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Local Arabic and English language press

Abyei Area Administration chiefs appointed

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports President Omer Bashir has issued a decree appointing heads of the Abyei Area Administrations. The heads of the administrative units are: Abom M. Abom Korit, Juwak G. Init, Deng A. Deng, Kuol Arok Kuol and Madin A. Kuom.

The President also issued another decree appointing members of the Abyei Area Executive Council: Aleik Maniel, Malik Abom Ajank, Ashai Deng Abel, Adon Nyol Kloth, Acuil Majak Kock, Asri Kabashi, Acok A. Atem, Bal Manial, Zakaria Atem Yen, Yei Atem Kuol, Galwal Deng, Kabashi Altom Kabashi, Makock Gokac, Majack Manis Abom, Mekki H. Sulaiman, Musa Mogabi Habeeb, Maria Grain, Ban A. Ajak, Akol Arko, Jarlis Dok.

Messeriya leader, Musa Hamadain, said these appointed members were unacceptable because the Messeriya are not fairly represented, adding they will submit a memo of protest to the Presidency.

SG asks Thailand to send troops to Sudan

Al-Sudani reports UNSG Ban Ki-moon has phoned the Thai Prime Minister to ask for troop contribution to Sudan. Thai newspaper “The Nation” reported the request is made after Sudan government expressed readiness to cooperate with the international community. Ki-moon has sought confirmation from Thailand that it would send troops to Sudan by January.

Bashir to visit El Fashir

Al-Rai Al-Aam reports President Bashir is to visit El Fashir, North Darfur, on 21 October to inaugurate a number of development projects.

Elections on schedule – Speaker

Akhir lahza reports according to the National Assembly Speaker, Ahmed Ibrahim Al-Tahir, general parliamentary elections will be held on schedule, in the first half of 2009, saying NCP and SPLM decided not to postpone them.

Tahir, speaking to the paper yesterday, said the Security Act and the Press and Publication Act will not be on the agenda of the Parliament’s last session, noting the Parliament will dissolve in December. He said the Parliament’s final session begins on 13 Oct.

NCP and SPLM agree on Elections Commission co-chairs

Akhir Lahza reports the NCP was disturbed by the SPLM leader Yassir Arman’s statement about the formation of the Elections Commission.

Ibrahim Gandoor, NCP official who handles elections dossier, said NCP and SPLM agreed on Abel Alyer and Abdullah Idriss to co-chair the Elections Commission. He said both NCP and SPLM share the blame for delay of formation of the Commission.

Ajras Al-Hurria reports SPLM Deputy Secretary-General Yassir Arman has denied that SPLM...
and NCP agreed on Commission co-chair, noting co-chairmanship violates CPA, Interim Constitution and Elections Act. SPLM and NCP agreed on a chair and deputy chair for the Commission and the agreement is binding and final, he said.

**VP and FVP met in Juba**

Local dailies report the FVP Kiir and VP Taha held a closed meeting in Juba yesterday to discuss Darfur. They discussed the initiative launched by Qatar to address the Darfur crisis. Taha also briefed Kiir on the outcomes of Sudan’s participation in UNGA.

**Government accuses Ocampo of influencing proceedings**

Al-Ahdath reports Sudan government has vehemently criticized Ocampo’s claim of possessing concrete evidence incriminating President Bashir. “Ocampo’s statement is a preemptive attempt to influence the judges,” says MFA spokesperson Ali Al Sadiq. “Sudan’s position is firm and clear, no dealing with ICC and no Sudanese will be handed over for trial abroad,” he added.

**SAF denies intent to attack Kalma**

Ajras Al-Hurriya. SAF spokesperson Al-Agbash has denied any plan to attack Kalma IDP camp after UNAMID sent reinforcements to protect the camp.

**US says ICC deferment depends on Darfur solution— Mahdi**

Al-Maidan reports the leader of the Umma Party Sadiq Al Mahdi said the visit of US Envoy Williamson would focus on implementation of reforms to resolve Darfur crisis. He said that according to the US Secretary of State Rice the ICC application could only be deferred if reforms were carried out to resolve Darfur issue. Otherwise, the US would veto any attempt to block the indictment. Darfurians’ demands are fair and they should be met so that radical solution of the crisis is achieved, he said.

**Sudanese national freed from Guantanamo after six years**

Akhir Lahzah reports US authorities have released 17 Guantanamo detainees from various countries including Sudanese citizen Mustafa Ibrahim Mustafa who had been under arrest for the last six years. Executive director of the International Civil Aid organization, Hasan Sa'id al-Mujammar, said he had contacted the Sudanese citizen’s lawyer and leaders of the international campaign to close down the detention centre. He said they had affirmed that Mustafa Ibrahim would be arriving in Sudan within the next 72 hours.

