

Sierra Leone: Deadly 'Kush'

Kush, a synthetic cocktail usually made from marshmallow leaves, first appeared in Sierra Leone in the early 2020s and quickly spread across Liberia, Guinea, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. It is increasingly being mixed with opioids that are up to 25 times stronger than fentanyl. Kush is probably responsible for thousands of deaths in West Africa. Because kush is cheap to produce and highly addictive, the government of Sierra Leone declared a public health emergency in April 2024, but the drug continues to spread 02.07.2025

Mali: Law to protect stateless people

The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR has welcomed the recent adoption of a ground-breaking law in Mali to protect the rights of stateless people and address their plight. The law provides a pathway to citizenship for Malian nationals, defines statelessness and protects equality in health and education. It also protects stateless people from penalties related to lack of documentation and prohibits deportation in most cases. In Mali, many nomadic groups, long-term refugees and undocumented people are at risk of statelessness. Since 2017, almost 2,400 vulnerable people have been naturalised with the support of the UNHCR and over 30,000 have received civil documents. 02.07.2025

BRICS countries: Attacks on Iran violate UN Charter

'We are deeply concerned about the military strikes against the Islamic Republic of Iran since 13 June 2025, which constitute a violation of international law and the United Nations Charter,' reads the statement published by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry. The group, of which Brazil holds the rotating presidency this year, also called for the Middle East to be made free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. 01.07.2025

Zambia: Largest grid-connected solar power project

Zambia has taken a decisive step towards energy diversification with the inauguration of the 100 MW Chisamba solar power plant, marking a turning point on the country's journey towards renewable energy. It is the country's largest grid-connected solar power plant to date. The strategic site in Chisamba was chosen for its exceptional solar irradiance levels and proximity to First Quantum Minerals' transmission infrastructure and operations - a perfect marriage of generation capacity and consumption demand. Construction was managed by PowerChina. The timing could not be better as the severe drought has drastically reduced water levels. 01.07

Tuareg in Mali and Burkina Complaint to the ICC

Tuareg organisations in Mali and Burkina Faso have filed a complaint with the International Criminal Court (ICC) against the armies of their countries and the Russian paramilitary group Africa Corps, accusing them of crimes against humanity and war crimes. These include killings, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, looting and torture, including the discovery of 60 visibly tortured bodies of civilians in Kwala, Mali, in April. 30.06.2025

Madagascar: Talks about disputed islands

President Emmanuel Macron and Madagascar's President Andry Rajoelina discuss Îles Éparses (Tromelin, Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India). A chain of mostly uninhabited islands in the Indian Ocean, claimed by Madagascar but

administered by France since colonial times. All the islands were part of Madagascar during the colonial period (1896 - 1960). They were separated shortly before Madagascar's independence. In two votes in the UN General Assembly in 1979 and 1980, the return of the islands was demanded, as the secession was illegal. Each island gives France control over 200 nautical miles of the surrounding waters. This means that Paris controls more than half of the Mozambique Strait, an important route for global shipping traffic. The Mozambique Channel also contains significant hydrocarbon reserves - so much so that it is sometimes referred to as the 'new North Sea'. It also has rich fishing waters. The islands are of strategic, ecological and symbolic importance, as they offer control over vast, resource-rich sea areas. 30.06.2025

AI-controlled drones combat malaria

The Japanese start-up SORA Technology is revolutionising malaria prevention in Africa with AI-controlled drones that detect mosquito breeding sites and precisely apply larvicides (agents to kill insect larvae). This reduces the need for costly and inefficient mass spraying. The technology is already being used in Ghana and is said to have led to a 70% reduction in the use of insecticides. To expand operations, SORA raised \$4.8 million in May 2025 - mainly from Japanese investors - to operate in other African countries (Sierra Leone, Benin, DRC, Senegal, and Kenya). The AI-controlled drones will also be used to transport medicines. 30.06.2025

Congo DRC: 65 years of independence 30.06.2025

The Democratic Republic of Congo was known in the past as the Free State of Congo, the Belgian Congo, the Republic of Congo-Léopoldville, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Zaire before it was given its current name, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It is the second largest country on the continent after Algeria. The country has a rich and diverse population, with over 350 ethnic groups living in the DRC. The country gained its independence from Belgium in 1960. Since the end of the 1990s, the country has been experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. Around ¾ of the approximately 83 million Congolese live below the poverty line despite the enormous wealth of natural resources. War is omnipresent in the resource-rich country. More than 120 armed groups are active in the eastern provinces. These include the 'Allied Democratic Forces' militia, which is categorised as part of the 'Islamic State' terrorist group.

Togo: Security forces break up demonstrations

Security forces used tear gas to disperse hundreds of protesters blocking streets in Lome to demand the resignation of long-time head of state Faure Gnassingbe. Gnassingbe, who has ruled since 2005 following the death of his father, was sworn in as president of the Council of Ministers in May. There is no official term limit for this powerful office. Opposition politicians have condemned the move as a 'constitutional coup' that could extend his rule for life. 2 8.06.2025

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