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3

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Media Monitoring Report

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Headlines

- Bashir says will congratulate south to independence (*Reuters*)
- NCP rejects framework agreement – Al Bashir (*Al-Akhbar*)
- Sudan's NCP denies collapse of S. Kordofan accord (*ST*)
- Juba witnesses tight security measures amid parliamentary controversy over constitution (*Al-Sudani*)
- UNMIS Northern Staff...Unknown Destiny (*Sudan Vision*)
- S. Africa's Zuma to meet Bashir on eve of Sudan split (*AFP*)
- UN secretary-general to arrive in Khartoum Friday (*Al-Akhbar*)
- President Al-Bashir relieves Southern holders of constitutional posts (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- "I have no desire to contest presidential elections" - Nafie (*Al-Rai Al-Aam*)
- Khartoum is at its best in terms of security – NISS (*Al-Sudani*)

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Highlights

Bashir says will congratulate south to independence

Reuters 7/7/11 - North Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on Thursday said he will travel to South Sudan when it becomes independent on Saturday and said he seeks friendly relations with the former civil war foe.

"I will travel to (the southern capital) Juba in two days to congratulate them on their new state and wish them security and stability," Bashir said in a speech.

Sudan's oil-producing south is due to declare independence on Saturday -- a split that was voted for in a referendum promised in a 2005 north-south peace deal.

NCP rejects framework agreement – Al Bashir

Al-Akhbar 7/7/11 – President Al-Bashir said his ruling National Congress Party (NCP) had rejected the framework agreement signed in Addis Ababa with the SPLM (North). The President said the NCP rejected the entire agreement because it was signed with an illegal body, pointing out that the SPLM would have no presence in the North after secession and the SPLM (North) is an illegal entity.

Sudan's NCP denies collapse of S. Kordofan accord

Sudan Tribune website 6/7/11 - The ruling National Congress Party (NCP) denied that an accord it signed with the Northern sector of Sudan people Liberation Movement (SPLM) last month on South Kordofan has collapsed.

Ibrahim Ghandour, the NCP spokesperson, said in press statements that president Omer Hassan al-Bashir's meeting today with African Union (AU) mediator Thabo Mbeki shows that the agreement is still alive and that consultations are continuing regarding it.

Former South African president Mbeki helped broker the understanding between the two sides in an attempt to end the clashes in the oil-rich border state that erupted early last month. He told reporters after meeting with Bashir that they discussed South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

The Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) blamed the violence on SPLA units led by Abdel-Aziz al-Hilu claiming that they attacked a police station in the state capital and stole weapons from there. But the SPLM said that the Northern army wanted to disarm its fighters by force.

More than 73,000 civilians have fled since the clashes between the northern army and south-linked forces started, according to UN reports.

Under the Addis Ababa agreement, the NCP would recognize SPLM-North to continue "as a legal political party in Sudan". Officials in North Sudan have said in the past they will not allow the SPLM-North to exist after July 9th calling it an extension of a foreign party.

The NCP and SPLM-North agreed to form a joint political committee to ensure that "the issue of

governance in South Kordofan shall be discussed and resolved amicably ... within thirty days". The agreement also states that the two sides should begin working on a cease-fire and allow humanitarian access into Southern Kordofan.

The accord also SPLA fighters in the North "shall be integrated, over a time period and with modalities to be agreed, into the Sudan Armed Forces" and that "any disarmament shall be done in accordance with agreed-upon plans and without resorting to force."

But last Friday president Bashir appeared to discount the accord and instructed SAF to continue military operations in South Kordofan. He also said that SPLM-North will be allowed to become a political party only when it conforms with the pertinent laws on establishing parties.

Many analysts have speculated that there is a rift within the NCP on the agreement which was signed by Bashir's assistant Nafie Ali Nafie.

But Ghandour today denied any divisions saying that the NCP is united on this issue.

Juba witnesses tight security measures amid parliamentary controversy over constitution

Al-Sudani 7/7/11 – Amid tight security measures, Juba continues to prepare for independence celebrations on Saturday. SPLA and police elements have carried out wide search operations in residential areas and troops are also deployed at strategic locations and facilities. The city of Juba is reportedly facing price-hike and lack of accommodation in hotels due to the huge demand as the Independence Day approaches.

Meanwhile, the South Sudan Parliament witnessed wide controversy over the constitution. While some MPs are pushing for the expansion of the President's powers, others say they should be reduced. The House will hold an extraordinary session today to resolve the controversy over the constitution.

UNMIS Northern Staff....Unknown Destiny

Sudan Vision 7/7/11 - With the quick countdown of South Sudan secession which comes simultaneously with UNMIS countdown as 9th July represent the new born nation of South Sudan Republic.

Hundreds of north Sudanese staff working in UNMIS lost their jobs due to the end of the mandate that has been signed on July 9, 2005 when the government of Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation Movement agreed on the presence of UNMIS as the biggest international mission in the history of UN Mission across the world which includes armies and police (peace keepers) besides a considerable number of Sudanese found their way to work in UNMIS.

The question that poses itself here is; "what is the destiny of the northern Sudanese staff following July 9th?"

