# Table of Contents

Table of Contents 2  
Overall Scorecard 3  
Analysis of daily issue coverage, April 2018 4  
Eastern Africa & Great Lakes 9  
Analysis of daily issue coverage 9  
Politics 11  
Economy, Trade & Development 13  
Peace, Security & Terrorism 15  
Health & Food issues 17  
Business & Investments 19  
Tourism, Travel & Leisure 21  
Science, Technology & Innovation 23  
Education, Arts & Culture 24  
Entertainment 25  
Southern Africa 26  
Analysis of daily issue coverage 26  
Politics 28  
Economy, Trade & Development 30  
Health & Food issues 32  
Peace, Security & Terrorism 34  
Tourism, Travel & Leisure 35  
Business & Investments 37  
Science, Technology & Innovation 39  
Education 40  
Arts & Culture 41  
West Africa 42  
Analysis of daily issue coverage 42  
Politics 44  
Economy, Trade & Development 46  
Peace, Security & Terrorism 48  
Business & Investments 50  
Tourism, Travel & Leisure 51  
Health & Food issues 52  
Science, Technology & Innovation 53  
Education 54  
Entertainment 55  
North Africa 56  
Analysis of News Categories 56  
Politics 58  
Peace, Security & Terrorism 60  
Tourism, Travel & Leisure 62  
Economy, Trade & Development 63  
Business & Investments 64  
Health & Food issues 65  
Science, Technology & Innovation 66  
Education 66  
Arts & Culture 67  
Entertainment 68
### Overall Scorecard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>East Africa (n)</th>
<th>North Africa (n)</th>
<th>Southern Africa (n)</th>
<th>West Africa (n)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Politics</strong></td>
<td>670</td>
<td>343</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>2,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peace, Security &amp; Terrorism</strong></td>
<td>590</td>
<td>492</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>1,453</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economy, Trade &amp; Development</strong></td>
<td>243</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Business &amp; Investments</strong></td>
<td>111</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tourism, Travel &amp; Leisure</strong></td>
<td>163</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health &amp; Food Issues</strong></td>
<td>319</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entertainment</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Science, Tech &amp; Innovation</strong></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arts &amp; Culture</strong></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>N 2,210</td>
<td>1,184</td>
<td>1,442</td>
<td>2,307</td>
<td>7,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>%</strong></td>
<td>30.94</td>
<td>16.58</td>
<td>20.19</td>
<td>32.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the first time in over one year, West Africa reported the highest media coverage volumes for the period June - August 2019. It was followed closely by East Africa.

By news category, Politics led the coverage accounting for 31% of the continent’s total coverage of US Africa issues. Peace, Security & Terrorism accounted for 20.34%. Tourism, Travel & Leisure received 9%. Economy, Trade & Development accounted for 12.38%, while Business & Investments accounted for 9.6%. Health & Food issues accounted for 8.7% of the coverage. There was sparse coverage on issues relating to. Other segments that received minor coverage were Education; Entertainment; Science, Technology & Innovation; and Arts.

Core news frames in Politics for June mentioned that African countries running up debt, including China, should not expect to be bailed out by western-sponsored debt relief, the US’ top Africa diplomat warned. The IMF and World Bank began the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative in 1996 to help the world’s poorest countries clear billions of dollars’ worth of unsustainable debt.

For peace, security & terrorism reports mentioned that Egypt’s government said that it would take part in the Trump administration’s Israeli-Palestinian peace conference in Bahrain, where the White House would reveal the economic portion of its plan for Mideast peace.

In Economy, trade & development reports said Preparations in Maputo were well under away ahead of the 12th US.-Africa Business Summit on June 18 - 21, 2019. Corporate Council on Africa and the Government of Mozambique would host more than 1,000 US and African private sector executives, international investors, senior government officials and multilateral stakeholders.

Officials in the US had announced the 26 new members of the President’s Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA), which would serve the council’s third term through 2021. Kenyans applying for the US Visas would have to use old generation notes after a directive by the US Embassy in Kenya barred the use of new currency notes.

For Business & Investments reports Coca-Cola to Invest US $300 Million in Ethiopia. Joining the Ethiopian beverage market some 60 years ago. Coca-Cola and its shareholders had announced their intentions of investing USD 300 million in the coming five years.

In other news, an American retired professional basketball player and billionaire, Dikembe Mutombo, had signed an MoU with the Liberia Water and Sewer Corp for the establishment of a joint venture water production factory in Liberia.

Tourism, travel & leisure reports said As the US saw a rise in the number of arrivals of asylum seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. EgyptAir launched new direct route to Washington DC. SAA and Alaska Airlines announced that they had established a new interline partnership.

Reports regarding Health and Issues said the director of the
Centres for Disease Control and Prevention predicts that responders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo would exhaust the current supply of the Ebola virus vaccine before the pharmaceutical company manufacturing them could produce more.

For Education, reports said assistant US Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce would travel to Ghana and Liberia from June 24 to 29, the US Government had confirmed.

In Entertainment, in Zimbabwe, following a successful premiere in Harare last month, Tafadzwa ‘Jack’ Chimbetete's documentary "The Greater Des Moines Story" would be screened at the Interrobang Film Festival in the US later this month.

In Science, Technology & Innovation reports said DHL Africa eShop had been rolled out in 9 more African countries following its success after its launch in 11 countries.

For Arts & Culture, Egypt's Nadra Mabrouk joined Somalia's Jamila Osman as joint winners of the attention-grabbing Brunel International African Poetry Prize.

Core frames in Politics for July mentioned that the US urged Burundi Government to hold free and fair 2020 elections.

For peace, security & terrorism reports mentioned that a US Congressional delegation visiting Cameroon called for unconditional talks between the government and rebels on the country’s separatist conflict. Reports also mentioned that the US had transferred a final shipment of 101 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles to Egypt.

In Economy, trade & development reports said in Cote d’Ivoire the US announced first funding for women’s economic empowerment.

Business Daily said US blamed corruption for slowing down foreign investments in Kenya. The developer of Appolonia City, Greater Accra, was appointed a member of the US President’s Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa.

Tourism, travel & leisure reports said the US had announced, it was banning a top Cameroonian Military official and wife from entering the its territory, National Telegraph had confirmed.

Boeing said it would give US$100 million over multiple years to local governments and non-profit organizations to help families and communities affected by the deadly crashes of its 737 MAX planes in Indonesia and Ethiopia.

The US government took a decision not to escalate the visa restrictions it imposed on certain categories of Ghanaians in February this year.

For Business & Investments reports said Angola retained one of the biggest lobbying firms in Washington, DC, to help with crisis communications surrounding a number of US companies operating in Angola. US guitar firm tunes business to protect Cameroonian ebony. Egyptian exports to the US increased by 25.7% year-on-year in 2018. The US was working closely with Namibia to realise further growth in trade and investment between the two countries. US ambassador to Namibia, Lisa Johnson at a media briefing on said her government was working closely to raise US companies’ awareness about opportunities in Namibia which support development goals.

Reports regarding Health and Food Issues reports said the USAID provided $38 million in additional assistance to help end the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the DRC. US Ambassador Kyle McCarter said Kenya should not depend on foreign aid.

For entertainment, American rapper Russell Vitale, Russ, was set to perform in Egypt for the first time. A Kenyan artiste expressed displeasure over the absence of Kenyan singers in Beyonce’s upcoming album ‘Lion King: The Gift’.

Reports for Science, Technology & Innovation said Egypt signed an MoU with the US Dept of Energy on cooperation in the field of energy.

Core news frames in Politics for August said the US Government’s Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) had announced its intent to deploy a new strategic collaboration with Bechtel and Côte d’Ivoire.

For peace, security & terrorism reports said nine US Senators introduced a Resolution in the Senate on Cameroon’s armed conflict, National Telegraph had confirmed. Other reports mentioned that Africa looked set to be the next major battlefield in an emerging "Cold War" between the US and China.

In Economy, trade & development reports said Africa must take steps to increase utilisation of its benefits under AGOA as well as to deepen trade and investment relationships with the US. Egypt and USAID signed four bilateral assistance agreements worth $59 million. A US company involved in the cultivation and processing of marijuana had announced plans to cross-list on the Nairobi Securities Exchange, putting to test Kenya’s resolve to maintain the drug on the list of banned narcotics amid legislative pressure to legalise it.

For Business & Investments reports said, trade between the US and sub-Saharan Africa was in the doldrums despite a 2000 US law designed to boost access to the American market, a conference in Ivory Coast had been told.

Reports regarding Health and Food Issues reports said in 2009, the Coca-Cola Company launched RAIN: The Replenish Africa Initiative, a program with the express purpose of bringing fresh drinking water to Africa’s poor. Since the initiative’s start, they had done work in 35 of the 55 total African countries.

For Tourism, travel & leisure reports said the acting Homeland Security secretary of the US, Kevin McAleenan, called for cooperation from Central American countries and Colombia to combat irregular migration from Asia and Africa.
The Spike seen on 5-6 June was generated by reports which revealed that the US state department revealed that its undersecretary for political affairs, the diplomat David Hale told Saudi deputy defence minister, Khaled bin Salman, to ask him to use the country’s influence to end the brutal repression against peaceful protesters by the Sudanese Transitional Military Council (TMC) in Sudan.

In Kenya, US technology giant Microsoft announced the extension of a six-month programme which helps women to start and build their businesses through its cloud distribution channels.

In Somalia, US Airstrike killed 6 Al-Shabaab militants in Somalia, the US Africa Command said this is the seventh airstrike in a month against the ISIS-Somalia and Al-Shabaab.

Spike seen on 10-11 June was derives from reports which said the US -Africa Business summit prepares to welcome heads of state n Mozambique. Various heads of state were set to attend. These included President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya.

In Kenya, reports focused on US ambassador to Kenya comments the uses efforts to strengthen US-Kenyan relations and strategic partnership.

Ethiopian Airlines launched three weekly flights to New York at a time when Kenya Airways planned to increase its frequency to seven days a week on the route.

In Sudan, significant reports said the top US diplomat for Africa was set head to Sudan to encourage talks between Sudan’s military rulers and protesters whom security forces violently put down. According to the statement, the US Assistant Secretary of State for African affairs, Tibor Nagy, planned to meet both members of the military leadership and protesters’ leaders in the Sudanese capital Khartoum.

In Somalia, the US led International Community (IC) played an influential role for the adoption of 2012 democratic Provisional Federal Constitution that established the Federal Republic State of Somalia (FRSS).

The spike seen on 13 June came from further reports which said The US State Department nominated experienced Africa hand Donald Booth as a special envoy to Sudan on hoping he could help craft a “peaceful political solution” between the military rulers and groups seeking civilian rule.

Other discussed policy dynamics and the US-Africa economic summit, stakeholders from both sides meet to discuss future business. Africa’s political elite was represented in large numbers. Interest in the US is not as strong.

In Ethiopia, media reports said the US Federal Aviation Administration has faulted Boeing for not telling regulators for more than a year that a safety indicator in the cockpit of the top-selling plane didn’t work as intended. Boeing and the FAA have said the warning light wasn’t critical for flight safety.

The spike seen on 18 June emanated from reports which said the Nairobi US Embassy would delay its acceptance of the new Kenya currency for payment of services like Visa fees, arguing it needed to put in place new procedures to accept the notes.

In Somalia, reports said USAID provided $185 million in humanitarian assistance to help people facing famine.

In Kenya, the US announced travel ban to assist Kenya in war against graft. Corrupt individuals have been banned from visiting the US or investing their money there as the effects of a mutual assistance framework being sought by Kenyan investigative agencies with international partners in order to fight graft begins to bite.

The spike seen on 20 June came from reports which said the Harvard University was reportedly chosen the port of Mombasa as a case study for port operations. The University has also chosen Safaricom and Equity Bank in their research of successful African business.

The US government was reportedly concerned that terrorists could use Mombasa port to ferry narcotics, nuclear and radiological material. The embassy, through a statement, warned yesterday that legitimate nuclear or radiological
cargo was prone to misuse by terrorists, hence the need for vigilance at ports of entry.

In Tanzania, The US embassy in Tanzania warned its citizens to take precautionary measures, warning of “rumours of impending attacks” in a tourist area of the main city Dar es Salaam.

The spike seen on 26 June emanated from reports which said US was threatening Sudan with sanctions if violence continued.

In Sudan, the US government’s aid agency continued to monitor an “incredibly fluid” and “very, very dangerous” operating environment in Sudan, a USAID official told US lawmakers. In the wake of a coup in April that ended the 30-year rule of former President Omar al-Bashir, and a subsequent violent military crackdown against civilians on June 3, USAID continued to provide humanitarian relief in a country facing widespread food insecurity — while battling challenges of access, bureaucracy, and rapid change.

The spike seen on 28 June-5 July related to reports quoting the new US envoy to Sudan saying he was pleased to have international consensus urging Sudanese authorities not to use violence against protesters, after meetings in the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Kenya Airways signed a contract with GE Aviation to provide real-time digital data on all the carrier’s fleet to help improve efficiency.

The spike seen on 5-12 July came from reports that the US welcomed a provisional agreement forged by Sudan’s ruling military council and a coalition of opposition and protest groups to share power for three years as an “important step forward.”

The spike seen on 12-19 July stemmed from reports quoting the US State Department saying Kenya was steadily enhancing its attractiveness to international investors, but “endemic” corruption slowed the flow of foreign capital into the country, in the form of violence against protesters, after meetings in the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Kenya Airways signed a contract with GE Aviation to provide real-time digital data on all the carrier’s fleet to help improve efficiency.

The spike seen on 10-11 June was driven by reports which discussed opportunities US and Nigeria had to build stability in West Africa. In the year since they first met, instability continued to threaten Nigeria and West Africa. As American and Nigerian conflict experts at Search for Common Ground, the world’s largest dedicated peacebuilding organization, we see the toll that instability takes on the country, in the form of extremist violence, humanitarian emergencies, and sectarian divisions.

Sierra Leone and Gambia were reportedly one of the countries in Africa where DHL Africa eShop had rolled out.
Spike seen on 17 June was derived from reports which said there was a new surge of African migrants arriving at US southern border. Hundreds of migrants from central African countries, including the Republic of Congo, Angola and Cameroon were apprehended by US Border Patrol recently. Federal officials in Texas reported more than 500 people from African countries were arrested in less than a week.

In Nigeria, reports said the US Mission in Nigeria denied reports that they had placed a ban on student visa for Nigeria applicants.

In Liberia, reports said Liberian president, President George Manneh Weah praised a visiting American medical team for its hard work and relieving services targeting citizens, particularly underprivileged Liberians. The visiting team, which was also expected to visit school campuses to treat needy people, included three Liberian medical doctors, Madam Saliyai Hansen, Patricia Anderson and Evelyn Jones.

The spike seen on 26 June came from media reports which revealed that the US Embassy in collaboration with the Young African Leaders Initiative launched the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs in Accra, Ghana to train and establish young women with entrepreneurial skills.

In Nigeria, USAID announced that $243 million would be dedicated to combating healthcare and other challenges. The US Embassy in Liberia maintained travel alert issued here Monday, June 24, 2019 to American citizens as a result of a violent protest near Fifteen Gate community along the Monrovia-Kakata highway that led to shooting and several injuries, one critical, despite calm restored to the area.

The spike seen on 27-30 June related to reports that in Ghana, Chairman of Rendeavour, the developer of Appolonia City, Frank Mosier, had been appointed a member of the US President’s Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA). Other reports said that US government was to empower 50 million women entrepreneurs in Africa. In Liberia, President Weah acknowledged challenges in his meeting with the US delegation.

In Nigeria, USAID said it would give Nigeria an additional $243m to help the country reach its development goals.

The spike seen on 30 June 6 July related to reports that the US Embassy in Ghana commemorated the Apollo 11, 50 years after its spacecraft landed the first two people on the Moon.

The spike seen on 14-21 July came from reports that the Consul General (CG) of Nigeria in New York, Mr Benayoaygha Okoyen, had called on stakeholders to leverage the economic power of the Diaspora in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Other reports said Nigerian Imam, Sudan activist was honored with US government award. The US announced that it had invested about $165m (N50.56bn at the official exchange rate of N307 to one dollar) in the development of Nigeria’s agricultural sector in four years through its Feed the Future initiative.

The spike seen on 21-26 July related to reports that USAID had partnered with Nigeria government as one of the 12 countries on the ‘Feed the Future’ initiative targeted at improving food security in the country.

The spike seen on 4-8 August related to numerous reports that the US Government’s Millennium Challenge Corporation had announced its intent to deploy a new strategic collaboration with Bechtel Infrastructure Corporation and Côte d’Ivoire, focusing on national infrastructure.

The spike seen on 21-25 August related to reports that US authorities had unsealed a grand jury indictment charging 80 people with participating in a conspiracy to steal millions of dollars through a range of fraud schemes and laundering the funds through a Los Angeles-based network.

Southern Africa

Spike seen between 11-13 June was derived from reports which focused on US Health Attaché Steve Smith’s contribution to the fight against HIV and AIDS. He said that the battle to reduce HIV infections in SA was still ongoing and would be for quite some time.

In Mozambique, reports said USAID, as well as a 60 million meticais credit line (about US$1 million) for producers, would encourage commercial production of cashew nuts. Spike seen on 17-18 June came from US government announcement that it would contribute $241 million US dollars in 2020 in support of Zambia’s efforts to accelerate the fight against HIV/AIDS. Daniel Foote, US Ambassador to Zambia, said the funds were meant to support the joint goal of reaching HIV epidemic control by 2020 and have been provided under the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

In Zambia, reports said President Edgar Lungu was scheduled to attend the 2019 US-Africa business summit to be held in Maputo, Mozambique. Foreign Affairs Minister Joseph Malanji said President Lungu would have a one day working visit to Maputo on Wednesday to attend the 12th US-Africa business summit.

In Angola, the Federal Reserve System (the Fed) of the US was reportedly following with satisfaction the ongoing economic reforms implemented by the Angolan authorities, after the suspension in 2015 of the sale of dollars to banks based in Angola.

The fact was confirmed by the US ambassador to Angola, Nina Maria Fite, when speaking to the press at the end of an audience the president Joao Lourenço granted to Fed delegation in Luanda.

Minor spike seen on 9 June was mainly derived from reports which said members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the US Congress demanded their government to announce clearly its policy on the war on Tripoli. Spike seen on 11 June came from reports which said Egypt, Jordan and Morocco had reportedly told the White House they plan to go to a US -led economic conference in Bahrain that was part of the Trump’s Middle East peace plan.

In Libya, reports said federal jury in Washington, D.C.,
handed down a partial guilty verdict a suspect in the 2012 attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, killing four Americans.

The spike seen on 12-14 July related to reports that plans to extradite former Mozambican finance minister Manuel Chang to his home country had been halted in a tussle over where he could stand trial for alleged fraud.

The spike seen on 20-27 came from reports that US Ambassador Brian Nichols had called on the Zimbabwean government to uphold the rights civil society as he met Pastor Evan Mawarire at the US Embassy in Harare.

The spike seen on 4-7 August resulted from reports that the US Trade and Development Agency had provided funding to South Africa’s Wireless Access Providers Association.

In Zimbabwe, the government summoned the US ambassador to Harare to protest US travel sanctions imposed on its envoy to Tanzania over his alleged role in a military crackdown that left six civilians dead last year.

The spike seen on 17-24 August related to reports that the US had come under fire for working in cahoots with the country’s detractors by funding MDC-Alliance’s violent demonstrations in a futile attempt to overthrow President Mnangagwa’s legitimate Government.

North Africa

The spike seen on 17 June emanated from reports which said in the wake of the death of Egypt’s first democratically elected president, a look into Mohamed Morsi’s final days as president revealed the US turned a blind eye when he was deposed by the military.

The significant spike seen on 24 June was prompted by reports which said the father of the Pakistani atomic bomb made some shocking claims about the reason behind the coup carried out against the Mohammed Mursi administration in 2013 and the possible role played by the US and Israel in ousting Egypt’s first democratically-elected president, according to the Middle East Monitor.

Other significant report said the US planned to pursue its first free trade agreement with a country in sub-Saharan Africa as soon as it decided on the most suitable candidate.

US currently only had one free trade agreement on the African continent – with Morocco – it’s identified several potential partners in the sub-Saharan region, which excludes Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Somalia, Sudan and Tunisia.

The spike seen on 29 June-5 July related to reports that the US was quoted saying it was looking into a report that American anti-tank missiles were found by forces loyal to Libya’s unity government at a captured rebel base. In Morocco, reports said Moroccan-US military cooperation focuses on logistics, training, exchange of experiences and the promotion of partnership links between the FAR and the US Armed Forces.

The spike seen on 13-18 July came from reports that the governments of Egypt, France, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the US said in a joint statement that they reiterate their deep concern about ongoing hostilities in Tripoli.

The spike seen on 3-8 August related to reports that Egypt and the US of America signed four grant agreements worth $60 million in fields of higher education, science, technology, health, trade and investment.

The spike seen on 18-23 August came from reports that Egyptian foreign ministry Sameh Shoukry discussed regional developments of common interests with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

In Libya, the US Embassy warned against the frequent attacks on civil aviation facilities, emphasizing that the attacks represented a major concern.
Politics
Sudan’s protest movement rejected the military rulers’ election plan after more than 35 people were killed in what demonstrators called a “bloody massacre” by security forces. Protest leaders called on their supporters to take part in “total civil disobedience” to topple the ruling military council following the deadly dispersal of a weeks-long sit-in outside the army headquarters in Khartoum. A US Assistant secretary of State for African Affairs, Tibor P Nagy, said Kenya was one of their “key friends in Africa”. This stemmed from US Department of State’s deputy secretary, John J Sullivan and Kenya’s Foreign Affairs minister Monica Juma’s bilateral strategic dialogue in Washington DC.

The US Embassy in Nairobi allegedly compiled a list of top Kenyan corrupt officials who were set to be blacklisted from traveling to the US. A US tour company dedicated to the LGBT+ market said it received death threats and intimidation after announcing a 16-day guided trip to Ethiopia.

Kenya’s Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) was set to work with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to probe high profile corruption cases and share intelligence on asset tracing and recovery.

Militants from the al-Shabaab group had reportedly executed at least 10 people in the south of Somalia. Radio France International Afrique reported that the first five, who were suspected of spying for Kenyan, Somali, and US intelligence, were killed on 3 July.

Peace, Security & Terrorism
A top US diplomat was to head to Sudan to encourage talks between Sudan’s military rulers and protesters whom security forces violently put down. Tibor Nagy, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, planned to meet both members of the military leadership and protest leaders in Khartoum.

The US government funded the installation of 11 state-of-the-art radiation portal monitors at the port of Mombasa. The US also built a Central Alarm Station and provided portable monitors to ensure any radiological or nuclear materials were immediately detected and analysed at the facility.

A US Special envoy held talks in Khartoum with TMC on the latest developments between the junta and the FFC regarding the efforts to reach a deal under which a civilian-led transitional government would be formed.

Further reports said the US welcomed a provisional agreement forged by Sudan’s ruling military council and a coalition of opposition and protest groups to share power for three years as an “important step forward.”

The US resumed assistance to a unit of the Somali military that was not working directly with US forces, US officials said. The assistance was suspended in December 2017.

US forces in Somalia continued to launch more airstrikes in the country to restore order after increased attacks from Al Shabaab militants. The latest airstrike targeted ISIS terrorists in the Golis Mountain region, killing one of their key facilitators.

Economy, Trade & Development
Various reports noted that Export Processing Zones (EPZ) companies asked the State to lower labour and electricity costs while also slashing work permit fees for expatriates to boost Kenya’s earnings from AGOA.

Kenya’s environment court blocked the construction of a coal-fired power station on the country’s Indian Ocean coast. Following the establishment of a new Kenyan currency, the US Embassy stated that it was not ready to accept payment using the new Kenyan currency just yet.

Ethiopian Ambassador Fitsum Arega travelled to the US and outlined the many prospects for investors, companies and
entrepreneurs to benefit by engaging with the country, which was experiencing an economic upswing under the administration of Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni held a meeting with the US Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region in Africa.

Kenya was urged to halt construction of the country’s first ever coal-powered plant near the coastal town of Lamu, until an assessment was made of its environmental and cultural impact, in the latest setback to the $2bn project.

US coffeehouse chain Starbucks refuted reports appearing in a section of local media claiming that it was planning to enter the Kenyan market.

