



The goal of the African Regional Media Hub is to increase official US voices and faces on African television, radio and other media, so that the US government message is visible, active and effective in advocating US policies, priorities, and actions with African audiences.

On the U.S.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8316269.stm>

US arms Mali to battle al-Qaeda

The US is preparing to give Mali's army millions of dollars worth of military hardware to help them fight al-Qaeda's North African branch. Trucks, powerful communication devices and clothing are among \$5m (£3m) of equipment being handed over. Mali is already being helped to fight the Islamists by Algeria and Libya. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb emerged in 2007 from an Algerian Islamist group and has since claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks in the region. The US ambassador to Mali told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme there was growing concern over the actions of the group. "We applaud the fact that the government of Mali has taken a firm stance and wants to be as effective as possible in combating that problem," Gillian Milovanovic said. The military equipment is intended to ensure that the country can protect its own borders, she said.

Conflict

http://www.ngrguardiannews.com/africa/article01//indexn2_html?pdate=211009&ptitle=AU%20peacekeepers%20warn%20of%20military%20build%20up%20in%20Darfur

AU peacekeepers warn of military build up in Darfur

REBEL and Sudan government forces have been massing in Sudan's Darfur region, raising fears of new violence, peacekeepers said a day after the United States demanded concrete moves toward peace in the territory. The joint UN-African Union (UNAMID) force said there were signs of military escalation in the north of the region, where two million people have fled more than six years of conflict. "It is like when you look at the sky and see thunder clouds massing... We have seen a build up in the number of troops, movements of troops, setting up of defensive positions," UNAMID communications chief, Kemal Saiki, told Reuters yesterday.

<http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-10-20-un-decries-vicious-drc-rapes-and-night-attacks>

UN decries vicious DRC rapes and night attacks

About 5 400 women have reported being raped this year in one province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the United Nations said on Tuesday. Elisabeth Byrs, spokesperson for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said the South Kivu province, near Rwanda, was an increasingly dangerous place for non-combatants, especially for women.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/8316866.stm>

Africa trade bloc suspends Niger

West Africa's trade grouping Ecowas has suspended Niger after President Mamadou Tandja went ahead with a controversial parliamentary election.

Ecowas had called on Mr. Tandja to postpone the vote indefinitely to allow talks with opposition politicians - who have boycotted Tuesday's election.

They are angry at the president's attempts to extend his time in power. Mr. Tandja dissolved parliament earlier this year and had the constitution changed to let him seek a third term. After talks at the weekend, Ecowas had warned the 71-year-old president to delay the election or face "full sanctions".

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOF59J0L420091020>

Somali pirates changing tactics: ship owner

Somali pirates are shifting their focus towards the Indian Ocean as foreign navies operating in the Gulf of Aden become more successful in targeting the gangs, a senior shipping industry figure said on Tuesday. Somali pirate gangs have caused havoc in the waterways linking Europe with Asia this year and have made millions of dollars in ransom payments. Per Gullestrup, president and chief executive of Clipper Projects, a unit of Danish ship-owning group Clipper, which had one of its vessels hijacked in 2008, said the pirates were adapting their tactics.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/674578/-/135oywsz/-/index.html>

Guinea team to probe rights abuses

The Guinean military junta has published the names of 15 members of the independent commission to investigate last month's massacre of an estimated 150 civilian protestors and other crimes committed in the country since the advent of the government on December 23, last year. They include the assistant director for the country's human rights watchdog, Mr. Mamadouba Keita; assistant director general of the Office for Legal Studies and Reform Cécé Loua and assistant director general of the Legal Documentation Centre Mme Yayé Ramatoulaye Diallo.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32857>

Canada supplies armored vehicles to Darfur peacekeepers

As part of its efforts to strengthening UNAMID's capacity, Canada is providing 24 armored vehicles to African troops participating in the hybrid peacekeeping mission in Darfur. Canada has longstanding in the support of the peacekeepers working in the restive region of Darfur. In 2005 Ottawa provided some 105 armored vehicles and personal protective equipment in support of the efforts of the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) to bring peace and stability to the Darfur region.

