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Highlights

Elections may not include the whole country – Adviser

Presidential Adviser Ghazi Salahueldin who is in charge of Darfur dossier said that elections might not include all areas in the country but assured that the Government would do its utmost to ensure the best possible exercise, *Al-Sahafa* reports. Salahueldin made the remarks at a meeting yesterday with AUPSC members who are on a visit to the country to assess the situation on the country in Darfur and to find out how the Government is going to deal with Mbeki's. On the proposed hybrid courts, Salahueldin said the constitution and the peace agreement would be the reference.

Umma Party calls for registration extension for a month

Al-Sahafa reports Umma Party leader Sadiq Al-Mahdi has said that the irregularities involving the voter registration exercise might push the opposition toward boycott of the upcoming elections and stressed the need to correct the mistake to avoid a repetition of the "Afghan-like experience", *Al-Sahafa* reports. Mahdi, who registered his name yesterday, urged his party supporters to register and called for extension of the deadline for a month.

US special envoy to Sudan hails voter registration process

Sudan Tribune website 22/11/09 - The US special envoy to Sudan Scott Gration toured various areas in Darfur and Abyei with focus on voter registration centers ahead of the general elections starting in April 2010.

At a press conference in Khartoum, Gration said that he was "pleased to see that Sudan is entering into the registration period that things are proceeding, and we look forward to a good election in April".

"I went to registration centers here in Khartoum, in Abyei and in Darfur. And I would encourage people to register to vote. This is a responsibility that I take very seriously. In my country, I vote in every election that I get a chance to vote. I make my will known. It is part of the democratic process," he told reporters.

Egyptian authorities prevent voter registration in Halaib Triangle

Al-Intibaha reports that Egyptian authorities asked tribal chiefs in Halaib Triangle to urge their members not to register their names. The chiefs said Egyptian authorities told them that the Triangle belongs to Egypt and that residents have no right to register or vote in Sudanese elections.

Jonglei voter registration not affected by insecurity – official

Sudan Tribune website 23/11/09 – The chairman of Jonglei state National Electoral Commission (NEC) said on Monday that voter registration "has not been affected" by insecurity.

Ajang Alaak, the head of the NEC in Jonglei told the press in his office, however that voter registration per day is low and the transport of registrars remains a big challenge in the restive province.

"The registration process has not being affected. There is no big threat," Mr. Alaak responded when asked whether the voter exercise faces some shortcoming from insecurity build-up in

areas surrounding Bor town. The attackers aim to "disturb elections [due 2010] but we shall not allow," them to do that" he added.

South wants secession, NCP approach divides the country – Turabi

Popular Congress Party leader Hassan Al-Turabi has said that the Government's insistence on its current approach would lead to wars and that would fragment the country, *Al-Sahafa* reports. He said that more than 90% of southerners want separation due to accumulating grievances but he declined to elaborate about his party's stand on the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

Peacekeepers should prepare to leave Darfur-Sudan

Reuters 23/11/09 – Sudan Ambassador to UN, rejecting a bleak UN assessment of the situation in Sudan's conflict-torn western Darfur region, said on Monday it was time for international peacekeepers to prepare to leave, saying it omitted key information.

Ambassador Abdalmahmoud Abdalhaleem has criticized the latest report about Darfur by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, which says Khartoum has broken a deal on deploying the peacekeepers.

"One big fact should be the focus of the report - that the war is over," he told **Reuters**. "With peace in sight, the U.N. should, in coordination with the African Union and Sudanese Government, plan for an exit strategy."

The report also accuses Sudan of harassing and limiting movements of UNAMID personnel in breach of an agreement with Khartoum on their deployment.

"The repeated incidents of government officials preventing access to UNAMID patrols are a direct violation of the Status of Forces Agreement with the government of the Sudan and a serious impediment to the mission's capacity to implement its mandate," Ban said in the report.

The harassment included bureaucratic delays, warning shots fired at UNAMID, weapons pointed at convoys and Sudanese army helicopters flying low over UNAMID "in a threatening manner."

Abdalhaleem said U.N. efforts should focus on ensuring that peace talks between the government and rebels are a success.

Ban's assessment contrasts sharply with those of some UNAMID officials who have suggested recently the conflict in Darfur was essentially over. The former head of UNAMID said in August that Darfur was no longer at war.

Ban's report said government forces and armed rebel groups continued to clash in Darfur, making it clear that neither side was committed to a peaceful solution to the crisis.

It also said the militaries of Sudan and neighboring Chad had been fighting along their border and that U.N./AU mediator Djibril Bassole's "efforts to resume peace negotiations between the parties (in Darfur) were not successful."

Ban said it would not be easy to ensure that national elections scheduled for April 2010 are free and fair or that people in Darfur are able to participate in a meaningful way.

The report said that registration of political parties was a "particularly difficult issue." The only party to campaign in Darfur so far has been the National Congress Party of President Omar al-

Bashir, who was hit with an international arrest warrant in March for suspected war crimes in Darfur.

Parliament suspends entitlements for over 100 lawmakers

Parliament has ordered the suspension of entitlements of over 126 MPs representing seven political parties including some MPs from the NCP, local dailies report. The step was reportedly taken for their continued absence from 12 parliamentary sessions.

At a press conference yesterday, Ammar Amoun Daldoum, the Spokesperson for the SPLM parliamentary caucus, dubbed the step as “illegal” on the grounds that the parties boycotted parliament not without reason because certain bills were not tabled for deliberation. He accused Speaker Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir of seeking to aggravate the differences between the parties to the CPA, adding the halt of entitlement would force them to lift the boycott. Kuon Bol, a member of the SANU party called on the Speaker to step down.

Upper Nile Governor’s resistance persists

Upper Nile Governor, Galwak Deng Garang, is still resisting the decision of his removal from office, **Rai Al-Shaab** reports. Sources said Garang, protected by heavily armed supporters, is still functioning as governor, considering the decision of his dismissal as a coup, vowing not to quit office until President Al-Bashir personally tells him to do so.

Presidency receives N-S border demarcation preliminary report

Al-Raed reports that the Presidency yesterday received a preliminary report on the north-south border demarcation. The paper has learned that the preliminary report contains the attempts made by the committee to reach common understandings on the border demarcation issue.

GoNU parties likely to nominate Al-Bashir Presidential Candidate

The **Sudan Vision** reports that the General Secretary of the GoNU parties, Dr Modawi Al-Turabi, unearthed that the overwhelming view between these parties excluding SPLM is to nominate Al-Bashir for the presidency.

He added that many advantages are giving Al Bashir the priority to be our only candidate for a new presidential tenure.

Kiir slams abortion, blames foreigners

FVP Salva Kiir Mayardit Monday came out swinging, blaming foreign nationals for abortion and saying that the government would be tempted to throw some of them out of the country, the **Citizen** reports. He made the remarks as Juba kicked off a major operation to keep the city clean, with Kiir among the first to clean up garbage from a particularly stinking part of the city. He said that girls are aborting babies and throwing them onto the streets, singling out foreign nationals as the major culprits. “These girls shall be asked to return to the country where they came from if they continue, this kind of situation was not here before the signing of the CPA,” he said.