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Overall Scorecard

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<thead>
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<th></th>
<th>East Africa (n)</th>
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East Africa reported the highest media coverage volumes during the period under review.

News frames in Politics for September said the following anti-government protests, opposition leader Maurice Kamto and more than 80 other politicians were arrested in January. Human rights groups were calling for the immediate release of Kamto and said it was part of a violent crackdown by the president against any form of dissent. The US, the European Union, and human rights groups were all criticising what had been described as “political tyranny” in Cameroon. African Americans were being encouraged to visit Ghana to mark 400 years since the beginning of the transatlantic slave trade. In the capital, Accra, one returnee chef was awaiting US visitors to give them a taste of home in the homeland.

For peace, security & terrorism reports said the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission said it had arrested a ‘cyberfraud kingpin’ in Ekiti State, who was suspected to have acted as a conduit for funds stolen by the recently arrested Nigerian fraudsters in the US.

Egypt’s foreign minister called for more support for neighboring Sudan’s new civilian-led government, including getting it off the US list of countries sponsoring terrorism. The US named Sudan as a state sponsor of terrorism in 1993. In one of its last acts, the Obama administration began a formal process to de-list Sudan. However, this was put on hold when mass protests erupted in December against President Omar al-Bashir’s three-decade rule, which ended when the military ousted him in April. The Libyan prime minister offered to try to find a way out of the recent spiral of violence through a national forum to include all of the country’s factions. The US State Department revealed that it had cleared the way for Morocco to purchase nearly $1 billion worth of American munitions, including thousands of anti-tank guided missiles and bombs used by F-16 Fighting Falcons. Approximately 120 air force delegates from the US, Kenya, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda came together for a week of knowledge sharing at Laikipia Air Base, Kenya.

For Tourism, travel & leisure reports said Cameroonian born Beaudouin Tchakounte, an Uber driver residing in the US had been reportedly shot down by an Afro-American in Prince George County, USA reports said.

The Trump administration announced that as from August 29, 2019 Nigerians whose visa applications were approved would pay extra visa fees ranging from $80 to $303 (depending on the class of visa) in addition to the non-refundable $160 to $260 application fees paid for non-immigrant visas, before they can travel to the US.

The Trump administration said it would issue a permit to a Michigan trophy hunter to import the skin, skull and horns from a rare black rhinoceros he shot in Africa. Documents show Chris Peyerk of Shelby Township, Michigan, applied last year for the permit required by the Fish and Wildlife Service to import animals protected under the Endangered Species Act.

American entertainer Steve Harvey had been sucked into Zimbabwe’s fractious politics after the opposition MDC Alliance led
Overall Scorecard

by Nelson Chamisa persuaded him to delete a tweet in which he posted a video of the Victoria Falls. Matters came to a head after Harvey posted the video showing a rainbow over the Victoria Falls, with an emoji of clapping hands.

In support of Egypt’s vital tourism industry, the thousands of people it employs, and the world heritage represented by Egypt’s cultural monuments, the USAID partnered with the Ministry of Antiquities on a number of conservation and training activities in Dra Abu El Naga and Khonsu Temple in Luxor.

Aircraft manufacturer Boeing had started receiving applications from families that lost loved ones in the Ethiopian Airlines crash in March.

In Economy, Trade & Development reports said the governments of the US and Ghana on 5 September 2019 signed a Declaration of Partnership at the African Green Revolution Forum hosted in Accra.

The Declaration launched a five-year Feed the Future Country Plan for Ghana that would increase investments in agriculture, build greater resilience, and improve household nutrition.

The US Consulate General in Lagos had launched the Nigerian Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), a State Department-led initiative that supports women entrepreneurs around the world.

For Health & Food issues, reports indicated that the US Committed an Additional $16.5 Million to Education and Agribusiness in Egypt. The US Mission in Nigeria and the American Business Council, in partnership with Nigeria and members of the private sector, launched a two-day Intellectual Property Symposium in Lagos. The US Embassy in Freetown would announce the launch of a feasibility study that could bring clean power to thousands of people in Sierra Leone. Amid transmission of Ebola in new hot spots throughout North Kivu and Ituri provinces, the US, through the USAID, announced an additional $21 million humanitarian aid package directed at the eastern DRC.

For Business & Investments reports said, Bishop Alexander to launch US-Africa trade hub. Alexander would host around 200 leaders in business, academia and the faith community at R400 at his Park Expo & Conference Center.

A US judge rejected Exxon Mobil’s and Royal Dutch Shell’s effort to revive a $1.8 billion arbitration award against Nigeria’s state-run oil company, which stemmed from a dispute over a 1993 contract to extract oil near the African country’s coastline.

The US Export and Import Bank would notify Congress of a project US$5 billion loan to support the export of goods and services for the development and construction of the liquefied gas project located in the Afungi peninsula in the Cabo Delgado province of northern Mozambique, according to a statement issued in Washington.

In entertainment, Steve Harvey was bringing “Family Feud”, a popular American game show, to South Africa. Nigerian film, ‘Daughters of Chibok’, had won the prestigious Venice Film Festival in the US. A number of Zimbabwean gospel musicians were set to feature at the Christian Fellowship International annual conference in Atlanta.

For Science, Technology & Innovation, the US Embassy in Nigeria had launched a working group that would seek to learn from Nigeria how it had been able to curb the illicit activities of counterfeit drug producers. US honoured a Nigerian national doing something extraordinary in the agricultural sector.

Major African tech start-up Andela sacked hundreds of its staff — the majority from Nigeria — in one of the largest layoffs in the continent’s budding tech industry.

In October, core frames in Politics said Angolan President João Lourenço said conflicts, hunger, misery and disease cannot be eliminated with political and bureaucratic solutions only. President Lourenço urged the US and China to end their trade war considering the negative consequences on the global economy. He also demanded an end to the US-decades old embargo against Cuba. The US Embassy in Yaounde had disclosed being a neutral partner in the ongoing Cameroon’s Major National Dialogue taking place at the Yaounde Conference Centre.

US Ambassador to Kenya Kyle McCarter on September 29, evoked mixed reactions on Twitter after condemning the soaring corruption in the country. Under the hashtag #stopthesethieves, McCarter had suggested graft was depriving citizens of the deserved prosperity of the Big Four agenda. The US House Committee on Foreign Affairs was expected to hold hearings on the nomination of ambassadors proposed by President Trump.

For Peace, Security & Terrorism reports said USAID was in close consultation with the Egyptian authorities for implementing new projects. Mounting protests in Cairo against Egypt’s president was prompting bipartisan unease among US lawmakers, with the top Republican and Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee calling for authorities to avoid a violent crackdown against demonstrators.

The US military carried out an airstrike against Islamic State fighters in southern Libya amid indications the terrorist group was seeking to exploit the country’s civil strife to increase its recruiting. The Pentagon’s Africa Command said in a statement that the strike — which other officials said was carried out by an Air Force Reaper drone based in neighbouring Niger — killed 17 militants in an unidentified location in southwest Libya. The Trump administration approved Tunisia’s request to purchase 12 Beechcraft T-6C Texan trainer aircraft and related equipment.

Reports for Economy, Trade & Development said US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his Moroccan counterpart Nasser Bourita explored the creation of a joint security platform to protect against a resurgence of the Islamic State and a lasting defeat of al Qaeda terror groups (both banned in Russia), according to a Department
of State readout of their meeting. The Trump administration had invited the foreign ministers of Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan to Washington to discuss a giant hydropower dam project on Ethiopia’s Blue Nile, the focus of an escalating feud between Addis Ababa and Cairo over water resources.

For Business & Investments, on October 16, the Angolan-American Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Angolan Embassy in the US and Angola’s representation in the World Bank Group, would host the first Angolan Economic Forum just before the annual World Bank and the IMF.

For Tourism, Travel & Leisure, the US Embassy in Cameroon has welcomed the voluntary repatriation of the first set of three hundred Central African refugees in “safety and dignity” to their homeland. The US had escalated its political and economic war against Zimbabwe, despite spirited efforts by the New Dispensation to re-engage on an equal footing with a view to fostering a mutually beneficial long-lasting bilateral relationship. Travelers to Tanzania were being urged by the US State Department to exercise increased caution due in part to a “probable” fatal case of Ebola. Celebrated American comedian and television host Ellen DeGeneres and her partner Portia de Rossi over the weekend organised a fundraiser that raised over $5 million for gorilla conservation in Rwanda.

For Health & Food issues reports indicated that the US Embassy awarded over 42 million FCFA to seven Cameroonian organizations working for the development, health, and prosperity of their communities. The US and Ghana governments have collaborated to launch the multi-stakeholder strategy to achieve HIV/AIDS epidemic control in the Western region.

In Education, reports a section of students interacting with a representative of a US institution of higher learning. Almost 50 institutions of higher learning from the US had participated in a day educational fair to showcase opportunities for tertiary education in their country to Ghanian students. Students at an American charity school in Liberia almost lost their institution to a notorious sex abuse scandal, forcing the academy to close.

Science, Technology & Innovation reports said Social media giant Facebook had announced the expansion of its third-party fact-checking program to ten African countries. Fact-Checking Network, third-party fact-checking would now be available in Ethiopia, Zambia, Somalia and Burkina Faso through AFP; Uganda and Tanzania through both Pesa Check and AFP; DRC and Cote d’Ivoire through France 24 Observers and AFP; Guinea Conakry through France 24 Observers, and Ghana through Dubawa.

In Entertainment, Ghanian rap notable, Michael Owusu Addo, Sarkodie, got warm applause for his admonition to African ladies to be proud of their melanin and not attempt to bleach to fit in. This comes on the back of winning the 2019 BET Hip Hop Award for ‘Best International Flow Act’. Sho Madjozi’s track had made it onto The Ellen DeGeneres Show! Sulwe, the book by award-winning actress Lupita Nyong’o made its debut in the US

Nigeria and the US are collaborating to harness the potential of creative industry. Areas of partnership were design, music, publishing, architecture, film and video, crafts, visual arts, fashion, TV and radio.

For Arts & Culture, the US have returned a remarkable golden sarcophagus, two years after it was obtained by the New York Metropolitan Museum. The golden coffin of ancient Egyptian priest Nedjemankh, which was recently repatriated from the United States, had been put on display for the first time in Egypt at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilisation.

In November, news frames in Politics said Facebook said it had suspended three networks of Russian accounts that attempted to interfere in the domestic politics of eight African countries, and were tied to a Russian businessman accused of meddling in past US elections. The campaigns targeted people in Madagascar, Central African Republic, Mozambique, DRC, Cote d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Sudan and Libya.

Reports for Economy, Trade & Development said the US government through its Consulate General in Lagos would support the training of a cohort of 20 young entrepreneurs from southern Nigeria with a public diplomacy grant of $105,000. The tenure of the US Ambassador to Uganda, Deborah Malac came to an end with President Trump announcing her replacement. Kenya reaped good dividends from AGOA that would expire in 2025, hitting highest trade surplus of $331 million with the US last year.

For Peace, Security & Terrorism reports said Egypt’s purchase of Russian fighter jets put it at risk of US sanctions and endangered future acquisitions of United States-made equipment. The US cleared four potential foreign military sales packages, which combined for an estimated price tag of over $6.9 billion.

For Business & Investments, reports said Egypt managed to lure leading US companies operating in the field of petroleum and gas exploration, namely Chevron and ExxonMobil, Atlas Tower was selling its SA tower portfolio to shareholder SBA Communications for $140 million.

Health & Food issues reports said US ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks revealed her priorities and discussed the state of relations between US and SA.

For Tourism, Travel & Leisure, reports said an American diver died after the eruption of a fire on a safari boat to the north of Marsa Alam in the Southern Egyptian Red Sea.

Ethiopian Airlines had not decided yet whether to take more deliveries of the 737 MAX, the jet grounded worldwide in the wake of crashes in Ethiopia and Indonesia, as Boeing completed revisions to the aircraft’s design.

Science, Technology & Innovation reports said the Bureau of Energy Resources engaged to strengthen government-to-government relationships on mines and energy during his visit to South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana.
East Africa

3–6 Sept. Sudan’s new premier called for the US to drop his country from its state sponsors of terrorism list, insisting it was crucial to economic revival. The US Trade and Development Agency awarded a grant to Kenya’s Craftskills Energy for a feasibility study to develop a 50 MW wind power plant with integrated battery storage capacity in Kajiado, Kenya. In Somalia, the US Army said it killed an al-Shabab militant in an airstrike in southern Somalia.

9–10 Sept. A Kenyan national was appointed the new commissioner of Commerce and Insurance in Tennessee, US. Deborah Malac, US Ambassador to Uganda, said US provided $896m to Uganda in 2018.

16–19 Sept. US Secretary for Health and Human Services Alex Azar applauded Uganda’s efforts to control the spread of Ebola in east and central Africa; however, while the US remained the primary funder of Uganda’s health care sector, the department also urged Tanzanian authorities to show transparency in the case of a patient who recently died after suffering Ebola-like symptoms. Mobile-based online lending firm Tala said it would shut down operations in Tanzania.

25 Sept. US authorities had long been closely watching key government officials in Uganda that they deemed corrupt and perennial abusers of human rights.

1–4 Oct. The US reopened its embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia, nearly three decades after the country collapsed into civil war. Amnesty International accused the US of killing civilians in an air strike in Somalia and failing to investigate claims they were farmers with no ties to Al-Shabaab. In Kenya, Coca-Cola partnered with the American Chamber of Commerce Kenya to fund the Business Summit 2019 in November in Nairobi. The US State Department’s top Africa official said a recent cut in US funding for combating HIV/AIDS in Kenya did not amount to a scaling back of US interests in the country.

4–9 Oct. Saudi Arabia said it supported removing Sudan from the US list of states that sponsor terrorism. In Kenya, the National Assembly said the US failed to control humanitarian aid to Somalia, and alleged that some relief assistance ended up in the hands of militants. In South Sudan, the US warned it would not accept any transitional unity government in Juba.

13–18 Oct. A Kenyan-based coffee producer signed a trade deal with a US beverages company to supply ground berries for making bhang-laced drinks. US-based Kenyan actress Lupita Nyong’o launched her book titled ‘Sulwe’. In Sudan, Four US diplomats opened accounts at a Sudanese bank for the first time in decades, as Khartoum sought to draw international businesses back. The US criticized Uganda’s new “Kill the Gays” bill but stopped short of promising to cut aid.

20–27 Oct. US envoy said Kenyans implicated in corruption and drug trafficking would not be allowed to visit the US. The US backed Kenya’s push for an out of court settlement in a maritime border dispute with Somalia. In Sudan, a top financial official believed it was “just a question of time” before his country was removed from the US state-sponsored terrorism list. In South Sudan, the US, UK and Norway urged political parties in South Sudan to meet a Nov. 12 deadline to form a transitional government.

Early Nov. The US rubbished reports claiming that the Nairobi-Mombasa expressway project would saddle Kenya with unsustainable debt. Google launched a project to digitize and showcase collections from the National Museums of Kenya. In Ethiopia, the US trained Ethiopian Law Enforcement Agencies in counter-proliferation of weapons. US President Trump backed talks between Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan to resolve a dam dispute. In Sudan, US President Trump said he extended economic sanctions on Sudan over its failure to address the cause of the country’s political crisis. Sudan’s new prime minister urged the West to end his country’s international pariah status.

10–17 Nov. The US government spent about Ksh700 billion to implement the various projects in Kenya. The US extended its lead as Kenya’s top source of tourists after arrivals from the world’s largest economy increased 8.4% or by 14,617 visitors in the first nine months of 2019. In Uganda, the newly elected
Mayor of Boston city in USA assured Kyadondo East MP Robert Kyagulanyi, alias Bobi Wine, of support in his 2021 presidential bid. US Ambassador to Uganda Deborah Malac encouraged the youth and women in Northern Uganda to participate actively in the economic growth.

17-22 Nov. The US State Department barred entry to former Kenyan Attorney General Amos Wako over his involvement in significant corruption. In Sudan, the US affirmed its support to the transitional government until it realised the aspired change. In Uganda, the US said it would not be paying allowances to Uganda officials implementing donor-funded projects.

22-28 Nov. The US recalled its ambassador from South Sudan after warring factions failed to agree on a unity government. In Kenya, Boloro Global partnered with BCK Kenya to sell digital payments authentication products. In Tanzania, Peak Resources said the US was keen to fund its Ngualla Rare Earth project in Southern Tanzania.

West Africa
6 Sept. Ghana said it was taken off the US ‘s list of worse human trafficking offenders after its efforts to deal with the menace. In Cameroon, the main opposition leader went on trial in a military court in Yaoundé.

8 Sept. The US and Ghana signed declaration of partnership on food security. The Declaration launched a five-year Feed the Future Country Plan for Ghana and would increase investments in agriculture, building greater resilience, and improving household nutrition.

12 Sept. The US said it spent about $1bn on security, health and education in Nigeria annually. US Embassy in Nigeria was to send 10 young people to Washington in November to work with Congress. The US Consulate General in Lagos launched the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, an initiative that supported women entrepreneurs. The US, the American Business Council, in partnership with Nigerian entities,

24 Sept. A US official said his government employed sports diplomacy as a tool to forge stronger ties with Nigeria.

1-4 Oct. The US Justice Department closed its investigations into alleged corruption by oil major Eni in Nigeria and Algeria without taking any action. President Trump challenged Nigeria to dismantle Boko Haram and ISWAP. In Ghana, the government, with support from the US’s Feed the Future Initiative, organized the Annual Pre-Harvest Agribusiness Conference and Exhibition.

6-9 Oct. Facebook announced the expansion of its third-party fact-checking program to 10 African countries including Nigeria, Cameroon and Senegal. In Nigeria, the USTDA funded three projects to electrify rural communities and deliver critical gas resources to support economic activity.

27-29 Oct. The US Embassy had explained why it insisted on Ghana keeping the Power Distribution Service (PDS) deal despite the government’s claim that the consortium lacked a valid demand guarantee.

In Nigeria, the US Consulate-general, Lagos, had announced a partnership with the Tony Elumelu Foundation (TEF) for the training of entrepreneurs from southern Nigeria under the 2019 Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Programme (TEEP).

Early in November, President Muhammadu Buhari met with the United States’ Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, to request for additional capital from the US development finance institutions to upgrade critical infrastructure in Nigeria. The US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) announced that it was implementing an anti-retroviral treatment (ART) surge programme in Lagos State to identify and provide treatment for about 60,000 people living with HIV (PL-HIV) who had not previously received such treatment. Reports said the US Mission to Nigeria awarded $523,314 in grants in response to its 2019 annual program statement.

In Ghana, Mr Stephen Censky, the US Deputy Secretary of Agriculture ended his three-day trade mission to West Africa with a call on countries in the sub region to create a positive business climate that would promote a win-win situation for all. Professor Kwabena Bediako was named as one of 40 scientists and engineers in the US to receive $450,000 (N162,913,500) from the Investor Research Program (YIP) organised by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

In Cameroon, Professor Kwabena Bediako was named as one of 40 scientists and engineers in the US to receive $450,000 (N162,913,500) from the Investor Research Program (YIP) organized by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The international community was urged to follow the example set by the US to slap sanctions on Cameroon following human rights violations.

The spike seen on 17-23 November related to reports that the number of foreign students coming to US colleges and universities continued to fall last year, but the Trump administration said the drop should be blamed on high tuition costs and not students’ concerns over the nation’s political atmosphere. Nigeria’s Federal Capital City, Abuja, was set to host the 6th annual International Society of Comparative Education, Science & Technology Conference (ISCEST) coming up in December.

In Ghana, US Ambassador Stephanie S. Sullivan addressed and presented plaques to outstanding participants in the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) West Africa Regional Leadership Center (RLC) training program. USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau of Global Health Kerry Pelzman visited Ghana accompanied by a travel delegation including USAID Global Health Bureau Senior Advisor Aye Aye Thwin and USAID Africa Bureau West Africa Coastal Team Leader LaTrisha Chappin. US Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) Lamora traveled to Ejura to commission the Ejuraman Integrated Community Center for Employable Skills (ICCES) Training Center’s new classroom block.

In Cameroon, the US urged Cameroon to devolve power in its troubled anglophone region, saying the government’s military
Analysis of daily issue coverage, March - May 2019

Southern Africa

26-29 Aug. The US was reportedly disappointed that Zimbabwe kept growing amid the heavy-handed response of authorities to any form of opposition. In SA, an American reporter had caused a stir on social media after failing to identify President Cyril Ramaphosa. In Mozambique, the Export-Import Bank said its board planned to vote to decide whether it would endorse a direct loan of $5 billion for developing a LNG project.

1-7 Sept. Zimbabwe’s Emmerson Mnangagwa said relations with the US, which imposed sanctions in 2003, were the best they had been in decades. In Angola, reports said some American workers were planning to protest the Angolan government’s delegation’s planned upcoming visits to New York and Washington, DC. SA’s Ndlovu Youth Choir made it to the finals of America’s Got Talent.

7-14 Sept. The US was warming up to Zimbabwe’s re-engagement policy, with an envoy calling for deeper bilateral cooperation in the education sector. In Zambia, the US government, in partnership with SADC commissioned the first hybrid maize seed export from Zambia to the DRC.

21-26 Sept. A group of 38 Peace Corps Volunteers were sworn in at the US Embassy and said they were ready to head out to Limpopo to work with children. Reports said residents of the Northern Cape had been invited to apply for the Mandela Washington Fellowship, which would see successful applicants being sent to the US for training in civic leadership, public management and business. In Zambia, President Edgar Lungu praised the US for providing $3 billion in development assistance to Zambia since 1964. The US in partnership with Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture, launched a new five-year Farmer-to-Farmer programme in Zambia.

1-6 Oct. Zimbabwe expressed concern over the US continued attempts to suffocate Zimbabwe’s economy after it barred local diamonds from entering Washington claiming they were produced through forced labour. The US was reportedly shocked by the manner in which Zimbabwe dealt with dissent and Harare’s reputation had not been pleasing. The US escalated its political and economic war against Zimbabwe despite spirited efforts by the New Dispensation to re-engage on an equal footing with a view to fostering a mutually beneficial long-lasting bilateral relationship. Zimbabwe had called out the US for trying “to hide behind the finger” by describing its sanctions regime as merely restrictive measures. In Namibia, the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (Pepfar), the Centres for Disease Control and USAID, supported the ministry with the transition to Tenofovir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir. In Angola, the US-Angola Chamber of Commerce were to host the first Angola Economic Forum, just before the 2019 Annual World Bank – IMF meeting. In SA, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs launched the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), a new program aimed at supporting the growth of women entrepreneurs around the world. Reports said Jack Dorsey, American businessman, co-founder and chief executive of social media platform boss Twitter, was coming to the country. In Mozambique, US energy giant Exxon Mobil would finalize its investment in Mozambique’s lucrative liquefied natural gas fields in a signing ceremony.