**Health & Food issues**

Centres for Disease Control and Prevention predicted that responders in the DRC would exhaust the current supply of the Ebola virus vaccine before the pharmaceutical company manufacturing them could produce more.

USAID was providing $6 million to treat about 50,000 malnourished children under five years of age.

Significant reports stated that the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s health minister resigned in protest after being stripped of responsibility for managing the country’s Ebola outbreak by the presidency. In his resignation letter, Ilunga also criticised outside pressure to deploy a second Ebola vaccine manufactured by Johnson & Johnson.

USAID provided $38 million in additional assistance to help end the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Eastern DRC, including $15 million in new funding to the WHO.

The US said it would stop funding Kenya’s blood services.

**Tourism, Travel & Leisure**

The Chairman of Ethiopian Airlines rejected American accusations that pilots were partly to blame for the fatal crash of a Boeing 737 Max.

In Kenya, seven Kenya Wildlife Service pilots received specialised training in the US which aimed to help support wildlife management. The pilots received the training on how to handle gyrocopters at the Hammond Northshore Regional Airport for one month.

Kenya Airways signed a deal with US firm FlightSafety International for the training of pilots at its low-cost subsidiary Jambojet in a bid to boost the safety of its operations.

**Business & Investments**

US health services company, Cigna, ventured into the Kenyan insurance market with the launch of its African headquarters in Nairobi.

US-based motorcycle maker ReVolt Electric hired an industrial design firm to prepare architectural drawings for its planned Kenyan manufacturing facility.

US-based Alternet Systems made plans to enter Kenya’s motorcycle business and received a boost after local partners approved the design specifications for the Nairobi plant.

US soft drinks company Coca-Cola announced plans to invest US$300 million in Ethiopia in the coming five years.

The US said Kenya was steadily enhancing its attractiveness to international investors, however “endemic” corruption slowed the flow of foreign capital into the country’s economy.

Nairobi-based B2B agri-tech start-up Taimba secured US$100,000 in funding from US impact investor Gray Matters Capital via GMS coLABS, and would use the investment to strengthen its infrastructure and increase delivery logistics to cater to six new local markets.

**Science, Technology & Innovation**

US technology giant Microsoft announced the extension of a six-month programme which helped women to start and build their businesses through its cloud distribution channels in Kenya and eight other countries around the world.

Ethiopia was reportedly set to begin the implementation of a new 520 MW geothermal electric power project.

Google had warned that Kenya risked trade wars with other countries if it imposed tax on digital transactions.

**Education**

In Kenya, reports said the US’ Harvard University chose the port of Mombasa as a case study for port operations. The University also chose Safaricom and Equity Bank in their research of successful African business.

Twelve dynamic and experienced young Rwandans departed Kigali to attend the fifth Young African Leadership Initiative Mandela Washington Fellowship.

US researchers worked to develop a vaccine that would eliminate the deadly African Swine Fever plaguing Uganda.

**Arts & Culture**

Google honoured the late Kenyan novelist, paediatrician, and human rights advocate Margaret Atieno Ogola with a doodle on what would have been her 60th birthday.

Sarah Nassali, a Ugandan living in the US, was invited to showcase her material at the New York Fashion Week. Nassali spoke to Glorias Musiime about how she weaved her way to the top, despite a challenging background.

Kenyans lamented Disney Studios’ trademarking of the Swahili phrase ‘Hakuna Matata’ from the Lion King film. Reports said Disney should not be permitted to ‘own a Swahili phrase’.
In June, numerous reports stated that the State Department said the top US diplomat for Africa would head to Sudan to encourage talks between Sudan’s military rulers and protesters whom security forces violently put down. Tibor Nagy, the Assistant Secretary of state for African affairs, planned to meet both members of the military leadership and protest leaders in Khartoum. Nagy denounced the crackdown as “brutal” and warned Sudan that it needed to transition to a civilian-led government if it wanted to improve relations with the US.

Capital FM reported that FBI pledged the US’ support in Kenya’s fight against corruption. This followed by a meeting between Kenya’s prosecution officials and the FBI.

Significant reports stated that the Ethiopian army general accused of leading a failed coup in a restive northern region was killed June 24 in a firefight with security forces amid a security crackdown in which more than 180 others had been arrested. Ethiopia was a key regional ally of the US in the restive Horn of Africa region.

The US-led international community played an influential role for the adoption of 2012 constitution that established the Federal Republic State of Somalia.

Numerous news frames stated that a US missionary had been accused of lying about being a medical professional while treating children in Uganda after more than 100 babies allegedly died at her facility. After leaving Virginia in 2007, Renee Bach set up a private non-governmental organisation called Serving His Children (SHC) in eastern Uganda.

Media coverage in South Sudan reported that the U.N. Security Council approved a resolution by extending an arms embargo and other sanctions against South Sudan over objections from African nations, Russia and China that the measure would not help promote peace.

A top operative of Rwanda National Congress – its chief of intelligence that was based in the US continued to plot and devise schemes by which to perpetrate terror attacks in Rwanda, targeting top government officials and ordinary members of the public.

East African reported that DRC held watershed elections last year ushering in Felix Tshisekedi as president in the first democratic transfer of power in 60 years. The report stated that for disarmament to succeed, President Tshisekedi would have to court the support of the likes of Bemba, a vice president in the transitional government between 2003 and 2006.

In July, MSN reported that US embassy in Kenya warned the public against falling prey to fraudulently advertisements being spread by USAID Impostors. Through a post on the official Twitter handle the office of the American ambassador asked Kenyans to be vigilant and help in reporting and circulating fake alerts.

The embassy noted the Fake Facebook page that was being used by fraudsters to con Kenyans was shut down sometimes back but has since been reopened.

The US Ambassador Kyle McCater in Kenya urged Kenyans not to tolerate corruption. Speaking to members of the press, the US diplomat warned that corruption was robbing Kenyans of opportunities, saying that the citizens had a duty...
Politics

of demanding integrity from their elected leaders. The US ambassador said in regard to thievery, as he called it, any time they tolerated thievery they deprived the people of the benefits that were really supposed to be theirs.

Lawyers representing hundreds of Kenyan and Tanzanian victims of the 1998 embassy bombings were optimistic that the US Supreme Court would rule to award a total of $4.3 billion to their clients. The top US court agreed in June to take up the case during its term beginning in October.


Various reports said Sudan’s new prime minister, Abdalla Hamdok, was sworn in as leader of a transitional government, and he vowed to make achieving peace and solving the country’s economic crisis a priority.

“The revolution’s deep-rooted slogan, ‘freedom, peace and justice,’ would form the program of the transitional period,” Hamdok told reporters at a news conference in the capital Khartoum.

Macau Business reported that Sudan needs $8 billion in foreign aid over the next two years to cover its import bill and help rebuild its ravaged economy after months of political turmoil, its new prime minister said.

Africa News said Somalia’s president gave up his US citizenship, a decision seen by some compatriots as an attempt to win support ahead of a run for a second term. A statement posted on Twitter said President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed made the decision voluntarily.

The OWP reported that Politico reported on 12th August that President Trump issued a new final rule that would allow federal officials to deny green cards or renewals of green cards to immigrants who had used government welfare services, such as food stamps, Medicaid, welfare, and housing assistance.

The Nation reported that the US and Britain voiced concern at the “steady erosion of due process” in Tanzania, raising issue with the arrest of a respected journalist and government critic.

In Uganda, reports said Former US president Barack Obama was expected to visit Uganda in December, organisers of a week-long conference to mark 400 years since the start of slavery against Africans.

The US welcomed a provisional agreement forged by Sudan’s ruling military council and a coalition of opposition and protest groups to share power for three years as an “important step forward”. The US State Department further mentioned that in a statement that special envoy for Sudan, Donald Booth would return to the region soon.
In June, reports in Kenya focused on the new generation banknotes. The US Embassy in Nairobi urged those applying for Visas at their consulate that they would have to use old generation banknotes. The Embassy said in a statement that they would not be accepting the new generation banknotes as they were currently developing procedures to accept them.

Significant reports stated that the government of Ethiopia was rolling out the welcome mat to African Americans to explore the business opportunities and tourist destinations throughout the historic nation. Other reports stated that when Terry Dale, president and CEO of the US Tour Operators Association went to Ethiopia to finalize the itinerary for the association’s annual out-of-country board meeting, he had no way of knowing what extraordinary circumstances would intervene and almost derail the whole effort.

Significant reports stated that President Donald Trump first issued threats to Rwanda and then suspended its duty-free privileges on domestically made apparel under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

Reuters reported that Glencore’s Head of oil, Alex Beard who helped make the firm one of the world’s top three oil trading houses would retire in the period under review, the company said in yet another management shake-up amid US probes into its activities. Glencore, founded by trader Marc Rich came under US scrutiny in the past year over its business in the DRC where it produced cobalt and copper, and in Venezuela and Nigeria, where it also traded oil and refined product.

Minor Internet Media reported that Sudan’s ruling military council cancelled all agreements with the main opposition coalition and called for elections within nine months, following the worst violence since President Omar al-Bashir was ousted in April. The decision by the Transitional Military Council (TMC) was likely to fuel anger among protest leaders who demand preparations for elections during a longer transitional period led by a civilian administration.

In July, US company Glencore employed more than 20 people in the DRC working on government contracts, while Geneva-based Gunvor, another major trader, reduced the number of agents it uses by a third since 2018. Other reports said the US wanted to increase its positive role in advancing Congolese economic prosperity by investing in and trading with the Congolese mining sector. They were increase the presence of US companies which were more committed to improving the local communities in which they work than companies from any other country in the DRC. US Ambassador in DRC Mike Hammer said that the US must ensure mining sites were operating legally and transparently.

According to the Bloomberg report which cited European Union Embassy website as a source Coca-Cola invested US$ 300 million to take its business to the next level in the country. The first phase of the expansion expected to happen soon was the US $70 million investment towards building a new Coca-Cola plant in Ethiopia.

Other reports discussed Kenya Airways (KQ) move to check on
its fuel bill by inking a contract with US firm GE Aviation, a subsidiary of General Electric, which would provide real-time digital data on all the carrier’s fleet to help improve efficiency.

The Guardian reported that Kenya had been urged to pause construction of the country’s first-ever coal-powered plant near the coastal town of Lamu, until an assessment was made of its environmental and cultural impact, in the latest setback to the $2bn project (£1.6bn).

US envoy Kyle MacCarter advised young Kenyans to stop the obsession of seeking university degrees and instead look for necessary skills that would enable them to get jobs. US State Department said that Kenya was enhancing its attractiveness to international investors, but “endemic” corruption slowed the flow of foreign capital into the country’s economy.

Several media reports stated that US White House initiative led by Ivanka Trump to empower women around the developing world economically, announced its initial achievements, including $27 million in grants for projects in 22 countries. The projects include an effort in Rwanda to help women into the country’s energy sector.

L.E.A.F. Rwanda Ltd (“LEAF Rwanda”) signed a manufacturing agreement with a US Contract Manufacturing Organization (CMO), through its US parent company, L.E.A.F. Pharmaceuticals LLC, to manufacture its first complex generic anticancer medicine, LEAF-1404, under global current good manufacturing practices (cGMP).

US slapped 15 South Sudan oil companies with sanctions for allegedly using the proceeds to fund the war. Also included was the South Sudan Ministry of Petroleum, and state oil firm Nile Petroleum. The Department of Commerce put the companies in its Entity List, which required that the US and foreign companies doing business with those on the list first obtain a licence.

Business live said that the decades of US sanctions had devastated Sudan’s economy before the protests broke out in December 2018.

Sub-Saharan Africa was set to get its first bullet train courtesy of Tanzania and Rwanda. The two countries joined hands to construct the 571km-long cross-border railway project dubbed the Isaka-Kigali SGR project linking landlocked Kigali with Tanzania’s port at Dar es Salaam at a cost US$2.5billion.

Other reports said Ugandan youth were to be employed by the US technology company Samasource which had opened its Kampala offices in Uganda. US ambassador Deborah Malac said that as technology usage around the world become more sophisticated and complex, Samasource would empower its employees to help Uganda adopts Artificial Intelligence to transform business.

In August, reports stated that the Under Secretary for Political Affairs David Hale reaffirmed that the new US-Kenya strategic partnership was grounded in cooperation, shared values, and common vision. Under Secretary Hale emphasized the importance of concluding pending US investment deals and making progress in the Trade and Investment Working Group.

Journal du Cameroun reported that according to Ministry of Trade and Industry coffee and oilseeds exports earned Ethiopia over $1.2 billion in the past Ethiopian budget year, which ended on July 7, 2019.

Significant reports stated that US Under Secretary for Political Affairs David Hale arrived in the Sudan capital Khartoum for a series of meetings with government, opposition and civil society actors. In a press statement, the US Department of State said Hale would be in Khartoum to meet with representatives from the ruling Transitional Military Council (TMC), the opposition Forces for Freedom and Change (FFC), along with civil society actors, including women and youth, who were in the forefront demanding change in Sudan.

Financial Times reported that Glencore was to halt production at the world’s largest cobalt mine from the end of 2019 following a dramatic fall in prices for the key battery metal. In addition, the source noted that Glencore was under investigation by the US Department of Justice over its business practices in the DRC, among other countries.

Significant reports stated that Under Secretary for Political Affairs, David Hale would travel to Somalia from August 5-7, 2019 and his trip would advance America’s commitment to peace and security in the Horn of Africa and commercial interests in the region.

Media reports stated that Canada joined the US and the UK to condemn the irregular arrest, detention and indictment of journalist Erick Kabendera by Tanzanian authorities.

Significant reports stated that a delegation of eight American investors had arrived in Uganda ahead of a networking breakfast meet up for investors, Venture Capitals, Angels and Start-ups to share their vast experience as well as harnessing investment opportunities in the country.

Significant reports stated that a Canton native now serving as the US ambassador to Rwanda described how the small African country had rebounded since a 1994 genocide, during which nearly a million residents were murdered.
In June, reports quoted the State Department saying that the top US Diplomat for Africa would head to Sudan to encourage talks between Sudan’s military rulers and protesters whom security forces violently put down. Tibor Nagy, the Assistant secretary of state for African affairs, planned to meet both members of the military leadership and protest leaders in Khartoum. He would call for a cessation of attacks against civilians and urge parties to work toward creating an enabling environment for talks to resume, a State Department statement said.

Multiple reports said Ethiopia’s army chief of staff Seare Mekonnen was shot dead by his bodyguard in Addis Ababa after an attempted coup in Amhara state. The US Embassy also issued alerts about gunfire in the country’s capital, Addis Ababa, and violence around Bahir Dar. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s office announced the government had put down a coup attempt in the autonomous Amhara state in the country’s north. State media also reported that both the head of Amhara’s regional government, Ambachew Mekonnen, and his adviser, were killed during the coup attempt.

The US government funded the installation of 11 state-of-the-art radiation portal monitors at the port of Mombasa. The US also built a Central Alarm Station and provided portable monitors to ensure any radiological or nuclear materials were immediately detected and analysed at the facility. According to US officials, the special equipment provided to the port of Mombasa would help in detecting material or chemicals used in the manufacturing of weapons of mass destruction and other illicit goods.

The Standard reported that the US embassy in Tanzania issued a security alert to its citizen over fears of impending attacks in a tourist area in Dar es Salaam. The source added that Al-Qaeda carried out Tanzania’s deadliest attack when it bombed the US Embassy building in Dar es Salaam in the August 1998 killing 11 people. The US Embassy in Nairobi was targeted by the group on the same day in a near simultaneous attack.

PM News reported that the US embassies in Uganda and Tanzania had issued warnings about “rumours of impending attacks” in areas frequented by foreigners. According to the embassy in Kampala, there were rumours of impending attacks in areas frequented by expats within East Africa, including Uganda.

AllAfrica.com reported that the US and European countries should impose sanctions on those responsible for the violence, and work with global banks to counter the capital flight out of Sudan of stolen assets by regime leaders and their collaborators.

Minor Internet Media reported that DRC became the 80th nation to join the US-led coalition against the Islamic State terrorist group (banned in Russia), the Combined Joint Task Force - Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) said in a statement. In July, US Air Force Brig. Gen. James R. Kriesel, deputy
Peace, Security & Terrorism

commanding general of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), visited Burundi to participate in the Burundi National Defence Force’s (BNDF) Senior Command and Staff College (SCSC) graduation.

US diplomat in Geneva said that the US would provide more in the coming months” to help respond to the Ebola outbreak in Congo, while the European Union ambassador said the bloc would examine possibilities to scale up its response.

Ethiopian and US Defense Force’s joint military training was officially opened at Peace Support Training Center, Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

The US military, in partnership with the Ethiopia National Defense Force and other partner nations and international organizations, conducted Justified Accord (JA) 2019, a command headquarters and company-level field training exercise.

Department of State said that the US Counterterrorism Coordinator Nathan Sales would travel to Kenya to take part in the United Nations African high-level regional conference on counterterrorism and extremism during which he would discuss combatting the Islamic State (banned in Russia) and other terrorist groups.

US Supreme Court agreed to hear a bid to reinstate $4.3 billion in punitive damages against Sudan in a lawsuit accusing it of complicity in the 1998 al Qaeda bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 224 people.

Rwandan national, Jean Leonard Teganya, was sentenced to over eight years in jail in the US. The US said it would partially resume the provision of security assistance to non-militia units of the Somali National Army (SNA) as part of efforts to enhance the capacity of the forces to stabilize the country.

An annual US Army-led Exercise Justified Accord 2019 (JA19) that focuses on peacekeeping operations in Somalia began with 12 nations participating, the US Africa Command. AFRICOM was set for a change of guard as a long-serving member of the US Marine Corps Gen. Thomas Waldhauser retired from military service.

Sudan’s Transitional Military Council said that US Special Envoy Donald Booth said Sudan was interested and committed to helping the Sudanese people to reach a deal regarding arrangements of the transitional period.

US embassy in Sudan urged the international community to hold the Sudanese army accountable for killing peaceful demonstrators. The US embassy said Sudanese security forces’ use of live ammunition against peaceful protesters was disgraceful, and military authorities should be held accountable for the resulting deaths.

Numerous media reports said that US-supported the power-sharing deal struck between Sudan’s military leaders and civilian groups, fearing that the alternative was a descent into state failure and violence. The US welcomed a provisional agreement forged by Sudan’s ruling military council and a coalition of opposition and protest groups to share power for three years as an important step forward.

The US Supreme Court agreed to hear a case involving $4.3 billion awarded by a court to victims of the al-Qaeda-staged 1998 bombing of the US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Sudan was accused of complicity in terror attacks by the US.

The US Embassy said that the training portrayed the good diplomatic relations between Uganda and USA. The US government would continue to support UPDF by facilitating more CIMIC courses because CIMIC helped every soldier to have a special mandate.

In August, The Observer reported Somalia President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed was giving up his US citizenship, but it was not immediately clear why. A statement posted on Twitter said Mohamed made the decision voluntarily, with lawyers involved. It said Somalia’s constitution allows for dual citizenship and many in Somalia’s diaspora had it after fleeing the country long gripped by conflict.

Numerous reports stated that the US congratulated the people of Sudan on the 17 August signing of the Constitutional Declaration and political agreement between the Forces for Freedom and Change and the Transitional Military Council. Reports added that the US commends the mediators from the African Union and the Government of Ethiopia for its efforts to broker this landmark agreement.

The Nation reported that more than a dozen retired senior US diplomats and humanitarian chiefs had launched an attack on Kenya’s bid to have the UN list al-Shabaab as a terror organisation. Reports stated the group of former top US State Department officials, joined humanitarian figures in urging the US to block Kenya’s bid at the UN Security Council.

Significant reports stated that Ethiopia and the US agreed to exchange information on terrorist screening, the US Embassy in Addis Ababa said. Reports added that the two sides had signed an MoU.

East African reported that it would be awkward of the US to fund the implementation of the peace agreement when government of South Sudan was funding a lobbyist to block the Hybrid Court — one of the cornerstones of the agreement and peace in South Sudan.

Significant reports stated that lawyers representing hundreds of Tanzanian victims of the 1998 embassy bombings were optimistic that the US Supreme Court would rule to award a total of $4.3 billion to their clients. The top US court agreed in June to take up the case during its term in October.

Significant frames stated that the US Embassy of Burundi had issued a warning to all citizens for the possible disruptions for this Ibonerakure Day processions and celebrations.
In June, Numerous reports stated that in order to send fighters to help battle one of the deadliest Ebola outbreaks in history, US health officials were turning to basketballer Dikembe Mutombo for help. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began posting the spots on its YouTube channel and on the agency’s website and officials were trying to get radio and TV stations in the DRC to air them.

Numerous reports stated that Kenya was an emerging middle-income country and had one of the best performing economies in sub-Saharan Africa. It served as the commercial hub for East Africa, with coastal ports that allow for imports to be received and transported to landlocked neighbours. Kenya relied heavily on imported food and farm products, much of which the US produces competitively. The US was looking to strengthen its trade relationship with Kenya and increase its agricultural exports to the country. Reports stated that USAID continued to work with Kenya and humanitarian partners to ensure a sustained commitment to early action and preparedness interventions to mitigate the effects of drought.

Reuter reported that Health workers got the all-clear to use three experimental Ebola treatments in Uganda, after the deadly disease spread over the border from DRC, authorities said. World Health Organization spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said the treatments approved for shipment to Uganda were Mapp Biopharmaceutical’s ZMapp, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc’s REGN-EB3 and Remdesivir, made by Gilead Sciences.

Numerous reports stated that the US was reopening its permanent USAID mission in Somalia, 28 years since its closing on January 5, 1991. Although the US never formally severed diplomatic relations with Somalia, the US Embassy in Somalia was closed in 1991, when the civil war in the 1980s led to the collapse of the country’s central government in 1991. USAID also announced nearly $185 million in humanitarian assistance for the people of Somalia. The aid was aimed at mitigating life-threatening food insecurity and acute malnutrition, as well as delivering safe water and emergency health care services.

The Nation reported that Tanzania stated that failure to provide essential data or serve especially their vulnerable groups would result in deep cuts in the US anti-aids funding for Kenya and Tanzania. The President’s Emergency Programme for Aids Relief, launched in 2003 planned to reduce spending for Kenya from $505 million in 2018 to $395 million next year and $512 million to $395 million for Tanzania.

Minor reports said that a US-based non-governmental organisation which facilitated the development of the project, the Federal Ministry of Health, Amhara Regional Health Bureau, GE Foundation through the Safe Surgery 2020 initiative, Grand Challenges Canada, and other local stakeholders came together to enhance access and improve quality of surgical and anesthesia care in Ethiopia.

In July, USAID announced it that was providing more than $38 million in additional assistance to help end the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the DRC. These new funds increased the total USAID financial response to more than $136 million since the beginning of the Ebola virus outbreak in the DRC during August 2018.
Health & Food issues

Media reports stated that the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the US African Development Foundation (USAID), were providing support to further roll out the MFN platform across Uganda making transacting much safer and simpler for many more stakeholders in the agricultural value chain – the farmer, the buyer and the agent. The Star reported that US Ambassador, Kyle McCarter said Kenya should not depend on foreign aid. He further said Kenya had resources that could be exploited for the benefit of its people and even neighbours. McCarter spoke when he and his wife, Victoria Ramatowski, paid a courtesy call on Meru Governor Kiraitu Murungi. He said the country had so many idle parcels, which had the potential to end food insecurity and unemployment if farmed.

Business Daily reported that the USAID Administrator Mark Green concluded a one-week visit to USAID-funded programmes at several African countries, including the Rwanda and his goal was to promote sustainable paths to self-reliance, including in the context of food security programmes. The Independent reported that Tanzania’s president claimed curbing the birth rate was “for those too lazy to take care of their children”, while the health ministry barred broadcasting of family planning adverts by a US-funded project.

Numerous reports stated that the US marked the completion of its five-year Challenge TB project that contributed to improvements in Ethiopia’s ability to detect, diagnose, and treat TB more effectively and save lives across all nine regions of the country. Under this programme, USAID invested $42 million to improve the quality of TB care and prevention services, enabling patients to receive better access to treatment and medication to fight the infection.

In August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that a dozen staffers had been sent to a Democratic Republic of Congo border city to manage Ebola cases there. The outbreak, which began a year ago, had now killed more than 1,800 people.

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) said it would fund the manufacturing of Merck & Co Inc’s investigational Ebola vaccine called V920, in response to the outbreak of the deadly virus in the DRC. The agency said it would give US$23 million to Merck to produce the vaccine doses over the next year.

