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BURUNDI :

Burundi : des hommes d'affaires turcs explorent les opportunités au pays

(Xinhua)/13.11.2012

Un groupe d'hommes d'affaires turcs sont venus au Burundi pour explorer les opportunités d'affaires et ont été reçus lundi par le président burundais Pierre Nkurunziza.

Selon Willy Nyamitwe, porte-parole adjoint du président de la République, qui s'est exprimé à l'issue de l'audience, la visite de ces hommes d'affaires turcs est "consécutive" à celle du chef de l'Etat burundais Pierre Nkurunziza effectuée en mai dernier en Turquie.

Les hommes d'affaires turcs ont promis au président Nkurunziza qu'ils resteront auprès des Burundais. Ils ont déjà entamé des négociations avec les autorités de Bujumbura pour que la compagnie aérienne turque Turkish Airlines puisse entamer d'ici peu des vols directs sur la capitale Bujumbura.

Ces hommes d'affaires sont membres de la confédération appelée TUKSON qui regroupe plus de 100.000 entreprises.

Burundi : une vingtaine de détenus évadés du cachot de police de Cankuzo

(Xinhua)/13.11.2012

Vingt et un détenus se sont évadés dans la nuit de dimanche à lundi du cachot de la police à Cankuzo (Nord-Est du Burundi), a rapporté lundi la radio locale RSF/Bonesha-FM citant une source policière.

Selon cette source, ces évadés ont démolé la porte et le grillage métallique du cachot avant de prendre le large. 21 prisonniers sur un total de 53 détenus locataires de ce lieu de détention sont ainsi portés disparus.

La police est actuellement à la recherche de ces évadés et un agent de police qui faisait la garde au moment de cette évasion a été arrêté, indique la même source.

Les derniers réfugiés du Burundi en Tanzanie rentrent chez eux

Par RFI/mardi 13 novembre 2012

Le chapitre des Burundais réfugiés en Tanzanie est en train de se refermer. Depuis 2002, quelque 500 000 réfugiés burundais ont été rapatriés de ce pays vers le Burundi. Il en restait encore quelque 35 000 dans le camp de Mtabila, dans l'ouest de la Tanzanie, qui refusaient catégoriquement de

regagner leur pays depuis trois ans, malgré toutes les pressions exercées contre eux. Mais depuis le 31 octobre, ces personnes sont en train d'être rapatriées malgré elles au Burundi par le Haut Commissariat des réfugiés (HCR)

RWANDA :

Rwanda: Global Week Targets 50,000 New Entrepreneurs

By Pierre Celestine Rutayisire/The New Times/12 November 2012

The Global Entrepreneurship Week, a global campaign to promote entrepreneurship worldwide, targets to support over 50,000 aspiring entrepreneurs to start up businesses.

The Minister for Youth and ICT, Jean Philbert Nsengimana, said that establishing and running a business require appropriate entrepreneurship skills.

"Without this critical entrepreneurship bit, you are nowhere. The thing we have to fight is under employment not unemployment," the Minister said at a press briefing during the launch of the global week in Kigali last week.

This is the second time Rwanda is participating in the global entrepreneurship week, which aims to celebrate innovators and job creators who launch businesses that bring new ideas to life, drive economic growth and improve human welfare.

The Minister noted that such initiatives are expected to enhance the ability of women and young entrepreneurs to pursue economic opportunities, invest additional capital, hire more employees and grow their businesses.

The Head of Human Capital and Institutional Development at Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Apollo Munanura, believes that through promotion of entrepreneurship, the country will be able to offset the shortage of investments needed to drive economic growth and development.

"When we get more businesses started, we will be able to increase employment levels and develop our economy, which we are looking at in the Vision 2020," he said.

The week will also showcase new software that facilitates classroom management for distance learning developed by a local firm, Go beyond Technology Ltd.

"It allows distant video classroom management giving room for student teacher interaction," explained Alphonse Nsengimana, the innovator of the software.

During the week, over 40 partner organisations will participate in 45 items that include Real Business Accelerator, a Women to Women International business competition that aims to facilitate rural women to start businesses.

RDC CONGO :

RDC: la société civile salue la suspension de la coopération militaire entre la Belgique et le Rwanda
le 13 novembre, 2012/radiookapi.net

La Nouvelle société civile du Congo (NSCC) se dit satisfaite de la décision « courageuse » de la Belgique de suspendre sa coopération militaire avec le Rwanda. Ce pays est accusé de soutenir les rebelles du Mouvement du 23 mars (M23), un groupe armé opérant depuis le mois de mai dernier au Nord-Kivu. Dans un communiqué publié lundi 12 novembre, le coordonnateur national de cette structure, Jonas Tshiombela Kabiena, a demandé à la Belgique d'influencer les autres gouvernements de l'Union européenne et des Nations unies pour des sanctions ciblées et exemplaires contre Kigali.

« C'est une grande décision qui a été prise par le gouvernement belge justifiant que cette aide peut être confondue avec la déstabilisation de notre pays », a déclaré Jonas Tshiombela.

Le ministre belge des Affaires étrangères, Didier Reynders, a annoncé dimanche 11 novembre que son pays a suspendu sa coopération avec le Rwanda, dans le cadre de la formation des officiers militaires de ce pays. Pourtant lors de sa visite en RDC en août dernier, le diplomate belge avait préconisé des sanctions concertées après que les Etats-Unis avaient suspendu leur aide financière d'une valeur de 200 000 dollars américains en faveur du Rwanda, estimant que «les actions isolées semblent être des effets d'annonce».

Par cette décision, estime Jonas Tshiombela, la Belgique a assumé une responsabilité historique.

« La Belgique devra encourager les autres gouvernements lors de la réunion des ministres de l'Union européenne et du comité des sanctions des Nations unies pour qu'ils prennent des sanctions ciblées et exemplaires pour mettre hors d'Etat de nuire cette déstabilisation de notre pays par le Rwanda en soutenant le M23 », a ajouté le coordonnateur de la Nouvelle société civile du Congo.

Des rapports d'experts des Nations unies accusent le Rwanda et l'Ouganda d'apporter un appui militaire, logistique et politique aux rebelles du M23. Ce que les deux pays nient. L'Ouganda qui préside la Conférence internationale sur la région des Grands Lacs a même menacé de retirer ses forces de toutes les opérations de maintien de la paix dans lesquelles il est impliqué si les Nations unies ne reviennent pas sur leurs accusations à son encontre.

Paul Kagame, le président rwandais a toujours nié l'implication de son pays dans la situation sécuritaire dans l'Est de la RDC. Dimanche, les chefs religieux du Rwanda ont aussi déclaré qu'ils doutaient de la crédibilité de ces rapports, remettant en cause «l'intégrité de ces experts, la méthodologie employée, et les conclusions de ces rapports basées sur des preuves insuffisantes».

UGANDA :

Uganda: Govt Announces Free Pneumonia Vaccination

By Taddeo Bwambale/The New Vision/ 13 November 2012

The Government will next year start free vaccination against pneumonia, the biggest killer of children below the age of five worldwide.

