



## Local News Headlines

- Thousands participate in funeral of Umma Party leader (**Local dailies**)
- NCP and SPLM differ on border issue (**Al-Ayyam**)
- Referendum is facing challenges – Pagan (**Al-Ayyam**)
- AEC recommends native administration restructuring (**Al-Sahafa**)
- UN warns of “serious” consequences if Bashir is indicted (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Interior Ministry on refugee returns (**Al-Rai Al-Aam**)
- Government denies violation of Chadian skies (**Al-Sahafa**)
- DPA referred for incorporation in the constitution (**Akhir Lahza**)
- Fire destroys 150 shelters in Direig camp in South Darfur (**Akhir Lahza**)
- Sudan-EU dialogue to resume (Al-Ahdath)
- Understanding between Government and UN on de-mining (**Al-Ahdath**)
- Sudan calls on the International Community to put pressure on Darfur rebels (**Al-Sudani**)
- Nomads Council meets UN coordinator (**Al-Intibaha**)
- Sudan selected Chairman of African Group at UN in Geneva (**SUNA**)
- Delegation of Sudanese Red Crescent Society to leave for Oslo (**SUNA**)

## Websites/International Headlines

- Ex-Darfur rebels report Government attack – peacekeepers (**Reuters**)
- South Sudan embarks on developing local entrepreneurs (**ST**)
- Increase peacekeeping efforts (**The Japan Times**)
- Political environment in the south not conducive for elections - GoSS official says (**Miraya FM website**)
- INTERVIEW: US diplomat urges peace, implementation of DPA (**ST**)

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# Highlights

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## Local Arabic and English Language Press

### *Thousands participate in funeral of Umma Party leader*

**Local dailies** reports thousands of Sudanese yesterday attended the funeral of Umma Party Secretary General Dr. Abdul Nabi Ali Ahmed who died in a car crash two days ago. The funeral was led by President Bashir, Imam Sadiq Al-Mahdi and a large number of political, partisan and Sufi leaders.

### *NCP and SPLM differ on border issue*

**Al-Ayyam** reports differences between NCP and SPLM executive committee partners on the border demarcation issue but said the difficulties would be resolved soon.

The committee said the two partners differed on referendum law, national security law, press and publication law, lands and human rights law. "We are confident we will overcome the differences over the border during the coming days so that the line is drawn on paper and then on the ground," GoSS VP Machar said.

According to **Miraya FM**, SPLM will meet today at the sub-committee level in Khartoum to discuss a number of topics that are expected to be tabled for NCP and SPLM Joint Political Executive Committee meetings. GoSS VP and SPLM head of the Committee, Dr. Riek Machar told **Miraya FM** that amending the nine laws will top the agenda.

According to **Al-Khartoum** SPLM's official Ramadan Shimilla told the paper that the Press and Publication Act has been finalized and would be handed over to the NCP and SPLM Joint Political Executive Committee to be submitted to authorities concerned – Cabinet, Ministry of Justice or the National Constitution Review Commission. Debate on the National Security Act will continue today, he said.

**Ray Al-Shaab** reports the NCP and SPLM Joint Committee is to discuss amendment of restrictive laws, freedom of press and the situation in Nuba Mountains. However, the opposition National Democratic Alliance announced that it had finalized drafting laws on national security, press and publication and trade unions and that these would be submitted to the Parliament next week.

### *Referendum is facing challenges – Pagan Amum*

"We are making efforts to end war in Darfur and to contain the crisis of ICC indictment of President Bashir in order to avoid confrontation with the International Community because any confrontation could lead to collapse of Sudan," SPLM Secretary General Pagan Amum told a symposium on current N-S relationship, according to **Al-Ayyam** newspaper. Amum said referendum to decide unity or separation of southern Sudan could encounter great challenges. He said the majority would support separation because of the current manner in which the CPA is being implemented.

### *AEC recommends native administration restructuring*

**Al-Sahafa** reports that a Southern Kordofan AEC-sponsored conference has recommended

restructuring of the native administration and passing of its law, addressing security issues in the area, involving the local community in promotion of peace culture and giving area residents due consideration for oil-related administrative jobs. The conference also recommended adherence to 1.1.1956 border and called for efforts to address issues of environment, women and youth.

### ***UN warns of “serious” consequences if Bashir is indicted***

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports UN Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations “A. Mullet” said UNAMID peacekeepers in Darfur and UNMIS peacekeepers in southern Sudan could be target of revenge if President Bashir is indicted. He told the SC yesterday that indicting Bashir could involve serious security consequences as well as other consequences for UN troops.

