

South Africa: The "angry sea" kept coming

High waves, strong winds and spring tides created wreaked havoc in the coastal areas of the Western and Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Many houses were damaged by the sheer force of the water. The massive waves were caused by an area of low pressure. As the winds blew over a long period of time, the waves grew bigger and stronger, reaching almost nine metres high, especially in KwaZulu-Natal. The wind was not the only factor that amplified the waves; the spring tides and the coincidence of the new moon phase also played a role.

Medical graduates trained in Russia stranded

Over 100 Russian-trained medical graduates are sitting at home without jobs. According to a Memorandum of Demands written by these foreign-trained doctors, they have submitted their applications to the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the South African government to be officially recognised and invited to sit their exams so that they can practice as doctors. David Mamejta, head of department at the (HPCSA), says the delay in admitting more foreign-trained doctors to sit their exams is because not enough medical schools can accommodate these graduates for the theoretical and practical exams. Emmanuel Mnisi, one of the medical students reports that he studied for 11 years to become a doctor but now waits tables in local restaurants in Johannesburg to support his family. 19.09

Djerba island added to Unesco list

The island of Djerba off the Tunisian coast has been added to the UN cultural organisation's coveted World Heritage List. Recognition by Unesco often boosts tourism and can make it easier to raise funds for the preservation of cultural sites. Visitors are already flocking to the picturesque island, known for its whitewashed villages and the annual pilgrimage to the Ghriba synagogue. Djerba is believed to have been one of the first Jewish settlements in Africa. 19.09.2023

Security alliance in the Sahel region

Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have signed a mutual defence pact. The three Sahel countries want to help each other against possible threats from armed rebellions or attacks from outside. The signed charter "*Alliance of Sahel States*" commits the signatories to support each other - also militarily - in case of an attack on one of the countries. The Liptako-Gourma region, where the borders with Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger run, has been plagued by armed rebellions in recent years.

Cartel Authority Investigates Pharmaceutical Companies

The US pharmaceutical company Johnson & Johnson and J&J's Belgian subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals are under investigation in South Africa. The company is accused of "anti-competitive practices and overpricing" bedaquiline, a tuberculosis drug sold under the brand name Sirturo. South Africa desperately needs the drugs because tuberculosis is the leading cause of death, with more than 50 000 deaths in 2021. There are more than 7 million people living with HIV in the country, more than any other country in the world. According to the World Health Organisation, almost a 1/3 of deaths among people with HIV/AIDS are due to tuberculosis. 18.09.2023

Sudan: Landmark goes up in flames

After heavy fighting between the army and rival forces, videos show the famous *Greater Nile Petroleum Oil Company tower* going up in flames. The oil company's 18-storey skyscraper is located near the Nile River and is one of Khartoum's most famous landmarks. The violence in Sudan began on 15 April 2023, sparked by a power struggle between the leadership of the Sudanese army and the paramilitary *Rapid Support Forces (RSF)*. Fighting was also reported in the town of El-Obeid, about 400 km south of Khartoum. The conflict has killed around 7,500 people and displaced more than five million.

Congo-Brazzaville: Coup Attempt - "Fake News"

The government of Congo-Brazzaville has denied reports of a coup attempt against President Denis Nguesso, who has been in power for 39 years. It was responding to unconfirmed reports on social media that the military was trying to overthrow the 79-year-old head of state, who is currently at the 78th United Nations General Assembly in New York. "The government denies this as fake news, "We assure the public that there is calm and urge people to go about their activities in peace." 18.09.2023

Floods in the north of the DR Congo

After days of torrential rains, a deadly landslide occurred near the bank of the Congo River in the northern town of Lisala, the capital of Mongala province. Witnesses reported that several houses along the river had been flooded and residents were busy rescuing people from the rubble. The governor of Mongala, César Limbaya, has declared three days of mourning. 18.09.2023

Zambia: China-Zambia relations upgraded

The Presidents of Zambia (Hakainde Hichilema) and China (Xi Jinping) pledge to strengthen trade cooperation at their meeting in Beijing; they want to develop China-Zambia relations into a comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership. The Chinese side pledged to support Zambia's investment promotion activities in China for the zones concerned. In Zambia, the development of economic cooperation zones will be strengthened and upgraded so that they become demonstration zones for industrial and supply chain cooperation. President Xi said, "the Tanzania-Zambia railway line is a symbol of China-Africa friendship. Both populations have special friendly feelings towards each other. China continues to view relations with Zambia from a strategic height and from a long-term perspective."

Kenya: Petrol prices reach all-time high

The cost of petrol has reached a record high after the Energy Regulatory Authority increased prices at the pumps. The price regulation is valid until 14 October. In Nairobi, 1l petrol costs Ksh 211.64 (+17shillings), 1l diesel Ksh 200.99 and 1l paraffin Ksh 202.61 (about €1.30). Energy Minister Davis Chirchir blamed the cut in oil production by major producers Saudi Arabia and Russia, among other factors, for pushing global crude oil prices to a ten-month high. The fuel price hike is exacerbating the economic hardship of millions of people. Kenyans are already facing a severe cost of living crisis as prices of many staple foods rise, a series of new taxes are imposed and the shilling falls sharply. 16.09.2023

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

Tunisia: National Museum "Bardo" reopened