

Border struggle between Liberia and Guinea

The Liberian government has called on citizens to remain calm while diplomatic efforts continue to resolve the escalating situation on the border between Liberia and Guinea. Guinean soldiers entered Liberian territory in Lofa County, removed the Liberian flag and raised their own at the Sorlumba border crossing. The move is linked to a dispute over sand mining activities by the company BK Enterprise. The Guinean armed forces claimed that the mining area was within their territory and confiscated the company's equipment. 12.03.2026

Residents of the Ethiopian region of Tigray flee

While war engulfs much of the Middle East, another conflict is brewing on the other side of the Red Sea in the Horn of Africa. Less than four years after the peace agreement that ended the civil war in Ethiopia's Tigray region, conflict is looming once again. Residents report a threatening build-up of Ethiopian federal army troops on the region's borders. And the civilian population is not waiting for the fighting to begin; it is already starting to flee. The peace agreement that ended the last civil war in 2022 was never properly implemented, and relations remain highly unstable, exacerbated by Ethiopia's deteriorating relations with Eritrea, which borders Tigray.

Congo Brazzaville: Competition for succession

The presidential elections on 15 March are expected to be tightly controlled, as 82-year-old incumbent President D.S.Nguesso seeks a fifth consecutive term in office since returning to power after the civil war. Sassou Nguesso remains one of Africa's longest-serving heads of state. He first took office in 1979 under a one-party system and, despite losing an election in 1992, he regained power by military force in 1997 and has won every election since. Within the ruling Parti Congolais du Travail (PCT), the following figures are positioning themselves: Denis-Christel Sassou Nguesso (son of the president), Jean-Dominique Okemba (nephew of the president and head of the secret service) and Jean-Jacques Bouya (cousin of the president). The country has high youth unemployment (approx. 40%) and a high poverty rate (46.5%). 11.03.2026

Malawi: Dual employment in public health prohibited

The government has banned 'dual employment' in all public clinics, hospitals, pharmacies and diagnostic centres. Dual employment refers to healthcare personnel who are employed in both the public and private sectors at the same time. The directive also requires healthcare personnel who own or partially own private facilities to sell them within 30 days, otherwise they face dismissal and possible legal action. An investigation had uncovered corruption in public hospitals. Patients were forced to pay illegal fees for services that should have been free of charge and were sometimes referred to private facilities owned by healthcare workers. The Malawi Health Equity Network welcomes the move. Medical associations fear a 'brain drain' as many professionals rely on private side income due to low government salaries. 10.03.2026

South Sudan: Mass exodus

On 6 March 2026, the South Sudanese army (SSPDF) issued a 72-hour ultimatum for civilians, UN peacekeepers and aid organisations to evacuate the city,

as they were planning an attack on the opposition (SPLA-IO). Akobo, which was considered a safe haven and housed more than 82,000 displaced persons, is one of the last strongholds of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-Opposition (SPLM-IO), which is loyal to the imprisoned former Vice President of South Sudan, Riek Machar. The order is a continuation of the government's counteroffensive, which was launched in January and is called 'Operation Enduring Peace.' 10.03.2026

Tanzania: Ramadan: Iftar in Zanzibar

Thousands attended one of Zanzibar's largest communal iftar meals at the island's Amani Stadium. Muslims and non-Muslims gathered to break their fast at sunset during Ramadan. 'We have just managed to show the whole world that Zanzibar is a place of peace, unity and love,' said Arif Abbas Manji, head of the Zanzibar Tourism Commission. In Tanzania, about 37% of the population is Muslim. On the island of Zanzibar, however, about 99% of the population professes this faith. 09.03.2026

Central Africa: Women celebrate equality

Dozens of women took part in a boat race exclusively for women on the Oubangui River to celebrate International Women's Day. The race, officially held for the first time as the 'Course de pirogues des femmes' in traditional dugout canoes (pirogues), marks women's rights. The pirogue race a central part of the celebrations for the national holiday on 1 December. In teams of up to 30 rowers per pirogue (historically a male domain), different ethnic groups, such as the Mbaka, Sango, Modjombo and Yakoma, compete against each other. 09.03.2026

Liberia: 'Racist' citizenship clause

Former President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf has reignited a long-standing debate about the need to revise the constitutional clause (Article 27(b) of the 1986 Constitution). The clause grants Liberian citizenship exclusively to people of 'Negroid descent'. The former president stated that the law is outdated and undermines the country's commitment to equality and international standards. The controversial clause dates back to the founding of Liberia (1847) by freed slaves from the United States. Liberia was intended to be a safe haven for people of African descent and protect them from European colonisation and foreign domination. If the clause is amended, there are fears that 'non-blacks' could dominate land ownership and the economy. 09.03.26

Conservative Anglicans: Retreat and renaming

Conservative Anglicans gathered in Abuja have withdrawn their plans to elect a rival 'primus inter pares', which describes the position of the Archbishop of Canterbury within the worldwide Anglican Church. Instead, GAFCON says it is leaving old structures and titles behind and is now introducing a new leadership council headed by Rwandan Archbishop Laurent Mbanda. The Global Anglican Council states: Archbishop Laurent Mbanda is its chairman, and Sarah Mullally is the Archbishop of Canterbury. 09.03.2026

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