



[What has driven China to bankroll controversial Ugandan crude oil pipeline?](#)

Chinese leader Xi Jinping has extended ‘unwavering support’ for East African Crude Oil Pipeline, according to Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Project lets Beijing portray itself as the more reliable development partner after Western investors backed out, observer says. China has stepped in to bankroll the building of a controversial oil pipeline in Uganda as Western-backed lenders abandoned the project. But the move is driven “more by geopolitics than by geoeconomics”, according to observers. The assessment follows Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni’s revelation earlier this month that his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, had promised his “unwavering support” for the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), set to run from Uganda’s Lake Albert oilfields to the port of Tanga in Tanzania. South China Morning Post.

[Chinese FM Wang Yi to visit Egypt, Tunisia as part of a four-country Africa tour](#)

Trip continues a 34-year tradition of Chinese foreign ministers traveling to Africa on their first trip of the new year. BEIJING: China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi will this week visit Egypt and Tunisia, Beijing said on Thursday, as part of a four-country Africa tour before he heads to Brazil and Jamaica. Wang’s first trip of the new year comes as China increasingly focuses on ties in the Global South, seeking to bolster its influence in regions traditionally dominated by the US and its allies. Wang’s Africa trip, which will also include Togo and Cote d’Ivoire, will take place from Jan.13 to 18, the foreign ministry said. China has historically been sympathetic to the Palestinian cause and supportive of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Aran News.

[Mideast in Pictures: China's home appliance giant opens industrial park in Egypt](#)

China's home appliance giant Haier inaugurated Thursday its first industrial park in Egypt in 10th of Ramadan, a city northeast of Cairo. Once fully built, the Haier Egypt Ecological Park will cover an area of 200,000 square meters with an annual planned production capacity of more than 1.5 million units of home appliances. People’s Daily.

[Congo’s \\$7 billion infrastructure deal with China will depend on copper prices](#)

Around \$7 billion of infrastructure investments in the Democratic Republic of Congo by Chinese companies in a revised minerals deal will largely depend on copper prices remaining high, details of the agreement published on Friday show. The government of President Felix Tshisekedi pushed for a review of the 2008 infrastructure for minerals deal with Sinohydro Corp and China Railway Group to bring more benefits for Congo, the world’s biggest cobalt producer. They signed an agreement in March. The parties agreed to maintain the current structure of their Sicominex copper and cobalt joint venture shareholding, 68% of which is held by the Chinese partners, and 32% by Congo state miner Gecamines. Mining.com.

[Minister of Transport discusses return of Austrian companies to Libya](#)

Minister of Transport, Mohammed Al-Shahoubi, has discussed with Austrian Ambassador Barbara Grosse ways to overcome the difficulties facing Austrian companies in returning to Libya. According to Hakomitna platform, both sides discussed strengthening cooperation and bilateral relations in all fields. This was in the presence of representatives of some major Austrian companies, who confirmed the Austrian government's desire to develop joint relations between Libya and Austria. The Observer.

[Hard Numbers: Manila's many protests, US views of China, Kenya floods, Germany's baby bust, US-Russia staring contest in Niger](#)

Manila filed a diplomatic protest on Thursday — its 20th in 2024 — against Chinese harassment of its vessels in the South China Sea. That's a rate of more than one a week, as Beijing seems little deterred by US and Japanese efforts to bolster the Philippines' military capacities. A new Pew survey shows 42% of Americans consider China an "enemy," up from 25% two years ago. The mounting mistrust is largely driven by Republicans, among whom 59% describe China as an enemy, compared to only 28% of Democrats. At least 188 people in Kenya have died in floods caused by weeks of torrential rains across East Africa. Another 90 people are believed to be missing, and over 165,000 have been displaced by the natural disaster. The number of babies born in Germany is approaching record lows, with just 693,000 bouncing bundles welcomed in 2023. The trend looks likely to continue, as the number of marriages has also dropped — to its lowest level since 1950 — and government support for childcare and parental leave is weakening in an economy that has hardly grown in four years. GZero Media.

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