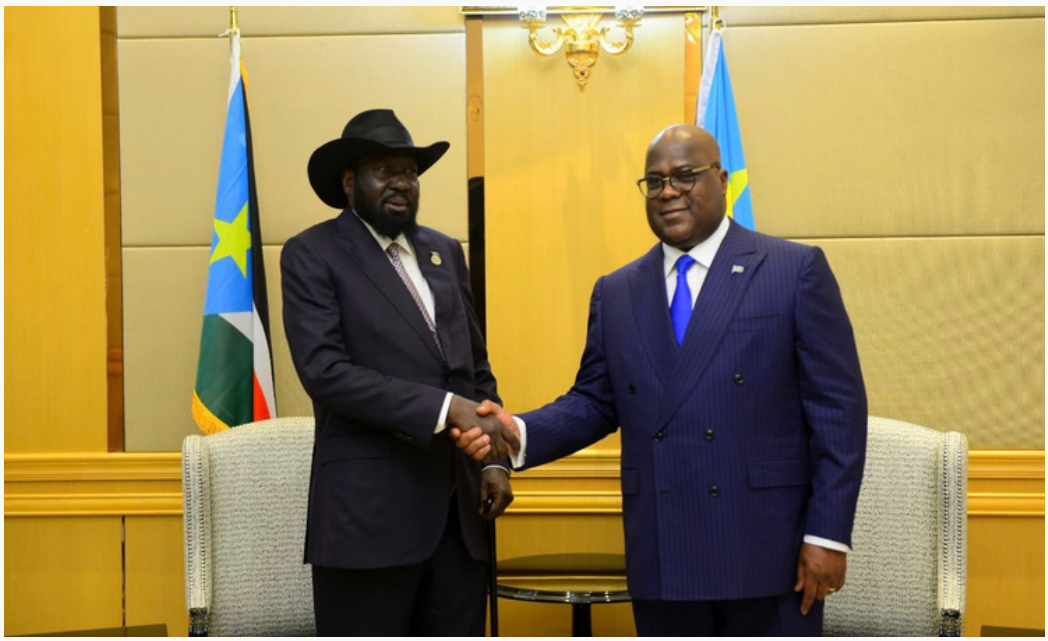
25 MARCH, 2024

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION



TRENDING THIS WEEK :

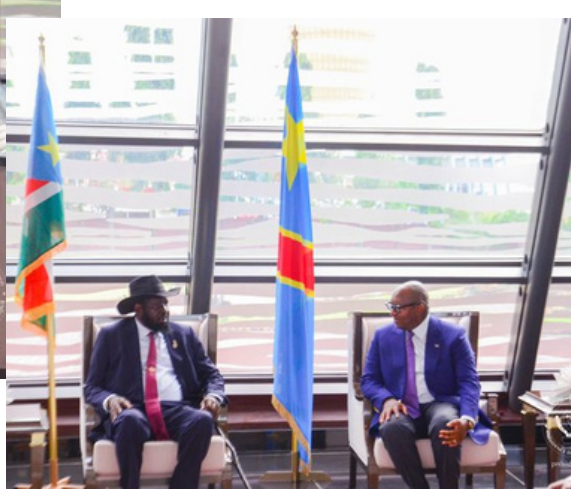
- Chairperson of the EAC Heads of State Summit, H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit holds consultative meeting with President Felix Tshisekedi
- EAC convened capacity building workshop on mainstreaming the Democratic Republic of Congo into the EAC Customs Union

CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT, H.E SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT HOLDS CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FELIX TSHISEKEDI

The President of the Republic of South Suda and the Chairperson of the EAC Heads of State Summit, H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit, held a consultative meeting with the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), H.E Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa, DRC.

The consultations were focused on fostering peace and security within the region.

The consultations are in line with the Chairperson's priorities to bolster the stability and prosperity of the East African Community, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in addressing regional challenges.



EAC CONVENES CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON MAINSTREAMING THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO INTO THE EAC CUSTOMS UNION

The East African Community (EAC) convened a 5-day capacity building workshop on mainstreaming the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) into the EAC Customs Union.

The workshop was attended by Senior Officials from the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of EAC affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Bureau of Standards, Immigration and Customs Administrations.

The main objective of the capacity building workshop is to sensitize the DRC officials on EAC regional integration, Customs Union Protocol and the concept of One Stop Border Post (OSBP) legal framework and procedures.
The training of the Senior Officials was proceeded by a training of 32 DRC Borders officials at the upcoming Mahagi/Goli (OSBP) between DRC and Uganda.

Speaking during the opening session of the workshop, Mr. Evaristae Munyampundu, from the EAC Secretariat underscored the importance of the regional integration, Trade Facilitation and the role of OSBP in establishing cultural linkages among the Partner States as well as enhancing intra-EAC trade.

He urged the participants to familiarize themselves with the EAC instruments including; EAC Treaty, Customs Union Protocol; Customs Management Act; SQMT Act; NTBS Act; OSBP Act, Regulations and Procedure Manuals to name the few and implement them in order to allow traders and people to enjoy the benefits of integration.

