02 APRIL, 2024

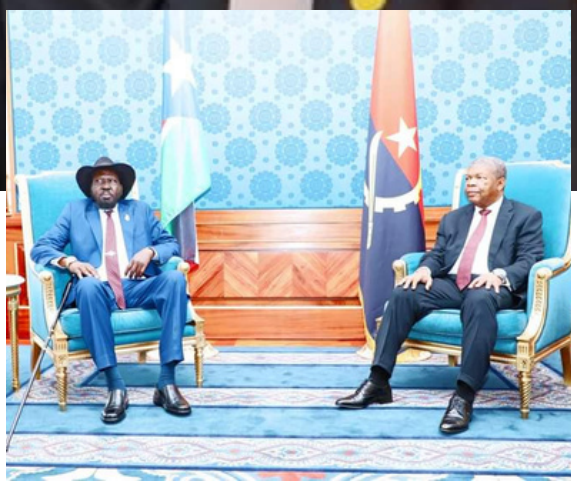
EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

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 João Manuel Lourenço of Angola
- Dar es Salaam hosts 8th eac University Students' Debate

CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE SUMMIT, H.E SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT HOLDS CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JOÃO MANUEL LOURENÇO OF ANGOLA



As part of his regional peace tour in his capacity, the Chairperson of the EAC Head of State Summit, President Salva Kiir visited Luanda to hold talks with his Angolan counterpart, President João Manuel Lourenço on issues facing Great Lakes region, with particular interest in the security situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The two leaders deliberated on the EAC-Led Nairobi Process on restoring peace and security in the DRC. From the consultations, the two Heads of State have resolved to coordinate efforts to restore peace and security in the region.

DAR ES SALAAM HOSTS 8TH EAC UNIVERSIY STUDENTS' DEBATE

The EAC convened the eigth edition of the EAC University Students' Debate on Regional Integration at the Ardhi University in Dar es Salaam. The objective of the EAC University Students' Debate is to enhance youth participation and to promote an in-depth understanding of the EAC Integration agenda.

The debate focuses on examining the impact of youth participation in fostering peace and stability through political integration and exploring strategies that can enhance youth engagement and involvement in the EAC's political integration.

The best debaters were appointed, and will be trained and inducted as EAC Youth Ambassadors 2023-2024 with an obligation to spearhead peer learning, sensitization and out-reach programmes in their respective universities, border communities in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat, Development Partners, the East African Legislative Assembly and EAC Ministries in Partner States.

TOP REGIONAL NEWS

- **EAC integration evolves with Tanzania-Rwanda pact on new border post**

The push to foster EAC integration appears to be moving in a positive direction with Tanzania and Rwanda taking steps to enhance one of East African Community's (EAC) pivotal goals, regional trade. A top Tanzanian envoy has announced plans to open a new border post with Rwanda, as part of ongoing measures between the two countries to scale up the movement of labour, goods and services providers. **MORE**

- **Tanzania, Burundi in talks about SGR link**

Tanzania and Burundi have begun formal talks on the technical aspects of building a standard gauge railway (SGR) link after securing funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB). Tanzania's Finance Minister Mwigulu Nchemba held back-to-back meetings with representatives from the AfDB and the Burundi government last week, the first high-level discussions since Tanzania signed a US$91.76 million agreement with the pan-African lender on February 2023 to fast-track the project, whose launch has been delayed for over two years due to lack of financing. **MORE**

- **Puntland Withdraws from Somalia's Federal System Amid Rift**

Somalia's semi-autonomous region of Puntland announced its withdrawal from the federal system, opting to govern independently until constitutional amendments proposed by the central government are ratified through a nationwide referendum. The federal parliament recently passed several constitutional changes aimed at establishing a more stable political system, but critics argue that these alterations, including provisions for direct presidential elections and increased executive powers, risk centralizing authority excessively. **MORE**

