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Highlights

Elections Watch:

Breaking news: Bashir, Kiir officially win Sudan's presidential elections

Sudan Tribune website 26/4/10— the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) presidential candidate was declared winner with a 68.2% of the vote, the state electoral commission said today. The SPLM candidate Yasir Arman came second with 21.7%.

In the South SPLM chairman Salva Kiir got 93% of the votes. Reportedly, the candidates, in order of votes gained are as follows:

- 1- Omar Albasheer, NCP, 6,901,694 votes (above the 50%+1 votes needed for winning from the first round)
- 2- Yasser Erman, SPLM, 2,193,826 votes
- 3- Abdallah Ding Nhial, PCP, 396,139 votes
- 4- Hatem Elser Ali, DUP-O, 195,668 votes
- 5- Al-Sadik Al-Mahdi, NUP, 96,868 votes
- 6- Kamel Eltayeb Edrees, Independent, 77,132 votes
- 7- Mahmoud Ahmaed Geha, Independent, 71,708 votes
- 8- Mubarak Al-Fadil Al-Mahdi, RRUP, 49,402 votes
- 9- Muneer Sheikh Jallab, NDP, 40,277 votes
- 10- Abdel Aziz Khaled, NSA, 34,592 votes
- 11- Fatema Ahmed Abdel Almhamoud, SDSU, 30,562 votes
- 12- Mohamed Ibraheem Nukd, SCP, 26,442 votes

NEC to announce poll results in the next 24 hours

AFP 25/4/10 - Sudan's electoral commission said on Sunday it hoped to announce the result on Monday of the country's landmark polls which are expected to see a win for veteran President Omar al-Bashir.

"We hope to be able to announce the result of the national presidential election, or of the presidential election for south Sudan, on Monday, God willing," Al-Hadi Mohammed Ahmed, a senior official with the National Election Commission (NEC), told reporters in Khartoum.

The NEC has received results from 20 of the 25 Sudanese states. It has also received the results of polling abroad where the diaspora were asked to vote for a president, but not for parliamentary and state representatives.

"We are still waiting for results from five states," in south Sudan, Ahmed said.

The five states holding up the announcement of the final results are Lakes, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile and Jonglei – all in southern Sudan, report **local dailies**. The NEC had announced some poll results yesterday that confirmed big wins for the NCP in the North and the SPLM in the South.

EU observers ask NEC to maintain transparency in the electoral process

EU observers have expressed concern over the collection of poll results in the country, **Akhir Lahza** reports. They pointed out that this critical stage in the electoral process requires transparency in the collection and tabulation of results from the various polling stations in such a

way that would enable the verification of the results from each station should the need arise ahead of the announcement. The EU said it therefore calls on the NEC to collect the preliminary results on the basis of the computer system designed for the purpose.

Al-Bashir, Taha, Nafei and Security chief in talks over post-elections situation

President Al-Bashir held intensive consultations with Vice-President Ali Osman Taha, Presidential Assistant Nafie Ali Nafie and National Security chief Gen. Mohamed Atta on the possible implications of the announcement of the elections results, a source close to the Presidency told **Al-Sahafa** on condition of anonymity. According to the source, Al-Bashir also held separate consultations with his military staff over the structure of his new government. The source declined to elaborate on the consultations.

Al-Bashir promises broad-based government, release of abducted peacekeepers

Sudantribune.com 25/04/10 - President Omar Al-Bashir held two separate meetings today with former South African President Thabo Mbeki (who heads the African Union High Level Implementation Panel) and with UNAMID Chief Ibrahim Gambari. The talks covered issues pertaining to the recent elections and the fate of four South African peacekeepers abducted by unidentified gunmen in Darfur earlier this month.

Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said that Bashir told Mbeki, who was accompanied by former Burundian President Pierre Buyoya, that he is keen on dialogue and the inclusion of all parties, including those which boycotted the polls, in the upcoming government.

Cairo-based **Al-Ahram** newspaper also reported that the NCP is consulting with the DUP on whether they are interested to be part of the broad-based government.

Mbeki said in a press statement afterwards that his talks with al-Bashir focused on the formation of the upcoming government revealing that he will meet with GoSS President Salva Kiir in Juba.

He stressed that the dialogue with Sudanese political forces is not a venue to make decisions as those will be made by the parliament and other government bodies.

On the other hand, Al-Bashir affirmed keenness to secure the release of the abducted UNAMID peacekeepers. He assured Gambari that he will spare no effort to secure their release and prevent abduction of any peacekeeper in the future.

