

# AFRICA DIGEST

*Monthly Compilation of News Items from Africa*

October 2025



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## India Steps Up Global Engagement at G-20 Meetings in South Africa

India's presence was strongly felt at two major G20 meetings hosted in South Africa this year, reflecting the country's growing influence in both global energy transition and international diplomacy. At the [G20 Energy Transitions Ministerial Meeting](#) held in KwaZulu-Natal, Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, led the Indian delegation. Addressing global leaders, he underlined that energy security remains one of the biggest challenges facing the world today, especially for nations in the Global South. He urged the G20 countries to work more closely together to ensure equitable access to energy while maintaining economic stability and sustainability.

The Minister showcased India's impressive progress toward clean energy goals. He announced that India is set to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution target of achieving 50 percent non-fossil fuel capacity five years ahead of schedule, by 2025. He also shared India's vision of becoming a global hub for green hydrogen production, achieving 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047, and leading innovation in sustainable development.

India's success in the Biofuels Programme was another key highlight. The country has achieved 20 percent ethanol blending and is at the forefront of the Global Biofuels Alliance, which now includes 32 countries and 14 international organizations. The initiative represents a major step toward reducing global carbon emissions and promoting affordable, cleaner energy solutions.

Recognizing the uneven impact of climate change, Shri Manohar Lal called for climate justice and emphasized the need for developed countries to honour their commitments on climate finance and technology transfer under the Paris Agreement. He also reaffirmed India's commitment to supporting Africa's Mission 300, which aims to bring electricity to 300 million people across the continent by 2030.

Concluding his address, the Minister invited world leaders and energy experts to attend the upcoming Bharat Urja Manthan: A Global Energy Conclave, scheduled for March 2026 in New Delhi. On the sidelines of the meeting, he also held productive bilateral discussions with Dr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa, South Africa's Minister of Electricity and Energy, and Mr. Lars Aagaard Møller, Denmark's Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities. The meetings explored opportunities to deepen cooperation on renewable energy, green technology, and infrastructure development.

Earlier in February 2025, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Johannesburg to participate in the [G20 Foreign Ministers' Meetings](#). His presence reaffirmed India's commitment to strengthening engagement with G20 partners and giving a stronger voice to the Global South. During the visit, he held several bilateral discussions with his counterparts, focusing on trade, sustainable development, and regional stability.

Both visits underscored India's growing role as a bridge between developed and

developing nations. By championing energy equity, sustainable growth, and multilateral cooperation, India continues to position itself as a constructive force for global progress. Together, these meetings highlighted India's leadership in shaping a cleaner, fairer, and more inclusive global future.

### **Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan makes major territorial gains in El Fasher**

The Sudanese Army [confirmed](#) on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025 that it has withdrawn from El Fasher, the last major city it controlled in Darfur, marking a major turning point in the country's 18-month civil war. The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), now in control of most of western Sudan, have [reportedly](#) been shooting civilians attempting to flee, raising fears of large-scale ethnic violence. El Fasher's fall not only signifies the military's loss of its final stronghold in Darfur, but also deepens Sudan's humanitarian and security crisis, underscoring the international community's failure to contain a conflict rapidly sliding toward fragmentation and atrocity.

El Fasher, one of the fiercest battlegrounds in Sudan's ongoing civil war, has fallen to the paramilitary RSF after 18 months of intense fighting and starvation. Following their expulsion from Khartoum in April, the RSF launched relentless assaults using drones and heavy artillery, eventually seizing the city's main military base and forcing Sudanese troops and allied fighters to flee into residential areas. By 27th October 2025, the army confirmed its

withdrawal. In a [televised address](#), General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan said the retreat aimed to protect civilians and prevent further destruction of the city.

Despite this, the [United Nations Human Rights Office](#) has raised alarm over reports of atrocities committed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) after seizing El Fasher in North Darfur and Bara in North Kordofan. Civilians attempting to flee were [reportedly](#) executed, many targeted along ethnic lines, while distressing footage shows unarmed men being shot. Hundreds, including a journalist, have been detained, and sexual violence against women and girls is feared. Heavy artillery shelling between 22 and 26 October killed several civilians, including aid workers, though exact casualty figures remain unclear due to communication blackouts and mass displacement. [United Nations](#) has also reported that 460 patients and their companions have been killed at Saudi Maternity Hospital in the city. UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk and UN Under-Secretary-General Tom Fletcher [condemned](#) atrocities in Sudan, stressing that international law forbids targeting civilians and starvation as a weapon. They urged states to pressure the RSF to halt large-scale abuses, ensure accountability, and implement Security Council Resolution 2736, guaranteeing civilian protection and humanitarian access.

