

Daily Incident Briefing report

08/10/2025

Eritrea

Ethiopia accuses Eritrea of fomenting war

Ethiopia's foreign affairs ministry has alleged that the Eritrean government and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) are colluding to instigate a war against Ethiopia. According to reports, these claims were detailed in a letter dated 02 October from Ethiopian foreign minister Gedion Timothewos to United Nations (UN) secretary-general Antonio Guterres. In the letter, Gedion claims that the Eritrean government and the TPLF have formed a new alliance called Tsimdo that is funding and directing armed groups in Ethiopia, including Amhara nationalist militant groups (locally referred to as Fano). Gedion further alleged that this so-called Tsimdo alliance was involved in a recent Fano militant offensive targeting the town of Weldiya in the Amhara region. Eritrea has not yet responded to these recent allegations, but the government has denied similar accusations by Ethiopia in the past and claimed that Ethiopia is actually the one fomenting conflict in the region. This is the latest development highlighting the rising tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea. Although a conflict between the two is not considered imminent, the possibility cannot be discounted over the medium term, given the rising tensions and intensifying rhetoric between the two neighbouring states.

Ethiopia

Prime minister launches new media station

Prime minister Abiy Ahmed launched on 07 October the so-called Pulse of Africa media station in Addis Ababa. As per Ahmed, the launch marks a step towards "countering negative media representations of Africa and asserting our agency in shaping our own narratives". He further asserted that it represents a "symbolic and strategic beginning toward reclaiming the continent's image and influence in the global information space". While presented as a Pan-African initiative, there is possibility that it could be a propaganda tool for the ruling PP, especially ahead of general elections in 2026.

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Kenya

Government converts currency of Chinese rail loans

The government announced on 07 October that it had converted three rail infrastructure loans with China valued at USD 3.5 billion into the Chinese yuan (CNY). As per the state, the move comes in a bid to reduce interest payments under the loan as Kenya would follow lower, yuan-based rates. The decision will reportedly save the state roughly USD 215 million per year. This forms part of Kenya's debt management strategy, which includes a shift away from United States dollar-denominated bonds and loans.

Kenya

Protest outside state health insurer building in Nairobi

A peaceful protest was held outside the building of the Social Health Authority (SHA) in Nairobi on 07 October. The gathering concluded without major incident and was organised to denounce what has been derived as poor management of cancer-related coverage under SHA. The SHA was launched in October 2024 and seeks to allow citizens access to healthcare regardless of income status. Workers are taxed 2.75 percent of their monthly gross salary to fund the scheme, which replaces the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF). However, the launch of the SHA – for which 18.9 million Kenyans have registered – has faced various challenges, including failure for benefits and medication to be approved, incorrect registrations, additional payment requirements, and failure for private health facilities to treat those under the SHA. Such challenges have largely persisted, prompting varying public grievances. Failure for the state to remedy these challenges in the coming months could prompt more notable protests among affected members of the public, while eroding support for president William Ruto.

Kenya

Central bank cuts policy rate

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) cut the benchmark lending rate by 25 basis points from 9.50 percent to 9.25 percent on 07 October. The cut comes as annual inflation has remained within the CBK's 2.5 to 7.5 percent target inflation range for several months. Annual inflation stood at 4.6 percent in September. The CBK announced in December 2024 that it would start to use core inflation – which excludes food, fuel, and transport prices – in order to guide monetary policy going forward. To this end, core inflation was 2.9 percent in September. This is the eighth rate cut in recent months. The CBK has based the successive rate cuts on stable inflationary conditions and the need to support an expansion of credit to the private sector and economic growth, which the apex bank has forecast at 5.5 percent in 2025. The CBK expects inflation to remain below 5 percent over the near term, with the apex bank likely to continue undertaking smaller rate cuts over the medium term. Although, the CBK is expected to be equally responsive to any meaningful uptick in inflation.

Rwanda

Air freight agreement signed with Qatar

Rwanda has entered into a strategic partnership with Qatar Airways Cargo to expand its air freight capacity. As per 05 October reports, the agreement will link the RwandAir national carrier to Qatar's global logistics network through Doha, enabling larger and more frequent freight operations. The move aims to address long-standing challenges of limited cargo space, high freight costs, and delayed deliveries. Exporters have welcomed the development, stating that they expect it to open access to over 100 new destinations across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East and strengthen Rwanda's position as a regional export hub.

Somalia

Government strengthens security relations with foreign partners

Somali security officials had separate meetings with representatives from Sweden and Uganda on 07 October aimed at strengthening bilateral security ties. The first meeting took place between Somalia's defence minister Ahmed Moallim Fiqi and his Swedish counterpart Pal Jonson in Mogadishu. Jonson arrived in Somalia that morning for an official visit. The two ministers re-affirmed their respective countries' commitment to bilateral defence cooperation. In addition, they discussed areas for future cooperation, particularly in the areas of counter-terrorism and the possibility of Sweden assisting Somalia in its efforts to build the capacity of its armed forces. Sweden has an advanced military and defence industry; as such, it could be a valuable partner for Somalia, especially in the country's efforts to improve the capacity of its armed forces. In the second meeting, Somalia's internal security minister, Abdullahi Sheikh Ismail Fartaag, met with Uganda's security minister, Jim Muhwezi, in Kampala. The two ministers discussed Somalia and Uganda's ongoing security cooperation – Uganda is among the largest troop-contributing nations to the African Union (AU) Support and Stabilisation Mission in Somalia (AUSSOM). Fartaag and Muhwezi discussed the prospect of enhancing the bilateral security relationship, including by improving intelligence sharing and joint capacity building programmes. These meetings underscore Somalia's reliance on external support for its security affairs, especially in capacity building and combatting militant groups such as al-Shabaab.

Electoral commission announces update to voters register

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has announced that, following a review of the permanent voters register, the total number of voters set to cast their ballots in the upcoming 29 October general elections is 37.65 million. According to local news reports on 07 October, this number represents 36.65 million voters from mainland Tanzania and 996,303 voters from Zanzibar. The INEC noted that it intends to set up 97,348 polling stations in mainland Tanzania and 2,547 in Zanzibar on election day. The number of voters is a 26.53 percent increase from the 29.75 million voters who were registered to vote for the 2020 elections. The increase in final voter registration numbers is likely more reflective of population growth than improved voter interest. It is still anticipated that the government's suppression of the political opposition – and particularly the Chadema party – could lead to elevated voter apathy and negatively impact turnout on voting day.

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