Uganda said it had started a trial of an experimental Ebola vaccine that might be used in DRC, where an outbreak killed more than 1,800 people.

The trial of the MVA-BN vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson was expected to last two years, Uganda’s Medical Research Council (MRC) said. The vaccine would be administered to up to 800 health professionals and frontline workers such as cleaners, ambulance personnel and mortuary and burial teams, in Mbarara.

Reports said government would establish an insectarium where research on genetically-modified mosquitoes would be conducted under a project to fight malaria in Africa. Mr Jonathan Kayondo, an entomologist at the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) said that the research would inform a plan to use genetically-modified mosquitoes to wipe out the malaria-causing breed. Ms Deborah Malac, the US ambassador in Uganda said the strengthening of laboratory systems that does research, would enable Uganda and other countries around the world remain prepared to fight the ever-increasing emerging health-related disasters.

CTV News reported that an American missionary was sued in Ugandan civil court after severely malnourished children allegedly died while under her care at an unlicensed treatment centre.

Other reports said the US Embassy urged organisations to submit proposals to access funding under the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the US government’s response to the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. Business Daily reported that the US government would stop funding the country’s blood services next month, putting the critical amenity in a quandary as the Ministry of Health had no backup plan for the blood collection and testing.

Reports in Kenya said Purdue University was now home to a lab aimed at increasing awareness and developing environments for food safety around the world. USAID awarded nearly $10 million to Purdue to establish the first-ever Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Safety, with the opportunity for up to $20 million in additional funding from USAID for research tailored to specific countries’ needs.

Business Daily reported that the US government would stop funding the country’s blood services next month, putting the critical amenity in a quandary as the Ministry of Health had no backup plan for the blood collection and testing.

The US President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (Pepfar) drew various redlines giving Kenya tough minimums to be met by October and next year or risk further funding cuts. Some of the minimums included Kenya taking more than 40 per cent ownership of the Sh120 billion per year HIV juggernaut by October and 70 per cent by 2020.

Report in Sudan said as students headed back to school, physicians and public health officials continued their pleas for immunization — especially toward parents. This year had already seen the most reported cases of measles in the US in more than 25 years.

Other reports noted that USAID addressed health gaps in Southern Tanzania most importantly Malaria. The programme entailed sensitizing pregnant mothers to undertake Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine (SP) tablets as part of antenatal care services to immune expected mothers and their unborn babies against Malaria.

18
In June, Business Daily reported that US-based motorcycle maker ReVolt Electric hired an industrial design firm to prepare architectural drawings for its planned Kenyan manufacturing facility. Alternate Systems, the firm’s mother company said in a statement to shareholders this was informed by its feasibility findings that showed the African market presented it with a potential to create Sh5 billion in value to the firm’s business. Business Daily reported that the US Ambassador to Kenya Kyle McCarter visited Grain Bulk Handlers (GBH) where their trucks moved grain to different countries in East Africa. McCarter stated that their efficiency sought to lower transporting cost resulting in lower cost of goods especially food by over 17% in key corridors.

Minor Internet News stated that as the preparations in Maputo were well underway ahead of the 12th US-Africa Business Summit on June 18 – 21, 201, Uganda would be represented by Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, the Prime Minister. Reports also stated that under the theme “Advancing a Resilient and Sustainable US.-Africa Partnership”, the Corporate Council on Africa and the Government of Mozambique would host more than 1,000 US and African private sector executives, international investors, senior government officials and multilateral stakeholders.

AllAfrica.com reported that Coca-Cola planned to invest US $300 Million in Ethiopia. The Report also mentioned that stretching on 14.3 hectares of land, a new Coca-Cola Factory that required an investment outlay of two billion birr or USD 70 million, said to be the largest plant for coca cola in the country, was set to be finalized early 2020.

Energy Executive Paul Hinks said in a guest column for AllAfrica the Trump administration’s ‘Prosper Africa’ initiative would encourage more American firms to enter trade and investment deals across the continent.

Minor Internet Media reported that the US condemned Sudanese military leaders’ ‘brutal’ crackdown on protesters and said that better relations with Washington would be contingent on moving toward a civilian-led government.

PML Daily reported that the US government through its
development finance institution, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) had partnered with Africell Telecoms, granting it $100m. The event was graced by US Ambassador, Deborah Malac, Board members from the American Chamber of Commerce in Uganda, Uganda Communications Commission representatives among other invited guests.

Reports stated that Glencore’s head of oil, Alex Beard, who helped make the firm one of the world’s top three oil trading houses, would retire, the company said yet another management shake-up amid US probes into its activities.

Media reports stated that Coca-Cola was investing US$ 300 million to take its business to the next level in Ethiopia. According to a report by Bloomberg, the expansion project was a five year plan.

Minor reports said Rwanda Ltd (“LEAF Rwanda”) announced that it had signed a manufacturing agreement with a US Contract Manufacturing Organization (CMO).

In August, Several media reports said American Multinational technological firm, Google warned that Kenya risked getting into a trade war with other countries if it imposed taxes on digital transactions. Under the proposed amendment to the Finance Bill 2019, Kenya wanted to impose an income tax which would require online businesses to charge Value Added Tax (VAT). Under the VAT Act 2013, provision of online platforms for use by third parties fell under the taxable supply and it attracted a 16% levy.

Business Daily reported that a US private equity fund was poised to take over Avenue, Nairobi Women’s, Metropolitan and Ladan hospitals from troubled Abraaj after a clearance from the competition watchdog. The Competition Authority of Kenya said TPG, to be renamed Evercare Health Fund, would oversee the hospital’s operations on behalf of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and US pension funds that provided financing exclusively spent in healthcare investments as Abraaj Growth Markets Health Fund LP.

US-based Alternet Systems (ALYI) plan to enter Kenya’s motorcycle business received a boost after local partners approved the industrial design specifications for the Nairobi plant. A statement released after a meeting in Dallas said ALYI, which planned to build Africa’s first electrical motorcycle plant under the ReVolt brand, said the approval set the stage for the plant to assemble motorcycles for sale across Africa.

A US company involved in the cultivation and processing of marijuana announced plans to cross-list on the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), putting to test Kenya’s resolve to maintain the drug on the list of banned narcotics amid legislative pressure to legalise it. The firm, Bangi Inc., which was traded on the New York Over The Counter (OTC) market, counted among its board members well known US celebrities including Mathew Knowles, the father of global superstar Beyoncé Knowles. Renowned actor and rapper Ray J (William Norwood Jr), a brother of another US superstar artist Brandy, and TV actor Hill Harper, were also listed as board members of Bangi. In a statement, the company said its board approved its cross-listing on the NSE, despite the drug remaining banned in Kenya.

Other reports said Kenyans would have to wait longer for the planned 485-kilometre Mombasa-Nairobi Expressway as financing and construction of the project continued to delay close to four years since its conception. Among major hiccups on the US–backed project now appeared to be financing as corruption came back to haunt the country.

Healthgazette reported that another pharmaceutical organization in Rwanda, Leaf Rwanda, with connections to US-based organization LEAF Pharmaceutical, planned to create and sell another malignant growth medicate in the area, abusing the hole in the intense absence of such medications in the nation and the landmass for the most part. The firm started clinical and enormous scale business generation of its LEAF-1404 medication, which was under creation in the US.

Journal du Cameroun stated that the US through its AGOA programme urged Africa-based entrepreneurs to focus on producing standard and quality products to enable them to gain easy access into the US market.

In Uganda, reports said a delegation of eight American investors arrived in Uganda ahead of a networking breakfast meet up for investors, Venture Capitals, Angels and Startups to share their vast experience as well as harnessing investment opportunities in the country.

Other news said the National Bank of Ethiopia granted the first financial services license to a foreign-owned company, Ethio Lease, a capital lease provider, as the Ethiopian Government delivers on its promise to gradually liberalize the economy and create jobs. EEthio Lease was a wholly owned subsidiary of New York-based equipment leasing firm, Africa Asset Finance Company (AAFC).
In June, reports stated that Ethiopian Airlines launched three weekly flights to New York’s John F Kennedy (JFK) International Airport. Ethiopian Airlines CEO Tewolde Gebre Mariam said it gave her great pleasure to launch flights to John F Kennedy Airport, their second station in New York in addition to Newark, connecting North America’s gateway with our extended network of more than 120 destinations globally.

The Nation reported that readers learned that there would be no more American visas for Kenyans who had reportedly been judicially convicted of corruption. The Report further stated Nairobi government could give tourists the Kenyan visa, so only Washington DC could give tourist the American visa.

Tanzania Daily News reported that conservation efforts employed by the fifth phase government were yielding positive results as the US had just lifted the five-year long ban on wildlife products from Tanzania. The Deputy Commissioner for Tourism and Business Services for the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), Imani Nkuwi explained that in 2014, the US ceased the importation of wildlife related trophies from Tanzania.

US Department of State in its 2019 Trafficking in Persons report said that the Sudanese government did not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but was making significant efforts to do so.

In July, The Nation reported that Kenya Airways started its maiden direct flights from JKIA to New York City, US, in a historic flight in Kenya’s aviation industry. The report further stated that achievement of this milestone had not come easy for the Kenyan airline. FAA imposed stringent conditions on African airports for clearance to fly directly to the US and normal flights from Kenya to the US took up to 22 hours for the 11,849km between Nairobi and New York.

PML Daily reported that Police at Entebbe International Airport arrested a 30-year-old Ugandan Huzaifa Ssemwogerere over allegedly possessing and trafficking narcotic drugs worth millions of shillings. Minor Internet News reported that the US Department of State would be able to offer financial rewards to whistle-blowers who provide information on wildlife trafficking under a bill sponsored by US Rep. Vern Buchanan that cleared the House of Representatives. Buchanan successfully amended a
government funding bill so that it outlaws the importation of elephant and lion carcasses from Tanzania.

In August, Business Daily reported Kenya Airways signed a deal with US firm FlightSafety International for the training of pilots at its low-cost subsidiary Jambojet in a bid to boost the safety of its operations. Under the deal, KQ would procure an in-house simulator for the Dash 8-400 aircraft used by the budget carrier. The simulator would be installed at the Kenya Airways Pride Center in Nairobi.

Media reports said according to data from the Tourism Research Institute, the number of visitors to the country fell from 927,797 to 921,090 during the period under review. Tourism Cabinet Secretary Najib Balala while releasing the results in Nairobi said the overall decline was largely attributed to a drop in tourist arrival from some East African source market. Tourist numbers from Tanzania, for instance, fell by 14% from 107,411 to 92,340 as of June.

Newspaper articles in Kenya said that days after MPs united to dispute a report by the Daily Nation of Kenya sending a huge delegation to the US to attend a conference, fresh details emerged that the previous figure of 85 delegates was understated.

Five more leaders travelled to the US for the legislative conference, whose agenda included sampling country music and getting inspirational talks from songstress Dolly Parton, bringing the total number of MPs, senators, ward representatives and Parliament’s staff to 90.

In Ethiopia, reports said Lawyers accused aircraft manufacturers, Boeing of selling unworthy planes to Ethiopian airlines. The lawyers claimed that Boeing conspired with the FAA in making the sales. They accused the Aviation Authority of conspiracy with the aircraft manufacturers in releasing the sub-standard aircraft to the market.

Vaxbeforetravel noted that the Level 2 Travel Advisory for Ethiopia expanded to include Level 3 and 4 warnings by the US Department of State. On August 20, 2019, the new State Department Level 4 Travel Advisories said ‘Do Not Travel’ to the following areas in Ethiopia: Border area with Somalia due to the potential for terrorism, kidnapping, and landmines.

In Rwanda, reports said gorillas were big business — translating directly into tourism dollars, according to the latest stats from Rwanda tourism officials. Rwanda confirmed it sold 15,132 mountain gorilla permits worth US$19.2 million to tourists in 2018, higher than the $15 million sold in 2016 before Rwanda increased the permit price from $750 to $1,500 in 2017, an official from Rwanda Development Board said in Kigali.

All Africa noted that numbers of American tourists to Rwanda grew by 114% year on year, according to data from an international travel agency network. The agency network, Virtuoso in their latest data release noted that Rwanda was among the top 10 countries that had experienced significant increases by percentage in year-over-year bookings among American travellers at 114%.

Other countries that had seen significant growth of American travellers were Uruguay, Malta, Romania, Puerto Rico, Egypt and The Maldives.

The Telegraph said Carrie Symonds, Boris Johnson’s girlfriend, reportedly been barred from visiting the US. According to the Daily Mail, Miss Symonds, 31, applied for a visa to go to America in the next few days as part of her job with a US-based environmental group, but the American authorities blocked the request. It was believed the decision stems from a five-day visit made last year by Miss Symonds to Somalia.

In other news, lawmakers on the House Committee on Natural Resources were investigating reports that rangers supported by a federally funded environmental and animal rights group committed gruesome crimes inside a national park in the DRC. The committee recently requested that the Government Accountability Office and the Department of the Interior look into any taxpayer dollar connection following allegations that rangers raped and tortured villagers inside the DRC’s Salonga National Park. The park was co-managed by the Worldwide Fund for Nature – called the World Wildlife Fund in the US – which receives federal funding from the US government.
In June, Business Daily reported that US technology giant Microsoft announced the extension of a six-month programme which helped women to start and build their businesses through its cloud distribution channels. The initiative, dubbed Microsoft Cloud Accelerator Programme, gave the firms access to resources, including expert mentorship, networking communities and sourcing customers in order to grow their cloud businesses and create jobs.

Minor reports stated that the US stated that in countries worldwide, their civilian-led programs also lift up communities and remove barriers to economic growth, whether helping farmers increase crop yields in Bangladesh through USAID’s Feed the Future initiative or providing electricity to rural communities in Rwanda through Power Africa.

Africa News Desk reported that in 2013, armed groups attacked communities in Upper Nile, causing thousands of people to flee to the nearest place of refuge: UN-protected base in Malakal. The Report also stressed that the Organization’s investment in solar power in Malakal, made possible with funding from the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance, ensured International Organization for Migration’s humanitarian response in South Sudan was sustainable.

In July, Ethiopia was reportedly facing severe energy shortage was set to begin implementation of a new 520 MW geothermal electric project. The project required a high cost, it required the support of anchor international institutions. US Trade and Development Agency had shown interest to support the project.

A climate activist criticized the US Ambassador to Kenya Kyle McCarter for his recent tweets that appeared to endorse the Sh200 billion Lamu coal power project. Kenya joined South Africa in voicing its support for China’s beleaguered telecoms giant Huawei, saying it would not be influenced by decisions made about by the company in Washington, US.

Kenya said that their policies were not driven by US policies as far as technology was concerned. Mucheru said he felt the trade war between China and the US was more about politics than tariffs, technology or Huawei.

In August, Business Daily reported that American technology giant Google had warned that Kenya risks trade wars with other countries if it imposes tax on digital transactions. Reports added that the US government proposed review to law through the Finance Bill 2019 that would see online business slapped with an income tax.

Business Ghana reported that US Embassy, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and iCog Labs Celebrate Youth Winners of SolveIT! 2019. The source said SolveIT! 2019 was a nationwide innovation competition in its second year that encouraged young Ethiopians to develop innovative projects, promote entrepreneurship, and solve local problems through technology.

Monitor reported that according to Margaret Khaisa, a Ugandan senior researcher and lecturer at Mississippi State University, African swine fever had hampered the production system of food on the African continent and negatively impacted on the global economy, food security and trade. Khaisa and other fellow researchers in the US said they were making progress in inventing a vaccine for African Swine fever and they would be able to unveil what they achieved.
Eastern Africa

Analysis of News Categories

Education

In June, The Star reported that Harvard University chose the port of Mombasa as a case study for port operations. The University also chose Safaricom and Equity Bank in their research of successful African business. Receiving them in Mombasa, Kenya Ports Authority Managing Director, Daniel Manduku said Harvard settled on the port because of its recent record-breaking performances. Manduku added that the US government had funded the installation of 11 state-of-the-art radiation portal monitors at the port of Mombasa to curb on illicit trade. In addition, Manduku stated that the US also built a central alarm station and provided portable monitors to ensure any radiological or nuclear materials were promptly detected and analysed.

Reports said that twelve dynamic and experienced young Rwandans departed Kigali to attend the fifth Young African Leadership Initiative Mandela Washington Fellowship. They would join 700 other young African leaders for a six-week program, and would be hosted by 12 prestigious US universities, followed by a conference in Washington, DC.

Monitor reported that US Ambassador to Uganda said the rising debt burden for infrastructure investment was compromising key sectors of the economy such as health and education. The Ambassador added that the huge borrowing, which was characterised by growing cost of debt servicing.

In July, Tuko reported that US ambassador Kyle McCarter had advised young Kenyans to stop the obsession of seeking university degrees and instead look for necessary skills that would enable them to get jobs. Other reports stated that the findings, published on June 26 in the journal Nature were based on just over 100 adults from Kenya and the US.

Minor Internet News reported that the US Ambassador to Uganda, Deborah Malac had tasked government to come up with concrete actions against the violence of women in the country. Malac made the remarks at the celebration of the 243rd anniversary of the independence of the US at her residence in Kololo. The celebrations were held under the theme of 100 Years of Women in Democracy.

Numerous frames reported that the English Access Microscholarship Program Alumni Conference would bring together more than 180 English Access Microscholarship alumni and current students from eight cities in Ethiopia. Reports stated that the Program was funded by the US government and implemented by US Embassies.

The US Ambassador to Rwanda, Peter Vrooman, honored 200 students who completed the Embassy’s English Access Microscholarship Program at a graduation ceremony.

Minor Internet News reported that the US Department of State and the William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced Colorado Mesa University Professor of Environmental Science & Technology Tamera Minnick, PhD received a Fulbright US Scholar Program award to Tanzania in ecology.

In August, Business Ghana reported that US Embassy, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and iCog Labs Celebrated Youth Winners of SolveIT! 2019. The winners of this year’s competition were Melkamu Taddese and Memberu Zeleke, who won 100,000 birr for their joint project, the creation of a 3D printer. SolveIT! 2019 was a innovation competition in its second year that encourages young Ethiopians to develop innovative projects, promote entrepreneurship, and solve local problems through technology.

Kenya’s education ministry urged County governments to improve the Early Childhood Development (ECD) learning to boost education sector.

Prof. Magoha explained that this move would ensure the success of the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) that supported early childhood development through growth of skills at an early age as the formative stage was critical in ensuring the education of a child was successful.

In Rwanda, Indiana University (IU) in the US wold beginning next month, start offering a course in Kinyarwanda, making it the 8th African language the university was teaching under its African Studies Program. Rwanda’s Ambassador to the US Mathilde Mukantabana said the move by the university to introduce Kinyarwanda as a course was a result of the IU’s long term engagement in Rwanda and an opportunity for Americans to learn the language.
In June, reports said that Kenya’s high-flying dance group Focus Beyond Imagination (FBI) were building momentum ahead of their second trip to Arizona, USA, for the World Hip Hop Championships. Speaking exclusively to SDE, Emmanuel Tumaini, FBI’s Chief Choreographer, revealed that they were working on the final touches before they jet out on August 3.

The Observer reported that from looking for a Rolex ‘watch’ in Owino market to navigating the crazy traffic jam downtown, teams in American CBS hit show The Amazing Race had a true taste of Uganda as the show had its sixth pit stop of the 31st season at Munyonyo’s Jahazi pier.

Journal du Cameroun reported that eight members of “Inganzo Ngari”, a cultural dance troupe known for gracing major events and weddings in Rwanda had gone missing in the US where they had been on tour since May. The traditional Rwandan troupe was in US to attend the 42th edition of Africa Dance Festival which was taking place in the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

In July, Kenyan singer Victoria Kimani expressed displeasure over the absence of Kenyan singers in Beyonce’s upcoming album ‘Lion King: The Gift’. Beyonce unveiled the track list of her new album, ‘The Lion King: The Gift’, which was the musical accompaniment to the new Disney movie. Disney premiered a Kenyan-shot sequel to The Lion King in Los Angeles.

American singer, songwriter, and rapper Alexander Star was in Rwanda for the second time, where he headlined the three-day Ubumuntu Arts Festival. DJ Duke and MCZO, two Tanzanian rising stars of pulse-raising singeli music genre were denied a visa to the US in May after a months-long visa application process.

In August, Nairobi News reported that a Kenyan was one of the participants in the season 3 of American reality TV show 90 Day Fiancé. Report also stated that the Season 3 of the show, which premiered in the period under review on the TLC channel, features among others Akinyi, a 25-year-old Kenyan woman.
In June, The Nation reported that Echoes of the award-winning novel The River and the Source continued to reverberate almost eight years after the death of its Kenyan author Margaret Atieno Ogola. US tech giant Google honoured the late novelist, paediatrician, and human rights advocate with a doodle on what would have been her 60th birthday.

In July, Business Day reported that Kenyan’s lamenting about the appropriation of musical animation Hakuna Matata by Disney was water under the bridge. The report said the sentiment that Disney should not be permitted to own a Swahili phrase stems from a lack of understanding of the extent and nature of the rights, a trademark registration gives an owner. Disney Enterprises Inc applied for the registration of Hakuna Matata as a trademark on August 8, 1994, and registration was granted on March 25, 2003. From this date, Disney acquired exclusive rights to use Hakuna Matata in the US on T-shirts, and this remains the case today. Sixteen Ugandan children from the African Children’s Choir performed African song and dance, children’s songs, traditional spirituals, and gospel favourites at Crosspoint Alliance Church in the US.

In August, numerous reports stated that an American billionaire Tom Steyer had revealed what was his favourite wardrobe accessory, that he liked wearing to complement his attire. Responding to a question by a tweep about a belt he had on while appearing on a television advertisement Steyer, a Democrat said that the belt was one of his favourite accessories, he added that he bought the belt in Kenya from a female artisan when he was on a personal trip.

New Vision said Sarah Nassali was a Ugandan living in the US working as a fashion designer, specialising in African fashion. Reports added that she was selected to showcase her products at the Fashion Week in New York City.
Zimbabwe led coverage in Political reports. Amnesty International suspended its local branch in Zimbabwe after uncovering evidence of fraud, in the first ever such move by the rights advocacy group. Amnesty issued a statement saying, “an extensive forensic audit was conducted in late 2018 which uncovered evidence of fraud and serious financial mismanagement”. It said that the Zimbabwe branch had been suspended from the global organisation and placed under administration and the Zimbabwean police had been informed of the audit findings.

The US Embassy issued a statement urging the Zimbabwean government to uphold the rule of law. Posting on Twitter, the embassy said harassment and targeted arrests of civil society leaders’ damages Zimbabwe’s reputation and economic future.

Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe Mr. Guo Shaochun said that sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the US had resulted in economic decay, the shortage of medicines and loss of lives of innocent people.

The US Embassy commended the President of the Republic of Mozambique, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, and Renamo President Ossufo Momade for their joint announcement committing to completing the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) process in the months of June and July and expressing intent to sign a definitive ceasefire agreement and permanent peace accord in August.

Analysis of daily issue coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>News category</th>
<th>Zimbabwe</th>
<th>South Africa</th>
<th>Mozambique</th>
<th>Zambia</th>
<th>Angola</th>
<th>Namibia</th>
<th>Lesotho</th>
<th>Swaziland</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Investments</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Food issues</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy, Trade &amp; Development</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>129</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism, Travel &amp; Leisure</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>58</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace, Security &amp; Terrorism</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, Tech &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1,442</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other reports noted that South Africa recently had to make a very uncomfortable political decision. It either had to seriously ruin its historical relationship with its African neighbour and comrade, Frelimo, by extraditing the former Mozambican finance minister and MP, Manuel Chang, to the US, or do exactly the opposite — please Frelimo but irritate the US and disappoint the majority of Mozambicans — who totally distrust the ruling party’s willingness and honesty to fight corruption, especially in that particular high-level and politically sensitive case.

In the Health & Food issues segment, the US government announced that it would contribute 421 million US dollars next year in support of Zambia’s efforts to accelerate the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Business & Investments reports noted that the largest gathering of American and African government and business leaders was set to begin on June 18 in the Mozambican capital, Maputo. Organized every two years since 1997 by the Washington, DC-based Corporate Council on Africa, this year’s US-Africa Business Summit was the third to be held in Africa. Organizers hoped to bring more than 1,000 American and African private sector executives, international investors, senior government officials, and multilateral stakeholders.

