

# Africa Trends

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## Editor's Note

Over the past two months, tensions have been high in the post-revolution environments of Egypt and Libya. Ahead of large-scale protests by secular groups scheduled for June 30, the one-year anniversary of President Mohamed Morsi taking office, the Egyptian army warned that it would be obliged to intervene on the side of protesters if violence escalated in the country. In Libya, internal insecurity persisted following the passage of a political isolation law barring members of the former government from serving in the administration.

In a development that could lead to a shift in regional power dynamics, South Sudan is set to sign the Entebbe Agreement, making it the seventh riparian country to sign the agreement on sharing the Nile waters. The agreement will replace a colonial-era law that directed most of the River Nile's waters to Egypt and Sudan. The UN, meanwhile, has expressed concern over the continuing instability in Sudan's Darfur region; recent inter-communal violence has hindered the work of the joint African Union-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID).

Amidst intensified violence involving the Boko Haram group in Nigeria's north-eastern regions, the Indian High Commission in the country urged Indian nationals to maintain caution. Neighbouring Cameroon is facing a refugee crisis as a result of Nigerians fleeing violence.

Rise in maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea has driven the heads of state of central and western African countries to appeal for the creation of an international naval force to combat it. Indian sailors traveling through the Gulf of Guinea have been warned about the rise in attacks in the region.

India's Export-Import Bank (EXIM) has approved a US\$300 million worth credit line to Ethiopia to assist in the construction of a railway link that will improve connectivity with neighbouring Djibouti and boost growth in the country. In other economic developments, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) have agreed to buy all of Videocon Industries' shares in a Mozambican gas field that is estimated to hold around 65 trillion cubic feet of gas resources. India's Bharti Airtel is also set to invest up to US\$125 million in Gabon to develop ICT business training programmes over the next three years. Meanwhile, Japan announced a five-year aid package to African countries that will total US\$32 billion to support human resource development, promote universal health coverage, and nurture the agricultural sector in Africa. Japan has indicated its desire to shift from seeing Africa as an aid recipient to a strong economic and investment partner.

We hope you find this issue useful!

## Country Watch

### LIBYA: A CASE OF REVOLUTION GONE AWRY?

Post-Gaddafi Libya is in a phase of difficult transition. Lack of well-established political framework, threat of uncontrolled armed militias and conflicting regional and tribal identities and interests are making it extremely difficult for Libya to move ahead.

**RAJEEV AGARWAL\***

#### Introduction

The winds of 'Arab Spring' protests engulfed Libya along with other countries in the region including Tunisia and Egypt in early 2011. While the dictators in Tunisia and Egypt were forced out soon, Libya under Gaddafi stood firm and undertook mass reprisals against its own protesting population leading to international outrage, UN Security Council sanctions and an international military campaign to protect its population. Even the Arab League came on board to impose sanctions and authorise military action. Gaddafi was ousted after a bloody battle and finally killed in October 2011 bringing a brutal regime to an end. But, more than two years after the revolution and a year after successful elections, Libya still seems far from finding the perfect solution for governing this vast North African country.

Concerns regarding the new form of government, the new constitution, economic revival, reining in the uncontrolled armed groups and above all, finding an all inclusive solution for the country, remain. Rather, with every passing day, fissures within the government and society groups seem to be widening. In such a situation one ponders whether the Libyan revolution has lost focus and is leading the country adrift. As past experience in Iraq and Afghanistan has shown, it is easier to overthrow a tyrant regime but very difficult to bring about stability. Also, long standing dictatorial regimes, when overthrown, leave a vacuum of political institutions which are difficult to build or revive in the immediate aftermath leading to periods of uncertainty, chaos and even civil war.

Vast oil resources have made Libya economically rich and attractive for foreign investment. But the total lack of government structures during the four decades of Gaddafi rule, its vast geographical expanse that virtually divides the country into three distinct regions, the pronounced economic disparity within the three regions and the presence of uncontrolled armed militia make Libya a difficult nation to govern. This brief attempts to examine major issues facing Libya and its path to recovery in post Gaddafi era.

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## The Challenge of Geography and Tribal Dynamics

Libya has an estimated 140 tribes, only about 30 of which are viewed as having any real significance. These live in the three prominent geographical zones. These are *Tripolitania*, site of the capital city Tripoli on the Mediterranean coast in north-western Libya; *Cyrenaica*, in Eastern Libya, which touches the Mediterranean but also extends into the Sahara and serves as home to Benghazi (the alternate capital during the revolution); and *Fezzan*, the only region located entirely in the desert.

*Tripolitania* is more oriented towards the western Islamic world and the 'Maghreb' while *Cyrenaica* has long been oriented toward Egypt and the eastern Islamic world. Much of Libya's oil and natural gas resources lie within the region of Cyrenaica but the revenues have long been utilised by the rulers in Tripolitania leading to regional disparity and discontent. Cyrenaica where the uprising began is a region that Gaddafi or any government in Tripolitania have always struggled to control. This is mainly due to its geography, as a vast stretch of desert and the Gulf of Sidra separate the regions. A very small percentage of the Libyan population lives in the region of *Fezzan*. The desert simply does not allow a large population to develop. Further, Libya's tribal groups are divided into two overarching categories: the coastal tribes residing mostly in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, and the interior tribes which mostly live in Fezzan. Most of the populace in Libya falls into the first category. While the Libyan people are almost entirely Muslim and predominantly Arab, there are several divisions among them. These include ethnic differences in the form of Berbers in the Nafusa Mountains; the Tuaregs in the south western desert region of Fezzan; and the Toubou in the Cyrenaican portion of the Sahara desert.

**... long standing dictatorial regimes, when overthrown, leave a vacuum of political institutions which are difficult to build or revive in the immediate aftermath leading to periods of uncertainty, chaos and even civil war.**

These contrasting and often conflicting geographical and tribal identities and interests have been the biggest problems confronting the Libyan rebels as they made the transition from rebels to rulers - the most prominent of these fault lines being the one that exist between the regions of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica. Vastly different geographical regions coupled with complex tribal dynamics are thus obstructing Libya's march to peace and political stability.

### Political Instability- The Root Cause

One of the other primary reasons for Libya's instability has been its failure to find a suitable political governance model. The unity of the rebels was based upon the common desire to oust Gaddafi. Post Gaddafi, the rebels lack this unifying factor and the alliances are fracturing as individual/tribal interests surface in the absence of a common goal/enemy. Each group feels that it is entitled to a certain degree of political authority, economic reward and power in the new Libya. Those who manned the front lines of Brega were the closest geographically to both Benghazi and the bulk of Libya's oil fields and look upon themselves as the leaders of the revolution. Rebels who fought in Misurata too seek recognition. The Berbers in the Nafusa mountains as well as the Arab rebels in Zawiya and Zabrata are looking for rewards. There is then strong mistrust and suspicion between Tripoli and Bengazi who would not like the other to dominate the national political spectrum.

### NTC and GNC

The National Transitional Council (NTC) was formed early in the revolution by the former Libyan

justice minister, Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, who defected from the government on 21 Feb, 2011 and declared the establishment of a “transitional government”. He was joined by others like former interior minister Gen. Abdel Fattah Younis, and the NTC officially came into being on 06 March 2011. The NTC governed Libya for a period of ten months after the end of the war, and held elections to the General National Congress (GNC) on 7 July 2012. The liberal coalition under the National Forces Alliance (NFA), led by interim Prime Minister Mahmoud Jibril won 39 out of the 80 seats reserved for political parties. Mustafa AG Abushagur was elected prime minister on 13 September, but he was soon voted out by the Parliament<sup>1</sup> sparking off a crisis. The GNC thereafter elected and accepted Ali Zeidan as prime minister, and the formation of the new government was completed on 31 October 2012. However, the government led by Zeidan has been far from stable. It is beset with deep divisions within the 200 members who come from very different backgrounds, and most of whom have never been exposed to democratic politics. Moreover, the

**Libya thus faces multiple challenges before it can truly embark on the path to peace and stability. Political reforms and security remain the primary concerns.**

distribution of seats sowed the seeds of discontent. The oil rich region of Cyrenaica has only 60 seats as compared to the 100 seats allocated to the western region of Tripolitania with the South making up the balance 40 sets. The composition of the GNC too is tricky. The majority of members do not belong to supposed liberal bloc of Mahmoud Jibril’s NFA. The NFA could muster the required 80 seats only by coordinating with other blocs. Far from delivering stable governance, the interim government under GNC has fail to deliver on its primary task; that of drafting a new constitution for the country. The Political Isolation Law passed by GNC on 05 May 2013<sup>2</sup> has further deepened the divide in the government. It bars

anyone who held a senior position under Gaddafi from being a part of the government. Following this, the president of the GNC resigned making way for the election of Nouri Abusahmain, from minority Berber tribe on 25 June 2013. There have been calls for the resignation of the Prime Minister Zidan too, as he was a diplomat under Gaddafi government before he defected in 1980.

