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Highlights

“Enemies of peace behind insecurity in the south” – Salva Kiir

Al-Ahdath reports that mystery continues to surround the security situation in the town of Nassir, Upper Nile State. Heavy fighting was reported yesterday but GoSS political and military leaders dismissed the reports, saying calm prevailed. Meanwhile, GoSS President Salva Kiir has accused what he described as “enemies of peace” of igniting insecurity in the south which has almost engulfed all the southern States. Kiir, who addressed the opening session of southern Sudan Legislative Assembly yesterday, said he would do his best to avoid new war and warned that the south was capable of defending itself.

Miraya FM, quoting an eye witness from Nassir reported that there was ongoing exchange of fire in the area. The eye witness who spoke to Miraya FM by telephone said there were sounds of heavy ammunition fired which started since 10 am in the morning. He added that the United Nations forces in the area are on standby and are closely watching the situation.

However, second JIU commander in Malakal Brig. Majeur Deng told **Al-Ahdath** that the security situation was stable, describing news of renewal of bloody fighting between SPLA and the armed groups as “lies”.

On the other hand, **BBC’s Focus on Africa** 15/6/09 reported North Sudan has been accused of providing the arms that were used to attack barges carrying UN food aid on Sunday. A governing party leader in South Sudan told the **BBC** arms were being distributed in the south to spread dissent between rival groups. He said Khartoum wanted to destabilize the region before a referendum on southern independence due in 2011.

Pagan Amum, SPLM SG, told the BBC's Focus on Africa programme that the spirit of the comprehensive peace agreement which ended the fighting had been "assassinated" by Khartoum, as he accused its government of distributing arms in the south.

Al-Intibaha reports fighting renewed yesterday between the SPLA and Jikany Nuer in Nasir, tens were killed on both sides in a fighting that lasted for one and a half hour. The mission of the committee sent by GoSS and SPLA to calm the situation has failed due to differences between the committee chairman Gen. George Agour and Commissioner of Nassir Maj. Gen. Jarkoth. A source told the paper that SPLA withdrew its troops from the JIUs in the Nasir in order to quell armed violence in the area.

Al-Sahafa reports former Upper Nile Governor, presently an adviser to the Khartoum State Government Peter Charliman as saying that clashes in the town are still continuing and the situation is tense. He said the Commissioner informed him that SPLA sent a leader to the scene of the clashes but he failed to defuse the tension.

According to **Sudan Tribune website** 15/6/09, the UN relief barges ambushed last Friday on the Sobat River were carrying hidden ammunition, a statement stemming from the Nassir County Community in Juba, South Sudan, said.

Reflecting the distrust and animosity between the Lou and Jikany, the statement yesterday from the Nasir representatives in Juba questions whether the barge convoy had another agenda other than feeding the displaced Lou civilians.

"When the local authority tried to inspect these boats, they were refused to inspect three boats and this raised doubts that the three boats might be carrying harmful objects, possibly arms or ammunitions. After learning this, questions about who owns these boats and under whose responsibility arose," it says.

"It was later discovered that the boats were under direct responsibility of Dr. Riek Gai Kok, the Presidential Advisor to the President of Republic, Omar Al-Bashir. Other sources which are yet to be confirmed revealed that 18 of these boats were sent by UNHCR," they state.

Border demarcation differences to be referred to Presidency

Differences over "Jebel Al-Migeinis" area in the While Nile have halted the work of the North-South Border Demarcation Committee, **Al-Raed** reports. Reportedly, the committee intends to refer the matter to the Presidency. Border Demarcation Committee Chairman Col. Rek Digwal told the paper the committee reached a deadlock and the differences over the area would be referred to the Presidency for decision.

Meanwhile, Deputy Head of the National Elections Commission, Professor Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah, told **The Citizen** yesterday that the border demarcation process would be finalized before the start of the elections. "The border demarcation committee has pledged that it would finish the theoretical part of its work in the coming September, while by December it would complete its actual physical demarcation work," he said. He also said that the NEC has plans to carry out voter education programs. Abdullah made the remarks in an interview to the Citizen.

Differences over referendum bill

NCP, SPLM legal committee will resume today its meetings to discuss pending laws and to chart a new roadmap for dialogue, **Al-Ahdath** reports. GoSS Legal Affairs Minister Michael Macuai who heads the SPLM side told the paper yesterday that SPLM had submitted draft bills on South Sudan and Abyei referendum as well as the popular consultation for the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile to the NCP for consideration but the NCP objected to locations of referendum's registration and voting stations. He said there were sharp differences within the referendum commission and the National Constitution Review Commission had asked the two Partners to sit together to sort out their differences.

Washington meeting to focus on Abyei and Darfur

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports SPLM Deputy SG Yassir Arman told a press conference in Juba yesterday that SPLM delegation for Washington meeting would leave Tuesday. He said the meeting would focus on the border demarcation, Abyei, democratic transition, controversial laws such as the national security bill and referendum.

