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Headlines

- Abyei Administration receives ten vehicles (**Al-Watan**)
- Kiir, Taha and Khalil to meet in Doha (**dailies**)
- Some SPLM leaders impede CPA implementation – Nafie (**Al-Khartoum**)
- Sudan Ambassador alerts govt. of hostile mobilization (**Ajras Al-Hurriah**)
- Khalil withdraws from Doha talks (**Akhir Lahza**)
- Chad rebels head for rear bases, threaten new attack (**AFP**)
- Up to 49 killed in South Sudan tribal violence (**Reuters**)
- South Sudan Dam construction scheme begins (**SRS**)
- Demobilization kicks off in Southern Kordofan (**Al-Sahafa**)
- GoSS orders army to halt killings (**the Citizen**)
- MFA to ban return of 120 Sudanese in Israel (**dailies**)
- Arms watchdog: cargo airlines deliver weapons, aid (AP)
- INTERVIEW: Bashir sure to face genocide charges – prosecutor (**Reuters**)

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Highlights

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Abyei Administration receives ten vehicles

Al-Watan reports the Federal Ministry of Finance yesterday handed over ten vehicles to Abyei Administration. Abyei Area Chief of Finance Ar Deng considered the delivery of vehicles to the Administration as the real start of the development process in the area.

Kiir, Taha and Khalil to meet in Doha

Quoting the London-based **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat**, *local dailies* report that FVP Kiir, VP Taha and JEM leader Khalil are likely to meet in Doha in June to sign a 90-day ceasefire agreement to create a conducive atmosphere for talks. According to **Al-Sharq Al-Awsat**, US envoy Scott Gration wanted to bring them together during his recent visit to Khartoum but the plan was postponed to June because Doha talks have stalled.

Meanwhile, **Al-Rai Al-Aam** reports the Sudan Government and JEM delegations to Doha talks yesterday set up committee to address the issues of POWs. The government delegation yesterday protested to the mediators against JEM's attack on SLA/MM-controlled areas, describing it as violation of the Goodwill Agreement.

On the other hand, the Arab League revealed yesterday that it would hold a high-level meeting in Khartoum on 18 May to discuss the Sudanese situation, **Al-Intibaha** reports.

Some SPLM leaders impede CPA implementation – Nafie

Presidential Assistant and NCP official Nafie Ali Nafie has accused some unnamed SPLM leaders of hindering the CPA implementation, reports **Al-Khartoum**. Nafie, who addressed yesterday the Democratic Salvation Front's conference, also accused some political parties of lack of seriousness to contest elections because they know they would not win.

Sudan Ambassador alerts government about hostile mobilization

The Sudanese Embassy in Chad has alerted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about ongoing anti-Sudan movements and mobilization in Chad, **Ajras Al-Hurriah** reports. Sudanese Ambassador to Chad Abdullah Al-Shaikh informed the Ministry that the Chadian government was determined to send an envoy to France, US and UK on a mission to discuss the tension between the two countries. Chad is also mobilizing its political parties against Sudan.

Khalil withdraws from Doha talks

Akhir Lahza reports that JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim left Qatar Friday leaving behind a representative with no authority to negotiate and reach agreement with the Sudanese delegation. The paper has learned from sources that JEM delegation does not want to proceed on talks and is insisting on a POW release before serious engagement.

Chad rebels head for rear bases, threaten new attack

AFP 11/5/09 — Rebels in Chad headed Monday for rear bases behind the Sudanese border, Chadian officials said, but a rebel spokesman warned they could launch a new offensive.”

They've gone back towards Sudan. They couldn't regroup where they were. We destroyed most of their structure" during fighting late last week, a Chadian official said Monday.

The signs of retreat could be seen as President Idriss Deby Itno, in full combat gear, flew in Monday to eastern Chad to order his troops to chase away the routed rebels, national television reported.

Deby made a lightning visit to Goz Beida, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) from the frontier, to order his soldiers to "comb the area and track down those wandering in the wilderness."

Aid organizations were steadily returning to their normal activities and "some never even left the area," one humanitarian official said.

However, one foreign observer told **AFP** "we can't totally rule out a new rebel attack. It isn't impossible, mathematically speaking.

Meanwhile, **Sudan Tribune website** reported the Chadian President Idriss Deby blasted Libya for its opposition last Friday to a UN Security Council condemnation of the Sudan-backed incursion of the Chadian armed opposition begun May 5.

Speaking in a meeting held with political parties on May 9, President Idriss Deby lashed out at the Libyan ambassador to the UN for rejecting any move to mention or to condemn Sudan as had been requested by Chad.