The US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Tibor Nagy met with Zimbabwe’s president, Emmerson Mnangagwa on the side-lines of the ongoing 12th US-Africa Business Summit in Maputo, Mozambique where he stressed the importance of real political reforms. Nagy posted on Twitter saying that he had told Mnangagwa the importance to hold security forces accountable for violence committed against Zimbabweans in August 2018 and January 2019.

King Mswati III of eSwatini was in the Mozambican capital Maputo leading a high-powered delegation of Swati government and business officials.

US energy firm Anadarko Petroleum Corp gave the go-ahead for the construction of a $20 billion gas liquefaction and export terminal in Mozambique, the largest single LNG project approved in Africa. Frank Harris, head of LNG Consulting at Wood Mackenzie said flexible commercial arrangements, including an innovative co-purchase agreement with Tokyo Gas and
Analysis of News Categories

Southern Africa

Centrica, had been instrumental in securing the project a roster of high-quality customers in a crowded LNG market.

Economy, Trade & Development frames had South Africa receiving the most coverage. Reports said the US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Tibor Nagy speaking at the University of the Witwatersrand said America greatly valued its partnership with South Africa as the democratic and economic leader of the world’s fastest growing continent.

President Mnangagwa flew to Mozambique for the 12th edition of the US-Africa Business Summit, which provided for executives, international investors and multilateral stakeholders.

Tourism, Travel & Leisure pointed out that US authorities in one area of the southern border were apprehending more asylum-seekers from Central African countries, including Angola, than any year on record as hundreds arrive each week, seeking refuge in the US from an outbreak of war in the region.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently updated its Travel Alerts for the summer season, identifying which countries were combating diseases during 2019. For Level 3 Travel Alerts, Avoid Non-Essential Travel, they cited parts of Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe as having been severely affected by Tropical Cyclone Idai. US residents were to avoid nonessential travel to Beira City and the surrounding area in Mozambique.

South Africa exclusively dominated coverage in Entertainment reports. Organisers of the Castle Lite Unlocks event reiterated that top US rapper Meek Mill would be performing at The Dome in Johannesburg, South Africa. Despite the announcement that Mill would be part of the 2019 Castle Lite Unlocks line-up, questions were raised on social media regarding the rapper’s appearance at the event.

In July, reports in both South Africa and Mozambique, said SA had halted plans to extradite former Mozambican finance minister Manuel Chang to his home country in a tussle over where he could stand trial for alleged fraud. Chang had been held in South Africa since December at the request of US authorities over alleged involvement in $2 billion of fraudulent loans to Mozambique state firms.

The US warned that Lesotho risked losing out on the multi-million-dollar second compact under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) due to concerns about corruption, police brutality against citizens and the failure to stay the course on the implementation of the multi-sector reforms.

South Africa and Zimbabwe led in coverage for Business & Investments with minor coverage being on Angola, Mozambique and Zambia.

PepsiCo had struck a deal to buy SA’s Pioneer Food Group for $1.7 billion, the companies said, lifting Pioneer’s shares and boosting a sector that had been hit by drought and tough trading conditions. The US drinks and snack group said that Pioneer’s product portfolio was complementary to its own and would help PepsiCo to expand in sub-Saharan Africa by adding manufacturing and distribution capabilities.

Major reports in Angola revealed that the governments of Angola and the USA were to sign a memorandum of understanding in the area of security and public order. The USA was a strategic co-operation partner of Angola, mainly in the areas of crude-oil, energy, human rights, trade, investments, health, security and finance.

In Zimbabwe, General Electric (GE) would dispatch a high-level team to Zimbabwe as the US’ industrial behemoth scouts for investment opportunities in the country. A three-man team from the group’s Southern Africa regional office was expected in Zimbabwe for a series of meetings with Government to explore possible areas of cooperation. More reports said the US government had said that Zimbabwe’s Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP) had the potential to transform the country’s economy if they were fully implemented. A top US jeweller, Blue Nile, blacklisted Zimbabwean diamonds over reports of human rights abuses in Manicaland’s Marange district. Blue Nile said that it was committed to ensuring that the highest ethical standards were observed.

Coverage was fairly balanced in Economy, Trade & Development category. Several SADC leaders attended the US-Africa Business Summit hosted by Mozambique in Maputo for the first time. The summit brought together at least 10 African presidents and representatives of the US government and entrepreneurs, the organisers said. The summit took place under the theme “Promoting a resilient and sustainable partnership between the US and Africa” and brought together at least 1,000 senior executives from Africa and US companies.

Zambia led coverage in Health & Food issues. The government launched a new HIV drug called Tenofovir Alafenamide (TAF). TAF was co-formulated with Emtricitabine and Dolutegravir as one tablet known as TAFED. Health minister Dr Chitalu Chilufya thanked cooperating partners singing out the US government for being an all-time partner. A US-based organisation said it would continue offering free ear treatment in Zambia because of the conducive environment and the imperative need to assist the impaired.
In June, Zimbabwe Media reports said in 2018 the United States (US) cut funding to three Zimbabwean civil action groups saying that there was a "possible misuse" of money. This came to light after the Amnesty International had also suspended its local branch in Zimbabwe after uncovering evidence of fraud.

US Assistant to Secretary of State for African Affairs Tibor Nagy met with President Emmerson Mnangagwa at the ongoing 12th US-Africa Business Summit and stressed to him that there was an urgent need to hold security forces accountable for acts of violence committed against Zimbabweans including in August 2018 and January/February 2019 and the importance of real political and economic reforms.

The US Embassy in Zimbabwe pinned its mast on the anti-Government movement in Harare, after it had made a desperate call for the opposition to demonstrate against President Mnangagwa’s administration. The US Embassy said that citizens and their civic leaders, political parties, or civil society organisations had the constitutional right to peaceful assembly and association.

US Assistant to Secretary of State for African Affairs Nagy would come to SA. He would deliver a speech on US policy toward the continent at Wits University in Johannesburg.

The US Embassy asked the South African government not to extradite former Mozambican Finance Minister Manuel Chang to Mozambique while the US sought a legal review of Pretoria’s decision to originally extradite Chang to Mozambique. Embassy spokesmen Robert Mearkle noted that US law allowed Chang, who faced huge fraud charges in both the US and Mozambique, to be tried first in the US and then Mozambique.

The US reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to Africa and to SA. Secretary of State for African Affairs Nagy highlighted that the US valued the partnership with SA as the democratic and economic leader of the world’s fastest growing continent.

The US sent a delegation when President Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in as SA’s fourth democratically elected president since 1994. The US presidential delegation to the inauguration was headed by Kimberly A. Reed.

The Federal Reserve System (Fed) of the US was impressed with the ongoing economic reforms implemented by the Angolan authorities, after the suspension in 2015 of the sale of dollars to banks based in Angola. US ambassador to Angola, Nina Maria Fite said this when speaking to the press at the end of an audience the president Joao Lourenço granted to Fed delegation in Luanda.

In July, US President Trump said his administration was "looking at Zimbabwe right now" in a brief response to a journalist who had asked him a detailed question on his Africa policy and sanctions imposed on the country. Journalist Aaron Ruper, who posted the clip on Twitter, suggested Trump brushed the question aside because he probably knew little about Zimbabwe. The sanctions in question had a major negative effect on the country.

The US government had expressed concern over Harare’s failure to compensate victims of the August 1, 2018 killings by state security forces in the aftermath of disputed polls. Washington also expressed grave concern over Harare’s failure to bring the perpetrators of the killings to book.

The US condemned the attack of Zimbabwe’s foreign affairs min-
that the decision by the US was highly regrettable as it came at a
time that government was intensifying the application of political
and economic reforms.

The Zimbabwe Mail mentioned that the US government had
warned President Emmerson that the world was watching. The
former US Ambassador Bruce Wharton said he was praying for
the nation of Zimbabwe as the country headed towards a period
of mass protests called by the opposition MDC.

The US Embassy in Harare expressed concern over the brutal
crackdown on opposition and civic society members on the eve
of the August 16 demonstrations. The Embassy explained that
the US government was concerned about renewed reports of
abductions and assault of civil society members and opposition
party members. Harassment and intimidation had no place in a
democratic and pluralistic society. This after Tatenda
Mombyarara, a human rights activist, and Blessing Kanotunga,
leader of the MDC’s youth wing were both seized after armed
men broke into their houses.

US Ambassador Nichols praised the government of Zimbabwe
in its efforts to tackle corruption, but he also pointed out that
political reforms were the key to increasing growth and develop-
ment in the country.

SADC countries declared October 25 as solidarity day against
illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the US and resolved
to conduct various activities in their respective countries on that
day to resoundingly call for the immediate removal of the sanc-
tions.

The Mozambican government was set to fight for the extradi-
tion of former finance minister Manuel Chang from South Africa,
who the US also sought to put on trial. Analyst said if sent to face
trial in the US Chang could reveal as-yet unknown details about
the debt scandal, with potential implications for Mozambique’s
ruling party ahead of presidential, parliamentary and provincial
elections in October.

Other news frames cited that South Africa was waiting for a US
ambassador after a two-and-a-half-year vacancy. US President
Donald Trump had appointed Lana Marks, a South African-born
fashion designer, to the post in November 2018, however eight
days later the Foreign Relations committee voted to move
Marks’ nomination to a full Senate vote. According to a senior US
. US secretary Michael Pompeo met with Angolan Foreign
Minister Manuel Augusto in Washington to reaffirm the strength
of the US - Angola strategic partnership and welcomed the bold
reforms that President João Lourenço had undertaken since
taking office in 2017. The two officials also discussed ways to
increase bilateral trade and investment and strengthen demo-
cratic institutions.

The US embassy urged Zambian journalists to have their audi-
ence in mind when writing stories. US embassy public affairs offi-
cer Sean McIntosh said journalists should ensure their audienc-
es understood what they were writing about. McIntosh also
reminded journalists to avoid single source stories.
In June, News24 said the US was SA’s third largest trading partner, with two-way trade in 2018 at $13.7bn. US imports from SA included precious metals, iron, steel and aluminium, to automobiles, auto parts, and millions of cartons of citrus and table grapes from the Northern and Western Cape.

Trade union Solidarity said US steel and aluminium tariffs were hurting South African manufacturers. The union said SA exporters of steel and aluminium products were under severe pressure after the US granted Canada and Mexico exemption from steel and aluminium tariffs.

The US consulate-general in Cape Town and the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) hosted an information and communications technology suppliers forum that aimed to create further economic benefits for SA and the US. US consul general Virginia Blaser said noted that they were pleased to continue to support Cape Town’s goals to be even more digitally engaged.

According to US Department of Agriculture data, Zimbabwe’s plans to increase maize imports to 750 000 tons, was the largest imports in a season in three years.

The USAID launched the Farmer-to-Farmer Program (2018-2023) in Zimbabwe in order to reaffirm their shared commitment to strengthening agriculture and resilience in Zimbabwe. USAID-funded John Ogonowski and Doug Bereuter Farmer-to-Farmer Program would provide technical assistance by highly qualified US volunteers to farmers, farmer groups, agribusinesses, and other agriculture sector institutions in developing and transitional countries.

Other news frames said Zambia was a great investment destination and was eager to increase its business relationship with the US. In 2018, the US exported $195 million worth of goods to Zambia. Top imports included copper, precious metals, emeralds, iron and steel.

Macauhub reported that USAID would provide funds that would help Mozambique return to the cashew nut production levels that it had in the 1970s over the next five years.

In July, America had its sights on increased trade with the continent - introducing a new approach called Prosper Africa, which aimed to increase two-way trade and investment between it and Africa. Matthew Harrington, the US deputy assistant secretary for Southern Africa and economic and regional affairs at the Bureau of African Affairs at the State Department, said it wanted to use South Africa as a base for trade in the rest of Africa.

Sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the US have had a devastating effect on the economy. Zimbabwe’s balance of payments position had deteriorated significantly since the introduction of sanctions. There had been a significant build-up of external debt arrears. Progress that the country had made in the development of infrastructure, health and social service delivery systems was severely affected by the imposition of sanctions.

Foreign Affairs minister Sibusiso Moyo told Parliament that Zimbabwe was working on normalising relations with the US government to end decades of isolation.

The US was working closely with Namibia to realise further growth in trade and investment between the two countries. US ambassador to Namibia, Lisa Johnson said her government was working closely to raise US companies’ awareness about opportunities in Namibia which supported develop-
Namibian uranium mines had expressed relief following the US president’s announcement that he had rejected a call to source about 25% supplies from within their own borders. USA uranium resident companies feared that yellow cake imports were a threat to national security. President Donald Trump, however, shot down the idea, saying he did not observe concerns on threats to national security yet.

During Zambia’s 243rd Declaration of Independence anniversary reception in Lusaka, Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote said the US had long been Zambia’s top bilateral donor by a large margin. He said the $500 million the US provided each year touched millions through development, education, health, youth and exchange programmes, conservation, work to attract investment, and many other areas.

In August, Concerns had been raised about the future of the AGOA under President Donald Trump’s administration. Enacted 19 years ago, Agoa gave special treatment to 39 African countries by abandoning import levies on more than 7,000 wide-ranging products. The US president had previously made it clear he wanted to protect US domestic business and manufacturing against threats from abroad. Analysts had suggested that this could mean added import duties on South African exports to the US.

Zimbabwe had met its critical target of dealing with the fiscal and current account deficits. The US State Department said in its July 11 executive summary of the 2019 investment climate statement on Zimbabwe, that The Transitional Stabilisation Programme, announced in 2018, included structural and fiscal reforms that, if fully implemented, would resolve many of the economy’s fundamental weaknesses.
In June, Assistant Secretary of state for Africa Nagy said the US President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (Pepfar) had invested over $6bn in HIV programs in SA and had partnered with hundreds of SA organisations. Through Pepfar and the National Institutes of Health, the US supported biomedical research, including HIV vaccine trials.

US Health Attaché Steve Smith said the battle to reduce HIV infections in SA was still ongoing and would be so for quite some time. In May, the national department of Health welcomed the US government’s decision to increase funding for the country’s HIV programme to US$730 million for the 2019/20 financial year following negotiation in the US.

A research noted that a US policy banning government-funded aid groups from discussing abortion around the world led to deaths from botched procedures and cut care to HIV-infected orphans and other children. The research looked at SA, among other countries, and the impact that the policy had on the country.

The Herald said First Lady Auxillia Mnangagwa, through her Angel of Hope Foundation, had mobilised a team of 18 medical professionals from the US to provide free medical treatment to the country’s marginalised communities.

The US government announced that it would contribute 421 million US dollars in 2020 in support of Zambia’s efforts to accelerate the fight against HIV/AIDS. US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote mentioned that the funds were meant to support the joint goal of reaching HIV epidemic control by 2020 and had been provided under the Pepfar.

Informante cited that US Ambassador to Namibia, Lisa Johnson announced US$100 000 in immediate drought assistance for Namibia from USAID’s Office for Disaster Assistance (OFDA). The funds would be used for humanitarian disaster relief with water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions to be provided by the Namibia Red Cross Society (NRCS) to targeted drought-affected communities.

Barefoot Books, Books For Africa (BFA) would ship 300,000 books in Portuguese to children in Mozambique. The shipment, comprising of 30,000 copies of 10 different titles, was part of a US government-funded project to combat AIDS/HIV in Mozambique. The books would go to children who were AIDS orphans, and their caregivers throughout the country. The project was being funded by a major contract from FHI 360, a contractor of the USAID undertaking work in Mozambique.

In July, The US Government provided an additional US$4.7 million to assist thousands of Zimbabweans living in Chimanimani and Chipinge districts to recover and rebuild their lives following tropical Cyclone Idai. The USAID said it would work with several other partners to provide affected families with access to clean water and hygiene supplies, shelter and settlement support, and agricultural early recovery services.

A report by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) predicted that Zimbabwe’s maize harvest would fall by another
Health & Food issues

53% in 2019 to only 800,000 tons. The USDA said it was unclear where Zimbabwe would get the maize supplies from as harvests in SA and Zambia, usually, Southern Africa’s biggest maize exporters, were also expected to decrease.

Starkey Hearing Foundation, a US-based organisation said it would continue offering free ear treatment in Zambia because of the conducive environment and the imperative need to assist the impaired. The programme had run in Zambia for four years, providing about 10,000 hearing aids and additionally had a school in Zambia which was training people from eight African countries.

Government had launched a new HIV drug called Tenofovir Alafenamide (TAF). The newly launched regimen would suppress the viral load within 10 to 14 days. Minister of Health, Dr. Chitalu Chilufya who launched the new drug, said Zambia was the first country in the world to introduce TAF. He also thanked cooperating partners, singling out the US Government for being an all-time partner.

The US Department of State’s Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mathew Harrington applauded Namibia’s success in bringing the HIV epidemic from crisis to control, thanks to the partnership between the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services.

The US ambassador to Namibia, Lisa Johnson, announced a package of US$100,000 in immediate drought assistance for Namibia from USAID’s Office for Disaster Assistance.

According to the Mozambican health authorities, 12% of the medicines on sale in the country were counterfeit and were thus a danger to public health. The Permanent Secretary in the Health Ministry, Zacarias Zindoga stressed USAID’s support for Mozambique’s National Quality Control Laboratory. The laboratory employed 15 technical staff, who were trained to use state-of-the-art equipment to test the quality of medicines used in Mozambique.

The Embassy of the US in SA had announced a project to assist the country end long queues at clinics by making it possible for patients to “collect their lifesaving medications in as little as 36 seconds”. This project was part of PEPFAR’s broader support for the Central Chronic Medicine Dispensing and Distribution (CCMDD) initiative, which created convenient medication pick-up points in communities.

Additionally, through PEPFAR, the US had partnered with SA since 2004 to support HIV prevention and treatment, investing more than $6 billion (over R80 billion) in HIV programs in SA.

Lesotho Times Editor Herbert Moyo interviewed the US Ambassador to Lesotho Rebecca Gonzales who said her trips to Lesotho allowed her to visit American owned businesses and check in on their investments, like MCC-built health facilities and PEPFAR programs.

In August, USAID gave the Tsumkwe district which was home to the San community whose residents were affected by drug-resistant tuberculosis, a 4×4 vehicle and cartridges for a GeneXpert TB diagnostic machine to use for tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis.

The 2019 eye camp kicked off at the Engela District Hospital in the Ohangwena region with over 400 eye patients from all over northern Namibia hoping to have their eyesight restored. The camp was led by six doctor surgery team, headed by Namibian eye specialist doctor Helena Ndume, along with five US doctors from organisations such as Alcon Laboratories and See International. Ndume thanked the US for investing about N$ 1.5 million in the eye camp every year since 1997.

The residents of Windhoek’s Goreangab settlements had not been using ‘Tip taps’ introduced by the health ministry to encourage hand washing. The settlement was one of the areas worse affected by hepatitis E. Tippy taps were introduced as part of the ‘Operation Sanitiser’ campaign by the health ministry and the US embassy to increase hand washing awareness, and to contain the spread of hepatitis E.

The US gave a US$45 million food donation to Zimbabwe in the upcoming lean season between October 2019 and March 2020 and was provided through the USAID. It would ensure that 360,880 rural households had enough food to take them to the next harvest.

A medical doctor, Dr Navlin Naidoo, was in the state of Michigan, US to present his research in dermatology. Naidoo, a qualified medical doctor by profession conducted research with the Department of Dermatology at UKZN and during the earlier part of 2019, he received an invitation to submit the abstract of his research to the University of Michigan as they hosted the first ever Global Youth Advancement Summit.

US Ambassador Daniel Foote urged people to test and know their HIV status, thus making the virus epidemic controllable in Zambia by 2020. Ambassador Foote along with health minister Chitalu Chilufya launched counseling, testing and treatment campaign in Lusaka’s Bauleni Compound.

The 42nd president of the US Bill Clinton and Bill Gates had travelled to Lesotho to visit an HIV/AIDS clinic supported by the William J. Clinton Foundation. It was reported to be the fifth time Clinton had been to Africa to promote AIDS awareness since 2001.

The US in partnership with the Mozambican government imported orange-fleshed varieties high in beta carotene from countries such as the US and Peru, in order to decrease high levels of vitamin A deficiency in Mozambique, in 1997.

An East London businessman Vumile Mtyobele of Avumile Business Investments mentioned that his company had built a clinic for the US Embassy at Emanzini in Swaziland.
In June, Terrorism-accused Thulsie twins (Brandon-Lee and Tony-Lee Thulsie) were supplied with all they needed to prepare for their trial, excluding evidence about their alleged plan to make bombs. It was believed one of the twins discussed terror plans with an undercover US FBI agent between May and June 2016. The agent disguised himself as an ISIS militant based in the US. The twins allegedly planned to bomb the US embassy and Jewish institutions in SA.

Zimbabwe

The US said it was monitoring the case involving the arrest of seven activists charged with plotting to unseat the President Mnangagwa led government. The activists were intercepted at the Robert Mugabe International Airport in Harare as they returned from attending a workshop in the Maldives.

In July, Bulawayo24 News reported that the “Upward Minuteman 2019” initiative was a US Africa Command exercise promoting the US National Guard’s State Partnership Programs on the African Continent. There were 13 State partnerships between the US and African countries such as Angola, Namibia, SA and Zimbabwe.

In August, the president of Mozambique signed a peace accord with the country’s main opposition party Renamo to end decades of hostilities. The US supported the accord and noted that it was an exciting time of positive transformation in Mozambique. US envoy Dennis Hearne mentioned the signing and the beginning of demobilization and disarmament process was an important transformation of the politics which would be consolidated with the elections in October.

Other reports cited that militants allied with the Islamic State error group stormed into a Christian village in northern Mozambique and burnt houses and forced residents to flee their homes. The director of the Office of Southern African Affairs at the US State Department Stephanie Amadeo said the US and other regional and international partners were engaged in helping the government develop a holistic security, community engagement and communication approach.

Other news frames said Angola benefited from the 2002 peace agreement that ended its 27-year civil war, but the remaining poor security of government stockpiles of weapons and ammunition would threaten its people. The US assisted Angola to prevent illegal diversions, increase the safety of Angolan citizens and strengthen Angola’s national security by destroying excess munitions and improving the physical security of munitions depots to protect its stockpiles.

A report by the US department of state alleged that Namibia was a source and destination country for children subjected to sex trafficking or forced labour.

According to the latest annual report from the US State Department the Government of Swaziland did not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of people trafficking but was making significant efforts to do so.
In June, the US Mission in SA encouraged residents of the country that were considering travelling to the US to apply for their visa as early as possible in order to secure an appointment for a visa interview in time for the planned travel. This was due to the heavy demand for US visas that had led to a longer than usual wait time in SA.

Cape Town Air Access Project Manager, Paul van den Brink said that the South African city planned to add routes to Australia and South America after reaching a deal with United Airlines for its first direct flight to the US. Van den Brink mentioned that the US route would mean future tourism and investment growth direct connectivity to one of the most important markets in the world.

Nehanda Radio said immigration authorities stated that they had deported illegal immigrants. One such immigrant, Okoli Sean Edward Ikem was prosecuted on charges of entering and remaining in Zimbabwe without a permit. He was sentenced to $200 fine or 30 days imprisonment and he opted to pay the fine and was deported to the US on 6 June 2019.

Other reports said the US Border Patrol agents saw a rise in the number of African migrants being detained at the US. -Mexico border, with migrants coming from the DRC, the Republic of the Congo and Angola.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated its Travel Alerts and identified which countries were combating diseases during 2019. Mozambique was one such country as parts of the country had been affected by Tropical Cyclone Idai. US residents was cautioned to avoid nonessential travel to Beira City and the surrounding area in Mozambique.

In July, More South Africans were emigrating to the US in search of a better lifestyle and job opportunities. According to data provided by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, between 2015 and 2017 around 10,200 South Africans obtained permanent resident status. This number had continued to slowly increase in recent years, with just under 70 South Africans leaving every week.

City of Cape Town Mayor, Dan Plato announced a new flight route between New Jersey and Cape Town at a launch hosted by the Cape Town Air Access partners for Western Cape businesses and key stakeholders in the economy.

According to a report in South Africa’s Eyewitness News, embattled South African Airways (SAA) would be getting two A350-900s in the later half of 2019 to run on its flagship transatlantic Johannesburg – New York route.

US imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe had a devastating effect on the tourism industry - Zimbabwe had been falsely perceived as an unsafe and risky country to visit. Similarly, ordinary Zimbabwean travellers were finding it difficult to obtain visas to travel abroad due to negative perceptions and xenophobia arising indirectly from the sanctions.

Zambia’s potential of becoming a tourism leader through
conservation had continued to be hampered by poaching. which US ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote said there was need for concerted effort in protecting the country’s species to avoid crippling the tourism sector, which was critical in the economic diversification of the country.

Since May, more than 1,100 Africans had been apprehended by Border Patrol in the Del Rio, Texas. They hailed from 19 African nations, but most were from Angola and the Congo, according to Sector Chief Raul Ortiz.

Numerous media frames cited that US singer Deborah Cox slammed the South African Airline (SAA), accusing them of disregarding the safety of passengers. The singer said after three-hour delay on the plane to take care of a damaged door, the national airline still insisted on flying the damaged plane which later had to turn back around.

SAA responded to media reports that there was a fire in the cockpit of a plane bound for the US and said there was no fire in the cockpit and no one was injured and the aircraft made an air-turn back and landed safely in Accra with all 223 passengers on board and the operating crew.

The US Mission in South Africa encouraged all residents considering travel to the US to apply for their visas as early as possible in order to secure an appointment for a visa interview in time for their planned travel. The mission state that the heavy demand for US visas led to a longer than usual wait time.

Zimbabwe summoned the US ambassador to Harare to protest the US travel sanctions imposed on its envoy to Tanzania over his alleged role in a military crackdown that left six civilians dead in 2018. The US flagged Anselem Sanyatwe, former commander of the presidential guard, on its sanctions list, barring him from entering the country.

Zoos in the US planned to import baby elephants from Zimbabwe, undeterred by the international furor over their 2016 import of 18 wild elephants from Swaziland. The US Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) media confirmed “knowledge of a possible elephant imports by AZA members and others,” but denied knowledge of which facilities were involved.

The US federal government continued call for Ebola screeners at airports including Dulles International Airport in the Washington area, as migrants from an Ebola-affected region in Africa settle in the US A group of Angolan migrants had crossed the US – Mexico border in early June and reportedly went to different areas of the US.

Center for Immigration Studies further stated that US authorities worked on other angles to slow the flow of Africans and it was not clear why Angolans travelled to the US border in larger numbers since there was no warfare or significant civil unrest currently plagues Angola.

The Namibian said the Minister for Public enterprises Leon Jooste and other government officials were in the US to negotiate Air Namibia’s exit from aircraft lease agreements—the clearest signal of a looming closure of the national airline, which could cost the government around N$2,5 billion.

Zambia’s Tourism and Arts Minister called for the need to integrate and connect Black-African Americans, who had chosen to track and reconnect with their ancestral roots, to the rest of Zambia. The minister said this when a 12-member delegation of the Homecoming Project led by their president Eric Sheppard of the US and Induna Namamba of the Barotse Royal Establishment (BRE) paid a courtesy call on him.

Zoos in the US planned to import baby elephants from Zimbabwe, undeterred by the international furor over their 2016 import of 18 wild elephants from Swaziland.
In June, President Mnangagwa met with US assistant secretary of State for African Affairs Nagy where he begged the US to consider dropping the staggering US$385 Million fine imposed on the country’s top bank the CBZ in 2017. Finance and Economic Development Minister Professor Mthuli Ncube, who was also present, said it was a pleasant meeting and they were also able to convey to American companies that ‘Zimbabwe was open for them, they were open for business’.

Zimbabwe’s Foreign Minister, Sibusiso Moyo had allegedly hired another American lobbyist and at a cost of over $1 million. The US senator Todd Moss said Moyo had signed not one but two US lobbyist contracts. Avenue Strategies for over US$1 million in April 2019 Ballard Group for US$500,000 per year in March 2019.

Numerous reports highlighted that Corporate Council on Africa, in partnership with the Government of Mozambique hosted the 12th US – Africa Business Summit in Maputo. The Summit brought together more than 1,000 US and African private sector executives, international investors, senior government officials and multilateral stakeholders.

US energy firm Anadarko Petroleum Corp would begin the construction of a $20 billion gas liquefaction and export terminal in Mozambique, the largest single LNG project approved in Africa. Anadarko Chief Executive Officer Al Walker said as the world increasingly sought cleaner forms of energy, the Anadarko-led Area 1 Mozambique LNG project was ideally located to meet growing demand, particularly in expanding Asian and European markets.

Assistant Secretary of state for Africa Nagy would visit Mozambique, where he would take part at the US -Africa business conference.

News24 cited that the US had the largest source of foreign direct investment in SA for much of the last fifteen years. It was said that over 500 American companies were active in SA, accounting for an estimated 10% of GDP and over 200 000 jobs.

Guardian noted that the American Tower Corp had entered SA in 2011 with more than 1,900 sites.

Business Insider said the JSE-listed Grand Parade Investments said it was shutting down Dunkin’ Donuts in SA because of the poor performance of stores.


King Mswati III of eSwatini attended the 12th US-Africa Business Summit.
In June, Power Technology reported about SA’s solar power stations, and it mentioned the solar farm in the Northern Cape region, the Jasper Solar Power Project. It was a 96MW plant formed of 325,000 solar panels that were online since October 2014. It cost R2.3bn to build and was owned by American company SolarReserve.

In July, the US Department of State, the US Embassy in Namibia and the Namibia University of Science and Technology hosted more than 60 grade 10 and 11 female learners from different schools in Windhoek and around the country, for a Women in Science Camp. The US Department of State and embassy in Namibia aimed to encourage female learners to pursue studies in science-related fields in order to close the gender gap through access to education.

US ambassadors to Zambia Daniel Foote said they supported Zambia’s venture into renewable energy and called for continued commitment to investment in renewable energy. This came after Zambia’s energy deficiency received overwhelming interest from international companies to start solar operations in the Southern African country.

The Herald said Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority would receive $2.8 million from the US Trade and Development Agency to fund the upgrading of a feasibility study on the proposed upgrading and expansion of the huge Hwange thermal power station, in northern Zimbabwe.

In August, the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) announced that they awarded a grant to SA’s Wireless Access Providers Association (WAPA) for a pilot project that aimed to help improve internet access for rural and semi-rural areas in SA. This would be done through the use of American TV white space (TVWS) technologies; TVWS technology utilises unused broadcast spectrum to help connect customers in semi-rural and rural regions to affordable internet service.

The USTDA awarded a US$1.3 million grant to Upepo Energy Zambia Limited, a Zambian energy solutions company, to fund a feasibility study for a 150MW wind, solar and energy storage hybrid power plant project in northern Zambia. The study would evaluate the optimal mix of on-site wind, solar and battery storage technologies to provide energy generation and services to the Zambian grid.

More than 120 exhibitors recently set up shop at the Namibia Biomass Technology Expo held at the Otjiwa Safari Lodge near Otjiwarongo. Exhibitors came from the USA, SA, Germany, Austria, Denmark, and the UK. The event was meant for sharing new technology and exchange ideas on unlocking the value of biomass in the country.

A member of parliament in Swaziland, Robert Magongo, accused mobile phone company MTN of listening in on customers and called on the Minister of Information, Communication and Technology Princess Sikhanyiso, to take ‘serious action’ on the matter. This was not the first time the company was accused of doing this. In August 2011 Wikileaks published a cable from the US Embassy in Swaziland that revealed the Swazi Government tried to get MTN to use its network for ‘surveillance on political dissidents’. 
In June, at the annual fundraiser lunch for Books for Africa (BFA) African ambassador speaker Ngosa Simbyakula and the ambassador of Zambia to the US said the 44 million books that Books for Africa shipped to Africa for the last 31 years, touched and changed the lives of millions in the continent.

News24 stated that the US-South African education partnership in the IBM Research Lab was an example of the educational partnership between the country and the US. In 2018, the US Department of State Deputy Secretary John Sullivan visited the lab and was impressed with its capabilities and the potential for private-public partnerships to help solve pressing challenges in SA. The program promoted the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)/Mandela Washington Fellowship.

Citizen cited that an Makgotso Pearl Mayilule would represent SA through her hard-earned work in science in the US. Mayilule was selected after she won a gold medal at the Eskom Expo International Science Fair project and represented SA at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in the US.

Forty-two Zimbabwean youth would head to the US for six weeks, as participants of the Mandela Washington Fellowship program, the flagship program of the YALI, that started in 2014. YALI was launched in 2014 by former US President Barack Obama, to empower young African leaders. In July, US Clark Atlanta University welcomed 25 rising leaders from 19 African countries as part of their institute partnership with the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. The program was sponsored by the US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and administered by the International Research & Exchange Board. Leaders from Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe would represent.

The US embassy praised 23 South Africans who received prestigious Fulbright scholarships to pursue Master’s, PhD and non-degree research and studies in the US. The program was launched in 2014 by former US President Barack Obama, to empower young African leaders. The US embassy praised 23 South Africans who received prestigious Fulbright scholarships to pursue Master’s, PhD and non-degree research and studies in the US. Smith added than 2 100 South African students and scholars pursued studies and research in the US.

The Chronicle noted that Precious Ncube, was selected to represent Zimbabwe in the US, where she would be trained on the importance of inclusive education. Inclusive education was where schools put up facilities and infrastructure that allowed both learners with special needs and those without to learn together.

A Zambian interpreter, Obed Mambwe would participate in the US State Department’s Mandela Washington Fellowship. Mambwe noted that he wanted help the deaf community in Zambia, to learn how to run an organization for interpreters and how to help the deaf community in areas of the education.

Angolan head of State João Lourenço congratulated US
Education

Donald Trump on celebration of the 243rd anniversary of the country’s Independence. Lourenço emphasized that Angola and US had 26 years of strategic partnership based on legal instruments for co-operation in several key fields such as education, health, security and trade.

US Ambassador to Lesotho Rebecca Gonzales said in an interview that they sent numerous people of Basotho to the US on training and scholarship programs in areas ranging from Human Rights and Rule of law programs, to rigorous academic exchanges like Fulbright and leadership training.

In August, the US Embassy to South Africa opened 2020/2021 applications to its Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, which offered mid-career professionals an opportunity to spend up to one year in the US participating in non-degree graduate-level study and leadership development seminars.

The US embassy in partnership with AFS Interculture opened applications for its Kennedy Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Programme (KL YES). The KL YES programme provided South African students with the unique chance to spend 10 months with a selected host family and go to a local American high school. The programme included a full scholarship sponsored by the KL YES and the US Department of State.

The US Consulate in partnership with the Central Library and the American Corner hosted an event for education policy makers and teachers in the province with the aim to find ways to improve the quality of education and learning. The US Mission to South Africa invested in education and economic empowerment for South Africans through several programmes, supported pupils to prepare for and apply to US colleges and universities through the Education US programme and also brought experts in academia from the US to spend time with universities in South Africa.

The Omaheke Regional Library in Gobabis, one of three regional libraries in the in Namibia, which served as an information hub and resource centre, received laptops from Bank Windhoek. The Library was built with funds received from the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), an agency from the US, which aimed at reducing poverty through economic growth in the education, tourism and agriculture sectors.

Zambian First Lady, Esther Lungu commissioned the Esther Lungu Primary School and Esther Lungu health post in Ndewe Village. The newly commissioned Primary School and health post were constructed with support from MGC power Corporation from the US, through the Esther Lungu Foundation. The school would provide access to quality education closer to the people in the areas where girls were most deprived of their right to education due to long distances to schools.

The University of Zambia began the construction of two lecture theatres which had a sitting capacity for 350 students. The infrastructure development had financial support from the US Government through the Department of Defense and the Centre for Disease Control.

Arts & Culture

In June, The US was putting up $475 000 to help restore the stone walls at Great Zimbabwe, a fortress that dates back to the 11th century and which gave the country its name. The rehabilitation was being undertaken with funding from the US Government under the Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation. Besides wall-monitoring modern equipment and dry wall conservation, part of the rehabilitation work would involve removing and combating the invasive Lantana Camara weed plant.

The Museums Association of Namibia was conducting country-wide exhibitions portraying the then Nazi regime’s ‘Science of Race’ and its implications for medical ethics and social responsibility. Chairperson of the Museums Association of Namibia Professor Martha Akawa-Shikufa explained that the exhibition had been developed by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. She identified both professionals and students in the medical, legal and history fields as the primary audience.
Politics
Significant reports in Ghana said a congressional delegation led by the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, arrived in Ghana. The delegation included Majority Whip James Clyburn, Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus Karen Bass, Co-Chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee Congresswoman Barbara Lee and the legendary civil rights leader John Lewis. The delegation also comprised of Somali-born Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, the subject of attacks by US President Donald Trump, who told Omar and three other women members of Congress to “go back” to the countries they came from. Ghanaweb reported that Pelosi and her delegation held high-level discussions with President Nana Akufo-Addo and Pelosi delivered an address to the Ghanaian Parliament.

The Daily Graphic reported that the Minority in Parliament petitioned the US government to help probe the Power Distribution Service (PDS) Ghana Limited saga. The Ghana government initiated investigations to help find an early resolution of the dispute that led to the suspension of the power distribution concession agreement with PDS.

In Nigeria, Premium Times reported that the US classified the Nigerian government among those that were not fiscally transparent. The classification, contained in a report released by the US Department Of State, meant Nigeria’s budgeting process, including its contracting and licensing processes in the extractive industry, did not meet the standards required of the American government.

A proposed US ban on cocoa from Ivory Coast, the world’s leading supplier of chocolate’s essential ingredient, was facing strong political resistance from the West African nation. In Liberia, the US Embassy near Monrovia congratulated Elias Shoniyin, Liberia’s Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs on his selection as a 2019 Yale University Maurice R. Greenburg World Fellow. The US Embassy referred to Shoniyin as an international affairs development, policy professional and diplomat, with over nineteen years in non-profit and public service, in multiple senior positions where he made significant contributions to the post-war recovery and development of Liberia.

Media reports said a US-owned mining company said that it was seeking arbitration in an international court against the Sierra Leone government.

In the Gambia reports focused on the inquiry into the atrocities perpetrated during Yayah Jammeh’s rule. Reports said Badjie, a hit squad member, told the panel that Jammeh ordered in June 2013 for two US-Gambian businessmen who he suspected of planning a coup, Alhaji Ceesay and Ebrima Jobe, to be “chopped into pieces”.

Business & Investments
Bloomberg reported that the US and Africa had different views on their future trade relationship when a preferential access deal expired in 2025. US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Tibor Nagy said his country favoured bilateral trade agreements with African nations. The AU Trade and Industry Commissioner Albert Muchanga said the AU favoured a free-trade agreement with the US to replace AGOA. The AU stated that Africa should negotiate with "one
Analysis of daily issue coverage

Reports in Cote’d Ivoire said Sama Resources Inc. announced that it entered into a Share Purchase Agreement to sell 8,300,000 shares of its currently held 24,658,267 common shares of SRG Mining to a US based Industrial Firm for a price of $5 million. Reports said Nigeria needs to make its oil and gas sector more transparent and open to fuel-pricing competition if it wants to attract investments from US oil firms, a Nigeria-based official at the US Department of Commerce told Bloomberg in an interview.

Other reports said USAID launched a five-year agribusiness investment programme that targets 300 million dollars for seven states in Nigeria. The Feed and Future programme would facilitate $200 million in new lending and 100 million dollar in new investment across the five crops in Kaduna, Niger, Kebbi, Benue, Delta, and Ebonyi and Cross River States. Reports from Ghana said the Governor of the State of Mississippi, Phil Bryant, travelled to Accra from August 14 – 16, 2019. Governor Bryant travelled to Ghana to expand and promote trade and investment opportunities between Mississippi and Ghana.

Health & Food Issues
The US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) administered by the US Centres for Disease Control (CDC), US Department of Defence, and USAID was implementing an Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) surge program in Rivers state to identify and provide treatment to approximately 180,000 PLHIV who have not previously received such. A US delegation visited Rivers state to highlight the US government’s $75 million budget increase for HIV control activities in Nigeria, with about $25 million allocated for the ART surge activities. Numerous reports said USAID planned to facilitate $300 million investment across five crops in seven states in Nigeria under its Feed the Future Programme.

Tourism, Travel and Leisure
In Ghana, most reports said 2019 marked the 400th anniversary of the first enslaved Africans from Ghana arriving on the shores of Jamestown, Virginia. While this sordid history was a tough pill for both sides of the tale to swallow, the country chose to commemorate the occasion with a “Year of Return” celebration that acknowledged the cumulative resilience of all the victims of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. Reports the decision of the US to impose visa restrictions on Nigerians it deems as having played nefarious roles in undermining the integrity of the 2019 general elections in Nigeria was heart-warming.

In an expression of its commitment to strengthening the ties that link Nigeria and the US, the US Consulate Lagos inaugurated a documentary film festival. The major highlight of the festival was the American Film Showcase, the premier film diplomacy program of the US Department of State, which was produced in partnership with the University of Southern California’s School of Cinematic Art.

The Embassy of the US in Nigeria signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Centre to establish a space for American literature at the city library.

Economy, Trade & Development
Major news reports mentioned that South Africa’s Economic Development and Trade and Industry Minister Ebrahim Patel said steps needed to be taken to increase utilisation of its benefits under AGOA as well as to deepen trade and investment relationships with the world’s biggest economy.

Other reports highlighted that a proposed US ban on cocoa from Ivory Coast faced a strong political resistance. The US reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Ghana’s apparel manufacturing industry. This followed a visit from a high-level US Congressional Delegation including its Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, to Ghana’s largest apparel manufacturer in West Africa, Dignity Do the Right Thing located in Accra.

Peace, Security & Terrorism
The Government of Ghana and the US’ African Command teamed up to organise a symposium that was geared towards developing strategies and deepening efforts to fight cyber threats facing Ghana and other countries in the sub-region. Ghana signed a contract worth $200 million to construct a Forward Operating Base at Edzinlibo in the Western Region in order to protect the country’s oil and gas infrastructure.

Science, Technology & Innovation
Numerous reports highlighted that US social media platform, Facebook said it would fight fake news on its platform using Yoruba and Igbo languages from Nigeria. Facebook’s Head of Public Policy, Africa, Kojo Boakye, said in a statement, that the two languages were in addition to the Hausa language, already supported by the platform.

Education
Reports in Ghana mentioned that the Public Affairs Section of the US Mission in Nigeria signed a memorandum of understanding with the Federal Capital Territory Administration for American Spaces to operate at the territory’s library.
In June, Various media reports said that authorities in the island of Jersey, a self-governing entity under the patronage of the UK, seized more than a quarter-of-a-billion dollars in assets belonging to family of the late Nigerian military dictator General Sani Abacha. Jersey’s Civil Asset Recovery Fund designated assets and cash in a Channel Islands account in the name of a shell company, Doraville Properties Corporation, were ‘laundered’ assets that were derived from corruption. The assets of the account, worth a total of $267.75 million was frozen by a federal court in Washington since 2014. The money, since deposited into Jersey’s Civil Asset Recovery Fund would be returned to Nigeria once an asset sharing agreement, is negotiated between Nigeria, the US and the Jersey government.

The Punch reported that Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo visited the US, according to a statement released by the Presidency in Abuja. “In his meeting with his American counterpart, VP Osinbajo discussed matters of mutual interests between Nigeria and the US, while speaking on Nigeria’s economic prospects and other related matters in his meeting with the Council on Foreign Relations.

In Liberia, the Embassy of the US in Monrovia issued an alert, warning its citizens and US government personnel to stay away from protest sites. The alert warned that the protest which was organized by ‘The Council of Patriots’ would start during the morning hours of June 7 and might continue till the following day. The embassy warned that “US government personnel were advised to avoid the area, including rescheduling flights in or out of Roberts International Airport on June 7 and 8, as traffic jams may affect travel to and from the airport.

The US government fully supported the Government of The Republic of The Gambia’s investigation into the corruption of former President Yahya Jammeh, and Gambian efforts to recover the ill-gotten gains of Jammeh and his associates. The US government said that they commended the efforts of the Commission of Inquiry into the Financial Activities of Public Bodies, Enterprises and Offices, and those of the Ministry of Justice and Office of the Attorney General of The Gambia for their work in uncovering and documenting the kleptocratic actions and mechanisms of the former president and his associates.

Reports in Ghana said that According to Dr Barfuor Adjei-Barwuah, a government delegation led by the Foreign Minister, Ms Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, held two successful meetings with the US authorities to help bring the restrictions to an end. He told the Daily graphic they were about holding the third meeting in the coming weeks and they trusted that there would be finality to the restrictions based on mutual understanding. Dr Adjei-Barwuah said the discussions held so far was positive. He was therefore confident that the US government will reverse the restrictions. The US government-imposed visa restrictions on Ghana for what it said was the government’s failure to issue travel documents to over 7,000 Ghanaian citizens awaiting deportation from the US.

In July, considerable media reports said US Department imposed visa restrictions on Nigerians who were involved in trying to or undermined democracy in the concluded Nigeria’s 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections.
Politics

Morgan Ortagus, spokeswoman of the department said: “These individuals operated with impunity at the expense of the Nigerian people and undermined democratic principles and human rights. Ortagus added that “The Department of State emphasises that the actions announced were specific to certain individuals and not directed at the Nigerian people or the newly elected government.

Ghana Business News stated that Madam Stephanie S. Sullivan, the US Ambassador to Ghana paid a courtesy call on the members of the Council of State in Accra. The visit afforded the Ambassador the opportunity to familiarise herself with the operations of the Council, establish a relationship and explore avenues for partnerships. The meeting, which was held behind closed doors, discussed issues regarding governance, trade facilitation and security.

Liberian Observer said that President George Weah on June 27, 2019 welcomed a delegation of the US Government to a meeting at his Foreign Ministry’s office, stressing a need for enhanced bilateral cooperation, coordination and collaboration between Liberia and the US. According to the release, the US delegation was headed by Marie Royce, Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Culture Affairs Bureau, and included, among others, Ambassador Christine Elder, as well as USAID Mission Director Anthony Chan.

Reports in Cameroon communicated that a delegation of Congressmen and women from the US met with the Prime Minister, Head of Government Joseph Dion Ngute as both parties discussed bilateral cooperation between Cameroon and the US. They discussed the crisis in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon as well as the fight against Boko Haram and the US support to the Cameroon government in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Voice reported that Richard Carl Pashall, US to Gambia, said that Gambians deserved transparency as they voted for change in 2016. He cited the Janneh Commission, the Constitutional Review Commission TRRC among others and said, these were part of the processes initiated by the country to seek answers on a number of critical issues.

Other reports said that the government of Sierra Leone commented for the first time on the latest decision by the US to deport many undocumented migrants to their countries of origin. Ambassador to the US of America, Sidiqoe Abou-Bakarr Wai, told Politico in a telephone interview that they were closely monitoring the situation.

In August, reports said that the new Consul-General of the US Consulate in Lagos, Ms. Claire Pierangelo, said that partnership between the consulate and the state government was critical to the success of the US mission in Nigeria. US ambassador Claire Pierangelo said that US was ready to collaborate with Lagos in the areas of education, health and security, reiterating American government’s commitment to deepen bilateral relationship with Nigeria through “active collaborations”.

Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo called for a new and a more progressive agenda in its relations with the US. the president said this during a visit of Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the US House of Representatives. Pelosi praised Ghana for its democratic credentials and relative stability within the African region.

Reports in Cote d’Ivoire stated that First lady Dominique Ouattara convened a meeting in Abidjan with nine Capitol Hill staffers and Rep. Dwight Evans, D-Pa., to lay out arguments against a proposal to block Ivorian cocoa from US ports. The call to block Ivorian cocoa and the chocolate that produced with it emerged last month from two US senators who cited “overwhelming evidence” that the Ivorian cocoa harvest depended on forced child labor. For that reason, they said, such products should not enter the US market.

The Africa Report reported that tensions were inexorably rising between the US and Cameroon. Washington imposed sanctions on a top Cameroonian official, but the authorities in Yaoundé were launching a counter-offensive. Cameroon hired a public relations firm with close ties to the Republican Party to promote its image in the US.

Liberia’s Ambassador accredited to the US George S.W. Patten, Sr. said that diaspora Liberians had a critical role to play in Liberia’s national development. He called on Liberians abroad, especially those in the US to take the lead in the advancement of their nation’s development agenda.

