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Highlights

Census result can not be resolved by a political decision –Al-Bashir

President Omar Al-Bashir, at a meeting with the UN Envoy for the Lakes Region Olusegun Obasanjo yesterday in Khartoum, affirmed that the census result was a technical matter which could not be modified by a political decision, adding the Government was serious to resolve the pending issues before the end of the year, *Al-Sahafa* reports. He said Khartoum was ready to achieve a lasting peace in Darfur at the forthcoming talks in Doha. He told the envoy that Sudan Government was also keen to normalize its relations with Chad.

Submission of security law triggers a crisis within the Parliament

A crisis was sparked yesterday when the national security bill was submitted to the Parliament because the SPLM complained that the version tabled before the Parliament was different from the one agreed upon between the two partners, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. SPLM Parliamentary Bloc Secretary General Thomas Wani warned that the SPLM would walk out the Parliament's sessions if the original text is not on the table.

War looms after killing of Paulino Matip's sister

Al-Wifaq yesterday learned from informed sources in Juba that the Mundari officers who were part of a force dispatched by the SPLA to bring the Mundari-dominated area under control had withdrawn from force. Anonymous sources told the paper that the coming hours might witness tension between the commanders of the force and the Mundari officers who refused to cooperate on a military action against their tribe.

Meanwhile, Governor of Unity state Taban Deng returned to Bentiu yesterday in a bid to contain the crisis with Paulino Matip. Sources said Matip' sister and her daughter were killed and that might trigger a war, citing 6000 soldiers under Matip's command.

In a related development, *Sudan Tribune website* 6/10/09 reported that latest reports by state authorities said about 20 Mundari villages have been burnt to ashes and thousands of people are internally displaced as clashes continue into the fifth day with the Dinka Bor armed group.

Terekeka County Commissioner, Juma Ali Malou, said 21 people from the Mundari community were confirmed dead. The number of the wounded was not confirmed.

The death toll on the side of Dinka Bor was reported to be around 17 people. 5 SPLA soldiers were also reported killed in the fighting.

Sudan denies recruiting former US officials as lobbyists

Sudan tribune website 6/10/09 – The Sudanese Government dismissed as false a Washington Post report published last week describing efforts by Khartoum to recruit former US officials to work as lobbyists to press Washington to lift sanctions and remove Sudan from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism.

Sudanese Presidential Adviser Mustafa Ismail denied any such endeavors by his Government.

"We should not believe anything mentioned in the Washington Post or any newspaper" Ismail was quoted by Sudan official news agency (SUNA) as saying.

"The press writes so much good and bad info but we should get the correct info from its sources," he added.

The Sudanese official said that his country's efforts to mend fences with the US will continue but criticized the slow pace of progress in this regard.

Darfur rebels deplore US envoy plans to hold meet in controlled area

Sudan Tribune website 6/10/09 — Darfur rebels condemned today the US special envoy to Sudan over a planned reunification conference for some rebel factions in a territory they control.

The US envoy Scott Gration who is seeking to play an active role in the reunification of Darfur rebel groups conducts an initiative to reunite the different factions of the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM).

However his efforts do not include the legacy SLM faction led by Abdel Wahid Al-Nur who rejects participation in the peace process before disarmament of Government militias and return of displaced people to their homeland.

Gration plans to hold a meeting related to the unification of some groups in an area under SLM-Nur control at Dirbat, said Abdel Rahman Nimir who reiterated their rejection to this gathering.

"We categorically reject this conference in our territory," Nimir said.

SLM AW rebels believe that US envoy is targeting their leader Al-Nur and works to replace him by another leader who would join the peace process.

"We call on President Obama to stop this wrongdoing of his envoy and to act seriously to prevent further interferences in the issues of our movement," said Nimir.

The meeting, which is expected to take place in Darfur in the upcoming weeks, includes SLM-Unity, SLM Ahmed Abdel Shafi and five former commanders from SLM –AW. When the unity process is completed, the SLM will negotiate with Idriss Abu Garda of the United Resistance Front and other small groups that rejected the Libyan process.

At Moscow conference, Government warns warmongers in Darfur

Local dailies report the scientific symposium on Sudan's peace issues kicked off yesterday in Moscow amid the participation of a number of countries and organizations. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din praised Russia's role, hoping the conference would come up with recommendations to address Sudan's crises. He said the conference was exploratory, intended to diagnose problems and prescribe solutions. Ghazi warned warmongers in Darfur, saying the Government is committed to peace agreements and the Doha talks.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 6/10/09, Moscow supports today Sudan's independence and territorial integrity, said Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov in a speech delivered at the international conference on Sudan's problems today..