**SAF returns vehicle used by kidnappers to Egypt**

Al-Sahafa reports SAF handed over yesterday to the Egyptian Military Attache in Khartoum a tourist vehicle captured by SAF unit when launched an operation to free foreign tourists kidnapped from Egypt. The kidnappers captured by SAF unit were also shown to the media.

**Websites/International News Coverage**

**UN peacekeeping chief visits Sudan**

(Sudan Tribune) — The newly-appointed head of the UNDPKO arrived in Khartoum yesterday, on his first visit to Sudan since he assumed his post. Alain Le Roy will tour the two peacekeeping operations in the southern and western Sudan. Le Roy met the SRSG Ashraf Qazi, and other UNMIS senior officials yesterday. He is scheduled to visit Kadugli, Abyei, Juba and El Obeid, meet GoNU and GoSS leadership as well as key interlocutors.
Sudanese government, UN, AU to hold joint meeting

Suna website, Khartoum, 6/10/08: The tripartite mechanism of Sudan, the UN and the AU for the peacekeeping operations in Sudan is due to resume its work Tuesday [7 October] by holding its first meeting at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Maj-Gen Majdhub Rahamah will head the Sudanese party at the tripartite mechanism's meeting, UN Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Ms Susana Malcorra, will lead the UN party, while the AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, Ramadan al-Amamra, will head the AU party at the meeting. UNAMID JSR Rodolphe Adada will also take part.

Ambassador Al-TayyibAli Ahmad, Director of the MFA’s Peace Department, told Suna that the meeting would discuss measures and vision for the committee's work, be briefed on UNAMID deployment and review ways to remove any obstacles impeding the mission's activity.

According to Suna, the Sudanese representation will include officials from the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Interior, the Customs Department, the Civil Aviation Corporation and the National Security and Intelligence Organ.

Darfur: UN peacekeepers ambushed during patrol

6 October - A group of peacekeepers serving with the joint United Nations-African Union operation in Darfur were ambushed this afternoon while on patrol in the south of the war-torn Sudanese region.

UN spokesperson Michele Montas told journalists today that there was no immediate confirmation of any casualties following the ambush, which took place about 75 kilometres north of Nyala, the capital of South Darfur state.

The blue helmets with the peacekeeping mission, which is known as UNAMID, were conducting an assessment patrol from Nyala to Khor Abeche when the attack occurred at Menawashei.

Sudan military says 116 Darfur rebels have surrendered, handed over vehicles

AP, 6/10/08, KHARTOUM - Reports from Sudan say a group of more than 100 Darfurian rebels has surrendered to government forces. UNAMID is attempting to confirm the report that 116 members of the Justice and Equality Movement have given up the fight. The mission says it received information from Sudanese military authorities that the group also handed over 13 vehicles. It was unclear what prompted the surrender.

JEM downplays defections to government near Darfur-Chad border

Sudan Tribune website, 6/10/08 (EL FASHER) – A JEM spokesman today downplayed the significance of a report that over 100 JEM fighters surrendered to SAF in three locations in northern Darfur, saying that the defection to the government ranks was an event fabricated as part of a policy of denial and deception.

On Sunday, the government commander at Girgira informed the UNAMID hybrid peacekeeping mission Sector West that 116 JEM fighters along with 13 vehicles surrendered in Kornoi, Girgira and Tine.

UNAMID said it would contact JEM leader Khalil Ibrahim and the separate JEM National Unity faction to confirm these reports of defection. It was not clear who the combatants were and whether the combatants were from the JEM faction led by Khalil Ibrahim or from the National Unity JEM faction.
But JEM spokesman Ahmed Hussein Adam said, “we have reports that the government hired the so-called JEM members and brought the vehicles to play this old piece of propaganda.”

The reported defections occurred in a region of Darfur with cultural and economic ties to areas of both Libya and Chad. The area has been traversed by both JEM and Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) forces, as well as other armed groups.

In January 2008, JEM Chairman Khalil Ibrahim issued a decree dividing the areas under its control into states and districts. Kornoi was named as the capital of Kornoi district. But today the JEM spokesman said that the rebel movement had no forces by Kornoi, making it unlikely that any actual JEM forces had surrendered to the government in that location.

