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Highlights

Local Arabic and English Language Press

ICC prosecutor to charge Darfur rebels over peacekeepers attack next week

(Dailies/ST) ICC Prosecutor said on Friday he would present a case next week for the indictment of some rebel commanders accused of attacking peacekeepers in Sudan's Darfur region.

Luis Moreno-Ocampo's third case on Darfur investigates a rebel attack on the Haskanita military base last year that left 10 African Union (AU) soldiers dead and one missing. Ocampo made the announcement during a speech Friday at the opening session for the assembly of ICC state parties.

Sudan says it received 12 MIG fighters from Russia; US critical

(Dailies/ST) Sudan's defense minister, Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein told reporters during a visit to the Russian capital that they {Sudan} have received a new shipment of 12 MIG-29's.

"Yes, it's all done, the planes have been bought" Hussein was quoted as saying in response to a question about a contract for the purchase of the 12 planes.

The Sudanese defense minister did not say when the fighters were contracted for or when they were received.

The announcement drew strong rebuke by the US administration describing it "as the last thing that country needs".

"Sudan is a poor country and to go out and buy MIG's, obviously that's something we don't think is a positive step" US State Department deputy spokesman Robert Wood told reporters when he was asked if such a purchase undermined Sudan's call for a truce in Darfur.

In response, **Local dailies** report MFA criticized US statement about sale of Russian fighters to the Sudan. The government considered US statement as flagrant interference in internal affairs of the country. MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said Sudan has the right to obtain arms. "Sudan is facing major challenges so it should obtain appropriate weapons to enable it to deal with these challenges," says Al-Sadiq in response to US criticism. According to **Ajras Al Hurriah**, Al-Sadiq said SAF has the right to obtain arms. "It is a lawful right equally guaranteed by the international law for all countries," he said.

According to **Akhbar Al Youm**, Sudan's Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Mohamed Hussein explained that the deal was old. "It is an old deal on the basis of which MiG 29 aircraft were purchased from Russia during the tenure of the former Defence Minister Bakri Hassan Saleh and the aircraft were actually received," he said. "There is no new deal for new aircraft," he said.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Deng Alor said Al-Bashir's decisions announced at the wrap-up session of the People of Sudan's Initiative Forum would give Sudan "moral authority" to counter the ICC. However, he said Sudan has not yet decided on how to deal with the ICC hoping that new peace initiatives would convince USA, France and Britain not to use veto

power.

Submission of demarcation report to Presidency postponed due to differences

Akhbar Al Yom reports submission of a preliminary report on North-South border demarcation to the Presidency postponed due to differences within the committee on some correspondences issued before 1.1.1956. The report was supposed to reach the Presidency yesterday. The Committee Chairman Abdullah Al-Sadiq said the differences were mainly on borders between the White Nile and the Upper Nile but consultations were continuing to overcome these differences to draw the border line on paper.

On the other hand, **Al-Khartoum** states GoSS is preparing to convene a workshop on 17 Nov on border demarcation to be attended by border experts from London. A source said GoSS invited the Border Demarcation Technical Committee to participate in the workshop.

Abyei Area administration embarks on a series of meetings to prepare budget

Al-Ayyam reports Abyei Area administration embarked on a series of meeting to prepare the Area's budget for submission to the Presidency. The Administration Secretary General Molong Tonj told the paper that the budget would be finalized and submitted to the Presidency within 15 days. He said after the budget is endorsed, the Area Administration's priorities would include provision of basic services and security as well as tribal reconciliations, compensations and infrastructure.

Hybrid Tripartite meeting today

Al-Sahafa reports the second tripartite mechanism meeting between Sudan, UN and AU will convene today in Khartoum to discuss implementation of what was agreed upon during the first meeting held in October and obstacles encountered. An MFA Undersecretary Mutrif Siddiq will represent Sudan, AUPSC Commissioner Ramadan Lamamre will represent AU and USG Susana Malcourra will attend for UN.

