hundreds of thousands of lives, up to half a million people have now flocked to the holy city of Aksum. For Ethiopian Orthodox Christians, Aksum is the home of the Ark of the Covenant, where the tablets of the law are also kept. Aksum, which is also considered the birthplace of the Queen of Sheba, was the focal point of the conflict. Now priests and believers celebrate a festival and give thanks for peace. The traditional prayer for peace has a special urgency in the wake of the conflict. 06.12.2023

## Mauritania: Ex-president sentenced to five years in prison

A court in Nouakchott has sentenced former President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz to five years in prison. The court convicted him of unlawful enrichment and money laundering and ordered the confiscation of assets acquired through actions that fall under these two qualifications. His civil rights were revoked. At the time of his arraignment in March 2021, investigators put the wealth and capital that Aziz, the son of a shopkeeper, had amassed in more than ten years at the head of this vast

and poor Sahelian country of 4.5 million inhabitants at 67 million euros. 05.12.2023

## Libya: Illegal gold mining network

Prosecutors have announced that an illegal gold mining network operating in the Libyan desert and employing Chinese, Chadese and Nigerians has been dismantled. Photos show shallow rectangular pools the size of Olympic swimming pools dug in the middle of the desert, as well as nuggets and bars of black and gold metal seized. Gold panning is difficult to monitor in Libya, where the desert covers more than two-thirds of the country.

## Kenya: HIV and forced sterilisation

Four HIV-infected women have each received 20,000 dollars in compensation for being sterilised without their consent. The women fought in court for 9 years. The Supreme Court of Kenya ruled that this use of BTL (bilateral tubal ligation) without informed consent was a violation of the women's fundamental rights, including the right to start a family. The compensation they receive will be paid jointly by Marie Stopes International and Pumwani Maternity Hospital, as well as by the medical aid organisation Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), which advised them on family planning. 05.12.2023

## Egypt: "Soilless" agriculture

Around 95% of Egypt's land area is desert; the remaining 5% is shrinking more and more due to the expansion of cities and rising sea levels. More and more Egyptians are turning to hydroponics - the method in which plants are cultivated in nutrient-rich water while sand, gravel, clay or foam provide support. While critics warn of the high initial costs, supporters see a higher profit compared to traditional agriculture and also a solution in the often-interrupted food supply chains. Hydroponics also reduces deforestation and the use of pesticides. 05.12.23

## El Niño causes floods and inundations

The death toll from flooding in Kenya has risen to 136 as floods wipe towns off the map. According to the National El Nino Emergency and Disaster Response Command Centre, the number of displaced households stood at 92,432 on Friday, equivalent to 462,160 people. In Tanzania, heavier than usual rains last month led to deaths and destruction of property in the capital Dar es Salaam and in the areas of Kigoma, Kagera, Geita and Unguja. In the Hanang district, 47 people were killed. In some parts of the country, crops were washed away, affecting people's livelihoods. The Tanzanian Meteorological Department has warned that the rains will continue this month. 04.12.2023

## Niger and Burkina Faso leave anti-Islamist force

After Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have now also announced that they are withdrawing from the international G5 force, which was set up to fight Islamists in the Sahel region. All three countries are ruled by military rulers who have concluded their own defence pact following coups. However, Chad and Mauritania are still part of the G5 force, which is to consist of around 5,000 soldiers. 04.12.2023

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

UN ends political mission in Sudan