### ***Interior Ministry on refugee returns***

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports Ministry of Interior announced the return of 289,173 out of 731,469 Sudanese refugees. An informed source told the paper that the Interior Ministry is making preparations for the return of the rest of refugees. The source said 24351 refugees returned from Uganda, 2670 from Kenya and 4146 from Ethiopia.

### ***Government denies violation of Chadian skies***

**Al-Sahafa** reports Sudan Government denied that its aircraft had violated Chadian skies. An MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq, responding to EUFOR claims of Sudanese aircraft over-flying Chadian territory said Sudan had received no complaint from N'djamena. He emphasized the need for sufficient time for the two countries to restore mutual confidence.

Meanwhile, a report in **Al-Sudani** says Presidential Advisor Mustafa Osman Ismail has denied reports of an impending meeting between Presidents Bashir and Deby. “We have no information they are meeting in Doha,” he said.

### ***DPA referred for incorporation in the constitution***

**Akhir Lahza** reports the Presidency officially referred to the Constitutional Commission the letter requesting DPA incorporation into the interim constitution. SPLM has downplayed DPA integration into the constitution. SPLM spokesperson Ben Mathew told the paper yesterday that the issue is not the incorporation of DPA in the constitution; the problem lies in how to find a lasting and radical solution to Darfur issue.

### ***Fire destroys 150 shelters in Direig camp in South Darfur***

**Akhir Lahza** reports that a fire in the Direig IDP camp in South Darfur yesterday destroyed more than 150 houses. Scores of IDPs were displaced but no casualties reported. Camp sheikh Adam Musa said the cause of the fire was unknown.

### ***Sudan-EU dialogue to resume***

**Al-Ahdath** reports EU Ambassador to Sudan Roger More has revealed a plan to resume dialogue with Sudan government during the coming days on a range of issues. The Ambassador said after meeting with MFA State Minister Al-Samani Al-Waseela.

### ***Understanding between Government and UN on de-mining***

**Al-Ahdath** reports Sudan Government and UN will sign a memorandum of understanding in early December on de-mining covering assistance to victims and sensitize civilians about the

danger of mines. Early 2009 would be the starting date to begin training national cadres to build capacity to take over the de-mining task in 2011.

### ***Sudan urges International Community to put pressure on Darfur rebels***

**Al-Sudani** reports Sudan Government sent signals to the International Community to the effect that it should not push the country into a dark tunnel through the ICC and reiterated rejection to deal the Court.

Meanwhile, NCP official Mandour Al-Mahdi yesterday reiterated commitment to the recommendations of the people of Sudan initiative forum.

“We do not want bargains. We believe the solution to the ongoing conflict in Darfur lies in full support to the Arab-African initiative and the people of the Sudan imitative,” Sudan UN Ambassador Abdul Mahmoud Abdul Haleem told the paper. He has called on the Intrnational Community to put pressure on Darfur movements to engage in unconditional negotiations with the government.

About UNAMID deployment, Abdul Haleem said it was now up to the International Community to honour its pledge, citing the UN pledge to deploy 60% by the end of the year and 80% by March.

### ***Nomads Council meets UN coordinator***

**Al-Intibaha** reports Nomad Development Council chairman Abdullah Ali Safi Al-Nour met yesterday with UN Mission Deputy Resident Representative and UN Humanitarian Coordinator Tony Lanzer.

### ***Sudan selected Chairman of African Group at UN in Geneva***

**SUNA** reports Sudan Envoy to the United Nations in Geneva Ambassador John Ukec has been selected Chairman of the African Group at the United Nations in Geneva.

### ***Delegation of Sudanese Red Crescent Society to leave for Oslo***

**SUNA** reports Sudanese Red Crescent Society chairman Habeeb Makhtoum will be in Oslo, Norway, leading the SRCS delegation to a seminar organized by the Norwegian Red Cross Society the November 26-29.

### ***Palestinian delegation to visit Sudan early next year***

**SMC** reports a high-level Palestinian delegation is expected to arrive in Sudan early next year to oversee arrangements for hosting 2000 Palestinian refugees in the country.

Commissioner of refugees Dr Mohammed Mohamed Al Aghbash told **SMC** that they are exerting efforts in collaboration with UNHCR to push international community to provide assistance to Palestinian refugees expected be hosted in the Sudan.

