

Kenya: Catholic Church rejects donation from

The Archdiocese of Nairobi has rejected a \$40,000 donation from President William Ruto, citing ethical considerations. Ruto had donated to the choir of the Catholic community in Nairobi's Soweto and pledged support for the construction of a priest's house and the purchase of a bus for the community. The donation (200,000 shillings) from Johnson Sakaj, Governor of Nairobi, will also be returned. The statement emphasised the importance of preserving the independence of the church and highlighted ethical concerns related to political donations. 21.11.2024

South Africa takes over G20 chairmanship

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva concluded the Group of 20 summit on Tuesday and handed over the presidency to South Africa. President Cyril Ramaphosa called on the world's heads of state and government to step up their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. 'We must advance gender equality. And we must overcome the planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and pollution,' he said. The joint declaration was approved but did not achieve full unanimity. It also called for a future global tax on billionaires and reforms that would allow the UN Security Council to expand beyond its five permanent members.

Kenya: 'Sweet' solution to wildlife conflict

A nine-year study found that elephants approaching small farms avoid hive fences with live honeybees up to 86% of the time. Each hive is strung on a greased wire a few metres above the ground, which protects them from badgers and insects, but also means they wobble if disturbed by a hungry elephant. This natural deterrent has helped to reduce human-elephant conflict for local farmers while increasing their income. The study monitored 26 fence-protected farms in two villages near Tsavo East National Park and analysed nearly 4,000 incidents of elephant approaches. Elephants roam freely in the park all year round in search of food and water but can be attracted by the odour and nutrient richness of agricultural crops. 20.11.2024

Somalia: Opposition leader defeats incumbent

The electoral commission announced that opposition leader Abdirahman Cirro emerged victorious in the elections. He received 64% of the vote compared to Bihi's 35%. This means a change of leadership is imminent as the breakaway Somali region pushes for global recognition. Somaliland has had de facto self-rule since declaring independence from Somalia in 1991, but is not recognised by any country, restricting access to international funding and freedom of travel for its six million inhabitants. Somaliland has experienced a comparatively peaceful period since gaining autonomy three decades ago, while Somalia was embroiled in a civil war from which it has still not recovered. 19.11.2024

Russia blocks ceasefire in Sudan

In a move strongly condemned by the UK and the US, Russia has vetoed a UK-backed UN Security Council draft resolution calling for a ceasefire in Sudan. The draft resolution, tabled by the UK and Sierra Leone, calls on both sides to immediately cease hostilities and begin talks on a national ceasefire. Apart from Russia, all other 14 member states of the Security Council voted in favour

of the draft, but the resolution was not passed due to the veto. The 19-month civil war in Sudan is believed to have led to the deaths of tens of thousands of people. More than 11 million people have been driven from their homes. According to aid organisations, the conflict has triggered the world's worst humanitarian crisis, and many thousands are threatened by famine. 19.11.2024

Congo DRC: Plastic waste clogs a dam

A flood of plastic waste flowing into the Ruzizi dam is causing regular power cuts in several major cities and posing a challenge for local authorities. The Ruzizi dam at the southern end of Lake Kivu, which borders Rwanda, supplies the city of Bukavu and other towns with electricity. The problem is linked to the increasing use of plastics and the lack of waste collection in the region. Heavy rainfall causes waste from the mountainous terrain to flow down to the lake, where it accumulates and blocks the machines. Every day, the cleaners try to remove plastic bottles, canisters and other waste. Surface cleaning is not enough, as the waste accumulates at a depth of 14 metres and divers have to clean the riverbed to prevent blockages in the turbines.

Nigeria: More co-operation with India

During a state visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nigeria and India agreed to cooperate more closely in the areas of maritime security, intelligence and counterterrorism. In view of the increasing threats in the Gulf of Guinea and the Indian Ocean, the two countries agreed on a coordinated approach to protect maritime trade routes and combat piracy. Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, is seeking more Indian investment and more favourable credit lines to boost its economy and create jobs. There are more than 200 Indian companies operating in Nigeria. 18.11.2024

Congo DRC: Landslide exposes copper

A mountain has collapsed in the Katanga region, exposing tonnes of copper. A video on social media shows the dramatic collapse of the mountain. It shows people running as the mountain collapses. The Katanga region is known for its rich mineral resources. Copper has been mined for more than a century. In the 1950s, it was the largest copper mining region in the world. Katanga is located in Africa's copper belt, a 450 km long stretch that stretches from Luanshya in north-west Zambia to Katanga in Congo. 18.11.2024

Gabon: New constitution adopted

The new constitution was approved by an overwhelming majority in a referendum, Gabon's military rulers declared. The interior minister said 91.8% of voters had said 'yes' to the charter, with an estimated turnout of 53.5%. The proposed new constitution provides for a limit of 2 presidential terms of 7 years each, no prime minister, no dynastic transfer of power and the recognition of French as the working language in Gabon. In addition, presidential candidates must be exclusively Gabonese and have at least one parent born in Gabon and a Gabonese spouse. 18.11.2024

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