9-12 Oct. The US Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned the Gupta brothers and Salim Essa for “their involvement in corruption in South Africa”. SA’s Justice and Correctional Services Minister Ronald Lamola said action taken by the US to impose sanctions against the Gupta brothers and businessman Salim Essa – would ensure that SA’s interests of justice unfolded without any hindrance. In Zimbabwe, following a decision made in August by the SADC secretariat, the body was expected to organise simultaneous activities on October 25 to show solidarity with Zimbabwe and demonstrate their disapproval of sanctions imposed on the country by the EU and the US.

12-20 Oct. The US Senate confirmed Lana Marks’s nomination for the diplomatic posting to Pretoria almost a year after President Trump named her as his choice. Former Mozambican finance minister Manuel Chang challenged attempts to extradite him to the US for a corruption trial. In Zambia, opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema used his trip to the US to thank that country for assisting Zambia in various sectors of the economy. A journal said the US’s decision to ban Zimbabwean diamonds without investigating allegations of forced labour or taking the matter up with the Kimberley Process points to “deliberate vilification” and justification of sanctions.

20-24 Oct. Zimbabwe declared a public holiday to protest US sanctions it said were hurting its economy, and the day came with a state-sponsored festival. In SA, the ANC said sanctions against Zimbabwe by the US and EU were illegal.

10-17 Nov. Jennifer Davis was exiled to US over activism against apartheid in SA. Adam Boehler, CEO of the International Development Finance Corp announced the first disbursement of a $40 million loan to Tetra4 to support the development of critical gas infrastructure and advance energy security in SA. Reports said a serious turf war was brewing between China and the US over access to Southern Africa’s rare earth minerals and energy sources. In Namibia, an with the US Bureau of Energy Resources praised collaboration between the US and OPEC.

17-23 Nov. Lana Marks, US ambassador to SA, revealed discussed the state of relations between the two countries. Tibor Nagy, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, condemned excessive force used by police to disperse supporters of the main opposition MDC.

North Africa

2-10 Sept. The US granted donations worth $335 million to
Analysis of daily issue coverage, March - May 2019

Tunisia to encourage entrepreneurship and improve governance. The US approved the release of $1.3 billion in military aid to Egypt despite the Trump administration’s admission that Cairo actively prevented civil dissent and cut down on democratic reforms. The US said Libya’s oil revenue must remain under the Tripoli-based National Oil Corp.

13-20 Sept. US State Department cleared the way for Morocco to purchase nearly $1 billion worth of American munitions, including thousands of anti-tank guided missiles and bombs used by F-16 Fighting Falcons. The US allocated an additional $16.5 million to support joint US-Egypt priorities in basic education and agribusiness.

22-26 Sept. US diplomats and military officials met with a Libyan militia leader whose offensive on Tripoli earlier this year forced American troops out of the country, but who was now seen as key to ending the country’s eight-year-old civil war. US Africa Command’s deputy director for intelligence was on hand for the talks and were aimed at pushing toward a political deal between Hifter and Libya’s US- and United Nations-backed Government of National Accord.

13-18 Oct. Egypt welcomed President Trump’s preliminary sanctions on Turkey following Ankara’s military incursion in North-eastern Syria. Egypt Prime Minister committed his nation to examine multiple cases of Americans detained in Egypt. Libyan and US officials held talks in Washington on ways to bolster Libya’s oil sector and enhance transparency in data dissemination in Libyan institutions.

20-25 Oct. Egypt accepted a US invitation to a meeting of foreign ministers over a project for a giant hydropower dam on Ethiopia’s Blue Nile that was causing an escalating spat between the two African countries. Morocco and US officials held the fourth Strategic Dialogue session in Washington DC.

3-9 Nov. Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry headed to the US to attend the negotiations on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam between Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia. In Morocco, Ivanka Trump visited an olive field in the city of Sidi Kacem to meet female landowners, as part of Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative. In Libya, the US said it was ready to provide support to political dialogue.

17-22 Nov. Egypt lured Chevron Corporation and ExxonMobil to petroleum and gas exploration. The US said it could impose sanctions on Egypt and block future military sales if it went ahead with a purchase of Russian warplanes. The US military said it lost an unmanned drone aircraft over Tripoli where rival armed groups were fighting for control of the city.
Peace, Security & Terrorism

Significant reports stated that French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said that France would press to drop Sudan from the US blacklist of state sponsors of terrorism and to support efforts to reintegrate the country into the international community.

The US army said it killed an al-Shabab militant in an airstrike in southern Somalia. The airstrike was carried out in collaboration with the Somali government in the vicinity of Jilib, a militant’s stronghold.

The Kenyan military was due to receive six new US-made light attack helicopter gunships as part of an initial order of 12 light attack and reconnaissance helicopters by December. The planes were part of the $253 million arms deal that Nairobi signed with Washington, which was approved by Congress in May 2017.

In October, al-Shabab militant group claimed responsibility for an attack on a US base in Somalia, as the EU confirmed a separate strike against a convoy of Italian advisers. The militants struck the US base at Baleqogole, with explosives before gunmen opened fire on the compound.

Other reports said Amnesty International accused the US of killing three civilians in an air strike in Somalia and failing to investigate claims they were farmers with no ties to Al-Shabaab.

South Sudan opposition leader Riek Machar told a UN Security Council delegation that he would not be part of a unity government, dashing the prospects of progress in a stalled peace process.

Kenya’s National Assembly Speaker faulted the US government over its alleged failure to control humanitarian aid to Somalia saying some of the relief assistance was ending up in the hands of militants.

In November, South Sudan President Salva Kiir and rebel chief Riek Machar were given another 100 days to form a power-sharing government after failing to resolve differences, a fresh delay that prompted a sharp US warning that the fledgling nation needed new leaders.

Further reports said the US recalled its ambassador from South Sudan after the leaders of formerly warring factions failed to agree on a unity government, the US State Department said.

Reports said the US no longer had an adversarial relationship with the Sudanese government and was working with its counterparts on the possibility of removing it from a list of state sponsors of terrorism, a senior State Department official said. However, Tibor Nagy, assistant secretary for African affairs, cautioned that doing so was a process with conditions, stating that “It’s not an event, it’s not flipping a light switch. It’s a process.”

Politics

Reports relating to Politics mentioned that Sudan’s new premier called for the US to drop his country from its state sponsors of terrorism list, insisting it was crucial to economic revival.

A Ugandan student at Harvard University filed a lawsuit against Uganda’s President Yoweri Museveni for blocking him on Twitter. The student said the blocking violated his right to access information about his country.

Former Uganda police boss Edward Kalekezi Kayihura Muhwezi was sanctioned by the US Department of State. A statement released said Muhwezi had been linked to incidents of gross violations of human rights.
Kenya’s ambassadorial nominee to South Korea Mwende Mwinzi, was suing to stop MPs from forcing her to renounce her US citizenship before she took on the job. Mwinzi whom the National Assembly approved for the job on condition that she gave up her US citizenship, said it would be a violation of her rights to be forced out of something she did not choose.

In October, US Embassy Addis Ababa congratulated Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, on being the 100th recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Reports said Abiy showed a commitment to the values of democracy and inclusive development by opening up political space and strengthening the freedom of the press.

Reports said Kenya’s bid to have Al-Shabaab formally blacklisted by the UN Security Council as a terrorist group may take a little longer. The US said blacklisting Al-Shabaab would create a humanitarian crisis in Somalia. The US re-opened its embassy in Somalia’s capital Mogadishu, nearly three decades after it was shut down, underscoring deepening ties between the two nations.

Uganda announced plans to reintroduce a ‘Kill the Gays’ bill that would bring the death penalty for homosexuals. The legislation was nullified five years ago on a technicality, but the government was preparing to resurrect it. Uganda faced international condemnation in 2014 when the bill was signed off by President Museveni. The US cut back aid, imposed visa restrictions and cancelled military exercises.

The US barred entry to former Kenyan Attorney General Amos Wako over his involvement in significant corruption. The action sent a strong signal that the US was a valuable partner in Kenya’s fight against corruption.

A US court was due to issue a ruling that could finally dim the lights for Kenya’s most notorious drug trafficking family, when Mr Ibrahim Akasha was brought for sentencing three months after his brother Baktash was handed a 25-year jail term.

The US said it was reviewing its relationship with South Sudan and questioned whether its feuding leaders were suit- ed for office after a new delay in forming a unity government. The US was considering all possible options to put pressure on those individuals who would impede peace and promote conflict, Tibor Nagy, top US diplomat for Africa, wrote.

Other reports said US President Trump said he had extended economic sanctions on Sudan over the government’s failure to address the cause of the country’s political crisis that led to a national emergency.

**Business & Investments**

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta asked US investors to make the country their investment destination of choice in Africa.

Komaza, a forestry company partnered with small farmers in Kenya to plant trees for sale, and was among the first beneficiaries of $200 million concessional loans lined up for green businesses by US-based Conservation International.

US-based Mobile lending app Tala announced plans to shut down its operations in Tanzania.

In October, a Kenyan coffee producer signed a trade deal with an American beverages company to supply ground berries for making bhang-laced drinks.

Microsoft hired 50 engineers at its Africa Development Centre as the firm set its sights on increased partnerships with indigenous SMEs.

Uganda’s Agilis Partners won the 2019 US Secretary of State’s Award for Corporate Excellence in Sustainable Operations.

Societe Miniere de Bisunzu mine in the DRC, received a new system developed by Berlin-based RCS Global.

**Economy, Trade & Development**

Reports regarding Economy, Trade & Development stated that Kenya was scheduled to host the US Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) at the Kenya annual Business Summit. US Taxi hailing firm Uber asked the Kenyan government to offer clarity on what a digital marketplace entailed to avert costly litigation resulting from conflicting interpretations.

Tanzanian company Solar Sister, a venture run by women for women, was pursuing a joint vision to make renewable energy technology affordable and accessible with US company Palmetto to expand the delivery of clean energy to homes across Africa.

Major African tech start-up Andela sacked hundreds of its staff in the continent’s budding tech industry. The start-up, backed by funds from investors including Facebook, laid off more than 250 junior software developers in Nigeria and Uganda, and 170 trainees in Kenya.

In October, US Customs and Border Protection issued a Withhold Release Order against gold mined in artisanal small mines in eastern DRC as a result of forced labour.

The US maintained it had not withdrawn its support for the proposed Sh300 billion Nairobi-Mombasa Expressway amid reports claiming it had.

Coca-Cola gave out a Sh3.5 million sponsorship towards the American Chamber of Commerce Business Summit 2019 in partnership with AmCham Kenya, a non-profit organisation.

**Education**

The US Department of State and USAID signed a grant with the Uganda Wildlife Conservation and Education Center to host Zoo hackathon 2019 in Entebbe from November 16-17. Zoo hackathon was a computer coding event that brought
Eastern Africa

Summary of daily issue coverage

together developers, designers, project managers, and subject matter experts to create applications, systems, and tools to help reduce demand for trafficked wildlife products.

CMU Africa launched the Rwf9bn facility at the US-based Carnegie Mellon University-Africa in Rwanda. The school was lauded as the best university in Rwanda. The school was established in Rwanda in 2011 after several talks between Rwanda and the US. At that time, it started from an existing building in Kacyiru, one of the high-end neighbourhood of Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda.

Entertainment

Ugandan singer Eddy Kenzo’s star kept shining after he was named by the US Congress as the Cultural Ambassador of the West Indian American Day Carnival that started in Brooklyn, New York on August 29.

Rising folk artist J.S. Ondara made his US television debut for CBS This Morning’s Saturday Sessions, where the Kenyan-born singer-songwriter delivered three tracks off his recent album Tales of America.

US hit television show ‘America’s Got Talent’ made its inaugural debut in August for the “East Africa’s Got Talent” competition, which brought contestants from Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda to compete for a $50,000 prize. While viewers at home were entertained by performers from the region, the Kenyan government also hoped to capitalize on the show’s millions of viewers by taking the opportunity to promote tips on healthy living, reports said.

Multiple reports said singer J.S Ondara was nominated for the 62nd Grammy awards. Ondara moved to the US as a student at the age of 20 after winning a green card lottery. Ondara’s debut album Tales of America, which was released in February 2019, was nominated under the best Americana Album category.

Health & Food issues,

US Health secretary Alex Azar and a delegation of Trump administration officials planned to travel to the region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo struggling to address a long-running Ebola outbreak, a show of political force meant to signal US support for the response effort.

Democratic party Senators Chris Coons and Chris Van Hollen in the US, endorsed taking action to head off a possible Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, lauded an innovative Ugandan approach to resettling war refugees, and called for greater political openness in Uganda. Other reports said the introduction and rapid expansion of a combination of HIV services in four Ugandan fishing communities had led to the significant decline of HIV incidences.

Reports said the number of Ebola survivors from the ongoing outbreak in the DRC topped 1,000, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The survival rate was largely due to an increase in the amount of medical interventions, including US interventions.

Further reports said DRC president Felix Tshisekedi received an effusive welcome from the DRC’s diaspora community in Atlanta when he arrived at the Cobb Galleria Centre Sept. 28 on a two-day visit where he met with officials from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, and the King and Carter Centres.

Significant reports stated that the Democratic Republic of Congo introduced a second vaccine to fight a 15-month-old epidemic of Ebola in the east of the country, a report by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) noted. The new vaccine, produced by a Belgian subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, would be administered to about 50,000 people over four months.

The US, through the USAID in partnership with Ethiopia’s Ministry of Health, announced the launch of a new USAID Digital Health Activity, by investing $63 million in Ethiopia’s health sector. An inauguration ceremony held in Addis Ababa by the USAID focused on the efforts made by the US and Ethiopia in building a modernized health information system that ensured the entire sector had the data, analytics, and skills necessary to improve the health and well-being of all Ethiopians.

In Kenya, poultry products from the US and Brazil had flooded the Kenyan market according to sector players, even as the Agriculture ministry lobbied Parliament for a legal framework to set up a Food Safety Authority. Lobbies representing poultry farmers and traders said the US Trade Mission in Nairobi was likely to open the floodgates for US chicken imports that were already hurting local business.
In September, Burundi Head of State, Pierre Nkurunziza received the US Special Envoy in the Great Lakes, Ambassador, John Peter Pham to talked about the reality of the situation in Burundi and the willingness of both parties to further strengthen the long-standing bilateral ties between the two countries.

Police in the DRC had arrested the former health minister, Oly Ilunga Kalenga, for allegedly mismanaging $4.3 million in Ebola response money. The arrest came on the same day that an unprecedented high-level delegation of US government health officials met with the DRC’s president and other leaders in Kinshasa to discuss the 13-month-old Ebola outbreak, which was the second largest in history.

Steven Were Oomo, acting U.N. humanitarian coordinator to Ethiopia said that Humanitarian aid efforts by the US and other groups had been suspended in Ethiopia after the deaths of two aid workers.

US was Rwanda’s top bilateral donor giving $177.6 million, but Trump drastically reduced aid to the tiny East African nation. The report said that Rwanda would not be the only African nation facing reduced US aid because Trump had slashed the State Department’s overall budget.

US President Donald Trump received the credentials of the new Somali ambassador to the United States, Ali Sharif Ahmed, who was recently appointed by the Federal Government of Somalia. Somalia’s President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed was honoured with the Concordia Annual Leadership Award in the US.

Sudan’s Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok reiterated the importance of removing Sudan from the US list of countries sponsoring terrorism. US said it would test the commitment of Sudan’s new transitional government to human rights, freedom of speech and humanitarian access before it agreed to remove Sudan from a state sponsor of terrorism list.

In Uganda, rights activists welcomed Washington’s decision to impose financial sanctions and visa ban on former Inspector General of Police Kale Kayihura.

The White House reportedly called for cuts to foreign aid to Uganda, sending shivers down many beneficiaries in the country. Ambassador Deborah Malac said Congress had not allowed the reductions to take place and assistance to various Ugandan programs would continue as budgeted for.

In October, US Secret Service confirmed that Ethiopian Security authorities arrested the person who was meant to carry out an attack on Barack Obama.

US government and many African leaders congratulated Prime Minister Aby Ahmed of Ethiopia over his win of the prestigious the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize.

US President Donald Trump’s administration-imposed sanctions on several Kenyans over alleged support to terrorist groups. President Uhuru Kenyatta visited his former college in US alma mater, Amherst College in Massachusetts where he met with Kanyak students.

Tuko stated that US Ambassador to Kenya Kyle McCarter evoked mixed reactions on Twitter after condemning the soaring corruption in the country. Under the hashtag #stop
Politics

theieves, McCarter had suggested that graft was depriving citizens of the deserved prosperity of the Big Four agenda.

Some reports revealed that the US was keen on supporting President Uhuru Kenyatta’s war on graft individuals implicated in corruption and drugs and their family members would not be allowed to step on American soil as President Donald Trump’s administration gets tough on Kenya.

President Uhuru Kenyatta’s bid to have an out of court settlement with Somalia over Indian Ocean maritime dispute was reportedly backed by the US. The International Court of Justice scheduled June 2020 for hearing, warning that no more postponement would be guaranteed by the court.

The US reopened its embassy in Somalia after 28 years, citing security improvements in the East African nation blighted by conflict for many years. Somalia, in The Horn of Africa, had been gripped by widespread lawlessness and violence since 1991 when autocrat Mohamed Siad Barre was toppled by various warlords.

Somalia pressed ahead with poverty reduction efforts and a major regional ports and corridors initiative if international creditors forgive the country’s $5 billion debt. Finance Minister Abdirahman Duale Beileh said he was heartened by the progress made during discussions with officials from the US, Somalia’s biggest creditor, Britain, and others during the IMF/World Bank annual meetings.

Bloomberg said South Sudan’s hopes of rebuilding its oil industry and a shattered economy after a five-year civil war that killed almost 400,000 people hinge on a fragile peace accord that looks increasingly at risk of unravelling. Since negotiators from the US, U.K., and Norway coaxed President Salva Kiir’s forces and rebel groups into a truce and power-sharing accord 13 months ago, oil production had almost doubled to 200,000 barrels a day still down from 350,000 barrels before the conflict.

The US warned its citizens to take extra caution when visiting Tanzania amid concerns over Ebola, adding to calls for the East African country to share information about suspected cases of the deadly disease there. US travellers should “exercise increased caution”, the State Department said in an updated travel advisory that cited reports of a probable Ebola-related death in Dar es Salaam.

US provided $1 billion a year in military and development assistance to the majority-Christian nation, including funds for HIV medications for nearly one million people in Uganda. Refusals on visa applications from Uganda due to fraud and misrepresentation were soaring, which the US Ambassador Deborah Malac said that it was in part due to unscrupulous miss representation.

Two US based donor charitable organisations had petitioned the Commercial Division of the High Court seeking it to order a local Non-Government Organisation (NGO) to give accountability of the funds they donated through it for combating human trafficking activities and help the needy.

In November, Business Daily reported that Busia Senator and Kenya’s former long-serving Attorney-General Amos Wako, under fresh travel ban to the US, challenged the Trump administration to provide full disclosure on corruption allegations against him.

Extensive reports noted that the US called back its ambassador to South Sudan to the country’s failure to establish a transitional government. US State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said they would work bilaterally and with the international community to act against all those impeding South Sudan’s peace process.

AllAfrica.com reported that Sudan’s Foreign Minister, Asmaa Abdallah, joined delegates to the tripartite consultative meeting on the Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia, to meet US President Trump in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington.

Media reports stated that US air raids from the armed group al-Shabab in Somalia had surged. Other reports stated that the top general for US military operations in Africa visited Somalia to meet with leaders and discuss the fight against extremists in the Horn of Africa nation.

Significant reports indicated that the US unveiled a US$600 million three-year aid package for the DRC to aid political transition in the wake of President Felix Tshisekedi taking office last January, US ambassador Mike Hammer said.

Guardian reported that the Australian government accepted a third Rwandan man who had been charged with murder as part of a refugee swap deal with the US.

Media reports stated that new US ambassador was expected to spearhead economic diplomacy between Tanzania and US tourism – the leading economic sector which Tanzania was looking for an American partnership. The US was the second of high-class tourists visiting Tanzania every year.
In September, reports stated that the US taxi hailing firm, Uber, asked the government to offer clarity on what entails a digital marketplace to avert costly litigation resulting from conflicting interpretations. Reports revealed that the government had, through the Finance Bill 2019, introduced a new provision that lists income accruing through a digital marketplace as income chargeable to tax in Kenya.

Extensive reports stated that a US-based company TALA—an operator of the mobile lending app Tala had officially announced it would shut down its operations in Tanzania. The technology-driven company which operates in Kenya, Mexico, India and Philippines provides fast, personalized loans to approved borrowers mainly self-employed at no collateral required—attracted over 27 million people around the globe.

The Independent reported that Hollywood star George Clooney’s investigative project, The Sentry urged the international community to act over alleged links between global corporations, tycoons and foreign governments and rampant corruption in South Sudan.

Middle East Monitor reported that Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, member of Sudan’s sovereign council said that Khartoum was undergoing a very important transitional period which would allow the rule of law to prevail and for economic and social developments, as well as for principles of freedom and justice to be achieved.

Monitor reported that major African tech start-up Andela sacked hundreds of its staff and the start-up, backed by hundreds of millions of dollars from investors including Facebook and tennis star Serena Williams, laid off more than 250 junior software developers in Nigeria and Uganda, with up to 170 trainees in Kenya “impacted”. Co-founder and CEO, Jeremy Johnson said their initial strategy was to identify high potential talent on the African continent, train them in software development. Johnson emphasised that the company which had over 1500 engineers, trained talented developers in Africa and outsourced them to some 200 tech companies in US tech haven Silicon Valley and around the world.

Significant reports stated that USAID, Save the Children and Ministry of Science and Higher Education announced $2 million in new institutional capacity development support to Ethiopian higher education institutions through USAID’s Building the Potential of Youth Activity; a five-year project implemented by Save the Children.

Media reports stated that the 3rd Global Logistics Convention kicked off with a US$3.5 million deal signed between Trademark East Africa and the Federation of East Africa’s Freight Forwarders Association (FEAFFA), to raise capacity in East Africa’s logistics sector. The four-year “EAC Logistics Sector Skills Enhancement Program” funded by USAID through Trade Mark East Africa, and implemented by FEAFFA would address existing skills gaps in the region that had since resulted into high costs of doing business within the community.

Eyewitness News reported that Burundi’s ministry of mining stated that Burundi’s gold, tin and rare earth minerals exports had overtaken tea and coffee as the major source of foreign exchange for the East African nation.

Minor internet news reported that USAID awarded a new USAID-funded SMSV in North and South Kivu in the DRC.
Economy, Trade & Development

US$3.7 million US government, through its USAID-funded sustainable mine site validation project (SMSV) project, implemented by non-profit international development organization Pact would help counter illegal activities such as child labour, violence and other human abuses. Forbes reported that Solar Sisters were doing it for themselves. Pursuing a joint vision to make renewable energy technology affordable and accessible, US company Palmetto partnered with them to expand the delivery of clean energy to homes across Africa. So far, they had launched more than 4,000 entrepreneurs and supplied nearly two million people who were off grid across Nigeria and Tanzania with solar energy and clean cookstoves.