"Unfriendly behavior of the representatives of Libya and China at the meeting of the Security Council on 7 May 2009 in New York requires an appropriate response from Chad," Deby told the meeting.

He further said the foreign ministry would summon the ambassadors of Libya and China to protest against their support to Khartoum. He further stressed that his government would send envoys to "friendly countries" to explain its position, "particularly in Senegal, France, and the United States of America."

The Chadian president on Monday paid a visit to his troops in Goz-Beïda, about 100 kilometres from the border. He called on the army to pursue the rebels and deal with them because Sudan had prevented them from crossing the border.

"Sudan even refused to allow their wounded to have access to medical care. They have no more strength, you must find and dislodge them," he said.

"I do not want to hear talking about a mercenary in Chad," he added, urging his forces to expel their enemy entirely from the country.

According to **Miraya FM**, the Chadian Minister of information and the spokesman of the Chadian Government, Abdul Rahman Mursal, said that the Sudanese Government has repeatedly refused to deploy international military observers along the Chad- Sudan border.

Mursal told **Miraya Fm** that deploying international military observers on the border would ascertain the Sudanese government's support to the Chadian rebels.

On the same issue, the JEM Spokesman, Ahmed Hussein, told **Miraya Fm** that the talks

currently taking place in Doha are still pending and are not directly with the government, but rather led by the mediators.

He reiterated the movements' commitment not to sign any other agreement with the government if the previous agreements are not implemented, such as releasing JEM prisoners and observing a cease-fire.

Up to 49 killed in South Sudan tribal violence

Reuters - South Sudanese gunmen have killed up to 49 people from a rival tribe, most of them women and children, in one of a string of attacks that have raised fears for elections in the region, officials said yesterday.

Fighters from the Lou Nuer tribe raided the village of Torkeij, home to the Nuer Jikany, in the region's Upper Nile state on Friday, in apparent revenge for cattle thefts, a state minister said.

"It's very worrisome in this context ... Elections in the context of insecurity is never a good thing," said the head of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in South Sudan, Lise Grande. "We're very worried right now about the intensification of the attacks and the fact ... women and children are being targeted."

Upper Nile state's information minister, Thon Mom, told **Reuters** 41 people were killed and 42 injured in Friday's attack, saying it was probably linked to cattle raiding. "The Lou Nuer attacked the Jikany," he said.

A U.N. official, who asked not to be named, said sources on the ground had reported 49 dead and 54 injured, 24 of them severely. He said most of the dead were women and children, and that emergency medical teams had been sent to the area.

On Monday leaders from the Mundari and Bari ethnic groups met to try to settle differences after clashes in recent weeks close to the south's capital, Juba.

South Sudan Peace Commission Chairman Louis Lobong was also worried about the national elections.

"People may not be able to campaign freely. Mundari will not be able to go to Bari areas (and vice versa)," he said. "It is very dangerous. People may also not accept the results."

South Sudan Dam Construction Scheme Begins

Sudan Radio Service - The executive director of the dams' implementation unit in Sudan, Osama Abdallah has said that work on the four major dams in south Sudan has begun.

Speaking to **Sudan Radio Service** in Wau, Abdallah said that the construction of the dams was approved by President al-Bashir last August.

"Construction on the dam sector in south Sudan is now going on, specifically due to its importance to our people in south Sudan, who do have great expectation for this. Now we are conducting studies on the four major dams. The works also had started in the small dams at Saywe in Wau and Keniti in Torit and Barag in Juba, which had moved far ahead in various studies and geotechnical works, there is also the work to rehabilitate the Maridi dam, and the construction of water station," he said.

Demobilization kicks off in Southern Kordofan

The DDR Commission in Southern Kordofan launched yesterday the demobilization and reintegration process for 17,500 ex-combatants from the SAF and the SPLA, according to Commission official Abdalla Mohamed Bilal. The group is part of a total of 90,000 combatants targeted from the two sides, reports **Al-Sahafa**.

GoSS orders army to halt killings

After a week of tribal fighting and slayings, which have grown to engulf two major ethnic groups in the southern Sudan capital state, GoSS Monday said "enough" and ordered the army and police to stop the carnage, the **Citizen** reports. "From LRA attack in Eastern Equatoria, to the recurrence of cattle raids that resulted in killing of innocents' lives in Jongeli, Lakes, Warrap, Unity States, and Upper Nile, preventing these incidents is GoSS priority," GoSS statement issued by the VP Office said. "The government condemns such an abominable act to the strongest term and ordered on the army and security organs to immediately restore law and order in the affected areas," the statement said.