### *The New Constitution*

As stated earlier, one of the primary tasks of the GNC was to draft a new constitution. However, far from drafting the constitution, GNC has not been even able to decide on the formation of the committee to draft the constitution. Libyans are frustrated and say this is hindering the political process from moving forward as also from disbanding and controlling the armed militia. One of the biggest disagreements is whether the 60 member drafting committee should be elected or appointed by the country’s new parliament, the General National Congress. There is also, lack of agreement on how to make the process inclusive to ensure that Libya’s three regions and women have equal opportunities.

There has been some forward movement when the GNC finally issued a constitutional amendment on 10 April 2013<sup>3</sup> declaring that the 60 member Constitution Drafting Committee would be directly elected by the people. However the method of selection remains to be finalised. The challenge of representing all of Libya in the constituent assembly is huge. Regional tensions, equal representation for the provinces, representation of ethnic and linguistic groups as well as women remains critical. To make matters more complicated, GNC has appointed a committee to draft an election law which will lay down the rules and parameters for election to the constituent assembly. The committee has 18 members<sup>4</sup>, divided among the country’s three regions: three GNC members (one each from east, west, and south), plus 15 non-GNC experts. Although it was to complete its task by 20 May, 2013, the report is still awaited.

The delay is increasing the pressure on GNC and calls for dissolution of the government and holding of fresh elections are becoming more insistent. Clearly, the political process remains a huge challenge for Libya.

### **Rise of Armed Militia**

Security has remained one of the major challenges for the interim government in Libya. The attack on US Consulate in Benghazi killing the US ambassador<sup>5</sup> on 11 September 2012 and nationwide anti US riots following an anti Islamic film only highlighted the fragile situation in the country. Hundreds of armed militias that fought against Gaddafi's repressive regime now pose the greatest security threat in Libya.

The NTC, in an effort to rein them in had included some of them in the government post July 2011. In the east of the country, Benghazi has several militias which were placed under the ministry of defence's control. "The Martyrs of the 17 February Brigade" are considered to be the biggest and best armed militia in eastern Libya. The Martyr Rafallah Shahati battalions named after one of the first Libyans to die while fighting Gaddafi's forces in March 2011 in Benghazi took part in securing the national elections and other ministry of defence operations in eastern Libya. The Libya Shield Force grouping of militias appears to be the most widely-deployed across Libya and also reports to the Libyan defence ministry. In the West, the Al-Zintan Revolutionaries' Military Council is best known for detaining Saif al-Islam Gaddafi after his capture in November 2011. One of its leaders, Osama al-Juwali, is now the Libyan defence minister. Similar is the case of other militia groups like Sadun al-Suwayli Brigade, Al-Sawaiq Brigade, Al-Qaqa Brigade etc.

However post the attack outside the headquarters of the First Brigade of the Libya Shield forces (Deraa 1) in the Sidi Khalifa district in eastern Benghazi on 09 June 2013<sup>6</sup>, the GNC has decided not only to disband all militia brigades supporting the government but also all militia groups<sup>7</sup>. This move could well backfire as these militias could then run their own writ in their respective areas. The Libyan police and army cannot match the firepower and numbers of these militias. A clear example of this was when the heavily armed private militias, surrounded the foreign and justice ministry offices in Tripoli on 29-30 April<sup>8</sup> demanding passing of a law banning Gaddafi era officials from holding office in current government. The GNC virtually capitulated to their coercion, and passed the Political Isolation Law on 05 May.

The attack on French Embassy on 23 May<sup>9</sup>, violence in Tripoli and Benghazi in May (After passing of Political Isolation Law), a car bomb explosion near a hospital in Benghazi on 13 May<sup>10</sup> and other incidents of continued unrest prompted Britain to announce the reduction of its diplomatic staff in Tripoli in May which was soon followed by the US. In fact, the US even alerted two elite military units in Europe to be on standby to respond to the deteriorating security situation in Tripoli<sup>11</sup>. This situation provided space and opportunity to extremist groups such as Ansar al-Sharia, which attacked the US Consulate in Benghazi to operate with impunity. It has also facilitated the spread of weapons and militants from and through Libya, which was seen in the Mali crisis, the discovery and capture of weapons in Sinai Desert across Egypt-Israel border and even in the attack on Algeria's gas facility in January this year<sup>12</sup>.

The presence of armed militia remains a primary threat to Libya's security. It will require a major effort not only to rein them in, but a major focus also to raise, train and equip the police and armed forces to take over the security in the country.

## Conclusion

Libya thus faces multiple challenges before it can truly embark on the path to peace and stability. Political reforms and security remain the primary concerns. As the committee for drafting the election law for the election of constituent assembly has now been formed, there is some hope of the political process moving forward. Security concerns including the disbanding of armed militia may not be so easily achieved and international assistance could possibly be required for this.

The recent unrest in Egypt has shown that the overthrowing of dictators may well have been achieved but the revival of the state, post trauma is a long drawn and often bloody process. Libya could well take a cue from the unrest in neighbouring Egypt and ensure that the processes evolved are inclusive and incorporate demands of all groups in the society, an essential parameter in a vastly divergent country as Libya.

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- <sup>1</sup> Esam Mohamed, "Mustafa Abushahur, Libya Prime Minister, Voted For Removal By Parliament", *Huffington Post*, July 10, 2013 at [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/07/mustafa-abushahur-libya-prime-minister\\_n\\_1946633.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/10/07/mustafa-abushahur-libya-prime-minister_n_1946633.html)
  - <sup>2</sup> "Political Isolation Law passed overwhelmingly", *Libya Herald*, May 5, 2013 at <http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/05/05/political-isolation-law-passed-overwhelmingly/>
  - <sup>3</sup> "The Constitutional Commission will be elected and the political isolation law is constitutional, rules Congress", *Libya Herald*, April 11, 2013 at <http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/04/11/the-constituent-assembly-will-be-elected-and-the-political-isolation-law-is-constitutional-rules-congress/>
  - <sup>4</sup> "Libya's Constitutional Process: Moving Forward?", *Atlantic Council*, April 22, 2013 at <http://www.acus.org/viewpoint/libya%E2%80%99s-constitutional-process-moving-forward>
  - <sup>5</sup> "US ambassadors killed in the line of duty", *Fox News*, September 12, 2012 at <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2012/09/12/us-ambassadors-killed-in-line-duty/>
  - <sup>6</sup> "Benghazi Libya Shield Protests: at least 27 dead", *Libya Herald*, June 9, 2013 at <http://www.libyaherald.com/2013/06/09/benghazi-libya-shield-protests-at-least-27-dead/>

## Viewpoint

### INDIA-NIGERIA RELATIONS: ON THE UPSWING

India's ties with Nigeria, Africa's most populous country are quite comprehensive and recent years have witnessed expansion of the relationship in economic, as well as, political spheres. However, there is still considerable scope for enhancement of the relationship.

**RUCHITA BERI\***

India's relations with Nigeria are on the upswing. Recent reports suggest that India has overtaken United States to become the top importer of Nigerian crude oil and that India's telecom provider, Bharti-Airtel, may soon become Nigeria's the second largest mobile phone company.<sup>1</sup> Moreover India's ties with Nigeria, Africa's most populous country are quite comprehensive and not limited to the commercial sector.

*Historical Political Connection:* India's relations with Nigeria predate political independence. The migration of Indians to Nigeria under the system of indentured labour during the British rule marked the beginning of an informal relationship. At the same time the Nigerian nationalists were inspired by the Indian struggle for independence. In contrast to many African states, Nigerians followed a non-violent method in their freedom struggle. The deep influence of India on Nigeria was expounded by President Shebu Shaguri during a visit to India in 1983 when he said: "We come to salute India, the largest democracy in the world. We also come to learn from India as we have been learning....we followed your example and your model."<sup>2</sup>

Diplomatic relations between India and Nigeria were established in 1958 two years prior to Nigerian independence. The visit of Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962 paved way for close relations between India and Nigeria. In the political realm, the open support of India's position by Nigeria during the Sino-India conflict of 1962 further strengthened relations. At the same time India's active support for the anti-apartheid and liberation struggle in Africa from 1960s to 1980s, considered a foreign policy priority within Nigeria, was deeply appreciated by successive Nigerian governments. However despite the potential, the India- Nigeria relationship failed to thrive and it was only in the late 1990s that a change was discerned.<sup>3</sup> In 1995, India awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development to President General Olusengun Obasanjo who served as Nigeria's president twice from 1976 to 79 and 1999 to 2007 respectively. During his first tenure as president, he won considerable respect in Nigeria and across the world when he transferred power to a democratically elected government in 1979. President Obasanjo was also the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations in 2000.<sup>4</sup>

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In the last decade, a number of high level visits have been made to Nigeria. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Nigeria in December 2003 to participate in the CHOGM summit. Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker Lok Sabha, visited Abuja in 2006. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited Nigeria in October 2007. Various Indian cabinet ministers including Anand Sharma, Murli Deora, Salman Khurshid and RPN Singh have visited Abuja in the last few years.