http://www.garoweonline.com/artman2/publish/Somalia_27/Somalia_11_killed_in_insurgent_attacks_govt_claims_foreign_fighter_killed.shtml

Somalia: 11 killed in insurgent attacks, govt claims foreign fighter killed

At least 11 people were killed in fighting in the Somali capital Mogadishu overnight Sunday and into Monday morning, Radio Garowe reports. The battles started after Al Shabaab insurgents attacked Somali government troops and African Union peacekeepers (AMISOM) at bases around the Villa Somalia presidential compound, witnesses said. Somali police spokesman Col. Abdullahi Hassan Barise told a Monday press conference in Mogadishu that government forces killed insurgents, including a man from Yemen. "The two bodies we have showed you, one is a Somali and the other is a man from Yemen," the police spokesman said, adding that "Al Qaeda is fighting in Somalia."

Governance

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJ0E59J0AL20091020>

Early turnout thin in boycotted Niger vote

Turnout for Niger's parliamentary election was thin on Tuesday after opposition calls to boycott the poll expected to allow President Mamadou Tandja to toughen his grip on power in the uranium-exporting West African state. Tandja's second term in office was due to expire this year but he defied domestic and international pressure to extend his mandate for a further three years and increase his presidential powers at the expense of parliament's.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/674656/-/135oy76z/-/index.html>

Khama takes oath of office

President Ian Khama was sworn in on Tuesday by Chief Justice Julian Nganunu to start his reign as Botswana's 'elected' head of state after ruling under automatic succession since April last year. President Khama led the ruling party to a landslide victory in elections held on Friday. Up until he led the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) in power since independence from Britain in 1966 to victory, President Khama's reign has been marred by the fact that he came to power via the controversial automatic succession route through which a vice-president completes the term of a president who cannot continue in office.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/674576/-/135oywuz/-/index.html>

Zimbabwe cabinet meets without Tsvangirai

Zimbabwe's cabinet was meeting on Tuesday without ministers from Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's party following their partial pullout from the unity government last week. President Robert Mugabe's spokesman Mr. George Charamba told the state media that Mr. Tsvangirai had not made

any formal announcement that he is disengaging from the power sharing government. He said as far as Mr. Mugabe was concerned, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader remained the prime minister. "Government is not run through media statements," Mr. Charamba told the *Herald* newspaper.

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/africa/-/1066/674816/-/135owpsz/-/index.html>

Toe the line or face the music, declares Zuma

South Africa will not tolerate the violence and destruction of property that have accompanied nationwide protests against a lack of basic services in townships, President Jacob Zuma said today. Protests over poor infrastructure in townships have increased pressure on President Zuma following his election in April to meet campaign promises to improve the lives of millions of black South Africans still living in poverty 15 years after the end of apartheid. "There is no cause in a democratic and free society, however legitimate, that justifies the wanton destruction of property and violence that we have witnessed," President Zuma told a special meeting attended by mayors of the country's 283 municipalities.

http://www.monitor.co.ug/artman/publish/news/Africa_moves_to_settle_IDP_crisis_93322.shtml

Uganda is playing host to a special gathering of the African Union on refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons at a conference aptly dubbed the Kampala Summit. Speke Resort Munyonyo, venue for the 2007 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, has provided the perfect setting for at least 600 officials, including ministers and experts from the United Nations and international relief agencies, to concentrate on the Summit's main agenda: the challenges of forced displacement in Africa. It is a subject telling of the predicament several African nations find themselves in today as millions of African citizens endure suffering and humiliation as refugees and IDPs. It appears Uganda's choice as host nation, a decision taken by the AU in 2007, was inspired by the country's experience in dealing with IDPs.

