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Highlights

Local Arabic and English Language Press

Elections Commission nominees to be submitted to the Parliament today
Al-Intibaha reports Parliament will receive today list of nominees for elections commission membership.

The paper also states Interior Ministry announced formation of a security committee headed by an officer as part of early preparation for upcoming elections. The Ministry admitted the presence of security threats in the country in the form of non-completion of security arrangement between Government and armed movements signatory to peace agreements, slow DDR implementation and tribal conflicts.

In another development, **Al-Khartoum** learns that National Assembly Speaker, Ahmed Ibrahim Al Tahir has emphasized the need for punctuality because endorsement of an elections commission membership requires presence of two-third of MPs.

Final census results in March

Al-Wifaq reports census director Ibrahim Abbas expected final census results to be announced in mid March. Central Bureau of Statistics DG Yasin Al Haj Abideen said the census was conducted in a total transparency under regional and international participation and the exercise had covered all population including armed movements.

Sudanese official accuses NGO of gathering intelligence

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports HAC confirmed the Dutch MSF had been instructed to close its mental health programme in the Kalma IDP camp. According to Director of HAC NGOs Section Ahmad Mohamed Adam the so-called mental health programme was mostly an intelligence-gathering activity which had nothing to do with health and it could aggravate tribal conflict in the region. He added that the MSF did not comply with a Technical Agreement as well as the absence of specialized practitioners to deal with mental health cases. The HAC also indicated that the programmes did not conform to the priorities of the Federal Health Ministry.

Heavy weapons transported to Southern Sudan via Uganda

According to **Al-Wifaq**, a reliable source expects more weapons to reach southern Sudan via Uganda. The source said weapons are transported to Lira Province, Badir Province, Katgum province in northeast Uganda and then from there to southern Sudan via Aktous area. The source which spoke on condition of anonymity, added the weapons are dismantled and loaded in containers to be sent to southern Sudan as goods. The source said 6 trucks loaded with 30 rockets are presently parked at the fifth division command in Katgum Province in northeast Uganda awaiting the weapons they carry to be dismantled and transported to southern Sudan in containers during the night.

Sudan People's Forum endorses recommendations and final report

Sudan Vision reports Sudan People Initiative Forum for Darfur endorsed the final report and recommendations prepared by seven sub-committees. The recommendations called for cessation of all kinds of hostilities and declaration of cease-fire, besides releasing all the

Darfurian political detainees.

Egypt to convince Darfur rebel leader to attend Doha talks

Sudan Vision reports President Bashir held lengthy talks with the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who arrived in Sudan yesterday. The talks focused on CPA, developments in Darfur, bilateral relations, Sudan unity and Qatari initiative. Mubarak told reporters that Al-Bashir accepted an Egyptian role to convince JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim to participate in talks scheduled to take place in Doha.

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports Mubarak told journalists that Darfur issue dominated most of his discussions with Bashir and said the issue is "still complex".

According to **Al-Sahafa** President Mubarak's discussions with FVP Kiir focused on CPA, Darfur issue and ICC. The paper stated Sudan government requested Mubarak to convince Darfur movements to participate in Doha talks. At a joint press conference with Kir, Mubarak pledged to continue cooperation with GoSS and to provide necessary assistance for the peace process as well as development in southern Sudan. Mubarak also declared that a branch of the University of Alexandria would be established in Juba during the coming days.

Kiir calls on neighbours countries to get tough on LRA

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports FVP Kiir has called on neighbouring countries where LRA has presence to take a unified position against the rebels if their leader Kony refuses to sign peace agreement before the end of the current year. Kiir told South-South dialogue participants that LRA is a real threat to stability in the region and accused it of committing horrors in Southern Sudan, Ugandan, CAR and DRC.

JEM welcomes Sudan-Chad normalization of relations

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports JEM welcomed restoration of diplomatic relations between Sudan and Chad. JEM spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam has denied that the normalization of relations would have negative impact on their movement. He said they are currently reviewing proposals submitted by a Qatari envoy for talks in Doha.

Al-Wifaq states it learned from informed sources that there is a close link between JEM and insurgents in southern Kordofan. According to the source, JEM leader Khalil is trying to convince Southern Kordofan insurgents to fight alongside his movement.

