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➢ Shelling kills two at Tripoli displaced people shelter – emergency services

Shelling killed two people on Saturday, the emergency services said, at a displaced people's shelter in a part of the Libyan capital Tripoli that has been under bombardment by eastern forces seeking to capture the city. The shelling caused a fire at the shelter in Fornaj district, located near a frontline and home to people forced from their homes after earlier bouts of fighting, said Usama Ali, spokesman for Tripoli's emergency and ambulance service. Ali said the emergency services were attempting to evacuate the shelter of the remaining displaced people and relocate them elsewhere in the city, Ali said. People in the Fornaj shelter were mostly from the nearby Ain Zara district.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 18/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Su-35 Production for Egypt Begins

Production of the first Su-35 for the Egyptian Air Force has begun. A military diplomatic source said the following to state-owned media outlet TASS Russian News Agency over the weekend: "The Gagarin Aircraft Plant in Komsomolsk-on-Amur has launched the production of Su-35, intended to be delivered to the Egyptian Air Force under the contract signed in 2018. The timeframe for [the] first batch's delivery to the Egyptian side has not been set yet, due to restrictions imposed by the novel coronavirus outbreak." The source did not provide further details. TASS noted that it did not have official confirmation of the information.

Source : **https://dsm.forecastinternational.com/** - 18/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ War in Libya : how did it start, who is involved and what happens next ?

Foreign states are increasingly active in this new chapter of the long-running conflict. Forces allied to Libya's UN-backed prime minister, Fayez al-Sarraj, have seized a key airbase from the renegade general Khalifa Haftar, dealing a huge strategic blow to the warlord's year-long campaign to capture the capital, Tripoli. Haftar launched a new assault to unseat the UN-recognised government in April 2019, triggering some of the most significant fighting on Libyan soil since the battle to overthrow Col Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

Source : **https://www.theguardian.com/** - 18/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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➢ Libyan forces aligned with Tripoli government capture key air base

Forces aligned with Libya's internationally recognised government took control of an air base south-west of Tripoli on Monday after a sustained assault, in what could be their most significant advance for nearly a year. Watiya air base, 125 km from the capital, has been an important strategic foothold for forces loyal to eastern-based commander Khalifa Haftar, who launched an offensive to capture Tripoli in April 2019. The campaign sharply escalated a long-running conflict between factions based in eastern and western Libya and caused a surge in military intervention by foreign powers. Forces aligned with the Government of National Accord (GNA) had taken full control of Watiya, Osama Juweili, a top military commander, was quoted as saying by official media early on Monday.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 19/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Exclusive: 12 die as Malta uses private ships to push migrants back to Libya

Survivor reveals further evidence to Guardian and La Repubblica of Malta's deadly strategy to intercept migrants crossings. Further evidence of Malta's strategy to push migrants back to the conflict zone of Libya has been revealed by a woman who survived a Mediterranean crossing in which 12 people died. A series of voice messages obtained by the Guardian have provided confirmation of the Maltese government's strategy to use private vessels, acting at the behest of its armed forces, in order to intercept migrant crossings and return refugees to Libyan detention centres.

Source : **https://www.theguardian.com/** - 19/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Eastern Libyan forces pull out of parts of Tripoli

Eastern Libyan forces pulled out of parts of Tripoli overnight, they said, after losing one of their main strongholds in western Libya on Monday, in a major blow to their year-long campaign to seize the capital. Libyan National Army (LNA) spokesman Ahmed al-Mismari said the force had carried out a "redistribution and repositioning in the battle fronts, disengaging from some crowded residential areas". It has been fighting for more than a year to capture Tripoli, seat of the Government of National Accord (GNA), which is recognised by the United Nations and has moved onto the front foot in the war since January with military help from Turkey.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 19/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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➢ First Senegalese KT-1s arrive

Senegal has taken delivery of the first two of four KT-1S light attack and trainer aircraft from Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI), with the remaining two to be delivered before year-end. The two aircraft were delivered on 3 April, according to the latest edition of KAI's Fly Together magazine. The delivery was requested ahead of Senegal's 4 April Independence Day celebrations. The remaining two will be delivered by October. Training of Senegalese pilots and mechanics on the KT-1 is being carried out in South Korea. Although primarily a trainer aircraft, the KT-1 can be configured for light attack missions and designated KA-1. In this guise it is fitted gun pods, bombs, rockets and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 20/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Burkina Faso must probe death of terror detainees - rights group

A Human Rights group, CISC, is calling on authorities in Burkina Faso to explain the death in detention of alleged terrorism suspects. The group of 12 persons detained overnight on suspicion of terrorism were found dead in their police cells last week. At a recent press conference, the rights group denounced the untimely deaths and accused the security forces of "coldly executing" the detainees. Maître Ambroise Farama, lawyer for CISC said: "Everything leads us to believe that they were kept in the jail and then taken out and coldly executed. And the haste with which they were buried without first doing the autopsies suggests that they were trying to hide the truth".

