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Highlights

Main News

President Bashir takes part in funeral of those killed in plane crash

(**All dailies**) President of the Republic Field Marshal Omer Al-Bashir and a number of leaders of the legislative, executive and political organs attended at Al-Sahafa Cemetery in Khartoum Wednesday the funeral ceremony of the martyrs of the incident of Sudan Airways plane. The families of the martyrs, a number of officials of the Civil Aviation Authority and Sudan Airways Company and thousands of peoples attended the funeral ceremony for 30 martyrs.

30 people killed in Sudan Airways crash - statement

(**ST**) June 11, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — The Sudan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said today that 30 people were killed in the Airbus crash yesterday at Khartoum Airport. Further it said that six are still missing while the total of survivals is 178 people.

The Sudan Airways Airbus A310 had gone off the runway after landing at Khartoum International Airport, and several loud explosions resounded as fire raced through the aircraft.

In its latest statement released this evening, the CAA said that a hostess was among the 30 victims, while 10 crew members survived.

Airbus announced Wednesday it was sending a team of specialists to Khartoum to help determine what caused a jetliner that had just landed in a thunderstorm to veer off a runway and burst into flames.

In a statement, Airbus said the A310 involved in the accident was 18 years old and had been operated by Sudan Airways since September 2007.

The Airbus A310 is a twin-engine, widebody plane used by a number of carriers around the world. Typically configured with about 220 seats, it is a shorter version of the popular A300.

The French government said on Wednesday it would send a team of investigators to help Sudanese authorities to find the cause of the crash. "France stands ready send to Khartoum in the coming hours, a team of investigators from the Accident Investigation Bureau" the spokesperson for the foreign ministry Mrs. Pascale Andreati said in Paris.

In Khartoum, Sudan Airways General Manager, Abdallah Idris declined to comment today on the cause of the crash saying it is too early to speak about it. However the plane had landed safely at the airport and the question is why it skidded off the runaway and exploded after.

It Khartoum also criticism goes to the delay of rescue workers and firemen. Eyewitnesses say firefighter, arrived and started to extinguish fires on half hour after the accident. Also they used water instead of liquid fire-extinguishing agent normally used in such case.

Informed sources told Sudan Tribune that a delegation of the international aviation authority visited Sudan last year and underlined the lack of the rudimentary safety equipment to the Sudanese officials who pledged to undertake the necessary measures.

Sudan is constructing a new airport to replace the current old one.

A burial ceremony for the 30 dead was held Wednesday in Khartoum's al Sahafa cemetery. The President Omer al-Bashir attended the public funerals and other senior officials.

[UN/Agencies](#)

UN officials voice sadness after deadly plane crash at Sudanese airport

(UN News Services) 11 June 2008 – United Nations officials in Sudan have expressed their sorrow at last night's plane crash at the international airport in the capital, Khartoum, that media reports say has killed at least 29 people.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, issued a statement today extending his deepest condolences to the Government and the Sudanese people following the accident.

"The bereaved families are in our thoughts and prayers at this sad time," said Mr. Qazi, who is also head of the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS).

The hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID) operating in western Sudan's Darfur region also released a similar statement from El Fasher, the mission headquarters.

"Our thoughts and prayers at this time are with the families of those who have lost their loved ones and for those injured in this dreadful plane crash."

UN is ready to assist implementation of Abyei agreement

(Sawt Al-Umma) UNMIS announced it was ready to assist the implementation of Abyei roadmap agreement. It said the agreement provision on free movement for UNMIS in Abyei was important and would enable UNMIS observers to carry out their mandate in an effective way.

UNMIS deputy spokesperson Zerrouk Kouider in statement to the newspaper said the agreement would allow civilians displaced by the incidents to return and would also enable UNMIS to provide assistances to them in south and north Abyei.

UNMIS-OIU workshop: CPA implementation "a matter of time"

(Al-Sudani) A workshop organized by Omdurman Islamic University and UNMIS PIO considered the CPA as the first significant step that brought an end to the civil war that raged for more than twenty years.