Sudan electoral board releases details of seats distribution

Sudan Tribune website 15/6/09 — Based on the results of the fifth population census, Abel Alier the NEC chairman yesterday announced the distribution of the geographical constituencies, political parties' seats and women seats for the 25 states in the country. The geographical seats for each state in the National Assembly are as follows:

Northern State 5, River Nile State 8, Red Sea State 10, Kassala State 12, Gadaref State 9, Khartoum State 35, Gezira State 25, White Nile State 12, Sinnar State 9, Blue Nile State 6, Northern Kordofan State 20, Southern Kordofan State 10, Northern Darfur 14, Western Darfur. 9, Southern Darfur 28, Upper Nile State 7, Jonglei State 9, Unity State 4, Warap State 7, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State 5, Western Bahr El Ghazal State 2, Lakes State 5, Western Equatoria State 4, Central Equatoria State 8 Eastern Equatoria State 6. Total 270 seats.

The seats of political parties (proportional representation) in the National Assembly are as follows: Northern State 1, River Nile State 2, Red Sea State 2, Kassala State 3, Gadaref State 2, Khartoum State 9, Gezira State 6, White Nile State 3, Sinnar State 2, Blue Nile State 2, Northern Kordofan State 5, Southern Kordofan State 3, Northern Darfur 4, Western Darfur 2, Southern Darfur 7, Upper Nile State 2, Jonglei State 2, Unity State 1, Warap State 2, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State 1, Western Bahr El Ghazal State 1, Lakes State 1, Western Equatoria State 1, Central Equatoria State 2, Eastern Equatoria State 2. Total 68 seats

Women seats in the National Assembly as are follows: Northern State 2, River Nile State 3, Red Sea State 4, Kassala State 5, Gadaref State 4, Khartoum State 15, Gezira State 10, White Nile State 5, Sinnar State 4, Blue Nile State 2, Northern Kordofan State 8, Southern Kordofan State 4, Northern Darfur 6, Western Darfur 4, Southern Darfur 12, Upper Nile State 3, Jonglei State 4, Unity State 2, Warap State 3, Northern Bahr El Ghazal State 2, Western Bahr El Ghazal State 1, Lakes State 2, Western Equatoria State 2, Central Equatoria State 3, Eastern Equatoria State 2. Total : 112

Conference of senior electoral officers to kick off today

The Salam Rotana Hotel in Khartoum is to host today a conference for members of the Higher Election Committees and senior elections officers, **Al-Sahafa** reports. A statement issued by the NEC yesterday said the conference is organized by the NEC in collaboration with the AEC, the USAID and the Italian Government. Some 156 elections officers and committees' members from different parts of the country are expected to attend the meeting. The opening session of the three-day conference will be addressed by the NEC Chairperson Abel Alier and will focus on the elections issues such as delimitation of electoral constituencies, role of women in elections, voter registration, election monitoring and the role of media. A group of foreign and national experts would address the sessions. The statement said the conference would be the start of a series of intensive seminars to educate various sectors on the election process.

{SRSR Ashraf Qazi and UNMIS elections team participated in the event}

FM lauds AU stances in support for Sudan

SUNA 15/6/09 reported FM Deng Alor has appreciated the role of the African Union and its support for Sudan at the national, regional and international levels. The minister, who presented at the National Assembly yesterday a report on the situation of Sudan foreign relations, praised the cooperation between the African Union and Sudan concerning the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). He also lauded the performance of the UN mission in Sudan and its support to the deployment of the Hybrid Forces in Darfur, besides its support to the work of the joint mechanism. The minister explained that the joint mechanism acknowledged that Sudan has met all its commitments regarding the flow of humanitarian aid as well as construction of airports. The minister said that the UN Undersecretary for Humanitarian Affairs has commended the government's declaration to allow access for relief for the needy people in Darfur until 2010. The minister has hailed the efforts of the AU committee, chaired by the former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, toward solving the issue of Darfur peacefully, saying that this committee would forward its report to the 21 AU Summit due to be held in Serte, Libya. On the activity of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to foil the foreign conspiracies against the country, Alor praised the great support and solidarity given to Sudan by the regional groups, the Non-aligned Movement, the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference as well as the Group 77 and China.

Meanwhile, the minister explained that his ministry's plan includes conducting wide contacts with senior officials of a number of African and the sister countries, highlighting on the remarkable efforts exerted by the embassies of Sudan abroad. As a result of these efforts, he

said, many of African leaders stressed the necessity to emphasize solidarity with Sudan to reconsider their position from the Rome statute.

On the Sudanese - Chadian relations, the minister explained that contacts are being continued to contain the crisis in the relations between Sudan and Chad and to realize full normalization for the relations between the two countries. The minister touched on the efforts being exerted by the State of Qatar and Libya to normalize the relations between Sudan and Chad. He also pointed out that Sudan and Ethiopia have formed a joint committee to deal with security issues.