Health ministry spokesperson Rukia Nakamatte confirmed that the ministry had received funding to roll-out the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine.

The vaccine helps protect children against streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria.

Nakamatte said on Monday that: "The Government will roll out the vaccine in April next year. We have received funding from the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) for the exercise."

The vaccination campaign targets at least 1.4 million children by the end of 2013 and 1.5 million in 2014.

The vaccine will be given to children who are 14 weeks, as well as six and 10 years old.

Statistics from the health ministry show that pneumonia kills 39,000 children under the age of five, representing 21% of the infant mortality.

At least 1.8 million children are infected with pneumonia every year, out of which only 47% (846,000) receive treatment.

At least a child under the age of five dies every 25 seconds, according to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund.

Dr. Elizabeth Kiboneka, a consultant paediatrician at Mulago Hospital, said the pneumonia vaccine would significantly reduce infant mortality, especially among severely malnourished children.

"The rate of deaths among such children is high within the first 72 hours of admission," she stated.

Kiboneka explained that drugs to treat pneumonia were available in many health centres but sick children are often admitted when the infection is in advanced stages.

She noted that pneumonia attacks children whose immunity has been lowered, especially at the age of six months when mothers stop breastfeeding their babies.

Financing arrangements for the pneumonia vaccination exercise show that the Government will contribute \$0.20 (about sh507) per dose, per year, translating to about \$2m (about sh5b) for 2013 and \$1m (about sh2.5b) for 2014.

In 2013, GAVI will contribute \$21,235,500 (about sh53b) and \$17,971,000 (about sh43b) in 2014, according to Citizen News Service.

It is estimated that at least 11,000 lives of children under five years and sh2.6b in direct medical costs will be saved if the anticipated 92% coverage of the pneumococcal vaccination programme is achieved by the end of 2014.

SOUTH AFRICA :

TANZANIA :

KENYA :

Kenya: Police Massacre Toll in Samburu Hits 23

By Henry Kibira/The Star/12 November 2012

SURVIVORS of the Saturday bandit attack in Samburu are fighting for their lives at the Kenyatta National Hospital.

The nine who were wounded following an attack by cattle rustlers in the newly-created Baragoi constituency were flown to Nairobi by government forces for specialised treatment.

They included four APs, one GSU, two anti-stock theft officers and two police reservists. Other ten officers are feared dead following the Saturday attack by rustlers from the Turkana community who had made away with livestock early last month.

KNH CEO Richard Lesiyampe said everything was being done to save the patients. At the same time, assistant minister for Provincial Administration, who dis the area MP, Simeon Lesirma, called for the mopping up illegal firearms.

Lesirma called for a ceasefire and appealed to the two communities living in the region to stop fighting and coexist in peace. "There is need to improve relations among these people and initiate development activities to stop these crimes," he said.

The MP appealed for calm as police pursue the criminals and called on the two warring communities to shun cultural practices that divide them.

Plans are underway to deploy more security personnel in the region that is notorious with rustling and further erect more police posts, even as Lesirma assures that the prevalence has gone down.

He blamed the neighboring countries, which he said are unstable, for the influx of guns in the region and called for tightening of border points to control illegal entries.

Lesiyampe said six of the victims are in stable condition and will soon be discharged, while the other three will remain under observation to remove bullets that are still lodged in their bodies.

Two who sustained serious injuries are supposed to undergo surgery to remove bullets from their bodies," Lesiyampe said. "Most of them suffered soft tissue injuries, fractures and lower limb and abdomen injuries."

Only two of the officers, Olekatoi Lemeito and Lekirenyei Lemasianai, who sustained face and shoulder injuries agreed to talk to members of the press, however they had difficulties expressing themselves due to language barrier.

They expressed their gratitude at government speedy efforts to rescue them and called for concerted efforts to end cattle rustling. They were part of a contingent that had been deployed to recover animals that had been stolen last month by a neighboring community.

Lesirma said that word leaked to the bandits that there was going to be an operation by police

officers to recover the livestock: "There had been negotiations for the stolen animals to be returned, but the target community was reluctant to release them."

He said peaceful negotiations had collapsed, forcing the government to move in and recover the animals. "Someone relayed the information to the bandits who then surrounded our officers beforehand, killing some of them on the spot and displacing others," Lesirma said.

He said the government will soon call on local leaders from the two communities to "sit down, preach peace and continue living together".

ANGOLA :

Angola: Egypt Wants to Reinforce Relations With Angola

12 November 2012/AngolaPress

Cairo — Egypt intends to strengthen cooperation relations with Angola in various domains.

This was said to Angop on Sunday by Abd El Aziz El-sherif, Egyptian president's special envoy, during an audience granted by the Angolan extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador to Egypt, António Fernando da Costa, in the ambit of the November 11 date (Angola's Independence Day).

"President Mohamed Morsi wants to reinforced the cooperation relations between the two countries in various domains", said the special envoy who also seized the occasion to congratulate the Angolans on the celebrations of the 37th anniversary of the national independence.

On His turn, António da Costa Fernandes said that the meeting served for the government of Egypt to congratulate President José Eduardo dos Santos, in particular, and Angolan people, in general, on the festivities of the 37th anniversary of the national independence.

Besides Egypt, António da Costa Fernandes, extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador, also represents Angola in Syria, Iran, Oman, Libya, Jordania and Bahrain.

Angola and Egypt have a relationship dating back to 1976, year in which the Arab country opened its diplomatic office in Angola.

Under the celebrations of the national independence, the Angolan embassy in Egypt held a range of activities such as an exhibition on tourist sites of Angola, a socialization dinner and a music show with the participation of the Angolan singer Selda.

Angola: Governor Happy With People's Presence At Joaquim Morais Stadium

12 November 2012/AngolaPress

Namibe — The governor of the southern Namibe province, Isaac dos Anjos, on Sunday expressed his satisfaction at the massive presence of local citizens at the Joaquim Morais stadium, under the festivities of the 37th anniversary of the country's independence, marked on 11 November.

The governor said so when speaking at the national main event of independence day that took place under the theme "All Together Let's Promote the Angolans' Well-being.

The act was chaired by the Angolan Vice-President, Manuel Vicente, with the presence of members of the local government, MPs, chieftains and religious entities.

Angola: Tomás Faria Ceases Duties As Petro's Deputy Chairman

12 November 2012/AngolaPress

Luanda — Tomás Faria then vice chairman of Petro de Luanda ceased on Sunday his duties with the conquest of Angola Cup in football after 2-0 victory in the final over Recreativo da Caála.

Speaking to the press, the sport official said that he will perform other functions with the main sponsor of the team, despite missing three years of the term to lead the football of Petro de Luanda.

"I leave in the middle of the project we built, but still I am happy with the conquest of Angola Cup in a very special day for all of us," he stressed.