In other news, a US-owned mining company said that it was seeking arbitration in an international court against the Sierra Leone government. Sierra Leone Mining, also known as SL Mining, made the announcement after the government suspended its mining license and cancelled those of China’s Shandong Iron and Steel Group for allegedly failing to pay it royalties for iron ore extracted. Both companies denied the claim.
In June, Media reports in Nigeria said that about half of the cooking gas consumed in the country in the first three months of this year was imported from India and five other countries. According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, 47 percent (146.14 million litres) of the cooking gas or Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supply in Nigeria in the first quarter of this year was imported, while 53 percent (164.71 million litres) was produced locally. The US accounted for 46 percent (67.10 million litres) of Nigeria’s LPG imports in the period, while India, Trinidad and Tobago, Algeria, Argentina, and Equatorial Guinea supplied the remaining one percent.

US Ambassador to Ghana, Stephanie Sullivan, assured that her government was committed to supporting Ghana’s progress towards self-reliance. She reiterated that Ghana had many potentials and possibilities to become a country that needed no foreign assistance or aid. She added that the US "enthusiastically supports Ghana’s promotion of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (or STEM) education" which she stated were the foundational areas for Ghana long-term development.

African law business said that the US unveiled details of its Prosper Africa policy at the gathering of African heads of state in Mozambique. The US-Africa Business Summit took place in Maputo, Mozambique, bringing together leaders from several African states, US government representatives and business figures from both sides of the Atlantic. The new programme included the signing of the Better Utilization of investments Leading to Development (BUILD) Act, which created the International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), due to replace the existing OPIC later this year, with a higher cap for financing. Also announced was the signing of a new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Mozambique, focused on trade and investment, following similar MOUs with Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, Ghana and Kenya.

Business in Cameroon said that during the first quarter this year, Cameroon sold a total of 5,946 tons of sawn timber on the US market. According to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), this volume was 48% higher than that in the first quarter of 2018 (4,010 tons). Despite this strong performance, the international body stresses, the US market is still a minor destination for Cameroonian sawn timber. In the same period, the central African country shipped 60,000 tons of such timber to the EU, up 22% year-on-year.

In July, the US government said Nigeria had not taken full advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act. The US government, through its Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Ambassador Tibor Nagy, and the Assistant US Trade Representative for Africa, Ms Constance Hamilton, said this during a telephone press briefing on the forthcoming 2019 AGOA Forum. On why Nigerian companies had not been able to efficiently key into the business opportunities offered by AGOA, Hamilton said Nigeria needed to diversify its economy to take full advantage of the initiative.

Other reports in Nigeria stated USAID announced an additional assistance of $243 million to support Nigeria in reaching its development goals. The assistance was a continuation of the US’s commitment to supporting the development goals outlined in the Development
Economy, Trade & Development

Objective Assistance Agreement signed with Nigeria in 2015. The additional funding brought the total US government assistance provided to the Nigerian people under this five-year agreement to $1.422 billion. Director, USAID Mission, Stephen M. Haykin, said that the new funding would support activities to build a healthier population with $165 million, including assisting with malaria control, supporting maternal and child health, family planning, eradication of tuberculosis, and nutrition initiatives.

Reports in Ghana said that Speaker Nancy Pelosi led a Congressional delegation to Ghana to hold high-level discussions with Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo, Speaker Mike Oquaye, and other senior government officials. Speaker Pelosi said that In Ghana, their delegation looked forward to high-level discussions on key issues such as regional security, sustainable and inclusive development and the challenges of tomorrow including the climate crisis.

Christine Elder, US Ambassador accredited to Liberia, June 27, 2019, reaffirmed the American government commitment to help Liberia achieve the goal outlined in President George M. Weah’s pro-poor Agenda. Elder informed the government that they designed a strategy that would guide the US development initiative in Liberia for the next five years. She made the statement at the opening of the second USAID/Liberia Development Conference held in Monrovia in collaboration with the Liberia Institute for Policy Studies and Research, the government of Liberia, Policymakers, Multilateral and Bilateral Donors.

Other reports said that the annual review of the eligibility of Sub-Saharan African countries to receive benefits under AGOA was now underway. For 2019, 39 countries were designated as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

In August, reports focused on the AGOA session that was held in Cote d’Ivoire in Abidjan. The US Embassy Abidjan brought together more than 20 local and international journalists for a two-hour information session on AGOA. The session, which was organized ahead of the 2019 AGOA Forum scheduled for August 4-6 in Abidjan, enabled the journalists to understand this American legislation aimed to assist the economies of sub-Saharan Africa and to improve economic relations between the US and the region. The session featured Kara Diallo, an USAID/AGOA Specialist, who spoke on the advantages of AGOA for the eligible countries.

The US classified the Nigerian government among those that were not fiscally transparent. The classification, contained in a report released Thursday by the US Department Of State, meant Nigeria’s budgeting process, including its contracting and licensing processes in the extractive industry, did not meet the standards required of the American government. The report, called the 2019 Fiscal Transparency Report, covers January 1 to December 31, 2018.

Modern Ghana reported that the Governor of the State of Mississippi, Phil Bryant, travelled to Accra from August 14 – 16, 2019. Governor Bryant travelled to Ghana to expand and promote trade and investment opportunities between Mississippi and Ghana. While in Accra, he met with Government of Ghana officials, private sector representatives, local entrepreneurs, members of business associations, and scientific research stations.

Front Page Africa stated that a Fiscal Transparency Report from the US State Department recommended a major overhaul if Liberia’s fiscal transparency was to be improved. The report said that Liberia could improve its fiscal transparency by ensuring the budget was substantially complete and off-budget accounts were subject to adequate audit and oversight. The Gambia was also among the countries that were classified as not fiscally transparent.

Sierra Leone was reviewing all mining licenses as part of a government clean-up of the industry. One of the companies impacted by the review, US-based Gerald Group, last month suspended iron-ore shipments from its Marampa operation on the government’s request. Sandy, Minister of Trade and Industry said that it would be in the interests of both parties to resolve the matter as soon as possible, without elaborating further.
In June, The Partnership between Nigeria’s Ministry of Defense (NMOD) Health Implementation Program (HIP) and the US Department of Defense’s Walter Reed Army Institute of Research through its US Army Medical Research Directorate-Africa/Nigeria (USAMRD-A/N) played a primary role in curtailing the scourge of HIV/AIDS among troops, their families and civilians living around the barracks. “All combined, $800 million dollars was the total of US investments in Nigeria, which was the largest in health that we have globally”, US Deputy Chief of Mission in Nigeria, Kathleen FitzGibbon said at the opening of the site commanders and site team leaders' meeting in Abuja.

Other reports in Nigeria said that Niger and Nigeria improved their efforts to fight human trafficking, but still did not meet the minimum standards required, the US Government said in its closely watched annual assessment of how countries are performing. The US State Department upgraded both West African nations in its 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, which sorts countries into three tiers based on their efforts to fight trafficking. Their move from Tier 2 Watch List to Tier 2 means they were no longer under special scrutiny and at less risk of falling to Tier 3, which can trigger US sanctions. The report credited Nigeria with ending the use of child soldiers by a government-supported armed group and initiating prosecutions against seven government officials allegedly complicit in trafficking.

Journal du Cameroun said that four US senators demanded a halt in security assistance to Cameroon “until the military and security forces of the country demonstrate progress in abiding by international human rights standards.” The demand from Senators Dick Durbin, Ben Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, and Tim Kaine was introduced through an amendment to the 2020 Fiscal Year National Defense Authorization Act dubbed NDAA June 25. According to the senators, reports of gross human rights violations by Cameroonian military forces and separatists in restive regions prompted this amendment. Africa daily communicated that Cameroon’s defence ministry said that it would prosecute seven soldiers suspected of summarily killing two women and their two children, a video of which was distributed on the internet to widespread outrage. The US and Britain were among those which called for a probe and to hold those responsible to account.

The US Department of State, Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo released the 2019 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, an annual publication documenting the efforts of the governments of 187 countries and territories, including the US, to combat human trafficking. Under the US Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), it was the responsibility of governments to address all forms of human trafficking within their own country and take targeted steps to tackle this serious problem. The 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report found that the Government of The Gambia did not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and was not making significant efforts to do so. Consequently, in this year’s TIP Report, The
Peace, Security & Terrorism

Gambia was ranked Tier 3.

In partnership with the Ghana Armed Forces, US Army Africa conducted a combined Medical Readiness Training Exercise (MEDREX) from June 3-20, 2019 at the 37th Military Hospital in Accra, Ghana. This marks the fifth iteration of a US Army Africa medical readiness exercise in Ghana. To commemorate the conclusion of the exercise, US Army Africa Command Surgeon Colonel Kelly Murray, based in Vicenza, Italy, travelled to Accra to join representatives from the Ghana Armed Forces for a closing ceremony on June 21, 2019. Medical military personnel from Ghana and the US participated in this three-week exercise. Both militaries conducted medical operations and procedures together to share best practices, build capacity and strengthen capability.

In July, This Day stated that US Government in Washington DC promised to assist Nigeria in the effort to rescue Leah Sharibu, the lone Christian girl held back by Boko Haram when it released 104 Dapchi schoolgirls it kidnapped on February 19, 2018. The assistance, according to Empowered News wire, a US news agency, was offered when Vice President Yemi Osinbajo met his US counterpart, Mike Pence in Washington DC.

Reports stated that USNS Carson City (T-EFP 7), a Military Sealift Command Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship, departed Rota, Spain, on July 2, as part of the Navy’s second deployment to the Gulf of Guinea this year. During Carson City’s deployment, US military personnel would work alongside US partners in Cabo Verde, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal to provide assistance based on host nation requests during previous APS exercise and engagements.

All Africa reported that US embassy near Monrovia maintained travel alert issued, June 24, 2019 to American citizens as a result of a violent protest near Fifteen Gate community along the Monrovia-Kakata highway that led to shooting and several injuries, one critical, despite calm restored to the area.

In Cameroon, reports said that congressman Ron Kind held an event in La Crosse to highlight the political and humanitarian crisis there and to call for diplomatic American intervention to ease the suffering. Ethnic violence between the French speaking majority and the English-speaking minority reached crisis levels.

In August, reports in Nigeria said that a delegation of US Naval Ship, CARSON CITY, visited the Western Naval Command (WNC) in Apapa, Lagos to strengthen the existing relations and security ties with the Nigerian Navy. The leader of the delegation, Rear Adm. John Gumbleton, told journalists said the visit was aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the navies of both countries.

Ghana Web communicated that the Government of Ghana and the US’ African Command (AFRICOM) teamed up to organise a symposium that was geared towards developing strategies and deepening collaborative efforts to fight cyber threats facing Ghana and other countries in the sub-region. US Charge d’Affaires, Christopher Lamora observed that the upsurge in technological developments have exposed several countries to the threats of cybercrimes and criminals.

Defence web noted that US and Senegalese officials inaugurated two body scanners and four explosives trace detectors at the passenger checkpoint for outbound flights inside Blaise Diagne International Airport, about 25 miles east of the Senegalese capital of Dakar. The equipment, handed over on 1 August, was provided by the US Department of State’s Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) programme with funding and guidance from the Bureau of Counterterrorism.

The Defence Post stated that the US would seek additional international cooperation to fight Islamic State on a global scale, with a particular focus on Africa, following the defeat of the group in Iraq and Syria, a State Department official said. Reports added that perhaps the most significant threat came from Islamic State West Africa Province in Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

Other reports said Military personnel from 26 countries around the globe started drills meant to help them improve their ability to work together in peacekeeping operations. The exercise was being conducted by the Rwanda Defence Force, the US military, several African nations, the European Union and other international organisations.
In June, The US Consul General in Lagos, Mr. John F. Bray, urged Nigeria to leverage on its vast agricultural potential to create wealth and boost its economy. Bray made the remark in Lagos, at the African Food and Products Exhibition (AFPE) tagged: “Sustainability and Innovation: Pathway to Business Success for SMEs” which was organised by the Nigeria-American Chamber of Commerce and industry. Bray, who was represented by the Counselor, US Commercial Service, Brent Omdahl, said the world knew Nigeria as the oil powerhouse of West Africa and not as an agriculture rich nation, adding that the narrative must change.

The US (US) Embassy in collaboration with the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) launched the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) in Accra, to train and establish young women with entrepreneurial skills. The academy would be committed to providing women with knowledge, tools and networks to turn their ideas into successful businesses. The initiative was also designed to empower Ghanaian women entrepreneurs, to fulfill their economic potential and create conditions for increased stability, security and prosperity for all. Madam Marie Royce, the Assistant Secretary of State, of the US, who launched the academy, said it was their vision, to train 50 million women around the world, by 2029, especially in developing countries.

Hapa said that DHL Africa eShop was rolled out in 9 more African countries following its success after its launch in 11 countries. The service, which was available at Africa-eShop, DHL, was initially launched in 11 countries i.e. South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, Mauritius, Ghana, Senegal, Rwanda, Malawi, Botswana, Sierra Leone and Uganda in April this year. The countries it had now been launched in include; Cameroon,

In other news, OPIC launched Connect Africa, an initiative to improve connectivity in Africa by investing $1 billion in physical infrastructure, technology, and value chains. Reports added that OPIC had just completed a $100 million financing guarantee for Beirut, Lebanon-based Africell Holding, a $2 billion-plus pan-African mobile phone carrier owned by Ziad Dalloul with operations in Sierra Leone, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In July, reports in Nigeria said that Nigeria, Africa’s biggest oil producer, could attract more US investment if the oil and gas sector becomes less opaque and a fuel-price peg was removed, according to a US official. Brent Omdahl, commercial counsellor at the US Department of Commerce, said in an interview in Lagos that Nigeria needed to think strategically about what was going to make it a more attractive destination.

Media reports said that an initiative to support the development of innovative ideas led by women was launched by the US Embassy in Ghana in collaboration with the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) in Accra. Dubbed ‘Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), “the initiative was expected to provide online education resources, foster networks that support access to memberships, and connect women through existing exchange programme.

In Cameroon, reports said that American Businessman pledged to invest at least 240 Billion frs in cobalt sector. The American Businessman who was the Chief Executive Officer of Geovic Mining Corporation made the announcement in an audience granted him by the head of state Paul Biya at the Unity Palace.

In August, reports said that Nigeria needed to overhaul its oil and gas sector to make it more transparent and open to fuel-pricing competition if it wanted to attract investments from US oil firms, a Nigeria-based official at the US Department of Commerce told Bloomberg in an interview.

Business Ghana said that the Minority in Parliament petitioned the US government to help probe the Power Distribution Service (PDS) Ghana Limited saga. This followed the discovery of problems with a fundamental part of the agreement which required that the PDS put up a guarantee to cover some $400 million. The NPP government inherited an arrangement in which the US government, through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), offered Ghana $500 million for the reform of the energy sector. It was decided to incorporate it largely into the reform of the Electricity Company of Ghana.

The US Government’s Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) announced its intention to deploy a new strategic collaboration with Bechtel Infrastructure Corporation (a Bechtel company) and the Government of Côte d’Ivoire, focusing on national infrastructure master planning. MCC CEO Sean Cairncross joined Bechtel’s Regional President of Africa, Sir James Dutton, and Secretary General to the President of Côte d’Ivoire Minister Patrick Achi in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, signed a Memorandum of Understanding memorializing the partnership.

Various reports stated that US Ambassador to Sierra Leone was held at the US Embassy in Sierra Leone, where mobile phone service provider – Africell, confirmed that a $100 million financing agreement with the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), would be used to expand the availability, reach and quality of communications and associated value-added services across Africell’s operations in The Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda. According to Ambassador Maria Brewer, this $100 million financing is part of the US Government’s commitment, which highlighted the longstanding support of the USA to Sierra Leone across different sectors.
In June, reports stated that undaunted by a dangerous journey over thousands of miles, people fleeing economic hardship and human rights abuses in African countries were heading to the US-Mexico border in unprecedented numbers, surprising Border Patrol agents more accustomed to Spanish-speaking migrants. Officials in Texas and even Maine were scrambling to absorb the sharp increase in African migrants. They were heading to America after flying across the Atlantic Ocean to South America, and then embarking on an often harrowing overland journey. The immigrants in Texas were mostly from the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Angola. Cameroonianians were travelling up through Mexico and into the US in larger numbers and seeking asylum at ports of entry.

Yen reported that in three years, US deported 642 Ghanaians convicted of various offences, including acts that undermined border control and the integrity of the US Immigration system. A report on the activities of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) in the 2018 fiscal year showed the Ghanaians were deported between 2016 and 2018. According to the report, 94 Ghanaians were deported from the USA in 2016, 305 in 2017 and 243 in 2018. Ghana and US were in a tussle over plans to deport over 7,000 Ghanaians from the US to Ghana. While the USA said Ghana had since 2016 not adequately co-operated to provide travel documents for the affected persons, Ghana disagrees. This year, the US imposed visa restrictions from February 4, 2019 as its embassy in Accra discontinued issuing all non-immigrant visas (NIV) to domestic employees (A3 and G5) of Ghanaian diplomats posted to the US.

Reports in Nigeria said that The US Embassy urged the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) to link the international and domestic terminals of the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos, to facilitate transit of passengers. The Deputy Economic Councilor, US Embassy, Mr. Michael Carney, made the call when he visited the Managing Director of FAAN, Mr. Hamisu Yaduda in Abuja. Carney said that the current arrangement, where transit international passengers would have to struggle to access the domestic terminal before flying to other destinations, was not good for its personnel.

Other reports said that the US State Department announced that anyone applying for a visa into the country will now have to submit their social media handles. According to BBC, applicants would also have to submit their phone numbers and five years’ worth of email addresses. The policy was said to be part of the state department’s effort to ensure national security and according to authorities, the policy would affect 14.7 million people annually. Stating the reason for the proposal in 2018, the department said, “National security is our top priority when adjudicating visa applications, and every prospective traveler and immigrant to the US undergoes extensive security screening.” According to DHS’ 2017 report, a high proportion of countries expected to be affected by the new measure included Nigeria and Liberia.

In July, the US government took a decision not to escalate the visa restrictions it imposed on certain categories of Ghanaians in February this year. The decision was the result of fruitful discussions between the two governments in an
Tourism, Travel & Leisure

attempt to find an amicable solution to the deportation of some 7,000 Ghanaians residing illegally in the US (US). The US Ambassador to Ghana, Ms Stephanie Sullivan, who disclosed this in an interview with the Daily Graphic in Accra, however, did not say when the limited restrictions would be lifted, except to express the hope that by the end of the year there might be a complete resolution of the matter.

National telegraph said that the US announced it’s banning a top Cameroonian Military official and wife from entering the its territory. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo publicly designated “the Republic of Cameroon Inspector General of the Cameroonian Gendarmerie, Colonel Jean Claude Ano Ano, due to his involvement in significant corruption related to transnational wildlife trafficking.” Tibor Nagy described the decision by his country as a commitment to fight corruption and combat transnational trafficking.

Liberian observer stated that Marie Royce, US Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, could hardly conceal her emotions as she lavished praise on Albert Saye Markeh, director of the National Museum for bringing the museum to an appreciable standard that attracted tourists and other visitors.

US news said that Officials say US Customs and Border Protection agents at Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport thwarted a man’s attempt to import several pounds of African rat meat. Customs spokesman Steve Bansbach said that the man declared the 32 pounds of meat on June 26 when his flight arrived from the Ivory Coast. The meat was confiscated and destroyed.

Other reports said that two dogs, part of the US Customs and Border Protection’s “beagle brigade”, sniffed out two giant African snails in the luggage of a passenger arriving at Atlanta’s airport from Nigeria. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported the beagles, named Candie and Chipper, were alerted to the passenger’s checked bags at Hartsfield Jackson International Airport.

In August, Sunday Trust said reported that shock and anxiety rippled through Nigeria’s political class when the US government announced that it was imposing visa sanctions on some Nigerians who undermined democracy during the last general and presidential elections. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in a statement that “These individuals have operated with impunity at the expense of the Nigerian people and undermined democratic principles and human rights.” She added, “This decision reflects the Department of State’s commitment to working with the Nigerian government to realize its expressed commitment to end corruption and strengthen democracy, accountability, and respect for human rights.”

Business Ghana said the Ghana Immigration Service received 40 Ghanaian deportees from the US. In a statement GIS said the deportees were aged between 21 and 70 years and they are made up of 38 males and two females.

Reports stated that Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, along with Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey co-led a coalition of 15 attorneys general in filing an amicus brief in support of legal action to halt the Trump Administration’s termination of Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for thousands of Liberians.

In other news, the US government sent about 900 mostly Central American and Cuban migrants back to this northern Mexico border city since expanding its controversial “remain in Mexico” program to the easternmost point on the shared border two weeks ago, Mexican authorities said. In addition to Central Americans, there were migrants from Cameroon, Cuba and Peru.
In June, USAID announced $243 million in additional assistance to support Nigeria in reaching its development goals. The new funding is expected to support activities to build a healthier population with $165 million, including assisting with malaria control, supporting maternal and child health, family planning, eradication of tuberculosis, and nutrition initiatives.

Daily Graphic said that the US government invested more than $13.5 million in Ghana’s health sector, particularly in maternal and child health within the last five years of its support programme for the country. In all, 72 nursing and midwifery skills laboratories and 12 model Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) compounds were refurbished and equipped in beneficiary communities, while 420 principals and tutors in those schools were also trained in the effective use and maintenance of the laboratories.

Ghana business news stated that the Government in collaboration with the US through the USAID, launched the 2019 National Health Research Dissemination Symposium to translate health research findings into action. The three-day programme showcased health research in Ghana and disseminated the findings to a large national audience. A statement from USAID and copied to the Ghana News Agency said the theme: “Speeding up Progress towards Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 with New Knowledge, Innovation, and Partnerships,” aimed to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all ages.

Authorities of the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) and the American Venture Group (LLC) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to provide enough, affordable and sustainable supply of clean and safe drinking water to 1.5 million Liberians. The MOU said that the joint venture agreement would require the company to design, build, finance, install, own and operate 270 water purification systems in mainly rural communities throughout Liberia. Each unit would be powered by a mini solar system, and a phone charging outlets for community dwellers.

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MOHS), with support from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), concluded a week-long full-scale simulation exercise to test its readiness for potential public health emergencies. The exercise, named ‘Operation Lion Mountain,’ simultaneously tested Sierra Leone’s public health capabilities to respond to a severe health emergency in a coordinated response effort. The exercise was led by the MOHS’s Directorate of Health Security and Emergencies, its public health partners in Bo and Western Urban districts, and emergency management specialists from CDC, WHO, ANSER, and eHealth Africa. Exercise players were staff trained in public health emergency preparedness and response and numerous volunteers.

In July, the US announced that it had invested about $165 million (N50.56bn at the official exchange rate of N307 to one dollar) in the development of Nigeria’s agricultural sector in four years through its Feed the Future initiative. It also signed an agreement on the declaration of partnership with the Federal Government to begin a five-year agriculture programme known as Feed the Future Nigeria Country Plan. The Chargé d’affaires, US Embassy, Abuja, Kathleen FitzGibbon, while speaking at the inauguration of the Global Food Security Strategy/Feed the Future Nigeria Country Plan, stated that the aim of the programme was to further increase investments in
Health & Food issues

food security, build greater resilience and improve household nutrition across the country.

Media reports said that a high-powered delegation from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in partnership with the Center for Global Health (CGH) ended an official visit as guest of the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL). According to an NPHIL release, the delegation, which comprised experts US Centers for Disease Control Foundation along with the Center for Global Health was in-country to follow-up on ‘Programmatic Objectives’ aimed at exploring CDCF success stories and lessons learned from previous projects; support CDC Country Offices in advancing their public-private partnership strategies; and paid courtesy visits to relevant stakeholders. Members of the delegation included Dr. Rebecca Mae Martin - Director, Center for Global Health, CDC, Ms. Sukeshi Mehta Roberts; Special Assistant, CGH, CDC, Dr. Judith Ann Monroe; President and CEO, CDC Foundation, Ms. Monica Glass Thornton; Senior Advancement Officer, CDC Foundation and Ms. Gail Lucille McCabe - Executive Director, Creative Media Matters.

Modern Ghana noted that the US Ambassador to Ghana, Mrs. Stephanie S. Sullivan shared that her government was delighted to be partnering with the government of Ghana to make water accessible to all. Ghana through her Ministry for Sanitation and Water Resources was currently implementing projects in collaboration with the World Bank and other stakeholders to make water accessible to people in all parts of the country, especially those in remote areas. Having paid a courtesy call on the Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, Hon. Cecilia Dapaah, the US Ambassador to Ghana indicated that they were happy to see many partners on board playing various roles to improve water supply to citizens of this country.