- **Kalundu Port Upgrades Mark Major Milestone In DRC's Trade**

The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in partnership with TradeMark Africa (TMA), is pleased to announce the completion of the infrastructure upgrades at the Kalundu Port, situated in Uvira, Sud-Kivu Province. This initiative is part of a broader effort to boost regional trade and economic development along the shores of Lake Tanganyika and the Great Lakes Region. Funded by the Kingdom of Netherlands to the tune of $3.3 million, the phased renovation has made considerable advancements since the first phase of the project kicked off in 2018. The works involved dredging of the port to increase the depth to accommodate larger vessels, enhanced capacity from 800 tonnes to 4,000, and enabling more cargo ships to dock. The enhancements have facilitated trade expansion and streamlined operations at one of the most important ports in the DRC. **MORE**

- **Congo President Tshisekedi appoints Judith Suminwa as prime minister**

Democratic Republic of Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi has appointed Judith Suminwa as Prime Minister, making her the country's first ever female to hold the position. The new Prime Minister replaces Jean-Michel Sama Lukonde, who resigned at the end of February as a legal requirement after he won a parliamentary seat. Ms Suminwa has been the Minister for Planning since March 2023. Suminwa has been the Minister for Planning since March 2023. **MORE**

GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- **Japan Commits U.S.$7.3 Million to Unitaid to Strengthen Access to Lifesaving Medical Oxygen in Kenya and Tanzania**

Unitaid welcomes Japan's announcement to provide US$7.3 million to expand access to reliable, sustainable supplies of medical oxygen in Kenya and Tanzania. The new funding supports Unitaid's broader strategic objective to expand access, lower prices and increase supply of medical oxygen in countries across Africa. **MORE**

- **Panic in Port-au-Prince as wild shooting fills streets**

Panic set in around downtown Port-au-Prince as wild shooting filled the streets of Haiti's capital, with heavy gunfire approaching the national palace. Civilians were seen rushing to escape gunfire in the capital, where rival gangs are vying for control of turf while the state remains largely absent, three weeks after Prime Minister Ariel Henry announced his resignation with no successors in place. **MORE**

- **EU Backs AU's Initiative for in-Continent Vaccine Production**

The European Union intends to support its partner, the African Union, in its ambitious goal of producing 60% of vaccines on the continent for African citizens by 2040, according to Jutta Urpilainen, the European Commissioner for International Partnerships. "Learning the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, the AU and the EU are committed to advance health systems and strengthen health capacities globally," she said on March 20 in Brussels, "We are proud of the results achieved in increasing local manufacturing of medicines and vaccines in Africa, for Africa." **MORE**

- **WHO Calls for Greater Attention to Violence Against Women With Disabilities and Older Women**

Older women and women with disabilities face particular risk of abuse, yet their situation is largely hidden in most global and national violence-related data, according to two new publications released today by the World Health Organization (WHO). The health agency is calling for better research across countries that will help ensure these women are counted, and that their specific needs are understood and addressed. **MORE**

- **Iran vows to avenge deadly Syria strike blamed on Israel**

Iran has vowed to respond to what it said was an Israeli strike that destroyed an Iranian consulate building in Syria's capital, Damascus. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Israel would "regret this crime", while President Ebrahim Raisi insisted that it would "not go unanswered". Iranian state TV reported that seven Revolutionary Guards, including two generals, and six Syrians were killed. **MORE**

- **Israeli government says it will block Al Jazeera from broadcasting**

The Israeli parliament has approved a law giving the government the power to ban broadcasts of TV channels including Al Jazeera, the Qatari-owned network. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would "act immediately" to close the network's local office. The US expressed concern over the move. With foreign journalists banned from entering Gaza, Al Jazeera staff based in the strip have been some of the only reporters able to cover the war on the ground. **MORE**

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAC Close, Afrika Mashariki Road P.O.
Box 1096, Arusha
United Republic of Tanzania
Tel: +255 (0)27 216 2100
Email: eac@eachq.org
www.eac.int

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@jumuiya | @pmathuki