A reliable source told me that UNMIS has terminated the contract of northern staff working in UNMIS at the end of last May and all of them were given termination letters to show that their contracts have ended. The mentioned reliable source who was working for UNMIS Radio Miraya FM told me that they were told earlier in April that their contracts will be terminated

and by May UNMIS will definitely terminate their working permits according to the contract this procedure is in all UN systems.

The other issue raised by many northern staff that they feel regret of losing their jobs while their southern counterparts transferred to UNMIS headquarters in South Sudan.

"In Miraya FM 35 reporters and announcers have been terminated but eight of them have renewed their contracts with obvious standards," said a reliable source demanding anonymity. UNMIS spokesperson Hua Jiang told Sudan Vision via telephone that UNMIS staff remaining in North Sudan will end their contracts by the current July 2011.

On whether the contract can be renewed or not Jiang said that it depends on UNSC meeting supposed to be held on the coming few days, but did not disclose specific date.

In response to procedures taken towards northern staff working in UNMIS, she stressed that everything is done according to UN regulations.

She admitted that Miraya FM has stopped operating in northern Sudan; however, it will continue broadcasting in the South.

To shed light on this issue from legal point of view, I spoke to a legal expert and a human rights activist Saleh Mahmoud who said that the nature of the contract itself determines the provision if it was signed between the staff and UNMIS or staff and government of Sudan.

"if the two parties agreed to terminate the contract in specific date like what happened with UNMIS staff it is a logical move", he said, adding that when the UN terminates a contract it bases on provisions and regulations. Saleh went on to say that the contract might stop for realistic reasons but the most important issue is guarantee of staff rights as renewal of contracts this will happen according to the need of the organization and this is subject to internal estimation and assessment on the issue of legitimacy of this procedure taken by UNMIS, Salih said the details of the contract were not available thus the contract can be terminated for different reasons, emphasizing that international laws deal seriously with any party that violates the contract, damages caused or any forms of rights related to international organizations.

Three days to go, and UNMIS will leave Sudan leaving hundreds of staff jobless after years of working under the umbrella of the UN.

S. Africa's Zuma to meet Bashir on eve of Sudan split

AFP 6/7/11 - President Jacob Zuma plans to meet with Sudan's Omar al-Bashir about unrest in the run-up to South Sudan's independence this weekend, South Africa's foreign minister said Wednesday.

"Any instability in the Sudan impacts negatively on the nine countries that it shares borders with," Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane told reporters.

"South Africa recently become concerned with the flare-up of consistent violence in Darfur, Abyei and South Kordofan," she said.

"We are not just monitoring the situation. We are engaging. President Zuma will meet President Omar al-Bashir on Friday and all these issues will be on the table," she said. She did not say where the meeting would place, but both Nkoana-Mashabane and Zuma plan to attend South Sudan's independence celebrations Saturday in Juba.

"It is important for South Africa to manage and maintain a consistent balance at the onset of the separation of South Sudan from the North," she said.

South Sudan is due to split from the north on Saturday, but a number of key issues have yet to be resolved under the 2005 comprehensive peace agreement.

The northern army's occupation of the Abyei border region and its war against southern-aligned rebel militiamen in Southern Kordofan, the North's only oil-producing state, have drawn sharp criticism from world leaders.

UN secretary-general to arrive in Khartoum Friday

Al-Akhbar 7/7/11 - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is expected to arrive in Khartoum on Friday to hold talks with Sudanese officials on the outstanding issues between north and south Sudan including Abyei.

The SG will proceed to Juba to take part in South Sudan's independence celebrations.

President Al-Bashir relieves Southern holders of constitutional posts

Al-Rai Al-Aam 7/7/11 – The newspaper has learned that President Al-Bashir has issued a decree whereby southern Sudanese holding constitutional posts are relieved.

“I have no desire to contest presidential elections” – Nafie

Al-Rai Al-Aam 7/7/11 – Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie said he had no desire to contest presidential elections. “There are many people in the NCP who more capable than me and I support them” he said.

In an interview to Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, Nafie said he is not happy about the result of the referendum that led to the secession of the South but he would accept the outcome of the process since it was the choice of the southern Sudanese. He expressed hope for special and cordial relations between the North and the South.

On UNMIS, *Al-Ayyam* 7/7/11 reports Nafie as telling Al-Sharq Al-Awsat that UN peacekeepers would stay in Sudan up to July the 9th after which they should depart the country. He pointed out that any talk or attempt for their continuation would not be accepted.

Meanwhile, *Al-Intibaha* 7/7/11 reports the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Rahamatullah Osman as saying that UNMIS mandate would end on Saturday. Osman's remark was in reaction to reports that German troops working with UNMIS received extension beyond July the 9th.

Khartoum is at its best in terms of security – NISS

Al-Sudani 7/7/11 – Director of the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) Lt. Gen. Mohamed Atta Al-Muala has confirmed the stability of the security situation across the country,

saying necessary plans are in place to secure the country and property during the forthcoming period which coincide with celebrations of the South's Independence on July the 9th.

Gen. Attah confirmed that Khartoum and the rest of the Sudan's states are at their best in terms of security, peace and stability.

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