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Highlights

President Al-Bashir invites parties to dialogue to avert violence

Local dailies report President Al-Bashir yesterday addressed the opening of the National Assembly session.

According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, Al-Bashir called on the opposition to engage in dialogue to avert a possible violence during upcoming elections and pledged to establish a human rights commission. He said the Government would endeavour to create a favourable atmosphere for the elections and described the CPA as the Government's greatest achievement, adding the national security law and referendum Act for the South would be passed by the Parliament in its new session.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 5/10/09, President Al-Bashir pledged to hold free and fair election next year. "We reiterate our commitment that these elections will be free and fair," the Sudanese President pledged, adding "a special budget has been allocated to the elections commission so that the independent commission can play its role."

He asked the semi-autonomous Government of southern Sudan to effectively resolve the tribal violence in the region and expressed the readiness of the national unity Government to provide the necessary help in this respect before the holding of the general elections and the referendum.

Radio Miraya 6/10/09 reported the Speaker of the National Legislative Assembly, Ahmed Ibrahim Al Tahir, said the referendum process should be completed through the election of both the north and south Governments.

Al Tahir said it was impossible for the referendum process to continue with this current Government, adding that the parliament would be forced to discuss the Referendum Bill if the disputes between the political forces on the law persist.

However, the Head of SPLM Parliamentary Bloc in the National Assembly, Yasir Arman, called on all political parties in the Parliament to reach a consensus on the Referendum Bill.

Arman said the SPLM would not accept the Referendum Law to be passed by mechanical majority in the Parliament.

The SPLM bloc in the Assembly warned that it may quit sessions if the parliamentary agenda is not discussed.

Sudan Tribune website 5/10/09 reported the speaker of the Sudanese National Assembly Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir threatened to table a draft bill of the referendum law voicing frustration with failure of the National Congress Party (NCP) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in reaching a compromise.

The two parties are deadlocked particularly on the percentage of registered voters required to declare Southern Sudan an independent country. The SPLM has proposed 51% while the NCP proposed 75% and recently raised the stake to 90%.

There are also disputed post-referendum issues including discussions on what to do with the liabilities, assets, water, Joint Integrated Units (JIU's), oil, international agreements in case the South would vote for separation.

Al-Tahir addressing final session of the Sudanese parliament before the April 2010 elections said that the parliament "has run out of patience" with the long dragging dispute over the laws.

The NCP figure added that the legislative assembly is empowered to bypass the executive branch and the joint political commission of both parties and craft its own version of the referendum bill.

He added that such a move will be necessary if differences remain adding that the parliament has a responsibility to ensuring that Southerners are able to cast their votes on self determination.

However, the head of the SPLM bloc Yasir Arman in the national assembly slammed Al-Tahir's remarks threatening to work against any such move.

"The parliament has no right to resolve the referendum issue in that manner," he told reporters.

Arman also reiterated the SPLM's rejection to the national security law warning that any attempts to pass it will "create a crisis".

NCP, SPLM executive committee to meet today

Al-Akhbar reports the executive committee between the NCP and the SPLM, headed by VP Ali Osman Taha and GoSS VP Riek Machar is to resume dialogue on pending issues. Riek Machar is reportedly coming to Khartoum today for the talks which will focus on a range of pending issues particularly the referendum law.

SPLM is not an opposition, LRA is heading for Chad – FVP Kiir

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit said the SPLM is NCP's partner not an opposition party, adding some northern parties think the SPLM might join the opposition against the NCP, **Al-Khartoum** reports. Kiir made the remarks in an interview to the paper after the political parties' conference in Juba was concluded.

On referendum, he said so far there are no incentives to make unity attractive, warning that ongoing practices might force southerners to vote for separation. With regard to the security situation in the South, he accused hidden hands of being behind insecurity in the South, adding the responsibility should not be placed on the NCP only but on some southerners who are also bent on destabilizing the South.

