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Highlights

GoSS accuses NCP of renegeing on PCA ruling

GoSS Minister of Presidential Affairs Luka Biong has accused the NCP of renegeing on the PCA Award on Abyei Area, saying the call by the NCP for the participation of the Messeriya in the referendum is a “red line”, *Al-Sahafa* reports. He said the demarcation committee was supposed to complete its work by 10 December but so far it marked only 4 out of 26 points, adding the appointment by the NCP of an executive secretary for the demarcation committee without consultation with the SPLM has also disrupted the work of the committee. Biong, who returned from Abyei two days ago, said the agreements reached at the tripartite mechanism on Abyei have been disregarded particularly with regard to the participation of a foreign expert in the committee’s work. He said an expert from the US had actually arrived but the NCP refused his participation. Biong added that the NCP is insisting on the participation of the Messeriya in the referendum, citing threats to the demarcation committee.

“The country is in a dangerous situation” – says Al-Mahdi

The SPLM and the Umma Party have described the situation in the country as “dangerous”, warning of possible collapse of the peace process if the NCP continues to drag its feet on the need to effect democratic transition, *Al-Ayyam* reports. While SPLM SG Pagan Amum said the country was passing through a critical juncture due to the NCP’s intransigence, the Umma Party leader Sadiq Al-Mahdi described the situation in the country as “dangerous”. However, NCP official and GoNU Science and Technology Minister Ibrahim Ahmed Omer said his party was serious to resolve pending issues.

“South-South conference is NCP tactic to stab SPLM” – Amum

Al-Khartoum reports SPLM SG Pagan Amum as saying that their movement would host a north-north dialogue conference in Juba to discuss political, economic, social and security issues in the country as well as post-independence arrangements. Amum described the south-south conference convened in Khartoum as a political tactic by the NCP to “stab” the SPLM, adding the SPLM could not be uprooted by such “failed tactics”. He said the SPLM would invite all the northern parties to attend the conference including the armed groups. According to the *Citizen*, Amum said the conference would also discuss risks to the Sudan since the President is accused of war crimes in Darfur.

Fears over insecurity in South caused by demobilized elements

Informed sources told *Akhbar Al-Youm* that new armed groups were emerging in southern Sudan and are likely to be a source of insecurity in the region. The groups, made up of SPLA demobilized combatants calling themselves “No Unit” are indulging in killing and looting. Sources warned of likelihood of serious incidents in Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile states due to the increasing number of these groups.

50 additional voter registration centres to be opened in Khartoum

Local dailies report the higher election committee in Khartoum State as saying that 50 additional voter registration centres would be opened allover the Khartoum State at the rate of one registration centre per constituency in order to facilitate the exercise. According to *Al-Ayyam*, 775,442 voters have been so far registered in Khartoum State.

Meanwhile, *Al-Sudani* reports the NEC denied claims of a parallel registration at the

registration centres and urged voters not to hand over their registration numbers to anybody.

According to the **Citizen**, the NEC has been caught violating the law in favour of the NCP. SPLM Deputy SG Yassir Arman presented the evidence to a high-level meeting of the SPLM with the electoral officials in the south. As per the evidence, the SPLM has noticed the NCP staff involved in the voter registration exercise.

Al-Bashir, Kiir discuss differences between the NCP and the SPLM

President Al-Bashir and his FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit met yesterday before the latter started a European tour, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. Sources did not rule out that they also discussed differences between the NCP and the SPLM over contentious issues.

Meanwhile, VP Ali Osman Taha and GoSS VP Riek Machar yesterday resumed their meetings to resolve the crisis over pending issues.

Sudan Tribune website 15/11/09 reported GoSS Minister of Regional Cooperation, Gen. Oyai Deng Ajak, who is part of the accompanying delegation as saying that Kiir would brief the leaders of the European countries on the current political situation in the country.

Oyai added that the visit seeks recommitment of the European leaders to support the full and speedy implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

Kiir's delegation includes Joseph Lual Acuil, State Minister at the Sudanese Presidency, GoSS minister of regional Cooperation Gen. Oyai Deng Ajak and Luka Biong Deng, GoSS minister of presidential affairs.

Humanitarian situation in southern Sudan worrying – Ministry

State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Abdelbagi Al-Geilani, has said the humanitarian situation in Darfur was stable, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports. "The only challenge we are facing now is how to sustain the returns," he said. He pointed out that his ministry requested humanitarian agencies operating in the area to focus on reconstruction projects rather than provision of aid.

On southern Sudan, Al-Geilani described the humanitarian situation as "worrying, especially in the states of Jonglei, Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal, Warrap and parts of the Greater Equatoria". He attributed the situation in those areas to fighting and insecurity.

Al-Geilani confirmed the return of three western humanitarian agencies as alternatives to the expelled ones. "We can not isolate ourselves from others," he said, adding "the door is open for any agency to operate provided local laws are respected".

Khartoum oil refinery to be expanded to produce 200,000 b/d

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports Presidential Adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail as saying that a Chinese delegation which will arrive today will hold official talks on progress of the CPA implementation, the situation in Darfur particularly the AU panel report and Sudan's relations with the neighbouring countries and the UN. Mustafa told a press conference yesterday that a memo of understanding would also be signed on expansion of the Khartoum oil refinery to produce 200,000 b/d.

Sudan human right activists lodge complaint against NISS

Sudan Tribune website 15/11/09 – Three human rights activists who were detained last year by Sudanese National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) lodged a complaint with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR).