The discussions of the participants concluded that the resolution of the conflict and war through negotiations between the parties constituted a shift from square one to square two adding that the agreement was proceeding on the right track and its implementation was a matter of time. They said there was still opportunity for achieving unity between the north and the south in the upcoming referendum. The participants also discussed elections, referendum and the positions of the various parties on these two issues.

The chief of the Media Special Campaigns of UNMIS PIO Mr. Jordan Dakamseh reviewed at the workshop opening session yesterday the role of UN in Sudan towards CPA particularly the military, civilian and political aspects of the agreement. He has emphasized the need for interaction of the Sudanese society with the CPA as well as the need to sensitize students about the agreement so that they contribute for its dissemination. He stressed the importance of the role that the University could play for implementation of the agreement and pointed out that the existence of confusion among many politicians and activists with regard to CPA creates complications in the implementation process.

For his part, Prof. Salah Al Din Adoma of the Omdurman Islamic University has criticized UN stance on differences between the two CPA partners.

[GoNU](#)

Government urges UN to pressure armed movements to stop recruiting children

(Al-Gowat Al-Musalaha) Sudan Government has officially urged UN yesterday to intervene and put pressure on the armed movements to stop forcible recruitment of children and to protect Darfur children in IDPs camps.

HAC Commissioner Hasabo Mohamed Abdul Rahman briefed Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs Ameera Haq on the issue of the children recruited by JEM against their will who took part in the attack on Omdurman and the programmes designed for their psychological and health rehabilitation.

The meeting also focused on humanitarian situation in Abyei and the need for urgent humanitarian assistances in the form of shelter, food, medicine, rehabilitation and reconstruction with the participation of GoNU, GoSS, RRC, UN, NNGOs and INGOs.

National Assembly postpones discussion on Police Act; MPs differ on immunities

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The National Assembly deferred for the second time on Wednesday debate on the Police Act in response to political forces' demand, said the Assembly Deputy Speaker Atim Garang.

Garang stressed that the police immunities was one of the points of differences, adding that the political forces were demanding that law should govern the immunities of police.

Registrar of Political Parties denies calling for postponement of elections

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The Registrar-General of the Political Parties and Organizations Mohamed Ahmed Salim denied demanding the postponement of the elections during a lecture he delivered recently at Khartoum State's Legislative Assembly.

He said that he called on the political forces to expedite holding the elections and called for the removal of all obstacles facing the process.

Earlier, the registrar was quoted as having called for postponement of upcoming elections.

UN Security Council's trip to African hotspots has some successes, some failures

(AP) ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast_The U.N.'s most powerful body spent nine days visiting African hotspots trying to push solutions to the continent's worst conflicts and get a taste of the hardships faced by millions of civilians caught in fighting.

For the Security Council diplomats who traveled from Kenya to Djibouti, where peace talks on Somalia were taking place, and then on to Sudan, Chad, Congo and finally Ivory Coast, it was a trip with some successes, some frustrations and some failures.

"It was an overall successful trip," South Africa's U.N. Ambassador Dumisani Kumalo said, except for Chad which "was a lost trip really."

He praised agreements, following the council's visits, between Somalia's weak transitional government and an opposition alliance to end months of violence, and between Sudan's northern government and former southern rebels over the disputed oil-rich Abyei region where fighting erupted last month threatening a new civil war.

The Somali government and the opposition Alliance for the Re-Liberation of Somalia agreed Monday in Djibouti to end months of violence and set a timetable for the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops supporting the fragile transitional government. But on Tuesday, a leader of Somalia's ousted Islamic movement rejected the U.N.-brokered peace deal, saying that Islamic insurgents will fight on, and it remains to be seen whether the accord will be respected.

"We gave them a push," Kumalo said Monday night before the council returned to New York. "For the first time they looked at each other's eyes and talked about themselves. We didn't expect them to just do it first time. It never happens. ... So give them time."

The council also pressed a north-south agreement on Abyei, which was signed Sunday in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, Kumalo said. If implemented, it could stop Sudan's slide back to civil war, which engulfed the country for over two decades until a 2005 peace agreement created a unity government between the one-time rivals.

On the negative side, Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir told the council he would never cooperate with the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor, who alleges his government is involved in crimes against humanity in Darfur.