Abreu Gaspar Neto, former player of Petro de Luanda will replace Tomás Faria in the management of the entire football of the club.

AU/AFRICA :

West Africa: Mali - ECOWAS Still Exploring Option of Dialogue, Says Ashiru

By Damilola Oyedele/This Day/13 November 2012

Despite the preparations for military intervention in Mali, where terrorists have seized a portion of the country, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has not foreclosed on dialogue to resolve the power struggle in the crisis-ridden country.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Olugbenga Ashiru, told THISDAY in a telephone interview Monday that groups ready for discussions on the position of ECOWAS that the territorial integrity of Mali must be respected, would be entertained.

The Authority of Heads of State and Government (HOSG), which met in Abuja last Sunday, had agreed to a military plan to free Mali from Islamist fundamentalists who have gained control of the Northern parts of the country.

According to the war plan, ECOWAS member nations will contribute soldiers to the 3,300 contingent that will be used to dislodge the insurgents.

Most members of the troops may come from Nigeria, Niger and Burkina Faso, while other member nations and two or three non-African nations might also contribute soldiers to the ad hoc army.

ECOWAS's Chairman and Ivorian President, Alassane Ouattara told reporters in Abuja that the war plan would be sent to the United Nations for approval by the end of November.

The UN Security Council (UNSC) had given African leaders 45 days from October 12 to draw up the plans to rescue Mali or lose the continental initiative to the global body.

Ashiru said while ECOWAS would still go ahead with the war preparations to dislodge terrorists networks and trans-national criminals in Mali, it would continue to explore the option of dialogue to solve the lingering political crisis in the country.

On the planned deployment of troops, he explained that all the member states would be expected to contribute soldiers to the contingent.

"All the reports must get to the UN before the December 15, and the UNSC would have to give full approval for the deployment of the troops. So when that is done, that is when we will talk about the time for deployment," he said.

Meanwhile, the ECOWAS Commission has donated \$382,000 to Nigeria to procure relief materials to cushion the effects of the flood disasters that ravaged 13 states in the country.

The President of the commission, Mr. Desire Kadre Ouedraogo, presented the cheque to Ashiru at a brief ceremony in Abuja yesterday.

Ouedraogo commiserated with all those affected by the disaster and noted that the money was just a token to show solidarity with them.

"No volume of assistance can bring back the lives or property that have been lost to the floods. Providing assistance to alleviate sufferings is part of our core mandate on conflict reduction and management," he said.

Ashiru thanked the ECOWAS Commission and its member states and promised that the fund would be judiciously used.

"This is a true demonstration of the fact that we are truly our brother's keeper in line with the African tradition where the misfortune of one is the misfortune for all," he said.

AU calls for mother-infant survival stories

By Correspondent/SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN/13th November 2012

The African Union (AU) has launched a new website for its Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) as announced by the Commissioner for Social Affairs Dr Mustapha Sadiki Kaloko through a press release.

As part of the website launch, the AU is inviting people to forward the names of maternal and newborn health champions – heroes and heroines that have helped save the lives of African mothers and their babies. The new website will become a place in which the stories of these champions will be featured.

“It doesn’t matter who they are...they might hold the highest office in the land, or perhaps they work as nurses, midwives and doctors, they could be teachers and doctors. They could be teachers educating girls and boys in safe motherhood, or district council officers ensuring safe and regular supplies for the clinic. Or they could be those, like the young owners of motorbike or bicycles who give up their leisure to ensure that a pregnant mother gets to the clinic in good time,” reads part of the Press Release

CARMMA is an African Union and United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA) initiative to intensify the implementation of the Maputo Plan of Action to Reduce Maternal Mortality in Africa region.

The website aims at among other things, showcasing leaders working to give African mothers and their babies a bright future.

According to a press release issued by CARMMA, the new website (www.carmma.org) which has been pulled together by a team in the Department of Social Affairs, promotes maternal and newborn survival and provides evidence on progress in achieving the targets set by African leaders, that is, Accelerated Reduction of Maternal, Newborn and Child Mortality in Africa.

The AU according to the press release will use its unique role to bring together, in one website, progress on maternal, newborn and child survival from across the continent. The website will also show how each country is progressing against the targets they have set for themselves to improve maternal and newborn survival rates.

The development of the site has been supported by Evidence for Action (E4A), a UK AID-funded programme which works across six countries in Africa to improve the survival of mothers and babies.

E4A focuses on using better evidence and improved advocacy and accountability to save lives during pregnancy and childbirth. In addition to Tanzania, there are teams working in Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

“I am delighted to support the AU in its celebration of role models, everyday heroes and heroines who help save the lives of mothers and babies in Africa...the CARMMA campaign enable Tanzanians to learn from champions from all over Africa who make a real difference to our mothers and babies...together we can...” Craig Ferla, Country Director for E4A Tanzania lamented.

The CARMMA campaign in Tanzania according was launched in Dar es Salaam by the President Kikwete on June 6, 2011. CARMMA's achievements to date include establishment of the Reproductive and Child Health Unit in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, also, procurement of delivery packs for distribution across health facilities, the upgrading of health centres by the government and partners to enable execution of comprehensive emergency obstetric care as well as the development of guidelines to support the roll-out of better maternal healthcare.

Currently being established, E4A's role in Tanzania is to act as a catalyst for action, using evidence strategically to generate political commitment, strengthen accountability and improve planning and decision making at sub-national and national levels. The aim is to change the level, distribution, and use of resources in Tanzania and so improve the availability and quality of maternal and newborn health services. E4A also works to strengthen international and regional accountability for the health of Africa's mothers and babies and the work with CARMMA supports this goal.

SOURCE: THE GUARDIAN

Violences à Gaza: Israël "prêt à l'escalade", l'Egypte tente une médiation

Afp / 12 Novembre 2012

Israël s'est déclaré dimanche "prêt à l'escalade" après des affrontements à la frontière avec Gaza qui ont fait six morts palestiniens et blessé quatre soldats israéliens, accompagnés de salves de roquettes palestiniennes.

Par ailleurs, comme lors des précédents cycles de violence, l'Egypte, jouant le rôle de médiateur, s'efforçait de faire appliquer un cessez-le feu par les groupes armés de Gaza, ont dit des sources de sécurité égyptiennes à l'AFP.

Ces efforts ont été confirmés à l'AFP par des sources palestiniennes qui, sous couvert de l'anonymat, ont précisé que les principaux mouvements du territoire, y compris le Hamas et le Jihad islamique, étaient prêts à respecter une trêve à partir de dimanche soir "à condition qu'Israël s'engage à en faire autant".

De son côté, l'aviation israélienne a effectué durant la nuit de dimanche à lundi plusieurs raids dans la bande de Gaza qui ont visé un tunnel de contrebande ainsi qu'une installation servant au stockage d'armes et un site de lancement de roquettes, a annoncé l'armée.

