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Highlights

President Al-Bashir and Kiir in Yambio amid tight security measures

President Omar Al-Bashir and his FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit will witness today 5th Anniversary celebrations of the CPA in Yambio, **Al-Ahdath** reports. GoSS Internal Affairs Minister Gier Chuang said security preparations have been finalized to secure the celebrations.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 18/1/10, Chuang said Security was tight in and around Yambio town ahead of celebrations for the 5th Anniversary of the CPA scheduled for Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters in Yambio upon his arrival from Juba on Monday, Chuang also said that President of the Republic of Sudan Omar Bashir and First Vice President Salva Kiir Mayardit will attend the ceremony.

Later on Monday, Mr. Chuang inaugurated 513 police graduates at Yambio Stadium where the 5th peace anniversary will be held. WES Gov. Jemma Nunu Kumba also attended.

Police graduates display various skills acquired in the six months training in the events that last to pass 8pm local time. And if applied as shown in this stadium, WES arrows boys may be relieved; the government will take over.

Western Equatoria State police intentionally organized the police graduation ceremony for January 18; few hours from the CPA events "to show that peace can be protected." WES – though has no own made conflicts, is destabilized by Ugandan rebels, the Lord Resistant Army (LRA), hence, the need for government protection. It is not, however, immediately clear whether this group will any help to LRA affected areas.

The colorful police graduation ceremony attracted thousands of citizens. Many people have, however, being here for the last three days watching sports competition that ends today with award of trophies.

Security is visibly tight around the Yambio Stadium with like of SPLA police, SPLA commandos and South Sudan Police Services.

South's separation will be catastrophic – SPLM-DC leader Akol

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports SPLM-DC leader and presidential candidate Dr. Lam Akol as saying that "independence of the South would be catastrophic". "Given the current hostilities and tribal conflict in the South, any call for separation is a call for Somalization of the South," he told the BBC. Akol claimed that Kiir's Government has mismanaged the region and embezzled millions of Dollars of oil revenues.

Elections will take place on schedule – NEC

Al-Ahdath reports NEC Deputy Chairman Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah as saying that upcoming national elections will take place on schedule and stressed the need to comply with the timetable. He told journalists that Egyptian Ambassador to Sudan called on him yesterday to inquire about media reports on possible elections delay, saying the NEC response was that the exercise would take place as scheduled and that the NEC has not received request for delay from anybody. According **Al-Wifaq**, Abdullah has welcomed observers from Egypt and China to

monitor elections.

Elections is security threat to Southern Kordofan – SPLM

SPLM Parliamentary Group in Southern Kordofan State Assembly has held the federal government responsible for the deterioration of the political and security situations in the state, *Ajras Al-Hurriah* reports. Parliamentary group chairman Sudi Chimella told the paper that elections could be a credible threat to security in the region unless geographical constituencies are redistributed. He said the centre has disrupted voluntary returns and distributed geographical constituencies on ethnic lines.

China may send observers for Sudan's April election

Sudan Tribune website 18/1/10 – China, the international power with the largest economic stake in Sudan, may send a delegation to monitor the nationwide elections scheduled for April 2010.

The upcoming voting is meant to be Sudan's first free and fair elections since General Omar Al Bashir took power on June 30, 1989.

Abdalla Ahmed Abdalla, Deputy Chairman of the National Election Commission, met recently with the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Li Chengwen. They discussed "preparations for arrival of a Chinese delegation to participate in the monitoring of the coming elections in Sudan," according to the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA).

Abdalla told SUNA that the commission welcomes the participation of China in the monitoring of the elections and its support to the election process in the country.

Reportedly the Chinese ambassador reviewed with Abdalla the technical measures for dispatching the team of Chinese observers.

Security situation in the South does not allow elections – UN

UN Mission in Khartoum has said that the security situation in southern Sudan coupled with the ongoing tribal conflict do not allow holding of elections in a number of states, Jonglei in particular, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. A source told the newspaper that the upsurge of violence will cause a great deal of embarrassment to GoSS particularly that SPLM is hopeful to win in the violence-rocked states such as Warrap, Jonglei and Equatoria. According to the source, UN has urged the SPLM to devise an urgent security plan to improve the security situation before elections kickoff. "No body thinks about elections under insecurity. The success of elections lies in security and stability," the source said.

DSRSG Singh arrives in Khartoum to assume responsibilities

DSRSG Jasbir Singh Liddar arrived in Khartoum yesterday to assume his responsibilities as Special Representative of the Secretary General to the Sudan for political affairs and as a CPA observer. Mr. Singh was appointed last week by UNSG Ban Ki-moon.

UNMIS hopeful of violence-free elections - Spokesperson

Al-Akhbar reports that UNMIS expressed hope that Sudan's upcoming elections would take place in a favourable and violence-free atmosphere and reiterated the Mission's assistance and support for successful implementation of the CPA. "UNMIS facilitates the CPA implementation. We are satisfied with the electoral registration exercise which was carried out without problems and in total calmness," UNMIS Spokesperson, Ashraf Eissa, told the paper. Mr. Eissa revealed that UNMIS experts have trained police personnel from GoNU and GoSS on how to secure and

deal with an electoral process.

Kiir instructs internal affairs ministry to reverse corruption trend

Sudan Tribune website 18/1/10 – The President of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS), Salva Kiir Mayardit, has directed the ministry of internal affairs to reverse corruption trend and challenged the police force to clean their house before presenting themselves as credible law enforcement agents.

The GoSS President made the call over the weekend at the close of a high-level meeting in Juba, with the presence of about 48 police officers who recently returned from training abroad in South Africa and Ethiopia.

“You being taken for external training signals commitments and determinations of the government of South Sudan in its war against corruption and its malpractices,” Kiir said.

