



Local News Headlines

- UN denies proposing elections delay (**Al-Akhbar**)
- President Bashir leaves Qatar without meeting UNSG (**Khartoum Monitor**)
- I will step down should Sudanese so desire – President Bashir (**Al-Sahafa**)
- Southern Kordofan directs preparations for the return of 4000 refugees from Egypt (**Al-Watan**)
- State Logistic Support made Khartoum safest city - Interior Minister (**Sudan Vision**)
- NCP and SPLM differ on national security law (**Al-Meidan/Al-Ahdath**)
- Agreement between Kassala State Government and UN on development projects (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Eid holiday from Sunday (**Local dailies**)

Websites/International Headlines

- Ugandan LRA rebel leader refuses to sign final peace deal (**Miraya FM**)
- Sudan parliament inches closer to endorsing controversial budget (**ST**)
- Minnawi to meet Kaddafi in Tripoli (**ST**)
- Darfur rebel chief dismisses Bashir statements on French pressure (**ST**)
- Rumbek marks World AIDS Day (**ST**)
- Sudan to work with Chinese Telecom Company (**ST**)
- Sudan Government Orders Demolition of 10,000 Houses in Slum (**ST**)
- India veterinary doctors treat cattle in Bor (**ST**)

NOTE: *Reproduction here does not mean that the UNMIS PIO can vouch for the accuracy or veracity of the contents, nor does this report reflect the views of the United Nations Mission in Sudan. Furthermore, international copyright exists on some materials and this summary should not be disseminated beyond the intended list of recipients.*

Address: UNMIS Headquarters, P.O. Box 69, Ibeid Khatim St, Khartoum 11111, SUDAN
Phone: (+249-1) 8708 6000 - Fax: (+249-1) 8708 6200

Highlights

Local Arabic and English Language Press

UN denies proposing elections delay

Al-Akhbar reports that at the time when the proposal to postpone elections is facing a wide rejection from all the political forces including the ruling party, UN presented a new interpretation of the controversial suggestion. UNMIS informed source denied that the Mission made a direct proposal to that end.

The source, which was replying to the paper's question, explained that what had actually happened was that the Mission officials, while reviewing elections schedules as per the CPA which provides that general elections at all levels should take place not later than 10 July 2009, noted that this period is a rainy season and a peak of autumn particularly in southern Sudan, a matter which imposes two options: Either to advance elections schedule to take place in April before the rainy season which is difficult if not impossible because elections need preparations such as funding, technical and logistic facilities, or to postpone them.

"We are here to assist the Sudanese to ensure proper CPA implementation. We do not interfere in matters beyond our mandate which does not include setting elections schedule," the source emphasized.

Meanwhile, **Al-Sahafa reports** NCP official Ghazi Salah Al-Din has declared his party's adherence to the elections schedule. However, he said efforts are underway to achieve political consensus on this matter, adding conduction of elections or otherwise is a national issue. "UN is not the body concerned with determining elections schedule. I am also not sure how far this opinion is representative within UN. It may be a personal opinion," he said. "Holding elections should be a national issue, he said, noting that the NCP is keen to have them on schedule. "The CPA and the Interim National Constitution decide on how elections should be conducted and delayed. We will stick to that," he said.

According to **Al-Khartoum** reports President Bashir has reiterated that elections would be held on schedule.

President Bashir leaves Qatar without meeting UNSG

Khartoum Monitor reports President Bashir returned home after taking part in the UN Development conference. According to **SUNA**, President Bashir met in Doha with Presidents of Algeria, Tanzania, Kenya, France, Eritrea, Qatar and SG of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

However, **SUNA** made no mention of any summit between President Bashir and UNSG Ban Ki-moon who was present during the conference. On Friday, **SUNA** reported that Bashir would hold a number of meetings including with the UNSG. There was no official explanation on why the meeting never took place.