Source : **https://www.africanews.com/** - 20/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Egypt orders AW149 and AW189 helicopters

Egypt has ordered 24 AW149 combat helicopters and eight AW189 civil models from Italy's Leonardo Helicopters under an 871 million euro contract signed last year. This is according to the Italian foreign ministry's report to the Senate on 2019 arms exports, published in May. This put Egypt into the top place last year in terms of defence export license values. However, Shephard Media in March noted that the contract for the AW149 helicopters had not been listed in company financial records for 2019 and Leonardo has neither confirmed nor denied the Egyptian order.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 21/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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➢ Geostrategic dimensions of Libya's civil war

Libya's civil war has become an increasingly competitive geostrategic struggle. A UN-brokered settlement supported by non-aligned states is the most viable means for a stable de-escalation, enabling Libya to regain its sovereignty. Conflict in Libya has claimed the lives of tens of thousands, generated instability throughout North Africa and the Sahel, and become an increasingly pitched focal point for geostrategic competition. Since April 2019, the civil war in Libya has intensified particularly in the west of the country, where General Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) laid siege to Tripoli in a bid to oust the United Nations-supported Government of National Accord (GNA).

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 21/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Nexter Caesar self-propelled guns for Moroccan army

On May 22, Army Recognition mentioned armaments contracts signed by Morocco with France and, at last, officially announced. According to Michel Cabirol in the French newspaper La Tribune, it is possible to publish precisions about one of the two types of equipment (we shall come back later on the second one): Caesar self-propelled howitzers. Earlier this year, Nexter signed a 200 million euro contract for the sale of Caesar self-propelled howitzers (EUR 170 million) and its ammunition (30 million). They will be assigned to some of the 13 artillery battalions. The Artillery is organized in units operating self-propelled howitzers, towed howitzers, MLRS and air defense systems, mortar carriers.

Source : **https://www.armyrecognition.com/** - 22/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Turkey warns against attacks on its presence in Libya

Turkey warned on Thursday that attacks on its interests in Libya by Khalifa Haftar's forces will have "very grave consequences", after advances by the country's Turkish-backed government. Ankara has provided military support to the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) in Libya, which has been battling to fend off a year-long offensive by Haftar's forces to take control of the capital Tripoli. Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy said Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) had received warplanes with "foreign support" and that they had vowed to target Turkish positions in Libya with an air campaign.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 22/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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➢ LNA reportedly receives fighter jets as it plans escalation of Libya war

The commander of the Libyan National Army (LNA), General Khalifa Haftar, has threatened to escalate the LNA's offensive in western Libya, amid reports that his militia has taken delivery of fighter jets. In a statement on 21 May, the chief of the LNA's Air Force, Saqr al-Jaroushi, said that the LNA would soon conduct the "largest aerial campaign in Libyan history," warning that the LNA viewed Turkish military positions in Libya as "legitimate targets." Bloomberg News reported that the LNA appears to have taken delivery of over a half dozen fighter jets. The interior minister of the U.N.-recognized Government of National Accord, which rivals the LNA and controls the capital Tripoli, said that a pair of Su-24s and at least six MiG-29s have recently arrived from Hmeymim air base in Syria, which is operated by the Russian military.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 24/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Egyptian forces kill 21 militants in North Sinai- state TV

Egyptian security forces killed 21 suspected militants in North Sinai, part of a group that the interior ministry said was planning attacks over the Eid holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, state television reported on Saturday. Two officers were wounded in an exchange of fire during the operation, according to a ministry statement cited in the report, which did not say when the operation took place. Eid begins on Sunday. Militants loyal to Islamic State are active in the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula, where Egypt has been battling an insurgency for years.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 25/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Libya's Haftar seeks to rouse forces against Turkey