The RSF's capture of El-Fasher marks a grim and decisive turn in Sudan's civil war, which began in April 2023 after a power struggle between Generals Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. Emerging from tensions following Omar al-

Bashir's 2019 [ousting](#), the conflict has [claimed](#) roughly 150,000 lives and displaced over 12 million people. El-Fasher, once a humanitarian lifeline, endured an 18-month siege marked by starvation and relentless shelling before falling to the RSF. The army now holds much of eastern Sudan, backed by Egypt, while the RSF dominates the west, allegedly supported by the UAE.

Strategically located along key trade and smuggling routes, El-Fasher's fall gives the RSF near-total control of western Sudan, effectively dividing the country. Analysts warn that this consolidation could entrench a coercive paramilitary regime built on exploitation, repression, and control, leaving civilians, already weakened by famine and violence, to bear the heaviest burden once again.

### **Madagascar unveils a new government post Gen-Z protests**

Madagascar has entered a new and uncertain political phase after the military [ousted](#) President Andry Rajoelina and announced the creation of a military-led transitional council to govern the country. The takeover follows weeks of widespread youth-led protests across major cities, fuelled by growing frustration over poverty, soaring unemployment, and persistent power cuts. Demonstrators accused the government of neglecting economic hardships and failing to provide basic services. The military intervention, while claiming to restore stability, has raised concerns about democratic backsliding and the potential for further unrest as citizens demand meaningful reforms and

accountability from the new transitional leadership.

On Tuesday, Madagascar's elite military unit, the Corps Administratif et des Services Techniques des Armées (CAPSAT), announced the suspension of the constitution and the dissolution of the existing government. Colonel Michael Randrianirina, the CAPSAT commander who led the military intervention, stated that the [council](#) would "ensure stability and protect national interests" until new elections are organised.

After parliament voted to impeach President Andry Rajoelina, who fled the country citing security threats, Colonel Michael Randrianirina announced that the military was taking control and forming a transitional council. Within days, the council appointed Randrianirina as the transitional president. He was officially [sworn](#) in during a brief ceremony at the presidential palace in Antananarivo, marking the beginning of a military-led administration.

In his first televised address, Colonel Randrianirina pledged to "restore calm, guarantee essential public services, and prepare for democratic elections." However, no timeline has yet been given for the polls. The transitional government also announced that it would appoint a civilian prime minister to manage day-to-day governance.

Protests have continued in Antananarivo, Toamasina, and other cities since the takeover. Demonstrators, largely from the [Gen Z](#) cohort, had been mobilising for over a month before the coup, initially over

electricity and water shortages before their demands expanded to include anti-corruption measures and better access to education. The military's decision to intervene came after several units publicly refused to suppress the protests, signalling growing divisions within the security forces.

[South Africa](#) issued statements expressing concern over the suspension of constitutional order and being a key [SADC member](#), called for calm and dialogue. Both organisations urged Madagascar's new leadership to respect human rights and quickly restore civilian governance. The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) released a statement urging all parties in Madagascar to "exercise restraint and work toward a peaceful resolution through inclusive political processes." Pretoria reaffirmed its commitment to supporting SADC and African Union efforts in mediating the crisis.

Regional observers have noted that this marks Madagascar's latest episode of political instability since its independence from France in 1960. The country has previously experienced coups in 1975, 1991, and 2009 — the last of which brought Rajoelina to power. Madagascar, home to nearly 30 million people, remains one of the world's poorest nations despite its rich natural resources and biodiversity. The unfolding situation is being closely monitored by the African Union, SADC, and the United Nations as the country begins another period of military-led transition.