Envoys for Sudan from different countries, regional and international organizations as well as experts gathered today in the Russian capital to exchange views on prospects to end the six-year conflict in Darfur province.

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.

Russia is interested in the settlement in Sudan with the observance of its independence, territorial integrity and by peaceful means, said the Russian deputy minister on Tuesday." This meeting is unprecedented, as there has never been such a brainstorm on Sudan's problems," he further said.

Saltanov pointed to the importance of the UN Security Council Resolution 1590 on setting up the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) for the South. "If Sudan's territorial integrity is not preserved, the consequences will affect not only the neighbour states of the Horn of Africa but also the entire Continent," he stressed.

Saltanov said there were conditions for resuming and advancing the Darfur peace process. Russia hopes sincerely that the talks on peaceful settlement will be resumed in Doha by late October and "will become comprehensive."

"Sudan's problems must be tackled constructively with interaction of the United Nations, the African Union and the League of Arab States," Saltanov said. "Now the situation in this respect is encouraging," he added.

The workshop on Sudan political conflicts will focus also on the poor implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended more than two decades of war in southern Sudan where a referendum on self-determination would be held in 2011.

Russian special envoy for Sudan, Mikhail Margelov, said Russian efforts aim "to promote stabilization on the African continent." He deplored Sudanese decision to expel 13 international aid groups from the country following the arrest warrant for President Omar Al-Bashir by the ICC. However he also criticized the ICC decision against the Sudanese President.

"That decision, as is known, has not met with understanding of African countries and does nothing to help solve the existing problems," Margelov said. "If Sudan had no President now, the likelihood of the country's disintegration would be very high," he said.

"The Sudan conflict is a phenomenon with many aspects," Margelov said. "Our task is to draw the biggest possible number of representatives of social, political and scientific circles into the quest for its solution," he added.

The special representative of the Russian president appreciated efforts by Qatari Government to reach peaceful settlement to Darfur conflict, as well as Libyan role in this respect.

In a related development, **AFP** 6/10/09 reported that envoys from the UN Security Council's top powers have called on Sudan's feuding parties to urgently implement a 2005 peace accord and prepare for 2010 elections.

Top envoys from Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and the European Union "underlined the urgency of progress to further efforts for the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement," a US statement said.

The six powers also "urged the parties to reach agreement as soon as possible on arrangements for free and fair national elections in 2010 and the 2011 referendum, as well as

on a work-plan to address issues of shared interest that will arise after 2011."

The six international powers, in their Moscow meeting on Tuesday, called for "further efforts and stronger political commitment by all parties in Sudan to build lasting peace."

It was the second meeting held by the group since it was convened to address the crisis in May.

No detentions or fighting in Darfur – Government

Al-Sahafa reports the Sudanese Government has strongly criticized the Human Rights Watch's report on the situation in Darfur, saying it was "biased, inaccurate and politically-motivated". State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani, speaking to reporters yesterday lambasted the HRW's charges, describing them as "worthless". "The security situation in Darfur is stable. There are no detentions, harassment or violations. There were some administrative problems facing the NGOs which will be addressed with the security authorities," he said. He added the broad meeting held yesterday in El Fasher with the national and international NGOs witnessed no complain from NGO about violations in the region.

Frequent attacks on UNAMID is due to its inability to defend itself – Commissioner of El-Geneina

Commissioner of El-Geneina Dr. Fadulallah Abdullah has affirmed the stability of the security situation in the town, reports **Al-Wifaq**. Dr. Abdallah, who was speaking in an interview to the paper, said the security situation in Darfur was now reached an excellent level, citing the joint efforts exerted by the security committee and police forces', saying no incident was reported over the last two months.

He attributed the frequent attacks on UNAMID, which he described as armed robbery, to the fact that the latter did not move to defend itself and categorically denied that the UNAMID soldier was killed by SAF. Abdullah said there were no obstacles preventing conduct of the upcoming elections in his Locality since the security situation is stable.

700 candidates register for KCPE in South Sudan

The **Standard website** 6/10/09 - Seven hundred pupils in South Sudan will sit for this year's Kenya Certificate of Primary Education [KCPE]. This is the first time the exams will be officially undertaken in Sudan.

The Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) says it was the first time Kenya was sharing its exams with a foreign country since the abolition of the East African Examination Council.

"Sudan candidates will sit for the same exam alongside Kenyans. The exams will begin on 10 November and end on 12," said KNEC senior deputy secretary in charge of exams and administration Edah Muiruri. Sudan, she explained was using the same education curriculum as Kenya. "They have paid for the services and we have made adequate arrangements to airlift the exam papers to them," Mrs Muiruri said.

Many Southern Sudanese children are learning in Kenyans schools, especially those whose parents were displaced by the war.