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By Public Information Office

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Highlights

Main News

Sudan Airways plane crashes (Agencies/all dailies)

Last night's crash at Khartoum airport of a Sudan Airways plane carrying 203 passengers and 14 crewmembers is the main story in this morning's papers. According to Al-Sahafa, the aircraft, which came from Amman, Jordan, via Damascus, Syria, burst into flames when its fuel tank exploded after it skidded some 100 meters off the runway on landing.

Reports of casualties varied from newspaper to newspaper. Akhir Lahza reported that approximately 100 of the 203 passengers had died, adding that half of the plane's passengers and the crew survived.

Al-Sahafa quoted official sources as saying that 30 persons died and more than 20 had been injured. The paper cited Police Director Gen. Mohamewd Nageeb Al-Tayeb as saying that the majority of the passengers had managed to leave the aircraft before it burst into flames. He added that an investigation committee had been established to probe the causes of the incident.

State Minister of Transport Dr. Alfatih Mohamed Saeed said that more than 183 people were rescued in good condition and that 20 passengers had been hospitalized. According to the Minister, there were 20 passengers unaccounted for. He also noted that the plane had been diverted to Port Sudan because of rains and bad weather before continuing its flight to Khartoum.

Akhir Lahaza said that aviation experts attributed the explosion of the plane to the extra fuel in the plane's tank. While the paper reported that 35 passengers boarded the plane in Port Sudan, Akhbar Al Yom and Ajras Al-huria quoted Sudan Airways Director in Port Sudan Hashim Gasmelseed as categorically denying that any additional passengers had boarded in Port Sudan. He insisted that passengers traveling from Port Sudan to Khartoum had done so on a regularly scheduled domestic flight and that they had arrived at Khartoum airport safely.

All this morning's newspapers list the names of those passengers who survived the crash.

President Al-Bashir pledges to develop Abyei, Messeriya demands compensations

(Al-Sahafa) President Bashir met yesterday with Messeriya leaders for discussion on Abyei roadmap agreement. The Messeriya have called for fair compensation for the victims of Abyei incidents.

President Bashir promised them to develop the area.

Political forces link participation in elections with amendment of Security Act

(Al-Sahafa) Opposition political forces linked Tuesday their participation in the upcoming elections with the amendment of the current national security Act, criticizing statements delivered recently by the National Assembly Speaker Ahamed Ibrahim Al-Tahir on the amendment of the act.

The SPLM warned the NCP of passing the electoral Act by the mechanical majority in the Assembly, rejecting any trend to overcome the presidency institution.

SPLM' Deputy Secretary-General Yassir Arman said that the presidency was responsible for forwarding the Act to the Cabinet, adding that it was also capable of bringing together the political forces to settle the differences over the Act.

The political parties said they would not contest elections under the current security Act, accusing the Act of violating the rights of the parties.

SPLM official says decision on Abyei administration is expected within 48 hours

(Akhbar Al Yom) Intensive consultations were being conducted on Tuesday between the NCP and the SPLM to implement the road map document on Abyei protocol and the return of the IDPs.

Member of the committee assigned to implement the road map document and GoSS Presidential Affairs Minister Luka Biong, who declined to elaborate on the outcome of the meetings, said that decisions pertinent to the formation of Abyei administration were expected to be issued within 48 hours.

JiUs start deployment in Abyei

(Khartoum Monitor) JDB spokesperson Bior Ajang announced that the JiUs have started moving towards Abyei as agreed on in the Abyei agreement. The deal specifies that a JiU battalion replaces the SPLA and SAF after they withdraw from Abyei.

Gen. Ajang told Miraya FM that the next 10 days are enough for deploying 600 JiU soldiers half of them are from the SPLA and the other are from SAF. He pointed out that the logistic equipment necessary for the deployment of the force are available.

GoNU

Sudan president labels ICC as a ‘terrorist organization’

(ST) The Sudanese president Omar Hassan Al-Bashir reiterated today his country’s rejection of calls to hand over two Darfur war crimes suspects to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

“We view the ICC as a first class terrorist organization” Al-Bashir told Al-Sa’aa” Egyptian TV in an interview.

“Most certainly we will not hand over any Sudanese citizen” he added.

The judges of the ICC issued their first arrest warrants for suspects accused of war crimes in Sudan’s Darfur region a year ago.

The warrants were issued for Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs, and militia commander Ali Mohamed Ali Abdel-Rahman, also know as Ali Kushayb. Sudan has so far rejected handing over the two suspects.