Media reports stated that the government of South Sudan and the South Sudan Electricity Corporation (SSEC) utility launched a call for consultants to help define the nation’s renewable energy development program. The source further stated that US start-up Energy Peace Partners was implementing a program to help humanitarian missions in South Sudan transition from diesel dependence to solar. The Peace Renewable Energy Credit scheme was intended to help free humanitarian and peace operations from local fuel supply chains which were often tied up in the ongoing conflict.

Minor reports stated that an experimental Ebola vaccine had moved a step closer toward US approval, following the Food and Drug Administration’s acceptance of an application from Merck & Co. for the treatment, dubbed V920. In October, The US Customs and Border Protection issued a Withhold Release Order for artisanal rough-cut diamonds from Zimbabwe’s Marange diamond fields due to evidence of forced labour. US law prohibits importation of goods made with forced labour.

The US was to help mediate the Nile River dispute between Egypt and Ethiopia as tensions between the two countries spike. Egyptian government accepted an invitation from the US to a meeting of foreign ministers over a controversial project for a giant hydropower dam on Ethiopia’s the Blue Nile. A Kenyan-based coffee producer signed a trade deal with American beverages company to supply ground berries for making bhang-laced drinks. The deal between the Fair-Trade registered producer would see New York-listed coffee roasters launched the auction for Kenyan coffee in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Numerous reports stated that Ethiopia accepted an invitation from the US government to participate in Washington-mediated talks on the filling of the Grand Renaissance Dam. Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt would be represented by their foreign ministers in Washington DC when taking part in the American-mediated talk. Significant reports mentioned that US President Donald Trump, in a notice, said he extended economic sanctions on Sudan over the government’s failure to address the cause of the country’s political crisis that led to a national emergency. US Ambassador to Uganda Deborah Ruth Malac had called for a change in the approach to youth and women involved in the development process in Uganda. Among some of the key areas, she noted included agricultural development, women involvement in the development process and the high rate of dependency among the youth in Uganda.

The American embassy in Uganda launched an academic entrepreneurial programme. The programme worth $28,000 about sh1bn was launched in Omoro district at Lalogi Sub County by the cultural affairs officer at the USA embassy Carly Van Orman. In November, a new market for Kenyan coffee was established in the US, heralding hopes to thousands of farmers as the commodity was sold directly to consumers. Trade and Industrialisation Cabinet Secretary Peter Munya and local coffee roasters launched the auction for Kenyan coffee in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Four US diplomats opened accounts at a Sudanese bank for the first time in decades, as Khartoum sought to draw international businesses back to the country to help revive the ailing economy. NTV said that US Ambassador to Uganda Deborah Ruth Malac had called for a change in the approach to youth and women involved in the development process in Uganda. Among some of the key areas, she noted included agricultural development, women involvement in the development process and the high rate of dependency among the youth in Uganda.

Significant reports mentioned that US President Donald Trump, in a notice, said he extended economic sanctions on Sudan over the government’s failure to address the cause of the country’s political crisis that led to a national emergency. US Ambassador to Uganda Deborah Ruth Malac encouraged the youth and women in Northern Uganda to participate actively in the economic growth of the country as opposed to sitting and waiting for government to help them.

Reports stated that a dispute over maritime territory in the Indian Ocean between Kenya and Somalia resulted in major western countries lining up on either side, depending on which of the two African nations best served their oil interests. Media reports stated that US and Rwanda were engaged in talks that might open opportunities for trade and investment between the two economies. Reports added that in 2018, Rwanda and US got embroiled in a disagreement when Kigali banned importation of used clothing from US with the aim of boosting the local textile industry and as a result the US terminated duty-free export privileges to Rwanda.

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In September, Numerous reports stated that Sudan’s new premier called for the US to drop his country from its state sponsors of terrorism list, insisting it was crucial to economic revival. The US in late 2017 lifted economic sanctions that it had imposed on Sudan in 1997 but kept the country on its “terror” blacklist along with Iran, North Korea and Syria. Significant frames quoted the US Africa Command saying that a US air strike on Somalia’s Jilib region killed one Al-Shabaab fighter, the US Africa Command said. Extensive reports stated that the Kenyan military would now receive six new US-made light attack helicopter gunships part of an initial order of 12 light attack and reconnaissance helicopters by December, a US manufacturer said. It added that the planes were part of the Ksh25 billion ($253 million) arms deal that Nairobi signed with Washington, which got US Congress approval in May 2017.

Africa News Desk reported that on the one-year anniversary of the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), the Troika (United States, United Kingdom, and Norway) wished to reconfirm its support for the peace process and to underscore the need to implement the terms of the R-ARCSS in a timely manner.

AllAfrica.com reported that a group of 34 military officers from nine African countries started a two-week United Nations (UN) Staff Officers’ course at the Rwanda Peace Academy in Musanze District. The course was being conducted under the auspices of the US government through its Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI). Officially opening training, Col Jill Rutaremara, the Director of Rwanda Peace Academy said military staff officers played a crucial role in mission planning at mainly operational and tactical levels, stressing need for training. PML Daily stated that an American intelligence agent worked in Uganda disguised as an artiste which helped him access the country’s classified information.

Minor internet news reported that USAID awarded a new USAID-funded SMSV in North and South Kivu in the DRC. Reports added that the US wants to increase its positive role in advancing Congolese economic prosperity by investing in and trading with the Congolese mining sector.

In October, Extensive reports stated that Al-Qaeda affiliated al-Shabaab militants stormed the Ballidogle American special forces military base roughly 100 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu using vehicle bombs followed by sporadic gunfire from fighters, according to Somalia’s state media. Reports added that the militant group claimed it had killed 100 soldiers and destroyed 5 military aircraft at the US military base which was the largest in the Horn of Africa.

Numerous reports stated that Saudi King Salman met with the new prime minister and Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, head of Sudan’s joint civilian-military ruling council, and discussed bilateral cooperation. Saudi Arabia said the kingdom was working on removing Sudan from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism and the announcement came during an official
recognized the importance of the US - Ethiopia partnership

James Markley, the US Embassy Addis Abeba Legal Attaché

US government from October 28 to November 01, 2019.

surable and lasting capacity of partner nations’ law enforce-
tion, interdiction and investigation training to build the mea-
ration of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), WMD detec-

Security Officer (RSO), and the Office of Security Cooperation
Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Regional
International Counterproliferation Program (ICP), in partner-
ship with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), the

Ahmed reiterated Ethiopia’s commitment to support Sudan’s
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lements’ failure to form a government. The US, which
alyzed the importance of the US - Ethiopia partnership

the US military was helping to train native forces.

New Vision reported that the Uganda Peoples’ Defence
forces from Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania, and DR
ongering Al-Shabaab that the USA would pursue and disrupt

gents Al-Shabaab that the USA would pursue and disrupt
their operations relentlessly.

Media reports said UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali was
opened critical of the Security Council for ‘shocking
behaviour’ and for weekly following the US government in
denying the reality of the Genocide against Tutsi in Rwanda.

The US military said it killed an al-Shabab militant in an air-
strike in southern Somalia. The airstrike was carried out in col-
aboration with the Somali government in the vicinity of Jilib,
which was the militants’ stronghold, and did not injure or kill
any civilians.

Menafin said that the top general for US military operations
in Africa visited Somalia to meet with leaders and discuss the
fight against extremists in the Horn of Africa nation. US Army
Gen. Stephen Townsend, head of US Africa Command
(AFRCOM), said he would ‘assess the progress’ of the US mil-
itary campaign to keep the pressure on the Islamic State ter-
ror group and the local al-Qaida affiliate al-Shabab, calling
them a threat to ‘African partners, to US interests in East Africa,
as well as to the US homeland.

The US, a key supporter of South Sudan called back its
ambassador for consultations as it showed frustration with
dueling leaders’ failure to form a government. The US, which
contributed to $1 billion in humanitarian aid for the young
country, was vocal in its frustration over the lack of progress
in South Sudan.

In other news, US President Trump said he has extended
economic sanctions on Sudan over the government’s failure
to address the cause of the country’s political crisis that led to
a national emergency.

In Uganda, the US Embassy in Uganda condemned the vio-
ence against Makerere University students by security forces,
as the students strike over proposed tuition increases and
urged the government to intervene.
In September, Business Daily reported that more than 2,000 people died from Ebola in an outbreak that began in DRC and was now the second largest epidemic of the virus on record. More than 3,000 infections were confirmed since the declaration of the outbreak on August 1, 2019. While Merck’s Ebola vaccine was not yet approved in the US or Europe, the drugmaker had been providing extensive supplies of investigational doses at the request of the World Health Organization.

Other reports said more than 1,200 students attending Lycée Don Bosco, located in Bujumbura, Burundi, had access to better nutrition in the first quarter of 2019. This was due to a partnership between Salesian Missions, the US the development arm of the Salesians of Don Bosco, and Rise Against Hunger.

Democrats US Senators Chris Coons and Chris Van Hollen endorsed taking action to head off a possible Ebola outbreak in the DRC, lauded an innovative Ugandan approach to resetting war refugees, and called for greater political openness in Uganda. US through the USAID, had been providing more than $21 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help end the ongoing outbreak of Ebola in eastern DRC.

Kenyans working for NGOs funded by the US government to do HIV-related work had reportedly been laid off following severe budget cuts. The US President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (Pepfar), which funds most HIV activities, had been cutting health funds since 2017. Kenyan acid attack survivor Dan Matakayia arrived in the US for specialized surgery to open his nostril.

US Secretary of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar said that he wanted to commend Rwanda for its overall public health accomplishments by achieving tremendous progress on important Millennium Development Goals pertaining to Infant and Maternal Health, HIV, and Malaria.

US health and human services secretary urged Tanzanian authorities to show transparency in the case of a patient who died after suffering Ebola-like symptoms.

In Uganda, the Ministry of Health (MoH) hosted a meeting with the US Health and Human Services, Secretary, Alex Azar to discuss Ebola, HIV, Malaria and other health issues. MoH said that the meeting was also a tool to strengthen collaboration & partnership with the US Government which deeply supports the health sector. other reports said that the US Secretary of Health and Human Services was in Uganda and how Uganda was controlling the disease from spreading at the border with the DRC.

In October, East African reported that as regional governments move to enhance Ebola surveillance through screening of people at border crossings with Tanzania, the government in Dar es Salaam said it “suspects there was a conspiracy at international level to spread negative information about Tanzania. Reports added that the growing mistrust comes at a time when both the US and British governments have issued travel advisories for Tanzania and calling for increased caution.

Minor internet news reported that the World Health Organization (WHO) tracked 2 new Ebola cases in the
Health & Food issues

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) on its outbreak dashboard, lifting the outbreak total to 3,210 cases, including 2,146 deaths. Officials were still investigating 421 suspected cases. The news came as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved its first Ebola rapid diagnostic test.

The Citizen reported that US Deputy Chief of Mission Eric Kneedler said that the US government fully supported the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) programme in Kenya. Kampala Post reported that the state department Agilis Partners (Agilis), a Uganda-based food and agriculture enterprise, was a winner of the 2019 US Secretary of State’s Award for Corporate Excellence in Sustainable Operations (ACE). Reports added that ACE recognized American-owned companies that lead in spurring the sustainable development of the local communities in which they operate. Agilis was a leading wholesaler of grains and pulses sourced from smallholder farmers and its own 13,500 acres of primary production.

Media reports stated that the United States, through the USAID, partnered with DuPont Water Solutions and the Afar Regional State government to unveil a state-of-the-art reverse osmosis water system in the community of Serdo. US Ambassador Michael Raynor said these efforts were just one part of the United States’ much larger investment in providing Ethiopians throughout their country with greater opportunities to prosper in life, including major programs to support health, education, and livelihoods.

MENAFN.COM reported that Diana Putman, a Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa for the USAID, announced that the US Government was providing nearly $257 million in additional humanitarian assistance in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 to help the people of the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Media reports indicated that the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that it would support the simultaneous development of individual vaccine candidates against the Marburg virus and Sudan ebolavirus infections.

In November, World Health Organization said the cases of Malaria in the Republic of Burundi was on a constant rise with high incidents of cases being reported. US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Level 1 Travel Alert for the Republic of Burundi on August 22, 2019. According to the CDC, medical services in Burundi fell well below US standards, and there were no adequate trauma services in the country.

The Nation reported that US healthcare the company identified a new subtype of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and said the finding showed that cutting edge genome sequencing was helping researchers stay ahead of mutations. The strain, HIV-1 Group M subtype L, was recorded in three people from blood samples taken between the 1980s and 2001, all in the DRC.

USAID provided $56 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help end the ongoing outbreak of Ebola in the Eastern DRC, the second-largest outbreak of the disease on record.

USAID launched the new National Blood Bank Services headquarters building in Ethiopia. The new facility would provide the National Blood Bank Services with the capacity to receive a much-increased volume of blood donations, screen, and process blood products more efficiently, and distribute life-saving blood to health centres and patients throughout the country.

US representatives found themselves isolated at a “failed” counter-summit, organised by religious conservative groups, to protest the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) in Nairobi Kenya.

KCB news reported that the US government spent Ksh700 billion to implement the various projects in Kenya. US ambassador to Kenya, Kyle McCarter said many of the projects involved water and health issues and were currently being implemented by USAID.

US government, through the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), supported Rwanda’s progress with more than US$1 billion over the past 15 years to provide testing, life-saving medication, and capacity-building for community health care workers. The investment helped to save an entire generation. US said it was committed to continuing the partnership as Rwanda planned for the future of the HIV response. The US provided $92.5 million to the World Food Programme and aid organizations assisting people affected by floods inundating swathes of South Sudan.

US President Trump selected a new Ambassador to Tanzania, after nearly 3 years of the US Embassy in Tanzania’s commercial capital of Dar es Salaam running without an appointed ambassador.

US Ambassador to Uganda Deborah Malac encouraged the youth and women in Northern Uganda to participate actively in the economic growth of the country as opposed to sitting and waiting for government to help them.

The US government said it would not be paying allowances to Uganda government officials implementing donor-funded projects. Initially, the US was facilitating Ugandan officials implementing projects funded by the US in form per diem and travel reimbursements. But the US government said under the new arrangement, sending entity (Government of Uganda or an NGO not receiving funding from the US Government) was expected to cover all costs related to participation, including per diem and travel reimbursement, for events occurring in the Republic of Uganda.
In September, US Microsoft, through its 4Afrika Initiative announced a new collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to co-create technology solutions in agriculture that would impact Ethiopia. According to the announcement at the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), the collaboration would support AGRA’s digital transformation as it works to improve food security for 30 million farming households in Ethiopia, by 2021.

New York-headquartered software developer, training and outsourcing company Andela announced massive job cuts in Africa. The company said it would lay off 170 software developers in Kenya. Kenya’s President Uhuru Kenyatta met with business leaders in the US in a bid to attract more investment, particularly in manufacturing as his nation sought to nearly double the sector’s share of GDP by 2022. Kenyatta spoke at a private forum hosted by the US Chamber of Commerce, which welcomed two dozen African heads of state to the events held on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Trade lobby American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Kenya would hold its second forum later in the year as it sought to deepen economic ties between the US and East Africa. AmCham Kenya board president Phillipine Mtikitiki said the forum would focus on manufacturing, agribusiness, infrastructure, energy, health, and the digital economy as the country sought more deals with American firms.

South Sudan signed a mineral exploration agreement with two mining and metal refining companies in Canada and the US. The deal was signed by South Sudan’s mining minister Gabriel Thokoj Deng and executives of US-based mining firm REE-Magnesium and Canada’s CVMR Inc at the South Sudanese embassy in Washington on September 12, 2019.

In Tanzania, US Mobile-based online lending firm Tala announced plans to shut down operations in the county.

China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) said the deadlock surrounding commercialisation of Uganda’s oil was disruptive to the economics of its business. US ambassador in Uganda said her the government was committed to supporting and ensuring that all investors with undertakings in Uganda’s oil and gas sector had their contracts respected and protected.

In October, Notable reports said DRC may get a renewal of its financial support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) within six months. The IMF suspended its last financial aid to the DRC, a loan programme worth more than $500m in 2012 after the government failed to provide enough details on the sale of state mining assets to an offshore company.

First Brick Holdings, a US-based investment company,
announced at the recent Data cloud Africa Leadership Summit in Accra that it was establishing and investing in Raxio Ethiopia, which would build and operate the first state-of-the-art, a privately-owned data centre in Ethiopia. Coca-Cola gave Sh3.5 million as sponsorship towards the American Chamber of Commerce Business Summit 2019. The summit would be held in partnership with AmCham Kenya, a non-profit membership organisation founded 14 years ago to represent the interests of American companies in Kenya. US technology conglomerate, Cisco appointed Kenyan Sally Kimeu as Country Leader and Regional Manager for its East Africa operations. Kenya-based food logistics start up Twiga Foods was planning an international expansion following a US$30m funding round led by US investment bank Goldman Sachs. A Kenyan-based coffee producer signed a trade deal with US beverages company to supply ground berries for making bhang-laced drinks. The deal between the coffee producer registered with Fair Trade will see Puration Company (PURA), which was listed in New York, make cannabidiol-infused lattes for the US and European markets. Facebook announced the expansion of its third-party fact-checking programme to 10 new African countries in partnership with Agence France-Presse and other media. The programme would be available in Ethiopia, Zambia, Somalia and Burkina Faso in partnership with AFP; in Uganda and Tanzania with Pesa Check and AFP; in the DRC and Ivory Coast with France 24 and AFP, in Guinea with France 24, and Ghana in partnership with Nigerian fact-checking platform Dubawa. Agilis Partners, a Uganda-based food and agriculture enterprise, was a winner of the 2019 US Secretary of State’s Award for Corporate Excellence in Sustainable Operations (ACE). ACE recognized American-owned companies that lead in spurring the sustainable development of the local communities in which they operate. In November, Business Daily reported that New York City-based technology company Boloro Global partnered with BCK Kenya to sell digital payments authentication products in the country. Boloro CEO, Karl Kilb III said demand for a flawless cashless transaction via the web and on mobile platforms called for products that enhance user-identity and platform reliability. Media reports stated that Adam Boehler, Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), announced the first disbursement of a $40 million loan to Tetra4 Proprietary Ltd. to support the development of critical gas infrastructure and advance energy security in Ethiopia. Boehler further stated that attending the Africa Investment Forum during a trip to Sub-Saharan Africa highlighted the US’s commitment to the region to explore private sector investment opportunities, and strengthen relationships with key regional partners in support of mutual development goals. Mining Weekly reported that Rare earths developer Peak Resources told shareholders that it had received a letter of interest from the US government agency the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), stating that it would consider financing the Ngualla rare earths project, in Tanzania. Peak CEO Rocky Smith said that he was extremely encouraged by the reception they received from the relevant governmental groups and their level of interest in Peak and the project. Significant frames stated that the facility in Uganda saw a major African-wide service provider climb on-board ready for the opening next year. Media reports added that Pan-African service provider SEACOM struck a connectivity deal with Raxio Uganda, Uganda’s first carrier-neutral, enterprise-grade data centre scheduled to launch in Q1 2020. Furthermore, reports mentioned that Raxio Uganda was established by US-based First Brick Holdings Inc, as the first of its network of seven data centres across the region. Tonny Tugee, Managing Director of East Africa SEACOM, said this partnership would be key as they drove to expand their business in this important market. Media reports stated that two US beverage companies were working to empower tea and coffee growers in Rwanda, many of whom were women. Both companies were working to engage Akilah Institute students in hands-on learning in the coffee and tea industries, to open their eyes to the possibilities in their country. Reuters reported that Sudan was discussing several scenarios such as cash transfers for poor people to accompany planned subsidies for food and other basic goods. Reports added that the transitional government had been working on removing Sudan from the US sponsors of terrorism list to potentially open the door for investment. Media reports stated that the government of the DRC decided to use the investigational Ebola vaccine regimen currently being developed by the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson as part of an expanded public health initiative to help contain the country’s Ebola outbreak.
In September, The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the existing Level 2 Travel Alert regarding the Ebola Zaire outbreak in DRC. BBC reported that US Aircraft manufacturer Boeing had started receiving applications from families that lost loved ones in the Ethiopian Airlines crash in March. Each family would be entitled to $144,500 (Sh15 million). The money would come from a $50 million financial assistance fund, which Boeing announced in July. The US Congress was preparing to call Boeing executives to testify on the two fatal Boeing 737 MAX crashes that led to the plane’s grounding in March. congressional aides said House and Senate panels were considering holding hearings in October.

The Standard reported that a group of Kenyan Women in the US alias (KWITU) which provided a soft landing for immigrants through support systems and structures had been established in the last three years. Other reports said Kenya had benefited from the Association for the Promotion of Tourism to Africa (APTA) forum that was held on the 13th and 14th of September 2019 in Chicago. The forum which was the world’s largest meeting platform for travel agents brought together approximately 200 travel agents who were committed to selling destinations in Africa.

The annual mountain gorilla naming ceremony, known as Kwita Izina, was set to kick off in Rwanda. The star-studded line-up to name baby gorillas at the foothills of the Volcanoes National Park include Rwandan US-based Choreographer Sherrie Silver and British supermodel Naomi Campbell among others.

The Trump administration had reportedly licensed a Florida man to deliver the pores, skin, skull, tooth, and claws of a lion. He reportedly hunted in Tanzania, granting the primary permissions to import a lion from that nation because the species gained safety below the US Endangered Species Act.

An American man drowned during an underwater marriage proposal that was recorded and posted on Facebook. Steven Weber and his girlfriend Kenesha Antoine were staying in an underwater room at the Manta Resort on Pemba Island, Tanzania.

In other news, the US Department of State and USAID signed a grant with the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Authority.
Tourism, Travel & Leisure

and Education Center (UWEC) to host Zoo hackathon 2019 in Entebbe from November 16-17, 2019. Uganda set to benefit from US Travel Agents Association after the event held on 13th and 14th of September in Chicago to increase tourist numbers into the country.

In October, numerous reports stated that the millions of shillings to be paid for every life lost in the Ethiopian Airlines plane crash in March had started driving wedges between families who lost their relatives as they sought compensation. US-based injury lawyer Adam Ramji, representing a number of families from Kenya and Ethiopia said the arrangement was known in aviation circles as the Montreal Convention. Ramji added that it was basically an agreement between countries that agree to manage this type of cases the same way.

Business Daily reported that the US-based Federal Aviation Administration had written to Kenya Airways directing it to inspect its fleet of Boeing 737 New Generation aircraft for potential cracks that have been found on this type of planes. KQ chairman Michael Joseph said the inspections on the B737 were ongoing as directed by the manufacturer.

Numerous reports stated that the US Department of State said an explosion of violent crime in Somalia, especially kidnapping and murder, prompted the US to renew a warning for all Americans to cancel any plans to visit the east African nation.

East African reported that travellers to Tanzania were being urged by the US State Department to exercise increased caution due in part to a “probable” fatal case of Ebola. The State Department pointed to “unofficial reports regarding the unexplained death of a person” in Dar es Salaam.

The Independent reported that US sanctions slapped on President Yoweri Museveni’s former right-hand man, Gen. Kale Kayihura for his role as Inspector of General of Police were not bad enough, another top government official, Pius Bigirimana was allegedly denied a visa to the US.