Websites/International News Coverage

Darfur forum suggests ceasefire, compensations and Vice presidency post

(**Sudan Tribune website**) A large consultation meeting on Darfur crisis called yesterday on the Sudanese government to declare ceasefire unilaterally, to support the hybrid peacekeeping force in Darfur in its mission and to accelerate efforts to end the five-year conflict in the troubled region of western Sudan. The conference also recommended after acceptance of Naivasha partners to create a vice-president post for Darfur.

The resolutions also called for the creation of compensation fund to help the voluntary return of the Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and the refugees. It also advises to release all the arrested Darfuris and to revise the judgment of those who are sentenced by the courts.

The NCP supported meeting also adopted a position in favour of the creation of additional vice-

president position adding that it requires the approval of the CPA partners and to revise the interim constitution.

With regard to the establishment of one region in Darfur instead of the three regions, the meeting also suggested acceptance of what is agreed by the Darfuris.

Egypt working to defer ICC Sudan indictment

(Reuters) Egypt is working to defer any indictment of Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir by the International Criminal Court on charges of orchestrating war crimes in Darfur, Foreign Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said.

Khartoum has said that peace in the war-racked Darfur region would be impossible if the U.N. Security Council does not stop the ICC from indicting Bashir.

"Sudan is going through difficult circumstances," Egyptian state news agency MENA cited Aboul Gheit as saying. "We are working on two tracks. One is reconciliation and the other is to delay any charges or the court taking up this matter."

ICC judges are not expected to make a decision on whether to indict Bashir before January. Aboul Gheit said Egypt supported Bashir and Cairo had asked the Arab League to make efforts at the United Nations and in the African Union to get the U.N. Security Council to ask the court to shelve the matter for a year.

Egypt's Mubarak hold talks on Darfur and South Sudan peace

(Sudan Tribune website) Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak paid a one-day visit to Khartoum and Juba where he held talks on Darfur peace efforts and the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005.

This is the second visit of Mubarak to Khartoum since 1989. He was in the Sudanese capital on April 4, 2006. As like the first one he made a short visit to the country. The current ruling party in Khartoum has been behind a 1995 assassination attempt in Addis Ababa.

This is also the first visit to southern Sudan of an Egyptian president since 1962 where president Jamal Abdel Nasser visited Juba. Speaking to the press following a meeting this morning with president Omer Al-Bashir, Mubarak said he tackled Darfur issue and Sudan's unity. He also said bilateral ties were part of the talks.

Mubarak also briefed the Sudanese president on Egyptian efforts to convince Darfur rebel Justice and Equality Movement to join the Qatari mediation initiated by the Arab League last September.

President Omer Al-Bashir was briefed on yesterday with the efforts of the Egyptian government to convince Khalil Ibrahim, the leader of the rebel Justice and Equality Movement in Darfur to return to the negotiations table, the official SUNA reported.

Foreign Minister Deng Alor said that Al-Bashir lauded Egypt's efforts to convince the armed movements in Darfur to take part in the coming session of negotiations in Doha, Qatar.

Al-Bashir briefed his Egyptian counterpart on the situation in Darfur as well as the progress of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in southern Sudan besides the preparations for holding the coming general elections next year.

The visiting Mubarak also said that "President Al- Bashir is well aware of the importance of the

unity of the Sudanese territories and supporting the south."

Alor said the visit of the Egyptian President to Juba came as part of the Egyptian efforts to push forward development in southern Sudan that would make the option of unity attractive for the southern Sudanese people.

In Juba, Mubarak had talks with the First Vice President and southern Sudan government president Salva Kiir Mayadrit on the implementation of a peace deal that Egypt is one of its international guarantors.

Salva Kiir briefed Mubarak on the implementation of the CPA and urged more pressures on Khartoum, Kiir press secretary Ayom Wol said following the meeting.

Mubarak told reporters: "I came to Juba for the first time and it gives you an indication that we are concerned about southern Sudan." He said his government would set up a branch of Egypt's Alexandria University in the southern.

Egypt's official MENA news agency said Mubarak's visit was "aimed at cementing stability and unity in Sudan".

Egypt is dependent on the Nile for its water needs. The White Nile, which flows through southern Sudan, provides about 10 percent of the total flow and could provide more if the water management system is improved.