This is the first time a Sudanese official uses this characterization of the ICC. The description was likely prompted by the ICC announcement of an attempt to arrest Haroun.

The ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo told Sudan Tribune in an interview last week that the world court attempted to divert a plane that carried Haroun on his way to Saudi Arabia in December to perform the annual Islamic pilgrimage.

However Haroun ended up cancelling his travel plans.

Ocampo delivered his semi-annual report to the UN Security Council (UNSC) yesterday in which he provided information on his current investigations into the ongoing attacks against civilians in the war ravaged region.

The ICC prosecutor announced that he intends to charge Sudanese officials with war crimes next month.

Al-Bashir outlined the reasons for refusing to cooperate with the ICC.

“In accordance with the Naivasha agreement and the constitution we use the Islamic Shari’a law which prohibits handing over a Muslim person to a court that does not implement the Islamic law. So from a religious perspective we will not surrender anyone” he said.

“We are not party to the Rome Statue so no Sudanese cannot be tried at the ICC” he added.

Sudan has not ratified the Rome Statue, but the UN Security Council (UNSC) invoked the provisions under the Statue that enables it to refer situations in non-State parties to the world court if it deems that it is a threat to international peace and security.

Sudan and China sign eight economic agreements

(ST) Sudan and China today signed eight agreements covering such fields as economic and technological cooperation, finance, agriculture and public health; in presence of Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, Vice-President and Xi Jinping Chinese Vice-President

Taha arrived in Beijing on Monday to start his third China trip. He visited China in March 1996 and March 2001.

According to the signed agreements China will extend two grants of financial assistance to the Sudanese Government in addition to a interest-free loan, the establishment of an agricultural centre in state of Gedaref, eastern Sudan and to send Chinese agricultural experts to Sudan

The parties agreed to establish a hospital in al-Damazin, Blue Nile state funded by the Chinese side, besides the signing of the memorandum of understanding on the migrations procedures of Chinese workers in Sudan

The agreements were signed by Awad Ahmed al-Jaz the Sudanese minister of finance and national economy and Chinese Minister of Trade Shi Quangsheng.

While the protocol of agricultural cooperation between Sudan and China was signed by al-Zubair Bashir Taha, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Chinese Minister of Agriculture Sun Zhengcai.

The Vice President Taha invited Chinese businessmen to invest in his country saying that Sudan enjoys broad possibilities for investment and agriculture besides the oil projects and infrastructure like dams, roads, bridges, electricity, industrial and various commercial activities especially in Communications and engineering sectors.

US, EU leaders threaten sanctions against Sudan and Darfur rebels

(ST) The leaders of the US and European Union (EU) issued a joint statement after a summit in Slovenia on Tuesday saying that they will work together towards bringing peace to Darfur.

The statement declared that both sides will “commit to work together to increase pressure on Darfur rebels and the Government of Sudan, including through the implementation of sanctions”.

The statement also voiced support to the work of the UN and African Union (AU) mediators in Darfur. The UN mediator Jan Eliasson and his AU counterpart Salim Ahmed Salim have failed to produce a breakthrough in bringing the warring parties together.

The mediators’ efforts were further complicated as a result of the attack by Darfur Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) on the Sudanese capital last month. As a result Khartoum said it will not negotiate with JEM in any future peace talks with rebel groups.

The US and EU also said that promoting the Darfur peace process will be in the context of “full compliance with UNSCR 1593 [referring Darfur war crimes to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and UNSCR 1769 [authorizing UN-AU peacekeepers in Darfur]”.

The statement represents a dramatic shift in the position of the US administration, which remained hostile to the ICC. Washington had threatened to veto resolution 1593 adopted in March 2005 but eventually bent down to domestic and international pressure and abstained from voting.

The US has recently showed signs of warming up to the court despite its long standing fears that it may be used to bring frivolous cases against its troops.

Following a briefing by the ICC prosecutor at the UN Security Council last week, the US envoy Zalmay Khalilzad said in a statement that his government “strongly believes that those responsible for the acts of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur must be held accountable and be brought to justice”.

International experts also say more than 300,000 were killed and 2 million have been driven from their homes by the conflict in Darfur, a region that is roughly the size of France.