"Israël ne restera pas sans rien faire face aux tentatives de nous attaquer. Nous sommes prêts à l'escalade" en intensifiant nos actions, avait averti auparavant le Premier ministre Benjamin Netanyahu au cours du conseil des ministres.

Le ministre de la Défense Ehud Barak a lui aussi lancé une ferme mise en garde adressée notamment au Hamas, au pouvoir dans la bande de Gaza.

"Le Hamas est responsable des tirs de roquettes et de toutes les autres tentatives à partir de Gaza visant à blesser nos soldats et nos civils, même si d'autres groupes y participent. Et c'est le Hamas qui va payer le prix fort, un prix qui sera douloureux", a averti le ministre dans un communiqué.

"Nous frapperons avec une intensité toujours plus grande", a promis M. Barak.

"Escalade dangereuse"

Les dernières hostilités avaient éclaté samedi après un tir de missile antichar contre une jeep de l'armée israélienne à la lisière de la bande de Gaza, qui a provoqué en représailles des tirs d'artillerie contre le territoire palestinien, suivis de salves de roquettes contre le Sud d'Israël.

Selon l'armée 110 roquettes ont été tirées de Gaza depuis samedi soir manche, faisant quatre blessés légers. Deux roquettes tirées vers la ville de Beersheba ont été interceptées par le système antimissile "Iron Dome". Deux maisons, dont l'une à Sdérot, ont été touchées de plein fouet par des projectiles de Gaza dimanche soir, a précisé une porte-parole de la police.

Les Brigades Al-Qods, la branche armée du groupe radical Jihad islamique, ont revendiqué dimanche la grande majorité des tirs de roquettes et d'obus de mortier contre Israël.

Le Jihad islamique a averti que "chaque agression contre le peuple palestinien serait suivie d'une réplique de la part de la résistance". De son côté, le Hamas a accusé Israël d'avoir "attaqué des civils". "Nous considérons cette escalade comme très dangereuse. Elle doit s'arrêter immédiatement", a affirmé son porte-parole, Fawzi Barhoum.

Les médias israéliens se faisaient unanimement l'écho dimanche de risques que ces affrontements ne dégénèrent en conflit de grande ampleur.

Selon le quotidien Maariv (droite), le Hamas est convaincu que M. Netanyahu fera preuve de retenue pour ne pas être accusé d'orienter la campagne électorale sur les questions sécuritaires plutôt que sur les problèmes économiques et sociaux.

En novembre 2008, trois mois avant les dernières élections législatives, un cessez-le-feu avec le Hamas avait volé en éclats, conduisant le Premier ministre d'alors, Ehud Olmert, à déclencher une offensive dévastatrice contre Gaza, l'opération "Plomb durci", du 27 décembre 2008 au 18 janvier

2009, qui avait coûté la vie à 1.440 Palestiniens et 13 Israéliens.

Gaza : Israël a mené trois nouveaux raids aériens

Publié le 13.11.2012/LeParisien.fr

Israël a lancé, dans la nuit de lundi à mardi, trois raids aériens contre des objectifs situés dans la bande de Gaza sans faire de blessé. Selon la radio publique, le Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu envisage de riposter aux tirs de Gaza par une opération militaire d'envergure

L'armée israélienne a tiré également lundi après-midi un nouveau coup de semonce en réaction à la chute d'un obus de mortier syrien dans la partie du Golan qu'elle occupe.

Les trois raids aériens nocturnes visaient un dépôt d'armements dans le centre du territoire palestinien, et deux sites de lancement de roquettes dans le nord, a précisé un porte-parole de l'armée israélienne. Les violences avaient éclaté samedi : un tir de missiles antichar contre une jeep de l'armée israélienne près de Gaza faisait 6 morts palestiniens et une trentaine de blessés dans les affrontements qui ont suivi. Au moins huit Israéliens, dont quatre soldats, ont été blessés.

Benjamin Netanyahu affirme être «prêt à l'escalade»

Face à ce nouvel accès de violence, Benjamin Netanyahu s'affirme «prêt à l'escalade». Le ministre de la Défense Ehud Barak a quant à lui mis en garde le Hamas - au pouvoir à Gaza - «qui va payer le prix fort». Lundi soir, Benjamin Netanyahu procédait à des consultations avec Ehud Barak et le chef d'état-major, le général Benny Gantz, en vue de soupeser la riposte d'Israël aux tirs de Gaza. Le mini-cabinet israélien, composé de huit ministres, devait se réunir mardi sur le même thème. Parmi les actions envisagées : un accroissement des raids aériens et la liquidation de hauts cadres de Gaza.

Cependant, même s'ils sont en faveur d'une réponse musclée, peu de responsables israéliens sont enclins à déclencher une opération de l'envergure de «Plomb durci», l'offensive dévastatrice contre Gaza qui, du 27 décembre 2008 au 18 janvier 2009, avait coûté la vie à 1.440 Palestiniens et 13 Israéliens.

Washington aurait déjà donné son feu vert

Selon Alex Fishman, spécialiste des questions militaires au quotidien Yéidiot Aharonot, Washington aurait déjà donné son feu vert à une opération militaire contre Gaza. Le spécialiste précise toutefois que le gouvernement israélien n'aurait pas intérêt «à s'empêtrer dans une guerre terrestre. Toute la question est de savoir comment lancer une opération militaire limitée» avec pour «seul objectif un cessez-le-feu durable», et non pas la chute du Hamas.

Les principaux mouvements palestiniens de Gaza, dont le Hamas et le Jihad islamique, se sont pour leur part dits prêts lundi soir dans un communiqué à rétablir une trêve à condition qu'Israël «cesse son agression» contre le territoire.

LeParisien.fr

Barak travels to Gaza border, says hostilities not over

By YAAKOV LAPPIN/jpost.com/11/13/2012

Defense minister meets with IDF OC Southern Command and Gaza Division Commander, says IDF

intends "to bring back deterrence" to border; PM meets with security cabinet to discuss possible response to rockets.

Defense Minister Ehud Barak traveled to the Gaza border on Tuesday where he visited the IDF's Gaza Division and held a security evaluation with army chiefs.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was meeting with the security cabinet on Tuesday morning to discuss possible responses to threats from Gaza, after the IAF hit three targets in the Strip overnight Monday. One of the responses being considered is targeted assassination of Hamas commanders in Gaza, Army Radio reported.

After meeting with OC Southern Command, Maj.-Gen. Tal Russo, and Gaza Division Commander, Brig.-Gen. Micky Edelstein, Barak said the ongoing conflict with Gazan terror organizations "is still not over."

He praised the army officials for "a professional and systematic operation that is being carried out," adding that "Hamas and the terror organizations are absorbing heavy blows in Gaza as a result."

"This clearly isn't over and we will decide how and when to act the minute there will be a need to do so," the defense minister said, repeating similar statements he made over the past three days.

"I don't want to address when or ways [to operate], because it would not be right to give that information to the other side," he said.

Barak reiterated that Israel "would not accept the harm to daily life of our civilians," adding that "we intend to bring back deterrence" and to ensure that the IDF will be able to operate freely along the Gaza border fence, where it has come under frequent attack in recent weeks.