## **JNIM imposes Shari'a in Mali through Blockade**

Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) is tightening its control in central and southern Mali by enforcing strict religious rules as part of its ongoing blockade. The group has [declared](#) that this blockade will continue until the military government either steps down or fully implements shari'a law across the country. As part of its campaign, JNIM introduced new rules for public transport, requiring women to be veiled and separated from men, and banning cooperation with security forces. [Reports](#) indicate that fighters have been stopping vehicles at checkpoints and punishing women who do not comply, including forcing them off buses or physically abusing them.

JNIM is trying to position itself as an equal to Mali's ruling military authorities, pushing for recognition as a legitimate negotiating partner. Since early 2025, the junta has [allowed](#) small-scale talks between the group and local community leaders, but JNIM now wants something more official. According to an October 10 2025 [report](#) by RFI, the group is insisting that all future discussions take place through one formal negotiation channel directly with the junta, signalling its desire for political legitimacy and greater influence in Mali's future.

JNIM initially said the blockade was a response to government efforts to restrict fuel sales in areas it controls. Due to the success of this blockade, the JNIM has likely opportunistically diverged from its original objectives. JNIM initially imposed the blockade to [pressure](#) Mali's military



leaders to reverse their decision banning fuel sales in rural areas. These areas were used to smuggle fuel through villages and are essential for the group's operations and influence in local economies.

The blockade has [created](#) fuel shortages in Mali leading to power outages, fuel shortage, and inflation. This has in turn brought businesses to a standstill. The Malian government also [ordered](#) closing schools till 9<sup>th</sup> November 2025 as a result of "disruptions in fuel supplies that are affecting the movement of school staff". The experts believe that the militants aim to [delegitimise](#) the government by using a form of economic jihad that hits at the heart of the country's economy.

Due to heightening public tensions, Malian prime minister [convened](#) an Interministerial Committee for Crisis and Disaster Management to approve a plan to stabilize the petroleum market on 14th October 2025. Post the closing of schools; the committee [released](#) a statement that restrictions will be placed on fuel supplies until "further notice", with priority for dedicated stations to "emergency, assistance, and public transport vehicles".

The ongoing fuel crisis has created growing tension between Mali's military government, citizens, and fuel suppliers. Government officials have publicly [blamed](#) private fuel operators and even accused some tanker drivers of working with JNIM, prompting the national truckers' union to temporarily halt deliveries in protest before later resuming operations after an apology. Meanwhile, frustrations among civilians are rising, with youth in Segou [demanding](#)

urgent fuel supplies. As uncertainty builds, the U.S. Embassy has [warned](#) its citizens in Mali to stay alert and avoid demonstrations due to possible security disruptions.

### **Protests Breakout in Cameroon as Paul Biya declared victor in Presidential Election**

On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025, Cameroon's Constitutional Council declared that President Paul Biya, leader of the country since 1982, has won re-election in a vote accompanied by deadly violence. The council [announced](#) that the 92-year-old incumbent had secured 53.66% of the vote in the [October 12 election](#). The opposition candidate had received 35.19% of the votes. The re-election marks Biya's eighth successive term in the office. Ahead of the official results, former government spokesperson and long-time Biya ally Tchiroma Bakary [insisted](#) he had already won the election.

Now in his late seventies, he said his party had gathered its own vote tallies proving his victory, a claim immediately rejected by the ruling Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (CPDM) and President Paul Biya. Tensions in the country escalated as people demanded transparency. Over the weekend, [protests](#) in Douala turned violent, with security forces clashing with demonstrators and at least four people losing their lives. A [BBC report](#) stated that after Biya was officially declared the winner, Tchiroma posted on Facebook accusing security forces of firing at civilians gathered outside his home in Garoua, heightening concerns about political unrest and a widening rift between

the government and opposition supporters. Under Biya, opposition politicians have frequently [accused](#) electoral authorities of colluding with the president to rig elections.

Biya first became the president in 1982 and has held a tight grip on power ever since, doing away with the presidential term limit in 2008 and winning re-election by comfortable margins. President Paul Biya is often credited with major national achievements, including expanding access to education through new schools and public universities, and successfully resolving the [Bakassi border dispute](#), which secured the oil-rich peninsula for Cameroon over Nigeria. However, his long rule has also drawn significant criticisms. For nearly ten years, Cameroon's Anglophone regions have [endured](#) a brutal separatist conflict, young people face high unemployment, infrastructure is deteriorating, and people's ability to speak freely has increasingly been restricted.

