



MAIN STORIES

**An Alleged
Assassination Attempt**

**Cattle Skin
Controversy**

**Humanitarian
Situation**

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence in charge of the national gendarmerie, General Richard Ravalomanana, was reportedly the target of an attempted assassination. Two former close protection guards of former president Hery Rajaonarimampianina, as well as four other people, were reportedly arrested in connection with the assassination attempt.
- The gendarmerie is about to replace its leader, General Njatoarisoa Andrianjanaka, with the name of the head of the gendarmerie for the Antananarivo region, General Andry Rakotondrazaka, a close ally of President Andry Rajoelina, frequently cropping up as a possible replacement.
- General Lala Monja Delphin Sahivelo is the new Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces (CEMA). Sahivelo replaced General Jean-Claude Rabenaivoarivelo, who retired.
- There are rumours of an imminent cabinet reshuffle as Rajoelina reportedly wants to get rid of some 'incompetent and belligerent' ministers. The minister for regional development Hajo Andrianainarivelo and the founder of Malagasy Miara Miainga (MMM) might be one of the victims of a reshuffle.
- The President of the National Assembly, Christine Razanamahasoa, suggested that it was time to overhaul the cabinet to speed-up the implementation of development projects. Razanamahasoa said that the 108 deputies who currently form the majority had no shortage of candidates for the post of ministers.
- On 26 June 2021, Independence Day celebrations were held at the new Barea stadium in Mahamasina. The opposition boycotted the event despite receiving invitations.

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- Prime Minister Christian Ntsay appointed a new Director of the Military Cabinet, in the person of Brigadier General Ruphin Fortunat Dimbisoa Zafisambo and a new Director of the Civil Cabinet, Roger Tsaboto.
- On June 21, France 24 and AFP correspondent Gaëlle Borgia posted on her personal Facebook account a video of Malagasy people baking and chewing hard zebu (cattle) leather thongs. Rajoelina's chief of staff, Lova Ranoromaro, stated that Borgia's claims were false and insulted the people of Androy. TVM, the state channel, broadcast a report claiming that Borgia had bribed people and staged a fake consumption of leather. Borgia responded by posting a second video in which the same people acknowledged that they had been both paid and threatened by men armed with a knife to make defamatory statements about her.
- Madagascar has been ranked as the 70th most peaceful country in the world (1=most peaceful; 163=least peaceful) by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in its Global Peace Index (GPI), published in June 2021.
- Madagascar appears on the Tier 2 watch list in the United States (US) State Department's 2021 Trafficking in Persons Report. Tier 2 countries do not "fully meet" the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA's) minimum standards "but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance."
- Workers at Paositra Malagasy, the company responsible for postal services, demonstrated on 30 June 2021 to demand the dismissal of the Minister in charge of Posts, Telecommunications and Digital Development, Andriamanohisoa Ramaherijaona.
- According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) published on 9 July 2021, around 1.14 million people of the Grand South of Madagascar are estimated to be in high



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levels of acute food insecurity. Over 500,000 children under the age of five in the Grand South of Madagascar will likely suffer from Acute Malnutrition (AMN) through April 2022.

- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said that to help stop a preventable tragedy from unfolding, it needs \$78.6 million to provide food for the next season. WFP chief David Beasley warned that Madagascar and countries like it could face an “unprecedented famine of biblical proportions.”
- As of 16 July 2021, Madagascar had 42,479 confirmed coronavirus cases, 40,862 recoveries and 934 deaths. On 12 July 2021, Prime Minister Christian Ntsay announced that the state of health emergency would remain in place for the next 15 days.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) said in a statement on 6 July 2021 that the Madagascar Government recently made public the results of a Phase III clinical trial on the CVO+ remedy, which is intended for the treatment of mild and moderate forms of COVID-19. The completion of the clinical trial in Madagascar provides data that the Committee of Experts will examine shortly and will give an independent scientific opinion on the results.
- According to Pharmalagasy CVO is 87.1% effective for the treatment of mild to moderate Covid-19.
- The World Bank said in its June 2021 Global Economic Prospects (GEP) that the economy is projected to grow by 2.0% in 2021, the same as in its January 2021 GEP report.
- According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD’s) 2021 World Investment Report (WIR), published on 21 June 2021, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in 2020 was US\$359 million, down from US\$474 million in 2019.
- The US State Department’s 2021 Fiscal Transparency Report lists those governments that were found not to meet the minimum requirements



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of fiscal transparency and identifies whether the governments made significant progress toward meeting those requirements. The report states that budget documents did not provide a substantially complete picture of the government's planned expenditures and revenue streams.

- During the celebration ceremony of the French National Day at the Embassy of France, French ambassador Christophe Bouchard indicated the willingness of his country to resume discussions on the Scattered Islands as quickly as possible.
- President Joe Biden announced the appointment of Claire Pierangelo as the new ambassador to Madagascar and the Comoros. Pierangelo currently serves as the Principal Officer at the US Consulate General, Lagos Nigeria.
- A signing ceremony for an economic and technical cooperation agreement between the government and China took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The agreement consists of a donation in the amount of 90 million yuan, which will be used to finance projects to be determined by the two governments.