Significant reports stated that hot customers for Rwanda’s tourism services remained high-end US tourist visits which had grown by 114% according to Virtuoso – a luxury agency network. According to the agency’s latest data, Rwanda was among the top 10 countries that experienced significant increases by percentage in year-over-year bookings among American travellers.

Minor internet news reported that political violence and high crime levels made Burundi a place you might not want to visit, the police over there were not all well-equipped, while medical services were said to be way below US standards.

In November, Boeing expected US regulators to approve the return to commercial service of its grounded 737 MAX jet, and its shares increased as investors grew more hopeful the plane maker had addressed software problems at the heart of two fatal crashes. Boeing said it expected the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to issue an order approving the plane’s return to service, but added it now expected commercial service to resume in January 2020.

The Nation said 182 undocumented Kenyans living in the US were among thousands of immigrants arrested while applying for legal status to avoid deportation and become eligible for work permits.

Business day reported that Affluent Kenyans would pay Sh90 million in approved investment ventures that created jobs in rural townships in the US in order to qualify for permanent residency Visas.

US State Department banded entry to former Kenyan Attorney General Amos Sitswila Wako over his involvement in significant corruption. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the action sends a strong signal that the US was a valuable partner in Kenya’s fight against corruption.

The Russian US-based tennis star also took time off to visit local communities in the Northern Province, distributing a few footballs and playing soccer with local children. She was not the first to visit and share experiences and unforgettable memories from Rwanda.

The US raised its travel advisory for Burkina Faso to level 4. The world power advised citizens not to travel to the country “due to terrorism, crime, and kidnapping. The US issued a travel advisory to its citizens against traveling to South Sudan, a day after recalling its ambassador to the world’s youngest nation. US State Department advised its citizens who were planning to travel to South Sudan to exercise extreme care in all parts of the country, including Juba.

Uganda focused reports said government spokesperson, Ofwono Opondo refuted reports that he was detained at the US embassy in Uganda before he was denied visa. Reports circulating on social media indicating that the government spokesperson was arrested and detained for 30 minutes by US security forces in the Consular Section of the embassy when he went to apply for the visa before he staged a loner protest inside the embassy.
In September, extensive reports stated that the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) said it was supporting a Kenyan project that calls for the development of a 50-MW wind farm with integrated battery storage capacity. USTDA awarded a grant to local firm Craftskills Energy Limited so it could finance a feasibility study that covers a wind resource assessment and plant design. According to USTDA acting director Thomas Hardy, US-based businesses would be very competitive in the supply of the project’s major components.

Soft Power reported that the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC) zoo in Entebbe had been selected by the US State Department to host a hackathon aimed at creating tech-based solutions tailored to address wildlife trafficking.

In October, US-based investment company First Brick Holdings announced that it was entering the Ethiopian market. First Brick Holdings said that it was establishing and investing in Raxio Ethiopia, which would build and operate the first state-of-the-art, privately owned data centre in Ethiopia.

African outsourcing starts up Andela raised $100 million and was now ending its developer training programs in Kenya and Uganda, letting go of up to 400 people. Some trained Andela developers was not placed at all for the past year in its primary US market. The reported stated that it was a big change in the company’s business model, or a deeper sign of the trouble awaiting Africa’s tech ecosystem given the saturation of talent in other regions.

Makerere University was set to host the 2nd Kampala Geopolitics on 17th and 18th October 2019. The Kampala Geopolitics was organized by the Embassy of France in Uganda in partnership with Makerere University, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Uganda and South Sudan, the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS), Alliance Francaise de Kampala and UN Women Uganda. US ambassador Deborah Malac, BBC’s Allan Kasujja, EU Ambassador to Uganda H.E Attilio Pacifici was a guest speaker.

In November, American technology giant Amazon.com announced that its cloud computing arm, Amazon Web Services (AWS), would set up office early 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya to offer the East African cloud market low latency and higher speeds. The tech giant said it seeks to introduce the full suite of internet benefits that include computing, networking and cybersecurity services.

The maritime dispute between Somalia and Kenya attracted the interests of global powers like the US, UK, France, Italy, and Norway, all of whom are keen to share in the exploitation of the resource-rich maritime blocks. The Purdue Research Foundation and the Purdue Foundry entrepreneurial community were helping to host a pair of entrepreneurs from Brazil and Uganda as part of the US Department of State’s Global Innovation through Science and Technology Initiative.
In September, USAID, Save the Children and Ministry of Science and Higher Education contributed $2 million to Ethiopian higher education institutions through USAID’s Building the Potential of Youth Activity (POTENTIAL); a five-year project implemented by Save the Children. The support would address some of the existing gaps between the skillsets of university students and the demands of the job market they would face after graduation.

The US Government extended funding for the Tusome Programme under the Ministry of Education up to 2020. US Ambassador to Kenya, Kyle McCarter said they want the government to start funding the program by setting aside a budget every financial year for sustainability purposes. The US had spent a total of Sh7.61 billion to fund the programme for the last four years. The US government in 2018 spent a total of $896m (Shs3.3 trillion) in financial aid to Uganda to facilitate its health, agriculture, education and security programmes.

The Ministry of Education and Sports embarked on a two-day review workshop of its activities for FY 2018/19 covering the period between July 2018 and June 30, 2019. Participants would then agree on the priorities for the coming FY 2020/21.

In October, The US Embassy in Addis Abeba conducted its latest hackathon on the topic “A digital solution for individuals to electronically verify their voter registration information.” This was the sixth hackathon conducted by the US Embassy in a series of twelve under its Ethiopia Hacks! Program.

BBC reported that University students in the UK and the US were looking up to Kenya, for ghost writers to get their projects and assignments done. This had now grown into a $1 billion industry (Ksh. 100 billion) that Kenyans have tapped into, to make a living. The USAID said that it had provided nearly $50 million dollars in additional education funding to help accelerate learning in Somalia.

The American embassy in Uganda launched an academic entrepreneurial programme. The programme worth $28,000 about sh1bn was launched in Omoro district at Lalogo Sub County by the cultural affairs officer at the USA embassy Carly Van Orman. The project was the first of its kind in Africa and was meant to help disadvantaged mothers in the ravaged northern Uganda particularly in the Acholi sub-region.

In November, Extensive reports noted that Carnegie Mellon University-Africa (CMU-Africa) new facility administration announced its completion and indicated that it was ready for relocation.

The Observer reported that the US Mission in Uganda was increasingly concerned about the violence at Makerere University in response to ongoing protests the proposed tuition increases.

AllAfrica.com reported that Kenyan students going abroad for studies had been dying through suicide or under mysterious circumstances, which left communities of Kenyans living in the US brainstorming on the need to hold the hands of learners who found themselves in the deep end outside their country.
In September, Kenyans reported that Neno Evangelism Centre pastor James Ng’ang’a responded to American rapper Snoop Dogg in a video that surfaced online, the pastor hit back at the American artist for ridiculing him in one of his Instagram posts.

Ugandan Singer Eddy Kenzo’s star kept shining after he was named by the US Congress as the Cultural Ambassador of the West Indian American Day Carnival to take place in Brooklyn, New York. Reports stated the BET Music Awards winner expressed gratitude for the recognition. Kenzo’s appointment as tourism ambassador came a month after the singer was named Favourite African Star at the Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Awards. Minor internet news reported that a Rwandan band, ‘The Good Ones’, would tour the US for the first time.

In October, significant frames reported that Oscar award-winning actress Lupita Nyong’o and her mother, Dorothy Nyong’o, had been feted by Harlem School of the Arts for their role in creating cancer awareness across the globe. The Visionary Lineage Award would be presented to the two Kenyans by the US-based Harlem School of the Arts in an event slated for 21 October.

Minor internet news reported that from 1-14 November, JxJ would present 14 screenings of Ethiopian film Fig Tree in the brand new, state-of-the-art Cafritz Hall within the Edlavitch DC Jewish Community Center (EDCJCC). In addition, the first three screenings of the run would feature filmmaker Aäläm-Wärqe Davidian in conversation.

Media reports stated that Rwandan actress Belle Oceanne Iradukunda kept soldiering on with a determination to succeed in her chosen field – acting. Iradukunda’s rise began immediately after she had coincidentally met with Hollywood director Tyler Perry when she attended an event in the US hosted by Beyoncé’s mother, Tina Knowles.

In November, US-based Kenyan singer J.S Ondara was nominated for the 62nd scheduled for January 26, 2020. Ondara’s debut album Tales of America was nominated under the Best Americana Album category. The album had 11 songs based on the life of an immigrant in America. Ondara was born and raised in Nairobi and moved to the US as a student at the age of 20 after winning a green card lottery.

In DRC, the CDC Foundation debuted an original song and video in honor of those who worked to protect the health of people across the globe. “Against All Odds” was performed by Kelley Elle, an emerging recording artist from Los Angeles, who wrote the song with her producers and co-writers, Grammy Award winners Charlie Midnight and Jan Fairchild. The song encouraged strength and resilience in the face of the seemingly impossible challenges they faced, including health crises ranging from the Ebola epidemic in the DRC to the opioid crisis in the US.
Politics

The Mozambican government submitted its formal application to the Gauteng branch of the South African High Court for former Finance Minister Manuel Chang to be extradited to Mozambique rather than to the US. Chang was wanted in both countries for charges related to the scandal of Mozambique’s “hidden debts”.

Pope Francis blamed foreign aid for corruption and destitution in Mozambique. Despite the country’s rich land and mineral resources, the Pope said the people were trapped in poverty.

In Mozambique, foreign aid—including nearly $300 million a year from the US—propped up a corrupt government that demands bribes and fails to promote economic growth.

A White House journalist who described the president of South Africa as an “unidentified leader” had received a backlash from SA social media users and press.

A senior ANC official blamed the US for the “recent flare-up of xenophobia.” According to SABC News, Secretary-General Ace Magashule claimed that outside forces were working to divide SA and the African continent as a whole. Magashule said that the violence taking place in SA was not xenophobia but the work of outsiders hell-bent on reversing the country’s successes as a democracy.

Zambian President Edgar Lungu praised the US for providing over US$ 3 billion towards development assistance to Zambia since its Independence in 1964. Zambian politicians requested that President Edgar Lungu should tell the nation why he had been associating with some individuals implicated in drug trafficking in the US.

US disappointment with Zimbabwe’s government kept growing amid the heavy-handed response of authorities to any form of opposition, a senior State Department official said.

Zimbabwean President Mnangagwa said relations with the US were the best they’ve been in decades and he was moving as fast as possible to reform a collapsing economy.

In October, President Emmerson Mnangagwa, during his address to the 74th Ordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly, expressed that sanctions slowed down the country’s development and constituted a denial of the human rights of the people of Zimbabwe, to develop and improvement of their quality of life.

Numerous reports focused on the US’s economic sanctions against the South Africa’s Gupta family and an associate. The US Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control said it had “designated Ajay Gupta, Atul Gupta, Rajesh Gupta and Salim Essa for their involvement in corruption in South Africa, pursuant to executive order 13818, which builds upon and implements the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act”.

Angolan President João Lourenço urged the US and China to end their trade war because of the negative impact it had on the global economy. President Lourenço also demanded an end to the US-decades old embargo against Cuba.

Namibians living abroad questioned the legitimacy of the recently conducted special voting, expressing concern about the fact that they cast their votes in pencil, and not permanent ink. Many of them voted in the special presidential and National Assembly elections at Namibian foreign missions abroad, including the US and Zambia.

US ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks said President Trump had given her the mandate to support President Cyril Ramaphosa’s administration, despite claims that Trump could cut aid to SA. Marks, a South African-born handbag designer,
was sworn in as ambassador last month after she was confirmed in the US Senate. Her top priorities were boosting trade and investment, fighting against HIV/AIDS in the country and empowering youth and women.

Business and Investments

Media reports said US Export-Import Bank would inform Congress of a projected US$5 billion loan to support the export of goods and services for the development and construction of the liquefied natural gas project that would be in Mozambique.

Business Day noted that US oil and gas group Anadarko Petroleum approved a $20bn gas liquefaction and export project in Mozambique and it would be the country’s first onshore liquefied natural gas development.

Other reports said South Africa had benefitted significantly from AGOA, in terms of promoting exports to the US South Africa’s auto exports to the US under AGOA created numerous jobs, as well as the auto supply chain in neighbouring countries.

US Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of African Affairs Tibor Nagy emphasised the US concern about how Zimbabwe treated its citizens, however, Nagy noted that even with this factor and the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe, nothing was stopping US businesses from investing in Zimbabwe.

Economy, Trade & Development

South African exports to the US were at risk pending a review of the country’s eligibility for a preferential-trade program. The US Trade Representative lodged the review of the nation’s duty-free access to the US market under the so-called Generalized System of Preferences due to concerns with copyright protection and enforcement. Trade in goods and services between SA and the US was $18.9 billion in 2018, with $2.4 billion being shipments from SA, according to US government data.

According to Trade Map, the top five meat exporters to Angola in 2018 were US of America, Brazil, Portugal, Belgium and Argentina.

US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote described the Millennium Challenge Programme for Zambia as a success and a benchmark for future assistance, while Zambia’s finance minister Dr Bwalya Ng’andu said they handled Zambia’s debt situation seriously and instituted measures to attain fiscal sustainability and economic growth. Dr Ng’andu expressed gratitude to the US and France for their cooperation to help Zambia to overcome the turbulences in the economy.

Angolan Trade Minister Joffre Van-Dünem said various Angolan diplomatic representations would have trade attachés again, which had been suspended since August for financial reasons.

Tourism, Travel & Leisure

Houston in the US was the country’s top destination for African lions killed by US trophy hunters, but public backlash and new federal restrictions had ended the trade.

SA Tourism and the Tourism Business Council of SA ramped-up the marketing of the country’s prime attractions with a 10-day trip across the world to woo visitors. The council said they would visit the US among other countries, as part of a determined effort to bring more tourists to SA.

The US Embassy in Maputo issued a security alert about travel to some parts of Mozambique due to electoral violence and armed attacks in the north of the country.

Customs and police officers from Windhoek and Walvis Bay received training in species identification and the use of baggage and container scanners to detect smuggled wildlife products. This training was funded through the “Combatting Wildlife Trafficking in Namibia” project, funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs in the US Department of State.

Health & Food issues

US-based Citarella Market was differentiating itself by offering a variety of prepared seafood items along with unique species, including organic shrimp from Madagascar. The chain of eight stores is the only seafood purveyor in the US to carry the Madagascar Organic Shrimp via Monaco-based OSO, which the company claims are “sustainably farmed.”

The US government and Zambia signed a partnership to end Tuberculosis, called the Tuberculosis Accelerator Statement of Partnership.

SA was “steamrolled” by the US to remove key phrasing about sexual and reproductive rights from the world’s first declaration on universal health coverage. US health and human services secretary Alex Azar said the US was in opposition to the inclusion of sexual and reproductive rights in the world’s first declaration on universal health coverage.

The US Ambassador Lisa Johnson recently launched the new PEPFAR-funded voluntary medical male circumcision programme “Safe VMMC” in Namibia. The up to five-year, US$33.5 million programme was led by USAID and the Ministry of Health and Social Services. Through the VMMC programme, implementer Abt Associates would expand voluntary medical male circumcision services to reach Namibian men across 11 regions.
In September, as part of Angola's diplomatic action, Foreign Minister Manuel Augusto was recently in Washington where he held a working meeting with his counterpart, Mike Pompeo, who reviewed aspects of cooperation between Angola and the US.

Some American workers were planning to protest the Angolan government's delegation's planned upcoming visits this month to New York and Washington, DC. With a focus on the African nation's refusal to pay obligations owed to a variety of US companies who did business in Angola.

The US ambassador to Lesotho, Rebecca Gonzales, recently warned that Lesotho risked losing out on the multi-million-dollar second compact under the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) due to concerns about "unacceptable" corruption and police brutality against citizens.

Mozambique submitted its formal application to the Gauteng branch of the SA High Court for former Finance Minister Manuel Chang to be extradited to Mozambique rather than to the US. Chang was wanted in both countries for charges related to the scandal of Mozambique's "hidden debts". - a term that referred to the loans of over two billion US dollars from the banks Credit Suisse and VTB of Russia to the three fraudulent, security-related companies Ematum, Promedicus and MAM.

Pope Francis blamed foreign aid for corruption and destitution in Mozambique. Despite the country's rich land and mineral resources, the Pope said the people were trapped in poverty.

In Mozambique, foreign aid – including nearly $300 million a year from the US, propped up a corrupt government that demands bribes and fails to promote economic growth.

A White House journalist who described the president of South Africa as an "unidentified leader" had received a backlash from SA social media users and press. Danielle Superville, the White House reporter for The Associated Press, tweeted a picture of four world leaders at this year's G7 summit, tagging Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron. Instead of also tagging South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, Superville labeled him as an "unidentified leader."

US President Donald Trump's new national security advisor Robert C. O’Brien reportedly studied apartheid at the University of the Free State in the 1980s. Trump appointed O’Brien, 53, on after he abruptly fired John Bolton on September 10, claiming in a tweet that Bolton suggestions were strongly opposed by the Trump administration.

President Edgar Lungu praised the US for providing over US$ 3 billion towards development assistance to Zambia since its independence in 1964.

President Lungu reaffirmed his government’s commitment to enhancing existing relations with the US for mutual benefit. Speaking during a bilateral meeting with US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Affairs Matthew Harrington on the margins of the on-going 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, President Lungu said his government was willing to work with the US government at bilateral and multilateral levels to enhance cooperation to attain the goals set out in the Vision 2030 along with the 7th National Development Plan.

Zambian politicians requested that President Edgar Lungu should...
Politics
tell the nation why he had been associating with some individu-
als implicated in drug trafficking in the US. Special assistant to
the President for press and public relations Isaac Chipampe said
law enforcement agencies would take appropriate steps to
investigate the allegations of drug trafficking in coordination
with appropriate authorities.

US disappointment with Zimbabwe’s government kept grow-
ing amid the heavy-handed response of authorities to any form
of opposition, a senior State Department official said. The official
said Washington had made clear to the government of
President Emmerson Mnangagwa what it would take to improve
relations between Zimbabwe and the United States. US officials
had previously called on Mnangagwa to change Zimbabwe’s
laws restricting media freedom and allowing protests.

In October, reports said the US Senate confirmed Lana Marks’s
nomination for the diplomatic posting to Pretoria, almost a year
after President Trump named her as his choice.

The US government was reportedly stepping up efforts to
break China’s dominance over supplies of critical minerals for a
range of modern life’s aspects. Botswana, Democratic Republic
of the Congo, Namibia, and Zambia were countries involved in
the US’s Energy Resource Governance Initiative initiative.

In other news, Zimbabwe declared a new public holiday in
protest to UN sanctions. The Zimbabwean government
expressed concern over the US’ continued attempts to suffocate
Zimbabwe’s economy after it barred local diamonds from enter-
ing Washington claiming they were produced through forced
labour.

Several reports stated that the US had blocked the import of
goods suspected to have been made with forced labour from
five countries, including clothing from China and diamonds from
Zimbabwe.

In November, Zimbabwe continued to garner significant cover-
age with talk of economic sanctions being the leading news
frame. The Zimbabwe government rebuked US Ambassador to
Zimbabwe Mr Brian Nichols for his utterances on the recent
SADC anti-sanctions march to press for the removal of the
embargo against Harare. In a statement, Foreign Affairs and
International Trade Minister Dr Sibusiso Moyo said Ambassador
Nichols’ sentiments lacked respect for diplomatic etiquette, were
grossly partisan and constituted abuse of the hospitality of the
people of Zimbabwe. More reports said calls by SADC for the lift-
ing of sanctions against Zimbabwe hit a snag after the US
announced it would maintain restrictions against Zimbabwean
politicians over alleged human rights abuses and corruption.

Similar reports noted that the US Senate Committee on Foreign
Relations backed the US ambassador to Zimbabwe, a day after
President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s government threatened to
expel him for alleged political meddling.

In South Africa, the US welcomed a court ruling setting aside a
decision to extradite former Mozambican finance minister
Manuel Chang to his home country to stand trial for alleged
fraud amounting to R30bn.

US embassy spokesperson Robert Mearkle said they appreci-
ated the “wellreasoned decision” of the high court.

US ambassador to South Africa Lana Marks revealed her priori-
ties and discussed the state of relations between US and SA.
Marks said President Trump had given her the mandate to sup-
port President Cyril Ramaphosa’s administration. Marks, a South
African-born handbag designer, was sworn in as ambassador
last month after she was confirmed in the US Senate.

SA comedian Trevor Noah was awarded the prestigious
Leadership in Democracy Award in the US, an accolade that
recognises those people or organisations – all around the world
- who are “working for democracy and making democracy
work” through innovative or non-traditional means. The award
was granted by the National Democracy Institute (NDI).

A concertation meeting was held in Ethiopia, between delega-
tions from Angola and the US, under their respective rotating
presidencies in the African Union (AU) Peace and Security
Council (PSC) and the United Nations Security Council, due for
December. The Permanent Representation of Angola to the
African Union noted that during the meeting the two sides
agreed to harmonize as much as possible their agendas on
peace, security and other matters of common interest.

Minor reports said Zambia qualified as a candidate of the
United States’ 2020 Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)
grants because of its ability to control corruption, practise the
rule of law and government’s effectiveness. According to
Zambia’s score card, the country scored 71% in the control of
corruption category, 92 percent in practising the rule of law and
94% in government effectiveness.
In September, The US Export and Import Bank would notify Congress of a projected US$5 billion loan to support the export of goods and services for the development and construction of the liquefied natural gas project in northern Mozambique. The loan, if approved, would support US exports of goods and services for the engineering and construction of a liquefied natural gas plant and its facilities.

Up until now, the US had been the sole market for Mozambican tobacco, particularly the tobacco produced in Tete.

A Zambian think-tank said failure to tackle the trade friction between the US and China could fuel a global economic turmoil due to its ripple effects. The trade friction started by the US affected not only the two largest economies themselves but also other developing countries like Zambia, said Bernadette Deka-Zulu, the think-tank’s executive director.

After US tariff wars undermined the global recovery momentum in 2018, the World Bank projected in June that the world economy would only expand by 2.6%. Indirectly, the diminished prospects were reflected by three major economies—SA, Angola and Nigeria—that made up about 60% of sub-Saharan Africa’s annual economic output.

In October, the US said nine countries had joined its initiative to help discover and develop reserves of minerals used to make electric vehicles, part of an effort to cut the world’s reliance on China for the high-tech materials.

The countries joining the US include Australia, Botswana, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, the Philippines and Zambia.

August from $7.71 million in July of 2019. Imports from Namibia in the US was $10.71 million from 1990 until 2019, reaching an all-time high of $110.40 million in August 2008.

In November, South African exports to the US were at risk pending a review of the country’s eligibility for a preferential-trade program. The US Trade Representative lodged the review of the nation’s duty-free access to the US market under the so-called Generalized System of Preferences, its oldest and largest trade-preference program for the world’s poorest economies, due to concerns with copyright protection and enforcement. Trade in goods and services between South Africa and the US was $18.9 billion in 2018, with $2.4 billion being shipments from South Africa, according to US government data.