Kiir also warned of the danger of the LRA which he described as a regional menace. He said the LRA left Uganda and was presently located in West Equatoria, the Congo and the CAR and was moving toward Chad via Bahr El-Ghazal and Darfur.

Misseriya refuse to implement PCA Award on Abyei

Akhbar Al-Youm reports over two thousands Misseriya representing all sections of the tribe held a conference in Seteid area yesterday where they took what they described as irrevocable decisions. The two decisions are the unanimous rejection of the PCA Award on Abyei and the unanimous rejection of redrawing of the boundary based on the PCA ruling.

All-Misseriya Union member Mr. Ali Hamdan Kibir said the conference's decision was handed over to the representatives of the UN who attended the conference and they had been informed that the decision was Misseriya's final position on the PCA ruling and that those who attended the PCA Award announcement in The Hague did not represent the tribe.

Sudan Tribune website 5/10/09 reported a section of the Arab Misseriya tribe announced that they would not adhere to the ruling made last July by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague which redrew the boundaries of the Abyei region.

The London based **Al-Hayat** newspaper reported that more than a thousand member of the Misseriya held a conference in Seteib area vowing to challenge the decision of the tribunal.

The tribal leaders said that they lost 56 villages that were awarded to Dinka Ngok which co-inhabits the Abyei region.

They further said that they intend to appeal the court's verdict at The Hague and the Sudanese Supreme Court.

The speakers at the Misseriya conference accused the NCP of causing the loss of the tribe's land and warning of "repercussions" because of that.

They also threatened to resort to force should the Dinka refuse to abandon the court's ruling and agree on letting them retain their villages.

However, they stressed that they do not want war "unless forced to".

Meanwhile, according to the **Sudan tribune website**, the northern army (SAF) has strongly warned the Joint Integrated Units (JIU's) to cease entering the court ruled areas in southern Kordofan without their prior notice.

The arbitration tribunal on July 22 said that the Abyei Boundary Commission Experts had exceeded their mandate when they included Heglig and Bamboo oilfields in the territory of the nine Dinka Ngok chiefdoms transferred to Kordofan in 1905 and annexed the oil rich area to southern Kordofan state.

The two peace partners accepted the ruling and committed themselves to draw the border of the area in September under supervision of international experts.

The January 2005 accord formed separate northern and southern armies and stipulated that joint armed units should be deployed in major towns to keep the peace.

"The joint integrated units should first and foremost give us advance information in a written document giving details of their visit, number of days, and number of visiting personnel and at what capacity," said SAF Brigade 31 commander stationed at Nyama.

However, the commander who declined to be named further added that they do not have any problem receiving any body so long as they are given advance information so they are able to pass it ahead to their central command.

"We are military who operates and functions under military chain of command," he stressed.

This comes after the border demarcation technical team was denied security in the areas of operations when SAF ordered immediate withdrawal of the accompanying JIU supposedly deployed to provide adequate security and protection to the team saying not part of their areas of responsibilities.

The team suspended its operation and withdrew from the area to Abyei town following the issuance of military orders on Monday 28 September 2009.

Consultations are being made between the two parties for immediate resumption, said members of the border demarcation technical committee.

The official who did not want to be named also acknowledged departure, for medical reasons of four members from Messeriya group who are members of the local representatives to border demarcation committee.

The committee, besides the official joint delegation and UN experts, includes 18 local representatives 9 from Misseriya and Dinka Ngok.

He also requested the local authorities to extend them unreserved cooperation. "We badly need their assistance through our accompanying members of press; he said adding this was why we first started meeting all concerned authorities including traditional chiefs from both sides."

Local leaders expressed concern and dismay saying resumption of such restrictive military measures that banning movement indicates signs of renegeing on promises made by parties particularly the National Congress Party (NCP).

This is not a simple warning. It has a root; said Alor Kuol a retired Sudanese armed forces officer in Abyei. He added that army gets instructions from political leaders, probably from the ruling president.