*Significant Socio-Cultural Cooperation:* India and Nigeria have cooperated in socio-cultural areas too. Since independence a number of Indian teachers have been working in Nigerian schools and universities. The numbers peaked in the 1970s but declined after Nigerian President General Buhari's in the 1980s introduced the policy to source Nigerian nationals for the public sector jobs, particularly, in health and education. India has offered scholarships to Nigerian students since the 1960s.<sup>5</sup> While, United States and Europe are the preferred destination of Nigerians for higher

**While, United States and Europe are the preferred destination of Nigerians for higher studies, the relatively lower costs have made India an attractive option.**

studies, the relatively lower costs have made India an attractive option - around 5,000 Nigerians are studying in India.<sup>6</sup> While many Nigerians use their own funds, the government has provided assistance under the Special Commonwealth African Assistance Plan and the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC). After the Second Africa India Forum Summit held in May 2011, the number of the fellowships available to Nigerians for technical training in India, under the ITEC programme was raised from 130 to 145. Apart from government sponsored training Indian companies in the information technology (IT) field such as Infosys, NIIT and Aptech have trained close to 150,000 Nigerians.<sup>7</sup> The

presence of 35,000 people of Indian origin in Nigeria adds to the cultural linkages.

*Expanding Economic Ties:* Economic cooperation is a critical component of India's relations with Nigeria. Currently, Nigeria is India's largest trading partner in Africa. Moreover India is the second largest trade partner of Nigeria and the largest investor with over a hundred Indian companies in the country. The current volume of trade between Nigeria and India is US\$17.3 billion (2011-12). There is no doubt that the economic relationship between the two countries is dominated by the crude oil imports. It is to be noted that from 1960-1965, India imported mainly palm oil from Nigeria and subsequently palm oil was replaced by crude oil. The import of crude oil from Nigeria ceased during the 1970s which may have been due to the steep hike in the oil prices or the onset of military rule in the country. Oil imports were renewed from the mid 1990s and there was a significant spike at the turn of the century. No doubt, India's growing energy needs and its quest to diversify sources of oil supply from volatile West Asian region pushed India to develop closer ties with Nigeria. A number of Indian oil companies such as ONGC Videsh Ltd and Essar have invested in the Nigerian energy sector. On the other hand pharmaceuticals form a major portion of India's exports to Nigeria. It appears India is Nigeria's leading source of pharmaceutical imports. Apart from pharmaceuticals India exports rice, computer software, telecommunications and machinery.

**India and Nigeria are both regional powers and share a similar world view with regards to global security challenges.**

Several Indian companies have made investments in Nigeria. Way back in 1982, HMT set up Nigerian Machine Tools (NMT) with 15 per cent equity participation. Indian companies like Mecon Ltd, RITES, Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC) have been involved in consultancy and management projects in steel, railways, telecom, and small-scale industry sectors in Nigeria for several years.<sup>8</sup>

Petroleum India International (PII) has been involved in the maintenance of Port Harcourt and the Warri oil refinery. Major Indian IT companies like Infosys, Satyam, NIIT, and Aptech have signed agreements with local companies to set up training institutes in Nigeria.

*Security Cooperation:* India and Nigeria are both regional powers and share a similar world view with regards to global security challenges. They both support the idea of reform of global governance institutions such as the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation. Bilaterally, a MoU on defence cooperation was signed during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Nigeria in 2007.<sup>9</sup> However military interactions can be traced back to the 1960s. India has helped set up various military institutions including the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) at Kaduna and the Command and Staff College (CSC) at Jaji in Nigeria.<sup>10</sup> While India has deputed officers to train Nigerians, a number of Nigerian officers have also been trained over the years in Indian military institutions. These include former Nigerian presidents Olusegun Obasanjo, Ibrahim Babangida and several other top military officers. The Indian government has communication equipment worth a million dollars to Nigerian armed forces. It has also set up IT labs in Nigerian defence colleges. Capacity building has thus been the buzzword of India's security cooperation with Nigeria. There is scope of expanding this cooperation in areas such as counter terrorism. India has a long experience in countering terrorism and insurgency, while Nigeria, in recent years has been battling the rise of extremist groups such as the Boko Haram.

In conclusion, the two countries have several common factors in common: such as large populations, democratic political systems and diverse societies. Both countries also share common challenges such as terrorism, insurgency and strive for inclusive socio- economic development. Although, economic and political ties between the two countries have expanded in the last decade, there is considerable scope for enhancement of the relationship.

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- <sup>1</sup> See "India now Nigeria's biggest crude oil buyer", *LiveMint*, July 15, 2013 at <http://www.livemint.com/Industry/PovVqPyqqBUazvRzurSHJL/India-now-Nigerias-biggest-crude-oil-buyer.html>; "Airtel may become No.2 in Nigeria soon", *The Economic Times*, July 15, 2013 at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-07-15/news/40590334\\_1\\_globalcom-market-share-sunil-tirumalai](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-07-15/news/40590334_1_globalcom-market-share-sunil-tirumalai)
  - <sup>2</sup> Sulaiman Balarabe Kura, "Nigeria- India Economic, political and socio cultural relations: Critical Reflections for Continuous Mutual Co-operation", *International Journal of Asia-Pacific Studies (IJAPS)*, Volume 5, No. 1, 2009, pp. 1-31
  - <sup>3</sup> Parvathi Vasudevan, "The Changing nature of Nigeria- India relations", Chatham House, Programme Paper, December 2010, p.3 at <http://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/papers/view/109543>
  - <sup>4</sup> Amitabh Sinha, "Choosing R-Day chief guest: Behind the warm welcome, a cold strategy", *The Indian Express*, January 25, 2010 at <http://www.expressindia.com/latest-news/Choosing-RDay-chief-guest-Behind-the-warm-welcome-a-cold-strategy/571348/>
  - <sup>5</sup> Parvathi Vasudevan, p.5
  - <sup>6</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>7</sup> Mahesh Sachdeva, "From the High Commissioner's desk", in *India and Nigeria: Golden Jubilee of Fruitful Cooperation - India-Nigeria in Focus*, Abuja, 2008
  - <sup>8</sup> "Nigeria - Fact Sheet & Bilateral Cooperation", *High Commission of India in Nigeria*, 2009 at <http://www.indianhcabuja.com/Nigeria-Fact-Sheet.htm>
  - <sup>9</sup> Ibid.
  - <sup>10</sup> Kura, p. 26

## News Track

### Japan to earmark US\$32 bn in aid to African countries

Japan unveiled a new five-year aid package totalling US\$32 billion to African countries as the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) began in Yokohama on June 1. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said that Japan's strengths in the areas of human resource development, promoting universal health coverage and nurturing agriculture can be of value in fostering growth in Africa. The aid package prioritises capacity building and aims to help more than 30,000 African find jobs over the next five years. Under the plan, Japan will also establish the African Business Education (ABE) Initiative for Youth through which 1,000 young African students can study and intern in Japan. The initiatives come as Japan shifts towards seeing Africa from an aid recipient to a strong economic and investment partner. They may also be reflective of Tokyo's goals to catch up with China which runs way ahead in aid and investment on the African continent.<sup>1</sup> The package also includes US\$1 billion in humanitarian and development assistance to help stabilise the Sahel region.<sup>2</sup>

### Central, West African states call for international naval force to combat piracy

The heads of state of central and west African countries appealed for the deployment of an international naval force to combat maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, during a June summit dedicated to security in this region. The number of maritime piracy incidents reported in the Gulf of Guinea in 2012 for the first time surpasses the number of attacks in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean, according to the International Maritime Bureau (IMB). The affected countries including Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Cameroon have called for regional cooperation among the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and are pushing for a mechanism for contributory funding from each member state.<sup>3</sup>