Forum on conflict resolution protocol in Southern Kordofan to be convened

Sudan Vision says a conflict resolution protocol implementation obstacles will be discussed in a forum to be held in Al-Fula town in Southern Kordofan State during the period November 21 – 22nd. The forum will be organized by AEC in the State. Commission's rapporteur, Ahmed Mohammed Suleiman stated that the forum aims at resolving some problems relating to the protocol implementation in Southern Kordofan after dissolution of Western Kordofan State and its integration into Southern Kordofan.

SPLA intelligence behind the “niggers” in southern Sudan

According to **Al-Intibaha**, informed sources in Juba confirmed SPLA is supporting and organizing “niggers’ activities” which target Equatorians and northerners to force them to leave Juba. The “niggers group” is made up of sons of senior SPLA intelligence officers who have been provided with two vehicles to carry out their activities. The paper also claims SPLA continues violating the CPA, citing an incident of a SAF lieutenant detained by SPLA for a week.

Compensation Commission and UNAMID to train IDP native administrators

Al-Wifaq reports Darfur Transitional Authority's Compensation Commission said a plan was underway in collaboration with UNAMID to provide training to IDP native administrators as well as chiefs in war-affected areas. The Commission chairman Abu Al-Gasim Ahmed said the plan would be implemented during the coming days after studies are finalized.

Sudan's HIV prevalence rates hit 20,000 cases

Akhir Lahzah (13 Nov) reported National Programme to Fight AIDS (NPFA) announced that the number of HIV cases reported by the testing centres has rose from 1.47 per cent in 2002 to 11.47 per cent in the current year. The programme further indicated that the number of those infected with HIV in Sudan has now reached 20,080 cases.

Addressing the forum of the Sudanese Network Against HIV at the Al-Zubair Martyr Hall in Khartoum, NPFA director, Dr Muhammad Ahmad Abd-al-Hafiz, disclosed that a draft law to protect the rights of those living with the disease had been formulated. He added that a curriculum to educate primary and secondary students on AIDS had also been finalized. He further announced that a budget of 7m dollars had been made available for the NPFA's programmes in 2009.

Websites/International News Coverage

Salva Kiir says northern Sudan making unity less attractive

The **Sudan Tribune** web site revealed that the President of Southern Sudan government Salva Kiir Mayadrit has blamed its peace partner, the National Congress Party, for not contributing to the economic development in the semi-autonomous region saying it makes unity less attractive.

According to ST, Salva Kiir made his remarks during his meeting in Juba with the Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, last Monday.

Kiir told Mubarak that the self determination is a constitutional right of southern Sudan and Abyei people however the priority here should be unity. "This should be achieved by correcting whatever mistakes had previously been made" and development should be brought to the south during the six-year interim period between the signing of the CPA in 2005 and the date of the referendum in 2011.

"So far almost nothing had been done" Kiir told Mubarak, said Ayom wol the press secretary of the southern Sudan government president.

During the meeting southern Sudan minister of regional cooperation Benjamin Barnaba Marial urged Egypt to intervene with Khartoum to secure promised Arab League projects.

Sudan violates Darfur ceasefire in two days of assaults – rebels

(**Sudan Tribune**) President Omer Al-Bashir's announcement of a ceasefire on Wednesday was followed by two days of attacks on Friday and Saturday, according to rebel and UN sources. The army and air forces launched multiple attacks along different stretches of a main road into Chad, which Sudanese-backed forces invaded in each of the last three dry seasons. On Friday morning, government Antonov planes bombed for several hours near a main road between Koribia and Um Mahareik, confirmed many rebel commanders.

In three hours of fighting beginning at noon on Saturday, Sudan's army attacked rebels near Chad with some 150 soldiers, Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) spokesperson Ahmed Hussein Adam told Sudan Tribune. An army air force helicopter and Antonov gunship took part in the attack, which occurred in Sasa area, 'Tyreego village, situated 15 km south of Tina, said Adam.

"JEM forces repulsed the attack and killed the leader of the assailants and his deputy, both of whom are officers," said Adam, adding that much army equipment was also destroyed. JEM

military spokesperson, Ali Wafi, said that Friday assault was accompanied by air cover consisting of 2 Antonov bombers and 1 helicopter gunship.