The construction of Jonglei canal is one of the main concerns for Cairo which tries to convince Juba to resume the work on the hydro-construction project. The unpopular canal project was put to a halt in 1983 following the outbreak of the North-South civil war.

The purpose of the canal was to ensure the flow of 4.7 billion cubic meters of water annually, to be equally distributed between Egypt and Sudan.

UNAMID peacekeepers attacked in Darfur

(**Sudan Tribune website**) Nigerian peacekeepers were ambushed on Sunday in West Darfur, wounding a peacekeeper, and on the same day attackers shot at a humanitarian vehicle, wounding the driver in the left hand, according to a spokesman for the peacekeepers.

At 5:45 p.m. on Sunday, the Nigerian Protection Force Company stationed at the Geneina Super Camp in West Darfur was ambushed by a group of unknown men armed with Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) and AK-47 assault rifles, in the vicinity of the "supercamp" base.

The patrol returned fire in self-defense and one peacekeeper was injured in the arm during the ensuing firefight, while a UNAMID vehicle was stolen by the attackers.

The wounded soldier was evacuated at 10:15 p.m. from El Geneina to a medical facility in El Fasher, North Darfur, where he was admitted for treatment and listed in stable condition.

UNAMID called that attack "unprovoked and dastardly attack," and said that it will not deter the mission from pursuing its operations and peacekeeping mandate, which was opposed by the government of Sudan when the UN Security Council authorized the mission.

The mission stated that it is investigating the attacks and "reminds all parties that attacks against Peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law."

Further to the east in West Darfur, three armed men in civilian clothing shot at a UN vehicle, wounding the driver on the left hand, reported UNAMID.

The vehicle belonged to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. It was attacked in Zalingei, West Darfur.

The driver was taken to the hospital for treatment. The vehicle was later recovered by Government of Sudan Police on the same day.

Jonglei capital overwhelm by floods

(**Sudan Tribune website**) Breaking tradition of flooding in August, September or early October, residents of Bor town were nearly submerged Sunday night by flood that down huts and restrict movement.

Pan de Machuor, Pan-gak and Pan de Liet (Bor town suburbs) have been critically hit. Lang-bar 2 and Block Ten too report water commotion in past weeks. Hundreds of people have been affected. Some families, frustrated or have no options, prefer building dykes, though overrun by the increasing water in less than an hour.

Asked for government response to the flood Monday morning, Hussein Mar Nyout – Jonglei State Minister for Local government and the deputy Governor, says there is one appropriate and applicable solution.

"We are talking to ASCOM Company so that they build a dyke [because it can stop water coming]. This is an emergency measure that we have a dyke here," Mar Nyout told Sudan Tribune at Pan de Machuor where the Nile River is thought to have depressed at its bank.

Governor Kuol Manyang Juuk, flanked by state ministers; Hussein Mar, John Amuor Kuol, Agot Alier Leek, Kengen Jackor and Taban Jouch, survey the area to evaluate the magnitude of the water as well as accessing likely effect on the residents.

"There is nothing we can do apart from building a dyke and open some canals so that water in the residential areas is drain back to the river," Mar lamented. Estimating the effect of last night flood on town residents Nyout says: "A lot of people! A lot of people have been affected and even last night they did not sleep at all."

A woman seated on a chair and resting her feet in water told the touring Government officials that she could not move away despite losing entire residential plot to water. "I will build my dyke with my children using stones," she said.

Remote Counties of Pibor, Pachala, Twich East, Akobo, Khorfulus and Duk as well as the State host County of Bor reported flood this year. Highlighting flood-related impacts, Mar indicates that food production, animals' diseases and human illnesses have been noteworthy this year.

Peacekeeping forces dismiss live-fire exercises in Darfur

(**Sudan Tribune website**) The hybrid peacekeeping mission angrily dismissed media announcement made by the Sudanese army about military exercises that it would launch in North Darfur during four days.

The Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) Public Service broadcasted Announcements through El Fasher Radio yesterday morning informing the population that the UNAMID Force would conduct live-fire exercises in the Dirwat Fashar area, east of El Fasher (North Darfur), from Monday 10 to Friday 14 November 2008.

These announcements warned citizens to stay away from the mentioned area to preserve their own lives and the safety of their properties.

