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# Highlights

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## **Khartoum lashes out against Kampala, rules out Al-Bashir's visit**

**Al-Ahdath** reports tension snowballed between Sudan and Uganda after the ICC Prosecutor Ocampo's visit to Kampala yesterday. Khartoum vehemently lashed out against Kampala for a hint by a Ugandan official that Al-Bashir could be arrested once on Ugandan soil. "Uganda does not seem to have realized the danger of the ICC," MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq reacted. Al-Sadiq ruled out Al-Bashir's visit to Uganda to take part in smart partnership summit.

According **Reuters** 13/7/09, Uganda said yesterday it would consider acting on an ICC warrant against Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir if he comes to Kampala for an international conference at the end of the month.

But Bashir -- whom the ICC has indicted over crimes in Sudan's western Darfur region -- is not a "chicken-thief" to be pursued unceremoniously, added Okello Oryem, a junior foreign minister responsible for international relations.

"So until Bashir is here, I cannot tell you if or not he will be arrested," he said at a news conference together with ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

Media in the region say Bashir has been considering attending a global affairs meeting, called Smart Partnership Dialogue, along with other heads of state, at the end of July.

The Ugandan official, Oryem, said Kampala had an "unwavering" commitment to the ICC statute.

"The warrant against Bashir is already deposited here in the solicitor general's office," he said, adding that police inspector-general Kale Kayihura would take any final decision.

"If and when Bashir arrives here in Uganda, then it is up to Kayihura to see to it that he takes action if and when it arises," he said.

"On the other hand, he (Bashir) is not a chicken thief whom you start arresting in an unceremonial manner so let's wait for Bashir to arrive and see what the government of Uganda would do."

## **CPA partners trade charges over Abyei**

The NCP and the SPLM yesterday responded to the PCA with regard to the appropriate time and form of ceremony to mark the announcement of the court ruling on Abyei, **Al-Ahdath** reports. While GoSS Presidency Minister Luka Biong said the NCP lack the courage to receive the decision, Sudan government representative for Abyei Al-Dirdiri Mohamed Ahmed accused SPLM of attempt to fish in troubled waters.

Meanwhile, **Al-Sahafa** reports Al-Dirdiri as saying that the government yesterday requested the PCA to delay the announcement of the ruling until it completes preparations to celebrate the decision. He said the government was in the process of inviting the Dinka, the Messeriya, civil society organizations and others to The Hague to take part in an event intended to mark the announcement of the ruling. Al-Dirdiri categorically denied that the PCA had fixed July 22 as date for making the ruling public.

According to ***Al-Rai Al-Aam***, Luka Biong has warned of the serious consequences of any delay of the PCA ruling. He told the paper yesterday that the request of delay by the NCP is a dangerous indication and a prelude of escalation and violence in the region. He said the NCP would be held responsible for any insecurity, saying the SPLM has informed the court about its commitment to the prospective ruling.

***Al-Sudani*** reports cautious calm is prevailing in Abyei, adding large number of representatives from the European and Arab countries as well as international envoys will head for Abyei next week to witness the announcement of the PCA ruling. Meanwhile, FM Deng Alor held a closed meeting with AEC Chairman Derek Plumbly which sources said might have focused on Abyei. The paper has learned that Arab League representative, Mahmoud Maraf, will be present in Abyei 19-26 July in addition to Scott Gration, SRSG Ashraf Qazi and other European and Asian representatives.

### **UN calls on SAF, SPLA not to enter roadmap zone**

***Akhir Lahza*** reports SRSG Ashraf Qazi has called on SAF and SPLA not to enter the roadmap zone when the PCA ruling is announced. However, he stressed the need for the JIUs and JPIUs to stay in the area. Mr. Qazi made the remarks at the CJMC meeting yesterday in Juba.