He further added that the commander of Sudanese troops "with a rank of Lieutenant General was killed and so was his Deputy Commander who held a rank of Major."

Anonymous UN sources confirmed to Reuters that they had reports from reliable sources of attacks in the area of Koriba and Um Mahareik.

The omda (local chief) of Koriba and local commanders indicated that the government aircraft were apparently targeting Sudan Liberation Army fighters, according to JEM Legislative Council speaker Tahir Al-Faki.

However, *local dailies* report SAF spokesperson Osman Al-Aghbash has denied that the army has violated the truce declared by President Bashir by attacking areas in North Darfur. He said SAF is committed to the comprehensive ceasefire declared by the President. He explained that a convoy of relief trucks was robbed by bandits in the Koribia area which led to intervention of the army. He said SAF clashed with the bandits who fled without loss of lives.

UN to probe Darfur 'bombings' after ceasefire call

(**AFP**) The UN-led peacekeeping mission in Darfur said on Saturday it is investigating rebel accusations that the Sudanese government bombed the territory shortly after announcing a ceasefire.

"We received information about bombing in North Darfur and we are trying to confirm this information from our troops on the ground," Major Ahmed Salah, deputy military spokesman for the mission, told **AFP** by telephone.

The Sudanese military was not reachable for comment, but at least three senior rebels accused the government of attacking North Darfur.

"Yesterday they started bombing from the morning. The Antonovs were moving from 7:00 am to midday. There were also bombings for two days before," said Ibrahim al-Hillo, from one faction of the nebulous Sudan Liberation Army.

Hillo said the attacks around the villages of Kurbia and Umraik left two boys wounded one person dead and two people missing as well as decimating livestock.

"I want to tell the international community, he (President Omar al-Beshir) is a liar... so how can we respond to that (ceasefire)?" he said.

Tahir el-Faki, a London-based member of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) also accused the government air force of bombing Kurbia on Friday.

"We have credible and reliable sources from Darfur yesterday saying that the Sudan government air force carried out a campaign of aerial bombardment in the village of Kurbia targeting what is thought to be some SLA fighters," he said.

Faki, chairman of JEM's legislative assembly, said his information came from rebel commanders in the area and the omda, or leader, of Kurbia.

He had no information about human casualties but said a substantial number of animals were killed.

"This is a clear violation of what al-Beshir announced... This is a systematic pattern," said Faki.

Nimir Mohammed Abdelrahman, another SLA spokesman, also accused the government of attacks in the wider Disa area, some distance from the location given by the other two rebels speaking to **AFP**.

The reports came as African Union Chairman Jakaya Kikwete urged the Khartoum government and rebels to resume peace talks in bid to restore stability to western Sudan's region of Darfur, where conflict has raged since February 2003.

Rebels on Wednesday dismissed as a propaganda stunt Beshir's announcement of a ceasefire and a call for a campaign to disarm militias.

Southern parties require NCP cooperation with ICC

(**Miraya FM**) FVP Kiir expressed hopes that the South-South Political parties' dialogue reaches a common consensus to assist all parties facing challenges in Southern Sudan.

Addressing the Closure of the dialogue in Juba, president Kiir urged all southern parties to unite and work hard to establish trust and respect among the people of one nation.

The south Sudan political dialogue has called upon the presidency and the national legislature to ensure that legislations that are crucial for free and fair elections are enacted.

Reading resolutions and recommendations reached by the Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) and other South Sudan political parties after a six-day political dialogue in Juba, Maulana Yuanis Akol Ajawin the secretary general of the union of Sudan African parties 2 USAP2 said appointment of election commission members should be in consultation with all parties.

Among other recommendations the right to reserve or reject the results of the last census, the need to expedite the demarcation of the North-South border committee before the general elections. The parties also called upon internally displaced persons, refugees and those living in the Diaspora to return home. The parties urged the National congress party to cooperate with the International Criminal Court.