## Northern Africa

### Algeria

#### Tunisia, Algeria to strengthen security, industrial and trade co-operation

Algeria and Tunisia will work together to tackle smuggling, build road links and connect gas supply networks across their shared border. After concluding his one-day visit to Algiers, the

<sup>1</sup> "Japan announces 32bn-dollar aid for Africa", *Kyodo News Agency*, June 1, 2013 (BBC Monitoring Global Newslines); Also see "Japan Unveils \$32bn Devt Package for Africa", *ThisDay Live*, June 2, 2013 at <http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/japan-unveils-32bn-devt-package-for-africa/149154/>

<sup>2</sup> "Abe pledges ¥100 billion to stabilize Sahel", *The Japan Times*, June 3, 2013 at <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2013/06/03/national/abe-pledges-%C2%A5100-billion-to-stabilize-sahel/#.UdEYczvg44w>

<sup>3</sup> "West, central Africa appeal for force to combat maritime piracy", *republicoftogo.com*, (in French), June 24, 2013

Tunisian Prime Minister Ali Larayedh told reporters that “there is a shared belief that the security of Algeria and Tunisia is an issue of mutual interest.”<sup>4</sup> He met with his Algerian counterpart, Abdelmalek Sellal, to discuss bilateral cooperation in countering terrorism and organised crime. Issues related to security co-operation will be further discussed at the Joint High Commission meeting scheduled for July. The visit to Algiers is Larayedh’s first official trip abroad after becoming prime minister in March. The two sides have agreed to supply energy to Tunisia and facilitate the movement of people and goods between the two countries.

### Future of Algerian leadership uncertain

The deteriorating health of Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has intensified speculation about who might be his successor in next year’s election. His hospitalisation in France amid press reports of corruption scandals implicating members of his family, has undermined speculation about the 76-year-old president running for a fourth term.<sup>5</sup> Apart from former Prime Minister Ahmed Benbitour, who has officially declared that he would run for the 2014 presidential race, no other candidate has formally announced their intention to run in the 2014 elections.<sup>6</sup> The 76-year-old, who is serving his third term as president, is seen as a key stabilising factor in the oil exporting country of 37 million people.<sup>7</sup>

## Egypt

### Egyptian army warns of possibility of intervention to prevent conflict

The army Chief General Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi has warned that the Egyptian army was obliged to intervene to stop the country from entering a “dark tunnel” of internal conflict.<sup>8</sup> Egyptians fear that the demonstrations calling for President Mohamed Morsi’s ouster will descend into violence after some of the president’s hard-line supporters vowed to “smash” them.<sup>9</sup> The comments make it clear that the military is willing to intervene on the side of the protesters if attacked by the president’s Islamist backers. Al-Sissi also urged all parties to use the June 30 protest to reach a “genuine” understanding to pacify the crisis. His comments come as Egypt’s secular groups plan mass rallies ahead of the June 30 anniversary of President Morsi coming to power.<sup>10</sup> Egypt’s

<sup>4</sup> “Tunisia, Algeria talks focus on security”, *Maghreb*, April 30, 2013 at [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/04/30/feature-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/04/30/feature-01)

<sup>5</sup> “Bouteflika’s stroke fuels Algeria leadership debate”, *Africa Review*, April 30, 2013 at <http://www.africareview.com/News/Bouteflika-stroke-fuels-Algeria-leadership-debate-/-/979180/1762510/-/lcs5jbz/-/index.html> accessed on 24/07/2013

<sup>6</sup> “Algeria: Who Will Succeed Bouteflika?” *Think Africa Press*, June 10, 2013 at <http://thinkafricapress.com/algeria/rnd-fln-who-will-succeed-bouteflika>

<sup>7</sup> “Algerian President Bouteflika in Paris hospital”, *Euro News*, April 28, 2013 at <http://www.euronews.com/2013/04/28/algerian-president-bouteflika-in-paris-hospital/>

<sup>8</sup> “Egyptian army ‘ready to intervene to stop conflict’”, *BBC*, June 23, 2013 at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-23021611>

<sup>9</sup> “Egypt army says it is ready to intervene”, *World News Australia*, June 24, 2013 at <http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1781564/Egypt-army-says-it-is-ready-to-intervene>

<sup>10</sup> “Egyptian army ‘ready to intervene to stop conflict’”, *Kigali Konnect*, June 24, 2013 at <http://www.kigalikonnect.com/article/egyptian-army-ready-to-intervene-to-stop-conflict.html>

constant instability and a continuing threat of violence have frightened away tourists and foreign investors.

## Libya

### Security crisis in Libya intensifies

Libya has witnessed a rise in internal insecurity after the May 5 passage of the controversial political isolation law, which bars Gaddafi regime members from serving in government.<sup>11</sup> Amongst several explosions that hit Benghazi, the attack on May 20 targeted the already desecrated Orthodox Church. The continuing instability has led the UK to reduce its diplomatic staff in Tripoli. The US soon followed suit, ordering the departure of non-emergency personnel from Libya. Simultaneously, Italy announced that the US was moving 200 Marines to Sicily so they could deploy them in Libya in case diplomats came under attack.<sup>12</sup>

## Morocco

### Business improves for Moroccan fish vendors after US help

The Small-Scale Fisheries Project, funded by the US Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), is improving the lives of Moroccan fish vendors, the MCC recently reported.<sup>13</sup> The MCC's compact with Morocco also provides training to fishermen on the conservation of marine resources and management of marine-protected areas, more efficient navigation and fishing equipment, improved techniques to maintain hygiene and fish quality, and safety at sea. In addition, it is constructing new landing sites, building and upgrading fishery facilities and improving fishermen's access to markets.

## South Sudan

### Regional power dynamics to shift as new Nile agreement to replace colonial-era law

South Sudan is set to sign an agreement that would replace a colonial-era law that gave most of the River Nile's waters to Egypt and Sudan.<sup>14</sup> The signing of the Cooperative Framework Agreement of the Nile Basin countries, also known as the Entebbe Agreement, is likely to be signed and ratified at the Nile Water Summit in Juba on June 20.<sup>15</sup> South Sudan's Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources Paul Mayom Akec, called the signing of the agreement as "inevitable".

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<sup>11</sup> "Libya security crisis intensifies", *Magharebia*, May 20, 2013 at [http://magharebia.com/en\\_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/05/20/feature-01](http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/05/20/feature-01)

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> "Business Improves for Moroccan Fish Vendors after U.S. Help", *United States Department of State (Washington, DC)*, June 26, 2013 at <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2013/06/20130626277686.html?CP.rss=true#axzz2XQMfU6VY>

<sup>14</sup> "South Sudan set to sign new Nile agreement", *Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency*, June 26, 2013 at <http://www.ertagov.com/news/index.php/component/k2/item/923-south-sudan-set-to-sign-new-nile-agreement>

<sup>15</sup> "South Sudan set to sign new Nile agreement", *Al Jazeera*, June 20, 2013 at <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2013/06/201362075235645727.html>

Akec added that South Sudan would implement the agreement as soon as parliament ratifies it. If signed, South Sudan will be the seventh riparian country to sign the agreement on sharing the Nile waters.<sup>16</sup> Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Burundi are the six other countries that have already signed the agreement.

## Sudan

### Darfur situation “very troubling”, says top UN official

The United Nations peacekeeping chief on Monday expressed alarm over the situation in Sudan’s western region of Darfur and urged the international community to press the warring parties involved to reach a political settlement.<sup>17</sup> Herve Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping operations noted in his report on the work of the joint African Union-United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) that inter-communal clashes in the conflict-torn region in western Sudan has recently sparked another round of deadly violence, with security restrictions hindering the efforts of peacekeepers. The clashes displaced more than 200,000 people, including 24,000 to Chad – more than last year’s total.<sup>18</sup> According to UN estimates, the 10-year old conflict in Darfur has killed close to 300,000 people and displaced around two million people.<sup>19</sup>

### Sudan downplays Juba’s pursuit of new oil pipeline

Sudan’s oil minister, Awad Ahmed al-Jaz, has asserted the difficulty of building a new pipeline to transfer South Sudan’s oil through another country and said that it is not cost effective because the south needs two pipelines not a single line. Al-Jaz, who was briefing the Sudanese community in Beijing, accused unidentified bodies of benefiting from the call for building a pipeline to transfer South Sudan’s oil, listing the natural, geographical, and security obstacles which hinders the construction of a new pipeline. In September last year, both Sudan and South Sudan signed a series of cooperation agreements, which covered oil, citizenship rights, security issues, banking, and border trade among others. Earlier this month, the Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir publicly ordered al-Jaz to immediately shut down the pipelines carrying Juba’s oil for exporting accusing it of supporting rebel groups.<sup>20</sup>

## Tunisia

### Tunisia to strengthen economic cooperation with Japan

Tunisia is set to expand economic relations with Japan following talks between the country’s caretaker president Moncef Marzouki and Japanese premier Shinzo Abe at the sidelines of the 5<sup>th</sup> International Tokyo Conference on African Development (TICAD V).