Libyan commander Khalifa Haftar called on his forces on Saturday to rally against Turkey, which has helped his Tripoli-based rivals turn the tide of a military conflict around the capital. Recent advances by forces aligned with the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA), including the seizure of a key air base, have thrown a year-long offensive on Tripoli by Haftar's Libyan National Army (LNA) into jeopardy. They have also drawn a threat by the LNA, which is backed by the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Russia, to carry out a massive air campaign in retaliation.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 25/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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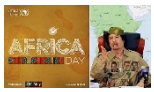
➢ Morocco acquiring new air defence systems

Morocco's government has approved a 192 million euro purchase of weapons from France's MBDA, which are believed to be VL MICA air defence systems. Saad Dine El Otmani, the head of Morocco's government, approved Decree No. 346.20.0 on 11 May to purchase an unspecified package of weapons from MBDA. The approval came after the government on 28 April obtained a loan of 192.1 million euros from France's BNP Paribas to finance this "commercial contract", concluded between the National Defence Administration and MBDA. The decree was published in Morocco's Official Bulletin on 18 May.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 25/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ AU @57 declaration: 'No-one is blameless' in Libya tragedy – AUC chair



The Chairperson of the African Union Commission, AUC; Moussa Faki Mahamat has bemoaned ongoings in Libya on the occasion of the AU's 18 anniversary. Even though the AU formed in 2002 is 18 years today, its mother body, the Organization of African Unity is 57 years. The AU chief in an abridged version of his AU @18 declaration posted on Twitter stressed the need to do all it takes to resolve the Libyan crisis. Describing Libya as the principal initiator and proponent of the AU, he said the current crisis was the fault of all interested parties, some of whom continue to stoke the security and political crisis riddling the country.

Source : **https://www.africanews.com/** - 25/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Nigeria: jihadist attacks increase ahead of Eid

Jihadist groups have carried out several attacks in northeastern Nigeria ahead of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan for Muslims, according to corroborating sources. On Monday night, fighters from the Islamic State in West Africa (ISWAP) invaded the city of Dapchi, Yobe State, provoking fighting with the army that left one soldier dead and three wounded, and five insurgents dead. The jihadists looted shops and the house of a traditional chief before the intervention of soldiers and hunters from self-defense groups, two military sources and local residents told AFP.

Source : **https://www.africanews.com/** - 19/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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➢ Nigerian Air Force continues the fight against insurgents

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) has flown 1 700 combat hours over the last four months against Boko Haram insurgents, attacking more than three dozen different targets. The NAF said sustained efforts have been underway to eliminate the remnants of Boko Haram and other terrorist groups in the North East of the country. Consequently, the Air Task Force (ATF) of Operation Lafiya Dole has attacked over 33 different Boko Haram targets and flown close to 1 700 hours in the last four months. These numbers were reached during 889 air interdiction, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), battle damage assessment, close air support as well as tactical airlift missions executed in 1 075 sorties with about 1.6 million litres of Jet A-1 fuel expended from 1 January 2020 to mid-May.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 21/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Pirates strike off Nigeria

Pirates this week attacked a tanker carrying automotive gas oil (AGO) close to shore off Port Harcourt, Nigeria, in what has been a busy week for pirates in the Gulf of Guinea. The Nigerian flagged tanker Preyor 1 radioed it was under attack on Wednesday. Nigerian authorities were notified and the Nigerian Navy, in the form of NNS Jubilee, was deployed. According to Praesidium the tanker was sailed to Ut-Ewa in Ikot Abassi with the assistance of a pilot to avoid grounding and a ransom of $25 000 asked for. It is not clear from the report whether the ransom was paid, the ship released or whether it was boarded by Nigerian Navy marines.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 22/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Joint military operation by Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso kills 8 suspected terrorists

Eight suspected terrorists were killed and 38 captured in a joint operation by forces from Burkina Faso and the Ivory Coast near the countries' border. Twenty-four men caught in Burkina Faso and 14 in Ivory Coast were handed to intelligence services, a source at Ivorian army headquarters said. A "terrorist base" was destroyed at Alidougou in Burkina Faso, the source said. The operation also seized arms, ammunition, USB keys and mobile phones, he said. Operation "Comoe", named after a river that flows through the two countries, was launched in early May, the source said. He praised the "perfect co-ordination between the two armies".

