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Highlights

Misseriya protest to UN, SPLM advices them to accept PCA Award

The Misseriya tribe has resolved to continue resisting the PCA ruling on Abyei area, a bone of contention between them and Dinka Nygok, *Al-Akhbar* reports. Misseriya leading figure Mohamed Abdullah told the paper that they had submitted a petition of protest to SRSG Ashraf Qazi containing their categorical rejection of The Hague's ruling.

Meanwhile, the SPLM advised the Misseriya to accept the ruling. GoSS VP Riek Machar told the paper yesterday that the PCA ruling was final and binding. However, Mr. Abdullah said his tribe was excluded from the events that culminated into the PCA ruling, adding that "no quarter whether regional, international or domestic can impose on the Misseriya something which they are not convinced about". He called on all the parties to show understanding for the tribe's decision.

Salva Kiir condemns rumors of his alleged death

Sudan Tribune website 9/10/09 – The First Vice President of Sudan and President of the semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, condemned the Thursday's circulated rumors of his alleged death, saying it was concocted by the enemies of peace who intended to spark violence between Southerners and Northerners in the country.

Kiir who returned to Juba on Friday after two days visit to the Ugandan capital, Kampala, said he discussed a number of bilateral issues with the Ugandan President.

He said his mission to Kampala was to discuss with President Yoweri Museveni issues of trade between the two neighboring countries as well as the border conflict between the Kuku tribe in Kajo-Keji County of Central Equatoria state and the Madi tribe of Moyo along their common border.

These wild rumors were created by those who wanted Southerners to get angry and resort to violence against Northerners and vice versa, Kiir explained, adding that the rumor-mongers intended to create a situation like that of 2005 after the death of Dr. John Garang de Mabior.

"I have now come back to Juba after conducting my official duty [in Kampala]. You have seen me. There is nothing that had happened," Kiir assured the public.

However, the Vice President of the Government of Southern Sudan and Deputy Chairperson of the SPLM, Dr. Riek Machar Teny, quickly refuted the rumors.

Machar also said the false rumors were the work of the enemies of peace in the country, vowing that the sources of such rumors must be investigated.

South Sudan Cabinet passes the 2010 budget

Radio Miraya 10/10/09 reported GoSS Minister of Information and Broadcasting Paul Mayom said that the Council of Ministers had passed the 2010 budget bill which amounts to four billion Sudanese Pounds. Mayom said the bill would be tabled again before the Council in the next sitting to confirm some amendments made before it is submitted to Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly for endorsement.

The 2010 budget is four hundred million Sudanese Pounds greater than last year's budget, which was 3.6 billion Sudanese Pounds.

Japan contributes \$13 million for elections effort in Sudan

Radio Miraya 10/10/09 - The National Elections Commission has affirmed that the Japanese Government has pledged thirteen million US dollars to support the upcoming general elections. The Deputy Chairperson of the Commission Abdullah Ahmed has said that the NEC shall fully supervise the electoral process, without interference from the donors.

He further confirmed that joint committee between the commission and the donors have been formed to coordinate the technical and financial aspects.

SPLM threatens to mobilize southerners to against NCP

The SPLM has threatened to mobilize its supporters in the South and the North to demonstrate against the NCP for delaying the referendum law, **Khartoum Monitor** reports. SPLM parliamentary block chairman Yassir Arman told reporters that their movement gave the National Assembly and the NCP an "ultimatum" of one week to respond to its request on the need to amend laws that restrict people's liberties. "We will mobilize our supporters in the South and the North in order to ensure that there is a referendum law for self-determination for the people of southern Sudan, the law of democratic transformation, the law of popular consultation as well as the referendum law for Abyei area," he said. "Perhaps you would witness demonstrations in all towns in southern Sudan, in Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile in support of the SPLM's position. I am saying perhaps in case our requests receive no response from the NCP," he added.

Eleven wounded in Juba University's student clash in Khartoum

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports eleven students were injured and many others detained by security authorities when two opposing groups clashed at the University of Juba in Khartoum yesterday. University of Juba Student Union's statement said the violence was unleashed by a group of students loyal to Lam Akol-led SPLM-DC. The statement added that the SPLM-DC loyalists broke into the university campus aboard four vehicles carrying heavily armed persons. The Union deplored the incident, describing it as "immoral behaviour".