In August, USAID planned to facilitate $300 million investment across five crops in seven states in Nigeria under its Feed the Future Programme. The US Ambassador to Nigeria, Stuart Symington disclosed this in Abuja during the launch of the Nigeria Agribusiness Investment Activity. He said that through this initiative, the US government aimed to work with the people of Nigeria to improve the ease of doing business in the agricultural sector.

Various reports in Ghana noted that a health outreach by a visiting US medical team conducting free cataract surgery, revealed a high prevalence of the condition in Ashanti and Bono East Regions. Over 500 people, most of whom could not afford the cost of treatment, took advantage of the exercise to undergo treatment at the Seventh-Day Adventist Hospitals at Asamang and Techiman.

The US team of experts from Loma Linda was in Ghana through the collaboration of two American organisations and the Adventist Health Services.

Ein News reported that more than 20 journalists from public and private media participated in the US Navy ship visit that generated positive reports on the military and maritime partnership between Côte d’Ivoire and the US to ensure security in the Gulf of Guinea. The weeklong mission enabled the US Navy crew to train and share experiences with their Ivorian counterparts, Commander Frank Okata said. The mission also included visits to the Abidjan Military Hospital, an orphanage, and other social activities, Commander Okata told the journalists.

Liberian observer said that as part of efforts to help with trauma healing in Liberia, the Bates Foundation, a Christian organization based in the US, concluded a 3-day trauma healing seminar for religious and community leaders at the Monrovia Christian Fellowship Center in Sinkor.

The Patriotic Vanguard stated that Sierra Leone’s Ambassador to the US, His Excellency Sidique Abou-Bakarr Wai organised a team of experts to commence feasibility study of First Lady’s Medical Centre in Sierra Leone. When completed, the Medical Centre would be one of the most advance Teaching Hospitals in Africa. It would cater primarily for the Manor River Union (Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), and would be affiliated to international teaching Hospitals.
In June, ACROBOT, an all-girls robotics team from Ghana, won the 2019 World Robofest Championship, "a festival of competitions with autonomous robots," according to its website. The contest took place at Lawrence Technological University (LTU) in Southfield, Michigan, earlier this month. The US Embassy of Ghana congratulated the girls for winning in a tweet posted on May 21. “Congratulations to Team ACROBOT. . .We are proud to partner with the Ghana Robotics Academy Foundation to promote STEM education,” it wrote under a photo of the team.

Businesslive reported that Africa’s burgeoning reputation as a source of programming talent got a major boost last month when Microsoft launched its Africa Development Centre (ADC) — a $100m investment over the next five years. With offices in Kenya and Nigeria, Microsoft hopes to train 100 full-time engineers by the end of this year and a further 500 engineers by the end of 2023. The multinational believed in Africa’s “innovative spirit”, especially in fintech, agritech and off-grid energy.

In July, the US Consulate General in Lagos said that it would train 144 Nigerian students on drone technology. The Public Affairs Officer of the Consulate, Russell Brooks, made this known during the Nigerian Youth Drone Academy workshop in Lagos. Mr Brooks said the training was in collaboration with the Global Air Drone Academy, a US based academy. He said pupils and students from 12 primary and secondary schools would participate in the workshop, learning how to assemble and fly drones.

The US government through its Embassy in Ghana promised to help Ghana to develop its IT capacities as well as its security strengths. The US Ambassador to Ghana, Stephanie S. Sullivan made this known as the Embassy in Ghana had been observing the Apollo 11. This event commemorated 50 years after the US’ spaceflight put the first man on the moon. This year’s memorial was focused on helping Ghana to up its technological capacities as a country and develop its national security. The US would also help the country towards its “Ghana Beyond Aid” agenda.

In August, reports said that Africa’s first independent fact-checking organization, Africa Check announced their partnership with Facebook in adding other languages to fact check news on the social media and reduce the spread of misinformation. The program was initially launched in 2018 across Sub-Saharan Africa, including SA, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal and Cameroon to allow users to check if the information shared is true or fake.

Business Day stated that determined to tackle the digital skills gap in Nigeria and boost employment, Digify Nigeria in partnership with Facebook graduated the third cohort of its eight weeks intensive training on digital skills at the Facebook NG Hub, Yaba.

In Ghana, the US Congressional Delegation met with the Silicon Valley of Ghana Founder and Fellow of the US National Academy of Inventors, Dr. Thomas O Mensah.
In June, Premium Times stated that the Lagos State alumni chapter of the International Visitors Leadership Programme, an initiative of the US Consulate, through its schools mentoring programme, graduated 228 secondary school students from public schools in Lagos. Omowale Ogunrinde, the programme coordinator, said the graduates comprised of students who participated in the weeks-long project under the tutoring of the alumni members.

The USAID announced that $243 million would be dedicated to combating healthcare and other challenges in Nigeria. It explained that $25 million would be spent on strengthening basic literacy and education in the north, while $22 million would help drive sustainable agriculture-led economic growth.

Modern Ghana reported that Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Marie Royce, travelled to Accra from June 24 – 26, 2019. During her visit, she met with Government of Ghana officials, private sector representatives, local entrepreneurs, alumni from US exchange programs, and university administrators to promote the US’s cultural and educational diplomacy efforts and highlight support for entrepreneurship in Ghana.

Liberian Observer said that as Research, with specific reference in the Sciences, took pre-eminence in contemporary education, two university professors visiting from the US, Dr. Wayne Sanderson and Dr. Tim Barnes, both from the University of Kentucky, reached a consensus with the University of Liberia (UL) to conduct research, mainly in the area of Public Health and other areas.

In July, USAID said it granted $13 million to the Gombe State Government to strengthen the capacity and quality of teachers in the state. The Director of Mission USAID Nigeria, Mr Stephen Haykins, stated this during a meeting with Governor Muhammad Inuwa Yahaya.

South China Morning Post noted that an acclaimed US charity operating in Liberia admitted to major failings after girls at a school set up to save them from a life of sexual exploitation were systematically raped. "We are profoundly, deeply sorry," the charity More Than Me said on its website after US investigative media said girls at a pioneering school in a slum had been repeatedly abused by the charity’s co-founder, Macintosh Johnson.

In August, reports said that the Embassy of the US in Nigeria signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Centre to establish a space for American literature at the city library. Country Public Affairs Officer of the embassy in Abuja, Aruna Amirthanayagam said the American spaces were multifunctional platforms that promote open dialogue, build bridges of understanding and provide for in-person engagement with local audiences.

The US House of Representative Speaker Nancy Pelosi, in a historic address to Ghana’s Parliament, called for Ghana and the US to forge ahead and continue to sacrifice for a better future for their children.

Other reports said a doctor at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Amarillo was bringing his classroom to other countries, one of which had dealt with deadly illnesses like Ebola. On a recent humanitarian aid trip to Liberia, Dr. Whit Walker encountered a group of pharmacy students eager to learn.
Entertainment

In June, American music industry icon, Bryan “Birdman” Williams of Cash Money Films and Benny Boom of Groundwurk Studios would collaborate as Executive Producers with Solomon Onita, in producing a Nigerian immigrant drama, titled Tazmanian Devil. The film would be Onita’s debut production. The necessary financing to market and distribution for the project would be handled by Boom’s Groundwurk Studios and Williams’ Cash Money Films.

The US Embassy in Ghana threw their weight of support behind the Black Stars ahead of their participation in this year’s Africa Cup of Nations in Egypt. The four-time winners were drawn in Group F alongside defending champions Cameroon, Guinea Bissau and Benin.

In other entertainment news, the Jakarta post said that After tackling US racism in Childish Gambino’s Grammy award-winning “This is America”, choreographer Sherrie Silver’s latest project features her dancing to Afrobeat on a farm with dozens of young Cameroonians, in a bid to end poverty and hunger.

In July, Various media reports said that Nigeria’s film industry, dubbed Nollywood, had long kept viewers entertained with tales of romance and riches, and now foreign investors were increasingly looking for a part of the action. US giant Netflix, France’s Canal+ and China’s StarTimes were among those making moves in the globe’s second most-prolific film industry, which churned out more than 2,500 films each year and was topped only by India’s Bollywood.

In other news, The US Embassy in Nigeria said it would send five Nigerian Football talents, who were Internally Displaced Persons to the US to participate in a State Department-sponsored Sports Visitor programme. The embassy, which disclosed this in a statement on Monday, said that the programme would hold from August 1 to August 19.

Quartz Africa reported that Beyoncé just might be the necessary ingredient to rocket Afrobeat into the mainstream US music scene. Disney was set to release The Lion King soundtrack, produced by Beyoncé and packed with Afrobeat artists including Yemi Alade, Tekno, Mr. Eazi, Burna Boy and Wizkid. The singer, who landed her voice to the character Nala in the movie, had even called the soundtrack “a love letter to Africa”. Aside from the prominent Afrobeat stars, the album would feature Ghana’s Shatta Wale, South Africa’s Moonchild Sanelly and Busiswa, along with Jay-Z, Childish Gambino, and Kendrick Lamar, who produced the soundtrack for Marvel’s Black Panther.

In August, New Telegraph reported that Afropop star, David ‘Davido’ Adeleke stunned crowd at the ‘Tycoon Party’ in New Jersey where he shared the stage with American superstar, 50 Cent. Curtis James Jackson III, known professionally as 50 Cent, is an American rapper, singer, songwriter, actor, television producer, entrepreneur and investor. News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Davido performed at the 50 Cent party alongside music heavyweights, Trey Songz, Fabulous, Snoop, Camila and Jacques.

In Ghana, reports stated that when African Americans returned to their ancestral homeland to visit the facilities which were the last their enslaved ancestors saw on the continent, it tended to be a gripping emotional experience, and comedian Steve Harvey was no exception. The funnyman and bestselling author visited Elmina Castle on Ghana’s Cape Coast, where the Harvey family was given a tour of the historical site, TMZ reports.

Reports in Gambia said that history was made on the 5th of August when for the first time a US Ambassador in the Gambia visited Gambia Football Federation Offices at its Secretariat in Kanifing on a courtesy visit. Richard Carl Paschall made the visit to Football House and was received on arrival by the GFF President Lamin Kaba Bajo and Executive Committee members.

In other entertainment news, the Jakarta post said that After tackling US racism in Childish Gambino’s Grammy award-winning “This is America”, choreographer Sherrie Silver’s latest project features her dancing to Afrobeat on a farm with dozens of young Cameroonians, in a bid to end poverty and hunger.

In July, Various media reports said that Nigeria’s film industry, dubbed Nollywood, had long kept viewers entertained with tales of romance and riches, and now foreign investors were increasingly looking for a part of the action. US giant Netflix, France’s Canal+ and China’s StarTimes were among those making moves in the globe’s second most-prolific film industry, which churned out more than 2,500 films each year and was topped only by India’s Bollywood.

In other news, The US Embassy in Nigeria said it would send five Nigerian Football talents, who were Internally Displaced Persons to the US to participate in a State Department-sponsored Sports Visitor programme. The embassy, which disclosed this in a statement on Monday, said that the programme would hold from August 1 to August 19.

Quartz Africa reported that Beyoncé just might be the necessary ingredient to rocket Afrobeat into the mainstream US music scene. Disney was set to release The Lion King soundtrack, produced by Beyoncé and packed with Afrobeat artists including Yemi Alade, Tekno, Mr. Eazi, Burna Boy and Wizkid. The singer, who landed her voice to the character Nala in the movie, had even called the soundtrack “a love letter to Africa”. Aside from the prominent Afrobeat stars, the album would feature Ghana’s Shatta Wale, South Africa’s Moonchild Sanelly and Busiswa, along with Jay-Z, Childish Gambino, and Kendrick Lamar, who produced the soundtrack for Marvel’s Black Panther.

In August, New Telegraph reported that Afropop star, David ‘Davido’ Adeleke stunned crowd at the ‘Tycoon Party’ in New Jersey where he shared the stage with American superstar, 50 Cent. Curtis James Jackson III, known professionally as 50 Cent, is an American rapper, singer, songwriter, actor, television producer, entrepreneur and investor. News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Davido performed at the 50 Cent party alongside music heavyweights, Trey Songz, Fabulous, Snoop, Camila and Jacques.

In Ghana, reports stated that when African Americans returned to their ancestral homeland to visit the facilities which were the last their enslaved ancestors saw on the continent, it tended to be a gripping emotional experience, and comedian Steve Harvey was no exception. The funnyman and bestselling author visited Elmina Castle on Ghana’s Cape Coast, where the Harvey family was given a tour of the historical site, TMZ reports.

Reports in Gambia said that history was made on the 5th of August when for the first time a US Ambassador in the Gambia visited Gambia Football Federation Offices at its Secretariat in Kanifing on a courtesy visit. Richard Carl Paschall made the visit to Football House and was received on arrival by the GFF President Lamin Kaba Bajo and Executive Committee members.
In June, reports said that assistant US Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs Marie Royce would travel to Ghana and Liberia from June 24 to 29, the US Government has confirmed. Her visit would focus on strengthening higher education institutions, encouraging women’s entrepreneurship, and furthering international exchanges between the US and Ghana. She would meet with government officials, private sector representatives, local entrepreneurs, exchange program alumni, and university administrators to promote and strengthen the State Department’s cultural and educational diplomacy efforts, and highlight support for entrepreneurship in Africa, according to a statement by the US government.

In July, the Guardian said that the Public Affairs Section of the US Consulate General begun moves for proper conservation of Nigeria’s cultural and historical heritage through digitalisation of museums across the federation. At the opening of a three day workshop on museum digitalisation in Ibadan, the Public Affairs Officer of the consulate, Russell Brooks, said the programme sought to equip local museum workers with requisite skills to digitally record and preserve fragile artefacts while also updating them on current trends in museum management.

In Liberia, reports said that Marie Royce, US Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, had in keeping with the philosophy of preserving documents and records, turned over to authorities of the Liberia National Museum several literary and anthropological (historical) collections written by both Liberian-Americans and Liberians.

In August, Business Day said that in an expression of its commitment to strengthening the ties that link Nigeria and the US, the US Consulate Lagos inaugurated a documentary film festival. In his remarks at the inauguration, Russell Brooks, US Consulate Public Affairs Officer, who highlighted the universal power of storytelling and the potential of film to inspire social change, noted the Consulate was intimately involved with the creative community in Lagos. While appreciating the partners for the successful inauguration, he hoped that the festival would become a consistent feature of the US cultural engagement with Lagos State and the people of Nigeria.
North Africa

Analysis of News Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>News category</th>
<th>Egypt</th>
<th>Libya</th>
<th>Morocco</th>
<th>Tunisia</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peace, Security &amp; Terrorism</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economy, Trade &amp; Development</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism, Travel &amp; Leisure</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Investments</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science, Technology &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Food issues</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>474</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>1,184</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Peace, Security & Terrorism

Egypt had more coverage for the month of June about this category. Reports quoted Egypt’s Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and his US counterpart Mike Pompeo stressing that their countries had ongoing close coordination to fight and uproot terrorism. The Egyptian minister highlighted Cairo’s efforts to achieve stability and security and reach a peaceful settlement for all crises in the region.

The US State Department approved the potential sale of a $554 million package of technical support for the Egyptian Navy. The package called for technical and maintenance support, known as Follow-On Technical Support, of various US-made ships in the Egyptian fleet.

In Libya, reports said four powerful Javelin anti-tank missiles were recently discovered in Libya by a group of government loyalists. The missiles were American-made and cost more than $170,000 each. In one of those ironies that were rife throughout the history of American interference in the affairs of other sovereign nations, the missiles wound up as part of the arsenal of Gen. Khalifa Haftar, who was leading a military effort to overthrow the present Libyan government, which the US supported.

In Morocco, US-managed website Export.gov reported that Morocco requested the purchase of 24 new Apache attack helicopters from its main army supplier, the US. Apache attack helicopters were among the most advanced equipment and were heavily used by the US Army as well as other international militaries.

Politics

Reports showed that Egypt and the US agreed on continued consultation and coordination on issues of mutual interest in the region. Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman Ahmed Hafez said that FM Sameh Shoukry called US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to discuss regional developments of common concern, as well as various aspects of the strategic relationship between the two countries.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expressed American concerns over the prolonged conflict in Libya in a phone call with his Egyptian counterpart, and they agreed on the need for a political solution. Pompeo also discussed with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry on the cooperation to tackle the Islamic State and al-Qaeda militant groups.

In Libya, the newly appointed US ambassador to Libya, Richard Norland said that he continued to meet with Libyan officials since taking office on 14 August. He also expressed his appreciation for having the opportunity to introduce himself to a number of Libyan officials and to dialogue with relevant parties, as part of the efforts to broaden communication with all Libyans.
Analysis of News Categories

Reports said Morocco made progress on women’s rights and that drew positive attention from Ivanka Trump, the daughter of US President Donald Trump and the public face of the US Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative (W-GDP). Ivanka said they applauded the Moroccan government for the important step towards the adoption of inheritance law amendments, and looked forward to supporting their full implementation.

Economy, Trade & Development

Egypt and the US signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas industry. The MoU was signed in Cairo by Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Tareq al-Molla and US Secretary of Energy Rick Perry.

In Morocco, US Congressman Frank Pallone said he was impressed by Morocco’s progress in renewable energies while on a visit to the Ministry of Energy in Rabat.

Tourism, Travel & Leisure

Reports said Thirteen-year-old Moustafa Hamed said he and his mother, Reem Mohamed Desouky, were looking forward to their trip to Egypt. That excitement quickly vanished on their arrival in the country. Desouky, a dual US-Egyptian national, was jailed after she and Moustafa were detained and interrogated at the airport. Moustafa was now pleading for anyone, including US President Donald Trump, to help secure his mother’s release.

In Morocco, American Airlines would launch a new seasonal air route, linking Philadelphia with Casablanca. The flight would be the first of its kind for the US carrier in Africa. The flight route would also make the American Airlines the only US carrier operating a direct flight to Casablanca.

Science, Technology & Innovation

Reports said Egypt and the US signed four grant agreements for cooperation in the fields of higher education, science, technology, health, trade and investment, worth about US$60 million. Egyptian Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr signed the agreements with the USAID Mission Director in Egypt, Sherry Carlin.

MENA news agency reported that Egypt had sent a mini-satellite to the International Space Station, where it would be put into orbit. Egypt cooperated with the Japanese Space Agency in testing the satellite before it was shipped to the US, where it was launched on 27 July among other items by a Falcon-9 rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

In Morocco, US congressman Frank Pallone, Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee said he was impressed by Morocco’s great progress in renewable energies, expressing the wish to develop cooperation between the US and Morocco in the area.

Entertainment

In Egypt, Jennifer Lopez, one of Hollywood’s most successful performers and Hip-hop icons was performing her first-ever concert in the country’s North Coast. Lopez was rocking the stage, performing her successful songs along with a group of professional dancers.

In other reports, Egyptian lawyer Samir Sabry had filed a complaint with the attorney general against the organisers of a Jennifer Lopez concert held in the Mediterranean city of El-Alamein. The basis of the complaint was that she wore provocative clothes inciting debauchery and immorality.

Business & Investments

Reports said the governments of Egypt and the US signed four agreements worth USD 60 Mn to boost inter-country activities in the fields of investment, technology, trade, education, science, and health. The USD 60 Mn would support the framework of investments in the human element via grants dedicated to the creation of jobs, youth training, scientific research, healthcare, family planning, and higher education.

Education

In Egypt, reports said a new service and training centre for water and sanitation that had been established in Assiut with funding support from the US was inaugurated in Assiut. The new training centre would provide a venue for the training, allowing the staff to better meet the water and sanitation needs of hundreds of thousands of Egyptians.

Egypt and the US signed four grant agreements worth $60 million in fields of higher education and others. They included the fourth phase of the Egyptian-American higher education initiative which aimed at creating an educated workforce that met the needs of the labor market.
In June, reports said Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi rejected the most recent rumors about the so-called Deal of the Century, which the US was proposing to tackle the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Al Jazeera reported that Palestinians urged Egypt and Jordan to reconsider their reported attendance at an upcoming US-led conference in Bahrain, saying it would weaken any Arab opposition to Washington’s plan to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Washington Post stated that US border officials said they seized ancient Egyptian mummy linens during enforcement operations at the Blue Water Bridge that connected Michigan with the Canadian province of Ontario.

In some news, Spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mohammed Al-Qablawi said that the international situation towards Libya was rigid and the Security Council, until this moment, had not been able to take a position towards what was happening in Libya. Al-Qablawi told Sputnik that the US could contribute to breaking the current impasse in the international community towards Libya if it intervened effectively.

Libya Express reported that some high-profile US politicians brushed aside reports that President Donald Trump had extended eastern Libyan military commander Khalifa Haftar an invitation to visit the White House, saying the news of the alleged visit were fake.

Other reports said US President Donald Trump’s senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner arrived in Morocco’s capital as part of a Middle East tour. Kushner was accompanied by Trump’s Special Envoy to the Middle East, Jason Greenblatt, and State Department Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook.

In July, Daily News Egypt reported that Egypt and the US had been associated with close strategic relations over the past four decades. US had its leading role in all global and regional issues, while Egypt had its pivotal role in the Middle East, Africa, and the Muslim world. US-Egypt relations had gone through several stages.

Xinhua Net reported that US President Donald Trump sent a message of congratulations to his Egyptian counterpart Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of Egypt’s national day. Egypt’s national day refers to July 23, 1952 Revolution, when a movement of Egyptian military officers ousted King Farouk I, the 10th ruler of Egypt from Muhammad Ali dynasty, declaring the country as a republic.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi reiterated his country’s commitment to a “two-state solution” within the framework of settling the Palestinian issue.

USA Today reported that there were lessons for US foreign policy in the Middle East from the tragedy that was Muhammad Morsi of Egypt. Specifically, the importance of humility and patience, and the virtue of disengagement. Egypt was rocked by the Arab Spring in 2011. Long-term strongman Hosni Mubarak was forced out. The Obama administration provided a nudge.

Media reports in Morocco said Morocco and the US had had a special relationship since 1777, when Morocco was the first country to recognize the newly independent US. In 1786, the US signed its first treaty of commerce and friendship with Morocco - the longest-standing such treaty.

Reports said Moroccan King Mohammed VI extended congratulations to the US President Donald Trump, on his country’s Independence Day. According to the Moroccan official news agency MAP, King Mohammed VI expressed in a message “his heartfelt congratulations” to Trump, and his “sincere wishes for further progress and prosperity to the American people.”

Minor reports said the Moroccan Justice and Development Party (PJD) said the US peace plan, dubbed the “deal of the century,” was biased towards the ‘Zionist’ entity’s interests. The party added that the deal opposes the legal framework of the global community. The party further expressed its concern over the recent developments on the Palestinian issue,
addressing the attempts of multiple international actors to promote the so-called deal of the century.

The UN Security Council issued a statement on Libya condemning the deadly airstrike on a migrant detention centre in Tripoli, that killed over 50 people. The statement also called for the warring sides in Libya to commit to a ceasefire, while urging other countries not to further intervene in the conflict or continue to exacerbate the situation.

In other news, six Turkish citizens detained in Libya by forces loyal to Libyan warlord Khalifa Haftar had been released, Turkey’s foreign ministry said. The ministry did not give details about when the men were first held. Turkey had earlier said Gen Haftar’s forces would be a “legitimate target” if they failed to release the men.

Foreign Policy In Focus reported that over the past several months, President Trump had betrayed US.-allied militias in Syria and Libya, proving that he was willing to abandon partners that had fought and died alongside US military forces in the wars in the Middle East and North Africa.

Libya Observer reported that the US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo and Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui reiterated their support for the efforts of the UN envoy to Libya, Ghassan Salame to find a political solution for the Libyan crisis, in accordance with the UN action plan. Media reports said in Tunisia, 47% of seats in the 2018 municipal assembly elections were now held by women. This increase was due in part to a constitutionally mandated electoral gender quota. Reports said women are running for — and winning — elected office worldwide in ever greater numbers. A record number of women won seats in the 2018 US midterm elections, and six women were running for the Democratic nomination for president in 2020.

Washington Post reported that the US and Tunisia would hold their third Strategic Dialogue, chaired by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Tunisian Foreign Minister Khemaies Jhinaoui, the latest in a series of high-level diplomatic moves meant to publicly express US support for the world’s youngest democracy. The Strategic Dialogue followed the June 14 Joint Economic Commission where officials from both countries discussed ways to increase US private sector investment in Tunisia. And both the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees introduced resolutions in June re-affirming US support for Tunisia.