The president also urged officers to show good example to commissioned and non commissioned officers in the police force.

Kiir continued to say “let no police force be viewed as corrupt by your acts but a professional institution” and challenged the senior officers to work towards cleaning its own image before focusing on other institutions.

“Let no citizen loose trust in police due to negligent or irresponsible behaviors by coming drunk to work or attend to public issues under influence, public office and official working hours must be respected,” he said.

“I have seen in most of the occasions police officers conduct their affairs while drunk and hesitant to leave duty once requested by their colleagues,” Kiir added.

The GoSS president said that this must be stopped “with immediate effect” and asked General Gier Chuang the minister of internal affairs to ensure that the police force is a dependable law enforcement agency “instead of being law breakers”.

“I urge the officers to take action against those who will be involved in corruption, we should not fear sacking those who will be implicated in corruption,” he said.

He said the police are governed by regulations and if properly followed, the society would trust the force as defenders rather than offenders.

Ghazi and JEM leader hold successful meeting in N’damena

Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din and JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim had a successful meeting in N’damena, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. JEM adviser Bishara Suleiman said that the meeting, organized by the Chadian Government and in presence of UN-AU mediator Bassole and Chadian Foreign Minister Musa Faki, discussed ongoing arrangement for the upcoming Darfur talks. Bishara said they made their stance clear to the Sudanese official that the system of rule in Sudan should be federal, presidency should be rotational and power wealth should be distributed based on population density.

Darfur mediation denies postponement of peace talks

Sudan Tribune website 18/1/10 — The Qatari state minister for foreign affairs in charge of the

Darfur file today denied reports about the postponement of peace talks between the Sudanese government and rebel groups. The negotiations are scheduled for the end of this month.

After a series of talks in N'djamena with the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassole delayed a meeting between rebels and delegates of Darfurian civil society in order to allow better representation of the different components there and include refugees in eastern Chad.

Qatari State Minister Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Mahmoud stressed today that the meeting between the government and the rebel groups would be held on January 24 as planned. He also denied any intention to postpone it.

The minister made his remarks during a one day meeting of international experts held today in Doha. The meeting was also attended by officials from the African Union, Arab League, Islamic Conference Organization, European Union, and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Chad says has asked U.N. not to renew mission

Reuters 18/1/10 - Chad has asked the United Nations not to renew the mandate of the world body's mission in the central African country in March, a Chadian official told Reuters on Monday.

"We have officially notified the special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General of our wish to not renew MINURCAT's mandate," said General Oky Dagache, Chadian President Idriss Deby's representative to the MINURCAT, as the U.N. mission in Chad is known.

Dagache declined to give an immediate reason, but a U.N. source in Chad suggested the request may be a tactic move aimed at reforming the force's mandate.

MINURCAT's year-long mandate began last March 15, when 5,000 U.N.-commanded troops took over from a European Union force.

MINURCAT is responsible for ensuring security for humanitarian actions, particularly in the north-east of Chad, which borders Sudan's Darfur.

"The meeting (with the U.N.) is on March 15 so we are still waiting, but we are in negotiations," Dagache said.

Five Ethiopian tactical helicopters arrive in Darfur next February

Sudan Tribune website 18/1/10 – Five tactical helicopters will arrive in Darfur next month to join the African Union – United Nations peacekeeping force in the restive region, the hybrid operation said.

The UNAMID force needs 24 helicopters including 18 transport and six tactical helicopters to operate effectively across the Darfur region and to move the supplies and equipment necessary to carry out its mandate.

The main body of the Ethiopian Tactical Helicopter Unit "will arrive in Nyala, South Darfur on 22 January, while five of its helicopters are scheduled to join UNAMID's peacekeeping force in mid-February," the Mission said.

"These much-awaited helicopters will significantly enhance UNAMID's capabilities to stabilize

the security situation in Darfur," it further stressed.

UN officials had received offers of helicopters from Bangladesh and Ethiopia. However they declined the Bangladeshi kit because it would not meet the UN requirements.

The Bangladeshi offer included inadequate range and inability to fly at night.

Foul play suspected in spread of wild dogs in Khartoum

Al-Intibaha reports that a parliamentary committee is likely to summon the Interior Minister and authorities concerned to address the Parliament on the phenomenon of spread of wild dogs in Khartoum city recently. While the committee expressed concern over the phenomenon, it does not rule out foul play given the timing of the emergence of the dogs.

Around 100 refugees infiltrate eastern Sudan on daily basis

Sudan Tribune website 18/1/10 — around one hundred refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia infiltrate Sudan every day through the eastern border, said a Sudanese official on Sunday.

Last month the Africa Bureau Director of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said East African refugees are flocking into eastern Sudan at the rate of 1,800 each month.

Eastern Sudan is one of the oldest refugee situations in UNHCR's history. The international refugee agency has been in this country working in the eastern region for 40 years.

The number of infiltrators in the eastern Sudan hit until December 2009 about 2831 people at the daily average between 80 to 100 refugees, said Balal Ahmed Moussa, the deputy refugees commissioner in eastern Sudan.

Balal further said authorities examined the situation of some 593 infiltrators. He pointed out that the flow of Eritrean, Ethiopian and Somali refugees continues to be intensive particularly in the states of Kassala and Gadref. Over 66,000 registered Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees live in eastern Sudan. Another 57,000 refugees, mainly Eritrean live outside the camps operated by the UNHCR office

Thousands of people from Eritrea, which gained independence in 1993, have fled, citing political persecution and unemployment. Many go to Sudan and then attempt to leave for Europe to search for jobs, human rights groups say.

Balal said registered refugees are hosted at the Shagarab refugee camp. He further called on the international community especially the UNHCR and aid groups to provide the humanitarian assistance necessary for the stability of the refugee camps.