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 10/10/09, students loyal to the SPLM and SPLM-DC clashed when the latter allegedly forcibly conducted an unauthorized political rally. Gatherings for legitimate organizations are allowed and are conducted on Saturdays in Sudanese universities.

SPLM calls on the west to focus on CPA implementation

Al-Sahafa reports that the SPLM has called on the international community particularly the countries which had witnessed the signing of the CPA to focus on the implementation of the agreement.

SPLM Minister of International Cooperation, Oyai Deng, who is part of a delegation sent by FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit to the US for briefing on progress of the CPA implementation, told a gathering of southerners in Washington that the recent NCP-SPLM talks in Juba was a complete failure and called on the IGAD and the US to intervene. Deng revealed that while the NCP wants the participation of all southerners in the referendum, the SPLM says will accept the participation of southerners in Khartoum and Damazin only.

Juba Declaration to be signed on Wednesday in Khartoum

Akhbar Al-Youm reports that political forces' leaders and civil society representatives who had taken part in a recent political parties' conference in Juba would sign the conference's declaration on Wednesday in Khartoum. Sources did not rule out that the political forces and the civil society groups might mobilize their supporters to witness the signing. The representatives are hopeful that the parties which did not take part in the conference in Juba would come on board by signing the document.

Lou Nuer attack Bor

The Lou Nuer have carried out their last week's threat to resume war on the SPLA as a group of Lou Nuer youth in collaboration with the Mundari yesterday attacked Bor, **Al-Wifaq** reports. The town was completely vacated by the SPLA. Bahr El-Jebel and Jonglei governors engaged in negotiations with the attackers who were determined to overrun the town.

Misseriya-Rizeigat reconciliation conference kicks off tomorrow

A reconciliation conference between the Misseriya and the Rizeigat is to kick off tomorrow in Khartoum, **al-Sahafa** reports. Rizeigat Shura Council chairman Mohamed Eissa Elaiwa said they would abide by the conference's outcome and would open a new page with the Misseriya.

Sudan says lack of basic services due to US sanctions

Sudan Tribune website 10/10/09 — the lack or deterioration of basic services for citizens is a direct result of US sanctions, a Sudanese official said this week.

The Sudanese state Minister for Information and Communication Kamal Obeid speaking at the National Assembly acknowledged that the executive bodies are performing poorly but said that this is an outcome of embargo imposed on his country.

Parliament members questioned the recent power blackouts that plagued the capital as well as fleeing investors and dirty streets filled with water swamps particularly after heavy rains.

Obeid defending the Government said that Sudan "is not in a normal condition given that the country is facing exceptional conditions and an interim period known to be frail".

He implicitly lashed out at Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM) Secretary General saying that the parliament failed to question those who called on Washington during a testimony to US lawmakers in August not to lift sanctions.

The Sudanese official added that it has been difficult to obtain spare parts for vital institutions, citing water sector as an example.

He said that power blackouts are due to turbines at the Merowe dam being inducted prematurely disclosing that a tenth station would enter the service.

ICC trial for Darfur rebel to start next week

Sudan Tribune website 10/10/09 — The International Criminal Court (ICC) will start the confirmation of charges hearings for a Darfur rebel chief accused of masterminding a raid on African Union (AU) peacekeepers in 2007.

The hearings were originally set to start on Monday October 12th, but were delayed by a week in order to afford the prosecution additional time to provide to the defense Arabic translations of

witnesses' testimonies.

The ICC prosecutors charged Bahar Idriss Abu Garda and other unnamed rebel commanders with leading an attack on African Union (AU) peacekeepers that left 12 soldiers dead and wounded eight others according to court documents.

AU Panel on Darfur submits its report

Sudan Tribune website 8/10/09 – The African Union (AU) panel on Darfur (AUPD) headed by the former South African president Thabo Mbeki has officially submitted its report to the Pan-African body but its content will not be released until a special AU summit later this month. At a ceremony at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa Mbeki handed the lengthy report to the Chairperson of the AU Commission Jean Ping, eight months after its establishment.

In a speech at the ceremony, the former South African president gave no indication as to what recommendations he made on the ICC row.

Mbeki said that everybody concerned, from President Bashir on down, agree that justice must be done and must be seen to be done, Voice of America (VOA) reported.

In his delivered remarks, the former South African president stressed that peace, justice and reconciliation should be approached at the same time warning that neither should have precedence over the other.