The International Development Finance announced the first disbursement of a $40 million loan to Tetra4 to support the development of critical gas infrastructure and advance energy security in SA. US consumer goods company Procter & Gamble announced last year by investing R300-million in a manufacturing facility in SA.

Analysts warned that Foreign Affairs minister Sibusiso Moyo’s threat to expel UA envoy to Zimbabwe Brian Nichols following a row over sanctions had put the country’s efforts to re-engage Washington in jeopardy.

US Ambassador to Zambia Daniel Foote described the Millennium Challenge Programme for Zambia as a success and a benchmark for future assistance. And Director for Southern African Affairs Stefanie Amadeo says Zambia should continue to explore solar and other off grid solutions to mitigate the climate change challenges posed by dependence on hydro power generation.
In September, US-based Citarella Market was differentiating itself by offering a variety of prepared seafood items along with unique species, including organic shrimp from Madagascar. The chain of eight stores is the only seafood purveyor in the US to carry the Madagascar Organic Shrimp via Monaco-based OSO, which the company claims are “sustainably farmed.”

In the quest to make anti-retroviral treatment accessible, Tonata set up more than 300 Community Adherence Groups benefiting more than 3,000 members in eight district hospitals and surrounding areas. The groups in Omusati, Oshikoto, Ohangwena, Otjozondjupa, and Kavango East were established from October 2018 with funding from the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through the USAID. To celebrate this notable achievement, the US ambassador to Namibia would visit a clinic in Oshikuku District.

To alleviate the hardship brought on by the drought, the US government donated US$7.6 million worth of food assistance to Namibia. The donation was funded by the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and was in addition to the US$1.4 million in PEPFAR funding committed for the 2020 financial year starting October 1, 2019. US Ambassador Lisa Johnson made the announcement on September 10, 2019, following a meeting with His Excellency President Hage Geingob.

The Directorate of Veterinary Services in the ministry of agriculture confiscated and destroyed nearly five tonnes of chicken meat imported to Namibia from the US, via South Africa, because of suspicious labelling. This came after allegations that those responsible for importing or exporting the chicken tampered with the expiry dates on the packages.

Nikki Haley, Trump’s former ambassador to the United Nations, loudly promoted the idea that the US should stop sending funds to countries that don’t support it at the world body. In an op-ed, Haley listed South Africa as an example of a country that frequently sided against the US at the United Nations, and hinted that the US should rethink the aid it gives to the country, much of which is for HIV/AIDS programs.

On behalf of the US government, Sheryl Stumbras, Director for the USAID in Zambia, officially handed over a rebuilt cold-storage facility to Minister of Agriculture Michael Katambo at the Zambia Seed Control and Certification Institute (SCCI) in Chilanga. Through the USAID/Feed the Future Southern Africa Seed Trade Project, the US government provided funding to the SCCI, to fund the rebuilding of the cold storage seed store facility, which a fire destroyed in 2015. The grant had also helped SCCI expand its reference sample cold storage facility for seed.

Additionally, the US government, in partnership with the Southern African Development Community secretariat and the Zambian government had formally commissioned the first hybrid maize seed export, worth $370,000, from Zambia to the Democratic Republic of Congo. Under the partnership, Seed Co Zambia Ltd planted 200 tonnes worth of hybrid
First Lady Auxillia Mnangagwa was appointed honorary ambassador of Harvard University Global Health Catalyst in recognition of the work she was conducting in Zimbabwe’s health sector. Director of Global Health Catalyst at Harvard Medical School, Professor Wilfred Ngwa, accepted the First Lady’s invitation for the university to conduct its health summit in Zimbabwe on dates to be announced, adding that the university would bring in investors in healthcare and economic development.

Despite fresh diplomatic clashes between the US and Zimbabwe, the global giant had committed to support HIV programmes for women girls and vulnerable children in the Southern Africa country. The US, in recent weeks had found itself in cross hairs with the Zimbabwean government over allegations of human rights violations on the part of Harare and supporting opposition MDC Alliance programmes on the part of Washington. The US said through PEPFAR, it was including Zimbabwe in the $2 billion fund to support HIV programmes.

The US government, through the USAID, had availed an additional US$41.9 million for the provision of food for vulnerable people between October 2019 to April 2020. This brought the US government’s total contribution for the 2019-2020 season to US$86.9 million. The funding was expected to ensure that more than one million rural Zimbabweans had access to adequate food supplies before the next harvest.

The US government in partnership with international agricultural development organisation Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture (CNFA), announced the launch of a new five-year Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) programme in Zambia. According to a statement, the F2F programme was a $12.25 million initiative by the US government operating across six countries including Madagascar, Malawi, Moldova, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It stated that the US Congress authorised the Farmer-to-Farmer Worldwide Programme in 1985 to transfer knowledge and expertise from US agricultural producers and businesses to developing economies.

In October, in Namibia, the US donated two fire trucks to the City of Windhoek Cow. This donation would also enhance the CoW capacity of fire and rescue services delivery within the jurisdiction area.

The US government, through funding from the US President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (Ppepfar) and support from the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the USAID was supporting the Namibian health ministry with the transition to TLD.

In other news, the US steamrolled a coalition of more than 50 countries — including South Africa — to remove key phrasing about sexual and reproductive rights from the world’s first declaration on universal health coverage.

The US and Zambia reportedly signed the Tuberculosis Accelerator Statement of Partnership agreement to end TB. Zimbabwe was reportedly one of the beneficiaries from funds raised in Global Fund conference held in France, to fight Malaria and TB.
In September, Lusaka Times reported that a functional parliament would impeach president President Edgar Lungu for his alleged connection to illegal drug trafficking violations. The Presidents connection to Valden Findlay, a wanted drug dealer in the US, was questioned by National Democratic Congress Leader Chishimba Kambwili.

On August 1, 2019, the US imposed travel bans on Zimbabwe’s Ambassador-designate to Tanzania, Lieutenant-General Anslem Sanyatwe and his wife because he was in charge of the Presidential Guard of the Zimbabwe National Army, which the US believed to be involved in the killing of civilians in the August 1, 2018 incident.

In Lesotho several police officers, accused of brutality including killing and injuring suspects in police custody, would face criminal charges as government moved to act against police brutality and restore public confidence in the Lesotho Mounted Police Service. The US government warned the Lesotho government of a looming suspension of critical development assistance if correct measures were not taken. US ambassador to Lesotho, Rebecca Gonzales also warned that Lesotho risked losing out on the multi-million-dollar second compact under the Millennium Challenge Corporation due to concerns about unacceptable corruption and police brutality against citizens.

In October, Mozambique and the US reportedly sought the extradition of Manuel Chang, the former Mozambique finance minister. The US was accused of wanting to hijack the case from Mozambique in a way that colonial country would.

The US Embassy in Maputo issued a security alert about travelling to some parts of Mozambique due to electoral violence and armed attacks in the north of the country.

Other reports said two American citizens who were charged with murdering a young man in Windhoek near the start of 2011 requests to separate their cases and for the Judge to step down, were turned down in the Windhoek High Court. US Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Brian Nichols said Zimbabwe’s security forces in this Zimbabwe continued to use excessive force when dealing with dissent, arguing this was unacceptable.

In November, reports highlighted that the Cutlass Express series demonstrates US and partner nation commitment to regional stability and maritime security, with this iteration’s participating nations including Somalia, Djibouti, Mauritius, Mozambique, Tanzania, Seychelles, the United States, Kenya, Canada, Georgia, Greece, Egypt, Madagascar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Comoros.

American and South African defense officials, including a New York National Guard team headed by New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Michel Natali, spent two days, Nov. 4-6, exploring joint training and exchange opportunities during the annual Defense Committee Meeting held in Pretoria South Africa. The New York National Guard has had a training relationship with the South African National Defence Force as part of the National Guard’s State Partnership Program since 2003.
In September, Dilapidated airline Air Zimbabwe (AirZim) had not obtained the crucial operating manual for its Embraer ERJ145, four months after taking delivery of the aircraft from the manufacturer. This came after the flag carrier missed its deadline to fly the twin-engine ERJ145 regional jet, which was initially set to take off within the first six weeks of delivery. AirZim took control of the aircraft which was purchased in controversial circumstances by private airline Zimbabwe Airways from the US in 2017.

Houston in the US was the nation’s top destination for African lions killed by US trophy hunters, but public backlash and new federal restrictions had ended the trade. In 2015, a dentist from Minnesota killed Cecil, a famed lion in Zimbabwe, and the US government made hunting of lions and elephants so difficult as to discourage most hunters from even trying to navigate all the paperwork.

In October, The US said it continued to boost assistance towards Namibia’s fight against wildlife trafficking.

The US funded project also aimed to reduce poaching and trafficking of protected animals and their body parts originating from Namibia.

A census revealed that although African immigrants made up a small share of America’s immigrant population, their overall numbers had doubled every decade since 1970, according to the Pew Research Center. According to Nadia Read Thaele, director of LIO Global, a specialist firm in residence and citizenship through investment programmes, applications for the EB-5 US immigrant investor green card programme, which requires a minimum of R7.6m (about $500,000), had more than tripled in one year.

In November, the launch of United Airlines’ first-ever direct flights between New York and Cape Town in December had already led to an 11% increase in forward bookings by US tourists to the Mother City for the upcoming summer season. Wesgro CEO Tim Harris revealed this during a media briefing on the new route hosted by the US-based airline in Cape Town. Wesgro was the trade, investment and tourism promotion agency of the Western Cape, and played a key role in securing the route.

With the arrival of two more families seeking asylum in the United States, Portland had received 11 families totalling 39 people seeking new lives. City of Portland spokesperson Jessica Grondin said nine families with 33 people arrived, with a few more reaching Portland after an initial 28 African immigrants arrived on a bus from Texas after a stop in New York. Asylum seekers said they’re from Angola and the DRC.

One of the United States’ most outspoken ivory experts suggested a new approach for Africa to topple Western animal rights groups from their harmful global leadership positions in wildlife management. Godfrey Harris, managing director of the Los Angeles-based Ivory Education Institute, said given the overall dismal experience of the sustainable use of forces at CoP18 in Geneva, Switzerland, it was time to consider doing something different now or forever risking being forlorn victims that complain endlessly about the failing policies of the victors (Western animal rights groups).
In September, media reports said United States (US) Export-Import Bank would inform Congress of a projected US$5 billion loan to support the export of goods and services for the development and construction of the liquefied natural gas project that would be in Mozambique.

Business Day noted that US oil and gas group Anadarko Petroleum approved a $20bn gas liquefaction and export project in Mozambique and it would be the country’s first onshore liquefied natural gas development.

The US embassy in Harare launched the Zimbabwe edition of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), a White House initiative to support women entrepreneurs globally. The academy allowed 100 participants from Harare, Bulawayo and Mutare aged between 18 and 35, to receive personalised business mentorship, tools and networks in order to turn their ideas into successful business enterprises.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis of the US Department of Commerce noted that US direct investment in Africa dropped by nearly 5% in 2018 to US$47.8 billion from a comparative of US$50.3 billion in 2017. In 2018 Zimbabwe received a negative US$2 million worth of investments from the US, a drop from the US$37 million. US Bureau of Economic Analysis chief of public affairs and outreach Jeannine Aversa said in the case of Zimbabwe, one reason for the negative position could be if a foreign affiliate borrowed funds from the US parent companies that had exceeded the historical cost of the assets.

Other reports said South Africa had benefitted significantly from AGOA, in terms of promoting exports to the US South Africa’s auto exports to the US under AGOA created numerous jobs, as well as the auto supply chain in neighbouring countries.

US staff planned to protest the Angolan authorities’s delegation’s deliberate upcoming visits to New York Metropolis and Washington, DC after the African nation’s refusal to pay obligations owed to several US corporations who did enterprise in Angola. A State official cautioned that US companies had been present in the Angolan market for more than 50 years and were among the largest foreign investors in Angola.

US firm General Electric chose Zambia to build a US$4 billion hydropower project straddling their border.

US government in partnership with international agricultural development organisation Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture announced the launch of a new five-year Farmer-to-Farmer (F2F) programme in Zambia. The F2F programme was a $12.25 million initiative by the US government operating across six countries including Madagascar.
In October, SA was among the African countries Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey was set to visit in November. Dorsey did not indicate which South African entrepreneurs he would meet when he descended on the country.

Significant reports said the US announced new economic sanctions against the Gupta family and an associate adding another international layer of consequences to SA’s “State Capture” corruption saga – one that had ensnared numerous firms, state entities and elected officials including former president Jacob Zuma. The sanctions under the US Magnitsky Act were applied to Ajay, Atul and Rajesh Gupta, as well as business partner Salim Essa. The US Treasury statement said they were credibly implicated in misappropriation of state assets, the expropriation of private assets for personal gain and related practices.

In Mozambique, US power big Exxon Mobil was set to finalise its funding in Mozambique’s profitable liquefied pure fuel fields in a signing ceremony on, the African nation’s authorities stated through state tv.

In other news, the final investment decision on the Rovuma LNG project in Mozambique had been reportedly pushed back into 2020 despite the award of the main engineering, procurement and construction contract, and a commitment from the developers to an initial $520 million spend on the project.

The Angolan-American Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Angolan Embassy in the US and Angola’s representation in the World Bank Group, would host the first Angolan Economic Forum (AEF) just before the annual World Bank and the IMF. The African Chamber of Energy supports the event and encourages investors in the US to take a fresh look at Angola in the light of recent improvements in its operating environment.

The Zimbabwean government expressed concern over the US’ continued attempts to suffocate Zimbabwe’s economy after it barred local diamonds from entering Washington claiming they were produced through forced labour.

In November, Atlas Tower was selling its South African cellphone tower portfolio to another US group, SBA Communications, for R2bn. Atlas Chief Executive Officer Nathan Foster said the US company would dispose of more than 900 towers in South Africa to SBA. The agreed price takes account of previous investments made by the buyer into Atlas’s business.

South Africa’s petrochemicals group Sasol said its joint chief executives were stepping down following a review of a project in the US hit by delays and rising costs. Daily Maverick noted that OrbVest was enabling SA investors to grow their wealth through low-risk medical commercial property investments that yield strong returns in US dollars. South African insurance app Pineapple has won $R1.5 million (R22.5 million) at VentureClash, an American startup challenge. The insurance provider won the single largest prize of the evening.
In September, the governments of Namibia and Botswana were looking to develop a mega-solar project that could add up to 5,000 MW of new solar power over the next two decades and help the region reduce power shortage. The two neighbouring countries would be supported by the World Economic Forum’s Global Future Council on Energy—which includes organizations such as and the US government-led Power Africa initiative, the African Development Bank, and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative.

Zimbabwe

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (Stem) Trust in partnership with Data Science Zimbabwe had a three-day mentorship and job shadowing programme in Bulawayo. Victoria Ngono, the founder and executive director of the organisation said they had recently partnered with iRock UK, a social enterprise with chapters in the US and UK to bring an Innovation Academy to Bulawayo for all aspiring girls and women as well as help them pursue and reach their goals.

In November, reports said Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) Francis R. Fannon would visit Sub-Saharan Africa from November 2 to 9, including South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana. The purpose of his trip was to reaffirm sustained partnerships in energy security and energy resources. Assistant Secretary Fannon engaged with government, business, and civil society to discuss equitable regulatory environments in hydrocarbon production and sustainable energy minerals development. This trip further integrated the whole-of-government approach to support African energy security and to increase US-Africa trade and investment, along with Prosper Africa and Power Africa.

Angola Cables South Atlantic Cable System (SACS) - the first transatlantic cable connecting Angola to Brazil, had been selected by Vodacom as the direct route to its Point of Presence (POP) in Miami, US of America.

Zambia reports said Upepo Energy, a United States-based company, would invest US$200 million in a wind renewable energy plant in Mpongwe district in the Copperbelt Province. Upepo Energy Zambia Limited general manager Steve Wolfgram said the windmill power plant was expected to generate approximately 150 megawatts of power in the first phase and an extra 100 megawatts in the second stage.
In September, a statue in honour of a Zimbabwean-born academic, Tererai Trent was unveiled in New York. Trent, a global voice for education for young women, earned her PhD in the US, where she teaches health subjects at Drexel University. Trent’s story motivated Oprah Winfrey, who announced she would donate $1.5 million to assist Trent in building schools in rural Zimbabwe.

The US welcomed Zimbabwean government’s re-engagement policy with the US Ambassador to Zimbabwe Brian Nichols calling for deeper co-operation in the education sector. Zimbabwe’s Education Minister Professor Paul Mavima said the two countries would roll out a programme of co-operation and had come up with five specific programmes. The co-operation included scholarship programmes for low income but high performing students, exchange programmes for teachers and high school outreach programmes on US education opportunities.

South Africa
A group of 38 Peace Corps Volunteers from the US, sworn in at the US Embassy, said they were ready to take up the baton and head out to Limpopo, where they would work with children, teaching them English.

Zimbabwe
Diamond Fields Advertiser said Northern Cape residents were invited to apply for the Mandela Washington Fellowship, which would see successful applicants being sent to the US for training in civic leadership, public management and business. US Embassy and Consulates in South Africa spokesperson Nurahn Schroeder said the Mandela Washington Fellows had leveraged the six-week academic and leadership training at US universities to achieve amazing success over the last five years.

Zambia
Lusaka Times reported that President Edgar Lungu praised the US for providing over US$ 3 billion towards development assistance to Zambia since its Independence in 1964. President Lungu said Zambia was grateful for the continued US government support to different sectors including education.

Lesotho
ECONET Telecom Lesotho (ETL) and its social impact investment organisation, Highlife Foundation Lesotho sent two students to the US to study. ETL’s public relations officer Puleng Masoabi, said the two brought the total number of students studying in the US under the programme to seven.
Media personality and businesswoman Bonang Matheba recently added another accolade to her already impressive collection. Bonang won the inaugural “African Influencer of the Year” award at the 45th annual E! People’s Choice Awards.

South African comedian Trevor Noah was awarded the prestigious Leadership in Democracy Award in the United States, an accolade that recognised those people or organisations – all around the world – who were “working for democracy and making democracy work” through innovative or non-traditional means. The award was granted by the National Democracy Institute (NDI).

Eastern Cape Idols SA contestants Luyolo Yiba and Micayla Oelofse were off to New York after securing spots on the top 3 alongside KwaZulu-Natal’s Snezivy Msomi. As the current season of Idols SA drew to a close, the three contestants had been sent on a getaway to New York where they will spend time preparing for next week’s show, among other activities.

MISS Zambia USA Maleele Choongo, 25, would be competing for the Miss Africa USA title at Sheraton College Park North Hotel, Beltsville, Maryland, US of America. Born and raised in Zambia, Maleele began working for the World Bank as a teenager after winning the 30,000 plus #iWant2Work4Africa competition in 2013. Through this opportunity, she has worked on communications and research projects with organisations such as the World Bank, United Nations Women, Roosevelt Institute, and Hendrix College.

Zimbabwe’s funnyman Long John was announced as a category winner of the Steve Harvey Stand Up Spotlight Competition. The Zimbabwean, real name Learnmore Mwanyenyeka, entered the competition with a five-minute video of his appearance at the Goliath Comedy Club in South Africa.

Bulawayo-born multi-talented artiste Tafadzwa Christine Gapara, warmly-known as Zwa, supported by Zimbabwe Music Festival (Zimfest) would be presenting some African choral singing workshops as well as marimba workshops in the US until March next year.
West Africa

Analysis of daily issue coverage

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Politics

Numerous reports said Nigerians would have to pay more money while applying for a US visa application as the US had announced to implement a new reciprocity fee. The US Embassy in Nigeria announced that Nigerian citizens would be required to pay a visa issuance fee, or reciprocity fee, for all approved applications for nonimmigrant visas in B, F, H1B, L, and R visa classifications. Nigerian citizens whose applications for a nonimmigrant visa were denied would not be charged the new reciprocity fee.

Other reports said in the wake of more than 70 Nigerians indicted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Nigerian Embassy in the US of America, President Muhammadu Buhari regime was quoted saying he condemned such criminal acts in all ramifications.

A US congressional delegation visited Monrovia, Liberia. The US legislators, traveling with the House Democracy Partnership, was led by the HDP Chairman, Representative David Price of North Carolina.

US urged Cameroonian authorities to organise a "true dialogue" to seek real solutions to the escalating Anglophone crisis rocking the two English speaking regions of the country. US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Tibor Nagy said the Major National Dialogue was more of a symbolic event and called on Cameroonian authorities to put in place a concrete one.

Sierra Leone crossed the corruption hurdle for the second year in a row in the US Millenium Corporation Challenge (MCC) and passed the scorecard for the first times. The MCC was a US foreign aid agency launched in 2004, which provides support for developing countries as reward for meeting key indicators that were geared towards democratic and good governance.

Business & Investments

Various reports said ExxonMobil and Shell had failed to obtain order for the execution of $1.8 billion arbitration against the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC. This followed rejection by a US judge of fresh efforts by the oil majors to revive a $1.8 billion arbitration award against NNPC which stemmed from a dispute over a 1993 contract to extract oil near Nigeria’s coastline. US District Judge William Pauley in Manhattan cited public policy and due process considerations in deciding not to enforce the October 2011 award against NNPC, which was subsequently set aside by courts in Nigeria.

Ghana and Agrihouse Foundation with support from the US Government’s Feed the Future Initiative through USAID, organized the 9th Annual Pre-Harvest Agribusiness Conference and Exhibition. Recognized as the largest annual gathering of farmers, buyers, manufacturers, government officials, development partners and financial institutions in Ghana.

Allen Onyema, founder and CEO of one of Nigeria’s largest airlines, Air Peace, was indicted by the US Department of Justice on charges of bank fraud and money laundering for alleged illegal movement of more than $20 million.

Peace, Security & Terrorism

The US expanded sanctions on terror groups and leaders as it marked the death of about 3 000 people in attacks that devastated the country 18 years ago. President Trump
signed an executive order to that effect ahead of the commemorations. Sanctions were expanded or renewed against terror sects and individuals based in Iran, Nigeria, Palestine, Pakistan and Philippines.

In Cameroon, the former US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Herman Cohen had disclosed that an international mediator was a better option to accelerate the end of violence in Cameroon’s English speaking areas. Nigeria reported that the US pledged to always support the Nigerian government in its war against terrorism. To show its avowed commitment, the US government donated two Mobile Radiation Detection System (vehicles) to the Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) of the Nigeria Police Force.

the US Military trained Nigerian Air Force medical personnel on Casualty Evacuation (CASEVAC) as part of a four phased Aerial Patient Movement Program. The rigorous two-week training, conducted at the Nigeria Air Force Base Hospital Abuja, would enable the air force to more effectively recover wounded soldiers from the battlefield.

Liberia warned that in order for it to improve on the US Trafficking in Persons report expected to be released by March 21, 2020, several required actions need to be undertaken by the government. Liberia was already on Tier Three watch list of the TIPs report, which put the country in a very critical situation, and risked slipping further down to Tier Three if significant steps were not taken to tackle human trafficking in the country.

