



Weekly Nile Basin Media Radar

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Egyptian lawyers move to overturn Sisi's support for Nile dam project

A group of Egyptian lawyers and political activists are preparing a lawsuit to challenge a March 2015 preliminary deal agreed by Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Ethiopia's Nile dam project, reported local media on Wednesday. The deal signed by President Sisi, Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, asserted Ethiopia's right to build the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), a decision that has caused huge concerns in Egypt over its water supply and ability to generate hydro-electric power.

<http://bit.ly/2iCH90e>

Exploitation of the Nile – Historical perspective

There are so many oral literatures, both in the upper and lower stream countries, which appreciate and admire the River Nile since time immemorial. More than ten thousand poems which describe the Nile River's vastness and lengthiness were written in multiple languages. The Greek philosopher Homer who lived before the birth of Christ said "Nile is a gift of Egypt" to denote the fact that the

existence of Egypt is solely dependent on the Nile. Ethiopia is the major source of the Nile and contributes about 86 percent of the water volume. As a result, beginning from the medieval period, Nile had determined the political relation between Ethiopia and Egypt.

<http://bit.ly/2jeFQAP>

Saudi visit to Ethiopia dam further strains ties with Egypt

A high-level Saudi delegation's visit to controversial dam in Ethiopia has angered Egypt, dealing a fresh blow to already strained relations between Cairo and Riyadh. Egyptian media lashed out at Saudi Arabia over the visit to the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), describing it an act of revenge that could deepen tensions between the two countries. The ongoing construction of the 6,000MW power dam on river Nile by Ethiopia has been a source of contention especially from Egypt that considers the River Nile as its lifeline.

<http://bit.ly/2k9owRE>

River Nile triumph anecdote at a glance

"To be frank, sometime ago, not a soul was interested to talk about the River Nile for the reason that we were unable to

bring this great resource into play. I was always filled with remorse for 'Abay' (Blue Nile) was not able to do anything for us apart from flowing endlessly to other countries remiss in serving its starting point. To everyone's surprise, our country is "the water tower" of Northeast Africa. Nobody erroneously can disagree with the fact under discussion. Exceedingly, all of its neighbours completely count on river that have their derivation in the Ethiopian highlands.

<http://bit.ly/2iR03eY>

Egypt and South Sudan accused of "dirty deal"

[...] The [South Sudanese rebel official who asked not to be identified [...]] explained that Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has brokered a "dirty deal" which would allow Kiir to receive lethal weapons and ammunition from Egypt to wage a full-scale war against the armed opposition. [...] "Our intelligence sources [...] confirmed that Egypt wants South Sudan and Uganda to be her regional allies so that she can advance its covert sabotage campaign against the [GERD]..." asserted the source.

<http://bit.ly/2iXq2Db>

Public diplomacy equates with regional cooperation

[...] Efforts in the public diplomacy sphere have ensured that the people of Ethiopia are building the [GERD] in a non-harming fashion, for the mutual benefit of millions of people in the riparian. House of People's Representatives Foreign Affairs Standing Committee Chairperson Tesfaye Daba says GERD construction doesn't pose harm but benefits downstream nations in many ways. For instance, he said, a great deal of confidence building activities have been carried out in Sudan in relation to the project.

<http://bit.ly/2jnoS6N>



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Ethiopia continues to move unperturbed

(Opinion) [...] Gradually and painstakingly [Egypt has] tried to accept the project as a fact of life and understood that a good bet [...] is to join wholeheartedly the group that had vowed to work in cooperative spirit by accommodating every party's rightful interest based on the cooperative framework that would ensure the equitable utilisation of the Nile water.

<http://bit.ly/2jnjLDo>

High Court asked to order Ugandans out of Migingo Island

More than 1,000 Kenyan traders and fishermen have resorted to legal action to have Ugandan soldiers forced out of the disputed Migingo Island in Lake Victoria. They argue that concerned government security agencies have for years failed to take action despite having received reliable information from them regarding the violation of human rights by the foreign soldiers. They want the court to order the responsible government department to issue a declaration that the Uganda security personnel were 'persona non grata' (unwanted) on the island.

<http://bit.ly/2jEESOL>

GERD cooperation defying cynics, horse-traders

Ethiopia's Technical National Committee (TNC) Chairperson, Eng. Gideon Asfaw had on last week states that companies (BRLi Group and Artelia) that were selected to undertake joint impact assessment of the GERD on downstream countries are expected to resume their activities in two months. [...] Intended to

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supersede the deep-rooted enigma, cynicism and holier-than-thou attitude over the utilisation the Nile, he said, Ethiopia will keep on modus operandi of transparency and accountability to any one country eager to study the GERD, and further cooperation.

<http://bit.ly/2j85KpM>



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