His style of governance has also raised questions among the masses. The main concern is regarding long-term absences from the country due to "medical reasons". President Biya's long, repeated [stays abroad](#), especially in Geneva's luxury hotels or secluded lakeside locations, have raised growing questions about his role in governing Cameroon. Many believe key decisions are increasingly handled by top officials like the prime minister or influential presidency secretary general, Ferdinand Ngoh Ngoh. Concerns deepened last year when Biya vanished from public view for nearly six weeks following visits to France and China, with no official

explanation, intensifying [speculation](#) about his health and overall leadership.

Biya's re-election once again exposes the deep political divisions and growing frustrations within Cameroon. While the government presents continuity as a source of stability, many citizens view it as a sign of democratic stagnation. Allegations of electoral manipulation, suppression of dissent, and prolonged leadership absences have weakened public trust in state institutions. Lasting peace and progress will require the government to prioritize accountability, political inclusion, and genuine engagement with opposition voices and conflict-affected communities. Without meaningful reform, instability and public dissatisfaction may continue to intensify.

### **China and Ghana pledge to deepen Strategic Partnership**

On October 13, 2025, Chinese Premier Li Qiang met with Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing during the Global Leaders' Meeting on Women. The [meeting](#) marked an important moment in the long-standing relationship between China and Ghana, reinforcing their commitment to deepening their newly elevated strategic partnership and expanding cooperation across a wide range of sectors.

Premier Li Qiang praised the enduring friendship between the two countries, emphasizing that China and Ghana have consistently upheld sincerity, mutual respect, and collaboration. He noted that the elevation of bilateral relations to a strategic partnership in 2024 had created new momentum for cooperation and opened

opportunities for joint development. Li expressed China's readiness to continue supporting Ghana's national development goals and work together on projects that advance modernization through the Belt and Road Initiative.

Li reaffirmed that China supports Ghana in pursuing a development model that aligns with its national priorities. He called for greater collaboration in trade, investment, infrastructure, agriculture, fisheries, and energy, which are key areas for Ghana's economic transformation. He had also highlighted the importance of fully utilizing China's zero-tariff policy for African countries that have diplomatic relations with China. This policy, which offers duty-free access for all tariff lines, will help Ghana expand exports, attract investment, and strengthen its trade position.

Premier Li also emphasized the significance of fostering cultural and people-to-people exchanges. With 2026 designated as the "China-Africa Year of People-to-People Exchanges," both nations agreed to use the occasion to promote cooperation in education, tourism, healthcare, and culture, ensuring that citizens experience the tangible benefits of bilateral friendship. As key members of the Global South, Li said that China and Ghana should work together to uphold multilateralism, promote free trade, and defend global equity while opposing unilateralism and protectionism.

President Mahama expressed deep appreciation for China's consistent friendship and support. He congratulated President Xi Jinping on his leadership and on hosting a successful Global Leaders'

Meeting on Women. Mahama reaffirmed Ghana's adherence to the one-China principle and recalled that Ghana was among the first African nations to establish diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China. He thanked China for its long-standing support in areas such as infrastructure, trade, and economic development, and for implementing the zero-tariff policy that has greatly benefited African economies.

Mahama stated Ghana's commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation as both countries approach the 65th anniversary of their diplomatic relations in 2026. He outlined plans to deepen collaboration in trade, investment, energy, agriculture, and mining through the Belt and Road Initiative and the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. He also expressed interest in partnering with China on digital economy and artificial intelligence development to diversify Ghana's growth prospects. Mahama endorsed President Xi's Global Governance Initiative and reiterated Ghana's dedication to multilateralism and global fairness.

Earlier in July 2025, Ghana and China [signed](#) a Strategic Partnership Agreement that laid the foundation for this renewed collaboration. Under the agreement, China pledged a \$30 million grant to support key development projects in Ghana. This commitment reflects China's continued investment in Ghana's economic progress and sustainable growth. Together, these efforts mark a new era in China-Ghana relations, built on mutual trust, shared goals, and a common vision for prosperity and stability in the Global South.