Science, Technology & Innovation

Various reports said the US Mission in Nigeria and the American Business Council, in partnership with the Government of Nigeria and members of the private sector, launched a two-day Intellectual Property (IP) Symposium in Lagos. US Embassy Charge d’affaires, Kathleen FitzGibbon, delivered remarks highlighting the importance of intellectual property rights protection, which enabled the innovation and creativity needed to bolster economic growth.

The US and Ghana signed a Declaration of Partnership at the African Green Revolution Forum hosted in Accra. The Declaration launched a five-year Feed the Future Country Plan for Ghana that would increase investments in agriculture, build greater resilience, and improve household nutrition. Facebook announced the expansion of its third-party fact-checking program to 10 African countries including: Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire and Senegal. In partnership with Agence France-Presse, the France 24 Observers, Pesa Check and Dubawa, this programme formed part of its work in helping assess the accuracy and quality of news people find on Facebook, whilst reducing the spread of misinformation on its platform.

Nigeria’s Federal Capital City, Abuja, was set to host the 6th annual International Society of Comparative Education, Science & Technology Conference (ISCEST) coming up in December. The conference, which was expected to welcome delegates from the USA, Bulgaria, South Africa, Ireland, Canada, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Zambia, Sweden and Germany.

Health & Food issues

The US said it supported the treatment of additional 60,000 people living with the Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) in Lagos State. A delegation from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention visited Lagos and said the region remained significant in the trajectory of HIV/AIDS control in Nigeria, and an important area of focus for the delivery of services because of its population, geographic location, and diversity.

USAID said the US government invested an estimated $900 million worth of medicine to tackle diseases in Nigeria.

Children’s Surgery International, an American based organization in partnership with Firestone Liberia was expected to provide surgical services or mission at the Firestone Medical Center in Du-side.

Education

The US Embassy in Nigeria has honoured Oluwatosin Olowoayee-Taibo, an advocate for teaching out-of-school children. According to the information on the embassy’s facebook page, the advocate got the US Consul General’s outstanding fellow award for 2012.

An acclaimed US charity operating in Liberia had admitted to major failings after girls at a school set up to save them from a life of sexual exploitation were systematically raped.

In Ghana, a Ghanaian student in the United States, created a scene after he was denied access by bodyguards at a town hall meeting being addressed by President Nana Akufo-Addo.

Entertainment

Family Feud, the widely popular international television game show, was coming to South Africa and Ghana, and award-winning entertainer, businessman and philanthropist Steve Harvey had confirmed that he would host both shows. In an unprecedented deal with the format owner, Fremantle, Steve Harvey’s international business and media company, Steve Harvey Global obtained the rights to license the format for the African versions of Family Feud.
In September, the Federal Government approved a reduction in visa charges payable by US citizens from $180 to $150. Industry experts said the swift reaction by Nigeria might not result in reduction in the reciprocity visa fee imposed by the US on Nigerians.

US government applauded the release by the Government of The Gambia of the full report on the Commission of Inquiry into the Financial Activities of Public Bodies, Enterprises and Offices, known as the “Janneh Commission,” as well as the Cabinet white paper. Reports noted that it was crucial that the asset recovery process be undertaken in a similarly transparent fashion to assure the Gambian people that recovered assets were being properly accounted for and accrued to the public benefit.

Ghana was reportedly taken off the US State Department’s list of worse human trafficking offenders after much effort by government to deal with the menace. Reports said the country was “upgraded” from the low level of Tier 2 watch list the government inherited in 2017 to a more favourable status following quick interventions and responses in fighting modern day slavery.

President Trump sent a letter of congratulations to President Muhammadu Buhari as Nigeria marked its 59th Independence celebrations. Trump said Nigeria was among the US’s strongest partners in Africa. The US said it shared common goals of expanding trade and growing the two countries economic relationship.

US disclosed being a neutral partner in the ongoing Cameroon’s Major National Dialogue taking place at the Yaounde Conference Centre. The US Embassy noted press reports that erroneously characterised the role of the US in relation to the National Dialogue underway.

The US Department of Labour announced the release of the Annual Report of the Child Labour Cocoa Coordinating Group. This report was released on behalf of the signatories to the Declaration of Joint Action to Support Implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol, which was signed by the US Department of Labour, the governments of Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana and the National Confectioners Association, on behalf of the international chocolate and cocoa industry.

In The Gambia, President Adama Barrow received in audience a group of Representatives of the US Congress at the State House in Banjul. According to the leader of the parliamentary delegation known as the “House Democracy Partnership”, Congressman David Price of North Carolina, their discussions with the President were “very productive”.

In November, Major reports highlighted that the Cameroonian government castigated US President Trump for disregarding “heinous acts” perpetrated by armed separatists in the English-speaking regions of the country. In a letter to the US Congress on Oct. 31, Trump said he would exclude Cameroon from the trade benefits of African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), citing “persistent gross violations of internationally recognized human rights”. Other reports mentioned that Cameroon said it firmly opposed what it called “bias” report by the US on human rights abuses committed by Cameroon security forces. US president Trump made known his intention to scrap trade benefits for Cameroon citing “persistent gross violations of internationally recognized human rights” by Cameroonian soldiers.
Politics

Facebook said it had suspended three networks of Russian accounts that attempted to interfere in the domestic politics of eight African countries and were tied to a Russian businessman accused of meddling in past US elections. The campaigns targeted people in Cameroon and other countries, Facebook said. They used 200 fake and compromised accounts to reach more than one million followers in the eight African countries.

The US Government said they hoped that the gubernatorial election set to hold in Bayelsa State on would be free of violence. Claire Pierangelo, US Consul General to Nigeria in an interview with Channels Television said although security operatives were already deployed to Bayelsa State, the question remained whether peace would be maintained. A human rights group called on the EU and the US to slap sanctions on Nigeria for the existence of so-called death camps run by police in the West African country. The Human Rights Writers Association alleged law enforcers had detained, tortured and extra-legally executed suspects at these facilities.

The Federal Government of Nigeria and Buruji Kashamu, would on December 5 at the Supreme Court engage in a final legal battle aimed at extraditing the former Senator, to the US for trial in an alleged hard drug trafficking offence. The US Embassy in Nigeria awarded $523,314 in grants to civil society groups in Nigeria for 2019. Grant recipients include Non-profit organizations such as Global Peace Foundation, Centre for Change and Community Development, Development Initiative for West Africa, and arts organizations like the Jos Repertory Theatre.

US lawmakers condemned the continued detention of the publisher of the Sahara Reporters, Omoyele Sowore, Jones Abiri, Kofi Bartels, Samuel Ogundipe and some other journalists and activists by the Nigerian government. This was as the lawmakers also expressed worries and concerns over what it said was the closure of the media and civic space in Nigeria.

Major news frame highlighted that Facebook said it had suspended three networks of Russian accounts that attempted to interfere in the domestic politics of eight African countries and were tied to a Russian businessman accused of meddling in past US elections. The campaigns targeted people in Madagascar, Central African Republic, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Cameroon, Sudan and Libya, Facebook said.

The Minister of Finance, Mr Ken Ofor-Anta downplayed fears that the termination of the Power Distribution Services (PDS) Ghana Limited deal would adversely affect the relationship between Ghana and the US In a television interview on Citi TV, Ofor-Anta said it was healthy that Ghana and US shared varied views concerning the future of the agreement.

The US Ambassador Stephanie S. Sullivan presented plaques to outstanding participants in the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) West Africa Regional Leadership Center (RLC) training program. 125 participants representing nine countries in the sub-region completed the three-week on-site training in Business and Entrepreneurship, Civic Leadership, and Public Policy Management at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration in Accra.
In September, the American Business Council, ABC, in partnership with the US Embassy hosted a two-day Intellectual Property symposium on Copyright Piracy and Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals on September 16 and 17. The event brought government agencies, non-government organisations, and private sector stakeholders in the intellectual property rights framework together to address the issues with the Intellectual Property laws and its cost to the economy and society. Nigeria’s oil, displaced by US shale, found an unlikely new outlet this year: the coast of the continental US that was farthest from the African country’s shores. The shale boom had upended the global market, turning the US from a keen buyer of Nigerian oil to an aggressive competitor, but no pipelines easily connected the shale hub at the Permian basin, located in Texas and New Mexico, to the West Coast, driving the latter to look to Nigeria to quench its thirst for crude oil.

US and Ghana had signed a declaration of partnership at the African Green Revolution Forum hosted in Accra, to launch a five-year ‘Feed the Future Country Plan’ for Ghana that was set to increase investments in agriculture, build greater resilience and improve household nutrition.

US oil and gas exploration company Kosmos Energy confirmed a major gas find offshore Senegal. The Yakaar-2 appraisal well encountered approximately 30 meters of net gas pay in a similar high-quality Cenomanian reservoir to the Yakaar-1 exploration well, continuing the 100% success rate of wells targeting the inboard Mauritania and Senegal gas trend, the company said on its website.

US advised Cameroon to respect human rights in order to be reinstated as a beneficiary of AGOA, even as authorities in Yaounde insist on their innocence. US President Trump terminated the Central African nation’s preferential trade benefits from Jan. 1, citing what he called “persistent gross violations of internationally recognized human rights.”

Stephen Censky, the US Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, ended his three-day trade mission to West Africa with a call on countries in the sub-region to create a positive business climate that would promote a win-win situation for all. He said the region had numerous business opportunities that needed a positive business environment to sustain.

Modern Ghana cited that Ghana was set to benefit from a USAID grant aimed at boosting agricultural production in developing countries. The $25 million Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Crop Improvement which would be based at Cornell University in the US and would focus on improving crops for the benefit of the developing world.

Ghana became the latest African nation to support the development of an international airline to boost its economy and develop tourism as its government signed a provisional order for three Boeing long-haul 787 Dreamliner jets. Ghana hoped to launch a new airline with Boeing’s 787-9 Dreamliners by early 2020 with flights to Europe, North America and Asia.

In November, reports said Nigeria and the US were in talks over how the latter could support the development of infrastructure in the country through development finance institutions, the Presidency said. It said that President Muhammadu Buhari and the US’ Treasury sec-
Economy, Trade & Development

Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where they discussed the matter. Pulse highlighted that the Nigerian government eyed to access the $60 billion infrastructure fund under the new US International Development Finance Corporation.

US Deputy Secretary of Agriculture would lead a trade mission to West Africa, October 28-31, to help American exporters unlock new opportunities in a region where strong economic growth was driving demand for imported food and farm products. Stephen Censky’s mission would be based in Accra and would also include buyer delegations from Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Senegal. In the Gambia, with barely two months to end the year, bilateral agricultural trade between Ghana and the US for 2019 were valued at US$300 million, US Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Stephen Censky confirmed to the Goldstreet Business. The USAID Administrator Mark Green met in Washington, D.C., with Mohamed Jalloh, Sierra Leone’s Vice President.

The US explained why it insisted on Ghana keeping the Power Distribution Service (PDS) deal despite the government’s claim that the consortium lacked a valid demand guarantee. A spokesperson at the Embassy, Naomi Mattos told JoyNews that the first statement issued by the American government established that Meralco be maintained in the deal was the outcome of its series of meetings with Ghana government officials. Ghana had lost a $190 million granted by its US partners as part of a power concession agreement. The US embassy said the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) had confirmed that the money was no longer available after Ghana decided to terminate the concession agreement with PDS.
In September, reports said US and Nigerian authorities dismantled multiple groups running so-called business email compromise schemes. The online scams led to $1.3 billion (€1.2 billion) in worldwide losses in 2018. The US Department of Justice announced that 281 people were arrested in a global crackdown on wire transfer scams. Over a four-month period, “Operation reWired” was aimed at stopping so-called business email compromise (BEC) schemes, which were “designed to intercept and hijack wire transfers from businesses and individuals,” the Justice Department said.

The schemes under investigation were said to have originated with transnational criminal organizations in Nigeria, but then spread throughout the world. The operation was carried out in conjunction with Nigeria’s Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

The US government assured the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) of its continued support in combating emerging security threats in the country. This assurance was given by the Adjutant General California National Guard, Major General David Baldwin, when he paid a courtesy call on the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Sadique Abubakar, at Headquarters NAF Abuja.

The former US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Herman Cohen disclosed that an international mediator was a better option to accelerate the end of violence in Cameroon’s English speaking areas. In a tweet posted on his account, Herman Cohen said National dialogue was a good step to end the crisis rocking Cameroon’s North West and South West region, but according to him, an international mediator, preferably from the US was a better option.

Ghanaweb reported that Ghana had been taken off the US State Department’s list of worse human trafficking offenders after much effort by government to deal with the menace.

Reports from The Gambia said US Immigration officials had arrested a former Jammeh hitman, Michael Correa. Correa, who fled to America after the ousting of former president Yahya Jammeh in 2017 by an Ecowas intervention force, was arrested by the US Department of Homeland.

In Niger, reports said African ambassadors to the US for Niger, Mali, Chad and Burkina Faso participated in an Africa Centre for Strategic Studies conference and spoke of the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel, the region just south of the Sahara Desert. At the seminar, African experts pointed to an increase in violent activity associated with Islamic militant group activity in the region. US Ambassador to Liberia, Christine Elder called for concerted efforts by all branches of the Liberian government to improve the country’s status on the Watch List ranking of the State Department’s annual Trafficking in Persons (TIPs) Report.

In Senegal, reports said Senegal’s local police forces were getting tactical training under a US-backed program to combat jihadist groups in the region. The US State Department’s Anti-Terrorism Assistance Program had funded a military-style training center in Thies, Senegal. American instructors offered tactical training to Senegalese law enforcement...
Peace, Security & Terrorism

officers and gendarmes. The training helped law enforcement agencies deter, disrupt, and investigate terrorism, “and in the process the training helped them save lives,” said Charles Collins, the Anti-Terrorism Assistance resident program manager.

In October, reports said US pledged to always support the Nigerian government in its war against terrorism. To show its avowed commitment, the US government donated two Mobile Radiation Detection System (vehicles) to the Explosives Ordinance Disposal of the Nigeria Police Force.

Donating the vehicles to the police at EOD office in Ikeja, Lagos State, Senior Adviser to the US Department of Energy/ National Nuclear Security, Bryceon Shulman, said the American government had sent a team of trainers to train and retrain some EOD officers on ways to handle the equipment.

Other reports cited Trump’s independence commemoration letter. The letter stated that Nigeria were allies in the global battle against terrorism, and the US wanted to see Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa driven out of the region and other insurgencies like them dismantled. The US welcomed efforts by the Nigerian administration to diversity opportunities for talented, creative, and hardworking people to the benefit of both countries, Africa, and the world.

Significant coverage on Cameroon stemmed from report stating that Cameroon’s president freed more than 300 separatist fighters from the country’s Anglophone regions in an effort to calm a conflict that had killed nearly 3,000 people in the past two years. President Paul Biya made the decision “in a bid to ensure that peace returns to Cameroon’s restive English-speaking regions.”

The order discontinues court proceedings against 333 fighters accused of misdemeanours but did not apply to their leaders who were sentenced to life in prison by a military tribunal in August. The rebel groups also said they would agree to negotiations only if they take place in a foreign country with United Nations mediators and in the presence of world powers such as the United States. In Ghana, frames noted that Michael Nana Baako, a Ghanaian physician based in the US, had been sentenced to 15 months in prison for passport fraud. Baako, who resides in Fulton, Maryland, would also serve three years of a supervised release for the same crime.

In November, the Cameroonian government castigated US President Trump for disregarding “heinous acts” perpetrated by armed separatists in the English-speaking regions of the country. The US urged Cameroon to devolve power in its troubled anglophone region, saying the government’s military response was only strengthening separatists.

Nigeria asked the US to help fund power and other infrastructure projects and the fight against an Islamist insurgency, the West African nation’s presidency said. President Buhari said Nigeria was also exploring areas of strengthening Nigeria’s ongoing collaboration with the US on stopping terrorist financing.

The US Mission to Nigeria reportedly awarded $523,314 in grants in response to its 2019 annual program statement. A total of 16 projects were funded that will address pertinent issues of concern to Nigerian citizens. The projects are focused on empowering marginalized women for economic development; providing educational opportunities and development; enhancing social cohesion to foster conflict prevention; and promoting peace and security.

USAID trained 62 staff of the National Emergency Management Agency and their state counterparts on emergency management and disaster risk reduction.

In other news, the US Military trained Nigerian Air Force medical personnel on Casualty Evacuation as part of a four phased Aerial Patient Movement Program. The rigorous two-week training, conducted at the Nigeria Air Force Base Hospital Abuja, will enable the air force to more effectively recover wounded soldiers from the battlefield.

Media reports announced that the US and other countries were taking steps to help Senegal implement security measures. Ambassador Nathan Sales was the US coordinator for counter-terrorism.
Extensive media coverage on business and investments in Nigeria stated that major African tech start-up Andela sacked hundreds of its staff — the majority from Nigeria in one of the largest layoffs in the continent’s budding tech industry. The start-up, backed by hundreds of millions of dollars from investors including Facebook and tennis star Serena Williams, laid off more than 250 junior software developers in Nigeria and Uganda.

The US and Ghana signed a Declaration of Partnership at the African Green Revolution Forum. The Declaration launched a five-year Feed the Future Country Plan for Ghana that would increase investments in agriculture, build greater resilience, and improve household nutrition.

The US Consulate General in Lagos launched the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), a State Department-led initiative that supports women entrepreneurs around the world. During a week-long program, a diverse group of 100 women selected from a pool of over 6,000 applicants, would receive lessons on business management, network with like-minded entrepreneurs and mentors, and learn the practical skills required to create successful and sustainable businesses.

The US Government, through its Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), would provide the money to fund a feasibility study, which would be carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Energy of Sierra Leone. The US energy firm, WindGen Power would conduct the study.

The US Justice Department closed its investigations into alleged corruption by oil major Eni in Nigeria and Algeria without taking any action, the Italian energy group said. Eni, the biggest foreign oil and gas producer in Africa was on trial in Milan on graft allegations revolving round the acquisition of a giant Nigerian oilfield in 2011.

US Deputy Secretary of Agriculture led a trade mission to West Africa, to help American exporters unlock new opportunities in a region where strong economic growth was driving demand for imported food and farm products. The mission would be based in Accra and would also include buyer delegations from Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Senegal.

In Cameroon, US President Trump indicated his intention to terminate the designation of Cameroon as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under AGOA. He said this was motivated by gross rights violation by the government of Cameroon.

In Ghana, the US Embassy explained why it insisted on Ghana keeping the Power Distribution Service (PDS) deal despite the government’s claim that the consortium lacked a valid demand guarantee. A spokesperson at the Embassy Naomi Mattos told JoyNews’ Kojo Yankson that the first statement issued by the American government established that Meralco be maintained in the deal was the outcome of its series of meetings with Ghana government officials.

USAID hosted a Seed Sector Workshop from November 5-6 at the West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement. A part of the Borlaug Higher Education for Agriculture Research and Development Program, this two-day workshop hosted representatives from the Government of Ghana and various academic institutions who presented information on pertinent topics.
Nigeria conceded to pressure by the US to reduce visa charges for Americans visiting the West African nation. Interior Minister Rauf Aregbesola said the government approved a reduction in visa charges for US citizens from $180 (£147) to $150. The climb down came after the US government announced a range of new charges called “reciprocity fees” for Nigerians seeking to travel to America. The new levies range from $80 to $100 and would only apply to those whose visa applications had been approved.

Reports said 52 Ghanaians were deported from the US and Saudi Arabia. According to the Ghana Immigration Service, 40 of them were deported from the US while 12 were deported from Saudi Arabia.

Air Senegal was set to open a direct line to the US. This was promised on September 19 by Alioune Sarr, the Senegalese minister of tourism and air transport, upon a meeting with the local development committee on the Island of Goree. The launch of the Dakar-Washington route would make up for the suspension since 1 September 2019, of the Johannesburg - Dakar - Washington route by South African Airways. Once the flights between the Senegalese capital and US capital were completed, Dakar would become the second city in West Africa to offer direct flights to Washington, after Accra.

The Ghana Mission in the US said it expected the US government to soon lift the visa restrictions placed on a section of Ghanaian travellers. Ghana’s envoy to the US, Ambassador Baffour Adjei-Bawuah, said the Mission developed a robust mechanism to deal with illegal migration hence its expectation.

The 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) said that 380,785 US residents had their roots in Nigerian. As of 2013, the World Bank put the number of Nigerian immigrants living in the US at 252,172. This was 23% of all Nigerian migrants, the highest in any destination country.

The number of Cameroon-born immigrants in the US reportedly doubled to 80,000 by 2018 compared to 2010, with much of the growth being recorded most recently.

Ghana, which was among the top five African nations with the fastest-growing immigrant numbers in the US, had the highest number of Diversity Visa applications in 2015. At least one million Ghanaians applied for Green Card in 2016.

The US warned its citizens not to travel to some states in Nigeria categorised as “high-risk areas”. In a release published by the Bureau of Consular Affairs, 14 Nigerians states were listed with a “do not travel” instruction.
Adepeju Jaiyeoba was honoured by the US embassy in Nigeria for her contribution in reducing mortality rate among pregnant women. In 2013, she was the first winner of the Leadership Impact Award which was founded by Mother’s Delivery Kit, an enterprise that was into the production of birth kits to midwives and hospitals. Jaiyeoba went into the supply of birth kits after her friend died during childbirth. The kits were quite affordable and they contained sterile supplies that engender basic hygiene.

Numerous reports said the US Mission in Nigeria and the American Business Council, in partnership with the Government of Nigeria and members of the private sector, launched a two-day Intellectual Property (IP) Symposium on the theme “The Bane of Counterfeit Pharmaceuticals and Piracy.”

In Ghana, the USAID had supported communities in Northern Ghana to promote socio-economic development. A statement from USAID to the Ghana News Agency, said over 96,000 women in northern Ghana saved $7.8 million or about GH¢42,659,747 since 2014 and invested the money to improve the health, education, nutrition, and economic opportunities of their families.

The US partnered with Ghana’s Ministry of Health and the Ghana Health Service to encourage all Ghanaians to “Live a Good Life!” In 2016, the Ghana Health Service revived the GoodLife brand, a mass media campaign to promote healthy lifestyle messages through television, radio, posters, and brochures.

USAID said it had spent about $50 million to its flagship ENVISION Project for the control and elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) in Nigeria since 2011. The Resident Programme Advisor for Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International, Ben Nwobi, said that the RTI worked on the USAID ENVISION project in 19 countries and would come to an end globally on September 2019.

Billionaire and philanthropist Bill Gates praised Nigeria’s Aliko Dangote, for championing efforts of reducing malnutrition in his country and globally. Gates, whose Bill and Melinda Gates foundation, worked to reduce inequalities in health, said he and Dangote had a lot in common.

USAID hosted a two-day seed sector workshop for representatives of Ghana government and various academic institutions who presented information on pertinent topics.

The USAID joined dignitaries from the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ghana Health Service to celebrate collaborative efforts to improve the health of Ghanaians at the USAID Systems for Health learning event. The project expanded evidence-based, high-impact interventions to prevent child and maternal deaths, increased family planning use, reduced malaria-related morbidity and mortality, and improved the nutrition of pregnant women and young children.