Dinka Ngok criticizes the meeting of President with Misseriya

(Miraya FM) The leader of the Dinka Ngok in Abyei, Kwol Arop, criticized the meeting of President Omer Al Bashir with the Misseriya leaders on the nomination of their members to the Abyei Administration. Mr. Arop said that such a step is drawing the attention of the Dinka people in Abyei towards the biasness of the Presidency on the Messeriya. Arop said that the position of the Abyei Administration should be a national one. He added that they have not been contacted up to now regarding the formation of the Abyei Interim Administration.

The Southern Sudan Minister of Presidential Affairs Dr. Luka Biong, earlier said that the SPLM is making consultations with the Abyei local leaders to nominate their representatives. The displaced people who fled the recent clashes in Abyei between the SPLA and the Sudan Armed Forces expressed their happiness on the Abyei roadmap agreement reached between the National Congress Party and the SPLM.

Speaking to Miraya FM the displaced people which fled to Wau town of Bahr el Ghazal State said that they are hoping to return immediately back to their homes. However, the public in Juba have reacted differently to the Abyei roadmap.

The Sudanese Voluntary Council is sending aid package to the affected people of Abyei on Thursday.

Abyei agreement will enable Sudanese diplomacy to tackle several issues, official

(Sudan Vision)The Ministry of Foreign Affairs affirmed that addressing the issue of Abyei will reflect positively on Sudan's foreign relations. The Ministry Spokesman Ali Sadiq said the Sudanese diplomacy will be able to address a number of issues after the Abyei agreement has removed the difficulties that stood in the way of its efforts to uphold Sudan national interests.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was confident that the two partners would be able to transcend the complications of the Abyei issue particularly the developments that recently took place on the ground there," said Al Sadiq adding that that confident feeling was emanating from the political will of the two partners and their keenness to keep peace in tact.

Meanwhile, in his statement to SUNA, Al Sadiq stated that the Abyei agreement signed between the two partners to CPA has ensured non-repetition of negative developments, stating that the incidence that occurred in Abyei were simultaneous with the Sudanese-American dialogue in Khartoum which ended without achieving a result.

For his part, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon has reportedly welcomed the Abyei agreement in a statement he issued on Monday. Ban Ki-Moon has also welcomed the two parties commitment to allowing UNMIS unrestricted access and freedom of movement in the Abyei area. Ki-Moon has announced UN commitment to deliver humanitarian assistance to IDPs who suffered from the conflict in Abyei last month, in addition to helping with their return to Abyei once the security arrangements are implemented on the ground.

For his part the Secretary General of the Associated GoNU parties, Dr. Mudowi Al Turabi described the item of international arbitration in the agreement as a good idea, adding that *The Hague International Court* has settled a number of border disputes such as Egyptian-Israeli dispute and the Ethiopian and the Eritrean disputes. Al Turabi further pointed out that the international court is considered a solution as according to him the Abyei experts team was politicized and led by an American diplomatic. For this reason its decisions were not reasonable. He however looked at the Abyei interim agreement as a step forward though he said he was not sure it would resolve the conflict for good.

In his turn, Maj. Gen (Rtd) Fadlallah Burma who is also a leading member of the Umma Party said the Abyei agreement was a boost to CPA and a step to calm down the situation in the region.

In a related development, the Joint Defence Council is reported to will convene an emergency meeting tomorrow to discuss the arrangements for the deployment of the new joint force stipulated in the Abyei agreement roadmap.

A Spokesman for the Council told Sudan Vision that the meeting will focus on the security arrangements noting that the council has been given a period of time not exceeding fifteen days to deploy the new joint force. Bior Ajang also affirmed that SPLA has named the personnel which will join the new force, expecting that the armed forces have done the same.

Ajang said the new force would restore security and stability to Abyei especially that it will be firmly committed to complying with orders by the unified command. He added that the joint force would be deployed within ten days affirming that the new force will be the sole one present on the ground there. He expressed confidence that the new force will be effective as well as it will be given new orders to implement the security instruction. He also expressed belief that the joint force will set the model for coexistence since all its members will be brought together.

Human Rights of JEM detainees are fully Respected 480 suspects released

(Sudan Vision) Some 100 suspects arrested after the failed JEM attack on Omdurman will be tried next week, a member in the investigation committee said The Anti-terrorist Attorney Office Representative in the Omdurman attack investigation committee,

Jamal Osman Suleiman disclosed yesterday that 105 detainees still under investigation while 480 suspects have been released.

Addressing a forum, organized by the Human Rights Consultative Council and attended by representatives of the Diplomatic corps in the Sudan, the UN Agencies, UNMIS, ICRC, NGOs and the media, Suleiman affirmed that human rights of all suspects' are observed and that 63 of those charged have presented appeals against those charges, adding that the attorney assured the international community that all detainees are in Koba Prison under Police custody.