Al-Bashir also insisted the humanitarian situation in Darfur "is witnessing clear improvement," which dismayed U.S. Deputy Ambassador Alejandro Wolff and other council members who had just visited a camp in North Darfur where violence has forced food rations to be cut in half.

The Sudanese leader agreed to protect humanitarian convoys carrying aid from Port Sudan to Darfur. He also stressed that Sudan was determined to find a political solution in Darfur and urged U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to quickly appoint a mediator, an appeal backed by many council members.

The council's visit came at a very tense time between Sudan and neighboring Chad.

Al-Bashir blamed Chad for a surprise attack by rebels from the Darfur-based Justice and Equality Movement last month on Khartoum's twin city, Omdurman, and broke diplomatic relations. Chad in turn closed its border with Sudan and halted bilateral trade.

The Security Council had been scheduled to meet Chad's President Idriss Deby on Friday night, but instead he sent his prime minister _ who left the meeting early.

France's U.N. Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert was nonetheless upbeat, saying the council received assurances from Chad and Sudan that they are willing to reconcile. "Our hope is that both Khartoum and N'Djamena will do what they are saying they are willing to do," he said.

For the diplomats who deal with African issues from the comfort of U.N. headquarters in New York, the trip was not only a chance to talk face-to-face with political and civic leaders and U.N. officials, but to refugees and internally displaced people forced to flee their homes.

"It confirms our position that Security Council should reach out to people, to reach out to region, and get closer with the reality," said senior Russian diplomat Vladimir Safronkov.

France's Ripert said the U.N. is doing good work but "we have seen lacks and problems." Among them: logistical difficulties in getting the 26,000-strong U.N.-African Union force on the ground in Darfur, and the need for drones and aircraft in eastern Congo to track rebel movements.

Sudan wants the ICC prosecutor replaced

(ST) June 11, 2008 (NEW YORK) – A senior Sudanese diplomat lashed out at the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) Luis Moreno-Ocampo and called for his replacement.

Sudan's U.N. ambassador Abdel-Mahmood Mohamad speaking to Reuters today described Ocampo as a "terrorist".

Mohamad was responding to reports that the ICC attempted to divert a plane carrying a Sudanese minister accused of masterminding war crimes in Darfur.

China's Hu calls on Sudan to do more on Darfur

(**Reuters**) BEIJING, June 12 (Reuters) - Chinese President Hu Jintao called on the Sudanese government to take a series of steps toward peace in its Darfur region, state media said on Thursday, as it seeks to deflect criticism over its ties with Khartoum.

Hu's comments to visiting Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha were unusually strong given China's close relations with Sudan, where it is a major investor in the oil industry and to whom it sells arms.

To ease the situation in Darfur, Sudan "should push forward the peacekeeping mission and political process in a balanced manner, quickly restore political negotiations and strive to ensure the talks achieve substantial progress", the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily quoted Hu as saying.

Khartoum should also "push forward the relevant parties to realise a comprehensive ceasefire and to continually improve the humanitarian and security situation and on this basis help the people of Darfur to rebuild their homeland", he said.

Hu's comments mark a change in tone from Vice President Xi Jinping, who told Taha on Tuesday that China appreciated the "unremitting efforts" Sudan has made in trying to end the Darfur crisis.

More than five years of conflict in Sudan's western region of Darfur have killed 200,000 people and driven 2.5 million from their homes, international experts say. Khartoum puts the death toll at 10,000.

Rights groups say China's engagement with Sudan fans the violence there with investments that they say prop up its government, and have called on China to leverage its ties to do more to push Khartoum to resolve the conflict. The issue also prompted film director Steven Spielberg to quit as an artistic adviser to the Beijing Olympics and forced China defend its right to hold the Games, which open on Aug. 8.

China has highlighted its development aid to Sudan, the engineering corps it deployed to join the hybrid United Nations- African Union peacekeeping force there and says its trade is creating wealth for Sudan's people.

In the remarks to Taha, Hu urged the international community to increase aid to Darfur, especially development aid.

During Taha's visit, the two countries signed deals on agricultural cooperation that would see China help Sudan build a pilot agricultural centre and send agricultural training experts there, Xinhua news agency reported.