Asked to respond to the frustration of southern residents over the lack of a clear IDF response to the recent Palestinian rocket barrages, Barak said, "I'd like to praise the heads of councils and mayors... and civilians... on their resilience." He added that there was no speedy solution.

"On these issues it's preferable to act rather than to speak," Barak added.

Yishai to UN: Stop Gaza terror before Israel must act

Interior Minister Eli Yishai on Tuesday called on the UN and the international community to take immediate action to stop rocket fire from the Gaza, before Israel was forced to respond to the attacks to protect its citizens.

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Yishai said, "Before Israel determines the timing and strength of its response, I request your immediate intervention to deter and stop the terrorist activity of the decision-makers in Gaza."

Hamas leaders in Gaza called a meeting of the various factions on Monday evening to examine how to avoid further Palestinian casualties, Bethlehem-based Ma'an news agency reported, citing a Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) leader. Six Palestinians have been killed in Israeli strikes since the weekend, four of whom were civilians.

A Hamas statement from the meeting said that its activities and the possibility of a cease-fire "depend on the continuation of the Israeli aggression."

Soon after the meeting, however, Gazans fired three additional rockets at Sderot. The rockets exploded in open areas, causing no damages or injuries.

Tuesday morning, Palestinians fired a long-range rocket at Ashdod. The projectile exploded in the vicinity of the city, failing to cause injuries.

Tovah Lazaroff and JPost.com staff contributed to this report.

New Syrian opposition bloc wins recognition, role remains dubious

English.news.cn/Xinhua/ 2012-11-13

by Chen Cong

CAIRO, Nov. 13 (Xinhua) -- Syria's newly-united opposition has won recognition of the Arab League, but whether it could bring the long-awaited peace for the war-torn country remains unclear.

The Arab League on Monday recognized the newly-formed Syrian National Coalition for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces as the "representative of the aspirations of Syrian people."

However, there was reluctance and disputes among Arab states over the recognition of the coalition, which explained why the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo did not state clearly that the new Syrian National Coalition was the sole legitimate Syrian voice.

Before the meeting, the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) also recognized the new Syrian opposition coalition, describing it as "the legitimate representative of the Syrian people," a clearer statement than that of the Arab League.

The representativeness of the new coalition, composed mainly of opposition groups outside Syria, has been questioned by many after it was formed Sunday in the Qatari capital of Doha.

Luai Hussain, head of the opposition Building Syria State party, said his party rejects everything that comes out of the overseas-based opposition.

"We reject the formation of any transitional government abroad and any other decision ... and we regard such act as direct and real aggression on Syrians' right to choose their leadership and determine their destinies."

He said his party will mobilize Syrian public opinion to thwart efforts to form a government abroad.

"The formation of any interim government abroad would be conducive to increasing division in the Syrian society, and thus would widen the platform of a civil war," he added.

Along with other leading opponents, Hussain did not take part in the Doha meeting apparently because he was not invited.

While risking triggering serious disputes inside the opposition camp, the coalition does not seem to give Syrian people much hope for peace soon as it has ruled out talks with the government.

The Syrian government has dismissed the Doha meeting, saying it was a "new form of foreign interference that aims to market an old product ... in a new form."

In an interview with state-run Syrian TV, Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi said this "product" would never be marketed locally and popularly because "any Syrian, even if he was an opponent, would not accept to be part of such project."

"Dialogue is the sole option in Syria that can succeed," he stressed.

Syrie: le Golfe reconnaît l'opposition, la Ligue arabe la juge "légitime"
jeudi 8 novembre 2012/rtbf.be

L'opposition syrienne, parvenue à s'unir afin de présenter une alternative crédible au régime de Bachar al-Assad, a été reconnue lundi comme "le représentant légitime du peuple syrien" par les pays du Golfe, qui poussaient à la création de cette coalition.

Cette nouvelle entité, annoncée dans la nuit de dimanche à lundi après quatre jours de réunion à Doha et d'intenses pressions internationales, a été qualifiée de "légitime" par la Ligue arabe, et saluée par les Occidentaux.

Sur le terrain, l'aviation, principal atout de l'armée, a largué ses redoutables barils d'explosifs sur cinq des 14 provinces du pays en proie à des violences depuis près de 20 mois, selon une ONG syrienne.

Premiers pays à reconnaître la nouvelle "Coalition nationale syrienne des forces de l'opposition et de la révolution", les six monarchies du Conseil de coopération du Golfe (CCG, Arabie saoudite, Qatar, Koweït, Emirats arabes unis, Bahreïn et Oman) ont exprimé "l'espoir que cette (entité) soit un pas en avant vers un rapide transfert du pouvoir".

Washington, Paris et Londres lui ont promis leur soutien. Le ministre français des Affaires étrangères Laurent Fabius a annoncé à l'AFP qu'il allait rencontrer mardi au Caire les responsables de la coalition, laissant entendre que la France pourrait reconnaître cette entité à l'issue de cette réunion.

Le Premier ministre qatari cheikh Hamad ben Jassem al Thani a affirmé pour sa part après la réunion des ministres arabes des Affaires étrangères au Caire que la Ligue arabe reconnaissait la nouvelle coalition en tant que "représentante légitime de l'opposition syrienne".

Signe des divisions arabes, l'Irak et l'Algérie ont exprimé des réserves et la Ligue n'est pas allée jusqu'à lui reconnaître le statut de représentant du peuple syrien, comme l'ont fait les pays du Golfe.

De son côté, Moscou, grand allié de Damas, a appelé la coalition à privilégier le dialogue avec M. Assad, une option déjà rejetée par les opposants qui posent comme condition sine qua non le départ du chef d'Etat.

Le chef du mouvement chiite libanais Hezbollah, Hassan Nasrallah, également proche de Damas, a accusé la nouvelle instance d'avoir été créée de toutes pièces par les Etats-Unis et regretté qu'elle ait préféré la "destruction" au "dialogue".

"Imposer son autorité" aux groupes militaires

Pour l'analyste Salman Shaikh, directeur du Brookings Doha Center, "si cette nouvelle coalition prouve sa crédibilité, cela va sûrement raccourcir les jours du régime".

Mais après avoir rassemblé l'opposition politique, il lui faut désormais "imposer son autorité au large éventail de formations militaires combattant le régime, qu'elle ne contrôle pas", souligne Yezid Sayigh, analyste au Carnegie Middle East Center.

De fait, le chef de la coalition, Ahmad Moaz Al-Khatib, qui s'est rendu lundi au Caire, a estimé qu'il revenait "désormais à la communauté internationale d'honorer ses engagements" envers les Syriens, tandis que Georges Sabra, chef du Conseil national syrien (CNS), principale composante de la coalition, a affirmé qu'ils n'avaient "pas seulement besoin d'argent et de pain" mais "d'armes pour (se) défendre".