### **US envoy Scott Gration due in Khartoum today**

***Al-Sahafa*** reports US envoy Scott Gration will arrive in Khartoum today on ten-day official visit during which he will also visit Darfur, Juba and Abyei. Government said dialogue between Khartoum and Washington is moving slowly but MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq attributed the slowness to complications involving some issues on the table.

### **PDF commanders in Darfur meet Musa Hilal**

A group of PDF emirs (commanders) in the South Darfur State yesterday called on the government to integrate them in SAF with the rank of officers like in the case of the Darfur signatory movements, ***Al-Rai Al-Aam*** reports. They also requested support so that they could cope with the armed movements in Darfur. The emirs, at meeting with Musa Hilal yesterday, said Darfur movements are strengthening themselves and getting armed. Hilal, adviser at the federal government chambers, promised the emirs to convey their message to the army HQs to meet their legitimate demands. He commended the role played by the emirs in securing the internal front and in bringing about security and stability in Darfur.

### **NEC approves final form of electoral roll**

***Akhir Lahza*** reports the NEC has approved the electoral roll in its final form while election committees in states continue submitting their reports on delimitation and distribution of geographical constituencies. NEC SG Jalal Mohamed Ahmed told reporters yesterday that the NEC held a meeting yesterday with 39 political parties as part of consultations on the upcoming elections. He said the Commission received 25 electoral symbols but so far only 15 had been approved.

### **Fears over increasing SPLA armament**

***Akhir Lahza*** reports informed sources have expressed concern over increasing SPLA armament. The sources said the ongoing armament is an indication that Juba is preparing for all eventualities in anticipation of CPA collapse. The sources cited Kenya's facilitation of arms flow to the Southern Sudan and the SPLM purchase of arms from dealers on the seas at the time when southerners lack food and basics necessities of life.

Meanwhile, **Al-Raed** reports informed sources revealed a new shipment of arms en route to South Sudan from a former Soviet republic.

### **Cairo advices Khartoum to avert confrontation with Washington**

**Al-Intibaha** reports Cairo has assured President Al-Bashir political and diplomatic backing but warned him to avoid confrontation with Washington. According to Egypt's **Al-Akhbar** newspaper, President Mubarak who met with Al-Bashir two days ago, urged him to be cautious to avoid confrontation with the US Administration.

Meanwhile, Presidential adviser Ghazi Salal el Din has described US President Obama's statement about genocide in Darfur as "unfortunate", saying Obama is the only person who talks about genocide in Darfur.

**Ajras Al-Hurriah** reports Arab League Secretary General Umr Musa has described the situation in Darfur as "dangerous, delicate and fragile" which requires caution, regional, international and national efforts to find a solution. Musa made the remarks at a joint press conference yesterday with Presidential Advisor Ghazi Salah el Din in Cairo.

### **Egypt to bring Al-Bashir, Deby together at a meeting**

**Al-Ahdath** has learned from informed political sources that Cairo is making considerable efforts to normalize relations between Khartoum and N'djamena. The sources said Egypt is endeavoring to arrange a summit meeting between Presidents Al-Bashir and Idriss Deby on the sidelines of NAM in Sharam Al-Sheikh.

### **Kiir to meet opposition leaders today**

**Al-Sahafa** reports FVP Salva Kiir will hold separate meetings today with DUP leader Mohamed Osman Al-Mirghani, National Umma Party leader Sadiq Al-Mahdi, PCP Hassan Al-Turabi, Communist Party leader Mohamed Ibrahim Nugud as well as other opposition party leaders to discuss elections, democratic transition and Darfur. However, sources ruled out that the meetings would discuss the issue of legitimacy of the current government. Reportedly, Kiir will also meet with the NEC chairman as well as with the NCRC to discuss bills for referendum for Southern Sudan and popular consultation for Southern Kordofan and the Blue Nile. According to **Al-Akhbar**, Kiir's first meeting will be with the NCP official Nafie Ali Nafie.