Abuja, was to host the 6th annual International Society of Comparative Education, Science & Technology Conference in December. The Nigerian and US government led a renewed campaign, code named “you equals you” targeted at eliminating the HIV and AIDS pandemic in Nigeria via active community participation.

Other reports mentioned that the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, administered by the Centres for Disease Control, Department of Defence, and the USAID were set to identify and provide treatment to at least 60,000 people living with HIV.
Microsoft had appointed Gafar Lawal as the managing director of its Africa Development Centre in Nigeria, launched in May 2019. With more than 20 years of experience in various business functions, Lawal returned to Microsoft from Morgan Stanley where he served as Managing Director and Global Chief Technology Architect for the Wealth Management Division.

Other reports said there were indications that the federal government had partnered with experts from a US prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to train top Federal Civil Service workers on “Radical Innovation.” It was gathered that a two-day intensive training in Abuja, would be led by Sanjay Sarma, a renowned innovator and Vice-President Open Learning of MIT.

Numerous reports said in the five years since it was founded, Andela’s business model of training and outsourcing junior developers to global companies around the world saw it become a champion for local computer engineering talent across Africa.

Facebook had announced the expansion of its third-party fact-checking program to 10 African countries including Nigeria. In partnership with AFP, the France 24 Observers, Pesa Check and Dubawa, this programme formed part of its work in helping assess the accuracy and quality of news people find on Facebook, whilst reducing the spread of misinformation on its platform.

Other reports noted that Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey was set to visit some African countries, including SA, next month. During his month-long visit, Dorsey was set to engage with entrepreneurs on the continent. Using the Twitter platform to make the announcement, he said: “Headed to Africa for all of November! Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa. Going to spend a lot of time with entrepreneurs, including @bettelhem_dessie @noelkudu @GETNETASEFFA!”

Horti Daily cited that the US Government expressed its readiness to partner with Nigerian agriculturalists who were interested in using greenhouse technology to increase food production in the country.

Facebook announced the expansion of its third-party fact-checking program to 10 African countries including Cameroon, Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire. In partnership with AFP, the France 24 Observers, Pesa Check and Dubawa, this programme formed part of its work in helping assess the accuracy and quality of news people find on Facebook, whilst reducing the spread of misinformation on its platform.

Cote d’Ivoire, Cameroon, The Central African Republic, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d’Ivoire and Cameroon were countries from which Facebook accounts were removed by the company. This was after Facebook uncovered that these were fake Russian-linked networks created to target users in multiple African countries.

Ghana focused reports said US Embassy issued a statement and copied to the Ghana News Agency which said in 2018, the Embassy awarded the Centre a grant of $11,000 to complete construction on a four-unit classroom block to provide vocational training to more than 250 students.

In Nigeria, US Embassy in Abuja advised professionals and young people including students to desist from clicking on any site except those considered secure to guard against cyber fraud.
US Consular General to Nigeria, Claire Pierangelo, warned Nigerian girls about the trend in human trafficking, saying the US government was committed to combating all forms of modern slavery. Speaking at the launching of US Consulate Girls’ Mentoring and Football Programme titled, “Goal! Strong Girls, Bright Future” in Benin, Claire said although Nigerian government had made impressive efforts to combat trafficking and illegal migration in Edo State and elsewhere, the citizens had a responsibility to stop trafficking.

Other reports said the US Embassy in Nigeria honoured Oluwatosin Olowoyeye-Taiwo, an advocate for teaching out-of-school children.

In Ghana, the USAID had supported communities in Northern Ghana to promote socio-economic development. A statement from USAID to the Ghana News Agency, said over 96,000 women in northern Ghana saved GH¢42,659,747 since 2014 and invested the money to improve the health, education, nutrition, and economic opportunities of their families. US Ambassador to Liberia Christine Elder had been visiting the A.M. Dogliotti College of Medicine (AMD) of the state-owned University of Liberia in Monrovia.

Nigeria had the highest number of Africans studying in US colleges with over 12,000 students. Pierangelo said US institutions not only offer qualitative education; they groom their products to be competitive in the job market. US Department of Justice revealed that Chikaodinaka Nwankpa, a former Drexel University professor and of Nigerian origin blew nearly $200,000 of federal grant money in strip clubs and on other ‘improper purchases’. The University discovered the alleged fraud in 2017 during an internal audit and blew the whistle on the improper charges to eight federal grants.

US Embassy reported that the US Mission welcomed the young Nigerians who participated in the 2019 Mandela Washington Fellowship to a reunion conference held in Lagos. Fifty-six Nigerians were among the 700 young leaders from sub-Saharan Africa who completed a six-week intensive academic and leadership program at some of the most prestigious US colleges and universities.

A group of civil society organizations, under the auspices of the National Teachers Association of Liberia in collaboration with the Consortium of Education Defenders of Liberia, called on President George Weah to disengage in any arrangement or plan in the outsourcing of public schools to Bridge International Academies (BIA) or any other party of the same nature.

According to the 2019 Open Doors Report on international education, Ghana was the second most preferred African study destination for US. The report showed that in 2018 the number of US students attending universities and colleges in Ghana increased from 1,865 to 2,210. This was an 18.5% increase from 2018.

Numerous reports focused on American comedian Steve Harvey’s visit to Ghana among a host of African countries. Reports stated that the award-winning American entertainer Steve Harvey had launched an African version of his popular show Family Feud. Harvey said The Family Feud Africa series would be produced by Rapid Blue for both South Africa and Ghana. The show would be hosted by Harvey.

In Nigeria, reports said the US Consulate documentary film festival in Nigeria launched its inaugural edition with a 4-day event from 19-23 August 2019, in Lagos. The festival brought to Nigerians, a series of award-winning contemporary American documentaries, independent narrative films, and storytelling know-how to its audiences to highlight the value of film in fostering understanding and cooperation. Other reports quoted Nigerian born US singer, Jidenna stating Nigerians were smarter than a lot of people, hence the reason they excel in sports and other sphere of life, including scamming.

Ghanaian rap notable, Michael Owusu Addo, better known as Sarkodie, received a warm applause for his admonition to African ladies to be proud of their melanin and not attempt to bleach to fit in. This came on the back of winning the 2019 BET Hip Hop Award for ‘Best International Flow Act’ in the US.

An annual hip-hop festival in Ghana celebrated the Ghana’s take on the American-born music and culture. Performers used their music and art to represent culture and life in Ghana, infusing local languages, fashion, and sounds into hip-hop style. Selorm Attikpo, creative director of Yoyo Tinz, said hip-hop in Ghana had grown from its early days of cassette tapes to today, where artists rap in local dialects to tell their own stories.

Nigeria and the US collaborated to harness the potential of creative industry. Areas of partnership were design, music, publishing, architecture, film and video, crafts, visual arts, fashion, television and radio. The collaboration, which was expected to help strengthen regulations in the industry, also covered advertising, literature, computer games and the performing arts.

Hollywood Reporter highlighted that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences disqualified Nigeria’s entry for the best international feature film Oscar, Genevieve Nnaji’s Lionheart, because it was predominantly in English.

US based Nigerian ‘Power’ actor, Rotimi Akinosho, was confirmed as one of the casts of Eddie Murphy’s ‘Coming 2 America’.

YouTube, an American video-sharing platform, unveiled two new initiatives to support the growth of its content creators in Nigeria. YouTube’s content creators span music artists, entertainers, movie industry experts, social media influencers, media professionals and individuals of other factions who leverage on the platform in maintaining a “constant presence in their viewers’ lives.”

American rapper, Cardi B, was expected to be part of the array of stars visiting Ghana as part of its “Year of Return” activities.

A Ghanaian delegation made up of Chiefs, legislators, educators, sports administrators, entrepreneurs, sportsmen and sports journalists from Ghana will visit Alpine, Texas, from January 25 to February 4, 2020. The visit was to gain first-hand knowledge of Sul Ross State University and to learn about Texas education, sport and cultural settings.
Peace, Security & Terrorism

In September, Egypt’s foreign minister called for more support for neighboring Sudan’s new civilian-led government, including getting the African country off the US list of countries sponsoring terrorism.

Xinhua reported that Egyptian and American special forces carried out joint military exercise to enhance counter-terrorism capabilities and skills.

Other reports said the US Army’s Special Forces conducted a joint set of training with the Egyptian Military Special Operations Forces Unit “Thunderbolt”.

Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj and US-Africa Command General Stephen Townsend held discussions on US security interests in Libya. The US air strike killed eight suspected Islamic State militants in southern Libya.

The US said it supported the UN-led efforts to create the necessary environment for a permanent ceasefire in Libya and resuming political process.

Other reports indicated that the US State Department has approved a possible $776 million sale of various TOW-2A missiles to Morocco.

In October, Egyptian presidential spokesman said Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi met with a delegation of Evangelical leaders in New York, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

Middle East Eye stated that Human rights activists in the US were questioning Washington’s decision to push ahead with legislation that would transfer $1.3bn in military aid to Egypt, in light of recent protests calling for the fall of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi’s government.

Egypt’s Foreign Ministry warned about the negative consequences that the Turkish military operation would have on the humanitarian situation and political settlement process in Syria.

Numerous reports said the US military command for Africa announced that it killed 17 suspected Daesh militants in southern Libya, in the third such strike. It was assessed the airstrike killed 17 terrorists.

UrduPoint said US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his Moroccan counterpart Nasser Bourita explored the creation of a joint security platform to protect against a resurgence of the Islamic State and a lasting defeat of al Qaeda terror groups (both banned in Russia).

Other reports said the US State Department determined to approve the “possible” sale to Tunisia of 12 T-6C Texan military trainer planes and related equipment.

In November, Egypt welcomed the news about US success to eliminate Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a raid in Syria’s Idlib. The umpteenth death of Baghdadi was confirmed by US President Trump in a speech at the White House. Iraq and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces claimed they provided the location of the top dangerous terrorist to the US, based on intelligence information.

Other reports said US could impose sanctions on Egypt and block future military sales if it went ahead to acquire Russian warplanes. Egypt earlier this year signed a $2 billion agreement with Russia to acquire more than 20 Su-35 fighter jets.

Libya Observer stated that the German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas his country and the US saw eye to eye regarding the Berlin conference on Libya. In a joint press conference with his Italian counterpart, Maas said that the US was highly interested
Analysis of News Categories

Politics
Bloomberg said US President Trump backed his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi, as a "highly respected leader" who "brought order," dismissing small protests that point to simmering economic frustrations.

Other reports said Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi discussed bilateral ties with US President Trump in a meeting on the sidelines of the G7 summit in France's Biarritz.

In October, reports said mounting protests in Cairo against Egypt's president was prompting bipartisan unease among US lawmakers, with the top House legislators calling for Egypt to avoid a violent crackdown against demonstrators.

Egypt had significantly hardened its rhetoric on Ethiopia's Nile dam in an apparent attempt to force the East African nation to meet it halfway. Construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam on the Blue Nile was due to be completed in 2019, when the Ethiopian authorities would begin to fill a large reservoir behind it, which would hold some 74 billion cubic metres of water when full.

Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan's foreign ministers committed to reaching a "comprehensive" and "cooperative" agreement over a giant hydropower dam being built on Ethiopia's Blue Nile. The countries' representatives met in Washington with both officials from the US Treasury and the World Bank.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry headed to the US to attend a meeting for member states of the Global Coalition to Defeat Islamic State in Washington DC.

Other reports said the new US ambassador to Egypt, Jonathan Cohen, arrived in Cairo and submitted his credentials to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. Cohen was sworn in as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Arab Republic of Egypt on November 14, 2019.

Science, Technology & Innovation
Egypt Science and Technology Joint Fund was established under an agreement between the Government of the US and Egypt to strengthen scientific and technological capabilities between both countries.

Science, Technology & Innovation
Foreign ministers of Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan and their delegations met with the Secretary of the Treasury and the President of the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Other reports said the US invited Ethiopia and Egypt for talks as part of international efforts to quell a dispute over a huge dam that was being built on the Nile River.

In some news, Ivanka Trump, senior adviser to and daughter of US President Donald Trump, arrived in Morocco to promote women's empowerment.

Bombardier was reportedly selling its aerostructures business to US-based Spirit AeroSystems, a deal which included its wing operation in Belfast and other facilities in Morocco and the USA. The agreement was part of Bombardier's strategy to divest its commercial aircraft activities in favour of focusing on business aviation and rail.

Economy, Trade & Development
Egypt Today said that the volume of trade exchange between Egypt and the US hit $3.7 billion in H1 2019 against $3.4 billion in H1 2018.

US officials expressed willingness to provide technical support for state budget distribution in Libya. US Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland made the remarks during talks with senior Libyan officials in order to reinforce economic cooperation between the two countries and promote economic recovery in Libya.

Business & Investments
Egyptian managed to attract major US companies to operate in the country's petroleum and gas exploration sectors, including Chevron Corporation and ExxonMobil.

International Development Finance Corporation, announced a commitment to provide $430 million in insurance to advance energy security in Egypt by rehabilitating a natural gas pipeline and transporting natural gas from fields offshore in Israel.
Media reports in Egypt said the Trump administration planned to “sit on information” that a New York Times correspondent was about to be arrested in Egypt, the paper’s publisher revealed, warning of the “chilling effect” on freedom of the press. The New York Times was warned by a US official, who said they feared being punished for alerting the paper to the danger.

In other news, US President Trump reportedly referred to his Egyptian counterpart Abdel-Fatah el-Sissi as “my favorite dictator” while waiting for a meeting with him to begin last month at the G-7 summit in France. According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, numerous American and Egyptian officials were in the room when Trump called out “where’s my favorite dictator?” some of whom heard the question. It was not clear if Sissi was in the room at the time or the heard remark, the report said.

US President Trump praised his Egyptian counterpart President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi calling him a “real leader,” saying he was not concerned with protests that have been witnessed in Egypt.

When asked about the demonstrations, Trump said “Everybody has demonstrations...no, I am not concerned with it. Egypt has a great leader.”

Arab Weekly reported that the Libyan National Army made another attempt to retake the strategically important town of Gharyan, south of Tripoli, but reportedly made no progress, deepening the sense of stalemate in the fight for control of the Libyan capital. That appeared to strengthen the hand of those inside and outside Libya pushing for a return to UN-led political dialogue, saying that a military solution was not going to work. The view was restated at the G7 summit in France, which called for an international conference on Libya bringing together the stakeholders, regional players involved and probably some of Libya’s other neighbours.

Libyan Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj and the commander of the US Africa Command (AFRICOM) General Stephen Townsend held discussions on US security interests in Libya. A statement by AFRICOM said that the meeting was a chance to create new relationships and assess the situation in Libya. Among the issues discussed were the security environment, the importance of addressing the existing violent extremist organization threat, and the need to resolve the ongoing conflict in Libya.

In numerous reports, the Tunisian Development and International Cooperation Ministry said the US agreed to give Tunisia financial aid worth $335 million over five years to support its democratic transition. The aid will be financed by USAID.

Reports said Tunisians headed to the polls on September 15 to elect a new president in the second such vote since the country’s 2011 revolution. The election, however, was unlikely to cure the Tunisian population’s growing sense of disenchantment with the democratic process. In the eight years since the end of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali’s authoritarian rule, Tunisia achieved several democratic milestones, including the election of a constituent assembly, the drafting of a new constitution, and the organisation of several successful general and local elections.

Other news said the Organizer’s Forum delegation, coming from Canada, the United States, Italy, France, Kenya, and Cameroon, began the morning, appropriately, with a briefing on the developments in Tunisia since the Arab Spring. A large Organizers’ Forum delegation had visited Egypt within the first year of the revolution, but were disappointed to see the revolution slipping through the peoples’ fingers, so now had open ears and skeptical minds, filled with hope.

In October, Reports said Egypt was “shocked by” the statements attributed to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed before the Ethiopian parliament, which included “negative signals and unacceptable hints” on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam issue, according to a statement by the foreign ministry.
The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Egypt welcomed US President, Donald Trump’s position on those developments, representing America’s rejection of the ongoing Turkish attacks on Syrian land and the imposition of preliminary sanctions on the Turkish regime.

Analysts said the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood was not behind the recent protests in Egypt but sought to capitalise on a new wave of dissent. The protests first erupted on September 20 after an exiled Egyptian businessman in a series of online videos called for people to demonstrate against President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, accusing him of wasting taxpayers’ money on vanity building projects.

The US Government, through the USAID, and the Faiez Serraj-led Tripoli-based Government of Libya, through its Ministry of Planning, signed a Memorandum of Intent for enhancing their partnership.

Libya Observer said the final statement of the ministerial meeting on Libya held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York reiterated that there’s no military solution to the Libyan crisis.

The statement, devised by representatives of France, Italy, Germany, UAE, Russia, Egypt, US, UK, Turkey and China as well as the African Union and Arab League, called for an unconditional ceasefire and pullout of heavy and artillery weapons from the frontlines, in addition to an end to the use of airpower by all parties.

Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs Nasser Bourita met with US President Donald Trump’s senior advisor and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, on the sidelines of the 4th session of the US-Morocco Strategic Dialogue.

Media reports said the North African Kingdom of Morocco had long bought weapons from the US and recently placed a billion-dollar order for smart bombs and missiles. About 23% of that order was for missiles and bombs for its 48 F-16 fighters.

Morocco World News reported that Cuba’s ambassador to Morocco, Elio Eduardo Rodriguez Perdomo, announced that Cuba planned to open an embassy in Rabat. The Cuban ambassador made the announcement during his meeting with Morocco’s Habib El Malki, President of the House of Representatives.

Other reports said the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs was expected to hold hearings on the nomination of ambassadors proposed by President Donald Trump.

Reports said Tunisia elected an anti-establishment and independent former law professor as its new president after Kais Saied, 61, who ran a low-key volunteer-based campaign, won a landslide victory with 72.7% of the vote against his opponent, TV magnate and businessman Nabil Karoui, on 27.3%.

In November, US President Trump said he held talks that “went well” with top representatives from Egypt, Ethiopia, and Sudan over the construction of a disputed dam that sparked fears of a potential water war in the region. Trump said the meeting was intended “to help solve their long-running dispute on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam, one of the largest in the world, currently being built.”

US Air Force Chief of Staff David Goldfein said he was hopeful a dispute among Gulf Arab states may soon end and urged them to unify their military capabilities as tensions with Iran simmer. Washington saw a political rift that Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and non-Gulf state Egypt had with Qatar as a threat to efforts to contain Iran and pushed for a united front.

In Morocco, the white House adviser Ivanka Trump arrived in Morocco to promote women’s economic empowerment in the North African country. President Donald Trump’s daughter was welcomed by Princess Lalla Meryem and Morocco’s foreign minister during an airport meeting in the capital of Rabat. During the three-day visit, Ivanka Trump promoted the US government’s Women’s Global Development and Prosperity Initiative.

Times of Israel said US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo would travel to Morocco, seeing the kingdom as a partner in US regional goals including normalizing relations with Israel, officials.

Pompeo, the highest-level US visitor to Morocco since US President Donald Trump’s election, would arrive in Rabat on December 4 and meet with King Mohammed VI, the State Department said. A State Department official said that Morocco was a “critical partner for us across the range of issues.”

the official said Morocco played a great role across the region as an important partner in promoting tolerance (and) had these quiet ties and relationship with Israel as well.

The Open Hands Initiative (OHI) launched an international fellowship to foster dialogue and goodwill between students and young leaders from the US and Morocco. The “Salaam Fellowship for Conflict Resolution” being held in the cities of Casablanca, Rabat and Marrakesh, Morocco, was aimed at providing critical skills in conflict resolution and negotiation.

Reports in Tunisia said Schools in Gaza Strip paid tribute to Tunisia, hoisting the country’s flag and singing the national anthem in recognition for last week 20-minute school suspension in Tunisia in view of supporting Palestinians.
In September, several media reports in Libya said the US military’s Africa Command (Africom) killed eight members of ISIS in Libya in an airstrike. Africom said the airstrike took place in the vicinity of Murzuq, Libya, on 19 September and was carried out in coordination with the Libyan Government of National Accord. General Stephen Townsend, US Africa Command commander said US Africa Command conducted this airstrike to eliminate terrorist leaders and fighters and to disrupt terrorist activity. He said “we will not allow them to use the current conflict in Libya as protection. Together with our Libyan partners, we will continue to deny terrorists safe haven in Libya.”

US diplomats and military officials met with a Libyan militia leader whose offensive on Tripoli earlier this year forced American troops out of the country, but who was now seen as key to ending the country’s eight-year-old civil war. US Ambassador Richard Norland held talks in Abu Dhabi with “Field Marshal” Khalifa Hifter, who leads the so-called Libyan National Army, the US Embassy in Libya announced.

In other news, US President Trump said that former National Security Adviser John Bolton “set us back” in denuclearization negotiations with North Korea by demanding the regime follow the “Libya model” and hand over all of its nuclear weapons.

Media reports said Egyptian and American special forces carried out joint military exercise to enhance counter-terrorism capabilities and skills.

The US State Department approved a possible sale to Morocco of missiles and F-16 ammunition at an estimated value of $985 million. The Pentagon’s Defense Security Co-operation Agency, in a statement said that the estimated cost of various anti-armor TOW-2A missiles was $776 million.

In October, US Africa Command said it carried out an airstrike that killed Islamic State (IS) militants in southern Libya, in coordination with the UN-backed government. These US airstrikes over the last eight days were the first in Libya in over a year. US Africa Command released a statement saying 17 militants were killed in the strike, launched a day earlier in southwest Libya.

Egypt said it had accepted a US invitation to a meeting of foreign ministers over a project for a giant hydropower dam on Ethiopia’s Blue Nile that was causing an escalating spat between the two African countries.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and his Moroccan counterpart Nasser Bourita explored the creation of a joint security platform to protect against a resurgence of the Islamic State and a lasting defeat of al Qaeda terror groups (both banned in Russia). Reports said the Minister and the Secretary agreed to sustain cooperation to advance shared interests in regional stability and to defeat terrorist groups including AQIM and ISIS.

In November, senior US officials met with Libyan strongman Khalifa Haftar to discuss steps toward ending his offensive on Tripoli and accused Russia of exploiting the conflict. The delegation, which included the US ambassador to Libya Richard Norland, aimed to establish “steps to achieve a suspension of hostilities and a political resolution to the Libyan conflict.

Several Western countries said they were concerned about Egypt’s widening crackdown on dissent.

The US, UK, Germany and other European countries called for Cairo to probe accusations of torture and enforced disappearances. Those calls came during Egypt’s periodic U.N. human rights review in Geneva. There was growing criticism
of Egypt’s human rights record under President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

In Morocco, the US State Department approved a potential Foreign Military Sale to Morocco worth an estimated $4.25 billion for 36 Boeing AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and related equipment, including manned-unmanned teaming kits. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency said it notified the US Congress of the possible sale on 19 November. The sale would include 24 AH-64Es, with the option to buy 12 more examples. The full complement of aircraft would come with 72 installed GE Aviation T700-GE-701D turboshaft engines and six spares.

Reports said Morocco’s counterterrorism efforts largely mitigated its risk of terrorism, although the country continued to face sporadic threats, largely from small cells, the US State Department said.