This issue needs to be immediately addressed by the authorities; he further said stressing that the NCP-led Government should advise SAF to go out of the court ruled areas to allow proper demarcation without military interference in the technical work.

However, a member of the area joint military committee representing SAF, who declined to be named, strongly defended SAF insistence saying although they are in the court ruled areas, they need an official instruction from SAF headquarters to evacuate.

"You cannot just enter any house even if it is yours without greeting a neighbor," he stressed adding there is a need for official communications even if both parties are aware of the business, he said adding that communication first and operations follow.

Five SPLA soldiers killed in Mundari – Bor dispute

Sudan Tribune website 5/10/09 – An ambush on a truck transporting south Sudan army forces and civilians, trapped in the fighting between Mundari and Dinka Bor youths, killed 9 people including 5 soldiers, officials say.

The truck was ensnared 10 km from Mangala while returning from Pariak, Bor County.

NCP suspicious of political parties' sources of funding

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports NCP information official Kamal Obeid as saying that his party's recent

general convention was funded by its members, its businessmen and its companies, dismissing claims that the NCP funded its convention from the state's treasury. He told reporters yesterday that his party's membership stands at 7,000,000. "Sources of funding for conventions of some political parties are unknown," he said.

Strange outbreak kills twenty SPLA soldiers in W Bahr el –Ghazal

Radio Miraya 6/10/09 - A strange disease has killed about 20 SPLA personnel and civilians in the areas of Timsaha, Firga and Kitkit in the north of Raja County in Western Bahr El-Ghazal State. GoSS state Minister for Health, Ishag Elias Ibrahim said the patients died of nose bleeding and vomiting.

The Minister called on the Southern Government and other international partners to come to the rescue.

Coming war will not be in the South – GoSS Minister

Al-Intibaha reports GoSS International Cooperation Minister Owyai Deng Ajak has painted a grim picture of the situations in the Sudan, accusing the NCP of dragging its feet on the CPA implementation. "We say to them that if war again breaks out, it will not be in the South. We are prepared for war," he said. Gen. Ajak made the remarks in Nebraska (US) while addressing a gathering of Sudanese nationals mostly southerners, Nuba and Darfurians. "When the NCP redeployed SAF from the South they left behind the arms and communication equipment for the militias to sabotage the CPA. The NCP maintains over 30,000 soldiers in the Nuba Mountains, 20,000 in the Blue Nile as well as the PDF in the north. We have forced them to sign the CPA and we will force them to respect it or else it will be their end and this time we will not fight them from the South," he said.

In a related development, **Al-Raed** reports GoSS relief coordinator K. Chol has revealed the entry of heavy weapons into the South particularly the border areas and the Upper Nile, saying this constitute a threat to the security situation all over the country.

Food drop begins in Jonglei and Sobat

South Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission announced the start of food dropping in the areas affected by tribal conflict in Jonglei and the Sobat in cooperation with the WFP, **Al-Intibaha** reports.

Moscow hosts a conference on Darfur today

Local dailies report a conference on Darfur will be held in Moscow today. According to **Al-Khartoum**, the conference will be attended by more than twenty Government officials and parliamentarians. Sudan Government's delegation will be headed by Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din.

According to **Itar-Tass**, ways to settle conflicts in Sudan will be the main subject of discussion at the international conference workshop on Sudan's problems.

Discussions at the forum will involve politicians, public figures, and scientists from Russia, the European Union (EU), the African Union, the League of Arab States, and the United Nations Organization.

They intend to exchange views on prospects for the development of the internal political situation in Sudan, analyze the situation in the western Sudanese province of Darfur and discuss possible ways to put an end to the conflicts. It is also planned to examine the socio-political and economic interests of the leading powers of the world and African countries in Sudan.

The conference workshop has been organized on the initiative of Mikhail Margelov, the Russian President's special representative for Sudan, the Institute of Middle East Studies, and the Institute of Contemporary Development.