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

Highlights

Presidents Bashir, Mubarak discuss CPA, Darfur

Local dailies report President Al-Bashir visited Egypt yesterday for talks with his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak. **Al-Rai Al-Aam** quoted Sudan Ambassador to Egypt Abdul Moneim Mabrouk as saying that the two Presidents discussed bilateral relations, Darfur, CPA implementation and the ongoing preparations for elections. He described the talks as positive.

Sudan Tribune website 12/7/09 reported President Bashir is in Egypt to attend the Non-Aligned Movement summit in the coastal town of Sharm Al-Sheik.

“Talk about illegitimacy of the government anarchy” – government

Local dailies report the Ministry of Justice yesterday refuted the opposition’s allegations about illegitimacy of the government. According to **Al-Rai Al-Aam**, Justice Minister Abdul Basit Sabdarat held a press conference yesterday where he said the government is legitimate and constitutional and the president’s tenure would continue until July 2010. He described the controversy over constitutionality of the government as “anarchy” and called on those contesting the government legitimacy to take the issue with the constitutional court.

According to **Miraya FM** 12/7/09, the NCP and the SPLM has come up with a unified stance on the legitimacy of the government on legal and constitutional grounds.

SPLM SG Pagan Amum said that the legitimacy of the government would end when general elections are held adding that the claim by the opposition parties about the legitimacy of the government was unconstitutional.

NCP, SPLM fail to set date for PCA ruling on Abyei

The NCP and the SPLM have failed to agree on a date for the announcement of the PCA ruling on Abyei, **Al-Sahafa** reports. While the government wants the postponement of the ruling until 21 August, the SPLM stick to 22 July for making the decision public. GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong said the two sides failed to agree on a date for the ruling, saying both would inform the court about their positions so that the PCA would decide on its own.

USG Le Roy meets government officials

Local dailies report USG Alain Le Roy who arrived in Khartoum yesterday embarked on a series of meetings with government officials for discussion on a range of issues. According to **Al-Sahafa**, Le Roy has urged the parties to the dispute over Abyei to shoulder their responsibilities to maintain security in the area when the ruling is announced as well as to raise the awareness of the local population to accept the decision. Le Roy told reporters after a meeting yesterday with FM Deng Alor, Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah el Din and MFA Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq that he received assurances from the parties to abide by the PCA ruling on Abyei. **Al-Wifaq** reports Le Roy expressed UN readiness to support Sudan’s elections scheduled for 2010 and to push forward the CPA implementation especially the referendum bill for self-determination for South Sudan. **Al-Raed** reports Le Roy described his meetings with the MFA officials as “constructive and fruitful”. He also met with the State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs Abdul Bagi Al-Jailani who told him that the humanitarian situation in Darfur is stable.

UNAMID to deploy 95% of troops by the end of this year

The Joint Tripartite Mechanism between the government, UN and AU revealed difficulties facing deployment of UNAMID troops in Darfur after various countries had refrained from supplying needed planes to help UNAMID carry out its mission in Darfur, *Sudan Vision* reports. The mechanism is expected to meet in NY in September. USG for Field Support Susana Malcourea told reporters after a meeting yesterday that UNAMID deployment would reach 95% by the end of the year.

No compromise over census, border demarcation – GoSS

Ajras Al-Hurriah reports GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong has denied a deal between the SPLM and the NCP on the border demarcation and the census results. In an interview to the paper, Biong has also accused unnamed quarters of supplying arms to tribes in the South.

Government says did not agree to rights expert nomination

Director of Human Rights at the MFA Ambassador Abda Al-Sheikh has dismissed reports that Sudan government has agreed to the nomination of an independent human rights expert to report on the situation of the human rights in the Sudan, *Al-Khartoum* reports.

Scores killed in LRA attacks on WES

LRA resumed attacks on many areas in the Western Equatoria State killing tens of civilians and causing massive displacement, *Al-Intibaha* reports. NCP chairman in WES Mores Taban told *SMC* that the said atrocities occurred over the past two days.

“Unity in present form not attractive” – Kiir

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports FVP Salva Kiir has hinted the possibility of secession of southern Sudan. He described unity in its present form as “unattractive”. Kiir, who addressed a ceremony relating to the Nuer spiritual leader two days ago in Juba, stressed the need for commitment to the prospective Abyei arbitration ruling.

Sudan warns Uganda over violating AU decision on ICC

Sudan Tribune website 12/7/09 — The Sudanese government warned Uganda that it must honor the AU decision not to cooperate with the ICC in the apprehension of president Omer Al-Bashir.

“As a signatory to the Rome Statute, Uganda Government re-iterates its commitment to the Statute and support to the ICC. This position is shared by the other African States Parties to the Statute who clearly expressed it during the Assembly meeting in Sirte, Libya,” the foreign ministry statement read.

“Uganda Government supports the African Union Assembly Decision...of February 2009 requesting the UN Security Council to defer the ICC indictment for twelve (12) months, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rome Statute”.

The statement made no reference to the AU decision taken in Sirte or whether Uganda will adhere to it.

The official said that all African countries must adhere to AU decisions and any state that doesn't do that is breaking the African consensus.

The ‘Ultimate Media’ website quoted Ugandan foreign minister Sam Kutesa as telling reporters

in Kampala that the decision is viewed by many as “a manifestation of lack of respect and support for the ICC Rome Statute by African leaders”.

Kuteesa said that the AU simply wants an AU deferral to allow African countries “to investigate further on Bashir’s case such that they can give their recommendations on his indictment”.

Sudan women “lashed for trousers”

BBC 13/7/09 - A group of Sudanese women has been flogged as a punishment for dressing "indecently", according to a local journalist who was arrested with them.

Lubna Ahmed al-Hussein, who says she is facing 40 lashes, said she and 12 other women wearing trousers were arrested in a restaurant in the capital, Khartoum. She told the BBC several of the women had pleaded guilty to the charges and had 10 lashes immediately.

Khartoum, unlike South Sudan, is governed by Sharia law. Several of those punished were from the mainly Christian and animist south, Ms Hussein said. Non-Muslims are not supposed to be subject to Islamic law, even in Khartoum and other parts of the mainly Muslim north.

She said that a group of about 20 or 30 police officers entered the popular Khartoum restaurant and arrested all the women wearing trousers. She said some women pleaded guilty to "get it over with" but others, including herself, chose to speak to their lawyers and are awaiting their fates.

Under Sharia law in Khartoum, the normal punishment for "indecent" dressing is 40 lashes.

Ms Hussein is a well-known reporter who writes a weekly column in Sudanese papers called Men Talk. She also works for the United Nations Mission in Sudan.