"UNAMID categorically denies that it has planned, or will conduct, any live-fire military exercises. Had this been the case, UNAMID would have advised the Sudanese authorities, the media, and the population, directly and well in advance."

The peacekeeping mission said "the Acting Force Commander intends to take up this matter with the SAF authorities for an explanation of their announcements and to ask for the release of an appropriate correction."

The purpose of this live fire exercises is twofold. It offers first recruits the chance to get accustomed to their weapons so that they will know how to properly operate them. Secondly, this provides soldiers with an opportunity to fire live ammunition without having to worry about an actual enemy returning fire.

Each battalion for UNAMID needs 26 Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) and 80 trucks. Deployment of many battalions is delayed due to the lack of equipment or barracks. However the highly trained troops as it required by the UN standards arrive with their weapons.

Misseriya-Dinka peace conference set to open Tuesday in Aweil

(**Sudan Tribune website**) Long-planned peace negotiations between tribes on either side of Sudan's contentious north-south border between Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Southern Kordofan will start Tuesday in Aweil, organizers said.

Largely peaceful after the signing of Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005, the area exploded into several months of bloody battles between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the pastoralist Misseriya that began since December last year. Most considered the bush fighting that claimed dozens of lives a dangerous threat to the peace deal and some as a return to north-south conflict.

Relative calm was brought back to the region after top-level government interference but members of both communities say lingering problems remain and it is unclear under what terms the Misseriya will bring cattle into dry season grazing areas they have traditionally used for generations in northern South Sudan.

"We want to bring the bordering communities back together in unity," Lino Adub, head of Northern Bahr el Ghazal's Peace Commission said. Teams from both the Dinka Malual and Misseriya communities have been working for months to prepare for the conference at both the grassroots and federal- southern Sudan governments levels, he said. High-level officials from both the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the SPLA had also worked to try and create calm in the area, he added.

Adub said hopes were high, giving the example of a recent agreement between the Dinka of Northern Bahr el Ghazal and the Rezeigat tribe – like the Misseriya a pastoralist group from

northern Sudan that graze their cows in the South – that had proved successful.

But as Southerners have pointed out, while water and pasture access are very important the Misseriya-Dinka conference has higher political stakes than most inter-community negotiations over resource sharing and some uncertainty hung over Monday arrivals of participants.

The Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) were quick to blame Khartoum for the Misseriya attacks on SPLA in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, saying that those against the CPA were inciting and arming elements of the Misseriya as they had during wartime, a charge the leaders from the cattle-herding tribe denied strongly on Monday.

"Since the CPA there was nothing of that kind," Khari el Faheim, who led the Misseriya side of the technical team that organized the conference. He said that five areas needed to be discussed: joint development, movement of cattle, the construction of new water points and where cattle can be kept.

GOSS President Salva Kiir has said publicly that Misseriya and other northern groups are welcome to graze in the South but that all weapons must be left behind. Farheim agreed that both sides needed to be disarmed but said it was too risky for Misseriya to enter the South without guns to protect themselves and cattle from raiders.

The two sides will have to also negotiate around an as-yet unclear north-south border whose demarcation has been long-delayed. And as Ayub pointed out, much of peace-making work will centre around changing a mindset of conflict in both communities after decades of north-south conflict in which both were heavily involved.

But the more-distant past holds important hope, Chief Deng Luol from Warawar Payam. The communities in the area lost as many as 200 people in the SPLA-Misseriya battles in the first half of this year, he said, and like other Southerners he said he is concerned that the Misseriya are using weapons to grab land he believes to be clearly Dinka.

South-South dialogue calls for full CPA implementation

(**Miraya FM website**) The political parties who are participating in the South-South dialogue urged the SPLM the necessity to fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The Chairman of the South Sudan Democratic Forum, Martin Elia Lomorw told Miraya FM that all the political parties who have participated in the conference will play its role to preserve the CPA.

Sharing of oil revenues guarantees peace, Deng says

(**Miraya FM website**) While addressing the opening session of the oil conference which is held in Bentiu , Governor of Unity State Taban Deng Gai said that one of the main things to guarantee a sustainable peace in Sudan is transparency, and the fair share in the oil revenues. He added that the environmental effects of oil exploration should be included in developmental plans.