In a joint press conference with the Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki in Khartoum on Friday; President Bashir said that the resolution of no cooperation with the court was taken by the Government of National Unity, through the Council of Ministers and the National Interim Assembly.

Sudan and Chad to assess border patrols

(**Sudan Tribune**) A mission will be sent to the border of Chad and Sudan to assess conditions for the deployment of Sudanese and Chadian forces under the Dakar peace agreement, the contact group on these two countries decided when they met Saturday in N'djamena.

The foreign ministers of the group have adopted the findings of experts based on the various agreements signed between Chad and Sudan, including the Dakar agreement, said the final communiqué issued at the meeting.

The Contact Group approved the fielding of an evaluation mission responsible for determining observation posts of the peace and security forces that must later be deployed by both countries, said the communique.

Signed in March, the Dakar agreement, which is far from being the first peace agreement between Chad and Sudan, aimed for both countries to stop supporting proxy rebel fighters.

The agreement pledged to "prohibit any activity by armed groups and prevent the use of their respective territories for the destabilization of one or the other" in both countries.

The contact group is composed of Chad, Sudan, Libya, Gabon, Congo, Senegal and Eritrea.

"The strength of the defense and security force provided for in the Dakar agreement comprises 2,000 men, composed of 1,000 Sudanese and 1,000 Chadians, deployed on both sides of the border with 10 observation points within Chad and the Sudan identified by military experts from member countries," said the Chadian Minister of Foreign Relations Moussa Faki Mahamat at the group meeting.

"This is a mission of border security to be borne by each country," he said.

The contact group decided to hold its seventh and next meeting in Khartoum, when the group will "effectively bring the force for peace and security to its feet," according to the press release.

Congolese Minister of Foreign Affairs Basile Ikouebe said that the meeting should take place in January.

According to ***Al-Sahafa***, the Contact Group endorsed a budget of \$ 21 m for deployment of troops between Sudan and Chad.

South Sudan may reject fifth census results

(***Sudan Tribune***) The southern Sudanese political forces said they might reject out come of fifth national census which was conducted last April due to the incomplete preparedness for the counting operations.

The fifth Sudan Population and Housing Census, a milestone in the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was conducted from 22th to 30th April 2008. It was the first all inclusive census for people of southern Sudan since Sudan became independence in January 1956.

The South-South meeting agreed in the 22 page text of resolutions that the difficulties and shortcomings faced by the census may affect its results. All these hindrances "have been acknowledged and documented by various institutions including the National Census Council," they say.

The southern Sudanese political forces also agreed that "In case of rejection of the census results, Southern Sudan shall maintain its present status - 1/3 of Sudan's population until proper census is conducted."

The most recent U.N. estimate for Sudan's population is 37.8 million but the numbers are difficult to verify because of Sudan's huge internal displacement and also tens of thousands of Sudanese who have fled fighting over the years to neighbouring countries.

The Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) had given a reluctant green light to the census operations in southern Sudan. GoSS expressed reserves over the incomplete repatriation of the Internally Displaced and refugees to Southern Sudan, the inadequate forms and census questionnaires.

One week before the census, Gabriel Changson Chang pointed out that GoSS would reserves the right to have an opinion on the general outcome of the census results; if the issues raised are not addressed by the presidency and permit the census to go ahead.

Changson further underlined that "We are still holding on that ethnicity and religious be included on the forms in order to dispute claim that Sudan is an Arab country and an Islamic state".

The southern Sudanese parties however reaffirmed adherence to the schedule of holding general elections and urged to review bills that are not yet conform to the interim constitution namely: National Security Law, Press and Media Law, Code of Criminal Procedure Law, Code of Civil Procedure, Penal Code and Workers and Trade Union Act.

Speaking at the closing session of the Dialogue between SPLM and Southern Political Parties on Friday, SPLM chairman Salva Kiir called on all southern parties to unite and work hard to establish trust and respect among the people of one nation.

Besides the southern Sudan ruling party the meeting was attended by SANU, USAP (1), USAP (2), UDF, The Democratic Forum, UDSF, ANC, SSDF (Front) and Labour Party.