<sup>16</sup> “South Sudan set to sign new Nile agreement”, *Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency*, June 26, 2013 at <http://www.ertagov.com/news/index.php/component/k2/item/923-south-sudan-set-to-sign-new-nile-agreement>

<sup>17</sup> “Darfur situation “very troubling”, says top UN official”, *Sudan Tribune*, April 29, 2013 at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article46408>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> “Sudan downplays Juba’s pursuit of new oil pipeline”, *Sudan Tribune*, June 30, 2013 at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article47131>

Japan has been Tunisia's second largest economic partner after the EU. Japan has agreed to fund three large scale projects proposed by Tunisia, including flood prevention, seawater desalination and electricity production plants.<sup>21</sup> The bilateral cooperation will also see the establishment of a Tunisian-Japanese academic centre at the technological park of the Borj Cedria to train African scientists.<sup>22</sup>

#### China to provide health sectoral aid to Tunisia

China will sponsor US\$30 million for the construction of a hospital at the industrial city of Sfax in Tunisia. According to the Chinese ambassador Huo Zhengde, the hospital with 300 beds, will be China's largest project in Tunisia. The contribution will add on to the already existing Chinese health aid that has been extended to Tunisia since 1973.<sup>23</sup>

## Western Sahara

#### Decolonisation of Western Sahara would open up the Algerian borders for Morocco

The Algerian minister of foreign affairs declared that the support of the international community was essential for the Sahrawi people to end their 30-year struggle for freedom. The minister also emphasised the need for the establishment of a transparent framework through which the Sahrawi people can exercise their right to self determination.<sup>24</sup> Earlier, a spokesman for the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared that the Algerian borders would open up for Morocco only on the condition that Morocco upholds respect for Western Sahara and expedite the process of finding a "concrete, just and permanent solution to the situation".<sup>25</sup>

## *Western Africa*

## Ghana

#### Chinese illegal miners detained in Ghana

Ghana's immigration service detained 124 suspected illegal miners from China in the Ghanaian capital Accra in the first week of June. Ghanaian officials have said that the Chinese detainees

<sup>21</sup> "Japan to finance three large-scale projects in Tunisia", *Tunis Afrique Presse*, June 1, 2013 at <http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/politics2/8826-japan-to-finance-three-large-scale-projects-in-tunisia>

<sup>22</sup> "Japan to assist Tunisia in creation of regional academic centre of sciences and technology", *Tunis Afrique Presse*, June 3, 2013 at <http://www.tap.info.tn/en/index.php/politics2/8878-japan-to-assist-tunisia-in-creation-of-regional-academic-centre-of-sciences-and-technology>

<sup>23</sup> "China to Build New University Hospital in Tunisia", *China Daily*, June 9, 2013 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-06/08/content\\_16594075.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-06/08/content_16594075.htm)

<sup>24</sup> "Algeria requires respect for its position on Western Sahara for the reopening of its border with Morocco", *Sahara Press Service*, June 19, 2013 at <http://www.spsrasd.info/en/content/algeria-requires-respect-its-position-western-sahara-reopening-its-border-morocco>

<sup>25</sup> "Algeria seeks to make the international community more aware of urgency to find a solution that allows Saharawi people to exercise their right to self-determination", *Sahara Press Service*, June 20, 2013 at <http://www.spsrasd.info/en/content/algeria-seeks-make-international-community-more-aware-urgency-find-solution-allows-saharawi->

were involved in illegal gold mining in the country's central region of Ashanti and in areas of the western and eastern regions, with many having overstayed without legal documents. Under Ghana's laws, foreign companies are only allowed to work independently on large mines.<sup>26</sup> The detainees were released after consultations between Ghanaian and Chinese officials. Following the crackdown, more than 1,000 Chinese nationals have returned to their homes mostly in Shanglin County in south China.<sup>27</sup>

## Mali

### Turkey, Mali to strengthen economic cooperation; Mali government reaches deal with Tuareg separatist rebels

Turkey and Mali have signed a Memorandum of Understanding of the second term of the Turkey-Mali Joint Economic Commission. Bilateral talks held in the third week of June focused on negotiations for a free trade agreement between Turkey and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) of which Mali is a member. Mali's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Tieman Coulibaly, has said that Turkey's experience would be important to building peace and stability in his country. Commercial volumes between the two countries reached US\$21.3 million at the end of 2012, up from US\$5 million in 2003.<sup>28</sup>

The Malian government signed a deal with the Tuareg separatist group, the Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) on June 18. The deal will make way for the Malian military to return to the northern town of Kidal that has been held by the MNLA. The central government in Bamako has indicated it wants civilian administration and the army reinstated in the town ahead of the presidential election scheduled to be held on July 28 that will complete the democratic transition following the March 2012 coup. Delegates from the European Union and the United Nations took part as mediators to seal the agreement. Among officials in Bamako, there was strong opposition to making any concessions to the MNLA that is blamed by many for facilitating the takeover of northern Mali by extremist groups last year. Arrest warrants have been issued against a number of MNLA leaders accused of committing war crimes during the crisis.<sup>29</sup>

## Nigeria

### Indian government issues travel advisory to citizens

The Indian High Commission in Nigeria has urged Indian nationals living in the country to be cautious while visiting the troubled north-eastern regions where a state of emergency was declared

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<sup>26</sup> "124 suspected Chinese illegal miners arrested in Ghana", *China Daily*, June 6, 2013 at [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-06/06/content\\_16573156.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-06/06/content_16573156.htm)

<sup>27</sup> "China says 1000 nationals return home after Ghana mining crackdown", *Ghana Business News (GBN)*, June 14, 2013 at <http://www.ghanabusinessnews.com/2013/06/14/china-says-1000-nationals-return-home-after-ghana-mining-crackdown/>

<sup>28</sup> "Turkey and Mali sign MoU for economic cooperation", *Anadolu Agency*, June 20, 2013 at <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/195226-turkey-and-mali-sign-mou-for-economic-cooperation>

<sup>29</sup> "Mali says reaches deal with Tuareg rebels", *Reuters*, June 18, 2013 at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/18/us-mali-rebels-idUSBRE95H0LL20130618>; Also see "Bamako, Tuaregs sign accord paving way for Mali vote", *ReliefWeb*, June 18, 2013 at <http://reliefweb.int/report/mali/mali-ready-sign-deal-tuareg-rebels>

in May. On the Commissions' website, the government cautioned Indian nationals living in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa states to "to weigh their options and consider relocation until the security situation settles down". Emergency rule was declared in these three states on May 14 after the Boko Haram group intensified violent activities there. Indians in these states have also been advised to keep identity papers handy to show to security agencies on demand, and maintain stocks of essential supplies such as medicines, water, food and fuel. Indian sailors travelling through the Gulf of Guinea have also been warned about the rise in piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.<sup>30</sup>

## *Eastern Africa*

### Comoros

#### **Comoros becomes the most recent to ratify Nagoya Protocol**

Comoros has ratified the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This brings the total number of ratifications of the Nagoya Protocol to 18. Mongolia and Syria are the other two who have recently ratified the Protocol among others, including India. The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force on the 90th day after the date of deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also called on all the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to ratify the Protocol.<sup>31</sup>

### Djibouti

#### **Logistics hub for humanitarian operations being constructed in Djibouti**

With the support of the governments of Djibouti, Canada and Finland, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) officially launched the first phase of building a humanitarian logistics base intended to improve storage and transport of humanitarian assistance across the Horn of Africa. The new hub, being built in the vicinity of the Djibouti port, will enable WFP and other humanitarian agencies to deliver assistance more efficiently and cost-effectively. The partnership among the WFP, the governments of Canada and Finland and the national and international private sector is being seen as a positive step toward encouraging private sector engagement by the Government of Djibouti. The construction of the structure is expected to be completed by 2015 which would eventually ease the flow of assistance not only to Ethiopia and Djibouti, but also to Sudan, South Sudan, Kenya and Somalia.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> "India warns citizens against travelling to 3 Nigerian states", *The Economic Times*, June 6, 2013 at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-06-06/news/39788646\\_1\\_indian-high-commission-security-situation-boko-haram](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-06-06/news/39788646_1_indian-high-commission-security-situation-boko-haram); Text of security advisory issued by the Indian High Commission in Nigeria is available at <http://www.indianhcabuja.com/>