Sur le terrain, l'aviation a bombardé Maaret al-Noomane, un secteur où les rebelles ont reculé au profit de l'armée, et Rass al-Aïn, un poste-frontière vers la Turquie désormais aux mains de la rébellion, selon l'Observatoire syrien des droits de l'Homme (OSDH), qui a précisé que les combattants kurdes s'étaient emparés, sans combat, d'une nouvelle localité du nord-est.

L'Otan s'est dite prête à fournir une assistance à la Turquie au cas où le conflit en Syrie se rapprocherait de son territoire, alors que l'Alliance et Ankara auraient évoqué un éventuel déploiement de batteries anti-missiles sur le sol turc.

Dans le Golan --où aucun incident n'avait eu lieu entre forces israéliennes et syriennes depuis près de 40 ans -- un mortier syrien est tombé sur la partie du plateau occupée par l'Etat hébreu, déclenchant une riposte de l'armée israélienne qui a touché une cible syrienne, d'après un communiqué militaire.

AFP

Zimbabwe's Marange diamond fields 'plundered'

13 November 2012/bbc.co.uk

At least \$2bn (£1.25bn) worth of diamonds has been stolen from Zimbabwe, campaign group Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) has alleged.

It was "the biggest plunder of diamonds since Cecil Rhodes", it said, referring to a British colonial mining magnet.

The "theft" at the Marange fields had enriched Zimbabwean officials, international gem dealers and criminals, the PAC report said.

A Zimbabwean mining official dismissed the allegation as "totally false".

The report, "Reap What You Sow: Greed and Corruption in Zimbabwe's Marange Diamond Fields", was released by the Ottawa-based group to coincide with the Zimbabwean government's conference on diamond trade at the resort town of Victoria Falls.

'Mind-blowing illegality'

President Robert Mugabe, in his address to delegates, said the government was committed to observing "international laws on diamond mining, storage and trading", AP news agency reports.

The industry's global watchdog body, the Kimberley Process, lifted a ban on Zimbabwean diamond sales in 2011, with the backing of the US and European Union.

Continue reading the main story

“Start Quote

No diamonds have ever gone missing”

Goodwills Masimirembwa Zimbabwean mining official

The ban was imposed in 2009 following reports that Zimbabwean military officials were benefiting from the diamond trade and there had been killings and human rights abuses at the Marange fields.

The PAC said the scale of "illegality" at the fields was "mind-blowing".

"Conservative estimates place the theft of Marange goods at almost \$2bn since 2008," it added.

In July, Zimbabwean Finance Minister Tendai Biti said that \$600m in diamond revenues was expected this year, but only \$46m had materialised.

Mr Biti is a member of the Movement of Democratic Change (MDC), which is in a fractious coalition with Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF party.

The two parties formed a power-sharing government in 2009, following elections marred by violence.

The mining industry and security portfolios are controlled by Zanu-PF.

The head of of the state-run Zimbabwe Mining Development Company, Goodwills Masimirembwa, told AP that the PAC's allegations were "totally false".

"No diamonds have ever gone missing," Mr Masimirembwa is quoted as saying.

"When we are selling our diamonds, all stakeholders - the police, revenue board and the country's mineral marketing body - come together. So, are they saying all these institutions are in collusion?"

Marange diamonds must be allowed to trade freely — Mugabe

November 13, 2012 /newsday.co.zw

VICTORIA FALLS — President Robert Mugabe says the country's Marange diamonds must be allowed to trade freely on the international market to fully realise their contribution to the economy.

TAURAI MANGUDHLA

The Marange gemstones have become the country's biggest economic driver to contribute 45% of the fiscus between January and September this year, after getting Kimberley Process (KP) certification.

Addressing Zimbabwe's inaugural diamond conference in Victoria Falls yesterday, Mugabe said the country has been unable to trade competitively and realise full benefits from its diamonds due to economic sanctions imposed by the United States and the European Union.

The US and EU are the major diamond consumers and are calling for transparency in Marange.

They have vigorously campaigned against free marketing of Zimbabwe's diamonds, citing human

rights abuses in the mining area.

“The diamonds have been marketed at depressed prices owing to a negative buyer perception resulting from these illegal sanctions,” Mugabe said.

“In this regard, may I urge the diamond industry players to call for fair play in the marketing of our diamonds from Marange.”

Speaking at the same event, former South African president Thabo Mbeki said the US and Europe were trying to misuse the KP to unjustifiably block Zimbabwe’s diamond trade.

He said for many years various political players in the world as well as significant sections of the global media had presented Zimbabwe as a “rogue state” within the region and Africa.

“This narrative was advanced to place on the global political agenda the fundamental proposition that because Zimbabwe was such a ‘rogue state’, it was perfectly legitimate to use all means, including through decisions of the UN Security Council, to overthrow the Government of Zimbabwe, thus to effect the necessary ‘regime change’ in this country,” Mbeki said.

“It was perfectly clear to the political leadership in this southern region of Africa, and indeed the masses of the people in all our countries, that the determination by some from elsewhere in the world to effect this ‘regime change’ in Zimbabwe had to do with fundamentally undermining and weakening the historically and strategically important right of the peoples of Africa to self-determination.”

Earlier on, Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation chairperson Godwills Masimirembwa said sanctions were hurting companies mining in Marange and had chased away potential investors to exploit the diamond resources.

Zimbabwe is believed to account for 25% of world diamond deposits and able to double current global rough diamond output by 2015, to account for 25% in value and 30% in volume.

African Markets - Factors to watch on Nov 13

Tue Nov 13, 2012/Reuters

NAIROBI, Nov 13 (Reuters) - The following company announcements, scheduled economic indicators, debt and currency market moves and political events may affect African markets on Tuesday.

EVENTS:

- * Kenya - Two-day East Africa oil and gas summit in Nairobi to discuss oil and gas exploration and production in a region touted as a new frontier in global oil exploration.
- * Botswana - October inflation figures to be released. Consumer Price Index (CPI) quickened to 7.1 percent y/y and 0.8 percent m/m in September.
- * Malawi - October inflation figures to be released. CPI quickened to 28.3 percent September
- * Namibia - October inflation figures to be released.

GLOBAL MARKETS

Asian shares and commodities pulled back on Tuesday on uncertainty

over the U.S. fiscal row and the euro zone debt crisis, where global lenders held back from giving further aid to debt-stricken Greece.

WORLD OIL PRICES

The United States will overtake Saudi Arabia and Russia as the world's top oil producer by 2017, the West's energy agency said on Monday, predicting Washington will come very close to achieving a previously unthinkable energy self-sufficiency.

EMERGING MARKETS

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SOUTH AFRICA MARKETS

South Africa's rand slipped against the dollar on Monday in quiet trading with investors unwilling to take firm positions as euro zone finance ministers discussed whether to authorise more aid for Greece. * South African stocks eked out slender gains on Monday as mobile phone group Vodacom's rise to a record high on solid results was countered by another sell-off in mining shares, which have been laid low by the violence and illegal strikes.