Economic

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJOE59J00Q20091020>

Nigeria's Delta oil plan not to affect IOC's share

Nigeria's plan to allocate 10 percent of its oil joint ventures to Niger Delta residents will not affect the country's partnerships with international oil companies, a presidential adviser said on Tuesday. President Umaru Yar'Adua has proposed giving a larger share of the country's energy wealth to its oil-producing southern states in his latest bid to bring peace to the impoverished region. Emmanuel Egbogah, special adviser to Yar'Adua, told Reuters the 10 percent stake would be taken from the national oil company's majority stake in joint ventures with Western oil firms. Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron, ExxonMobil and other international energy giants operate in Nigeria through these partnerships.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE59J0NU20091020>

Lamy tells WTO to speed up Doha talks for 2010 goal

World Trade Organization members will fail to meet their latest deadline of 2010 for completing the Doha round to open global commerce if they do not speed up their work, the head of the trade body said on Tuesday. WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy said countries were making some progress in the latest intensive negotiations in Geneva in areas such as facilitating trade and the technical work necessary to implement an eventual deal in agriculture.

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/-/539444/674634/-/s0f4to/-/index.html>

Why donors must do more than doling out hearing aids

A recent press report indicated that a US-based organization in conjunction with a local university, hospital and some other local philanthropists had organized the treatment of some 1,500 children with hearing problems and given them hearing aids. The children came to Nairobi from all over the country for the screening and treatment. By the end of the exercise, the report went on, at least 8,000 hearing aids will have been given out. The people behind this effort did all the right things. Professionals screened and diagnosed the type and degree of deafness before giving out the hearing aids. Hopefully, the beneficiaries also got proper training on how to use and take care of the gadgets to get maximum benefits from them.

<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article32855>

Minister stresses on need to build less costly refinery in South Sudan

The Sudan's state minister of Energy and Mining, Mrs. Angelina Teny, stressed the importance of conducting a proper feasibility study in pursuit of building a less costly oil refinery in Southern Sudan. The semi-autonomous region has embarked on building its first ever oil refinery for its huge oil reserves as the clock ticks towards referendum on secession in January 2011. The government is in urgent need to indigenize the operations of the oil sector so that it is not "caught up" in case its people choose secession in 2011. The South Sudan ministry of Energy and Mining last month presented to the Council of Ministers a project for oil refinery to be built in a place called Akon in Warrap state. The refinery project targets the crude oil produced in Block 5A in Unity state and its implementation cost is expected to be around two billion of US dollars. The government also directed the Energy and Mining minister to discuss with any interested major oil companies the possibility of building refineries at the sites of the oilfields in Upper Nile and Unity states.

Health

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Company%20Industry/-/539550/674796/-/u5x08nz/-/index.html>

Doctors unveil Aids vaccine details

Doctors who surprised the world of Aids research with a study showing a vaccine prevented some HIV infections released details of their findings on Tuesday and said careful review showed they held up. Full details of the study, which showed the experimental vaccine prevented nearly one-third of infections among 16,000 ordinary Thai volunteers, were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. That's a validation of the results," said Dr Jerome Kim, a US Army colonel at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Maryland, who helped lead the trial. Kim and colleagues were expected to present details to a meeting of Aids vaccine researchers in Paris late Tuesday.

Climate

<http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Company%20Industry/-/539550/674780/-/u5x09pz/-/index.html>

Kenya digs in for funds to fight climate change risks

Kenya will join other African nations in demanding that the industrialized world pays for damages of climate change caused by decades of heavy carbon emissions. It will team up with the developing world in seeking financial compensation for bearing the greatest burden of climate change President Kibaki said, setting the tone for the delegation that will represent Kenya in the UN-sponsored climate change talks in Copenhagen in December. Poor nations have been piling pressure on their industrialized counterparts to cut back on carbon emissions or compensate them for bearing the brunt of the resultant climatic change that is linked to the environmental pollution.