I will step down should Sudanese so desire – President Bashir

Al-Sahafa reports President Bashir has declared his readiness to step down should the Sudanese so desire. "Should it be the desire of foreign powers, I will fight to the end," he added. In an interview with the **Qatari Al-Arab** yesterday, Bashir said three bodies were working to

resolve the Darfur crisis: the People of the Sudan's Initiative, Arab initiative led by Qatar and UN-AU mediation led by Bassole. "The positive shift in France's stance on Sudan-ICC crisis was not based on bargaining," he said. "The International Community's failure to provide \$4.5 billion delayed development in southern Sudan and is a threat to unity," he added.

President Bashir said he was not optimistic about change in the US Administration's positions. "George Bush and Barack Obama are the same," he declared.

Southern Kordofan prepares for return of 4000 refugees from Egypt

Al-Watan reports Southern Kordofan State Governor Omer Suleiman has directed formation of committees to prepare for the return of the State's 4000 refugees from Egypt.

State Logistic Support made Khartoum safest city - Interior Minister

Sudan Vision reports Interior Minister Ibrahim Mahmoud Hamid said the Ministry was keen to provide accommodation to police cadres to help ensure they do their job effectively. He said the logistic support provided by Khartoum State Government made Khartoum city the safest at regional and international levels.

NCP and SPLM differ on national security law

Al-Meidan/Al-Ahdath report NCP and SPLM have reached an agreement on the press and publication law which will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval and then to the Parliament. However, GoSS Legal Affairs Minister Michael Makwai said the two partners disagreed on the national security law.

Agreement between Kassala State Government and UN on development projects

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports HAC official Idriss Ali Mohamed as saying that Kassala State Government, UN Agencies, INGOs and NNGOs met to discuss humanitarian issues. HAC, he said, pledged to facilitate activities of the agencies which, in turn, had promised to give due consideration to projects proposed by government and HAC in the state.

Eid holiday from Sunday

Local dailies report the Cabinet General Secretariat declared that Eid Al-Adha holiday will begin on Sunday 7 December until Thursday 11 December 2008.

Websites/International News Coverage

Ugandan LRA rebel leader refuses to sign final peace deal

(Radio Miraya FM website) LRA leader Joseph Kony rejected signing the final peace agreement with the Ugandan Government yesterday. Miraya FM's correspondent in the south Sudanese border village of Nabanga, where the peace agreement have been signed, said that the tribal leaders who met Kony said he was not ready to sign unless the ICC cancels its arrest warrant against him.

Meanwhile, the **Daily Monitor website** reported the Ugandan army is preparing to attack LRA rebels, whose leader Joseph Kony, for the fourth time this year alone, yesterday refused to sign the final peace agreement. Major Paddy Ankunda, Defence and Military spokesman, said last night that the rebel chief had already "played his games to the last limit".

"We have always said that Kony can only find sanctuary in the Juba [South Sudan] peace talks," said Maj Ankunda. "Now that he has failed to sign the peace agreement, he should know that

the world and regional governments will hunt for him."

The warning came as frustrated benefactors of the talks, including chief mediator, Dr Riek Machar and Mr Joachim Chissano; the UN secretary-general's special envoy in LRA-affected areas, returned home empty-handed.

The team, comprising Uganda government delegation headed by Internal Affairs Minister Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, had camped at Ri-Kwangba at the South Sudan/DR Congo border on Saturday [29 November] and Sunday, waiting in vain for Kony's signature.

Yesterday, Mr David Matsanga, speaking for the LRA side, told the Daily Monitor by phone from Ri-Kwangba that he had met Kony and was due to brief the team of GoSS VP Dr Machar.

In the northern district of Pader, Col Sam Kavuma, commander of UPDF Fifth Division, yesterday convened an emergency joint security meeting of senior officers at Acholi-Pii to "handle the current security challenges" posed by the failed Juba dialogue and armed robbers in the region.

"We shall remain combat-ready to protect Ugandans and their property from any aggressor." said Capt Deo Akiiki, the UPDF Fifth Division spokesman.

Sudan parliament inches closer to endorsing controversial budget

Sudan Tribune website, The Sudanese national assembly yesterday overwhelmingly approved a third version of the 2009 federal budget amid national concern on the economic outlook facing the country. A final vote is required before the budget becomes official.