<sup>31</sup> "Comoros ratifies Nagoya Protocol", *Africa Science News*, June 6, 2013 at [http://www.africasciencenews.org/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=833:comoros-ratifies-nagoya-protocol&catid=52:environment&Itemid=115](http://www.africasciencenews.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=833:comoros-ratifies-nagoya-protocol&catid=52:environment&Itemid=115)

<sup>32</sup> "Construction starts on Djibouti Logistics Hub for humanitarian operations in Horn of Africa", *World Food Programme*, June 24, 2013 at <http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/construction-starts-djibouti-logistics-hub-humanitarian-operations-horn-africa>

## Eritrea

### Afar refugees call for UN protection against “genocide”; Confucius Institute in Eritrea

An estimated 3,000 Afar refugees demonstrated at the Berahle refugee camp in Ethiopia, close to the Eritrean border, to protest against what they allege is genocide being committed against their community by the totalitarian Asmara government. The declaration by the refugees called on the United Nations and the international community to protect Eritrean Afars from ethnic cleansing. Eritrea is also referred as “The North Korea of Africa”, as it is a one party state ruled by the Popular Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ) since the country got independence from Ethiopia in 1993.<sup>33</sup>

The Confucius Institute of China has been inaugurated in Asmara. Eritrean authorities accepted that the relationship between Eritrea and China has shown visible development, especially in education and culture. The number of Eritrean youths being sent to China for further education is among the indicators of the growing relations of partnership, and the opening of the institute is expected to foster the collaboration between the two countries.<sup>34</sup>

## Ethiopia

### US\$300 mn loan to Ethiopia by Indian Exim Bank; Ethiopia, Egypt agree for tripartite consultations on Nile project including Sudan

Paving the way for construction of a railway line linking Ethiopia to a port city in neighbouring Djibouti, the Indian Export-Import (Exim) Bank has approved a US\$300 million worth line of credit to the country. The loan approval had been under discussion since the visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to Ethiopia in 2010 under the African Union Region Development Scheme initiated by India. The proposed railway link is expected to improve regional connectivity and boost growth in Ethiopia.<sup>35</sup>

Ethiopia and Egypt agreed, after weeks of verbal confrontations, to bring down the tension over Nile water and to engage in further tripartite consultations, which include Sudan, on impacts of the construction of a controversial dam. The Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Minister, Tedros Adhanom, and his Egyptian counterpart Mohamed Kamel Amr have said that they agreed to launch consultations to resolve existing differences and misunderstandings over Ethiopia’s giant Nile Dam project. The consultations will take place at both the technical and political level in order that affected countries implement the final findings and recommendations forwarded by the international panel of experts.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> “End “genocide” against Afars, Eritrean refugees urge”, *Sudan Tribune*, May 28, 2013 at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article46726>

<sup>34</sup> “Confucius Institute Opens in Asmara”, *Shabait.com*, June 6, 2013 at <http://www.shabait.com/news/local-news/13696-confucius-institute-opens-in-asmara>

<sup>35</sup> “Exim Bank approves \$300 million loan to Ethiopia”, *The Indian Express*, June 15, 2013 at <http://newindianexpress.com/business/news/Exim-Bank-approves-300-million-loan-to-Ethiopia/2013/06/15/article1636419.ece>

<sup>36</sup> “Ethiopia, Egypt Ease Tensions over Nile Dam, Agree to Hold Tripartite Talks Including Sudan”, *Sudan Tribune*, June 18, 2013 at <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article46996>

## Kenya

### **Somalia talks in London will be joined by Kenyan President Kenyatta; African Union plea on Kenyan cases rejected by ICC**

Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta was invited to the donor conference on Somalia in the UK that began on May 7, Kenya's *The Standard* reported. British High Commissioner to Kenya Christian Turner delivered a formal invitation from Prime Minister David Cameron. The invitation marked a departure from UK policy to have only essential contact with people facing charges before the International Criminal Court. Kenyatta, Deputy President William Ruto and radio presenter Joshua Arap Sang have been charged with human rights violations in the 2007-08 post-election violence in Kenya. Kenya has nearly 5,000 troops participating in the African Union Mission in Somalia, and hosts more Somali refugees than any other nation.<sup>37</sup>

The ICC process is flawed according to African leaders. The ICC has however dismissed a resolution made by the AU to have the cases against President Uhuru and his deputy William Ruto referred to local courts. The Heads of State had passed a resolution saying that Kenya has a credible judiciary capable of hearing and determining the cases impartially.<sup>38</sup>

## Mozambique

### **Mozambican President visits China; ONGC, Oil India Ltd buy Videocon stakes in US\$2.5 bn in Mozambican gas field; Mozambique and Japan sign investment protection agreement; Japan exempts US\$83 mn debt to Mozambique**

Armando Guebuza, the President of Mozambique, concluded his week-long visit to China on May 19. During his visit, he met with several senior Chinese political and administrative figures and business leaders. Rejecting allegations that China was re-colonising Africa, he pointed out that the country is a friend of Mozambique which has already proven its intention to build a relationship based on mutual gains. He had a large business delegation with him and a list of projects proposed for Chinese investment. Most of these projects are for the construction of roads, railway lines and ports throughout Mozambique. Others are related to building of schools, polytechnics and institutions of higher education.<sup>39</sup>

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd (OIL) will buy Videocon Industries' 10 per cent stake in a giant Mozambique gas field for about US\$2.5 billion. This will be a joint venture of ONGC and OIL. The designated offshore Area 1 may hold as much as 65 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of gas resources. There will be a 60-40 per cent partnership between ONGC Videsh (OVL) and OIL. OVL and OIL have signed a definitive agreement with Videocon Mauritius

<sup>37</sup> "Kenyan President Kenyatta to Join Somalia Talks in London", *Sabahi*, May 5, 2013 at [http://sabahionline.com/en\\_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/05/newsbrief-04](http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/05/newsbrief-04)

<sup>38</sup> "ICC Rejects AU's Plea on Kenyan Cases", *The Star*, May 28, 2013 at <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-121971/icc-rejects-aus-plea-kenyan-cases>

<sup>39</sup> "President Guebuza visits China in search of investment", *All Africa*, May 27, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201305280274.html>

Energy Ltd to acquire all of its shares in Videocon Mozambique Rovuma 1 Ltd for US\$2,475 million.<sup>40</sup>

Mozambique has signed a historic agreement for the protection of investments with Japan. This is the first agreement of its kind signed by Japan in sub-Saharan Africa. The agreement was signed at the margins of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held in Yokohama in June. It is expected to stimulate flow of Japanese investment to various sectors like infrastructure, agriculture and agro-industry. The transfer of technology as per the agreement may contribute to achieve the Mozambique's goal of above 8 per cent economic growth rate in the next five to ten years.<sup>41</sup>

The Japanese government has exempted US\$83.81 million of debt owed by Mozambique. This debt exemption means that the Mozambican government can reallocate its savings to some priority sectors. The Japanese government took the decision during the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). During the conference, Japan pledged to promote development in the areas of infrastructure, energy, trade, education, health, environment, investment and training. The Mozambican government feels that, with the assistance of Japan, Mozambique can reduce social disparities and enhance its strategic role in the process of regional integration in the medium term.<sup>42</sup>

## Rwanda

### Rwanda builds strong economic image; Mali UN force to be headed by Rwandan

The Rwandan economy is performing well owing to a strong government and anti-corruption stance. Rwanda has become one of the world's best performing economies but still suffers from a tarnished reputation prompted by the ethnic conflict in early 1990s. The country has the third best rank in Africa on the World Bank's ease of doing business rankings, just below Mauritius and South Africa. It also has a free health care system that covers about 90 per cent of the population. President Paul Kagame wishes to turn the country into the 'Singapore of Africa'. As part of its strategy, the tiny African nation wants to reduce its reliance on agriculture and turn itself into a service economy and a conference hub.<sup>43</sup>

Major General Jean Bosco Kazura has been appointed by the United Nations to head the UN force yet to be established in Mali. General Kazura's appointment was based on his experience in peacekeeping missions. He was Deputy Force Commander of the African Union in Darfur before the deployment of peacekeepers. He will be responsible for 12,600 troops deployed in Northern Mali; the majority of them will come from the African force already in Mali. The appointment is

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<sup>40</sup> "ONGC, Oil India in \$2.5 bn deal for Videocon stake in Mozambique field", *NDTV Profit*, June 25, 2013 at <http://profit.ndtv.com/news/industries/article-ongc-oil-india-in-2-5-bn-deal-for-videocon-stake-in-mozambique-field-323705>