On 22nd March, 2024 the participants of the workshop visited Mutukula/Mutukula OSBP on the Uganda-Tanzania border to familiarise themselves with the operations of the OSBP.

TOP REGIONAL NEWS

- **Kenya declares EACRF deployment in DR Congo 'successful' mission**

Kenya thinks the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) that served in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) until December last year was a successful mission.
At a public lecture in Nairobi, Kenya's Prime Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Musalia Mudavadi defended the mission on failing to take down armed groups, arguing the mandate restricted the troops from taking sides. **MORE**

- **Bottlenecks stagnating the EAC integration amid fresh lobbying**

The regional private sector has noted with concern the slow integration of the East African Community (EAC), which has now informed a renewed intent to re-strategise their lobbying efforts. The services sector will now be prime owing to some of the bottlenecks businesses in the region have faced when trading in goods. **MORE**

- **Somalia's entry strengthens East African Community integration**

The East African Community (EAC) has officially expanded its membership with the inclusion of Somalia, following the presentation of the ratification instruments by Somalia's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Jibril Abdirashid Haji Abdi, to the EAC's Secretary-General, Peter Mathuki in Arusha, Tanzania. This milestone marks a significant step for Somalia in joining the regional bloc and signifies the EAC's continued commitment to strengthening ties within the region. **MORE**

- **Zanzibar launches oil and gas exploration blocks**

The President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, has launched the first round of allocation of blocks for oil and gas exploration and extraction companies in offshore areas of Zanzibar. Speaking at the event held at the Golden Tulip Hotel in the Airport area on March 20, 2024, President Mwinyi stated that the Isles Government welcomes all oil and gas exploration and extraction companies to participate in this round. **MORE**

- **DRC constructs 130m bridge to ease movement**

Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo are constructing a 130-meter bridge with an estimated cost of approximately 24 billion Burundian Francs that will connect Burundi and DRC in Cibitoke province. The bridge's reconstruction began on October 2, 2023 for a period of 13 months and 15 days, is currently financed by the World, once completed it is expected to facilitate the free movement of goods and people between the two partner states. **MORE**

- **EAC partner states ignite federation quest**

President Samia Suluhu Hassan at midweek hosted Kenyan President William Ruto and Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Museveni in a meeting aimed to discuss East African economic and political integrations. The meeting held on Thursday evening at the Tunguu State Lodge in Zanzibar, saw the three leaders agreeing on the need to hasten public hearings on the structure and areas to be considered in a draft constitution for East African political federation. **MORE**

GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- **UK Rwanda migrants plan to be delayed after new parliamentary defeats**

The passage of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's contentious bill to deport refugees to Rwanda may be delayed until at least next month after the upper house of parliament defeated the government and reinstated demands for greater protections. The government wants to relocate thousands of asylum seekers who arrive in Britain on small, inflatable boats each year to live in Rwanda, but legal challenges have so far prevented anyone being sent to the country yet. **MORE**

- **Bullets and panic - the Moscow concert that became a massacre**

It was just before eight o'clock and the auditorium at Crocus City Hall was filling up, ahead of a Friday night rock concert by veteran band Picnic. "Some people in brown clothing, I don't know who they were - terrorists, military, whoever - broke into the auditorium and started shooting at people with assault rifles," said photographer Dave Primov, who saw the attack unfold from an upstairs balcony. **MORE**

- **South Africa's deadly love affair with guns**

For the last six years Penson Mlotshwa has been carrying a gun with him wherever he goes in the South African city of Johannesburg. To the shops, restaurants and even the gym. His gun has become an extension of him as the country battles record levels of crime. "I'm not a fortune teller - I never know when I will be attacked," the YouTube content creator told the BBC. "Unfortunately, I've had to use my gun multiple times to protect myself," he sighs, explaining how a man wanting his wallet pulled a knife on him after dinner one night. **MORE**

- **Global water crisis fuelling more conflicts, UN report warns**

Increasing global water scarcity is fuelling more conflicts and contributing to instability, the United Nations warns in a new report, which says access to clean water is critical to promoting peace. The UN World Water Development Report 2024, released on Friday, said 2.2 billion people worldwide have no access to clean drinking water and 3.5 billion people lack access to safely managed sanitation. **MORE**

- **Ukraine struggles to export grain to Africa amid grinding war**

It is a sight that should spell hope in a war. A fleet of new barges float in a new mechanised loading dock at Voznesenski. It is built on the river that in runs through Ukraine’s biggest exporter of grain, in Mykolaiv, two hours’ drive north from Odesa.the FAA said. **MORE**

- **Severed internet cables highlight Africa’s vulnerability**

Several countries in West Africa have been grappling with large-scale internet outages since following damage to several undersea fibreoptic cables. Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, Nigeria and Ghana are among the worst-affected, although internet users as far away as South Africa have also been hit. **MORE**

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