“The Panel is therefore firmly of the view that any attempt to present any of these issues as taking precedence over any other would be counter-productive, and would militate against the speedy achievement of the just and lasting peace for which the people of Darfur yearn,” Mbeki said.

He noted that while Darfuris don't want to secede from Sudan, their feelings of marginalization and underdevelopment should be recognized.

“That root cause is the marginalization and underdevelopment of Darfur as a result of policies and practices implemented throughout Sudan during both the colonial and post-colonial periods,” the AUPD chair said.

“This is represented as a gross imbalance between a strong centre and a marginalized periphery, which resulted in political power and wealth being concentrated in the centre, with the consequent negative consequences on the periphery” he added.

Mbeki disclosed that while their mandate was confined to Darfur they had “no choice but to consider the wider Sudan setting as it relates to the resolution of the conflict in Darfur, precisely to ensure that it discharges its mission,”.

He further said all parties in the region agree that Sudan's judicial system must take the lead role in Darfur war crimes prosecutions.

“Whatever the ICC might have done does not absolve Sudan from acting on crimes that might have been committed. So it is still the responsibility of the Sudanese state to act on those matters,” he said.

Some observers say that the AU, which historically supported Khartoum positions, will be reluctant to put any pressure to execute the findings of the commission.

Mbeki stressed that only Sudanese can resolve their problems and not other countries warning of "forum shopping" for solutions.

HAC in West Darfur affirms stability of humanitarian situation

SUNA 10/10/09 - The Commission for Humanitarian Aid in West Darfur State affirmed the stability of the security situation in West Darfur State. In a statement to SUNA, the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid in West Darfur State, Mohamed Hassan Awad, said that the commission had mapped out integrated humanitarian programmes for the displaced and affected citizens in the state especially at the voluntary return villages, adding that these programmes aim to support the stability, rehabilitation and development at the voluntary return villages. Awad cited to the programmes and plans which were agreed upon by the Government of Sudan and the United Nations for moving from the stage of relief delivery to the phase of implementing rehabilitation and development projects.

"UN knocks Nigeria's APCs"

This Day website 7/10/09 - UNAMID has described Nigeria's Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) to be deployed in Darfur as substandard, saying they are not made for the desert and so cannot protect the troops.

The UN military team led by Lt-Col Frank Leonhardt, which was in the country from 31 August to 2 September 2009 for a pre-deployment visit to assist, promote and inspect the APCs for the mission, said it was disappointed with the equipment. It described them as "zero standard" which falls below UN expectations.

But the Chief of Training and Operations (CTOPs), Defence Headquarters, Maj. Gen. Ishaku Pennap, while confirming the visit, said a letter dated 30 April 2009 was sent to the UN informing the team that Nigeria was not ready for the inspection.

The UN team, which met with Nigerian senior military officers, was quoted to have also expressed disappointment in shortfalls in the medical requirements.

The team said the APCs for deployment could not protect the troops against environmental changes-related conditions such as dust and temperature. They added that the cultural, religious and societal differences were challenges to peacekeepers as they were unable to connect with locals.

The team stated that the health threats in Darfur were real and since peacekeepers are deployed under severe conditions, the working environment is stressful and has the potential to aggravate any pre-existing medical condition. It therefore requested that pre-deployment medical examinations be enforced.

Pennap said: "The UN visit was a surprise because we had written a letter to which the Defence Attache had confirmed to us that it was transmitted through the department of peacekeeping to inform them that we were not ready for the visit.

"But I guess since Nigeria was not the only country penciled down for the pre-deployment visit, so we cannot question that"

Pennap said efforts were being made to address the situation. "It is dangerous to deploy troops with recovery vehicles. Vehicles needed are specialized vehicles like 4x4 suitable for the terrain in Darfur. During rainy season, there are no roads but what you have is mud which tends to trap vehicles thereby exposing the troops to danger," he said.

Deby welcomes efforts to restore Khartoum-N'djamena relations

Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din has affirmed Sudan Government's keenness to maintain good and normal relations with Chad, *Al-Rai Al-Aam* reports. Yesterday, Mr. Ghazi met with Chadian President Idriss Deby to convey him a message from his Sudanese counterpart Omar Al-Bashir. He said Deby was hopeful of strong relations between the two countries and stressed the need to overcome past bitterness. Ghazi said his meeting with Deby focused on a range of issues pertinent to Khartoum-N'djamena relations and that they agreed to exert serious efforts to resolve differences.