Source : **https://www.africanews.com/** - 25/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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➢ Botswana Defence Force hardware delivered via Namibia

Images that have emerged on social media allegedly showing Chinese military vehicles arriving in Cape Town are in fact of Botswana Defence Force (BDF) equipment delivered overland via Namibia. Photos and videos have emerged online showing military vehicles and other equipment being transported by road, with erroneous reports claiming Chinese presence in South Africa.

However, the equipment was in fact delivered to Botswana from France under a 2016 order. Photos show a Unimog-mounted Mistral Coordination Post, a Panhard VBL armoured vehicle fitted with what appears to be a Mistral launcher assembly, a VL MICA missile transporter-erector-launcher truck and a VL MICA truck-mounted radar or command post vehicle.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 19/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ South Africa, Mozambique discuss aid to fight Islamist insurgency

South Africa is discussing providing assistance to fight an Islamist insurgency in northern Mozambique with links to Islamic State, according to a minister. Insurgents have been staging attacks in Mozambique's northernmost province of Cabo Delgado,

home to gas projects led by the likes of Total and Exxon Mobil Corp, since 2017, but the violence has escalated in recent months. Speaking on state broadcaster SABC late on Friday, minister of international relations and cooperation Naledi Pandor said the two southern African nations were in talks about what assistance South Africa could provide.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 24/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Angolan K-8 deliveries underway

Angola has taken delivery of six K-8W trainer and light attack jets, and will receive another six during the course of this year. A photo posted by manufacturer CATIC showed one of the first six, according to aviation reporter Alan Warnes, who said the remaining six will be delivered by year-end. According to the

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's Arms Transfers database, Angola received two K-8s in 2019 after they were ordered in 2018. Angola also received two MA60 transport aircraft last year. News of the Angolan K-8 deal first emerged in March 2019 when a photo taken at the Hongdu facility showed a K-8 in Angolan Air Force (FANA) markings.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 25/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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➢ Disarmament sites handed to Ituri provincial government

MONUSCO handed two sites to the provincial government for disarmament and demobilisation of militiamen from the Ituri Patriotic Resistance Force (FRPI). The sites are erected in Karatsi and Kazana in the Walendu Bindi chiefdom in Irumu Territory where Congolese authorities, at national and provincial level and the UN peacekeeping mission combined to halt violence in this part of Ituri. This handover by MONUSCO marks another step forward in this process, with the February signing of a peace agreement in Gety between the FRPI and the Congolese Government.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 18/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Tensions as DRC, Zambia border dispute escalate [Morning Call]

We start off by revisiting an issue that nearly put the Democratic Republic of Congo DRC and Zambia in conflict last week. Tensions brewed between the two African countries following skirmishes between the armed forces of the two countries at a border. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) disclosed the armies' clashes on the border had resulted in further displacements, particularly in the Moba territory. The incident is the first sign of cross-border tension between the DRC and Zambia since the meeting in October last year between the authorities of Tanganyika in DRC and Zambia to normalize the situation at the border.

Source : **https://www.africanews.com/** - 18/05/2020
(**Article link**)

➢ Suicide bombing in Somalia kills governor, three others in Puntland – police

The governor of Mudug, a region in Somalia's semi-autonomous state of Puntland, was killed with three of his bodyguards in a suicide car bombing on Sunday that was claimed by Islamist group al Shabaab, police said. "A suicide car bomb hit the governor's car. Governor Ahmed Muse Nur and three of his bodyguards died," police captain Mohamed Osman told Reuters. Al Shabaab has been fighting for years to topple Somalia's western-backed central government and frequently carries out bombings in Somalia and elsewhere in the region. The group wants to establish its own rule in the Horn of Africa country, based on its own strict interpretation of Islamic sharia law.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 18/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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➢ Armed group kills 20 villagers in northeast Congo

An armed group killed at least 20 civilians in an overnight raid on a village in northeast Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday, the latest incident in a surge of ethnic violence that has forced 200 000 people from their homes in two months. Fighters from the Cooperative for the Development of the Congo (CODECO) militia group, which is made up of fighters from the Lendu ethnic group, attacked the Hema village of Ndjala in Ituri province at around 1 a.m. on Sunday, the army and local authorities said. “They cut with the machetes several of my compatriots, 20 have already died and more than 14 seriously injured,” said Solo Bukutupa, a local administrator.

Source : **https://www.defenceweb.co.za/** - 18/05/2020
(**Article link**)

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