<sup>41</sup> "Mozambique and Japan sign historic agreement", *AllAfrica*, June 2, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201306060896.html>

<sup>42</sup> "Japan forgives US\$83 million of debt", *AllAfrica*, June 17, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201306181246.html>

<sup>43</sup> "Rwanda is building a strong economic reputation", *The Telegraph*, June 24, 2013 at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/empat-money/10119102/Rwanda-is-building-a-strong-economic-reputation.html>

being taken by the Rwandans as proof that the UN recognises the Rwanda Defence Forces to be among the most efficient and disciplined on the continent.<sup>44</sup>

## Seychelles

### Visa waiver agreement between Seychelles and China; Seychelles becomes the fourth member of 'East 3 Route' initiative

After years of diplomatic talks, Seychelles has become only the second country in the world and the first in Africa to sign a visa waiver agreement with the People's Republic of China. Seychelles' President James Michel called the agreement a "milestone in relations between Seychelles and China" which will develop people-to-people relations between the two countries. A reciprocal agreement will be announced as soon as it passes the awaited legal processing through the Chinese parliament. Visa waiver agreements are signed to enhance economic, cultural and humanitarian ties, and this one comes at a time when Seychelles looks to Asia for more trade, investment and tourism opportunities.<sup>45</sup>

Seychelles became the fourth member of the 'East 3 Route' initiative by South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique at the body's ministerial meeting held in the South African port city of Durban on May 12. The focus of the initiative is to provide both tourists and investors an opportunity to explore avenues in member countries. The 'East 3 Route' was spearheaded in 1998 by former South African President Nelson Mandela, with a view to promote eco-tourism development, tapping into the region's exciting topographical landmarks. It also focuses on the cultural and historical heritage of the region.<sup>46</sup>

## Somalia

### Japan and AU organise special conference on Somalia

A conference on Somalia was organised by Japan and the African Union in Yokohama on May 31. It aimed at complementing the various initiatives taken on the future of Somalia. The conference was attended by several African heads of states and executives. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called upon the international community to support the Government of Somalia on the basis of its six pillar policies. He stated Japan's readiness in engaging Somalia to provide bilateral as well as multilateral support in the areas of security, economic revitalisation and delivery of basic services.<sup>47</sup>

## Uganda

### Increase in LRA attacks on civilians

<sup>44</sup> "Rwandan general to head UN force in Mali", *News of Rwanda*, June 11, 2013 at <http://www.newsforwanda.com/irembo/19035/rwandan-general-to-head-un-force-in-mali/>

<sup>45</sup> "Seychelles signs historic visa waiver agreement with China", *Seychelles Nation*, May 7, 2013 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=31407>

<sup>46</sup> "Seychelles joins 'East 3 Route' initiative of Southern Africa", *Seychelles Nation*, May 25, 2013 at <http://www.nation.sc/index.php?art=31628>

<sup>47</sup> "Special Conference on Somalia happens in Japan", *Ethiopian Radio and Television Agency*, May 31, 2013 at <http://www.ertagov.com/news/index.php/component/k2/item/766-special-conference-on-somalia-happens-in-japan>

According to a report, security concerns of civilians in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR) and Uganda has risen due to increasing attacks by the Lords' Resistance Army (LRA) against civilians. The LRA committed 58 attacks between January and March 2013 leaving 28 civilians dead and 79 abducted. Most of the violent attacks and killings, according to the report released by the LRA Crisis Tracker, were carried out in DRC and CAR. Seventy two per cent of the rebel attacks took place in DRC and 28 per cent in CAR. However, the report does not explain the rise in the attacks.<sup>48</sup>

## Tanzania

### **EU commits US\$500 mn budget support to Tanzania; Investment promotion and protection pact signed by Tanzania and Canada; Controversy on Indian medicine in Zanzibar**

Over US\$500 million General Budget Support (GBS) has been committed by the European Union (EU) to Tanzania for the forthcoming 2013-14 financial year. The Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania, who is also the EU chairperson for GBS, has said that the EU would continue to extend its GBS to the government of Tanzania. Between 2006 and 2011, EU development partners have made resource contributions of almost US\$5,000 million. The EU has been a unique economic and political partner and the world's largest contributor of official aid to Africa. New plans are coming up to increase its contributions to Africa in the future.<sup>49</sup>

A co-operation agreement designed to promote and create favourable investment conditions between Tanzania and Canada has been signed. This is a foreign investment promotion and protection agreement strengthening economic ties between the two countries. It promotes both local and foreign investments. The Tanzanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation Bernard Membe and Mr John Baird, his Canadian counterpart, signed the agreement. This levels the playing field and is a win-win case for the two countries. Greater market predictability is also expected as the pact provides businesses with greater investment confidence. It is the result of a long six-round negotiation process that took place between 2007 and 2012.<sup>50</sup>

Around 6,000 diabetic patients in Zanzibar refused to use Wosulin, a drug made by Wockhardt Limited, an India-based company. The controversy over the efficacy of the drug has forced patients to find other medicines for survival. The patients refused to use the drug after they found out that it was still on trial. They say that they cannot use the medicine until it is assured by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other experts. Doctors serving diabetes patients in Zanzibar are now reluctant to prescribe the medicine. In response, the Zanzibar Ministry of Health issued a statement defending the Wosulin drug. It clarified that the drug is registered and had been tested for quality, safety and efficacy.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>48</sup> "Kony attacks on civilians increases - report", *New Vision*, June 12, 2013 at <http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/643853-kony-attacks-on-civilians-increases-report.html>

<sup>49</sup> "EU to give govt Sh800 billion budget support", *Daily News Online*, May 7, 2013 at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/17150-eu-to-give-government-800bn-budget-support>

<sup>50</sup> "Tanzania, Canada sign agreement to promote investment", *Sabahi*, May 17, 2013 at [http://sabahionline.com/en\\_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/17/newsbrief-08](http://sabahionline.com/en_GB/articles/hoa/articles/newsbriefs/2013/05/17/newsbrief-08)

<sup>51</sup> "Indian diabetes drug sparks controversy", *Daily News Online*, May 24, 2013 at <http://www.dailynews.co.tz/index.php/local-news/17787-indian-diabetes-drug-sparks-controversy>

## Zimbabwe

### IMF agrees to re-engage with Zimbabwe

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in a major step towards normalising relations after it almost expelled Zimbabwe from membership for failure to settle its debts, has agreed to monitor Zimbabwe's economic programme. Christine Lagarde, IMF managing director, approved a staff-monitored programme (SMP) to oversee implementation of economic policies as a first step towards eligibility for external borrowing. The SMP supports the Zimbabwean authorities' comprehensive adjustment and reform programme. A successful implementation of the programme would be an important step towards helping Zimbabwe's re-engagement with the international community. It focuses on putting public finances on a sustainable course, in particular, fiscal consolidation efforts aiming to move the primary budget balance from a deficit in 2012 to a small surplus in 2013.<sup>52</sup>

## Central Africa

## Angola

### Angola and Congo-Brazzaville boost joint exploration

Angola and the Republic of Congo agreed to boost a joint and equated exploration in the Lianzi oil field at the maritime border between the Angola's northern Cabinda province and the Congolese Kouilo. It is estimated that the offshore field has reserves of 70 million barrels. The US company Chevron will invest about US\$2.5 billion in the exploration. The production is expected to start in October 2015 and the revenues will be shared in equal terms between Angola and Congo.<sup>53</sup>

## Cameroon

### Cameroon faces refugee crisis as Nigerians flee; Agreement with EU to enable opening up of markets

Following the Nigerian government's crackdown on the radical Islamic group, Boko Haram, 3,000 Nigerians fled to Cameroon. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees raised fears of a refugee crisis swamping Cameroon. Meanwhile, the UN Refugee Agency is working with the Cameroon authorities to relocate the refugees to safer locations away from the border.<sup>54</sup>

<sup>52</sup> "IMF, Zim re-engage", *The Herald*, June 17, 2013 at [http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=83013:imf-zim-re-engage&catid=41:business&Itemid=133#.UdViGKxc3LQ](http://www.herald.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=83013:imf-zim-re-engage&catid=41:business&Itemid=133#.UdViGKxc3LQ)

<sup>53</sup> "Angola and Congo boost exploration in Lianzi oil field", *Angola Press*, June 21, 2013 at [http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en\\_us/noticias/politica/2013/5/25/Angola-and-Congo-boost-exploration-Lianzi-oil-field,c0f43790-b041-42cc-9acd-194b0999b091.html](http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2013/5/25/Angola-and-Congo-boost-exploration-Lianzi-oil-field,c0f43790-b041-42cc-9acd-194b0999b091.html)

