

Niger: Junta leader President

Niger's military ruler, General Abdourahamane Tchiani, has been sworn in as the country's president for a transitional period of five years. He has led the country since 2023, after deposing Niger's elected president Mohamed Bazoum. The country's constitution was replaced by a new charter. General Tchiani explained that Niger's new charter is in line with traditional constitutions but also provides for 'unprecedented measures to protect our natural resources so that Nigerians truly benefit from the utilisation of their wealth'. The country has severed its ties with former colonial power France and forged new alliances with Russia. 27.03

How long will Mnangagwa last?

Zimbabwe's ruling party, ZANU-PF, has long been riven by internal power struggles, with tensions reaching their peak as Mnangagwa seeks to consolidate his hold on power. The factional struggle between Mnangagwa's loyalists and those allied to Vice President Chiwenga, the former military general who played a key role in the 2017 coup against Robert Mugabe, has escalated in recent months. War veterans, led by Blessed Geza, have called for nationwide protests on **31 March** to force Mnangagwa to resign. Geza accuses the president of failing to get a grip on the economic hardship, rampant corruption and increasing repression. The military presence in Harare and Bulawayo has been stepped up. 27.03.2025

Sudan: Recapture of Khartoum

A good two years after the start of the civil war, military ruler Fattah al-Burhan has announced the recapture of the capital. The paramilitary RSF ('Rapid Support Forces') conceded the loss of the presidential palace, the airport and other parts of the city. The RSF began a power struggle against the army in April 2023. Tens of thousands of people were killed in the clashes and more than twelve million have fled. UN experts estimate that the war in the centre and east of the country is now almost over, while the west and the province of Darfur are still under the control of the RSF militia. 27.03.2025

Change in foreign exchange trading in Africa

The Pan African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS) will launch a new African currency marketplace later this year that aims to revolutionise cross-border trade. With the support of 15 central banks and the integration of 150 commercial banks, PAPSS aims to address Africa's persistent liquidity and foreign exchange problems by enabling direct trading between local currencies. This initiative eliminates reliance on foreign currencies such as the US dollar. The new PAPSS marketplace brings buyers and sellers of different African currencies together, enabling seamless transactions. For example, an Ethiopian airline that earns revenue in Nigerian naira can exchange its funds directly with a Nigerian company that needs Ethiopian Birr, eliminating the need to exchange in dollars. 26.03.2025

Cameroon: Mangrove islands taken over?

The Nigerian Senate has set up an eight-member ad hoc committee to investigate allegations that the Republic of Cameroon forcibly took over Nigerian mangrove islands and maritime areas in Efiat, Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. The Senate noted that the Cameroonian government invaded the Nigerian islands

in Akwa Ibom even though the affected islands are not part of the territories ceded to Cameroon under the Anglo-German treaties of 1913 or the judgement of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) of October 2002. 25.03.

Burundi: Crises burden food aid programmes

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) has rapidly mobilised additional assistance in Burundi to support the large influx of families fleeing violence in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Since January 2025, nearly 70,000 people - mostly women, children and the elderly - have fled the fighting in the DRC to Burundi, many of them undertaking dangerous river crossings and long treks in search of safety. More people are arriving every day, making it the largest influx into Burundi in decades. In the Democratic Republic of Congo's other neighbouring countries, including Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania, the cross-border influx is also increasing due to the escalating conflict in the east of the country, which threatens to exacerbate hunger throughout the region. 24.03.2025

South Sudan: German embassy closed

Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock announced that the German embassy would be closed in view of the escalating violence in South Sudan. On the border with Ethiopia, a militia of the Nuer ethnic group, to which Vice President Machar also belongs, has been fighting against government soldiers for weeks. According to UN figures, at least 50,000 people have fled since February. The army accuses Machar's party of fuelling the conflict. Machar in turn accuses Kiir of wanting to disempower his supporters. 25.03.2025

Tunisia: Solar farms

Tunisia is focussing on renewable energies and has awarded large-scale projects as part of an international tender. Licences were awarded to four international companies for the construction of solar parks with a total capacity of 500 megawatts worth a total of 386.31 million US dollars: Qair International SAS (French) for the construction of two plants with a total capacity of 300 MW, Voltaia (French) for a 100 MW solar park, Scatec (Norwegian) and Aeolus (Japanese), a unit of Toyota Tsusho (8015.T), for a 100 MW project. 24.03.2025

'The devil may be angry, but we will build churches'

President William Ruto has reaffirmed his commitment to the construction of churches across Kenya and rejected criticism from opponents. He also announced his personal commitment to the completion of the AIC Jericho church and announced his intention to join the building committee. 24.03.2025

Namibia: First female president

On the country's 35th Independence Day, outgoing head of state Mbumba handed over power to Nandi-Ndaitwah. She was sworn in as Namibia's first female president after winning the elections. She was previously vice president for a year and is a veteran of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), which led the sparsely populated and uranium-rich country to independence from South African apartheid in 1990 and has ruled the country for 35 years. 24.03.2025

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