The \$10 billion budget forecast a 44% drop in its oil exports revenue to \$3.6 billion in 2009, down from \$6.4 billion. This year's budget introduces tax hikes to offset the shortfall in oil revenue. Changes include a 20 % increase in telecoms VAT, up from 15% in 2008, and a new 5% "development tax" on some imports, Reuters reported.

Oil exports represent 65% of revenue for Sudan and helped fuel its unprecedented economic growth despite US economic sanctions. However a severe global financial crisis sent oil prices down more than 60% from its all-time peak of \$147.27 reached July 11.

State Finance Minister Tarek Shalabi told Reuters he was still hoping oil prices would bounce back in the coming months, but said government spending would remain restrained. "The oil price has been nose-diving and that puts a lot of pressure on to our system," he said. "I think that prices will go up," he added. "But there will be pressure on government departments to manage their resources very carefully"

SUNA, the Sudan official news agency, quoted Finance Minister Awad Al-Jaz as saying that gross revenue in the budget represents 13.2% of GDP. Al-Jaz further said that the oil revenues are representing a top source the general revenues in Sudan and thus the budget was negatively impacted by the financial crisis. However he stressed that the budget sustained policies aimed at "promoting growth and development growth of resources". The top finance official in Sudan also said that the budget deficit for 2009 accounts for 6.2% of the GDP.

Some assembly members criticized the allocation of \$3 billion to security and defence. This amount is more than six times what was set aside for education and healthcare.

Meanwhile, the daily Al-Hayat newspaper published in London said that an eight hour meeting

in Juba and decided to implement new measures to reduce GoSS expenditures. The GoSS cabinet meeting headed by Salva Kiir agreed to restructure government ministries, departure of all ministers residing in hotels, slashing compensation for government officials by 10% and aligning salary structure of the South with the North.

Luka Byong, GoSS Minister for Presidential Affairs, had criticized the lack of emphasis on national development projects in the South “that would help make unity attractive”.

Minnawi to meet Kaddafi in Tripoli

(Sudan Tribune website) The Sudanese senior presidential assistant Minni Arcua Minnawi left Monday for Tripoli on a three-day visit to meet with Libyan leaders for talks on the Darfur crisis. The former rebel will meet with Libyan Leader Muammar al-Gadhafi and brief the Libyan leadership on the latest developments of the peace process in the war ravaged region.

Sudan official news agency (SUNA) also reported that Minnawi will meet with some of the rebel groups that refused to sign the peace agreement.

Darfur rebel chief dismisses Bashir statements on French pressure

(Sudan Tribune website) A Darfur rebel leader has dismissed statements by Sudanese President Omer Hassan Al-Bashir in which he said that France would press him to take part in peace talks mediated by the Qatari government.

“It would be better for him [Al-Bashir] to create conducive environment instead of such unproductive declarations” Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur, leader of Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) told Sudan Tribune today.

Al-Bashir was quoted as saying that his French counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy pledged to pressure Al-Nur to attend any future peace talks. The two presidents met on November 28 on the sidelines of a UN meeting on development in Qatar. “I told him that the Darfur tragedy has now gone on for too long, that he must take initiatives and change things” the French president told reporters after his meeting.

Al-Nur, who is the founder of the rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), urged Al-Bashir to prove his seriousness for peace “by halting the killing of the innocent civilians, the rape of women and to disarm the government backed militias”.

Rumbek marks World AIDS Day

(Sudan Tribune website) Thousands of Lakes state citizens turned out in Rumbek’s Freedom Square to celebrate the World HIV/AIDS day, the second year since the establishment of the state AIDS Commission to celebrate the event in Rumbek. Previous celebrations of the day took place under UN auspices.

The ceremony was shared by Lakes state Political Affairs Advisor Apollo Madok Chol and Lakes state MPs, as well as folklore teams representing eight counties of Lakes state, members of organized forces and heads of different UN agencies in Rumbek.

According to the director of the HIV/AIDS Commission in Lakes state, Paul Thok Ayok, the face and response to AIDS has greatly changed since 1988, often for the better, but this year’s anniversary offered an opportunity to highlight how much more still needs to be done.