Sudanese Armed Forces Representative in the Committee, Brig. Dr. Mustafa Ibrahim said that although the Geneva International Humanitarian Law Convention 4 (Article 82-87) gives the Sudan government the right to try the accused in military courts, the government has refrained from such actions and referred the cases to civilian criminal courts.

On the issue of the children who participated in the attack, all 89 are in custody under the care of the Ministry of Social Affairs and their pictures and names have been published and distributed to enable their families to identify them.

The children are under physical and psychological treatment and have been visited by UNICEF, UNMIS and ICRC which are also studying their cases.

Dr. Abdel Monein Osman, the Secretary General of the Human Rights Consultative Council called on the international community to stop using double standards in the issue of child recruitment by rebel groups specially JEM. He strongly stressed on the need to stop this violation of child human rights.

In the meantime, he affirmed that the Council is closely observing that the human rights of all suspects are fully respected and that no suspect has been tortured in addition that all suspects facing trial will receive legal aid.

[GoSS](#)

Chinese peacekeepers to be deployed in Bahr el Ghazal

(ST) June 10, 2008 (JINAN) – A batch of 142 Chinese peacekeepers left yesterday to Wau, the capital of Western Bahr el Ghazal State left China to take part in the UN Peace Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

The Chinese troops participate also in another peacekeeping mission for Darfur.

This group was the first batch of the fourth peacekeeping team China sends to the Sudan, the official Xinhua reported.

The fourth team, 435 officers and soldiers in total, has 275 engineers, 100 transport troops and 60 medical staff.

The second and third batches are scheduled to leave for Sudan on June 15 and 20, respectively.

Before their departure, the soldiers underwent intensive training in techniques and English, according to sources with the Jinan Military Command Area.

The fourth peacekeeping team will replace the third team, which was sent last September.

SPLA troops is deployed in Nabanga town of the Western Equatoria, SPLA says

(Miraya FM) The spokesperson of the Sudan people's Liberation Army (SPLA), Major General Peter Parnyang, said that SPLA troops were deployed in Nabanga town of the Western Equatoria State. Major General Parnyang said that the aim for the deployment of the SPLA soldiers to the area was to protect the local population from attacks by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA).

Speaking to Miraya FM, Major General Parnyang said that the SPLA would not let attacks on civilians by the LRA go unpunished. He said LRA was still a major threat in Western Equatoria. The LRA earlier raided the area of Nabanga killing 21 SPLA soldiers including civilians. A senior government official meanwhile said that a committee is working on the assessment of the peace process between the government of Uganda and the LRA. The official said that a report will be released soon, which will advise the parties on the next phase. Another official source said the government of the south will decide on what to do with the LRA after the report is complete.

Sudan's Kiir to visit Egypt for talks on development

(ST) Sudanese First Vice-President will visit Cairo for talks on Egypt's participation in the development of the south and the establishment of various projects there,

Salva Kiir Maydrit who is also the head of southern Sudan government told the Egyptian Al-Ahram that contacts are underway to determine the date of a visit he intends to pay to Egypt where he will meet with President Hosni Mubarak, and discuss with the Prime Minister Ahmed Nazeef, Egyptian development programmes to southern Sudan.

During his previous visits to Cairo, Egyptians authorities pledged to implement various development projects in the ten states of southern Sudan.

Egypt supports the reconstruction and development of southern Sudan in various fields such as electricity, education, health, irrigation and water resources.

In his interview with the official daily, the First Vice-President praised the efforts made by Egypt in the southern Sudan, including the creation of a comprehensive medical clinic which is opened last week in Juba, as well as electricity network.

Egypt further established four power stations in Wau, Rumbek, Bor and Yambio where they are operating now, except for Bor where it is expected to end its construction in July 2008.

Egypt also pledged to construct Alexandria University in Juba with colleges in different states, but the southern Sudan government did not grant a plot of land to build the university up to date.

Asked about the reason for not allocating land to construct the university, Kiir said that Juba became crowded, but South Sudan government will allocate enough space to construct the university and colleges.

He also said that GoSS will also prepare a map of arable land in the south to be submitted to Egyptian investors.

Salva Kiir, since his designation as First Vice President following the tragic death of John Garang, visited the neighbouring Egypt three times, the latest was in February 2008.

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