<sup>54</sup> "Crackdown on Boko Haram send Nigerian refugees into Cameroon", *Africa Review*, June 19, 2013 at <http://www.africareview.com/News/Crackdown-on-Boko-Haram-sends-Nigerian-refugees-into-Cameroon/-/979180/1888160/-/7jfyi/-/index.html>

The International Trade Commission of the European Parliament approved the terms of the interim Economic Partnership Agreement between the European Union and Cameroon. This agreement will enable Cameroon to open progressively 80 per cent of its markets to European products by 2023. In return, Cameroon will benefit from free access of its products to the European market.<sup>55</sup>

## Central African Republic

**India supports Kimberley Process decision to suspend CAR; CAR issues arrest warrant against former President**

India's Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council supported the decision of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to temporarily suspend Central African Republic (CAR) from the global body following the seizure of power by the Seleka rebel coalition. Diamantaires in country have been warned not to import rough diamonds from CAR.<sup>56</sup>

The Central African Republic issued an international arrest warrant for former president Francois Bozize who was ousted by the Seleka rebels in a March coup on charges including crimes against humanity. In addition, Bozize is also accused of 22 murders and 119 "summary executions".<sup>57</sup>

## Democratic Republic of Congo

**Chinese mining companies accused of human rights abuses in DRC; M23 rebels accuse government for rejecting peace talks; DRC and Uganda call for joint border demarcation to mitigate conflict**

According to a report by Amnesty International, Chinese mining companies operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were asked to do more to prevent their operations from leading to human rights abuses. The report has documented a number of abuses involving local and foreign companies which includes forced evictions and dangerous and exploitative working conditions. It particularly focused on the role of Chinese companies in the country that are on course to become the most influential and powerful foreign economic actors in the extractive sector in the DRC.<sup>58</sup>

Meanwhile, the M23 rebels accused the government of DRC of refusing to negotiate at peace talks held in Kampala, Uganda. The government, on the other hand, has said that there was no question of restarting talks which had already finished when the M23 left the negotiating table.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>55</sup> "Belgium: EU approves interim EPA with Cameroon", *AfriqueJet*, May 31, 2013 at <http://www.afriquejet.com/news/7327-belgium-eu-approves-interim-epa-wih-cameroon.html>

<sup>56</sup> "India supports Kimberley's decision to suspend CAR", *The Times of India*, May 31, 2013 at [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-31/surat/39655202\\_1\\_kpcs-seleka-kimberley-process](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-05-31/surat/39655202_1_kpcs-seleka-kimberley-process)

<sup>57</sup> "CAR issues warrant against ousted leader", *IOL News*, May 31, 2013 at <http://www.iol.co.za/news/africa/car-issues-warrant-against-ousted-leader-1.1525571#.UdMhYjs3Dmh>

<sup>58</sup> "Chinese mining industry contributes to abuses in Democratic Republic of the Congo", *Amnesty International*, June 19, 2013 at <http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/chinese-mining-industry-contributes-abuses-democratic-republic-congo-2013-06-19>

<sup>59</sup> "Congo-Kinshasa: M23 rebels accuse DRC government of rejecting negotiations", *AllAfrica*, June 14, 2013 at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201306171994.html>

During a dialogue, officials from Uganda and DRC called for a joint border re-demarcation of the two countries in order to coordinate and mitigate further conflicts. The call was made to address border issues ahead of the oil exploration and exploitation that is set to begin on Lake Albert.<sup>60</sup>

## Equatorial Guinea

### Country's First Lady receives award for her leadership in social development

The First Lady of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Constanca Mangue Nsue de Obiang received the Millennium Development Goals 2013 Women's Progress award for her leadership in social development in the country and for the contributions made by her to improve standard of living of Equatorial Guinea's women and children.<sup>61</sup>

## Gabon

### Chinese company embroiled in legal dispute with Gabon; India's Bharti Airtel to invest US\$125 mn in Gabon

China's top refiner Sinopec's Addax Petroleum is embroiled in a legal dispute with Gabon over an oilfield in which claims and counter claims total more than US\$1 billion. It is alleged that Addax failed to pay customs duties and comply with other laws. Addax is the second Chinese firm to face difficulties in Gabon.<sup>62</sup>

Bharti Airtel will invest US\$125 million in Gabon and talks were held with Gabon's president, Ali Bongo, for identifying possible areas of synergy with the 'Gabon Emergent' programme. Airtel intends to develop training programmes on ICT business in collaboration with local training schools and will provide ICT training to 10,000 youth over the next three years.<sup>63</sup>

## Lesotho

### Lesotho to receive US\$180 mn from World Bank

Lesotho and the World Bank signed an agreement that will provide the country US\$180 million to improve the competitiveness of the private sector through implementation of key investment climate reforms, sustainability and efficiency in public spending. This is intended to pave the way for more investment and job creation in the country.<sup>64</sup>

<sup>60</sup> "Uganda, DRC officials seek re-demarcation of border", *Daily Monitor*, June 16, 2013 at <http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Uganda-DRC-officials-seek-re-demarcation-of-border/-/688334/1884250/-/y6ku2nz/-/index.html>

<sup>61</sup> "Equatorial Guinea's First Lady awarded for her leadership in social development", *PR Newswire*, June 14, 2013 at <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/equatorial-guineas-first-lady-awarded-for-her-leadership-in-social-development-211561551.html>

<sup>62</sup> "China's Addax locked in \$1 billion oil dispute with Gabon-sources", *Reuters*, June 5, 2013 at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/06/05/gabon-china-idUSL5N0E93DB20130605>

<sup>63</sup> "Bharti Airtel to invest Rs 734 crore in Gabon", *The Economic Times*, June 19, 2013 at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-06-19/news/40070250\\_1\\_bharti-airtel-ict-telco](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-06-19/news/40070250_1_bharti-airtel-ict-telco)

<sup>64</sup> "Lesotho, W/Bank sign \$180 m private sector accord", *StarAfrica*, June 12, 2013 at <http://en.starafrica.com/news/lesotho-wbank-sign-180m-private-sector-accord.html>

## Republic of Congo

### Congo sends soldiers to CAR

The Republic of Congo sent 30 soldiers as part of the international peace mission to the Central African Republic. This followed Congolese president's promise to reinforce the Congolese contingent to maintain order in Bangui. Congo's decision to send additional soldiers is part of the commitment by the Economic Community of Central African States to have 2,000 officers for rapid intervention.<sup>65</sup>

## *Southern Africa*

## South Africa

### South Africa to enter into VAT agreements with Swaziland and Lesotho; Google invests R103 million in South Africa; South Africa to return Gaddafi's assets to Libya

For the first time, South Africa will enter into value-added tax (VAT) agreements with neighbouring states, Swaziland and Lesotho, in order to fast-track and harmonise the system of VAT refunds. The proposed system is intended to minimise the erosion of the tax base that occurs through round-tripping, tax evasion and the under-declaration of values.<sup>66</sup>

Multinational company, Google, has invested R103 million in the Jasper power project which comprises a 96 megawatt solar photovoltaic plant in South Africa's Northern Cape province. The Jasper project, once completed, will be one of the largest solar installations in Africa that would be capable of generating enough electricity to power 30,000 homes in the country.<sup>67</sup>

In an agreement signed with Libya, South Africa agreed to return more than US\$1 billion in assets stashed in the country by the former Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi. The Libyan funds and assets will be repatriated by South Africa according to United Nations protocols.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> "Congo send 30 soldiers on peace mission in Central African Republic", *People's Daily*, May 31, 2013 at <http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90777/8266472.html>

<sup>66</sup> "SA in VAT agreement with Swaziland, Lesotho", *LegalbriefToday*, June 25, 2013 at <http://www.legalbrief.co.za/article.php?story=20130625121152768>

<sup>67</sup> "Google invests in SA renewable energy", *South Africa.info*, May 31, 2013 at <http://www.southafrica.info/about/sustainable/google-310513.htm#.UdOFrjs3Dmh>

<sup>68</sup> "South Africa will return Gaddafi-linked assets: Finance Ministry", *Press TV*, June 14, 2013 at <http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/06/14/308879/s-africa-to-return-gaddafilinked-assets/>

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Commentaries can range between 1,000-1,500 words (excluding footnotes) and book reviews between 600-1,000 words. Guidelines for contributors may be found at: <http://www.idsa.in/africatrends>. Submissions may be emailed to the Editor at [idsa.africatrends@gmail.com](mailto:idsa.africatrends@gmail.com).

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