Meanwhile, the UNMIS representative read out the messages of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, saying that “on this world day, let us all pledge to be hope-givers who offer

encouragement and take action to create a future without AIDS."

A statement from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights was also read out, noting that "this year, we mark both the 20th World AIDS Day and the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is fitting that during these landmark anniversaries we consider how far we have come in the global effort to combat AIDS."

Sudan to work with Chinese Telecom Company

(Sudan Tribune website) Sudan has invited the largest Chinese telecommunications company to coordinate with the Sudanese Telecommunication Company (Sudatel), said Minister of Finance Awad Ahmed Al-Jaz announced on Monday. Al-Jaz indicated that technical progress in telecommunications benefits from Sudan's strategic location as a link between Arab and African countries.

Sudan Government Orders Demolition of 10,000 Houses in Slum

(Bloomberg) Sudan's government ordered the destruction of as many as 10,000 homes in a slum outside the capital, Khartoum, as part of an urban planning program, a local administration official said.

The campaign forced thousands of people to live in makeshift shelters made of sticks and cloth on the fringes of the Mandela settlement, 20 kilometre (12 miles) south of Khartoum, said former residents including Mary Deng and Ahmad Abderahim. The slum was formed in the early 1990s by migrants from the western region of Darfur and southern Sudan.

"The demolition came with the agreement of the people," Madut Wek, a spokesman for Mandela's so-called popular committee, a state-backed local authority that administers the settlement, said on Nov. 29. "When you live in a camp, you're not comfortable. You're not settled."

Human rights groups, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have previously accused President Umar al- Bashir's administration of using dictatorial measures such as cracking down on the media and arbitrarily arresting dissidents to hold on to power.

Mandela, a series of crowded mud homes woven together by narrow sandy paths, has no streets, no state-provided electricity and no formal land ownership. Members of the popular committee said once demolition was complete, every resident with an identification card would be given a properly identified plot of land and homes would be rebuilt in an organized manner.

"This reorganizing will bring us water, electricity, transport," Wek said.

Francis Wani, a member of the popular committee, said 4,000 houses have already been destroyed and the remaining homes will be brought down in stages. The clearance began the weekend of Nov. 22 and Nov. 23, the BBC reported on Nov. 29, without being more specific.

Ali Agab, legal aid coordinator at the Khartoum Center for Human Rights and Environmental Development, said the removal of residents of Mandela was one of a series of incidents in which the government was clearing land to sell to investors.

"After people have been living a long time in a certain area, after the land becomes of value, the government doesn't care about where people go and how they will get services," Agab said by phone from Khartoum. "They just kick people out."

A spokesman at the Interior Ministry, which is responsible for the police, couldn't immediately comment on the matter when called today in Khartoum.

Some residents said they were attacked by the police when they refused to move. "If you refused to leave, they came with the bulldozer with you and your furniture inside," said Deng, a mother of three, whose home was destroyed. Residents said they feared they would not be allowed to return unless they could afford to pay the required sum and that their land would be sold to investors. They also expressed concern that their current living conditions may deteriorate. "We're worried about fires, about sickness, about criminals," said Abderahim, a migrant from the Nuba Mountains in central Sudan. "If there is a fire, not one child will survive. These houses burn easily."

India veterinary doctors treat cattle in Bor

(***Sudan Tribune website***) Armed with a range of veterinary equipment, India army veterinary doctors start vaccinating cattle suffering from various diseases in the Bor area on Monday. The India battalion is part of UNMIS.

Cattle diseases, which local people say are unusual, have invaded Bor since October killing hundreds and resulting in a spread of malnutrition among children dependant on milk. At the State government's request, a team of India army veterinary doctors led by Lt. Col. Ajay Kumar, arranged a three to four day vaccination campaign.

Kumar told the ***Sudan Tribune*** that the cattle are suffering from a number of diseases including: east cost fever, debility, diarrhea, ticks infestations, CBPP, NS4BQ, worm infestations and malnutrition. Tens of cattle have been dying daily around Jonglei capital.