_AU report to UNSC say Sudan serious about combating impunity_

_Sudan Tribune website, 6/10/08 (WASHINGTON) – The AU has hailed Sudan’s efforts in achieving peace in the war ravaged region of Darfur including national proceedings to investigate war crimes. The AU forwarded a report created by Sudan to the Security Council on September 19 detailing progress made on a number of tracks including implementation of the DPA, the CPA, UNAMID deployment, humanitarian situation, human rights situation, Chad-Sudan relations and combating impunity.

Sudan Tribune obtained a copy of the report which was not made public containing a letter from the AU Chairman Jean Ping saying that “the significant progress so far achieved by the GoNU [Government of National Unity] demonstrates its commitment to continued cooperation, without reservation, with the collective efforts of the African Union, the United Nations and the international community, to achieve lasting peace and security in Darfur”.

Ping appealed to the UNSC to invoke Article 16 suspending the indictment of Sudanese president Omer Hassan Al-Bashir by the ICC “so that we can continue to build on the current momentum, towards lasting peace, justice and security in Darfur, and in Sudan as a whole”.

On the judicial track the report provided seven examples of cases that were investigated by the Sudanese judiciary as part of its efforts to prosecute war crimes in Darfur. All the cases date back to the years 2004-2005 but none of them involve any senior Sudanese military or government officials.

The examples shown on the report, deal with assault on aid cars, robbery, mischief and torture. “The public prosecution of the republic of the Sudan is currently enquiring into a number of criminal suits in the states of Darfur. Such suits will be submitted for trial as soon as the enquiry is completed” the report said.

Sudan also said it dismissed some criminal cases “relating to rape in the most…for lack of evidence”.

The statement is in sharp contrast with the allegations pressed by the ICC in its case against Al-Bashir. “Rape is an integral part of the pattern of destruction that the Government of the Sudan is inflicting upon the target groups in Darfur” the prosecutor stated in the summary of his application submitted to the judges. Ocampo also stated that rape in Darfur has been widely “underreported”.

In August the Sudanese justice minister Abdel-Basit Sabdarat appointed Ibrahim Mohamed as
the special Darfur prosecutor with three assistants; Kamal Mahjoub Ahmed, Al-Hadi Mahjoub Makkawi and Mamoun Mekki Hamid. The special prosecutor was assigned to look into rights abuses committed in war ravaged region of Darfur since 2003.

The report said that one of the two suspects wanted by ICC is being investigated by the committee. The judges of the ICC issued arrest warrants last year for Ahmed Haroun, state minister for humanitarian affairs, and militia commander Ali Mohamed Ali Abdel-Rahman, also know as Ali Kushayb in connection with Darfur war crimes. Kushayb was believed to be in custody but Khartoum later said he was released “for lack of incriminating evidence”.

In August the special prosecutor said he will pull the case that was brought in local courts last year against Kushayb. However he was noncommittal on whether Kushayb will actually stand trial after being previously cleared of all accusations by Sudanese authorities.

Sudan’s report to UNSC said that a number of witnesses were questioned in Kushayb’s case and that more will be asked to testify “when availed”.

Another case currently being investigated according to the report is “the incidence of Kas (shattaya and Kaylake) in which captain Police Saleh Elzein Osman and others are named as accused persons”. The areas mentioned are close to the borders between West and South Darfur. It is mostly inhabited by the Fur tribe. There were numerous reports of violent attacks against civilians in the area.

Sudan said that the committee “started the short-listing of witnesses who were not yet interrogated and those accused persons who were not yet detained” in connection with these incidents.

“In conclusion, the above mentioned cases clearly testify that the GoNU does not condone impunity and would prosecute crimes of all sorts”, Sudan said in the last page of the report.

Sudan first established special courts immediately after the ICC prosecutor formally decided to open an investigation into Darfur crimes in June 2005.

**US special envoy arrives in Juba for talks with Sudan 1st VP**

Sudan Tribune website, 6/10/08 (KHARTOUM) – The US special envoy to Sudan Richard Williamson arrived in the Southern Sudan capital of Juba for talks with First Vice President Salva Kiir scheduled today. It marks the first time Williamson has begun a visit to Sudan by going to Juba and not starting with Khartoum.

According to the Sudan official news agency SUNA, the US official is making the visit “at his request”.

This weekend the Sudanese government reportedly revoked Williamson’s visa and sent him a letter stating that he “is not welcome to visit at the present time”. After pressure from Washington, Khartoum reversed its decision on Williamson’s visa the next day, an unidentified senior US State department official said.

