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News Worth Knowing

Daily Brief 03.07.2019

Qatar Airways made its [inaugural flight](#) on a new route between Doha and Somalia's capital Mogadishu this week. The occasion is a rare sign of normality in a country that has been synonymous with instability since the start of a decades-long civil war in 1991.

It's not the only one.

Efforts to restore something resembling law and order have been underway for years, and are gaining traction under president Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed, in office since February 2017.

He has re-engaged internationally, earning [praise from the IMF](#) for reform efforts. Last September the World Bank approved an \$80m grant to the country - its first in 30 years.

Bilateral ties with the likes of Turkey - which has played an important role in fostering stability - are flourishing. Even the U.S. is looking to re-engage, establishing a [permanent diplomatic presence](#) there in December after almost 30 years.

Meanwhile oil majors Shell and ExxonMobil [could return to Somalia](#) this year in anticipation of an investment boom into significant untapped reserves.

It's important not to get carried away.

Security remains precarious, with Somalia ranking second on the Fragile States Index. In June the UN warned that [millions are at](#) risk of famine due to drought.

There's a long way to go, but the country is showing flickers of normality.

Today's picks

From the continent

The ICT Association of Uganda and other industry players have said plans announced

last month to nationalise the country's internet data exchange risk undermining sector growth and investor confidence in the country. The plan is part of a wider crackdown on internet services, including the introduction of a contentious social media tax in 2018. **More:** [Business Day](#)

Nigeria plans to sign up to the African Continental Free Trade Area agreement during a regional summit this week, according to a statement on the presidency's twitter feed. Africa's biggest economy has held off signing up to the deal, touted as the answer to limited regional integration, over concerns about its impact on local industry. **More:** [Reuters](#)

The Daily Stat

3,000,000

The number of jobs Ethiopian prime minister Abiy Ahmed hopes will be created on the back of economic reform in the next 12 months. **More:** [Bloomberg](#)

The Global Perspective

The China Development Bank has issued loans worth \$3.2bn to 40 African financial institutions through the China-Africa Interbank Association, a mechanism launched in September 2018 (CAIBA). It is part of a host of new initiatives launched by president Xi Jinping aimed at boosting China - Africa ties. **More:** [Xinhua](#)

Illegal miners at the Glencore run Kamoto Copper Company mine in southeastern Democratic Republic of Congo are reportedly defying an order to vacate the site following a landslide that killed 43 miners there last week. The incident has put the spotlight on illegal artisanal mining in the mineral-rich country. **More:** [Reuters](#)