A report by the Netherlands based **Radio Dabanga** said that a new group called the Movement for the Struggle of the People in Darfur is claiming responsibility for the abduction and has demanded a \$500,000 ransom.

Gambari later told reporters that his meeting with the President al-Bashir focused touched on the elections in Sudan and highlighted the need to create an atmosphere convenient for the voluntary repatriation of the displaced people as well as boosting the security in Darfur.

Amum says SPLM will be partially represented in northern Sudan

Sudantribune.com 26/04/10 - SPLM Secretary General, Pagan Amum, has said that his party will not participate in most of the state governments of northern Sudan.

The SPLM Northern Sector had unilaterally decided to boycott the executive and parliamentary elections in 13 states of northern Sudan with the exception of the northern Southern Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan states.

At a press conference in Juba, Amum explained that the SPLM had boycotted the electoral process in the Northern region and therefore will not have any presence in the state governments there.

However, Amum added that the SPLM will participate in the federal Government of National Unity (GoNU) and will be involved in the governments of Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan and all Southern Sudan states.

Amum disclosed that the “most important” political event the party wants to pursue from now on is the conduct of the upcoming referendum on Southern Sudan self-determination.

He however added that even in the event southern Sudan opts for separation, the SPLM in the north would still continue with the SPLM vision for a New Sudan to democratically transform Sudan.

Governor-elect of Sennar State dissolves state government

The Governor-elect of Sennar State has declared the state government dissolved and has tasked the director-generals in the different ministries to take over as caretakers at their respective ministries, reports **Al-Sahafa**.

Sennar State Governor-elect, Ahmed Abbas Mohamed Saeed, had earlier vowed to form a broad-based government that would also include representatives from other parties.

Journalist arrested by security operatives in Bentiu, Unity state

Sudantribune.com Juba, 26/04/10 - A local journalist working as correspondent for **Sudanvotes** and **Bentiu FM** radio station has been arrested by security operatives in Unity State capital, Bentiu, and his whereabouts are not yet known.

On Friday, 23rd April, Bonifacio Taban Kuich was arrested while covering the general protest across Bentiu town, following the announcement by the State High Election Committee and the National Election Commission (NEC) that the SPLM incumbent caretaker governor, Taban Deng Gai, had won the gubernatorial election against his main independent rival, Angelina Teny. During the demonstrations two people were reported shot dead by security forces and several others seriously wounded, one later died in hospital, adding the dead to three in number.

Bonifacio Taban Kuich was arrested in Bentiu Hospital while trying to cover the situation of the injured and reportedly beaten by the security operatives. His working equipment was also confiscated. He was later on released on Friday evening without the return of his equipment and was re-arrested on Saturday, 24th April.

His family members said the security personnel had taken him to an unknown location. They said they did not know the reason for his arrest because there were no charges levelled against him. In a statement issued by the administration of Bentiu FM and Sudanvotes, the media house called on the state authority to unconditionally release their colleague, Taban.

Other Highlights:

Undersecretary Muttrif and SRSG Menkerios discuss support for UNMIS

Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, Muttrif Sidig, and SRSG Haile Menkerios held talks recently on ways the government could assist UNMIS in best carrying out its activities, **Al-Sudani** reports. Muttrif assured the SRSG of Sudan’s appreciation of the role of UNMIS in providing technical and logistic support as well as humanitarian assistance in areas of need. He also said that the effective role played by SRSG Menkerios is much appreciated and would contribute to constructive cooperation between Sudan and the UN.

The SRSR renewed his appreciation to the people of Sudan for conducting the elections in a peaceful and civilized manner, **Sudan Vision** reports. Mr. Menkerios expressed confidence that these elections would lead Sudan to development, stability and welfare.

Clashes in Sudan kill 58, raise tension on border

Reuters 25/4/10 - Clashes between SPLA and Darfuri Arab tribes killed 58 people, raising tension along the border with the north of the country as results of the first open elections in 24 years are released, officials said on Sunday.

"There was movement from the Rizeigat (tribe) and from the SPLA (the southern Sudan People's Liberation Army). I can't tell you who attacked who first but they clashed," Rizeigat Arab tribal leader Mohamed Eissa Aliu told **Reuters** from South Darfur.

"It happened on Friday and those killed from the Rizeigat were 58 and 85 injured," he said, adding the attack was in Balballa, South Darfur, which borders Western Bahr-al-Ghazal in the south.

The SPLA said they were attacked by the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) in Raja, a remote part of Western Bahr-al-Ghazal state, near where at least 5 officials from the National Congress Party (NCP) and four others were killed by an SPLA soldier during five days of voting which began on April 11.