MFA to ban return of 120 Sudanese from Israel

Local dailies report the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is determined to ban the return of about 120 Sudanese youths who have reportedly joined the Israeli army. According to **Al-Watan**, the Ministry has criticized Israel, accusing Tel Aviv of brainwashing Sudanese nationals. MFA spokesperson Ali Al-Sadiq said Israel wanted to create spies to use them against their country.

Arms watchdog: cargo airlines deliver weapons, aid

LOUISE NORDSTROM, Associated Press Writer

Source: English General News Date: May 12, 2009

STOCKHOLM_Air cargo carriers involved in weapons smuggling in African conflict zones are also being contracted for international aid supplies and peacekeeping operations, a prominent peace research group said Tuesday.

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute said its report found that 90 percent of the carriers identified in weapons trafficking-related reports have also been used by U.N. agencies, European Union and NATO member states and leading non-governmental organizations.

"The worst place at the moment is Sudan, where all companies that have been listed by the U.N. for illicit arms transfers have been used for humanitarian aid," Hugh Griffiths, a co-author of the report, told The Associated Press.

Some of the relief groups mentioned in the report, including the Red Cross and Mediciens Sans Frontiers, said it was sometimes difficult for them to know what goods have previously been transported in planes they contract for aid shipments.

"It's impossible to know what else the planes do," said Gerald Massis, director-general for logistics of the Bordeaux, France-based MSF. "It's like you hire a taxi. After your trip you don't know what they do afterwards."

SIPRI said air transportation has played a key role in destabilizing parts of Africa through the transfer of small arms and facilitated the smuggling of drugs and tobacco to Europe, North America and the Middle East.

The report said U.N. peacekeeping missions in Sudan have continued to use aircraft operated by Sudanese-based Badr Airlines even after the U.N. Security Council

recommended an aviation ban be imposed on the carrier in response to arms embargo violations.

Other companies singled out included Aviacon Zitotrans, which SIPRI said was "a principal aviation transporter" for Russian arms companies supplying weapons to African conflict markets. SIPRI said the company has also been contracted by several U.N. agencies as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross and MSF.

ICRC spokeswoman Anna Schaaf told AP the organization rarely charters planes in Africa "but it can happen for cargo purposes in emergency situations."

She confirmed that the ICRC had contracted Aviacon Zitotrans in nine emergency situations between 2001 and 2006, but said it was no longer using the company.

German Red Cross spokeswoman Svenja Koch said it had used the services of Avient, another air transport company mentioned in the SIPRI report, for an aid shipment to Zimbabwe on Dec. 16, 2008. She said the German Red Cross planned to work with its cargo broker at Berlin's Schoenefeld airport to delete Zimbabwe-based Avient and other suspect carriers from its list of potential contractors.

"We are thankful for the advice from SIPRI or other institutions, to alert us when one cargo carrier is involved in weapons dealing or trafficking or other similar activities," Koch said.

Calls to Badr Airlines and Aviacon Zitotrans were not answered late Monday. A person answering the phone at Avient Airlines' office in Britain declined to answer questions and said to call back Tuesday.

SIPRI urged the EU _ the world's largest humanitarian aid donor _ and its member states to deny contracts to air transport companies engaged arms transfers to conflict-ridden regions in Africa.

"There are relatively simple solutions for this problem," Griffiths said. "But sometimes the only companies willing to fly aid to dangerous places are the same ones that are willing to fly arms. A coordinated approach, involving dialogue and negotiations with some core companies may take a little time, but it will also save lives."

INTERVIEW: Bashir sure to face genocide charges - prosecutor

Reuters 11/5/09 - The ICC Prosecutor said on Monday he is confident the court's judges will soon charge Sudan's president with genocide and three Darfur rebels with war crimes.

While they charged Bashir on seven counts of crimes in Darfur, two of the three judges deemed the evidence insufficient to support genocide. In an interview with **Reuters**, the prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, said he had clarified the case to the point that it should meet the judges' high evidence threshold. "It's more than enough for the arrest warrant phase," he said.

Moreno-Ocampo said that the judges had required that he go beyond the normal criteria for an arrest warrant -- sufficient grounds for belief of guilt -- and remove any doubt that Bashir had tried to exterminate at least one specific group of people, normally the threshold for a guilty verdict.

Without giving details, Moreno-Ocampo said he had clearly established that link. Also, one of the two judges who had balked at the genocide indictment has been replaced, he added, increasing the likelihood the panel of judges will take a fresh look at his request.