In August, Egypt and the US agreed on continued consultation and coordination on issues of mutual interest in the region.

In an official statement, Egyptian foreign ministry spokesman Ahmed Hafez said FM Sameh Shoukry called US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to discuss regional developments of common concern, as well as various aspects of the strategic relationship between the two countries.

US President Trump’s advisor Jared Kushner met with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Cairo to discuss Washington’s plan for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Both sides discussed ways to consolidate peace and stability in the region in light of the instability it suffers from.

State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo reportedly discussed several bilateral and regional issues with his Egyptian counterpart. The telephone called included efforts against terrorist groups Daesh and al-Qaeda.

Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper welcomed Egyptian Defense Minister Gen. Mohamed Zaki to the Pentagon for the secretary’s first counterpart meeting since taking office.

Esper said the US-Egypt strategic relationship is a top priority for this administration and department, and I look forward to continuing our militaries’ close partnership across a wide range of issues.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on expressed American concerns over the prolonged conflict in Libya in a phone call with his Egyptian counterpart, and they agreed on the need for a political solution.
In June, Jordan, Morocco and Egypt said they would send officials from their finance ministries to take part in an economic conference in Bahrain on a US-led Israeli-Palestinian peace plan. Egypt’s foreign ministry spokesman Ahmed Hafez told AFP that Cairo would send a delegation headed by a deputy finance minister to the meeting - due to take place in Manama in late June without specifying the name.

Minor internet news said the deputy head of the Libyan Presidential Council, Ahmed Mitig requested the US to exert pressure on its allies that were meddling in Libya by backing up Khalifa Haftar’s attack on Tripoli and make them stay out of Libya. Mitig told Fox News that they urged the US administration to use its leverage to end the support provided by Egypt and Saudi Arabia to Haftar.

The US Congress held a session to debate designating the Muslim Brotherhood (MB) as a terrorist organization by the US administration.

Egypt Today reported that a host of congressmen, experts and those concerned with the issue took part in the congressional hearing during which they urged the administration of US President Donald Trump to take further steps towards branding the MB as a terrorist group.

Minor Internet Media said Mustafa al-Imam, a Libyan national approximately 48 years old, was found guilty of terrorism charges for his participation in the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on the US Special Mission and Annex in Benghazi, Libya. Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens and US government personnel Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty died in the attack at the Mission and the nearby Annex in Benghazi.

Washington Post said an American Air Force veteran who was accused of acting as a mercenary in Libya was freed after a six-week detention. Officials said in a murky episode that highlighted the tangled nature of that country’s civil war.

Minor internet news said Morocco reconsidered purchasing Russian Air Defence System S400, fearing the US’ Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which imposed sanctions on countries dealing with Iran, Russia, and North Korea.

Other reports said the US department of state highlighted Morocco’s efforts, under the leadership of HM King Mohammed VI, Commander of the Faithful, to promote tolerance and interfaith dialogue.

In July, Egypt, the US and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) started a joint military exercise in the Red Sea. Some F-16 fighter jets, frigates, rocket launchers and minehunters, as well as special naval landing forces of the three countries took part in the drill dubbed “Eagle Response 19”.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi reiterated his country’s commitment to a “two-state solution” within the framework of settling the Palestinian issue. His remarks were made following the announcement made by US President Donald Trump’s envoy to the Middle East Jason Greenblatt that the awaited Deal of the Century did not include the two-state solution.

Egypt’s Minister of Defence and Military Production Mohamed Zaki met with US Secretary of Defence Mark Esper to discuss issues and topics of common interest, aiming to promote bilateral relations and military cooperation between the armed forces of both countries across many fields.

In Libya, reports said the US, France, Britain, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Italy called for an immediate end of hostilities around the Libyan capital, Tripoli, and warned that “terrorist groups” were attempting to exploit the country’s security vacuum.

In a rare joint statement issued on, the six countries urged Libya’s warring parties to return to a United Nations-mediated political process aimed at restoring peace in the sprawling North African state.

Libyan government fighters discovered a cache of powerful American missiles, usually sold only to close American allies, at a captured rebel base in the mountains south of Tripoli. The four Javelin anti-tank missiles, which cost more than $170,000 each, ended up bolstering the arsenal of Gen. Khalifa Hifter, whose forces were waging a military campaign to take over Libya and overthrow a government the US supports.
The US urged all parties in Libya to stop fighting and return to a political process after an apparent air strike on a migrant detention centre near Libya’s capital of Tripoli left 44 people dead and injured more than 100.

In other news, the US reportedly blocked UN Security Council from condemning Libyan Migrant Centre Airstrike. A Libyan women’s rights advocate and an elected member of the House of Representatives, was kidnapped on 17 July by members of the Libyan National Army militia. The militia was reportedly led by Khalifa Haftar, a warlord once praised by President Donald Trump.

Morocco reportedly requested the purchase of a $250.4 million support package from the US for sustaining its F-16 aircraft fleet, which would consist of spares, training, and logistics support. The US State Department said it would approve the potential Foreign Military Sale, with the US Congress being fully notified of the deal by the Defence Security Cooperation Agency.

A US .-Morocco Strategic Dialogue working group meeting was convened in Washington at the initiative of Morocco and the US in order to exchange views on counterterrorism, and to reinforce their efforts at cooperation in the area of security. US and Morocco delegations reaffirmed their ongoing commitment to strengthening counterterrorism cooperation and discussed the evolving nature of efforts to defeat ISIS and other terrorist groups in Africa.

The US embassy in Tunis was closed due to security concerns after two suicide bombings took place in the Tunisian capital killing one policeman and injuring eight people. The US embassy said they would be closed to the public except for emergency services.

In August, the State Department announced a possible $554 million in military equipment to Cairo for “follow on technical support.”

The proposed Egyptian sale was announced as well as proposed sales of $44 million to Canada and a $950 million to South Korea.

In other news, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and Mike Pompeo discussed their ongoing close coordina-
In June, Minor Internet Media said Egypt’s Minister of Tourism Dr. Rania El- Mashat met with the US delegation participating in the 110th session of the Executive Council of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), which took place from 16 to 18 June in Azerbaijan’s capital Baku.

Numerous reports said Dulles International Airport welcomed EgyptAir to its lineup of international carriers, making the airport only the carrier’s second US destination.

Other reports said Sanad Saad and David Mrva, two foreign exchange students who just completed a year at Hempfield Area High School, couldn’t be more different on the surface. Sanad, 17, was a devout Muslim from Tripoli, Libya, in North Africa. David, 19, was a devout Roman Catholic from Bratislava, Slovakia, in Central Europe. But what connected them was a desire to ultimately return to the US.

Morocco’s foreign ministry said that a member of the ministry of economy and finance would represent the country at a conference in Bahrain on the administration of US President Donald Trump’s Middle East Plan.

In July, US State Department updated its travel warning for Egypt, citing the risks of travel to Egypt due to threats from terrorist and violent political opposition groups and that terrorist attacks could occur anywhere in the country, including major metropolitan areas.

The US, UK and other countries issued travel warnings for Egypt, citing ongoing political unrest and the potential for terror attacks.

Egypt’s Minister of Tourism Rania Al-Mashat travelled to the US to participate in a celebration organised by the Egyptian embassy in Washington on the 23rd July Revolution. Al-Mashat would also take up an official invitation to visit the headquarters of the National Geographic.

Egypt’s tourism minister met Beautiful Destinations founder during a US visit. The meeting came within the partnership protocol between Egypt’s Ministry of Tourism and Beautiful Destinations.

An Egyptian woman holding US citizenship was detained on the charge of joining the Muslim Brotherhood. Reports and activists accused the Egyptian authorities of involvement in hiding Reem forcibly for seven days before finally appearing before the State Security Prosecution. This was after she was held with her son in a place at the airport that cannot be for humans for 18 hours, without considering the psychological state of her son.

The Egyptian Public Prosecutor’s Office announced the release of an American tourist on LE5,000 bail. The individual was accused of taking inappropriate photos at the Giza Pyramids area. According to investigations, the tourist, who was arrested while taking off his trousers, was homosexual. He requested that his female friend take naked photos of him at the pyramids so that he could use them in attracting homosexual partners for sex by publishing them on social media.

In August, reports said activists were calling for the release of a US citizen who was arrested in Cairo over Facebook posts critical of the Egyptian government.

A former political prisoner in Egypt who started the US-based Freedom Initiative advocacy group after his release, said Desouky’s case exemplifies the ongoing human rights crackdown in Egypt.

The US revoked visa-free entry rights for foreigners who visited North Korea in the past eight years, potentially hampering the latter’s tourism industry.

The US allowed citizens of 38 countries - including South Korea, Japan and France - to enter for up to 90 days without a visa under a waiver programme.
In June, Egypt Today said Egypt’s exports to the US recorded $2.5 billion in 2018, compared to $1.6 billion in 2017. According to the revealed data, Egypt’s imports from US reached $5.05 billion during 2018, compared to $3.9 billion during the prior year, with an increase of 26.6%.

AfricaNewsDesk reported that up to 43 African countries joined a list of nations wanting an end to a US veto on judicial appointments at the World Trade Organization. The development means that a large majority of WTO member stated now openly oppose the US position at the leading global organisation on trade.

Minor Internet Media said thousands protested in Morocco against a planned conference in Bahrain where the economic component of a US-led plan for peace between Israel and the Palestinians was set to be unveiled.

Other reports said a Moroccan delegation, led by Minister Delegate for African Cooperation, Mr. Mohcine Jazouli, was taking part in the 12th US-Africa Business Summit, held in Maputo, Mozambique.

Reports said the US planned to pursue its first free trade agreement with a country in sub-Saharan Africa as soon as it decided on the most suitable candidate.

In July, reports said the sixth session of the Joint Committee Conference for the follow-up of the Morocco-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA) held in Rabat. According to local media, the meeting focused on ways to foster the development of trade relations and improve bilateral trade.

Reports said based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) had decided to approve fresh imports of raspberry from Morocco. The results of the abovementioned analysis revealed that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures would be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of raspberries from Morocco, USDA added.

Produce Processing reported that the US Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) was advising the public of its decision to authorize the importation of fresh raspberry fruit from Morocco.

Publishing the final notice was one of several steps that must be completed before Morocco might begin shipping raspberries to the US. APHIS and its Moroccan counterparts must now finalize and implement the operational conditions Morocco must meet for every US-bound raspberry shipment. APHIS would not issue import permits for Moroccan raspberries until these steps were completed.

In other news, few hours after the opening of the Manama conference, expected to unveil the economic portion of the US Israeli-Palestinian peace plan, known as the Deal of the Century, Morocco announced that it was officially attending the meeting in Bahrain. Invited by the Kingdom of Bahrain and the US, a member of the ministry of economy and finance would attend the conference, a spokesperson from. Morocco would be attending the Manama meeting alongside several Arab, African and European countries, as well as many regional and international organizations, the same source added.

In several reports, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) said Egyptian exports to the US increased by 25.7% year-on-year in 2018. The state-run statistics agency added Egypt’s exports to the US reached $1.716 billion over the course of the previous year, compared to $1.366 billion a year earlier.

Reports said Egypt and the US were seeking ways to promote a greater reciprocal market access for agricultural and industrial goods following the latest talks of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) which took place in Washington, DC in April.

Reuters reported that a US-proposed $9 billion aid package could tempt Egypt with long-sought financing to transform its strife-torn Sinai Peninsula, but analysts said political risks were likely to outweigh any potential financial benefit.

Africa News reported that Tunisia was one the 43 African countries who had joined a list of nations wanting an end to a US veto on judicial appointments at the World Trade Organization.

In August, US Agricultural Counselor to the Philippines Morgan Haas whose previous assignments covered Morocco, Tunisia and China, expressed his appreciation for the meeting and was looking forward to enhancing the Philippine-US bilateral relation in agriculture.
In June, reports said Egyptian social video analytics platform Mintrics was busy closing a $500,000 investment fund and intended to use the funding to expand to the US.

Other reports said Al Karama was a non-benefit association founded in 1999 which specialized in microcredit. Made under Morocco’s national microcredit law (18/97), it was focused on supporting the dynamic development of microenterprise by providing budgetary and specialized help to its customers. The association was supported by interns from the US and the UK.

Egypt was considering offers by US Blackstone’s Zarou Ltd and Malaysia’s Edra Power Holdings Sdn Bhd to take over three state-owned power plants.

The US Government’s overseas development arm announced the approval of $87m in financing to help build the 250 MW Lekela Wind Power project in Egypt.

In July, the US unveiled details of its Prosper Africa policy at a gathering of African heads of state in Mozambique, while Anadarko did a new deal in the country. The US-Africa Business Summit brought together leaders from several African states including Egypt, US government representatives and business figures from both sides of the Atlantic.

US Chamber of Commerce vice president and head of International Affairs, Myron Brilliant, said Egypt was at the limelight of American companies seeking to promote their business in the Middle East region, especially in view of the positive outcome of the economic reform program.

Egyptian ICT minister Amr Talaat met with Brilliant, to discuss a bilateral partnership between the two nations’ ICT private sectors, Ecofin reported. Talaat said this would help Egypt use US ICT expertise to better support SMEs and entrepreneurs.

In other news, Egyptian army announced the launch of a new local transportation company, dubbed “Dubci Smart Transport,” to compete with the US’s Uber and its United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based subsidiary, Careem.

Egypt and the US were reportedly seeking ways to promote a greater reciprocal market access for agricultural and industrial goods. This followed the latest talks of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) which took place in Washington, DC in April.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri called for greater US investment in the country considering what he considered as promising trade and investment opportunities. Shukri added that an investment-friendly climate was generated by the economic reforms and the measures taken by the Egyptian government in the past few years.

Other reports said Cairo-Egyptian exports to the US reportedly increased by 25.7% year-on-year in 2018, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). The state-run statistics agency added Egypt’s exports to the US reached $1.716 billion over the course of the previous year, compared to $1.366 billion in 2017.

A Court of Appeal in London ruled that US-owned arms manufacturer General Dynamics could pursue enforcement of an ICC award against Libya without service through diplomatic channels, considering the “exceptional circumstances” presented by the ongoing civil unrest in the country.

Other reports discussed the sixth session of the joint committee conference for the follow-up of the Morocco-US Free Trade Agreement (FTA) held in Rabat, focusing on ways to foster the development of trade relations, and to improve bilateral trade.

In August, reports said Egypt and the US signed four grant agreements worth $60 million in fields of higher education, science, technology, health, trade and investment.

The grants were signed by Egypt’s Minister of Investment and International Cooperation Sahar Nasr, and USAID Director in Cairo Sherry Carlin, in the presence of Egypt’s Assistant Minister Shreihan Bakhit.

The agreement was meant to facilitate the exchange of technical information, consultancy services and the transfer of technology in the fields of oil and gas exploration, production and refining, as well as petrochemicals.

Other reports said Egypt aimed to become a regional gas hub for the trade of liquefied natural gas after major gas discoveries in recent years, including the Zohr gas field which holds an estimated 30 trillion cubic feet of gas.
In June, US President Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner met Morocco’s King Mohammed VI in Rabat as part of a fresh push on a long-promised but yet-to-be-delivered peace plan for the region. The trip — which would also include stops in Amman and Jerusalem — came amid a flurry of other administration moved to shore up alliances with Arab allies against Iran and the deployment of warships and bombers to the region.

In July, the Daily News Agency reported that The USAID signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with PepsiCo Egypt, to expand cooperation between USAID and PepsiCo’s subsidiary, Chipsy for Food Industries, to improve farmer livelihoods. Since 1978, USAID had invested over $30bn to further support Egypt’s human and economic development.

Morocco World News said The Moroccan Minister of Economy and Finance, Mohamed Benchaaboun, and the director USAID Brooke Sherman signed the agreement on July 3 in Rabat. At the signing, the director of USAID stated that the agreement marked “a new era” in the collaboration between the agency and Morocco. Since 2001, USAID donated close to $500 million to Morocco, to fund a large number of initiatives across a variety of sectors including education, employment, health, and resource management.

Business Daily Africa said USAID concluded a one-week visit to funded programmes at several African countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Kenya and Mozambique. His goal was to promote sustainable paths to self-reliance, including in the context of food security programmes. Countries in Africa that were the most food secure such as Tunisia, Mauritius, Morocco, Algeria, Ghana, Senegal and South Africa and those which were making progress toward being more food secure such as Ethiopia, Tanzania, Nigeria and Kenya had achieved their progress by using some of the same strategies as the US.
In June, Morocco World News said that representing America, Moroccan-born scientist Khalil Amine was awarded the Global Energy Prize for his outstanding contribution into the development of the efficient electrical energy storage technology. Managed by the Moscow-based Global Energy Association, the Global Energy Prize was presented each year by the President of the Russian Federation. Winners received a prize of RUB 39 million.

In July, Egypt’s President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi met with Rick Perry, US Secretary of Energy, at Montazah Palace in Alexandria, where the US official praised the Egyptian efforts to strengthen the energy sector at both the regional and national levels.

According to presidential spokesperson Bassam Rady, Perry said that Egypt’s domestic energy sector had become one of the main factors for the growth of the Egyptian economy and it dynamically contributed to supporting the country’s economic potential and achieving its different development plans.

Afrik reported that The Moroccan Minister of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water began a working visit to Washington on, June 24, 2019. The visit included an exchange with the US Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, on the techniques of building, managing and operating long distance water storage and transport infrastructure. Cooperation in the water sector was strengthening between Morocco and the US government. At the end of June 2019, a Moroccan delegation visited the US to learn about the American experience in water management. The exchanges made it possible to forge partnerships for the development of the hydraulic sector in Morocco. The Moroccan delegation consisted of the Director General of the National Office of Electricity and Drinking Water (ONEE), central directors and senior officials from the Ministry of Public Works, Transport, Logistics and Water.

In August, US congressman Frank Pallone, Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, said he was impressed by Morocco’s great progress in renewable energies, expressing the wish to develop cooperation between the US and Morocco in this area.

Pallone said Morocco had made significant progress in the area of renewable energies, told reporters following talks in Rabat between a delegation of US congressmen and Morocco’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Nasser Bourita.

American Airlines to offer nonstop flights between Philly and Morocco starting in June 2020. Travelers would have the ability to use Casablanca as a connecting point, Raja said, to other African destinations like Marrakech, Lagos and Accra through American’s partnership with national Moroccan airline Royal Air Maroc.
In June, Egypt’s Nadra Mabrouk joined Somalia’s Jamila Osman as joint winners of the attention-grabbing Brunel International African Poetry Prize. Nadra, from Cairo, who interned for The Academy of American Poets, and Jamila, who wrote and taught in Portland, Oregon, would both share the £3,000 prize.

In July, Egyptian officials were angered as Head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities Mostafa Waziri after Egyptian Tutankhamun bust was up for sale in an auction in the UK. Egypt sent a letter to the UK Central Authority, that the UK has failed them as it continued to organize the exhibition where the bust would be sold, despite all procedures taken by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the UNESCO. Egypt said it would continue to pursue those involved and any party that bought Egyptian antiquities, thanking Italy, Spain, France and the US for returning smuggled artefacts to Egypt. Other reports said it was more than a full house attending the opening reception of “A New Legacy – Contemporary Art of Egypt.” This was a milestone for Falls Church Arts as the exhibit shared with Egypt was the first International Art Collaboration of its kind with a foreign country. Both the FCA gallery space and the Famille Cafe next door were reportedly, at times overflowing, with members of the US State Department and the Egyptian Embassy making an appearance.

Egypt’s Tourism Minister Rania Al-Mashat highlighted Egypt’s efforts to promote women’s empowerment during her visit to National Geographic’s Queens of Egypt exhibition, viewed in Washington D.C. since March and running till September. The event was attended by Yasser Reda, Egypt’s ambassador to the US. The exhibition displayed a collection of 300 ancient Egyptian artefacts from five different European and Canadian museums belonging to the 18th and 19th dynasties, including items pertaining to Nefertari, Nefertiti, Hatshepsut, and Cleopatra VII.

In June, University of Illinois at Chicago sophomore Luana Davila of Joliet was awarded a US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic in Morocco. Davila, who was a classics major and Arabic minor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a member of the UIC Honors College, was one of approximately 550 competitively selected American students from over 230 US colleges and universities who received the award in 2019.

In August, 20 Egyptian women graduated from prominent universities in the US, all funded by the US government as part of America’s support for economic development in Egypt. The women all received scholarships from the USAID to pursue undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees at universities in the US. The US Fulbright Commission in Egypt announced the opening of the Egyptian research scholar grants in US. The program provided opportunities for faculty members of universities and researchers in Egyptian research centres and institutes to conduct post-doctoral research in America. It also provided professionals working in the department of arts and heritage with opportunities to conduct research and participate in academic programs to strengthen their administrative and organizational capacities.

US embassy in Egypt said a new service and training centre for water and sanitation that had been established in Assiut with funding support from the US was inaugurated recently in Assiut. The new centre would provide services for more than 650,000 households noting that USAID partners with Egypt’s Holding Company for Water and Wastewater and its subsidiaries to construct or upgrade water and wastewater facilities in underserved cities and rural areas using low-maintenance technologies and local contractors.

On the education front, USAID through the higher education agreement targets supporting Egypt’s goals to align the skills of graduates with market needs, the statement mentioned.
In June, an Egyptian TV show was being accused of brazenly copying Breaking Bad. Numerous viewers pointed out the direct similarities between new series Wald El Ghalaba and the popular AMC series, which ended in 2008. The show’s plot was instantly recognisable to anyone who saw an episode of the Vince Gilligan series: strapped for cash and faced with unfortunate news, a man was forced to deal drugs to keep his family afloat.

In July, Egypt Independent reported that American rapper Russell Vitale, publicly known as Russ, was set to perform in Egypt for the first time on August 2 at the North Coast’s al-Alamein, according to an announcement made by the organizing company “Cvents”. Russ would be having a busy summer as he’s touring globally to perform some of his newest songs, according to his Facebook page. Locations for his international summer tour included Egypt and Malaysia.

Reports said Egyptian-American star Rami Malek and Egyptian-Canadian star Mena Massoud were nominated for The Teen Choice Awards. The Awards would take place on 11 August. Massoud was nominated for his role as Aladdin while Malek was nominated for the Choice Drama Movie Actor for his role as Freddie Mercury in Bohemian Rhapsody. Malek was born in Los Angeles in May 12, 1981, to Egyptian immigrant parents who were Saeed Malek and Nelly Abdel Malek.

Other news said not long into the new documentary Free Trip to Egypt, its producer and creator Tarek Mounib dons a Make America Great Again cap before making his pitch at a 2017 Trump rally. Mounib asked: Would anyone like to take a free vacation to Egypt and see what life is like in an Islamic country? Not that surprisingly, a cartoonish, microphone-wielding Donald Trump impersonator shoots down Mounib’s offer. So do a succession of Trump supporters. In those moments, it’s uncertain whether Mounib was more like that impossible dreamer Don Quixote, or Borat, the satirical character who skewered American small-mindedness in Sacha Baron Cohen’s 2006 film.

Reports in Morocco noted that 90 Day Fiancée star Nicole Nafziger was enjoying her summer despite her fiancé, Azan Tefou, being more than 4,000 miles away in Morocco. The day before the tell-all for Season 4 aired, Nicole shared a picture of herself and daughter with her 373,000 Instagram followers.

In August, Pro-Palestinian campaigners called on Jennifer Lopez to cancel her upcoming gig in Egypt, after the famed singer defied similar protests and performed in Tel Aviv. Lopez did not publicly comment on the backlash, but her manager said that “Tel Aviv and Israel deserve Jennifer Lopez”, and vice versa.

In an open letter to Orsacom Development, an Egyptian company organising the concert, BDS Egypt called for the show to be called off.

An Egyptian lawyer wanted to ban Jennifer Lopez From Egypt For ‘Performing Naked’. Speaking to Egyptian media, the lawyer stated that “these transparent and nude clothes, and the date of the concert is not appropriate at all.

The US Embassy in Tunisia held a screening from 2-4 pm of the “If” Project Documentary, a film that asked incarcerated individuals if there was anything somebody could have said or done to prevent them from perpetrating a crime. The screening would be followed by a discussion with the Senior Corrections Advisor at the US mission.