SUNA reported that the US special envoy will meet with presidential adviser Nafi Ali Nafi and deputy foreign minister Mutrif Sideeg to discuss the CPA, Abyei protocol and Darfur crisis in light of the Qatari mediation efforts.
Mediation should consider Darfur legitimate demands - rebel chief
Sudan Tribune website, 6/10/08 (PARIS) — Abdel-Wahid Mohamed Al-Nur the chief of rebel Sudan Liberating Movement reiterated today the SLM commitment to reach a lasting and honorable peace; he also said any mediation should take in consideration the legitimate demands of Darfur people.

The Qatari government is undertaking contacts with the different parties in the conflict in western Sudan, a mediation that comes more than two years after the AU’s unsuccessful 2006 attempt in Abuja to end the conflict.

Al-Nur told Sudan Tribune in Paris Monday that his movement welcomes any effort to bring peace in the western Sudan because it would end "the five years suffering of Darfur people who are subjected to the daily killing and atrocities". However he underscored that the SLM wants a "real peace not a false one."

He added that the world should take in account that the SLM which was targeted during the two last months by Khartoum troops and militias would not take part in peace process unless the Sudanese government stop the killing of civilians and the rape of women.

From last year, the SLM led by Abdel-Wahid Al-Nur have insisted that Khartoum must meet its demands for "conflict suspension" before peace talks can begin. These encompass ceasefire, disarmament of militias and resettlement of the displaced and refugees in their villages.

Al-Nur said the demands for a ceasefire and disarmament of militias were not intended to obstruct or prevent the negotiations or to prevent it "We simply want to protect the civilians in their village and in the camps." He also said what happened in Kalama camp last August "reinforced our conviction on the rightness of our position."

Today, a Sudanese delegation started talks with French officials on the Darfur peace process and on ways to suspend ICC jurisdiction regarding the indictment of the Sudanese president by the ICC prosecutor.

Asked whether he met the visiting Sudanese delegation led by the Presidential Assistant and government top negotiator, Nafi Ali Nafi, Al-Nur said he would not meet them before the realisation of the SLM demands. "We do not know any thing about the contacts that Sudanese delegation has with the French officials, but our position remains that Khartoum has to prove its credibility and seriousness to settle Darfur conflict", he stressed.

On the issue of the ICC indictment, the rebel chief urged the international community not to mix the justice and peace process in Darfur. Political interference would "damage" the authority of the tribunal he warned.

UNAMID vehicle carjacked within half kilometer of base
(Sudan Tribune) 6/10.08 (NYALA) – An international police officer’s vehicle was intercepted by five armed men who ordered the driver out of the car at gun point, UNAMID reported on Sunday. The incident occurred about 500 meters from the Field Operating Base (FOB) near Nyala town. No harm was caused to the driver and an investigation will be conducted on the whereabouts of the vehicle and to catch the perpetrators.

Salva Kiir inaugurates South Sudan Stats House in Rumbek
Sudan Tribune website, 6/10/08(RUMBEK) — GoSS President Salva Kiir open...
Southern Sudan Statistics Building in Rumbek. The Southern Sudan Commission for Census, Statistics and Evaluation (SSCCSE) Data Processing and Inspection Centre was built through the combined efforts of GoSS, UNFPA and MDTF.

SSCCSE Chairperson Isaiah Chol called on the public to be patient and wait for full results of the population census, and not to be misled by some of the newspapers in Khartoum. Last July there were reports that the population of the 10 Southern states added up to 3.8 million or 10% of the Sudanese population. However the central bureau of statistics denied these figures saying no numbers has been released yet.

**Sudan Justice Minister lashes out at ICC prosecutor**

*Sudan Tribune website, 5/10/08* -- Arab justice ministers meet in Cairo a week from today to discuss the indictment of Sudanese President Umar Hasan al-Bashir by the ICC. Sudan official news agency (Suna) quoted Justice Minister Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat as saying that the Arab League proposal to resolve the crisis is proceeding as planned. He also welcomed the meeting by Arab justice ministers. Khartoum has made a request a few months back for such a meeting. However, it is not clear what will be on the agenda.

Sabdarat said today that the prosecutions have made some progress with some suspects in detention and being investigated. He lashed out at ICC prosecutor Ocampo saying that he crossed the line as a prosecutor by discussing his case on "satellite TV's".

**Uganda’s Hepatitis death toll at 126**

*Daily Monitor website, 6/10/08* -- At least two more people died of Hepatitis E last week in Kitgum, northern Uganda, the LC5 chairman, Mr John Bosco Ogwok, has revealed. "Hepatitis E is under control though it killed two people last week. We have strengthened our task force and the reported cases per week have dropped from 500 to 150," Mr Ogwok told Daily Monitor yesterday.