The country’s comprehensive anti-terrorism strategy helped it offset the risk posed by cells inspired by or affiliated with ISIS, the 2018 US State Department Country Report on Terrorism said. The report recalled that Morocco was spared terrorist attacks with the most recent since 2011 taking place near Marrakech where two Scandinavian tourists were savagely killed in an ISIS-inspired attack.

The US State Department’s 2018 Country Report on Terrorism for Morocco lauded the Kingdom’s efficient handling of terrorist threats. The report praised the excellent and long-standing counterterrorism cooperation between the US and Morocco. The US Department of State began issuing the Country Reports on Terrorism in 2017. The yearly reports examined terrorism trends and counterterrorism strategies in a given country from the year prior.

US Army Africa Commanding General (AFRICOM) Major-General Roger Cloutier met with Morocco’s Major General, Inspector of Infantry, and Commander of the South Zone, Belkheir El Farouk as part of the preparations for the 2020 joint Moroccan American military exercise, “African Lion.” “African Lion,” the joint US-Morocco train exercise, was due to take place in March and April.

The US major-general and his Moroccan colleague discussed the logistics of the upcoming 2020 “African Lion.” Far-Maroc reported that this year’s exercise was “expected to be the most important in the history of combined American-Moroccan military relations.”
In September, The New York Times said it turned to the Irish government to rescue a reporter threatened with arrest in Egypt two years ago out of concern that the Trump administration wouldn’t help. Times publisher A.G. Sulzberger revealed the incident during a speech at Brown University and in an op-ed published. He criticized President Trump for seeding a “worldwide assault on journalists and journalism” and said it’s time for the US to again champion the rights of a free press.

Meanwhile, the publisher of The New York Times shared an anecdote shedding light on the cavalier attitude of President Donald Trump’s administration to the safety of US journalists abroad, following reports that the US failed to step in to save one of the newspaper’s staff from imminent arrest in Egypt.

A Lancaster woman jailed in Egypt since July was charged with joining a terrorist group and faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted. Egyptian authorities arrested Reem Desouky, a naturalized US citizen who works as an Arabic interpreter, after she disembarked at Cairo’s airport July 7 to visit family. Her son, Moustafa Hamed, 13, was briefly detained and then released to his mother’s family. He remains in Cairo.

Meanwhile, a Lancaster woman plans to host a letter-writing event and try to spark a wider campaign to get the US embassy in Cairo to advocate for Desouky’s release.

Other news said African American citizen Timothy Hucks was driven to a police station in Rabat, where he was taken, with a group of Sub-Saharan migrants, to Beni Mellal in a bus. The man tells Yabiladi about the unusual experience that now prevents him from leaving the country. On March 21, Timothy Hucks, was at the wrong time in the wrong place. The New Yorker, who was staying in Rabat at the time, was arrested while on his way to the store because of the ‘color of his skin’.

State Department official said more than 31,000 people were denied entry to the US due to President Donald Trump’s travel ban. During a nearly three-hour House hearing, Democratic lawmakers slammed officials over the travel ban enacted by the Trump administration that primarily targets mostly Muslim-majority countries. The travel restrictions, which were upheld by the Supreme Court last year, currently affect Iran, Libya, Somalia, Syria and Yemen, along with Venezuela and North Korea. Chad was removed from the list last April, after the White House said the country improved security measures.

In October, Forbes Travel Guide the only global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants, and spas, unveiled its Verified List for 2019’s World’s Best Hotel Bars on Oct. 15, naming The Bar at The Peninsula Manila as one of only 45 bars around the world — and the only one in the Philippines — to earn the accolade. Two other Peninsula hotel bars join The Bar at The Peninsula Manila in the Verified List — Z Bar at The Peninsula Chicago and The Club Bar at The Peninsula Beverly Hills.

Famous American model and social media darling, Chrissy Teigan showed off her latest Tagine on Instagram, which was inspired by a trip to Morocco. Teigan visited Morocco in January to take part in a photoshoot which she described as the «top secret project».

Reports said the ongoing protests in Egypt were impacting Egypt’s tourism, since the Cairo International Airport was the 2nd busiest airport in Africa, servicing about 15 million tourists annually.

Cairo International was an important airport, as it served as the primary hub for several airlines, such as EgyptAir, EgyptAir Express and Nile Air. The US Department of State last updated its Level 2 Travel Advisory for the Arab Republic of Egypt on July 2, 2019.

Egypt Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly committed his nation during a meeting with US Vice President Mike Pence to examine multiple cases of Americans detained in Egypt, the Department of State said in a readout. More than a dozen Americans were believed to be jailed in Egypt, the latest being a schoolteacher from the US state of Pennsylvania and dual US-Egyptian national Reem Mohamed Desouky, who was arrested when arriving to visit relatives in July over Facebook posts critical of the Egyptian government, according to media reports.
In September, Media reports in Egypt said the volume of trade exchange between Egypt and the US hit dlrs 3.7 billion in the first half of 2019 against dlrs 3.4 billion in the corresponding period in 2018, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics.

ESI Africa said the Egyptian minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Tarek El-Molla, along with the Egyptian minister of electricity and renewable energy, Mohamed Shaker, and the US deputy secretary of energy, Dan Brouillette, launched the US-Egypt Strategic Energy dialogue.

Libya Observer said the US said Libyan oil revenue must remain under the oversight of the Tripoli-based National Oil Corporation (NOC).

The NOC Chairman said earlier that the Interim Government in eastern Libya was attempting to sign contracts with Egyptian and UAE firms to sell them Libyan oil - $55 a barrel.

In Morocco, reports said Morocco had a big drought this year, so their production of durum was down substantially and they were going to need to import higher levels, it's just a question of from whom. Jim Peterson, marketing director with the North Dakota Wheat Commission noted that Canada tends to be more successful in sales to Morocco, but that’s not necessarily a given that they will get the business.

Peterson said currently there was a tender by Morocco for durum in the near term.

North Africa Post reported that the US had granted Tunisia a donation worth $335 million to finance projects and programs designed to boost economic and social development through encouraging entrepreneurship and improving governance. The donation was part of a US cooperation and support program extending over a five-year period (2019-2024).

In October, the World Bank hailed Egypt’s keenness on launching the technical support program with the International Monetary Fund to protect the economic success that had been reached so far and enable international institutions to engage in all development fields in the country. International political and economic communities expressed great confidence in the reform drive in Egypt, as could be tangibly felt in the many meetings President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi attended on the sidelines of the inaugural ceremony of the 74th UN General Assembly.

US delegation arrived in Morocco to discuss ways to boost diplomatic and economic collaboration between Rabat and Washington. Democratic Party congresswoman Karen Bass led the US delegation of American representatives to Morocco. Bass told the press after a meeting with Morocco’s Foreign Affairs Minister Nasser Bourita that the US officials were “very impressed by the noteworthy progress made in Morocco in recent, particularly in terms of development.”

The Royal Institute for Strategic Studies released its latest report, classing countries by reputation. The report ranked Morocco 35th in the world with a score of 58.8 out of 100, placing the North African country among the countries with the most positive reputations.

US officials expressed willingness to provide technical support for state budget distribution in Libya US Ambassador to Libya Richard Norland and Treasury Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS) Eric Meyer made the remarks during talks with senior Libyan officials in order to reinforce economic cooperation between the two countries and promote economic recovery in Libya.
In September, the US allocated an additional $16.5 million to support joint US-Egypt priorities in basic education and agribusiness. The US Embassy in Cairo said the grant comes as part of two aid agreements signed between Washington and Cairo to back Egypt’s development efforts. Under the two agreements, Egyptian young men would have access to quality education and Egyptian farmers got access to global markets.

Media reports noted that Egypt’s cabinet approved the presidential resolution on the fourth amendment of the Grant Assistance Agreement between Egypt and the US on Egyptian-American Cooperation for Science and Technology. The fourth amendment aims to provide a new sum of $4m as a contribution from the USAID to strengthen the scientific and technological capabilities of the Egyptian and American sides, beside expanding relations between the scientific and technological communities in both countries.

In Libya, media reports said the Head of the Libyan Presidential Council Fayez Al-Sarraj met in New York with officials from several US oil firms and investment companies on the sidelines of his visit to the United Nations to attend the General Assembly meetings.

Reports in Tunisia said in a bid to boost economic and social development, the US granted donations worth USD 335 Mn to Tunisia. The commitment was designed to encourage entrepreneurship in the North African country and improve its nature of governance. The donation stays under the umbrella of a US cooperation and support program that extends over five years. The agreement kicked off this year and would terminate in 2024.

In October, International political and economic communities expressed great confidence in the reform drive in Egypt, as could be tangibly felt in the many meetings President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi attended on the sidelines of the inaugural ceremony of the 74th UN General Assembly. Morocco’s flag carrier airline, Royal Air Maroc announced plans to buy more freight planes for transporting cargo. RAM’s vice president of cargo, Salim Quouninich, told Cargo Facts that RAM would acquire the freight planes over the coming years. Quouninich said there was “strong growth potential” in increasing RAM’s cargo services as e-commerce expands worldwide. RAM had the opportunity to deliver products from the US and Europe to Africa.

In November, Egyptian Minister of Petroleum, H.E. Tarek El-Molla, announced that his ministry recently managed to attract major US companies to operate in the country’s petroleum and gas exploration sectors, including Chevron Corporation and ExxonMobil.

Other reports said Adam Bohler, Chief Executive Officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), announced a commitment to provide $430 million in insurance to advance energy security in Egypt by rehabilitating a natural gas pipeline and transporting natural gas from fields offshore in Israel.

In Egypt Today, the US invested about $7.6 billion in Egypt, according to Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing at the US Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration Ian Steve. Steve Through the relationship with Egypt, they supported the private sector that could create jobs and achieve growth.

Royal Air Maroc and American Airlines applied for a codeshare from the US Department of Transportation. American spokesperson said American Airlines Group Inc had an interline agreement with Royal Air Maroc, based in Morocco, and pursuing a codeshare agreement with the carrier ahead of it joining the one-world alliance in the first quarter of 2020.

Reports said Corporate Council on Africa would host the next edition of the US -Africa Business Summit in June 2020 in Marrakech, Morocco. Building on the momentum of this year’s Summit in Maputo, Mozambique, which focused on advancing a resilient and sustainable US-Africa partnership, CCA would return to the continent next June for the 13th iteration of its flagship conference.

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North Africa

Business & Investments

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In September, Media reports said the Egyptian cabinet approved a presidential bill to amend the aid grant agreement signed between Egypt and the US on improving health outcomes for target groups. The amendment aims to provide $10,050,000, as a contribution from the USAID to enhance the quality of family planning services and reproductive health, according to local media. The Egyptian Cabinet headed by Mostafa Madbouly also approved the presidential resolution on the fourth amendment of the grant aid agreement signed between Washington and Cairo regarding Egyptian American Cooperation in science and technology.

Reports noted that the US committed an additional $16.5 million to support joint US-Egypt priorities in basic education and agribusiness. US said it undertook this commitment in two amended bilateral assistance agreements, signed by Egypt and the United States, through the USAID, demonstrate the continued support of the American people to development in Egypt.

In Libya, the WHO said Libyan hospitals had been supplied with necessary medicines with the help of the German government and the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. World Health Organization said that, Libya’s hospitals and clinics needed a stable supply of medicine to cure chronic diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma. Support from the government of Germany guarantees that contingency stocks were obtainable in east, south and west Libya through emergencies. It also said that, the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance is as well funding important medical supplies required by hospitals and clinics that would help out a lot of patients for 3 months.

In October, Al-Monitor reported that pursuing its efforts to put the brakes on overpopulation, the Egyptian Cabinet approved Sept. 18 the amendment of the grant deal previously signed between Egypt and the US targeting family planning programs. Under the amendment, the USAID would provide a new sum of $10 million and $50,000 as an additional contribution to support the Egyptian government’s efforts in enhancing the quality of family planning and reproductive health services.

Reports said Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi inquired in a phone call after the health of Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah after he underwent some medical checkups in the US. The Kuwaiti emir, who returned home, expressed appreciation for President El-Sisi’s concern, asserting that the gesture reflects the strong Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations on the diplomatic and public levels.

In November, Ambassador Hamdi Saleh and other delegates from Egypt visited South Dakota in an effort to build a lasting trade relationship between the two regions. Egypt was one of the top purchasers of US soybeans and it tended to buy crops years in advance, which was a boon for farmers in uncertain economic times.
In September, reports said the US-Egypt Science and Technology Joint Fund was established under an agreement between the Government of the US and Egypt to strengthen scientific and technological capabilities between both countries. To support activities of the Joint Fund, each country jointly matches funds provided by USAID and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR). The program was implemented in the US by the National Academy of Sciences and in Egypt by the Science and Technology Development Fund.

Egyptian Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources Tarek El-Molla, Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy Mohamed Shaker and US Deputy Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette launched the US-Egypt Strategic Energy Dialogue, which will facilitate closer government and private sector cooperation on energy between the US and Egypt.

Gulf News reported that an Egyptian nuclear scientist died in Morocco where he was attending a workshop, Egyptian authorities have said. According to the authorities, Abu Bakr Abdul Moneim, a senior official at the state Nuclear-Radioactive Monitoring Authority, died at a hospital in the Moroccan city of Marrakesh after he felt unwell while attending a workshop of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly discussed with US Secretary of Energy Rick Perry ways of boosting cooperation in the fields of energy, electricity, and clean coal technology. Madbouly arrived in Washington leading a ministerial delegation to the annual meetings of the World Bank and the IMF.

President of the World Bank Group David Malpass praised Egypt’s keenness on launching the technical support program with the International Monetary Fund to protect the economic success that had been reached so far and enable international institutions to engage in all development fields in the country.

General Electric International company for US Gas and Energy Systems signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of National Accord, for implementing new production capacities in the field of electric power, and raising the efficiency of the existing stations in Libya.

The agreement signed in New York under the auspices of the Presidential Council’s head, Fayez Al-Sarraj, covered the establishment of renewable energy projects, including wind and solar power to generate electricity, in addition to energy transfer and discharge projects. The memorandum proposed a program of work, in line with the first five-year plan in the field of electric power in Libya, which aimed to increase capacity by 6,000 MW.

In November, Communications and Information Technology Minister Amr Talaat met with Assistant President for Technology and Communications and Cybersecurity Policies at the US National Economic Council, Grace Coe, on the sidelines of the World Radiocommunication Conference in Sharm el-Sheikh. A representative of the US Administration at the World Radiocommunication Conference, Coe praised Egyptian efforts in developing its telecommunication infrastructure through the various companies active in this field.
In September, The US has allocated an additional $16.5 million to support joint US-Egypt priorities in basic education and agribusiness. Under the two agreements, Egyptian young men would have access to quality education and Egyptian farmers get access to global markets. In this regard, USAID Mission Director in Egypt Sherry Carlin said the two agreements on basic education and agribusiness reflect strong partnership with the Investment Ministry and the US continued commitment towards the Egyptian people.

Lake Land reported that American journalist and professor and honorary Lakeland University graduate Jackie Spinner would screen and discuss her new documentary on access to education for autistic children at Lakeland’s Bradley Theatre on the 3rd of October. The screening was free and open to all. “Don’t Forget Me” showcases challenges faced by Moroccan parents and children dealing with autism and a discriminatory system that prevents them from being educated. The short documentary follows three families with children on the autism spectrum, taking the viewer inside the schools with the children and then back home with their families. The film was a raw, honest look at what it’s like to be autistic in Morocco and also what it’s like to be the parent of a child whose future is so uncertain.

In October, The Daily News Egypt reported that the USAID was in close consultation with the Egyptian authorities for implementing new projects. Mission Director of the USAID in Egypt Sherry Carlin told the media during the American Chamber of Commerce (Am Cham)’s event. Africa News said technical school teams from Ismailia, Sharquia, and Alexandria won top prizes in US-Egypt Entrepreneurship Competition. On October 16, nine technical school teams received awards for their innovative ideas in the Fanni Mộbtaıkır Innovation Competition sponsored by the USAID, the Ministry of Education and Technical Education, and the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology. From over 2,000 applicants, 45 teams reached the final stage to present their plans and prototypes in sectors including logistics and renewable energy; industrial; and agriculture and tourism education.

A Joliet Junior College English tutor helped English language instructors in Egypt as part of an assignment through the US State Department. Christine Fiorite was among 80 US citizens selected for the English Language Specialist program, according to a news release. Specialists assist US embassies to deliver and maintain the overseas language programs, which also promote positive international relations.

In November, the US Embassy said it was pleased to receive the Access English Microscholarship Program students from Boussalem, Djerba, Tataouine and Monastir who were learning English through this US Department of State funded program. Ambassador Donald Blome had an interactive conversation with students from Tataouine and answered their questions about the Embassy and the US. The students shared impressive stories about how the Access program had a positive impact on their lives and their communities.
A day after playing to more than 100,000 Moroccan fans, Rihanna had some retail therapy. The Stay singer, swarmed by paparazzi and cameramen, strolled through Rabat’s old souqs and checking out some local jewellery and the country’s famed lanterns. Rihanna opened the Mawazine Festival as part of her Diamonds World Tour.

Reports said Moroccan artist Anas Bawss, the founder of «Pozitiv S’cool of Hip Hop» in Casablanca, was named «ambassador of Moroccan hip-hop in the United States», The Positive school was a program created in 2016 by Anas Bawss to teach hip-hop with the help of the Ali Zaoua Foundation. The school was meant to help several young people from working-class neighborhoods in Casablanca to work on themselves, acquire artistic technical tools, and improve their hip-hop performances.

Other news said when it comes to 90 Day Fiancé couples, Azan Tefou and Nicole Nafziger were in a league of their own. These two, who were rapidly approaching their four-year anniversary as a couple, still haven’t found a way to make their marriage happen. Two failed attempts at marriage followed by a lack of physical visitation between Nafziger and Tefou had fans wondering what the deal was. Some fans feel as if Tefou might be playing Nafziger. In fact, there have been several rumors swirling around about Tefou playing Nafziger, and several sources have come forward claiming the same. Now, a new rumor was circulating that Tefou might actually have a pregnant Moroccan wife.

Moroccan rapper French Montana used his stage time as a presenter at the Video Music Awards (VMAs) in New York to raise awareness about the plight of immigrants in the US. While presenting the award for Best Latin video alongside American actress Alison Brie, he said he was “proud” to present the award because as an immigrant he felt like they were the people that made this country, and felt like he wanted to be the voice.

In other news, Morocco’s Marrakech International Film Festival (FIFM) was fast becoming a platform to attract stars from across the globe, according to US-based news outlet the Hollywood Reporter.

The Moroccan festival had a “history of attracting A-list talent, featuring such actors as Jeremy Irons, Bill Murray, Viggo Mortensen and Robert De Niro,” reported the celebrity news outlet. The 18th annual FIFM would kick off on November 26 in Marrakech and will run until December 7, with Scottish producer Tilda Swinton chairing the jury committee.

Egyptian actor Amr Waked took to Twitter to defend himself after anti-Israel activists criticized him for starring alongside Israeli actress Gal Gadot in the “Wonder Woman” sequel, “Wonder Woman 1984.” After Waked announced that he would appear in the superhero film, set to premiere in 2020, social media users attacked him, with one writing on Twitter, “F–k you. Amr. You are a traitor,” and others expressing disappointment in his decision and calling on him to withdraw his part in the film. Reports said in March, Waked met with members of the US Congress to raise awareness of alleged human rights violations by the Egyptian government and called for international solidarity with Egyptians. Not long after, the Egyptian Actor’s Syndicate revoked Waked’s membership and accused him of “high treason to the nation and to the Egyptian people.”

Grazia reported that Morocco’s dreamiest music festival was back for 2020. Oasis Festival in Morocco from 11-13 September 2020 would be bringing a world-class line-up of homegrown and international artists, along with an extensive arts and culture programme back to Marrakech to coincide with the city being named the first-ever African Capital of Culture for 2020. This year, Yasiin Bey - aka US rapper and activist Mos Def - joined Moroccan MC Issam and DJs Amine K, Driss Bennis and Yasmean.
In September, reports said US and Egyptian officials opened two archaeological sites to the public, highlighting a cooperative program between the two nations. The tombs located in the Egyptian city of Luxor and belonged to two noblemen dating as far back as 1292 B.C. Thomas Goldberger, charge d'affaires of the US in Egypt said the cultural partnership between the US and Egypt was equally as important as our very strong strategic, political and security partnership.

Other reports said USAID contributed 35 million EGP to conserve two tombs at Dra Abu El Naga and eight chapels at Khonsu Temple at Karnak through conservation field schools that provided hands-on training for more than 300 Ministry of Antiquities employees. This project, implemented by the American Research Centre in Egypt (ARCE), improved access to Khonsu Temple and Theban Tombs 159 and 286 and helped preserve them for future generations.

Gulf News reported that American authorities repatriated to Egypt a gilded coffin purchased by the Metropolitan Museum of Art but discovered to have been looted in the wake of 2011’s Egyptian revolution. A joint investigation by American, Egyptian, German and French law enforcement officials determined the coffin crafted between 150 and 50 BCE was stolen from Egypt’s Minya region. The ancient artefact sheathed in gold, which was associated with gods in ancient Egypt, was a central piece of a recent Met exhibit, after the museum purchased it in 2017. But the show abruptly ended in February when New York authorities seized the sarcophagus.

Reports said some 96,000 people visited the Queens of Egypt exhibition, held at the National Geographic Museum in Washington DC, Egypt Ambassador in the US, Yasser Reda said. The exhibition focused on how women were well-treated in ancient Egypt, the Foreign Ministry quoted Reda as saying in a press statement. The exhibition, held from March till 15 September, received worldwide media attention and was covered by news outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, Washington Diplomat, The Washington Post, and the BBC, Reda said.

In October, Egypt displayed a gilded ancient coffin from the first century B.C., which New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art returned after US investigators determined it to be a looted antiquity. The coffin once held the mummy of Nedjemankh, a priest in the Ptolemaic Period some 2,000 years ago. It was put on display at the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization in Cairo. Antiquities Minister Khaled el-Anany said the repatriation of this “unique, wonderful” artifact showed a “very strong solidarity” between Egypt and the US.

The US Embassy to Libya said that US authorities had returned a historic artifact to Libya. “US Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigation (HSI) International Operation Division Chief Leo Lin returned a sixth century marble statue known as the ‘Head of a Veiled Woman,’ during a repatriation ceremony at the Libyan Embassy.

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In November, Princess Lalla Hasnaa, the sister of King Mohammed VI of Morocco, chaired a gala dinner in honor of the Alaouite Dynasty, the current Moroccan royal family. The Em Habanim Sephardic Congregation and Community Center organized the gala dinner in tribute to Morocco’s Alouite royal family, the “Dynasty of Tolerance.”

French Moroccan designer Nora Sahraoui was set to bring her Moroccan flair to Miami Modest Fashion Week. The event’s organizers chose the Xela Fashion founder and CEO as creative director and lead designer at the first modest fashion show to hit the US. The three-day event was dedicated to promoting inclusivity and choice in the fashion industry, according to the show’s founder Norsham Mohamed-Garcia.