

Meeting of African defence ministers

Under the motto 'Africa: United in Peace, Strong in Security', the first three-day conference of African defence ministers began at the Adwa Memorial Museum in Addis Ababa. The conference is attended by African defence ministers, representatives of regional organisations, high-ranking military officers, military attachés based in Addis Ababa and academics involved in military affairs. 17.10.2024

Naval vessel Xu Chang visits Port Victoria

The Chinese naval vessel Xu Chang is currently anchored in Port Victoria for a three-day visit. Brigadier M. Rosette, Chief of the Seychelles Defence Force, said that the visit was 'a sign of military cooperation between China and the Seychelles. This ship is part of a task force that patrolled the Red Sea and is now on its way home.

Kenya: Human traffickers and job seekers

Chinese human trafficking cartels are allegedly demanding up to R200 000 per head from the Kenyan government to free their citizens after they were lured to Myanmar with the promise of jobs as customer service agents in Thailand. The cartels justified the amounts demanded by claiming that they were effectively paying up to R110 000 for slaves. Despite government warnings, young Kenyans continue to travel to Myanmar after paying colossal sums to recruiters for non-existent jobs in Thailand. It is no longer a secret that the cryptocurrency and customer service jobs supposedly offered in Thailand are scam jobs in Myanmar. Recruiters are also targeting people from Ethiopia and Uganda. 16.10.24

Poorest countries more indebted than at any time since

According to a World Bank report, the 26 poorest countries, which are home to around 40% of the world's poorest people, are more indebted than they have been since 2006. The 26 countries analysed with a per capita income of less than 1,145 dollars a year are on average poorer today than before the coronavirus pandemic, while the rest of the world has largely recovered. The list includes Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria and North Korea. Most of the other countries are in sub-Saharan Africa, including Ethiopia and Chad. 16.10.2024

Kenya Airways - a more sustainable and efficient future

Kenya Airways has officially launched three transformative projects to improve sustainability and operational efficiency: the innovative pyro-diesel plant, the water treatment and bottling plant and the redesigned Msafiri House. The pyro-diesel plant converts plastic waste into usable diesel fuel and produces up to 1,000 litres a day. The water treatment and bottling plant is expected to produce around 4,500 litres of water per day and reduce the cost of water procurement by up to 60%. The transformation of Msafiri House into an Operations Control Centre (OCC) will further streamline operations and improve team collaboration. These initiatives are part of the airline's strategic recovery plan, Project Kifaru, and represent a significant step towards a greener future.

South Africa: Three new sea creatures discovered

Three new species have been discovered in South Africa's unique marine ecosystem, which is characterised by the Benguela and Agulhas currents: the 'wandering sponge' (*Suberites ambulodomas*), a tiny mussel (*Brachiomya ducentianus*) and a rare parasitic isopod

(*Pseudionella pumulaensis*). Despite their small size, these species play an important role in marine ecosystems, for example by forming symbiotic relationships and contributing to nutrient cycling. 15.10.24

Africa without satellite launchers

To date, a total of 17 African countries have put more than 60 satellites into orbit, and in addition to Senegal, Djibouti and Zimbabwe have also launched their first satellites in the last 12 months. Dozens more African satellites are expected to be put into orbit in the coming years. However, the continent currently has no space launch facilities of its own. Europe, China and the USA have all been involved in numerous African space programmes. This has helped to put African technology into orbit, but it is also an important diplomatic tool. Observers have pointed out that African space programmes are not just about getting African nations into space - they are also, to some extent, arenas in which some of the world's most powerful countries compete with each other. 15.10.2024

Kenya: Demonstrations against nuclear power plant

The project, which was proposed last year, is to be built in the town of Kilifi - around 522 kilometres south-east of the capital Nairobi. Many local residents have openly spoken out against the project, fearing its negative impact on people and the environment, leading to a series of protests that have turned violent at times. Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) led the march on Friday 11 October. In Kilifi, they handed over a petition against the construction of the plant to the district governor. Construction of the 1,000 MW nuclear power plant is scheduled to begin in 2027 and go into operation in 2034 at a cost of 500 billion Kenyan shillings (3.8 billion dollars). 14.10.2024

Lakes in the Sahara

The otherwise barren 9 million square kilometre desert of rubble and sand suddenly showed lakes and green areas, unusual plant growth on Nasa satellite images. Shrubs and trees sprout from low-lying riverbeds. Palm trees stand metres high in the water. The trigger was an extratropical cyclone that caused heavy rainfall in the north-west of the Sahara in September - the worst for 30 years - and flooding that filled the lakes with water. While local residents hope that their huge empty aquifers will be filled, experts warn that record temperatures in the Atlantic have shifted the rain belt northwards. 13.10.2024

Chad: Massive flooding

Torrential rain has hit all 23 provinces of the country, causing devastating floods. More than 500 people have lost their lives and thousands of families have been swept away by the floods. In addition, more than 400,000 hectares of farmland have been destroyed, jeopardising food security in a country where more than 3.4 million people are already suffering from hunger. 13.10.2024

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