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit interview

Ajras Al-Hurriya (Part I)

AH: How do you see Sudan's future especially against the background of incessant SPLM allegations that NCP is dragging its feet in the implementation of the CPA? How do you see north-south relations if southern Sudan opts for secession?

FVP: We had thought that following the implementation of the CPA the country would abandon the old ways and a new Sudan would be formed in which all people would peacefully coexist in peace and in which the country's resources would be utilised for the development of all parts of the country. We envisaged an era when the standards of living would improve and when peace would prevail on all parts of the country. What is happening now instils some sort of fear in people's hearts. People are wondering about the objectives behind this. We do not answer these questions and each person can analyse the situation in his/her way. Who is behind these incidents; why do such incidents occur and what is there to gain behind these incidents? The result is more destruction and sedition amongst the people. When such things occur, people start hating each other. This was not our vision.

Should southern Sudan opt for secession, this should not mean that the south would be hostile to the north. Both sides share a lot in common and these should be reason for the creation of two friendly states. In terms of economics, land-locked southern Sudan would only have an outlet through the road to Port Sudan. We do not have pipelines passing through other neighbouring states through which to export our oil we would still need the current oil pipelines. I believe that we should have distinguished relations between north and south should the south opt for secession.

Do you envisage possible alliances with your old allies in the NDA for the forthcoming elections? Could you also comment on talk about a possible alliance with the NCP?

Our programme focuses on the CPA signed between us and the NCP. There would be no need to talk about alliances for the elections if both of us work in goodwill to implement the peace agreement because partners do not have to compete against each other. I do not see any competition between us and we continue to implement the CPA. If we falter along the way and fail to implement the deal, then that it's the time when the people should ask what other alternatives are available and that is when the issue of possible political alliances could be raised. The Juba Conference was aimed at bringing together all Sudanese political forces because there were some parties that do not recognise the CPA. Our message to them was that the CPA does not ignore anyone and that all should work together to implement the agreement. Our aim was not to forge an anti-NCP alliance with these parties. We still stand together and will see how we could enter the elections. Are we in agreement over the implementation of the CPA? We will have our say on that issue if we are not in agreement over the implementation of the agreement.

Do you mean that each of you will contest the elections separately?

Of course we will cross that bridge when we reach it.

What are your comments on the reported irregularities in the oil revenue figures?

We raised a protest and have heard that the federal government has formed a committee but we have no idea about the composition of this committee.

Was the protest raised to the Presidency of the Republic or another body?

We table protests every day before the Presidency of the Republic. When this doesn't work, we go to the press and bring the issues to the public scene. Global Witness is an independent body that carried out its survey without our request.

There are reports that you are not happy at the Presidential Palace and that is why you spend all your time and efforts in southern Sudan at the expense of your position at the federal government.

I am happy at the Presidential Palace. Why I spend a lot of time in Juba because of the quantity of problems in southern Sudan. At the Presidential Palace, I only receive reports about problems in Darfur and never those in Port Sudan or in northern Sudan. In fact I have less work and am more relaxed in Khartoum than I am in Juba.

Some southern Sudanese political parties complain that your presence in Juba has affected your coordination with them.

The political forces in the north are more experienced in politics than we are at the SPLM. However, the SPLM has carved itself an important niche in Sudan's domestic politics. My absence from Khartoum does not mean that the SPLM in Khartoum is not active. I don't think that my presence in Juba affects the SPLM's activities in the north.

Are you prepared to rule Sudan especially with reports making the rounds that a southern Sudanese President for Sudan would be the best guarantee for the country's unity?

You do know that Sudanese unity is not at the hands of southern Sudanese but rather at the hands of northerners. Sudanese unity can only be guaranteed on the basis of justice and equality for all. My nomination or that of any other southern Sudanese for the Presidency of the Republic is not the solution and might in fact aggravate the situation in the long run. The north could do that as a way to encourage southern Sudan not to secede.

I have always maintained that northern Sudanese hold the key to the country's unity. After the signing of the CPA, northern Sudanese in the government and the private sector should have tried to travel to southern Sudan to try to make a change in the conditions there. There is no private sector in southern Sudan and no investor has invested in southern Sudan from the north. Northern Sudanese say that they do not want to invest in southern Sudan because the south is going to secede. Who told them that the south will secede? Southerners would easily have opted for unity if they saw some changes in their areas.