### **China secretly sells Sudan multi launch rocket systems: report**

**Sudan Tribune website** 13/7/09 — The Sudanese government managed to buy an unknown number of WS-2 multi-launch rocket systems from China, according to Kanwa Defense Review Monthly magazine.

This is the first time this system is exported by China to any country, the Defense magazine reported adding that Sudan now is in possession of the "most powerful long-range attack system" in the African continent.

The multi-launch rocket system was never shown in any of the country's military parades.

The report comes as the Sudanese defense minister Abdel-Rahim Mohamed Hussein started an official visit to China.

"The two countries have witnessed fruitful cooperation in such areas as politics, economy and culture since the establishment of diplomatic ties 50 years ago," the Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie said after talks with Hussein.

Chinese state media made no mention of any proposed defense contracts between the two countries.

Kanwa Defense Review Monthly could not verify when Sudan received the WS-2 rocket systems but that several African delegates at the Abu-Dhabi International Defense Exhibition and Conference 2009 confirmed the sale.

Furthermore, sources told the magazine that the system's effective range was upgraded to 200 km with enhanced accuracy and reduced launch time. The system's warhead weighs 200 kilograms and it uses four types of ammunition.

### **France condemns flogging of Sudanese women**

**Sudan Tribune website** 12/7/09 — The French government yesterday deplored reports of flogging Sudanese women over "indecent clothing" and called on Khartoum to respect international conventions in this regard.

"France strongly condemns whipping of 10 Sudanese women announced yesterday. We are particularly concerned by information that many others could be sentenced to similar sentences," Eric Chevallier the spokesman of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

"France, which is fighting for the abolition of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and violence against women, calls on the Sudanese authorities to stop the proceedings against these people" he added.

### **Japan writes off US\$28m Sudan debt**

**Sudan Tribune website** 13/7/09 — The Government of Japan yesterday has written off a debt worth 28 million US dollars (3,165,000,000 yens) from its debts to the Sudan.

The Sudanese minister of finance, Awad Ahmed Al-Jaz, and the Japanese Ambassador to Sudan, Yuichi Ishii, signed a memorandum on the cancellation of debt at the Ministry of Finance and National Economy.

### **Three suspects arrested in connection with explosives**

**Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports authorities arrested three suspects in connection with explosives found in a cemetery in Haj Yousuf (Khartoum North). Source told the paper that investigation was underway. According to **Akhir Lahza**, two sacs of explosives were seized in the cemetery.

### **Trader shot dead at Rumbek bus station**

**Sudan Tribune website** 13/7/09 – An unknown shooter murdered a leading businessman in Rumbek, the capital of Lakes state, during the robbery of a bus arriving in Rumbek on Monday at 4 a.m.

At dawn, Amir Ibrahim, well-known as Altif Shabli, a northern Sudanese businessman from Gezira State was murdered within the town centre and market of Rumbek during the robbery. The bus station where the attack took place is located next to Nile Commercial Bank (NCB) in Rumbek town.

According to an eyewitness, "we were coming from Western Bahr El-Ghazal (Wau) using our commercial bus and upon our arrival to Rumbek bus station we were rounded up and all our moneys were looted as late Amir raised up his voice – immediately the assailant shot him dead and then the group ran away." He also added that those assailants were not in casual clothes

but dressed in camouflage.

### **NCP leading figure murdered**

***Al-Sahafa*** reports NCP leader and chairman of the Legislative Assembly in Baoga area, River Nile State, Mr. Hamza Omer Al-Amin, was murdered in mysterious circumstances. Police arrested three suspects. However, sources informed the paper that the incident might be linked to the construction of the controversial Al-Shareek Dam which is strongly supported by the slain NCP leader.

### **“Niggers” murder a man in Omdurman**

***Al-Intibaha*** reports “nigger gangsters” on Thursday brutally murdered a man named Mohamed Ibrahim Adam in Dar Asalam in Omdurman. Police arrested two suspects who are being investigated.