Head of African Union urges resumption of Darfur peace talks

(Sudan Tribune) The Tanzanian President and African Union chairman Jakaya Kikwete has urged the Sudanese parties, Sudanese government and rebels to resume peace talks in order to settle the five year conflict in Darfur region.

"AU is impressed with (the) Sudanese government's initiatives in restoration of peace in Darfur, but wants to see peace talks with rebels resume to achieve lasting peace in Sudan," he said in a statement released late Friday.

Kikwete made the plea after receiving a message from Sudan's President Omer Al-Bashir in Dar es Salaam, delivered by a presidential adviser Mustafa Osman Ismail.

Osman, accompanied by Sudanese Justice Minister Abdel Sabderat, briefed Kikwete on the resolutions of a government initiated large consultation to bring to an end the war in Darfur.

"I am pleased with the initiatives aimed at ending the protracted war in Darfur.

"However, it should be stressed that the plight of Darfur and Sudan in general is in your own hands, the people of Sudan. We in the AU are there to support those efforts," said Kikwete.

Egypt warns Sudan that Bashir not immune from ICC prosecution

(Sudan Tribune) The Egyptian government warned Sudan that its stance on the International Criminal Court (ICC) is "weak" and will not protect president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir from prosecution.

"I thoroughly examined the ICC Statute to look for something that could aid Sudan's position. Even though Sudan is not a state party this will not prevent the ICC jurisdiction in these cases and dropping all immunities" the Egyptian State minister for Legal and parliamentary affairs Mufid Shihab said during a forum at the Saudi Embassy in Cairo.

The Egyptian official stressed that the only way out for Sudan and its president is to take "concrete and concise steps" and that there is no point of taking extreme positions on rejecting the ICC.

The statements by Shihab mark a radical shift in Egypt's position which has backed Sudan in position against the ICC.

The Egyptian minister, who is an international lawyer expert, has previously said in August that Khartoum is not bound by the ICC since it is not a member of the court and emphasized that Al-Bashir enjoys immunity as a head of state.

Shihab's remarks come days after the Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak paid a surprise and brief visit to Khartoum where he held private talks with Al-Bashir believed to have mainly focused on the ICC row.

Cholera outbreak hits south Sudan state

(Radio Miraya FM, Juba) Northern Bahr Al-Ghazal State Ministry of Health Director General confirmed new infections of cholera at Pariak in Aweil East. Speaking to **Miraya FM** on Thursday, Dr. Eward Ayong Abiai disclosed that over five thousand cases of cholera have been reported in Aweil from July to October, 2008.

Last October, the Southern Sudan Ministry of Health denied any reports of cholera cases from Aweil by State Ministry of Health while reacting to the **Miraya** report on cholera in Aweil East.

Sudan faces tax rise as oil price falls - minister

(Dailies, Reuters) Sudan has been indirectly hit by the global financial crisis and will have to raise taxes to make up for the falling price of its main export, oil, the finance minister said on Thursday.

Sudanese government officials earlier this year said their country was largely immune to the worldwide slowdown, partly because U.S. trade sanctions over Sudan's alleged support for terrorism and the war in its Darfur region had insulated it from the American economy. But Sudanese finance minister Awad al-Jaz told reporters Sudan had been hit indirectly through the oil price, and by the fact that some of its trading partners did have sizeable U.S. investments and business dealings.

Al-Jaz said he planned to raise vehicle import duties in his budget for calendar year 2009 as well as taxes on telecoms services. He did not release figures or go into greater detail about which services would be taxed.

His 2009 budget had already been approved by Sudan's coalition cabinet and would go before parliament next week, he added. The government has a strong majority in parliament, which has not rejected a national budget in years.

"We must search for other resources besides oil and develop other products to protect our country and our economy from the effect of the international financial crisis," he told a news conference.

Sudan says it currently produces 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude, and the mining and energy minister last week said it would raise that figure to 600,000 bpd in 2009.