Osman Hummeida, Monim Elgak and Amir Suleiman were reportedly ill-treated and tortured after being accused of collaborating with the International Criminal Court (ICC) months before the Hague tribunal issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir.

“The application describes how the NISS arbitrarily arrested and detained the three applicants, denied them custodial safeguard and subjected them to torture and ill-treatment in violation of articles 1, 5, 6 and 7 of the African Charter,” the three men said in a statement.

“During their interrogations and torture the applicants were questioned about their work on human rights and the pursuit of justice and accountability in Sudan, in particular their support for the ICC.

The statement also called for a change in the National Security Law which is hotly debated between the NCP and Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Mohamed Badawi, another Sudanese human rights activists speaking from Banjul said that the “NISS and the National Security Act which guides its operation continue to be tools of injustice and oppression, used in particular against civic and political rights activists”.

“It is time to end the state of fear deployed by NISS after the arrest and torture of three applicants. This case is a case on behalf of all the independent civil society and human rights movement in Sudan” Badawi added.

Al-Bashir to meet his Eritrean counterpart in Port Sudan today

Al-Sahafa reports President Al-Bashir will launch today in Port Sudan an industrial complex and silos for strategic stockpile. The President will address a mass rally in presence of Eritrean President Issias Afwerki.

Claim of NISS supplying hard intelligence to CIA “incorrect” – Gosh

Former NISS DG and present National Security Adviser Gen. Salah Gosh told **Al-Akhbar** that Sudan’s National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) maintain strong relations with the CIA, adding his several visits to Washington over the past years were part of efforts to rearrange the relationship between the two security institutions. However, Gosh has denied that NISS provided hard intelligence to the CIA that was not supposed to be given.

Three injured as armoured vehicle caught fire in Khartoum suburb

Firefighters in Khartoum State managed to extinguish flames from a burning tank in the Armored Brigade barracks at Al-Shajara suburbs south of Khartoum. A firefighter and two soldiers have been injured, **local dailies** report.

Babiker Mohamed Ahmed, a senior officer at the Khartoum State Fire Brigade, told police authorities that the fire broke out as a result of an electric short-circuit when crew members tried to start the engine of an armoured tank, adding three people were injured and 32 shells exploded.

Parliament postponed over lack of quorum

The National Legislative Assembly yesterday postponed an extraordinary session due to a lack of quorum, **The Citizen** reports. The session that was planned to deliberate on the draft fiscal budget was postponed to take place today.

ICRC suspends activities in Darfur

The ICRC has suspended all its humanitarian activities in the three Darfur states and in eastern Chad since last Thursday, spokesperson Saleh Dabaka said, according to *Al-Akhbar*. Dabaka said the activities were suspended due to repeated kidnapping incidents.

Mbeki, Bassole differ over Darfur peace process – source

Sudan Tribune website 15/11/09 – AU-UN mediator Dijibril Bassole is becoming increasingly discontent with the chairman of the AU High Level Panel on Darfur (AUPD) Thabo Mbeki following the Peace and Security Council (PSC) summit held last month in Abuja, a senior African diplomat told Sudan Tribune.

The PSC summit endorsed the report compiled by the AUPD which conducted regional and local missions to come up with recommendations that will harmonize peace, justice and reconciliation as a roadmap to end the six year conflict in Darfur.

The diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity said that Bassole arrived in Nigeria only to discover that his name was left off the list of speakers at the summit by the AU secretariat.

After several inquiries Bassole discovered that Mbeki was behind the move and got the impression that the former South African president is seeking to sideline him and take over the Darfur mediation, he said.

“He [Bassole] was told informally that the report was the product of the AU and as such he had no business addressing the PSC,” the diplomat added.

After the UN-AU joint mediator made formal complaints to the African leaders, he was allowed to address the PSC.

The diplomat claimed Mbeki and the AU Commission Chairman, Jean Ping are “fighting a silent battle” with the UN to take the Darfur file away from the world body.

“Ping is one of those people with militant views on rejecting any non-Africans taking part in solving the continent’s problems and playing the Western conspiracy card all the time in reference to the [UN] Security Council. His positions and public support for Khartoum is a reflection of these views and is becoming increasingly problematic to the AU’s credibility. Mbeki shares Ping’s views but is smarter about expressing them” he said.

“They view Bassole as being closer to the [UN] Security Council than the AU which is why they don’t feel comfortable with him. Bassole is trying to be impartial in his role without favoring the Sudanese Government and they [Mbeki & Ping] don’t like that” the diplomat added.

Algerian President directs flying 10,000 fans to Khartoum

Local dailies report that the Algerian and Egyptian football teams are set to play a touch final on Wednesday in Khartoum. According to *Al-Sudani*, local authorities announced that they would issue entry visas for Algerians desirous of traveling to Khartoum to cheer up their team. While Egyptian authorities began an airlift between Cairo and Khartoum, the Algerian President instructed the transportation of 10,000 fans to Khartoum to support their team in its match against Egypt.

Reuters 15/11/09 reported that frenzied, chanting crowds greeted Algeria and Egypt's soccer

teams as they arrived in Sudan on Sunday to battle for Africa's last qualifying place in the 2010 World Cup finals.

After a last minute equalizer from Egypt on Saturday night, the teams will play a decider on Wednesday in Khartoum for the chance to play in South Africa next year.

Thousands of Egyptian labourers working in Sudan will help fill the stadium while Algerian flags began to appear on Sudanese cars throughout the capital...