Al-Wifaq and *Al-Watan* newspapers report that Alor has gone out of text, claiming he has omitted many phrases from the speech which he considers offensive to the US and the ICC.

Meanwhile, *Akhir Lahza* reports that FM Deng Alor yesterday received a petition from journalists protesting an instruction by the MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq to the main gate that Akhir Lahza's reporter Ms Ahlam El-Tayeb should not be allowed to enter the Ministry premises. Alor promised to solve the problem.

Kiir to visit Libya

Al-Wifaq reports FVP Salva Kiir will visit Libya during the next few days in response to an invitation from Libyan leader Kaddafi. A source told the paper that the visit coincides with a CPA conference in Darfur and that Kiir's consultations with Kaddafi would focus on Darfur and the SPLM role towards the issue.

Police deployed in Khartoum

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports police forces are heavily deployed across Khartoum. Maj. Gen. Atta Abdul Hameed Al-Jak told the paper that the campaign aims at combating crime in the state.

NCP supporters disrupt female students' discussion of Darfur crimes

Sudan Tribune website 15/6/09 – Several NCP male supporters disguised themselves as women in order to infiltrate and disrupt a gathering held by Darfur women students at the University of Khartoum yesterday.

The Darfur students were engaged in a legal discussion on the ICC warrant issued to arrest the top member of the NCP, President al-Bashir, for crimes against humanity in Darfur.

The students affirmed the legal liability of al-Bashir and his formal obligation to surrender himself to the ICC.

According to the Sudan Human Rights Organization (SHRO-Cairo), in the course of the discussion, male supporters of the ruling party, who had dressed themselves up in women's clothes to be able to stay inside the discussion hall at the female section of the campus, violently attacked the Darfur women.

Under law, women are supposed to have the right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly on campus. Earlier crackdowns against supporters of the ICC warrant occurred in March, soon after the warrant was issued, when security forces made incursions on campus to disperse public meetings about the issue.

"SHRO links this unprecedented violence with the permanent orders the President of the State and the NIF/NCP ruling party instigated to be forcibly executed by the Security and Intelligence Department against all citizens who spoke favourably for the ICC warrant of arrest," said the

Cairo-based rights organization in a statement.

"Accused of supporting the ICC decision, a few human rights activists and several journalists had been arbitrarily arrested and/or put to trial by government authorities recently."

Today SHRO condemned "the illegal climate of violence the government has been spreading over the public life in pursuit of the President's personal effort to silence all comments on the international prosecution and the warrant of arrest issued against him by the ICC."

SHRO is asking the government party and supporters "to act in accordance with the rule of law, the decent manners of Sudanese traditions, and the deserved respect to the female students in the university."

The rights organization urges the NCP supporters to be dealt with according to university laws, the Code of Ethics, and furthermore prosecuted under criminal law for any grievous injuries.

S. Sudan and US development arm sign MoU for \$203m fund

Sudan Tribune website 15/6/09 - Officials from the governments of semi-autonomous Southern Sudan and the United States came together Monday to pen a Memorandum of Understanding on US\$203 million in funding.

The funds are part of an overall Regional Assistance Grant Agreement signed between USA and GOSS in September 2008.

In signing the agreement, the south Sudanese officials acknowledged US support in several development sectors: sustainable livelihoods, healthcare including HIV/AIDs and malaria treatment and prevention, expanded access to education through interactive radio and gender equality scholarships and other programs, governance, and elections preparations.

The event, held at Home and Away Business Center in Juba, was led by Government of Southern Sudan Minister of Regional Cooperation General Oyai Deng Ajak, and Earl Gast, Acting Deputy Administrator for the Bureau for Africa of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Army directs PDF to continue recruiting Mujahideen

Al-Intibaha reports the Sudanese Armed Forces have affirmed their readiness to defend the motherland. Joint Chief of Staff Gen. Mohamed Abdul Gadir Nasrel-Din who addressed PDF graduation ceremony of 2000 Mujahideen yesterday called on the PDF command to continue recruiting Mujahideen.

Al-Turabi criticizes SPLM

Al-Intibaha reports PCP SG Hassan Al-Turabi has criticized, for the first time, the SPLM charging it of becoming allegiant to the NCP. Al-Turabi also said that he is unhappy over the fact that GoSS formation includes no Muslim membership. He made the remarks at a press conference yesterday.

Car rally from Halfa to Nimule

Al-Khartoum reports General Manager of the Sudanese Sound Izzel Din Mohamed Ibrahim as saying that his company has decided to organize an international car rally in the Sudan from the town of Half in the extreme north to the town of Nimule in the extreme south, under the slogan

“Sudan is in peace and security”. He said the rally would be organized early in 2010 and it would not be a purely sport event but a panorama of activities.

Health authorities decide to screen travelers from Egypt for swine flu

Akhir Lahza reports Ministry of Health Information Officer Mohamed Abdul Rahman as saying that health authorities have decided to subject travelers coming from Egypt to lab test at the airport as part of efforts to prevent transmission of swine flu.