Taha also criticised what he called attempts by some foreign countries to make Darfur into an international issue.

"Their attempts infringe on Sudan's sovereignty," Xinhua quoted him as saying.
(Reporting by Lindsay Beck; Editing by David Fogarty)

Sudan's Joint Defence Board to discuss Abyei joint units

(ST) June 10, 2008 (KHARTOUM) — Military officials from the northern and southern Sudan armies are set to hold a meeting tomorrow in the capital Khartoum to discuss the deployment of a battalion of new joint integrated units (JIUs) in the disputed area.

According to the security arrangement included in the Abyei Roadmap Agreement signed last Monday to resolve their row on definition of Abyei area border, the Sudan Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army have to deploy a new battalion before to withdraw their respective troops from the area.

In Thursday's meeting, the Joint Defence Board has to adopt the troops' composition and modalities for the deployment of their troops before the June 18. The JIUs should not include troops from the former units.

According to the roadmap, the UNMIS peacekeepers should also be deployed in the disputed area.

A police force also should be deployed in Abyei after consultations between the national ministry of Interior and southern Sudan interior ministry.

The implementation of these security measures should precede the return of the displaced population by the end of the month.

GoSS

Cholera outbreak kills 45 people in South Sudan

(ST) June 11, 2008 (JUBA) — An acute watery diarrhea epidemic killed 45 people in southern Sudan, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said today.

At least 640 people are infected by the Cholera in Sudan's Central Equatoria and Eastern Equatoria states, while 45 people have already died, the IFRC said citing government statistics.

Cholera is an acute intestinal infection spread by contaminated water or food. It causes vomiting and acute diarrhea that can lead to dehydration and death within 24 hours. The water-borne disease hits Sudan every year. In 2006 there were nearly 25,000 cases and more than 700 deaths recorded.

According to government figures, at least 640 cases have been reported and 45 people have already died. With regard to current risks in Southern Sudan, IFRC's Operations Coordinator for Africa John Roche warned underlined the need "to act quickly and limit the spread of the epidemic especially by rising awareness among local communities".

The Red Cross allocated US\$241,000 from its disaster relief emergency fund to support the Sudanese Red Crescent Society in its response to an acute watery diarrhoea epidemic affecting.

The IFRC said it will distribute water purification tablets and soap to at least 360,000 people. Water points will also be treated. Around 160 Sudanese Red Crescent volunteers are already working with affected communities. It added.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimate that two-thirds of south Sudan's population drinks unsafe water.

[Darfur](#)

[AU PSC to meet tomorrow to discuss Darfur peace negotiations](#)

(Al-Rai Al-Aam) The AU PSC will hold an emergency meeting in Addis Ababa tomorrow to discuss negotiations between Sudan Government and non-DPA signatories.

According to Ambassador Bobo of the JMST, the meeting would listen to a report from the two Special Envoys Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim and Jan Eliasson on the peace process.

[Israel offers to pay African states to take in Sudan refugees](#)

(Haaretz.com) Israel has offered to pay African states to absorb the thousands of Sudanese refugees from Darfur and other environs who have crossed into Israel recently, Army Radio reported on Thursday.

The idea arose in discussions held by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert concerning the influx of African refugees in Israel and the high costs of providing these refugees with housing, health and social services.

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and Deputy Defense Minister Matan Vilnai supported the proposal, said Army Radio.

Following the decision, the Foreign Ministry has turned to several African countries that have diplomatic ties with Israel: Ethiopia, Uganda, the Ivory Coast and Benin. The amount of monetary compensation for the refugees has not yet been set, as talks are still at a preliminary stage.

At present, none of the African states in question have expressed enthusiasm for the idea, though not all have rejected it outright. Army Radio said, however, that a few of the states have requested the proposal be studied in depth.

The Foreign Ministry sees the proposal as a sensitive political issue, considering that there are now thousands of African refugees in Israel, and also because the state's offer of monetary compensation for refugees is liable to be viewed negatively in the world.

The state has already agreed to absorb 600 refugees into Israel and government agencies dealing with the refugees are looking for other solutions to the issue

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