Hepatitis E is a viral infection that causes liver inflammation and is spread through drinking water contaminated by faecal matter. The number of the dead has risen to 126, from the 124 that the Ministry of Health announced last month. The disease, which is said to have originated from south Sudan has affected Kitgum since its outbreak. He said the drop follows a by-law on latrine and hands washing points in homes.

However, as the district struggles to contain Hepatitis E, there is a reported outbreak of polio in south Sudan. Kitgum borders with south Sudan and there has been a reported increase in cross-border movements. "South Sudan has been the source of these epidemics yet their primary health care remains poor," Mr Ogwok said. "We have all the reasons to be worried and be on the alert after those two cases of polio were reported in south Sudan."

**Al-Jazeera interviews Egypt, Sudan officials on release of abducted tourists**

*From Al Jazeera's "Today's Harvest" programme separate interviews by Abd-al-Samad Nasir with Egyptian government spokesman Majdi Radi, via telephone from Cairo, and with Major General Ibrahim Izz-al-Din, deputy director of the Sudanese Army's intelligence department, via satellite from Khartoum.*

The interviewer noted there have been conflicting reports regarding the release of the foreign hostages. Asked about the official Egyptian story, Radi says that "the military and technical details concerning the release operation will be revealed later." "What we can say so far is that there was Egyptian-Sudanese cooperation in the past two days. As we heard on the news, two
days ago Sudan dealt with a group militarily. It killed four and two fled. The two returned the Egyptian and Sudanese authorities to give more information … Hence, the Egyptian authorities re-intervened to secure the release of the hostages and take them safely to Cairo.

The interviewer said that some Egyptian officials said that Egypt played a role through a number of commandos, and that Sudan, meanwhile, noted its role in securing the release of the hostages. Asked to comment, Radi says: "It was a role of coordination because, as you know, in the final stage, the hostages were on Sudanese territory. Hence, it was necessary to hold coordination with the Sudanese side regarding all steps, whether with regard to locating them using some technologies or with regard to conducting activity on Sudanese land by employing Sudanese or Egyptian forces to free the hostages."

The interviewer referred to reports from Khartoum that a battle took place and that the Sudanese forces killed a number of hostage-takers. Asked if this battle resulted in the release of the hostages, Radi says: "It was one of the things that facilitated a somewhat rapid detente in the crisis." He noted that, when the tourists lost their way, they fell prey to the group, which operates in the Chadian-Libyan-Sudanese border triangle.

Asked about coordination, Radi explained: "Any operation requires several giveens. The first given is the need to determine the location of the hostages. This was done by the Sudanese side to a greater extent, because they were on its land. The second issue was intervention to contain the group. This was also a Sudanese role. The final step concerning the liberation of the hostages and their transfer to Egypt was carried out by the Egyptian forces that intervened at the last moment and transferred the hostages to Egypt. We will get more details from… [changes thought] and will be announced by the technical side."

In the interview with Major General Ibrahim Izz-al-din, the interviewer asked how the hostages were freed. Izz-al-din explained: "We have full coordination and cooperation with all neighbouring countries, especially the brothers in Egypt and Libya, with regard to the northern border area. We can confirm that, since early May 2008, the Sudanese armed forces have had full control over the northern area, most notably the border adjacent to the Al-Uwaynat area and the Sudanese-Libyan border area." Upon hearing of the abduction of tourists "by those terrorists, the political and military leadership in Sudan decided to dispatch balanced forces to comb the area, that is, the Jabal al-Uwaynat area and the Sudanese-Egyptian-Libyan-Chadian border triangle. In fact, our armed forces remained in the area for more than one week after the crisis broke out. The Sudanese armed forces combed the entire adjacent area and entered the Jabal al-Uwaynat area. It searched the area thoroughly, and reached the areas of Gate 53 and Gate 54 on the Sudanese-Egyptian border, in addition to the area adjacent to the Libyan border. In fact, by 28 [September], they had not found any traces of the hostages or of rebellious or terrorist elements in the area."

The interviewer then cited the statement by the Sudanese Army the previous day regarding a battle in which six abductors were killed and two others were arrested. Izz-al-Din explained that in Suyuf al-Marji, a border area between Sudan and Libya, the Sudanese forces were surprised to see a white Land Cruiser, and that clashes erupted between the armed forces and the occupants of the vehicle. He noted that eight terrorists were in the vehicle, including the leader of the group, and that they were coming from Chad. He added that six terrorists were killed and two were arrested.
LINKS


 GOSS President speech on Governor’s Forum was good but.  [Commentary].  By Isaiah Abraham. Sudan Tribune.06/10/2008.  (Noon).