SOUTH AFRICA VODACOM

Vodacom is looking for acquisitions in sub-Saharan Africa, a sign the South African mobile operator aims to be a bigger player in the fast-growing continent.

NIGERIA MARKETS

Nigerian interbank lending rates fell by 100 basis points this week to an average of 11 percent after the release of about 150 billion naira (\$955 million) to states affected by flooding boosted liquidity.

NIGERIA CURRENCY

Nigeria's naira fell to its lowest in 9 weeks against the U.S. dollar on the interbank market on Monday, pressured by a resurgence in dollar demand from importers.

NIGERIA BANK

Nigerian regional lender Wema Bank aims to raise 35 billion naira (\$222.22 million) in tier 1 capital by year-end, with a view to meeting requirements to become a national bank again, the bank said on Monday.

KENYA MARKETS

The Kenyan shilling weakened against the dollar on Monday as excess liquidity among local banks encouraged them to step up funding of dollar positions, traders said.

KENYA ECONOMY

Kenya's economy will grow 5.6 percent in 2013, outperforming this year's forecast of 5.1 percent, thanks to strong rains boosting farm output, the Finance Ministry said on Monday.

ETHIOPIA HYDRO POWER

Ethiopia's energy minister played down concerns on Monday about how it would finance the first of an array of mega-dams due to revolutionise east African power markets, saying it was on track to have three plants on line by 2015.

MOZAMBIQUE RATES

Mozambique's central bank cut its benchmark interest rate by 100 basis points on Monday to 9.5 percent, citing the risks from a deteriorating global economy and inflation under control.

For the latest precious metals report click on

For the latest base metals report click on

For the latest crude oil report click on

UN/AFRICA :

Slate for UN body packed by ringers

By Thalif Deen/atimes.com/13112012

UNITED NATIONS - When the former Human Rights Commission was partially dominated by countries accused of political repression, a US congressman ridiculed the UN body, where, he said, "inmates were taking over the asylum".

"When lunatics take over, responsible people are forced to act," snapped Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (Republican of California) back in 2001, even as he threatened to cut off US funds. He was livid that the Human Rights Commission (since replaced by the Human Rights Council) had kept the United States out but embraced Libya, Sudan, Cuba and China.

Judging by the strong negative reactions by international human-rights groups over elections to the Council on Monday, there has been little or no progress in shutting out violators from the 47-member Geneva-based Human Rights Council (HRC).

The 193-member General Assembly elected 18 countries to serve on the HRC, the highest-policy making body on human rights, for a period of three years beginning next January. The countries include Argentina, Brazil, Cote d'Ivoire, Estonia, Ethiopia, Gabon, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Montenegro, Pakistan, South Korea, Sierra Leone, the United Arab Emirates, the United States and Venezuela.

At present, all seats on the council are allotted by regional groups: Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean States, and Western European (and other states), but as a general rule most regional groups match their nominations to available vacancies, thereby eliminating competition and ensuring seats for all their declared candidates.

At Monday's elections, the entire slate of Asians, Africans, East Europeans and Latin Americans

sailed through: five African countries for five vacant seats; two East European countries for two vacancies; five Asian countries for five vacant seats; and three Latin American countries for three vacancies.

The only competition was in Western European group where five countries - Germany, Greece, Ireland, Sweden and the United States - battled it out for three vacant seats. The winners were Germany, Ireland and the United States. The only requirement was 97 votes.

Asked whether competitive elections would remain a lost cause, Peggy Hicks, global advocacy director at Human Rights Watch, told IPS: "I don't think it is a lost cause at all."

She pointed out that only Africa has a "principled reliance on rotation rather than competition", and Kenya was willing to challenge that this year.

"The key is to get states that care about having a stronger, more effective HRC to run," she said. "Once they are in the race, human-rights activists from the country, the region, and the world will work hard to see that the states that will make the greatest contribution are successful."

"To call the vote in the General Assembly an election gives this process way too much credit," and until there is real competition for seats in the Human Rights Council, its membership standards will remain more rhetoric than reality, she said.

Jose Luis Diaz, Amnesty International's UN representative, told IPS the best way for UN member states to stop non-competitive elections for the Human Rights Council is to declare loudly and clearly that they won't stand for them and to vote accordingly.

"What we saw today is that most member states are not quite ready to do that, as only seats reserved for the Western group were contested," he said. "That's scandalous because it means that there is no real competition for many of the seats on the council, contrary to what the resolution creating that body foresaw."

He said this has a number of negative implications, including undermining accountability and transparency. As part of a closed slate, as most candidates in this election were, contenders are practically guaranteed a spot in the council.

"What incentive do you have then to demonstrate that you deserve a seat because you're a good domestic and global human-rights citizen?" Diaz said.

Being part of a closed slate does not automatically mean a state is a human-rights abuser, but why fear competition to bring out the best representatives to promote and protect rights? he asked.

"I hope there will be growing attention to the lack of competition and that that will lead to more open slates," he said.

In a statement released here, Human Rights Watch said that by using a rotation system that virtually guarantees seats to countries, whether or not they meet membership standards, the African Group has effectively rejected the principle of competitive elections.

Countries with stronger human-rights records in Africa have been unwilling to challenge the African Group's standing practice of putting forward closed slates. When Kenya declared its candidacy for the Human Rights Council at the end of July, Human Rights Watch said, it briefly appeared that the African Group might buck this trend.

However, Sudan withdrew its bid for a seat in September under pressure, leaving Africa again with a closed slate of five candidates for five seats.

The Human Rights Watch statement noted that in past years, human-rights organisations have mounted successful campaigns against the candidacies of Belarus (2007), Sri Lanka (2008), and Azerbaijan (2009), while Iran (2010) and Syria (2011) withdrew their candidacies under pressure from human-rights groups.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an Asian diplomat told IPS that US killings of civilians by drones - whether by accident or by design - in countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan also places the United States in an ambivalent situation. This, he said, has been made much worse by accusation of torture and water-boarding by US forces, which are considered violations of human rights.

(Inter Press Service)

Amidst series of meetings, UN envoy urges resolution to Western Sahara dispute

12 November 2012/un.org

– Amid the rising threat of extremist elements in Africa's Sahel region, the dispute over Western Sahara must be resolved before lingering hostilities consume the North African territory, the United Nations top official on the issue warned today.

In a press statement released following his visit with the Foreign Minister of Spain in Madrid, the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, cautioned that the crisis had lasted “far too long” and called any acceptance of the status quo a “serious miscalculation.”

“I am urging the parties to move swiftly into serious negotiations, and I am asking key members of the international community to use their influence to encourage the parties to do so,” Mr. Ross stated, adding that in a region in transition, a conflict such as the one in the Western Sahara “cannot be allowed to stand still.”

The UN has been involved in mediation efforts to find a settlement in Western Sahara since 1976, when fighting broke out between Morocco and the movement known as Frente Polisario, after the Spanish colonial administration of the territory ended. A UN peacekeeping force, known as the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) has also been in place since 1991.