"Our company came under attack from the SAF forces yesterday afternoon," SPLA spokesman Malaak Ayuen said late on Saturday. "The SAF was using four land cruisers with mounted machine guns." He could not give further details.

A SAF spokesman denied any involvement but confirmed the SPLA attack on the Rizeigat in Darfur, calling it "a clear violation of the (peace deal)."

On Sunday, the SPLA said it had been attacked for a second time in Raja and had been forced to retreat.

"They reinforced themselves and launched another attack and occupied the place," Ayuen said on Sunday.

Of the around 100 SPLA troops in the area, 47 had reported back with the others likely still in the bush, he said.

GoSS finalises de-mining of roads to a number of major towns

The Director of the South Sudan Demining Commission (SSDC), Jurkuc Barac, said that demining operations in southern Sudan were progressing slowly because of the large areas to be covered and the shortage of trained personnel, **Al-Ayyam** reports. The shortage in remittances to this project from the federal and regional governments is also another factor causing the delays, he said.

Jurkuc said however that 90% of the roads linking the major towns in southern Sudan have been cleared of landmines and that they are now working on the feeder roads around all the states of southern Sudan.

He said that the concerned UN agencies are slated to hand over their operations to the northern Sudan demining commission by the end of 2010 and to the SSDC by the end of 2011 once the local operators complete training.

Amum and Arman seek to cause a rift between SPLM and NCP – NCP

NCP official Mandour Al-Mahdi has accused SPLM Secretary-General Pagan Amum and his deputy Yassir Arman of seeking to weaken relations between the NCP and the SPLM, **Al-Sahafa** reports. He said that Amum, Arman and others are "loosing ground" within the SPLM.

South seeks ways to diversify oil reliant economy

The East African Nairobi, 26/04/10 - With the autonomous Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) depending on as much as 98 per cent on oil revenues from the North to finance its budget, officials are now looking to agriculture as a possible entry point to diversify its economy.

After a 12-year hiatus and with a \$500 million Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) the World Bank is back in Sudan to lead a multi-pronged effort to revive economic production in the South.

The Bank, the main development vehicle for western donors disengaged from Sudan in 1993 after the country racked up \$32 billion in debt from lenders, making it un-bankable.

Working with development partners, the Goss has identified key areas for intervention in an effort to move from emergency humanitarian assistance to long term development.

One strategy is to diversify sources of finance by promoting agriculture as a non-oil source of growth. "Diversifying sources of budget funding is one of the major challenges for the South," said John Oloya an agriculture and rural development expert attached to the World Bank Juba office.

The World Bank is spending \$42 million on three projects: reviving the agriculture and forestry sectors, livestock and fisheries as well as managing the food crisis.

Initially, the Goss was supposed to contribute 66 per cent of that figure but that has since been revised downwards to 10 per cent.

Mr Oloya explained that while his structure of funding was intended to give the Goss more ownership of the projects, it was later found to be impeding implementation.

"A dollar for every two that the GoSS put on the table would give them more control over decision making. It would also led to faster disbursement since we try to ensure that decision making is embedded in the Goss and even where capacity is lacking, they recruit," said Mr Oloya.

This approach has created room for Sudanese in the diaspora to return home and work as national consultants.

Sudan to lodge complaint against ITU over blocked internet sites

Sudantribune.com 25/04/10 - The Sudanese Commission for Telecommunication (SCT) announced today that it has filed a formal complaint to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on blocked access for Sudan on certain websites.

The government sponsored **Sudanese Media Centre (SMC)** quoted Mustafa Abdel-Hafiz Technical Director of SCT as saying that the Commission wants to find out the "real reasons" behind the blocking of several sites including Google Chrome, Google open code, MSN messenger, Oracle "creating account", etc.

Separately, the STC official denied that the You Tube site has been blocked intentionally by the authorities saying that the inability of web users in Sudan to access the site was due to technical reasons. He said that heavy traffic led to the difficulty in opening open the video pages and a message appeared by default saying that the site has been blocked.

This week it was reported that Sudanese authorities have reportedly blocked user access to the You Tube site over a video posted this week showing electoral staff in eastern Sudan filling out the ballots and putting inside the boxes.

Al-Rakoba website was also blocked for showing an electoral official speaking about breaches she encountered during her work in eastern Sudan.

Authorities in Dubai Airport uncover Juba-bound US arms shipment

Authorities at Dubai International Airport have uncovered a US arms shipment bound for Juba on an Arabiya flight from Chicago, reports **Akhir Lahza**. The shipping documents showed the Juba-bound cargo has been authorised by the US Government, the paper said.