

Import ban on livestock products

China has banned the import of sheep, goats, poultry and cloven-hoofed animals from African, Asian and European countries due to the outbreak of livestock diseases such as sheep and goat pox and foot and mouth disease. The ban by the world's largest meat importer affects countries including Ghana, Somalia, Qatar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, Tanzania, Egypt, Bulgaria, East Timor and Eritrea. China also announced that it had stopped imports of sheep, goats and related products from Palestine, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bangladesh due to the outbreak of sheep and goat pox. Imports of cloven-hoofed animals and related products from Germany have also been stopped due to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, it said. 30.01.2025

Sudan: Military leaders welcome 'turning point'

After a week in which the Sudanese army and its allies made rapid gains in the capital Khartoum, senior politicians told reporters at army headquarters that the civil war had reached a turning point. 'From here, the armed forces will advance to clear every remaining inch of our homeland, and from this point we will see the return of all Sudanese from displacement so that they can resume their normal lives in their homeland with security, stability and, God willing, peace,' said General Mohamed Othaman al-Hussein, the army's chief of staff. The war has displaced more than 12 million people and driven half the population to starvation, for which both the RSF and the army are held responsible. 30.01.2025

Zimbabwe: Mnangagwa has to go

A group of veterans of the 1970s liberation war have come out guns blazing to demand the immediate resignation of President Emmerson Mnangagwa for disregarding the fundamental virtues of Zimbabwe's struggle for independence. 'His 2030 Agenda is illegal and treacherous,' they say. The war veterans accuse Mnangagwa, who has been in power for 10 years, of corruption, cronyism and nepotism on an unprecedented scale. Runesu Geza, a former guerrilla fighter, says: 'It is clear to us that Mnangagwa is not fit to lead this country and that it is now time for him to go. We urge him to go peacefully. If he refuses to heed this advice, we have no choice but to call on the people of Zimbabwe to deal with a rogue president in accordance with the Constitution.'

Enough of analyses - decisive action

The world's most influential politicians meet at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos with the declared aim of improving global economic conditions. This year, the promotion of inclusive and sustainable growth in Africa is once again an important topic. However, when it comes to Africa's development, discussions are all too often confused with progress. The continent is home to some of the fastest growing economies in the world. Africa's potential is extraordinary. With 60 % of the world's uncultivated arable land, a young and dynamic population and vast natural resources, the continent has all the ingredients for transformative growth. The question is not whether Africa can develop - the question is how to remove the obstacles that hinder its progress.

Congo DRC: Goma taken

The rebel group M23 has reportedly captured Goma, the largest city in the east of the Democratic Republic of

Congo. The UN fears that the conflict could spread to the entire region. The head of the United Nations, Guterres, has called on the Rwandan armed forces to withdraw from the DRC and stop supporting the M23 fighters. The renewed clashes between the M23 rebels and the Congolese army have displaced more than 400,000 people, almost twice as many as last week. 27.01.2025

South Africa: Controversial law on land confiscation

President Cyril Ramaphosa has signed a law that allows the state to seize land without compensation. It replaces the Expropriation Act of 1975, which obliged the state to pay owners from whom it wanted to take land according to the principle of 'willing seller, willing buyer'. Several political parties, including the Democratic Alliance (DA), have threatened to sue the government over the Land Expropriation Act. ActionSA is considering legal action and describes the law as another example of the ANC's relentless push for destructive policies. The Congress of South African Trade-Unions (COSATU), on the other hand, welcomed the new law, describing it as a historic victory for the working class, the dispossessed and the oppressed. 27.01.2025

South Sudan: Media platforms blocked

South Sudanese authorities have blocked access to social media for at least 30 days after videos showing the alleged killing of South Sudanese nationals in the Sudanese state of El Gezira led to riots and deadly acts of revenge. Customers of mobile operators MTN South Sudan and Zain will not be able to access Facebook, TikTok and other platforms for a maximum period of 90 days, the companies said. 24.01.2025

Cameroon: conflicts jeopardise school attendance

In south-west Cameroon and south-east Nigeria, violence has prevented hundreds of thousands of children from attending school and affected the education of hundreds of thousands of people. Ngwa (Cameroon's Anglophone regions) is plagued by massacres, kidnappings, sexual violence and displacement. In Rejoice (Nigeria's south-eastern region), fear and uncertainty prevail due to a violent separatist conflict. The separatist insurgency in the Igbo-majority region is also a threat to children. Since the conflict began, thousands of people have been displaced and killed in the English-speaking regions of south-west and north-west Cameroon and, according to UNICEF, almost 500,000 children were out of school in 2024. 29.01.2025

Kenya: Parliamentarians' closed meeting in Nakuru

The challenges associated with the operation and utilisation of the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) will take centre stage when the members of the National Assembly meet for the 2025 mid-term retreat. The five-day retreat, which ends on 31 January 2025, will be attended by the President, the leadership of Parliament, Parliament's Business Committee, the chairs of the parliamentary committees and all MPs. Under the theme 'Marshalling House Business: Progress Made and Lessons Learned', the retreat will also include critical discussions on the state of the economy and strategies to address the challenges posed by the growing youth population in Kenya. 28.01.2025

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