The envoy said the current status quo is threatened by developments in West Africa's Sahel region, which has seen the growing presence of Islamist extremists and militants, including a branch of Al Qaida. Recently, in Mali, radical Islamists seized control of the north, where they have imposed an extremist version of Muslim Sharia law and stringent rules targeting women.

The instability and insecurity resulting from renewed clashes in Mali, as well as the proliferation of armed groups in the region, drought and political instability has sparked fears among many in the international community that the Sahel as a whole is on the brink of destabilization.

Mr. Ross pointed out that in this dangerously precarious environment, Western Sahara's festering hostilities risked sparking renewed violence which would be “tragic for the people of Western Sahara and for North Africa as a whole.”

According to the UN official's statement, Spanish officials were “keen” to contribute to the

mediation efforts and Mr. Ross noted that he had “benefited greatly” from the exchange with his Spanish interlocutors.

Prior to his trip to Spain, Mr. Ross also met with delegations from countries neighbouring Western Sahara – Algeria and Mauritania – which have been active in establishing confidence-building measures and seeking a solution to the situation.

In addition, the UN envoy will make stops in Paris, Washington, D.C., London and Moscow where he plans to address the issue with his counterparts in those Western capitals before returning to North Africa.

“The conflict must be resolved,” Mr. Ross said, “and I believe that it can be resolved if there is a will to engage in real dialogue and compromise to find a solution that is honourable for all.”

US/AFRICA :

CANADA/AFRICA :

AUSTRALIA/AFRICA :

EU/AFRICA :

CHINA/AFRICA :

Huawei Technologies Sees African Revenue Growing Up to 30%

By Eric Ombok/businessweek.com/November 13, 2012

Huawei Technologies Co., China’s largest phone-equipment maker, said revenue in southern and eastern Africa may climb as much as 30 percent in the next three years as growth on the continent outpaces most regions.

The company plans to capitalize on low mobile-broadband penetration rates and increasing demand for smart phones in Africa, Li Dafeng, president for eastern and southern Africa, said in an interview in Nairobi, the capital, on Nov. 7. Huawei, based in Shenzhen, China, will also focus on developing its enterprise business that supplies equipment to governments and companies, he said.

Africa has less than five mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, compared with more

than 10 percent the rest of the world, according to the International Telecommunications Union, a Geneva-based industry group. Over the next five years, the continent is expected to be the fastest growing region in terms of mobile-phone connections, according to A.T. Kearney, the Chicago-based consultancy.

“There is still much room to grow, so we can see that in the next three years network availability will be improved greatly,” Chief Technology Officer for East & Southern Africa Region Radoslaw Kedzia said at the interview. “This is why we can grow 20 percent to 30 percent.”

Economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa is expected to accelerate to 5.7 percent next year from 5 percent this year, outpacing every other region except developing Asia, the International Monetary Fund said last month.

Angola, Kenya

Huawei’s southern and eastern African business comprises 25 countries including South Africa, Angola and Kenya. The company posted revenue of \$3.42 billion in 2011, up 15 percent from \$2.98 billion in 2010 for the entire African region, Li said. Total sales account for 13 percent of global sales, the company said in an e-mailed statement.

“If you look at the penetration of mobile broadband compared to European countries or compared with China, there is a lot of potential,” Li said. “In my region, the penetration of smart phones is 10 percent. In China, mobile broadband penetration is 30 percent, in Europe it is more than 50 percent and 16 percent in Kenya. So there is still a lot of potential.”

Nigeria, Africa’s most-populous nation, is Huawei’s biggest market for its carrier division on the continent, which supplies equipment to mobile-phone companies, Kedzia said.

South Africa

In South Africa, the continent’s largest economy that contributes 30 percent of the company’s African revenue, Huawei plans to grow market share as the country seeks to achieve 100 percent broadband penetration by 2020, Li said.

Huawei sold 20 million smart phones globally in 2011 and estimates it will sell another 60 million units this year, earning revenue of \$9 billion, he said.

“Huawei’s IDEOS, the first under-\$100 smart phone, has become popular in the region, gaining a market share of 45 percent in Kenya,” Li said. “We have sold 250,000 pieces since its launch last year.”

The U.S. Congress last month said Huawei and ZTE Corp. (763), China’s second-biggest telephone equipment manufacturer, provide opportunities for Chinese intelligence services to tamper with U.S. telecommunications networks for spying. A report by the House intelligence committee report said the companies failed to explain their relationship with the Chinese government. Li rejected the criticism.

‘No Links’

“Huawei is just a telecommunications manufacturer, we have no link with government,” Li said. “The only relationship between Huawei and the government is the business. We provide some solutions, some products, this is the only relationship.”

Huawei’s customers in eastern and southern Africa include South Africa’s five mobile operators, including Vodacom Group Ltd. (VOD) and MTN Group Ltd. (MTN) Other clients are Angola’s

Unitel SA and Movitel Telecomunicacoes Lda and Safaricom Ltd. (SAFCOM) of Kenya, East Africa's biggest mobile-phone operator.

The company has a research and development center in South Africa and seven training facilities in the region, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt and Morocco. The company has helped 18 African governments build networks in countries such as Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Senegal, Angola, Guinea, and Djibouti.

The company also plans employ more local workers on the continent to boost the ratio of domestically hired employees to 70 percent from 60 percent, Li said, without specifying a time period.

INDIA/AFRICA :

South Africa is focus country at Trade Fair

Tuesday, November 13, 2012/IANS/zeenews.india.com

New Delhi: South Africa is the focus country at the 32nd India International Trade Fair (IITF) opening here Wednesday with more than 6,000 exhibitors from India and abroad.

Belarus will be the 'partner country' at the 14-day fair, and its Prime Minister Mikhail V. Myasnikovich will inaugurate it along with President Pranab Mukherjee.

The trade target between India and South Africa has been set at \$15 billion by 2015. The earlier target of \$10 billion by 2012 was surpassed a year ahead of schedule.

India is one of South Africa's top 10 exporting countries and among the top five nations importing from South Africa.

From 2002 to 2011, South African exports to India increased by 21 percent, while imports from India went up by 28 percent.

Indian companies investing in South Africa include Mahindra, Tata, UB Group, pharmaceutical giants like Ranbaxy and CIPLA, IT companies and some in the mining sector.

Several South African companies operate in India such as the Airports Company South Africa, which is assisting Mumbai airport, Sasol, First Rand Bank, Old Mutual (insurance), SAB Miller (breweries) and Adcock Ingram (pharmaceuticals).

There is now a new accent towards informal business development and cooperation at the level of small and medium enterprises, including for technology and market development.

During a recent visit to India, South Africa's Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry Elizabeth Thabethe said that her country wants to encourage Indian investment in all sectors.

IANS

BRAZIL/AFRICA :

EN BREF, CE 13 Novembre 2012 ... AGNEWS/DAM,NY, 13/11/2012