### ***UAE relief airlift to Darfur inaugurated***

**SUNA** reports Minister for Humanitarian Affairs, Haroon Luel Ron Deng, along with the UAE ambassador to the Sudan Issa Abdullah Al Neimi yesterday inaugurated the first flight of UAE airlift to transport relief to Darfur States.

## Websites/International News Coverage

### *Ex Darfur rebels report Government attack - peacekeepers*

**(Reuters)** Nov 23 - Former Darfur rebels who signed a peace pact with Sudan's government accused state forces of raiding and bombing one of their positions, UNAMID peacekeepers said yesterday.

It was the latest in a series of reported clashes and attacks in Darfur just over a week after Sudan's president announced an "immediate and unconditional" ceasefire in the western region.

Darfur's joint UN/AU UNAMID peacekeeping force said that an SLA delegation reported that government forces and state-backed militias had attacked its post in Abu Dungal, south Darfur on Friday.

The former rebels reported "Janjaweed" militias stole 50 camels in the raid, said UNAMID in a statement and that two SLA fighters were also missing after the attack, it added.

"A day later they said they were bombed by jets," a UNAMID official told **Reuters**. He added UNAMID was planning to send a team to check the reported attack on the post about 125 kilometres (78 miles) northeast of Nyala the capital of south Darfur.

The UNAMID statement said the rebels reporting the attack were from Minni Minnawi-led faction of the SLA. No one was immediately available for comment from the SLA faction or from Sudan's armed forces.

### *South Sudan embarks on developing local entrepreneurs*

**(Sudan Tribune Website)** 23 Nov—\$12 million has been earmarked by the Government of Southern Sudan for the development of private business entrepreneurship in the semi-autonomous region. Minister of Commerce and Industry, Anthony Lino Makana, presented to GoSS cabinet with a proposed project proposed for 2009 to support and help develop small and medium size local business entrepreneurs in Southern Sudan.

### *Increase peacekeeping efforts*

**The Japan Times:** Nov 24 - Two officers of the Ground Self-Defence Force have been dispatched by the government to join UNMIS peace support operation in southern Sudan. The decision to dispatch them was made in early October on the basis of the 1992 international peace cooperation law.

Japan has been participating in peacekeeping operations on the Golan Heights and in Nepal. Now UNMIS has been added to the list.

The two GSDF members are in charge of database management for security information and coordination of material procurement and transportation at the UNMIS headquarters in Khartoum. Their mission will make a valuable contribution to Japan's experience in peacekeeping operations.

The total number of Japanese personnel participating in peacekeeping operations is less than 50, according to the Cabinet Office's International Peace Cooperation Headquarters.

### *Political environment in south not conducive for elections, GoSS official says*

**(Miraya FM website)** 23 Nov - The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in the Government of

Southern Sudan, Martin Elia Lomoro, told *Miraya FM* yesterday that political environment in the south is not conducive yet for holding next year's elections.

Dr. Lomoro further told *Miraya FM* that members of some political parties are being harassed by government officials in the south.

The minister urged the authorities to adhere to the rule of law and respect people's rights to freedom of expression so that the upcoming elections are held in a free and fair environment.

***INTERVIEW: US diplomat urges peace, implementation of DPA***

***(Sudan Tribune Website)*** 23 Nov – The top US diplomat in Khartoum, Chargé d'Affaires Alberto Fernandez, yesterday emphasized the U.S. commitment to guarding the peace agreement that ended one of Sudan's civil wars in 2005, and the need for a solution to Sudan's other civil war in Darfur.

The diplomat, speaking by phone from Khartoum, explained the U.S. support for the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) of 2006, which only one prominent rebel leader signed, Minni Minawi. Fernandez acknowledged that the agreement had not been implemented, but nevertheless called it "a building block towards peace in Darfur."

Fernandez downplayed the significance of a potential Sudan-wide arms embargo, which a panel of UN experts recommended to the UN Security Council last week. He instead focused on political process and implementation of agreements, but warned against "phantom agreements" that do not address the needs of "three million people living and suffering miserable lives in internally displaced persons camps in Darfur."

The same hesitation informed his view of the Qatari-led mediation effort, which Fernandez supported but indicated might not be well received in Darfur. He noted as well that the U.S. had not yet seen evidence of the ceasefire declared unilaterally by Sudanese President Omer Al-Bashir on Nov. 12.